

The Downer Patriot



The world's oldest rapper See Page 12



Time to get your flu shots See Page 3



Woman sues J.C. Penney See Page 4

Friday, October 31, 2008

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



Residents packed the farmers market in Downtown Downey when it opened in April (above), but attendance has tapered in recent weeks. Photo by Eric Pierce

Attendance drops at farmers market

■ Report says attendance at the market has steadily declined in recent weeks.

By Eric Pierce, City Editor **DOWNEY** – Attendance at Downey's downtown farmers market has seen a sharp decline in recent weeks, prompting city officials to rethink and possibly retool their marketing and promotional campaigns, according to a status report presented to the City Council this week.

Prepared by deputy city manager Desi Alvarez, the report claims attendance at the market was initially strong, but the number of visitors has slipped in recent weeks.

"With the initial success of the farmers market, it is difficult to account for the dwindling attendance," Alvarez wrote in the report. "Some of the reasons for the tapering of market attendance may be explained by the end of the summer produce season and the busier schedules imposed on families with coming of autumn and the start of school, while some of the attendance drop may also be attributed to the lack of advertising."

The city embarked on an ambitious marketing campaign in the weeks leading to the market's April 19 grand opening. The campaign included advertisements in several newspapers, church bulletins and the PennySaver, and the printing of posters, street banners and fliers.

Announcements were also placed in residents' water bills and on the city website.

"The farmers market has been a vibrant addition to the downtown and it is beneficial to reverse the recent decline in market attendance if the market is to remain," Alvarez wrote. "To that end, the city needs to revise its marketing strategy so as to increase market attendance to the levels garnered during the first two months of the market and to sustain the market through the critical first winter."

Among the ideas city officials may consider to boost attendance:

•Host a table that allows residents to register on-site for Community Services classes, events and trips.

•Invite a limited number of crafters for the holiday season.

•Introduce a children's area, including a bounce house or face painting.

•Advertise on public access TV. •Post farmers market posters in the windows of Downey business-

·Host holiday toy and canned

•Invite local radio stations to broadcast on-site.

•Coordinate with local restaurants to feature menu items made from farmers market produce.

The city may also use their remaining \$9,000 marketing budget for advertisements in The Downey Patriot and in Spanishlanguage newspapers. The ads may possibly include coupons or other incentives to shop at the market.

Water customers can expect a credit

customers can expect a small credit on their next water bill, a goodwill gesture by the city after last month's boil-water order.

Residents will see a 8 percent credit on their next bill, equivalent to a five-day span in an average 60day billing cycle.

"A lot of residents were inconvenienced and businesses lost money during the shutdown," Mayor David Gafin said, referring to the state-issued boil-water order

that began Sept. 25. Councilman Kirk Cartozian

DOWNEY – Downey water voted against the credit, arguing that restaurants suffered a greater economic hit.

> "Homeowners were inconvenienced but...restaurants had to shut down and lost thousands of dollars. We should do something to help them," Cartozian said.

Cartozian noted that about half of Downey's residents are apartment dwellers, who may not see the discount because it will go to the landlord instead.

The discount is expected to cost the city about \$100,000.

-Eric Pierce

Candidates make final push for votes

■ Read our survey on the candidates, pages 10-11 in this issue.

By Eric Pierce, City Editor **DOWNEY** – After months of fundraising, campaigning, and perhaps even a smidge of political grandstanding, local candidates are making their final push with voters, who will select two new City Council members when they head to the polls Tuesday.

Four candidates are seeking the District 5 (city-wide) seat, set to be vacated next month by termed-out Councilman Kirk Cartozian. They include Dr. Shahira A-Malek, Gary De Remer, Maria Larkin and Luis Marquez.

Two candidates, Roger Brossmer and Russell Rankin, are vying for the District 3 (Northeast Downey) seat. Current Councilman Rick Trejo will also be termed out next month.

Mayor David Gafin is running unopposed in District 1 (South Downey).

The Downey Patriot sent the candidates a survey of four questions each. The first three questions were uniform, but the last question

DISTRICT DISTRICT **City of Downey • Council District Map**

was unique to each candidate. Their answers, limited to 200 words per question, appear on

pages 10-11 in alphabetical order.

County orders removal of Rancho's wild cats

■ County officials call the felines a public health risk.

By Mary Forney, Staff Writer **DOWNEY** – Do not feed the cats - that is what newly posted signs around the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center instruct.

Los Angeles County announced its Department of Animal Care and Control will begin trapping and removing nearly 200 feral cats living near Rancho Los Amigos due to recent findings by the Health Department.

A statement issued last week by L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe alleges that despite working with the trap-neuter-return group Fail Safe 4 Felines, there has been an increase in the cat population.

"The inspection indicated evidence of fleas, flies, and feces associated with feral cats in various areas including those adjacent to the Public Health Laboratory, Los Angeles County Crime Laboratory, and the child day care center," said County of Los Angeles Public Health official Gail VanGordon.

"Feral cats pose a public health threat. They have been associated with a multitude of organisms that cause human disease such as rabies, endemic typhus, toxoplasmosis, cat-scratch diseases, and plague. These pathogens can be transmitted via bite, scratch, fleas, and exposure to fecal material,"

The County plans to trap the cats, impound them at the Downey shelter, and make the adoptable cats available for adoption. Reenacting its Barn Cat promotion, the county is seeking out potential



More than 25 people recently protested the county's plan to trap and remove about 200 feral cats from the south campus at Rancho Los Amigos. Photo by Mary Forney

farm area homes for the feral cats and reserving euthanasia as a last

"These cats aren't hurting anyone - this is just a power play," said Fail Safe 4 Felines founder Sheranne Jaeger. "These cats are healthy and clean. The buildings where the cats are have been abandoned for years. The entrances to the crime lab and child development center have been boarded off since the beginning of the year so they have no attraction to go there - they stay where the feeding stations are."

On Oct. 22, DACC Director Marcia Mayeda wrote a letter to Jaeger stating that Fail Safe 4

Felines failed to assist the county in finding new homes or removing the cats from the property as was agreed between the entities in January.

Members of Fail Safe 4 Felines have fed the cats, trapped and neutered them, and then returned them to the Rancho property instead of taking them to a new home or making them available for adoption. The letter warns Jaeger that she risks being charged with animal abandonment if she returns anymore felines to the Rancho property.

See CATS, page 3

Celebrating the deceased among us

By Yolanda Adele, WRITERS' WORKSHOP WEST

n my Mexican culture we celebrate the Day of the Dead L starting at midnight on Nov. 1. It is believed that the heavens open up and the spirit of the littlest angels (children) come down to visit with their families for 24 hours. Adult spirits come to celebrate on Nov. 2. Preparation for their anticipated arrival starts on Oct. 31.

On these days, family members tend to relatives' graves, and they picnic at the cemeteries. It is a time of reunion for families, living and dead, with songs, offerings, and prayers.

The souls of dead are invited to return for awhile to the world of the living as honored guest. This environment of community support provides a time for healing the void that is left by the absence of a loved one who has died.

In the Mexican culture, children are not sheltered from the reality of death. In the Spanish language there are no euphemisms such as, "He passed away" or "He passed on" etc. Children attend funerals regardless of their age.

Death is talked about openly. Youngsters are taught to make light, and even to mock death. On Day of the Dead the children break open the piñatas (a decorated pottery jar) made in the likeness of death (skulls, skeletons) to find sweet candy treats. In this way they

See DEAD, page 8

Restaurants begin filing claims

By Mary Forney, Staff Writer DOWNEY - Last week, an estimated 65 restaurant and store owners congregated at Stox Resturant and Bakery on Imperial Highway to discuss and formulate a collective civil suit against the

City of Downey, Los Angeles

Michelson

and

County,

Laboratories Inc. Stox Restaurant owner Jack Wannebo estimates the gathered restaurants and stores suffered at least \$2.5 million in collective expenses and loss of income when the L.A. County Health

Department forced businesses to

shut down between Sept. 24-28.

The county's orders to shut down the restaurants and prohibit stores from selling fresh food items from Michelson stemmed Laboratories Inc.'s claim that the Downey water supply was contaminated after the lab allegedly incorrectly interpreted water samples.

"My insurance company wouldn't take care of my claim for interruption of business because there was no physical damage to the building," Wannebo said. "So someone has to pay for the loss of business and waste of money spent on supplies bought to meet our plan of action that was denied by the Health Department."

City of Downey Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra attended the

See CLAIMS, page 3

Page 2 Friday, Oct. 31, 2008 Community.

MARIA LARKIN.....the most Qualified and Experienced Candidate for Our City.

Please, compare my resume to the other candidates. You will see that I have dedicated myself to the City of Downey. My involvement in the community has not been short term like the other candidates....my involvement has been for over the past 30 years.

MY RESUME

Community

- City of Downey 2nd Century Foundation Committee
- Downey Chamber of Commerce member since 1989. Served on the board of Directors many terms and was the 100th President in 2003.
- City Affairs Committee Chairman
- Downtown Downey Merchants Committee Chairman
- Holiday Lane Parade Committee Chairman 12 consecutive years
- Served on the Downey Street Fair Committee 5 years
- Parking Place Commission Appointment District 4
- City of Downey Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Keep Downey Beautiful Committee
- Woman's Club of Downey
- OLPH Catholic Women's Guild
- Neighborhood Watch Member

Management

- Office Manager for a 55 Attorney Law Firm Supervising over 80 non legal staff.
- Office Manager International CPA Firm, over 30 staff
- Real Estate Broker / Owner three Century 21 Offices and current Advantage Real Estate

Personal Leadership

- President of the Downey Association of Realtors® 3 terms
- Realtor Broker of the Year 85, 90 & 2007
- Distinguished Service Award 1991
- State Director for California Assoc. Realtors ® 20 years

My Pledge If Elected.

- Promote a Business friendly city to increase tax dollars
- Retain & Expand our Police & Fire Departments keeping them under local control
- Support our outstanding School District
- · Promote neighborhood preservation and planned revitalization of our ageing areas a top priority.
- Be YOUR watchdog ~ I will assure your tax dollars are spent wisely.
- · Revisiting the city code as it pertains to overbuilding.
- Provide needed senior day care, housing and youth activities.
- · Beautification of the many run-down commercial strip malls.
- Use The Downey Civic Theatre to its fullest potential, possibly renaming it to Downey Performing Arts & Cultural Center.
- Address curtain areas of our community where consideration should be given to "neighborhood esthetics and preservation".

I Will Not.

- · I will not be self-serving -I will be a council person for the citizens.
- I will not waste tax dollars I will stay on budget.
- I will not ignore your concerns I will work with my fellow council members on your behalf.

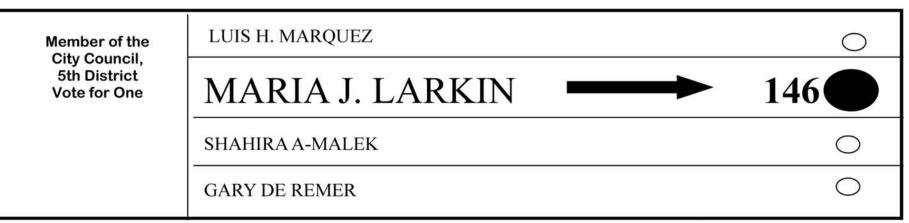


Out of over 100,000 Realtors® in the state of California, I was appointed by the California Association of Realtors® to be the Legislative Liaison to the California Legislators.



It is my privilege to serve as the Chairman of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, Holiday Lane Parade Committee. This will be my 12th consecutive year as Chairman.

CITY **DOWNEY CITY GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION**



Have a Safe Fun-Filled Halloween.

I have lived in Downey for 51 years, I have been a volunteer in the community for over 30 years and I know the heartbeat of Downey. Unlike my opponents, I did not wait till I was running for public office to become involved. I became involved many years ago and stayed involved because of the love I have for this community. I am running for a seat on the city council because of the concerns I have in many different areas.

I am a uniter, I am ready, I am willing, and I am able to begin on day one!! November the 4th is not just election day, it is also my birthday - Please vote for Maria Larkin on November 4th.

Por favor, compare mi currículo vitae con los otros candidatos, usted vera que me he dedicado a la Ciudad de Downey. Mi participación en la Comunidad no ha sido de poco tiempo como los otros candidatos, si no durante los últimos 30 años.

Community Page 3 Friday, Oct. 31, 2008



The Downey Fire Department will give away free flu shots tomorrow between 9 - 11:30 a.m. at their fire station at 12222 Paramount Blvd. Nurses from the Los Angeles County Public Health Department and Downey Regional Medical Center will administer the injection.

Excess yard waste can be collected

DOWNEY – During the month of November, Downey residents may place extra yard waste (waste that does not fit in their green waste barrel) at the curb on their regular trash pick-up day.

The excess waste will be picked up for free. Residens should call CalMet Services one business day prior to pick-up to schedule the service.

CalMet will collect up to five bags, trash cans, or bundles of leaves, clippings and vard waste per pick-up. Bundles of branches need to be kept under 4 feet in length and under 50 pounds, and residents should not use their regular trash or recyclable barrels for the yard waste.

Pick-up service can be scheduled by calling CalMet at (562) 259-1239, ext. 244. The yard waste should be placed at the curb on regular pick-up

The free waste collection service begins Monday and will continue through Nov. 29.

Dinner, auction at Downey High

DOWNEY - Downey High School's booster and fishing clubs will host a dinner and silent auction tomorrow as they work to raise money for the programs.

