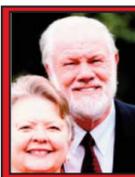




The Downey Patriot



Educators win praise, awards
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Kirkwood tapped as marshal
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Comic makes it to Vegas
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Friday, November 21, 2008

Vol. 7 No. 31

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

Space Center prepares for Jan. 31 lift off

■ Visitors get sneak peak of new state-of-the-art learning center, slated to open Jan. 31, 2009.

BY MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The Columbia Memorial Space Center in Downey Landing opened its doors Nov. 15 for a dedication ceremony of the facility and offered tours of where the crew of STS-107 and the Space Shuttle Columbia will be commemorated.

The center will honor Rick Husband, Willie McCool, Kapana Chawla, Laurel Clark, David Brown, Michael Anderson, and Ilan Ramon who lost their lives Feb. 1, 2003 during an uncontrolled re-entry into the earth's atmosphere.

Named the official national memorial to the Space Shuttle Columbia by a joint resolution of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the center is the only Challenger Learning Center for simulated space missions in the Los Angeles area.

Built by Tower General Contractors from Los Angeles, the 18,500 square foot structure is home to a new state-of-the-art, hands-on space learning center. The interactive exhibits are still incomplete, but once finished, the walls and programs inside the center will also chronicle Downey's legacy of aviation and aerospace innovation.

For more than seven decades, Vultee Aircraft Corporation, North American Aviation, Rockwell

International, and the Boeing Company brought large scale aircraft manufacturing and space module design, development and production to Downey – operating on the grounds where the Columbia Memorial Space Center is now built.

The space center will feature Downey's role in World War II, the development of the first cruise missile during the 1950s, and the construction of the Apollo command modules and the space shuttle orbiters.

Promoting science, math, engineering, and technology, the Columbia Memorial Space Center's interactive exhibits will provide an inside look at space shuttle operations, an international space station, aerospace engineering, and the solar system. The center will also feature a robotics lab, computer lab, and rocket launcher.

"We are thrilled to have been involved in the construction of this prominent memorial that stands as a living tribute for those who gave their lives for the advancement of the space program and the next generation of astronauts," Nato Flores, president of Tower General Contractors.

"The building's bold shape and futuristic design reflect the aspiration and ambitions of mankind on

See SPACE, page 11

Interfaith church service Monday

DOWNEY – Downey's annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service will take place Monday at 7 p.m. at Temple Ner Tamid, 10629 Lakewood Blvd.

Rev. Nancy Hamm of Christ Lutheran Church will present the spiritual reflection, while Dr. George Bridges, director of Downey Meals on Wheels, will be the guest speaker.

The service's theme is "Loving God by Loving Others."

In addition to Temple Ner Tamid and Christ Lutheran Church, other congregations participating in the service include Downey United Methodist Church, Moravian Church of Downey, First Presbyterian Church of Downey, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

The community is invited to the service. For more information, call (562) 861-9276.

Man struck crossing Florence Avenue

DOWNEY – Downey police are asking for the public's help regarding a Nov. 14 traffic accident near Florence Avenue and the Rio Hondo River.

At about 6:30 p.m., Edgar Ayala, of Bell Gardens, was crossing Florence near the river when he was struck by a Saturn sedan, said Sgt. Dean Milligan of the Downey Police Department.

The Saturn's driver was identified as James Wade, of Downey.

"The preliminary investigation indicates that Mr. Ayala crossed in an area absent a crosswalk and failed to yield to traffic," Milligan said in a press release.

Ayala, 50, was transported to St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood where he is listed in critical condition with injuries to his head and body.

Anybody who witnessed the accident is asked to call Sgt. Milligan at (562) 904-2342.



Standout running back Jesse Callier helped lead Warren High School to its first San Gabriel Valley League championship in 16 years. Callier had three touchdowns in Friday's victory over Dominguez. Photo by James Quick III

The Bears are champs

■ Warren secures first league title since 1992 with 28-14 win over Dominguez.

BY SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The Warren Bears collective can finally let out their shared sigh of relief.

After staring down a frightening tie-break scenario which could have seen five teams tied for the San Gabriel Valley League title and a gathering of coaches flip a coin for the championship, the Bears sealed their own fate Friday, beating Dominguez High School 28-14 to clinch their first championship since 1992.

"I said two weeks ago that nothing was really settled, that we still had to come out and play well, and then we played poorly against Downey and put ourselves in this situation," said Warren first-year head coach Chris Benadom. "I told the guys we had to put it behind us. We knew Dominguez would be tough regardless of their record because it's still a great program."

Like most of the season, the Bears rode stud running back Jesse Callier to the win. Callier rushed for 151 yards and three touchdowns on the night.

One of his rushes all but twisted the knife into Dominguez's heart. The Dons had just put together a drive that tied the score at 14 points apiece when a crack in their defense unsealed, allowing Callier to dash 80 yards for a score.

The score ultimately gave Warren the lead and the league championship for good.

Callier came into the game with more than 1,800 rushing yards on the season and just missed his 2,000-yard goal by about 25 yards.

"Jesse had an all-around game for us," Benadom said. "An athlete like Jesse finds ways to contribute. But this was definitely a championship earned by the entire team."

Warren claims the No. 1 seed coming out of the San Gabriel Valley League in the CIF playoffs and will host Santa Monica High School tonight at 7 p.m. in the opening round.

Santa Monica, a No. 3 seed out of their division, was 8-2 on the season. They will prove to be a tough first round match up as their offense scored more points this season and their defense allowed fewer points this season than Warren's.



Junior tight end Augafa Vaalu celebrates Warren's first league championship in 16 years. Photo by James Quick III

Students, educators, Lacey share limelight at DUSD meeting

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY — The Board of Education of the Downey Unified School District heard presentations Tuesday honoring two Downey High School students for writing winning essays, two high-achieving educators, and a retiring personnel commissioner.

Earning recognition for their essay submissions and \$500 scholarships from the 27th Senate District were Downey High's Beatrice Flores, who plans to become a veterinarian, and Ruth Tan, who intends to become a dermatologist. They were presented by DHS vice principal Dr. Karen Dabney.

DHS principal Tom Houts next introduced English teacher and counselor Nicole Gunnette, who was honored in the area of instruction, particularly for her work with at-risk students. A Cal State Long Beach graduate, Gunnette was extolled by Houts as "one of our hardest-working, most thoughtful, and dedicated staff members."

Recipient of this year's Superintendent's Vision Award in the area of instruction was Price Elementary School principal Janice Hobson. Dr. Jerilyn King-Brown, assistant superintendent of instructional services, said Hobson was viewed by her colleagues as a "master principal."

Hobson started her teaching career with the district in 1976, and through all these years, including stints as principal at Pace Elementary and Gallatin, King-Brown said Hobson has "truly been an instructional leader, embodying all of the characteristics required to run a strong 'instructional' program."

DUSD Board president Tod Corrin expressed the sentiments of many when he lavishly thanked Downey realtor and community leader John Lacey for his "seven years of dedicated service" as personnel commissioner. A reception in his honor was later held Thursday afternoon.

In other action, the Board:

- Accepted with gratitude cash donations of: \$393.52 from Target – Take Charge of Education; \$200 from Nancy Swenson, to purchase instruments for the Strum and Drum Club at Rio San Gabriel; \$50 from CBMC, Inc., to purchase supplies for the Character Counts program; \$250 from West Middle School PTA; \$200 from Robin Martin; \$80 from Lewis Elementary School PTA; and \$17.99 from Albertson's — to be used in support of the TLC Family Resort Center; and \$2,999 from Leroy Thomas Houts, to provide new wrestling mats for the wrestling room at Downey High School; as well as donations in kind of: 18 cases of bottled water used at Gaudin Elementary School during the city water alert, valued at \$150, from Rafaela Martinez, and a microwave, chairs, and cups, valued at \$300, to be used for student activities in the pool area at Warren High School, from Audrey King;

- Authorized the payment of expenses for convention and conference attendance;

- Ratified the general agreements with Administrative Services Cooperative, Inc, Hillside Education Center, and More Than Words, to provide special education and/or related services to LEA students with exceptional needs for the 2008-09 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009;

- Ratified the payments for special education placements;

- Ratified a number of settlement agreements, together with their payments;

- Approved the proposed revisions to BP 5211, Employment Policy;

- Approved the proposed deletion of BP 5238 and AR 5238, Employee's Suggestion Plan;

- Approved the revisions to BP 7310 and AR 9262, Conventions and Conference Attendance;

- Approved the revisions to BP 9262 and AR 9262, Complaints or Charges Against Employees;

- Ratified the list of amended signatories, effective July 1, 2008 and to remain in effect until subsequent action is taken by the Board of Education;

- Approved the 2008-09 operations application for the K-3 Class Size Reduction Program;

- Ratified the issuance of payroll orders for hourly, overtime, Civic Center work performed by classified personnel, Adult School, and Food Services through October 2008;

- Ratified purchase orders by the Purchasing Department;

- Ratified B warrants;

- Ratified the license agreement with the Administrative Office of the Courts for use of space (4th floor space of Division 9 in Rm. #413 at Downey Superior Court) for SARB hearings, effective Oct. 1, 2008 through June, 2009;

- Approved the 2008-09 Local Plan for the district's Career Technical Education program;

- Approved the change orders involving various work performed by an array of vendors doing construction/modernization at Warren and Downey High Schools

- Accepted as complete electrical, fencing, and concrete work performed by various contractors;

- Approved the adjustments of the 2008-09 budget for all funds to reflect the 2007-08 ending Unaudited Actuals in the 2008-09 beginning budget;

- Approved the adjustments (increases) in the unrestricted and restricted budgets of the 2008-09 General Fund;

