

# The Downey Patriot



**Croshaw croons to OASIS crowd**  
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**Teen crowned Miss Costa Rica**  
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**Drive-thru flu clinic**  
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Friday, October 3, 2008

Vol. 7 No. 24

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



Twenty-five water sampling stations, like the one pictured above, are scattered throughout the city. The city tests each location weekly to satisfy government regulations. Photo by Mary Forney



City officials held a press conference last Friday to discuss the city's water situation. Some residents have criticized the city for their response to the crisis. Photo by Eric Pierce

## Downey Regional says patients were never in danger

■ Hospital boiled water and did its own testing.

**BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR**  
**DOWNEY** – Patients were never in danger or exposed to contaminated water at Downey Regional Medical Center, hospital officials said in a statement.

The city of Downey was under a strict boil-water order through most of the weekend after a laboratory said tests showed bacteria in Downey's water supply. The tests were later invalidated.

Rob Fuller, chief operating officer at Downey Regional, released the following statement:

"We immediately put three rules into effect in response to this situation: 1) do not drink any tap water, drink from any machine piped directly into the tap system (such as a coffee machine), or use ice from machines piped into the tap system; 2) do not scrub, wash or clean instruments using tap water – bottled water or an appropriate chemical or foaming agent should be used in its place; and 3) do not bathe immuno-compromised patients or patients with open wounds with tap water. We also placed signage and tape barriers over all sinks that may be used for drinking and/or washing.

"We then instructed all proce-

dural machines (endoscopy and dialysis) to use alternate water supplies, we carefully monitored the steam cleaning of dishes, and began distributing alternate water supply throughout the hospital. We set up an alternate water distribution system, which was basically moving bottles and jugs of water throughout the hospital by hand – it was labor intensive, and a bit clumsy, but it worked. We utilized pre-staged water supplies we keep on hand for disasters and had several truck-load deliveries by water companies. Ice was a little more difficult, but a nearby market had "out-of-jurisdiction" ice and let us have their entire supply.

"We have a sophisticated microbiology lab on site, and we routinely test the Downey tap water coming into the hospital every day as a control. None of our tests, even during the days of the boil-water, showed any coliform bacteria, so-called gram negative results, or unusual organisms. Nevertheless, we are constrained by state law to follow boil orders and had to institute the alternate water supply for four days.

At no time were any patients, visitors, or employees in danger or exposed to substandard water at Downey Regional."

**BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR**

**DOWNEY** – After a whirlwind weekend in which almost 200 Downey restaurants were ordered closed and residents were ordered not to ingest local tap water without first boiling it, city officials had a message for residents:

Drink up.

State health officials issued a "boil-water order" last Thursday evening after two consecutive water testing samples came back positive for total coliform bacteria.

But the laboratory that collected the samples, Commerce-based Michelson Laboratories Inc., later admitted the tests were "not interpreted correctly."

The boil-water order was lifted for most of Downey Sunday night, about 72 hours after the mandate was first issued. As a result, most Downey restaurants were closed over the weekend by the state Health Department, causing untold losses in revenue.

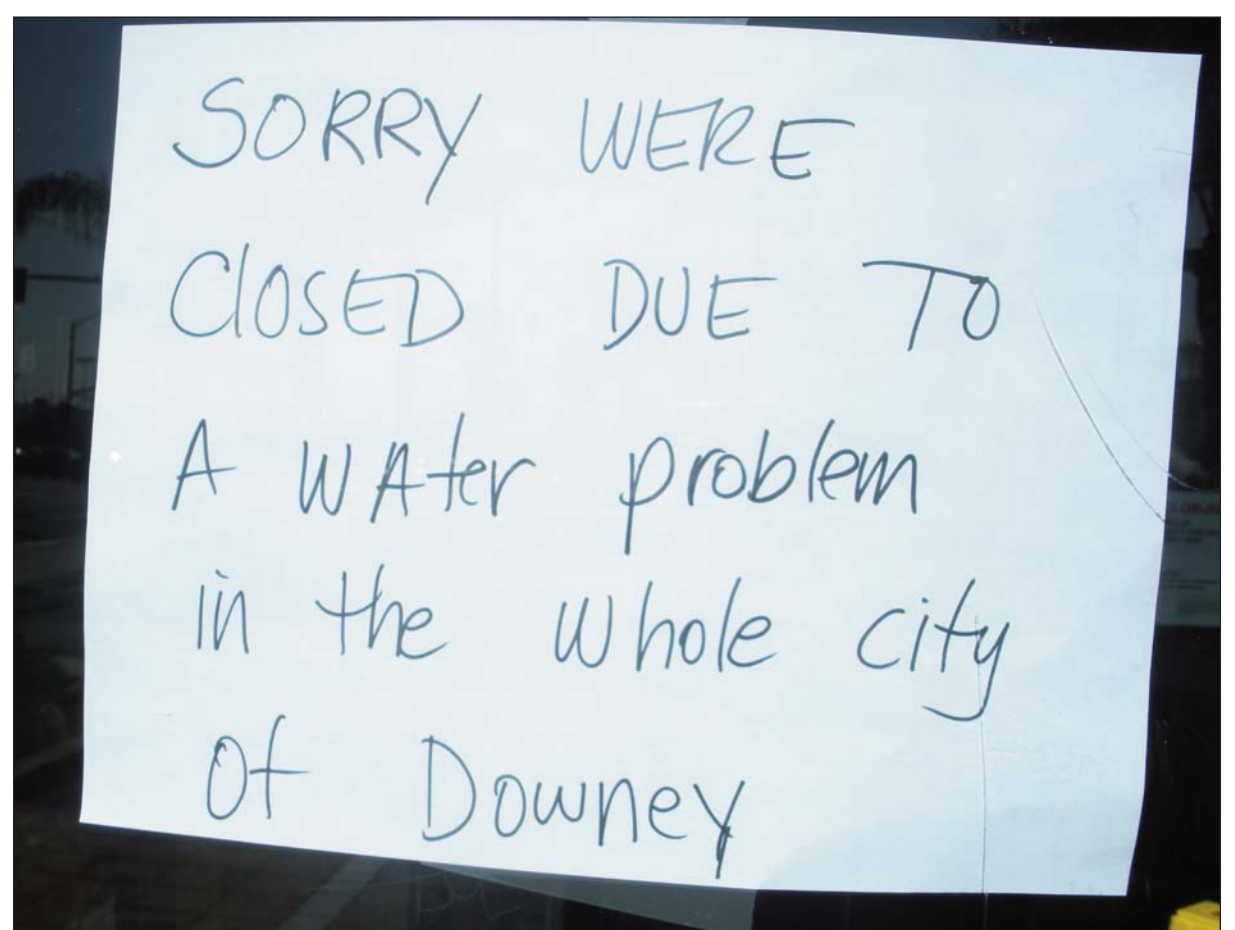
Residents, meanwhile, scrambled for information on the boil-water order and alleged poor communication between City Hall and its citizens.

### Timeline

**MONDAY:** The city of Downey pumps its waters from 20 groundwater wells located underneath the city. Per state health requirements, the city tests the water each week from 25 sampling stations located in different parts of the city.

On Monday, Sept. 22, water samples from the 25 stations were collected and sent to Michelson Laboratories, a state-approved testing facility, for routine analysis.

**TUESDAY:** Late Tuesday, city



Norm's Restaurant, along with about 200 other Downey restaurants, was ordered closed last weekend after tests showed city water was contaminated with bacteria. The tests were later rescinded by a state laboratory. Photo by Eric Pierce

officials were notified that three of the 25 samples tested positive for total coliform bacteria, according to Mayor David Gafin. Total coliform bacteria by itself generally is not considered harmful, but it may be an indication of disease-causing organisms in the water system.

"Normal procedure is to test again," Gafin said. "I wouldn't say a false hit happens all the time, but it happens."

**WEDNESDAY:** On Wednesday, re-samples were taken

from the three sampling stations that read positive for bacteria. As a precaution, samples were also taken from an additional nine stations.

City officials awaited the results, which normally take 24 hours to process, Gafin said.

**THURSDAY:** Test results were returned Thursday evening, and this time all 12 samples tested positive for total coliform bacteria.

"That's when we suspected something may have gone wrong at

the lab," Gafin said. "But state protocol mandates corrective action to be taken. And between 6 and 6:30 p.m. we received the boil-water notice from the state.

"Upon notification of the positive test results, the city initiated standard operating procedures to both clean the system and notify residents of the boil-water order," Gafin said.

City officials contacted the  
See WATER, page 11

## Restaurants hit hard by closures

■ Downey restaurants report thousands of dollars in losses.

**BY MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER**  
**DOWNEY** – Above the doorway of Norm's Restaurant on the corner of Firestone and Paramount Boulevards, is a sign that says, "We never close."

Customers used to the late night or early morning convenience of the open restaurant were disappointed last weekend because for the first time in 15 years since Norm's first opened in Downey, the restaurant was closed.

"We didn't close it – the city did," said Jesus Hurtado, assistant manager. "We only close late one night a month for pest control and intensive cleaning."

The forced closing was due to the Los Angeles Health Department's orders that restaurants in Downey cease serving due to the threat of contaminated city water.

Besides the loss of profit to the restaurant and to the employees, the county's orders left Norm's with another problem – there was no way to lock the front doors of the restaurant. Since Norm's is open 24 hours, 7 days a week, the owner never saw a need to install locks on the front doors.

Worried that people might try

to vandalize the unlocked restaurant, Norm's managers had to take turns staying in the restaurant around the clock for three days.

"We couldn't do anything except follow the rules and work with the Health Department," Hurtado said.

That is how Mark Shelton, owner of the Rio Hondo Event Center, felt when the Health Department showed up at 11 a.m. on Friday.

"They closed the restaurant and bar in the middle of serving lunch," Shelton said.

The center's snack bar was allowed to remain open because it only served bottled water and bottled beverages.

Norm's Restaurant paid their employees for the days off work because, "It wasn't the employees fault," Hurtado said.

But smaller restaurants weren't able to extend the same gratuity towards their employees.

"It's hard for us who have to work day by day for our money – we can't afford not working," said Ruby Ramirez, a waitress at Gourmet Café. "I lost about \$400 in tips and pay last weekend."

Not being open for three days cost the Gourmet Café about \$15,000.

"We had to throw away food, and I wasted money on bottled water and disposable dishes," said

Frank Arias, owner of the Gourmet Café. "Who is going to reimburse us for this?"

Many of the local restaurant owners are outraged that they were forced to shut down despite submitting their required action plans to the Health Department.

"I had to fax over how I was going to run the restaurant and I was told my procedure was 'unacceptable' even though I was following their procedure," said Paul Granata, the owner of Granata's Italian Restaurant.

Granata heard about the water contamination issue on radio at 8 a.m. Friday. He said he contacted the Health Department on his own and was asked to send in his action plan. He said when he didn't hear back from the Health Department, he called them again and was told his action plan was "unacceptable."

At 4:30 p.m., the Health Department appeared with a notice for Granata's to close.

Norm's Restaurant and the

Gourmet Café also submitted the required action plans to the Health Department which were rejected despite the restaurants claims that they were prepared to follow the county's established water contamination procedures.

"I am concerned that if I hadn't heard about it on the radio and contacted the Health Department on my own, I would have served people with possibly contaminated water before finding out there was a problem," Granata said.

"When the Health Department showed up, I asked them about this and they said 'We only have eight people working on this,'" he said. "Had this been a serious problem, people would have been deathly ill."

Granata estimates his loss of gross profit, loss of food, and cost of supplies during the shut-down to be about \$10,000.

Most restaurants were allowed to reopen Sunday evening, but chose to wait until the next morning.

### Residents invited to meet the candidates

**DOWNEY** – Citizens for Downey will host a candidate's forum Wednesday at 7 a.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

All City Council candidates have agreed to attend. They include: David Gafin, District 1; Roger Brossmer and Russell Rankin, District 3; and Dr. Shahira A-Malek, Gary De Remer, Maria Larkin and Luis Marquez, District 5.

Planning Commissioner Teri Lambros will moderate the forum.

The meeting is free with an optional \$5 breakfast available. Residents are invited and no reservations are required.

## Gangs Out of Downey planning workshop

**DOWNEY** – Gangs Out of Downey, in collaboration with Downey Adult School, the Downey Unified School District, and the Downey Police Department, will present a Parent Education Workshop on Oct. 11 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center.

Designed for parents of children in grades 4-8, the workshop is intended to “equip parents with the tools necessary to guide our children to keep them safe and on the right paths in achieving their educational and personal goals.”

