



The Downey Patriot

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Friday, January 6, 2006

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11525 Downey Ave., Suite A, Downey, CA 90241



COLORADO RIVER RAPIDS—Will be explored this Sunday, Jan. 8 when the Downey Theater presents “Exploring the Colorado River—Journey Into the Great Unknown.” This fifth installment of the 2005-06 “Armchair Adventure” Travelogue Series is filmed and narrated by Gray Warriner. Call 861-8211 for ticket information.

‘Wonder of Colorado River’ film Sunday

By John Adams

DOWNEY—This Sunday afternoon, Jan. 8, 2006, the Downey Theater will present the fifth film of its 2005-06 “Armchair Adventure” Travelogue Series, “Exploring the Colorado River—Journey Into the Great Unknown,” Filmed and Narrated by Gray Warriner.

The Colorado River remains steeped in mystery and lore. In 1869 the deep, desolate canyons of the Colorado and the Green Rivers remained unexplored...the last blank spot on the map of the United States.

Powell

Major John Wesley Powell lost his right arm in the Civil War, but his driving curiosity pushed him beyond any disability. Four wooden boats would carry Powell and nine men on the last great expedition of discovery in the United States. Hungry for knowledge, Powell would repeat the epic feat two years later. On the 1871 trip he brought a camera and recorded incredible images of the wild river of the west.

Isolated

Today, the Green and Colorado Rivers still flow through some of the most isolated and least known landscapes in the nation. Our modern river journey follows in Powell’s wake. We stop where he stopped and go back and forth through time; seamlessly matching his 1871 photographs with live action film images of today. With re-enactments and replica Whitehall boats of Powell’s journeys, we travel along with Powell and see the river as he saw it... riding huge waves in small wooden boats.

Setting the stage, we explore the most remote reaches of the Green River, its origins in the high alpine country of Wyoming’s Wild River range. We go back in time to 1869 and the newly laid tracks of the trans-continental railroad as it spanned the river at Green River, Wyoming Territory. Like Powell, we board the boats at Green River for the river trip of a lifetime.

This is no ordinary travelogue. Three years in the making, it is shot in film, digitally mastered, and projected in unmatched High Definition Television for unmatched beauty and resolution. The colors are vibrant like the Southwest and are brought to life with the award-winning cinematography of Gray Warriner.

Tickets for “Exploring the Colorado River—Journey Into the Great Unknown” may be purchased Sunday, Jan. 8 at the Downey Theater Box Office, 8435 Firestone Blvd., after 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 adults and \$6 for seniors and students, cash or check only accepted.

Other films and their dates to be shown at the Downey, include Hawaii Paradise, Jan. 29; Cruising to Bermuda, Feb. 12; Natural Wonders of the East Coast, March 26; Along the Continental Divide, April 9; and Inside Ireland, April 23.

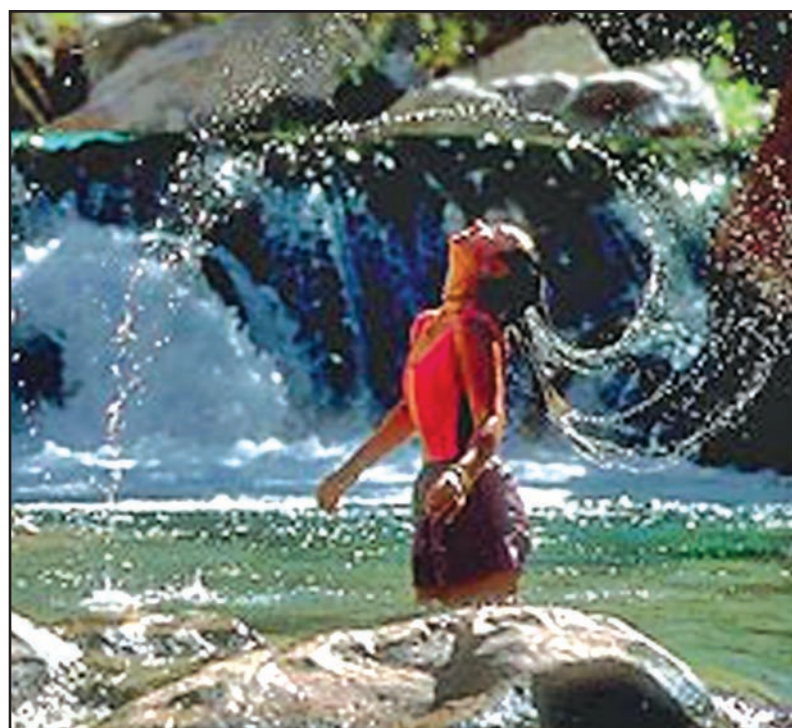
For more information call the Box Office Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m. at (562) 861-8211.

Two held after man shot at Hully Gully Club

DOWNEY—Two Los Angeles men were in custody after a man was found shot in the chest in the parking lot of the Hully Gully Club, 9550 Imperial Highway about 1:30 a.m., Friday.

Police said they responded to the sound of gunfire to find the victim down. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, and was listed in serious but stable condition.

Police said there were more than 150 persons at the night club when



‘WONDERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER’—The Downey Theater presents the fifth installment of its “Armchair Adventure” Travelogue Series this Sunday, an exploration of the mysteries of the Colorado River.



HULLY GULLY SHOOTING—Two Los Angeles men were arrested on attempted murder charges after an early-morning shooting last week at the Hully Gully Club in Downey.

the shooting occurred.

They were told the suspects had fled in a white Camaro. A vehicle was spotted leaving the area and was stopped. Witnesses subsequently identified them as the suspects in the shooting. A handgun was found in the car.

Curtis Wallace, Jr. and Ahmad Perry, both 23 and from Los Angeles, were each booked on three counts of attempted murder with gang enhancements.

Report shows gains in the Southland

Region in an upswing

By John Adams

A comprehensive report by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) just released is aimed at developing a shared regional vision to resolve challenges to local government, and indicates this region may finally be recovering.

The report, “The State of the Region 2005,” released Thursday, tracks Southern California’s progress in achieving the goals in SCAG’s Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide and compares recent performance in the region with its previous records as well as other large metropolitan regions. The report is meant to raise the awareness and engage the public in vital issues affecting our future. It also is meant to assist policy makers, business and community leaders in making informed decisions.

Dark 1990s

Noting that the Southland lost considerable ground during the 1990s due to major demographic and economic changes, losing a quarter million high wage manufacturing jobs over a lengthy recession, since 2000 it has performed better than the rest of the nation. And in 2004 noticeable recovery, led by the housing market, have led improvements in employment, income, homeownership and affordability. These broader impacts involve the interrelationship of continued population growth, 40-year low mortgage interest rates, accumulated high housing deficits, and the normal economic recovery factors.

During 2004 the region continues to grow significantly with an increase of 284,000 residents, just over 10 percent of the nation’s total population growth. Population of the Southland area now tops 18 million, and if compared, would rank fourth among all the states, behind California, Texas and New York. Between 2000 and 2004, the average annual growth of 320,000 was among the highest in the region’s history.

Inland Empire

The Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties) with only 21 percent of the region’s total population, captured 42 percent of the total growth.

The ethnic composition changed dramatically between 1960 and 2004, increasing from 10 percent to 43 percent for Hispanics, and 2 percent to 11 percent for Asians. The non-Hispanic white population declined dramatically from 80 percent to 37 percent. The African American population rose from 6.4 percent in 1960 to 9.2 percent in 1980, then declined to below 7 percent in 2004.

In 2004, there were clear signs of economic recovery in the Southland, based on the job market and economic growth. Total jobs increased by 90,000, the largest improvement since 2000 after two years of little hope. In addition, the region achieved a higher rate of job growth (1.3 percent) than that of the rest of the state (0.6 percent) and the nation (1.1 percent).

Job markets

There were rebounds in the job market noticed in travel and tourism and professional services, as well as stabilization in the information and manufacturing sectors. And the population increase of 284,000 caused retail health care and housing construction gains.

The housing sector contributed significantly to the overall recovery in two ways. 1) Higher levels of housing construction increased employment in construction, financial services and retail sectors (e.g. furniture and other equipment). 2) Increase in household wealth due to higher home equities fueled consumer spending that helped the recovery. Home equity cash out went from \$30 billion in 2000 to about \$140 billion in 2004. Since the 2001 recession, housing-related sectors contributed much more significantly to job growth and economic recovery in the SCAG region than in the rest of the U.S.

Per capita gain

For the first time since 2000, the region in 2004 achieved improvement in real per capita income (about 2 percent growth) as well as real median household income (2.6 percent).

‘Polar Wonderland’ braves wet parade

DOWNEY – The theme for the 117th Annual Tournament of Roses Parade was “It’s Magical.”

Perhaps “It’s Wet” would have been more appropriate.

A soggy Downey float was one of the 48 that braved a downpour Jan. 2 to march through the annual Pasadena parade. Downey’s entry, “Polar Wonderland,” was 81st in the procession of 99 floats, marching bands, equestrian units and distinctive vehicles.

Designed by Jared Sweeney, “Polar Wonderland” featured six polar bears frolicking on a colorful glacier. Kelley Roberts helped head the construction effort.

The self-built float was constructed using the same frame from last year’s entry, “Together With Nature,” also designed and constructed by Sweeney and Roberts.

“Polar Wonderland” was judged by Tournament of Roses officials for awards at Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center, where the float was housed, on Dec. 1 but failed to garner a trophy. Self-built floats compete against floats built by professional companies for the same awards; out of 24 awards presented, 21 were built professionally.

Miss Downey pageant applications available

DOWNEY—Applications for the Downey Rose Float Association's 2006 Miss Downey/Miss Teen Downey Pageant are now available at the following locations: Downey and Warren High Schools; Griffiths, East, Sussman and West Middle Schools; Gold N' Baked Hams; Downey Rent-A-Tux; Downey City Library; and the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

Applications are due by Jan. 13, and are to be mailed to: DRFA, Attn: Pageant, P.O. Box 765, Downey, CA 90241, along with a \$15 fee.

A mandatory orientation will be held from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15 at the Woman's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd.

City offers after-school tennis for kids

DOWNEY—Downey Community Services is beginning a new tennis program for youth ages 6-18 at Independence Park, 12334 Bellflower Blvd., starting Monday, Jan. 9.

The program is geared to the youth in the community as they are getting out of school, as a way to promote physical fitness, tennis techniques, the basics of match play and just plain fun!

There will be 12 classes for the six-week session - Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:30-5 p.m.