- Approved the adjustment of the 2008-09 Adult Education Fund restricted budget, which does not affect the fund balance;

- Approved the transfer of \$1,100,000 from the General Fund to the Deferred Maintenance Fund;

- Approved the transfer of \$5,060,036 from the Unrestricted General Fund to the Restricted General Fund (Special Education) for the 2008-09 special education ADA contribution;

- Approved the purchase of equipment according to established purchasing policies and regulations;

- Approved routine Personnel items until subsequent action is taken by the Board of Education;

- Authorized the service of a DHS biology teacher who, records show, has completed the minimum coursework for the teaching of subjects not listed on their credentials, pursuant to Education Code Section 44263;

- Authorized the approval of the Committee on Assignments to approve teaching assignments based on a teacher's special skills and preparation outside his/her credential authorization area, for a period of one year, unless extended for an additional period of time;

- Ratified the abolishment of two vacant Senior Instructional Assistant positions, one at Price Elementary School, the other at Griffiths Middle School, as the need for them has ceased;

- Approved the formal abolishment of 12 vacant classified positions which were initially frozen due to the district budget cuts last May, in concurrence with the bargaining unit, but have now been eliminated due to budget restructuring induced by further state budget cuts;

- Ratified the establishment of limited-term positions, with duties similar to a Senior Instructional Assistant classification, assigned to Downey Adult School, Sussman Middle School and East Middle School;

- Reviewed the proposed revisions to AR 1221.1, "Use of School Facilities – Type of Use";

- Reviewed the proposed revisions to AR 4121.1, "Administrators' Substitute Coverage";

- Reviewed the proposed revisions to AR 5260, "Senior Management Positions";

- Received the 2007-08 Annual Report; and

- Endorsed the actions taken by the superintendent on all student cases.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at the Gallegos Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave.



John Lacey was honored Tuesday by the Downey Unified School District for seven years "of dedicated service to DUSD classified" employees. Lacey, left, is shown with Board President Tod Corrin.



Downey High School English teacher and counselor Nicole Gunnette was honored Tuesday for her work with students, particularly those "at-risk."



Janice Hobson, principal of Price Elementary School, won Superintendent's Vision Award in the area of instruction. Hobson started with DUSD in 1976.

Teen earns Eagle Scout honor

DOWNEY – Jacob Michael, a 16-year-old junior at Downey High School, has completed the requirements to become an Eagle Scout.

In earning the award, Michael earned 21 merit badges in areas such as citizenship in the nation and community, camping, environmental science, and lifesaving.

His Eagle Scout project made various improvements to the Downey High School campus, including rebuilding the Victory Bell tower. Michael serves on the school's ASB and is also a member of the lacrosse team.

Michael's Eagle Scout Court of Honor will take place Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 10511 Paramount Blvd.

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Seminarian at OLPH as intern

DOWNEY – Seminarians from St. John's Seminary in Camarillo are working at Catholic parishes throughout the region in 10-month internships. These seminarians are involved in all aspects of parish life, including service to the elderly, homebound, sick or struggling during the current economic crisis.

In Downey, Michael Perucho will be serving Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

"These internships form a vital part of the education and what we call pastoral formation of those preparing for service as priests," said Mary Leanne Hubbard, director of field education and pastoral formation at St. John's Seminary. "The quality of the experience is something they can't find in a book. The added benefit to the community is that we provide services to enhance the life of parishes, including service to those most in need."

Perucho is from San Jose. He began at OLPH on Aug. 29 and will continue through next May. During this time, the seminarian learns from the pastor and others on the parish staff, works closely with an Internship Advisory Board made up of members of the parish community, and gains a deeper understanding of the joys and challenges of a life of ministry.

"Our internship program is an outstanding part of our process of preparing future priests, linking the seminary and the communities we serve," said Monsignor Craig A. Cox, rector/president at St. John's. "This 'real-world' experience is something to which all of our seminarians look forward. After internship, they come back invigorated, more sensitive of the needs of people, more eager to serve, and more aware of the importance of learning and developing additional skills to make them more effective in their service."

"We are grateful to the parish and community of Downey for the opportunity to have a seminarian serve here."

Messiah collecting new blankets

DOWNEY – Messiah Lutheran Church will be collecting new and gently used blankets of any size at a Thanksgiving Eve service at 7 p.m.

The blankets will be donated to an orphanage in Mexico. Messiah Lutheran Church is at 10711 Paramount Blvd.

Church feeding the homeless Sunday

DOWNEY – The Love, Peace and Happiness Church in Downey is hosting their annual Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner this Sunday after their 10 a.m. worship service.

The meal is free and offered to the homeless and "hurting."

The church is at 11022 Old River School Rd., north of Firestone Boulevard. The community is also invited to the service.

Thanksgiving storytime at library

DOWNEY – Preschool children ages 3-5 and their parents can celebrate Thanksgiving at a special storytime at the Downey City Library this Tuesday from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Children's Librarian Gina Orello will present stories about family, friends and the traditional day of giving thanks.

A bilingual storytime in Spanish and English will also be offered Nov. 26 at 10:30 a.m.

For more information on free programs for kids, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 4.

Catholic girls recognized for faith

DOWNEY – A number of young ladies from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and St. Raymond's Catholic Church were recognized at the 50th annual Religious Recognitions Liturgy and Medal Presentation held Nov. 15.

Cardinal Roger Mahony presided over the ceremony.

Girls who were awarded the Marian Medal include: Carina Barbosa, Claribel Castanos, Andrea Gamboz, Gillian Miguel, Marissa Santana, Bonnie Shilling, Jessica Wiese and Jenna Wilson.

The Marian Medal program is designed to provide Girls Scouts (ages 12-15) an opportunity "to understand and grow in appreciation of Mary as a model of openness, spirituality, and as a woman of the Church."

The girls worked for about 10 months on more than 30 spiritual, cultural and community service projects to earn their medals.

Receiving the I Live My Faith Award were: Nicolette Aguilar, Carolina Barbosa, Sabrina Canales, Elena Santana, Emily Torres, Samantha Altmann, Dilusha DeSilva, Erin Ellingson, Vanessa Garcia, Amber Gutierrez, Ana Christina Murillo, Yamileth Oriheula, Marlene Palafox and Allison Palmer.

The I Live My Faith program helps Girl Scouts (ages 9-12) "appreciate more deeply the place that God and religion occupy in their daily life."

Lastly, Stacey Charlton and Renee Santana were awarded the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal in recognition of their service to Catholic youth. The national award is given to adults who have mentored children in service organizations and have contributed to their spiritual development.

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The deadline is December 18. Call (562) 863-5350 for more information.

(Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women, working to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.)

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Brett W. Forman, a 2005 graduate of Downey High School, graduated from the Los Angeles Police Academy on Sept. 12. Forman was selected as a squad leader for his leadership abilities and received an award for individual achievement and superior performance. Forman, who graduated from Rio Hondo College earlier this year, is a third generation member of the LAPD. His grandfather, William T. Forman, completed 25 years of service and his father, William L. Forman, recently retired after completing 36 years with the LAPD.

Straight-A middle schoolers get Stauffer Scholar awards

By HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY — One hundred fifty-nine straight-A DUSD middle school students received their Stauffer Scholars awards from the Mary R. Stauffer Foundation on Nov. 5 and 6, to enable them to start or add to their already-in-place ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan.

The checks handed out over the two evenings, which generated excitement and pride especially among the parents, totaled over \$20,000. Dr. Stauffer personally handed the checks over to the students, with an assist from several district administrators and school counselors. She once again affirmed that "Education is the best investment that you could ever make."

Retired DUSD administrator Linda Kennedy, who is the former director of curriculum and instruction, was also present. She discussed the benefits of starting a college savings plan early, so children/families will be financially ready to start college when the time comes. She also described the application process for the 529 ScholarShare plan.

DUSD board president Tod Corrin and boardmember Bobbie Samperi, serving as inspirational speakers, spoke on the importance of attending college.

The majority of the high-achieving middle schoolers received \$100 checks, while a select 13, named Stauffer Scholars of the Year 2007-08, were given \$500 each. These 13 scholars' names will also be engraved on their school's perpetual plaque. The plaque will hang at the respective school site.

The 13: Corinda Hayes, East; Camila Reyes-Martinez, Griffiths;

New community band is organizing

DOWNEY – Warren High School band director Dave Niemeyer, with the help of school alumni, is organizing a new community band featuring brass, woodwind and percussion instruments.

The band will prepare and perform all types of wind literature, ranging from standards to transcriptions to new newly-released works for wind band.

Practices will be held inside Warren High School's band room Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

"There is no fee to join – this band is for anyone in the community who would like to dust off their musical chops and enjoy bringing great music to life through friendship and great music making," Niemeyer said.

The first practice will take place Dec. 3. The band room is located in the football stadium building. Visitors should park in the main parking lot off Paramount Boulevard. The band room is the first room on the second floor. An elevator is available for those who need assistance.

Niemeyer will provide all percussion instruments, music, chairs, and stands. Most wind instruments will not be provided.

For more information, call Anna at (562) 413-0033 or Lesly at (562) 419-5253. Information is also available online at www.myspace.com/downeycb.

Warren presenting Winter Concert

DOWNEY – The Warren High School Instrumental Department will present its annual Winter Concert at the Downey Theatre on Dec. 16.

The show is put together annually by Warren's band unit, and features both holiday and non-traditional works.

"Take time to come see and hear what great things are going on with your local high school band," said Dave Niemeyer, band director. "You won't be disappointed – I promise you. This is the perfect way to get into the spirit of the holiday season."

