



The Downey Patriot

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Friday, November 24, 2006

Vol. 5 No. 31

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



IN THE NAME OF FITNESS – Members of the Gaudin Elementary Dolphin Fitness Club pose with Downey City Councilman Kirk Cartozian after the group finished cleaning up their neighborhood with the help of Keep Downey Beautiful. See Letters to the Editor, page 5. *Photo courtesy Alex Gaytan*

Young adults spread Thanksgiving cheer

■ Volunteers donate time and food as they try to follow “in His steps.”

BY MARY FORNEY
CONTRIBUTOR

DOWNEY – Limping from a broken leg and leaning on a cane, unemployed Jose Jimenez opened his door to a surprise. Greeted by a group of junior high school students and young adults, Jimenez was given a bag of groceries to help feed his family on Thanksgiving.

“I am happy that someone would bring something to my home,” Jimenez said. Relieved and grateful, he shook the hand of the man who had handed him the food.

More than 100 families living on the corner of Lakewood and Stewart and Gray received gifts of food Nov. 19 from young volunteers from the First Baptist Church of Downey. Wanting to give the makings of a good meal to local residents in need before enjoying their own holiday, the church’s junior high Grace Ministries partnered with its Spanish Young Adult group in collecting donations from the congregation.

“We like helping other people, reaching out in the community, and showing people we care, said Jennifer Tritz, 12.

One of the adult volunteers leading the children door-to-door was Cesar Ybarra, 27.

“I am doing this because I love Jesus,” Ybarra said. “We are just trying to follow in His footsteps by sharing His gospel and fellowship.”

The apartment complex has been adopted by Grace Ministries who first visited the residents in October. The children kept their plans to bring Thanksgiving meals to the complex a secret because they wanted to surprise the tenants.

“We chose these apartments through prayer and faith,” said Jon Castillo, director of Grace Ministries.

The group opted to bring food to the predominantly Spanish-speaking, low income homes because, “We wanted the junior high students to take ownership of their faith and to show God’s love in a practical way,” Castillo said.

While Jimenez and some of his neighbors are thankful for the caring, the teens and young adults are thankful for the opportunity to give and make a difference in their community.

“It’s fun knowing you’re a part of helping others,” said Matthew Caswell, 13.

Information on Grace Ministries is available at www.fbcdowney.org

Seniors treated to early Thanksgiving dinner

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Area senior citizens were treated to an early Thanksgiving dinner – with turkey, pumpkin pie and all the fixings – courtesy of students and staff at West Middle School last week.

Over 100 seniors dined while members of the West Middle School band supplied music. Students wore dressy clothing for the night and accompanied the seniors to their tables as they entered the cafeteria.

“I was very much impressed with the way the students were working,” Mervyn McDonald, a Downey resident and first-timer to the annual event, said. “Oftentimes kids try to get silly but these students are very well-coached. I’ll be back next year, God-willing.”

Mervyn’s wife, Dorothy, agreed.

“This is just absolutely wonderful,” she said. “Our children never went to public school and I am completely impressed. The kids are so courteous, helpful and the food is excellent.”

The dinner is an annual tradition at West Middle School dating back 22 years. Shirley Marshman helped launch the program, and this year’s event was her last before she retires.

West Middle School principal Craig Bertsch presented Marshman with a bouquet of flowers after the dinner and said the school intends to continue the tradition.

“We’re going to follow her lead and do it again next year,” Bertsch said. “Everybody’s just going to have to work a little bit harder.”

The dinner is paid through the Scholarship Fund at West Middle School. Students also help raise money.

Kids from the California Junior Scholastic Federation, Scholarship Club and Builders Club serve the seniors dinner and also help clean up. Adults actually prepare the food in the back kitchen.

Kurt and Lorraine Heer are 46-year Downey residents and attended the dinner for the second time.

“It’s wonderful training for the kids,” Lorraine said. “You hear so many negative things about kids these days but these students are wonderful. They’re willing to bring anything you ask for. The service is terrific.”

Kurt agreed.

“The meal was excellent and kids were fantastic.

“We expect to come back next year.”



SENIOR DISCOUNT – Hundreds of seniors packed the West Middle School cafeteria last week for a free Thanksgiving dinner, courtesy students and staff. *Photo by Art Montoya*



WHAT’S UP WITH DOWN SYNDROME – Blair Williamson an actor, athlete and advocate for Down syndrome patients everywhere, spoke recently to students at Maude Price Elementary.

