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Friday, October 10, 2008

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

Property sale a real nightmare for local family

■ Homeowners surprised by people living in their house.

BY MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – When Oscar Soto and his wife Janett put their house at 9015 Guatemala Ave. up for sale in March, they had no idea their experience would turn into a nightmare for themselves and another family.

Afraid of losing their home to foreclosure, the Soto's moved into a family member's house and put their own property up for Quick Sale. They received a couple of offers on the house, but the bank declined the loans so the house sat empty for months – or so they thought.

On Sept. 27, a relative passing by the Soto's former home noticed people were living in the house. The Soto's immediately contacted their real estate agent who told them the house was still up for sale and should be vacant.

Going over to the house, the selling agent was surprised when someone answered the door and said they had been renting the house since the beginning of September. Living in the home are Freddy Alvarado and his wife Lucy, their son Freddy Jr., daughter Yesenia Hernandez and her husband, and the Hernandez' five-month-old son.

Yesenia said they saw signs posted in the neighborhood advertising the three-bedroom house for rent. After calling the telephone number on the signs, a woman

claiming to be Rosa Alicia Gonzalez from Diamond Financial Services met with them and showed them the house. On Aug. 28, the Alvarado's gave Gonzalez \$4,000 for the damage deposit and first month's rent, and the family moved in.

"We thought she was for real because she put in a new boiler, lamps, painted and had workers here," Lucy said. "A water bill even came in her name and she said she would take care of paying it."

"She said she was representing the owners who were selling the house and that we could rent the house until it was sold which would take one year to a year and a half," Lucy said.

Wanting to know who this woman is, the Soto family's real estate agent left messages for her requesting a meeting. Visiting Diamond Financial Services at 10310 Paramount Blvd. in Downey, the Soto's discovered the office was unoccupied.

Gonzalez allegedly never returned the agent's phone calls and requests to meet with her on Sept. 29, but she called the tenants instead.

"She asked me for the rent for October and I told her I wasn't paying her anything because she didn't have permission from the owners to rent us this house," Lucy said. "She told me if I didn't pay her by Oct. 1, she would issue a three-day eviction notice."

See RENTAL, page 3

Gafin confident of water quality

■ Downey mayor writes letter to reassure residents after water scare.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Mayor David Gafin called for a special City Council meeting last night, where city officials were set to discuss the recent boil-water order that forced the closures of nearly all Downey restaurants and sent residents scampering for bottled water.

The meeting took place at 7:30 p.m., after this newspaper had gone to press.

In a letter dated Oct. 2 and addressed to Downey residents, Gafin addressed the boil-water order.

"Last week we all experienced significant inconvenience due to the issuance of a boil-water order from the California Department of Public Health. The state certified laboratory that issued the finding that led the state to issue the boil-water order later invalidated the results of their testing. A lab error, therefore, led to the issuance of the boil-water order. The city of Downey's water was and is safe to drink.

"I know that there are concerns over the notification procedures

utilized when the state issued the boil-water order. The city of Downey was obligated to follow the directions of the California Department of Public Health, which included notifying news agencies.

"After the issuance of the boil-water order by the state, city employees immediately hand-delivered 1,000 notices to the three affected neighborhoods and press releases were issued to make all the upcoming news cycles.

"The following day the Downey Unified School District used its emergency phone notification system to inform parents of the boil-water order while the city utilized an emergency phone system to call over 26,000 residents and businesses. We were able to call every phone in Downey that did not have a blocked or unlisted number.

"Safeguarding the health and safety of Downey residents is the city's most important responsibility. Rest assured that Downey drinking water has always been tested weekly and is safe to drink. We are very proud of our great tasting water and will continue to be diligent regarding our public health."



Candidates for Downey City Council participated in an early-morning forum Tuesday at the Rio Hondo Event Center, where candidates mostly agreed on a future of fiscal conservancy. Photo by Eric Pierce

City Council candidates mostly agree on key issues

■ City Council will have a new look come Nov. 4.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – With municipal and presidential elections less than a month away, Downey City Council candidates this week expanded on their political philosophies and worked to differentiate themselves from their counterparts' sometimes identical viewpoints.

Most candidates who participated in the early-morning forum Tuesday – sponsored by Citizens for Downey and held inside a banquet room at the Rio Hondo Event Center – agreed on the need to be fiscally conservative, if not frugal, during this economic downturn, with one candidate even suggesting a study to lure a massive amusement park along the lines of Knott's Berry Farm to Downey.

The forum also served as an introduction of sorts to Dr. Shahira A-Malek and Russell Rankin, two City Council candidates who have remained largely in the shadows of their political opponents who carry greater name recognition.

Luis Marquez, a candidate for the District 5 at-large seat, did not attend due to a family emergency, according to planning commissioner and acting moderator Terry

Lambros.

The forum consisted of a short list of questions with candidates designated two minutes to answer each question. The forum began with a brief introduction from each candidate, beginning with David Gafin.

David Gafin

Gafin, current mayor of the city of Downey, is a shoe-in to be reelected in District 1 (South Downey). That's because he's not facing any competition.

"I'm running unopposed this time. Yay," he joked.

Gafin, already a recognizable local figure, kept his introduction concise, using his time to remind residents of a special City Council meeting held last night to discuss the recent water crisis.

Roger Brossmer

Roger Brossmer, a candidate for District 3 (Northwest Downey), seeks to replace termed-out Councilman Rick Trejo. Brossmer's platform is one of experience, leadership and action.

As a planning commissioner, "I've gotten to know the city better, how it works," he said. Brossmer cited his family's deep roots in Downey, dating back to his grandparents who moved here in the 1940's, before the city was incorporated.

Brossmer said a lot of his time



From left: Mayor David Gafin, Gary De Remer, Maria Larkin, Roger Brossmer, Dr. Shahira A-Malek, Russell Rankin, Terry Lambrose and Mike Prokop. Photo by Eric Pierce

is spent at parks where his kids participate in Downey AYSO and T-ball, and with the numerous organizations he volunteers with.

"City Council is the next logical step to give back to the city," Brossmer said.

Russell Rankin

Rankin, ditching the suit and tie in favor of blue jeans and a sport coat, does not appear to be your typical politician. In fact, Rankin admitted, he has been apolitical most of his life.

"But the last eight years I saw

the direction the city was going in," he said. "I went to meetings and couldn't get any action on it. I couldn't get them to even look at what I was talking about, to see if I was telling the truth or not.

"Even when the FBI comes in and arrests people, the bureaucracy still doesn't want to listen," said Rankin, who is running in District 3, against Brossmer. "I got so frustrated I decided to run."

Rankin said he's lived in
See ELECTION, page 8

'When I lost her, I lost myself'

BY MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

Diane Busalacchi thought her life was at an all-time low when her chief supporter died during her divorce – her mother. Busalacchi, 46, who enjoyed working in the seafood industry and being a mother to two daughters, never thought about doing drugs until her depression made it easy for her to reach out and accept methamphetamines from an acquaintance who attended her mother's funeral.

She quickly found herself addicted, and her life spiraled out of control as she lost her daughters, her job, and her home. Not even waking up in a riverbed with a gash on her head and discovering someone had stolen her car was enough to make her stop seeking the temporary artificial euphoria from drug abuse.

"My mom was my everything – when I lost her, I lost myself," Busalacchi said. "I used this excuse for five years to self-medicate, self-pity, and self-destruct."



Her disparaging behavior landed her two four-month visits to the county jail and a nine-month stint in prison on drug charges, yet she continued to desperately seek out more drugs as soon as she was released.

Busalacchi admits that when she found herself unmarried and pregnant with her third child, she took methamphetamines during her first trimester. "I knew I had to stop," Busalacchi said. "I knew I was already at high risk because of my age and because I wasn't taking care of myself."

Busalacchi tried to stay away from drugs until she was in her eighth month of pregnancy. Once again accepting drugs from an acquaintance, Busalacchi began hemorrhaging immediately.

"My friend took me to the hospital and I remember hearing 'Baby down, baby down' and being higher than a kite," Busalacchi said.

The next day was a wake-up call for Busalacchi when a social worker told her that she would be going home without her baby. Both Busalacchi and her new daughter had tested positive for methamphetamines.

With the serious impact of the words, 'Baby down, baby down' echoing in her memory, and forcibly separated from her baby, Busalacchi talked with the social worker about entering drug rehabilitation. The social

See REHAB, page 4



Carlos Getino, a Downey resident since 1988, is a candidate for the California State Assembly (58th District). He is shown above with Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner at a recent candidate nominee training session in Sacramento.

School renaming cafeteria after Paine

DOWNEY – Downey Adult School will rename its renovated cafeteria the “Harriett Paine Event Center” at a dedication ceremony Oct. 20. Paine has been an adult school educator for more than 50 years and has taught the OASIS (Older Adults Seeking Information and Skills) program, which meets inside the cafeteria, the past 26 years. The dedication and ribbon cutting will take place at 4 p.m. To RSVP or for more information, call (562) 940-6211.

Library discusses ‘green’ career options

DOWNEY – High school students considering their future may want to “think green” and choose a career in ecology. The Downey City Library will offer a free workshop, “Careers in the Environment,” Tuesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Cormack Room. Presenter Rupam Soni will discuss satisfying careers in such areas as water and waste management. For more information or reservations, call the Information desk at (562) 904-7360, ext. 132.

Downey UPS driver lauded for safety

DOWNEY – Leslie Fujikami, of Downey, was one of 56 elite California drivers inducted into the Circle of Honor, an honorary organization for UPS drivers who have achieved 25 or more years of accident-free driving. “UPS puts a premium on safe driving methods and training and these drivers reflect that commitment,” said Gerald Mattes, president, of UPS Pacific Region. “I’m very proud of these drivers. To go at least a quarter of a century without an accident is a testament to how seriously our drivers, and trainers, take safety.”

Author releases her second novel

DOWNEY – Children are often thrown in the middle of spousal battles, making it difficult for an unwanted marriage to dissolve. In many cases, when running away is no longer the answer, loving parents make the decision to reclaim their life, their children and their happiness.

Downey resident and author Brenda Youngerman describes the struggles of a single mother in her newest release, “Public Lies” (Outskirts Press, 2007).

“Public Lies” is the story of a woman who chooses to take her children and flee her marriage to start a brand new life. Reality sets in when her children begin to question their father’s whereabouts and she realizes she cannot continue to hide from her past. She decides to return home and face her problems, which include dealing with her abusive husband who wants nothing more than to avenge her for leaving him and disappearing with their children.

“This novel allows the reader an insider’s view of turmoil, a mother’s love and her struggle to do what she thinks is right,” said Youngerman. “It also delves into what the world perceives as healthy relationships, some of which are far from that.”

Fortunately for Nancy, the emotionally distressed mother, her family and a close friend keep her from losing her mind and possibly her children. Their support enables her to keep fighting for her children’s custody and to stand up to her demanding husband.

“Public Lies” is about courage, the depth of love and the strength of a mother,” said Youngerman. “But most of all, it’s about the millions of victims who feel trapped, confused, hurt and alone. These men and women need to know they have options and that help is available.”

Youngerman is the author of the bestseller “Private Scars” and an advocate of domestic violence legislation. She was born and raised in Southern California where she grew up in a broken home and pulled herself out of a destructive marriage.

Youngerman still resides in Downey and has been a single parent for 14 years.

Yard sale to help fund scholarships

DOWNEY – Soroptimist International of Downey is promising treasures at a benefit yard sale tomorrow, with money raised going towards scholarships and programs for women and children.

The yard sale will be at 8049 Dacosta St. (off Florence and Paramount) between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Donations for the sale are also being accepted.

