



# The Downey Patriot

**Kiwanis donates truck**  
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**'Operation Prom Night'**  
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**New Rancho study**  
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Friday, April 28, 2006

Vol. 5, No. 1

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

## Cops win funds for data terminals

**DOWNEY**—The Downey City Council approved the allocation of \$600,000 in asset forfeiture funds to be used for in-car radios and mobile data terminals.

The action was at Tuesday's regular meeting.

In other action the Council:

- Approved the retention of the law firm of Rutan and Tucker LLP, at a cost of about \$3,000 for the Los Angeles Region challenge to the Water Quality Control Board plan.

- Approved the final parcel map for a subdivision of property at 9125-0133 Imperial Highway and accepted an irrevocable standby letter of credit as surety.

- Adopted a resolution accepting a fee and waiving four auto parking places for Downey Hair Studio at 11031 Downey Avenue in the Downtown Parking Assessment District.

- Adopted Resolutions approving the engineering report for assessment within Lighting and Landscape District A,D. 121 for fiscal 2006-07, declaring the intention to collect assessments and set a public hearing for June 13 to consider setting the assessments.

### Speed limit

- Introduced an ordinance setting speed limits for Brookshire Avenue.

- Presented the Mayor's Soaring Eagle Award to Phil Cokinos, maintenance worker for Public Works.

- Accepted the presentation by the City of Pasadena Tournament of Roses of a portrait of the Downey Rose Float.

### Kids Day

- Proclaimed Kids Day May 13 "Shaping a Healthy Future for Downey Youth.

- Proclaimed Holocaust Annual Day of Remembrance.

- Proclaimed Motorcycle Awareness Month.

- Recognized John Rodriguez, Rio Hondo Golf Course Superintendent, as recipient of the 2005 Superintendent of the Year Award for a public golf course from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of SoCal.

- Recognized community services department staffer Sheila Pautsch and Rachel Palmer for their awards from the Calif. Parks and Recreation Society Youth Development category for Adventure Day Camps.

The next public meeting of the city council will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 9 at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

## Music acts lined up for May 6 Street Fair

**DOWNEY** – Downey High School's award-winning Marching Band will kick off the day-long festivities at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 6, known as the Downey Street Fair.

Other musical groups of note scheduled to appear include well known rockers All About Me, who excel at such songs as those of Buddy Holly, Elvis and the Beatles.

### Local band

Also scheduled to appear is Class 6 Band, a particularly hot local band featuring Steve Williamson doing vocals on cover numbers made famous by Deep Purple, AC/DC, and Alice Cooper. Class 6 includes Downey's own Chris Baumann, Scott Charitan, and Rick Martinez.

Contrast that with the sweet barbershop harmony sounds of the Southland Harmony Chorus also set to appear, and you realize there will be something to suit every taste at the Street Fair located on Brookshire and Firestone Boulevard.

The nonstop array of talent offered all day long at the bandstand includes Flashpoint. The entertainment starts at 10:15 a.m. with Onstage Dance center's young dancers. And you won't want to miss The Daughters of Isis belly dancers troop.

### Classics

While entertainment continues on stage, a classic car show will be offered in the Downey High School Parking lot near the pool off Brookshire, which will include customs, street, classic, luxury and sport categories, two radio stations broadcasting and two deejays.

### Come hungry

If food is your thing, then forget your diet for one day and feast on a variety of delights in the Food Court located in the High School's South Parking Lot. Vendors will include B-Food International, Barrett's Lemonade, Blue Smoke BBQ, First Baptist Church of Downey, Frantone's, George's Restaurant and Bar, Granata's, Hawaii Tropical Drink, Old Town Baking, Orange Mist, Paula's Hot Dogs, Philly's Best, Taco Treat, and the Old Fashioned Kettle Corn Co.

This does not include the many vendors moving up and down Brookshire.

The Street Fair is put on annually by the Downey Chamber of Commerce, which wants to thank all sponsors this year including majors Colin Clarke, Century 21-Jervis & Associates (Platinum); Downey Regional Medical Center (Diamond); CalMet Services Inc, and First Baptist Church of Downey (Gold); Mark Barboza-Countrywide Home Loans, Talbert Medical Group and Wescom Credit Union (Silver); And All-American Home Center, CareMore Medical, Downey Savings and Loan, Gallatin Dental Group, Norm's Restaurant, Alon Ofir D.D.S., Pacific Western Bank, Pioneer Medical Group and World of Decor (Bronze); as well as a host of Friends of the Fair, and the City of Downey



**TREASURE ISLAND FUN – Residents of the Treasure Island community in Downey celebrated Easter with its annual egg hunt last week. About 100 children attended the event.**

## Treasure Island residents make Easter fun for kids

**DOWNEY** – Approximately 200 people, including 100 children, attended last week's annual Easter Egg Hunt at Treasure Island Park in Downey.

Valerie Fairman helped lead children in games and donated prizes to the winners. Some of the games played were the bunny hop and carrot relay.

Children were also allowed to construct a picture frame and have a photo taken with the Easter Bunny.

Berta Soto-Mendez, with the help of Zaly Granados, provided materials, instruction and assistance to the children in making chia caterpillars. Kids also made bunny-eared headbands which they wore throughout the day.

Children were divided into four age groups for the egg hunt and all received a goodie bag upon their return. Gifts and prizes were raffled throughout the day to both adults and children.

Food was served to all in attendance.

## 20th annual Amistad Gala this weekend

**DOWNEY**—The 20th annual Amistad Gala, a black-tie dinner affair that benefits the outstanding programs and services of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 at the Westin Long Beach Hotel. It's presented by the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation, the nonprofit, public benefit corporation that conducts fundraising activities to support research, education, equipment, and patient care at the world-renowned rehabilitation center.

Theme of the gala affair this year is "We've Only Just Begun." The more than 500 guests expected to attend the annual event include leaders in healthcare, government, business and community.

Those receiving the 2006 Amistad Award, Rancho's highest honor, include: community leader Charles Coniglio, who will receive the Amistad Award for Individual Achievement; world-renowned physician Salah Rubayi, M.D., who will receive the Amistad Lifetime Achievement

See AMISTAD, page 5

## 'National Day of Prayer' celebration at flagpole

**DOWNEY**—Citizens of Downey will be meeting under the flagpole at Downey City Hall at noon Thursday, May 4 in observance of the 55th annual National Day of Prayer.

For the occasion, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger issued the following proclamation, to be read on May 4:

"I am pleased to offer my greetings to all who have gathered for the fifty-fifth annual *National Day of Prayer*.

Today is a wonderful occasion to showcase the deep spirituality and kinship of Americans. Events like these exemplify the freedoms we enjoy and display the unity of our nation's religious community.

This longstanding tradition dates back to 1952, when President Truman first established an annual national day of prayer. Since 1988, the first Thursday of every May has given Americans the opportunity to worship

See PRAYER, page 5

## Greens' claim to be wave of today

By John Adams

**DOWNEY**—The 5th Annual Green Building Conference & Expo was hosted by the gas company at its environmentally advanced building on Firestone last Thursday and Friday, and the wave of the future has arrived if the keynote speaker is to be believed.

Tom Cody, Principal for the South Group, a Los Angeles based group of builders who specialize in incorporating green design, laid the problem out simply—Low income families stand directly to benefit the most from green building. Low income families are often disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards, both indoor and outdoor. And they are often forced to pay utility bills that are larger than what they pay toward health and education. Affordable housing is required by law now, and municipalities are looking for ways to meet these requirements. Green building techniques are one obvious answer.

### Experts agree

Cody was followed by Walker Wells of Global Green USE, Ann Sewill of Enterprise Community Partners, and Bill Roschen of Roschen Van Cleve Architects who gave examples of how green is becoming a practical alternative in purely financial terms to meeting the needs for low and moderate income housing.

The Friday program continued with a panel on policy planning: Federal State and municipalities, which included moderator Bob Jernigan of AIA Gensler, James Finlay, Vice President of Wells Fargo, Diane Lang, of Thomas Properties, and Scott Lyle, President of Next Ridge. They also pointed out that green breakthroughs in terms of energy generation and conservation have been introduced and proven in commercial building, and are now making practical financial inroads in the private sector.

### Light bulbs to cogeneration

Again and again from light bulbs to cogeneration of electricity and heating, they said green systems have proven themselves in terms of practicality and pay-back.

One example of practical application of green to every day life were the cups used at the conference, which were made of a biodegradable corn substance.

None of the light, glossy-attractive corn-cups chipped or broke while this user-tester examined them. In fact, they appeared to be superior to their more common counterparts.

The Gas Company hosts the green conference yearly because their building on Firestone is itself a classic of green progress and design.

Friday's program also featured a preview showing of the new PBS series, "Building Green," a building show on how to create gorgeous homes that are healthier and more energy efficient through the application of green design. Every phase of sustainable construction is presented by host Kevin Contreras, who will show the "how-to" of green homebuilding in the upcoming series.

### Throughout Southern California

Other sessions and speakers Friday emphasized that green developments are sprouting all over Southern California—from West L.A. to the San Gabriel Valley, from downtown L.A. to Irvine.

Cody stressed that expensive housing has up to now led the way in building out and away from downtowns. But now the need for affordable housing for support-workers to work in the homes already established is the pressing need.

Another film, "The Next Industrial Revolution" showed the work and vision of architect William McDonough and chemist Michael Braungart, two leaders in the movement to transform the relationship of commerce and nature. The two work with corporations with over half a trillion dollars in annual sales including Ford and Nike.

## Character Counts Series

### "You can't unscramble eggs"

By Tyler Bowers,

4th Grade, Lewis Elementary

This saying means that once you say something you can't undo it or take it back because what you say has already been said.

This maxim goes along with the six pillars of character, mainly responsibility. Listen to an interesting story about how I use this saying. One day I was playing outside with my friends and we were playing and my friends were talking. They were talking about me so I rushed over to them and told them to stop because I could hear them from the corner of the wall. They tried to say that they didn't say anything about me, but they did and they knew it. I told them that they should stop playing around and lying about it.

Everybody wished they could take it back what they said and I said, "You can't take back anything that you have already done or said because once it's done, it's done." I told them that if they didn't clean up their act, I wasn't going to be their friend anymore. They were all begging for forgiveness and I told them that I would have to think about it. I thought for a while and said to myself, "If they promised to not talk rude about me ever again" it might work. I went back to where they were and I told them that if they promised me they would not do it again that I would forgive them. They all ran to ask me if we were best friends again. I said, "Of course."

So remember, "you can't unscramble eggs" but you can always forgive people when they do you wrong.

*This is the fifth in a series of winning student essays from each of the Downey Unified School District schools on the theme, "Character Counts."*

## Free immunizations for children May 10

**DOWNEY**—As a community service, the Downey Unified School District is collaborating with St. Francis Medical Center in offering free immunizations for children ages 4-18 Wednesday, May 10 from 3-7 p.m. at Alameda Elementary Cafeteria, 8613 Alameda, Downey.

Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, and their immunization record brought. For information, call (562) 904-3589.

## Arc's anniversary barbecue May 7

**DOWNEY**—Friends of the Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County, 12049 Woodruff Ave. in Downey, are invited to its 50th Anniversary Reunion Barbeque Sunday, May 7 from 1-4 p.m.

Food catered by Cafe n Stuff will be served from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Scheduled at 2:30 p.m. will be a Special Anniversary Ceremony.

RSVP is required by calling Arc, (562) 803-4606, or e-mail [arc-mac@aol.com](mailto:arc-mac@aol.com).

Arc is a nonprofit organization that works with people suffering from mental retardation and other mental disabilities.



**DOWNEY'S OWN YOGI RAMESH** – Will be offering free “laughing yoga” sessions at the upcoming Downey Street Fair, scheduled for Saturday, May 6 on Brookshire Ave. Ramesh conducts regular yoga classes at the Barbara J. Riley Community Center, in addition to a satellite TV show and various seminars. He has also worked with numerous celebrities, including Roseanne, shown above.

## Reality of drunk driving presented in graphic way

**DOWNEY**—Warren High School juniors and seniors were encouraged not to drink and drive when they were shown -- in a graphic way -- a realistic view of the sometimes devastating and irreversible consequences of drunk driving.

