

The Downey Patriot



Donors ensure happy holidays
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Olympian visits school campus
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Students spruce up mansion
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Friday, December 5, 2008

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



Former Army Sgt. Angela Peacock says yoga classes have helped her deal with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Yoga guru helps veteran in recovery process

BY MARY FORNEY,
STAFF WRITER

Panic attacks, nightmares, and being on alert for the sound of gunshot – this is the internal life of former Army Sgt. Angela Peacock from St. Louis, Missouri.

Her post-traumatic stress disorder allegedly stems from holding in a secret about her being sexually assaulted by a non-commissioned officer while stationed in Korea in 2001.

When she talked to her platoon sergeant about the assault, she says she was told to keep silent.

“He said they would make it seem like it was my fault,” Peacock said. “It was covered up so I buried it. I was only 22 years old and naïve – I trusted my superiors and followed their orders.”

Her post-traumatic stress disorder peaked when she was sent to serve in Baghdad. Haunted by the rape and now surrounded by the horrors of war, Peacock said she began to trust no one. She lost weight, suffered fevers and chills, and had high blood pressure. At age 25, Peacock was medically retired from the Army after a doctor said she was not fit to be around weapons and deemed her a danger to herself.

Peacock began dealing with her military sexual trauma and combat stress by binge drinking and taking prescription drugs. Her marriage failed and her family was at a loss as to how to help her. After attempting suicide numerous times, she finally decided she needed help battling her drug addiction and psychological problems.

Her quest for healing brought her to Southern California this year when Peacock entered a military sexual trauma residential program through the Veterans Affairs. After she arrived, a friend suggested she meet Guru Yogi Ramesh Pandey, who teaches yoga in, and around, Downey.

“Honestly, I was so stressed out going through this intensive therapy during the day – stirring up this stuff I didn’t want to deal with – that when I went to Yogi three evenings a week, I started to feel connected with myself,” Peacock said.

“I learned to breathe right and every day I could see myself changing. I began to sleep better. One of my biggest symptoms is insomnia, but Yogi helped me feel in control of my body which is unusual for a sexual assault survivor.”

Pandey, who teaches yoga weekly at the Barbara J. Riley Senior Center in Downey, believes proper breathing is at the core of all healing. Known as the “Laughing Yoga,” Pandey uses laughter in his breathing exercises.

“I was able to help her change her mental thinking,” Pandey said. “Laughing makes you think positive because of the breathing. She became stronger by breathing, chanting, and loving herself.”

Peacock, who keeps in touch with Pandey regularly, credits him for helping boost her self-esteem. Last month Peacock was able to share her military experiences in a 20-minute online documentary called “Angie’s Story” which showed a clip from a session with Ramesh. The webcast was part of the “In Their Boots” series about the challenges military veterans and their families face.

“Now my job is healing,” Peacock said.

To view “Angie’s Story” and other narratives about military men and women returning home from deployment, visit www.intheirboots.org.



A BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse will move into Stonewood Center as soon as Citibank moves out, Councilman David Gafin announced this week. BJ's will occupy the current Citibank property when the bank moves to its new location, which is still under construction, at Firestone and Lakewood boulevards, Gafin said. Photo courtesy city of Downey

Council gets fresh look

■ Roger Brossmer and Luis Marquez are sworn into council seats.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – The Downey City Council took on a fresh and updated look this week as Rick Trejo and Kirk Cartozian bowed out of their seats after a collective 16 years of service to Downey citizens.

Trejo and Cartozian, originally elected to council seats in 2000, were hailed at a gala transition ceremony Tuesday at City Hall.

Taking their places were Roger Brossmer and Luis Marquez, winners in last month’s municipal election. Brossmer takes over the District 3 (northwest Downey) seat, while Marquez slides into the District 5 (city-wide) chair.

Brossmer was sworn into office by his wife, Esther. Marquez was sworn in by Assemblyman Hector De La Torre (D-50).

In one of its first official actions, the new-look council unanimously voted Mario Guerra as mayor of the city of Downey. Anne Bayer was voted mayor pro tem.

A standing room only crowd also watched as legislators and politicians feted the leadership of outgoing mayor David Gafin, who won reelection to another four-year term last month.

In his address, Gafin touched on many of the city’s accomplishments during the past year, including implementation of a Police



The Downey City Council reorganized this week, with Mario Guerra voted mayor of the city. From left: outgoing councilman Kirk Cartozian, new councilman Roger Brossmer, new mayor pro tem Anne Bayer, new mayor Mario Guerra, outgoing mayor David Gafin, new councilman Luis Marquez, and outgoing councilman Rick Trejo. Photo by Art Montoya

Cadet program, upgrades to Imperial Highway and Lakewood Boulevard, more police officers, and a balanced budget.

Gafin also provided a glimpse of the future, which tentatively includes a Porto’s Bakery in Downtown Downey and a BJ’s Restaurant and Brewhouse at Stonewood Center.

Guerra said the current City Council would leave a legacy of “fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget,” and unveiled his

goals for the coming years. His aims include a Green Task Force to encourage environmental consciousness in the city; a citizens patrol to aid the Downey Police Department; a youth commission to help attract youth-orientated businesses here; and increasing park space at Apollo Park by relocating a bus storage yard.

Guerra also emphasized public information, and pledged to begin an e-mail newsletter for residents.

Guerra and Gafin both thanked

city employees and City Manager Gerald Caton for their work.

“We’re so blessed in the city of Downey to have the staff that we do,” Guerra said. “It’s second to none. We’re very blessed to have this.”

Being elected mayor of Downey is “absolutely amazing to me,” Guerra said. “I’m the 43rd mayor and I’m honored and I’m humbled by it. I pledge to continue the service that so many previous mayors have done.”

Guerra lays out goals as Downey mayor

CONTRIBUTED BY MARIO GUERRA, MAYOR, CITY OF DOWNEY

My family and I escaped from a communist Cuba when I was 6 years old. My parents wanted us to have the freedoms and liberties this country has to offer to all of its citizens. I did not know what we did not have and I had a wonderful childhood. I was loved and received great values. I was taught what was right from wrong and I was taught to serve others.

And I loved the city of Downey. It even included cruising down Firestone Boulevard. Even back then we all knew what a great city Downey was.

To now become the 43rd mayor of Downey is way beyond the expectations of the child that found

happiness and amazement with space, with sports, with reading and with people. This is such a great country that opened its heart and opportunities to so many of us.

That is why becoming mayor has such special meaning to me and my family. I have been blessed to raise our family of five children here and I know how special this city is, and I hope to continue to make it even better.

Our city has a rich history and I want to make sure generations to come not only know this but also participate in the continued legacy of Downey.

Working together as a council we have accomplished much in the past few years. And under the leadership of David Gafin we were able to receive an outstanding report card this past year, from a balanced

budget to 29 active neighborhood watch committees, etc.

I am very excited about what the future holds for us and we should not stand still just because of uncertainties and our economy. I want this next year to be one of our community continuing to work together, to communicate to others what great things we do and offer and to be responsive to the concerns and needs of our residents.

The coming year will present many challenges for our city. But we can still concentrate on the many quality of life issues and public safety items that will continue to make us a great city. Working together with my colleagues on the City Council I hope you will continue to be as proud of our city as we are.

Fiscal Responsibility

Fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget are top priorities. Our city has always been financially conservative and it has served us well. I plan on continuing this, from conservative revenue estimates to a balanced budget to grants to help offset cost.

Green Task Force

I have called for a Green Task Force for this upcoming year. It will be made up of elected officials, citizens, staff and experts in this area. It will recommend realistic short-term and long-term policies and programs for implementation to our City Council. It will encourage practices to protect our environment and ourselves and at

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City debates incentives for bakery

■ Commission is split on \$750K in incentives for Porto’s Bakery.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Porto’s Bakery appears ready to open a new location in Downey, but still uncertain is what kind of economic incentive the city is willing to offer the Cuban bakery to reinvigorate the downtown district.

The City Council on Monday, sitting as the Community Development Commission, rejected a proposal to provide \$750,000 in economic incentives for Porto’s

to open a 15,000 sq. ft. bakery and restaurant at 8233 Firestone Blvd., near Downey Avenue.

“Porto’s will be investing over \$16 million into the downtown,” said Commission Chairman David Gafin. “I can’t in good conscience give an entire nest egg to one project.”

Gafin said he would be more inclined to approve \$500,000 in incentives. Anne Bayer agreed. “I, too, think that Porto’s would be a good partner to come down,” she said. “[But] I’m not ready to spend that amount of money at this time.”

project.

“I think they will be a spark in downtown. My concern is with our economic development reserves,” said Commission Chairman David Gafin. “I can’t in good conscience give an entire nest egg to one project.”

Gafin said he would be more inclined to approve \$500,000 in incentives. Anne Bayer agreed.

“I, too, think that Porto’s would be a good partner to come down,” she said. “[But] I’m not ready to spend that amount of money at this time.”

Rick Trejo and Mario Guerra, meanwhile, called the deal a good

investment for the city.

“I was on the downtown subcommittee. I think this project will be a catalyst to fuel that area,” said Trejo. “I think in the future it will pay dividends for us.”

Guerra called Porto’s Bakery “an economic engine for the downtown.”

Kirk Cartozian has been representing Porto’s Bakery the last 13 months and did not participate in the meeting.

With a new City Council set in place this week, the deal is expected to be discussed again soon.

Parade lineup has old favorites

DOWNEY – When the 57th annual Holiday Lane Parade gets underway on Downey Avenue this Sunday, it will include many longtime favorites.

Scheduled to participate are the Downey and Warren High School bands, Downey Boy and Girl Scouts, and the Downey Elks Lodge, all of whom have been in the parade for all 57 years.

Also returning to the parade are the Compton Sounders, Divine Talents, Downey police and fire departments, and the Wells Fargo Stagecoach.

New to the parade will be Revolution L.A. Drums and Flags, Broken Horn Ropers, Gypsy Horses, Downey City Library, and the Coachella Valley High School band.

The parade will also feature floats from Downey Regional Medical Center (the parade's major sponsor this year), Downey Elks Lodge #2020, and Divine Talent Kids Music.

The Downey Rose Float Association will also give visitors a sneak peak of their float.

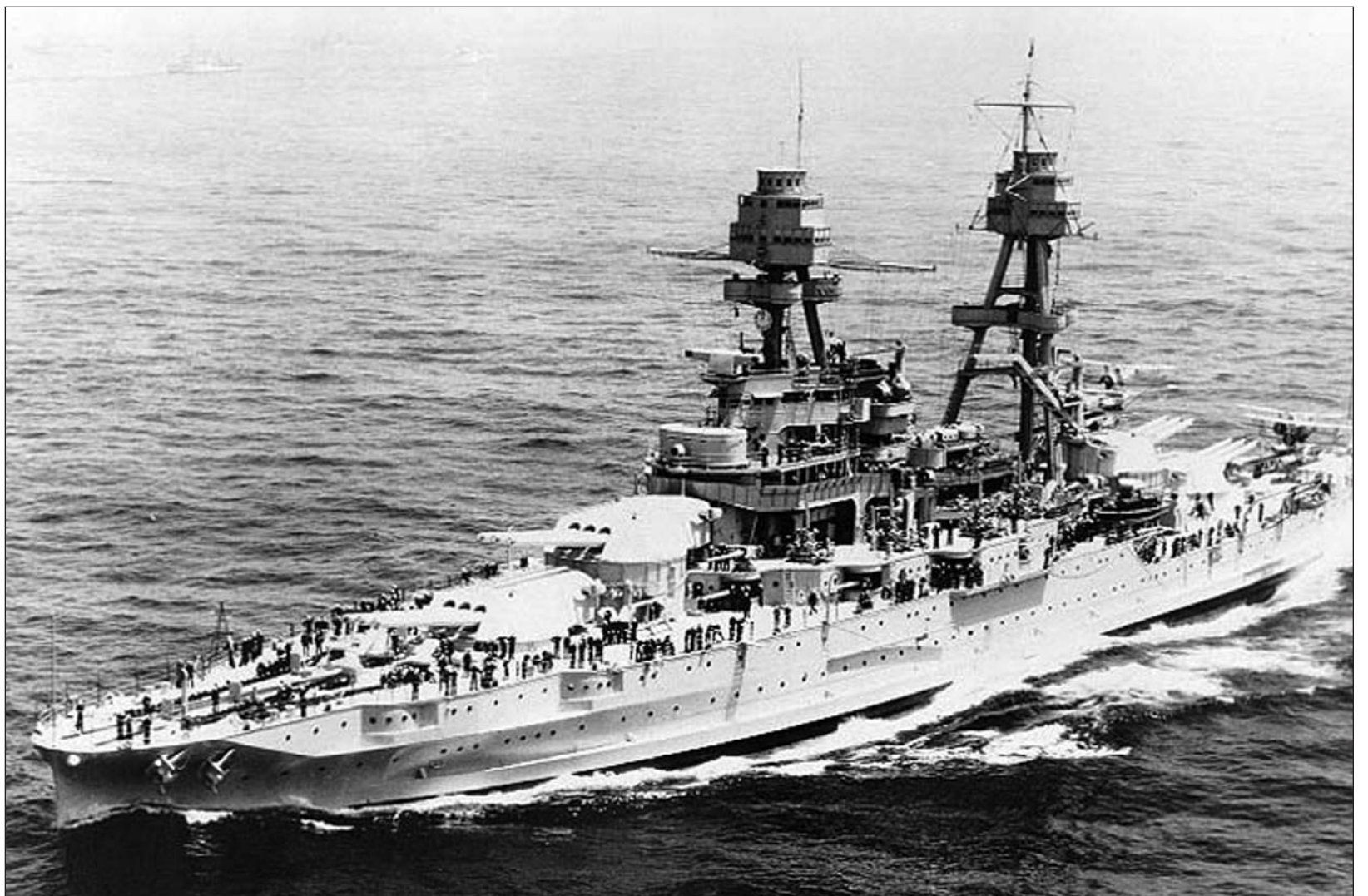
Various high school bands will also take part, including groups from Bell, Sierra Vista, Workman, Valley and Norwalk high schools. Madrid Middle School is also dispatching a band.