Actor/athlete inspires Maude Price students

DOWNEY – In celebration of Down syndrome awareness month, Price Elementary held a Down syndrome awareness assembly for its students on November 17. When special education teacher, Shelly Keele, approached Price principal, Janice Hobson, with the idea, Mrs. Hobson did not hesitate to agree to have this special assembly.

The children thoroughly enjoyed hearing from Gail Williamson, Executive Director of the Down Syndrome Association of Los Angeles, and her son, actor, Blair Williamson, who happens to have DS.

Blair was born weighing 3 lbs. 6 oz. He had nine surgeries by the time he was 5 years old and didn’t walk until he was nearly 4 years old. By the time he was a healthy 10-year-old he was running 400 meters for Special Olympics. His ability to run got him a lead role in a national commercial

for Procter and Gamble.

Blair has been running to jobs ever since. The children at Price Elementary saw a clip of him when he guest starred on “The Guardian,” but he has also co-starred on “ER”, has been murdered on “CSI” and had his nose done on “nip/tuck.” His film credits include a co-star role on USA’s “My Antonia,” as well as many independent features and shorts. Blair is most proud of his work on the feature “Unknown” where he plays the janitor.

Price children learned that individuals with Down syndrome have an extra chromosome, and thus have 47 chromosomes in every cell instead of

See BLAIR, page 5

Downey doctor is quite the ‘hero’

■ Dr. Natalie Nevins named “Hospital Hero” in regional poll.



Dr. Nevins

DOWNEY – Dr. Natalie Nevins was named Downey Regional Medical Center’s “Hospital Hero” at a Nov. 10 luncheon presented by the National Health Foundation (NHF). The inaugural Hospital Hero Awards honored the outstanding commitments and achievements of healthcare professionals.

“Although her titled role is Director of Medical Education, she touched the entire hospital and has become our Heroine-In-Chief,” Rob Fuller, the hospital’s chief operating officer, said. “She came to us as an intern, served as our Chief Resident, left for a while, and then returned to help transform the hospital. She reinvigorated the intern and resident training programs and established Downey Regional’s new post-residency fellowship program.

“She runs the hospital’s Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine clinic, sponsors research, and continuously writes grant applications.”

Nevins also champions system improvements throughout the hospital, from pushing Downey Regional’s Rapid Response Team into existence, to teaching yoga classes for staff and helping to launch the Wellness

See NEVINS, page 4

Time Traveler

Lummis crossed America to L.A.

BY JOHN ADAMS, EDITOR EMERITUS

The West was won in many ways, one of which was by the pen, and a relatively unknown Harvard graduate and son of a New England minister made history by tramping across America and falling in love with the nation’s great Southwest.

Charles F. Lummis chronicled his road west in a book, “A Tramp Across the Continent.” Lummis, who later became the editor of the *Los Angeles Times*, traveled in 1888 from Cincinnati, Ohio, westward to Los Angeles. On his trip he experienced an aesthetic and spiritual conversion which culminated in northern New Mexico. Ever afterward he considered

See LUMMIS, page 4

Library accepting food for fines

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library will begin accepting food donations as payment for overdue fines during the month of December. The food will then be donated to needy families.

The library will accept new canned and packaged staple goods as payment for overdue fines on library materials. People who don't owe fines are also free to donate.

The Downey Council PTA HELPS program will help distribute the food during the holidays.

Food used as payment for fines will be accepted through Dec. 31 at the library circulation desk. The donated value of each item will be 50 cents.

For questions, call (562) 904-7360 ext. 28.

Seniors invited to celebrate Christmas

DOWNEY – The Downey Senior Citizens Recreation Club will celebrate Christmas with a banquet at the Los Amigos Country Club on Dec. 11.

The banquet, one of the club's three of the year, will feature music by Linda and Roland and will also include the installation of officers for 2007. A lunch, 50/50 drawing and various raffles will also be enjoyed that day.

The event is from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and is open to all seniors 55 and over. Price is \$5 per person for members and \$11 for non-members.

Reservations are due by Dec. 4 by calling Nadine at (562) 923-9422.

Rio Hondo Men's Club picks board

DOWNEY – The Rio Hondo Men's Club has elected its new board members for the upcoming 2007 year. They are: Pete Marchica, president; Paul Granata, secretary; Roy Rodenberg, treasurer; Mike Wichert, greens chairman; Jim Ittner, handicap chairman; and Phil Hayes and Al Perez, tournament chairpersons.

The Men's Club is open for membership to all people with a passion for golf who want to meet new people with the same interest. Members are welcome to play in the club's sponsored tournaments each month as well as obtaining preferred weekend tee times. The annual dues are \$125 per year.