Dinner will be served between 6 and 7 p.m. and includes hot dogs, nachos and cold drinks.

An auction viewing period is from 6:30 to 7 p.m., and will be followed by bidding. The auction will include autographed sports and movie memorabilia, fishing tackle, and other items.

Cash, credit cards and money orders will be accepted.

Four-time USC basketball MVP Ronnie Coleman will be the event's guest speaker, and raffles will be held every 15 minutes.

The event will take place inside Downey High School's gym. For more information, call (562) 622-4811.

Claims: Restaurants plan to file suit.

Continued from page 1

meeting and offered ideas that the restaurants could present to the city for consideration.

"They could set up booths at the Farmers Market, have a bi-monthly food expo, or maybe a Dine in Downey month. We want to help promote our restaurants and see them set back up whole, but we are limited as to what we can do financially," Guerra said.

"I told them the city wants to help our restaurants but we can't write them a check. The city is not responsible for the boiled water notice. We are taking other steps like approving a water reduction bill which will help the restaurants out a little bit."

Despite Guerra's suggestions, restaurant and store owners have begun filling out claim forms against the city, county and the lab.

"Some restaurant owners are afraid of the city and that there would be retaliation if they are part of a law suit," Wannebo said. "But many of us are filing claims and I believe the franchise restaurants and stores will make their own deal."

Restaurant and store owners wanting to file a compensatory civil suit are scheduled to meet again at 2 p.m. on Nov. 3 at Stox Restaurant and Bakery, 9818 Imperial Highway in Downey.

Cats: People caught feeding the cats may face charges.

Continued from page 1

Mayeda alleges Fail Safe 4 Felines refused the county's offers to house and provide treatment to the cats, provide crates, spraying, neutering, finding homes, and problem solving.

"Your organization has not utilized these offers of assistance, and you have failed to meet your commitment to remove and re-home the cats at Rancho," Mayeda said in her letter.

"Due to the public health risk, the County will immediately begin to trap cats at Rancho in an organized manner... Therefore, you are advised not (to) enter the Rancho campus to feed the cats."

Last Saturday, more than 25 members of Fail Safe 4 Felines stood on the corner of Imperial Highway and Rives Avenue to protest the county's decision to remove the cats from the area. "Honk to save the cats," "Keep your paws off the cats," and "Knabe is a cat killer," were some of the messages waved at passersby.

"The county is putting down thousands of cats every month," Jaeger said. "Who's going to adopt a feral cat over the tamed ones? They will be euthanized and this is a cruel, cruel thing."



Police Chief Roy Campos, right, announced three new promotions this week: Lt. Leslie Murray, Sgt. Leigh Lacey, and Sgt. Mike Parino. The three are veterans of the Downey Police Department and were recognized at Tuesday's City Council meeting. Photo by Eric Pierce

Mommies to gather at First Baptist

DOWNEY - Mommy's Time Out, a volunteer organization created for moms, and run by moms, will meet Nov. 7 at 9 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Downey, inside Room 105.

The program will be a panel of moms who have "been there and done that," sharing ideas about coping with life's challenges as seen from a mother's eyes.

A nursery will care for children during the meeting.

Frantone's donating to schools

DOWNEY - Both Downey and Warren High School's boys' water polo teams will participate in a fundraiser Thursday at Frantone's restaurant in Downey.

Twenty-five percent of all orders (including to-go) placed between 5 -10 p.m. will be donated to the schools' water polo teams. Frantone's is at 9148 Telegraph Rd.

Luncheon to salute nation's veterans

DOWNEY - The Woman's Club of Downey and American Legion Post 723 will present "A Salute to Our Veterans" program Nov. 11.

The program will begin with an honor guard presentation at 11 a.m., followed by luncheon, entertainment, and raffles. Military memorabilia provided by John Vincent will be on display.

The event will be held at the Woman's Club of Downey clubhouse on Paramount Boulevard. Tickets are \$25 and available by calling Doris Patterson at (562) 869-0377 or Wade Murdoch at (562) 928-2842.



I will support the historical integrity of our city!

I know one can learn more in listening than by talking.

I will be a public servant!

I will listen to the voice of Downey's voting public!

I will always put the best interest of Downey first!

I will not be a politician!

I have not asked for endorsements from any politicians or outside interests.

WE SUPPORT GARY DE REMER!

Anne Bayer - Director, Livinghelp Center Mike & Joyce Prokop - Community Leader Doris & Pat Patterson - Community Leaders John Vincent - President Downey Historical Society George & Carrie Redfox - Teachers

Jason Redfox - Teacher

Steve Allen - Planning Commissioner/Past Chamber President

Bill Greene - Former Planning Commissioner Stan Carmichael - Downey Businessman

Bob Ciatti - Director of Chamber of Commerce Lucy Wilson - Past Chamber President

Lu Ann Parker - Unity in the Community

Raul Lopez - Businessman & Community Leader

Rick Pocaro - Downey Businessman

Wayne Wilcox - D.D.S. - Community Leader John Persico - Business Owner

Jill Diloreto - Community Leader

Gordon & Marilyn Madru - Senior Community Leader

Harold Tseklenis - Community Leader Patricia Kotze - Downey Business Owner Bob Buckley - Community Leader

Wade Murdock - Commander American Legion Post

John Jung - Teacher

Dean Gaffner - Retired Local Engineer Fay Campbell - Community Volunteer Dorothy Pemberton - Community Leader Ron Cook - Downey Business Owner

De Remer

I BELIEVE IN TERM LIMITS!

I HAVE NO SPECIAL ALLEGIANCE, EXCEPT TO YOU THE VOTER.

I AM A CANDIDATE WITH NO PAST INVOLVEMENTS THAT WOULD EFFECT MY DECISIONS I MAY MAKE AS A COUNCILMAN.

I BELIEVE IN ENFORCING EXISTING LAWS AND CITY CODES!

I BELIEVE IN LOCAL CONTROL OF OUR POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS!

For best results in District 5, Elect Gary De Rei

Page 4 Friday, Oct. 31, 2008 Community

Local hair salon sued for civil rights violation

■ Woman denied service at J.C. Penney in Downey.

By Mary Forney, Staff Writer DOWNEY - An African-

American woman from South Gate filed a lawsuit last week after being denied service at the J.C. Penney hair salon in Stonewood Center in Downey.

Brenda McElmore, who is in her 60's, asked to get the grayed wisps of hair around her temple colored and the salon's receptionist allegedly said, "We don't do African American hair. You could go to Regis."

McElmore asked to speak to the salon manager and received the same response.

According to an affidavit filed by McElmore's attorney, Gloria Allred, the manager allegedly said, "No, we don't do African American hair. We used to have someone here who did that, but she's not here anymore so we don't do it. Nobody here can do it."

McElmore left the salon with flashbacks of her childhood when she had to step off the sidewalk to let a white person pass by and was forced to sit in the back of restaurants.

She went to Regis hair salon but was too upset to get her hair done.

"I couldn't believe prejudice still exists - it was blatant," McElmore said.

After sending letters to J.C. Penney's human relations department and chief executive officer, McElmore received a written apology from the store's manager David Oaks.

"...our salon receptionist felt that we did not have the technical proficiency to perform the serv-



Brenda McElmore claims she was denied service at the J.C. Penney hair salon in Downey because they said they "don't do African American hair." Photo Courtesy Brenda McElmore

ice...," Oaks said in the letter. "She may not however have expressed this...in a way that was not offen-

The lawsuit against J.C. Penney alleges a violation of the Unruh Civil Rights Act which prohibits businesses from denying services on account of race.

"In California, licensed cosmetologists are trained and must provide services without regard to race," Allred said in her affidavit. "In my opinion, this is an admission that she was denied service and it is patently absurd since no special technical proficiency is required to color the hair of an African American woman."

Vicki Theroux works for Avant Guard hair salon and has been a hair stylist for 25 years. Catering to the ethnic mixture of Downey residents, Theroux was surprised at McElmore's experience.

"We get black walk-in customers and some of the other stylists in the salon have had the same black clients for years," Theroux

"I would have to say I don't have much experience styling black hair, but I wouldn't deny service. Styling is different than coloring. Often times, black women have straightened their hair so you have to be careful – but the same care is given to anyone who has had a perm and wants their hair colored."

The Complaint for Damages filed by Allred asks that McElmore be compensated no less than \$4,000 for emotional distress, humiliation, injury, damages and

"I am very proud of Brenda for standing up and fighting back," Allred said. "Businesses need to assess how they are conducting themselves and whether they're providing a service that's equal to everyone regardless of race."

Club heading to Pechanga Monday

DOWNEY – The Woman's Club of Downey is sponsoring a bus trip to the Pechanga Resort and Casino Monday, with proceeds benefiting the club's scholarship fund.

The bus will leave the Woman's Club at 8 a.m. and return between 5:30 and 6 p.m. Cost is \$6 for Woman's Club members, \$11 for non-members, and includes a \$5 voucher for casino play.

Bingo is played on the bus and guests must be at least 21 years old. For reservations, call Jeanine Keys at (562) 923-6620.

Church to distribute food baskets

DOWNEY - The Breath of God Christian Fellowship will host their 17th annual Thanksgiving Outreach Dinner Nov. 21 at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

The church will also distribute food baskets through Downey middle

schools and high schools on Nov. 24. To volunteer at the dinner or food distribution, or to donate food, call the church at (310) 767-9620. Monetary donations can be mailed to Breath

Citrus College Singers at Christmas brunch

DOWNEY – The Assistance League of Downey's annual Christmas Tree Brunch, "Celebrate the Season," will be held Nov. 23 at 10 a.m. at the Long Beach Hilton.

Festivities include door prizes, drawing, hand-crafted items, collectibles, homemade treats and a "spirit basket." There will also be a silent auction, and clothing/jewelry vendors.

The Citrus College Singers will provide the evening's entertainment, and guests will have an opportunity to win decorated Christmas trees.

Tickets are \$65 for adults and \$30 for children 12 and under. Tickets must be purchased by Nov. 15.

Proceeds from the event will be used to fund Assistance League of Downey projects, including H.O.M.E., Operation School Bell, Kids on the Block, Books on Wheels, Hug-A-Bear, and more.

For information, call (562) 869-0232.

The Poet's Corner

Reminiscing

In the month of October, I like to recall The times I've enjoyed a New England fall When trees are covered - oh so bold -In brilliant reds, oranges, and gold!

Cascades of color blanket hills Reflecting in lakes so very still -Creating such a glorious scene Among the pine trees tall and green!

But when the cold winds start to blow, And all the ground is white with snow, I'll fondly think of autumn's bliss But the long cold winters I'll not miss! -Martha J. Morrissy,

Downey

If I Were a Cat

If I were a cat Everyday I would chase birds, Climb a tree --Even hunt for fish in the sea. I would live on a farm and play with yard. I would take a ride in a car --I would go so far I could touch a star. Everyday I would Go down to a lake And play and play and play. I would eat fish from a dish At night I would sleep on a pillow Every day's a special day for a cat And that's that for a kitty cat. -Marty Roupe, Downey (grade 5)

America is Great

America is great! Let's keep her just that way. Let's all participate On this election day!

Find out the heart and soul Of persons you would choose To be in full control. We have a lot to lose!

Be sure and do your part And make a special note To vote what's in your heart But please, get out and vote.

Be careful who you choose Obama or McCain We've got a lot to lose We've got a lot to gain.

Set party lines aside No margin for mistake Let conscience be your guide Our freedom is at stake.

Be certain you agree With ev'ry thing they state. Let's keep our nation free Let's keep our nation great. -Bill Milburn, **Downey**



of God, P.O. Box 39903, Downey, 90239.

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For a safe and prosperous Downey **Elect** Dr. Shahira A-Malek

Dear Downey Neighbors and Friends,

I share your pride and concern for our great city, Downey. My Christian family and I have been living in Downey for 25 years, during which I have been serving the community as a pediatrician. My children attended Downey public and private schools.

Some of my Qualifications

My long list of experiences includes serving on a number of humanitarian institutions and other committees, including planning, financing, and bylaw committees, as well as governing boards. I have held the position of Chief of Medical Staff at two hospitals simultaneously, and I am willing to apply all of my skills and experience to serve our community. Some of my Goals

State ID# 0261312

1. After-school programs to help prevent violence, crime, and teenage pregnancy. This can be coordi nated with schools, churches, parents, and volunteers, including utilizing the great abilities of our **honorable seniors.**

2. Support for our police, fire, and other civic services to help keep Downey safe

and free of gangs and drugs. 3. Attract decent businesses to Downey, such as an amusement park.

4. Review the building codes and colors, to preserve our city's beauty, class, and

With your involvement and support, we can keep Downey prosperous, safe, and classy.

Please allow me to work on your behalf by voting for Dr. Shahira A-Malek on November 4th.

Integrity • Commitment Experience • Devotion

www.Shahiramalek.com



Editorial Page 5 Friday, Oct. 31, 2008

Letters to the Editor:

Defending the mixer

I was saddened to read that Mr. Ernest Garcia was so upset that he left a great and well-attended Downey Chamber of Commerce mixer ("Mixer or Political Rally?", 10/24/08). It was his letter, however, that has prompt-

While having resided in Downey since 1951, I have been involved in community activities for over 50 years and am a lifetime member of both the Downey Chamber of Commerce and the Downey Rose Float Association. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as president to each of these entities in years past.