The parade is capped by a visit from Santa Claus.

"Residents and out-of-towners alike will enjoy the great mix of tradition, the new, the different, and our old favorites," said Sue Nordin, executive director of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, which produces the parade. The parade is organized by a committee headed by Downey resident Maria Larkin.

The parade begins Sunday at 1:30 p.m. on Downey Avenue at Lexington Street. It will proceed south to 3rd Street and head east before disbanding on Civic Center Drive.

Business owner and community leader Bill Kirkwood is the parade's grand marshal, while major league baseball player Evan Longoria is the celebrity marshal.



Les Blair was on the top deck of the U.S.S. Pennsylvania when it was attacked by Japanese warplanes in Pearl Harbor.

Pearl Harbor survivor to ride in parade

BY MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Former Downey resident Les Blair is dusting off his uniform and his memories of Pearl Harbor as he prepares to ride in the Holiday Lane Parade on Dec. 7.

"I don't want to wear my uniform and my wife might hit me if I do," Blair said. "So I really don't know what I'll be wearing."

Blair, who served more than six years in the Navy, is being honored in the Downey Holiday Lane Parade which will take place on Pearl Harbor Day.

Now 85, Blair was only 16 years old when he enlisted in the Navy and began duty on a Destroyer. Within months, Blair gained national attention when Life Magazine ran a picture of him teaching the British how to fire American guns.

At age 17, Blair transferred to a battleship at the Port of Long Beach where he met his wife Marie.

After Blair and Marie became engaged, he was shipped to the South Pacific without notice.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Blair was on the top deck of the flagship U.S.S.

Pennsylvania when Japanese bombers suddenly roared overhead.

"I ran to my gun station, but it didn't take long before we ran out of ammunition," Blair said. "I ran to the ready room to get more shells and was on my way back when a bomb struck the gun."

Blair sustained shrapnel injuries, but his crew did not survive.

"It's such an honor to represent the military and service people," Blair said. "The people in Downey are great for doing this."

Blair will be accompanied by his wife Marie during the parade. The couple married Jan. 10, 1942, have two sons and three grandchildren.

Living in Downey for 43 years, the Blair's now resides in San Juan Capistrano.

The U.S.S. Pennsylvania ended up steaming nearly 150,000 miles from the first attack at Pearl Harbor until the end of World War II. Referred to as the "Penny," the flagship fired more ammunition than any other ship in history and was the only battleship to take part in every amphibious combat operation in the Pacific.

Residents urged to plan around street closures

DOWNEY – Results should prepare for a series of street closures Sunday as part of the Holiday Lane Parade.

At 11:30 a.m., the following streets will be closed: 10th and 11th streets between Brookshire and Birchdale avenues; Lexington Avenue between Downey and Brookshire avenues; and Brookshire between Florence Avenue and Cherokee Drive. These streets should be cleared by 3:30 p.m.

Fifth Street between Brookshire and Downey avenues will be closed from noon to 5:30 p.m.

The parade will begin at Downey Avenue and Lexington Road, proceed south to 3rd Street, then east to Civic Center Drive. The parade route will remain open to traffic until noon.



DOWNEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
in cooperation with the
CITY OF DOWNEY
and sponsorship of



Downey Regional Medical Center

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**HOLIDAY
LANE
PARADE**

Sunday, Dec. 7
1:30 p.m.

Parade starts at
Downey and Lexington Ave., goes
south on Downey Ave. to Third St., turns left and disbands at Civic Center

Thank You 2008 Holiday Lane Parade Sponsors!

The Downey Chamber of Commerce thanks the following sponsors who so generously give and allow us to bring the parade to the community!

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Downey Regional Medical Center

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The Downey City Council
Invite You To a...

Tree Lighting Ceremony



Monday, December 8, 2008
Downey City Hall
11111 Brookshire Ave
6:00 p.m.

This free event will feature entertainment from local schools, arts and crafts for children, a snow play area, and raffle. Plus, a special visit from Santa Claus!

Food and refreshments will be sold by the Downey Rose Float Association.

For more information, please call 562-904-1895.



Chamber open house next week

DOWNEY – The Downey Chamber of Commerce will host their annual holiday open house Dec. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. RSVP by calling (562) 923-2191.

Holiday boutique at Rio San Gabriel

DOWNEY – A holiday boutique sponsored by the Rio San Gabriel PTA will be held inside Rio San Gabriel Elementary School's cafeteria today from 3:30 to 9 p.m. Rio San Gabriel is at 9338 Gotham St.

Holiday boutique tomorrow

DOWNEY – Downey Chapter #106 O.E.S. will present a soup and salad dinner with holiday boutique tomorrow at the Downey Masonic Temple from 4 to 7 p.m.

The boutique will feature several vendors selling unique items and gifts.

Cost of the soup and salad dinner is \$6. The event will be held on the second floor of Downey Masonic Temple, 8244 Downey Ave.

Rise 'N Shine networking Tuesday

DOWNEY – Dentist John McAllister and Mary Ruggiero-Thomas of PIP Printing will be the featured speakers at Tuesday's Rise 'N Shine Networking meeting at Stox restaurant.

The meeting begins at 7:30 a.m. and is produced by the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

RSVP by calling (562) 923-2191.

Newcomers Club installing officers

DOWNEY – The Downey Newcomers Club will install their newly-elected officers at their annual Christmas luncheon this Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Kim Yeager will be installed as president. Also to be installed: Paula Lou Roberts (first vice president), Ellie Harrington (second vice president), Mary Hammerle (secretary) and Joan Hoffman (treasurer).

The lunch is \$10 and visitors are welcome. RSVP by calling Vicki Winters at (562) 923-0471.

Volunteers feed more than 400

DOWNEY – Pastor Garnett Simpson-Grier of Breath of God Christian Church said his congregation fed more than 400 people during their Pre-Thanksgiving Outreach Dinner held Nov. 21 at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

Food baskets were distributed through Downey middle and high schools.

"I would like to thank the volunteers of Downey and the corporations that offered their continued support to touch the lives of those less fortunate this holiday season," said Simpson-Grier.

Among the companies who donated food were Pieloon, Coca-Cola, Olive Garden, Mimi's Café, Hometown Buffet, Baker's Square, Norm's, and more.

A Happy and Filling Thanksgiving

■ Thanksgiving dinners ensure happy holidays for needy families.

BY MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Times are tough – just ask Juan Carlos Rodriguez, 33. Laid off three months ago, the cement finisher and his wife Claribelle, 31, are living lean raising their 6- and 11-year-old boys.

Claribelle's 22-year-old sister also lives with the Rodriguez family that is struggling to make ends meet while residing in a built-on travel trailer.

"Because of the economy, my husband lost his job," Claribelle said. "I got a job as a sales lady only two to three days a week, but it's not enough."

Wanting to help give the Rodriguez' a feast they could enjoy on Thanksgiving Day, Downey Police Department Cpl. Mike Pope personally delivered a cooked turkey to the family along with all the holiday trimmings – including pie.

"Seeing the kids with smiles on their faces is what it's all about," Pope said.

For the past six years, the Café 'N Stuff restaurant located at 9306 Firestone Blvd., has partnered with the Downey Police Officers' Association by cooking and donating the Thanksgiving dinners that are given to eight needy local fam-



Cafe N' Stuff and the Downey Police Department teamed up for the sixth consecutive year to help feed struggling Downey families.

ilies each year.

"We are thankful," Claribelle said.

The names of the families are provided by Downey Unified School District Personnel Manager Stan Hanstad.

"It makes us happy to be able to share with those less fortunate," said Café 'N Stuff owner Ebie Ghancian, who spent nearly \$800 on this year's meals.

Sgt. Mike Parino is one of the

police officers who enjoy being a part of the special dinner patrol the night before Thanksgiving. This is the third year Parino has volunteered to help deliver the meals.

"When you ask most young cops why they become a cop, it's to help people," Parino said. "This is just carrying on what we like to do."

"Your home gets broken into, your car gets stolen – it's a negative experience. This is when we get to go out and interact with people and

have a positive experience."

The Downey Police Officers' Association is also collecting toys to be delivered to 25 local needy families the week before Christmas.

Persons wanting to donate to the Downey Police Officers' Association toy drive can drop off gift items at the Downey Police Department, 10911 Brookshire Ave.

Student inducted into college honor society

WINONA LAKE, IND. – Abigail Marie (Hocking) Nishimoto, a 2006 graduate of Downey High School, was recently inducted into the Indiana Gamma chapter of the Alpha Chi honor society at Grace College.

Membership to the Grace College chapter is limited to the top 10 percent of the junior and senior classes. The inducted students this year had a minimum grade point average of 3.8.

Alpha Chi is a coeducational national honor scholarship society "dedicated to promoting academic excellence and exemplary character among

college and university students and to honoring students who achieve such distinction."

The motto of Alpha Chi is, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Grace College is an evangelical Christian liberal arts college. The 165-acre campus enrolls 1,200 students from 37 states and 17 countries who represent 30 denominations and also non-denominational churches.

Nishimoto is the daughter of Thomas and Tamra Hocking of Downey.

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Circulation supervisor Josephine de la Dingco invites the community to help stock the "Food for Fines" display in the library lobby.

Library accepting food for fines

DOWNEY – Through the month of December, patrons of the Downey City Library can clear their overdue fines while helping needy families.

The library is accepting new canned and packaged foods as payment for overdue fines on returned materials. Food collected will be donated to local families.

"Even if you don't owe library fines, we invite you to bring in food items to help local families," said Josephine de la Dingco, supervisor of

the library's circulation desk. "Volunteers from the Downey Council PTA HELPS distribute the food collected during December. We are so pleased by the generosity of those who donate each year."

Donations will be accepted until Dec. 31. The donated value of each item will be 50 cents.

For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 5.

Moode, Knabe to call holiday parade

DOWNEY – For the 18th consecutive year, Marsha Moode and Supervisor Don Knabe will again host the Holiday Lane Parade on Sunday.

Moode is executive producer of the Downey Civic Light Opera. She has been honored as a "Woman of Distinction" by Soroptimist International of Downey and as a woman "Making History in the Southland" by the League of Women Voters. She was also selected "Volunteer of the Year" by the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

For 18 years, she hosted a political discussion program, "The Campaign Series," and "Good Company," an interview program with artists and performers. She has appeared in film and on TV, and at one time

hosted her own Los Angeles radio show.

