

The Downey Patriot



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Photo by John Zander/Downey Beat

Downey wants investigation of voter fraud claims

• L.A. District Attorney asked to investigate allegations that signature gatherers are misleading the public.

By Eric Pierce
Editor

DOWNEY – The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office was asked Tuesday to investigate allegations of voter fraud after signature gatherers hired by the Downey Firemen's Association were accused of lying to residents in order to get them to sign a petition.

A letter from city clerk Adria Jimenez and addressed to Anne Ingalls of the District Attorney's Public Integrity Division requested an investigation after the city received "numerous phone calls" and e-mails from residents alleging misleading statements by petition circulators.

One resident claimed a signature gatherer told a Downey resident she would save \$1,000 by signing the petition, according to the letter.

The fire union is gathering signatures in an attempt to amend the city charter, which requires two-thirds voter approval before the city can contract out fire and police protection services.

Union officials say Downey is violating the charter by hiring outside EMTs and jailers, exposing Downey taxpayers "to legal challenges and significant damage awards."

Paid signature gatherers have been camped outside local grocery stores the last few months in an attempt to collect the roughly 7,400 signatures required to place an initiative measure on the November ballot. The measure would allow the city council to contract with another local agency for fire and police services without voter approval.

Residents have complained about the signature gatherers, alleging they are lying and providing misleading information in an effort to obtain signatures. One such complaint came from resident Joyce Doyle, who wrote to the city council on Friday and whose letter was forwarded to

the District Attorney.

"Yesterday I was going in Ralph's Market on Firestone Boulevard and observed a man with a petition talking to another gentleman," wrote Doyle, who retired two years ago as Downey city clerk. "I stopped to listen and the resident was confused as the man with the petition was telling him this will save you \$1,000 on what it cost you now...for the Fire Department. The resident was handed the petition and he said he didn't understand and the other man repeated about saving \$1,000 and said 'you need to sign this now.'"

Doyle said she interrupted and "told the resident this was not true and it would take away his right to vote on whether we keep our own Police and Fire Departments pursuant to the Downey City Charter. He was shocked when I told him this is an attempt by the Firemen's Association to go to Los Angeles County and it would allow in the future three council members to make this decision for him and the residents of Downey with no vote by the residents."

Steve Davis, president of the Downey firefighters association, said the union does not tell petitioners what to say and provides them with a statement to read in case residents request more information.

Ultimately, however, it is the responsibility of each resident to read the petition language before they sign, Davis said.

"We ask the signature gatherers to be honest and when we hear otherwise I am in continual contact with the [petition] company to have them rectify the problem," Davis said. "But no matter what people are telling you, read the petition."

The city clerk's letter to the District Attorney also contains two photographs taken by Mayor Mario Guerra, who confronted a signature gatherer outside the Ralph's on Sunday afternoon. Guerra claims the petitioner refused the store manager's request to leave the property.

Downey police were eventually called and the petitioner left without incident.

• Thirty years after her death, Karen Carpenter's life remains an enigma.

By Joel Samberg
Special to the Downey Patriot

DOWNEY – There were several Karen Carpenters. For all we know, there could have been a dozen or more.

Many of us were already familiar with the gifted singer and consummate recording artist. But let's not forget the love-starved romantic and the trusting prey. The obedient daughter and conflicted sister. The awkward performer, unpredictable jester, modest millionaire, optimistic dreamer, wannabe mother, emotional wreck, fleeting liar, giddy clown and generous friend. Nor must we overlook the ailing anorexic and doomed icon.

Here's one thing we know for sure: they all died 30 years ago, on February 4, 1983, when she was just 32 years old.

This may be more than just a rhetorical exercise; between 1970 and 1982 there were hundreds of photographs taken, dozens of promotional videos produced and countless media profiles published about the Carpenters, the hit-making musical group fronted by Karen but steered by her older brother Richard, and if you were to scrutinize just a fraction of them you'd notice that Karen's looks, style, performance techniques, seemingly even her personality and attitudes seem to have changed more times in 12 years than most of us change our resumes in 30. How can all those changes *not* be a consequence of the many Karens that existed?

The 30th anniversary of Karen Carpenter's death is a particularly good time to do some exploration into her life and career because, while there might not actually be a certified resurgence of all things Carpenter, a cursory examination shows that *something's* going on:

- The number of websites devoted to the Carpenters (some to Karen alone) seems to grow every year, with such current domain names as karen-carpenter.com, the mostbeautiful-voice.com, leadsister.com and richardandkarencarpenter.com. There's even a new Facebook page called IHeartTheCarpenters devoted to memorializing the 30th anniversary of Karen's death;

- Author Randy Schmidt published an affectionate and comprehensive biography in 2010 called "Little Girl Blue: The Life of Karen Carpenter."

- Last year a satirical musical comedy that played in Los Angeles, called "Are You There God? It's Me, Karen Carpenter," was inspired by a Judy Blume book and used two dozen Carpenters songs in the score.

- Tributes featuring young ladies who attempt to duplicate Karen's translucent singing voice include a show in California called "Close to You," a program in Florida called "The Carpenters Tribute Show," and a band in England called Carpenters Magic;

- A few months ago, the self-proclaimed 'pop culture dean' of Southern California, Charles Phoenix, led \$79 tours of places where Karen and her brother lived and worked;

- Thousands of Carpenter YouTube videos are updated daily with adoring comments;

- A passionate fan in Champaign, IL has been holding Karen Carpenter memorial events in his home for years and, through the web, invited people from all over to this year's gathering.

Maybe it's not a bona fide revival, but you can't ignore it, either.

It's no secret—at least not to many of her fans—that Karen Carpenter had mother issues, career issues, self-image issues, self-worth issues and perhaps a half-dozen others in between. Almost all of her closest companions insist that she clowned around constantly, had a penchant for silly wordplay and a marvelous sense of humor, never hesitated to help a friend, and absolutely adored children. In fact, by most measures she loved the fact that life exists. She was just terribly uncomfortable with her own. As she sang in a Carpenters hit single from 1974, "Day after day I must face a world of strangers where I don't belong."

Evidently, she meant it.

While they were together, the Carpenters released 11 albums and 30 singles, embarked on several tours in the U.S., England, Australia, Belgium, the Netherlands and Japan, appeared on television dozens of times and became fabulously rich. Their easy-listening hits instantly bring baby boomers back in time: "Close to You," "We've Only Just Begun," "For All We Know," "Rainy Days and Mondays," "Superstar," "Hurtling Each Other," "It's Going to Take Some Time This Time," "Goodbye to Love." And that's only in the first two-and-a-half years of their stardom.

Karen's resonant contralto singing voice (which actually spanned more than three octaves) was widely regarded as beatific, flawless, poignant. She never danced around a note the way so many singers today mistakenly feel they have to do in order to prove talent. Plus, as young as she was, she seemed to have the capacity to mine the emotions of the stories she sang by tapping into feelings and sentiments usually found in people much older, and to then color each song with those emotions.

Certainly not everyone is a true believer; indeed, for every loyal fan there *are* perhaps three or four other people who claim a true disdain for Karen and Richard Carpenter and what they represented, musically. But there are plenty of fans—and not just the everyday types, but some of the music industry's most respected luminaries. Over the years, in various published interviews in print and online, praise for Karen Carpenter has been nothing short of astonishing:

Elton John: "She has one of the greatest voices of our lifetime."

Paul McCartney: "The best female voice in the world: melodic, tuneful and distinctive."

Madonna: "Karen Carpenter had the clearest, purest voice. I'm completely influenced by her harmonic sensibility."

Gwen Stefani: "It doesn't matter how many times you hear it; you'll still get goose bumps when you hear her sing."

Robert Hilburn (former *Los Angeles Times* pop music critic): "The attraction for me was the intimacy and warmth of Karen's singing—a strange but seductive blend of innocence and melancholia."

And Hilburn was one of those who didn't even like the Carpenters! Praise indeed—but there were plenty of problems, too.

In 1979, when Richard took time off to deal with a Quaalude addiction,

KAREN CARPENTER: ALL SHE NEEDED WAS LOVE



Karen cut an album as a solo artist. Her producer was the legendary Phil Ramone. The album was a very accomplished mix of disco and light jazz of which both Karen and Ramone were justifiably proud. But Richard and the executives at A&M Records didn't like the results, and the "Karen Carpenter" album was abandoned. (Richard released it in 1996, 13 years after his sister's death.) Cutting that album was by far the most decisive thing Karen ever attempted on her own; by most accounts it was something she sorely needed to do for her self-esteem.

A few months after that disappointment she met and married a handsome and successful real estate developer by the name of Tom Burris. At least he said he was a successful real estate developer. Burris ended up going through most of his wife's money, and also neglected to tell her that he had had a vasectomy. Karen almost more than anything in the world wanted to have children. She cried to her mother that she didn't want go through with the wedding. But Agnes Carpenter said to her, "You made your bed, Karen. Now you'll have to lie in it."

Karen obeyed. There was a wedding. But the marriage, like the solo album, was shelved.

"I think it's safe to say that if Richard Carpenter and the people at A&M had stood behind Karen with the solo album, she would have gained a much-needed shot of confidence," says biographer Randy Schmidt. "And had that happened, she wouldn't have been so crazy about getting married. Together, the solo album and marriage fiasco were the harsh blows that sent her into the deepest depression of her life."

With that story in mind—and there are many others of equal anguish—it should come as no surprise that Karen developed habits that eventually turned a shattered heart into a permanently damaged one. But the truth is that Karen Carpenter was probably damaged long before the discarded album and the broken marriage. It is very likely that she had deeply-rooted psychological issues from childhood, and may have been giving off signals for years. But she was so playful, so hopeful, so giddy and so dedicated to her craft that hardly anyone ever picked up on the signs in the early days of the Carpenters.

Some did.

Legendary drummer Hal Blaine

remembers meeting 16-year-old Karen three years before the first Carpenters album was produced, when she and her brother were trying to establish some professional ties in the Southern California music scene. Reached at his home in Palm Desert, CA, the now 83-year-old Blaine recalls that Karen always seemed a little melancholy. "I just never saw her on top of the world. She was very hard to figure out." Blaine, a member of the so-called Wrecking Crew session band that backed the Beach Boys, the Mamas and the Papas and other top groups of the 1960s and 70s, eventually was hired for many of the Carpenters' recording sessions. Karen, a skilled drummer in her own right, picked up the sticks on as many recordings and concerts as she could, but audiences wanted to see her out front singing, and ultimately that's where she ended up most of the time.

"She was a sweetheart," Blaine says. "I even had a set of drums made for her—but I just never saw her having a big laugh."

Karen was born in New Haven, CT on March 2, 1950, and when she was little would often sit with her brother, three-and-a-half years older, to listen to records—if she wasn't outside running bases, which she much preferred at the time. Richard took to piano, musical theory and composition quickly and easily and spent most of his time indoors practicing. In 1963 Harold and Agnes Carpenter moved the family to Downey to improve Richard's chances of building a career as an arranger and composer. Richard enrolled at California State University, Long Beach, to study music. Karen attended Downey High School, where she took up the drums.