The presentation, dubbed “Operation Prom Night,” was presented by the Downey Police Department in conjunction with the Downey Fire Department, Downey Unified School District, Downey Regional Medical Center and Miller-Mies Mortuary.

A re-creation of a drunk driving collision was placed on Paramount Boulevard between Stewart and Gray Road and Brookmill Road at 12:40 p.m. last Wednesday. The junior and senior classes at Warren watched simulated emergency responses by police, fire, paramedic, ambulance, and coroner/mortuary personnel.

“The presentation (was) a joint cooperative effort aimed at making students think twice about participating in alcohol relation activities on Prom Night or any other time when they may be faced with making a decision whether or not to drink and drive,” said Downey Traffic Detective Rocio Gutierrez. “Hopefully, our efforts help them to make the right choice...a life-saving choice.”

## Commencement ceremony May 13

**NORWALK**—Howard Taslitz, who served as a professor in Cerritos College's Humanities and Social Science Division from 1962 to 1992, will be this year's commencement speaker at ceremonies honoring Cerritos College's graduating students at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 13.

The venue will be the Cerritos College Falcon Stadium at 11110 Alondra Blvd. in Norwalk. The college, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, will present degrees and certificates earned during the 2005-2006 academic year.

During his thirty years at Cerritos College, Taslitz served as the chair of the social science department, chair of the economics, history and political science departments, co-advisor to the Omnibus Society, and president of the Cerritos College Faculty Senate—an elected position he held for ten years. He has been honored twice with the college's prestigious Most Outstanding Faculty Award. In 1968, he became the first faculty member to deliver a commencement address at the college.

## Bingo luncheon at St. Raymond's

**DOWNEY** – The Italian Catholic Federation of St. Raymond's Parish is having a bingo luncheon Sunday, May 7, in the Msgr. Gibson Hall, 12348 Paramount Blvd., in Downey.

Donation is \$10, which includes one bingo card, door prizes and lunch. There will also be a raffle for a \$25 money tree and other prizes.

For tickets, call Aline Amatista at (562) 869-8981 or Charlene Drobeck at (562) 928-1937.

## '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 at 861-5222.

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**TRUCKLOAD OF HELP**—A brand new service truck was donated to Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County recently, courtesy of the Kiwanis Club of Downey Foundation. Kiwanis has long been a supporter of Arc, donating more than \$150,000 towards the group's various projects and community endeavors. Arc provides support for people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

## Financial Partners, YMCA join hands for program

**DOWNEY**—Financial Partner Credit Union hosted local students and their parents for a special orientation on the re-launch of the Downey Family YMCA Youth and Government program. In addition, Financial Partners contributed \$3,500 in seed money to help fund administrative support as well as assist families unable to afford full registration costs.

"Financial Partners in partnership with the Downey YMCA, is excited to be part of launching this great opportunity for students to learn about the legislative process. Initial support is essential to getting the Youth & Government program off the ground. We are proud to have been able to provide a facility for the community to congregate and start up funds to assist with the initial support," said Financial Partners President and CEO, Nader Moghaddam. "It's through partnerships such as these that we achieve our common goal of educating the community, whether it's on financial services or the legislative process, we should all play a part in the education of our next generation of leaders."

"We are very appreciative of Financial Partners' generous contributions in support of the YMCA Youth & Government program. Thanks to the generosity of community partners like Financial Partners, our YMCA is able to meet its mission of welcoming everyone regardless of their ability to pay," said George Saikali, Downey YMCA Director.

## Calling Downey High '56 class alumni

**DOWNEY**—A reunion of Downey High's Class of 1956 is planned for Fri.-Sun., Oct. 6-8. Alumni are asked to call (949) 472-4616 for details.

## Kiwanis Foundation donates service truck

**DOWNEY**—The Kiwanis Club of Downey Foundation recently donated a brand new service truck to Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County. Committed to providing support for people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, Arc assists them to work toward their goals through training and education, based on their individual abilities. As part of this commitment, Arc provides them with packaging and assembly jobs. The service truck will be used to assist Arc members to pick up materials and deliver finished products to their customers.

Over the years, the foundation has been a big supporter of Arc, donating well over \$150,000 for Arc's various projects and needs. In addition, the Kiwanis Club of Downey participates in the annual Arc Walk and visits Arc in an annual luncheon. Most recently, it has chartered a new community service club at Arc called Aktion Club. The Aktion Clubs are designed for adults with developmental disabilities, to assist them with leadership skills and provide them a method by which to give back to society.

The Kiwanis Club of Downey meets at noon Thursdays at the Rio Hondo Golf Club, 10627 Old River School Rd., Downey. Guests and interested new members are always welcome to the meetings. For information about the club or its activities, call Roy Jimenez at 923-0971.

## Christian Women's Club plans meeting

**DOWNEY**—Marilyn Orlando will present musical beaded items and Valerie Garrett will speak on finding love in the personal ads when the Downey Christian Women's Club meets on Wednesday, May 10 at Los Amigos Country Club.

The community, including men, is invited to the buffet luncheon, which starts at 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$12.

Reservations are requested by calling Ginnie at (562) 927-8488 or Delores at (562) 868-7135.

## New musical comedy season set

**DOWNEY**—Marsha Moode, executive director of the Downey Civic Light Opera, has announced the shows for the 2006-07 season.

They include "Guys and Dolls," Oct. 5 through 22; "The Roar of the Greasepaint—The Smell of the Crowd," Feb. 22 through March 11, 2007; and "Oliver," May 31 through June 17, 2007.

For special discount season ticket information call 923-1714.

## Weldon back by popular request

**DOWNEY**—Presenter Jimmy Weldon will be back by popular request at the OASIS program Monday, May 1. He promises it will be his "most exciting program" yet.

Resource instructor Harriett Paine coordinates the class, which starts at 3 p.m. with Dr. Robert Flynn's piano entertainment. The program begins at 4 p.m., followed by a full-course dinner at 5 p.m. There is no enrollment fee and no preregistration.

For more information, call Downey Adult School, 940-6200.



**A GROUP OF VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP WORKERS**—From the Downey Second Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who collected refuse along the railway right-of-way. Shown are only a few of the many bags that they filled. The group was headed up by Bishop Larry Larsen, far left.

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**Entertainment**  
Sound system courtesy of Don Knabe, Supervisor 4th District County of L.A.

9 a.m. Downey High Marching Band  
9:30 - 10:00 Southland Harmony Chorus  
10:15 - 11:15 On Stage Dance Center  
11:30 - 12:30 Class 6 Band  
12:45 - 2:45 Flashpoint Band  
3:00 - 3:30 Bless'd  
3:45 - 5:00 All About Me Band

In between each act, "Avianna Daughter of Isis" will perform.

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St. Raymond's Catholic Church  
Southern California Alcohol & Drug Programs, Inc.  
Southland Credit Union

SEE YOU AT THE FAIRE - SATURDAY, MAY 6 @ 9 A.M.

## Assistance League has new president

**DOWNEY**—Jean Johnson was recently elected president for 2006-07 of the Assistance League of Downey on the same day the following volunteers/supporters were honored for their many service hours devoted to the league's philanthropic projects and Chapter resource development: Alex Ambruso, Kimberly Bullock, Renee Callahan, Dorothy Clark, Betty De Pasquale, Chuck Frey, Jay Gibson, Sophie Giebler, Wanda Gowan, Richard Holmes, John Metzko, Merv McDonald, Bob Murphy, Don Schmidt, James Shull, Ed Smith, Jack Stallcup and Dale Towers. They were introduced by Martha Sodontani.

These volunteers/supporters help the league with the Second Tyme Around Shop, Christmas Distribution, Meals on Wheels, work on fundraisers and on restoration projects of "Casa de Parley Johnson."

Seven new members were meanwhile welcomed, with Adele Alexander doing the honors, to the Assistance League fold: Active—Judy Commodore, Karen Hofferer, Nikki Jonas and Marie Montero; Non-active—Colleen Boogard, Lois Buchanan and Marian Mongan.



**ART FINALISTS**—Congresswomen Lucille Roybal-Allard (center) is pictured with the 34th Congressional District Student Art Competition's seven finalists and the chair and co-chair of the organizing committee. Back row: chair Ozzie Lopez, Jean Lee (2nd place), Jennifer Rosas (1st place), Congr. Roybal-Allard, Christine Bae (Hon. Mention), Olivia Rae Ledesma (Hon. Mention), Anthony Castaneda (Hon. Mention), and co-chair Debbie Hoover. Bottom row: Made Rindu (3rd place) and Jose Flores (Hon. Mention).



**34TH DISTRICT STUDENT ART COMPETITION**—First place winner Jennifer Rosas of Mayfair High School in Bellflower is flanked by Competition chair Ozzie Lopez and her art teacher, Robert Nelson, and Roybal-Allard and Patty Rockenwagner of Comcast, sponsor of the first place award.

## Warren High student wins 3rd in art contest

**DOWNEY**—Made Rindu of Downey, a senior at Warren High School, won third place in the 2006 34th Congressional District's 13th annual Student Art Competition that drew 108 entries. Rindu received a \$500 scholarship, a \$150 gift certificate for art supplies, and \$100 cash. A \$300 gift certificate for art supplies was also awarded to his school.

The first place winner was Jennifer Rosas of Bellflower, a senior at Mayfair High School. An honorable mention award recipient last year, she received a four-day trip for two to Washington, D.C. for the national exhibit opening as well as \$500 spending money; a \$1,000 scholarship, a \$200 gift certificate for art supplies, and \$100 cash. In addition, a copy of her piece was printed on 3,000 posters representing the competition. Her teacher, Mr. Robert Nelson, also received a trip to Washington, D.C., and a \$600 gift certificate for art supplies that will benefit Mayfair High School art students.

Second place was awarded to Jean Lee of Bellflower, a junior also at Mayfair. She received a \$750 scholarship, a \$175 gift certificate for supplies, and \$100 cash. Her school was also awarded a \$400 gift certificate for art supplies.

The awards ceremony was held on April 22 at Olvera Street at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument. All 108 entries are currently on display at the Pico House Gallery at the historical Olvera Street site until May 29. The winning entries, including the works of four Honorable mention awardees, will be displayed in Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard's District Office, which sponsors the competition, for one year.

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, also known as Olvera Street, is located between Main and Los Angeles streets and the 101 Freeway and Cesar Chavez Avenue. Entrance is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays thru Fridays, and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For information, call (213) 624-1030.

## Model A lovers meet at Gallatin

**DOWNEY** — The Downey Model A Club gathers at the Gallatin School cafeteria the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 928-4132.



**ALL SMILES**—Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard shares a laugh with Financial Partners president/CEO Nader Moghaddam.

## Meeting touches on credit union issues

**DOWNEY**—Financial Partners Credit Union recently played host to Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard and other 34th district credit union CEOs and executives to discuss current issues affecting credit unions.

The congresswoman prefaced her questions about increased capital requirements and business lending caps by giving a Capitol Hill update on current topics ranging from the new immigration laws, social security, to the war in Iraq.

"Credit unions are currently sitting on millions in assets that could be invested towards the communities' economic growth," FPCU president/CEO Nader Moghaddam said. Chris Kerecman, Business & Community Development for California Credit Union, and Jon Hernandez, president/CEO for Downey City FCU, called for increasing the business lending cap side of CURIA, explaining that their members need small business loans for everything from books for schools to lawn-mower loans for a start-up landscaping business. "Would Bank of America want to take on a small business loan for something as small as a lawn mower?" asked Hernandez.

The post feedback from the congresswoman and invited guests was reportedly overwhelmingly positive. Said Kerecman: "We can't always find the time and money to travel to Washington and meet with our Congressional delegation. Our meeting today in the local District with Congresswoman Roybal-Allard was relaxed and informative for everyone involved. I think we helped advance the credit union legislative agenda in a positive way."