Fee for each session is \$100. For information, call 904-7238.



'THE TOWERS'—Gives one of their Southland performances.

Country duo set to make 'Beautiful Music Together'

DOWNEY—Flo and Dale Towers, husband and wife duo who sings favorite country, sacred and oldies but goodies music, will make "Beautiful Music Together" Monday, Jan. 9 as Downey Adult School's OASIS opening program for 2006.

The class opens for enrollment at 3 p.m., with Dr. Robert Flynn's providing piano entertainment. You may purchase a dinner ticket at this time for \$3.50. There is no enrollment fee and no preregistration. The program starts at 4 p.m., while a healthful full course dinner is served at 5. Downey Dial-a-Ride will provide transportation to attend this class.

OASIS, which stands for Older Adults Seeking Information and Skills, is celebrating their 30th year of educational enrichment at Downey Adult School. Resource instructor is Harriett Paine.

For information, call (562) 940-6200.

Spanish class starting up at Riley Center

DOWNEY—The city of Downey Community Services Department is offering Beginning and Intermediate Spanish classes at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Drive, Downey.

The courses are designed to assist students develop basic skills either for the first time or to sharpen their comprehension and speech of the Spanish language.

Intermediate Spanish classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 10, and will be conducted from 10-11:30 a.m. Students will have a choice of two Beginning Spanish classes that start Friday, Jan. 13: one is from 10-11:30 a.m., the other is from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Fee for each class is \$12 for eight weeks. To register, call 904-7223.

Adult literacy program tutors sought by library

DOWNEY—The Downey City Library's Adult Literacy Program is premised on an unfortunate statistic that says more than 40 million adults cannot read a newspaper, an employment application or a street sign, that they miss the joy of reading a bedtime story to their child, among other things.

The program thus needs tutors to join the team of volunteers who are changing lives every day. By volunteering two or more hours per week, tutors can give an adult the skills they need to become a successful worker, parent or citizen.

Training sessions for literacy tutors will be given on the Thursdays of Jan. 12, 19 and 26 from 6-8 p.m., and on Saturday, Jan. 14 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tutors will receive a total of 13 hours of training and may attend ongoing literacy support meetings.

For registration information, call the Literacy and Training Office at 904-7360, ext. 23. The Downey City Library is located at 11121 Brookshire Ave.

Sievers to speak at ABWA meeting

DOWNEY—The El Dorado Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) holds its monthly meeting Wednesday, Jan. 18 at the Rio Hondo Golf Club, 10627 Old River School Rd. in Downey.

Networking begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Speaker is Bruce Sievers, who for the last 30 years has spoken to an estimated more than 7,000 groups across America. His presentation, "An American in Love With His Country," has earned him the George Washington Medal of Honor, which was presented to him by President Ronald Reagan, along with the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge.

A former Green Beret in the Army, he has been invited to the White House by Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Reagan and George Bush. He has received the prestigious Communication and Leadership Award from Toastmasters International, as well as the National Medal of Honor from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

He has been featured in People's Magazine, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times and more than 150 publications across the country. He is the author of five books and has completed a screenplay.

Reservations can be made by calling Debbie Stuver, 884-6429.

Stroke support group meets Jan. 17

DOWNEY—Stroke survivors and caregivers are invited to the new Downey Community Stroke Support Group's next meeting Tuesday, Jan. 17 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Downey Regional Medical Center, 11500 Brookshire Ave. The group will continue to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Facilitating the support group is Deborah Massaglia, president of the Roxanna Todd Hodges Foundation, who said: "In working with the community on stroke awareness, we've found a definite need among families whose lives have suddenly been impacted by stroke. They need to find resources and benefit from connecting with others who understand what they are experiencing. There is a lot to learn and manage, and it's important to not be alone in this process."

To register/for information, call 904-5162.

7th grader's poem picked for anthology

DOWNEY—A poem entitled "If" by 12-year old Shaina Marie C. Sta. Cruz, eldest daughter of Antonio and Maria Theresa C. Sta. Cruz of Downey, has been accepted for publication in the *Best Poems and Poets of 2005* published by the Maryland-based International Library of Poetry. Shaina is a 7th grader at St. Dominic Savio School in Bellflower.

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Rev. Nancy Hamm, Pastor
Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 AM
Morning Worship 9:30 AM

"MAKING CHRIST KNOWN"
First Presbyterian Church
10544 Downey Avenue
(562) 861-6752

COFFEE
8:30 A.M.
Education
9:00 A.M.
Worship
10:00 A.M.

10711 Paramount Blvd.
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(562) 923-1215

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TRADITIONAL WORSHIP . . . SUN. 8 A.M.
ESPAÑOL . . . 9:30 A.M.
PRAISE SERVICE . . . 11 A.M.
Rev. Norman Stoppenhagen
Rev. Ramon Contreras



Fred Thompson on healthcare

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Wednesday, January 11
10:00 a.m.—Mimi's Café
8455 Firestone Blvd.
Downey

Wednesday, January 18
10:00 a.m.—IHOP
6300 Santa Fe Ave.
Huntington Park

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City library soon to open also on Sundays

DOWNEY—The Downey City Library will now be open also on Sundays, effective Jan. 8. The expanded service will operate Sunday afternoons, and only during the school year.

Library patrons will thus enjoy the library's full range of services 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

"Providing library hours on Sundays will be a real benefit to students and busy families," said City Librarian Thad Phillips.

Library patrons may also return books in library bookdrops during closed hours, renew books by phone or visit the library website at www.downeylibrary.org.

Christian group to celebrate New Year's

DOWNEY – Downey Christian Women's Club celebrates the New Year at their Jan. 11 luncheon meeting at Los Amigos Country Club, starting at 11:45 a.m. The community, including men, is invited.

Larissa Lam will provide the music and Jan Fedde is the guest speaker, whose topic is "Have You Ever Wondered if You Have a Choice in your Decisions?" Alta's Table Games is the special feature.

Price for the program and lunch is \$12. For reservations or information, call Ginnie at 927-8488 or Delores at 868-7135.



RISE N' SHINE – Joe Keays of Downey Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning is chairman of Rise N' Shine Networking for the Downey Chamber of Commerce which resumes meeting next Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 7:30 a.m. The networking group meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at the Nordic Fox restaurant, 10924 Paramount Blvd. For information call 923-2191.

'Eldercare for Dummies' author to make local visit

DOWNEY—Rachelle Zukerman Ph.D, a gerontologist teaching at UCLA and author of the best-selling "Eldercare for Dummies," will give a presentation entitled "Eldercare: Caring for Our Loved Ones" at Downey First Christian Church, 10909 S. New St., Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the community.

The presentation will include such topics as: "Managing the emotional landscape of eldercare"; "Recognizing and preventing Caregiver Burnout"; "What to do when your elderly loved one refuses help"; "Elders and medicine"; "What to do about unsafe drivers"; "Preventing falls"; tips for caring for the memory- and hearing-impaired."

Copies of "Eldercare for Dummies" will be available for sale. To RSVP, call (562) 862-2438.

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Perk's Coffee, IndyMac Bank set grand openings

DOWNEY—The Downey Chamber of Commerce is orchestrating two ribbon cuttings Wednesday, Jan. 11 for new members Perk's Coffee House, located at 9835 Belmont St. in Bellflower, and IndyMac Bank, which is setting up shop at 12148 Lakewood Blvd. at the new Downey Landing in Downey.

The ceremony at the opening of Perk's Coffee House is at 10 a.m. Owned and operated by Bob and Christina Ciatti, it offers an extensive menu of gourmet coffees and teas, fruit smoothies and juices, freshly made sandwiches, soups, salads, and an array of "delectable" cakes and pastries. Its offering includes free internet use by customers and WiFi access; it also provides catering service.

Ribbon cutting for IndyMac Bank is at 4 p.m. It is fielding IndyMac Bank vice president John Casillas as branch manager. For information, call (562) 923-2191.

Weight clinic offers tips for a healthier New Year

Contributed by Lindora Medical Clinic

The number one New Year's resolution in the United States is to lose weight. For an estimated 175 million Americans, shedding unwanted pounds is their top goal for 2006.

Many people, however, embark on an "all or nothing" approach that often results in the individual abandoning their plans and reverting to unhealthy habits. According to bariatric physician Joseph Risser, M.D., director of clinical research for Lindora Medical Clinics, considered the nation's leading medically supervised weight control program, those seeking to keep this New Year's resolution can accomplish their goals simply by adhering to 10 steps. They include:

***Monitoring your emotions** – People eat to quell their emotional state.

***Avoiding sodas and the occasional ice cream indulgence** – Metabolically, they add calories while burning carbohydrates.

***Keeping a water bottle with you at all times** – Drink from it often and keep it filled. Water helps to reduce your appetite and gives your skin a more youthful appearance.

***Getting a good night's sleep** – When you don't sleep well, you tend to eat more.

***Engaging in moderate exercise** – Maintaining an exercise routine can be as simple as briskly walking around your neighborhood for 20 minutes a day or riding your bike at a nearby park for the same amount of time.

***Maintaining a moderate amount of salt in your diet** – Perspiring eliminates the salt in your body, which can lead to fatigue, dizziness and headaches.

***Avoiding hidden calories** – Stay away from liquid calories hidden in coffee drinks (e.g., mocha coffees, Frappuccinos, etc.), fruit smoothies, fruit juices and milk shakes.

***Reducing alcohol consumption** – Avoid excess consumption of alcoholic beverages as they contain a significant amount of calories and carbohydrates that do little more than pad one's waistline.

***Avoiding fat-laden sauces** – Avoid using more than a dab of butter, margarine, or oil when you are cooking (i.e., butter on your corn on the cob). Also, it's a good rule of thumb to order the dressing "on the side" when enjoying a salad.

***Introducing intentional inefficiency** – Start becoming intentionally inefficient so that you move more. Instead of sitting or lying down when talking on the phone, pace back and forth. Also, you can vigorously clean your house or car instead of hiring someone else to do it. When possible, park your car farther from your destination, even at the grocery store. Those extra steps will do you good. Another good move is to carry your groceries instead of pushing them in a cart, using the stairs instead of an elevator or escalator and riding your bike for errands near your house.

"Losing weight is a difficult prospect, especially with the added pressure of doing so as a New Year's resolution," said Risser. "To lose weight successfully, one needs to take a step back and address all of the factors that contribute to gaining weight. First and foremost, we must realize that we are human and can make mistakes. If you do veer from your diet plan, don't give up hope, but start again with newfound energy. Be specific and realistic about your weight loss goals and you will achieve greater and longer lasting results."