In 1965 Richard formed a jazz combo called the Richard Carpenter Trio. They played in the "Battle of the Bands" at the Hollywood Bowl and won Best Combo. The real bombshell of the early days is that Karen was signed to a recording contract in 1966 at just 16 years of age as a solo artist; Richard was signed on as a songwriter with the company's publishing arm, but it's often been said that that was an effort to keep peace in the Carpenter family. It was clear to just about everyone at the time that Agnes was far more interested in Richard's

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Downey mayor removed as deacon at St. Raymond's

• Mario Guerra transferred to Los Angeles church after complaint from firefighters.

DOWNEY – Mayor Mario Guerra's acrimonious battle with the local fire union took a personal turn last week when the mayor was removed as deacon at St. Raymond's Catholic Church.

Guerra announced the news to the Downey congregation this past weekend. He has been reassigned as a stationary deacon at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angeles in downtown Los Angeles.

The union representing Downey firefighters has had a rocky relationship with the mayor since last summer, when the City Council commissioned a study on a possible switch to L.A. County Fire. The results of that study are expected back

in the next week or two.

Guerra has been the fire union's most vocal critic and has vowed to oppose any proposal to disband the Downey Fire Department.

The fire union accused Guerra of taking his personal viewpoints to the pulpit and lodged a complaint with the Archdiocese. The union, however, denies it had a direct role in Guerra's removal from St. Raymond's.

"We don't have that kind of power," said Steve Davis, president of the Downey firefighters union. "Mario called me a flat-out liar at his town hall meeting. He has called me a bully and a union thug. Downey firemen think he is handling himself in a manner unbecoming of a deacon."

"In order to be removed as a deacon in the city you must have done something wrong," Davis

added. "The Archdiocese must have found evidence to support it."

Guerra denies the allegations. He said he twice offered to resign from the city council in order to remain at St. Raymond's but the resignation was declined by the archbishop.

St. Raymond's declined to comment for this story. The Archdiocese, however, confirmed Guerra is in good standing with the Catholic church.

"As a deacon of the Archdiocese, Deacon Mario is being assigned a new parish where he will bring his ministerial gifts," the Archdiocese said in a statement. "Deacon Mario remains in full and good standing as a deacon of the Archdiocese. We are grateful for his willingness to be of service to the greater Church."

St. Raymond's pastor, Father

John Higgins, resigned as chaplain of the Downey Fire Department on Monday. No reason was given for the resignation.

Guerra and his wife, Ann, have been parishioners of St. Raymond's for 30 years. Their five children each attended St. Raymond's School, including their youngest son who is now in the eighth grade.

"We are called to serve the people of God and after almost 11 years as your deacon we are being asked to continue with our ministries at another parish," Guerra said in a statement e-mailed to parishioners. "This is not our decision and we are saddened because we will miss all of our friends but we will always be available to help in any way possible, now and in the future. We have not done anything wrong of course and we will help our parish during this transition period."

Downey teen chosen for national environmental board

DOWNEY – Downey High School sophomore Karina Gonzalez was chosen out of thousands of applicants nationwide to serve on a youth advisory council to Keep America Beautiful.

The council was limited to 10 students from throughout the country who will act as ambassadors and leaders for youth service in their respective communities and states.

Karina was the youngest member selected.

Students were chosen based on a written application, geographic representation, grade level and interest area. No more than one member can represent any one state.

Karina, a member of the Downey Kiwanis Green Team, was instrumental in getting the city to install cigarette receptacles in Downey parks two years ago.

"I am really passionate about eliminating cigarette litter in local parks and public places because cigarette litter affects the health of the community and is harmful to wildlife," Karina said.

She traveled to Washington, D.C. Monday accompanied by Downey Kiwanis Club member Brenda Lopez to take part in Keep America Beautiful's national conference.

The conference wrapped up Wednesday.

Sweet Deals for Valentine's Day

Valentine Box Blues

By Rosalie Sciortino, Contributor

It was the week before Valentine's Day. Mrs. Shuff, our fifth grade teacher, had already given us permission to fashion a Valentine Box. I volunteered to bring my father's sturdy Stetson hat box to class. Each class in our grammar school made such a box, even first grade.

Our teacher provided the white and red crepe paper, Scotch tape, glue and some long red ribbon. The class cut hearts from pink construction paper and some lacy white doilies.

It was a week of nervous anticipation for most of us. I, especially, was wishing for a particular boy's valentine. His name was George Allen Riemer, a classmate since the first grade. Although I had a best boy friend, I secretly liked George Allen Riemer too. He wore nice clothes – even in first grade. He often came to school in grey wool pants. None

of the other boys wore wool trousers – those were for church on Sunday.

For several days, at specific times, we were allowed to decorate the box. There was much cutting, pleating, ruffling and some pasting of hearts on cascading ribbon. With many designers working on it, it had the look of a massive train wreck.

Three days before Valentine's Day the box was declared completed and sat on a low table in a corner at the front of the classroom. It was a confection of red and white and pink and we felt it was quite the most beautiful box we had ever seen.

Now students began to slip their valentines into the slot cut from the top of the box. Wallace Cristy pushed several into the slot and I also saw Jack Coy and Paul Lauzier do it too. I had not seen George Allen Riemer put any in yet and I spent nights wondering if he would put one special one in with my name on it. All the work, all the decorating, all the excitement meant nothing if I didn't get a card from George Allen Riemer.

Finally The Day arrived. Waiting for Mrs. Shuff to declare that the

time had come to hand out the cards seemed an eternity. Three students took turns calling the names until all the cards in the box were distributed. Luckily every student received cards – some more than others, but that always happened. The teacher gave each of us a paper cup with Valentine candies in it.

I could hardly swallow my candy I was so disappointed that not one of my cards was from George Allen Riemer. It was a bitter blow after all those days of anticipation and dreaming and decorating.

After school that day I carried the empty box back home and placed it on the kitchen table. I didn't know if it would ever hold my father's hat again. I would leave that up to my mother. She noticed that I seemed more subdued compared to the past week and asked if I had a good time at the Valentine party.

"Yes. I guess it was OK," was my reply. She gave me a quizzical look as she brought the box into the laundry room and began to tear off the decorations. She lifted the lid and peered into the box. Stuck to the bottom was the underside of an envelope. She called to me. "Look. Somebody missed one card stuck to the bottom of the box."

With trembling fingers I pried the envelope loose, turned it over, saw my name on it, opened it and my heart did a little tap dance. There, on a red heart, were the words, "Be Mine" and underneath was the desired signature, George Allen Riemer.

Rosalie Sciortino is a Downey resident and member of Writers' Workshop West.

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PIH acquisition of Downey Regional raises eyebrows in health community

• Downey Regional accused of ignoring acquisition offers from other hospitals. DRMC also wants to open its board of directors to non-Downey residents.

By Christian Brown
Staff Writer

DOWNEY — After spending years beleaguered by debt and failed acquisition attempts, Downey Regional Medical Center finally received some good news on March 6, 2012.

It had only been three years since Downey Regional filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection citing poor HMO contracts and financial system breakdowns, but due to a successful reorganization plan, the hospital was now able to announce it would soon secure \$52 million in loans.

“Downey Regional Medical Center’s recovery is a success story almost without parallel,” said hospital CEO and president Kenneth Strole at the time. “Hospitals don’t usually survive bankruptcy intact, let alone unaffiliated...We are very proud of everything we have accomplished and are looking forward to making more exciting announcements in the near future.”

Nine months later, executives at DRMC kept their promise announcing new “affiliation discussions” with non-for-profit health care network PIH Health of Whittier.

Sources privy to the impending deal, however, are raising questions concerning the transparency and integrity of the negotiations, which they believe will lead to a multi-million dollar acquisition of Downey Regional Medical Center.

According to documents obtained through the Downey city

clerk’s office, Downey Regional management evidently dismissed more than one eligible acquisition offer from credible health care entities in order to advance negotiations with PIH Health.

Confidential documents obtained by *The Downey Patriot* indicate Rob Fuller, executive vice president at DRMC, met with Alan Weiner and James Hopwood, managing directors of Tampa-based Focus Management Group on Oct. 1, 2012 to discuss a notice of acquisition opportunity for potential acquirers.

The decision was made to send the notice to 16 non-profit and for-profit entities that have a strategic interest in Downey including PIH Health, Daughters of Charity Health System, Providence Healthcare System, St. Joseph’s Health System, Cedars Sinai, University of California at Los Angeles, University of Southern California, Prime Healthcare, Prospect Healthcare and others.

In addition to highlighting the hospital’s strengths, the two-page notice encouraged potential buyers to “propose any acquisition structure, either for-profit or non-profit, they believe will result in a successful transaction.”

By Nov. 23, Downey Regional had an interested buyer.

In an e-mail sent from Kenneth Strole to the members of the Downey City Council, the DRMC president informed the council of a special board meeting on Nov. 29 where the hospital’s board of directors would discuss a letter of intent between Downey Regional and PIH.

According to the eight-page letter of intent, PIH sought to acquire the Downey hospital after a period of exclusive negotiations. If the deal was approved by the Downey Re-

gional board of directors, PIH would assume or satisfy all of the hospital’s Chapter 11 bankruptcy plan obligations and provide working capital for the hospital over the next five years.

“Legally speaking, this is an affiliation,” said Fuller. “There is an acquisition of assets however, so the attorney general requires we call it an acquisition, but it’s two non-profits coming together.”

Fuller, who joined the staff of DRMC in 2001, said the acquisition deal will add Downey Regional as the second hospital under the umbrella of PIH Health extending non-hospital services to the Downey stand alone medical center, which would probably change names.

“We’re not wedded to the name,” said Fuller. “I guess some smart people at PIH will suggest unified branding so the hospital will probably be called PIH - Downey Hospital.”

Prior to that special board meeting, however, Downey Regional executives received correspondence from other health care groups interested in acquiring the hospital.

On Nov. 26, Joel Freedman, CEO of for-profit Avanti Hospitals, forwarded a memorandum of interest to Rob Fuller concerning Downey Regional Medical Center.

“As you may recall, we have had a long-standing interest in providing support to the hospital [DRMC] and its surrounding community,” wrote Freedman. “A history which includes the execution of a term sheet between Downey and a subsidiary of Avanti in November 2011, pursuant to which, among other things, Avanti proposed to lend \$32 million to Downey and enter into a management agreement to operate the hospital.”

Freedman says he was surprised when his company’s offer was hastily rejected without any due diligence

by Downey Regional management.

“Avanti operates four hospitals in south, southeast Los Angeles County. We’re one of the most successful health care systems financially – we have the capital,” Freedman said. “We sent them a five to seven-page proposal, but we were quickly dismissed. We’re a clear alternative that should have been seriously considered.”

Fuller maintains the hospital board voted in 2009 not to consider offers from for-profit entities, but Freedman insists Downey Regional management engaged in acquisition discussions with Avanti in November 2011.

While Freedman had nothing negative to say about PIH Health, he now questions Fuller and Strole’s motives for not allowing the DRMC board of directors to thoroughly discuss Avanti’s proposal.