## Benefit fashion show at Rio Hondo

**DOWNEY**—Models, club president Barbara Emry, Nancy Georgas, Maria Garcia, June Ferguson, Jeanne Henson, Mary Kresonja, Jo Moreno, Estela Mendoza, Norma Willis and Kim Yeager, are practicing "The Walk Down the Aisles" showing the "Bloomin' Spring Fashions" from Nena's of La Habra for the upcoming Downey Newcomers Club Fashion Show Monday, May 15 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

The event will begin with a Social Hour at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m., and the Fashion Show at 12:30 p.m.

The tickets, including lunch, the show and many prizes are on sale for \$25 each. Proceeds will help the club award three scholarships to the local Downey high schools as well as to support the Downey Rose Float Association, P.T.A. Helps, and Arc.

For information/reservations, call chair Melba Willbanks, 862-2799.

## Downey Library needs literacy tutors

**DOWNEY**—The Downey City Library says volunteers can make a difference by helping an adult learn to read through its Adult Literacy program.

Training sessions for literacy tutors will be given on the Thursdays of May 11, 18 and 25 from 6-8 p.m., and on Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., a total of 12 hours. They may also attend ongoing literacy support meetings.

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

## Library open Sunday afternoons

**DOWNEY**—The Downey City Library during the school year offers a full range of services even on Sundays, from 1-5 p.m., in addition to its usual Monday-Thursday (10 a.m. - 9 p.m.), Friday and Saturday (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) schedule.

"Providing access to the library on Sunday is a real benefit to students and busy families," says Senior Librarian Jan Palen. "With additional weekend hours, patrons will enjoy books, magazines, DVDs, CDs and computers for the public."

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](http://www.downeylibrary.org). For more information, call 904-7360. The Downey City Library is located at 11121 Brookshire Ave., Downey.

## Youth football at the Street Fair

**DOWNEY** — Downey Youth Football will hold registration for the 2006 season on Saturday, May 6, at the Downey Street Fair.

DYF offers tackle and flag football and cheerleading for boys and girls ages 5-14. Spaces are limited and are offered on a first-come, first-paid basis for certain teams. Payment plans and raffle tickets are available to help offset registration costs. No child is turned away due to cost.

For more information and requirements, call Mike Baumann at 862-3837 or Louis Morales at 928-0655.

## Downey Crime Report

### April 19, 2006

Motor vehicle theft - 11500 Lakewood Blvd.

Burglary - 9200 Washburn St.

Motor vehicle theft - 8000 Firestone Blvd.

Missing person - 7230 Firestone Blvd. (L.A. Fitness)

### April 18

Motor vehicle theft - 7100 Stewart & Gray Rd.

Burglary - 9000 Adoree St.

Disturbance - 8008 Firestone Blvd. (Sav-On Drugs)

### April 17

Financial crime - 7347 Imperial Hwy. (Albert's Mexican Food)

*Downey Crime Report is taken from the blotter at Downey Police Station and is not a complete list.*

## The poets' corner

### Bird Song

He perched high on a wire above the camellias  
voice loud and distinctly mocking  
not like a robin's shy call—no, he warbled, he trilled  
he made low throaty erotic sounds  
all perfectly clear and beautiful  
He made the morning sweet  
I lingered outdoors to listen, my recorder catching each cadence  
then abruptly he took wing  
and was gone in a blur of gray and white  
off to another stage to catch a mate's ear

Now when I play the tape I hear other sounds  
not noticed while he sang  
the hum of traffic, cooing of doves in the side garden  
distant barking of a dog, the drone of a plane high  
on its way to LAX—a counterpoint to the stellar performance  
of that happy mocker on his high-wire stage  
above the flowering camellias

—Rosalie Scortino,  
Downey



**AVIANNA AND THE DAUGHTERS OF ISIS** - Anna Hemm leads this group of talented belly dancers set to perform at the annual Downey Street Fair on Saturday, May 6 on Brookshire Ave. The Downey Chamber of Commerce extravaganza starts at 9 a.m. and is free to the public.

## Coordinating Council salute to volunteers

**DOWNEY**—The Downey Coordinating Council will hold their 52nd annual Salute to Outstanding Volunteers and Installation Banquet Thursday, May 11 at the Rio Hondo Event Center, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Applications have been sent to local organizations (who are members of DCC) to nominate an honoree from their organization, for recognition at the banquet.

## Sebastian Sidi playing live at Granata's

**DOWNEY**—Sebastian Sidi, joined by guitarist Javier Lima and vocalists Georgia Waggenor and Tonya Hoodye, will play live on his new baby grand piano at 8 p.m. at Granata's Italian Restaurant, 11032 Downey Ave., Saturday, June 3.

Ticket price is \$35, which includes dinner and entertainment. Doors open at 7 p.m. For reservations, call (562) 544-7774, or log on to [www.sebastiansidi.com](http://www.sebastiansidi.com).

## Ribbon cutting for new science building

**NORWALK**—Cerritos College hosts a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new science building Wednesday, May 17 at 4 p.m. The celebration is open to the community and will include tours of the facility and opportunities to interact with students and staff.

The new science complex, which boasts a total of nine new chemistry and biology labs, six lecture halls and state-of-the-art equipment, is located on the west side of the campus, 11110 Alondra Blvd., off Studebaker Ave. To attend the ceremony, RSVP (562) 860-2451, ext. 2206.

## Pollworkers needed for June primary

**NORWALK**—Recruitment of 25,000-plus pollworkers needed to staff the 5,065 polling places for the upcoming June 6, 2006 Primary Election has kept staff at the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) very busy. The RR/CC is especially interested in bilingual pollworkers who can speak one or more of these languages: Cantonese, Japanese, Mandarin, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, or Vietnamese. In addition, pollworkers who speak other languages such as Armenian, Russian and Cambodian are encouraged to help serve their communities.

"With less than 60 days before the election we're still looking to fill over 16,000 pollworker positions," says RR/CC Conny McCormack. Those eligible to become pollworkers must be registered voters and residents of California." The premise is that pollworkers are the most important and necessary component of a successful election day.

Pollworkers must be available between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. on election day to set up the polls, provide assistance to voters, issue ballots and conduct poll closing procedures. A pollworker's services are compensated by receiving \$55 for working the poll and a \$25 bonus for attending a 1-1/2 hour training session. Training sessions are conducted and offered throughout Los Angeles County in the days prior to the election. Additional pollworker training videos are available at county libraries.

If interested, call the Polls Section of the RR/CC at 1-800-815-2666, option 7, or visit [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net). For other information, call (800) 481-8683.

## SCAG addresses housing crisis

**TORRANCE**—More than 200 policymakers and housing leaders from across the region convened recently at the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) 6th annual Housing Summit in an effort to devise new approaches to address the growing housing crisis.

Summit leaders emphasized the need to plan for long-term housing needs with cost-effective, sustainable strategies such as mixed-use development in urban areas and controlled development in open areas. With median home prices more than \$500,000 and household annual incomes remaining around \$55,000, residents are being forced to devote increasing portions of their income to housing. Southern California's population growth continues to far outpace construction, placing additional pressures on the housing market and resulting in higher costs and increased congestion.

Rialto City Councilmember Deborah Robertson, chair of SCAG's Community, Economic and Human Development Committee, and executive director Mark Pisano discussed how *Compass Blueprint*, SCAG's growth visioning initiative, can provide cities and counties with the tools they need to accommodate housing demand over the next 30 years by employing relatively small changes in land use planning decisions to reap tremendous results in housing availability and affordability.

"For too long, land use and housing planning has been undertaken without adequate consideration of the transportation impacts associated with those decisions," said Robertson. "We need to strategically develop housing where it is needed most; near jobs, in suburban centers and near transit stations and corridors."

Dowell Myers, professor of Public Policy, Planning and Development at USC, presented the findings of a study completed for the Fannie Mae Foundation focusing on how much additional housing construction will be needed just to house the children of today's Southern California residents. "If we don't keep building, where will our children go? Unless we pick up the pace, I'm pretty sure my kids will not be able to buy single-family housing," said Myers.

"In many ways, local governments operate as local corporations, and they can really be the economic savior of Southern California, but it is critical that you form strategic partnerships with neighboring cities and the private sector," said Newhall Land and Farming Company president Gregory McWilliams. "It is only through these partnerships that cities can make visions for future growth a reality."

The summit also included a dynamic video presentation by the Western Riverside Council of Governments, which demonstrated the tremendous challenges facing local leaders in California's fastest growing county. The video emphasized the importance of not only providing sufficient housing stock to accommodate 800,000 new residents in the county, but also increasing housing choices and placing new housing in the right locations.

Summit participants identified a number of legislative and land use strategies to address the regional housing crunch, including:

- \*Increase coordination of housing development with transportation, water resource management, and other local planning efforts.

- \*Reformulate municipal finance and revenue sources to ensure that local governments have the resources necessary to develop adequate housing stock.

- \*Focus residential development in areas near major transit centers or corridors.

- \*Support greater mixed-use and in-fill development, particularly in urban areas.

"The key question raised here today is where will our children live," said Torrance City Councilman Paul Nowatka. "It is our hope and intent that they will continue to live in Southern California, if our local leaders employ the tools and strategies discussed at today's summit."

### \$346K grant to fund nursing program

**NORWALK**—A \$346,137 Nursing Capacity Building grant was received by Cerritos College recently from the California Community Chancellor's Office, to help address the increasing crisis related to the shortage of health care personnel by expanding the enrollment capacity of the college's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program.

More specifically, the funding, which will be provided over a three-year period, will be used to help strengthen the program's infrastructure to support additional students, evaluate student retention and explore options for expanding program services.


"We are thrilled to receive this grant," said Jenine Nolan, dean of Cerritos College's Health Occupations Division. "The increased funding will enable us to enroll additional students into the program and to develop strategies which will improve student success."

"We also plan to develop and pilot a variety of innovative learning techniques and teaching strategies that expand the use of human simulators," added Nolan. ("Human simulators" are mannequin-like devices used by students in the classroom. The simulators create a realistic patient-care experience that mimics what students will encounter as health care professionals in health care facilities.)

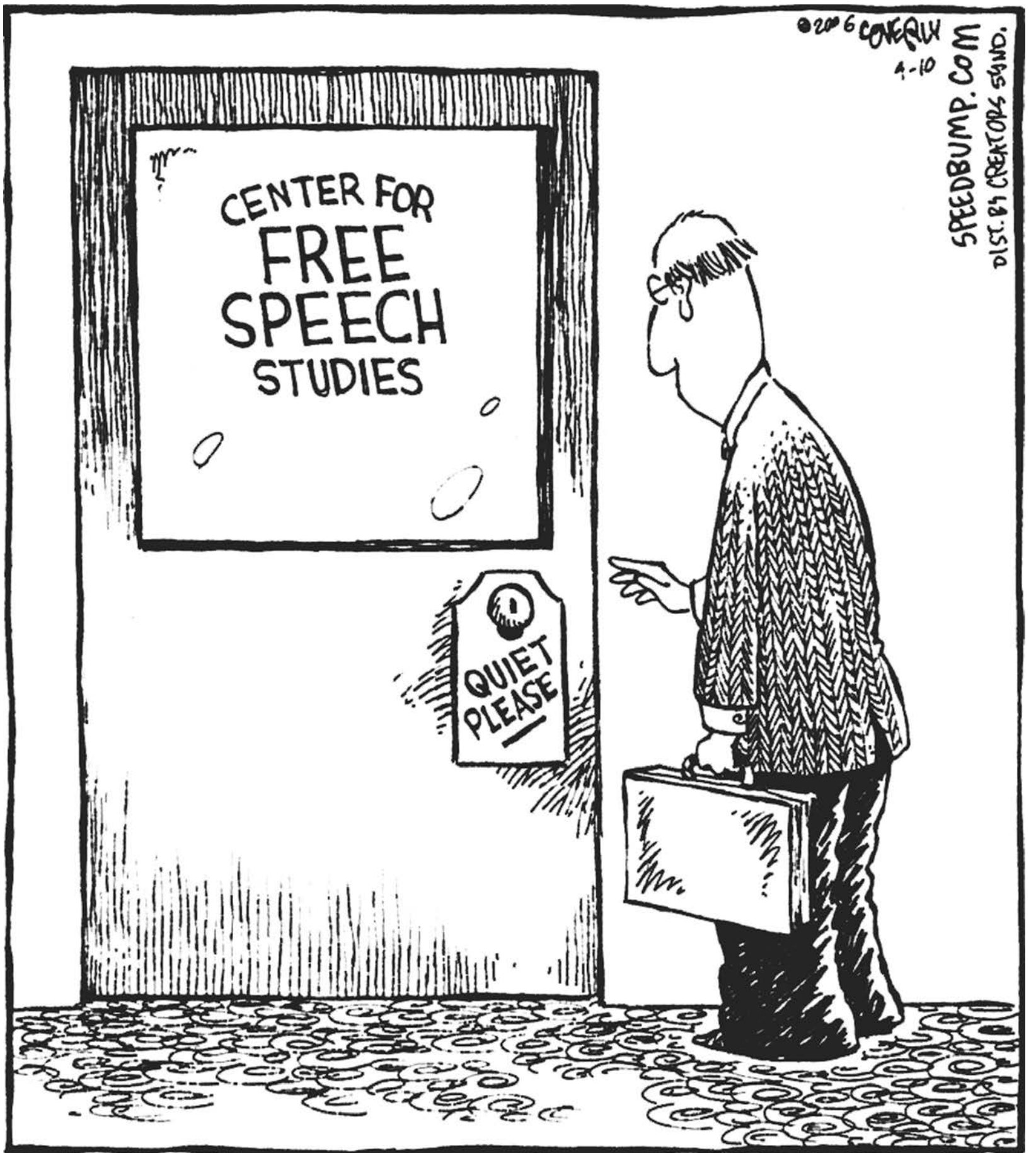
Other plans for implementation of the capacity grant funding include conducting faculty recruitment in order to expand the program's capacity to serve additional students as well as disseminating program outcomes to a broader audience that includes current and prospective employers and donors in the industry.