Knabe was first elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1996, and was easily reelected in 2000, 2004, and 2008.

He has received many honors and awards, and in 2007 was appointed to serve on the president's Homeland Security Advisory Council. He also was on the MTA's board of directors.

He was elected to the Cerritos City Council in 1998 and served for eight years, including two stints as mayor.

He and his wife, Julie, have been married 40 years. They have two sons, Curt (Svea) and Matt (Briana), and two granddaughters.

POET'S CORNER

Pearl Harbor

It's painful to recall
Pearl Harbor's fateful day
When bombs began to fall
And turned the skies to gray.

Exploding bombs galore
Without a warning sign
Dragged us into that war
By Japanese design

Our peaceful days were o'er
When they said: "Bombs Away"
Hawaii's peaceful shore
Was shattered on that day.

Those kamikaze boys
Crashed planes into our soil
Recalling all that noise,
My blood begins to boil.

Remember when we pray
Brace women and brace men
Are heroes still today
They'll rise to fight again.

We should be grateful for
The ones that died that we
Survivors of that war
Live in a land that's free.

-Bill Milburn,
Downey

Deprivation

Welcoming watering holes by day,
Illuminated oases in the night.
Their darkness was indeed profound,
From within echoed not a sound.
How would survive our society
Without their savory variety?
Now and then, I will forego
A glass of crystal H2O,
But, please, not my favorite burrito!!!

-Arlene Scott,
Downey

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January 5th, 2009**

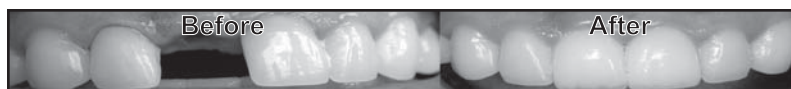


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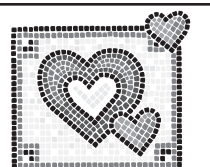
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Dr. Bordas has been in Downey for 20 years, he is a graduate of USC Dental School and is a national educator in the field of implant dentistry. Please visit his web-site for a complete resume of his accomplishments.

Connections Networking

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Downey, CA 90241



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Handmade Holiday
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Saturday, December 13th
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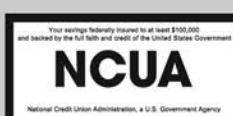
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Letters to the Editor:

Ironic but sad

Dear Editor:
Kia Motors, the South Korean automaker, is building a plant in the city of West Point, Ga. There will be 2,500 job openings and another 2,500 jobs will be created by five new suppliers that will make parts for the main plant.
Ford will be building a new car in Mexico.
Is that ironic or what?
— **Mike Sandoval,**
Downey

Please stop littering

Dear Editor:
To earn our Silver Award, our Girl Scout troop is working with Keep Downey Beautiful on an anti-littering campaign throughout the city of Downey.
We are going around to stores and businesses to ask if they can post a decal in their window that says, "Keep Downey Beautiful; Please Stop Littering." We hope this decal will remind people not to litter. We're making good progress so far.
If you haven't seen us stop by yet and would like one of these decals for your window, please e-mail or call Carol Rowland, our project advisor and head of Keep Downey Beautiful, at crowland@downeyca.org or (562) 904-7159.
Given that you are reading this, we ask that you help us on this campaign by not littering. Let's all do our part to keep Downey beautiful.
— **Bonnie, Kirsty, Marissa and Megan,**
Girl Scout Troop #324

Holiday what parade?

Dear Editor:
A couple of years ago I wrote a Letter to the Editor asking what holiday we are celebrating. Surely seems like a lot of work planning a Holiday Lane Parade when they apparently are ashamed to mention "Christmas."
Let me be among the few who will speak openly what millions are afraid to say: I'm fed up by political correctness. If people are offended, let them not participate. I'm offended often by crude language, by many TV programs, etc. When I am, I change the channel or remove myself from unpleasant situations. I'm offended by politicians who lie and deceive us but I haven't tried to close down the federal or state governments. (Well, maybe I would if I could!)
Why should a small minority be allowed to change the celebration of Christmas, the most beautiful celebration of the year? Shall we be open and call it Christmas, since it is the day chosen to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ?
I think the Chamber should hang their heads in shame. You rely on Christmas spending to get you out of debt. So let the Christians and anyone who desires to celebrate Christmas with them do so and let the Jewish celebrate Hanukkah, the Passover and their special Festival Days. Anyone should be able to celebrate whatever he desires, but don't take Christmas away from America.
If the Chamber has any logical explanation of why they chose not to call it a Christmas parade, I'd like to hear it. Otherwise, I'll assume it is cowardice, bowing to political correctness.
— **Elsa Van Leuven,**
Downey

Investing in oral health

Dear Editor:
I enjoyed the editorial "Diabetes A Public Health Crisis." (*The Downey Patriot*, 11/28/08) I would like to add that healthcare costs could be reduced by focusing on the mouth. Medical insurance companies are saying we can save 4 to 1. That is, for every dollar invested in dental care they are saving \$4 in medical costs.
Let's take the congresswoman's cost for treating diabetes, around \$174 billion in the U.S. Then extrapolate what Columbia University and Aetna Medical found in their research, that costs for diabetes care could be reduced by as much as 16 percent by treating gum disease. Take into consideration the Surgeon General's estimate that gum disease affects approximately 80 percent of the U.S. population. Thus the potential savings by treating gum disease are approximately \$22 billion.
This does not include the savings for cardiovascular disease, a probable savings of 11 percent, or another 9 percent for cerebral vascular disease or stroke. The same Aetna and Columbia University studies found that treating gum disease can reduce preterm low birth-weight babies by 50 percent. Preterm low birth-weight births account for more than 12 percent of all births, \$13 billion annually in hospitalizations and uncounted social costs since babies born prematurely often require years of care. The whole total of dental expenditures in the U.S is approximately \$75 billion annually.
I have been a dentist for 20 years and have seen the benefits on an individual basis. The important thing to take from this is to know your periodontal score. Unfortunately, gum disease does not hurt. When you visit your dentist make sure your gum pockets are being measured. The dentist needs to take six measurements per tooth. This score has been shown to be more important to your general health than your cholesterol level, body mass index, or blood pressure.
Remember that your gums should never bleed when you brush and floss thoroughly, no more than your hand should bleed when you wash them.
— **John McAllister, DDS,**
Program director for the Downey Dental Academy

A lot of money

Dear Editor:
\$315,000 a year! ("City OKs New Position," 11/28/08).
The city could bring in a retired high-ranking military officer, with combat experience, to run the city for a lot less. In fact, he/she could be the new deputy city manager/public safety emergency operations chief, city manager, police chief and fire chief for a real savings.
The city just wasted over \$80,000 on the term limits power grab by a few City Council members. Too bad the voters can't use the \$315,000 for recall elections.
— **Randy Evans,**
Downey

Dear Editor,
I'm very disheartened with councilman Mario Guerra's comments at the last council meeting ("Council Shelves Request for Staff Raises," 11/28/08).
The negotiations with the bargaining unit and the city council representative showed that the employees in question were near the bottom of the pay scale when compared to other similar cities. The employees are not asking to be placed at the top, simply put in the middle. There seems to be no complaint from the council as to the performance of the city staff, however, they seem to want to continue to receive top notch service at bargain prices. Not only is the councilman recommending that they don't receive the agreed upon increase, but to continue the current hiring freeze that's in place so that the employees will be required to perform even more tasks for the same amount of compensation.
The employees understand that these are tough economic times. However, when you look at the whole picture of what the city has done as far as staffing over the last couple of years, something doesn't add up. The creation of a new Deputy City Manager of Special Projects at a cost of \$315,000? The creation of an Assistant Deputy City Manager to oversee a museum that also has a full-time director? And now another Deputy City Manager/ Emergency Operations Chief for another \$315,000?

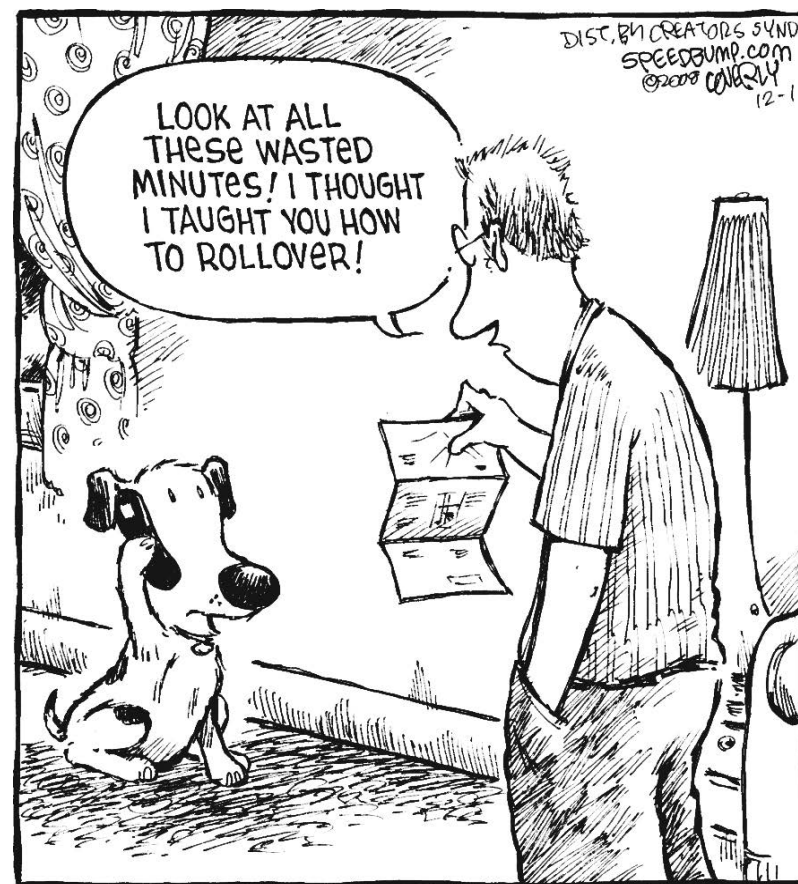
The employees at the city of Downey are grateful for their jobs. They all realize they are there to provide a service to the citizens of Downey. They keep the streets, buildings, parks, and city vehicles maintained. They provide essential support duties to the fire and police departments, they staff the parks and run numerous recreation programs, they maintain the water and sewer systems, and they provide transit to the citizens of Downey. And as of late, have taken on numerous capital improvement projects all while being significantly understaffed.
But being grateful and being exploited are two different things. How can Guerra justify not supporting this pay increase while simultaneously supporting the creation of a new position with a pay increase nearly 25 percent over what the vacating position now pays? If the assistant fire chief is so inconsequential to the fire department's operation, why can't they lower the \$250,000 salary and have the replacement serve as the Emergency Operations Chief? Could it be because the position is being created for a fire chief that should have been terminated long ago and this is just a way to contain him?

Should the citizens of Downey really be forced to pay for the mistake that the council has made by keeping a bad employee? Not to mention the message it sends that if you decide to alienate your staff and embarrass the city publicly, you will be rewarded with a promotion and a healthy raise.
The bottom line is this: city employees understand that these are tough economic times. However, there is a price to pay for qualified, dedicated and experienced labor. And if the city can afford to keep creating positions that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly, then they should be able to afford to compensate the rank and file employees fairly as well.
— **Anonymous**
(Editor's note: The author of the letter is an employee of the city of Downey who asked to remain anonymous due to fear of job retaliation.)

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.