“One or two other buyers were not given the time of day, we should have been a clear option,” he said. “We’re a different solution that would provide excellent care and community education. The community would’ve been able to own and operate the hospital without it being a stand alone hospital.”

Downey Regional also received interest from Daughters of Charity Health System, which owns St. Francis Medical Center. The group previously sought to acquire the 199-bed hospital in February 2010, but new offers from the health care entity were likewise rejected without proper due diligence.

During the special board meeting on Nov. 29, board members approved the letter of intent between PIH and DRMC in a 5-1 vote, noting two absents, and official negotiations began despite the proposals received by Downey Regional executives just



days before.

In any case, correspondence between Fuller and the Downey city manager’s office indicates DRMC management may have been preparing for the acquisition with PIH weeks before the announcement.

On Nov. 8, 2012, just 15 days before Strole announced the letter of intent between PIH and DRMC, Fuller e-mailed Downey City Manager Gilbert Livas requesting the City Council eliminate from its lease with the hospital a “strict” residency requirement for its board of directors.

“We believe that the residency requirement in the lease is outdated with respect to DRMC board membership,” wrote Fuller.

In his request, Fuller proposed the board requirements be broadened to incorporate anyone who has “significant interest in the city or region.”

He also suggested the board’s size specifications be altered from its current requirement of “not less than 15 members” to five to 15 members, with a target of 11.

“The terms of our 1982 lease is not good governance,” said Fuller. “The board is gigantic and may be unconstitutional. We’re a \$200 million business, without the proper un-

derstanding of business there’s a lack of good governance. What we’d like to see is a professional government approach like a non-profit advisory board structure.”

In an e-mail response on Dec. 3, Livas deferred the request stating the City Council found it premature to discuss an amendment to the lease while Downey Regional engaged in negotiations with PIH.

Fuller replied the following day noting that Downey Regional would indeed continue requesting the change even after a deal with PIH was complete.

“We will have some clarity for you and the City Council soon concerning the potential affiliation with PIH,” Fuller wrote. “Accordingly, we will likely be asking for the same amendment to Section 17.A as we requested on November 8 sometime in the near future.”

Downey Regional entered negotiations with PIH Health on November 30 after signing a non-binding letter of intent. The exclusive negotiations are expected to end before March 1 followed by a waiting period of 60-105 days, according to Fuller. Any definitive agreement reached must be approved by DRMC’s board of directors.

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List of superintendent candidates down to 2

• Final interviews set for next week with an announcement expected shortly thereafter.

By Henry Veneracion
Staff Writer

DOWNEY — *The Downey Patriot* learned Wednesday afternoon that one of the three earlier-announced finalists for DUSD Superintendent, Dr. Christopher King, Interim Superintendent of the Anaheim City School District, has withdrawn as a candidate for the position to replace Dr. Wendy Doty.

This leaves the other two finalists—John Garcia, Ph. D., Clare-

mont Graduate University, Deputy Superintendent of the Glendale Unified School District, and Julie Mitchell, Ed. D., Pepperdine University, Chief Personnel Officer of the Tustin Unified School District—to vie for the eagerly sought assignment.

The announcement came via e-mail from DUSD board president Donald LaPlante. No reason was given for Dr. King's sudden withdrawal.

The remaining two candidates, Drs. Garcia and Mitchell, will be interviewed next week as scheduled, LaPlante said, and there will be no changes to the rest of the schedule.

The schedule calls for final in-

terviews with the candidates the week of February 4th. LaPlante had earlier indicated that the DUSD board expects to have an announcement of the new Superintendent early in the week of February 11th.

The search process began in earnest in September with the selection of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates as search consultants to the DUSD board in the selection of the new Superintendent. Towards this end, as LaPlante reviewed the process, the board of education "had the opportunity to interview a number of highly-qualified candidates. These candidates were screened by our search consultants to provide the board with individuals who best

matched the qualifications and traits identified in meetings with various groups throughout the school district."

LaPlante further said, "After the interviews, the board of education identified [the] three candidates that the board will conduct final interviews with."

The final interviews conducted the week of February 4th will consist of visits to a few selected schools, so the candidates will have a chance to see the kind of schools the district operates, and for the DUSD board to observe the candidates' reaction to the students, and their future jurisdiction.

Then the offer of employment will be made to the chosen candidate.

If everything goes according to plan, Doty departs at the end of March.



Jim Morris, son of the late J. Arthur Morris, helped creative director Gabriel Enamorado in the curation of "First Glance," the photography exhibit that opens Feb. 8 at Stay Gallery.

J. Arthur Morris exhibit opens next Friday

DOWNEY — Stay Gallery will debut its first collection series with a gala event Feb. 8 from 6-10 p.m.

The series is titled "First Glance" and will showcase the J. Arthur Morris Collection.

Stay Gallery took the collection on loan after they were contacted by Grace Eshilian, a close friend of the Morris family.

In addition to his instrumental role in the creation and advancement of Downey Community Hospital, Morris was an avid and talented photographer. His family still owns a photography studio on Firestone Boulevard.

In his later years, Morris became known as a generous community pillar and philanthropist. He donated more than \$1 million to Downey Regional Medical Center's radiology department.

But it will be Morris's life behind the camera that will be the focus at Stay Gallery.

"This collection is beautiful. It tells an incredible story of a very inspiring man," said Valentin Flores, executive director of Stay Gallery. "We are very excited to share these photographs with the rest of our community."

The gallery has been working on the collection with Morris family members for several months. The collection is expected to be displayed through several exhibits.

"Jim and Mary (Morris) are awesome. They realized that we were doing a good thing for our community and have been incredibly helpful throughout the process," said creative director Gabriel Enamorado.

"They have met with us multiple times, helping us piece together the story of a beloved community member that continues to give to Downey. They have helped us curate the exhibit, write the language, and get the word out about the event. Simply awesome people. They have helped us better understand our city, something we are constantly seeking to do. We've learned a lot about J. Arthur Morris through the telling of their stories -- we can't thank them enough."

The exhibit's opening on Fe. 8 coincides with "J. Arthur Morris Day" in Downey.

While the event is free, the gallery is asking for donations at the door to help cover production costs and to allow for curation of future Morris events. The gallery has more than 300 pieces it has carefully divided into several series they plan to exhibit in the future.

The event is open to the public and will feature live jazz, hors d'oeuvres and hand-crafted punches inspired by classic cocktails from the Lock & Key Social Drinkery, still under construction in Downtown Downey.

"Also, don't forget to dress classy, it's going to be an incredible night," added Flores.

Musical groups wanted for concert

DOWNEY — Choruses and musical groups are wanted for Songfest 2013, the annual concert sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Groups that want to participate should call Lois Buchanan at (562) 927-9790.

This year's concert is scheduled for March 16 in Downey.

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Letters to the Editor:

Downey bicyclists

Dear Editor:

Last Saturday, the Downey Bicycle Coalition hosted its first Community Bicycle Ride. Despite the rainy morning, over 70 bicyclists congregated at Apollo Park to enjoy the Downey roads in community. For a city of our size, such a turnout demonstrates not only the desire to ride, but also the need for bicycle infrastructure to be a part of our city's future.

A special thanks goes out to the various student Kiwanis groups that contributed about 40 bicyclists, making the ride a success and showing that bicycling is for residents of all ages to enjoy. We are also thankful for the patience and willingness to share the road displayed by Downey motorists.

The Downey Bicycle Coalition will host a Community Bicycle Ride the last Saturday of every month, bringing visibility to the fun, healthy, and sustainable bicycling lifestyle. As a lifelong resident, it is an absolute pleasure to work towards safer and more accessible streets for all, as we work to bring bicycle infrastructure to Downey.

Please get involved by liking us on Facebook or emailing me at downey-bike@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from, and seeing more, community members at future bicycle rides.

Happy Riding,

Rogelio (Roger) Pardo
Chair of the Downey Bicycle Coalition

Neighborhood riff raff

Dear Editor:

Imagine you've worked hard, very hard to save for a house of your dreams. We found ours located alongside the golf course off Old River School Road.

Once you get moved in, start with the renovations, you and your spouse are happy and feel blessed. Now imagine you look out your window as the sun starts to set and you see a car full of youths parked directly in front of your house smoking pipes of pot and drinking beer, blasting music.

At first we thought maybe it was a fluke; we hoped it was. But they kept coming and coming. Not the same car, but different cars all the time.

Now imagine you walk to your front door and along the way having to stop to pick beer cans off your lawn, used condoms off your sidewalk and bags of fast food wrappers thrown everywhere. It sure looked like a great area when we shopped the house, what went wrong?

Yes, we've called the police. They made one arrest. But you know, they just keep coming anyway. We installed sensor lights. We've tried. In fact, our little visitors don't discriminate the daylight. They'll show up in the middle of the afternoon while we're working in our yard and start puffing away as if nothing matters.

What a major disappointment our dream house has become. All the times we went to view the house there was never riff raff hanging about. Constantly looking out our windows, not at the sunset but at clouds of smoke, trash and wasted kids that snarl at you when you check them out.

All we can do is call the cops or hassle them off the street. Great, right? Imagine it happening in front of your home.

It's been a little over a year now. How would you handle it?

Brett Pollak
Downey

Downey memories

Dear Editor:

Recently we attended several local events, each of which evoked, for my husband, memories of life in Downey from his preschool years until the present.

The first was a filmed aviation history presentation at the Aerospace Legacy Foundation meeting; the second was a home movie of Downey and various popular Southern California sites shown at the meeting of the Downey Historical Society. We had nostalgic fun recognizing the places which have changed much over the years.

In his young adulthood my husband, Audie, was introduced to the Downey chapter of the Christian Businessmen's Club (CBMC), which met then at the Silver Saddle restaurant on Florence. He met some older men who modeled Christian values and community involvement. A few of these were Earl Wintz, George Cade, Gordon Madru, Victor Pearce, Don Johnston and Norm Sipple (not to slight anyone he has forgotten!).

Also among these men was award-winning space shuttle designer Royal Castle (Cas) Englehart, recently deceased. They had fellowship, shared and organized the mayor's prayer breakfasts, as well as participating in the Values campaign. This was before Character Counts, and character did count with these men. They served their community, their country and their churches.

The third recent event my husband attended was a funeral for Norm Sipple, past president of the CBMC, beloved by his family, neighbors and friends, including those in the CBMC. While a loss to many left behind, for Norm this was a great reunion with his precious Lord and Savior, whom he himself met through the witness of yet another older CBMC mentor.

Bill Wallace, James Van Lengan and others from CBMC were at the service, with James being the young current president of the group. So the legacy lives on.

Norm, with whom God blessed our lives, will be missed, but now he can rest and let others do their part to make our lives, churches and communities what they were meant to be, and at times to stand in for missing fathers.

Glory Derryberry
Downey

California DREAMers

Dear Editor:

I want to thank you, Melissa Nunez and Claudia Retamoza for the article "Undocumented and Unafraid."