The workshop will address the following topics: “First Warning Signs of Gang Involvement,” “10-20 Club,” and “Been There Done That/Bad Choices.” Each topic will be followed by discussion.

For more information on the workshop, call GOOD president Carol Rowland at (562) 904-7159.

## Health screenings at Los Amigos

**DOWNEY** – Downey residents are invited to purchase health screenings scheduled to be offered at Los Amigos Country Club on Tuesday.

For more information, call (800) 697-9721.

## Learn Spanish for the workplace

**DOWNEY** – Downey Adult School is offering a new course, “Occupational Spanish for Medical Personnel,” beginning Oct. 27.

The seven-week course teaches students “real-world Spanish” for the medical field. No prior Spanish skills are required.

The cost of the class is \$49, plus textbook. For more information, call (562) 940-6200.

## OLPH carnival set for mid-October

**DOWNEY** – The annual carnival at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School will take place Oct. 17-19 on the school campus.

In addition to rides, live entertainment, food and games, this year’s carnival will include a raffle for a Honda Civic hybrid courtesy Honda World Downey or \$20,000 in cash. Raffle tickets are \$200 and only 300 tickets will be sold.

The carnival will be open Oct. 17 from 5 to 10:30 p.m.; Oct. 18 from noon to 10:30 p.m.; and Oct. 19 from noon to 8 p.m.

Ride and raffle tickets are available for purchase before and after school. For more information, call (562) 869-9969.

## Help your young child learn to read

**DOWNEY** – “Every Child Ready to Read,” a free class for parents to help their preschool children with early literacy, will be presented by the Downey City Library this Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday from 10:40 to 11:10 a.m.

Instructor Claudia Dailey will give parents techniques for helping young children to read and develop early language skills through picture books.

Register at the library’s Adult desk or call (562) 904-7360, ext. 123.



The Rio Hondo Boys & Girls Club accepted this week a \$41,500 grant to purchase a new van to transport their children. From left: Lennie Whittington; John Rocha, store manager, Kragen Auto Parts; Robert Rubio, chief professional officer, Rio Hondo Boys & Girls Club; David Gafin, mayor, city of Downey; Anne Bayer, councilwoman, city of Downey.

## Club expects to help kids with donation

**DOWNEY** – The Rio Hondo Boys & Girls Club has been awarded a \$41,500 grant from CSK Auto purchase a new van for the more than 275 kids who attend its after-school programs.

For the past 10 years, CSK Auto stores – which includes Kragen Auto Parts, Checker Auto Parts, Schuck’s Auto Supply and Murray’s Discount Auto Stores – have sold calendars featuring vintage muscle cars to raise money for Boys & Girls Clubs throughout the United States.

The Rio Hondo Boys & Girls Club is one of only 10 clubs to receive a transportation grant from the 2008 calendar campaign. The club accepted the donation Monday outside the Kragen Auto Parts on Paramount

Boulevard in Downey.

“We are so thankful to CSK Auto for its generosity,” said Robert Rubio, chief professional officer for the Rio Hondo Boys & Girls Club. “The vehicle will help us serve more young people by giving us the means to extend our reach across the community. The vans with pictures of children and our contact information will also help us build greater awareness and support for our Boys & Girls Club.”

Located in Bell, the Rio Hondo Boys & Girls Club serves kids in Bell, Downey, Commerce, Cudahy, Lynwood, Maywood and Pico Rivera.

## Concert inspired by ‘Indiana Jones’

**NORWALK** – The Southland Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines International will present a new show inspired by the “Indiana Jones” movies Oct. 11 at the Norwalk Masonic Center in Norwalk.

Chorus director Jim Campbell stars as Kentucky James, a man sent out by foreign spies to find a treasure hidden somewhere in America.

The performance includes many patriotic songs, and guest performances by MoJoDeBo, Harmony Collage, Natasha Raska and Sirens.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased in advance by calling Robin Novick at (562) 862-9592. The Norwalk Masonic Center is at 12345 Rosecrans Ave. in Norwalk.

## Chamber hosting candidate’s forum

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Chamber of Commerce will moderate a candidate’s forum Oct. 23 for candidates in the upcoming Downey City Council election.

The forum will be held at the Southern California Gas Co. Energy Resource Center, 9240 Firestone Blvd., in Downey, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is free and there will be light refreshments.

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

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## Downey man confirmed with West Nile Virus

BY MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – Concern over foreclosed swimming pools spreading West Nile Virus has hit home for one Downey family.

Sharon Hudgens thought maybe her husband Kenneth, 65, had been working too hard when he was so fatigued that he slept all day on July 12. After two days of sleeping, she knew something was wrong.

On July 14, Sharon took her husband to Kaiser Permanente where he was prescribed new blood pressure pills. About three hours later, his temperature spiked to 103 degrees so she took him back to the hospital.

Suspected of having encephalitis or meningitis, Kenneth underwent a battery of tests and was admitted to the hospital after a lumbar puncture (spinal tap) tested positive for West Nile Virus.

The next day, Kenneth had to repeat the tests to make sure the diagnosis was correct.

"We don't know for sure how he got it – we didn't even see a mosquito bite on him," Sharon said. "We don't have a swimming pool, but there were uninhabited pools across the street and two doors down."

Kenneth was hospitalized at Kaiser Permanente in Bellflower for 28 days. During that time, he battled temporary memory loss and was able to identify his immediate family members, but no one else. He also had difficulty remembering where he was and what day or month it was.

"They call it a mentally-altered state," Sharon said.

Not knowing how to help her husband, Sharon sought out West Nile Virus information on the Internet and county offices.

"There is no treatment for West Nile," she said. "At one point, they said he might need 24-hour care so I didn't know if I needed to quit my job. I felt like I was on my own because the CDC didn't even call me until day 31 of his illness, and all they did was take a minimal interview over the phone."

After Kenneth's hospitalization at Kaiser, he was sent to Southland nursing facility where he spent 11 days recovering.

"He is just getting his physical strength back – recovery can take up to two years," Sharon said.

The West Nile Virus ordeal has left the couple shaken.

"He doesn't remember getting sick – just when he was tired," Sharon said. "We've learned not to take anything for granted – especially your health – and that you should appreciate what you do have. I am concerned that no one else should get this. People need to be vigilant and call someone if they see a pool sitting with crud in it."

West Nile Virus is a disease spread through a mosquito bite. Mosquitoes contract the disease when they feed on infected birds. The mosquitoes then transmit the disease to humans, horses, sentinel chickens and squirrels.

The disease advanced rapidly in California since it was first isolated in the state during July 2003. Last year, Gov. Arnold Swartzenegger declared a state of emergency for those counties hit the hardest.

Swimming pools on vacant foreclosed properties are serving as mosquito breeding grounds, so on July 8, Senate Bill 1137 was signed into law requiring legal owners to maintain vacant residential property purchased at a foreclosure sale or acquired through foreclosure, and provides for civil fines of up to \$1,000 per day for failure to maintain the property.

"No one can say for sure where the West Nile came from, but the city will be coming forward to deal with foreclosed properties," said Desi Alvarez, deputy city manager for the city of Downey. "The City Council will adopt an ordinance that will make the financial owners to the properties responsible for maintenance. It's one thing to have a few foreclosed properties and another to have a whole river of them."

As of Sept. 16, there have been a reported 77 human cases of West Nile Virus and five related fatalities this year in Los Angeles County.



More than 200 seniors got a jumpstart on flu prevention when they drove their cars through a "drive flu" clinic at CareMore's medical offices Saturday. CareMore will host another flu clinic tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its offices at 11525 Brookshire Ave. For more information, call (800) 499-2793.

## Blessing of the animals Saturday

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Church for Spiritual Enrichment will conduct a "blessing of the animals" tomorrow from 2 to 6 p.m.

Dogs, cats, horses, goats, elephants and other animals on leashes can all be blessed at the event. Photographs will also be accepted in lieu of the animal.

The church will also be blessing motorcycles, bicycles and musical instruments.

The event is free but offerings will be accepted. Bottled water, snacks and boutique items will be for sale.

Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call Yvonne at (562) 926-2445. The Downey Church for Spiritual Enrichment is at 10000 Paramount Blvd., half a block north of Florence Avenue.

## Family comedy show tonight

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Rose Float Association will present a "Family Comedy Night" tonight at the Woman's Club of Downey from 7 to 9 p.m.

The event will include comedians, a comedy magic show, and an improv group.

Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door.

## Baptist church celebrating 60 years

**DOWNEY** – Pastor Jon Manzat of the First Southern Baptist Church of Downey announced that the church will be celebrating its 60th anniversary Oct. 26.

The church, which was founded Oct. 26, 1948, has invited former pastors, church staff and members to attend. Presiding over the morning service will be Pastor Charles Hausser (pastor from 1989-2005) and the evening worship will be led by Pastor Kenneth Reed (pastor from 1984-88).

The event will include a music program and visual presentation of past church events.

All former church members are invited to attend. RSVP by calling the church at (562) 869-6673.

The First Southern Baptist Church of Downey is located at 12383 Downey Ave.

## Fundraiser to help end child abuse

**DOWNEY** – A fundraising event to help stop child abuse will be held tomorrow from 9 a.m. to noon at Downey Memorial Christian Church.

The event will include a bake-off competition featuring homemade pies and cakes at 9 a.m. Winners will receive cash prizes.

A pie-eating contest for men starts at 10:30 a.m., with winners getting tickets to sporting events.

There will also be live music, dancers, and a bake sale. Raffle tickets will be sold for nearly \$1,000 in prizes, including gift certificates to Philly's Best, Elephant Bar, Johnny Carino's, and Marisa's Restaurant.

For more information on the event, or to join the baking contest, call Shirley Johnson at (562) 862-2378.

## Credit union collecting food for needy

**DOWNEY** – Downey Federal Credit Union is sponsoring a canned food drive for needy families in Downey during the month of October.

Bins will be placed in the credit union's main branch and in the express service office at Downey Regional Medical Center for donations of non-perishable food items. The food will be donated to needy families through the Downey PTA HELPS (Health, Education and Local Pantry Service).

Recommended donations include canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, tuna fish, canned meat, and juices. Donations will be accepted until Oct. 31.

"Downey Federal Credit Union supports the efforts of the Downey Unified School District and the PTA, and wants to lend a helping hand to families in need," said Barbara Lamberth, president and CEO of Downey Federal Credit Union. "As an established business in Downey, DFCU feels it is essential that we all help families to grow and prosper in the community."

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## Resident awaits sentencing in foreclosure scam

By MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

LOS ANGELES – Martha Rodriguez, 35, of Downey is scheduled for sentencing Dec. 10 in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles for a \$12 million foreclosure scheme that victimized commercial lenders and more than 100 homeowners in Southern California.

Rodriguez pled guilty to mail fraud and money laundering in relation to the scam that ran from May 2003 to Nov. 2005, and a federal grand jury recently returned a second superseding indictment adding additional fraud counts and identity theft charges.

Included in the indictments were Edward Seung OK, of Torrance; Cynthia Valenzuela, 23, of Downey; Vladimir Stefanovic, 35, of Lancaster; and Maria G. Juarez, 36, of Reseda.

Operating Silvernet Properties in Downey and Bellasi Escrow in Seal Beach, Rodriguez and the defendants used computerized databases that list homes going into foreclosure to target victims. They would approach the victim homeowners and promise to stop the foreclosure of their homes with short-term loans and by using a co-signer who has good credit to refinance the mortgage.

The defendants promised the homeowners that by doing this, they would not only save their home, but their credit would also be improved within 6 to 12 months.

The indictment alleges that the homeowners were asked by the defendants to sign documents including loan applications, trusts and grant deeds, while being assured they wouldn't lose the titles to their homes. Rodriguez and her co-schemers promised the deed would either be held in escrow or that the title would be returned to them once their credit was repaired.

Instead of obtaining refinancing, loan applications were submitted in the names of "straw buyers" claiming to buy the property. Some straw buyers were paid up to \$5,000 for the use of their personal information. In other cases, the defendants used the personal information of others without their knowledge.

The false information on the applications caused lenders to fund mortgages to the straw buyers. The defendants would then pay off the loan in default and pocket the rest of the money. As a result, homeowners lost the titles to their homes and lenders sustained losses when the second loan would go into default because the straw buyers failed to make the loan payments.

Rodriguez ran the foreclosure scam while awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to defrauding the Department of Housing and Urban Development in another loan scheme. In 2006, an order to desist and refrain was also issued to Rodriguez from the California Department of Real Estate for conducting herself as a licensed real estate broker and providing residential, mortgage loan, and escrow services without ever having had a real estate license.