The concert begins at 7 p.m. Scheduled to perform are Jazz I (advanced jazz ensemble), Jazz II (intermediate jazz ensemble), Symphonic Band (a 106-piece wind band), Brass Quintet (a classical quintet formed by Warren student musicians), and 411 (a jazz quintet).

Tickets are \$7 presale or \$10 at the door. For tickets, e-mail Niemeyer at dniemeyer@dusd.net or call (562) 869-7306, ext. 5616.

Cristina Lee-Castro, Sussman; Jared Topacio, West; Antonio Arriaga, Carpenter; Danielle Rivas, Gallatin; Karina Gonzalez, Gauldin; Calyn Herrington, Lewis; Adrian Fajardo, Old River; Robyn Corapi, Price; Pedro Sanchez, Rio Hondo; Andrew Lopez, Rio San Gabriel; and Stephen Robbins, Jr., Unsworth.

The Stauffer Scholars Program is acknowledged as one of the many ways in which philanthropist Dr. Mary Stauffer continues to support the district and its students.

Denise Takano, director of elementary education and teacher support programs, was the program facilitator both evenings. Senior Secretary Ana Thorne was given special recognition for her "excellent work" in coordinating the entire application process and preparing the certificates for the students.

Tree lighting ceremony Dec. 8

DOWNEY – The city of Downey will host their annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 8 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. outside City Hall.

The free event will feature entertainment from local schools, arts and crafts for children, a snow play area, raffle, and a visit from Santa Claus. Hot chocolate and other treats will be sold by the Downey Rose Float Association.

The Christmas tree will be lit at 6:30 p.m. The community is invited to attend. For more information, call (562) 904-1895.

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Kirkwood named parade marshal

DOWNEY – Business owner and community leader Dr. Bill Kirkwood has been named parade marshal of the Dec. 12 Holiday Lane Parade.

Parade chairman Maria Larkin made the announcement this week.

Dr. Bill and Connie Kirkwood have spent their lives in Downey graduating from all three levels of public school, including Downey High School. Bill has a B.A. degree from Long Beach State University in Philosophy. He completed his master's work at Pepperdine University in Clinical Psychology and his Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in Counseling. He did an internship at Metropolitan State Hospital and acquired the title of acting staff Psychologist at the Day-Night Treatment Center.

He moved to private practice in Hollywood for a number of years in the late 60s and early 70s.

In the early 1970's Bill Kirkwood was part of the Downey Unified School District's Curriculum Development team under the leadership of Dr. Manuel Gallegos. Also, in the early 70's, he was a chairman of the DUSD committee for the restructuring of K-3 elementary programs, a position he held for three years.

During this period, he enjoyed setting up and owning an art gallery and studio in Downey to promote his friend, Canadian artist William Alexander. In the process he designed and wrote "The Magic of Oil Painting" and arranged a television series with the same title on PBS, which ran for a number of years.

Bill and Connie operated the Downey Child Care Center and Kirkwood Educational Center from 1966-2004. In 2004, the schools became Kirkwood Christian Schools, a Christian non-profit organization.

Over the past 30-plus years, Kirkwood and his education team have developed a completely, individualized education program with continuums both in the affective and cognitive domain. Through the years, more than 300 student books have been written and most components of the program are in the third or fourth generation of development. The program "Pathways to Success" will be ready for Internet launch in 2010.

Kirkwood has been a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Downey holding many of its offices directorships. He was honored by the Rotary Club with the "Service Above Self" award in 1989. During the 1990's, he served with the late Dr. Jordan Phillips on the Rotary "Give of Yourself" organ donor program.

He was a founding member of Gangs Out of Downey with Phil Presicci, Betty Ferraro, Stan Hanstad, Dr. Ed Sussman, and Police Chief Clayton Mayes. For the past 15 years, Kirkwood has been honored to serve as a member of the YMCA committee for preschool and youth programs. In 1994 he was given an award for excellence by the Downey Unified School District's Administrators' Association in appreciation for his service to the youth of Downey. In 2006 he was honored with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to education by the Association of Christian Schools International.

Connie is a member of the Gypsy Johnson Auxiliary of the Assistance League, serving as chair of the Hospitality Committee. The Kirkwoods have been active in numerous Christian and church organizations.

The Kirkwoods have three daughters: Sandy Rivers who lives in Tucson, Ariz., Marji Kirkwood Huss who is a public defender in Orange County and CFO of Kirkwood Christian Schools, and Jennifer Hartl who



Dr. Bill Kirkwood, with wife Connie, has been named parade marshal of this year's Holiday Lane Parade, scheduled Dec. 7 along Downey Avenue.



Rachel Spinosa, a 5-year-old student at Rio San Gabriel Elementary, was the winner of a raffle to ride in the Holiday Lane Parade on Dec. 7, the Downey Chamber of Commerce announced this week. Rachel beat out 100 entrants to win the prize, according to the Chamber. Rachel is the granddaughter of parade chairman Maria Larkin.

has a Masters from Talbot Theological Seminary and is the principal and CEO of Kirkwood Christian Schools.

"I'm just so honored to have the Kirkwoods ride in our parade," Larkin said. "Three of my grandchildren went through their pre-schools and after-school centers."

POET'S CORNER

The Old Man: Ode to the old bum on the street

The old man has no home to go
No family, friends or love
He lives under a bridge somewhere
Forgets, forgets it by the jug.

His skin hugs tight against his bones
Fingers shake but not from fears
His teeth are rotted; falling out
Forgets, forgets it by the beers.

His hopes and dreams slipped out of reach
consumed and drowned in apathy
Talks of wars that happened not
Forgets, forgets true memory.

His eyes are black and sightless
Stumbles, limps and trips
He has no sense of coordination
Forgets, forgets it by the sips.

The old man sees through sympathy
He knows that people think
he's worthless slum, immoral.
Forgets, forgets it by the drink.

Sometimes the old man weeps and cries
Those tears he cannot fight
From where he does not know it hurts
Forgets, forgets it by the night.

Mumbles aloud but no ones there
Hoping one heeds while he nags
But not one soul cares to stop
Forgets, forgets it by the drags.

Once there was a pretty woman
He loved but soon he'd lose
Took her for granted, hurt her heart
Forgets, forgets her by the booze.

Alone and cold with self disdain
Mercy absent, closed his eyes
Waiting for alleviation
Forgets, forgets until he dies.

—Jenerous,
Downey

Holiday home tour Dec. 14

DOWNEY – Residents will have a chance to tour four beautifully decorated Downey homes when the San Antonio Guild of Childrens Hospital Los Angeles again hosts their holiday home tour on Dec. 14.

Tours will be given from 1 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at Saywell Florist or most local beauty salons. To order by mail, send a check to SAG Home Tour, 7860 Baysinger St., Downey, CA 90241.

For more information, or to become a boutique vendor, call (562) 927-8511.

Woman's Club going to Pechanga

DOWNEY – The Woman's Club of Downey is sponsoring a bus trip to the Pechanga Resort and Casino on Dec. 1.

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

Guests must be at least 21 to attend. For reservations, call Jeanine Keys at (562) 923-6620 or Doris Patterson at (562) 869-0377.

Make your own tree ornament

DOWNEY – A holiday ornament workshop will be hosted at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center tonight from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Participants will make five unique ornaments provided and taught by Color Me Mine of Whittier. Ornaments will be ready for pick-up one week from the class end. Cost is \$25 per person.

The class will also be taught Dec. 12.

Contest opens for holiday decorations

DOWNEY – Contest registration forms are still being accepted for the annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest in Downey.

Categories include: Best Use of Lights, Lawn/Roof Display, Window Display, Animated Display, Religious Display, Handcrafted Display, and Total Display.

City-wide awards will also be presented for the following themes: Holiday Splendor, Santa's Award, Christmas Magic, and Sugar Plum Award.

Entry deadline is Dec. 11. Judging will take place Dec. 15 from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m.

For more information, call the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center at (562) 904-7223.

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YOUR HOMETOWN
COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

The Downey Patriot

Word of MOUTH
by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.

It may surprise you to know that more than six hundred bacteria live in the human mouth. As you might imagine, these bacteria have the potential to cause various problems, from tooth decay to bad breath to gum disease. With this in mind, it is important to identify unrecognized species of mouth bacteria if we are to find more effective ways of preventing and treating oral diseases. Thus, it comes as good news that British researchers have identified a new species of bacteria that may be associated with tooth decay and gum disease. In fact, the researchers found three new strains of *Prevotella histicola* bacteria inside the fresh lining of the mouth. The new finding may help combat periodontitis.

This column on "oral bacteria" has been brought to you in the interest of better oral health. Our office provides a full range of services which can be tailored to your individual needs. We are dedicated to your comfort and satisfaction. We recommend regular checkups, periodic cleaning, and x-rays when needed. Our purpose is to help people reach and commit to the highest level of dental health personally appropriate to them. We're located at 10800 Paramount Blvd., Suite 307, where we believe regular dental care is one of the best investments you will ever make. To schedule an appointment, please call (562) 923-3714. Smiles are our business.

P.S. In addition to removing tartar and bacteria from tooth surfaces and beneath the gums, antibiotics and other medications may be used to treat periodontitis.

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Ah, tradition

By Eric Pierce

I'm not much in the mood to write anything provocative, stimulating or thought-provoking. It's the holidays, darn it, and it's time to have a little fun.

At this time next week, I have every intention of being in a full-fledged food coma, sprawled out on my couch, unable (and unwilling) to move, remnants of my mom's homemade cranberry sauce dribbling from my chin.

Sorry for the visual.

It's family tradition at my mom's house, to eat so much on Thanksgiving our kidneys almost explode. Our eyes glaze over, our stomachs expand, and we substitute jeans and slacks for stretchable sweatpants.