Claudia, thank you for sharing your story of growth that will bring hope and knowledge to other students; Melissa, thank you for reporting on the struggles of undocumented youth and for providing facts around the DREAM Act; Eric, thank you for publishing an article that calls attention to the confusion that undocumented students face.

I work with juniors and seniors in Los Angeles high schools teaching effective personal statement writing techniques for private colleges, UCs and Cal State EOP questions to provide students equal access to higher education. I meet many undocumented students just like Claudia who have high GPAs and a strong desire to go to college, but because they grow up in fear and are often advised to keep their status a secret, they don't receive the necessary information to plan for a successful path to college.

I am very happy to learn that DREAM Team LA is bringing support and empowerment to students at Warren High, my alma mater. I hope to be in contact to learn how I can get involved in supporting the DREAMers in both their applications to universities and with writing scholarship essays.

This is a call to action to other community members who want to support the inspiring and incredible youth of Downey.

Marisa Urrutia Gedney
Downey

Dear Editor:

I am writing to congratulate Melissa Nunez for writing an article that is refreshingly needed in the city of Downey and across the state. Her focus on Claudia Retamoza and other DREAMers like her is to be commended.

Too many people ignore the fact that this country was founded on the ideals and sacrifices of immigrants. I am not an immigrant, yet as a 2012 graduate of Warren High School, I can say that some of the most dedicated and focused students I went to school with were. From them I learned the importance of making right on the privilege of receiving a public education.

When I stop to reflect on why some immigrants had a different view on education than the rest of us, it occurred to me that it was because of the sacrifices their parents made when deciding to cross a hostile border and set aside their dreams. Immigrants everywhere, from the past and the present, cross borders for the hope of their family and their children.

While I know we cannot have an open border, we as a country need to extend citizenship to those who have been here long enough to know and love no other country. Furthermore, if they have proven themselves as exceptional students and community members, why wouldn't we want to add them to the list of U.S. citizens?

I suggest that people who echo nothing more than empty phrases of intolerance instead use their time to research their own history. Surely there was an immigrant somewhere in their past who made the difficult choice of leaving their country of birth to come to the United States. They did not do this for themselves -- the first generation immigrant always suffers the most -- they did this for their descendants.

Maybe instead of investing in hate, we should invest in humility, the humility to admit that each and every one of us has immigrants in our family who were wrongly persecuted and blamed for the ills of society.

Alec Dominguez
Downey

Dear Editor:

I am from Mexican parents who migrated to the country in the 60s. I am writing to you in a desperate call of beseech.

I am a 21-year resident of Downey and read your newspaper all the time. I can not hold my thoughts further.

Throughout the years I have read numerous racist, ignorant and demeaning comments towards the Hispanic community that now occupies the suburb city of Downey, as well as personally encountered discrimination from other white American residents.

I have seen Downey bloom from what it was 20 years ago both in socioeconomic and residential improvement by the Hispanic residents of Downey. Good things have happened to Downey because of the Hispanic community. Statistics demonstrate that Hispanics spend more money than any other immigrant group in the United States. Major store chains and restaurants want to be in Downey mostly due to the Hispanic community.

I recently read a comment on Eric Pierce's blog (thedowneypatriot.com) stating that Downey has changed from the 70s to a "barrio." Certainly all cities have changed since the 70s in many ways. It is generations and social morality to blame, not the Hispanic race.

Rosa Velarde
Downey

Foreign allegiances

Dear Editor:

Two recent editorials in the *Downey Patriot* were the best I've seen in a long time: "Newtown: the Death of Innocence" -- it bears repeating -- "We have become a nation of self-centered, ego-driven, rude, arrogant, self-righteous people...Where power, greed and ego take precedence, we have turned away from our religious roots -- God's commandments are obsolete. We have devalued human life." The article stated correctly, "We don't need to fear the fiscal cliff. We plunged off the Spiritual Cliff."

These are a few of the terrible things I saw in our recent news: when I see some program planned to show where a "rock star is proud of his 11 children by his 10 mommas," it is sickening. Or learn that the state of Massachusetts just spent \$1 million for a sex change for a murderer. The disgusting lies and deceit from our highest government officials (Benghazi) and no one has been held responsible after four months.

Our country is now in a big debate regarding gun ownership when, again, those in high places sent assault rifles to the drug cartels in Mexico and no one is held responsible. Colorado just made marijuana legal. Please tell me, what good can possibly come from this? Many more dysfunctional addicts, then they will want money for rehab.

The other editorial, "Obama Needs to Focus Energy Policy on Change, not Hope" refers to A123 system bankruptcy who received \$249 million federal money, the "latest of a long line of troubled taxpayer-enabled green ventures -- some 34 companies and \$7.5 billion to date." I hope the U.S. will not allow this sale to China, giving away valuable technology.

Regarding saved car jobs, Mr. Colin Clarke was glad we bailed out the car companies and so is China, because now Chrysler will make Jeeps there -- 500,000 a year. No "thank you" note to the American taxpayer.

Lastly, a note to Mr. Clarke: I believe President Obama has spent more than all previous presidents totaled, up to George Bush. Regarding the wars in the Arab nations, I'd like not to see one more American lose their life over there. I don't know if this can be done.

Mr. Clarke, what you call "spewing venom" I call "calling a spade, a spade."

Elsa Van Leuven
Downey

The environment: change or semantics?

By Lars Clutterham

It's easy to dismiss efforts to change the status quo because the proposed solution isn't perfect. This is especially true of environmental change, where facile arguments attempt to belittle new ideas. Through this line of thinking, it could be claimed that walking doesn't help the environment because shoes are constructed from materials made of petroleum which wear off, causing pollution.

Variations of such rationales are applied on a larger scale across a broad spectrum of environmental issues that confront us in the modern era. For example, this author has heard the problem of species extinction dismissed with the blithe assertion that "extinction happens and we don't really need polar bears anyway."

The bankruptcy of Solyndra, the federally-assisted solar power manufacturer, is also a case in point. Its failure has been continually used to suggest that solar technology is not worth the effort, despite the fact that Solyndra's collapse represented only a minute fraction of many otherwise successful federal technology loans in a long line of federal energy subsidies, which, by the way, at one time accrued to a young oil industry.

Climategate is another example. No substantive science was ever in question, but climate change deniers used this same kind of logic to claim that some unrelated questionable professional behaviors disproved global warming.

The most absurd variant thus far of this kind of illogical thinking comes from the North Carolina General Assembly, which introduced legislation last year that sought to deny unanimous scientific consensus regarding sea level rise by mandating linear instead of exponential projections--in effect telling the Atlantic ocean that its inevitable higher sea levels are illegal.

If you studied logic in school and your Latin isn't too rusty, you may remember some of those famous fallacies, such as "reductio ad absurdum," translated as "reduction to absurdity," or "argumentum ad consequentiam," translated as "argument from adverse circumstances." Neither of these quite describes this new line of fallacious anti-environmentalist thinking, but they both convey the idea.

Such logic is glib and false. But more importantly, it's lazy. Because if you can dismiss these environmental issues, you don't have to deal with them.

It is not the purpose of this column, however, to devolve into semantic argument. The goal of this ongoing and ever shifting series of environmental discussions is to keep the topic of our society's massive sustainability issues in the public arena, and hopefully to bring a little extra perspective to some of its less known detail.

Most Americans plan to watch the Super Bowl at home

Century 21 My Real Estate is sharing the results of the Century 21's "Big Game Survey."

Century 21, an advertiser in this year's Super Bowl, recently surveyed Americans about their game-watching and party plans during this year's game. The results revealed an overwhelming majority of Americans consider the home to be the best place to tune into the Big Game and that a number of factors contribute to making the party a success, including the comforts of home, good food and, of course, a big screen television.

Key findings include:

- Home is where the game is. Nearly nine in ten Americans who plan to watch the Big Games (88 percent) agree home is the best place to catch the action. In fact, 84 percent indicated they will watch the game this year in their home, a friend's home or a family member's home as opposed to other venues including bars and restaurants.

- Comfort, comfort, comfort. 66 percent of those who plan to watch the game at their own home or someone else's said a comfortable and/or relaxing atmosphere is the leading reason why they opted to watch the game there. In fact, the most popular benefit of watching the game at home instead of a bar is the ability to easily find a comfortable seat with 58 percent of U.S. adults citing this as a benefit. Not far behind was the advantage of not having a huge crowd blocking the view of the television, which drew 48 percent of the vote.

- In good company. 63 percent of women value good company as a critical factor to making a good Big Game party, compared to 57 percent of men.

- However, 46 percent of U.S. males indicated that aside from holidays and birthdays, the Big Game is their favorite reason to get together with family and friends at someone's home (compared to 39 percent of U.S. females).

- What makes a good house party? Nearly three-quarters of Americans (72 percent) said food and drink are among the most critical factors in a successful Big Game party.

- Party Too Hard? After a long day of eating, drinking and touchdown-cheering, those aged 18-34 are most likely to indicate that they have called in sick to work the next day after a Big Game house party (22 percent). And of all hooky players - men are more likely to do so than women (14 percent compared to 9 percent).

Additional findings include:

- Time to Relax. 76 percent of Americans who plan to watch the championship game said they like to watch the game at home in their pajamas or comfortable clothes, with women supporting this notion even more so than men (83 percent vs. 70 percent).

- Bathroom breaks! Nearly half of U.S. adults (46 percent) cite cleaner bathrooms as a benefit of watching the game at home.

- Did you see that?! Men are four percent more likely than women to cite "being able to control instant replay with the DVR" as a reason to watch the game at home (26 percent compared to 22 percent).

- Savory over sweet. For American adults, snack foods such as chips and dip lead the way with 22 percent of the vote for the best Big Game party food. Not on the menu? Sweets such as cookies and brownies only drew in two percent of the vote.

- Hot dogs are ready! Not surprisingly, 23 percent of Americans in the warm-weathered South indicated grilled specialties such as hamburgers and hot dogs are the best foods, compared to only 12 percent of those from the chilly Northeast.

- It's all about big screens. 52 percent of U.S. adults said the quality of the television (e.g., size and resolution) is a critical factor to throwing a successful party for watching the game at home.

- Staying connected. 36 percent of those who plan to watch the Big Game indicate they will use media devices other than their television to supplement the game-viewing experience.

- 42 percent of U.S. adults who will be using additional devices during the Big Game say they will be doing so to check sports news apps on their phone or tablet for breaking, behind-the-scene commentary.

The Downey Patriot

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Babysitting offered on Valentine's Day

DOWNEY – Job's Daughters, a Masonic-sponsored youth service organization, is offering babysitting services on Valentine's Day from 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Adults will do the actual babysitting and all have passed background checks, officials said.

Babysitting will take place at the Masonic Lodge, 8244 E. 3rd St. There will be food, crafts and other fun.

Cost is \$25 per child with sibling discounts.

To sign up, or for more information, call Malia Phillips at (562) 400-1319 or e-mail bethel244D-downey@gmail.com.

OLPH School selling ceramic hearts

DOWNEY – With Valentine's Day just around the corner, students at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School are creating and selling ceramic hearts to raise money for campus programs.

Each heart is hand-made and uniquely different, and includes a Valentine's Day card signed with the buyer's name and message.