Rodriguez faces a maximum possible sentence of 40 years in federal prison.

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## HOUSE STEALING

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**Step 1:** Con artists pick a house. It can be a vacation home, rental property, or the home someone is living in right now.

**Step 2:** They assume the identity of the homeowner (often using the Internet to obtain personal information) and then create various fake IDs.

**Step 3:** They transfer the deed of the house into their name by obtaining the forms, forging signatures, using the fake IDs, and filing the paperwork with proper authorities. Now, they own the home.

**Variation 1:** Con artists find a home, steal the owner's identity, sell the property, and pocket the profits—even if someone still lives in the house.

**Variation 2:** Crooks prey on homeowners having trouble paying their mortgage, promising to refinance but instead "buying" the home using false identities. The owners lose the title and the banks lose the money they loaned to fake buyers.

Graphic courtesy FBI

## Kids invited to write scary stories

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library is sponsoring a Scary Story Contest for young writers in grades K-12.

Kids can submit their original scary stories to the library by Oct. 10. There will be a first, second and third prize winner in each level: grades K-3 (maximum 200 words), grades 4-8 (maximum 500 words), and grades 9-12 (maximum 1,000 words).

Entries should be word processed if possible and turned in to the Children's or Adult Information desk at the library. Contest entries can also be submitted online at [www.downeycitylibraryteens.blogspot.com](http://www.downeycitylibraryteens.blogspot.com).

All winning stories will be published in *The Downey Patriot* during the month of October.

"This is a great way for kids to get into the Halloween spirit and share their creativity," said Julia Butler, young adult librarian at the library.

For more information, call the library at (562) 904-7360, ext. 32.

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Are you feeling the "pinch" of a tight budget? "Stings" a little, doesn't it? Do you have cleaning needs that are "aching" to be met, but your carpet cleaning account is "hurting" a little right now? We feel your "pain"! (okay, I promise I'll stop with the puns). While we know that purse strings may be a little tight, we also know how important it is to maintain clean healthy carpets for your family! So...we would like to become your personal Indoor Air Quality Physicians, and prescribe a dose of clean, healthy carpets into your life!

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1. You will receive 20% OFF Carpet Cleaning – an incredible deal for your wallet
2. We will provide you with a FREE bottle of Carpet Spotter
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DEA # OIWANTU2CLN      LIC# ICANCLN4U2DAY

Aaron's Interior Cleaning  
Downey  
**562-861-5041**  
Aaronsinteriorcleaning.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Rx: 20% OFF  
FREE Carpet Spotter  
FREE Carpet Protector  
Certified Green Label Products

Accept No Substitute      Signature of Prescriber \_\_\_\_\_      Expires October 31, 2008

## The Poet's Corner

### King's Canyon The Serenade of the River

The rumble and crash of the river  
As it rushes over the waterfalls  
High up in the mountains  
Spilling over boulders and fallen trees  
Making it's way to the valley below  
Is music to my ears.  
The serenade is gentle  
As the river broadens  
And slides over the smooth old rocks,  
Making little eddies as it slips around and between  
These old stepping stones.  
Now it is just a murmur  
As it dances and sparkles over the ripples  
In the rays of the setting sun.  
Here between the towering granite peaks  
Under a canopy of whispering leaves  
And lofty old giant trees  
Little song birds join in the serenade  
And I find contentment  
Listening to the serenade of the river.  
—Leona Swanson,  
Downey

### My Two Doggies

My doggies two  
I love you  
Your feet are a tremble  
My heart is in a rumble

The sweetness in you is very sweet  
It make sme give you a doggie treat  
You're bold and great  
My heart cannot break

The kindness in you is great and neat  
You are in the funky beat  
You are in my dreams  
You both are like ice cream

You both are very nice  
You're just like sugar and spice  
Our hearts are sealed like a lock  
So we can go around the block  
—Andres Buendia,  
Downey (written by Andres, 11, for his two dogs, Spot and Max)

### Garbage Disposal

My words are ingrained in the mind of learning  
But are ever dissonant to those forever yearning  
A havoc they dispel by hermetic gesture  
Weaved quilts they weave for the cold and insecure  
However, for long nights the fawn that brings me gold  
Refuses in gaudy manner to regard my path as one well known  
Soon thereof my words reach climax and dumbfounded I am  
Today's simpleton  
The one in a box, the one without care  
And just this morning, the skull without hair.  
—James Hernandez,  
Downey

Poems can be submitted to *The Downey Patriot* at  
8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240  
or [downeypatriot@yahoo.com](mailto:downeypatriot@yahoo.com)

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## Bring Your Pets To the Pet Blessing

Saturday, October 4  
10:00 AM

Support Fail-Safe-4-Felines  
A No Kill Non-Profit  
Trap/Neuter/Return  
Serving Stray Cats in Downey

Christ Lutheran Church  
7707 Florence Avenue, Downey 90240

## Room for improvement

By ERIC PIERCE

All my life I've always wanted to shout, while running madly through a printing press and my arms flailing about, "Stop the presses! STOP THE PRESSES!"

Every newspaperman dreams of shouting that. We just need a valid reason to do it.

Last Thursday, somewhere between 5 and 6 p.m. when news of the boil-water order first reached city officials, I gladly would have stopped the presses to inform residents of the water crisis.

Problem is, city officials didn't see fit to notify us, the hometown newspaper, of the water crisis. We had to hear about it, like most residents, five hours later on the 11 o'clock news.

For approximately five hours residents were susceptible to drinking water that could have been contaminated with bacteria and possibly much worse. Thank god it all turned out to be a false alarm, but what if it hadn't been?

City officials say they followed standard protocol last week when they received word of the boil-water order. If true, that's a scary admission.

The water scare proves the need for a reverse 911 system in Downey. The city needs a way to immediately communicate with residents when an emergency breaks. As it is, information was posted to the city's website all through the weekend with water updates, but who checks the city website on a regular basis?

Downey has a large elderly population, and not everyone has Internet access.

An automated phone message should have been sent to residents Thursday night.

Residents should also have a phone number to call to receive up-to-date information. Our newspaper office was flooded with phone calls Friday from residents frustrated at the lack of information provided by City Hall. We shared those sentiments.

Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra proved to be the bearer of updates and information through most of the weekend, but unless you're on his mailing list, you're going to be left in the dark.

Indeed, it was three council members in Guerra, David Gafin and Kirk Cartozian, supported by city staff, who worked through the weekend to help keep the city safe. Luis Marquez was instrumental in setting up a Saturday afternoon meeting with Sen. Alan Lowenthal, eventually paving the way to Downey's water being restored.

So chants that Downey's leadership "doesn't care" about its community is not fair. Fault appears to lay at the feet of a clumsy laboratory. We should be thankful it was Gafin who was sitting in the mayor's chair and not a less interested council member.

But it is fair to say that the city's immediate response to the water crisis was substandard. Let's learn from this situation so we are better prepared for the future.

## Letters to the Editor:

### Memories of Wenzel's

Dear Editor:

I was very sorry to read of Tom Wenzel's passing ("Thomas Wenzel Survived by Family," 9/26/08). I posted the information in three online music discussion groups and several other members responded with comments and happy memories of Tom and Maxine's record store.

— Gary E. Myers,  
Downey

### Mansion envy

Dear Editor:

I keep hearing the shrill complaints about the "mansionizing of Downey" as though upgrading our city's housing by building bigger, nicer and more expensive houses is a bad thing. What in the world can people be thinking to come to such a conclusion and to propose that a house should be limited to some arbitrary size.

Under present Downey development standards, house size is already limited to a mandated floor area to lot area ratio. In addition, there are setback requirements on the front, back and sides of the property to protect property and neighborhood aesthetics.

So after all of this if someone wants to build a house with 700 square feet or more, I say, "Great, build it on my street!"

A lot of our city's houses were built in the 1950's-6's when 1,300-1,400 square foot houses were common, particularly in tracts. This is not the wave of the future, as is demonstrated by all the add-ons over the years. If we limit ourselves to building styles of the past, our city will not be a place where people will choose to live and it will gradually deteriorate. Property values will then drop and we all lose.

Take an afternoon to drive around and look at housing in up-and-coming communities of Los Angeles and Orange counties. Be honest and I'm sure you'll agree that the building of big beautiful houses is good for our community.

Wouldn't you and everyone you know like to live in a mansion?

— Ralph Mains,  
Downey

### The Downey Patriot

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following letters regarding Downey's water crisis last week were primarily received over the weekend, when information on the situation was sketchy at best. Thus, some letters may contain inaccurate or incomplete statements.

### Downey's water crisis

Dear Editor:

I'm flabbergasted that the city of Downey is not able to communicate information about the contaminated water supply to its residents in a more timely and effective manner. Unfortunately, many individuals do not watch the local news channels, nor may they be online at a site where they would learn of it.

If not from a phone call from a friend on the morning the story broke, I'm not sure when I would have found out about this. I do not understand why our city does not utilize a reverse 911 system, or some other automated call system, to notify residents. This is important information that everyone needed to know about as soon as possible.

— R. Santana,  
Downey

Dear Editor:

I would like to know if the water company is going to give everyone in Downey a break on the next water bill. They can't expect us to pay for what we did not get.

— Doris Hannon,  
Downey

Dear Editor:

As a longtime Downey resident, I feel that the people of Downey were not properly informed about the "water crisis." We all should have been contacted through the automated system.

The warning was issued late Thursday, however we were also informed that the city may have known about this problem as early as Tuesday. If this was the case, why were the residents not informed then? Why did the mayor wait so long to issue the warning?

— Carey Dufton,  
Downey

Dear Editor:

Being a lifelong Downey resident has meant seeing lots of changes in our wonderful town. Seeing how little concern our mayor and City Council has for its residents is a change that we're not willing to accept.

We, like most of America, are struggling to make ends meet. Sometimes they don't. My family has been suffering with intestinal pain, stomach flu, and other troubles for some time now. Going to the hospital is not an option for us. Like most families we try to take over-the-counter remedies to help us.

What is unacceptable is that we found out about this situation on the morning news. As soon as our city knew about this situation, they should have notified us via flyers, schools, posted notices in local shops, and in our *Downey Patriot* newspaper.

Speaking with residents, we have not received any updates, local food establishments remain closed, and our supermarkets are raising the prices of Dasani water. Many residents feel the city of Downey should have provided bottled water to its residents.

We live here, we care about our city, but local officials do not seem to reciprocate.

— Betty Martinez,  
Downey

Dear Editor:

Regarding the recent contaminated water incident, this entire affair is very interesting and informative. My thought about a potential crisis is that our city leaders handled it with aplomb and the highest level of diligence and duty to the community.

Many thanks to the city. Well done.  
— Gary L. Castagnola,  
Downey

More Letters on Page 11

### Web of errors

Dear Editor:

I have never had occasion to look at Downey's website until the boil-water notice. While at the site, I started looking at the restaurant guide. This is so out of date it is laughable. I would think it is time to take a look and update this site.

Downey Landing is still "a plan," several restaurants are listed that have gone long ago and there are many restaurants not even mentioned because they are more recent.

I didn't look at any other sections of the site, but I would be willing to guess the whole thing could use some updating.

I am sure city officials' answer will be "funds," but this city doesn't have any problem filtering taxpayer dollars to projects like Bob's Big Boy (for historical preservation, please!) and the like.

— Janice Onken,  
Downey

## 'Chihuahua' movie concerns animal shelter

CONTRIBUTED BY THE SOUTHEAST AREA ANIMAL CONTROL AUTHORITY (SEAACA)

**B**everly Hills Chihuahua" opens today in theaters. That's great news for Disney and all associated with this movie, including theaters, but animal shelters are concerned that a Chihuahua buying frenzy will follow.

"Much like what happened after the '101 Dalmations' movie, we tremble at the thought of impulsive puppy purchases, which may ultimately end up in our animal shelter in just a few short weeks," says Dan Morrison, executive director of SEAACA.

SEAACA appreciates the entertainment value of movies featuring animals, especially when the message includes responsible behavior. However, SEAACA is keenly aware of the appeal puppies have on the general public, and we caution the public to allow a two-week period after viewing the movie before making any firm decisions about bringing a new Chihuahua into the home.

SEAACA, a founding member of the Border Puppy Task Force (BPTF), is also issuing a buyer beware notice, cautioning against puppy purchases from newspapers and Internet sites.