Community center boutique tomorrow

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



More on city money

Dear Editor:
What's going on here?
The City Council denies raises to 54 city employees that were negotiated in good faith and contractually approved that would purportedly have cost \$175,259 this year with one councilman calling the raises "obscene" and "a terrible precedent to set." That is an average annual raise of \$3,246 per individual, hardly obscene.
The Council then approves one new position titled deputy city manager/public safety emergency operations chief at a cost of \$315,000 per year. That's an annual cost of \$315,000. Now that's obscene! Especially when it appears this is only a gold ol' boy deal to move Mark Sauter into a lesser position but at a much higher cost to the city. Possibly it's only to hide him away.
In any case Council, shame on you. Before adding any new positions, especially at exorbitant cost, we should reward our dedicated employees and honor our current commitments.
If we truly need directives for public safety/emergency operations, I have a better idea. It would seem to me there must be a current assistant manager (we have several) that could handle this job. It's also possible a committee could be formed from fire, police, City Hall and other necessary parties to form an emergency preparedness plan.
Any way common sense says what you are currently doing makes no sense.
— **Jim Richards,**
Downey

SEAACA's response

Dear Editor:
I am the director of operations at SEAACA in Downey and I feel compelled to respond to the editorial by A. Sandoval ("Puppy Problems," 11/21/08). If you're going to take your complaints to the media, please at least explain the facts accurately.
The female animal control officer that asked you to leave was referring to the secured area where you drove your vehicle on this Sunday afternoon. Calling the police was only mentioned after you became belligerent with her. You were very abrasive with the dispatcher on duty who came to the front door to greet you. It is all on videotape.
SEAACA receives animals from cities served by SEAACA. That said, we often accept animals from outside our area and make arrangements with the responsible shelter to transport them. We are compassionate and care for all animals, regardless of where they come from. After all, they shouldn't be put in harms way because of jurisdictional boundaries.
Knowing that the rightful owner may be looking for an animal at their designated shelter, we always attempt to educate Good Samaritans and ask if they'd kindly take them down the street to the correct shelter first. We're usually not met with immediate threats to just "dump the animal" like we were on this day from you.
SEAACA has worked hard over the years to become the animal care center that has earned us an excellent reputation. Our caring staff and volunteers go above and beyond every day to make this a better world for the animals in our care. Please report the facts correctly and always know that we have an open door policy for anyone who has a concern or input on how we operate.
— **Aaron Reyes,**
Director of Operations, SEAACA

The digital TV transition is coming

BY REP. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD (D-34)

Are you prepared for the digital television transition?
If you are among the estimated 19.6 million households that rely on free, over-the-air broadcasts made available through a rooftop antenna or "rabbit ears," your television set may go dark on February 17, 2009, when broadcasters begin airing exclusively digital signals.
By taking a few simple steps, however, you and your family can continue using your television sets and watching your favorite shows uninterrupted. To do this, you will need to purchase a new "digital-to-analog" converter box to plug into your set. Without this device, analog television sets not connected to cable, satellite or a telephone company television service will stop working. Newer television sets larger than 27 inches – and typically purchased in the last five years – will most likely have built-in digital tuners and will not need a converter box to continue to operate after the change.
For those who choose to purchase a converter box, I recommend taking advantage of \$40 coupons made available by Congress to defray the estimated \$50- to \$60 purchase price of a "digital-to-analog" converter. The federal coupon program – operated by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration – makes available two \$40 coupons per household, each of which can be used towards the purchase of a certified converter box. National retailers participating in the program include Best

Buy, Circuit City, RadioShack and Wal-Mart.
To request your coupons and to learn more about the transition, please call 1-888-DTV-2009 or visit www.dtv2009.gov. The online process to request the coupons is especially easy. From the homepage, click "apply for a coupon," type in your address, the number of coupons you are requesting (one or two), type in the letters for the electronic signature and then click "submit." After requesting your coupons either by phone or online, please allow up to 12 weeks for delivery. The coupons expire 90 days after their mail date.
The digital television transition will bring noticeable benefits to television viewers. Digital television will provide additional, free, broadcast television channels along with clearer images and enhanced sound quality. Some of the channels currently used by analog television stations will be freed up for advanced wireless service. Other channels have been set aside for public safety communications, which is a key recommendation of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks, also known as the 9-11 Commission.
As informed consumers, we can take steps to ensure that February 17, 2009 marks an important milestone in broadcasting history and not a day of confusion or disappointment for television viewers. I urge all TV owners to prepare now, stay tuned and help spread the word about this exciting upgrade in television broadcast quality.

The Downey Patriot

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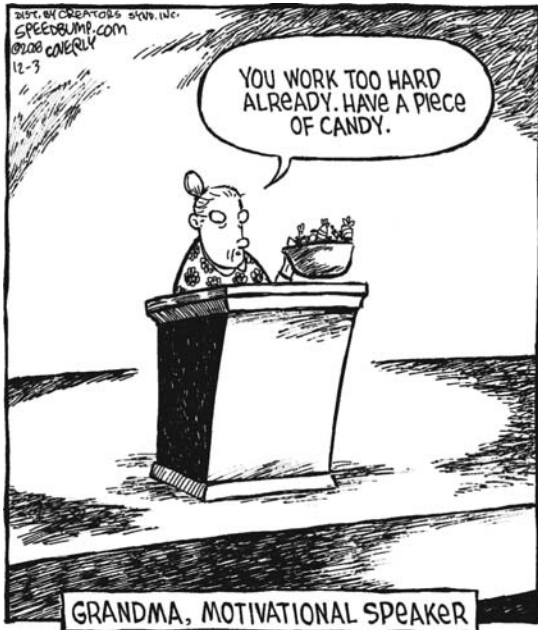
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SPEED BUMP



WHISTLER'S FATHER

DAVE COVERLY



GRANDMA, MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER



On This Day...

- Dec. 5, 1791: Famed composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart dies in Vienna after a short illness. He was 35.
- 1792: George Washington is re-elected president of the United States.
- 1932: Singer, pianist (and Geico insurance pusher) Little Richard is born. Also born Dec. 5: Art Monk (51), Gary Allan (41), Margaret Cho (40), Frankie Muniz (23), and Ross Bagley (20).
- 1933: National prohibition ends after Utah ratifies the 21st Amendment.
- 1945: Five U.S. torpedo bombers disappear in the Burmuda Triangle.
- 2006: New York becomes the first state to ban trans fat at restaurants.

Downey Community Calendar

Events For December

- Fri. Dec. 5: **Holiday boutique**, Rio San Gabriel Elementary, 3:30 p.m.
- Sun. Dec. 7: **Holiday Lane Parade**, Downey Avenue, 10 a.m.
- Mon. Dec. 8: **Tree lighting ceremony**, City Hall, 6 p.m.

City Meetings

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

- 9 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Vince Zoida at (714) 761-4439.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Adventure with the Bible**, at the First Baptist Church call 928-4153.
- 12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information call Darren Dunaway at 806-5400.
- 12 p.m.: **Exchange Club of Downey**, at Sizzler, for information call Don Hollister at 927-5871.
- 6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call 928-2658.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 441**, at Apollo Park Activities Room, for information call 923-3659.
- 2nd and 4th Tues., 7:30 a.m.: **Chamber "Rise&Shine" Networkers**, 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 Cencer Therapy Group**, for information call 923-4800.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Sister Cities Ass'n**, at Maude Price School, Call 862-7197.
- 2nd Weds., 11:45 a.m. - **Downey Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos CC. Call 927-8488.
- 2nd & 4th Weds., 11:00 a.m. - **AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley CC, Call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
- 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park, for info. call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
- 3rd Weds., 6 p.m. - **American Business Women's Association**, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
- 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.
- Wed.& Fri., 10:15 a.m.: **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

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 Sambi's, for information call Steve Allen at 822-7655.
- 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.

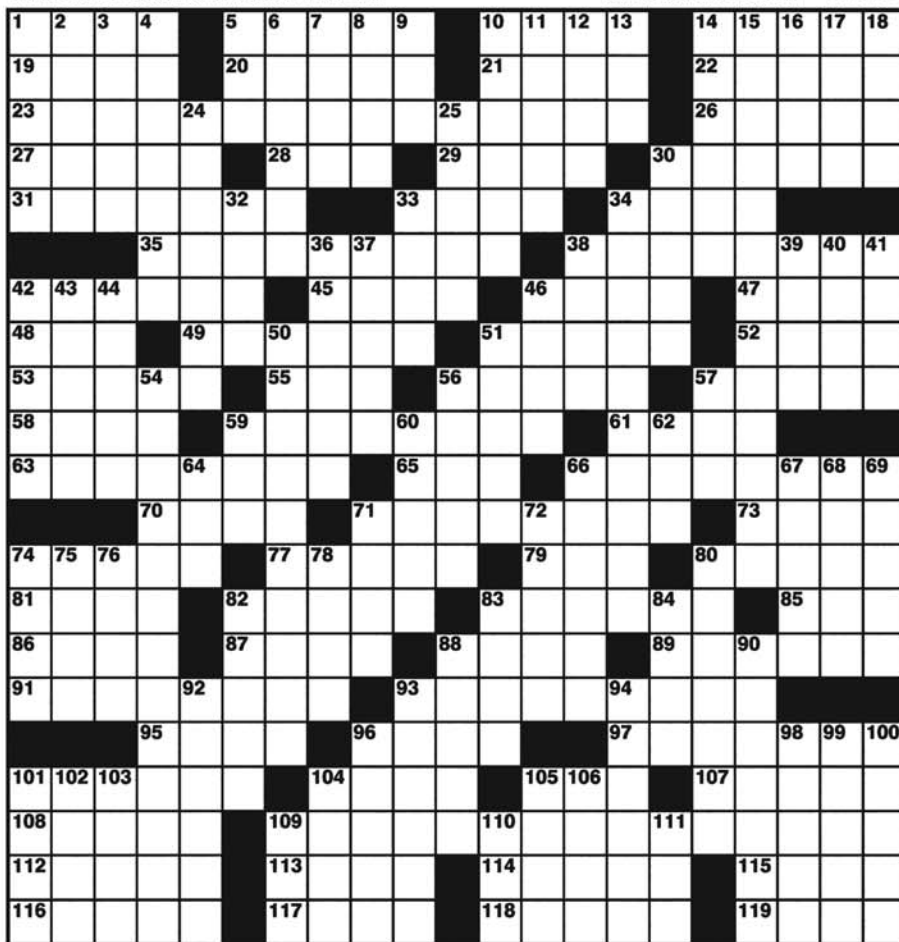
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

ACCESSORIZING: And using all 26 letters

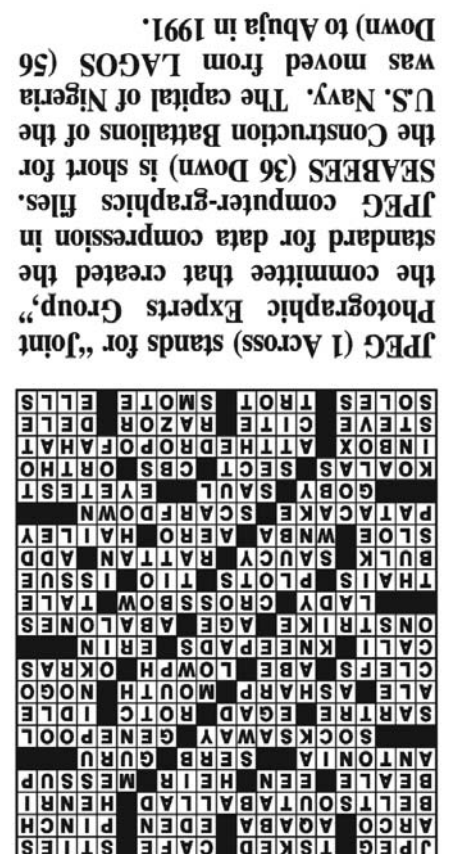
by Shirley Soloway

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 - 93 Drawer freshener
 - 94 Tyrant
 - 96 Dust-up
 - 98 Singer Merman
 - 99 Fully expects to
 - 100 Carry-alls
 - 101 Peck, for one
 - 102 Not fooled by
 - 103 The first second son
 - 104 Dust-up
 - 105 Overstuff
 - 106 Clown of renown
 - 109 Play in a play
 - 110 Many profs.
 - 111 Nev. neighbor

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.





Black Friday Frenzy

By Samuel Yun, Intern

Thousands flocked to stores nationwide before dawn last Friday to have retailers fling open their doors to awaiting customers as the shopping day after Thanksgiving called Black Friday began.

Downey went through its own Black Friday craze, especially with high school students and their obsession with merchandise and shopping.

"I planned to help the economy," said Ellen Choi, a sophomore at Warren High School. "I decided that I was going to shop like never before."

Most indulged themselves with the opportunities made available to them, and many allowances were depleted.

"I must have bought a million things," said Choi.