The card has the following message: "My Dear Valentine: A donation has been made to Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in your name. Please enjoy this hand-made heart knowing that this donation will support student programs at OLPH School."

The school guarantees delivery by Valentine's Day for all orders received by Feb. 8. Proceeds from heart sales will be used to fund the school's student art exhibit in March.

To place an order, or for more information, call (562) 869-9969.

Free breakfast at Calvary Chapel

DOWNEY – Calvary Chapel Downey is hosting a free "Super Bowl" breakfast this Saturday at 9 a.m.

This is an NFL-sanctioned event where the Bart Starr Award will be presented.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, e-mail Pastor Glenn at gkravig@calvarydowney.org.

SAT, PSAT prep classes available

DOWNEY – High school students planning to take their SATs or PSATs this spring are invited to take a preparation program offered by the Assistance League of Downey.

Students will become familiar with the test, take practice quizzes and learn hints on how to take the test.

"The success of this program preparing high school students planning to attend colleges and universities is extraordinary," said Maru Montero, seminar chairman for the Assistance League.

The class is offered over five Saturdays: March 23, March 30, April 13, April 20 and April 27. Classes are from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Downey High School.

The SATs will be administered May 4 and June 1.

Cost for the five classes is \$50 (including textbook) if paid before March 1, when the price increases to \$70.

Applications are available at the Second Time Around Shoppe on Downey Avenue or by calling Maru Montero at (562) 927-2303.

The class is available to high school students living within Downey Unified School District boundaries.

Rummage sale at church

DOWNEY – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will hold its annual rummage sale and bake sale this Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1-2, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Items for sale include clothing, household items, antiques, toys, books, baked goods and more.

The church is at 13200 Columbia Way.

Boutique sale at Elks Lodge

DOWNEY – The Downey Emblem Club is hosting its first annual Sweetheart Boutique on Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Downey Elks Lodge.

More than 35 vendors will be selling a variety of one-of-a-kind goods. There will also be raffles and refreshments sold throughout the day.

For more information, call Sue Colasurdo at (562) 743-4300.

Caregivers invited to Alzheimer's workshop

DOWNEY – A free workshop to discuss Alzheimer's and other dementias will be held Tuesday at 5 p.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

The workshop is intended for families and caregivers who work with people suffering from the disease.

Sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care, caregivers who complete the workshop "will be able to demonstrate and teach how best to provide care for persons with dementia and also improve the quality of life for those individuals through sensitive and empathetic care."

Admission is free but reservations are requested by calling (562) 401-0010.

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Karen Carpenter: Downey still mourns 30 years later

Continued from page 1

success than Karen's. But it mattered little, for the label had no money for promotion and soon folded.

Richard formed a group first called the Summerchimes, then Spectrum, which focused on vocal harmonies, but soon decided that he and Karen could get along on their own. That's when he began experimenting with the vocal overdubbing

that would become a Carpenters trademark. He called the new group Carpenters (not *the* Carpenters) and submitted demo tapes to every record label in Hollywood. A friend of his gave a tape to someone who knew people at A&M, but Alpert was cofounded by Herb Alpert, who eventually heard the demo. It was Alpert's partner, Jerry Moss, who formally signed the siblings in April 1969. The following week, Richard and Karen began work on an album called *Offering*, which was released in October. It sold just 18,000 copies and lost money for A&M, but Alpert was known to support his artists and give them room to grow, so he kept them on the label.

Early in 1970 Alpert gave Richard the lead sheet of a song to consider recording—a seven-year-old number by Burt Bacharach and Hal David called "(They Long to Be) Close to You." Richard arranged it, the Carpenters recorded it, and the single reached #1 on the charts on July 25, 1970. The follow-up single was "We've Only Just Begun," which reached #2, and after that was "For All We Know," which reached #3.

On March 16, 1971, Richard and Karen attended the 13th Annual Grammy Awards as nominees for Best Contemporary Vocal Performance by a Duo, Group or Chorus. Their competition was the Jackson Five, Simon and Garfunkel, Chicago and the Beatles. The Carpenters won. They also won Best New Artist.

Karen was happy when she and Richard accepted their awards. At least she looked happy.

Always very musical, Karen discovered her unique vocal quality in high school and worked hard to develop it, though on her own she was probably too self-conscious and perhaps not even driven enough to have carved out a career in music. As far as Richard is concerned, based solely on his undeniable talent it is likely that he would have had a busy career in music even if there hadn't been a Karen—just probably not as an internationally famous recording star. The melodies he composed (with John Bettis providing the lyrics) are captivating and memorable, and his arrangements are intuitive, multi-textured tapestries that have been studied at such prestigious institutions as the Berklee College of Music in Boston and Stanford University in California. But as a potential front man his personality was somewhat uninspired, and as a singer his pronounced lisp might have been a liability.

"To be able to make my living doing something I love, I feel very grateful for," he said in *Close to You: Remembering the Carpenters*, a 90-minute documentary that aired on PBS in 1997. "But what even makes it that much better is that my sister happened to be one of the finest female singers who ever lived, and enjoyed making the records as much as I enjoyed making them." That's as close to an acknowledgement of his luck, and not exclusively his talent, as we're likely to get from him. (He rarely gives interviews these days.) For in addition to his own skill, Richard was blessed with his sister's matchless voice. Similarly, in addition to her unparalleled vocal gift, Karen benefited from the musical insights and determined efforts of her brother. The success of the Carpenters may have been inevitable, but Richard and Karen needed each other

in order for the destiny to be fulfilled.

Once they got rolling, though, the hits kept on coming—and a lot of other music, as well. Within their 17 albums (seven of which were compiled after Karen's death) can be found everything from smoky renditions of power ballads like "This Masquerade," to offbeat novelties like "Calling Occupants of Interplanetary Craft." They recorded a number of Great American Songbook classics, and golden oldies pop up here and there. Songs like "B'Wana She No Home" and "Jambalaya (On the Bayou)" are intriguing counterpoints to Lennon/McCartney standards like "Ticket to Ride," which was actually the Carpenters' first single from the "Offerings" album, re-imagined by Richard as a ballad; it peaked at #54 on the charts.

It is often stated—and it seems fairly certain to be true—that Karen preferred to play the drums instead of being out front singing not just because she loved the instrument and had an amazing facility for it, but also because it gave her something to hide behind. As a child and adolescent she was never thin. Plus, as a tomboy she probably didn't think much about her physique during the developmental years. In some early concert footage she is noticeably wider in the hips and broader in the shoulders than in the later years. But it wasn't only her appearance that made Karen decide to lose as much weight as possible. As it almost always does, the problem can be traced to issues of control. For whatever reasons, Karen allowed her mother to control her feelings of self-worth and her brother to control her career. So she decided to control the way she looked.

By the mid 1970s she was dieting obsessively. In October 1981 she and Richard were interviewed in London by Sue Lawley on a BBC show called *Nationwide*. Lawley brought

up the rumors swirling around that Karen suffered from anorexia nervosa, which the host referred to as the "slimmer's disease." Karen denied it. Then, when Lawley attached a number to the rumored weight of her guest—84 pounds—Karen's gaunt face took on the countenance of an indignant defendant when she rolled her eyes and snapped, "No! No!" It is painful to watch.

In January 1982 she went into therapy with an anorexia specialist in New York named Steven Levenkron. The TV newsmagazine *A Current Affair* ran a two-part segment called "The Karen Carpenter Cover-Up" nearly a decade later in which Levenkron insisted that Karen's anorexia had been beat by the time she left his care, and that what killed her was the enormous doses of laxatives she took afterward. But if she took enormous amounts of laxatives, was her anorexia truly beat?

One night in February 1983 Karen slept over her parents' house, in an upstairs bedroom. She had shopped with her mother that afternoon and was going to shop more the following day. In the morning Agnes called to her to come downstairs, but there was no answer. She went up and found Karen dead on the floor of the walk-in closet. As was later determined, Karen had been taking massive doses of ipecac syrup for some time, a drug used to induce vomiting. Each dose dissolves the heart muscle little by little. Karen had plenty of heart, but the one she needed to stay alive was quite literally vanishing.

Thirty years have gone by. We know a little more about anorexia nervosa, but not too much more about Karen Carpenter. Still, the more discoveries we make, the eerier it becomes when we focus on some of her most famous lyrics. "No one ever cared if I should live or die. Time and time again the chance for love has passed me by, and all I know of love is how to live without it," she sings in "Goodbye to Love." In "Only Yesterday" she says that "In my own time nobody knew the pain I was going through, and waiting was all my heart could do."

Karen's own all-time favorite, recorded in 1976 and written by Richard, John Bettis and Albert Hammond, is a song called "I Need to Be in Love," a title that can actually serve as a biographical caption. As with all the others, she sings it with conviction, sad though that conviction may be: "So here I am with pockets full of good intentions, but none of them will comfort me tonight. I'm wide awake at four A.M. without a friend in sight. I'm hanging on a hope, but I'm all right."

Those lyrics spoke volumes. The volume just wasn't high enough.

Mary Todd Lincoln coming to life Monday

DOWNEY – This Monday, the city of Downey's Senior Mondays class, co-hosted by Harriet Paine and Steve Sampley, will present a performance by an indomitable "visitor from the past": Mary Todd Lincoln.

The performance will be held in the Harriet Paine Event Center at Downey Adult School.

Doors open at 2:45 p.m. and the program begins at 3:45. Dinner is served afterward.

Mrs. Lincoln, accompanied by her brother-in-law, N.W. Edwards, will "step forward" from their year of 1876, more than a decade after the tragic death of her husband, to describe her journey from childhood mansion to beginning married life in a boarding room above a tavern, experiencing the joy and frustration of her life with Abraham Lincoln and her bitter treatment by the press during his presidency, to surviving as a widow for a decade before her incarceration in an insane asylum until Edwards and others aided in her release.

Mrs. Lincoln is portrayed by Gail Reifert, who began historical reenacting at Long Beach's Rancho Los Cerritos. She has also co-authored with husband Gene, "Women Who Fought: An American History" and a dozen humorous Victorian era vignettes.

Mr. Edwards is played by Gene Dermody, who taught American history and California history for three decades at Cerritos College. He was the first one at the college to design and teach a class on the history of American women.

Admission to the program is \$5 (cash) and includes dinner catered by Cafe 'N Stuff. Dr. Bob Flynn will provide piano music.

How to become a backyard astronomer

DOWNEY – The Columbia Memorial Space Center will lead a discussion on telescopes and astrophotography Feb. 23 at 1 p.m.

One of the easiest ways to be involved in astronomy is to go outside and look up, but you may want a telescope and you may want to take images with a telescope. But what should you buy and how do you do it?

Space center will discuss how to become a backyard astronomer and the equipment needed.

For more details, call the space center at (562) 231-1200 or log on to columbiaspacescience.org.

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Paramount beats Warren for wrestling league title

• Undeclared Paramount thwarts Warren's attempt for consecutive league championships.

By Mark Fetter Contributor

DOWNEY – The Warren High School wrestling team traveled to Paramount last Thursday night looking to earn a share of the San Gabriel Valley League title but came up short, 34-29.