"We have done a tremendous amount of work in the area of sick and underage puppy sales in Southern California which has revealed Mexico as the source for many of these pups," says Capt. Aaron Reyes, director of operations at SEAACA and BPTF manager. "Many of these puppies found in newspapers and on the Internet are indiscriminately bred, pulled from their mothers at 5-6 weeks of age and smuggled into the United States for



### PAC election Tuesday

Dear Editor:

Many citizens in Downey have begun to see notices in their mail or newspapers regarding the Oct. 7th Annual Meeting of the Downey Redevelopment Project Area Committee, or PAC. They may not be familiar with this committee or the Project Area, so the PAC wishes to provide additional information about this event.

The Redevelopment Project Area is a zone that incorporates most of the land along Firestone Boulevard, much of Downtown Downey, and a few other distinct neighborhoods. This designation grants the city expanded powers to redevelop these regions that can affect all of Downey's citizens. It allows the city to spend state and county tax revenue, to issue bonds without voter approval, and to provide subsidies to developers. The most recent and publicized projects undertaken as part of this program are the acquisitions of the Avenue Theater and the Verizon building in Downtown and the city's intention to develop these properties as mixed-use residential/commercial projects.

The PAC is an advisory panel comprised of citizens that have a stake in the Project Area; its members rely on their property in the area as a residence, livelihood, or investment. The PAC has resisted redevelopment abuse for over 20 years and is a large part of the reason eminent domain has not existed here for development purposes since 1987. Members volunteer their time to protect the residents of the Project Area while advising the City Council and staff on the direction and emphases of redevelopment. Because redevelopment allows cities to spend state and county money, it is extremely important that these funds be used responsibly. The PAC allows concerned citizens to contribute their visions for Downey's future so that city planning better reflects the needs and ideals of the public.

Every year, the PAC holds an Annual Meeting to elect new representatives from the Project Area. These members are selected from four categories to represent their respective interests: Homeowners, Residential Tenants, Business Owners, and Community Organizations. While the election is the primary purpose of this gathering, it also provides an opportunity to share information with the public regarding developments in the Project Area. This year's Annual Meeting will feature an update on the status of the Avenue and Verizon properties by Economic Development Director John Perfit.

All interested citizens are invited to attend this year's Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, Oct. 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Cormack Room of the Downey City Library** and to take part in this election, either to voice your concerns, to learn more about redevelopment, or to apply for membership. Candidates and voters must be from the Project Area but need not be property owners; residential and business tenants within the Project Area are equally affected and welcome. Representatives for another party, such as a business or community organization, will need to provide a letter confirming their authorization to participate.

Please come, even if you have no intention of joining—active voters are just as important as the candidates they elect. The PAC membership still seeks your opinion as an affected party in the Project Area, and you might discover some useful information. Concerned citizens from outside the Project Area are also welcome to attend and give input, although they cannot vote in the election or serve as members on the committee unless as the confirmed representative of an eligible party.

So long as the PAC exists, we can prevent the return of eminent domain for economic development while advising the city on the fair and proper course of redevelopment planning. But to do this, we need the support and membership of the community—you.

Come to the Cormack Room of the Downey City Library at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7th and see how you can shape our future!

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call (562) 896-2000.

—The Downey Redevelopment Project Area Committee

immediate re-sale."

SEAACA officials remind potential puppy buyers to always see the puppy's parents, get a sales contract, positively identify the seller, avoid paying all cash for a puppy, and have a veterinarian examine your puppy immediately.

"Make sure the veterinarian confirms the age of your puppy, as many of these puppy's ages are misrepresented," Reyes cautions.

Chihuahuas can make great pets! They are typically smart, loyal and social, according to SEAACA officials. However, they can be high strung and display behavior consistent with that personality type.

"Always do your research before adopting a dog, and spend some quality time with any potential adoption. It's important to know if the adoption is a good fit, and if the dog even wants to go home with you" Morrison joked.

SEAACA has a total of 51 Chihuahuas and Chihuahua mixes as of Monday, some of which were adopted over the weekend and are awaiting their spay/neuter appointment and post-adoption check-up.

"If you're serious about bringing a Chihuahua into your home, please adopt from an animal shelter," Morrison says. "Our animals are awaiting good, lifelong homes and come with all the bells and whistles – vaccinations, microchip, de-worming and spay/neuter – in one affordable price."

## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



# Downey Community Calendar

### Events For October

- Fri. Oct. 3: **Family Comedy Night**, Woman's Club of Downey, 7 p.m.
- Fri. Oct. 3: **"South Pacific" opens**, Downey Theatre, 8 p.m.
- Sat. Oct. 4: **Fundraiser to end child abuse**, Downey Memorial Christian Church, 9 a.m.
- Sat. Oct. 4: **Blessing of the animals**, Downey Church for Spiritual Enrichment, 2 p.m.

### City Meetings

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

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

#### Mondays

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

#### Tuesdays

- 9 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Vince Zoida at (714) 761-4439.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Adventure with the Bible**, at the First Baptist Church call 928-4153.
- 12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information call Darren Dunaway at 806-5400.
- 12 p.m.: **Exchange Club of Downey**, at Sizzler, for information call Don Hollister at 927-5871.
- 6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call 928-2658.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 441**, at Apollo Park Activities Room, for information call 923-3659.
- 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 & 3rd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Emblem Club #309**, at Downey's Elks Lodge, for information call 868-4386.
- 1st & 3rd Weds., 7:00 p.m.: **After-Care Post Cancer Therapy Group**, for information call 923-4800.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Sister Cities Ass'n**, at Maude Price School, Call 862-7197.
- 2nd Weds., 11:45 a.m. - **Downey Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos CC, Call 927-8488.
- 2nd & 4th Weds., 11:00 a.m. - **AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley CC, Call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
- 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park.
- 3rd Weds., 6 p.m. - **American Business Women's Association**, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
- 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.
- Wed. & Fri., 10:15 a.m.: **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

#### Thursdays

- 7:30 a.m.: **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.
- 7:30 a.m.: **Connections Networking**, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414.
- 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
- 12 p.m.: **Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee**, for information call 928-4153.
- 12 p.m.: **Optimist Club of Downey**, at Sambi's, for information call Steve Allen at 622-7655.
- 12:30 p.m.: **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.
- 6:30 p.m.: **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.
- 7 p.m.: **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.
- 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.
- 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

#### Fridays

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

#### Sundays

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

# On This Day...

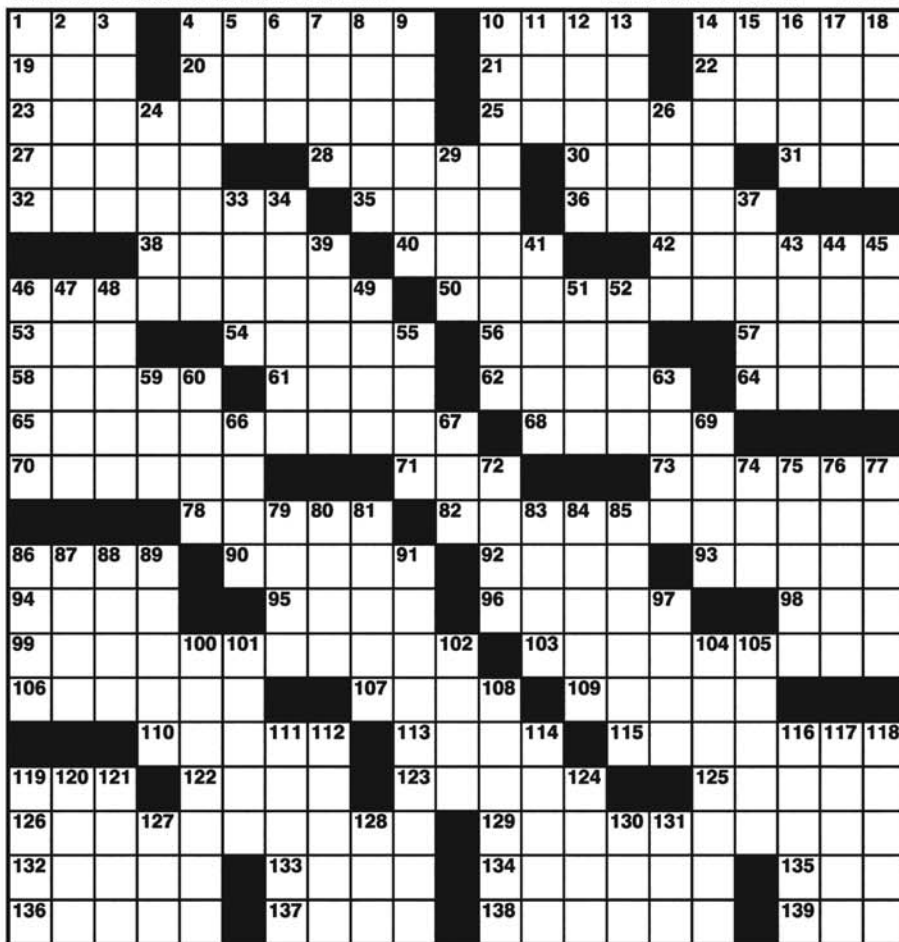
- Oct. 3, 1863: President Abraham Lincoln declares the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.
- 1951: New York Yankee third baseman Bobby Thompson hits the "Shot Heard 'Round the World," a three-run walkoff home run to win the deciding game of a three-game playoff series versus the Brooklyn Dodgers.
- 1990: West Germany and East Germany announce the creation of a unified nation.
- 1995: O.J. Simpson is found innocent in the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.
- 2003: Roy Horn of the duo "Siegfried & Roy" is attacked by a tiger during a Las Vegas performance.

## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**HAIL TO THE CHIEFS: Presidential portrayers**  
 by Randall J. Hartman

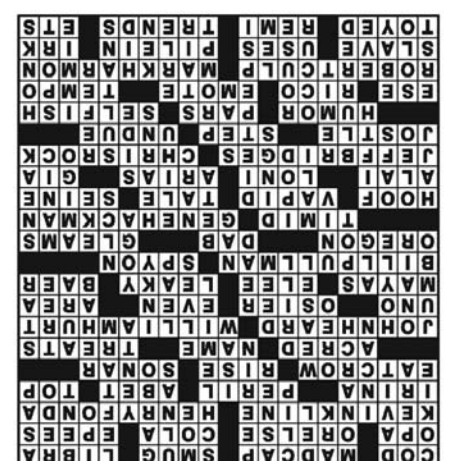
- ACROSS**
- 1 Hyannis entrée
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  - 20 Famous last words
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  - 22 Sport swords
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  - 38 Having lots of lots
  - 40 Appoint
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  - 57 Neck of the woods
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  - 113 Shoots 72 at Augusta
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  - 123 Ham it up
  - 125 Metronome setting
  - 126 In *The Pelican Brief*
  - 129 In *Chasing Liberty*
  - 132 Work too hard
  - 133 Takes advantage of
  - 134 Enter en masse
  - 135 Rub the wrong way
  - 136 Trifled (with)
  - 137 Scale pair relative
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  - 2 La Scala performance
  - 3 Cargo crane
  - 4 Born leader
  - 5 Genesis boat
  - 6 Md. neighbor
  - 7 Paper holder
  - 8 Lou Grant portrayer
  - 9 Look through a keyhole
  - 10 Chump
  - 11 Curly's tormentor
  - 12 Radil neighbors
  - 13 Greta of films
  - 14 What a southpaw throws with
  - 15 Wall St. debut
  - 16 Proclivity
  - 17 Make over
  - 18 PDQ relative
  - 24 Ancient Peruvian
  - 26 Busybody
  - 29 What *vidi* means
  - 33 Sandwich cookie
  - 34 Underhanded one
  - 37 Health program
  - 39 Marching practice
  - 41 Arctic assistants
  - 43 Halo glow
  - 44 Orchard element
  - 45 Part of Orion's belt
  - 46 Egg size
  - 47 Studio sign
  - 48 Game authority
  - 49 Judge
  - 51 Abrupt transition
  - 52 Very dark
  - 55 Enjoy a novel
  - 59 HS math
  - 60 Notice
  - 63 Exercise regimen
  - 66 Part of USC
  - 67 Henpeck
  - 69 World Series precursor: Abbr.
  - 72 Software test version
  - 74 Supplement, with "out"
  - 75 Cancún compadre
  - 76 Frenzied
  - 77 Underhanded one
  - 79 Ivory Coast neighbor
  - 80 Cassette-player descendant
  - 81 Small jobs for a body shop
  - 83 DEA agent
  - 84 Philanthropist Yale
  - 85 1980s welterweight champ
  - 86 Pilgrimage to Mecca
  - 87 Bread spread
  - 88 Lummoxes
  - 89 80% of a quart
  - 91 Tab alternative
  - 97 "Them" or "us"
  - 100 Indistinct
  - 101 Send payment
  - 102 Ore layer
  - 104 Turkish rulers of old
  - 105 Allude (to)
  - 108 Punctual
  - 111 Come to pass
  - 112 Wake up
  - 114 Flight component
  - 116 Shooting marble
  - 117 Bon vivant
  - 118 Sounds the horn
  - 119 Prefix for while
  - 120 Go it alone
  - 121 On-line auction site
  - 124 Perry's creator
  - 127 Night before
  - 128 Moon lander
  - 130 *Jeopardy!* champ
  - 131 Stashed away

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2008 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 9/28/08



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

The title characters of the Anton Chekhov play "Three Sisters" are IRINA (27 Across), Olga and Masha. TV reporter COKIE Roberts (1 Down) is the daughter of two former members of Congress from Louisiana. Linda Boggs and Hale Boggs, Thomas "Hit Man" HEARNS (85 Down) has held world boxing championships in six different weight classes.