The Downey Rose Float Association is an all-volunteer (non-paid), non-profit organization. Since 1956, the Downey Rose Float Association has raised all of the funds to design, build and decorate Downey's entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade. Thousands of people come together to let the world know how proud we are of our community.

I stayed throughout the mixer and did not hear one word regarding the upcoming election. Any banner, lawn signs, or cars with magnetic signs were no more offensive to me than what I see all around the city. As current president of the Downey Rose Float Association, Gary De Remer welcomed everyone in attendance, as did Miss Downey, Miss Teen Downey, Mr. Downey and their courts.

I was so proud of the kids and what they are doing and have accomplished with the float site. Volunteerism is the backbone of our society and we should celebrate their efforts.

— Doris Patterson,

Downey

Dear Editor:

I was at the Downey Chamber of Commerce mixer/ribbon cutting hosted by the Downey Rose Float Association at the float site. I, for one, would say it did not look like a political rally. There were a number of personal cars, including one belonging to Gary De Remer, showing support of the De Remer campaign. In my opinion, these are Downey residents expressing their First Amendment rights.

After reading last week's edition, I find it ironic that Mr. Garcia gave Luis Marquez \$2,000 to support his campaign, and then writes a Letter to the Editor with false accusations.

Gary De Remer is a volunteer and supports volunteer groups. I think in my mind it was a Luis Marquez supporter trying to slam Gary De Remer and, worse than that, trying to put the Downey Rose Float Association in a bad light.

- Kelley Roberts,

Downey

Smear campaign

Dear Editor:

The letter that Robert Zavala, owner of Freedom Vacations, sent to you is full of falsehoods ("Bounced Check," 10/24/08). The only true statement is that two business friends needed to go to Germany and I recommended them to Freedom travel agency in Downey.

I did not write this check. One of the persons lived in San Francisco and the other, Manny Llaneras, who wrote the check, lived in Torrance. I merely took his check to the agency on their behalf. When I was notified that the check had bounced, I called Mr. Llaneras and he went with me to personally meet Zavala and said he would send another check.

Zavala conveniently forgot to tell you that the trip was cancelled, the tickets were never used, the airlines said they would reimburse Zavala, and even though it took awhile, Zavala received his money from the air-

Zavala threatened me that he would go to the district attorney's office and I told him I did nothing wrong. He filed a complaint against Mr. Llaneras and me. I was contacted by the district attorney's office, I answered all their questions, and told them that the check was not mine. The district attorney's office told me no charges would be filed against me.

This incident occurred in October 2004 and it is very strange that Zavala only wrote this letter at this time. However, when I announced I was running for a seat on the City Council, he told me he was supporting Luis Marquez and if I did not withdraw he would make this public.

I told him I was not withdrawing. I did nothing wrong, he got his money back, and I won't be intimidated. Since he is supporting Marquez, I guess he hopes his smear campaign will work. I am disappointed in Zavala, especially since he is going to be the next president of the Downey Chamber of Commerce. Downey does not need Huntington Park nastiness in our campaigns.

I am disappointed that even when you knew that the district attorney's office did not consider me a suspect in the case, you printed Zavala's letter without giving me a chance to tell my side. Instead you lead the community into thinking I wrote a bad check.

I will continue to campaign until the last day.

— Maria Larkin,

Candidate for City Council, District 5

Degree of war

Dear Editor:

The main reason that John McCain is behind in the polls is because he wants to continue the war in Iraq. Another four years means another 4,000 funerals for America.

Barack Obama wants to continue the war in Afghanistan, which is played down in the TV media.

So no matter who we choose for president, the war will continue. It's just a matter of to what degree.

— Mike Sandoval,

Downey

The Downey Patriot Jennifer DeKay-Givens Publisher/Adv. Director John Adams **Editor Emeritus** Eric Pierce City Editor Henry Veneracion Staff Writer Mary Forney Staff Writer Scott Cobos Staff Writer Dorothy Michael Display Advertising Linda Larson Classified Advertising Jonathan Fox Production Gibran Latif Webmaster

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Campaign shenanigans

Dear Editor:

It was with great interest that I read of the campaign hijinks with our illustrious politicians ("Local Campaigns Turn Ugly," 10/24/08).

I've always said that Downey has some of the best politicians that money can buy, and the entertainment is value-added. I mean, with these shenanigans brewing just before the elections, it promises to be a pretty good show in the council chambers on Tuesday nights.

My only hope is that the feuding actually interferes with there clownish attempts at "serving the citizens" of Downey. No matter which of these swine wins, Downey will inevitably suffer as a result.

So I leave you with this question: como se dice weasel en espanol?

- Thomas D. Smith, **Downey**

Dear Editor:

Was it stealing? Was it not stealing? I don't know, but if Mike Prokop had kept his hands to himself perhaps the political campaigns would not have turned "ugly," as you called it.

I don't want the Downey Rose Float Association, which receives money from the city, on the City Council.

- Bob Ritzer,

Downey

I always find it amazing that several people can witness the same incident yet have varying reports of the actual incident. I am, in fact, the resident of the property that was meeting with Mike Prokop on the night of the incident ("Local Politics Turn Ugly," 10/24/08).

The true facts as I observed them are exactly as Mr. Prokop has stated them to be. Kirk Cartozian, Luis Marquez and the paparazzi that took the picture were standing right in front of Mr. Prokop when this event

After learning the truth from Mr. Marquez, that he did in fact have permission from the property owner to have the signs up along with Mr. De Remer's, Mr. Prokop simply put the signs back as any prudent man would have done after learning the true facts.

I find Mr. Prokop and Gary De Remer to be men of humble servitude. One should remember that there is severe accountability to God in ruining or attempting to ruin a good man's character and name when it is not warranted.

Lauren Baumann,

Stewardship Estates (located on the Rives Mansion property)

I am not a supporter of any candidate running for the city-wide District 5 city council seat. In fact, I have never met any of the four of them, so they should all do a better job of reaching the voters.

On Monday evening (Oct. 20), I was sitting with Kirk Cartozian and a few other friends at the Downey Brewing Company when we witnessed a man stealing "Luis Marquez for City Council" signs from the fence of the Rives Mansion. This man was identified to me as being a Mr. Michael Prokop, a campaign supporter of Gary De Remer.

I found it especially troubling that the candidate himself was standing off to the side watching this pilfering and didn't do a thing. What is going on in Downey?

— Randy Marshman,

Downey

Sign destruction

Dear Editor:

I was at the corner of Imperial Highway and Old River School Road on Oct. 25 around 2 p.m. and I watched three young kids, two wearing "I Support Luis Marquez" shirts, pull up on a Dr. Malek sign and throw it to

Then they approached the Gary De Remer sign, but once they knew someone was watching them, they stopped and the kids jumped into a waiting BMW and drove off. This car had no plates.

It's sad when political committees have kids do their dirty work. I will not vote for Luis Marquez.

- S. Welch,

Downey

Dr. Malek's big heart

The city of Downey needs Dr. Shahira A-Malek's experience, wisdom and care. I have known Dr. Malek for many years. She grew up in a loving Christian family.

Dr. Malek has over 25 years experience in the area. I have watched her care for the needy without ever turning down anyone. I have often seen Dr. Malek give free medical exams to those in need.

Dr. Malek has the biggest heart I have seen in a person. She understands our environment and our city. We need these qualities in a candi-

— Lou Hanna,

Downey

Teens and street racing

I was curious as to why Stephen Wallace found it necessary to vilify adolescents above all others when it came to the topic of street racing "Teens Aware of Street Racing Risks," 10/24/08). Various socioeconomic factors such as poverty have far more to do with vehicular fatalities and accidents than age does.

An analysis of fatal crash involvements as they relate to poverty that was performed by Dr. Mike Males illustrated the fact that the fatal crash rate in wealthier counties like Marin County as compared to that of poorer counties like Merced County had more correlation with poverty rates than anything else, regardless of age group.

Mr. Wallace's column is simply another example of the pervasive pattern of unflattering and defamatory coverage of youth that is an irritatingly typical trait of the mainstream media.

- Julian Gutierrez,

Downey

Fat typo

Dear Editor:

I read your editorial ("Fat Chance," 10/10/08) with interest and enjoyment until the seventh line from the end when it became hilarious. Was the word "dilute" a typographical error for the word "delude"?

Of course, if you dilute the food or the fat that may be one way of solving the problem.

- Dolorez Roupe,

Downey

Editor's note: The editor apologizes for the typo, and blames the error on severe hunger pangs.



Wonders and worries

I read on your blog a message from someone named Andrew. I thought points he made were significant enough to be upgraded to a Letter to the

Andrew agreed with you that "politics are getting ugly," especially when seated council members use their influence to harass and threaten people into taking down signs of the opponent of their chosen candidate.

Why are seated council members so intent on picking a successor to Cartozian? Could it be to ensure a third vote to retain control of council on items that could potentially benefit them or their friends? Are there deals and promises being made, before the election, they know I would not participate in? Why are outside interests so intent to pick Cartozian's succes-

I wonder and worry about such things!

- Gary De Remer,

Candidate for City Council, District 5

Larkin's accomplishments

Dear Editor:

I have lived in Downey for 35 years and have always been proud to call Downey my home. Four candidates are running District 5, city-wide, and I would like to add my reasons why I feel Maria Larkin is the best candidate for the position.

Maria has lived and worked in Downey for over 50 years. Maria knows the city, and out neighborhoods, and will work hard for neighborhood watch programs.

Maria's heart is in the city of Downey.

Maria has been involved in the real estate industry since 1975, so she is versed in residential, commercial and retail construction and develop-

Maria has been president of the Downey Association of Realtors three times and Broker of the Year three times.

Maria is a leader amongst her peers in the real estate industry, receiving the Distinguished Service Award.

Maria is involved in this community.

Maria has hope. Hope that Downey will continue to be the best it can be, and she will do her best to carry out your wishes for our city as a community servant to all.

Barbara Briley-Beard,

Downey

Vote for... Perkins?

Dear Editor:

As a 40-plus year resident of Downey, I wish I could change my previous vote on Measure G (I voted against it). At times like these, a person of upstanding character like Meredith

Perkins would put all current City Council candidates to shame. Please correct me if I am wrong.

Walter Jenks,

Downey

Experience counts

Dear Editor:

If you compare the resumes of the candidates for District 5, the answer should be clear: vote for Luis Marquez.

Gary De Remer has zero experience in public policy. Downey can't afford the risk

- Armando Diaz,

E-mails and homes

Dear Editor:

Downey

I recently received an e-mail suggesting that certain candidates were acting irresponsibly and were not telling the truth. At the time, I did not know who sent it and dismissed it as junk. To my dismay, I found out that the person who was sending these e-mails was Mayor Pro Tem Mario

We should hold our mayor to the highest standards, so I believe Mario Guerra is doing himself, and the person he is defending, Luis Marquez, a disservice. This kind of behavior is beneath him. Luis Marquez should be able to fight his own battles.

I wasn't planning to be involved in this year's campaign, but Mario Guerra's actions have convinced me that the city would head in the wrong direction under his leadership and Luis Marquez would simply be an enabler for Guerra to have his way. I am saddened as I drive down many Downey streets and see these

neighborhoods dotted with empty mansion-style homes. These homes were built with no regard for the other homeowners, and oftentimes infringe on people's privacy. Codes were not enforced that would protect people's rights as home-

owners. Most of the time, an older, well-designed home would be torn down by an investor looking to make a profit. Now these mansions are left as empty shells, up for sale, bringing down all the other home values in the neighborhood.

— Jason Redfox,

Downey

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SPEED BUMP

DAVE COVERLY

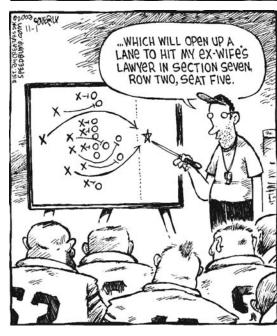












vu ims nay…

Oct. 31, 1517: German theologian Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Palace church, a catalyst for the Protestant Reformation.

1864: Nevada becomes the 36th state.

1926: Magician Harry Houdini dies of a ruptured appendix.

1931: Broadcast journalist Dan Rather is born. Also born Oct. 31: Rob Schneider (45) and Vanilla Ice (41).

1984: Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is assassinated near her home.

Downey Community Calendar

Events For November

Sat. Nov. 1: Free flu shots, Downey Fire Station 1, 12222 Paramount Blvd., 9 a.m.

Sat. Nov. 1: Open house and marketplace, Downey City Library, 10 a.m.

Sat. Nov. 1: Dinner/auction for booster and fishing clubs, Downey High School gym, 6 p.m.

Tues. Nov. 4: Election Day

Thurs. Nov. 6: Fundraiser for local water polo teams, Frantone's restaurant, 5-10 p.m.

City Meetings

1st Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m.: Redevelopment Project Area Committee, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library. 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.: Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall. 1st Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.: Recreation and Community Services Commission, Council Chamber, City Hall.

1st Thursday, 9 a.m.: Traffic Committee, Training Room, Second Floor of City Hall. 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: City Council/Community Development Commission, Council Chamber.

2nd & 4 th Wednesday, 6 p.m.: Design Review Board, Council Chamber at City Hall.

3rd Thursday, 3:30 p.m.: Parking Place Commission, Second Floor Training Room at City Hall

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

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, 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, for info. call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972. 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.

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

7:30 a.m.: Connections Networking, 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.

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.