For more information, or to make a donation, call Dorothy Pemberton at (562) 927-9908.

OLPH Guild selling raffle tickets

DOWNEY—The OLPH Women’s Guild is selling raffle tickets with proceeds going towards student scholarships.

Tickets are \$2 and winners will receive between \$250-\$1,000. The drawing will be held Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. Winners need not be present. For tickets, call Joyce at (562) 861-5113.

Frisco’s carhop hosting fundraiser

DOWNEY – Frisco’s carhop restaurant will host a fundraising event Oct. 24 to benefit the Exchange Club Family Support Center.

Diners who eat at the restaurant between noon and 9 p.m. on Oct. 24 and present a special flier upon ordering will have a portion of their bill donated to the Exchange Club.

The Exchange Club works in child abuse prevention and parent education. Frisco’s is located at 12050 Woodruff Ave. For a flier, call (562) 904-9590.



Carol Veatch, left, was honored with JoAnn Osby by the Los Angeles Area Council of the American Business Women’s Association at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Veatch is named Woman of the Year

DOWNEY – The Los Angeles Area Council (LAAC) of the American Business Women’s Association recently hosted their annual candidate’s forum at the Rio Hondo Event Center, where members heard from the 2009 candidates for national office of the association.

The event also honored Carol Veatch as 2009 LAAC Council Woman of the Year. Veatch is a member of the Eldorado Chapter of Downey and was selected by outside judges from those nominated by area chapters.

Currently the communications officer of the LAAC, Veatch has been a member of ABWA for more than seven years, serving as secretary, vice president, membership chair and newsletter chair.

The program also honored current ABWA District VI vice president JoAnn Osby.

The Eldorado Chapter meets the third Wednesday of every month at the Rio Hondo Event Center at 6 p.m. for networking, followed by dinner and a business-related program. For more information, call Debbie Stuver at (562) 884-6429.

Chamber mixer at Embassy Suites

DOWNEY – The Downey Chamber of Commerce will present a networking mixer Oct. 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Embassy Suites.

The mixer is free and includes refreshments, live entertainment and raffle prizes.

Chamber ambassadors will greet guests as they arrive. For more information, call (562) 923-2191.

Learn about pre-paid legal services

DOWNEY – Harry Sacks of Pre-Paid Legal Services, along with Kari Johnson and Marianne Noss of Downey Federal Credit Union, will be the guest speakers at Tuesday’s Rise ‘N Shine networking meeting at Stox Restaurant, starting at 7:30 a.m.

Cost to attend is an order from the menu, and visitors are encouraged to bring business cards.

RSVP by calling the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191.

‘Parade of Winners’ Oct. 19

DOWNEY – The Downey Rose Float Association will present “Parade of Winners” at the Rio Hondo Event Center on Oct. 19.

Seating begins at noon and lunch will be served at 1 p.m. A raffle drawing for \$10,000 begins at 2.

For tickets, call Mike Prokop at (562) 760-5250.

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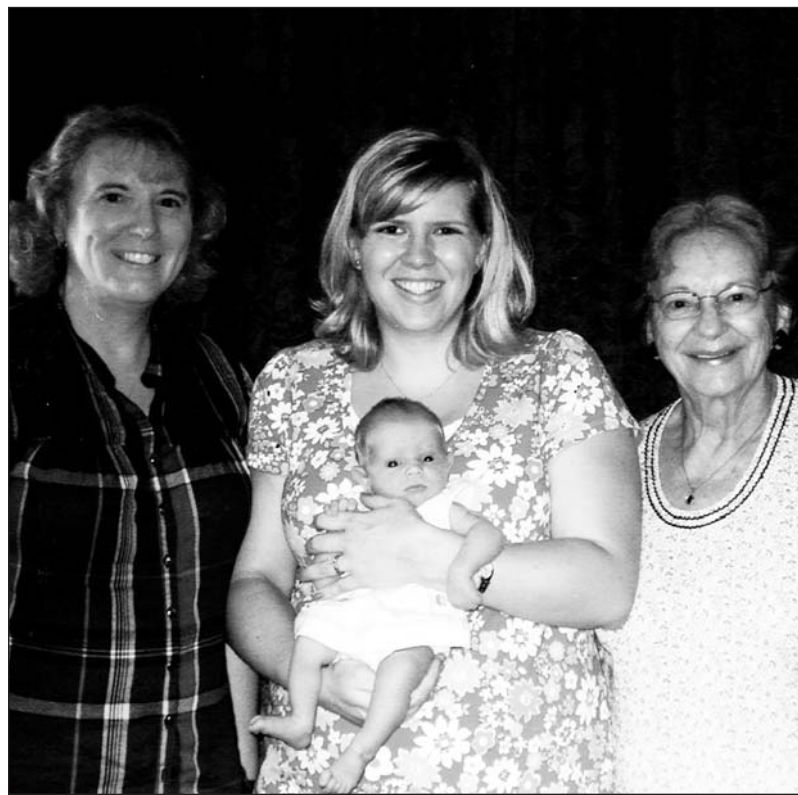
Facsimile of the SAMPLE BALLOT

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	ROGER BROSSMER	144	➔ <input type="radio"/>
NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE, YOU CAN VOTE FOR DISTRICT FIVE			
Member of the City Council, 5th District	LUIS H. MARQUEZ	145	➔ <input type="radio"/>
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	GARY DE REMER	148	➔ <input checked="" type="radio"/>

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Madalyn Grace Ziemer, born Aug. 26 to parents Daniel and Melinda Ziemer, is the latest addition to four generations of Downey-area residents. Pictured, left to right: Madalyn's grandmother, Terry Shore (Schwarz); mother, Milinda Ziemer (Shore); and great-grandmother, Emma Schwarz, who has lived in Downey since 1953.

Resident celebrates eventful 100 years

DOWNEY – Downey resident Ellsworth "Al" Hazzard celebrated his 100th birthday yesterday with family, friends and neighbors.

Hazzard was born Oct. 9, 1908 in Chicago. He was raised by a single mother and attended Chicago public schools, eventually graduating from the University of Illinois in 1932 with a bachelor's in education.

While searching for a job, he met Marguerite, a "lovely clerk" in the unemployment office. After a brief courtship, they married, and he took a job with Owens Glass in Muncie, Ind. as a personnel director. During this time, Hazzard was invited to training camp in Biloxi, Miss. to try out for the Washington Senators baseball team.

Commissioned as a lieutenant JG, Hazzard joined the Navy and was assigned to L.S.T. #269 in Norfolk, Va. This took him to Florida on through the Panama Canal to the Pacific, then on to Guadalcanal. His ship was ordered to Honolulu where Hazzard saw the results of the Pearl Harbor attack.

Soon after, orders came to invade Guam, which was then being held by the Japanese. This completed, he was sent back to the United States by way of England and New York, and finally to Chicago, where he was reunited with his wife, who was then working with the American Red Cross.

Later he took a job in South Gate with United States Gypsum from which, after 25 years, he retired in 1973 at age 65.

Sadly, his wife passed away. Years later, he met his current Swedish wife, Hilda, who was visiting Downey. They traveled Europe together but after returning, Hilda returned home. After a year, Hazzard traveled to Sweden and proposed to Hilda. They were married at the home of a neighborhood friend on Aug. 29, 1987.

After a brief honeymoon, they settled at their home on Buell Avenue in Downey, where they continue to live to this day.



'RD Players' recreating history

DOWNEY – Eugene Dermody and his wife Gail Reifert, together known as the RD Players, will be the featured guests at Monday's OASIS meeting at Downey Adult School.

Their topic will be "Elizabeth Cady Stanton: the Leading Feminist of the 19th Century."

Dermody taught American history, the history of American women, and California history at Cerritos College for more than 30 years.

Reifert began historic reenacting at Rancho Los Cerritos by portraying 19th Century women. She researched and co-authored with her husband a history book on American women, "Women Who Fought."

"This will be an interesting and timely presentation you won't want to miss," said OASIS Director Harriett Paine.

The meeting is free and registration begins at 2:45 p.m. The program begins at 3:45 and is followed by dinner. Dinner tickets should be purchased at the time of registration.

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



The Downey Police Department question Rosa Alicia Gonzalez and Fernando Guerrero about renting the house at 9015 Guatemala Avenue without the owner's consent. Photo by Jeanette Robba

Business Watch meeting Oct. 29

DOWNEY – Downey business owners are invited to learn about crime prevention by attending a Business Watch meeting Oct. 29 at noon inside council chambers at City Hall.

The Business Watch program, sponsored by the city of Downey and the Downey Chamber of Commerce, gives local business owners training in business security, effective crime reporting, burglary, theft and shoplifting prevention, and more.

Meetings are held quarterly and last about one hour. For more information, call (562) 923-2191 or (562) 904-1895.

'Visions of Israel' presented at Temple

DOWNEY – "Visions of Israel," an armchair pilgrimage to the world's only Jewish state, will be presented Oct. 28 at the Ezra Center for Mature Adults at Temple Ner Tamid of Downey.

The film is set to music and narrated by world-renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman.

Registration and refreshments begin at 9:45 a.m. The program begins at 10, and is followed by a catered kosher lunch. Cost of the lunch is \$6 for Ezra members and \$7 for non-members.

For more information, call the Temple office at (562) 861-9276.

Women offer Broadway-type show

DOWNEY – As part of Make a Difference Day on Oct. 25, a national day of helping others created by "USA Today" magazine, a group of four professional women from Downey are offering to perform a Broadway review-type song and dance show for local senior, assisted living, and convalescent homes.

The show is approximately 30 minutes long and consists of jazz, tap, song and comedy. The group calls itself "The Dames of Downey."

To schedule a performance, call Nadine Salee at (562) 923-8145.

Resident a contestant on 'Price is Right'

DOWNEY – Downey resident Mary Roby was a contestant on a recent taping of "The Price is Right."

And while show executives wouldn't disclose if Roby came away with the Showcase grand prize, "nobody leaves 'The Price is Right' without a great prize and a really fun chat with host Drew Carey."

The episode airs Monday at 10 a.m. on K-CBS channel 2.

Tickets to "The Price is Right" are free and available online at cbs.com/daytime or by calling (323) 575-2458, Monday through Friday, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Rental: Police takes up investigation.

Continued from page 1

Lucy told Gonzalez she could pick the rent up in person, and after settling on a time, Lucy called the Soto's real estate agent. When Gonzalez rang the doorbell to collect the demanded rent, Oscar Soto answered the door demanding answers.

"She asked me who I was and I told her I was Oscar Soto, the owner of this house," Soto said.

Gonzalez promptly called Fernando Guerrero, who arrived and said he was a real estate agent for Diamond Financial Services. Guerrero said he was approached by someone claiming to be Oscar Soto who had asked him to rent the house until it sells.

"He didn't know who I was and I asked him to show me any paperwork with my signature on it," Soto said. "He flashed papers in front of me with my name and a signature on it, but I asked him to show me an agreement with my signature on it."

No charges have been filed at this time, and the case is being investigated by the Downey Police Department.

Meanwhile, the Alvarado family is stuck having to find yet another home to rent, and the Soto's are still trying to figure out how and why their house was rented without their real estate agent's knowledge or their consent.

CEO talks about time management

DOWNEY – David Sanders, CEO of Creative Business Strategies, Inc., will be the guest speaker at the Oct. 28 meeting of Rise 'N Shine networking at Stox Restaurant.

Sanders' topic will be "Time Management."

The meeting starts at 7:30 a.m. and the cost is an order from the menu. RSVP by calling the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191.