Johnnie Croshaw will entertain the OASIS crowd Monday at Downey Adult School. The program is free and begins at 3:45 p.m.

## Croshaw to croon for OASIS crowd

**DOWNEY** – Johnnie Croshaw, Downey’s “favorite lyric baritone,” will present a one-man show this Monday at Downey Adult School as part of the regular OASIS meeting.

“This outstanding one-man show is a special treat,” said OASIS director Harriett Paine. “He was certainly one of our most popular guests last year and we are thrilled to have him return to entertain us.”

Socializing and piano music by Dr. Bob Flynn begins at 2:45 p.m. followed by the program at 3:45. Dinner will be served at 5 (dinner tickets should be purchased by 3).

Dinner will consist of baked meatloaf, baked potatoes, asparagus, coleslaw, bran bread squares, cake, and milk and coffee.

For more information, call (562) 940-6200.

## Basketball league for girls hosts tryouts

**DOWNEY** – The girls’ Jr. NBA Basketball League will conduct tryouts Wednesday and Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Apollo Park.

Sponsored by the city of Downey, the program emphasizes fundamental basketball skills, teamwork and sportsmanship by incorporating the six pillars of Character Counts.

The league is open to girls ages 8-14 and up to the 8th grade. Proof of age is required at registration. Cost is \$67 and includes uniforms, officials and awards.

All games will be played at Apollo Park on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Teams will be organized and practices begin the week of Oct. 13. Games begin Nov. 3.

Volunteer coaches are needed. For more information on the league or coaching opportunities, call (562) 904-7128.



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 Alexandra Canto!!  
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 your parents. We hope you  
 enjoyed your quinceañera!  
 Love, Mom, Dad & Johnny

# Busy holiday season in store for senior center

**DOWNEY** – The Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center has announced their events for October and the holidays.

On Oct. 6, a representative from the State of California Public Utilities Commission will present a 45-minute workshop about the various discounts available to assist with payments of phone, electricity, and natural gas services for eligible consumers ages 50 and older.

The class will be presented in English from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., and in Spanish from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Visitors will also learn about free devices to assist with specialized phones for the hearing impaired, and about the upcoming digital TV transition. No pre-registration is required.

On Oct. 13, Talbert Medical Group will host a fall prevention workshop from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Learn ways to make your home safe from hazards that may cause you to fall. Also learn about health exercises that provide strength to reduce the risk of falling. No pre-registration is required.

The annual Downey Holiday Home Decorating Contest will begin accepting entries Oct. 14 and through Dec. 6. Entries will be accepted in several categories for judging and trophies will be presented to the top winners in each category. Call (562) 904-7227 for details.

The community center will host a holiday boutique Dec. 6 as part of its first annual Winter Wonderland Festival that will include a breakfast with Santa Claus, youth and adult performers, and free arts and crafts. The Winter Wonderland event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The holiday boutique and Winter Wonderland is free to attend. Breakfast with Santa tickets are \$8 and will be available Oct. 14 – Dec. 3 or until sold out. Craft vendor registration begins Oct. 9.

Free flu shots are available for seniors 65 and older. CareMore will host a flu clinic Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and AppleCare will host their clinic Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The annual Halloween Pumpkin Patch, a free event for Downey residents, will be held Oct. 31 from 5 to 9 p.m. in the parking lot next to Apollo Park. The event includes costume contests for children (ages 2-14), carnival games, free food and candy.

For more information on any of these events, call the community center at (562) 904-7227.

## Church hosting its Harvest Festival

**DOWNEY** – Downey United Methodist Church will host their annual Harvest Festival on tomorrow from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The free event will include a rummage sale, white elephant sale, and various food booths. There will also be a children’s section with a jumper, sponge toss, face-painting, and more.

Downey United Methodist Church is at 10801 Downey Ave. For more information, call (562) 861-9777.



**Francisco Deuen, a 2003 graduate of Downey High School, has completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex. During six weeks of training, he studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies. He also performed drill and ceremony marches, and received training in rifle marksmanship, human relations, and field exercises. Deuen also earned credits towards an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.**

## Warren grads become Marines

**SAN DIEGO** – Two recent Warren High School graduates will graduate from recruit training at the United States Marine Corps Recruit Depot today, earning the title of Marine.

Patrick Long and Lance Alcon were trained in military customs and courtesies, first aid, and a variety of military subjects designed to “create the moral and discipline required of all Marines.”

Long, of South Gate, and Alcon, of Downey, both graduated from Warren High School in June.

Both were recruited by Sgt. Daniel Baca from the recruiting substation in Downey.

# Complications of Uncontrolled Diabetes

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**Steven Eng, MD**

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**6:00 p.m.**

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**Room**

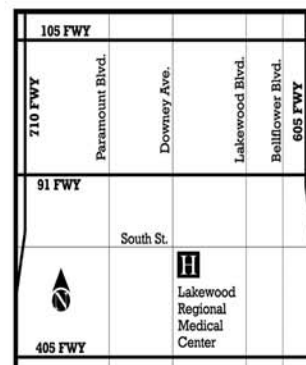
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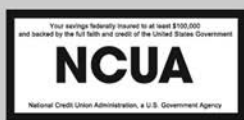
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## Marsha Moode aims to please audiences

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

For years now, the theater has held center stage in Marsha Moode's life. While still in college, following in the footsteps of Hollywood stars Dolores Del Rio and Loretta Young, she played Ramona for three years in Hemet's famous "Ramona Pageant" before an audience of 6,000 each performance, which was a big deal at the time.

Before and after graduating from USC, she played the female leads in Shakespearean plays, including: Isabella in "Measure for Measure," Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet," Olivia and Viola in separate performances of "Twelfth Night," Lady Macbeth in "Macbeth," and Andromache in "Troilus and Cressida." Held mostly in the Los Angeles area, these performances also took her to such places as Kentucky, Virginia, Oregon and other venues as the Shakespearean company she was part of toured the country.

In the course of her career, she also worked in television with many celebrities such as Henry Fonda, Burt Reynolds, Shirley Jones and Goldie Hawn. All told, she says she has to-date written, produced, directed or acted in 150 productions.

She early on had her own radio show, "Poetry Live," in Los Angeles. Today, she hosts two 90-minute programs, the politically-oriented "Campaign Series" (with Supervisor Don Knabe and newspapermen Lawrence Christon of the *Los Angeles Times* and Larry Ellison of the *Press-Telegram*) as well as "Good Company" featuring artists and entertainers, for Time-Warner.

She has meanwhile over the years served in many other community volunteer assignments. She has hosted the Downey Holiday Lane Parade, for example, for the past 21 years. She has been Mistress of Ceremonies for a dozen years for the Downey Chamber of Commerce installation dinners. She has also lent her talents to many good causes (leukemia fund raisers, Rancho Los Amigos Foundation Amistad Gala, the Downey Rose Float's golf tournaments, the Downey Art Museum annual fashion shows, etc.)

Her accomplishments and services haven't gone unnoticed. While still at USC, she was chosen "Outstanding College Coed for Southwest USA," representing seven western states. She was selected "Volunteer of the Year" by the Downey Chamber of Commerce in 1992. She has been recognized by the Downey Coordinating Council as "Volunteer of the Year"

with the Downey Symphony and selected "A Woman Making History in the Southland" by the League of Women Voters, and was honored recently as a "Woman of Distinction" by the Downey Soroptimists.

When she took over in 2000 as executive producer of the Downey Civic Light Opera (after serving as its public relations director for 13-14 years), Marsha says she inherited a single staff member.

"Everybody else had left. I didn't know anything," she says. "I had to attend to the bank account, the costumes, arranging for contract players and recruiting ensemble players. I had to worry about the sets, and their safe transport from distant warehouses to here. It took me a year and a half before I felt comfortable with all the elements of the job."

Luckily, a group of "good people, good volunteers" gathered around her, she says, and "things began to take shape. They helped out with the phones, faxing letters, filing, with little details. In all this, none was more helpful than former Downey Social Services head Alta Duke.

"Today, as we speak," she says, "Alta is recuperating from knee surgery. But she promised to be here in time for the show. She can't drive just yet, so her daughter will wheel her in."

"South Pacific" is opening DCLO's 53rd season tonight. It is Marsha's 19th musical production. It runs on three weekends through the 19th. Marsha says the show coincides with "South Pacific's" revival on Broadway, where "it's been a huge success," having won seven Tony awards. It's the first revival on Broadway in 60 years, she says, and word has it that scalpers have been hawking tickets for \$1,000 apiece. DCLO dusts it off every decade.

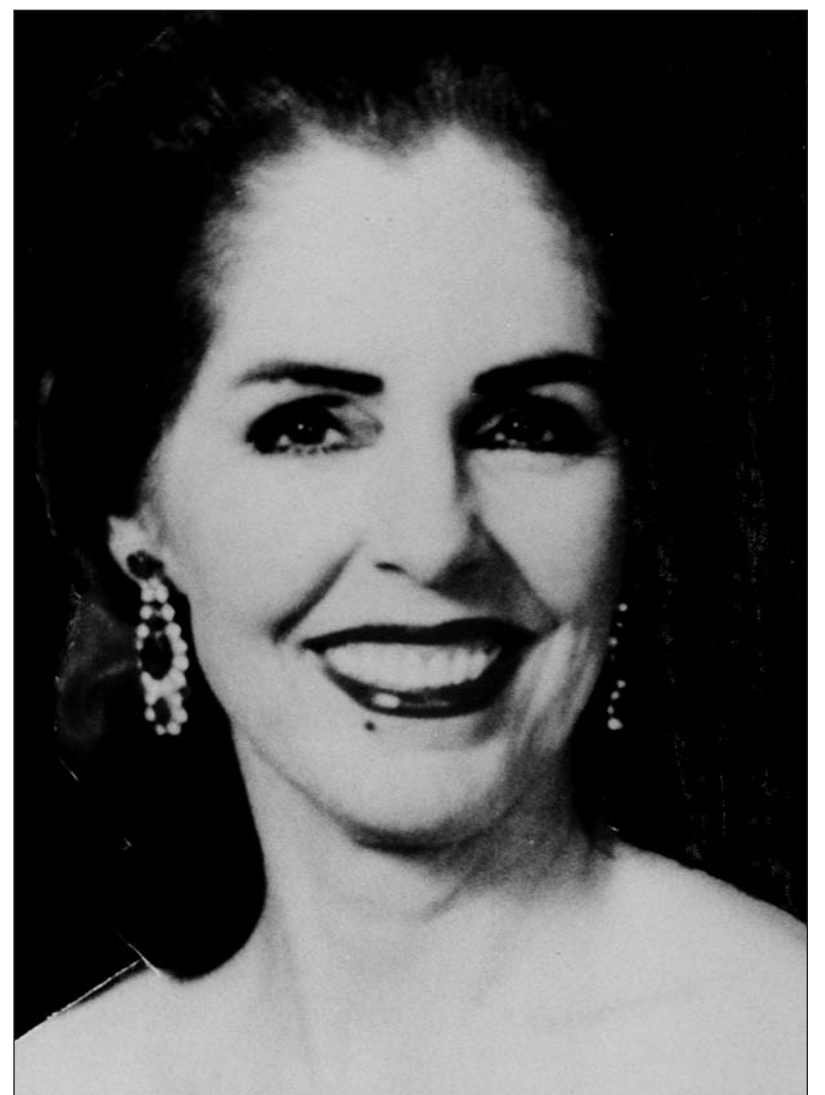
The Rodgers and Hammerstein classic is one of those musicals that you don't tire of seeing, over and over again. It's got gaiety, comedy, and high drama. It's an aching story of young love, and it's a triumphant story of mature love. Raw courage is depicted, and patriotism, and a future filled with promise and hope. But its chief glory lies in its songs, songs immortalized by the likes of Broadway legends Ezio Pinza and Mary Martin. Once you've heard "Some Enchanted Evening," "Bali H'ai," or "Younger than Springtime," you won't be able to shake off their haunting melodies from your system.