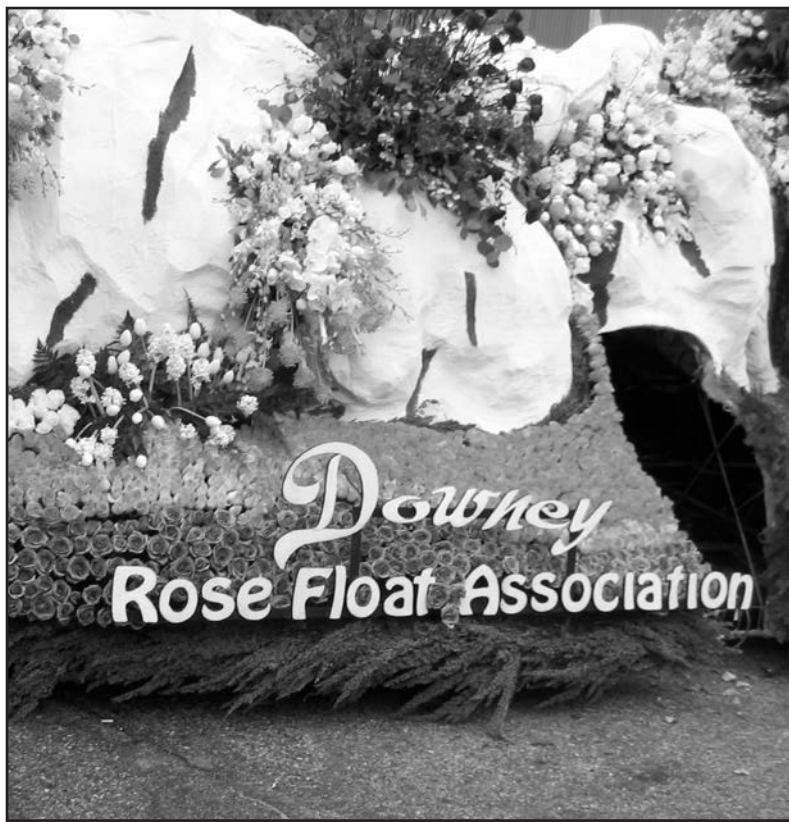
Cited as an authority by "The Today Show," "Good Morning America" and CNN as well as a number of nationally respected newspapers and magazines, Lindora Medical Clinics is a multi-faceted, medically supervised program combining diet, moderate exercise and motivational tools to help patients become lean for life. Stressing an "eat better, move more, stress less" philosophy, Lindora helps 4,000 patients each day at its Southern California clinics and thousands of others through its cyber-clinics, workplace program, books, products and telephone coaching for those opting to lose weight from the comfort of their homes. Lindora is a member of the Partnership for Healthy Weight Management, a coalition composed of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Federal Trade Commission, Center for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health.

Lindora's state-of-the-art approach to bariatrics (weight control) consists of a two-phase cognitive, behavioral program. Phase one involves weight loss, where the patient's metabolism shifts into the fat-burning state through a combination of structured eating and exercise, along with vitamins, minerals and protein supplementation to keep healthy while shedding pounds. During this stage, patients learn to optimize their caloric intake and eat properly. Phase two, the 8-week "Lifetime Solutions" plan, teaches them long-term, weight-maintenance skills that they need in order to remain lean for life.

Lindora patients are encouraged to visit the clinic Mondays through Fridays during their weight loss and metabolic adjustment. In addition to receiving counseling and behavior therapy, patients undergo a variety of tests to ensure their optimum health. Because obesity is considered a chronic condition, Lindora offers lifetime maintenance at no additional cost. With obesity considered a national epidemic, the number of patients seeking weight control services such as the Lindora program is growing. Medically supervised programs in particular are enjoying a surge in popularity due to a change in the tax code, which allows such programs to be considered tax deductible.

Downey TOPS taking new members

DOWNEY – Downey Chapter #63 of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) holds meetings every Monday from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Downey, 8348 Third St. in Downey. For more information, call Lou at 861-9425.



ROSE FLOAT FLOATS?—It was dry the day before the Rose Parade, and the day after. Many hardy souls sat through the deluge anyway on Jan. 2 to view the float including Downey's. They could have used floats on the float!



POLAR BEARS—On the Rose Float from Downey would have been right at home with the weather on Colorado Boulevard the day of the Rose Parade.

New web page helps spotlight teen drivers

SACRAMENTO—Teen drivers and their parents have a comprehensive new resource for information on getting and staying behind the wheel safely, as the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) unveils a helpful, user-friendly Web site devoted specifically to the unique needs of young drivers: <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/teenweb>

Among many topics, the site provides families with resources regarding:

- *New rules affecting teen drivers in 2006
- *Requirements and restrictions of permits and provisional licenses
- *Driver education and training, including tips to help select a driving school
- *Insurance and financial responsibility
- *Drug and alcohol use, effects and consequences
- *Comprehensive study materials
- *Sample tests with full color photos
- *Advice on practicing for and passing the driving test
- *Making DMV appointments online

The site also provides links to the Parent-Teen Training Aid and the California Driver Handbook. Invaluable resources for every family who has or soon will have a teen driver on the road.



BOB BELCHER – President of the Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis, presented a check to Laura Miller, a representative of The Rio Hondo Temporary Home, for \$500. Miller spoke about her group and the benefits they offer to those in need. Kiwanis meets every Wednesday at 7 a.m. at the Rio Hondo Country Club. For information call (800) 641-2111.

The poets' corner

What Goes Up

He shot a bullet into the air.
It fell to earth, he knew not where.
Could it be that he killed someone,
Celebrating the new year with a gun?
For, what goes up, must come down,
In the country or in the town.
So, may I make an earnest plea?
Don't shoot that gun—it might kill me.
For, when it comes down, it is just as fast
As when it ascended from the muzzle blast
But—if you should shoot it, I would give you my thanks
If it were loaded with nothing but blanks.
Be it known, I am not anti gun,
Just anti the dangerous mis-use of one.

—L.B. Strawn,
Cerritos

Downey Christmas tree recycling in operation

DOWNEY—Downey residents receiving automated curbside trash collection service may place their Christmas trees curbside on their regular trash day. Collection of trees started on Dec. 27 and runs through Jan. 13.

The trees are collected by CalMet Services, the city's franchised refuse hauler, and taken to the Puente Hills Landfill, where they are composted or ground up and used for the Country Sanitation Districts' Landfill Cover Project.

Here are a few reminders before placing your tree out:

- *All tree stands must be removed
- *All decorations must be removed
- *Trees over four feet should be cut in half
- *Do not place your tree in a bag
- *Flocked trees are OK

Residential customers (apartments and condominiums) with bin service and commercial business accounts may call CalMet at 869-0901 for free pick-up of holiday trees. However, trees must be set out at the curb, not by the trash bin.

Chili's celebrates grand opening Jan. 10

DOWNEY—Chili's Bar & Grill, located at 12030 Lakewood Blvd. at the new Downey Landing, will have its grand opening/ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, with the assistance of the Downey Chamber of Commerce. A number of local dignitaries/special guests are expected to join in the celebration.

Chili's serves such menu items as their double-basted Baby Back Ribs, sizzling fajitas and Southwestern Eggrolls served "in a lively atmosphere." It also says it supports local charities. Nationally, Chili's sponsors St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the fight against childhood cancer. Chili's during the month of September sponsors the "Create a Pepper to Fight Childhood Cancer" campaign, in which guests are invited to donate \$1 or more to color the Chili's signature peppier log.

For information, call 923-2191.

Salvation Army in need of donations

DOWNEY—The Salvation Army is asking Downey residents for donations to benefit the community. Send donations to The Salvation Army, Southeast Communities Corps., 2965 E. Gage Ave., Huntington Park, CA 90255.

Contribution to help secure Latino nurses

LOS ANGELES – The California Latino Medical Association (CaLMA) announced that it has received a \$1 million contribution from Blue Cross of California Foundation, a subsidiary of WellPoint, Inc., to support and champion their first nursing scholarship program. As the largest donation received by CaLMA, this contribution will provide CaLMA with the needed funding to provide scholarships to nursing students throughout California for the next four years.

Newly founded, CaLMA's nursing scholarship program was designed to encourage bilingual students to pursue nursing careers in California. According to Christine Gonzalez, executive director of CaLMA, "Less than 3 percent of the state's nurses are Hispanic, and of those only 70 percent were bilingual." This figure, combined with the already growing nursing shortage, is creating a widening disparity to effectively meet the health care needs of the Latino population in the state. "As medical professionals we recognize that the health care needs of the Latino population need to be delivered by individuals who are fluent in Spanish, and there are many Latino students who are very eager to enter the field," added Gonzalez. "The Blue Cross of California Foundation recognizes this need and has joined us in our efforts — this type of commitment is one that no one has ever done."

"We are pleased to support CaLMA's efforts to help students who are committed to meeting the needs of Latino patients throughout Los Angeles County," said Ray Morales, MD, director of social investment programs at WellPoint. "We believe the efforts they are making to shape the next generation of Latino health care professionals will not only help improve the quality of health care delivered to Latino patients, but will help meet the growing nursing shortage in California."

A multidisciplinary steering committee, made up of physicians, nurses, as well as representatives from the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC), LINC Telecu and the National Association of Hispanic Nurses will review all applicants and make final selection for scholarship recipients.

Working with over 17 schools in the county, such as Cerritos Community College, Los Angeles City College and Mt. Saint Mary's College, CaLMA ensures recipients of the scholarships are successful both academically as well as professionally. "Each student is matched with a mentor — who is either a nurse or physician — this individual works to ensure they are succeeding academically and ease into the professional world of nursing," explained Gonzalez. In addition, the advisory panel reviews all progress reports to ensure the students remain committed to academic achievement.

To date, 15 scholarships have been awarded to students who are enrolled in nursing programs throughout Los Angeles County.

Privacy in America

By John Adams

The Orwellian problem of Big Brother and government reared its ugly head in the world of the Internet and web with the news that the National Security Agency Internet site has been placing files on visitors' computers that can trace their web surfing activity.

This despite federal rules against it.

When the Associated Press inquired about these files, known as cookies, government spokesmen said they had made a mistake.

The problem raises the old question of privacy at a spy agency already under fire for secretive eavesdropping on the homefront. It does not ease concern despite the benign name of the devices.

A spokesman for the Center for Democracy and Technology, a privacy advocate group in Washington D.C., said the use of the devices by the government is not a major concern, but it does show a willingness to ignore privacy rules.