Old-time athletes gather for reunion

DOWNEY – Downey High School's classes of 1956-58 will host a "Viking Sports Reunion" tonight at the Embassy Suites at 5 p.m. For information, call Lash Stevenson at (650) 345-5274.

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The La Casita Residential Treatment Program in Downey honored 25 of its program graduates last week. The center can house up to 30 women and children. Photo by Mary Forney

Rehab: Treatment center honors graduates.

Continued from page 1

worker told her that she would have to live in a residential treatment home if she wanted the chance to keep her infant.

"I came here straight from the hospital - stitches and all - to save my life and for my children," Busalacchi said on Oct. 3 as she addressed the graduates of the La Casita Residential Treatment Program.

Her baby was initially placed in foster care, but after Busalacchi successfully responded to the rehabilitation offered to her at La Casita, her now 13-month-old daughter was eventually allowed to live with her.

Selected valedictorian of the treatment center's 25 graduates this year, Busalacchi credits her recovery to the motivation her daughters have given her - as well as La Casita's counseling and education that continues even after her completion of the rehabilitation program.

"Life on life's terms is rough," Busalacchi told the graduates. "But, when you walk out these gates, feel good about who you are and don't forget to come back for the support that's always free for the taking at La Casita."

After the La Casita graduation ceremony, the center held an open house for its new addition - a four-bedroom, two-bath transitional house. With the additional housing, the center can now hold up to 30 women and children. Emphasizing mother-child bonding, the center provides parenting classes, grief counseling, and relapse prevention.

Busalacchi said she intends to continue attending the counseling sessions - especially the group sessions - because it reinforces her and she likes passing on the encouragement to help other mothers fighting addiction.

La Casita Residential Treatment Program is supported by Southern California Alcohol and Drug Programs Inc., state and federal funding, as well as donations from the community. To make a contribution or to receive more information about La Casita Residential Treatment Program, call Southern California Alcohol and Drug Programs Inc. at (562) 923-4545, extension 2226.



Photo by Mary Forney

Marvel Dodson was local volunteer

DOWNEY - Marvel Naomi Dodson, a former teacher and past president of Soroptimist International of Downey, has died.

Dodson was born Sept. 30, 1920 to Myrtle and Roscoe Lucas of Verdon, Nebr. After graduating from Verdon High School and attending Peru State College in Nebraska, she taught eight years of elementary school.

She met and married Gerald Dodson, a lieutenant in the United States Air Force, in 1946. Their first residence was in Presque Isle, Maine, but they moved frequently throughout the country, including stops in North Dakota, Kansas, Mather Field, Calif., Waco, Tex., Morocco, Africa, and Long Island, N.Y.

Dodson and her husband had three children, Timothy, Jeffrey and Deborah. When Gerald Dodson passed away on Nov. 22, 1960 at Mitchell Air Force Base, Marvel and her children moved to Downey where her parents, brother and a sister lived.

She worked for 15 years as the director of the Assistance League Volunteer Center, and taught calligraphy for eight years for the Downey Parks and Recreation Department. She then taught for five more years at Downey Adult School.

Dodson was past president of Soroptimist International of Downey, an associate member of the Assistance League, and past coordinator of the South Los Angeles Society of Calligraphy.

She is survived by her sister, Evelyn Sneathen; children, Timothy, Jeffrey and Deborah; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at the Moravian Church of Downey, 10337 Old River School Rd., on Oct. 24 at 10 a.m.



The Poet's Corner

Not Ready to Go

Angel of death, don't knock on my door
I need added time -- a whole lot more
To visit the sights -- so many unseen --
From the coastal shores through the valley's green!

My three children need me -- well maybe not so,
But I'd like to be here while my grandchildren grow
To hopefully be happy and passionately yearn
To become upright citizens willing to learn!

And then there's my garden -- I need to survive
To battle the weeds that prolifically thrive.
I cannot abandon my cat who needs food
And a little attention to pacify moods.

Cooking, cleaning and household chores
Shopping, laundry, and activities galore
Leave me no time to greet you today,
So angel of death please stay away!

—Martha J. Morrissy,
Downey

Stanley G. Herreid survived Pearl Harbor

DOWNEY - Funeral services were held this week for Stanley G. Herreid, a Pearl Harbor survivor who died Sept. 30 at home in Downey, where he had lived for the last 48 years.

Herreid was 88.

He was born in Watertown, South Dakota, and retired from Farmers Insurance after 30 years.

He was a Petty Officer 1st Class, E-6, during World War II in the U.S. Navy and survived the attack on Pearl Harbor.

He is survived by his daughter, Florence Pebley of Winchester, Calif.; and sons, Bill Herreid of Temecula and Kenny Herreid of Downey.

A viewing was held Tuesday and funeral services were Wednesday at Rose Hills Memorial Park. Pastor John Rose officiated.

Gloria Ridley lived here 30 years

DOWNEY - Gloria Ridley, a 30-year resident of Downey, passed away Oct. 7. She was 60.

Ridley was born in El Paso, Tex. to Manuel and Celsa Ramos on Jan. 22, 1948.

Vigil services will be held Monday at Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary Chapel at 7 p.m. Funeral services are scheduled for Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Interment will be private.

Ellen Marie Garza taught kids English

DOWNEY - Ella Marie Garza passed away Oct. 4 surrounded by family.

Born Ella Gasio on June 17, 1923 in Los Angeles, her family moved to Morelia, Mexico, the childhood home of her father, during the Depression. She returned to live in Huntington Park, and was a resident of Downey since 1960.

Garza was a Girl Scout leader and PTA volunteer, especially at Roger Casier Elementary School, where she served on the board for many years. Largely self-taught, Garza left school after eighth grade when her family moved to Mexico. At 50, with her children grown, she pursued her GED and an AA degree at Cerritos College. She taught English to many students in Downey schools and served as a bilingual community and instructional assistant.

When she retired, Garza volunteered with the Retired Los Angeles City Employees and was a regular visitor at the Downey YMCA.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Americo Garza; children Richard, Elsa Nanson, David, and Kathleen; brothers Claude, Walter Eugene and Robert Gasio; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Gertrude Gasio, and her brother, James Gasio II.

Memorial services will be held today, Oct. 10, at Rose Hills Memorial Park at 11 a.m., inside the Hillside Chapel. A graveside ceremony and reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Garza's memory to an orphanage for girls in Tijuana, Mexico, where she volunteered, or to the school, library or children's charity of your choice.

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Fat Chance

By Eric Pierce

All my life, in case you've never met me, I've always been a little on the heavy side. Not John Goodman-big, mind you, but big enough for people to ask if I played high school football.

Big enough for my mom to call me *gordito* growing up. (She did it lovingly, of course.)

The problem with being heavy, I think, is that it's just so *easy* to stay that way. When the economy is so sunken that I'm literally picking pennies off the ground and growing a beard to save money on razor blades, a trip to Taco Bell's 99-cent value menu makes more economic sense than Subway, \$5 footlong be damned.

The same holds true for grocery stores, where 85/15 lean beef is priced ridiculously higher than its fatter (and arguably tastier) counterparts. And what kind of upside down world do we live in when egg substitutes are more expensive than the real thing? Hello, shouldn't generics be cheaper than the original?

The list of examples of fat-entrapment continues: baked potato chips are \$3.79 a bag, about a dollar more expensive than the greasy variety; whole grain wheat bread can be a couple bucks pricier than plain ol' white bread; and the supermarket's discount rack always seems to be overflowing with glazed donuts and never any wheat bagels.

Heck, you can walk into a pizza parlor and instantly walk out with a large pepperoni pizza for only \$5. Have you ever tried making a homemade pizza pie using a whole wheat crust, turkey pepperoni and reduced-fat mozzarella cheese? It's not \$5, that's for sure.

It all leads me to one simple yet depressing conclusion: it's easy to be overweight. Earth-shattering news, I know.

But I don't want to be a slob. I want to be healthy, lithe and attractive. I don't want to be that person who wears a T-shirt to the beach, or a sweatshirt on a 90-degree day.

Unfortunately, it appears that showing off a skinny waistline requires a fat wallet.

Am I correct in my thinking? Does eating healthy really have to break the bank, or am I simply making excuses for the gluttonous among us?

There was I time where I could dilute myself into thinking any food was healthy. (When eating Chinese food, order orange chicken: orange is a fruit and chicken is protein. That makes orange chicken healthy!) Those days are over.

In a perfect world, Subway restaurants would have drive-thru windows and McDonald's would sell turkey Big Macs.

I'm lovin' it.

Letters to the Editor:

Better communication

Dear Editor:

Now that we can drink our Downey water again (at least I am), it is time to get back to basics and find out why it took from Tuesday to early Friday morning to let the people of Downey know there was a problem with our water.

I received a call from someone Thursday evening telling me not to drink the water from the tap unless it was boiled because of some type of contamination. I immediately put a whole lot of pots on the stove and boiled water for drinking the next morning.

I reserved my judgment until I could get some facts but none was forthcoming. I came to see you (Eric Pierce) early the next morning (Friday) to get information because I was sure the news would be in the paper, and was totally surprised when you informed me the paper had not been notified. In retrospect, I think we all know this was poorly handled.

It was a relief to find out the water was safe and that it was not the fault of the city. I also discovered that the city contracts out the testing of our well water to outside labs where the mistake was made. I am now hoping that we have fired this lab and that we will find another source to test our water.

As chairman of the Downey Chamber of Commerce Holiday Lane Parade Committee, I am in my busy season for the parade, contacting all my sponsors, many of whom are restaurant owners. When I visited them to pick up their sponsor checks it was very sad to listen to the horror stories. I thought I had it bad because every day I had to go to a neighboring city to pick up meals for my family, but my inconvenience is nothing to what the restaurant owners had to go through. Small and large they all lost a lot of money, including employees who lost pay (this included the young girl who does my hair and is going to college).

I know that our city will make changes for the good of the community and I have a suggestion. We need to go back to the days when the city informed the local newspaper with regards to crime, robberies, car thefts, etc. on a weekly basis. We had 16 home invasion robberies on my street in the month of June which prompted us to form our Neighborhood Watch. If we had been informed of even one robbery we would have gotten together sooner.

I strongly promote the Neighborhood Watch program and suggest that there be a weekly or monthly update from the Downey Police Department with regards to crime in the city, especially if crime is on the rise, so that the citizens of Downey could be more alert.

— Maria Larkin,
Downey

The Downey Patriot

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Letters to the Editor:

Angels among us

Dear Editor:

A week or so ago, after a successful round of morning errands, I marketed at Albertson's, loaded everything into the trunk, slammed the lid and in that instant changed the rest of the day.

Drat, my purse is in the trunk. Car keys are in the purse. Well, the windows are down about five inches. I'll just flip the inside trunk control and be on my way. I stretched my arm in, setting off the alarm, but couldn't quite reach the trunk switch. BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP. Shoppers glanced over and a surprising number came toward me, offering to help. BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP.

Here came a man whose kind face looked familiar. He braved the BEEPs to study my problem, brought over his long walking stick and poked it through the open window, aiming for the trunk switch. Nothing doing, trunk remained stubbornly locked. Here came a young blond woman, concern on her pretty face, actually apologizing that she couldn't stay to help but she had to pick up her children at school. Ernest from Albertson's circled as he did his work, keeping a sympathetic eye on things.

Through the BEEPs, Dieter, the walking stick man, offered to drive me home so I could get a duplicate car key. I left my two dogs in the back seat, comfy enough with plenty of cool air and their water dish, and once I was home discovered, of course, that I did not have a duplicate key after all. I reassured Dieter that I would simply phone the Auto Club, and sent him on with his own marketing and my thanks.