If the names of "South Pacific's" starring trio of Greg North, Carolanne Marano, and Bill Lewis seem familiar to you, it's because they have appeared in Marsha's productions before. North, who plays Emile, was last seen in "Guys and Dolls." Marano, who plays "Nellie Forbush," starred in "Gypsy" and "Camelot." Lewis was Fagan in "Tintypes." Ann Peck McBride, who plays Bloody Mary, has appeared in at least 15 of Marsha's DCLO shows.

"About 20 of my 35 ensemble cast members, including students and children, are returning," Marsha says.

"One reason people come to see our DCLO musicals," she says, "is our prices haven't gone up in three years. We have maintained the same \$30 orchestra and \$35 balcony ticket prices, as compared to \$40 and \$50 in neighboring cities. Plus, when people attend our shows, they know they can relax here and have a good time. They also like our free parking, and our good restaurants nearby."

"Anyway," she goes on, "I believe it's important to have live theater. In the face of countless DVDs, 8,000 channels to choose from, and a million alternative choices, live theater has to be good, it has to be done with passion. I take pleasure in bearing this responsibility. I'm incredibly happy



Marsha Moode is executive producer of the Downey Civic Light Opera, which presents "South Pacific," opening this weekend at the Downey Theatre.

when the show is on, especially when people laugh. That means they're having a good time, and you can't ask for more than this."

Marsha says she's always trying to add a little extra to the productions. If the original casting is thin, she adds more performers. She doesn't hesitate to use the wings for greater immediacy. "We have raised the quality of our shows," she says.

The response to Marsha's approach has been gratifying. "We have a 90 percent subscription renewal rate," she says. In addition to theater enthusiasts from Norwalk, Long Beach, Whittier, Cerritos, and La Mirada, etc., "people come from as far away as Rancho Cucamonga, from Mission Viejo, from Mt. Shasta, from Carlsbad, and Lake Havasu on any given night. Whole families come, with their kids, and this is good. They have their favorites."

Perennial favorites over the years include "Oklahoma!," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "Fiddler on the Roof," and "The Sound of Music."

She says that working on this scale has its random peculiar problems: "Things always happen. You just have to cope with it." Once, on the day of a show's performance, Marsha and her crew waited anxiously for the arrival of the only sets available. They barely got in on time. The sets originated from Wichita, Kans.

"Anyway, our motto here is 'Focus and Cope,'" Marsha says. As if she had any choice.

## 'South Pacific' opens tonight

DOWNEY - "South Pacific" will open the Downey Civic Light Opera's 53rd season tonight at the Downey Theatre.

The production marks producer Marsha Moode's 19th musical production. The show stars Greg North, Carolanne Marano, Bill Lewis and Ann Peck McBride.

"South Pacific" will play the next three weekends. Tickets are \$30-\$35 for adults, \$25 for students with ID, and \$15 for children under 12. Seniors can buy \$25 "rush tickets" 15 minutes before showtime.

For more information, call the box office at (562) 923-1714.

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 BLINDNESS R (10:45 1:40 4:35) 7:30 10:25  
 EAGLE EYE PG-13 (11:25 2:10 4:55) 7:40 10:25  
 NIGHTS IN RODANTHE (11:05 1:40 4:15) 6:50 9:25  
 FLY ME TO THE MOON 3D (10:20 12:45 3:10) 5:35 8:00 10:25  
 IGOR PG (10:00 12:35 3:10) 5:45 8:20 10:55  
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To Friends, and Patrons of Granata's Italian Villa

The Granata family would like to publicly extend a loving thank you to all our patrons and friends that have called to express their concern over our city's water issues and its effect on us. The amount of calls we received were really overwhelming. We hope everyone is doing well and look forward to seeing all of you very soon.

I would like to add a thank you also to the few dedicated Downey City Officials who worked diligently on this matter to keep us informed as best they could.

Hopefully this setback will assist all agencies (City-County and State) as well as citizens to handle any future issues in the most efficient manner. Thank You All again.

Sincerely,  
 Paul Granata, The Granata Family, The Granata Staff

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 BLINDNESS R Fri to Sun: (11:00, 2:00, 4:55), 7:50, 10:40; Mon to Thur: (11:00, 2:00, 4:55), 7:50  
 NICK & NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST PG-13 (12:05, 2:35, 5:10), 7:35, 10:05  
 EAGLE EYE PG-13 Fri to Sun: (11:00, 1:10, 1:55, 4:05, 4:50), 7:00, 7:45, 9:55, 10:35; Mon to Thur: (11:00, 1:10, 1:55, 4:05, 4:50), 7:00, 7:45, 9:55  
 NIGHTS IN RODANTHE PG-13 (11:30, 2:10, 4:45), 7:15, 9:45  
 IGOR PG (11:55, 2:25, 4:50), 7:05  
 LAKEVIEW TERRACE PG-13 Fri to Sun: (11:05, 1:50, 4:35), 7:40, 10:20; Mon to Thur: (11:05, 1:50, 4:35), 7:40  
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# Razorbacks ready for their homecoming

BY MIKE BAUMANN, DOWNEY YOUTH FOOTBALL

**DOWNEY** – It will be homecoming of sorts for the Downey Razorbacks tomorrow at Downey High School's Allen Layne Stadium, as all but two teams return for week five of the 2008 PCC football season. The Hogs enter the second half of the season with every team a legitimate conference playoff contender.

Flag Red displayed the results of hard work and dedication in grinding out a 16-14 victory, their fourth straight win.

By a score of 44-0, MityMite White overwhelmed the Palos Verde Stallions to improve their record to 4-0 without allowing their opponents a single score. Downey got off to a slow start, but in the second quarter Dominique Pickens sprinted to a 45-yard touchdown to begin the scoring barrage. Steven Zepeda followed up with a 30-yard scamper. A quarterback sneak by Jordan Cardenas capped off a 40-yard run by Adrian Ochoa who had been stopped at the 1-yard line.

The defense forced three turnovers, one fumble recovery and two interceptions (Cardenas and Tony Ramirez). The front five linemen of Michel, Carson, Garcia, Elizalde, and Tony Jimenez held the Stallions in check all game long.

The Jr.PeeWee's won, on the road, for the second week in a row with a 28-6 victory over the Wilmington Pilots. The Hogs, led up front by Christian Vargas, Aaron Ramirez, John Boik, Joaquin Guerrero, Beto Lara and Jesse Saenz, opened big holes for the running game. Eduardo Preciado started off the scoring with a 45-yard catch and run followed by a 60-yard reception from Keifer Enslin.

Enslin scored on a 35-yard run and a 85-yard sweep. Alejandro Cortez added to the scoring with PAT.

PeeWee Hogs (3-0) had a rare bye week and are eager to resume play tomorrow.

Downey's Jr. Midget Razorbacks improved their record to 3-1 by beating the Twin Cities Wolverines 28-0. The game featured another stellar performance by the Razorback defense. Leading the way was Gregory Martinez, who intercepted a pass and returned it for Downey's first touchdown. Tristan Esparza scampered for three touchdowns in the contest and Justin Sainz was perfect with his point after kicks. The Jr Midgets travel to Redondo Beach in this weekend's contest.

In the Midget division game, the Downey Hogs edged a tough Gardena team by blocking the extra point with seconds to go. Quarterback Mikey San Angelo set up a touchdown by Arthur Espinosa, followed by an extra point kick by Jose Rodriguez. The Midget defense once again dominated the game, allowing only six points and blocking the extra point with time winding down.

Tomorrow's games begin at 8 a.m. at Downey High School. Tackle teams play teams representing Pico Rivera/Whittier. Flag teams will play Lakewood, TriCities, and TwinCities.

## City sponsoring trip to UCLA-Stanford game

**DOWNEY** – The city of Downey Community Services Department is sponsoring a trip to the UCLA-Stanford football game Oct. 18 at the Rose Bowl.

Tickets, available on a first-come first-serve basis, are \$30 and available at City Hall or Apollo Park.

A bus will depart Apollo Park at 10 a.m. and return at approximately 5:30 p.m. Kickoff is at 1 p.m.

For more information, call Apollo Park at (562) 904-7128.

## Movie tickets help Warren volleyball

**DOWNEY** – Warren High School's girls' volleyball team is selling discount movie tickets for Krikorian Theatres as part of a team fundraiser.

Tickets, priced at \$6.50 each, never expire and can be used at any Krikorian Theatre for any movie, at any time.

Tickets are available immediately from any Warren volleyball player or by calling Barbara Hill at (562) 861-7610.



Warren High School senior class president Catalina Pereira has had an eventful couple of months: on July 13, she was crowned Miss Costa Rica Los Angeles. She was also crowned Miss Central America Cofeca on Aug. 24, competing against young women from Panama, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Finally, on Sept. 25, she was awarded a trophy by the President of Cofeca at Los Angeles City Hall. Catalina has played on Warren's soccer team for three years and cross country for two years. She was also recently recognized by the National Honor Roll.

# Vikings lose grip on football, game

■ Downey suffers 'second-half breakdown' and falls to Millikan, 37-14.

BY SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – Hanging on to the football proved troublesome to the Downey Vikings as they lost to visiting Millikan High School 37-14 last Friday night.

"We played hard," said Downey head coach Will Capps. "We did our best. It was a great effort. We had a second-half breakdown, they outplayed us and they were well coached. We tried."

In a rematch of a game that saw both teams combine for more than 80 points last year, this year's match-up was quite the opposite. The teams turned the ball over 10 times in the game and neither team could get the running game going at all.

Downey's defense held Millikan's starting running back Jonathan Sanders to 66 yards on 15 carries and didn't allow the reserves to do much damage either.

Millikan forced Downey's standout running back Jeremiah Higgins to have a nightmarish game. Higgins on the night was given the ball 16 times and was only able to grind out 62 yards.

The biggest surprise was Higgins' inability to hold on to the ball. Higgins fumbled the ball three times in the game, including two straight possessions.

"He was playing hurt," said Capps, who said he noticed Higgins routinely reach for his troublesome knee that he injured earlier in the season. Higgins got the nod to play after pleading with coaches during that he was OK and ready to go.

But Downey's rushing issues were the last thing they needed to worry. Defensively they were able to stop the rush and most of the passing attempts, but were unable to stop the tandem of Millikan's quarterback Jake Holtz and receiver Alden Darby.

The two hooked up nine times in the game for 107 yards and two touchdowns. Every time the ball was in the air, it seemed Darby was always in the area getting ready to make a big play.

"There were some defensive breakdowns," Capps admitted. "Our pursuit angle was not there and we weren't able to catch him on that outside angle."

Holtz finished his night 15 for 26, gathering 217 yards through the air and the lone touchdown pass.

The game was close until the fourth quarter. At the end of three periods, Downey was only down two points.

Downey's Steven Cervantes did his best to keep the team in the game, throwing the ball all over the field in the third quarter. He finished the quarter with a 33-yard touchdown pass to Keith Holland.

Millikan responded with a drive of their own. Sanders would end the first drive of the fourth quarter with a 14-yard rush for his only score of the game. The score proved to be insurance for the Rams as Downey didn't threaten again.

There was a bright spot for the Vikings defensively, with linebacker Steven Williams sacking Holtz four times in the game.

Already though, Capps was looking forward to tonight's game. The Vikings will host Kennedy High School at 7 p.m.

# Warren uses bye week to rest

BY SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – After a week of rest and relaxation, the Warren Bears are ready to get back on the gridiron tonight as they travel to take on La Serna High School at California High School in Whittier.

According to head coach Chris Benadom, the bye week for the Bears was relaxed but focused, saying that practice last week was business as usual.

Benadom believes his team will be ready for tonight's game and knows his team will be focused and ready to go against a team that hasn't lost yet this season.

"La Serna is good but we'll be ready," Benadom said. "This will be a good test for the young Bears."

Tests have been something the Bears pass as of late with their 2-1 record. So far, so good for the young team who beat Bellflower High

School and Whittier High School by alarming amounts.

In both games, Warren watched their running back Jessie Callier blow away the field, rushing his way to 200-yard games.


The Bears have also seen their wide receiver Bailey Cowins continue to be a playmaker on the field, helping out sophomore quarterback Sam Bettencourt become more comfortable in a system he still is developing in.

Defense hasn't been a problem for the Bears all season long except for the hiccup that occurred at Pioneer High School when they played the Santa Fe Chiefs.