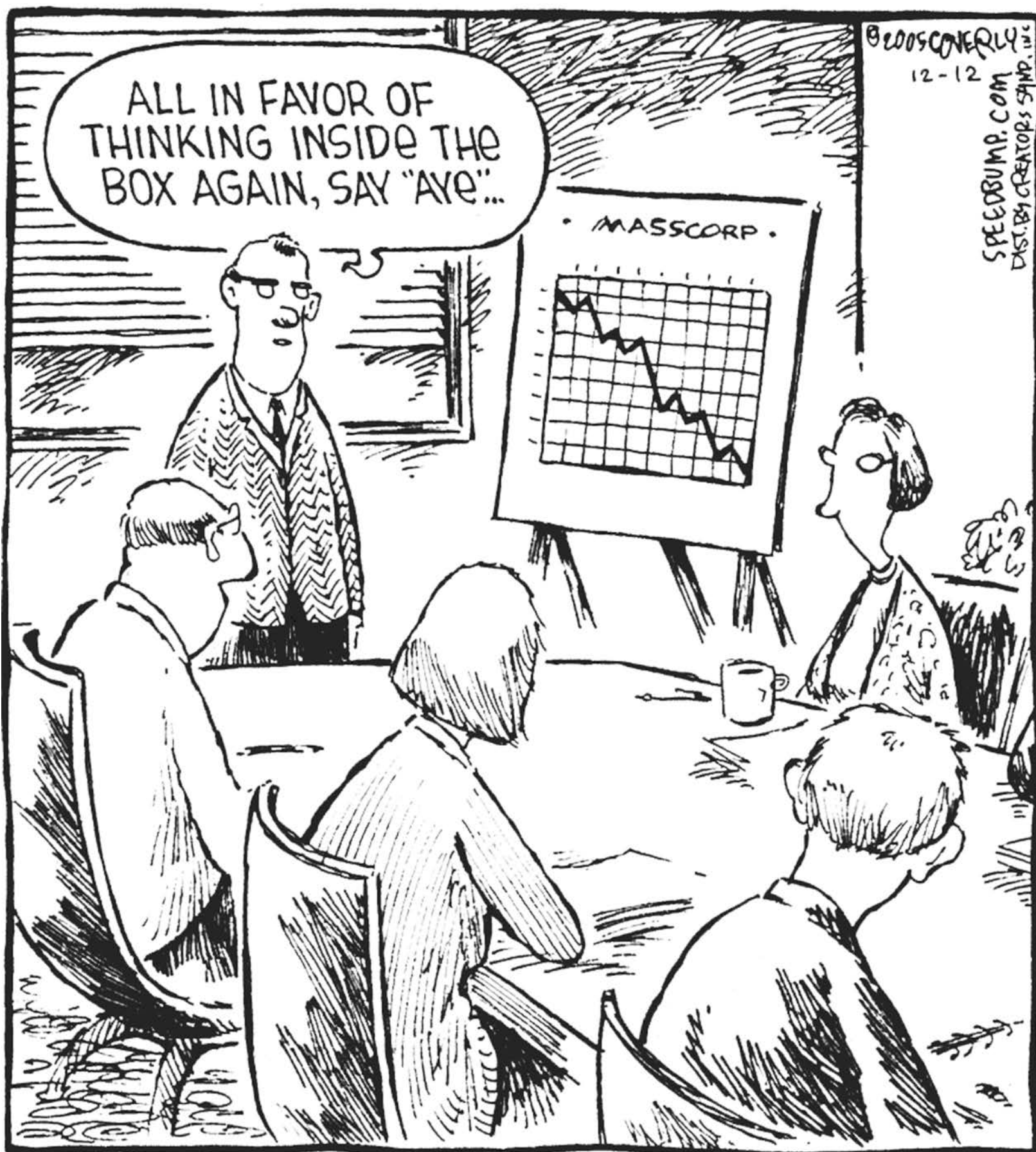
Commercially, cookies are widely used at commercial web sites and can make Internet browsing more convenient by letting sites remember user preferences. But privacy advocates complain that cookies can also be used to track web surfing activity, even though no personal information is actually collected.

The NSA spokesman said the cookie use stemmed from a recent software upgrade. Normally, the site uses temporarily permissible cookies that are automatically deleted when the user closes their web browser. But in these cases the software was shipped with the persistent cookies already on. The NSA claims they have all been disabled since the question was raised.

The Bush Administration is already under fire for the president's authorization for NSA spying on e-mail and phone calls without court orders domestically, while pursuing al-Qaida.

The Patriot saw this flap coming nearly two years ago with the use of drone aircraft for electronic surveillance in Afghanistan.

Such aircraft are efficient and inexpensive, perfect for use by local law enforcement. That's fine in far-off Afghanistan. But the temptation to apply such tools to the domestic scene is great—perhaps too great. Cookies?



Voting machines still cause problems

Remember all the flap about voting machines in the year 2000 presidential race; whether the instruction for using them was purposely misleading and ballots were disputed and thrown out due to "hanging chads".

The naive among us vowed no U.S. election would ever again experience these problems, and millions of dollars were spent for sophisticated "touch screen" voting machines.

More than five years have passed. This is California, not Florida, and the problem under discussion is again voting machines. The California Secretary of State's Office has ordered the manufacturer, Election Systems and Software, to fix the supposedly "improved" models before next November's election.

In a second action, the Secretary warned 17 counties that there are serious flaws in machines made by Diebo Election Systems.

The old punch-card system doesn't look so bad anymore. It looks like voters will have to make do with punch cards at least one more time.

Tax seminar aimed at property owners

LOS ANGELES—The County of Los Angeles is sponsoring a series of free seminars to assist property owners who feel their taxes should be lowered due to a decline in the value of their property.

Seminars have been scheduled at the following locations: Lancaster Public Library Jan. 25, Glendale Public Library Jan. 27, Culver City Public Library Feb. 13, Van Nuys Bernardi Senior Center March 15, with the location nearest Downey at the El Monte Jack Crippen Senior Center, 3120 N. Tyler Ave. in El Monte, Thursday, Feb. 9, at 10 a.m.

With the improvement in the real estate market, some homeowners who recently have received a "Notice of Assessed Value Change" will have questions regarding their appeal rights.

The meetings are intended to help taxpayers better understand the assessment appeals process, which many find confusing. The seminar will be of value to homeowners who are interested in learning about the assessment appeals process and to those who have already filed an appeal. The seminar will cover taxpayers' appeal rights and when to file an application for reduction in assessment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Prediction of mansions' future

Dear Editor:

Just when you thought the debate over "monster mansions" had been going on long enough, along comes a letter from a reader who seems to be amused by the back-and-forth letters on the subject. Sorry, I don't find it amusing, I find it frustrating and upsetting.

I'm sure glad he likes to live next door to two stories of solid stucco a few feet off the common property lines, for that's what the majority of neighbors on either side of the current run of monsters see. What they probably see little of is daylight, because two stories of stucco plus a tile roof (the predominant choice) casts a pretty good shadow on existing 1950s-1960s style tract homes.

But let us not dwell on the present, let's look into the future, say five years from now. What will we see? Well, I'm predicting the following:

The Downey City Council, after years of debate, finally put a limit on the square footage of remodeled homes and returned to a setback of 20 feet from the street and back fence to the front and rear walls of the house, and five feet on the sides. This prompts a cry of outrage from the "owners" of homes in the planning stage, actually contractors, speculators and Downey realtors.

California's artificially inflated housing price bubble burst around 2007, causing owners of million dollar plus mansions to find themselves instantly losing hundreds of thousands of dollars on the equity of their homes. On the upside real single family buyers now have a chance to buy a home, at least the ones that weren't remodeled.

Owners of these monster mansions hoping for a huge profit and quick turn-around now find themselves stuck with thousands of square feet of floor space to clean and walls to paint, plus overgrown landscaping that needs trimming and huge electric bills from air conditioning and unnecessary and wasteful outdoor lighting. Many file for bankruptcy causing a phenomenon of "Empty Mansion Syndrome."

Architectural magazines dismiss the trend as ostentatious, gaudy, grossly evident of conspicuous consumption and lacking any discernible architectural style, and dub the look "Miami Vice Modern." Some owners of these mansions get mad, most don't have a clue.

And finally, owners of conventional tract homes that have kept them in good order and live within their means finally get to say, "I told you so."

—John R. Powell,
Downey

Illegal alien 'threat'

To the Editor:

What is the real terror in our country? The terror of our beautiful country being overrun by tens of millions of illegal aliens.

The danger of the diseases brought in by the illegals. The terror of having to go to a clinic or hospital overrun by illegal aliens.

The terror of our children and grandchildren having to go to schools that are bursting at the seams with illegal alien children.

The terror of our taxes supporting the illegal aliens and their jack-pot babies with housing, food stamps, health care, welfare, education, while they depress the wages of our citizens seeking jobs. The terror of the crimes committed by illegal aliens.

Worst of all, the criminals who hire illegal aliens, then reap the profits while we reap the whirlwind.

You can call me bigoted, mean, prejudiced, etc., but I love my country, and hate what I see happening to it.

—Edward Sverchek,
Bell

Appalled at Montero's idea

Dear Editor:

My life partner and I were deeply appalled by the letter from Jorge Montero concerning the boycotting of businesses that employ illegal immigrants. He fails to acknowledge that many jobs laborers occupy are done so by people who desperately want to make an honest, decent living and provide for their family and give their children opportunities they wouldn't have had otherwise.

For so many years now American citizens have been willing to exploit the cheap labor offered by illegal immigrants, but the complaints about their presence began as soon as efforts to provide them with the standard benefits and wages gained prevalence. It seems as if many U.S. citizens are willing to hire illegal immigrants, as long as they don't demand to be treated justly and be afforded the same rights anyone else would expect.

It was unsettling to see such common generalizations applied to an entire race of people in the 21st century. The call to boycott "car washes, building contractors, roofers, plumbers and gardeners" was blatantly racist. As a matter of fact, we are curious to see this boycott take place—we can imagine very few American citizens willing to work as hard for as little pay as the illegal immigrants Montero wants to see "disappear." Many businesses would disintegrate if not for the exceptionally hard-working people that too many American companies exploit.

As Chicanas, we feel ashamed that Jorge Montero would deny the cultural history that his name bares.

—Cindy Uranda and Tina Vasquez,
Downey

Don't fine the companies

Dear Editor:

When I was in business in 1988 I called Social Security Administration to confirm if a Social Security number was assigned to the person I wished to employ. They would, every time I called, tell me the number was a legal number. They would not tell me the name of the person to which it was issued.