10/26/08

Sundays

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

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com) RERUNS: Stars of double and triple features by Fred Piscop

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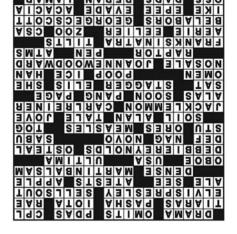
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Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

You can contact puzzle editor

singles but shorter than albums. downloads that are longer than ed plays," are LPs, CDs or digital EPS (95 Down), short for "extendyears, starting around 200 BC. Across) ruled China for about 400 telecast. The HAN Dynasty (92 and performed on the awards 2007 Grammy Award nominations RAE (21 Across) received three British soul singer Corinne Bailey



Downey High's

CVS Pharmacy not allowing kids under 18 in before 3:30 p.m.

By Brianne Schaer

Paramount Blvd. and Firestone Blvd. has closed its doors for students wishing to enter before 3:30

"The customers like to shop in peace," said store manager Rudy Delvalle. "The students were creating a disturbance."

The decision to refuse service to anyone under the age of 18 resulted from numerous complaints of teenagers running through the aisles, throwing various products, and crashing into other customers. Theft was a problem, but the general behavior of the students was a larger problem that led to the restricted hours.

The problems did not end there. The students then began to loiter outside of the building and some were found doing drugs, according

The CVS Pharmacy located at to Delvalle. Only when the police were called were the staff and customers of CVS satisfied.

> Not all students at the high schools can believe that so many students were behaving in such a

> "They shouldn't judge everyone on just what a few kids did," said offended Warren student Esther Lim.

Senior Alexandra Garcia also agrees that the rule is unfair.

"People need to go to CVS because it is one of the few places that sells a bit of everything that people need after school," she said. "Just because you are under 18 does not mean you are a juvenile delinquent. There are older people who also steal."

Other students feel that the rule is not so far-fetched. Senior

Lorraine Montoya and junior Jacob Marrero support the rule.

"I can understand it from the store's point of view because they don't want anyone to steal stuff and they can't watch that many kids because high school kids can be chaotic," Montoya said.

Marrero is concerned about the store's loss of profit due to theft. He said CVS is losing profit with the theft of their products and that the new rule will allow them to bring their sales back to normal.

Delvalle said that every effort was put forth on behalf of CVS Pharmacy to not let it come to this. Students under 18 are still admitted into CVS if escorted by a parent. Otherwise, they will have to wait until 3:30 p.m. or go somewhere else.

Getting Involved With Our Community

By Bridget Sagrero

The city of Downey has given young adults several opportunities to be active within the community by providing quite a few volunteer programs. A program that has been going on for a while is Volunteen.

Volunteen is a program in which students from the ages of 10-17 can participate to gain leadership experience by giving back to the community and offering their time to others. The Volunteen requirements are to commit at least 80 hours per year and attend five out of the six meetings, which are usually held on the first Wednesdays of each month.

They also require working at events, such as Kids Day in the month of May, Egg Hunts in March, and the fishing event in November.

Applications are accepted by mail, or in person at Downey City

Hall at the Community Services department. They review applications in May and December.

Applicants will be interviewed and then placed as needed once they attend their orientation and inservice training. The only fees required for this program is a \$15 registration fee which is due at orientation and reoccurring every July after that.

"At first my decision to become a Volunteen for the city of Downey was only because I needed community service hours to become a Distinguished Graduate at my high school," said Warren student Christine Rose. "When I became a Volunteen I realized (that) I enjoyed it more than just getting hours. I enjoyed helping kids with homework and doing activities with the kids."

Rose is no longer a volunteer,

but is now a staff member for one of the parks in Downey doing what she did as a Volunteen. She also said that it's not about the paycheck, but about helping the com-

Downey is also looking for volunteers for the newest program, Aspire. Aspire is like Volunteen, but focuses on providing homework assistance to the participants of the program, such as reading, writing comprehension and math skills. This new program is funded through a grant from the California State Department of Education and the collaborative efforts of the city of Downey and Downey Unified School District.

Being involved in the community and giving back is only a plus feature in becoming successful in the future, and one has fun doing it.

Water Contamination

Bv Michelle Müller

For the first time in the history of the city of Downey, residents and business owners dealt with possible water contamination of a high quantity of total coliform bacteria from Sept. 15 - 18. Not only did this affect residents, but businesses and schools were heavily impacted as well. About 200 businesses were ordered closed, which resulted in a loss of business for three consecutive days. Due to the water contamination, physical education classes were postponed for the affected days as well.

It was a tough time for all students. Most athletes were glad that they did not have to practice without having access to water, because they would have been dehydrated.

"It was tough because there were days were I didn't have money with me and I couldn't buy any water when I mostly needed it because of this heat," said student Stephanie Garibay.

The unavailability of water at school also affected teachers and some teachers took the initiative of providing free water to students during this time

"I was surprised that students didn't have access to water. So I felt bad and decided to provide water to them," Warren's art teacher Linda Shelton said.

Other teachers on campus felt students handled themselves very

nicely during this time. "I think the students were awe-

didn't ask or complain."

some," teacher Teresa Wheeler said. "They didn't think they had any water available therefore, they

The laboratory responsible for collecting the water samples was the Commerce-based Michelson Laboratories Inc. Multiple test samples were taken to make sure that there were no errors from the results they received for the bacteria found. After the third test was conducted, the water showed that all 12 out of 12 samples tested pos-

itive for total coliform bacteria. The hazard was not the coliform bacteria but the fact that it could be an indication of diseasecausing organisms in the water system, which startled the lab and notified the governor. After the final test results were in, state protocol ordered corrective action to be taken. At 6 p.m. that evening, the boil-water notice was sent out from the state.

Later, city officials discovered that the laboratory studies were invalidated due to the lack of color change. The lab admitted to its errors through a formal letter to the city of Downey.

To try to avoid any future tribulations, the city of Downey will no longer be working with the Commerce-based Michelson Laboratories Inc. In order to avoid another mishap, Downey leaders decided to increase their efforts in monitoring the bacteria levels.

Student Awareness

By Keysi Carrasco

Students are becoming more aware of the economic crisis occurring throughout the nation. The economy has a huge affect on the United States and students are going through more troubles than they are used to. With the economy bringing us to what some experts are calling the start of a recession, students are being forced to think and worry about more adult matters. Their families, jobs and futures are being threatened.

Parents have been trying to protect their kids from the worry that comes with financial problems, but now that homes are being foreclosed upon, there is no shield that can protect their children from the truth. Young adults are witnessing their homes being taken away and teens are beginning to see the real affects of the economy.

With the economy threatening foreclosure on homes, parents are pushing their kids to start working.

"I've been going around applying everywhere in Downey and I have plenty of job experience, but it seems like no one is hiring now," says Crystal Peralta, a student at Warren High School. "I feel like I'm not doing my

part to help my family during these economic troubles," says Dalia Cortes, also a Warren student.

The struggle to acquire a parttime job has significantly increased and many students worry about the shortage of money coming in on their part.

Money is becoming a big issue for students even more so than it already was. With all the college applications being filed, students are beginning to think about how they are going to afford college. Some students may plan on taking out loans but will find it to be very difficult.

"Banks are forced to freeze any type of loans due to the economy, therefore, making it more difficult to acquire loans," said banker Juan Soto. "Banks are in the need to raise capital, and by giving out loans, the bank loses capital."

Without loans, parents and stu-

dents will have to think of alternate ways of obtaining money for college, something that may not come easy to many families.

Introducing Downey High Schools king and queen Jerry Martinez and Diandra Torres. Photo by Paul Heidecker

King and Queen

The fact of the matter is, students are being exposed to all our

economic troubles and it has opened their eyes. Students, now, are observing the way adults are handling the economic crisis and teens are learning from it.



Get Smart Henry Poole is Here The Perfect Holiday **Shrek the Halls** The Bourne Trilogy Reaper: Season One

DVD Releases for November 9

Kung Fu Panda

Kung Fu Panda/Secrets of the Furious Five

Dentist Offers Money for Halloween Candy

Dr. John Mc Allister and staff this Halloween are hoping kids will pick out a few pieces of their favorite candy and then turn the rest in. Why? Because he knows how damaging candy can be to children's teeth. Dr. Mc Allister sees the effects of Snickers bars and

M&Ms in the mouths of his young patients. The candy will then be shipped to our troops overseas. Children who participate in this event will receive a toothbrush, along with one dollar per pound of

Here is how to participate:

On Monday, November 3, 2008, bring your children and the candy they want to donate to the troops overseas to 10917 Paramount Blvd. between

We will weigh the candy, and pay your child a dollar per pound of candy.

Your child will also receive a toothbrush. The candy will then be shipped

If you're not sure of where our office is located, or have any questions, feel free to call us: (562) 869-0928,









Saturday, November 1,2008 10:00am - 3:00pm Downey City Library 11121 Brookshire Avenue

Crafts, Baked Goodies, Stocking Stuffers One Day Raffle - Free Hot Wassail Punch All Proceeds Benefit Downey City Library Sponsored by the Friends - Public Welcome A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE St. Matthias High School

Educating young women in faith, with the family, for the future, for almost 50 years! Accepting applications now! Scholarships are available

Open House Sunday, November 2, 2008 1-4 pm Bring the family!

7851 East Gardendale Street • Downey 90242 (562) 861-2271 • Fax: (562) 869-8652

Friday, October 31, 2008 Student Life

Dead: Making peace with the inevitable.

Continued from page 1

hold to the belief that death has its own reward and nothing for the faith-

In many homes altars are built and decorated with cut paper designs. Sometimes photos of the deceased are attached to the colorful paper streamers. Candles and marigolds adorn the

And of course, as with any celebration, special foods are made. Especially breads and cookies in the likeness of Calaveras or skeletons. Candy skulls made of chocolate and white sugar are a favorite. Each little skull bears the name of the deceased across its forehead to honor the depart-



I was 8 years old on one of my visits to my Nana's house in El Paso, Tex., just across the border from Juarez, Mexico. I remember the night when she and I walked in a noisy parade. The street was filled with vendors selling brightly decorated death masks, charm bracelets, pocket-size toy caskets, and skeleton puppets dressed in everyday clothing.

Many religious artifacts were for sale as well. I held tightly to my Nana's hand. These customs were rather foreign to me. We did not observe any of our ethnic rituals in my home in Los Angeles. My parents wanted us to assimilate to the Western culture.

"This is scary, Nana. Can we go home now?" I pleaded. She explained to me, "No one is going to get out of this world alive. This day reminds us not to take things of this world too seriously, for everything in it is temporary. Our life on this earth is no exception."

It wasn't until I became an adult and attended a museum of Latin art that I read the following and realized what my Nana had tried to have me understand on that day, so many years ago: "The Day of the Dead is a victory of sorts, not over death, but over the fear of death."

Through the ages every culture has found a way to deal with the inevitable. I once watched a documentary on death. It showed an Irish wake where mourners were wailing over the casket, followed later by music, laughter, and drink. And in a New Orleans party, revelers followed a slow-moving hearse on foot with a Dixieland band playing joyous

about life, or rather, celebration of life. Like other Christians, Latinos believe that death is a continuation of the cycle of life – but in a different realm. The Day of the Dead is a time of reflection and seeking inner peace,

Yolanda Adele is a longtime member of Writers' Workshop West, which meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. inside the Downey



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of equal value or less (with coupon only)

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Offer Good through 11-10-08



The Friends of the Downey City Library's annual Holiday Open House and Marketplace is scheduled for Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Cormack Room of the Downey City Library. The event will include crafts, baked goods, holiday reading materials and cook books, greeting cards, and calendars for sale. There will also be a raffle for local gift certificates and baskets. Hot wassail punch will be served to those in attendance. For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 130.

Solo violinist in concert at DMOA

■ Downey teachers and students admitted free.

DOWNEY – Violinist Dr. Jim Sitterly will present a program of solo violin pieces combining the baroque music of Telemann and 20th century music of Debussy at a concert Thursday at the Downey Museum of Art.

Featured on the program will be "Gypsy Dreaming," an unaccompanied violin piece five years in the making by Sitterly.

A music teacher at Harbor College and the Westland School, Sitterly has been active in a variety of performance situations in Los Angeles. For 10 years, he served as violin soloist and conductor in the concert tours of pop pianist John Tesh. Sitterly also plays and records with PBS guitarist Benise.

In addition to pop groups, Sitterly also plays with contemporary ensembles such as Lentz, Little Emo and Marstin Smith.

Active in the TV music scene, Sitterly's work has included the concertmaster position of the hit shows "Alias" and "Lost." The concert begins at 7:15 p.m.

General admission is \$10 and senior/student tickets are \$5. DUSD teachers and students are free.

For more information, call (562) 861-0419. The Downey Museum of Art is at 10419 Rives Ave., inside Furman Park.

Give your life a 'happy ending'

DOWNEY - Gloria Feralio will be the guest speaker when the Downey Christian Women's Club meets Nov. 12 at Los Amigos Country

Feralio's topic will be "How Your Life Can Have a Happy Ending." Also at the meeting, Maryilyn Orlando will speak on beaded craft items and Connie Duggins will provide music. The meeting's theme is "Giving Thanks."

The cost is \$12 and includes a buffet lunch. The meeting begins at 11:45 a.m. and both men and women are invited.