The Cerritos College Nursing Program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

### The Downey Patriot

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11525 Downey Ave., Suite A, Downey, CA 90241  
 Phone (562) 904-3668 \* Fax (562) 904-3124  
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## Letters to the Editor

### Church members clean up streets

Dear Editor:

Last Saturday some 85 members and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints did volunteer clean-up work around Downey. As part of that, a clean-up of the railway right-of-way east of Lakewood Blvd. was performed. (This effort was made in conjunction with the Keep Downey Beautiful Committee effort, directed by Carol Rowland. The church's efforts were coordinated by Lois Buchanan, Community Services Director for the Downey LDS)

Until then, I hadn't realized that Downey has a homeless population that is creating a problem; but several sites were found along the railway right-of-way that had obviously provided shelter for these indigents. These sites had tremendous amounts of refuse and human wastes. Mattresses and old furniture had been drug [sic] under trees that overhung walls and fences. This clean-up was a bigger job than our people could handle. It will take several trucks and a skip loader to do the job.

It was also obvious that a lot of the trash had been thrown or had otherwise come from the adjacent properties. Other items had been dumped there.

Downey citizens need to be more diligent in their attitude toward their community. Let's all do our part to "Keep Downey Beautiful."

— **Jim Brown,**  
**Downey LDS Director of Public Affairs**

### Likes reporting

To the Editor

I appreciate your article on the Editorial Page (The Downey Patriot, 3/24/06) covering the 260-page reference guide put out by a government office.

Were you aware that there was an office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs before this bundle came your way?

To me, as it was with you, this is all done at a huge expense and I doubt it has much in practical value to anyone facing a real crisis. The recent storms on the Gulf Coast showed ever so clearly just how prepared we are if a real emergency should come our way. As for levies in dangerous condition, we have them almost at the capitol doors in Sacramento, and thus far the Legislature sits spellbound and does next to nothing to correct the problem.

While I am not in a good position to gauge the possibility of bird flu mutating to where the virus can spread person to person I can say it will put the country to real test of our emergency planning if it comes to pass.

To another subject, I was born over in Huntington Park back in 1924 and with the exception of the time I was in the military from early 1943 through the first quarter of 1946, I have lived in this area and watched the changes that time has brought.

If I had to boil down what I observed to just a few words I would say that our collective loss of respect of law has been most profound from our local city government to the land's highest office we seem to pick and choose which laws we will follow and that can change as does the wind.

The record demonstrations in Los Angeles recently only show how little regard so many have for our laws and regulations. To me this is nothing less than horrible and I see little prospect it will be changing in our lifetimes. I wish I could be more sanguine and see a brighter future for those who will be following us.

When I think back it is clear that my generation allowed this to happen but it is less clear to me why it did. Certainly some people were duped into

## AMISTAD

Continued from page 1

Award; Rancho volunteer and Amigos Fund president Richard Daggett, who will receive the Amistad Friend Award; and AT&T, which will receive the Amistad Community Service Award.

Previous Amistad honorees include: actress Betty White; Olympic champion Rafer Johnson; civic leader James C. Hankla; the Port of Long Beach; The Academy of Television Arts & Sciences; community leader Carmen O. Perez; legendary physician Jacquelin Perry, M.D.; and Los Angeles Supervisor Don Knabe, who will serve as master of ceremonies. Each of the previous awardees will be recognized at the event in a special 20th Anniversary tribute.

The reception at 5:30 p.m. is followed at 7 p.m. by the dinner, program and entertainment.

## PRAYER

Continued from page 1

through reflection and thanksgiving. This year's theme, "America, honor God," invites citizens to petition for the guidance and protection of our families, government and armed forces.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable observance and every future success.

(Sgd.) Arnold Schwarzenegger"

accepting poor ideas but it is rather clear that some wished for this undermining of the very principles our country was founded on. I fail to see a happy ending to our present course.

It has long been my opinion that as a newsman and journalist you have tried to set the facts down as you found them to be. I have often attended the same meetings you have and I must say you get the content down quite accurately and written so the citizens of Downey have some idea of what is going on in the city.

Again, I want to say a sincere "Thank You" for your efforts and for making The Patriot a fine newspaper.

— **Richard Pridham,**  
**Downey**

## Central Basin MWD names new GM

**CARSON**—The Central Basin Municipal Water District board of directors has named Art Aguilar as its new general manager. A native of the Central Basin area, Aguilar has served as the co-general manager of both the West Basin and Central Basin Municipal Water Districts for the past two years.

The action is the first step taken by the district to restructure the agency following West Basin's recent announcement to dissolve the joint management agreement with Central Basin. The restructuring is aimed at building a more efficient water agency that is "responsive to its community and purveyors."

Aguilar joined the Central Basin and West Basin Municipal Water Districts in 1999, serving as the manager for the Public & Government Affairs Department. He came to the districts after 30 years as a reporter, editor and publisher of community newspapers throughout Southern California. He has a B.S. degree in business from the University of Redlands.

## Carnival of Champs Saturday at Warren

**DOWNEY**—The Downey Unified School District will offer one of the community's most colorful events, the annual Carnival of Champions, that brings together young athletes from the district's nine elementary schools in competition from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., tomorrow, April 29 at Warren High School, 8141 DePalma.

Fourth and fifth graders vie in the following events, with scoring kept by team representing each school:

50 yard dash; 100 yard dash; baskets in one minute; softball throw for distance; standing long jump; four-member team 440 yard relay; and mixed coed relay.

Teams are scored on a 10-8-6-4-2 basis for first through fifth place in each event.

Each elementary school is also represented by friends, parents and relatives who cheer mightily from the stands.

The public is welcome and the event is free. An estimated 600 boys and girls compete annually. This is the Carnival's 48th year.

## Honors keep coming for Downey water polo

**DOWNEY** – Downey High School water polo coach Peter Muller was named the Press-Telegram Co-Coach of the Year this week. He shares the honor with Dave Carlson, coach at Los Alamitos.

Juniors Stephanie Rosero and Lauren Davis were named to the Dream Team while senior Lauren Badalamenti was named to the Second Team.

The three girls helped lead Downey to their second consecutive division championship last month. Rosero, also named CIF Division VI Player of the Year, scored 134 goals on the season while Davis was pivotal as the Vikings' goalkeeper. Badalamenti scored 41 goals and made the All-CIF Division VI first team.



**YOUNG CHAMPIONS** – The Downey Unified School District's annual Carnival of Champions, a competition showcasing the city's best young track and field athletes, takes place tomorrow, April 29, at Warren High School. An estimated 600 boys and girls are expected to compete. The event is free to the public.



**GO FOR THE GOLD** – Warren High School's Winter Guard took home gold medals last week after receiving first place honors at the 2006 Winter Guard Association of Southern California Championships. The girls beat out 15 other squads to win the gold in the Regional A Division. The Warren team includes: captain Melissa Grijalva; co-captain Nereyda Flores; junior Lucy Molina; sophomores Heather Crosby, Wendy Marquez, Janice Silva and Corrin Llamas; freshmen Yuri Flores, Ashley Rameriz, Brittany Schaffer, Aileen Solis and Lauren Brown and Lisette Perez, who were not present for the competition. Chad Kohlmier is the team choreographer while Melissa Gilmartin and Heather Fallon assist with techniques.

## Little League brings back fond memories

By Scott Cobos

As I was driving home from school a few days ago, I drove by a couple fields off of Spring St. in the city of Long Beach. I decided to relive some of my glory days as a Little League baseball player and watch a little bit of the game going on. As I parked my blue truck, turned off the ignition, and flipped off my iPod I could smell the fired up barbecue cooking some hamburgers and hot dogs. I quickly ran over to the field and started to allow myself to absorb the aura surrounded by the diamond.

Watching the two teams full of players younger than 12 years of age, I remembered back then how the competition level flew absolutely sky high. Funny enough though, it's not the kids I'm talking about. I'm actually speaking about the parents of the young players. As the memories came rushing back to me, the parents at the game reacted to a called strike by the umpire. I heard loud groans and witnessed dirty looks and upside down frowns all directed toward the only man on the field. The umpire.

Ah, yes. I remember it all now. Us kids loved to play the game. We loved to field grounders, hit pitches, and run all over the field. We never really took it that seriously, as we were just learning the game. But after our performances out on our field of dreams, we would hear from either our mother or father about how we were dropping our back shoulder during a swing, or how we need to stay low to the ground while fielding a grounder. The most common thing we heard after games though was how a kid we either played against or a teammate of ours could have done better at one thing or another.

With summer quickly approaching, and our respective Little Leagues getting ready to vote for those players who will be representing us in the country-wide Little League Baseball All Star Tournament, I begin to worry about the mental state of some players because of the pressure put on them. I must remind the parents of players coming from Northwest Downey Little League and West Downey Little League and any of those who are far out in the city enough to represent Little Lake Little League, your kids are doing their best out there and whatever happens in this tournament shouldn't give you the excuse to exert too much anxiety on them.

Tom Selek once said in his baseball movie *Mr. Baseball* that baseball is a game. Games are supposed to be fun. Keep that in mind as you're rooting your children on during their games. They deserve nothing less than your encouragement. You signed your child up to learn the American pastime. Not so you can teach them the dark depths of competition they will eventually learn as they go on to extend their athletic careers in any sport. They're too young for that.

As for the all-star tournament coming up in the summer, I wish all the little leagues good luck. If memory serves me correctly, the furthest any team in the area has gone would be the Junior All Stars from West Downey Little League. They went on to play in the Divisionals tournament eight years ago which is one tournament away from playing for the western region of the United States. In that tournament, they faced the year before's United States champion, Mission Viejo Little League. Good luck boys and have fun, it's definitely an experience you'll never forget.

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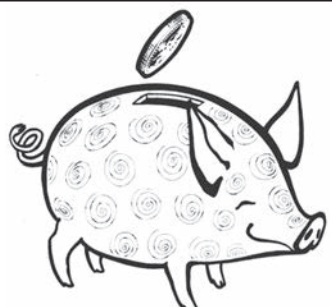
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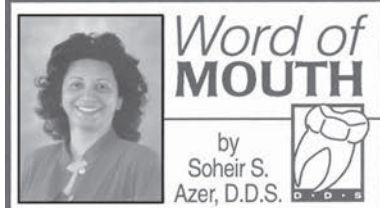


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**Word of MOUTH**  
by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.  
If your teeth experience sensitivity to cold, it may be that they are eroding. Dental erosion is a chemical process that gradually eats away at teeth's outer enamel coating. This process should not be confused with cavities (caries), which result from a bacterial process that can bore through the enamel as well as through the inner dentin layer of the tooth. The major culprit in erosion is acidity. The crystalline calcium salts that comprise most of the tooth enamel start dissolving below a pH level of 5.5. Generally, the primary offenders are the mild acids contained in many beverages and citrus fruits. The worst dental erosion is produced by non-cola drinks such as ginger ale and bottled ice tea.