Triple A said they would have a tow truck at Albertson's parking lot within half an hour, so I walked back to the car, reassured the dog, met the tow. The driver assessed, BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP, and said he could not do anything, this required a locksmith because, once the alarm is activated, the interior trunk release will not work.

The Triple A locksmith pulled in about the same time as the pretty young woman, who had picked up her two boys and returned just to check, quite confident my car and I would no longer be stuck there but - let's make sure.

While the locksmith struggled to get the interior door panel off - BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP - to work on wiring, Misty scooped her kids and their school things into the back of her car, piled Cookie and Cracker onto my lap, and drove us to my house where I put the dogs into their familiar back yard. Then she returned me to Albertson's and the locksmith.

Problems (no news there). Because the window was lowered into the door, it obstructed access to crucial wiring. Impossible for him to obtain a hugely guarded number so he could cut a duplicate key because only the registered car owner could secure that number. From the dealership. With photo ID. Which was in the purse which was locked in the trunk.

The locksmith suggested a passport. Aha! He's not supposed to drive with a passenger, but at this point, what the heck. So we got the passport, went to the dealership, got the magic number, returned to Albertson's where he cut the key and opened the trunk. What a moment. I expected festering produce and dairy products, but even the milk was still cold.

What did I learn from this episode of five hours? I learned Auto Club membership is good. Duplicate keys are good. There are 60 BEEPs per set-off. It's unfun to be the ditsy driver who slams doors before thinking. Restoring intricate electrical wiring takes an appointment, lots of time and many bucks.

And I learned there are angels in Downey, walking among us. Two of them are named Dieter and Misty. Two small ones, beautiful, smiling shyly, are Ryan and Ian, learning from their mom. And another angel is Joan, who drove me home the next afternoon, before the repairs, from the Senior Center parking lot, where I had left my car keys on the driver's seat and slammed the doors.

— Joyce Sherwin,
Downey

What crisis?

Dear Editor:

I was away during the time of the "water crisis" so I missed the "catastrophic" events of those days. However, I did read Downey's citizens reactions to it.

Those who sent letters to the *Patriot* were filled with complaints and finger-pointing as to the way the city dealt with the "crisis." They ranged from being inconsiderate, by not warning citizens beforehand, to the method used to inform people, and finally the way used to inform folks that the "crisis" was over.

First of all, I am alarmed by the way in which Downey citizens responded to it. It raises doubts in me about the ability of this generation of Americans to "get tough, when the going gets tough." I guess it is easier to whine than to do.

In fact, other than the effects on the business sector, it was hardly a "crisis." So you didn't get a personal phone call from the mayor explaining things to you. I'm sorry. So what if you had to hear about it on TV or radio? I am sure the city felt the best way to get the water "crisis" message to its citizens was by the local TV news on all channels, including Spanish language. It seems to me the fastest and most comprehensive method.

Next, the complaint that city did not post information on their website. Sorry, not everyone has a computer.

So you might have to give your child a sponge bath or you had to be careful while taking a shower or you had to share your bottled water with your pets. Is that really a "crisis"? So you couldn't drink tap water. The majority of people drink bottled water anyway so tell me where the crisis is.

OK, you were unable to eat dinner at your favorite restaurant and you were forced to travel to some remote outposts like Cerritos or some other nearby city to buy your water or eat out. By definition, it was more of an inconvenience than a crisis.

I can only hope both the city and its citizens have learned from this experience and will be prepared on how they will handle a real "crisis" in the future.

— Ed Romero,
Downey

Roybal-Allard stands firm

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to our Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard for standing firm against the Bailout Bill last week on both votes in the House of Representatives. Roybal-Allard chose to stand with the people she represents and with the Constitution by opposing the massive increase of government regulation and intervention in the free market, not to mention the astronomical cost to taxpayers and the further devaluation of the dollar.

It was the government intervention as well as the Federal Reserve's manipulation of the financial markets that caused this crisis in the first place.

— Dan Cristea,
Downey



Tasting dictatorship

Dear Editor:

In 2001, President Bush was on a televised interview and said, referring to our government, "This would be a lot easier if this was a dictatorship. As long as I am the dictator."

Now we have seen it happen. With 71 percent of the American people saying "No" to the \$700 billion bailout, Congress and the Senate did the will of Bush, not vote to represent the will of the people.

What was the rush? None of us would make a hasty decision with our money. But the dictators in Washington rushed to pass this bill through. "Haste makes waste" and we will see that old adage prove itself once again.

I feel that I have tasted (not for the first time in the last eight years) dictatorship.

Ask yourselves if you trust yourselves or your representatives more.

Our congresswoman voted "no" to the bill and I thank her. Seems she is the real maverick in Washington.

— Marie Augimeri,
Downey

Depressing debt

Dear Editor:

If 50 governors of our 50 states balance their budgets every year, so should our president balance the national debt. Our national debt is now \$9 trillion and growing. We owe Japan \$593 billion and China \$519 billion. We also owe money to Russia, Venezuela, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Libya and Nigeria.

We should make a law that our president must balance the national debt, just like our governors do, or they must resign from office. If we don't this debt will continue and we will have a depression like the 1930's.

— Mike Sandoval,
Downey

Background checks

Dear Editor:

With the current financial crisis gripping the U.S. and the world, fingers seem to be pointing at our elected officials as to monies in their pocket (payoffs).

Why don't we have a mandated rule for anyone who runs for office: must have a complete criminal background check (loss of driver's license), and a financial statement (bankruptcy or failed to pay bills or credit card refusal). The current election is a prime example of the need for background checks.

— Jim Moody,
Downey

Problems with Time Warner

Dear Editor:

It's time for the city of Downey to sue Time Warner Cable for its failure to provide adequate service. In its role as franchisee, the city of Downey is in a unique position that individual customers are not.

The city of Los Angeles has sued Time Warner for fraud due to successive service outages, spending hours on the telephone before reaching customer service, or never being able to reach customer service. The city of Los Angeles has in place Subscriber Service Standards to regulate things like maximum 30-second wait time on the phone, which in my experience, Time Warner consistently fails. The standards also require the company to make repairs within 24 hours and to show up on time.

I do not know what standards Downey requires, if any. But if they don't it's an issue they should explore.

Other cities have also sued Time Warner for similar reasons, including the city of Moorpark.

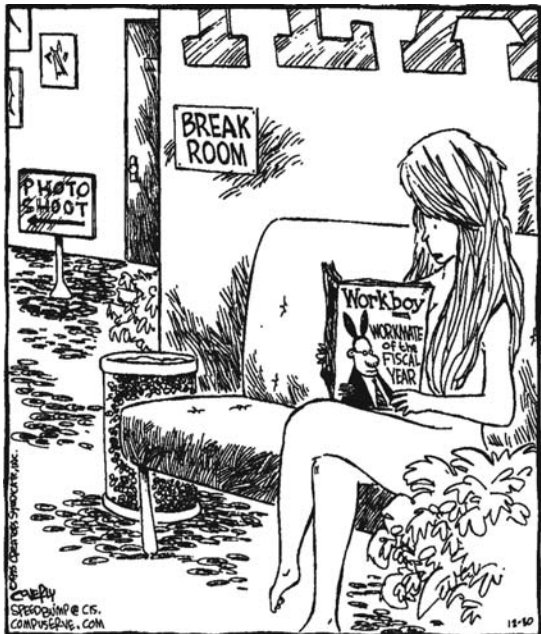
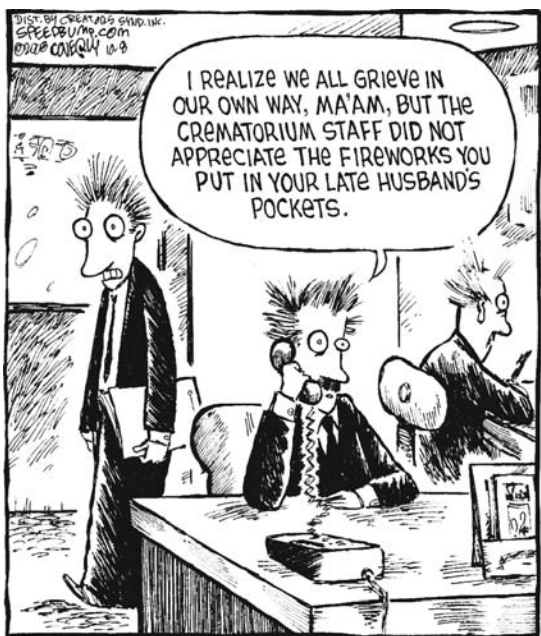
Time Warner Cable has never been very good in terms of picture quality compared to digital over the air, Verizon FiOS or satellite service. But it became even more unwatchable three days in a row, with every channel filled with video artifacts "macroblocking" where the screen breaks up into little squares and the sound drops out, sometimes for hours at a time.

Customers who call to complain end up waiting on hold for a long period of time, or they get a customer representative who does not know what the problem is or when it will be fixed. When I called, they refused to issue a credit for the service until the outage was over, even though I was unable to use the service for most of the evening. I didn't want to wait on hold again and requested to be credited for a few days of service. The representative refused and further refused my request to talk to a supervisor. That was Monday. It happened again on Wednesday evening and Time Warner's phone system said it was unable to take my call and that I should try again later.

Time Warner on another occasion tried to blame the problem on sun fade, a very real problem that does happen in the spring and fall when the satellites line up with the sun and get over-powered. But it doesn't happen at night.

— Brian C. Bock,
Downey

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For October

- Fri. Oct. 10: **Downey High School sports reunion**, Embassy Suites, 5 p.m.
- Sat. Oct. 11: **Soroptimist yard sale**, 8049 Dacosta St., 8 a.m.
- Sat. Oct. 11: **Gangs out of Downey workshop**, community center, 10 a.m.
- Mon. Oct. 13: **Newcomers Club mini-fair**, Los Amigos Country Club, 10 a.m.
- Thurs. Oct. 16: **Business expo**, Stonewood Center, 4 p.m.
- Thurs. Oct. 16: **Mayor's Prayer Breakfast**, Rio Hondo Event Center, 7 a.m.

City Meetings

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

- 7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
- 1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, for information call 869-8782.
- 1st Weds., 10 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call Barbara Briley-Beard 869-7618.
- 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
- 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
- 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Emblem Club #309**, at Downey's Elks Lodge, for information call 868-4386.
- 1st & 3rd Weds., 7:00 p.m.: **AfterCare Post Cencer 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...