Paramount came in with an undefeated league record of 2-0 after beating Downey 34-22 at Paramount on Jan. 17. Warren had previously lost to Downey 37-18 on Jan. 10 and were 1-1 in league competition coming in.

The Bears wrestled an excellent match but came up short in their effort to win a back-to-back S.G.V.L. championship.

The match started at 152 pounds when Warren's Andrew Fausto defeated Anthony Pinedo 9-1. Warren took an early 4-0 team lead. Paramount evened the score at 160 pounds when Alfonso Robles defeated Jose Gomez 11-3. The team score was now tied at 4.

Warren's Brian Vives decided Paramount's Jaycob Martinez 5-1 at 171 pounds. The Bears took the lead back at 7-4. The Pirates answered back when 182-pounder Kevin Uriarte pinned Oscar Herrera at the 3:02 mark. The Pirates went ahead on the scoreboard 10-7.

The Pirates took the next three matches and opened their lead to 25-7. Paramount's 195-pounder Michael Alvarena pinned Warren's

Alex Mendez at the 3:32 mark. The team score now stood at 16-7. Paramount's 220-pounder Noe Sandoval pinned Warren's Andrew Rojas at the 2:43 mark and Paramount extended their lead to 22-7. Paramount heavyweight Chris Borrayo defeated Warren heavyweight Ricky Juarez 4-0 and again extended the Pirate lead to 25-7.

It was now time for Warren's lower weights to take center stage and start the comeback. Warren's 106-pounder Andy Garcia decisively defeated Paramount's Marjorie Fargas 16-1 and the team score now stood at 25-12. Warren's Adrian Duarte defeated Paramount's Marc Ruiz 20-5 at 113 pounds and Warren closed the score to 25-17, Paramount. Warren's 120-pounder Jonathan Tiempos lost a 7-3 decision to Paramount's Steven DeLeon. Paramount extended their lead to 28-17 with only four matches remaining.

Warren's Justin Palacios won his match 8-3 at 126 pounds and teammate Zac Brito decided his Pirate opponent 4-2 at 132 pounds. The team score now stood at 28-23 Paramount with two matches remaining. Warren's 138-pounder Chris Angeles pinned Paramount's Gabriel Gonzalez at the 4:14 mark and Warren had finally taken the lead 29-28.

Paramount's 145-pounder Jose Estrada pinned Warren's Isaac Maldonado to stop the late rally at the :43 mark in the last match of the evening.

Paramount won the league dual meet 34-29 and is the 2013 S.G.V.L. wrestling champion.

League finals are scheduled for tomorrow at Warren High School in which Dominguez, Downey, Gahr, Paramount and Warren will all compete.

Crucial stretch of games ahead for Downey boys soccer

• Currently in third place and with playoffs looming, Downey looks to climb league standings.

DOWNEY – The Downey High School boys' soccer team currently has an overall record of 10-4-5 and a league record of 2-2-3.

The Vikings tied Dominguez at Downey 0-0 on Jan. 18, then tied Lynwood at Lynwood 0-0 on Jan. 23 and lost to Warren at Warren 3-0 on Jan. 25.

Downey defeated Gahr at Gahr

2-1 on Tuesday and will host Paramount later today. In the Gahr game, Downey overcame a 1-0 halftime deficit by getting goals from forward Kristian Saravia and Javier Torrelblanca in the second half. The Vikings won their first round game against Gahr by the same 2-1 score.

Paramount is currently on top of the San Gabriel Valley League standings. The Pirates have an overall record of 13-3-3 and a league record of 6-0-1. Warren stands in second place with an overall record of 3-6-6 and a league record of 3-1-3.

Lady Vikings split season series with Warren

DOWNEY – The Downey High School girls' basketball team currently has an overall record of 15-7 and a league record of 3-3.

The Lady Vikings lost to Gahr 63-49 on Jan. 11, defeated Paramount 51-37 on Jan. 16, defeated Dominguez 61-16 on Jan. 18, lost to Lynwood 55-23 on Jan. 23 and defeated cross-town rival Warren at Warren, 37-32, last Friday to split the season series at one.

The Lady Vikings played Gahr at Gahr on Wednesday evening (score unavailable at press time) and will host the Paramount Lady Pirates tonight.

In the Warren game, Lady Viking senior Kristin Johnson led all scorers with 15 points and continues to lead with her solid, consistent play. With the Warren loss to Downey, Warren and Downey have identical league records and will now both make strong pushes for the C.I.F. playoffs.

As it stands right now, the Lynwood Lady Knights are 14-5 overall and have a league record of 6-0. Lynwood is in first place in the S.G.V.L. The Gahr Lady Gladiators are 15-7 overall and have a league record of 5-1, with the lone loss coming against Lynwood at Gahr 63-31.

Both Downey (15-7, 3-3) and Warren (9-12, 3-3) are tied for third while Paramount (1-13, 0-5) and Dominguez (3-10, 0-5) round out the San Gabriel Valley League standings.

Coach Harris is pleased with how hard his team is playing and is looking forward to finishing the league season strong. The Lady Vikings have won three of their last four league games and are gelling together at the right time. It will certainly be interesting to see how the Lady Vikings finish their league schedule as the post-season draws near.

–Mark Fetter, contributor

Downey (10-4-5, 2-2-3) and Lynwood (4-10-1, 3-3-1) are currently battling for third and fourth place while Dominguez (3-3-5, 1-2-4) and Gahr (1-11, 0-7) round out the S.G.V.L. standings.

Coach Barber is pleased with how well his young team is playing and is looking for a push to get his squad into the C.I.F. playoffs. The Vikings still have second round league play against defending C.I.F. Division III champion Paramount at home, are at Dominguez on Monday and will host Lynwood

on Wednesday

The Lynwood game on Feb. 6 may very well be the most important game of the season for the Vikings as the playoffs approach. Certainly all points in the standings count. A win is better than a tie and a tie is better than a loss.

The advantage for the Vikings this time around against Lynwood is that this game will be played at Allen Layne Stadium where Downey has an 6-2-3 record.

–Mark Fetter, contributor

Local runners selected for Dream Team

DOWNEY – The Long Beach Press-Telegram continues to release Dream Team selections for Fall sports from the Moore, San Gabriel Valley and Suburban Leagues, respectively.

The Warren High School girls' cross country team was well represented as was the Downey girls' cross country team. Warren had two runners selected to the First and Second Team Dream Team as did cross-town rival Downey. There were no other First or Second Team Dream Team selections from any other San Gabriel Valley League school.

Warren senior Tiffany Hernandez was selected to the First Team Dream Team. Hernandez was runner-up in the last cluster meet at La Mirada Regional Park and finished in the top five at Cudahy and Cerritos Regional Park to round out the three San Gabriel Valley League cluster meets.

Downey sophomore Lisa Vasquez was also selected to the First Team Dream Team. Vasquez was the S.G.V.L. champion and won all three league cluster meets. Vasquez set the course record at Cerritos Regional Park in the second cluster meet. Vasquez led the Lady Vikings to their first San Gabriel Valley League championship since 1980.

Warren senior Yajaira Zarate was selected to the Second Team Dream Team as was Downey senior Gabriela Gonzalez. Warren head coach Jay Waldron and Downey head coach Amy Overgaauw are extremely pleased and proud of their athletes' hard work and recognition.

–Mark Fetter, contributor

DOWNEY BALLHOGS WIN BACK TO BACK CHAMPIONSHIPS!



January, 27, 2013 The 7th grade boys are off to a great start this year, after competing in back to back tournaments these past two weekends, the boys competed against true 7th grade teams which consisted of 7th & 8th grade players. The Downey Team consist of three 6th graders & six 7th graders. Pictured top row from left to right, Matthew Ruiz, David Mixon, Steven George, Johnny Beeks, bottom row from left to right, John Brabb, William Lucas, James Ellison, Gene Cajigas, and Fernie Gomez. With President Lovel Johnson (L) and Head Coach Fernando Gomez (R). We are always looking at recruiting, support from our city and sponsorship as well. Fernando can be reached at downeyhomeboys@aol.com & Love at ballhogball@gmail.com. CONGRATULATIONS Boys!

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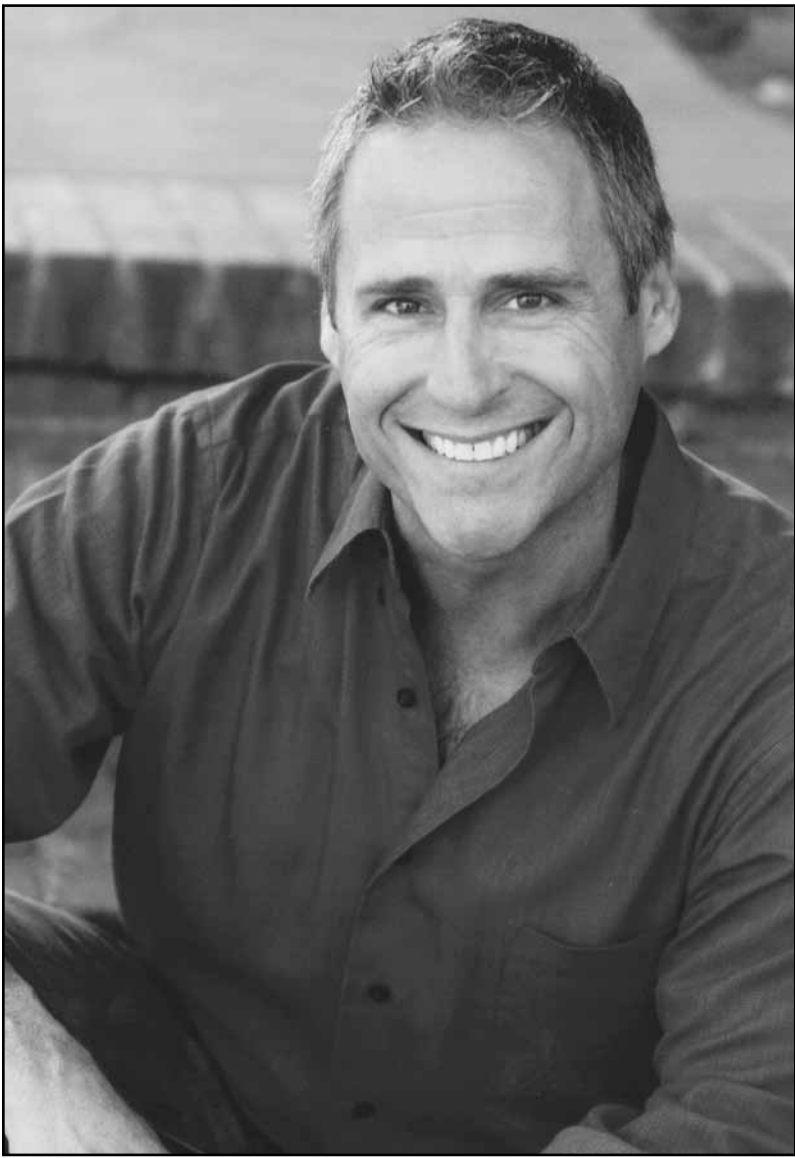
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Veteran actor John Racca returns to the Downey Civic Light Opera for a sixth time to star as Fred Ebb in "The World Goes 'Round," opening Feb. 14 at the Downey Theatre. Racca previously performed in "Anything Goes," "No, No Nanette," "Rodgers and Hart - A Celebration," "The Melody Lingers On" and more. He has performed in television, in film and toured nationally. "The World Goes 'Round" plays Feb. 14 through March 3. For tickets and information, call (562) 923-1714. Group rates are available.