The club meets every second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and meeting. Anyone interested in joining should visit the pro shop at the Rio Hondo Golf Club or visit www.sega.org/clubs/riohondomc/.



THANKSGIVING DINNER – Kids from First Baptist Church of Downey deliver Thanksgiving dinner to local needy families.



CHEERS TO CHRISTMAS – The community is invited to the OLPH Catholic Women's Guild "Cheers to Christmas" luncheon planned for Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Rio Hondo Events Center at 11 a.m. The price is \$30 and reservations are needed by Nov. 27 by calling Sheila Peck at (562) 923-2024. Pictured above are guild members planning for the event.

American Legion meets at Los Amigos

DOWNEY – American Legion Post 270 meets the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at Los Amigos Country Club. For more information, call 869-1053.

Longs Drugs store opens in Downey

DOWNEY – A new Longs Drugs store has opened at 12056 Lakewood Boulevard in Downey, featuring a wellness center, drive-thru pharmacy and photo center.

The 12,750 square-foot store is managed by Chris McCann, a Longs employee for more than eight years. Pharmacy manager is Scott Than.

Store hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. The pharmacy is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Legislation addresses underage drinking

■ Roybal-Allard authors legislation targets teen drinking problem.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard announced this week the passage in the U.S. House of Representatives of the first major national legislation to address the public health crisis of underage drinking in our country.

Roybal-Allard is the author of "The STOP (Sober Truth on Preventing) Underage Drinking Act" (HR 864). The bill is based on a 2003 study by the National Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science. The study found for example, that in the United States during any given month, nearly 11 million of our youth between the ages of 12 and 20 drink alcohol. That means that by the end of today, more than five thousand of our nation's youth under the age of 16, will have taken their first drink. Furthermore, a 2000 scientific study found that youth who drink alcohol could forget as much as 10 percent of what they learn as compared to those who do not drink.

"When you consider the full extent of the dangers associated with drinking before the age of 21 such as car accidents, violent crime and risky sexual activity, the massive extent of this public health crisis and its tragic consequences become clear," Roybal-Allard said. "Despite these startling facts, studies have found that most parents are unaware of the prevalence of underage drinking or the risk it poses to their children."

Once signed into law, the STOP Act will coordinate all federal programs and research initiatives on underage drinking, make permanent an Ad Council national media campaign directed at parents that started last year, and provide grants to institutions of higher education, states and non-profit organizations to combat underage drinking in communities. The STOP Act will also support crucial research on the health effects of underage drinking and require the federal government to produce an annual status report on underage drinking in our country.

"I thank my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the STOP Underage Drinking Act, which is the first major national legislation aimed at combating underage drinking. Through the hard-hitting public service ads funded under the measure, parents will get a strong and effective message about the dangers of underage drinking," Roybal-Allard said.

The bipartisan STOP Act is also sponsored by Representatives Tom Osborne (R-NE), Frank Wolf (R-VA), Zach Wamp (R-TN) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). U.S. Senators Mike DeWine (R-OH) and Christopher Dodd (D-CT) introduced an identical Senate companion bill.

The measure has been endorsed by many public health and alcohol beverage industry groups, including: Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD); the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA); the American Medical Association; the Center for Science in the Public Interest; the American Public Health Association; the National Beer Wholesalers Association; the Beer Institute; the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America; the Wine Institute; the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States; the Century Council; and the Brewers Association.

For her efforts to combat underage drinking, the congresswoman received the following honors: MADD's 2004 Congressional Excellence Award; Students Against Destructive Decisions' (SADD) 2005 National Outstanding Contribution Award; and the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's 2005 Congressional Leadership Award.


The STOP Act passed today by a vote of 373 to 23 in the U.S. House of Representatives. Following expected passage by the Senate in the near future, the bill will be forwarded to the President for his signature.

PTA holiday meeting Dec. 4

DOWNEY – The Downey Council PTA will have their holiday programmed meeting on Dec. 4 at the Barbara J. Riley auditorium at Apollo Park starting with an 8:30 a.m. breakfast. The program starts at 9 a.m.

The program will include an honorary service recognition, Founder's Day and holiday entertainment. The council executive board meeting will immediately follow at 10 a.m.

Cost to attend is \$5 and PTA units have already pre-paid for their principals and presidents. RSVP by Nov. 28 by calling Vera Johnson at (562) 927-7545 or send your check to Downey Council PTA c/o Vera Johnson, 9911 Wiley-Burke Ave., Downey, 90240.



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Warren to host band, color guard competition

■ Band and orchestra championships will be hosted by Warren High School. Bears will compete, too.