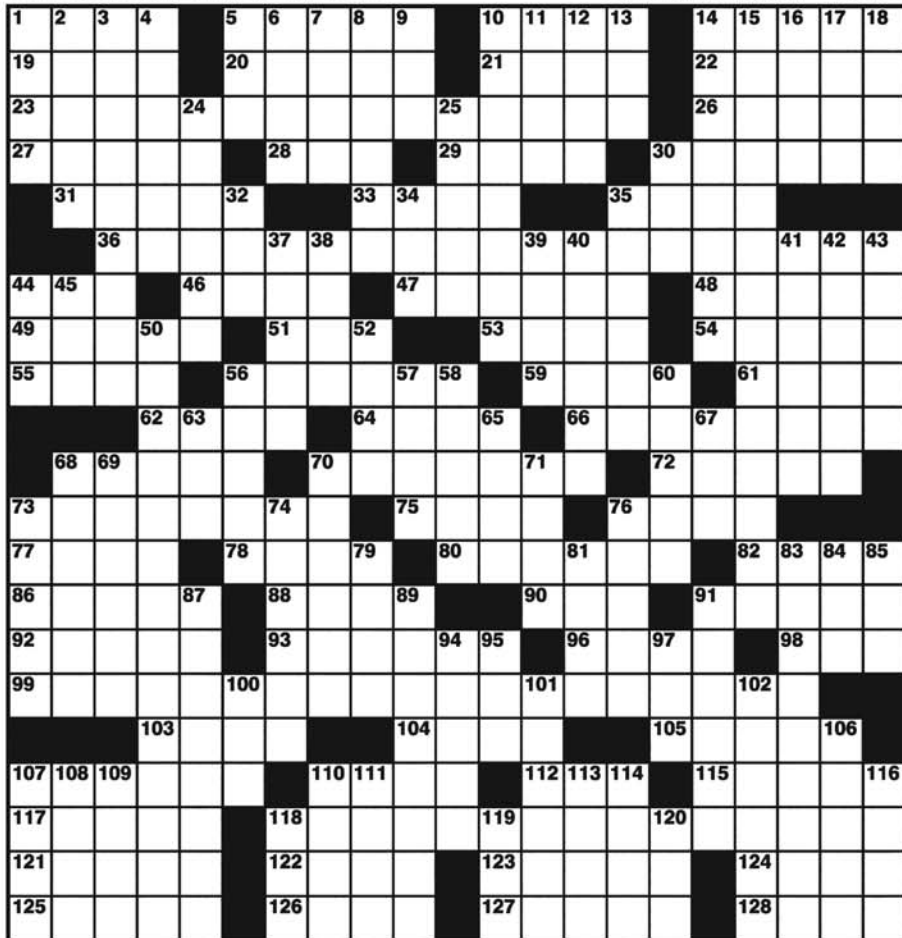
- Oct. 10, 1886: The tuxedo dinner jacket is introduced in the United States at a formal ball in Tuxedo Park, N.Y.
- 1964: The Summer Olympics open in Tokyo.
- 1973: Vice President Spiro T. Agnew resigns from office and pleads no contest to charges of tax evasion.
- 1985: Academy Award-winning actor/director Orson Welles dies of a heart attack. He was 70.
- 1985: Russian-born actor Yule Brynner dies of lung cancer.
- 1989: Actress Aimee Teegarden, star of the NBC sitcom "Friday Night Lights" is born in Downey. Also born Oct. 10: Tanya Tucker (50), Mario Lopez (35), Dale Earnhardt Jr (34) and Mya (29).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
NOT MUCH HELP: Less-than-useful answers
 by Nancy Salomon

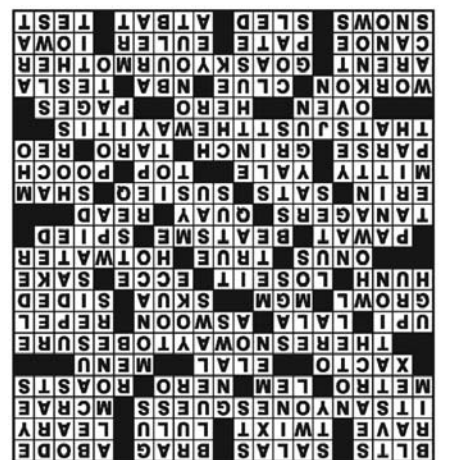
- ACROSS**
- 1 Lunches with crunches
 - 5 Hacienda rooms
 - 10 Talk the talk
 - 14 "Humble" home
 - 19 Boffo review
 - 20 Bard's "between"
 - 21 Humdinger
 - 22 Denis of *Rescue Me*
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 - 30 Teasing tributes
 - 31 Knife for a hobbyist
 - 33 Carrier to Ben-Gurion
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 - 36 Unhelpful answer
 - 44 Initials in the news
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 - 75 Jetty
 - 76 Cracked the books
 - 77 The Auld Sod
 - 78 Exams for srs.
 - 80 Dance step
 - 82 Ersatz
 - 86 Thurber's fantasizer
 - 88 Lock inventor Linus
 - 90 Go one better than
 - 91 Doggie
 - 92 Dissect grammatically
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 - 107 Toll away at
 - 110 Fingerprint, perhaps
 - 112 Hornets' org.
 - 115 Electrical pioneer
 - 117 Isn't for you?
 - 118 Unhelpful answer
 - 121 Lake craft
 - 122 Fancy spread
 - 123 Swiss mathematician
 - 124 Corn Belt state
 - 125 Bamboozles
 - 126 Tireless transport
 - 127 Chance for a hit
 - 128 Experiment with
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 - 2 Glove material
 - 3 FCC licensee
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 - 5 Porker's place
 - 6 MP's quarry
 - 7 It's one-dimensional
 - 8 Lumberjacks
 - 9 City rtes.
 - 10 Sabbath sales proscriptions
 - 11 Sorrowful sort
 - 12 To boot
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 - 14 Charity distributors
 - 15 Unhelpful answer
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 - 94 Place for a peck
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 - 101 Wound up first
 - 102 "The light dawns!"
 - 106 Whole bunches
 - 107 Female soldiers in WWII
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 - 110 Old furnace fuel
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 - 113 Gardener's purchase
 - 114 Geometry calculation
 - 116 Trapped like
 - 118 Satellite navigation letters
 - 119 Verily
 - 120 A-Team actor

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2008 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 10/5/08



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.

Inspired by Billie Holiday, jazz singer Carmen McRAE (26 Across) never performed without singing at least one song associated with Holiday. The SUSIE Q dance step (80 Across) originated in the 1930s; in line dancing the same step is known as the Heel Twist. The abbreviation ET SEQ. (60 Down), often seen in bibliographies, means "and the following."



Paging Dr. Alan Frischer...

BY DR. ALAN FRISCHER

Are you hooked on a daily energy drink? Does it increase your get-up-and-go, boost your concentration and alertness, improve your sports performance, stimulate your metabolism, and improve your stamina?



They come in a variety of flavors, colors and ingredients designed to tempt the taste buds and imaginations. Red Bull, Impulse, Dark Dog, Shark, Hype, Jolt, SoBe Adrenaline Rush, Piranha, AMO, Red Rain, Red Dragon, Diablo, YJ Stinger... Let's take a closer look at these drinks. Are they safe? Are they effective? What are they made of?

Energy drinks can easily be distinguished from sodas and sports drinks. Soda contains water, sugar, flavoring and sometimes caffeine. It tastes good (to some) and provides a sugar and sometimes caffeine kick. Sports drinks (Gatorade, Powerade, etc.) contain water, sugar and electrolytes, and are intended to replenish fluids lost during activity.

Energy drinks are intended to supply mental and physical stimulation for a short period of time. They were popular in Asia and Europe before they reached the United States. In 1962, the Japanese pharmaceutical company Taisho released Lipovitan. It was designed to help employees work hard well into the night, and contained taurine, still often found in drinks today. An Austrian businessman tried a drink while in Thailand on business, and found that it cured his jetlag. He developed a less sweet, carbonated version, and with Thai business partners, marketed Red Bull to Europeans in 1992 and to the U.S. in 1997. In 2006, over a billion cans were sold worldwide, and Red Bull remains the market leader today. However, it is currently banned in Norway, Denmark, and Uruguay, and between the year 2000 and just last April of 2008 it was banned in France as well.

- These drinks use various combinations of ingredients, including
- Caffeine: a popular stimulant found in coffee, tea and chocolate, that blocks the effects of adenosine, a brain chemical involved in sleep
- Taurine: a natural amino acid produced by the body to help regulate heartbeat and muscle contractions
- Epinephrine: a central nervous system stimulant, commonly found in weight loss products, injections to treat anaphylaxis and heart disease, and decongestants. Epinephrine is tied to potentially harmful effects on the heart when used incorrectly
- Ginseng: a root believed by some to have several medicinal properties, including reducing stress and boosting energy levels
- B-Vitamins: a group of vitamins that can convert sugar to energy and improve muscle tone
- Inositol: a member of the Vitamin B complex

- Guarana seed: a stimulant that comes from a shrub native to Venezuela and Brazil
- Carnitine: an amino acid that plays a role in fatty acid metabolism
- Creatine: an organic acid that helps supply energy for muscle contractions

•Ginkgo Biloba: made from the seeds of the ginkgo biloba tree, and thought to enhance memory

Although manufacturers claim that energy drinks can improve endurance and performance, many health experts disagree, claiming instead that any boost you get from drinking them is solely due to the caffeine and the sugar.

So, what are the dangers of energy drinks? They are generally safe for most of us, but like most things, should be consumed in moderation. In 1999, an 18-year-old athlete died after consuming three or four cans before a basketball game. In published reports of adverse reactions, problems encountered include disturbances in electrolytes, nausea and vomiting, and heart rhythm problems. Caffeine is a stimulant, and consuming too much can lead to heart palpitations, anxiety, insomnia, tremors and jittery feelings. Over time, caffeine can become addictive. It is also a diuretic, so it can actually lead to dehydration, the very opposite of what we need after exercise.

It has become very popular to use energy drinks as alcoholic mixers. Recipes are plentiful on the Internet, including many of the websites of the energy drinks themselves. Combining these stimulants with alcohol is quite dangerous; the drinker may feel a false sense of well-being and alertness - while he or she may actually be quite drunk.

Clearly, however, if you are a caffeine lover, energy drinks may be right up your alley. Instead of coffee or soda, many enjoy one as an afternoon pick-me-up. The amount of caffeine is similar to that in a cup of brewed coffee.

- How do you minimize the risks inherent in energy drinks?
 - Do not consume excessive amounts
 - Do not mix energy drinks with alcohol
 - If you engage in intense physical exercise or activity, drink enough water to help re-hydrate your system, since energy drinks can actually act as diuretics
 - Pregnant women and children should avoid them
 - If you have an adverse reaction to an energy drink, stop consuming them immediately, and inform your physician.
- Drink safely, and use common sense.
- As always, I wish you all good health.

Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and current chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.

Alumni of Special Care Nursery reuniting

DOWNEY - Downey Regional Medical Center is inviting all alumni of its Special Care Nursery, along with their families, to their annual Special Care Nursery Reunion on Oct. 26.

Sponsored by Downey Regional and its Foundation, the event will be held in the hospital's basement conference rooms and patio from noon to 3 p.m. A light lunch will be served, and guests will have an opportunity to participate in a number of carnival-themed games and activities, as well as visit with staff members from the Special Care Nursery.

Children are encouraged to wear costumes, and parents to bring cameras.

For more information on the reunion or to RSVP, call (562) 904-5573. There is no charge to attend.

RN to speak on travels, adventures

DOWNEY - Yolanda Ramirez, a registered nurse for Kaiser Permanente and an Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishioner the past 10 years, will be the guest speaker at the OLPH Women's Guild general meeting Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Ramirez will bring pictures and an account of her adventures, ministering to disabled and AIDS afflicted orphans in a poverty-stricken orphanage in Jamaica.

Price to attend the meeting is \$10, which includes a hot lunch and six 50/50 tickets for a drawing after the lunch.

The meeting will be held at the Parish Center. Visitors should park in the OLPH School south parking lot - the lot closest to the church - at 10441 Downey Ave.

For more information, call Bette at (562) 869-5995.

Free varicose vein screenings

DOWNEY - Free varicose vein screenings will be offered Oct. 18 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Vasculer Access Center, 11411 Brookshire Ave., suite 301.

Screenings take 15 minutes and are available by appointment. Participants should wear shorts or skirts for the screening.

To register, call (562) 862-4027.

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."