This column on dental erosion is prepared as a public service to help our readers better understand today's modern dental care and to offer some practical hints for you and your family. If your teeth are especially sensitive to cold consult with your doctor. If you need answers to questions about any dental health care, don't hesitate to contact us at (562) 923-3714. Even the subtlest change in your smile can make a dramatic difference in the way you feel. Our recommendations for dental treatment are always in the best interest of the patient. We're located at 10800 Paramount Blvd., Suite 307.

P.S. Eroded teeth can change shape and color, as the yellowish dentin begins to show through the thinned enamel.  
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## SPEED BUMP



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## Downey Community Calendar

### Events For April

**Fri. Apr. 28, 3:00 p.m.:** **Downey Vikings High School Baseball** vs. Paramount at Downey High School, 11040 Brookshire Ave. For information call 869-7301.  
**Sat. Apr. 29, 8:30 a.m.:** **Carnival of Champions** annual DUSD elementary school athletic competition at Warren High School, 8141 De Palma Ave. For information call 869-7606.

### City Meetings

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

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

#### Mondays

**6:30 p.m.:** **Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner**, mtg., for information call 426-6786.  
**6:30 p.m.:** **Overeaters Anonymous**, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.  
**1st Mon., 4 p.m.:** **2nd Century Foundation**, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.  
**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 Carol Pearce at 622-1425.  
**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 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.  
**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.  
**4th Weds., 12:00 noon:** **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.  
**Wed.& Fri., 10:15 a.m.:** **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

#### Thursdays

**7:30 a.m.:** **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.  
**7:30 a.m.:** **Connections Networking**, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414.  
**12 p.m.:** **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.  
**12 p.m.:** **Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee**, for information call 928-4153.  
**12 p.m.:** **Optimist Club of Downey**, at Sambis, for information call Steve Allen at 806-3701.  
**12:30 p.m.:** **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.  
**6:30 p.m.:** **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.  
**7 p.m.:** **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.  
**4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.:** **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.  
**2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.:** **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

#### Fridays

**7:30 a.m.:** **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Joe Becker at 869-1414  
**3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.:** **Women's "In His Glory" Ministry** at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

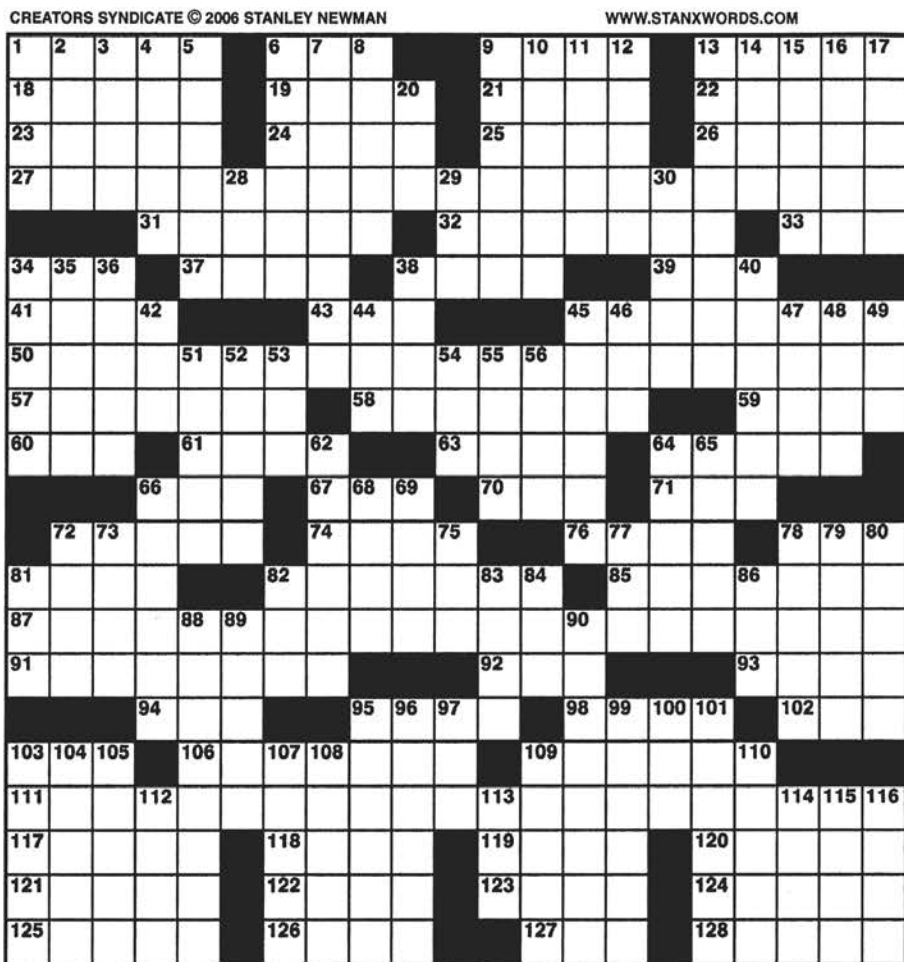
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### THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**AU CONTRAIRE:** Opposites we'd like to see  
 by Shirley Soloway

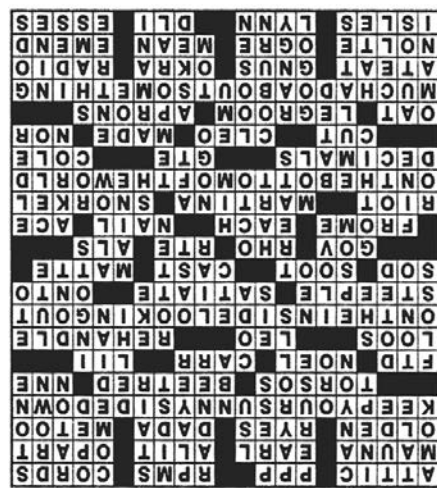
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

CORDS (13 Across) are 128-cubic-foot units of firewood, usually eight feet long, four feet high and four feet wide. LEO XIII (43 Across), the last pope with that name, served from 1878 to 1903. While more commonly associated with skin diving, the SNORKEL (85 Across) was invented for use by submariners.





## 'Above the Bitter Café' to play at Warren High

By Tip Metajan,  
Warren High School

**DOWNEY** – Warren High School's Advance Drama Department proudly presents "Above the Bitter Café", an original comedy written and directed by Warren High's drama teacher, Greg Elsasser. Opening night at Warren is on Wednesday, May 17 and the production runs through Saturday, May 20 in the Emerson Theater at 7:30p.m. There is an additional matinee performance at 2:30 on May 20.

*Café* tells of the adventures of beginning teacher Jenny Ananias and her drama students as they embark on a theater trip to New York City. However, right from the beginning things go badly—very, very badly. As in any farce there are characters running in and out of doors, mistaken identities, mass chaos, confusion, and several colorful...Muppets.

Elsasser worked on the *Café* script for almost a year and says he was inspired by old French comedies, episodes of the classic TV show *Cheers* and *I Love Lucy*, and all the trips he has taken with his students to New York and London over the last seven years.

Jared Head who plays TJ, one of the students on the trip, describes the play as, "witty, funny, and well-written." Ryan Gutierrez, playing the role of Corey, TJ's best friend, reflects, "This play represents all the good times we have had with Mr. Elsasser."

"Many of the members of the Downey community are supportive of the Downey Theater, and I'd like to see those same people attend our productions," says Elsasser. "If you're a fan of the big musicals the Downey Theater produces, chances are you'll enjoy the professional off-Broadway 'straight' plays that are put on at the various middle and high schools throughout the Downey Unified School District. One major goal for the Warren High Drama Department this year—and for years to come—is to see many of the Downey residents fill our seats."

Tickets for *Above the Bitter Café* are \$7 and are on sale now. To purchase or reserve tickets, please contact The Emerson Theater box office at (562) 869-7306, ext. 5618 or ext. 5615.

## 'Keyboard Festival' packed with festivities

**DOWNEY**—The 2nd annual "Keyboard Festival," featuring 14 keyboard artists playing four grand pianos, dancers, drama, choir and special effects, will be presented Mother's Day weekend Friday-Saturday, May 12-13, at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Downey, 8348 East Third Street, Downey.

The festival will feature Classical, Pop, Christian, Celtic and other music forms, all celebrating the institution of motherhood. "Sitcom Moms," featuring the mothers of Television Sitcom, will be a highlight in the program, with four grand pianos playing themes of America's favorite sitcom mothers.

The concert is free to the public, and complimentary tickets can be obtained through the Keyfest Ticket office, 923-1261, ext. 275. A freewill offering will be received to defray expenses.

## Chancel drama coming to Downey

**DOWNEY** – Christ Lutheran Church will be preparing a chancel drama to be performed Pentecost Sunday, June 4 and is looking for local people interested in staging, sound, costumes, props and other areas required to produce a play.

Adults of all ages are invited to come to the conference room at Christ Lutheran Church on Monday evenings, May 1, 8, 15, 22 29. For information call 927-4421. The church is located at 7707 Florence Ave.



**THE SOUTHLAND HARMONY CHORUS** – This popular local vocal group will entertain at 9:30 a.m. for the upcoming Downey Street Fair scheduled Saturday, May 6 on Brookshire Ave. (just south of Firestone Blvd.) The annual event will feature over 200 vendors, a food court, a kid's zone and a classic car show in addition to entertainment all day long. For information, call the Downey Chamber of Commerce at 923-2191.

## One-woman show set for La Mirada audiences

**LA MIRADA** – Through a unique combination of live theater, video and discussion, Phantom Projects Educational Theater Group will present a one-woman show entitled "La Causa" at 10 a.m., 12 p.m., and 7 p.m. on May 3 at La Mirada Theater for the Performing Arts.

"La Causa is the story of Marta Hernandez, the daughter of Mexican American migrant workers, and her life changing involvement in the Farm Workers Movement led by Cesar Chavez in the 1960's and 70's."

Hernandez' story is one of thousands of common experiences familiar to young Latinos in America. Though the story takes place mostly in California, it clearly shows how this regional movement quickly became an element in the greater fight for civil rights across America. "La Causa" is not only a story of Mexican Americans but all Latino and immigrant Americans east and west.

As visions of thousands of Latinos taking to the streets is broadcast and displayed in media outlets throughout the world, the fight for the rights of immigrants has been a much debated and discussed educational topic in schools, homes, and offices throughout the world.

"La Causa" is written by Rachel Atkins and is presented by Phantom Projects Educational Theater Group. Tickets are \$5 for 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. performances. Tickets for the 7 p.m. performances are \$15 with discounts available for middle school students (\$5 tickets) and high school students (\$12 tickets).

Tickets can be purchased by calling the La Mirada Theater Box Office at (562) 944-9801 or (714) 994-6310. The La Mirada Theater for the Performing Arts is located at 14900 La Mirada Blvd. in La Mirada.

## Yosemite/California Gold Country tour

**DOWNEY**—Downey Adult School Tours offers a "Spring Scenic Special" Tuesday-Friday, May 30-June 2, a 4-day motor coach tour of Yosemite Valley and the California Gold Country, incorporating, among other things, sweeping views of the Sierras, a two-hour tram tour of Yosemite Valley where lies "some of the most photographed natural wonders in America" within its seven square miles, a visit to Columbia State Park, believed to be the best preserved of California gold rush towns, and a stay at Murphy's Historic Hotel, which bears the title of "Crown Jewel of the Mother Lode."

Cost of the tour is \$499 double per person or \$599 single. Price includes \$20 in casino play and \$20 in food coupons, driver's gratuity, tax and baggage handling. Deposit of \$50 is required per person. Tour director is Harriett Payne.