Reservations are requested by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Jean

New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- "Dashing Through the Snow" by Mary Higgins Clark. In a small New Hampshire village preparing for the annual Festival of Joy, a group of employees buys a winning lottery ticket worth \$160 million. Then one of them, who had decided not to play, goes missing.
- "The Hour I First Believed" by Wally Lamb. In 1999, a young teacher and his wife move to Littleton, Colorado and dfind their lives forever changed by the tragedy at Columbine High School.
- "I See You Everywhere" by Julia Glass. From the author of "Three Junes," a tale of two sisters, told from alternating perspectives, across 25 years.
- "Just AFter Sunset: Stories" by Stephen King. The master of the macabre offers his first short story collection in six years.
- "Lion in the Valley" by Elizabeth Peters. Amelia and her Egyptologist husband are in Dahshoor on a much-coveted burial chamber dig at the Black Pyramid, when the abduction of their 8year-old son alerts Amelia to the presence of her arch nemesis, the Master Criminal.

Non-Fiction

- · "Bumping Into Genuises: My Life Inside the Rock and Roll Business" by Danny Goldberg. From Led Zeppelin to Nirvana, Goldberg has managed the careers of some of the biggest names in rock music.
- "From Here to Freshman Year: Tips, Timetables and To-Dos that Get You into College" by the staff of Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions. Everything a high school student needs to know to become a stand-out college applicant.
- "Let's Talk Turkey: the Stories Behind America's Favorite Expressions" by Rosemarie Ostler. Learn the history of such expressions as "think outside the box" and "have an ace up your sleeve" in this well-researched and entertaining collection.
- "Life is a Verb: 37 Days to Wake Up, Be Mindful and Live Intentionally" by Patti Digh. A meditative memoir that identifies six core practices to jump-start a meaningful life.
- "Orange County: a Personal History by Gustavo Arellano. The man behind the popular "OC Weekly" column, "Ask a Mexican!" writes a perosnal memoir and cultural narrative of Orange County.

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.

Mall gift card is 'green' friendly

card benefits the earth.

DOWNEY – Helping shoppers do more with their gift card purchases, Stonewood Center this week launched a new "Give Green" gift card to benefit the environment.

The new program is a partnership between Stonewood's parent company, Macerich, and American Express to benefit American Forests, the nation's oldest nonprofit citizen conservation organization, which is dedicated to healthier forest ecosystems.

Macerich has contributed at least \$100,000 to the organization via the new program.

"Our shoppers want to make a difference for the environment, and our new Give Green Gift Card gives them an easy way to do something worthwhile and also feel good about their purchase," said Whitney Wigle, marketing manager at Stonewood Center, which is one of 65 Macerich retail properties to offer the new gift

Doing more to help the environment is a clear value for women consumers across the country. Kelton Research conducted a national, online survey on behalf of

■ Stonewood Center gift Macerich in late summer among a representative sample of U.S. women ages 25-54, and a whopping 95 percent agree that more should be done to improve the environment.

> Also, 82 percent of American women say they feel better about purchases that benefit a worthwhile environmental cause and 63 percent of those surveyed said they would prefer to receive a gift card that supports a worthwhile environmental cause versus a card with no environmental benefit.

> Shoppers can buy the Give Green Gift Card at Stonewood Center at the Guest Services booth. In addition to the new environmental gift card, Stonewood is also offering a traditional gift card, called the Give Style gift card.

Based in Washington, D.C., American Forests was founded in 1875 by John Aston Warder, a physician and horticulturalist who was concerned about the condition and exploitation of our nation's forests. Today, the organization's work encompasses planting trees, calculating the value of urban forests, fostering environmental education and improving public policy for trees at the national

Sour economy puts hurt on food pantries

BELL GARDENS – With the price of such staples as eggs, milk, and bread continuing to rise, the food pantries of the Salvation Army are experiencing a dramatic increase in requests for help, said Gilbert Reyes, commander of the Salvation Army Southeast Communities Corps.

"Families are struggling to put food on their tables during this current economic downturn," Reyes said. "We're seeing many more families visiting our food pantries than in the past. These are families that don't typically visit a Salvation www.salvationarmysoutheast.org.

Army facility for assistance.

"People are hurting and it's getting more challenging for us to help them," Reyes said.

In response to the rising costs of food, the Salvation Army has launched Operation Feed Our Families, a campaign aimed at keeping the Salvation Army's 36 food pantries open and viable.

Two-thirds of the pantries are currently empty or operating at 50 percent capacity, Reyes said.

To make a donation or find a location to drop off food, visit

7770 Rosecrans Ave. @ Paramount Blvd.

Phone: (562) 630-SHOW (7469)

HAUNTING OF MARY HARTLEY PG-13 (10:25 12:50 3:15) 5:40 8:05 10:30

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 PG (10:00 12:35 3:10) 5:45 8:20 10:55

NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS 3D PG (10:00 12:10 2:20 4:30) 6:40 8:50 11:00

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

(12:00 2:35) 5:10 7:45 10:20

(10:00 12:25 2:50) 5:15 7:40

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ZACK & MIRI MAKE A PORNO R

SAW V R

SEX DRIVE R

EAGLE EYE PG-13

RIDE AND GLORY R

Feltham to be feted for volunteerism

DOWNEY – The John Hume Performing Arts Foundation will honor Joan Feltham with the fourth annual Margene Glenn Award at a recognition ceremony Nov. 8 at Granata's Italian Villa.

The Margene Glenn Award is the foundation's annual recognition of volunteer service to the community.

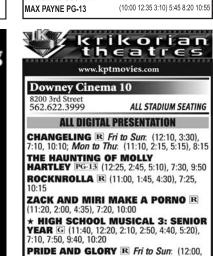
According to the foundation, "Feltham generously gave her time and resources to many civic projects, most notably the Downey Children's Theatre. Serving for many years in executive positions with the Downey Children's Theatre, Joan was a guiding force that helped make Downey the community it was to become."

For more information on the ceremony, e-mail friggle@roadrunner.com or call (562) 869-0422.



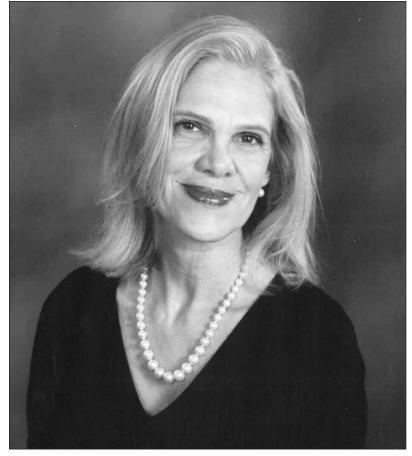


www.thedowneypatriot.com



SAW V R (12:05, 2:35, 5:15), 7:45, 10:10 MAX PAYNE PG-13 (11:55, 2:30, 5:05), 7:55, BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA PG

(11:30, 2:05, 4:45), 7:15, 9:45



Patricia Carmichael mourned by family

LAGUNA BEACH – Patricia Ann Carmichael died Oct. 20 as a result of injuries sustained in a plane crash near Avalon. A resident of Laguna Beach, she was 61.

She was born April 5, 1947 in Cullman, Ala. to Nellie Wisener and James Devoy Wisener. She spent her childhood in Birmingham, and in 1969 she married Kenneth Spruell. In 1972, she gave birth to her only child, Michael Derek Spruell.

She attended college at the University of Alabama in Birmingham and graduated with a degree in English in 1977.

Following her divorce from Kenneth in 1979, Patricia and Derek relocated to California where she worked as a claims supervisor for State Farm insurance and met her second husband, Stan Carmichael.

After a 20-year career with State Farm, Patricia enrolled in law school at Western State University College of Law in Fullerton and graduated with a Juris Doctorate in 1990.

She became a member of the State Bar of California and worked for 12 years as an attorney at Tuverson & Hillyard. As a partner, she held the title of liaison counsel for healthcare providers for all breast implant cases in California. She was later appointed liaison counsel for healthcare providers for the California Diet Drug Litigation.

She retired from law practice in 2002. She volunteered at the Laguna Beach Resource Center where she prepared and served meals for homeless individuals and helped find them jobs. She also taught English as a second language to migrant workers.

She was active in her church, Laguna Presbyterian Church, where she served as a deacon and elder. She traveled with the church on mission trips, including to Africa.

Patricia is survived by her husband of 27 years, Stan; her son, Derek, and his wife and twin sons, Christin, Lance and Lawrence; brothers and sisters, James "Lionel", Glenda, and Sheila, and their spouses; Stan's children, Chantal and Eddie; Eddie's wife and children, Leslie, Brandon, Lauren and Ryan; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held Monday at Mariner's Church in Irvine. In lieu of flowers, the family requested contributions in Patricia's name to the Laguna Presbyterian Church Build it for Him Project.

Albert Attyah was renowned doctor

DOWNEY – Dr. Albert Attyah, a former Downey cardiologist for more than 40 years, died Oct. 24. He was 85.

Born in Americus, Ga., Attyah received his medical degree from the University of Georgia in 1945. He completed his internship at Duke University and was a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Following World War II, he practiced medicine at the U.S. Marine Corps Hospital and at the Louisiana State University Hospital, both in New Orleans.

He practiced cardiology in Lynwood and Downey from 1951-1998, including 47 years on staff at St. Francis Medical Medical, under the suspices of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul. He served as the hospital's Medical Director for several years, and was a former president of the Southeast District of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

He and his late wife of 38 years, Carol, lived in Downey for more than 30 years.

A member of the St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church in Los Angeles, Attyah worked on humanitarian projects to promote peace in the Middle East. He was also actively involved in efforts to provide assistance to refugees of war-torn regions.

He is survived by his sister, Rose Haddad; sons, David and Paul; daughter, Karen; and son-in-law, Mark Dawson.

Services will be held tomorrow at 10 a.m. at St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral, 2308 W. Third St., in Los Angeles.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the St. Francis Medical Center Foundation, 3630 E. Imperial Hwy., Lynwood, CA 90262

Dustin Haner was military pilot

DOWNEY – Dustin Gaffron Haner, a Downey resident since 1952, passed away Oct. 20 at home, surrounded by his wife and family.

Haner was born in Madison, Wis. on Feb. 7, 1922. His family moved to Phoenix and later to Elfrida, Ariz., where he was raised on an alfalfa farm with his two brothers and two sisters.

He spent his youth working on the family ranch, and later worked as a lifeguard at Cabrillo Beach.

Haner learned to weld at Arizona State Teachers College, now ASU, and was hired by Los Angeles Ship Building and Dry Dock of Long Beach. He then enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed at Fort MacArthur, San Bernardino Army Air Base, Blyth, Calif., March Air Force Base, Marfa Army Air Depot, and Washington State Teachers College.

He trained as a radio gunner on B-52s, then later qualified for cadet

training at Marfa Army Air Base where he was Cadet Commandant and became a P-51 pilot.

After the war, Haner attended Comption Community College and later USC, where he was a civil engineering major. After college, he started Haner Brothers Cement Contractors, where he worked until 2007.

He was a member of Downey Masonic Lodge 220 and the Scottish Rite in Long Beach.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Florence; a brother, David

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Florence; a brother, David Haner; a sister, Jean Seamans; children, Dustin Jr., Marilyn (Haner) Stahl, Frank Haner, and Brian Haner; eight grandchildren; and longtime friend Agnes Wally.

He will be buried at McNeil Cemetery near Tombstone, Ariz. There will be no services.

Nancy McKown retired from Rancho

DOWNEY — Nancy Boise McKown, retired from Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, died at her home Oct. 25 with her two daughters and other family members at her bedside.

McKown was 85.

She was born in New Kensington, Pa. in 1923. She resided in Downey for 55 years

She is survived by seven children, 14 grandchildren, 17 great-grand-

children, two brothers, and one sister.

A visitation and vigil was held yesterday. A funeral mass will take place tomorrow at 10 a.m. at St. Dominic Savio Catholic Church in Bellflower.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in McKown's memory to Rancho Adult Day Services, 7601 E. Imperial Hwy., Bldg. 802, Downey, CA 90242.

Robert S. Berven services pending

DOWNEY – Robert S. Berven, a commercial artist for the Los Angeles Unified School District, died Oct. 8.

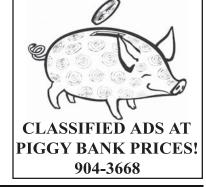
He was born Sept. 15, 1932 to Knute and Olga Berven in Los Angeles. He graduated from Huntington Park High School in 1950.

He is survived by his brother, Byron, of North Salt Lake, Utah; sister,

June Hollister, of Downey; and many nieces and nephews.

At his request, Berven was cremated and his ashes scattered off the California coast.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.





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Southland

www.SouthlandCU.org 8545 Florence Ave., Downey

*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. 7-Month Certificate Account rate special quoted effective 9-15-08. Offer is good through 12-31-08 and is subject to change without notice. Certificate is available to new members or existing members who refer a new member to Southland. Minimum deposit of \$100 is required to open and a maximum amount of \$1,000 to qualify for special rate. AcceleRate and Add-On features are not available on this certificate special. Unless directed otherwise, upon maturity certificate will rollover into a standard 6-month AcceleRate Certificate. Excessive withdrawal penalties may apply. Membership is subject to eligibility.

NCUA ASI 👜 📫

LINDA UNRUH-FUENTES

for WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT, DIV. 5

✓ Check the last box on your ballot!

"I strongly support LINDA UNRUH-FUENTES. I know she will bring responsive and ethical leadership so desperately needed to solve our chronic water shortages while being fair to cities and consumers.

- U.S. Representative Grace Napolitano Chair, Water and Power Subcommittee

LINDA UNRUH-FUENTES is experienced and qualified. The incumbent is, in my view, thoroughly unqualified for any public office.