Prayer breakfast Thursday at Rio Hondo

DOWNEY - Former major leaguer Matt Luke will be the featured speaker at the 23rd annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast to be held Thursday at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Now an active realtor, Luke runs a baseball camp, coaches Little League, soccer and baseball. He also remains active with Skills and Assets for Excellence (SAFE), Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), Junior United Soccer Association, and other outreaches.

Tickets to the breakfast are \$15 per person. Tables for 10 are available for \$150.

The breakfast buffet will open at 6:30 a.m. while the program begins at 7. For tickets and information, call George Cade at (562) 923-9616.

Newcomers Mini-Fair Monday

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

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.

African Americans urged to give blood

CONTRIBUTED BY THOMAS COATES, MD

Ashlie-Marie Henry, of San Gabriel, was just 7 when she was vacationing with her family in New York and woke up in the middle of the night unable to use the left side of her body. Ashlie-Marie had suffered a stroke brought on by her sickle cell disease. What saved her life and protected her from further complications was a blood transfusion.

Many patients, like Ashlie-Marie, rely on regular blood transfusions to battle the devastating effects of sickle cell disease. For two years, Ashlie-Marie, who is now 18, came to Childrens Hospital Los Angeles every three weeks for a blood transfusion to avoid other strokes that could have left her neurologically or physically impaired. Ashlie-Marie is headed to college this year. I love to chat with her about what she wants to study in college and all the wonderful career possibilities awaiting her.

As a blood specialist at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, it's patients like Ashlie-Marie who inspire me every day. It is for the future of these young patients that we as a community need to come together and offer our support.

There are some important facts that everyone should know about this life-threatening genetic disorder. Sickle cell conditions are inherited from parents, as is blood type, hair and eye color. For a child to have the disease, both parents must carry the sickle cell trait. Sickle cell disease is the most common genetic disorder in African Americans. One in every 400 African Americans are born with this red blood cell disorder. About 1 in 14 African Americans have the sickle cell trait.

The fact is, children with sickle cell disease have about a 15 percent chance of having a stroke before the age of 20; 30 percent will have minor strokes causing learning problems. Many children with sickle cell disease must live with chronic pain, the need for regular blood transfusions, severe anemia, heart and lung problems, and their life expectancy will be shortened, with only 50 percent of these children surviving into their mid to late 40s.

Childrens Hospital Los Angeles has one of the largest sickle cell centers in California and is funded by the National Institutes of Health to perform comprehensive - and absolutely vital - research. We treat between 400 and 600 young patients each year, mostly African American children. We desperately need your help to provide the best care possible for these children.

Our job at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles is to make sure each child grows up as healthy as possible. And, we want to make sure they live up to their potential. We want them to be a kid - to be able to go to the playground, to swim, to go to school, to college and more. But we can't do our job without your help. We simply cannot help these kids without an adequate supply of compatible blood.

To donate blood, please contact the Childrens Hospital Blood Donor Center at (323) 361-2441.

Dr. Thomas Coates is the head of Hematology at the Childrens Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles and a professor of pediatrics and pathology at the Keck School of Medicine at USC.

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Word of MOUTH
by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.
It is estimated that more than two-thirds of adults between the ages of 35 and 44 have lost at least one permanent tooth to an accident, decay, or gum disease. Thirty years ago, the only option for these people and others with missing permanent teeth would have been a fixed bridge or removable denture to replace the missing tooth (or teeth). More recently, however, dental implants are fast becoming the best tooth-replacement option for most individuals. Unlike fixed bridges, which attach to adjacent teeth, and dentures, which rest on the gums, dental implants are rooted directly into the jawbone. As such, they function like a natural tooth root to firmly anchor the replacement crown permanently in place.
Dental implants are extremely strong, stable and durable. Dental implants are secure so you can speak and eat with confidence! In fact, with proper maintenance they can last a lifetime. You know that your confidence about your teeth affects how you feel about yourself, both personally and professionally. We provide a wide range of innovative dental services specifically tailored to the needs and wants of our patients. Ultimately, you manage your own oral health, so call (562) 923-3714 for an appointment. We're located at 10800 Paramount Blvd., Suite 307, where our focus is on you and what you expect from dentistry.
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Election: Candidates prepare for Nov. 4

Continued from page 1

Downey his entire life, attending Old River Elementary School. He was a part of Warren High School's inaugural graduating class, and spent 4 1/2 years in the military.

Gary De Remer

Building a beautiful, larger-than-life float every year is not easy, said Gary De Remer, now in his fourth year as president of the Downey Rose Float Association and a candidate for District 5 (city-wide). Float-building requires year-round fundraising, precise budget control, and the ability to manage hundreds of volunteers ranging from children to seniors.

Those skills, according to De Remer, acquired through many years of volunteering, will help him serve as an effective council member.

De Remer said he grew up in South Gate and saved his money to move to Downey. He ran his own business for 20 years, a business made profitable through thrifty spending practices.

He said he would be tough on crime, with no tolerance for gangs.

Dr. Shahira A-Malek

Four years ago, Dr. Shahira A-Malek, a candidate for District 5, contemplated a run at City Council seriously enough that she secured the necessary paperwork from City Hall. But the combination of a busy family and professional life forced her to put off the decision.

Now, with her children in college, the time is right, A-Malek said.

A pediatrician, A-Malek said she was born in Egypt "after the pyramids." She came to the United States for a better life, and completed her medical education at Louisiana State University. Her two daughters were

born at Downey Community Hospital.

A resident of Luxor Street, A-Malek said she was neighbors with the late Barbara Riley.

"I saw how involved she was, and she's really the one who got me going," said A-Malek.

As a pediatrician, A-Malek said she sees firsthand the effects of teenage pregnancy. One of her goals as a council member would be to revitalize after-school programs at parks and churches.

Maria Larkin

Nov. 4 could be a lucky day for Maria Larkin: besides Election Day, it will also be her 73rd birthday.

"I gotta win!" Larkin said, drawing laughs.

Larkin is a realtor by trade but may be best known for her community involvement, including stints as president of the Downey Chamber of Commerce and Downey Association of Realtors.

"Realtors have an unwritten rule that if we're successful to give back to the community," Larkin said.

Larkin recapped the long list of community organizations she has dedicated time to, including Keep Downey Beautiful, where she helped pick trash off the streets and paint over graffiti.

At her age, Larkin said her kids have encouraged her to slow down, travel the world, and relax.

"But my heart is in Downey," she said. "I care about Downey."

A Balanced Budget

The first question posed to candidates dealt with the state's - indeed, the nation's - turbulent economy. How would the candidate balance the city budget?

"We do have a balanced budget," said Gafin, the most politically experienced of the candidates. "We were worried \$3 million was going to be taken by the state, but only \$300,00 was taken from the Redevelopment Fund...that's not a lot."

With the exception of the police and fire departments, Gafin said the city was on a hiring freeze. And the city readjusts its budget every year, without raising local taxes, to stay in the black.

Brossmer, who oversees a \$9 million budget as principal of Downey Adult School, said raising taxes is not an option. He said he would focus on quality economic development to create added sales tax revenue for the city.

"Obviously we would have to decrease spending," Brossmer said. "We have to make tough decisions, and sometimes they hurt."

Rankin, meanwhile, warned against overdevelopment.

"We have to be careful how we develop Downey in the long term," he said. "How will it affect residents?"

Rankin also questioned "unfunded retirement benefits" for city employees and unsold bonds in the city's possession.

De Remer was straight and to the point in his answer.

"You don't spend more than you make," he said. "I'm not on the council, so I don't know how the money is spent, but we spend a lot of money and I'm sure it's frivolous."

De Remer also said the city should take away city-issued cell phones to cut costs.

A-Malek echoed De Remer's sentiments regarding overspending. She said property taxes should be decreased to help overburdened homeowners, and retired seniors should be utilized at after-school centers.

"My dream is to have an amusement park in Downey like Knott's

Berry Farm," she said. "Maybe we can study it."

Larkin said the budget was not a concern of hers.

"I'm not worried about it," Larkin said. "We have a very capable city manager in [Gerald] Caton. Even though he doesn't live in the community, I believe he has our best interest at heart."

Larkin also said there is "a lot of red tape" involved with opening a business in the city, while deteriorated strip malls "are an utter disgrace to Downey."

Police and fire

For years, rumor and speculation have swirled that Downey's fire and police departments would one day be turned over to Los Angeles County. Would the candidates ever consider such a move?

"Over my dead body will we go to the county," said Gafin, speaking bluntly. "Our number one priority is the community's health and safety. We'll find ways to keep them here. If we have to fire people in City Hall administratively we will."

"Ditto what he said," said Brossmer. "We're not going county, you know that. Realistically, that's not going to happen. No chance we're going to county."

Rankin called the question a "non-issue" and said Downey police and fire departments "are doing a good job."

De Remer, who said he was a former Long Beach police officer, also denounced a switch to county services, but emphasized the need for reserve officers at the Downey Police Department.

A-Malek said she also would not support a switch to county services. But she said she would like to see fire and police become "more efficient." As an example, A-Malek said police officers should make regular rounds on city streets with a high population of seniors, while the fire department should call neighboring South Gate about overgrown bushes growing underneath electric lines.

Larkin said undoing Downey police and fire departments is "never an option." She praised Police Chief Roy Campos and Fire Chief Mark Sauter and said both departments are "in good hands."

Closing Statements

All candidates also answered questions regarding ethics in office, and pledged honest service to citizens. In their closing statements, the candidates spoke freely while reiterating their goals and qualifications.

Brossmer said he would like to enhance recreational opportunities in Downey. One way, he said, would be to increase park space.

Rankin took a different tone.

"Anyone can say anything up here," he said. "There's no lie detector attached to your arm. But look around the city. Is the city developing the way you want?"

De Remer stressed "fiscal responsibility" and said, win or lose, his volunteerism would not change after Election Day.

A-Malek said the abundance of "qualified candidates is a blessing to the city." She said she was honoring Barbara Riley by running for office, and she too would not disappear after elections.

If elected, Larkin said she would not need "on-the-job training." She said she would help revitalize "aging areas of Downey" by offering incentives or rebates for homeowners to complete repairs on their homes.

She also said the Downey Theatre "is a gem" and underutilized, and she would like to see it host talent contests for children, art exhibits, or other cultural events. And she would like to see more nighttime entertainment options for children and adults.

"There's more to youth than soccer and baseball," she said. "They need fun."

The next candidate's forum is scheduled for Oct. 23 at the Southern California Gas Co. Energy Resource Center, sponsored by the Downey Chamber of Commerce. For information, call (562) 923-2191.

Wayne W. Lynch

December 22, 1913 - October 2, 2008

Wayne Lynch passed away quietly and peacefully, surrounded by his children Thursday, October 2, 2008, he was 94 years old. Wayne was born in Wyandot County, Ohio in 1913, in 1935 he joined the United States Army and served his country for 21 years, serving in both World War II and the Korean War. In 1948 while serving in Germany he met and married his wife Tillie, they were married for 53 years until she passed away in 2001. In 1977 he retired after working 20 years for AMF Voit in Costa Mesa. Wayne moved to Downey in 2001 to live with his daughter Rita. He is survived by his four children, three grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Services were held on Wednesday at the Church of our Fathers in Forest Lawn Mortuary, Cypress, CA. He will be missed.



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Candidates use realtors forum to reiterate platforms

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—To their credit, the seven candidates vying for three City Council seats in this year's local elections presented their positions before the Downey Association of Realtors briefly, to the point, the very models of brevity.

They repeated their campaign themes, of course, emphasizing certain items more than others. A common theme was better, and more effective, communication between the Council/city administration and Downey's citizens, especially in the aftermath of the recent boil-water order disruption.