The tour departs Tuesday morning and returns Friday, but not after the visit to Yosemite Valley's North and Half Domes, Yosemite Falls ("the tallest waterfall in North America" and "a national treasure"), Bridalveil Fall and El Capitan, the giant granite monolith.

The signatures of such famous guests as Ulysses S. Grant, Mark Twain, Horatio Alger and Susan B. Anthony may be viewed in the lobby of the famed Murphy's Historic Hotel, at the tour's third day stop Thursday.

For information, call Downey Adult School, (562) 940-6200.

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\* MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III PG-13 Thu: 11:59 PM  
 AKELA AND THE BEE PG Fri & Sat: 11:20, 1:55, 4:30, 7:10, 9:55  
 RV PG Fri & Sat: 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:25, 9:55  
 STICK IT PG-13 Fri & Sat: 11:35, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 10:00  
 UNIFIED 93 R Fri & Sat: 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30  
 THE SENTINEL PG-13 Fri & Sat: 11:30, 2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 10:20  
 SILENT HILL R Fri & Sat: 11:15, 2:05, 4:55, 7:55, 10:40  
 SCARY MOVIE 4 PG-13 Fri & Sat: 12:10, 2:50, 5:15, 8:00, 10:15  
 THE WILD PG Fri & Sat: 11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45  
 THE BENCHWARMERS PG-13 Fri & Sat: 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:50, 10:05  
 TAKE THE LEAD PG-13 Fri & Sat: 9:50 PM, Mon to Thu: 9:50 PM  
 ICE AGE: THE MELTDOWN PG Fri & Sat: 12:15, 2:35, 5:00, 7:15, 9:35

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STICK IT PG13	(11:10 1:50 4:30) 7:10 9:50
UNIFIED 93 R	(11:30 2:15) 5:00 7:45 10:30
THE SENTINEL PG13	(10:45 1:30 4:15) 7:00 9:45
SILENT HILL R	(10:30 1:30 4:30) 7:30 10:30
THE WILD PG	(10:20 12:40 3:00) 5:20 7:40 10:00
SCARY MOVIE 4 PG13	(10:35 12:55 3:15) 5:35 7:55 10:15
LA MUJER DE MI HERMANO R	(12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15
THE BENCHWARMERS PG13	(10:30 12:50 3:10) 5:30 7:50 10:10
ICE AGE 2 PG	(10:45 1:05 3:25) 5:45 8:05 10:25

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## Coordinating Council to honor Brenda Warner

**DOWNEY**—Brenda Warner, incoming president of the City of Hope Chapter, Together for Hope, will be honored at the Downey Coordinating Council's 52nd annual Salute to Outstanding Volunteers and Installation Banquet from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, May 11 at the Rio Hondo Event Center, for her "continuous volunteer work" to the City of Hope chapter.

A Downey resident, Warner has been very active with the City of Hope Chapter, Together for Hope for nine years, participating in its various activities. One of her favorite activities is the "City of Hope—Walk for Hope" which raises money for research to help find a cure for breast cancer and is held every October on the City of Hope campus in Duarte. She has walked for the last nine years and she plans on walking again this year. As she has family and friends who are currently fighting or have lost their battle with breast cancer, she says all her walks are dedicated to them.

Meanwhile, the chapter will have its first meeting of the year at a luncheon honoring the members tomorrow, April 29 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Downey United Methodist Church.

For more information on the City of Hope Chapter, Together for Hope, or how to become a member, contact Warner, (562) 869-1449.

## OASIS program for older adults

**DOWNEY** – Downey Adult School's OASIS program (Older Adults Seeking Information and Skills) meets every Monday for a dinner and educational presentation in the campus's cafeteria, with weekly topics ranging from legal and medical news to art appreciation.

Dinner tickets are \$3.50 but visitors can attend the program only at no charge. Programs begin at 4 p.m. but doors open an hour earlier.

Past program topics have included consumer issues, nutrition, cooking tips, financial advice, shopping ideas, travelogues, music programs and safe and fraud protection advice. There is a new speaker every week.

Advance reservations can be made by calling 904-7215.

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**ARC OF SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES** – A \$25,000 check was presented to Arc by the Rotary Club of Downey. The check was in addition to over \$10,000 donated by individual Rotarians for the annual Arc Walk. Pictured, left to right, are Arc Executive Director Kevin MacDonald, Rotary President Carol Pearce and Arc consumers Mercedes Flores and Patrick DePooter. For information on Downey Rotary, call Pearce at (562) 622-1425.

## California retired teachers meet May 9

**WHITTIER**—The California Retired Teachers Association invites retired teachers and interested persons to its meeting and program Tuesday, May 9 honoring members 80 years and over. The meeting held at the Greenleaf Masonic Center, 12001 E. Beverly Blvd. in Whittier, starts at 11 a.m. Installation of 2006-07 officers will be held as well.

The program will include vocalist Gerri Iris, who has been recording since 1959 and entertained troops and audiences locally. For information/reservations, call Barbara Nichols, (562) 696-4474.

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On May 15th, choose California Health Plan and settle your Part D uncertainties for good.



Please call  
**1-877-211-6614**  
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to attend a meeting.

You can end your hesitation and stop the confusion and uncertainty about your prescription coverage by making a date with California Health Plan. May 15th is the final enrollment deadline for a Part D Prescription Drug Plan, and it's time you had health coverage you can believe in.

California Health Plan was created by doctors focused on nurturing the physician-patient partnership. We are pro-active in your care in order to keep you well, rather than waiting to treat you when you're ill. That's why our benefits package—especially our prescription drug coverage—is among the most generous and useful of any plan around.

So join us at one of these meetings before the May 15th deadline. It's a date that could lead to a very healthy relationship.

Plan Benefits <sup>1</sup>	Cost
Health Plan Premium <sup>6</sup>	\$0
Primary Care Physician Office Visit	\$0
Specialist Office Visit	\$0
In-patient Hospital Stay <sup>2</sup>	\$0
Transportation <sup>3</sup>	\$0
12 Routine Podiatry Visits	\$0
100 Hrs. In-Home Assistance <sup>4</sup>	\$0
80 Hrs. Respite Care <sup>4</sup>	\$0
Diabetes Care, Insulin and Supplies	\$0
Deluxe Dental Package <sup>5</sup> (optional)	\$12.45 - \$14.95
Unlimited Generic Drug (30-Day)	\$0 - \$5
Unlimited Brand Name Drugs (30-Day)	\$25
Part-D Premium	\$0

**Members will receive a \$20 monthly (\$240 annual) Part B cash rebate. Call for details.<sup>4</sup>**

<b>Monday, May 1st</b> 3:00 p.m. Mimi's Café 8455 E. Firestone Blvd. Downey	<b>Tuesday, May 2nd</b> 11:30 a.m. Szechwan 11010 Paramount Blvd. Downey
<b>Wednesday, May 3rd</b> 11:30 a.m. Sizzler 10315 Lakewood Blvd. Downey	<b>Tuesday, May 9th</b> 11:30 a.m. Szechwan 11010 Paramount Blvd. Downey
<b>Wednesday, May 10th</b> 11:30 a.m. Sizzler 10315 Lakewood Blvd. Downey	<b>Monday, May 15th</b> 3:00 p.m. Mimi's Café 8455 E. Firestone Blvd. Downey

<sup>1</sup> All benefits are based on the 2006 Calendar Year. <sup>2</sup> \$50 copay on hospital emergency room visits (waived if admitted).

<sup>3</sup> Unlimited non-emergency transportation to and from medical appointments within our service area.

<sup>4</sup> CMA HMO and CVP members will qualify. <sup>5</sup> PPO Deluxe Dental Premium \$14.95. <sup>6</sup> PPO premium \$56.

California Health Plan is a state licensed provider sponsored organization (PSO) with a Medicare Advantage contract open to all Medicare beneficiaries with Medicare Parts A and B who reside within the designated service area. Members must pay Part B premiums and use contracted network providers for routine care. Limitations, co-payments and coinsurance will apply. Pharmacy benefits are limited to a Covered Medication list which is subject to change. Contact California Health Plan for details. A sales representative will be present with information and Individual Election Forms.

## Open house to benefit 'Casa de Parley Johnson'

**DOWNEY** – Assistance League of Downey is planning an open house for Saturday, May 20, complete with home tours, luncheon and antique and collectible sale. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at "Casa de Parley Johnson," 7749 Florence Ave., Downey.

Ken Pleshek, a professional appraiser, will be in attendance to appraise one item for each attendee.

Surplus funds from the event will go towards the restoration of "Casa de Parley Johnson," which was built in 1926 by the prominent architect Roland Coates. He is recognized as a major proponent of the Monterey style in Southern California during the 1920's and '30's.

Tickets for the open house are \$25. For information and reservations, contact the chapter's Building and Properties Chairman at (562) 927-4825 or mail a check to Assistance League of Downey, 11026 Downey Ave., Downey 90241. Tickets will be held at the door.

## Registrar training course established

**NORWALK** – The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) has developed a new Deputy Registrar Training program and would like to encourage organizations/individuals involved in registering voters and conducting petition drives to participate in this program.

Sessions for Certification Training are scheduled for May 1, 5, 8, and 12 (twice a day from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) at the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Headquarters, 12400 Imperial Hwy., Norwalk. Those interested in attending training can select the session of their choice. Participants will receive a Deputy Registrar of Voters Certificate upon the successful completion of the training program.

RR/CC Conny McCormack said, "The program provides valuable information including the proper methods and techniques for registering voters, how to assist electors with the completion of voter registration forms, and covers important California Election Codes related to registration requirements."

Please contact the Voter Records Administrative Unit (Patt Sanders 562-462-2881 or Jennifer Rangel 562-462-2843) if your organization is interested in participating in the Deputy Registrar Training Program or for further information.

## Asthma screenings offered in area

**LOS ANGELES**—Los Angeles area allergists offer free screenings for people who are experiencing breathing problems, such as chronic coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath at the following locations:

- May 7, at Wal-Mart, 19821 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch
- May 13, at Fashion Island Mall, 401 Newport Center Drive, Newport Beach
- May 20 and 27, at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital, 17100 Euclid St., Fountain Valley
- May 24, at Wal-Mart, 7750 Carson St., Long Beach

The American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) is celebrating the 10th anniversary this year of its public service Nationwide Asthma Screening Program, that offers the free asthma screenings in more than 300 communities across the country. In addition to helping identify people at risk for asthma, the screenings also provide an opportunity for diagnosed asthmatics to talk with a specialist about their disease and how to keep symptoms under control.

The ACAAI encourages anyone who is experiencing breathing problems or uncontrolled asthma to attend a screening. A list of sites and online asthma self-tests is available at [www.aaaai.org](http://www.aaaai.org).

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**April 22**  
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**March 18**  
Where to meet: Beach;s Market Parking Lot on Imperial Hwy. & Smallwood

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## New hope for women suffering spinal injuries

**DOWNEY** – A study conducted at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey shows that women who have experienced temporary amenorrhea at the time of their spinal cord injury (SCI) may still achieve a successful pregnancy, particularly if they were injured at a young age.

The research will be presented at the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) 15th Annual Meeting and Clinical Congress, being held this weekend in Chicago.

SCI is a disabling, chronic condition which affects multiple organs including the reproductive system. There is limited data in scientific literature regarding the effect of SCI on women's reproductive life.

The retrospective study will be presented by Ghasak Mahmood, MD; Sylvia J. Shaw, MD; Yaga Szlachick, MD; Rod Adkins, PhD; and Stefan Bughi, MD.

The AACE is a professional medical organization with more than 5,300 members in the United States and 85 other countries. Founded in 1991, the group conducts continuing education programs for clinical endocrinologists, physicians whose advanced, specialized training enables them to be experts in the care of endocrine disease, such as diabetes, thyroid disorders, growth hormone deficiency, osteoporosis, cholesterol disorders, hypertension and obesity.

For more information on the meeting, visit [www.aace.com](http://www.aace.com).

## Health plan details examined at meeting

**DOWNEY**—Six meetings will be held in Downey next month to discuss California Health Plan and the impending deadline to enroll in a Part D Prescription Drug Plan.