In that game, that Benadom flatly said they played bad, and the Bears couldn't do anything defensively, giving up 40 points in the loss.

That game seems to be long forgotten now as they travel to take on La Serna tonight at 7 p.m.

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# Five days that shook Downey

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY**—What happened here Sept. 25-29 will definitely go down in local lore as the “five days that shook Downey.”

It was a time when a Downey water supply “coliform” scare resulted in a state-mandated “boil-the-water” order that effectively curtailed or shut down the activities or operations of all tap water users in the city.

This meant residents had to either boil their water used for drinking or cooking, which had inconvenience writ large all over, or buy bottled water from the store, which of course translated into a spike in unexpected expenses—easily an unwelcome added irritant to an already frazzled citizenry trying to tip toe their way around economic land mines.

This meant heavy water users such as coffee shops and restaurants, and giant Coca-Cola, temporarily shutting down their operations, while others, such as health care facilities, scrambled to secure their water supply.

This meant, for many, loss of wages, loss of time, loss of patience.

This meant the mayor, other councilmembers, and key administration staff—even at odd hours of the night or early morning—making or fielding angry phone calls and otherwise frantically trying to calm people’s fears.

City Manager Gerald Caton tried to put everything in perspective Tuesday. Speaking before the Downey Rotary Club, he described the totality of “coliforms” as a group of closely related bacteria that are natural and common inhabitants of the soil (wells) and surface waters, such as lakes and rivers, and are generally harmless. Their presence in drinking water suggests that the integrity of the water system may have been breached.

The city of Downey has always prided itself in being on top of things. In the matter of water quality, Caton said the city’s Public Works Department, operating under federal and state health requirements, religiously tests the water (every week) from its 20 wells, flushing its miles and miles of pipelines (as needed), and otherwise sends 1,700 water samples every year to state-certified professional testing labs. In its over 50

years of existence, the city has never encountered a troubling situation as had occurred last week. (See a timeline of the incident on page 1).

In the end, he said, it seemed clear that it was lab error that led to the issuance of the “boil water order” that caused such an uproar. (This was exacerbated, it was later learned, by the heavy-handed manner in which some county health officials executed their marching orders). Caton emphasized that no location in the city tested positive for coliform twice—a precondition to issue a “boil water order.” It is also important to note, he said, that no locations in the city have ever tested positive for E. coli or fecal coliform, either. The presence of either of these two coliforms is definitely a red flag.

In short, Asst. to the City Manager Scott Pomrehn pointed out later, the water was safe all the time, and that the repeated testing of water samples that increased from three to a total of 27 over the agonizing five-day “boil-the-water” period was really “a precautionary measure” on the part of the regulators concerned—the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Public Health.

“The city is still drawing samples and trying to determine what really went wrong, and where it originated, and how, and who, if any, is culpable,” he said. “It’s hard to determine all this because the water is always flowing, from source to final stop. But we’re reviewing everything, and will take steps to make sure something like this never happens again, and make sure the proper protocol is observed.”

This includes the setting up a “reverse 911” notification system, where households and businesses are notified immediately of similarly unusual and emergency-type situations. (Caton in fact apologized for the city’s failure to notify the *Patriot* earlier for the boil water order; it only learned of the ‘calamity’ from other L.A. media sources, as did Downey residents.)

As of press time, City Hall confirmed receiving at least three claims against the city.

Meanwhile, “the city continues to test the water to verify that the system is free of coliform,” Caton said.



## Mary Jo Walker

October 29, 1936 - September 28, 2008

Mary Jo Walker passed away in her sleep on Sunday, September 28th, 2008. She was born in Chicago on October 29th, 1936. Mary Jo married Will S. Walker on September 22, 1956, passing the 53 years married milestone last week.

During this time, Mary Jo and Will built an 8-unit apartment building, remodeled a house (also known as Mary Jo’s Bed & Breakfast), and ran a thriving apartment business. Mary Jo also worked as an elementary school teacher before and between the years of raising her children. She is remembered as a loving wife and mother, and friend to all. Mary Jo will be missed by many but especially by her husband Will, brother Bob, son Kurt, daughter Traci, daughter-in-law Mary, and her grandchildren Machelle, Keith, and Winter. A celebration of Mary Jo’s life will be held on Saturday, October 4th, 2008 at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Downey. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Messiah Lutheran Church Memorial Fund.

## Guild luncheon Oct. 18

BY ROSALIE SCIORTINO, DOWNEY SYMPHONY GUILD

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Symphony Guild will host their annual luncheon Oct. 18 at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center at 11:30 a.m.

“Hidden Treasures” is the theme of this year’s festivities with guest speaker Stephanie Piche, who will divulge her secrets on how to find and sell items in your home which you feel are worthless.

She is head of her company called “Estates Sales Pro,” has a real estate license, a BS in Business Administration, and uses the Internet to do research, to promote, and to sell for her clients.

A boxed picnic lunch will be served by Katie Hare and her board of directors. The lunch consists of a croissant turkey sandwich, fresh fruit, chips, and a surprise dessert to enjoy with coffee or iced tea.

As always, this is one of the times through the year that the Guild engages the community to join with them to benefit Music in the Schools and the Downey Symphony Orchestra. We think this is an excellent way to introduce the Guild to the city in an informal, warm and friendly manner.

Please RSVP by Oct. 9 with your donation for the lunch of \$25 mailed to Downey Symphony Guild, 9700 Garnish Dr., Downey, CA 90240.

## New Titles at the Downey City Library

### Fiction

- **“The Almost True Story of Ryan Fisher”** by Rob Stennett. In need of an edge in the real estate market, a young energetic salesman places an ad in a Christian business directory. When his business doubles in a week, he decides to “plant a church” and build an empire.
- **“The Book of Lies”** by Brad Meltzer. What do two murders, committed thousands of years apart, have in common? This is the latest thriller from the author of “The Book of Fate.”
- **“The Butt: an Exit Strategy”** by Will Self. In a not too distant land where smoking is illegal and a cigarette is a weapon, a man tries to give up smoking and inadvertently sets off a chain of events that will alter the future.
- **“Holidays on Ice”** by David Sedaris. From the diaries of a Macy’s elf to tales of tardy Trick-or-Treaters, this is the updated collection of essays from humorist Sedaris.
- **“Salvation in Death”** by J.D. Robb. In the year 2060, sophisticated investigative tools can help catch a killer: but there are some questions even the most advanced technologies cannot answer. This is the latest “Eve Dallas” mystery from bestselling author Nora Roberts writing as J.D. Robb.

### Non-Fiction

- **“Cast of Characters: Common People in the Hands of an Uncommon God”** by Max Lucado. Some of the most powerful stories from the Bible come alive through these inspiring selections. At the end of each chapter, Lucado also includes questions for further reflection.
- **“Marvel Chronicle”** by Tom Brevoort. From Spider-Man to the Incredible Hulk, the iconic heroes and villains of Marvel comics are included in this lavishly illustrated history.
- **“Michelle: a Biography”** by Liza Mundy. Who is the woman that Barack Obama calls “the boss”? Meet Michelle Obama, an attorney, mother of two children and wife of the Democratic Presidential candidate.
- **“The New Paradigm for Financial Markets”** by George Soros. In the midst of the most serious financial upheaval since the Great Depression, financier Soros discusses the credit crisis and its implications for our nation and the world.
- **“Real Life: Preparing for the 7 Most Challenging Days of Your Life”** by Phillip C. McGraw. Dr. Phil shows how to effectively handle a major crisis and master any situation.

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

## Italian group holding bingo luncheon

**BELFLOWER** – Members of the Italian Catholic Federation of St. Dominic Savio will hold their bingo luncheon Oct. 19 from 12:30 to 4 p.m. The price is \$10 and includes an Italian meal and one bingo card. For more information, call Joseph Polselli at (562) 261-7936.

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## Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor:

As a taxpayer and 11-year resident of Downey, it upsets me to know that our city officials and the water department did not warn residents about the recent contaminated water in our city. We had to find out about it through our local news stations and papers...after the fact.

They should have been more considerate to the residents of Downey to and at least have sent out a mailer or flyer to alert us about this problem that could have had major health repercussions.

I hope in the future we can trust our city politicians and water department to be more considerate in warning all residents of these issues.

— Sergio Rocha,  
Downey

Dear Editor:

As a resident of Downey, I am highly concerned that I had to hear this evening on Fox11 News at 10:30 p.m. that the city has recommended that "all citizens need to drink bottled water or boil their tap water." The news was all of 15 seconds with no details other than "high bacteria levels that should clear up in three days."

As I hear this news, I am concerned for my family and the water they have been drinking all day. I then turn to the city website for more information. To my surprise, there was no information regarding this issue. Not only is this unacceptable, but disturbing that our city would not notify residents.

This seems like a perfect opportunity to use a reverse 911 system to notify the community. Utilize the school's automated phone call system to notify parents, or at least post a notice on the website of the issue.

I called City Hall knowing no one was there but expecting an outgoing message. No answer, and not even a machine stating what city hours are.

Right now I sit unknowing of the potential exposure my two sons have been faced with. What type of bacteria have they ingested? What reaction may they have from this bacteria? They have been at school, the parks, and the library today; was the exposure in just one location? Have our schools been notified? There's no information.

If it's serious enough that the media gets it and tells us not to drink the water for three days, I think it's serious enough to notify the community. Shouldn't our city government, our city manager, and water officials get information out to the community?

— Sam Ferreira,  
Downey

Dear Editor:

I am upset by how the city officials handled the water crisis and am afraid to think how they would handle another crisis. Being a full-time student and a resident of Downey, I didn't find out about the crisis until Saturday morning.

From what I gathered, city officials didn't act upon the matter until Thursday night, two days after the tests were conducted. I am concerned about the delay because I have a niece who attends one of the elementary schools.

The city should have a reverse 911 system or some other effective means of communication. Not everyone tunes into the local news.

— Jennifer Lee,  
Downey

Dear Editor:

The United States Marine Corps teaches its leaders, from the commandant to the newest corporal, to have a plan and a backup plan. This redundancy is necessary because the first plan will probably fall apart as soon as the first shot is fired.

Apparently none of the "leaders" on all the boards, and the city council, of Downey have never given any forethought to having an emergency notification plan. It's obvious there's no "Plan B" and whatever "Plan A" is, it's useless.

The City Council began receiving warnings about the water test results during the afternoon of Thursday, Sept. 25. The first I heard about a boil-water notice was Friday, Sept. 26 at 1:30 p.m. That was when my daughter in Huntington Beach called my wife and said she heard about it on K-ABC7. Then Friday evening, at about 7:30 p.m., we got a recorded phone message; that's about 28 hours after the city had knowledge of the problem!

In a public health situation, a 28-hour delay is unacceptable, no matter how small the crisis may be. Posting information on the city website and alerting the local news media is not enough. How many people routinely browse the city website to see if the water is OK to drink? How many residents of Downey don't have computers and Internet access? How many people have no access to the local news during the middle of the day?

To top off the Keystone Corps response to this situation, we got the "all-clear" phone call at 11:20 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 28. Imagine how anxious my wife was when a late-night phone call came! Was it about one of our elderly mothers? Or our diabetic daughter? Or our other two daughters? Some other emergency?

The "crisis" here wasn't in the water or the inaccurate tests: it was in the city's response and notification of its citizens. Let's call this one a wake-up call and learn something from it. In the 21st century there are more effective methods of mass notification than door-to-door flyers and too-late phone calls.

— Richard McAllister,  
Downey

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# Water: Mayor calls for full investigation into last week's boil-water incident.

Continued from page 1

major news outlets, including radio and TV stations, informing them of the boil-water order (this newspaper was never notified so the information did not make last Friday's issue). Downey does not have a reverse 911 system in place to notify residents of potential health hazards or emergencies.

City officials said 1,000 notices were hand-delivered to residents "in the area immediately surrounding the positive tests."

"Notifications were made as soon as results were verified and the affected neighborhoods identified," said Brian Ragland, director of public works for the city of Downey.

Public works employees, meanwhile, began flushing out Downey's water system from fire hydrants "in the impacted areas." Chlorine was added to pipelines to work as a disinfectant.

Also Thursday night, county health officials began shutting down Downey restaurants, proclaiming them as "health hazards." Health officials worked until midnight closing restaurants, mostly fast-food places and restaurants open late.

By 10 p.m., many TV news stations began reporting Downey's water problems.

**FRIDAY:** At 9 a.m. Friday, county health officials resumed closing restaurants they had not reached the night before. Some restaurant owners complained of anxious health inspectors over-eager to shut them down.