District 5 candidate Luis Marquez, senior deputy for Sen. Alan Lowenthal, said the water fiasco should never have happened; that he'll focus on securing a steady revenue stream for the city, yet not at the expense of its quality of life; that he is bringing to the table his wealth of political experience gained from both state and local activity; and that "I'm running for the sake of my children."

Russell Rankin (District 3), a former military man, who said he's tired of getting no response to his concerns ("green building" considerations, code modifications; etc.), decided "It's time to make some changes".

Realtor Maria Larkin (District 5) opposed the idea of pre-sale inspections as this would add to the cost of home-buying; "I've lived here a long time, and love it here" she said, and nixed the thought of retirement; as realtors, she said, "We're supposed to give back to the community"; "I hope you'll vote for me on Nov.4, it happens to be my birthday."

Gary De Remer (District 5) pointed to his extensive business experience and community involvement (the Downey Rose Float Association, for one) and addressed the impact of Rancho Los Amigos on the fortunes of the city; in any event, he said, if elected he will adopt an open door policy to all residents.

Dr. Shahira A-Malek said she was born in Egypt "after the pyramids were built" and called attention to the "ugly" aspects of mansionization, that parking on narrow city streets posed a serious problem and called for a survey of such streets; she said her successful medical and administrative background positions her for city service, especially now that her kids are off to college.

David Gafin, the incumbent mayor (representing District 1) was the looser of all the candidates because he's running unopposed (for a second consecutive term); right off he said, "Ask me anything except about water"; in code enforcement issues and city matters, he said, safety is paramount; he emphasized the importance and necessity for more contact with the people;

Roger Brossmer, Downey Adult School principal and running for District 3, said he'll tackle the problem of graffiti the way he approaches everything, with "quality leadership" and "solid results"; he said he has invested a lot in the community, and "I want to protect my investment"; he said his strong family, professional, and community ties will enable him to accomplish much for Downey.

Symphony opens season with 'An American Touch'

DOWNEY – "An American Touch" opens the Downey Symphony's 51st concert season on Saturday evening, Oct. 25, when Music Director Sharon Lavery conducts the orchestra in Downey's Civic Theatre.

Her program includes Variations on 'America,' by Charles Ives and the Symphony No. 8 by Antonin Dvorak. Soloist Pauline Yang will play Rachmanioff's stunning First Piano Concerto.

Lavery will give a free pre-concert discussion of the evening's music at 7:15, just before the 8 p.m. performance.

Reserved seat tickets to this concert are \$25 and \$20, \$10 for students, and may be purchased by calling the Symphony Office, (562) 403-2944, or the evening of performance at the theater box office, located at 8435 Firestone Blvd., at Brookshire.

—Joyce Sherwin, Downey Symphony



Dr. Mary Stauffer, center, presents a \$30,000 check to Superintendent Wendy Doty and Mary Jo Enyeart to help the Downey Unified School District's expansion of Character Counts to all community youth.

New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- **"The 351 Books of Irma Arcuri"** by David Bajo. For most of his adult life, mathematician Philip Masryk has carried on a love affair with Irma Arcuri. When Irma vanishes, she leaves him an inheritance of her library: 351 books that reveal the secret of her disappearance and her elusive past with Philip.
- **"Arctic Drift"** by Clive Cussler. In the latest suspense thriller, Dirk Pitt must find the connection between a series of mysterious deaths and a breakthrough discovery to reverse global warming.
- **"How Perfect is That"** by Sara Bird. Blythe Young is plummeting down the Austin social ladder due to a series of dubious moral choices. Only when she is faced with losing the one friend who has been her true moral center can she deal with her past and make amends.
- **"A Person of Interest"** by Susan Choi. When a popular young college teacher becomes the target of a bombing incident, his colleague, tenured professor Lee, is devastated -- until he becomes a suspect. Choi is the author of "American Woman," a Pulitzer Prize finalist.
- **"When We Were Romans"** by Matthew Kneale. Nine-year-old Lawrence is determined to keep his family together, even when his estranged father is stalking them and they move from London to Rome.

Non-Fiction

- **"101 Facts About Bullying: What Everyone Should Know"** by Meline Kevorkian and Robin D'Antona. Advice for all parents, teachers and caregivers on ways to prevent bullying behaviors toward children and young adults.
- **"Books: a Memoir"** by Larry McMurtry. One of America's most prominent writers shares his life-long passion for books.
- **"Bridge to Literacy: No Child -- or Adult -- Left Behind"** by John Corcoran. A literacy advocate brings hope to millions of adults who lack basic reading and writing skills.
- **"Six Good Innings"** by Mark Kreidler. A sportswriter shares the story of how one small New Jersey town became a Little League giant.
- **"Whatever Happened to Thrift?"** by Ronald T. Wilcox. A business teacher shows why Americans don't save and shares a plan to put our nation on the path to saving money.

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

Review:

Story, haunting songs drive 'South Pacific'

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

When I was a young man, I was a devotee of Bing Crosby and would croon "Some Enchanted Evening" and "Bali Ha'i" after his fashion. I sang the songs because they were good songs to sing. The question of context hardly mattered: I hadn't heard of the musical "South Pacific" then, or, even if I had, paid no attention to it.

A few years later I saw the movie starring Rossano Brazzi and Mitzi Gaynor, and featuring John Kerr, Han Suyin, and Ray Walston. "Younger than Springtime" immediately became another personal favorite, as I was smitten with a young gal at the time.

Now given context, the songs gained richness and meaning. In time, I became acquainted with, and have immensely enjoyed, Ezio Pinza's renditions of "Some Enchanted Evening" and "This Nearly Was Mine."

Rodgers and Hammerstein really did a wonderful job of weaving a dramatic story of two pairs of lovers almost blinded by prejudice amid the horror of war out of James Michener's "Tales of the South Pacific," and writing its wonderful score. Debuting on Broadway in 1949, "South Pacific" has over the years been a staple of Broadway musicals. Mainly because of its songs, I rank it among all-time favorites, right up there with "Showboat," "Fiddler on the Roof," "The Sound of Music," and "Man of La Mancha."

So, given a chance to review it for the Patriot, I jumped at it. If nothing else, I knew I'd enjoy its music. And enjoy it I did.

Under the direction of Marsha Moode, the musical started slow. But once it gained momentum, the scenes, transitions and songs flowed smoothly until it reached a crescendo at intermission. The post-intermission scenes dealt with the war's often untidy circumstances and a tragic denouement, in the case of Lt. Cable's and Liat's relationship. The rest was anti-climactic, as I was familiar with the story.

I thought Greg North as Emile de Becque, with his rich baritone voice, was most impressive ("Some Enchanted Evening" and, towards the end of the show, "This Nearly Was Mine"). But Ann Peck McBride, as Bloody Mary, nailed it with her near-perfect "Bali Ha'i."

Of the other performances, Carollanne Marano as Ensign Nellie Forbush was equally impressive, while Karl Schott stood out as he provided the main comic relief as the goofy Luther Billis.

In an interesting bit of casting, the parts of Lt. Cable and Liat fell to two actors (Daniel Bernbach and Amber Quan) in their debut roles with the DCLO.

It has been noted that the successful current revival of "South Pacific" on Broadway after an absence of 60 years has netted seven Tonys.

According to Moode, DCLO revives "South Pacific" here every 10 years. No one has ever questioned its relevance.

Discover hidden treasures in your home

DOWNEY – A smiling pumpkin will greet guests at each table on Saturday, Oct. 18 when the Downey Symphony Guild hosts its annual fall luncheon.

This fundraiser, to benefit Music in the Schools and the Downey Symphony Orchestra, will be held at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center at 11:30 a.m.

Guest speaker Stephanie Piche will entertain with her secrets on how to find those "Hidden Treasures" in your own home. Piche is a professional in business administration and is a shrewd buyer at flea markets and yard sales. She helps design homes for sale and she researches, promotes and sells for clients, using the Internet.

We think she will inspire everyone there to become a super-sleuth in discovering their own forgotten treasures.

A boxed picnic lunch will be served and opportunity tickets will be available. The requested donation is \$25 per person, payable to the Downey Symphony Guild, 9700 Garnish Dr., Downey 90240.

—Rosalie Sciortino, Downey Symphony Guild

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THE EXPRESS PG *Fri to Sun:* (11:00, 1:50, 4:50), 7:50, 10:50, *Mon to Thu:* (11:00, 1:50, 4:50), 7:50

QUARANTINE R (11:45, 12:35, 2:10, 2:50, 4:30, 5:15), 7:15, 8:00, 9:30, 10:15

APPALOOSA R *Fri to Sun:* (11:10, 2:05, 5:05), 7:55, 10:45, *Mon to Thu:* (11:10, 2:05, 5:05), 7:55

BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA PG (11:15, 12:00, 1:45, 2:30, 4:10, 5:00), 6:45, 7:30, 9:15

BLINDNESS R 10:00 PM

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, 1:55, 4:50), 7:45, 10:35, *Mon to Thu:* (11:00, 1:55, 4:50), 7:45

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QUARANTINE R (10:20 12:45 3:10) 5:35 8:00 10:25

BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA PG (10:25 12:50 3:15) 5:40 8:05 10:30

NICK & NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST PG-13 (10:15 12:40 3:05) 5:30 7:55 10:20

AN AMERICAN CAROL PG-13 (10:40 1:00 3:20) 5:40 8:00 10:20

BLINDNESS R (10:45 1:40 4:35) 7:30 10:25

EAGLE EYE PG-13 (11:25 1:10 4:55) 7:40 10:25

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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.

"A Year to Remember" has advertising solutions for any budget. Please allow us to accommodate your business, and join us in our remembrance of 2008.

For more information call (562) 904-3668 or email us at downeypatriot@yahoo.com

Stiffed by car dealer? DMV recommends small claims

Q: Is there any way to file complaints against car dealerships with questionable practices?

A: Yes, but you should know the DMV has limited resources to investigate these complaints. Examples of typical complaints include counterfeit or fraudulent DMV documents, odometer fraud and dealers overcharging for DMV fees.

Also, investigations can only result in criminal or administrative action against the licensed dealer, not in monetary judgment to victims. To recover a financial loss, people should consider Small Claims Court or filing a civil claim against the licensee.

Remember, it is your responsibility to read and understand your vehicle sales contract before signing it. To obtain the forms to file a complaint with the DMV and for information on additional resources, go to www.dmv.ca.gov.

Q: My wallet was stolen with my driver's license inside. What is the easiest way to get a replacement driver's license?

A: You'll need to make an appointment with a local DMV office to apply for a duplicate (lost or stolen) driver's license. You must submit a completed application, which can be picked up or mailed but is not offered online. A \$21 fee will include a new thumbprint, photo and an interim license valid for 60 days while you wait for your permanent driver's license to arrive in the mail.

Q: Do I have to register my ATV or snowmobile with the DMV?

A: yes. Vehicle such as motorcycles, trail bikes, dune buggies, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles, which are operated exclusively off public roads, still must be registered as off-highway vehicles (OHV). A vehicle registered as an OHV cannot be operated on public streets; valid on-highway registration is needed.

Q: Is it every OK to use the carpool lane when I'm driving alone?

A: Yes. Signs at onramps or along the freeway tell you when the carpool requirement applies. The restrictions are often during peak driving

hours including the morning and evening work commute. Vehicles towing trailers are typically not allowed to use carpool lanes because they must drive more slowly and are usually restricted to the right-hand lane.

For drivers of clean air vehicles (electric and natural gas powered vehicles), special clean air stickers are available, which allows a single occupant to use carpool lanes. For more information on the program visit the DMV website at www.dmv.ca.gov.