DOWNEY – The award-winning Warren High School band and color guard has been selected to host this year's Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association championships for Divisions 1A and 4A. The event will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, starting at 1 p.m.

The competition involves approximately 10 1A bands ranging in size from one to 50 students ending with 10 4A bands having 91 to 120 students each. Warren qualified to participate as a 4A band and will perform at 8:30 p.m.

To minimize the impact to the community, Warren Band Director David Niemeyer and Warren band boosters have been meeting regularly to address potential traffic, parking and noise issues. Notices have been prepared and will be distributed to neighboring homes providing details on parking limitations as well as a timeline of the day's events.

Tickets to the championships will be available at the gate and students and the community is invited.

More information on the Warren band and color guard is available at www.warrenband.org.

Holiday camp for kids offered by city

DOWNEY – The City of Downey Community Services Department is offering a holiday camp for children ages 6-14 which the city says will give them the opportunity to make new friends, learn new activities and enjoy a fun excursion.

The camp will be managed by trained Community Services personnel for the two-week camp.

The first week of camp runs Dec. 18-22 and includes a trip to the Long Beach Aquarium. The second week is Dec. 26-29 (Tuesday through Thursday) with a trip to Skate Zone in Huntington Beach.

Camp hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with extended hours offered to assist working parents. Extended hours are 7 to 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 6 p.m. each day of camp.

Cost is \$75 per week for the first family member and \$70 for each additional family member (fees will not be pro-rated for week two). Extended camp is \$35 for the week and \$30 for each additional family member. Camp fees include materials, supervision, lunch beverage (campers should bring a sack lunch each day), daily snack and excursion.

For more information on the holiday camp, call (562) 904-7238.

St. Raymond's taking trip to state line

DOWNEY – The St. Raymond's class of 2007 invites the community a trip to the California-Nevada state line on Dec. 9. Coffee and donuts will be served on the bus and there will also be entertainment, bingo and raffles.

The bus leaves the St. Raymond's parking lot at 6 a.m. and will return at 10:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person and includes a buffet.

To purchase tickets or information, call Rosie at (562) 842-6370 or Diane at (562) 889-3816.



HONORED FOR SERVICE – Arline Szabo, left, with JHPAF artistic director Larry Dusich.

Dismukes House opening for one day

DOWNEY – The Dismukes House in Apollo Park, built in 1886 and former home to the E.P. Dismukes family, will be open for an open house on Saturday, Dec. 15, from noon to 3 p.m.

The house will be decorated in an 1880's style with a Christmas tree and ornaments from the Kloth Collection. The garden has even been newly refurbished for the event. Admission is free.

Margene Glenn Award goes to Arline Szabo

■ Foundation presents award to Szabo, original pianist for Downey Children's Theatre.

DOWNEY – At a luncheon held on November 4 at Granata's Italian Villa in Downey, The John Hume Performing Arts Foundation presented the Margene Glenn Award to Arline Szabo.

The 2006 honoree was remembered as the first rehearsal accompanist and orchestra pianist for the Downey Children's Theatre, Inc. Along with the Downey Children's Theatre, Szabo was also commended for her offering of her time and talents to other social organizations such as the Downey Symphony.

Tributes and stories were presented by Bob Jones of the Bellflower Symphony, and Doris Weiss, celebrated Choreographer and Dance instructor.

The award was presented by JHPAF President Pauline Hume, accompanied by David Glenn and Kathy (Glenn) DeLuca, children of Margene Glenn.

The Margene Glenn Award is the JHPAF's annual recognition of outstanding volunteer service to the community. It is named after its first recipient, Margene Glenn, who for more than a quarter century offered her talents and efforts to the community.

The JHPAF works to promote the vision of the late John Hume to children in the community.

The Story of the altruistic Red Kettle

CONTRIBUTED BY GILBERT REYES
SALVATION ARMY

In December of 1891, a Salvation Army Captain in San Francisco had resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner to the area's poor persons. But how would he pay for the food?

As he went about his daily tasks, this question haunted him. Suddenly, his thoughts went back to his days as a sailor in Liverpool, England. On the Stage Landing he saw a large pot, called "Simpson's pot," into which charitable donations were thrown in by passer-bys.

The next morning he secured permission from the authorities to place a similar pot at the Oakland ferry landing, at the foot of Market Street. No time was lost in securing the pot and placing it in a conspicuous position, so that it could be seen by all those going to and from the ferry boats. In addition a brass urn was placed on a stand in the waiting room for the same purpose.