- District Attorney Steve Cooley

"Given the current water crisis, we demand leadership that will serve the needs of the average citizen, not big business and special interests. **LINDA UNRUH-FUENTES** is our choice for WRD, She will support environmental and economic policies that will put us back in the right direction."

A NEW PARTNERSHIP TO SOLVE OUR WATER CRISIS!

We need a new vision with the experience, integrity and a strong commitment to work on behalf of consumers. Please join with federal, state, and local leaders to support the only candidate that will bring REAL CHANGE to the Water Replenishment District.

Endorsed By:

U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano
U.S. Rep. Diane Watson
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Mike Antonovich
District Attorney Steve Cooley
Sheriff Lee Baca
Assemblyman Hector De La Torre
Mayor Ron Beilke, Pico Rivera
Vice Mayor Gracie Gallegos, Pico Rivera
Mayor Randy Bomgaars, Bellflower
Mayor Mike Mendez, Norwalk

-The Sierra Club

Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra, Downey
Councilman Kirk Cartozian, Downey
Mayor Gene Daniels, Paramount
Vice Mayor Diane Martinez, Paramount
Councilman Joe Serrano, Sr., SFS
Director Bob Apodaca, Central Basin MWD
Director Ed Vasquez, Central Basin MWD
Director Robert Martinez, Pico Water Dist.
Director Rick Mercado, Pico Water Dist.
(partial list)

Paid for by the Friends of Linda Unruh-Fuentes ID# 1309801

Roger Brossmer Candidate for District 3

1.) What is your vision for the Downey **Studios property in terms of redevelopment?**

Personally, I prefer the current use. I think Downey Studios brings a new and exciting mix to the city, and I would like to see it continue. However, I understand that the developer ultimately has the right to modify the site. If the developer chooses to implement their new,

mixed-used plans, it is incumbent upon the city and the city council to make sure we have an A1-quality project.

My biggest concern with this project is related to the current economy. I am not sure if any developer is anxious to begin such a large project at this time. I am also mindful of the fact that the city originally gave the buyer/owner of the studios a fantastic deal because they were committed to saving and improving the historical buildings on that site. If the use is changed, I want to make sure the city is properly compensated for that

2.) In regards to mansionization, should greater restrictions be placed on the size and designs of new home constructions?

Greater restrictions were put in place at (a recent) city council meeting. I would have liked to see a sliding scale further looked at, but the council chose to make a flat reduction instead. In this latest revision of the code, there was a second and successful attempt to address the mansionization issue by further reducing the floor area ratio (FAR). The revisions also increase side yard setbacks for first and second stories. I am happy to see that new homes will be constructed under these new conditions.

3.) In your opinion, what is the most pressing need facing Downey today?

Foreclosures – The quality of our neighborhoods is being threatened by foreclosed properties, both completed and half-completed. As a city, we need to take a proactive role in ensuring these properties are maintained by the banks that take them back.

Parks - Having two kids in T-ball and AYSO soccer, I have seen firsthand how impacted our parks currently are. I want to ensure that new park space is sought out and that we properly utilize the space we currently have.

City Congestion - Traffic congestion continues to be a real concern in the city. When the Imperial Highway and Firestone/Lakewood construction is complete, we hope to start seeing some relief. I am a big believer in using new forms of technology to better synchronize the street lights so that vehicles can move more efficiently throughout our city.

Redevelopment - Downey Studios and Rancho Los Amigos developments are critical to the short term and long term financial stability of the city. It is critical that we bring in the much needed sales tax revenue for our city by bringing in quality retail restaurants and other establishments at these developments, each of which will be greater than \$1 billion in total project value.

4.) Specifically, how would you improve Downey's downtown area?

1.) I think the approved addition of Porto's Bakery will be the beginning of big thinks for the downtown area. I hope this will be the spark to attract other key tenants, along with some residential development, that will ensure a more robust full-time community.

2.) The city stakeholders needs to revisit our downtown plan to decide on what is the desired mix we would like to see, and how do we proactively attract those potential tenants.

3.) Lastly, as with any development, we need to make sure we have the proper parking to support it.

Russell Rankin Candidate for District 3

1.) What is your vision for the Downey Studios property in terms of redevelopment?

I believe that any development in Downey should be done taking into consideration three major issues. They are: population density; effect on the infrastructure; and benefit to the citizens who live here. Too often the only consideration has been money.

An example would be to consider the viability of a solar electric generating plant. If we could generate solar electricity for the residents at a cost equal to or less than the cost of the electricity from the electric companies, plus provide new jobs, I think this would be good.

This may or may not be practical, but this is the type of development Downey needs more of, not quick-buck development that may be detrimental in the future.

In reality, Industrial Realty Group owns 60 acres of the proeprty outright and 20 acres on a 55-year lease, so Downey is working on a combined use plan with IRG.

2.) In regards to mansionization, should greater restrictions be placed on the size and designs of new home constructions?

If you have read my Letters to the Editor, or talked to me, then you know mansionization is a huge issue for me.

I am not against someone adding on to their home. I am against the opportunists who build these so-called mansions without regard to a person's privacy, don't care about the architectural integrity of the neighborhood, and have contempt for laws such as residency requirements, number of houses that can be built in a four-year period, hiring licensed builders, or paying federal and state taxes, etc. etc.

I think this lunacy has gone far enough. I would like to limit the size and design of residential construction to eliminate this problem. Also, the architecture of the city, residential and commercial should be coherent.

3.) In your opinion, what is the most pressing need facing Downey

That would be for the mayor and city council to tell the truth and stop trying to trick the people to further their agenda.

An example would be the city is rewarding builders who build green. The very first precept of green building is the design of the structure. For example, you can't build green and have a design with vaulted ceilings.

4.) How would you work to improve the quality of life in Downey? See questions 1 through 3.



Dr. Shahira A-Malek **Candidate for District 5**

1.) What is your vision for the Downey **Studios property in terms of redevelopment?**

The Downey Landing has been a very successful development in the area. It brought business and activity to the area, and it has improved property values across the city.

I think that we should build on the success of the Downey Landing, and use the Downey

Studios lot to extend the area into a family-orientated city walk, complete with a Ferris wheel, merry g-round, specialty shops, and restaurants. People would be able to socialize in open-air cafes with beautiful decorations and small gardens. Street performers and entertainers would attract families and income from surrounding cities.

The success of a city walk like this would stimulate business in all the surrounding areas of Downey, including the downtown area and south Downey. It would also provide entry-level jobs for the high scholars.

2.) In regards to mansionization, should greater restrictions be placed on the size and designs of new home constructions?

The issue of mansionization has been a hot topic of debate lately. In my view, any new house or house addition should not deprive neighbors of their comfort.

For example, blocking sunlight, depriving them of their right to privacy by exposing their bedrooms, backyards, kitchens and pools should not be allowed. Also larger houses with larger families put a stress on parking availability in the area. I believe that the availability of parking should be considered before home additions or improvements are permitted.

On the other hand, homeowners should have the right to improve their property, which increased the value of all the homes in the area. These improvements should be done in a style and color that enhances and complements the other houses in the area. I would like to add that those halfbuilt houses are causing safety problems and they should have time limitations to be completed.

3.) In your opinion, what is the most pressing need facing Downey today?

Downey is increasingly targeted for crime internally, and from surrounding cities. Homes are vandalized and robbed, many times with the homeowners inside. Cars are being broken into and stolen, including mine.

I believe this problem will require a three-pronged approach: First, we must improve police patrol throughout the city. We should increase the visibility of our police force to send a message that Downey Police is present at any time, anywhere.

Second, we must collaborate with surrounding cities to decrease crime rates and qualify of life.

Third, we should install street lights in dark areas and encourage neighborhood watch programs.

4.) Can you elaborate on your proposal to utilize retired senior volunteers at after-school centers?

Being a pediatrician, I know that the few hours after school are critical in the lives of our children. They can contribute to their success, or they can get them involved in drugs, gangs, crime, and teenage pregnancy. One of my goals is to enhance the after-school programs implemented by some of Downey churches to improve the futures of our youth.

Downey has two treasures: The honorable seniors and retired volunteers, and the great number of churches. We can enhance the after-school programs from 3 to 6 p.m. by asking churches to open for the children, and the cost of such programs can be covered by volunteers, parents and funds from corporations and federal programs.

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Bulletin Board Contact Dorothy Michael or Mary Forney Phone: (562) 904-3668 or Email: downeypatriot@yahoo.com

Gary De Remer Candidate for District 5

1.) What is your vision for the Downey Studios property in terms of redevelopment?

Difficult to say, since much of what will be happening may have been decided. I would like to see the council and the planning commission take a very aggressive role in working with the property owner in developing the property to the benefit of the surrounding area and the people of Downey.



Certain things must be taken into consideration. The key word is impact. If there will be more shopping how will it impact existing businesses and how will it impact traffic? I want to be a part of the redevelopment of the Downey Studios because I want people to drive to Downey and eat, and spend their money here and not drive through Downey just to get to another place!

2.) In regards to mansionization, should greater restrictions be placed on the size and designs of new home constructions?

Yes, greater restrictions on size and design are what the citizens of Downey have been demanding for some time now. I advocate setting aside the existing code. I believe the people of Downey want the city to adopt a code that will protect their neighborhood from having oversized houses and houses that are built which ignore the architecture that is already in place.

Several other cities, South Pasadena for example, have successfully adopted such restrictions. We need to follow their example.

3.) In your opinion, what is the most pressing need facing Downey today?

The budget is probably the most pressing issue today. Downey, much like every other city, is facing a fiscal crisis. We need to spend more wisely and if cuts are to be made they must be done cautiously. We also need to make sure that any development, commercial or private will be good for Downey. That would especially apply to commercial and or industrial development.

It is easy to spend other people's money but I promise if I am on Council, I will make sure that money spent is what's best for the city of Downey. I will spend your money as if it was my money!

4.) In what ways can Downey become a more "business friendly" city?

This is a question that has been asked over and over again ever since I became aware of the climate of things here in Downey. Staff must always keep in mind that they work for the people they deal with when they are doing their job.

The adoption of the "Golden Rule" would be a very good place to start. It would help if staff would walk people through the application and through each department when people are opening a business here in Downey. Don't forget that we want people to open businesses small and large here in our city! We need to return e-mails and phone calls promptly when our proprietors are calling with questions and not make them wait until the next day or two.

As a councilman, I will be more than willing to lend an ear to anyone opening a business here in Downey. I have owned and operated two different types of businesses and I am very experienced in the process.

Maria Larkin Candidate for District 5

1.) What is your vision for the Downey Studios property in terms of redevelopment?

The city of Downey does not own this land; however the city is working with the developer since any project at Downey Studios must be acceptable to the city and mutually agreed upon. It would be great to have a mutually agreed upon attractive mixed-use project such as top retail

with housing above, commercial with office space above, good placement of condominiums and loft-type housing.

The central focus could be a courtyard with fountain surrounded with the above mixed-use. This should be a place where people would want to visit, shop and live. This would probably all have to be built in phases and I can't wait to be involved.

2.) In regards to mansionization, should greater restrictions be placed on the size and designs of new home constructions?

A survey should be done of the city to determine which areas are just not feasible for these large homes. Parking or the lack of parking should be top priority.

I think big homes will be the wave of the future in light of the demographics. However, I propose that no new permits be issued until this is revisited for more modifications. Before any new permits are issued we need to hold the owners/developers of the unfinished projects liable for the upkeep of the property. Stiff fines should be issued if the property is not kept up in keeping with the standards of the community.

3.) In your opinion, what is the most pressing need facing Downey today?

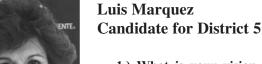
A.) The number of foreclosed homes and the adverse effects on the community. These vacant properties are an eyesore in the community. Fines should be issued if the property is not kept up in appearance to the rest of the community and this should be enforced. It is not fair to the residents who live next door to these vacant monsters.

B.) Demographics are changing and changing fast. Newcomers to our community don't necessarily think the way we do; we want a nice community, they are looking for security. They want a change, and we need to keep balance by blending the old with the new, always promoting the pride of Downey and pride of neighborhood.

4.) Should the city invest more or less funds into new information technology (i.e., enhanced city website, recording council meetings, etc.)?

If this is already a budgeted item, we should move forward. If it is not, then we will have to be fiscally prudent. Since many citizens have been complaining about our poor website, I would think upgrading should have top priority.

Televising the council meetings would be a great benefit to seniors, people who can't drive at night, and students who could watch with their parents and get a lesson in civics.



1.) What is your vision for the Downey Studios property in terms of redevelopment?

The Downey Studios project is one I anticipate being heavily involved with. Because of current market conditions, it appears that the owner, IRG, will be backing away from their original proposal for development of the site.

original proposal for development of the site.

It is prudent that the city of Downey take
early steps to assess the highest and bese use of the property and, if possible, adaptively reusing some of the historic structures currently there. We must be willing to look at every proposal that may come from the private development community and to make decisions about its future in a public hearing so residents have an opportunity to weigh in with their thoughts

and suggestions.

And no matter what proposal is ultimately chosen, it must address the issues of congestion, community resource, and quality of life for the surrounding neighborhoods.

2.) In regards to mansionization, should greater restrictions be placed on the size and designs of new home constructions?

Every Downey cicitzen has the constitutional right to build on their property. However, the city must develop building codes that will protect the integrity of the character of each neighborhood while also protecting the privacy of each household. Therefore, current and proposed building codes will have to be more stringent and must be enforced.