California Health Plan is a provider sponsored organization with a Medicare Advantage contract open to all Medicare beneficiaries with Medicare Parts A and B.

Meetings will be held on May 1, 2, 3, 9, 10 and 11 at local restaurants. For more information, call (877) 211-6614.



**PATRICIA KUULEI FULLER**—Who passed away in Downey on April 14, was 77. She attended St. Dominic Savio Catholic Church.

## Previous obituaries available online

**DOWNEY** – Previously published obituaries can be found online in the Archives section of the Downey Patriot's website, [www.thedowneypatriot.com](http://www.thedowneypatriot.com).

## Memorial later for Patricia Kuulei Fuller

**DOWNEY**—Patricia Kuulei Fuller, who was born Oct. 6, 1929 to Paul and Ida Kane, passed away in the city of Downey on April 14. She was 77.

The wife of Ted Fuller for 59 years, she spent quality time with her family and attended St. Dominic Savio Catholic Church.

She is survived by husband Ted; daughter Patsy; grandchildren Mary, Stephanie, Gia and Stuart; and great grandchildren Miles, Alexi, and Eathen. She leaves behind many friends. She was predeceased by daughter Karen.

A memorial will be held at a later date. Arrangements are being handled by Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary.

## Civic Chorus pays tribute to Broadway

**BELLFLOWER**—The Bellflower Civic Chorus presents their annual spring show, "Broadway in Concert," Friday-Sunday-May 19-21 at the William Bristol Civic Auditorium, 16660 Civic Center Drive in Bellflower.

The show Friday is at 7 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The show is a tribute to Broadway's musical theater tradition, and will feature popular medleys from such classic Broadway shows as "Show Boat," "South Pacific," "Annie Get Your Gun," "Phantom of the Opera," and "Les Miserables," to name a few.

Bill Jones directs, with Chris Squires providing piano accompaniment. For information/tickets, contact (562) 866-4664.

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## Century 21 celebrates 30 years of service

**DOWNEY**—Century 21 My Real Estate Co. marks 30 years of service Thursday, May 18 with a "Beach Blast 2006" celebration at its headquarters at 7834 Florence Ave., Downey, from 5:30-8 p.m. Lending its resources is the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

A program consisting of entertainment, door prizes, hor d'oeuvres and a hosted bar has been prepared for guests and wellwishers.

For information, call (800) 641-2111.

## Real estate investment course offered

**DOWNEY**—A Real Estate Investment Workshop will be offered by the City of Downey Community Services Department at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center on Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Attendees of the workshop will learn how to purchase with "little or no money" property without having to qualify for a loan, get money for closing costs, fix-up expenses and even get money back at the closing. Students will also be shown how to find the deals, negotiate and write contracts.

The workshop is designed for the beginner to intermediate real estate investor. The fee for the course is \$49 for one student or \$79 for a couple.

To register or for more information, call (562) 904-7238.

## Masonic Lodge meeting every Monday

**DOWNEY**—Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. at 8244 3rd St for their dinner and meeting. For more information call 869-3521.



**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS** — Steve Roberson, owner of Downey's Century 21 My Real Estate, is preparing for a huge 30th anniversary at the firm's offices, 7834 Florence Ave.

## Ask the Contractors Board

*By Bert Sandman,  
Chair, California Contractors State License Board*

**Q:** I have gotten a few bids to get my leaking roof fixed. One of the contractors said we don't need to have a written contract to do the work. He said that it's not a big job, so it's really not necessary. Is this true? Do I have to have a written contract, regardless of the size of the job?

**A:** Written home improvement contracts are necessary for jobs that cost \$500 or more, including labor and supplies. Even if the job is less than \$500, which may be your case, it's still a good idea to have a written contract because it outlines the terms that you and your contractor have agreed upon. The old axiom is true: "A verbal contract is as good as the paper it's not written on." More information about what contracts should include is available at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov).

**Q:** The winter storms lodged a branch into my rain gutters and now they are flooded and broken. I need them fixed ASAP, but I am on a tight budget and unsure how to find the best contractor for the cheapest price. Any recommendations?

**A:** Yes, there are many ways to find a credible and affordable contractor. Looking one up in the phone book is the easiest way, however, you need to make sure you check the contractor's history and verify the contractor's license before hiring someone with whom you've never done business. Your local Better Business Bureau may be another resource. Local roofing associations or building associations have high standards for their members and may be able to refer you to someone who is in your area. Additionally, ask family, friends and neighbors who have had work done on their homes. See if they can provide a reference.

You can verify a contractor's license, and check to see if any formal complaints have been filed against them by going to [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov). By law, contractors must have their license number in their ad, or say that they are not licensed. So, you can check them out, even before you call them.

**Q:** I am having new windows installed in my home. I changed my mind and want windows with a different design than originally specified in the contract. I have told the contractor about the change I want, and he seems pretty agreeable to it. Should I still amend the contract to include the change? It just seems like a lot of unneeded hassle.

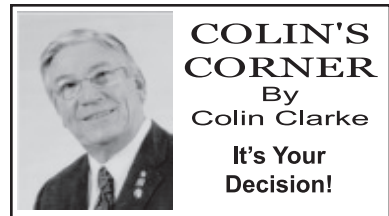
**A:** Yes, you should insist the contract is amended to include the change in the window design. Although it may seem to be a "hassle" to the contractor to amend the contract, you should always include amendments in writing to show proof of what you and the contractor have agreed to. Also, if the changes you want made aren't made to your satisfaction, and you don't have a written contract, it will be much more difficult for you to resolve the dispute without litigation.

## Volunteers needed for Rancho Gift Shop

**DOWNEY**—The Rancho Gift Shop, a major source of income for the Amigos Fund which has provided funding for physical, social and recreational services forming the core of the rehabilitation process at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center since 1954, is in need of volunteers to work in the shop. It is located next to the historical Harriman building on the grounds of Rancho. It opened in 2002.

The Amigos Fund has dedicated itself to improving the lives of both inpatients and outpatients at Rancho. Served are adults and children with severe disability that follows spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke neurological disorders and birth defects.

The shop is looking for anyone who can volunteer for a minimum of four hours each week. Contact Marty Krumm, manager, at (562) 401-7667 or (562) 401-7218 for more information.



**COLIN'S CORNER**  
By Colin Clarke  
**It's Your Decision!**

Buying a new car is, for most people, a major purchase. First, you compare features, design, mileage, and dependability. You identify several suitable makes and models, and then compare price. With all features and benefits being equal, would you choose the most expensive, or look to the one offering the best value? You wouldn't pay more than you have to, and homebuyers are no different. When selling your home, the asking price determines your success. Although you and only you make the pricing decision, it is wise to approach your real estate representative for advice. The agent knows what buyers have been willing to pay for other homes similar to yours. Your price must be competitive against those, and no higher. Buyers often pay full price when they recognize a good value, yet rarely consider an overpriced home. Really, it is the buyers who set the sale price. No matter what you ask, until a buyer is willing to pay your price, no sale will take place. How do you determine the right price? Look closely at each sale that your agent has researched, comparing time on the market, features, financing offered, and then the final sale price. Your home's ideal price can be found in the maze of statistics provided by your agent. Price your home to sell, and buyers will compete for it.

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## WAGS celebrates 25th year May 20

**WHITTIER**—The Whittier Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) will be celebrating its 25th year as a club with recognition of founding members and past presidents Saturday, May 20 when it holds its monthly meeting at 1 p.m. at the Whittier Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave. in Whittier.

New officers will also be installed, while Dr. Gary Allen Dickey is scheduled to present suggestions and ideas for solving the "Brick Walls" in genealogical research.

Visitors are always welcome at these meetings. For information, call (562) 941-0818 or (562) 695-5431.

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## Contractors Board offers info on hiring landscapers

**SACRAMENTO**—With the celebration of April as National Garden Month, hundreds of California homeowners will have started digging into yard projects. While some will be planting a few well-chosen trees or flowers, others may be landscaping their entire property. The Contractors State License Board reminds homeowners to hire only licensed landscaping contractors, and to educate themselves about how to find the best one for their specific needs.

April is traditionally the start of warmer weather that usually leads to a rise in outdoor-related home improvement projects. There are many qualified landscaping contractors around the state. But there are some unlicensed individuals that will try and pass themselves off as professional contractors and offer attractive cut-rate prices. The CSLB encourages homeowners to watch out for these individuals when hiring a landscaping contractor this spring. They can cause property damage, be an insurance liability or even just take the money and run.

In California, anyone who installs landscape systems such as gardens, lawns or sprinkler systems valued at \$500 or more for labor and materials must have a contractor's license. As there are many different classifications of contractors, hiring the correct contractor for the job is vital to ensure the project is completed correctly and to your satisfaction. Since licensed landscapers meet state standards for knowledge, experience and financial responsibility for the specific work they do, the safest bet is to hire only licensed landscape contractors for your outdoor home improvement projects. "Choosing the Right Landscaper" is a helpful, free publication for homeowners available at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov). This publication offers easy tips on hiring and managing a landscape contractor.

Additional tips from the CSLB include:

\*Hire only licensed landscape contractors and verify the license status at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or by calling 1-800-321-CSLB (2752). Make sure the license is for the exact kind of work you want done.

\*Get at least three bids. Don't assume the lowest bid is the best. It might not include everything you asked for or the quality of materials you would like.

\*Check references and view recently completed jobs.

\*Ask the contractor to provide you with Certificates of Insurance for Workers Compensation and Liability before the work begins.

\*Sign a detailed contract which specifies materials and labor and a schedule of projects tasks with start and end dates.

\*Don't sign a contract until you understand it thoroughly.

\*Be cautious with payment. Don't let payments get ahead of the work.

The Contractors State License Board operates under the umbrella of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. The CSLB licenses and regulates California's 299,000 contractors, and investigates more than 20,000 complaints against contractors annually. In fiscal year 2004-2005, the CSLB helped consumers get more than \$36 million in restitution.

## Toastmasters 587 meet Tuesdays

**DOWNEY** – Toastmasters International, Club 587, meets every Tuesday from 6-7:30 p.m. in room 115 at Downey First Baptist Church., 8348 E. Third St.



**DIANA PHORNSUTIPHAIJIT** – Has joined the growing staff at Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate. She recently completed the company's exclusive "Smart Start Success Course." "We are very excited about having Diana join us," said Mel Berdelis, broker/owner of Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate. To contact Phornsutiphajit, call 861-7257.

## Downey home sales up 18 percent

**DOWNEY** – Single Family Residence sales, including condos, in Downey for first quarter 2006 were up 18 percent from first quarter 2005, with the average sales price of \$601,930, reported the Downey Association of Realtors (DAOR).

Out of the 163 homes listed and sold in Downey first quarter 2006, 72 percent were listed and/or sold by a member of the DAOR. For a list of members or more information, call (562) 861-0915.

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**NEW LISTING - NORTH DOWNEY**

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34 New 2 Story Detached Homes  
4 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, 1,850 - 2,000 Sq. Ft.  
Starting from the low \$600,000's

Outside	Inside	Kitchen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exclusively designed exterior color palette</li> <li>Fully fenced private patio</li> <li>Rain gutters &amp; downspouts</li> <li>Concrete roof tiles</li> <li>Underground utilities</li> <li>Beautiful &amp; energy sound efficient dual glazed vinyl windows</li> <li>Architectural stone veneer</li> <li>Custom Malmagany hand-crafted raised panel entry door.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 spacious bedrooms</li> <li>2.5 bathrooms</li> <li>2-car garage</li> <li>His &amp; Hers Closets (in selected models)</li> <li>Ceramic tile entry floor</li> <li>Plush carpeting (your choice of color and style)</li> <li>Cat &amp; wood burning fireplace w/ glass doors</li> <li>Fireplace with pre-cast mantle</li> <li>Pre-wired for surround sound, internet, security, cable television &amp; satellite</li> <li>Central heating system &amp; air conditioning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generous counter space, granite with backplash</li> <li>Dual compartment stainless sink w/ Mason w/ pull-out spray faucet</li> <li>Solid Northern Maple cabinetry</li> <li>Mass w/ pull-out spray faucet</li> <li>Convenient under-counter fluorescent lighting</li> <li>Ice maker connection for refrigerator</li> <li>Ceramic flooring throughout</li> </ul>

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Compton: 6 well maintained units located in a good area of compton. Each unit features 2 Bed / 1 Bath. Upside in rents and some section 8. Market rents averages \$925. Great investment at \$789,000.