At some point, I feel I can't eat any more. But I have to continue.

It's the only tradition my family still enjoys.

Apple pie, pumpkin pie, strawberry pie, pecan pie, and a special sugar-free pie for my diabetic uncle. (Nobody will touch the sugar-free pie for weeks.) All topped with whipped cream and a slathering of vanilla ice cream.

When we're finished, it's off to the couch to watch the Dallas Cowboys on TV. But their running makes us nauseous, and inevitably we change the channel to "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving."

We fall asleep half-way through.

But we can't sleep too long. Soon, we're expected at my aunt and uncle's house in Pico Rivera, where we'll gather around the TV in a sleepy daze.

We're full, stuffed, completely and utterly gorged from the food.

And now it's time for dessert.

Making sure everyone counts

By Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34) and James T. Christy, Regional Director, U.S. Census Bureau

Every 10 years, the United States is required by the U.S. Constitution to carry out a census — a concerted attempt to count everyone living in our country. When the first census was conducted more than 218 years ago, U.S. marshals on horseback counted 3.9 million people. Since that time, the most recent 2000 census revealed our great nation has grown to more than 281 million people.

So why is it important to keep track of this and other important demographic information collected by the census? The data are used to distribute congressional seats to states and to enable local, state and federal representatives to accurately identify the needs of our communities and nation and plan for our future.

The federal government alone allocates an estimated \$300 billion every year in federal funds to state, local and tribal governments based on census data. These dollars are crucial for community programs and services such as education, housing and community development, health care services for the elderly, job training, roads and highways, business development and more. For example, the U.S. Department of Education uses census age data to allocate funding to states based on the number of school-aged children. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs uses age data to project the need for hospitals and nursing homes for aging veterans in our communities.

A precise count is critical to the future of Southern California. In addition to federal spending allocations, the data are used to make many local decisions about the location of schools, fire stations, retail outlets, businesses, and other community services. This is an important reason for everyone to fill out their census form immediately after it is mailed to their homes in March, 2010. The forms are due back to the Census Bureau by Census Day, April 1, 2010. After that, Census Bureau enumerators will begin visiting each household with outstanding forms to offer personal assistance. The bureau's exhaustive efforts, by mail and in person, are crucial to fulfilling its ultimate mission of completing a timely and accurate portrait of our nation and its people.

The 2010 Census is quick and simple. Estimated to take only 10 minutes to complete, the census questionnaire is the shortest in history. It will ask only seven questions: name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether the householder owns or rents their home. When answering these questions, it is very important to remember that, by federal law, all census information is kept strictly confidential.

The census also brings opportunities for employment. To accomplish the massive task of taking a census, the U.S. Census Bureau will hire tens of thousands of workers throughout Southern California. Over the next year, there will be positions available for workers with a wide range of skills — from seasoned managers serving as executives to people new to the workforce. An essential part of getting a good census count is hiring local people to work in their neighborhoods. We encourage people throughout Southern California to read more about Census Bureau job opportunities at www.2010CensusJobs.com and help spread the word about employment opportunities with the census available now and in future months.

It is never too early to highlight the importance of completing your census form. Some of the hardest to count communities are the ones that stand to lose the most by not participating in the census. Whether you can walk door to door to help others fill out the short form or simply take the 10 minutes to complete your own survey, every person in our country needs to take an active role in the 2010 Census. For the future of our country and our communities, we all need to be counted.

Letters to the Editor:

Space Center is awesome

Dear Editor:

The dedication of the Downey Memorial Space Center is the most awesome thing to happen in Downey since my husband, our two little daughters and I moved to Downey in August 1950. What a wonderful accomplishment for our city.

I wish to thank the Aerospace Legacy Foundation who planted the seed for it to be built on the site where our space exploration began. I appreciate the city of Downey and the many council members who made this dream become a reality.

Now I can hardly wait for it to open in January 2009 and see the excitement in the eyes of all the children who will be coming through its doors.

— Cleo Latimer,
Downey

Response from DRMC

Dear Editor:

In his letter to the *Patriot* of Nov. 14, Donn Irving raises the issue of how Downey Regional Medical Center will go about addressing the seismic upgrade construction required by state law for the year 2020 ("Shaky Numbers").

He raises salient points about the practical and financial constraints on the hospital and the issues we must confront in the next 11 years. Some of his points are indeed the ones that keep me up nights. But there is a very well-planned and bright outlook for our future that I would like to share.

First, let's get some facts in place. The Charter Ball is not going to be the vehicle to raise money for a replacement hospital; it has been better directed in its last iteration at raising money for needed medical equipment. We are very grateful to the community for the support we received.

As for the seismic compliance construction, we have been working diligently on moving forward in planning for the needed replacement facilities for several years. We have comprehensive plans in place and are beginning to execute on them. In our planning we have engaged a world-class architectural firm, SWA of Pasadena, to assist in our work.

The costs of a replacement hospital are difficult to estimate since there are shortages of materials and experienced technical construction and engineering personnel at all levels of the process. We shall see what the future brings. For ballpark figures, we are estimating the full cost of a full replacement hospital now to be in excess of \$300 million.

Since about half of our current facility does comply with new seismic codes, our planning calls for construction to occur in stages over a 15-year period, with the initial stages replacing the half of the facility that is not compliant with new seismic code. So in the closer-in time frame, we are looking at about \$150 million in costs to upgrade the hospital.

The current credit crisis in the judgment of our financial professionals is an unfortunate but relatively short-term event. We won't be going to market to borrow money for the project for another year or two, so we are hopeful that liquidity will have returned to the capital markets by the time we need to access them.

We strongly believe that we have made much progress over the past couple of years in fixing our internal financial funk and in addressing the external impacts of the closure of nearby hospitals. We are confident in planning on producing enough annual "EBIDA" — the accounting term for cash flow from operations that can support borrowing — to take on the required capital obligations the hospital needs in order to be able to replace half, and then eventually all, of our facility as our now 39-year-old core buildings reach the end of their useful life over the next couple of decades.

Finally, we are also hopeful in attracting community support and major benefactors to reduce our reliance on the capital markets and make the costs of the replacement hospital more reasonable. The fine physicians, nurses and staff who work tirelessly to provide health care to this community are very deserving of everyone's support. They make a tremendous difference in thousands of peoples lives every month.

The clinical people who work at Downey Regional are truly among the finest anywhere; they and the community deserve the best facility and equipment we can provide. While I can't guarantee an exact day for the commencement of construction of our new hospital, the one thing I do know with certainty is that Downey Regional's patients will continue to receive the best healthcare the country has to offer in whatever building we happen to be occupying.

— Rob Fuller,
Executive Vice President and COO
Downey Regional Medical Center



Puppy problems

Dear Editor:

On Sunday, Nov. 16, I went with my father to pick up something from his small puppy business in Compton. When leaving, we happened to see an emaciated puppy about two weeks old, blind in both eyes. We picked him up, as any humane person would do, and decided to take him to the SEAACA animal shelter that was right by where we live in Downey.

When we arrived, the poor puppy was almost dying and a cruel, pitiless worker refused to take him because he was not from the city of Downey. She had the nerve to tell me to get off the property or she would summon the police.

One would think that animal shelters are here to take in animals, not disregard them and leave them to die on the streets.

After having to go to another animal shelter in South Gate and having the people there refuse this ailing puppy as well, I had had enough.

To the workers at the SEAACA animal shelter, shame on you and I know that the civilized people of Downey will put a cease to this incompetence and barbaric nature.

— A. Sandoval,
Downey

Keep jobs in America

Dear Editor:

Automakers are going to receive \$25 billion in loans that Congress passed in September to build cars in other countries. Now this November, they want another \$50 billion.

Congress should stipulate where the automakers should be building cars: here in America, not other countries. We need more jobs here in America!

— Mike Sandoval,
Downey

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

What would you ask an ancestor?

WHITTIER — The Whittier Area Genealogical Society will meet Dec. 20 at the Masonic Lodge in Whittier at 1 p.m.

The meeting will consist of several members talking about sharing a dinner with an ancestor and what questions they would ask.

Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information, call (562) 941-3184.

This year, say 'no' to the turkey

By Mark Hawthorne

Thanksgiving is fast approaching, and soon our dinner tables will be groaning with enough food to feed the Vienna Boys' Choir. Many of us will spend November 27th baking pumpkin pies, dinner rolls and sweet potatoes, while vowing to begin our diets on the 28th. And, of course, let's not forget the turkey, that traditional centerpiece of Thanksgiving dinners for generations. All across the country, an estimated 45 million turkeys will be stuffed, basted and roasted.

But there are those among us who will be celebrating a turkey-free Thanksgiving. As increasing numbers of individuals become aware of the cruelties involved in today's confinement-oriented animal agriculture, more people choose to pull support from these abusive industries and are leaving meat, eggs and dairy products out of the grocery cart. The physical and psychological abuse inherent in poultry factory farming means that turkeys raised for food spend their days in overcrowded warehouse-type sheds with tens of thousands of other animals. These plants emphasize high volume and profit with minimal regard for human health, food safety, and humane treatment of animals or the environment. Not exactly something to give thanks for.

The federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, which stipulates that animals raised for food be "rendered insensible to pain" before being killed, excludes poultry, despite that fact that more birds are killed than any other animal and, obvious to even a child, each one feels pain and suffers. Consequently, there is no federal protection for the 9 billion chickens and turkeys killed every year in the United States—95 percent of all animals killed for food in this country. While state laws exist, these are rarely enforced.