Black Friday is a highly anticipated event that is the biggest sales-generator of the year. Held the day after Thanksgiving, stores

across America hold massive sales and have unbelievable discounts on popular goods.

Customers either line up in front of stores early in the morning, or just camp out the night before, in order to get the most popular items before they run out. Although electronics are what most shoppers sacrifice sleep for, all other kinds of merchandise are featured as well.

This year's Black Friday had the most eyes drawn to it, as it was taking place in the midst of a declining economy, and because it would serve as an indicator of how much customers would be willing to spend this year.

"I think people definitely spent less this year," said Summer Wilson, a junior at Downey High School. "They were too afraid of the potential recession. I mean, you would still end up spending a lot of money in total, whether you had received good deals or not."

Nonetheless, many of Downey's youth still dragged themselves out of bed while the day was still new. The more serious ones set up house as cozy as possible the day before.

When stores finally opened, those standing in line were given priority to the items they wished to purchase. For the rest of the day, the stores were packed to the brim with customers. Stores were drained of products, and sold out signs multiplied by the hour. However, not everyone left feeling satisfied.

"I just wish I could have come earlier," said Carl Masongsong, a junior at Warren. "There wasn't much left that I wanted. I should have come at least two or three days in advance."

Even on the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day, there were already several dozen people settled down in front of Best Buy, ready to spend the night. Several tents could be seen erect, as well as portable

chairs, and even a few televisions.

Nevertheless, some retailers were sure to keep their customers satisfied, even before their stores opened. Best Buy was one of the stores who provided doughnuts and coffee to the customers, to occupy them while they waited.

Some shoppers went looking for deals outside of Downey as well.

"I went down to a mall in the south coast," said Choi. "They had more of the things that I wanted, so I enjoyed shopping there."

"I wanted to shop at Fry's, but there isn't one in Downey," said Masongsong. "That's why we drove to a Fry's in a nearby city to get stuff."

But overall, students regarded Black Friday in Downey as a worthwhile experience, if not an enjoyable one.

"It only comes once a year," said Wilson. "We might as well make the most of it."

Interact Club Cleanup of Rives Mansion



By Brianne Schar, Intern

Warren High School's Interact Club held a clean-up for Rives Mansion on Nov. 22. Approximately 30 of the club's members attended, along with members from mansion resident Lauren Bachman's church group. Together they improved the location's aesthetics from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"The city warned the owners [of the mansion] that if they didn't clean it up they would be kicked out by a certain date," Interact President Ana Greenberger said. The owner's had only a few weeks to bring the property up to the city's standards.

The group worked for three hours to make the yard more pleasant.

"We landscaped the whole place," said club web designer Abraham Paucar. "We took rakes and picked up all the leaves or any trash that was there, anything that was unsightly."

Still, the clean-up was anything but a simple chore. Those present enjoyed themselves and spent time getting to know each other.

"I was able to listen to music and help make the community a better place all at the same time," said senior representative Kevin Ninomiya.

Afterward, Bachman treated the group to a barbecue dinner.

Interact Club plans to return to the Rives Mansion on Dec. 6 to reseed the grass in front of the home.

Interact is constantly looking for future projects.

"It's a community service club that goes around Downey and helps out the community," said Greenberger.

Interact Club meets every Thursday during lunch at Warren in room S110.

Christmas Shopping Tips

By Bridget Sagrero, Intern

'Tis' the season of gift giving, waiting in long lines, and having to debate on what to get everyone on your gift list. Christmas shopping doesn't have to always be this way. The goal is to shop for our loved ones - why should it be stressful? If you're not looking forward to hectic holiday shopping, relax, because here are some tips to help you avoid common hassles.

Make a list. One of the worst things that can happen during Christmas shopping is forgetting who you are shopping for. Lists

are very convenient. Include information or ideas on what you want to give or buy for every person on your list.

Set a budget. Set your budget to a compromised amount, so that if you go over budget it won't come back to haunt you. With a set budget you might find it easier to shop for your loved ones, knowing that you have to keep in price range.

Look for sales. Sales are our best friends and can very well accommodate our set budgets. Pick up the newspaper or magazines that

you normally throw away and skim through it. You will be able to find amazing sales at a nearby store.

Avoid weekends. Weekends are the busiest times for malls. If you want to avoid all the chaos, try to shop during the week or at off hours. You are most likely to find what you are looking for and salespeople might be happier to assist you, without having many others on their case.

Save your receipts. Receipts are very important to keep, especially after all the expenses are done with

for the holidays. Use them to keep track of how much you spent and in organizing the bills that will soon come.

If you are the type of person that loves to make gifts a little on the personal side, you can't go wrong with a small homemade gift. A basket of homemade goodies, a mix CD, small scrapbooks, or even picture frames will always do. Don't stress this year, relax and have fun with the holiday season.

Coping in a city with little entertainment

By Brianne Schar, Intern

Downey's youth often find themselves in a bind on Friday and Saturday nights. They have no place to go. While Downey does have many strong points as a city, the entertainment aspect is lacking.

Councilman Roger Brossmer hopes to change that. Brossmer said he is "very excited to represent the city to the best of my ability." One of the items on his agenda is entertainment options, not only for the youth but for any age group.

Brossmer's plan for Downey begins with quality, development, and then recreation. Most of his entertainment goals are long-term and include updating the downtown area with more venues and other entertainment opportunities.

Warren senior Stephanie Orozco is skeptical that any new entertainment options will become available to Downey residents.

"I have little hope that much change will come to Downey because it's too complicated for anything to get done," said Orozco. "When something is about to be

accomplished, it will be too late anyway because of the short-term election process."

Other Downey students are excited about the possibility of bringing new entertainment options to Downey.

"Beyond the mall and Downey Landing, there is basically nothing for teenagers to do. We can't afford to spend money shopping every Friday night," said Warren senior Omar Ramos. "We need a place to hang out, like what the Epic Lounge used to be."

Cypress College student Lina Alhambly would also like to see more variety in the businesses in Downey.

"I would love to see the new city council spend money on projects that will bring revenue and tourism to the city, like a Dave and Buster's or a Trader Joe's," Alhambly said.

The future of Downey's entertainment options seems bright, but it will be a long time before any real actions can be taken.

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Get Smart: The Complete Series
Happy Days: The Fourth Season
Lost: The Complete Fourth Season
The Wire: The Complete Series

DVD RELEASES FOR DECEMBER 16



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Wild Country
The Cheetah Girls: One World
Aqua Teen Hunger Force: Volume 6
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A recent finding showing that excessive use of denture cream has been linked with nerve damage gives patients with dentures even more reason to visit the dentist for readjustments. The study involved denture wearers who developed neurological problems. All were found to have abnormally high levels of zinc in their blood (accompanied by abnormally low levels of copper). A balance of zinc and copper in the body is essential for neurological health. Absorbing too much of either of these trace metals can lead to depletion of the other. As it turned out, denture cream contains zinc, and the patients had used excessive amounts of it—two tubes per week instead of the recommended one tube every three to ten weeks.

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Warren's fairytale season ends in quarterfinals

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Those teams that had success against Warren did exactly what Mira Costa's defense did to Jesse Callier Friday night: keep him in check.

With that game plan, the Mustangs were able to end Warren's season, beating them in a CIF Southern Section Western Division quarterfinal game 28-14.

Callier ran the ball well but didn't run wild like he's capable of doing, rushing for 169 yards with a pair of touchdowns in the game. His only outburst was a 59-yard draw play that ended with him diving over the goal line for his second and final score.

While Callier's damage was minimized, Warren's defense struggled all night long against the run which turned out to be the difference maker.

The Mustangs ran for 257 yards on the night. Teaming up to be a tough combination to stop was Kellen Lockwood with 92 yards and Morgan Reece who ran for 129 yards.

"(Reece and Lockwood) did a good job of running through tackles and getting yards when they needed to," said Warren head coach Chris Benadom. "We got a little bit out-muscled up front."

While precious seconds were being shaved off the clock by Mira Costa's run game, Warren had no choice but to go to the air, something

they aren't accustomed to doing with a running back like Callier.

The passing game proved to be ineffective as Sam Bettencourt threw the ball 18 times for 75 yards completing 11 passes but being picked off three times, one being returned for a touchdown.

"We had a chance," said Benadom who believed this game was a very winnable one. "For whatever reason, we didn't get it done."

Warren started off fast and took a 7-0 lead on its first drive of the game, marching down the field 80 yards with Callier accounting for 73 of those yards.

Mira Costa after punting on their first possession went on to score on their next three consecutive drives, running the ball at will and burning up the clock.

Warren wouldn't threaten again until the beginning of the fourth quarter when Callier broke away for his long touchdown run.

Warren's David Del Toro recovered an onside kick following Callier's rushing touchdown. But the Bears were unable to do anything offensively with the possession and turn the ball over on downs.

The Bears finish their season 8-4 overall and 4-1 in league claiming their first San Gabriel Valley League championship in years.



The Downey 16U AYSO girls' team played in the section playoffs two weeks ago at UC-Irvine. They went undefeated, beating Garden Grove, 3-2, in the finals. Back row, left to right: Coach Robert Correa, Team Parent Maria Cortes Correa, Alexandra Diaz, Amanda De Leon, Jessica Hernandez, Robin Serpas, Stephanie Cole, Alexis Santana, Stephanie Montes, Elizabeth Hurtado, Victoria Garcia and Coach Octavio Calvillo. Front row: Victoria Correa, Valeria Valadez, Ashly Pastor, Lisa Gaitan, Vanessa Calvillo, Ester Gonzalez and Jasmine Medrano.

Viking going to Florida hoops tourney

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Downey's basketball team will be receiving probably one of the best Christmas gifts this year that a team can get.

New equipment is always nice and so is time off from practice, but instead they will be traveling Christmas night to Orlando, Fla. to participate in the Kaylee Scholarship Association Holiday Basketball tournament.

This will be the first time a Downey High School team will travel across states to compete in a tournament, according to head coach Larry Shelton.

The team will be playing at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex and will be competing against teams from all over the country.

During their trip, they are guaranteed at least three games and when

they're not playing games, they have free access to Disneyworld. Meals and hotel rooms are also included in the trip.

According to Shelton, a number of kids on the team have never traveled like this before and he looks forward to taking this particular group of students.

"There's a high caliber of character amongst these kids," he said. "We're very excited. It should be a good team building event."

To send the team to the tournament, the kids had to raise \$1,500 per person and have been participating in various fundraising events such as car shows, raffles and car washes.

The team will be in Florida for five days and will be back in town on New Years Eve.



The Downey Gigantes 9U travel baseball team participated in the USSSA Thanksgiving Tournament last weekend in West Covina and walked away with the first place trophy after beating the Saddleback Coyotes, 15-7. The Gigantes will compete against 12 other teams in the Fall State Championship Tournament this weekend.

WDLL holding early tryouts tomorrow

DOWNEY – West Downey Little League will be holding early bird signups for their upcoming season starting tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 1p.m. at Welch Field located on West Middle School's campus.

Cost for the upcoming season will be \$65 for t-ball and \$85 for rookie through major divisions. Those participating in the challenger division can do so free of charge by signing up.

Players must provide a certified birth certificate and proof of residency. A parent's driver's license and two other proofs of identification such as a utility bill, mortgage bill, or credit card are also required.

WDLL will hold additional signups Dec. 11 and Dec. 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. at West Middle School's cafeteria, and Dec. 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Welch Field.

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City Librarian Nancy Messineo greets young carolers of Divine Talents, who will be performing Dec. 16 inside the library lobby.

Carolers performing at library

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library will host a performance by Divine Talents, a non-profit music education group, Dec. 16 at 6:45 p.m. in the library lobby.

Singers in grades K-8 will perform holiday carols in the library. Under the direction of John Heideman and Tim Garcia, the Divine Talents have also performed at the Holiday Lane Parade, Kids Day, and at Stonewood Center.

The public is invited to bring their entire family to the free event. For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 3.

Pomrehn to speak at meeting

DOWNEY – Assistant Deputy City Manager Scott Pomrehn will be the speaker at Wednesday's meeting of Citizens for Downey at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

A buffet breakfast will be available for \$5 at 7 a.m. The meeting begins at 7:15. No reservations are required and the community is invited.