Paramount art show set for March 9

PARAMOUNT - The Traditional Artists Guild of Paramount will host its annual TAG Art Show on March 9 at Progress Park in Paramount from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The show will feature traditional artwork from Southern California artists.

Admission is free and the show is open to the public.

Fashion show to benefit Boys & Girls Club

COMMERCE - The Rio Hondo Boys & Girls Club will host its 15th annual Fashion Show on Feb. 10 at Steven's Teak & Seafood House.

The event starts with a social at noon, a buffet lunch at 12:30 and the fashion show at 2.

There will also be raffles, door prizes, boutiques, vendors, silent auction and DJ.

Tax-deductible admission tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by e-mail Robert Rubio at rubio@rhbcg.org.

City wants input on parks plan

DOWNEY - Downey residents are invited to get involved in planning the city's first ever Parks & Recreation Master Plan, a document that will set a future direction for Downey parks, programs, services and capital improvements over the next 10 years.

A meeting is scheduled for this Saturday at Apollo Park at 9:30 a.m.

Future meetings are set for Feb. 6 at City Hall (6:30 p.m.) and Feb. 9 at Furman Park (9:30 a.m.)

"This is a great opportunity to become involved as we prepare for the future of Downey Parks & Recreation," city officials said in a statement.

For more details, go online to downeyca.org or call (562) 904-7238.

Christian athlete is guest speaker

DOWNEY - Oscar Garcia, an area representative for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, will speak at the Downey Christian Business and Professional Luncheon at Sizzler on Feb. 7 at noon.

Garcia has been with the fellowship for 1 1/2 years, helping to hold camps and events for high-school age kids and young athletes.

The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, call chairman James Vanlengen at (562) 310-1335.

CRIME REPORT

Friday, Jan. 18

Officers responded to Wilderness Park at 7:30 A.M., where a City of Downey employee reported the theft of copper wiring from various light poles and electrical boxes within the park. The loss/damage was estimated at \$12,000. Detectives are investigating.

Saturday, Jan. 19

A residential burglary was reported in the 8600 block of 7th St. at 6:30 P.M. The residents came home to find their front door pried open and items removed from the residence. Detectives are investigating.

Sunday, Jan. 20

At 10:30 A.M., officers responded to the intersection of Bellflower Blvd and Lakewood Blvd regarding a report of a "strong arm" robbery. The victim reported she had been pushed to the ground by an adult male suspect. Once she was on the ground, the suspect pulled the victim's necklace from around her neck. The suspect fled on foot with the loss. Detectives are investigating.

Friday, Jan. 25

At 10:50 P.M., an adult male was robbed at gunpoint in the driveway of his residence in the 7300 block of Cleargrove Dr., by two masked suspects. The victim believes he was followed home from his business in a neighboring city. Detectives are investigating.

Saturday, Jan. 27

At 8:20 A.M., the City's exterior lighting contractor was at Wilderness Park when he observed a subject attempting to pry the cover from the underground electrical vault. The suspect entered a pick-up truck and fled. Detectives are investigating.

At 7:30 P.M., four victims were sitting at a picnic table inside of Brookshire Park (12547 Brookshire Ave) when they were approached by two suspects. One suspect asked the victims what gang they were from as he brandished a handgun. The suspect then demanded the victims' property and struck one of the victims on the head with the pistol. The suspect took the victim's property and both suspects fled on foot. Detectives are investigating.

At 10:07 P.M., a Downey Police officer located a stolen vehicle traveling eastbound on Firestone Blvd at Patton Rd. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle but the driver refused to yield, and a vehicle pursuit ensued east on Firestone Blvd to Imperial Hwy. The fleeing vehicle ultimately collided into another occupied vehicle at the intersection of Imperial Hwy and Valley View, in the City of La Mirada. The suspect attempted to flee on foot but was captured. The driver of the other vehicle in the collision complained of pain to his lower back, and was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Tuesday, Jan. 29

At 11:30 A.M., officers responded to the LA Fitness located at 12074 Lakewood Blvd, regarding a suspect breaking into vehicles. When officers arrived they spoke with an off-duty Police Officer who provided them with follow up information. Through investigative means officers were able to locate the suspect inside his residence. The suspect was arrested and booked for Vehicle Burglary.

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* **HANSEL & GRETEL: WITCH HUNTERS** R (12:15, 2:40, 7:25)
* **HANSEL & GRETEL: WITCH HUNTERS 3D** R (5:05), 9:50
MOVIE 43 R Fri to Wed (12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10; Thu (12:10, 2:40, 5:10), 7:40, 10:20; Fri to Wed (12:15, 2:45, 5:00), 7:45, 10:25; Thu (12:15, 2:45, 5:00), 7:45, 10:25)
GANGSTER SQUAD R (10:55, 1:40, 4:25), 7:10, 9:55
A HAUNTED HOUSE R (11:05, 1:25, 3:45), 6:05, 8:20, 10:40
ZERO DARK THIRTY R (12:00, 3:30), 7:00, 10:30
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK R (10:40, 1:25, 4:20), 7:15, 10:15

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Services scheduled for Frances Moren

DOWNEY – Frances Moren, age 93, passed away on the morning of Jan. 25, succumbing to complications from a stroke and congestive heart failure.

A 50-year resident of Downey, and founding member of St. Raymond Catholic Parish, Frances lived her final eight years in Leisure World Seal Beach.

She was born Sept. 1, 1919 to George and Catherine Jakowski in

Rocklake, N.D.

She was preceded in death by her sisters Angeline Paro, Mary Jozwiak, Victoria West, Genevieve Smela and her brother Frank Jay.

She married her true love, Eric Nels Moren (deceased June 1978), on May 31, 1941 in Duluth, Minn.

Frances is survived by her sons: Dennis Moren of Downey, Dale Moren (Martha) of Turlock, Daniel Moren

(Brigitte) of Long

Beach and Dean Moren (Nancy) of Downey; and grandchildren: Julie Moren of Cerritos, Eric Moren of Long Beach, Allison Costa (Louie) of Turlock, Andrew Moren of Turlock; and step grandchildren Matthew Griffith of Downey, Thomas Griffith of La Habra, Christina Smith (Cole) of Oceanside and step great-grandchildren Daniel and James Griffith.

Frances was a member of the St. Raymond's Ladies Guild Circle 1 and enjoyed playing cards, listening to big band and country Western music, playing board games and cutting coupons.

Services include a rosary vigil at Zrelak Mortuary Chapel in Downey at 7 p.m. on Feb. 7 and a mass of Christian burial on Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, followed by interment at All Souls Cemetery in Long Beach, and a private reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.



Renovations at Los Amigos Golf Course are expected to continue through this year. Back row, from left: golf course general manger Michael Shank, Men's Club member Lorenzo Gillenwater and American Golf's Stuart Hayden. Front row: junior golfers Rafael Russo, Samantha Rocha and Isaac (no last name given).

Downey receives 'excellent' credit rating

DOWNEY – Moody's Investors Service has issued Downey an "A2" rating, signifying the city is in excellent financial condition, city officials announced.

Moody's specifically reviewed the results of Downey's fiscal year 2011-12 and 2012-13 budgets and noted the significance in the savings to the general fund for this fiscal year and future years.

This was mainly due to successful negotiations with bargaining units to include employee contributions to retirement costs, cost of living deferrals, changes in the city's health plans and the reduction in personnel.

"We are extremely proud to have been recognized for our hard work in being able to close an \$11 million budget deficit and approving a balanced budget for fiscal year 2012-13," Mayor Mario Guerra said in a statement. "We had to make some difficult decisions to be able to accomplish this but I am glad that we were able to put forth a long-term solution to short term problems."

Guerra also thanked city manager Gilbert Livas "for his hard work and dedication to ensure Downey's fiscal stability."

Last call for Miss Downey sign-ups

DOWNEY – The Downey Rose Float Association is still accepting applications for the Miss Downey, Teen Downey, Little and Jr. pageants.

Applications are online at miss-downey.com and are due by Feb. 4. For more information, call Gary DeRemer at (562) 260-8503.

In Memory of Gloria Cox Heer

October 7, 1927 to January 13, 2013



Heer, Gloria Cox, 85 of Mission Viejo, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday January 13, 2013. She was born on October 7, 1927 in Los Angeles, California. She grew up in Los Angeles, received her AA degree from UCLA and graduated from USC with a BA degree. Gloria and Warren Heer were married on June 18, 1949 in Yuma Arizona.

Gloria is survived by her husband Warren, her daughter Linda Heer O'Connor of Mission Viejo, her son George Warren Heer and daughter-in-law Melissa Heer and two granddaughters, Megan and Allison Heer all of Rancho Santa Margarita.

Gloria was very active in Parks and Recreation in the County of Los Angeles as well as several other cities including Mission Viejo in Orange County. Gloria even had a park named after her by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. Gloria Heer Park is located in Rowland Heights and was dedicated on June 6, 1984.

Gloria received many awards and recognitions from the cities of Downey, Santa Fe Springs, Commerce and Mission Viejo. She was also highly recognized by National, State and local societies. She listed her occupation as a "Professional Volunteer"

Services will be held at Fairhaven Memorial Services on Saturday, February 2nd at 2:00 pm in Mission Viejo.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to the Gloria Heer Scholarship fund in lieu of flowers, and can be sent to:

Gloria Heer Scholarship fund
Saddleback Valley Educational Foundation
25631 Peter A. Hartman Way
Mission Viejo, California 92691

Elderly couple mourned

DOWNEY – Robert and Barbara Brindley, married 50 years, died within 12 days of each other.

The couple lived in Downey for 45 years.

Robert, 91, was a military veteran and worked 38 years as a bus driver. He died Jan. 13.

Barbara, 78, worked as a school secretary and passed away Jan. 25.

Visitation for both will take place Feb. 1 from 4-8 p.m. at Miller-Mies Mortuary in Downey, with a vigil at 7:30 p.m. Funeral services are Saturday at 10:30 a.m. in the Mortuary Chapel.

They will be buried together at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Los Angeles. Both are survived by family.

County golf course starts major renovations

DOWNEY – More than 100 local golfers and customers of Los Amigos Golf Course attended an open house Jan. 17 to learn about the renovations taking place at the course.

Stuart Hayden, former senior vice president of operations for American Golf, led the more than one-hour presentation of the multi-million dollar plans American Golf has in store for Los Amigos.

American Golf took over operations of the county golf course from Don Duffin late last year.

The plans include upgrading the pro shop, conference room, driving range and restrooms. The bar and cafe are also being redesigned, and the green and fairways are being improved.