Yet the average consumer knows nothing about this or of factory farm conditions. By the time a turkey arrives in the frozen-food section of our neighborhood markets, he or she has literally been through a house of horrors. Hatched in an incubator, mass-produced turkeys know nothing of a caring mother. While the birds are young, workers amputate the turkeys' toes and use a hot blade to burn off the tips of their beaks—both without

painkillers—causing such physical disabilities that eating, walking and even standing are often painful.

Denied access to the outdoors, factory-farmed turkeys are not allowed to indulge in natural behaviors like foraging for their food, roosting or even raising their young. Instead, these birds spend their brief lives living in their own excrement, as their eyes burn from the noxious ammonia permeating the sheds.

When they've reached market weight, the turkeys are grabbed by catchers, packed into crates and loaded onto a truck. They travel for hours without food, water or protection from the elements to the slaughter plant, where they are shackled upside-down to a moving rail. Many slaughter plants first stun the birds in electrified water to immobilize them; however, the electrical current is often lower than what is required to render the birds unconscious because of concerns that excess electricity might damage the carcasses and diminish their value.

Consequently, many turkeys are dismembered while fully conscious. Butchered, plucked, cleaned and wrapped, the frozen turkey carcasses you see in the market have been stripped of all that made them individuals.

As historian Rynn Berry points out, the first Thanksgiving dinner in 1621 was primarily a vegetarian feast consisting of nuts, corn-meal mush, gooseberries, strawberries, cranberries, plums and cherries. There was also a variety of breads and perhaps even squash and pumpkins. Dessert was popcorn balls covered in maple syrup. Any meat served was a side dish—and it probably was not turkey.

So, why not observe Thanksgiving the way the colonists and Native Americans did? Say "no" to the turkey or other meat and choose the variety of delicious vegetarian fare available to us. You'll enjoy a more colorful, creative holiday, and you'll be celebrating with compassion. Visit sites like www.GoVeg.com and www.TryVeg.com to learn how easy it is.

Mark Hawthorne is the author of *Striking at the Roots: A Practical Guide to Animal Activism* (O Books).

The Downey Patriot

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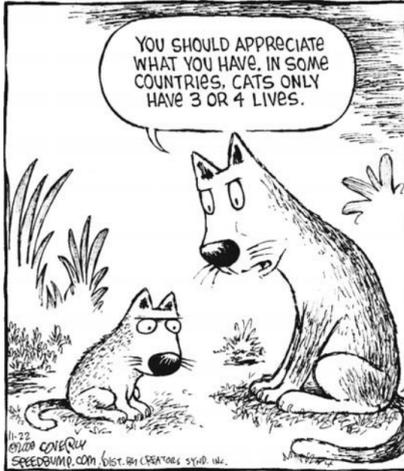
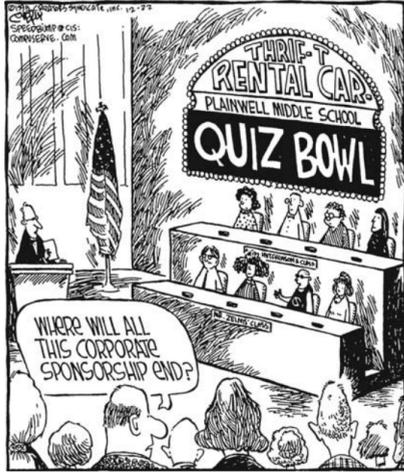
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**The Downey Patriot office will be closed
Thursday 11/27 & Friday 11/28. Regular delivery will not be affected.**

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For November

- Fri. Nov. 21: **Holiday ornament workshop**, Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Fri. Nov. 21: **CIF football playoffs**, Santa Monica at Warren High School, 7 p.m.
- Mon. Nov. 24: **Interfaith church service**, Temple Ner Tamid, 7 p.m.
- Tues. Nov. 25: **Thanksgiving storjtime**, Downey City Library, 10:30 a.m.

City Meetings

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

- 9 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Vince Zoida at (714) 761-4439.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Adventure with the Bible**, at the First Baptist Church call 928-4153.
- 12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information call Darren Dunaway at 806-5400.
- 12 p.m.: **Exchange Club of Downey**, at Sizzler, for information call Don Hollister at 927-5871.
- 6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call 928-2658.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 441**, at Apollo Park Activities Room, for information call 923-3659.
- 2nd & 3rd 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.: **After-Care Post Cancer Therapy Group**, for information call 923-4800.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Sister Cities Ass'n**, at Maude Price School, Call 862-7197.
- 2nd Weds., 11:45 a.m. - **Downey Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos CC, Call 927-8488.
- 2nd & 4th Weds., 11:00 a.m. - **AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley CC, Call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
- 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park, 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.

Thursdays

- 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 Sambis', for information call Steve Allen at 622-7655.
- 12:30 p.m.: **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.
- 6:30 p.m.: **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.
- 7 p.m.: **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.
- 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.
- 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

Fridays

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

Saturdays

- 9 a.m.: **Farmers Market**, Second Street at New Avenue, for information call (562) 904-7246.

Sundays

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

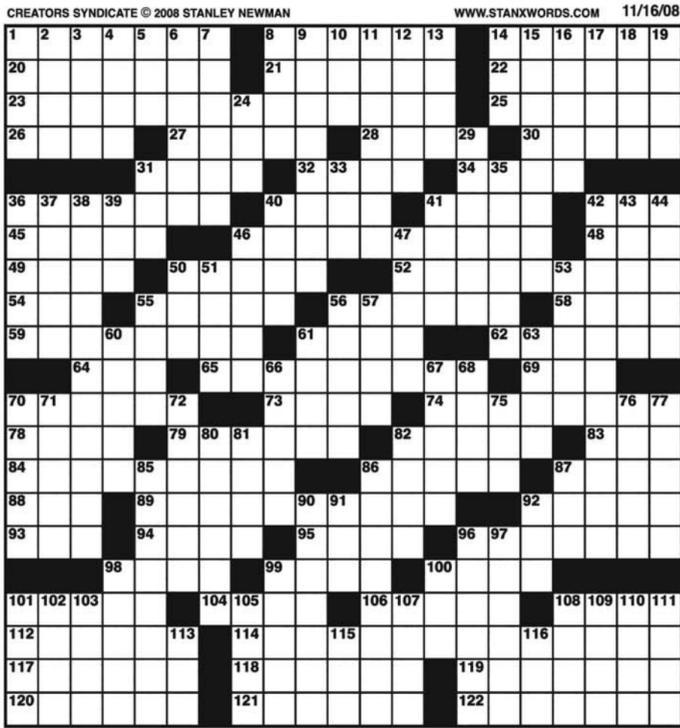
On This Day...

- Nov. 21, 1789: North Carolina ratifies the U.S. Constitution, the 12th state to do so.
- 1877: Thomas Edison releases the phonograph.
- 1920: Hall of fame baseball player Stan Musial is born. Also born Nov. 21: Earl Monroe (64), Goldie Hawn (63), Nicollette Sheridan (45), Bjork (43), Troy Aikman (42), Ken Griffey Jr. (39) Michael Strahan (37).
- 1980: A fire at the MGM Grand casino in Las Vegas kills 87 people.
- 2004: Donald Trump's empire of casinos files for bankruptcy.
- 2004: The Indiana Pacers' Ron Artest is suspended the remainder of the season for charging into the crowd and brawling with fans at a Detroit Pistons game.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
GRAND SLAM: Oscar/Emmy/Tony/Grammy winners
 by Fred Piscop

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rio de _ (Buenos Aires' river)
 - 8 A Musketeer
 - 14 Bites hard
 - 20 "No fooling!"
 - 21 Fine wool
 - 22 "It wasn't mel," e.g.
 - 23 "The Way We Were" composer
 - 25 Crib plaything
 - 26 Poker-pot starter
 - 27 Après-ski drink
 - 28 Cambodia neighbor
 - 30 Overdid the TLC
 - 31 Jacks or hearts
 - 32 Noggin
 - 34 50+ org.
 - 36 Camp _ (Marine base)
 - 40 Lucie's brother
 - 41 WWII journalist
 - 42 A thousand G's
 - 45 Piano-key wood
 - 46 Airport star
 - 48 Roth plan
 - 49 '70s tennis star
 - 50 Detroit NFL team
 - 52 Catches, then passes
 - 54 Hill bigwig: Abbr.
 - 55 Crooning cowboy
 - 56 Least possible
 - 58 Steam outlet
 - 59 Wolfs down
 - 61 Snooty attitude
 - 62 Places for book titles
 - 64 Charged atom
 - 65 *The Producers* author/composer
 - 69 Boxer Laila
 - 70 Big Apple opera venue
 - 73 O'Neill title trees
 - 74 Draws, as a magnet
 - 78 Cry of distress
- DOWN**
- 1 Andean capital
 - 2 To _ (without exception)
 - 3 Smart-mouthed
 - 4 Wash up
 - 5 *Wheel of Fortune* purchase
 - 6 Destroyer, in Navy slang
 - 7 Not on the road
 - 8 Arsenal supply
 - 9 Gives a new name to
 - 10 *Exodus* protagonist
 - 11 Temporally lost
 - 12 Ancient Peruvian
 - 13 London district
 - 14 USN officer
 - 15 Car-seat attachment
 - 16 In the lead
 - 17 Ex-governor Romney
 - 18 Hardly rosy-cheeked
 - 19 Musher's need
 - 24 Air hero
 - 29 Approve
 - 31 Gal's date
 - 33 Suffix with legal
 - 35 Gives a heads-up to
 - 36 Renter's paper
 - 37 Jed Clampett portrayer
 - 38 *Arthur* star
 - 39 GPS reading
 - 40 Declare untrue
 - 41 Cobble, for example
 - 42 *The Graduate* director
 - 43 *Cara of Fame*
 - 44 Hangs in there
 - 46 Gymnastics apparatus
 - 47 "In what way?"
 - 50 Big galoot
 - 51 Tabloids twosome
 - 53 St. Teresa's city
 - 55 "Rule, Britannia" composer
 - 56 Lawyers' employers
 - 57 Cupid alias
 - 60 Get-up-and-go
 - 61 Up to the task
 - 63 Golf-scorecard numbers
 - 66 _ *Eat Cake* (Gershwin musical)
 - 67 (Infernal instrument)
 - 68 Economics datum
 - 70 Rolls radials
 - 71 Alpine girl of fiction
 - 72 Gauguin hangout
 - 75 Take a stab at
 - 76 Tall stories
 - 77 Stockholm native
 - 80 Deplane
 - 81 Part of UAR
 - 82 Scoop holder
 - 85 More lowbrow
 - 86 Leaves port
 - 87 Harm of soccer
 - 90 Lot size, perhaps
 - 91 Participate in crew
 - 92 JFK debate opponent
 - 96 Welds, as influence
 - 97 "We're full!"
 - 98 Nautical prefix
 - 99 Craftsperson
 - 100 Suffix for tank
 - 101 Blinds piece
 - 102 Use the kiddie pool
 - 103 Computer-screen symbol
 - 105 Timeline divisions
 - 107 Coffeehouse lineup
 - 108 Gets mellow
 - 109 New Age pianist John
 - 110 In alignment
 - 111 Stamp-issuing org.
 - 113 Boom-box inserts
 - 115 Actor Holbrook
 - 116 Crime-lab sample