"We have received reports of the heavy-handedness of county health officials, and we plan to speak to the county about it," Gafin later said.

At 1:30 p.m., city and county health officials held a joint news conference at City Hall. Angelo Bellomo, an environmental health deputy for the county of Los Angeles, said the "vast majority" of Downey's restaurants — about 200 — were shut down as a result of the boil-water order and very few would be allowed to reopen.

Testing, meanwhile, resumed on Downey's water.

"The city has initiated standard operating procedures to both clean the system and notify residents of the boil-water order," Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra wrote in a mass e-mail. "The city continues to perform additional testing to ensure the system is safe in accordance with city, county, and state health and safety rules and regulations."

The city of Santa Fe Springs allowed Downey use of its reverse 911 system at no charge. Gafin recorded a message informing residents of the boil-water notice, and the message was sent to residents sometime Friday evening.

Residents with blocked or unlisted numbers did not receive the message.

**SATURDAY:** On Saturday, at

2:06 p.m., Michelson Laboratories acknowledged its mistake in the form of a letter e-mailed to city water officials. It invalidated results showing total coliform bacteria and confirmed the absence of E. coli.

"Michelson Laboratories agrees to invalidate the total coliform results from repeat samples submitted on September 24, 2008," reads a portion of the letter, signed by laboratory director Stephen Roesch. "The E. coli data is not invalidated, only the total coliform. The total coliform data is being invalidated due to the inconclusive color change that occurred in the 18-Hour Colilert media."

"The difference between the negative control, the samples, and the positive comparator was not interpreted correctly and reported as positive on the preliminary report. After reviewing the analytical data and the test samples from the source waters...it was apparent that the nine repeat samples were actually negative or absent for total coliform."

Even with the letter, Gafin said the city was denied permission to lift the boil-water order from state health officials, who were erring on the side of caution.

**SUNDAY:** The boil-water order was lifted for most of Downey on Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

"While city officials are still investigating the cause of the problem, many experts acknowledge the ultimate cause of the positive test results may never be determined," said an official city press release.

A portion of South Downey (105 Freeway on the north, Bellflower Boulevard on the east, the southern city limit on the south, and Fidler Avenue on the west) remained under a boil-water mandate due to inconclusive testing samples.

At 7 p.m., inside his City Hall office, Gafin recorded his second message on Santa Fe Spring's reverse 911 system, announcing the lift on the boiled water mandate. Gafin said the message was supposed to be delivered at 8 p.m. and continue until "9 or 10."

"I heard reports that people received messages at 3 or 3:30 in the morning. Unfortunately we didn't have much control over the system," Gafin admitted.

Guerra said he received two phone calls; one at 3:06 a.m. and another at 3:35.

"I want to apologize for the many, many late night calls some received via our reverse 911 system yesterday," Guerra said. "We were happy to be able to call everyone to notify all of the lifting of the order, but it was bad when some

residents, like I, received late night calls instead.

"Something went wrong and I am so sorry. It was meant to be a good thing and it alarmed some of our citizens instead."

**MONDAY:** By Monday morning, word of the lift on boiled-water slowly began to spread. The fire department sent crews to local restaurants notifying them it was OK to reopen for business.

Monday night, state health officials lifted the remaining boiled-water notice in South Downey, proclaiming all city water safe to ingest.

"The residents in this area received hand-delivered copies of the cancellation notice [Monday] evening," Ragland, the public works director, wrote in an e-mail.

**Aftermath**

City officials said they received no reports of illness that could be attributed to contaminated water, and Gafin said he was demanding an immediate investigation into the "water crisis."

Gafin also said the city would no longer use Michelson Laboratories for its water testing.

And while acknowledging the city fumbled in its immediate response to the crisis, he emphasized the public was never in any serious danger.

"If ever there was a serious threat, we would have had police and fire going up and down the streets with their sirens," Gafin said. "But we do need to work on our response. Not everyone watches news, and not everyone reads the paper."

"As unfortunate and frustrating as the boil-water order was for the entire Downey community, precautionary measures were implemented to ensure the safety and well-being of all Downey residents," Gafin continued. "The entire response from start to finish will be reviewed as a result of this incident."

Guerra, who said he responded to more than 400 e-mails from concerned residents in the past week, said he remained confident in Downey's water.

"The safety of our residents is our No. 1 priority during events like the one which occurred during the past few days," he said. "Throughout the entire event, the city was in constant contact with our schools, our hospital, and the media...I drank the water from my tap [Sunday] morning, and so did my family."

Councilman Kirk Cartozian said it was important for the city to be tenacious when testing its water supply.

"The entire testing process is susceptible to error, which is why a

positive test must be reconfirmed through additional testing before even a precautionary warning is issued," he said. "The city, county, and state follow very strict protocols when dealing with water systems."

"Although the possibility exists that false alarms can and do occur, the city will always err on the side of caution in situations such as these."

## Agency offered bottled water

**COMMERCE** — The Central Basin Municipal Water District, a public agency that wholesales imported water to cities and private companies, said it offered Downey bottled water and commended the city for "undergoing stringent precautionary measures over the weekend to ensure the safety and quality of their drinking water supplies."

Downey pumps water from its own groundwater supply and tests it weekly for bacteria and other harmful organisms.

"When it comes to water quality, we cannot be too cautious," said Director Ed Vasquez, representing Division 1. "The city of Downey has an exceptional track record for providing the highest quality water to its residents. Their response to this incident further demonstrates their commitment to maintaining a healthy and safe water supply."

"Although the city of Downey relies 100 percent on their local groundwater supplies, and not on water imported through Central Basin, the city is one of the largest in our service area. We have been in touch with city officials to extend any services we can — from providing bottled water to support with water quality testing."

Vasquez said Central Basin has been in contact with surrounding communities "to ensure that this isolated issue has not affected any additional communities in the 24-city service area."

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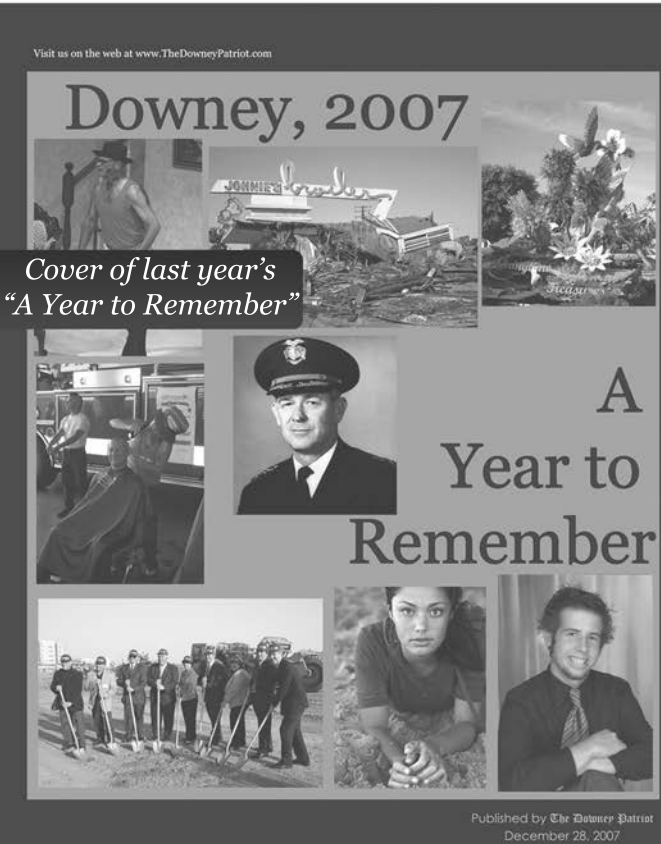
Downey, 2008... A Year to Remember is a special edition magazine recapping the significant news and events that transpired in Downey throughout the past year.

This full-color, vibrant magazine is produced once a year by The Downey Patriot. The magazine will be distributed with the December 12, 2008 edition of the newspaper.

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Preschool children can meet firefighters and see a fire engine close up this Tuesday and Wednesday at the library. Photo courtesy Downey City Library

### Firefighters to visit with children

**DOWNEY** – What is it like to be a firefighter in Downey? Kids can find out – and see a fire engine close up – at the Downey City Library's Firefighter Storytime next week.

Downey Fire Department members will be on hand to read stories, meet the children, and show a Downey fire engine.

The free event, in celebration of National Fire Prevention Week, will be presented Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:30 to 11 a.m. It will be held in the library's Cormack Room and is open to parents and preschool children ages 3-5.

For more information, call Children's Services at (562) 904-7360, ext. 4.

### Yo-ho-ho! Library celebrates pirates

**DOWNEY** – Forty children in the kindergarten class at Creative Beginnings School visited the Downey City Library two weeks ago for "Talk Like a Pirate Day."

Children's Librarian Gina Orello read them some favorite buccaneer tales while the kids donned hats and learned "pirate speak." Library staff even dressed in costume and had pirate books on display for young readers.

Now an international day of fun and celebration, "Pirate Day" originated in 1995 as a "goody idea" among friends in Portland, Ore., but gained popularity after humorist Dave Barry mentioned it in his syndicated newspaper column.



The 'Night at the Races' fundraiser Oct. 18 at Los Alamitos Race Track has a 1970's theme. Proceeds from the event will benefit Childrens Hospital Los Angeles.

### 'Night at the Races' Oct. 18

**DOWNEY** – Members of the San Antonio Guild of Childrens Hospital Los Angeles are in the planning stages of their annual "Night at the Races," this year scheduled for Oct. 18. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. at Los Alamitos Race Track.

The ticket price of \$70 includes preferred parking, admission, a buffet dinner in the private banquet room at the finish line, and a private betting area. There will also be a silent auction and donations are welcomed.

For tickets or information, call Dorothy Pemberton at (562) 927-9908.

### Newcomers present Mini-Fair Oct. 13

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Newcomers Club is holding their annual Mini-Fair at Los Amigos County Club on Oct. 13, a fundraiser to raise money for their annual scholarships and various community donations.

On sale will be homemade items, jewelry, baked goods, books, and other items.

The Mini-Fair begins at 10 a.m. and will be followed by the club's monthly buffet luncheon at 11:30 a.m.

For reservations, call Paula Lou Roberts at (562) 861-2545.

### Middle school dance Oct. 24

**DOWNEY** – The city of Downey Community Services department is sponsoring a Halloween dance for middle school students on Oct. 24 from 7 to 10 p.m. inside the gymnasium at Apollo Park.

The dance costs \$5 to attend and is open to all students in grades 6-8 with current student I.D.

Students must conform to a strictly-enforced dress code, which includes a collared shirt with tie and slacks for boys, and a blouse or sweater and knee-length skirt or slacks for girls.

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

### Business expo at Stonewood Center

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Chamber of Commerce will present their 2008 Business Expo on Oct. 16 from 4 to 7:30 p.m. inside the center court at Stonewood Center.

Vendor booths are available for \$100 for Chamber members, or \$175 for non-members. Electricity is available for an additional \$25.

To register, call (562) 923-2191.

### College fair planned Oct. 11

**LOS ANGELES** – Representatives from more than 30 colleges and universities will assemble for a college fair at Cal State L.A. Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

College representatives will be available to speak to prospective students, and financial aid workshops will be held in English and Spanish. There will also be a drawing for scholarships, and Panda Express will provide lunch.

Assemblymember Charles Calderon is hosting the event. For more information, call Tom White at (916) 319-2058.

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On a separate note, today is my brother Craig's birthday. He's also my best friend. I wanted to wish him a very special birthday. We'll be celebrating on Sunday by watching football all day from 10am until 4pm at his favorite place, Legends Sports Bar in Long Beach. If you're a friend of Craig's, come on by!

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

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SUNDAY



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SATURDAY



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City officials held a press conference last week to discuss Downey's groundwater, which a state laboratory said twice tested positive for bacteria. The results were later invalidated, but not before state health officials issued a boil-water order for the city. Photo by Eric Pierce

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**Sold! Sold! Sold!**  
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**A Year to Remember**

Downey, 2008... A Year to Remember is a special edition magazine recapping the significant news and events that transpired in Downey throughout the past year.

This full-color, vibrant magazine is produced once a year by The Downey Patriot. The magazine will be distributed with the December 12, 2008 edition of the newspaper.

With a circulation of 25,000 copies, this is easily the widest received publication in Downey, and an excellent opportunity to advertise your business for a large audience.


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RUN DATE: December 12, 2008  
DEADLINE: Friday, October 31, 2008

## Downey, 2007



**Cover of last year's "A Year to Remember"**

# A Year to Remember



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