At that time as an employer there was no government agency that I could call to determine if a person I wished to hire was legally in this country. I assumed the Department of Motor Vehicles was required to confirm if an applicant was legally in this country. I would make a photocopy of their driver's license, illegally, to protect my company if I hired them.

Occasionally I would receive a telephone call from Social Security that a person in my employ was using a Social Security number that was being used by another person. When I asked them if their number was legally assigned to them they would admit to me that their number belonged to a family member. I immediately fired that employee.

A company should not be fined for hiring a person who is illegal when there is no way they can determine their legality.

If there is any change since I was an employer I would appreciate being informed.

—William Greene,
Downey

Burned building

To the Editor:

Our lovely neighborhood has been blighted for almost one year. 7446 Quinn St. caught fire in January 2005. It sits vacant, in disrepair, various pieces of tattered plastic are flimsily attached to the roof. There's a port-potty sitting just inside the property line next to the driveway. The portable fence along the driveway is down frequently.

Is the City aware? Do they care?

—Rosalea Ritchee,
Downey

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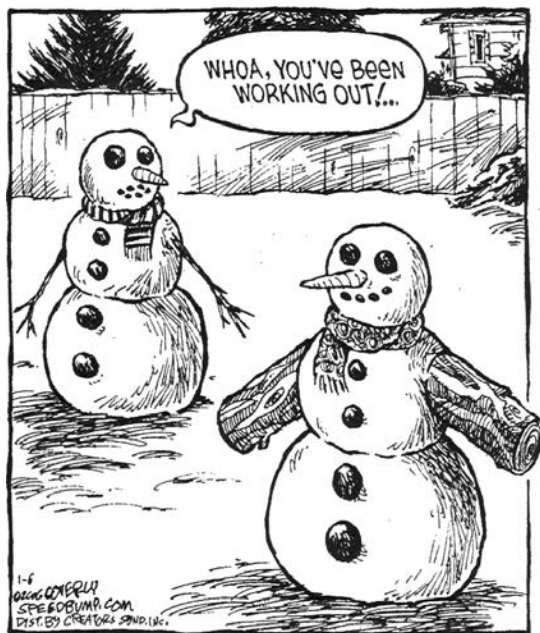
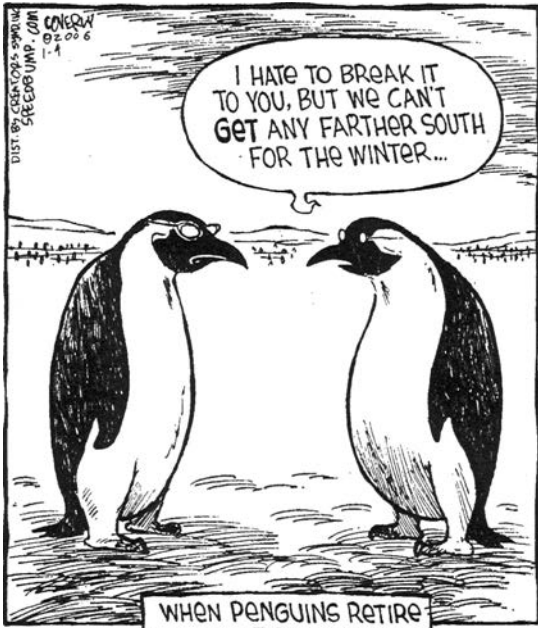
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For January

Fri. Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m.: **Shawn Morgan entertains** at the keyboard with popular hits at Granata's restaurant, 11032 Downey Ave. Also Saturday night. For information call 861-2997.
Sun. Jan. 8, 2:30 p.m.: **"Exploring the Colorado River"** travelogue filmed and narrated by Gray Warriner as part of the Armchair Adventure series at the Downey Theatre, Firestone at Brookshire. For information call 861-8211.

City Meetings

1st Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m.: Redevelopment Project Area Committee, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.: Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall.
1st Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.: Downey Coordinating Council, at Riley Center. Call Lois Buchanan 927-9790.
1st Thursday, 9 a.m.: Traffic Committee, Training Room, Second Floor of City Hall.
2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: City Council/Community Development Commission, Council Chamber.
2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6 p.m.: Design Review Board, Council Chamber at City Hall.
3rd Thursday, 3:30 p.m.: Parking Place Commission, Second Floor Training Room at City Hall

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

6:30 p.m.: Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner, mtg., for information call 426-6786.
6:30 p.m.: Overeaters Anonymous, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.
1st Mon., 4 p.m.: 2nd Century Foundation, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.
1st Mon., 7 p.m.: American Legion Post 270, Los Amigos Country Club, call 869-1053.
2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, for info. call 923-2481.
2nd Mon., 3 p.m.: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7159.
4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 861-3989.

Tuesdays

9 a.m.: Downey Bocce Club, at Apollo Park, for information call Vince Zoida at (714) 761-4439.
9:30 a.m.: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
9:30 a.m.: Adventure with the Bible, at the First Baptist Church Call 928-4153.
12 p.m.: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo, for information call Doug Baker at (714) 229-2266.
12:00 p.m.: Exchange Club, at Sizzler Restaurant. Call Don Hollister 927-5871
7 p.m.: Boy Scout Troop 2, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
7 p.m.: Boy Scout Troop 441, at Apollo Park Activities Room, for information call 923-3659.
7:30 p.m.: Southland Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines, at Downey's Woman's Club, for information call 947-6802.
1st and 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m.: Quota International Southeast Cities, for information call (323) 569-2854.
2nd Tues., 8:30 a.m.: Women's "In His Glory" Ministry at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.
2nd and 4th Tues., 7:30 a.m.: Chamber "Rise&Shine" Networkers, at Nordic Fox. for info. call (562) 923-2191.
2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: Sertoma Club, at Bakers Square, for information call (562) 927-6438.
2nd Tues., 7 p.m.: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, for information call 943-3904.
3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: Writer's Workshop West, at 9968 Lakewood Blvd., for info call 862-3106.
3rd Tues., 1:30 p.m.: Huff and Puff Respiratory, at DRMC Support Group, call 904-5355.
Last Tues., 11:00 a.m.: Los Companeros Service Club, at Los Amigos Country Club, for info call 863-1549.

Wednesdays

7 a.m.: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
1 p.m.: Women's Bocce Club, for information call 869-8782.
6 p.m.: Downey Space Toastmasters Club 513, at Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, for info. call Mark at 803-5203.
1st Weds., 10 a.m.: Woman's Club of Downey, for information call 927-0271 or 861-3493.
1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: Downey Coordinating Council, for information call 927-9790.
1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Emblem Club #309, at Downey's Elks Lodge, for information call 868-4386.
2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Sister Cities Ass'n, at Maude Price School, Call 862-7197.
2nd Weds., 11:45 - Downey Christian Women's Club, at Los Amigos CC. Call 927-8488.
3rd Weds., 7:00 p.m.: Diabetes Support Group, at DRMC, for more information call 622-2088.
Wed.& Fri., 10:15 a.m.: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

Thursdays

7:30 a.m.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.
7:30 a.m.: Connections Networking, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414.
9 a.m.: Senior Californians of Downey, (a social activities club for senior citizens), for information call 803-6887.
12 p.m.: Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee, for information call 928-4153.
12 p.m.: Optimist Club of Downey, at Samb's, for information call Steve Allen at 806-3701.
12:30 p.m.: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at United Methodist Church, call (626) 965-9991.
6:30 p.m.: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.
7 p.m.: Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.
4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.
2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

Fridays

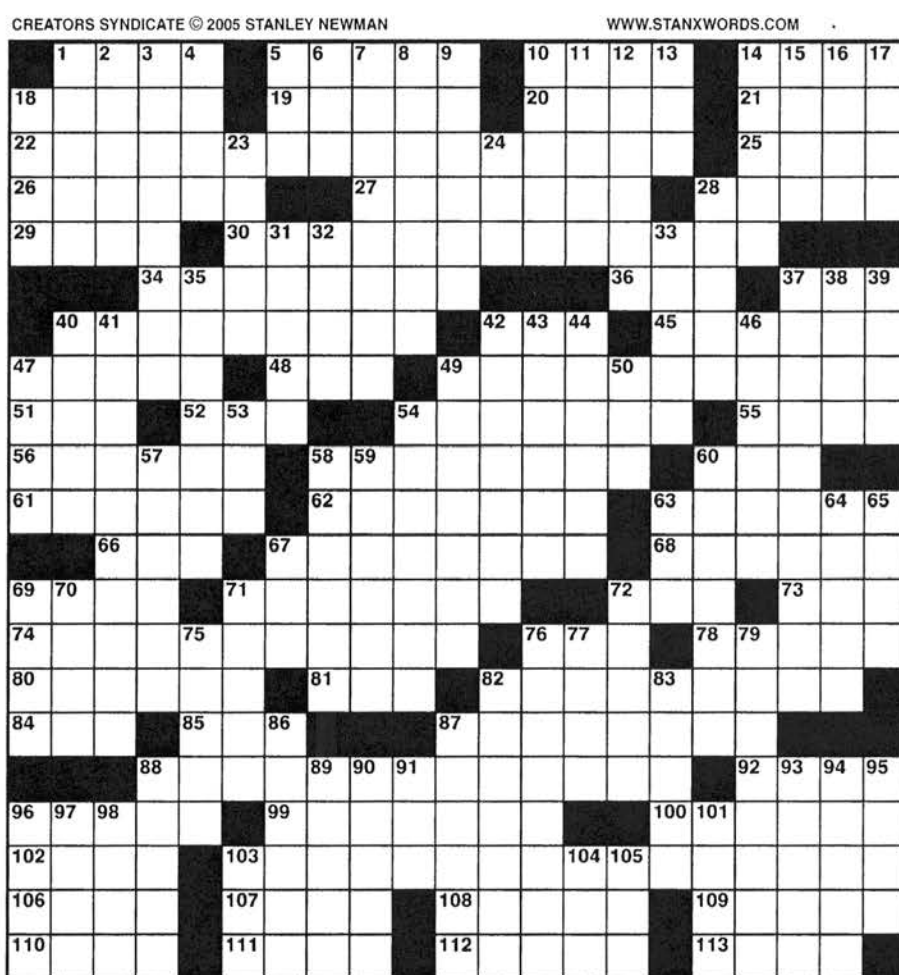
7:30 a.m.: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Joe Becker at 869-1414.