I am open to revisiting Downey Code 9110.14.

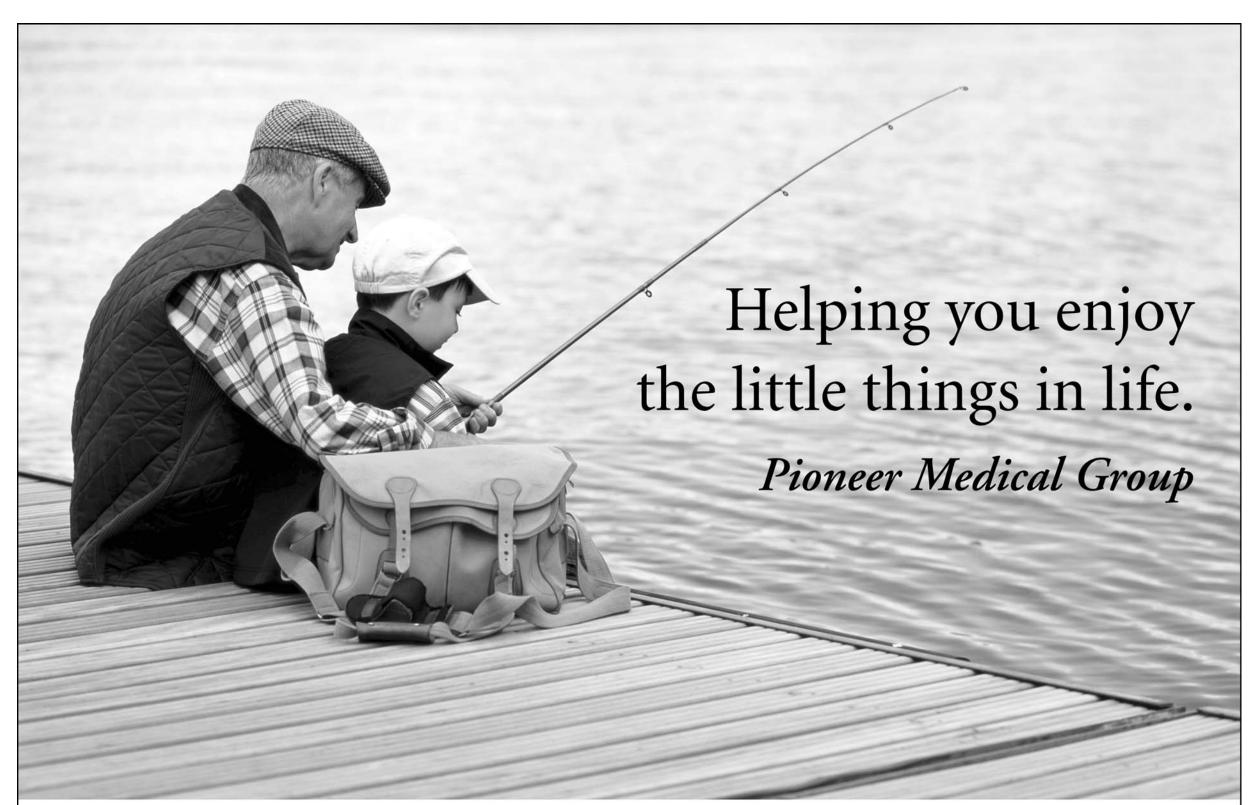
3.) In your opinion, what is the most pressing need facing Downey roday?

The quality of life and public safety of our residents are the most pressing issues facing Downey today. To address the quality of life, I believe that we need to crack down on city code violators, reduce traffic congestion, and support expanded recreational programs for senior citizens and youth.

I also believe that if you invest in your community, you will see a return. That is why I am the only candidate that will donate my council salary to establishing scholarships for graduating high school seniors that are intent on continuing their education.

4.) How would your job as senior field deputy to State Sen. Alan Lowenthal affect your role as a council member?

As a senior field deputy for Sen. Alan Lowenthal, I am already prepared on Day 1 to be serving the residents of Downey. I represent eight cities and have had the opportunity to work closely with each of them. I have been fortunate to assist each one of them to provide a better level of service from the state government and a higher quality of life to their residents.



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Council meeting brief and routine

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—Except for a brief ceremony where Police Chief Roy Campos rewarded the sustained excellence of the performances of three of his officers with promotion (Mike Parino and Leigh Lacey to sergeants, Leslie Murray to lieutenant), Tuesday's City Council meeting dealt mostly with routine matters.

Thus the Council:

•Approved the Holiday Lane Parade permit application submitted by the Downey Chamber of Commerce for Sunday, Dec. 7, which starts at 1:30 p.m. and travels south along Downey Avenue, between Lexington and Third Street;

•Approved the agreement with the Downey Chamber of Commerce for 2008-09, by which the latter agrees to promote the city's welfare and growth, for which service the city will dispense \$24,500;

•Approved a letter of agreement with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the Imperial Highway traffic throughput and safety enhancements project – Phase 2; the project will not only enhance the transportation experience and safety but the aesthetics along the Imperial Highway corridor, considered a Major Arterial Highway within the city,

•Approved the agreement with Leymaster Environmental Consulting, LLC., for on-call environmental consulting services, including soil and groundwater investigations, site contamination issues, site and building assessments, review of project specifications, lab reports and cost estimates, inspection, processing agency approvals and resource management; Leymaster has been providing services for four years related to the Spartan Lacquer vapor extraction operation, and environmental analyses for the Discovery Sports Complex, and other city-owned sites;

•Awarded a contract in the amount of \$647,801 to Imperial Paving Company for the Old River School Road Improvements Project (grant funds from the state through the Safe Routes To School program); and appropriated \$178,371 in Proposition C local return funds for pavement rehabilitation between Dinwiddie St. and Arnett St.;

•Adopted a resolution approving the application for grant funds for the California River parkways grant program under the Safe Driving Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) to provide park improvements to Treasure Island Park; the grant funds would ease the burden on the General Fund;

•Adopted an ordinance amending Section 3186 of the Downey Municipal Code relating to speed limits for Firestone Boulevard: after the usual studies, no changes in speed limits have been adopted except for increase to 40 mph for the portion between Woodruff Avenue and Stewart & Gray Road and the stretch between Stewart & Gray Road and the east city limit;

•Adopted an ordinance approving Code amendment No. 06-120, involving a comprehensive update to the zoning ordinance and incorporating all changes contained therein to Article IX of the Downey Municipal Code; and thus adopting all the pertinent amendments to various sections of the Downey Municipal Code that refer to Article IX of the Municipal Code; and

•Adopted an ordinance deleting Section 9144.08 and adding Chapter 9 to Article V of the Downey Municipal Code regarding public nuisances, reflecting an effort to update property maintenance standards to "match with the modern realities of a mature city in an era of increasing community and environmental awareness."

The next regular meeting of the Council will be at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 10, as Tuesday is a holiday.

Health screenings offered Nov. 19

DOWNEY - Stroke and osteoporosis screenings will be offered to Downey residents Nov. 19 at the Downey United Masonic Lodge #220, 8244 3rd St. Appointments begin at 9 a.m.

Life Line Screenings will administer the screenings, which take about 60-90 minutes to complete.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (877) 237-

Halloween fun at Messiah Lutheran

DOWNEY – Messiah Lutheran Church will celebrate Halloween with a "Neighborhood Funfest" tonight, a free event for Downey children featuring candy, snacks, games, prizes, bounce houses, and more.

The event is from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Messiah Lutheran Church is at 10711 Paramount Blvd. For information, call (562) 923-1215.



Stanley Hoffman, an 80-year-old Downey resident, is making a name for himself as the self-proclaimed "world's oldest rapper." His debut album is due out this spring, but his music video in support of Barack Obama can currently be found on YouTube.

Politics with a sound

World's oldest rapper has a message for voters

By Mary Forney, Staff Writer

DOWNEY – Stanley "Kwayzar" Hoffman – promoted as the world's oldest professional rapper – has a new look and message.

At 80 years old, the Downey resident has hooked up with Kollaborator Productions to produce the single "The Vote of a Lifetime" in support of Barack Obama.

Gone are his neck chains and baseball cap worn sideways. Wearing sunglasses, dark suit and tie, Hoffman's new image is the creation of the owner of Kollaborator Productions Dondiel Smith, who wants Hoffman to be taken a bit more seriously.

"When I first met him I thought, 'Come on - he's an 80 year old white guy,' but as I listened, I knew he has something - it's spark," Smith said.

Combining Hoffman's lyrical messages of thought with a younger musical sound, Smith thinks he has found an appealing recipe to entertain people of all ages.

Once a successful real estate agent, Hoffman has held on to his dream of making it big in show business. He started out auditioning for the "Our Gang" series when he was 5 years old, but he froze up.

Teaming up with a high school buddy to form the "Wallace and Lee" comedy act, the duo played the club circuit, including Las Vegas. After his partner quit, Hoffman went solo until he had to stop living hand-to-mouth and settled into a real estate career.

"Selling real estate came easy to me because I'm personable," Hoffman said.

Hoffman brought his comedy act back to a stage he built at age 65 – in his garage. Inviting friends over for dinner, Hoffman began entertaining them with his comedy shows.

Known for writing prose about politics, sex, drugs, inequality, and science, Hoffman's beliefs were enveloped in comedy.

Then he discovered rap. Crediting Ice Cube and Eminem as inspiration, Hoffman changed his comedy routines into rap form and watched a bolder creative side of him emerge.

"Most of the material rappers do doesn't have any redeeming value," Hoffman said. "But rap can be a totally freeing form of writing. It's a good way to get your point across without apology."

Belonging to a writing group, Hoffman created "The Vote of a Lifetime" after being given an assignment to write a rap about Obama.

"I like writing about topical subjects," Hoffman said. "If you look at older people, they talk slower and their minds aren't full of topical subjects. If you stop to use your brain muscle and talk about subjects, you climb out of a mental ghetto."

Wanting to record "The Vote of a Lifetime" at Kollaborator Productions, Smith, who is a former disc jockey and air personality, told Hoffman he would have to change his look.

"I told him he needed to stop looking like a rapper," Smith said. "He needed to be a rapper, be an artist, and to just be himself."

Now featured on YouTube, "The Vote of a Lifetime" has received more than 2,100 hits since being posted. The video can also be viewed on Hoffman's website at www.kwayzarmusic.com.

"I'm signing him as an artist and am going to do his debut album," Smith said. "I am taking him to a different level by really getting behind him and promoting him."

Hoffman's album "My Story" is scheduled to be released early spring.

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562-927-0887

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Network at 562-809-8500

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Healthy Heart Nutrition Class Wednesday, November 12 or December 10 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. DRMC Conference Room A or B



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The annual 'Youth Fishing Event' takes places Nov. 8 at Wilderness Park. The event is free for kids 15 and under.

Kids invited to fish at Wilderness

DOWNEY – The city of Downey Community Services Department, in conjunction with the California Department of Fish and Game, will present their annual "Youth Fishing Event" at Wilderness Park Nov. 8 from 8 a.m. to noon.

The event will be held rain or shine and is free to children ages 15 and under.

Fishing poles and bait will be available in limited quantity, and there will be free T-shirts for the first 200 kids. The lakes will be stocked with trout and possibly catfish.

The event is operated through monetary donations and sponsorships that provide the materials and supplies for the event.

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



Air Force Airman Jose J. Uriarte, a 2005 Downey High School graduate, has completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex. During six weeks of training, Uriarte studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and training in human relations. He is the son of Carmen Parra of

Donations accepted for U.S. troops

DOWNEY - With the holidays approaching, the Armed Forces Recruitment Center in Downey is accepting supplies for care packages that will be sent to U.S. troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Supplies that can be donated include beef jerky, boot socks, gum, hard candy, baby wipes, eye drops, ChapStick, hot cocoa mix, and cookies.

The Armed Forced Recruitment Center is at 8566 Firestone Blvd., across the street from Downey High School.

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Students' learning curve includes Character Counts

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

he Downey Unified School District's commitment to nurturing character as well as its students' academic skills was never more evident than in its celebration all last week of a special Character Counts Assembly held Friday at West Middle School.

Coinciding with National Character Counts Week, the district's weeklong celebration featured various classroom activities, lessons and programs according to each school's focus, colorful posters and banners, and other means of highlighting the essential role character plays in one's success—as a student and in one's life.

One of the nice touches was the assignment of a different color to each pillar of character. Trustworthiness was spelled out in blue, Respect in yellow, Responsibility in green, Fairness in orange, Caring in red, and Citizenship in purple. In West Middle School's case, the pillars were each spelled out on large, longitudinal posters and formed the stage's background.

The spice of the afternoon event were the spirited performances by students: for instance, a group belted out The Grand Old Flag, the WMS cheerleaders went through acrobatic routines doing their Spirit and Character Cheers, the school's dance club danced their Character Dance, and its 8th Grade drama club members acted out a Good vs. Evil routine. The mood picked up still further when incoming Warren High senior Catalina Pereira was presented. Pereira recently won the Miss Costa Rica Los Angeles, California 2008-09 title and subsequently was crowned Miss Central America Cofeca 2008-09. She advised the students to "keep up their good work."

Some fifteen students were also called on stage. Originally chosen by their teachers for their noticeable displays of one or two character pillar traits, they were there to collect their prizes as raffle ticket winners. Most received gift certificates. The grand prize winner won an iPod.