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





Downey's Future Lawyers

By Samuel Yun, Intern

Mock trial teams from both Warren and Downey High Schools participated the past two weeks in the Los Angeles Countywide Mock Trial Competition hosted by the Constitutional Rights Foundation.

High schools from every part of Los Angeles County gathered at the Los Angeles courthouse to compete in a series of mock trials.

Both teams banded up to share the same bus for transportation, as well as to take an opportunity to get to know each other better. Although this year is the very first time Downey High School has had a team, Warren High School's was quick to make sure that Downey's team felt right at home.

"We had an absolutely wonderful time," said Ruth Tan, a senior at Downey who played the part of a witness. "Bussing with Warren was a great idea, and we had lots of fun together."

Mock Trial is a yearly competition held at the countywide, statewide, and national levels. Each year, a realistic and exciting case is given to high schools all over the United States.

Each team, which consists of attorneys, witnesses, and court officials, are to work just like real-life defense or prosecution teams and come up with "performances" that they take to real courthouses in Downtown Los Angeles. There, prosecution teams face off against defense teams, and vice versa. All teams work to win their respective positions on the case.

"The best part is everything is real. The only part of Mock Trial that is made up is the crime itself," said Rebecca Garrido, a junior at Warren who was an attorney this year. "That way, you get to work and experience the trial just like real lawyers, witnesses, and court officials would."

This year, the mock trials were based on an arson that occurred on the same night as a political rally.

This brought up the question of free speech. Students from all mock trial teams were given the opportunity to learn about the First Amendment, as well as debate in court about how this part of the Constitution should be interpreted, and whether the fires at the rally were

a form of constitutionally protected free speech and expression.

This debate was the job of the pre-trial attorneys, who examined past court cases/rulings as well as excerpts from the Constitution to come up with an argument, and present it in court right before the actual trial. Pre-trial attorneys also responded to argumentative questions made by the judge, and explain why their argument supported their team's position on the case.

"It was just a great experience, and I'm very happy that I decided to do Mock Trial this year. Not only did I have a lot of fun, but I learned a lot as well," said Tan.

"I see a bright future for both Warren and Downey's Mock Trial teams," said Deanna Kim, a sophomore at Warren who played the key witness. "We will definitely work with each other from now on."

Gears of War 2: Review

By Keysi Carrasco, Intern

On Nov. 7, the much anticipated sequel to one of the most popular third-person shooter games for the Xbox 360, "Gears of War 2," was released. Selling over 2 million copies thus far, the developers at Epic Games have exceeded the already high expectations for this game. "Gears of War 2" could arguably be one of the best shooters out there.

Picking up six months after the first game, the Locusts have become even more powerful. Cities have begun to sink and the COG soldiers are forced to take action in saving one of the last remaining cities, Jacinto.

As fans get through the game, they will notice some key adjustments. The cover system has been polished and now lets you cling to surfaces more accurately than before and the weapons have received a slight modification to make them even more balanced. The revival system has also been changed so that you can now crawl to safety when you're down, but this also means the enemy can now revive their own teammates, but

this shouldn't be a problem for you since you now have up to four ways of executing your enemies.

Before finishing off your opponent, you can now use the "A" button to grab the wounded foe and use him as a meat shield, giving you protection while still allowing you to use your pistol.

"Gears of War 2" is a great game to play with friends and now the cooperative system features drop-in support and allows you to have a different difficulty setting for each player.

Multiplayer has also been improved, adding support for up to 10 players instead of eight, 10 new maps, four new game modes and something that many people hoped for, less benefits for the host.

There is one multiplayer mode that really caught my interest. Horde allows you to jump in with four other players and fight against large packs of enemies that come in waves until everyone is dead. This exciting game mode will leave you tense and automatically hook you.

This 10 hour campaign brings forth great looking environments

and intense graphics that definitely makes the player enjoy the game even more.

While the cinematic score was heightened, the game left you watching and following different stories and developments that really lead no where. It would have been more satisfying if the plot was a bit more tied together and it did not have such a surprisingly flat ending.

There is, of course, going to be a sequel and we can only expect the next "Gears of War" to be as exciting and intense as the first two.



Photo courtesy of www.teamxbox.com.

Quantum of Solace Reviewed

By Bridget Sagrero, Intern

Yet another Bond movie came out this past Friday, with Daniel Craig as James Bond in "Quantum of Solace."

Opening with a car chase, the movie catches the audience's attention immediately, wondering what Bond has gotten himself into this time. "Quantum of Solace" is the sequel of "Casino Royale," in which Daniel Craig made his debut as the famous British secret agent.

We find Bond still mourning over the death of his love from the previous movie, and looking for revenge. This is a typical yet classic plot that not many would have thought Bond would ever have to face.

At the same time he has to deal with a power hungry environmentalist that has spies working for him everywhere, including in Bond's organization. Knowing there are more possible infiltrators, Bond is forced to pull even more strings to get to the bottom of it all. Along the way he gains help from Camille (Olga Kurylenko). At first Camille seemed to be a potential enemy with a hidden agenda. Later we find out she is also seeking revenge and is in a similar situation as Bond.

I think that this movie was by far very well-rated at PG-13. Bond is known to have his way with the ladies, but this movie did not overdo it with sexual content like previous movies, such as "Goldeneye" and "Tomorrow Never Dies." Bond is still perceived as a charmer but with



Photo courtesy of www.collider.com

more class in this film.

"Quantum of Solace" keeps the action level constant through the entire movie leaving the audience to wonder what other kinds of stunts are next. One thing the movie could have done better was its ending. The movie doesn't necessarily lead up to Bond finding the man who was held responsible for the death of his lost love, but when he does find him I think we were all left unsatisfied.

One would have expected more

to see the way Bond was killing everyone else through the movie. The ending might have been what cost this movie to be brought a notch down from the previous one.

As much as I believed Pierce Brosnan was a better Bond than Daniel Craig, and better looking, Daniel Craig did an excellent job in this film. I think with this movie he might bring some new 007 fans on board or drive some away.

Students have mixed feelings on Obama victory

By Michelle Müller, Intern

After the 44th president of the United States, Barack Hussein Obama was announced on Nov. 4, many people were full of delight and excitement. His place was made official after California was announced and put him over 270 in the electoral votes.

Around the world, this news brought many people together, including citizens from Obama's father's home country, Kenya. Americans were very excited to hear that Obama was the next president of this nation. This was a triumphant event for Obama and many feel that it presents a fresh start, which was needed. Many are optimistic about the changes Obama will make.

"I believe that if Obama surrounds himself with the right people and is determined to make a difference, he will make

a difference," said senior Reyna Piña.

Obama's election marked history in America. He is the first African American ever elected as president of the United States. His views and tactics of tackling the problems we face today made Americans feel confident that he was going to do a good job and pull America out of the challenges currently faced with.

Despite the tribulations that were faced throughout his campaign, the night concluded with a celebration nation wide, preceding Obama's acceptance speech.

While many renowned the events of this night, some were disappointed that John McCain had lost the battle against Obama and the fact that he lost electoral votes to the states that had always

voted for a republican candidate such as South Carolina. Many Americans were irate that McCain did not win and thought he was the one candidate who would make a difference.

"It would have been better in my view for a president with more conservative views to have been elected," said senior Nester Carrillo. "Many people are worried about the economy and I believe that the crisis is too great for Obama to fix with his policies."

Despite the struggles that African Americans faced in the past, this event proves that things can change. Americans are hopeful about the change that will take place now that Obama is going to be leading this country into a better state.

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Anonymous donor helps create new fitness center for students

By MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Taking on a surprising challenge by an anonymous donor enabled St. Matthias High School to open a new fitness center on Nov. 17.

Last March, when creating a wish list for the school's upgrade, Principal Margaret Meland asked for a renovated fitness facility to accommodate the female students. All that the school had was an old weight room designed for boys.

"We needed to redo the roof, the floor, the walls, the lights – pretty much everything," Meland said. "We needed to purchase fitness equipment that was proper for young women. The old equipment was too heavy and not appropriate for the needs of girls."