**WANT TO GET INVOLVED?
 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ARE YOURS
 CALL THE
 DOWNEY FAMILY YMCA
 (562) 862-4201**

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

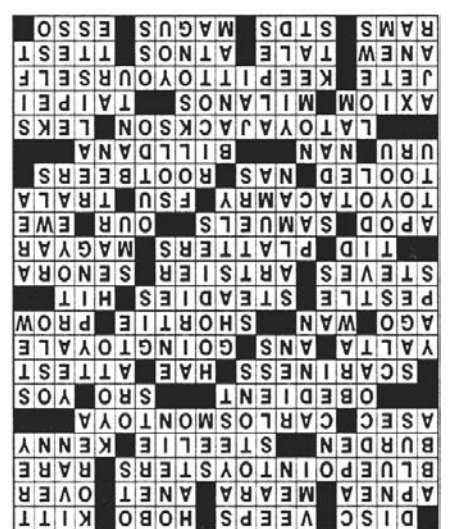
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
OPENING DAY: With goodies for everyone
 by Randolph Ross

- ACROSS**
- 1 Compact
 - 5 Cheney and Gore
 - 10 "King of the road"
 - 14 Singer Eartha
 - 18 Sleep disturber
 - 19 Ben Stiller's mother
 - 20 Working without
 - 21 Kaput
 - 22 Certain shellfish
 - 25 Not often seen
 - 26 Albatross
 - 27 Metal marble
 - 28 Mr. G of music
 - 29 "Wait...!"
 - 30 Spanish guitarist
 - 34 Like a well-trained pet
 - 36 Good sign for producers
 - 37 Attention getters
 - 40 Halloween-costume quality
 - 42 Possess: Scot.
 - 45 Say under oath
 - 47 Conference site of 1945
 - 48 Part of Q&A
 - 49 Matriculated in New Haven
 - 51 Long follower
 - 52 Looking pale
 - 54 Like some pajamas
 - 55 Front of a ship
 - 56 Mashing instrument
 - 58 Stabilizes
 - 60 Successful record
 - 61 Canyon and Martin
 - 62 More bohemian
 - 63 Lady of Lima
 - 66 Prescription abbr.
 - 67 Diner servings
 - 68 Ethnic Hungarian
 - 69 Like two peas in
 - 71 Clemens and Coleridge
 - 72 "... daily bread"
 - 73 Lea grazer
 - 74 Honda Accord alternative
 - 76 Seminoles' sch.
 - 78 Mikado refrain
 - 80 Drove (around)
 - 81 Ctr. for some military pilots
 - 82 Foamy drinks
 - 84 Arg. neighbor
 - 85 Bread served in Indian restaurants
 - 87 Steve Allen Show regular
 - 88 "Heart Don't Lie" singer
 - 92 Albanian coins
 - 96 Mathematical truism
 - 99 Actress Alyssa et al.
 - 100 Republic of China capital
 - 102 Ballet leap
 - 103 "Mum's the word!"
 - 106 From the top
 - 107 Chaucer chapter
 - 108 Periodic table info: Abbr.
 - 109 Statistical-analysis procedure
 - 110 Door busters
 - 111 Norms: Abbr.
 - 112 Sorcerer
 - 113 Exxon's former name
- DOWN**
- 1 Grade below C
 - 2 Habituate
 - 3 Kernel's cover
 - 4 Part of Zorro's costume
 - 5 Rival of The Citadel, for short
 - 6 Velvet ending
 - 7 Takes smaller portions
 - 8 Nucleus occupants
 - 9 State, in the Bible
 - 10 Little Iodine cartoonist
 - 11 a million
 - 12 Floppy hats
 - 13 Tiebreaker periods: Abbr.
 - 14 Divided country
 - 15 Czar name
 - 16 Gull's cousin
 - 17 Deuce topper
 - 18 "SOS" group
 - 23 " had a secret love"
 - 24 Four mos. at school, perhaps
 - 28 Ecology treaty city
 - 31 Mideast oilman
 - 32 Nothing, in Nantes
 - 33 Get on a soapbox
 - 35 Joined a melee
 - 37 Like some contracts
 - 38 1952 Winter Olympics city
 - 39 Brood (over)
 - 40 Full House star
 - 41 Carpenters #1 song
 - 42 Sorts of sweatshirts
 - 43 With a better breeze
 - 44 Becomes a contestant
 - 46 Secretarial skill
 - 47 Talks too much
 - 49 Frightful
 - 50 USO show audience
 - 53 DDE two-time opponent
 - 54 Hunting dogs
 - 57 Small-screen heartthrob
 - 58 Author Rushdie
 - 59 Shock
 - 60 Give comfort to
 - 63 Texas sch.
 - 64 Singer Lou
 - 65 Neck of the woods
 - 67 -10 Conference
 - 69 Aleutian island
 - 70 Shoddy
 - 71 Mubarak's predecessor
 - 72 Best
 - 75 Coffee-break time
 - 76 Pete Seeger specialty
 - 77 Scale notes
 - 79 Their feet are on the ground
 - 82 Lasagne ingredient
 - 83 African language group
 - 86 Vegetarian restriction
 - 87 Little rooster
 - 88 Cinema chain name
 - 89 Give way
 - 90 Mont Blanc's home
 - 91 alai
 - 93 Olympic blades
 - 94 Five-time Horse of the Year in the '60s
 - 95 Search through sand
 - 96 Not fully closed
 - 97 Warrior Princess of TV
 - 98 Line- veto
 - 98 Johnson of Laugh-in
 - 103 Gold units: Abbr.
 - 104 Golden-rule ender
 - 105 CIA precursor



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

The "G" in the name of saxophonist KENNY G (28 Across) stands for his last name, Gorelick. The prescription abbreviation T.D. in die, short for the Latin "ter in die," means "three times a day." MAGUS (112 Across) is the singular form of the more-familiar "magi."



Woman's Club releases Pechanga trip schedule

DOWNEY — Due to the success of their monthly bus trips to the Pechanga Entertainment Center in Temecula to benefit their Scholarship Fund, the Woman's Club of Downey has released their 2006 all-Monday schedule: Jan. 9, Feb. 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 10, Aug. 7, Sept. 11, Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4.

The club's first-class bus, provided by Pechanga, leaves at 8 a.m. and returns to Downey between 5:30-6 p.m. Each guest receives a \$5 voucher for casino play and visitors are encouraged to register for a "Rewards Card" at the casino for additional benefits.

Bingo is played on the bus going and returning, featuring a grab bag of prizes.

Cost of each trip is \$6 for Woman's Club members, \$11 for non-members. Guests must be at least 21 years of age.

For reservations or more information, call Jeanine Keys at 923-6620.

Motorcycle show at Fairplex Jan. 7-8

POMONA—Billed as the world's largest motorcycle show, the Easyriders B-Twin Bike Show is offered Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 7 and 8 at the Los Angeles Fairplex Park in Pomona.

This show which features everything you can imagine and then some in wall-to-wall motorcycles drew more than 16,000 to its L.A. show last year and more are expected this year.

The custom bikes will be accompanied by a host of manufacturers and vendors. The evening concert features North Carolina's premier rock group, Toyz.

Doors will open both days at 10 a.m. Advance tickets are available. For information call (800) 962-9857 or try the web at www.easyridersevents.com.



FIFTH APPEARANCE — Robin La Valley returns to the stage with the Downey Civic Light Opera in the upcoming production of the musical comedy, "Nonsense." She will portray Sister Mary Amnesia. La Valley's previous shows with the local group were "No, No, Nanette," "Singing in the Rain," "Hello, Dolly" and "My One and Only." Opening Feb. 23 and playing through March 12 at the Downey Theater, Firestone at Brookshire, group rates are available for "Nonsense." For tickets and information, call 923-1714.

Events at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium

PASADENA—Offerings for 2006 at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 E. Green St. in Pasadena, include the following Saturday performances (all at 8 p.m.) by the Pasadena Symphony, which presents *Serenade for Strings* (Schubert, Schickele & Tchaikovsky) Jan. 21, *Tchaikovsky's Sixth* (Dohnanyi, Hindemith & Tchaikovsky) Feb. 4, *French Flavor and Fortune* (Ravel, Milhaud & Beethoven) March 11, *The Mysteries of Love and Death* (Wagner, Liszt & Rachmaninoff) April 1, and *Symphonie Fantastique* (Glinka, Prokofiev & Berlioz) May 6. For tickets/information, call (626) 793-7172, ext. 22 or visit www.pasadenasympphony.org.

The Distinguished Speaker Series continues, featuring: *Stuart Varney*, television's "premier economic and financial journalist," Wednesday, Jan. 18; *Christiane Amanpour* CNN chief international correspondent, Wednesday, Feb. 15; *Nicolas de Torrente*, executive director of Doctors Without Borders, Monday, March 6; *Michael Gorbachev*, former President of the Soviet Union and Nobel laureate, Wednesday, April 5; and *Tom Wolfe*, best-selling novelist and social commentator, Wednesday, May 24. To hear these distinguished speakers with their "thought-provoking insights and compelling stories," call (800) 508-9301, or log on to www.speakersla.com.

ENJOYABLE AFFORDABLE
THURSDAY AFTERNOON BINGO

Woman's Club of Downey
9813 Paramount Blvd
Early Birds 12 noon
Regular Games start 12:30
~Prizes, Suprises Galore~
Benefits Rancho patients

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

MUNICH R	(12:10 3:35) 7:00 10:25
HOSTEL R	(12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30
GRANDMA'S BOY R	(10:30 1:00 3:30) 6:00 8:30
BLOODRAYNE R	(11:30 2:00 4:30) 7:00 9:30
RUMOR HAS IT PG13	(12:00 2:30) 5:00 7:30 10:00
WOLF CREEK R	(11:30 2:00 4:30) 7:00 9:30
THE RINGER PG13	(11:45 2:15 4:45) 7:15 9:45
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 PG	(11:15 1:50 4:25) 7:00 9:35
FUN WITH DICK AND JANE PG13	(10:20 12:45 3:10) 5:35 8:00 10:25
KING KONG PG13	(10:00 2:00) 6:00 10:00
KING KONG PG13	(11:00 3:00) 7:00 11:00

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* MUNICH R (11:35, 3:15), 7:00
RUMOR HAS IT PG-13 (11:25, 2:05, 4:40), 7:40, 10:10
WOLF CREEK R (11:50, 2:15, 4:50), 7:25, 9:50
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 R (11:45, 2:10, 4:45), 7:15, 9:45
FUN WITH DICK & JANE PG-13 (12:35, 2:50, 5:10), 7:45, 10:05
THE FAMILY STONE PG-13 (11:10, 1:45, 4:20), 7:20, 9:55
KING KONG PG-13 (11:15, 3:30), 7:30
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA R (12:30, 3:45), 7:10, 10:15
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Financial Partners CREDIT UNION

Florist class expands to Saturdays at Adult School

DOWNEY—Downey Adult School will start offering their regular Florist class with instructor Terrie Mercurio on Saturdays, in addition to the three scheduled Tuesday classes. Saturday Florist classes held from 9-11 a.m., begin Jan. 14.