Q: What is a "motorized bicycle" and what are the rules and requirements to drive them?

A: First, there are two types of motorized bicycles. The first is a moped or motorized bicycle – a two-or-three-wheeled device having fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power, or having no pedals if powered solely by electrical energy, has an automatic transmission, a motor which produces less than 2 gross horsepower, and has a maximum speed of not more than 30 miles per hour.

The second is a device that has fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power and has an electric motor that has an output of not more than 1,000 watts, and has a maximum speed of not more than 20 miles per hour.

Motorized bicycles do not need to be registered. However, you will need a Class M1 or M2 (moped only) license to drive and helmets must be worn by all riders.

Q: Are motorized bicycles or mopeds allowed on city streets?

A: Motorized bicycles are allowed on bicycle lanes that are adjacent to a roadway. They may be ridden on the street on the far right hand side as to not impede traffic if a bicycle lane is not available. Motorized bicycles are not allowed on bike paths or lanes that are not adjacent to the roadway or any other pedestrian trail or path unless otherwise posted.

Do you have questions about general driving related requirements like registration and insurance? Are you unclear about laws and restrictions related to driving? Readers can submit any DMV-related questions to askdmv@dmv.ca.gov.



Downey residents lined up for a free high-efficiency toilet Sept. 13 at Downey Adult School. Photo courtesy Central Basin Municipal Water District

Hundreds line up for free toilets

ARTESIA – The Central Basin Municipal Water District distributed nearly 500 high-efficiency toilets two weeks ago in Artesia, many going to Downey residents.

A similar program was held at Downey Adult School Sept. 13. To qualify, residents had to replace water-wasting 3.5 gallon per flush toilets with the newer, 1.3 gallon toilets. Residents also agreed to return their old toilet within two weeks for recycling.

"This is just a great program all around. We get to help local community groups raise money, while working with residents to reduce their daily water use," said Central Basin Director Phil Hawkins. "During dry times like these, programs like this one are critical to sustaining the local water supplies."

Installing a high efficiency toilet, which conserves 35 gallons of water a day for the average-sized family, is one of the most effective ways to reduce water use in the home, officials said. The toilets distributed by the Central Basin are estimated to conserve more than 9 million gallons of water annually for the region.

"Now that we are in a drought, it is important that our residents realize the many simple, affordable ways they can reduce their water use and contribute to conservation on a bigger scale," said Central Basin Director Ed Vasquez, representing District 1. "It is our goal to bring that information to residents, and support them in any way we can."

The Sept. 13 giveaway at Downey Adult School received help from Warren High School students, officials said.

Laugh Factory fundraiser Wednesday

LONG BEACH – The Laugh Factory in Long Beach will host a comedy fundraiser Wednesday for the family of Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy Juan Escalante, who was shot and killed Aug. 2.

Part of the proceeds will also go towards the Cops 4 Causes Fallen Hero's Scholarship Fund, Special Olympics Southern California, and the California Peace Officers' Memorial.

Scheduled to perform are Tom Arnold, Paul Rodriguez, Dom Irrera, July Tenuta and more.

For tickets and information, visit www.cops4causes.org.

Learn bead-wrapping at meeting

LONG BEACH – The Long Beach Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America will meet Oct. 24 at St. Gregory Episcopal Church, 6201 E. Willow St., in Long Beach.

A representative from Pudgy Beads of Long Beach will teach bead-wrapping to guests.

Requested donation to attend is \$2. For more information, call Joyce at (562) 598-2509.

Boutique, fashion show planned

LAKEWOOD – The Bellflower Soroptimist Club will hold a "Fun with Fashion" fundraiser Nov. 15 at the Centre at Sycamore Plaza in Lakewood.

The event begins with a boutique sale at 11 a.m., followed by a fashion show and lunch at noon.

Cost is \$45 and reservations will be taken until Nov. 8 or at capacity. For reservations, e-mail patangeldog@aol.com.

The Centre at Sycamore Plaza is located at 5000 E. Clark Ave. in Lakewood.

Bus heading 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 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.

Little Miss Darling pageant postponed

DOWNEY – The Downey Rose Float Association has postponed its Little Miss Darling Dazzle/Little Mr. Darling pageant that had been scheduled for tomorrow at the Embassy Suites.

Rose Float officials cited "the economic issues facing the country at this time" in issuing the postponement.

New dates and times will be announced in the near future.

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 in Downey, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Kumon offers list of recommended reads

DOWNEY – Educators from Kumon Math and Reading Centers across the country are encouraging families to make reading a priority.

In honor of National Book Month in October, families can visit the Downey Kumon Center to receive a copy of its free recommended reading list. Kumon offers 350 titles, designed to help parents select books that enhance their children's appreciation and understanding of the English language and develop a lifelong love for reading.

The books parents select should match the child's level of ability and should pique his or her interest in a particular topic, said Dr. Mokris, education specialist for Kumon.

"If your child loves to help cook, consider books that highlight foods from around the world, or if he or she dreams of imaginary lands and characters, then books of the fantasy genre would be ideal," Mokris said. "Our recommended reading list provides a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction titles, including those with multicultural themes."

Reading builds vocabulary and is the one activity which can help to improve children's experiences in all school subjects, Mokris added.

Downey Kumon Center is at 9901 Paramount Blvd., Suite 115. Their phone number is (562) 806-2526.

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SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SAT & SUN	SAT & SUN	SUNDAY	SAT & SUN	SUNDAY	SATURDAY
17330 Montgomery - Fontana 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH	1250 S. Hicks - Los Angeles 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH	3948 Baldwin Park Blvd - Baldwin Park 4 BEDROOM, 3 BATH	14272 Hoover - Westminster 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH	8042 Madison - Paramount 2 UNITS	9759 Imperial Hwy - Downey 3 BEDROOM, 3 BATH CONDO	10740 Cornish - Lynwood 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH	2928 Petaluma - Long Beach 4 BEDROOM, 1.75 BATH

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A fourth quarter touchdown helped Downey beat Kennedy, 21-20, last week. Photo by Paul Heidecker

Downey inches past Kennedy

■ Late touchdown secures Downey's 21-20 win.

BY SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER
DOWNEY – Winning the close games tend to be the only way the Downey Vikings can win this season as they just scraped by visiting Kennedy High School, 21-20.

Downey's second win of the season watched them come back in the fourth quarter down by six points to steal a win with a touchdown.

The game had its share of ups and downs though. While the Vikings won the game, they also saw the difficulties of starting running back Jeremiah Higgins who continues to struggle on the ground and the rise of backup running back Joe Hill who has shown much promise.

On the night, Higgins carried the ball seven times for only 35 yards and a fumble, his fourth in two games. Hill, on the other hand, erupted for 103 yards on 10 carries, one run being for 65 yards. He also

had a touchdown. Balance continues to be the name of Downey's offensive game, watching quarterback Steven Cervantes complete an efficient 10 of 15 passes for 112 yards, with a touchdown and an interception.

In their final pre-season tune up, Downey will clash with a tough Santa Fe High School squad who manhandled Warren High School a couple weeks ago. Santa Fe comes in with a 3-1 record.

The game is at Pioneer High School and game time is 7 p.m.

Warren defense a no-show

■ Botched fake punt seals Bears' fate.

BY SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER
DOWNEY – An uncharacteristic defensive letdown led to a loss last Friday for the Warren Bears, who stumbled against La Serna High School, 28-10.

Normally a good run defense team, Warren allowed La Serna's running back Louie Lozano to bump and bruise his way to 178 yards on 22 carries with a pair of touchdowns.

Warren led the game at the half 10-7, but the lead was deceiving to those who weren't watching the

battle at the line of scrimmage. Warren's defensive line was pushed around starting late in the second quarter, allowing Lozano to get into the secondary where he did most of his damage.

La Serna opened up the second half with a nine-play drive that sucked up a good chunk of the game clock. The Lancers marched 81 yards capped with a 30-yard-touchdown rush by Lozano, putting them up 14-10.

On Warren's next drive, a failed fake punt led to another score by Lozano, this time on a 32-yard rush.

Warren struggled after the first

quarter to get anything going offensively. Running back Jesse Callier was held to a season low 46 yards on the ground, carrying the ball 16 times.

Quarterback Sam Bettencourt was stymied as well. After completing his first six passes for 60 yards, he was held to only 40 yards the rest of the game while getting picked off three times and completing only two of 10 more passes.

Warren will be back on the road against Torrance High School tonight. Torrance boasts a 4-0 record and will be the Bears' final preseason test before league starts next week. Game time is 7 p.m.

Razorbacks still undefeated

■ MityMite White and Pee Wee stay perfect.

BY MIKE BAUMANN,
DOWNEY YOUTH FOOTBALL
DOWNEY – Two powerful Razorback teams, MityMite White and PeeWee, remain undefeated after five weeks of play in the 2008 Pacific Coast Conference season.

MityMite Red (7, 8, and 9 year olds) held Palos Verde scoreless in the first half of Saturdays defensive game, but was unable to maintain the shutout and fell 6-0. Jacob Gaytan, Conner Freire Jordan Mayes and Angel Chaidex were singled out as playing hard in the loss.

MityMite White continued their complete dominance of opponents by scoring a 27-0 win over the TwinCities Wolverines. The Razorback White has not allowed an opponent to score in five games, and has averaged over 30 points in every contest. Downey plays undefeated Lakewood this Saturday at Veterans Stadium in the showdown for first place in their league.

Jr. PeeWee Razorbacks have won their last two games after losing three non-league contests to

start off the season. The two wins put them in line for a playoff spot if they continue to win the remainder of the league games.

In Saturday's 28-13 win over TwinCities, the Hogs were led by Kiefer Enslins' two touchdowns, a 65-yard run and a 45-yard dash. Eduardo Preciado added two touchdown runs of his own, a 35-yard run and a 50-yarder. Jesse Saenz added 2 PAT's for Downey. The Jr. PeeWee's also play Lakewood for first place tomorrow.

The undefeated PeeWee Razorbacks (9, 10, 11 year olds) scored early and often as they thoroughly outmanned our neighbors to the north, Pico Rivera. The Hogs wasted no time as Joshua Medina scampered 20 yards for the initial score. Just minutes later, after a Medina run of 70 yards, Rafael Rodriguez plunged into the end zone for the score.

After a fumble recovery the Hogs scored with a 15-yard run by Moses Alaniz. Alaniz followed that score with a nice run of 20 yards and the Hogs followed up with a touchdown pass from Rodriguez to Medina to end the first half leading 24-0.

The Razorbacks put Moses to work again in the second half and the fullback answered with a 65-yard touchdown run. The final score was 30-0 over the TwinCities Wolverines. The defense once again played stingy football giving up few first downs and an interception by Miguel Esquitin stopped the Wolverines on their only serious scoring threat. Tomorrow, the PeeWee's play the Lakewood Lions at Veteran Stadium.

The Razorback Jr. Midgets (10, 11, 12 year olds) traveled to Redondo Beach. The offense started off moving the ball well with George Zavala scoring on a short run. Justin Saenz's extra point tied the game at 8. The defense played well again this week; however, in the second half they were worn down by a very good Redondo Beach team and lost 28-8. The Jr. Midgets also travel to Lakewood tomorrow.

A breakdown in special teams allowed TwinCities to upset the Downey Midgets 13-8.

TwinCities scored on a kickoff return and a punt return to turn back the Razorbacks in their first loss of the year.

Spend a day at Los Alamitos

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.

The theme is "Disco Saturday

Night" so attendees are encouraged to wear platform shoes and 1970's-style clothing. Proceeds will benefit Childrens Hospital Los Angeles.

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