Meland's wish was realized after someone not associated with the school made a remarkable offer to donate \$25,000 if the school raised \$5,000.

Current and past faculty and staff members, parents, and students got busy donating and holding fundraisers as raising the funds became a focal point of the school. Local businesses also came forward to help meet the school's goal of raising the \$5,000.

"This person challenged us as a school community to reach a goal to match his donation. The incredible generosity of one person challenged others to see the dream and to participate in seeing the dream become a reality," Meland said. "This sense of accomplishment has allowed the community of St. Matthias High School to see that dreams can be accomplished when you have faith in God and faith in each other."

The building renovations were done primarily by the Daniel Murphy Foundation, and the new equipment includes treadmills, weights, floor mats, abdominal machines, and lifts.

"Although society registers a decline of a focus on health and fitness, it is wonderful that we in our school community will be able to better focus on fitness," Meland said. "Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and the church teaches us that we must care for our bodies and use all of our strength to spread the Gospel message. We are better prepared for the work that God has for us to do if we are strong in our faith and strong in our bodies."

The new fitness center and equipment is now being used by the St. Matthias High School's physical education classes and sports teams. In the future, the school also hopes to be able to share the facility with the facul-



A donor contributed \$25,000 towards the construction of a new fitness center at St. Matthias High School. The donor asked to remain anonymous. Photo by Mary Forney

ty and staff, parents, and the public.

"We are moving forward with visions for our community," Meland said. "The anonymous donor is not a person who had any connection to the school – like a student here or alum. The person never even really knew much about our school...he just saw the incredible job that is being done here to educate young women in faith, with the family and for the future."

"Seeing the amazing generosity of one person stepping forward to say 'I believe in your mission and vision for the school' has been tremendously humbling."

Ashley Vasquez mourned by family

DOWNEY – Ashley Vasquez, daughter of Henry and Angie, died suddenly on Nov. 10. She was 20.

Vasquez was born and raised in Downey. She attended Unsworth Elementary, Griffiths Middle School, Downey High School, and graduated from Columbus High School.

Her goal was to attain a degree in psychology. She spent her Sundays at her Nana's house for family gatherings.

She is survived by her Nana; sisters, Eileen and Valorie; brother-in-law, John Saxton; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, and nieces.

A service was held Monday at Bellflower Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was conducted by Vasquez's longtime counselors Bobby and Margie Estrada.

Burial followed at Rose Hills.

'Bart' Caselman was WWII gunner

DOWNEY – Arlis Samuel Caselman, known as "Bart" to most, passed away Nov. 6. He was 95.

Caselman was born March 30, 1913 in Bidville, Ark. He was married to Ila Rucks for 73 years.

Caselman was a World War II army veteran. He served in the 310th Infantry Lightning Division in Germany from 1944-46 as a mortar gunner.

He lived in the local area for more than 50 years. He retired from Crown Zellerbach Paper Co. in Commerce where he worked as a printing pressman for 31 years.

For more than 50 years, he attended Full Gospel Assembly of God Church in Bell Gardens. He was a deacon for several terms and also served the church in other areas as needed.

He was predeceased by his wife, Ila; son, James; five sisters, Ada Hair, Flora Satterfield, Nellie France, Florence Campbell and Alice Shader; and two brothers, Albert and Corwen.

He is survived by his daughter-in-law, Clidene, of Downey; granddaughter, Kimberly (Angel) Villalona, of New York; great-nephew, Jerry (Karen) Triska, of Oklahoma; great-grandchildren, Arthur (Gladys) of Arkansas and Bob (Dolly) of Hemet; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held Nov. 11 and services were held Nov. 12 at the Full Gospel Assembly of God Church. Burial was at Rose Hills.



Rose Parade tickets still available

DOWNEY – Grandstand tickets to the 120th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena are still available through the community center.

Tickets are \$67 and include transportation and seats. Guests must be at least 8 years old.

Tickets are available at the community center, 7810 Quill Dr.

Seniors invited to aging workshop

DOWNEY – Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital will present a free Nutrition and Successful Aging workshop for adults over age 50 at the community center on Dec. 8.

Cindea Trejo will host the workshop and provide information on dieting and exercising for healthy living. She will also speak on dietary intakes and supplements, antioxidants, and more.

The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. Pre-register by calling (562) 904-7223 or visit the community center before Dec. 4.

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Downey native performing at comedy festival

By MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Amid the TBS LOL Lounge comedy stars performing during The Comedy Festival at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas this weekend is Downey native Brian Haner.

Haner's comedy career has come to him as a surprise at age 50 and his new vocation started out amusing.

Born and raised in Downey, Haner was having fun playing a couple of humorous songs at Buster's Beach House in Long Beach in 2006 when he was approached by an agent who asked if he would like to perform in comedy clubs.

The former Downey High School student is now the opening act for comedian Jeff Dunham.

"I always thought I had a good sense of humor, but I didn't ever think I'd have a career in comedy," Haner said. "The songs I wrote were funny and somehow parlayed into comedy."

"Although I've been an entertainer for almost 30 years, this is like a Cinderella story in the comedy world. It's been a whirlwind."

Haner has always had musical aspirations, but they were of a more serious nature.

Given his first guitar at age 5, Haner joined his first local band when he was only 10 years old. At age 16, he began performing with the short-lived Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs.

Studying composition, music theory and orchestration at the Grove School of Music in Los Angeles, Haner signed a multi-record deal with Polydor Records at age 22. Performing under the pseudonym, The Brian West Band, the group certified gold in Scandinavia, but the band dissipated after touring Europe.

During the 1990's, Haner began working the L.A. club circuit and doing television and music scoring.

Married and passing his love of music onto his children, Haner's 27-year-old son Brian Haner Jr. has also found musical success as a member of the gold-record metal-rock band Avenged Sevenfold.

While Haner now lives in Corona, his family roots remain in Downey.

"I have many fond memories growing up in Downey," Haner said. "I used to have a paper route making about \$7 a month. We had lemonade stands and played hide and seek."

"But in high school, I was voted most likely to do time."

Haner's performance at The Comedy Festival will be web cast for free at www.thecomedyfestival.com. Other comedians scheduled to appear are Jerry Seinfeld, Ellen DeGeneres, Joan Rivers, Dane Cook, Tracy Morgan, Dave Attell, Jamie Kennedy, Mike Epps, and David Alan Grier.



Comedian Brian Haner will be in Las Vegas this weekend for the TBS LOL Lounge. Haner, who grew up in Downey, jokes he was "voted most likely to do time" in high school.

Downey man cast in 'Miracle on 34th Street'

LA HABRA – The La Habra Depot Theatre is turning back the clock to Christmas, 1947 for "Miracle on 34th Street."

Based on the Academy Award-winning movie, the play is about faith and believing, especially in Santa Claus, and runs from Nov. 29 – Dec. 21 on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

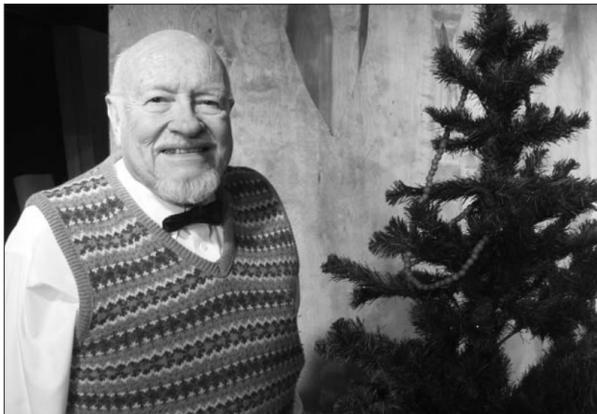
Downey resident Bob Goodwin has been cast in the production as Mr. Macy.

The original movie won three Academy Awards and is listed in American Film Institute's top 10 films of all-time.

"It is difficult for community theatres to get the rights to 'Miracle,'" said producer Gil Medina. "Being able to see this family classic live on stage will be a treat for our audiences."

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students, children and seniors. Sunday matinees are \$10.

For reservations, visit www.lhdepottheatre.org or call (562) 905-9625. The La Habra Depot Theatre is at 311 S. Euclid St. in La Habra.



Downey resident Bob Goodwin has been cast as Mr. Macy in "Miracle on 34th Street," opening Nov. 29 at the La Habra Depot Theatre.

Holiday boutique at community center

DOWNEY – The Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center is hosting a holiday boutique as part of its first annual Winter Wonderland Festival on Dec. 6.

The event will include a breakfast with Santa Claus, boutique, youth and adult performers, and arts and crafts.

The entertainment line-up includes the St. Matthias High School choir, Bell Choir, Warren High School choir, YMCA dance troupe, pre-school singers, hip-hop dancers, and more. Free raffles will be held every half-hour starting at 10 a.m.

The Winter Wonderland Festival is free, except for the breakfast with Santa, which is sold out. Festivities are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call (562) 904-7223.

New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- **"Between Here and April"** by Deborah Kogan. When a deep-rooted memory suddenly surfaces, Elizabeth Burns becomes obsessed with the long-ago disappearance of her childhood friend April Cassidy. What she uncovers leads her back to her own life and what it means to be a mother and wife.
- **"A Cedar Cove Christmas"** by Debbie Macomber. After a comedy of errors on Christmas Eve, a five-month pregnant woman, traveling to Cedar Cove to search for her child's father -- who doesn't know she's pregnant -- finds herself lodging in an apartment above a barn. The residents of Cedar Cove come to her rescue as an early labor begins.
- **"City of Jade"** by Dennis McKiernan. The myth of a lost city carved of precious jade has proven irresistible to many in Mithgar. Now Aravan, captain of the Elven ship Eroean, has undertaken a quest to find it.
- **"A Cut Above"** by Ginny Aiken. Can Andie's cute co-star Max get her out of Colombia alive? And what will this trip mean for their reluctant romance? Fans can find out in this third installment of Aiken's Shop-Til-U-Drop series.
- **"The Gifted Gabaldon Sisters"** by Lorraine Lopez. Having lost their mother, the four Gabaldon sisters consider their elderly pueblo housekeeper their surrogate grandmother. As the girls grow into women, they learn the truth about the mysterious caretaker, her legacy, and a family secret.