For a fee of \$25 and a \$12 non-refundable weekly flower fee, you can learn the basic principles of design for various arrangement styles, and create a fresh floral arrangement each week. Instructions will be given in basic terminology and product knowledge.

For information about this class, call 940-6200.



PHOTO TAKEN IN 1988—Of Dale and Helen H. Mersereau, who died just short of her 109th birthday on Nov. 29. Dale died in 1993 at age 95.

Helen H. Mersereau dies just shy of 109

DOWNEY—Helen Henderson Mersereau, a retired elementary teacher and resident of Downey for 50 years, died peacefully in her home on Nov. 29, after living in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

She was born in Iowa Jan. 2, 1897, and just short of her 109th birthday at the time of her death. She had lived under U.S. presidents ranging from Grover Cleveland to George W. Bush.

She grew up on farms in Iowa and New Mexico and then attended a state normal school in Silver City, NM, the University of Chicago and USC. Her first teaching job in California was in a one-room schoolhouse in Lancaster. She later was employed for many years by the Los Angeles Unified School District, teaching last at Victoria Avenue School in South Gate when she retired in 1957. She preferred to teach the 1st grade, saying her greatest satisfaction was teaching children to read.

She was a member of the California Retired Teachers Association, the American Association of University Women and the Downey Woman's Club.

She was predeceased by husband Dale Mersereau, to whom she was married for 63 years. During WWII, he was a general supervisor at the Douglas Aircraft Santa Monica plant in charge of three departments with 3,500 employees, who built fuselages for 6,000 light bombers for U.S. and Allied air forces. After the war, he had a successful career as an industrial real estate developer. He died in 1993 at age 95.

She is survived by her son, Wallace, of San Mateo; three grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren. No memorial service was held. Memorial contributions were requested sent to a favorite charity.

Airman assigned to Special Tactics

SAN ANTONIO, TX—Air Force Airman Melissa L. Sterpin, daughter of Luz M. Sterpin of Downey, has arrived for duty at Hurlburt Field in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

An intelligence operations apprentice, she is assigned to the 231st Special Tactics Squadron. She is a 2004 graduate of Mountain View High School in Mesa, Arizona.

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AIR FORCE AIRMAN MANUEL A. CHACON—Son of Sandra Chacon of Downey and a 2002 graduate of City of Angels High in Sylmar, has completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

‘Asian Bird Flu Over the Cuckoo’s Nest’

LOS ANGELES—Describing themselves as “the world’s most psychotic Asian American sketch comedy troupe,” the San Francisco-based 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors makes its Los Angeles debut with an all-new show, “Asian Bird Flu Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” Feb. 2-5 and 8-12 (Wednesdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.) at GTC-Burbank, 1111-B W. Olive Ave. in Burbank.

General admission is \$15; students and seniors \$13; group discounts available. For reservations/information, call (818) 754-4500 or email info@18mmw.com or access <http://tickets.manja.org/18mmw/asianflu>.

The 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors are a pan-Asian American sketch comedy group that draws from sources as diverse as Hong Kong cinema, Monty Python’s Flying Circus and Saturday Night Live; it says it uses a fast-paced cinematic approach to live theater in order to entertain and to provoke thought about the issues that affect Asian Pacific Islander Americans and all people of color.

Retired teachers group to mark its 50th

WHITTIER—The California Retired Teachers Association (CRTA), Division 31, invites all retired, former and active educators to tite 50th anniversary celebration in the Greater Whittier area. Also invited are nurses, librarians, administrators, spouses, and interested persons.

The celebration starts at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at the Greenleaf Masonic Center, 12001 E. Beverly Blvd. in Whittier. The program includes the history of the Santa Anita area and the Arboretum of Los Angeles County.

For reservations/information, call Barbara Nichols, (562) 696-4474.

For Classified Advertising Information Call Linda Larson

The Downey Patriot

Phone (562) 904-3668

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

On average, a denture patient with an excellent fitting eats at 15%-20% efficiency compared to a person with natural teeth. As the jawbone shrinks due to the loss of both tooth crown and root, chewing efficiency is reduced even more. This makes it increasingly difficult for denture patients to eat certain foods. Dental implants, on the other hand, can restore chewing efficiency that is comparable to that of natural teeth. This is because dental implants replace the entire tooth crown and root, which is implanted directly in the bone. In addition, a full denture covers the palate of the mouth and reduces the ability to taste foods. With dental implants, the palate is exposed for full taste enjoyment.

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Staged play readings at Boston Court

PASADENA—Classic and Contemporary American Plays (C.C.A.P.) has moved this season to Boston Court Performing Arts Complex in Pasadena. C.C.A.P. features staged readings of plays by great American playwrights read by some of the most proclaimed artists of theater, film and TV.

Public readings are held Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on the Main Stage at Boston Court, 70 N. Mentor Ave., Pasadena. Tickets are \$25, and are available at www.bostoncourt.org. Discounts are available by calling (626) 683-6883.

C.C.A.P., now in its 5th year, has presented over 20 plays, performing in a variety of venues such as (inside) the Ford, University of Judaism, Century City Playhouse and the Alex Theater in Glendale.

Scheduled Jan. 17-18 is “American Buffalo” by David Mamet with Joe Spano and Michael Weston, directed by James Eckhouse. The New York Drama Critic’s Circle Awarded play is a gritty, human drama about a bungled heist of a valuable coin collection.

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&

Deborah Massaglia
President, Roxanna Todd Hodges Foundation
“Stroke Awareness & Warning Signs- Are you at risk?”

Downey Community STROKE Support Group
Tuesday, January 17 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Deborah Massaglia will share her insights with those who care for stroke survivors and caregivers. Downey Community STROKE Support Group meets the third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm, in Downey Regional Medical Center Lower Level Conference Rooms, 11 500 Brookshire Ave. in Downey.

For reservations or more information please call:
562-904-5162 or 949-305-8450

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'Connections' meets Thursdays

DOWNEY – Connections, a local business networking group, meets every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast at Nordic Fox restaurant, 10924 Paramount Blvd. For information call Nick Smith, president of the group, at 861-5222.

Council agendas available online

DOWNEY – Complete City Council and Community Development Commission agendas and minutes can be accessed on the City of Downey website at www.downeyca.org.

Council and commission meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 7:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Downey City Hall.



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Snow play trip for youth/middle school

DOWNEY—The city of Downey Community Services Department offers a "Snow Play" trip for Youth and Middle School to Big Bear Village – Alpine Slide, Monday, Jan. 16 from 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

The fee of \$25 includes supervision and admission. All trips are supervised by adult recreation leaders.

Registration is now taking place at Downey City Hall in the Community Services Department. Sign-ups are limited. For information, call 904-7238.

YMCA searching for volunteers

DOWNEY – The Downey YMCA is in need of volunteers for both morning and evening hours in all departments. Coaching opportunities are also available.

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Gift donations to Indian reservations welcomed

DOWNEY—Financial Partners Credit Union, in partnership with Southern California Boeing, donated over 200 gifts to Project Love. The gifts, donated by Financial Partners employees, went to several Indian Reservations to benefit the Navajo and Hopi children.

"I am extremely proud of our employees' efforts this holiday season to help the Navajo and Hopi children. This year's holiday gift collecting is more than twice that of the previous year. It is through our willingness to take action that we see a shining example of dedication to the community," stated FPCU CEO Nader Moghaddam.

FPCU Long Beach Service Representative Judi Carlson-Seymore accompanied the Boeing volunteers on the three-day trip to the Four Corners Reservations. Judi recalls an experience that touched her heart: "One of the mothers was walking down the school hall with her son. She said she had lived in California, but, with her husband passing away two years ago, she and her children had to move back to the reservation. It was too expensive in San Jose on her Paralegal income. She now works for the Shonto School as a secretary, making a third of what she made before. Her son had asked for, and received, a remote control car from Financial Partners. She said she wanted to personally thank us, that the gift he received is probably the only toy he will receive this Christmas."

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By Colin Clarke
Remodeling: Dollars And Sense!

Many homeowners remodel not just to improve the condition of their biggest asset, but also to improve the salability of said asset. Experience proves that some projects are better for improving your bottom line than others. DO upgrade kitchens and bathrooms, as these rooms are most likely to get scrutinized by potential buyers. New countertops and appliances and sparkling fixtures will be a memorable aspect of your showings. DO improve exterior features, too - first impressions count! Some of the most valuable work you can do is to add new siding, or to pressure clean or replace old dingy siding. Another outdoor biggie: decks. Most everyone loves relaxing outside, so adding or improving this amenity not only adds style to your lifestyle right now, but also increases your home's real and perceived value. DO realize that the biggest return on your remodeling investment will come from more costly repairs, such as replacing windows or installing new air and heating units. If your home is in need of such improvements, it makes sense to do it now before it costs more later. Finally, DON'T turn your home into the neighborhood's priciest palace. You'll end up turning off potential buyers who will see other homes around the block offering more affordability. It's a delicate balance, but your home should offer the greatest value when compared with similar offerings.

I'll be pleased to help you with any of your real estate needs.
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New Year should be prosperous for workers

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles workers may cash in on a bigger, better deal in the New Year, according to a recent study of Los Angeles employers by CareerBuilder.com and America Online.

Titled "Los Angeles Hiring in 2006," the survey reveals Los Angeles companies plan to increase salaries on initial offers, raise compensation levels for existing employees and provide more flexible work arrangements. It also provides insights on the skills Los Angeles companies say will be most critical to their businesses in the coming year and their plans to shorten hiring cycles, diversify their staffs and postpone retirements in response to an increasingly competitive labor market.

Bigger Paychecks

— 52 percent of Los Angeles hiring managers plan to increase salaries on initial offers; 38 percent will raise offers by 3 percent or higher and 21 percent will raise offers by 5 percent or higher.

— 82 percent of Los Angeles hiring managers plan to increase pay for existing employees; 59 percent will raise compensation levels by 3 percent or more and 23 percent will raise levels by 5 percent or more.