Couple shares stories from Balkans

DOWNEY – The Ezra Center for Mature Adults will meet Dec. 16 at Temple Ner Tamid. The meeting's topic will be "Visiting the Balkans – While in Downey."

Jerry and Eva Silverman will share their recent experiences in the Balkans with pictures and personal stories. Jerry Silverman is president of the Ezra Center in Anaheim.

The program runs from 10 a.m. to noon and will be followed by a kosher lunch. Cost of the lunch is \$6 for Ezra members, \$7 for non-members.

For more information, call Miriam Brookfield at (562) 943-3170.

Sisterhood holding board meeting

DOWNEY – The Sisterhood of Temple Ner Tamid will hold their board and membership meeting Wednesday at 11 a.m.

Ruth Beck, president of the Sisterhood, will preside over the meeting, which will be followed by a lunch at noon. Cost is \$6.

The Brotherhood of Temple Ner Tamid, meanwhile, will travel to Medieval Times in Buena Park on Dec. 13. Cost is \$59 per person, and includes dinner, show, transportation, and gratuity.

The Brotherhood will leave the Temple at 5 p.m.

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

Christmas boutique for Fail-Safe

DOWNEY – A Christmas boutique to benefit Fail-Safe 4 Felines will be held Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 11233 Woodruff Ave., behind the Bank of America.

Handcrafted items, holiday crafts, jewelry, and refreshments will be for sale. There will also be a raffle and door prizes. Admission is free.

For more information, call Pat at (562) 547-7068 or Robin at (562) 618-5965.

City collecting toys for needy kids

DOWNEY – The city of Downey is in the midst of hosting its 23rd annual holiday toy drive to benefit underprivileged children.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to donate new, unwrapped toys at drop-off points throughout the city. The toys will be distributed to kids by the Downey Council PTA HELPS' Holiday Basket Program, and to other local children's programs.

The toy drive will continue through Dec. 12. Drop-off locations include City Hall, Downey City Library, Downey Police Station, Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center, all Downey fire stations, all Downey public schools, and local businesses displaying a city toy collection box.

For more information on how to get involved with the toy drive, call the city's recycling office at (562) 904-7103.

Chorus auditioning female singers

NORWALK – The Southland Harmony Chorus is searching for female singers in the Norwalk and surrounding areas to join its group.

Women of all ages who enjoy singing are invited to attend the chorus' weekly rehearsals on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Norwalk Masonic Center, 12345 E. Rosecrans Ave.

Musical knowledge is not necessary to join. Any woman of average singing ability, with or without vocal training, will find a part that fits her voice range.

The Southland Harmony Chorus performs regularly throughout the community, offering its talent for entertainment at civic events and charitable functions.

Downey Brewing ribbon cutting

DOWNEY – Downey Brewing Company at 10924 Paramount Blvd. (formerly Nordic Fox) will celebrate its official grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony Tuesday at 4 p.m.

The event, done in conjunction with the Downey Chamber of Commerce, will include appetizers and refreshments.

Retired teachers prepare to party

WHITTIER – The California Retired Teachers Association of the Greater Whittier Area will hold its annual Christmas party on Dec. 9 at the Greenleaf Masonic Center in Whittier.

The event will benefit the Scholarship Foundation of the CRTA, which provides scholarships for deserving students are studying to become teachers.

All retired teachers and support personnel, as well as interested community members, are invited to the party.

The event will include a silent auction, homemade baked goods, and a white elephant sale. The sale begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon.

For more information, or to make a donation, call (562) 691-5479.

Woman's Club celebrates Christmas

DOWNEY – The Downey Christian Woman's Club will celebrate Christmas at their Wednesday meeting at the Los Amigos Country Club.

Chariese Williams will be the guest speaker. The topic is "The Gift of Friendship."

The lunch meeting begins at 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$12, and men are welcome to attend.

RSVP by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Jean at (562) 861-1114.

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, call (562) 927-8511.

Tree lighting ceremony Monday

DOWNEY – The city of Downey will host their annual tree lighting ceremony Monday at 6 p.m. outside City Hall.

The free event will feature entertainment from local schools, arts and crafts for children, a raffle, a snow play area, and a visit from Santa Claus.

Treats will be sold by the Downey Rose Float Association.

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

City looking for best decorated homes

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.

New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

• **"All That Matters"** by Stef Ann Holms. When a megastore grocery chain threatens to shut down the new boutique bakery that Chloe Lawson has worked so hard to establish, she needs a champion. Handsome, high-powered attorney John Moretti turns out to be the one.

• **"And the Hippos Were Boiled in Their Tanks"** by William S. Burroughs and Jack Kerouac. Alternating chapters and narrators, Burroughs and Kerouac piece together a tale of bohemian New York during World War II.

• **"Blood and Bamboo"** by James Church. In the winter of 1997, trying to stay alive during a famine that has devastated much of North Korea, Inspector O is ordered to play host to an Israeli agent who appears in Pyongyang. When the wife of a North Korean diplomat in Pakistan dies under suspicious circumstances, O is told to investigate.

• **"A Country Called Home"** by Kim Barnes. In 1960's Idaho, a newly married couple abandons their comfortable, upper-class life in Connecticut to buy an isolated farm sight unseen but they arrive to find it a shambles.

• **"Crossroads"** by Belva Plain. The bestselling author's latest novel focuses on the intersecting lives of two women—privileged but plain Gwen Wright and beautiful but poor Jewel Fairchild.

Non-Fiction

• **"Annie Leibovitz at Work"** by Annie Leibovitz. One of the most celebrated photographers of our time discusses portraiture, fashion photography, lighting, and digital cameras.

• **"Forgotten Patriots: the Untold Story of American Prisoners During the Revolutionary War"** by Edwin G. Burrows. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author tells the story of New York's British prison camps—and the nearly 20,000 patriots who lost their lives there.

• **"Harry, a History: the True Story of a Boy Wizard, His Fans and Life Inside the Harry Potter Phenomenon"** by Melissa Anelli. The Web mistress of one the most popular Harry Potter fan site on the Internet gives an insider look at the J.K. Rowling series.

• **"How to Say It at Work: Power Words, Phrases and Communication Secrets for Getting Ahead"** by Jack Griffin. The revised edition of the classic includes chapters on digital communication, diversity issues and team building.

• **"Rachael Ray's Big Orange Book"** by Rachael Ray. This primer for cooking the Rachael Ray way has full-color photos and instructions for double-duty dinners using leftovers, new menus for vegetarians and ideas for solo chefs.

Visit www.downeylibrary.org and click on "New and Notable Books" to browse more titles

Find holiday recipes on the Web

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library will offer a free class, "Holiday Recipes on the Internet," Wednesday from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. in the computer lab.

Instructors Claudia Dailey and Mayra Garcia will show students how to easily find holiday recipes on the Web. Each class member will be given a list of useful cooking websites to use in the future.

Register for the class by calling (562) 904-7360, ext. 3.

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ALL DIGITAL PRESENTATION

NOBEL SON R (11:20, 2:05, 4:55), 7:40, 10:15
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE R (11:10, 1:50, 4:35), 7:15, 10:10
FOUR CHRISTMASSES PG-13 (12:10, 2:35, 5:05), 7:25, 9:45
TRANSPORTER 3 PG-13 (11:55, 2:40, 5:15), 7:50, 10:25
BOLT PG (11:15, 1:45, 4:15), 6:45, 9:15
BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D PG (12:00, 2:30, 5:00), 7:30, 10:00
TWILIGHT PG-13 Fri to Sun: (11:00, 1:00, 1:55, 4:00, 4:50), 7:45, 10:40; Mon to Thu: (11:00, 1:00, 1:55, 4:00, 4:50), 7:45
QUANTUM OF SOLACE PG-13 (11:05, 1:40, 4:25), 7:20, 10:05
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA PG (11:30, 2:00, 4:30), 7:05, 9:25
ROLE MODELS R 7:10, 9:50

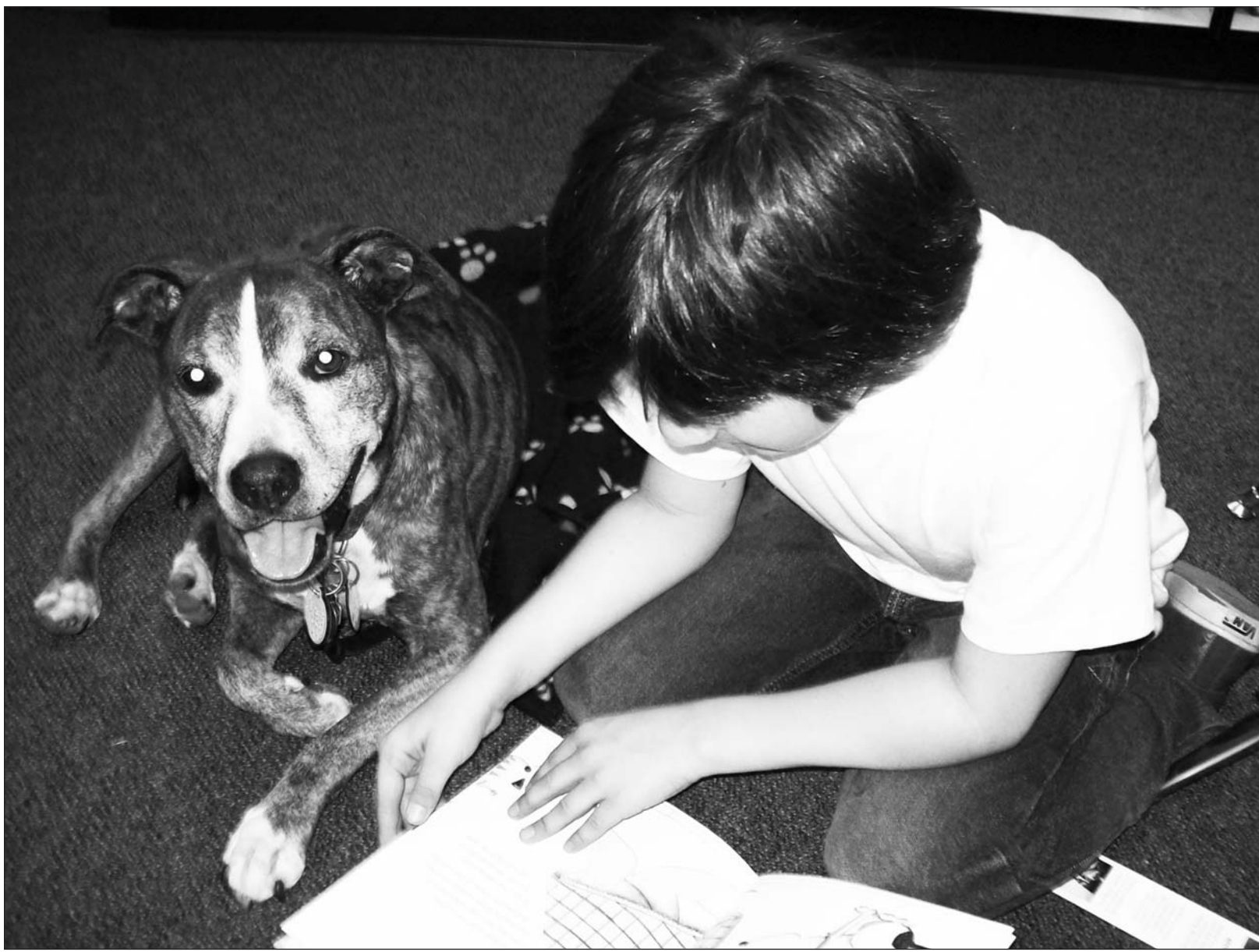
Times for Friday-Thursday, December 5-11, 2008
 Bargain Matinee () Advance ticket sales Special Engagement/No Passes * www.kptmovies.com

Bianchi THEATRES
 7770 Rosecrans Ave. @ Paramount Blvd.
 Phone: (562) 630-SHOW (7469)

THE PUNISHER: WAR ZONE R (12:00 2:40) 5:20 8:00 10:40
CADILLAC RECORDS R (11:30 2:15) 5:05 7:45 10:30
NOBEL SON R (10:40 1:25 4:10) 6:55 9:40
TRANSPORTER 3 PG-13 (10:00 12:35 3:10) 5:45 8:20 10:55
TRANSPORTER 3 PG-13 (11:00 1:35 4:10) 6:45 9:20
AUSTRALIA PG-13 (10:45 2:20) 5:55 9:30
FOUR CHRISTMASSES PG-13 (11:20 1:35 3:50) 6:05 8:20 10:35
BOLT 3D PG (10:00 12:25 2:50) 5:15 7:40 10:05
BOLT PG (11:00 1:25 3:50) 6:15 8:40 11:00
TWILIGHT PG-13 (11:15 2:10) 5:05 8:00 10:55
MADAGASCAR 2 PG (10:20 12:45 3:10) 5:35 8:00 10:25

Bingo
 Thursday Afternoon
 Games start at Noon
 ~ many special programs ~
 Woman's Club of Downey
 9813 Paramount Boulevard
 ~ Proceeds benefit Rancho ~

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE
 SUNDAY DECEMBER 7, 2008
 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
 11233 S. Woodruff Ave., Downey, CA
 (Behind Band Of America/Corner of Firestone & Woodruff)
 Proceeds to benefit FAIL-SAFE 4 FELINES, INC.
 • Handcrafted Items • Christmas / Holiday Crafts
 • Jewelry / Novelty Items • Refreshments Available For Purchase
 • Continuous Raffle and Door Prizes
 • Ample Parking / Free Admission • Fun For The Whole Family
 Tell Your Friends & Neighbors
 For More Info. Call Pat (562) 547-7068 / Robin (562) 618-5965
 Vendors Welcome / Application On Reserve Side



Rowdy, a 14-year-old pit bull, is helping children learn to read at Ward Elementary School in Downey.