**SOLD!**  
Downey: Located in a prime area of North East Downey. Features 4 Bed, 2.75 Bath, 2,642 SqFt, 10,010 Lot. Newer windows, stucco, paint, crown molding, copper plumbing, completely remodeled kitchen and baths. Let's make a deal, shows like new! \$1,025,000.

Downey: Coming Soon! Property undergoing complete rehab. 3 Bed, 2, Bath, approx 1500 SqFt, 6000 SqFt Lot, plus Guest Quarters, Large Master Suite. Will be like NEW! Call for more details. \$649,000

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All listings can be found at [www.downeyrealestate.com](http://www.downeyrealestate.com)

# TEAM UP WITH CENTURY 21 MY REAL ESTATE

## REAL ESTATE ARENA

### INTRODUCING OUR STARTING LINE UP

# THE CLIENTS

**THE FANS OUR CLIENTS**

#1 "Sal Serrano did a fantastic job. Sal was professional, helpful and always on time as well as followed up." -- Antonio Carter Loza

#2 "Excellent job Diana Cattani! Diana was always there when we needed her and made this buyer transaction a real good experience." -- Micheal & Irma Zepeda

#3 "Maria Cibrian did a good job helping me find a home. I am very satisfied with Maria." -- Rosa Rivera

**MVPs OF THE MONTH**

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Marlene Rodriguez

TOP PRODUCTION  
Lilian Lopez & Lorena Amaya

TOP SALES  
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**On A Clear Day**  
This Fullerton home can see the city with one of the best view lots - 180 Degrees! Move-in condition, 4 Bedrooms, 5 Bathrooms, tile and new carpet throughout, cathedral ceilings and fireplace in family room. Lots of other selling points.  
(562) 927-2626

**April Fresh**  
Move-in condition - North Downey home, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, family room, fireplace, very nice neighborhood.  
(562) 927-2626

**Stairway To Heaven**  
This is a beautiful 2-story home with a winding staircase that looks like a path to heaven, 4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, formal dining room, perfect for entertaining, private court yard, beautifully decorated and landscaped.  
(562) 927-2626

**Fire Up The Grill**  
Love to BBQ? Large backyard with covered patio and built-in BBQ, 5 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 3-car garage, formal dining room, family room with fireplace, central air and heat, nice neighborhood, ready for move-in.  
(562) 927-2626

**Blue House on Bluefield**  
Wins blue ribbon! Pretty house in immaculate condition rests in a great area of La Mirada, 3 Bedrooms, 1.75 Bathrooms, wood floors and much more!  
(562) 927-2626

**Splish Splash In This Pool**  
North Downey home in one of Downey's nicest neighborhoods, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, large family room, fireplace, nice kitchen, formal dining room, 2-car detached garage.  
(562) 927-2626

**Investors Delight**  
Hawthorne lot zoned R-3, 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom, formal dining room, new roof, new exterior paint, great opportunity for extra rooms.  
(562) 927-2626

**Pack The Boxes - Call The Mover**  
Nice area for this 4 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom home in Compton, built in 1971, tile floors, nice kitchen, 2-car garage, move-in condition.  
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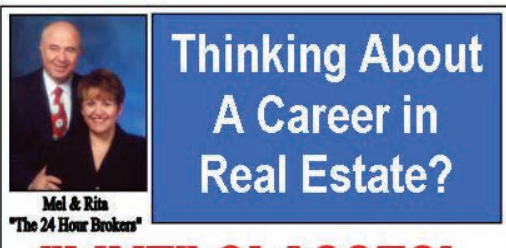
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8635 Florence Ave., Suite 101  
Downey, CA 90240

**562-861-7257**



**Bring Your Paint Brush!!!**  
This Downey home features 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with 1583 sq. ft. of living space on a 10,010 sq. ft. lot.  
**Priced at: \$599,900**  
Please call Carrie Uva @ 562-382-1252 or visit her website at [www.CarrieUva.com](http://www.CarrieUva.com).



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**Built to Entertain!**  
Custom built country home features 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room w/ fireplace, huge kitchen w/ built in appliances & indoor grill, large pool with private garden & cabana. 3,045 sq ft of living space on a 14,352 sq ft lot!  
**Appointment Only! Call Arlene (562) 599-9348**



**Move Right In!**  
Beautiful Mobile Home, 2 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom, 800 sq. ft. living space. Lovely Neighborhood.

**Maria Elena Serrano (562) 400-3373**



**Home Sweet Home!**  
Great Home Near Stonewood Shopping Center. 2 Bed 1 Bath, Den and Rumpus Room, 1,488 sq. ft. living space, 5,828 sq. ft. lot.  
**Priced at: \$612,000**  
Call for Vicki Spearman for a private showing of this home at: 562-367-9520



**CHARMING!**  
2 Bedroom 1 Bathroom, 679 sq. ft. house on a 10,400 sq. ft. lot located in Downey. Fenced yard for the family dog. Priced @ \$499,000

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



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Lives in Downey \* Worships in Downey  
**\*\*\* SELLS DOWNEY \*\*\***



**Great Downey Home in the Low 500K's**  
This 3 BD, 1 BA features over 1100 sq. ft. of living space on a nearly 6000 sq. ft. lot. Great area of DOWNEY.  
**A Great Price: Call Mario for more Details.**



**Best \$ Value for this Size Home in NE Downey!**  
Great floor plan! 4 BD w/ downstairs master suite, formal living & dining room. Family room w/ fireplace, inside laundry, newer central air and roof, security, covered & tiled patio, french doors.  
**Priced to Sell at: \$859,000**



**Backs up to Golf Course!!!**  
2 BD, 1 BA Downey Home, nearly 1100 sq. ft. of living space, huge lot of nearly 9500 sq. ft. backs up to a golf course. Endless possibilities for investors or first time buyers.  
**A Great Price: Call Mario for more Details!!**



**See the Virtual Tour at [www.MarioPersico.com](http://www.MarioPersico.com)!!!**  
3000 sq. ft. Spanish-style beauty in Downey, 11500 sq. ft. lot, 2 Master Suites + 1 BD, family room w/ FP, step-down wet bar, library/office, formal dining room, bright living room w/ FP, 3 luxurious baths, several skylights, AMAZING backyard w/ pool & private spa w/ cabana & MORE!  
**A Must See!!! Reduced Price: \$1,295,000**

**www.MarioPersico.com**



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Attorney at Law, Realtor, Notary Public

**Carrie Lists & Sells Downey!**



**Bring Your Paint Brush!!!**  
This Downey home features 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with 1583 sq. ft. of living space on a 10,010 sq. ft. lot.  
**Call Carrie for more info!**  
**Priced at: \$599,900**

**Warm & Friendly!**  
Charming La Mirada home with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spacious family room, living room and dining room, separate kitchen eating area, lovely backyard with patio and lots of fruit trees! Great Home for Entertaining!  
**\$684,900**



**Like to Entertain!**  
Charming Downey Home with 4 Bedrooms, 4 Baths, large formal dining room, living room, & family room, bonus room upstairs, super large balcony overlooking backyard. 2,781 Sq. Ft. of house on a 9,515 Sq. Ft. Lot.  
**Priced @ \$979,900**

**Builder's Delight!**  
Orange Estates Downey Home with 3 Bedroom, 1.75 Baths, Large Living Room, Dining Room, Family Room + Pool, 2,364 Sq. Ft. of Living Space on a 11,500 Sq. Ft. Lot. Can Build 2 Houses on the Lot!  
**Priced @ \$1,275,000**



**VIEW! VIEW! VIEW!**  
Gorgeous North Friendly Hills home features 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room with fireplace, formal dining room, family room with marble fireplace, spacious kitchen, patio with 180 degree view of city and Friendly Hills golf course. Too many features to mention... must see this one.  
**Priced at: \$1,500,000**

**Call Carrie Today...15+ Years Experience!**

# MICHAEL BERDELIS 562-818-6111

"The 24 Hour Agent" [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)



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**Home Sweet Home!**  
3 bedroom, 1.75 bath home in Downey near Stonewood Mall. Front yard with circular driveway and large backyard with covered patio, spa, and storage room. The home includes hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen with new sink, counter tops, and tile floors, living room with fireplace, formal dining room, and remodeled bathroom with new shower and vanity. Also includes copper plumbing, automatic sprinklers front and back, and much, much more! Price: \$699,000.  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**



**Move-In Condition!**  
Immaculate 3 bed, 1.5 bath North Downey home on a large lot. New kitchen with granite counter tops, tumbled travertine backsplash, tile floors, and stainless steel appliances. The home has a formal dining area, breakfast nook in kitchen, formal living room with fireplace, spacious bedrooms, and beautiful hardwood floors. Other features include central air & heat, copper plumbing, inside laundry room, newer roof & covered patio. Price: \$759,900.  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**



**New Construction in NE Downey**  
This 5 bedroom + office, 4-bath custom-built home is almost 4000 sq ft! Features new kitchen and bathrooms, travertine floors, granite counter tops in kitchen and baths, dual central air & heat, copper plumbing, recessed lighting, curved/textured-coated walls, and professionally landscaped front/back yard. The home includes a very large master bedroom w/ walk-in closet & private bath and a spacious family room. Price: \$1,349,000.  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**



**Beautiful Estate near Rio Hondo Country Club**  
This Immaculate 5 bedroom, 4 bath, 4700 sq.ft home sits on an impressive 19,888 sq.ft lot, nestled in North Downey. This home has it all, featuring a 1250 bonus room or 6 car garage, pool, sport court, outdoor BBQ & covered patio. Interior amenities include travertine flooring, plush carpet, granite counter tops, built in Kitchen Aid appliances in the kitchen, large master suite w/ retreat, downstairs bedroom & office. A MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE. \$1,999,950.  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**



**Great Investment Opportunity on a Large Lot!**  
Large 3 bedroom, 3 bath home in front with a 2 car attached garage plus a spacious 1 bed, 1 bath home in back. The lot size of 19,000+ sq ft should allow someone to build 3 units or enjoy the immense backyard. (Zoned R-1 5000) Priced to sell at \$877,000.  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**



**The Party is Here!**  
Spectacular 3 bed, 2 bath North Downey pool home with a great floor plan including formal living room, family room with fireplace off kitchen, master bedroom with private bath, and inside laundry room. Other amenities: hardwood floors, central air/heat, and copper plumbing. Entertain guests in the backyard with a built-in BBQ, private grass area, and large pool. Bonus room with private bath is perfect for that overnight guest, mother-in-law, or just some extra storage! \$859,900.  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**



**Nice Area! Nice Price!**  
Remodeled pool home! 4 bedroom, 2.75 bath pool home on a large lot with circular driveway near Furrman park in Orange Estates. The living room and family room with fireplaces & newer sliding doors overlooks the large covered patio, pool, and gazebo. Some of the amenities include solar heated pool, replastered pool, granite counter tops in kitchen, water softener, central air & heat, and hardwood floors. Price: \$825,000  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**



**Happily Ever After**  
This 4 bed, 2.5 bath, 2 story home has a fantastic floor plan. Features a formal living room, large family room with fireplace, and a remodeled kitchen with oak cabinets (cherry wood finish), tile counter tops, and new tile in kitchen, entry, and all bathrooms. The private backyard has an enclosed patio and grass area. The home also includes a large master bedroom, forced air/heat, individual laundry room, newer windows, 2 walk-in-closets, & much more. Price \$ 719,950.  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**



**A-1 Neighborhood!**  
3 bedroom, 2.5 bath NE Downey home with spacious bedrooms, living room with fireplace, light & bright kitchen with eating area, and inside laundry room. The property has a heated pool & spa with a separate sauna room in the backyard. Other features include newer roof, central air & heat, and alarm system. Owner says sell it! Price: \$999,950.  
**Call Michael @ 562-818-6111**