Non-Fiction

- **"Against Medical Advice: a True Story"** by James Patterson. In this nonfiction work with the pace of a thriller, Patterson tells the dramatic true story of one family's struggle with an agonizing medical mystery that began when the Friedman's 5-year-old son began having irrepressible tics and involuntary utterances.
- **"American Prince"** by Tony Curtis. "All my life I had one dream and that was to be in the movies," says Curtis. This is the personal memoir of the handsome, charming leading man who also wanted to become a good actor.
- **"Barefoot Contessa Back to Basics: Fabulous Flavor from Simple Ingredients"** by Ina Garten. The essential Ina Garten cookbook focuses on the techniques behind her elegant food and easy entertaining style, offering nearly 100 brand-new recipes and many color photographs.
- **"Moose: a Memoir of Fat Camps"** by Stephanie Klein. With acerbic wit and captivating insight, the author writes a funny and touching look at adolescence, sharing her memories of a summer fat camp.
- **"The Presidential Book of Lists: From Most to Least, Elected to Rejected, Worst to Cursed - Fascinating Facts about Our Chief Executive"** by Ian Strock. This compendium ranks the presidents in more than 100 interesting and unexpected categories.

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- ★ **TWILIGHT PG-13** Fri to Sun: (11:00, 1:00, 1:55, 4:00, 4:50), 7:00, 7:45, 9:55, 10:40; Mon & Tue: (11:00, 1:00, 1:55, 4:00, 4:50), 7:00, 7:45, 9:55
- ★ **QUANTUM OF SOLACE PG-13** Fri to Sun: (11:00, 11:45, 1:45, 2:30, 4:30, 5:15), 7:15, 8:00, 10:00, 10:30; Mon & Tue: (11:00, 11:45, 1:45, 2:30, 4:30, 5:15), 7:15, 8:00, 10:00
- ★ **MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA PG** (11:45, 12:30, 2:05, 2:50, 4:30, 5:15), 7:00, 9:25
- ★ **ROLE MODELS R** Fri to Sun: (12:00, 2:30, 5:00), 7:30, 8:00, 10:00, 10:30; Mon & Tue: (12:00, 2:30, 5:00), 7:30, 8:00, 10:00
- ★ **CHANGELING R** Fri to Sun: (12:10, 3:30), 7:05, 10:10; Mon & Tue: (11:10, 2:15, 5:15), 8:15

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TWILIGHT PG-13	(11:15 2:10) 5:05 8:00 10:55
QUANTUM OF SOLACE PG-13	(11:15 1:55 4:35) 7:15 9:55
MADAGASCAR 2 PG	(10:20 12:45 3:10) 5:35 8:00 10:25
MADAGASCAR 2 PG	(11:20 1:45 4:10) 6:35 9:00
ROLE MODELS R	(12:10 2:45) 5:20 7:55 10:30
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Guests got a sneak peak of the Columbia Memorial Space Center last week. The center's grand opening is set for Jan. 31. Photo by R.D. Salyer

Space: Center pays tribute to seven-member crew of STS-107.

Continued from page 1

their journey to space. Its dynamic form propels forward and upward, symbolizing the optimism that drove a century of aviation and space exploration achievement."

Other speakers at the dedication ceremony included Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34); Downey Mayor David Gafin;

Downey City Manager Gerald Caton; Columbia Memorial Space Center Executive Director Jon Betthausen, and Doug Brown, brother of STS-107 crew member David Brown.

"Projects such as this are important because we are a nation of explorers," Brown said. "Somehow, we always find the need to see what's on the other

side. This endeavor would make David especially proud because it helps encourage young people to dare to dream. Without that, we are all lost."

Financial support for the center was provided by a \$10 million investment from the city of Downey and \$5 million from federal funding.

The Columbia Memorial Space

Center, located at 12400 Clark Avenue in Downey, will host a grand opening for the public on Jan. 31, 2009.

For more information about the Columbia Memorial Space Center, visit online at www.columbiaspacescience.org or call (562) 904-6107.



Juan "Johnny" Robaldo completed Marine combat training in Camp Pendleton on Nov. 8, and is now in Fort Lee, Va. for his Military Occupational Specialty. Robaldo attended Downey schools from K-12, and graduated from Downey High School in 2007. After attending Cypress Community College for a year, he enlisted as a reserve in the United States Marines. Robaldo is the son of Christopher and Angie Pilato. He has a brother at Warren High School, and two young twin sisters.

Razorbacks fall one point short

By Mike Baumann, Downey Youth Football

DOWNEY – The five youth football games held at Downey High School Saturday were worthy of the title Pacific League Championships. All but one game was either an overtime game or a one-point decision.

Teams representing half of the 20 Southern California cities who earned the right to represent their community in the PCC's League Championship games played championship quality football. The winning teams move on to participate in the ultimate prize, the PCC Super Bowl game to be played at Mira Costa High School tomorrow.

Downey's PeeWee Razorbacks were one of the teams to fall one point short, in a 14-13 loss to the Twin Cities Wolverines. In fact, the Hogs were one yard short of a victory, being stopped short of the touchdown at the one-yard line.

Moses Alaniz's 45-yard run advanced the ball inside the red zone but the offense, which had performed so well in previous weeks, was unable to push the ball in.

The Wolverines scored the initial touchdown of the game and led 8-0, but the Razorbacks immediately answered with a nice drive culminating with a 15-yard run by Justin Huff. The Hogs scored again on a sweep by Joshua Medina and appeared to take charge of the game. However, late in the fourth quarter, Twin Cities was able to fashion a drive for the deciding score.

Their drive was aided by some mental errors by the Razorbacks. The Hog defense repeatedly held the Wolverines to fourth down and short yardage on the drive, only to have a penalty give the visitors a first down, allowing them to eventually score with little time on the clock.

All in all, it was a very successful season for the PeeWee Razorbacks as well as the other five teams in the 2008 season.

Win puts Downey in postseason

By Scott Cobos, Staff Writer

DOWNEY – What a good night it was to be a Downey Viking.

Two weeks ago they knocked off their rivals by shutting down one of the best running backs in the state. Then last Friday, they finished off their upset bid by stopping one of the best quarterbacks in California and beating Gahr High School, 31-23.

It got better for the Vikings with the win. Not only did they put themselves in contention for a playoff bid by winning the game, they won the coin flip scenario getting them into the playoffs then knocked out the Gladiators from any playoff contention winning the coin flip against them.

On the night, the Vikings rushed for 235 yards as a team, including 121 from Keith Holland.

Holland played a crucial role in the victory against the Bears, then

repeated his performance in what was the most important game of the season against the Gladiators.

Jeremiah Higgins chipped in with 56 yards of his own, eating up clock along with counterpart Joseph Ortiz who ran for 44 yards.

The Vikings were pitching a shutout at halftime, leading 16-0. Things started to tighten up a little bit in the fourth quarter when the Gladiators tried to stage a comeback, outscoring Downey 16-7 in the final quarter.

Downey was able to hold on for the victory which was good enough to get them the No. 3 seed out of the San Gabriel Valley League.

With the No. 3 seed, the Vikings will be traveling tonight for their first round match up against the winners of the Ocean League, Culver City High School. Game time is 7 p.m.



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APPROVED PRE-FORECLOSURE
Great Investment Opportunity!
2 units: 2 BD, 1 BA front unit (permitted as 1BD, 1 BA) and a 3BD, 1 BA back unit. 1615 sq ft total living space, all on a 10,854 sq ft lot. Don't miss this deal priced at \$470,000!
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A Real Steal!
5 BD + office, 4 BA, master suite w/ fireplace, 3,750 sq ft, 6,480 sq ft lot.
Price: \$999,950
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APPROVED PRE-FORECLOSURE
A Sizzling Buy!
4 BD, 3 BA remodeled North Downey pool home, large master bedroom, travertine floors, granite counters, and much more.
Price: \$615,000.
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PRICE REDUCED
Cherokee Estates Charmer!
4 BD, 2.75 BA N. Downey home w/ spacious family rm, updated kitchen w/ newer appliances & granite counters, pool-size yard, & master bedroom. W/ approx 2800 sq ft on a 9900 sq ft lot, this home is a smart buy!
Starting at \$699,000!
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Home Sweet Home!
Home Sweet Home! 3 BD, 2 BA home near Stonewood Mall with large master bedroom & remodeled kitchen.
Price: \$499,900
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

TO BE FINISHED FEB. 2009
Corporate-Owned Repo!
5 BR, 4 BA, 4,500 sq ft living space on a 7,600 sq ft lot. Can be purchased as-is for a lower price.
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Move Right In!
3 BD, 1BA, 986 sq ft, 5304 sq ft lot, good size back yard, and newer kitchen.
Price: \$350,000.
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Northeast Downey Estate!
Northeast Downey Estate! 5 bed, 4 bath, 3600 sq ft house + 1000 sq ft guest house on a 20,040 sq ft lot. Remodeled like new 6 years ago and priced to sell @ \$1,899,900.
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Investment Opportunity!
Bread & Butter Units! 6 units in Maywood: 1BR / 1 BA units on a 8699 sq ft lot.
Price: \$649,900
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

View these homes at: www.MichaelBerdelis.com



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