Downey City Councilmember Kirk Cartozian, who attended the assembly, took notice of it at Tuesday's City Council meeting, saying that he enjoyed the assembly proceedings and congratulated everybody involved. Other notable presences were philanthropist and ardent Character Counts supporter Dr. Mary Stauffer, DUSD board member Nancy Swenson, and a YMCA representative. YMCA is one of the program's most active players.

The story of Character Counts as a purposeful movement begins in 1992 when a group of eminent educators assembled at Aspen, Colorado under the auspices of the Josephson Institute of Ethics to "find ways to work together to promote character education" in the schools. They agreed



on six ethical values that they believed crossed all cultural, ethnic, religious and political boundaries and hence serve as a common language. The institute would later articulate these as the "Six Pillars of Character." It was to carry on the goals of the conference that the institute the following year founded Character Counts.

The Aspen conferees chose the six allegedly because they thought it easy to teach and they could include others. For instance, under trustworthiness, they included the injunctions, "Be honest" and "Don't deceive, cheat or steal,"; under respect, "Use good manners, not bad language"; under responsibility, "Be self-disciplined," "Be accountable for your choices"; under fairness, "Play by the rules," "Don't take advantage of others,"; under caring, "Be compassionate and show you care," "Express gratitude," Forgive others; and under citizenship, "Do your share to make your school and community better," "Obey laws and rules" respect authority," and "Protect the environment."

Because of DUSD's dedicated and intensified efforts and leadership, all indications are that Character Counts has seeped into the consciousness of the city. DUSD Character Counts coordinator Mary Jo Enyeart, for one, says that feedback has been very positive, and that, in the district's case at least, there has been a noticeable drop in "office referrals" (read discipli-

If strength and nobility of character is the goal, any start is good.

Luke finds success empty without God's grace

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

orn and raised in Long Beach, Matt Luke grew up in a home where moral values were stressed, but the moral suasions he received from parents and others didn't alter his youthful conceits.

Despite his comfortable surroundings, "I was confused as a child," he said. "I was blind. God didn't figure in my life much."

Physically gifted, he also had desire. From the age of ten he dedicated himself to becoming a major league baseball player. Lucky to get a sports scholarship at UC-Berkeley, he was College All-American in his junior and senior years (1991 and 1992). Shortly after graduation he realized his dream: he was drafted by the New York Yankees.

He was to play eventually with three other clubs, the Los Angeles Dodgers (twice), the Cleveland Indians, and the Anaheim Angels. During this stretch he had the opportunity to travel all over the world. He played his last major league game on Sept. 30, 1999.

Mostly, those were giddy days, he recalled. He roomed with Derek Jeter, played with Manny Ramirez, and, while with the Indians, played under coach Joe Torre. It was also while with the Indians, playing in a doubleheader in Tampa, Florida that he suffered an injury that landed him in

The injury was serious enough that laid him low in the hospital for two

and a half months. It was then, he said, that "for the first time in my life, I wondered what life was really all about."

Now a realtor, a community volunteer, and inspirational speaker, Luke revealed these details of his life at the Oct. 16 Mayor's Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the Christian Businessmen's Committee of Downey, in which Dr. Mary Stauffer, introduced by Bill Kirkwood, got a standing ovation and a huge bouquet of red roses as she was honored for her "generosity and her wondrous impact on the community." Kirkwood noted that her philanthropic contributions have so far totaled "around \$2.1 million." Mayor David Gafin also spoke.

It would take two more years though, in 1998, when Luke said he finally "found God," after his child's ear got infected during a trip to South Korea. He said there was a specific moment when he realized that all the travail, adversity, and pain he was experiencing pointed to the insight that God was in control. "When this dawned on me," he said, "it was the greatest moment of my life."

Quoting the Bible freely, Luke's main message was that everybody should "try to really try to know God better."

Meanwhile, emcee John Swift's welcoming words resonated with the huge audience. Pointing to the current conflicts abroad and the economically volatile times, he said: "We need prayer now more than ever."

Cook graduates Army ROTC course

WASHINGTON – Jessica L. Cook, a 2000 graduate of Downey High School, has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Office Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as Operation Warrior Forge, at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash.

The 31 days of training provide training and evaluation for all cadets in the aspects of military life, administration and logistical support. Although continued military training and leadership development is included in the curriculum, the primary focus of the course is to develop and evaluate each cadet's officer potential as a leader by exercising the cadet's intelligence, common sense, ingenuity and physical stamina. The cadet command assesses each cadet's performance and progress in officer

traits, qualities and professionalism while attending the course.

Cadets in their junior and senior year of college must complete the leadership development course. Upon successful completion of the course, the ROTC program, and graduation from college, cadets are commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army, National Guard, or

Cook is a student at USC. She is the daughter of Howard and Kathleen Cook of Downey.









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Page 14 Friday, Oct. 31, 2008 Classified/Real Estate____ The Downey Patriot

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The Hoopsters, a Downey youth basketball team, defeated San Diego PBC to win a recent tournament. The 10-year-old division took second place after losing to the Riverside Rage. The Hoopsters will host their first annual Kings of the Court tournament this weekend at Downey High School, featuring 20-30 teams from throughout Southern California. Games will be held Saturday and Sunday between 9 a.m. information, 5 p.m. For more www.downeyouthbasketball.org.



The Sussman Middle School junior varsity volleyball team recently finished their season undefeated. Their coach is Jennifer Regan.

See the Wiseguys live in concert

DOWNEY – The Wiseguys Big Band Machine will appear at the Downey Theatre Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m., and half of the proceeds from the event will benefit Easter Seals Southern California Disability Services.

The Wiseguys are a 18-piece band that will be performing favorties from the 40's, 50's, and 60's, including the sounds of Frank Sinatra, Glenn Miller, Buddy Rich, Perez Prado, Bobby Darin, and more.

The concert will also feature a silent auction and prize drawings. Tickets are \$25, payable by cash, check or credit card.

To purchase tickets, call the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562)

Warren athletes also selling jewelry

DOWNEY - In addition to discount movie tickets, Warren High School's girls volleyball team is also selling Cookie Lee jewelry as part of a fundraiser.

Movie tickets are available indefinitely, but the jewelry will be sold for a limited time. For tickets or jewelry, call Barbara Hill at (562) 861-7610. Warren will host Downey in a rematch Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. Both schools

St. Raymond bingo luncheon

are vying for first place in the San Gabriel Valley League.

DOWNEY – The Italian Catholic Federation of St. Raymond's parish is hosting a bingo luncheon Nov. 9 at 12:30 p.m. in the Msgr. Robert Gipson Hall at 12349 Paramount Blvd. in Downey.

The cost is \$10 and includes one bingo card, a door prize, and lunch. For tickets or information, call Aline Amatisto at (562) 963-9430 or Charlene Drobeck at (562) 928-1937.

American Legion going to Pechanga

SOUTH GATE – American Legion Post 723 is sponsoring a daytrip to Pechanga Resort and Casino on Nov. 13.

The price is \$11 and includes a \$5 voucher for casino play. Proceeds will benefit veterans' rehabilitation and youth programs.

The bus will depart at 8:30 a.m. from the American Legion Post 723 parking lot, 11269 S. Garfield Ave. in South Gate.

For more information, call Wade Murdoch at (562) 413-6348 or Nancy Watson at (562) 413-6414.

Workshop educating tenants on rights

DOWNEY – The city of Downey and the Fair Housing Foundation are conducting a joint tenant workshop Nov. 25 at the Downey City Library.

The workshop will review fair housing laws, leases and notices, rules and regulations, foreclosure issues, discriminatory rules, occupancy standards, late fees, security deposits, habitability issues, and more. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

The workshop starts at 4 p.m. Guests who RSVP will receive a complimentary workbook. RSVP by calling (800) 446-3247, ext. 1104.



The Rio Hondo Men's Club recently made separate \$898 donations coaches at Downey and Warren High Schools to "promote the game of golf on a community level for the youth of the city of Downey." The Men's Club was incorporated in 1953 and meets the second Wednesday of very month at the Rio Hondo Event Center. Pictured from left to right: Steve Labarge, Thad Phillips, Dennis Pagenkopp, Coach Rob English, Coach Al Holly, Michael Wichert, and Jim Ittner.



Myaluisa Dobson is a new vice principal at Columbus High School, effective Oct. 14. Dobson was previously with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

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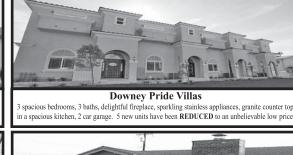


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Page 16 Friday, Oct. 31, 2008 Real Estate/Sports





Jesse Callier (5) rushed for 187 yards and two touchdowns in Warren's 28-7 win over Paramount last week.

Warren (2-0) is eyeing league championship

■ Tonight's matchup versus Gahr critical to their chances.

BY SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER **DOWNEY** – Warren continued

its chase after a league championship with an all-around balanced victory versus Paramount High School last Friday, winning 28-7.

The Bears' defense thoroughly stumped Paramount's offensive attack, allowing only one score in the final quarter of the game. In the first three quarters, the Bears completely stopped Paramount in their

On the other side of the ball, Warren's standout running back Jesse Callier continued his torrid play through the league, carrying the ball 41 times for 187 yards and two rushing touchdowns.

So far this year, Callier has accounted for more than half of Warren's points scored and has continued to prove that containing him will be difficult.

Warren will come home 2-0 in league and play in what could possibly be the most important game of the year versus Gahr High

School.

The Gladiators handed defending league champion Dominguez High School their first league loss in more than three years two weeks ago. They are also coming off a hard fought win versus Lynwood High School, a team that Warren handled easily.

If the Bears can win tonight's game, there is a realistic chance of them at least sharing a league title this year. Game time tonight is at 7 p.m. at Justice Stadium.

Dominguez too much for Vikings to handle

■ Downey keeps it close through three quarters, but falls 49-21.

BY SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER **DOWNEY** – With their tank

on empty, the Downey Vikings ran out of gas in the last quarter versus Dominguez High School, losing

While the score may suggest a lopsided game, it was anything but until the fourth quarter. The Vikings were keeping the defending league champions at bay until they ran into a brick wall offensively in the final quarter.

In that last period, the Vikings were outscored 22-0 leaving the

Going into halftime, Downey was down only two touchdowns and looked like they were starting to wear down Dominguez a little bit, especially with the run.

Vikings running back Jeremiah Higgins had his best game this year with 18 rushes for 115 yards and a touchdown.

Downey also added a very physical element to their game, getting fullback Joseph Ortiz involved, handing the ball off to him seven times for 76 yards.

What Downey was unable to do was expose what has turned out to

score looking like it wasn't even be a very weak secondary of the close. Resilient were the Vikings Dons. In Dominguez's loss to Gahr though for the first three quarters. High School, the Gladiators were able to get their receivers out in the open down field.

The Vikings came up just short in that department, watching a couple balls come up inches short of hitting receivers in the hands.

If anything though, the game had to be a moral victory to a team that has historically struggled against Dominguez.

Tonight, the Vikings visit Lynwood High School in a game that will have playoff implications with the two teams possibly fighting for the last slot. Game time is 7 p.m.

Razorbacks qualify for playoff action

■ Successful weekend lands Razorbacks in the playoffs.

BY MIKE BAUMANN, **DOWNEY YOUTH FOOTBALL**

DOWNEY – It's on to the conference championship playoffs this weekend for five of Downey's six tackle football teams.

Flag division has no playoff schedule, but the four Razorback flag teams played outstanding football all season long and are all

MityMite Red was eliminated from the Pacific Coast Conference playoff's Saturday even though they ended the season with a respectful 4-4 record. The rest of Downey's Razorback teams are starting the second season in playoff games being hosted by various organizations in the conference this weekend.

MityMite White (6-2, 4-1) snapped a two game losing streak by edging Long Beach. Downey White secured the No. 2 seed by virtue of the win and will play the conference No. 3 seed, Lawndale Cardinals, at Gardena High School at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Despite their loss last weekend, the Jr. PeeWee Razorbacks (3-5, 2-2) qualified as the No. 3 seed in the Pacific North Division, and will be the visitors in their playoff game against the Lawndale Cardinal. Their game is scheduled for an 11 a.m. start at El Rancho High School.

The Razorback PeeWee's (6-1, 3-0) defeated an overwhelmed Montebello Extreme 24-0 in action Saturday at Downey High School. Long touchdown runs by Joshua Medina and Justin Huff, and a strong defense, were too much for the visitors to handle. The PeeWee Hogs will represent Downey as the No. 1 seeded team in their division in the upcoming playoffs. The Razorbacks play the Gardena Mohicans at George Bellis Park in Buena Park at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

The Razorback Jr. Midget's (5-3, 3-0) ended their regular season with a big win over Long Beach. On the very first play from scrimmage, Daniel Sanchez ran 60 yards for a touchdown and set the tone for the game.

Tristan Esparza, Gregory Martinez, (2 TD's) and Joseph Henriquez also scored on long runs for the Hogs in the victory. Henriquez tossed a TD pass to Javier Vargas for another score.

Downey's Jr. Midget's are their conference's champion and go into tomorrow's playoff game against the Lawndale Cardinal as the No. 1 seed. The game is scheduled for a 3 p.m. start at Mayfair High School.

Downey's Midget Razorbacks (6-2, 3-1) continued their winning ways with a victory over Long Beach in week eight. They secured a No. 2 seed in the playoff's and will battle the Inglewood Seminoles at Moore Field at 1 p.m.

Winners of tomorrow's games will play in the conference's semifinal round next week.



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