Tip: Know your value. Check out online salary sites, industry Web sites and the Bureau of Labor Statistics to determine the average salary for your position in your city. Present your research along with career accomplishments to showcase your worth.

Rehiring Retirees

— 26 percent of Los Angeles hiring managers expressed concern over a shortage of skilled workers and intellectual capital lost due to the large segment of Baby Boomers approaching retirement.

— An even greater number — 44 percent — plan to recruit retirees from other companies or offer incentives for workers at or approaching retirement age to extend their employment.

Tip: If you would like to put off your retirement, inform your supervisor and other departments within your organization and network to identify potential full-time and part-time opportunities.

Diversifying the Workforce

— Recognizing the importance of workforce diversity, more than one-tenth Los Angeles hiring managers expect diverse candidates to comprise 25 percent or more of their new hires.

— Women and Hispanics ranked highest among the diverse workforce segments Los Angeles hiring managers expect to target more aggressively.

Tip: Failing to market yourself as a diverse candidate can work against you. Highlight your diverse background and how your unique perspective and skills contributed to the success of previous employers in your application and during interviews.

Flexible Work Styles

— 39 percent of Los Angeles hiring managers say they will be more willing to provide flexible work arrangements such as job sharing and alternate schedules.

— 29 percent of Los Angeles hiring managers say they will be more willing to allow employees to telecommute given rising energy costs.

Tip: Present your case. List your professional contributions, explain why you need a flexible work arrangement and propose a schedule that shows how you will be able to perform effectively.

Shorter Hiring Cycles

— While the vast majority of Los Angeles hiring managers report they are filling their open positions within six weeks, 43 percent say they will hasten the hiring process.

— 24 percent of Los Angeles hiring managers will shorten the recruitment process by two weeks or more and 11 percent will shorten it by three weeks or more.

The survey, "Hiring Trends to Watch in 2006," was conducted from November 27 to December 12, 2005. Methodology used to collect survey responses totaling more than 100 Los Angeles hiring managers for this study involved selecting a random sample of ComScore Networks panel members.



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Norwalk: Great area. 2 Bed, 1 Bath, 912 Sq Ft of living space. Large 6720 Sq Ft Lot. Copper plumbing, recessed lighting, and hardwood floors throughout. Un-permitted 3rd bedroom. Priced to sell!!! \$440,000.

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MARIO ACEVEDO – A new agent with Century 21 My Real Estate, has 18 years of management experience and is completing his BS in Business Management. "We are so pleased to welcome this outgoing and dynamic man to the office. He is an asset to our team and the community," stated Laurie Mac Isaac, manager at Century 21. To contact Acevedo call (562) 927-2626.

Realtor earns award for senior work

DOWNEY – Erick Hernandez, a realtor with Homes & Estates Realty in Downey, has been awarded the Seniors Real Estate Specialist professional designation, a recognition marking his specific knowledge in real estate needs for seniors.

The Senior Advantage Real Estate Council presented the award, which was introduced in 1997.

Hernandez can be reached by calling (562) 500-9326.

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7312 Hannon Street
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Spacious 3 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath home plus newly refurbished pool and spa. Hardwood and tile flooring, central air and remodeled baths. Immaculate and in move-in condition. Priced to sell at \$639,900. Call Carol now for the best deal. **8859 Guatemala**



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NEW LISTING - LYNWOOD

Completely remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with 1,000 sqft of living space. Family kitchen, 2 car detached garage plus large play yard with room to expand. Call Carol for information.



DOWNEY - MOVE IN CONDITION

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NORTH DOWNEY - CHEROKEE ESTATES

Spacious custom 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath home with 2,275 sq. ft. of living space. Sparkling pool and spa, formal dining room and family room open to kitchen. Granite counter tops throughout and picture perfect family kitchen. Direct access from garage. Large master suite with private bath and walk-in closet. Listed at \$885,000.00 - Call Carol for the best deal..



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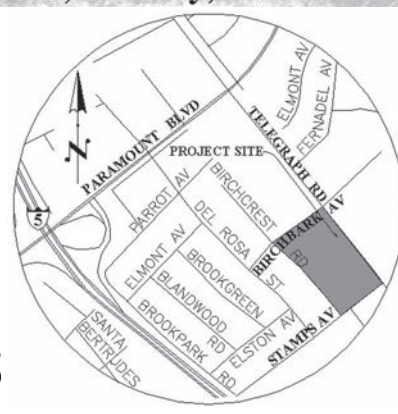
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#3 "Rosie Hernandez did a really good job helping me find the right home. I am very happy with everything Rosie did." -- Jose Castaneda

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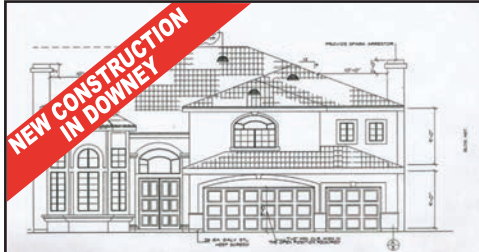


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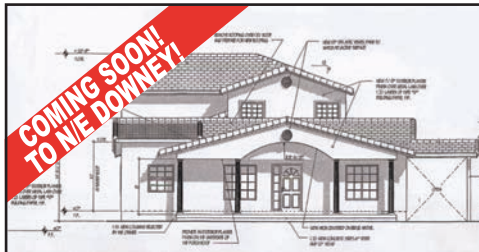
NEW CONSTRUCTION IN DOWNEY!
Prestigious Country Club home features Huge Master Suite w/ Golf Course & Pool Views, Beautiful State of the Art Kitchen, Hardwood, Marble and Granite Throughout, Spacious Family Room for Entertaining, Professional Landscaping, Central Air & Heat, 3 Car Garage, Lot Size nearly 10,000 Square Feet, Fabulous Neighborhood.

For more information, please call Mario Persico @ (562) 533-7433 or visit his website at www.MarioPersico.com



RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL USE!
Mixed use property in Huntington Park features a 4 bedroom, 2 bath back house with attached garage and a commercial building in front (approximately 900 square feet).

For more details and price, please call Maria Elena Serrano at 562-400-3373.



COMING SOON! TO ME DOWNEY!

NEW CONSTRUCTION IN DOWNEY!
This beautiful Downey home features 5 bedrooms, 4 full bathrooms, kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite, marble & hardwood throughout, covered porch, heated pool and spa, built-in B-B-Q, 3,202 square feet of living space, under construction and much, much more! Priced at \$1,295,000.

For more information, please call Mario Persico @ (562) 533-7433 or visit his website at www.MarioPersico.com



OPEN HOUSE SAT. & SUN. 12-4

ORANGE ESTATES HOME!
This great 3 bedroom, 2 bath home features an open kitchen with a breakfast nook and a large rear den. It is 2,400 square feet on a 8,650 square foot lot and much, much more! Priced at \$849,000

For more details, please call Jimmy Spathos @ 562-400-2148.



\$569,000

Owner will consider all offers! This North Downey home has wonderful living room with fireplace, plus a large formal dining room with built in cabinets for your china and crystal! Park like yard has large covered patio off kitchen! 3 bedrooms, new tile in bathroom, central air and heat, in great location! Bring Offers! Call now for an appointment!

For more information & price, please call Marie Picarelli @ (562) 618-0033 or visit her website at www.MariePicarelli.com



OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 12 - 4:30

2 Story home with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, formal dining room, rock fireplace in family room, 3 car garage, located in prestigious North Downey neighborhood!

For more information or for price, please call Marie Picarelli @ (562) 618-0033 or visit her website at www.MariePicarelli.com



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!

A 4,754 sq. ft. commercial building on a 30,056 sq. ft. lot. Located on a busy corner in Bellflower. Asking Price is \$2.8 million.

For more details, please call Mary Jane Lee @ 562-618-0390.



Michael Berdelis

"The 24 Hour Agent"

562-818-6111

www.MichaelBerdelis.com



79 HOMES SOLD IN 2004!

**Downey's # 1 Agent
Chairman Circle
Ultimate Service
Award**

Call for a FREE MARKET EVALUATION to get your home SOLD!



This You've Got To See!

This newly-built, single-story home has it all with a spectacular kitchen that includes granite counter tops, custom built cabinets, a large island, and all stainless steel appliances. This 5 bedroom, 4 bath home boasts three large master bedrooms. The open floor plan includes a living room with fireplace, large formal dining area, and a huge family room. The exterior features lush landscaping, a long driveway with potential RV access, an electric gate entry to the oversized two car detached garage, and a private pool.

Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



Estate Living, Home Pricing!

4 bedroom, 3 bath 2-story home with a 2-car attached garage on an enormous 15,000 sq ft gated lot. The home is in move in condition with new central air and heat, new water heater, freshly painted interior, and new carpet. Property has room to park multiple cars or an RV and has plenty of room to entertain. All this for \$649,000.

Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



Spanish Style Beauty

Beautiful Spanish-style 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home rebuilt in 1993 in the wonderful NE section of Downey. The property has a 2 car det. garage, long driveway with carport, and large pool-size yard that's perfect for entertaining. The custom-built home has an impressive living room with vaulted ceiling, formal dining room and den, and a downstairs master bedroom with large bathroom. The upstairs has another master bedroom, 2 other bedrooms with Jack-&-Jill bath, and bonus room with balcony. Price: \$1,149,000.

Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



New construction in Northeast Downey.

This 5 bedroom + office, 4 bath custom-built home is almost 4000 sq ft and is located on a 7548 sq ft lot. Features new kitchen and bathrooms, hardwood floors, granite counter tops in kitchen and baths, dual central air and heat, copper plumbing, recessed lighting, curved/texture-coated walls, and professionally landscaped front and back yard. The home includes a very large master bedroom with walk-in closet and private bathroom and includes a spacious family room. You won't want to miss this work-in-progress. (Completed by February 2006) Price: \$1,349,000

Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



Priced to sell !!!

2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with a 2 car garage. Home has a bright kitchen with dining area, living room with fireplace, and master bedroom with large closet. Balcony can be accessed from living room or master bedroom. Condo is located in a gated community and unit has central air and heat. Price: \$309,950

Call Michael @ 562-818-6111



Room To Grow

Immaculate 3 bedroom, 1.75 bath home on a 8980 sq. ft. lot. The home has refinished hardwood floors, freshly painted interior and exterior, & inside laundry. The enormous yard includes plenty of grass, a covered patio, and a 2 car detached garage. Price: \$625,000

Call Michael @ 562-818-6111