Even the name has been changed; no longer the Los Amigos Country Club, it is now officially known as Los Amigos Golf Course. A new sign will be prominently displayed on Old River School Road.

Changes in staff have also taken place. New general manager Michael Shank has been one of the top performing managers for American Golf and is now in charge of managing Los Amigos with the expectations it will be voted one of the best courses in the Southland.

The large attendance was a pleasant surprise for Mike McMonegal, assistant golf director at L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation.

"This is an impressive turnout," he said. "We usually have only 20 people show up at other golf courses."

Officials also announced their expanded support for junior golfers in the area. Los Amigos Golf Course has become part of the Southern California Golf Association's Youth On Course program, where junior members are allowed reduced green fees of about \$5 and reduced driving range buckets for about \$1.

Renovations will be ongoing throughout 2013 with an expected open house in March 2014.

Full plans and progress can be viewed online at losamigosgc.com.
– Alfredo Rocha

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OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 309 PAGE(S) 14, 15 AND 16 OF MAPS, IN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, COUNTY OF SAID COUNTY. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$1,160,838.75 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 7866 MELVA STREET DOWNEY, CA 90242 APN Number: 6245-002-009 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure, or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. DATE: 01-18-2013 CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY, as Trustee MARIA MAYORGA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY California Reconveyance Company 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop: CA2-4379 Chatsworth, CA 91311 800-892-6902 For Sales Information: www.lpsasap.com or 1-714-730-2727 www.priorityposting.com or 1-714-573-1965 www.auction.com or 1-800-280-2832 CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, this information can be obtained from one of the following three companies: LPS Agency Sales and Posting at (714) 730-2727, or visit the Internet Web site www.lpsasap.com (Registration required to search for sale information) or Priority Posting and Publishing at (714) 573-1965 or visit the Internet Web site www.priorityposting.com (Click on the link for "Advanced Search" to search for sale information), or auction.com at 1-800-280-2832 or visit the Internet Web site www.auction.com, using the Trustee Sale No. shown above. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.

title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 7336 QUILL DRIVE #68, DOWNEY, CA, 902422048. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$382,066.35. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. If required by the provisions of section 2923.5 of the California Civil Code, the declaration from the mortgagee, beneficiary or authorized agent is attached to the Notice of Trustee's Sale duly recorded with the appropriate County Recorder's Office. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on a property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 1-800-281-8219 or visit this Internet Web site www.reconstrustco.com, using the file number assigned to this case TS No. 12-0076090. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.

in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 14609 WHEATSTONE AVENUE, NORWALK, CA, 90650. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$348,391.07. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. If required by the provisions of section 2923.5 of the California Civil Code, the declaration from the mortgagee, beneficiary or authorized agent is attached to the Notice of Trustee's Sale duly recorded with the appropriate County Recorder's Office. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on a property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 1-800-281-8219 or visit this Internet Web site www.reconstrustco.com, using the file number assigned to this case TS No. 11-0079191. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.

other form of payment authorized by 2924(b), (Payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE ABOVE MENTIONED DEED OF TRUST APN# 6245-021-007 The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 12740 GROVETREE AVENUE, DOWNEY, CA 90242 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$312,501.12. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust has deposited all documents evidencing the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust and has declared all sums secured thereby immediately due and payable, and has caused a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be executed. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the County where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. 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Photo by John Unkovich, Columbia Astronomers

Downey resident John Unkovich, president of the Columbia Astronomers club, captured this image of the moon with Jupiter visible in the background.



Members of Delta Kappa Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma International Society donated 40 pajamas and books for children to TLC (True Lasting Connections) at their meeting on Monday. Last month the chapter donated \$370 to the PTA HELPS Room. The chapter is working together to provide scholarships to graduating seniors in June. Delta Kappa Chapter is made up of women educators who promote excellence in education.



Downey students spend MLK Day helping inner city school

DOWNEY – More than 60 members of Downey High School's KIWIN's youth service club joined hundreds of corporate and community volunteers at Washington Irving Middle School in Los Angeles on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Title I public school is in the midst of transitioning to a magnet school.

Downey kids helped clear out old furniture and text books, re-painted walls and planted a garden.

The goal was to clear enough space for a larger incoming student body that will focus on engineering.

"It feels good to help spruce up the campus and do away with all this old stuff to make room for the new," said Cory Trujillo, 17, a member of KIWIN's.

"I think it's great that so many volunteers made their day off a day of service," added Jessica Samaniego, 16. "I can only imagine how surprised the students will be when they come to school on Tuesday."

Teachers at Washington Middle School said they couldn't have done the work without the help of volunteers.

"Organizing and clearing out a classroom seems simple, but when you're a school staff, and you don't have a budget, and you don't have people, trying to get these things done is difficult, so that's where these volunteers come in," said Phillip Vizard, who teaches grades 6-8. "What would take our staff years to do these volunteers accomplished in three hours."

Various businesses and non-profits participated in the clean-up, including United Way, Kaiser Permanente, Target and Macy's.

"We wanted the Downey High School KIWIN's to finish their day of service with a sense of awareness that would change the way they see the world," said Alex Gaytan of the Kiwanis Club of Downey. "I hope these memories will empower them to continue working towards helping others and making our world a better place to live in, just as Martin Luther King Jr. would have wanted."



Ted Gonzalez was chosen from more than 2,500 entries to win a \$1,000 shopping giveaway at Hometown Hardware & Garden, store officials announced this week. "Everyone has a few extra chores this time of year, and we're glad that Ted was able to choose whatever he wanted to get the job done," said manager Nick Romero. "We thank all those who entered the giveaway for their participation." Hometown Hardware & Garden collected contest entries from October through November, after opening this past July.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help School honored nonprofit worker Louise Bieschke during a recognition breakfast Jan. 29 as part of Catholic Schools Week. Bieschke is an outreach manager with CASA/LA, a nonprofit that works with Los Angeles foster youth. She oversees volunteer recruitment and public speaking engagements. "I never expected to receive such an honor," Bieschke said. "We don't do the work we do in order to get thanks, but when people come together and notice the help you've given, it's always very rewarding." Bieschke is pictured above with Mayor Mario Guerra and Councilman Alex Saab.

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The CENTURY 21 My Real Estate Team goes above and beyond for Easter Seals of Southern California. They donated \$16,200 to the charity. "The Century 21 My Real Estate Team gets personally involved and through your Team Approach you are truly making a difference by helping those who need it the most be able to stand up and live a better life" stated Dan Quinn, Director of Corporate & Event Marketing for Easter Seals. "Part of our mission statement talks about giving back to the communities we serve. Our commitment to keeping that value is of great importance" said Steve Roberson Broker/Owner of CENTURY 21 My Real Estate Company.

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FEATURED PROPERTY

WOW!
What a fantastic opportunity! This home features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a living room with a brick fireplace. The home also features a family room with a stone fireplace. The kitchen has granite counters and newer appliances. The inside has been freshly painted and both front and backyards are nicely landscaped. Call for more information.

TOP PRODUCERS

TOP LISTING
Maria Zuloaga

TOP PRODUCTION
Melanie Downing

TOP SALES
Lorena Amaya & Lilian Lopez

IN ESCROW

The Sales Keep Coming!
This is a must see in the beautiful Glenwood community. This prime location features 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 bath. Also, there is a two car attached garage with loft and cabinet storage. Laundry room and walk in pantry off the kitchen. Both upstairs bathrooms are upgraded and the lower level has upgraded windows. Priced to sell at \$390,000!

Immaculate!
Immaculate single story condo! This home features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a updated kitchen with granite counters and tile floors. It is on a corner location with an extra private garden. One year home warranty also included with the sale. The HOA amenities include pool, spa, tennis, gym, woodshop, club house, billiards and a putting green. WOW!!! Call today for more information.

IN ESCROW

Sold In A Week!
Fantastic opportunity! This spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bathrooms home is very well maintained. It features a fireplace in the living room, large laundry area behind kitchen, lots of cabinet space and a nice dining area off of the living room. The property also features a spacious backyard and a deep 4 car detached garage. This home is also located in one of the most desirable areas of Downey. Priced to sell at \$425,000.

Spectacular!
This fantastic home is ready for you! The property features a newer kitchen, granite counters, newer cabinets and newer flooring. This home also has 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, laundry area and a custom iron fence in the driveway. There is a fireplace in the living room, outside brick bbq and central air and heat. Priced to sell at \$398,000.

A Must See!
This is a beautiful tri-level home. It features wood 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms with each of the bedrooms having their own full bath. Also, this home has a patio, wood floors and a 2 car garage. If that's not enough, it also features a fireplace in the living room, beautiful wood shutters and a balcony off the kitchen. Call today for more information on this great opportunity!

Turnkey
Welcome to this beautifully updated 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom home. It features refinished wood floors, an updated kitchen with quartz counter tops and newer cabinets. Both of the bathrooms have been remodeled as well as the 2 car garage. This is a must see! Call for more information today!

IN ESCROW

We Don't Just List Your Home, We Get It Sold!
This beautifully remodeled condo is spectacular. The kitchen features custom white shaker-style cabinets with Carrara marble counter tops, new stainless-steel appliances, a breakfast nook and brand new stackable washer/dryer in their own discreet closet space. The incredibly large master suite includes an oversized walk-in closet, master bath with a double sink vanity, designer shower and finishes, and a double door entry. Call today for more information.

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PROPERTY REF # D158

Whittier \$349,000
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\$4,549* Weekly Payment (incl. taxes)



PROPERTY REF # D100

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A MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE ALL THE CUSTOM WORK THAT WAS DONE. HOME HAS LARGE CUSTOM SIZE POOL & SPA WITH BBQ AREA IN BACK YARD READY TO MOVE IN!

\$962* Weekly Payment (incl. taxes)



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\$1,386* Weekly Payment (incl. taxes)



PROPERTY REF # D80

Norwalk \$319,999
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\$1,078* Weekly Payment (incl. taxes)



PROPERTY REF # D59

Whittier \$249,000
4 BEDROOM 2 BATH WITH TONS OF POTENTIAL, HOME NEEDS SOME TLC A GREAT FIXER, BRING YOUR TOOLS AND PAINT BRUSHES. WILL GO FAST!

\$1,106* Weekly Payment (incl. taxes)



PROPERTY REF # D204

Whittier \$255,000
THIS HOME FEATURES 2 GENEROUSLY SIZED BEDROOMS AND 1 BATH. CENTRALLY LOCATED WITHIN BLOCKS OF LOCAL SCHOOLS.

\$1,299* Weekly Payment (incl. taxes)



PROPERTY REF # D86

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\$1,197* Weekly Payment (incl. taxes)



PROPERTY REF # D450

Whittier \$275,000
SPARKLING 3 BEDROOM 1 BATH HOME INCLUDING A 2 CAR GARAGE, GRANITE COUNTER TOPS IN KITCHEN, AND HARDWOOD FLOORING THROUGHOUT BEDROOMS.

\$1,572* Weekly Payment (incl. taxes)



PROPERTY REF # D299

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