Pit bull helps children learn to read

BY MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Ward Elementary School has a new teacher's aide this year – and she has four legs and fur.

Rowdy is a 14-year-old pit bull that has been helping children with reading difficulties read.

"We love Rowdy and this has been amazing for the kids," said Ward Elementary School Principal Jennifer Robbins.

The children take turns reading to Rowdy who simply listens and laps up the attention.

"This doesn't help the children learn reading strategies, but it does help them with their confidence. They are taking more risks trying out new words because they like reading to Rowdy," Robbins said.

When Rowdy was a puppy, she was found wandering in an industrial parking lot. Her owner Linda Bates admits she was reluctant to take Rowdy home, but her husband asked her to give the dog a trial run.

Naming her "Rowdy" because she was rambunctious, Bates enrolled her in the Downey Obedience Club where she earned the Companion Dog Excellent title, Canine Good Citizen award, and passed the temperament test requirements to become a therapy dog.

In 1997, Rowdy started visiting children at Norwalk's psychiatric Metropolitan State Hospital.

"The children responded positively to her. They would play fetch with her, get her water, shake her hand, pet her, and confide in Rowdy," Bates said.

"Metro can be a depressing place so Rowdy's visits gave the children something to look forward to."

After realizing that the Metropolitan State Hospital didn't have books for the children to read, Bates took the problem to Noreen Edge, who is another Downey Dog Obedience Club member. Edge helped Bates write a grant proposal for \$5,000 from the State of California.

With the receipt of the grant funds and donations of more than 4,000 books from family and friends from the dog community, Bates was able to create "Rowdy's Reading Room" at the hospital in 2002.

Bates and Rowdy have received numerous therapy work awards which include: the 1999 Delta Society Beyond Limits Special Service Award, 1999 and 2002 Metropolitan State Hospital Outstanding Volunteers Awards, 2002 and 2003 American Kennel Club Award for Canine Excellence, and 2007 AKC Ace Honorable Mention.

Bates was also awarded Woman of the Year in 2003 by the 38th Congressional District for her therapy work with Rowdy.

"There is something about the touch of a dog that people relate to – it's usually a happy and calming experience," Bates said.

"It also brings out a responsible side in kids."

Rowdy may be retiring in the spring of 2009 because she has arthritis. Bates, who is now a therapy dog evaluator with Therapy Dogs International, is seeking anyone interested in doing therapy work with their dog.

According to the founder of Therapy Dogs International Elaine Smith, "All therapy dogs have one thing in common. Their owners have...the unselfish desire to help others, taking time to paws awhile for love."

For more information, e-mail Linda.tdi@earthlink.net.

Free glucose screenings today

DOWNEY – CareMore will be offering free glucose screenings for adults over 50 today from 9 a.m. to noon at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

No pre-registration is required.

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.

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.



 Advent Lessons and Carols
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Sunday, December 7th at 10:15 am.

Beautiful music of Advent will be sung by St. Mark's Episcopal Church Choir. An inspiring time which brings meaning to the season that leads to Christmas.

Holiday Brunch will follow the worship service of music, readings, and Holy Communion.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
is located at 10354 Downey Ave.
(north of 7th St. and south of Florence
on the east side of Downey Ave.)

(562) 862-3268

First Presbyterian Church of Downey A Multicultural Congregation



To Know Christ and Make Christ Known
Christmas Musical 3:00 p.m. Saturday the 13th
7:00 p.m. Sunday the 14th
Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. Wednesday the 24th
Children's Service
Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m. Wednesday the 24th
Candlelight service
10544 Downey Avenue at Seventh Street

Mayor: Citizens patrol would help Downey police.

Continued from page 1

the same time, educating us all.

Citizens Patrol

I have called for a citizens patrol to work under our fine police department. It will provide an extra set of eyes and ears on the street which will then communicate with regular patrol and dispatch. It will be non-hazardous duty that entails a radio as the only weapon. It is a great way to put more boots on the ground without adding cost.

And by the way, we currently have eight new police officers in the academy right now, which will bring our total of sworn officers to 124.

Emergency Preparedness

Public safety and emergency preparedness will continue to be top priorities as they should be. We learned much this last year and we will have a full-time management position to ensure compliance and preparedness. There will not be any excuses for not being prepared.

Youth Commission

I want to establish a Youth Commission. Empowering our youth to get involved and to help promote their issues is key to ensuring future generations of good Downey citizenry. It will also help to recruit youth-oriented business and to encourage positive social activities. By employing the Character Counts program into this commission, our youth will be well-prepared to serve their community.

Transit Yard Consolidation

At Apollo Park we currently have a large transit yard and maintenance yard. I want to start the process of consolidation of this area to be able to convert this maintenance yard to much needed park land. The entire project is something our city has been working on along with several other yards like the one at Independence Park. But we can start the process now as this yard is not vital for everyday operations and can easily be converted.

I also want to make sure that our parks are upgraded and revised to ensure our citizens have the highest quality of parks we deserve and expect in Downey.

Mayor's Servant Award (Diakonia)

I will also establish the Mayor's Servant Award (Diakonia). Our city has a long and proud tradition of service and volunteerism. We have many very active service organizations and over 92 churches that make our city special. I want to highlight and recognize citizens that have done small things with great love for others.

I will honor someone monthly at council meetings and personally pay for a gift certificate to our local stores. If you know of someone who should be recognized, please send me an e-mail.

Public Information

Public information is also something that I have felt we need to expand in our city. I have asked for a website subcommittee to look at our capabilities and lack of capacities. I want to revise our website to make sure it is interactive, revised and communicates what is happening, and more importantly, how we can help our citizens.

Wouldn't it be great to sign up to get information from our city on topics you want to know more about? This can and should be done. I will also be producing an e-mail newsletter to update our citizens on city happenings. I also hope that the *Patriot* will let me write a short bi-weekly article on happenings in our city.

If you want to be added to this list just send me an e-mail. It will not be used for anything else besides my e-newsletter...the more we know the better.

We will not only establish a reverse 911 system to be able to quickly notify our citizens of any major incidents in our city but we will also have the capabilities to hopefully send e-mails and text messages to who citizens who register their information.

Information to relay to our citizens has always been a top priority to me as I feel that when our residents are informed about issues at City Hall they can make informed decisions and hold us accountable to do what is best for our city. I took a lot of heat for asking for the web cast and cameras at council meetings and planning commission meetings. But in our recent water situation we had over 30,000 hits on our website to watch the press conference we had at City Hall explaining what was going on. This tool will continue to expand and it will benefit us all at only a minor cost.

Economic Development / Downtown Downey

One of the promises I made when I ran for office was to jumpstart our economic development and bring things to Downey that our citizens want and need. We are on our way and there's more to come.

I firmly believe that our new economic team has started a transition that will benefit us all. And I know you have been hearing about Downtown Downey for many years, but we really are on our way. I want to continue to implement economic development strategies to attract and retain desirable business in Downey. I am very confident that the new Porto's Bakery that will be coming to the corner of Downey Avenue and Firestone Boulevard will be one of the economic engines that will drive and transform the downtown.

I want to conclude by saying that I am humbled, honored, excited and looking forward to serving all the residents of our fine city. I plan to be active and responsive as I have been and welcome your input and ideas.

I return all my e-mails personally and I welcome your calls also. My e-mail address is mguerra@downeyca.org and our City Council office number is (562) 904-7274. And if you need me for an emergency, my personal cell phone number is (562) 706-4114.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and God bless you and your families.

Christmas Campout for Kids

December 13

5:00–11:00 PM

Parents go shopping or just take the night off!

Free • Kids 3 to 12

Dinner provided.

Tents & camp-like environment!

Songs, games, movies (G-rated) and lots of other fun activities!

Adult supervision!

RSVP the Christmas Campout Hotline 323 610-5682 by December 6.

Walk-ins welcome if space is available.

Medical Release forms required.

Call the Christmas Campout Hotline if you have questions.



Christ Lutheran Church
7707 Florence Avenue, Downey 90240

Anita Jesse Hopper passes away at 58

DOWNEY – After a short battle with cancer, Anita Hopper passed away Nov. 24. She was 58.

A longtime Downey resident, she retired earlier this year as a secretary for the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

She was born in Maywood, graduated from Lynwood High School, and was a member of Jobs Daughters Bethel No. 248 Lynwood.

She is survived by her daughters Stephanie Innon of Saugus and Nicole Pacheco of Downey, and three grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother Spencer Yolton of Downey and her sister Betty Torres of Rancho Cucamonga.

A memorial service was held at Forest Lawn in Long Beach on Nov. 29.

The family requests that friends and family make a donation to the Angeles Clinic Foundation in memory of Anita Hopper, 2001 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 560W, Santa Monica, Calif., 90404.



James Semponis was WWII veteran

DOWNEY – James Semponis passed away Nov. 28 at the age of 86.

A Naval veteran of World War II, he served on the USS Whale and Barracuda submarines in the Pacific. Prior to his service, he played for the Garfield High School varsity football team.

Jim was a community leader and member of the AFL-CIO, and an employee of the Continental Can Company for 40 years.

He often visited the Mojave in Las Vegas, and managed Little League baseball in Lynwood for 10 years.

He is survived by Dena, his wife of 57 years; his children Virginia, Tom, and Debbie; four grandchildren, and his sister.

The viewing was held Dec. 3 at Miller Mies Mortuary on Downey Avenue. Funeral Services were Dec. 4 at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Downey. Burial followed at the Riverside National Cemetery.

Lenore Pohl was longtime volunteer

DOWNEY – Lenore Florence Pohl, a 51-year volunteer with the Downey Community Hospital Auxiliary, died Nov. 30.

She was born in Rochester, New York on March 16, 1920. She graduated from Bell High School in 1938.

She was an active volunteer, and was received the Rotary Award for Volunteering (1996) and Coordinating Council Award (2008), along with many other city, state and national awards for volunteerism.

Her husband, John Frederick Pohl, predeceased her in 1988.

She is survived by her children, Stephen and David Pohl, grandchildren, Andrew, John and Faith Pohl, and Jessica Richardson; and sisters, Jeanne Menges and Marilyn Day.

A memorial service will take place Tuesday at Christ Lutheran Church in Downey at 11 a.m. Pastor Nancy Hamm will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to Christ Lutheran Church, the Downey Community Hospital Auxiliary, American Cancer Society, or the American Heart Association.

Olympic medalist shares story of hope with students

BY MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Hispanic, female, and full of determination, Olympic silver medalist Patty Cardenas from Commerce is sharing her message of hope with local children.

The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Cardenas has been an inspiration to young athletes since becoming a member of the first Girls Water Polo team at Bell Gardens High School in 1998 – leading the team to four consecutive CIF championships.

With her father suffering from prostate cancer, Cardenas' parents were unable to see her represent the U.S. Women's Water Polo team in Beijing this summer. Cardenas walked away as a silver medalist.

Nicknamed "Skill" by her teammates, Cardenas is considered a "beacon of hope in the underrepresented world of aquatics," according to the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

After Cardenas shared her story and experiences with the Advancement via Individual Determination classes at Griffiths Middle School on Oct. 17, the students were required to do a "quick write" about meeting her.

Excerpts taken from some of the AVID students statements:
 "The words Patty Cardenas said that inspired me to follow my dreams in becoming a professional soccer player was to dream big and to never give up on your dreams." – **Celina Montano**
 "She is an inspiration to us... Meeting an Olympic medalist is an once-in-a-lifetime chance and I am honored to be in AVID and be able to experience this." – **Geavanna Torres**

"Patty Cardenas inspired us to follow our dreams and to never give up when it gets rough. She also explained to us that education is very important and how we need to get good grades to get into a good college." – **Lauren Cisneros**

"We got to take pictures with her. Patty was amazing – she even let us hold her medals." – **Robert Hernandez**

"She has to practice 6 to 7 days a week and had to sacrifice a whole lot of her life... That proves to me that hard work pays off... if I have a dream and dedicate it to myself, I can do anything my heart pleases – the moment she spoke she just filled me with inspiration." – **Eric Flores**

"She helped (me) understand to always dream big, and never let of the dream until you have achieved it... Also be dedicated to your work and try to keep getting better at what you do by practice." – **Peter Yanny**

"She told us that it was a big blessing for her to be able to go to the Olympics this year." – **Melissa Herrera**

"She... discussed how far her career has taken her. For example, she has competed in China, Brazil, and Australia." – **Genesis Rivera**

"She left with unforgettable awe of the whole class." – **Matthew Perez**

"Have you ever wished you could meet someone famous? Mostly everybody does because that is just the way we are. Well, that wish came true for my AVID class." – **Michael Gaitan**

"I'm sure those kids had a great time, are grateful, and see Miss Cardenas as a role model." – **Israel Jara**

"She told the AVID students to follow your dreams, work hard and be dedicated, have education your number one priority, and have confidence



Olympic silver medalist Patty Cardenas, left, shared her message of hope with students at Griffiths Middle School.

in yourself." – **Julia Molinaro**

"Becoming an Olympian wasn't easy." – **Yesenia Barrera**

"AVID was shocked to see and touch an Olympic medal – they are heavier than you think it is." – **Rebecca Gonzalez**

"The most important thing she talked to us about was to follow our dreams and to stay in school and we will succeed." – **Ana Rivas**

"When she came in the room, nobody knew who she was. But when she left, everyone wished she could come back again." – **Manuel Cuellar**

"She really showed me the true definition of dedication and how she started swimming at 8 months old and practice water polo every day. That didn't exactly bug her that she didn't have time for her social life." – **Leilani Miyadi**

"Having her as a guest speaker was really cool. I mean, when is it that you can see an Olympian?" – **Katherine DePaz**

Call **Linda Larson** to put your ad in **The Downey Patriot Classifieds** section. Deadline is Wednesday at 11:00 am (562) 904-3668

Downey Family YMCA

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

Opens November 29, 2008
 Central Downey Location
 (Across from Stonewood Mall & west of Arby's)
 HOURS: 10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m. Sunday—Thursday
 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. Friday—Saturday
 Sponsored by: Downey Y's Service Club
 to benefit YMCA youth programs
 Call Tod at 562/927-7920 for more info or to pre-order your tree.
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008 | 6PM
MACY'S COURT

Join us on December 11th to wrap new holiday gifts for economically challenged women in our local communities. Stonewood Center will donate all of our gifts to Su Casa. Across the country, our centers plan to wrap and give away 40,000 gifts to women who might not be receiving many – or any – gifts this holiday season.

Please RSVP to (562) 861-9233 to attend the holiday event that truly gives back.

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The Downey Patriot proudly presents its new website, updated each week to reflect the news in our current issue and also updated during the week to cover breaking news as it happens. The Downey Patriot online is filled with rich features such as a blog, news columns, archives in PDF format, and a search engine for all of our articles. Keep in touch with Downey events easily and visit us online.



WRITE TO US

Express your comments or concerns regarding news and events around Downey. Our letters to the editor section is a great way to voice those views publicly. We'd also love to hear any feedback you have in general - please feel free to e-mail us at downeypatriot@yahoo.com.

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If you are interested in display advertising, do not hesitate to call and inquire! With a circulation of 25,000 copies, we target more Downey citizens than any other publication. We offer flexible sizing to help tailor to your business's needs. Display advertising deadline: Monday at 3:00 p.m. Call in and ask for Dorothy or Mary.

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Santa Claus sets chat time with Downey kids

DOWNEY – The city of Downey Community Services Department is again offering children ages 4-8 an opportunity to chat with Santa Claus in a free program entitled “North Pole is Calling You.”

To participate, parents or guardians should fill out an information card at the Community Services Department inside City Hall. The card will ask for the child’s name, pronunciation, home phone number, parents’ name, hobbies, holiday wish list, and more.

Cards will be available Dec. 8-15, and must be submitted by 5 p.m. Dec. 15. Santa Claus will call children Dec. 16-17 between 6 and 7 p.m. He will have a brief chat with each child.

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

Trombone Christmas concert set

DOWNEY – The Moravian Church of Downey will present their annual Advent and Christmas Trombone Concert this Monday at 7:30 p.m.

The concert is free. The Moravian Church of Downey is at 10337 Old River School Rd.

Child immunizations at Alameda

DOWNEY – St. Francis Medical Center, in conjunction with Downey Unified School, District, will administer free immunizations for children Wednesday at Alameda Elementary School, 8613 Alameda St.

All immunizations are free and no appointment is necessary. A parent or guardian must accompany children.

Parents should bring the child’s official immunization card with past immunization history.

Immunizations will be given from 3 to 7 p.m. Children must be between 4 to 18 years old.

For more information, call (562) 904-3589.

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.



Angie Pierce of Century 21 My Real Estate was awarded the 2008 Service to the Community Award by the Downey Association of Realtors (DAOR) last month. Pierce received the award “in recognition of her continuous dedication for the betterment of volunteerism, organized real estate, and promoting a positive realtor image in our community...” said Nubia Aguirre, president of the association. Pierce expressed gratitude for the award, “and a special thanks to broker and friend Steve Roberson for being a great example as to how important it is to volunteer and be involved in the community.”



Steve Roberson, owner/broker of Century 21 My Real Estate, was awarded the 2008 Broker of the Year Award by the Downey Association of Realtors on Nov. 14. “This is the third time Steve Roberson has received this prestigious honor,” said association president Nubia Aguirre. “The award is based on professionalism, participation with the local real estate association, and desire to give back to the community. These are just some of the many reasons why Steve Roberson is the perfect winner for this award.”

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You can be one of 25 homeowners to buy a heating and air conditioning system for no money down...plus I will give you a check for \$900. So you get a new system and \$900 cash to spend on your Christmas presents. Now if you decide to pay cash, instead of financing, I will reduce your price by \$900. Either way you save \$900. You may be thinking...“why would he make this offer?”

Here's why. During the holiday season I have two strikes against me.
1. The really cold weather hasn't hit us yet, so we don't have many repair calls.
2. People have to spend so much money for Christmas that they will do whatever they can to put off spending money on anything else.

I realize this is just a temporary problem. If history repeats itself, when the holiday season is over and winter is here, I will have all the business I can handle. However, I've guessed that we can install 25 systems (at best) before this happens.
So this offer should take care of my problem...and solve a problem that you are faced with.

Here is how you benefit from my problem:
• You can finance your new system without taking one cent out of your pocket. Then I will give you a check for \$900 that you can use to pay Christmas bills.
• If you decide to pay cash I will reduce your price by \$900.

There is only one way you can lose. And that's if your call comes in too late. Because once I sell these 25 systems this offer will end. So for your sake, please don't delay your call. There is no way this offer will last for long. So call **Cooling 4 Less by Dockstaders** at (562) 698-0201 today.

Sincerely,
Doug Farnik

P.S. On Christmas Day some of the happiest people will be the ones who took advantage of this offer. Not only will you be warm and cozy, but you can sit and relax knowing you've got money to pay your Christmas bills.

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OUR CLIENTS

“Angie Pierce did a great job and everything was wonderful! I can't say enough about Angie.” - Jo Ann Newland

“Caritina De La Riva and Patricia Gomez did a really good job!” - Gabriel Santillan

“Lilian Lopez & Lorena Amaya did an excellent job. Lilian and Lorena were very informed, helpful and they are very nice people.” - Sergio Gonzalez

FEATURED PROPERTY

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY

Want To Impress Friends
A magnificent North Downey 4 bedroom, 3 bath home. Some of the outstanding features are 3 fireplaces, large pool, spa, formal living room, family room, alarm system, formal dining area, copper plumbing. Virtual Tour - www.towncenter.com/9327

TOP PRODUCERS

TOP LISTING Lilian Lopez & Lorena Amaya
TOP PRODUCTION Edwin Huber
TOP SALES Maria Cibrian

Charming
It isn't often that a superb, warm and cozy residence becomes available like this 2 bedroom, 2 full bathrooms, fireplace in living room, central heating & A/C, spacious backyard.

Motivated Owner
Beautiful Downey 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home in a nice neighborhood, lovely gardens, copper plumbing, central heating, and owner wants a quick sale!

Commercial Lease
Have you ever wanted a gym close to your office? This is a great opportunity to lease an office next to the YMCA in Downey. 4 nice offices are available, parking in rear and side. Fantastic corner location.

Go Cal State...
Great opportunity to live by Cal State Fullerton. 3 Bedrooms, 2 baths, central heat & A/C, tile floors, fruit trees. This is a short sale and could be a fantastic buy.

Hot Downey Buy
A tasteful 4 bedroom, 4 bathroom home. Central heating & A/C, sparkling pool, fireplace, and granite counter tops in kitchen.

REDUCED

Looking For Wide Streets?
Live In One...Rent The Other? This one has it all! Clean and move in condition, corner lot, 1 @ 2 bedroom/1 bath, 1 @ 1 bedroom/1 bath and a huge reduction in price.

Close To Middle School
A fantastic floor plan with 1593 sq. ft., central heating & A/C, fireplace in living room, large family room, new interior paint and across the street from middle school!


Close To Downey Landing
This property is zoned R2. Nice & clean 4 bedroom, 2 bath home and 2 car garage. Not a REO or short sale. Think about the future potential!

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5 BD, 4 BA, 9,625 sq. ft. lot.
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\$9,000 SQ. FT. LOT!



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4,000 sq. ft. house, rock pool + tennis court, price upon request.
Call Marie Picarelli
562-618-0033

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One of Cheapest Homes (Per Sq Ft) in Area!
6 BR, 6 BA, 5500 sq ft living space, 7,590 sq ft lot size, built-in BBQ, located in Northeast Downey near schools!
Price: \$1,199,950
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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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Paradise Found!
Wonderful 5BR, 4.5 BA home, including a master suite with too many amenities to list, family room w/ fireplace, a lofi/family room, and more!
Price: \$949,950
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OPEN HOUSE

Downtown Downey Development!
2BR+den, 1BA house w/ 2 car garage & large parking in backyard, on a 8799 sq ft lot, can be built into a 7000 sq ft office/retail bldg.
Price: \$499,900
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A Sizzling Buy!
4 BD, 3 BA remodeled North Downey pool home, large master bedroom, travertine floors, granite counters, and much more.
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Northeast Downey Estate!
Northeast Downey Estate! 5 bed, 4 bath, 3966 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.
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Warm and Friendly!
3BD, 1BA, Orange Estates home, on a large lot. The home has copper plumbing and the property has a newer sprinkler system.
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Home Sweet Home!
3 BD, 2 BA home near Stonewood Mall with large master bedroom & remodeled kitchen.
Price: \$499,900
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New 2007 Construction!
4BR + office, 4BA, approx 3200 sq. ft., marble floors, granite countertops, large master bedroom.
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