Thus, Captain Joseph McFee launched a tradition that has spread not only throughout the United States, but also around the world.

By Christmas, 1895, the kettle was used in 30 Salvation Army Corps in various sections of the West Coast area. The *Sacramento Bee* in that year carried a description of the Army's Christmas activities and mentioned the contributions to street corner kettles. Shortly after, two young Salvation Army officers who had been instrumental in the original use of the kettle, William A. McIntyre and N.J. Lewis, were transferred to the East. They took with them the idea of the Christmas Kettle.

In 1897, McIntyre prepared his Christmas plans for Boston around the kettle, but his fellow officers refused to cooperate for fear of "making spectacles of themselves." So McIntyre, his wife and his sister set up three kettles at the Washington Street thoroughfare in the heart of the city. That year the kettle effort in Boston and other locations nationwide resulted in 150,000 Christmas dinners for the needy.

In 1901, kettle contributions in New York City provided funds for the first mammoth sit-down dinner in Madison Square Garden, a custom that continued for many years. Today, however, families are given grocery checks or vouchers so that they can buy and prepare their own dinners at home. The poor and homeless are still invited to share holiday dinners and festivities at hundreds of Salvation Army Centers.

Kettles now are used in such distant lands as Korea, Japan, Chile and in many European countries. Public contributions to the kettles enable The Salvation Army to bring the spirit of Christmas to those who would otherwise be forgotten - the aged and shut-ins, the inmates of jails and other institutions, and particularly families in crisis throughout the United States. The Salvation Army annually aids more than 3,000,000 persons at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Behind it all is the same Salvation Army message, "Sharing Is Caring" and that "Need Knows No Season."

You can donate online at www.salvationarmysoutheast.org.

Chicken Artichoke Heart Rice-A-Roni Salad

- 1 box Chicken Rica-A-Roni
 - 3 green onions, chopped
 - ½ green bell pepper, chopped
 - 1 red pepper, chopped
 - 1 small jar, pimento olives, sliced
 - 2 jars marinated artichoke hearts
 - ½ tsp. curry powder
 - ½ cup or more mayonnaise
 - 4 chicken breasts, cooked
 - 1 can water chestnuts, sliced
 - Oil from the 2 jars of marinated artichoke hearts
- Cook Rice-A-Roni as directed and cool. Chop onions and peppers. Slice olives and put artichoke hearts together. Shred chicken. Mix everything together and chill. Serve on lettuce leaves and garnish with hard-boiled eggs and cherry tomatoes, paprika and parsley. Serve with hot rolls.

Recipe, submitted by Dorothy Pemberton for Soroptimist International of Downey, is being rerun due to error in last week's printing.

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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NEVINS

Continued from page 1

Center.

But Nevins is also a real-life heroine outside the hospital. The former child movie actress grew up to serve in the United States Air Force as a flight surgeon deployed in forward areas including Afghanistan during hostilities. That experience has led her to become a nationally-recognized authority on bioterrorism and disaster preparedness.

She serves as the hospital's chief medical officer for disaster preparedness, and provides in-depth training on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to hospital managers and other healthcare providers.

In her spare time she runs her own wellness clinic near downtown L.A. and is active in National Osteopathic Physician Association. She recently became one of the few board certified physicians in Neuromuscular Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine.

"What sets her apart is her dedication to excellent patient care and teaching young physicians how to provide it," Fuller said. "Her enthusiasm radiates everywhere; we see better service for all patients as attendings have noticed Dr. Nevins' magic. Her patient-focused teaching directly supports the hospital's concurrent total quality management initiatives."

DRMC Administrative Director Kathy Foster, seated with Nevins at the DRMC table, called the Hero Awards a very moving, well-done and worthwhile event.

Heroes were chosen by 36 hospitals across Southern California.

Downey AARP seeks new members

DOWNEY—Downey AARP Chapter #262 invites you to its meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month to "enjoy interesting speakers and entertainers." Meetings are held at the Community/Senior Center at 7810 Quill Drive in Downey at 11:30 a.m.

LUMMIS

Continued from page 1

himself a Southwesterner first and foremost.

Considering his aloof background, Harvard educated and the son of a minister, this was a most peculiar turning. His was hardly a heritage that would have been expected to convert easily to the ways of the great American desert.

Yet, in his later life, Lummis wrote "The Land of Poco Tiempo," "Pueblo Indian Folk Stories," and "The Spanish Pioneers in America."

He wrote of himself and his transition. "Though my conscience was Puritan, my whole imagination and sympathy and feeling were Latin. That is, essentially Spanish. Apparently they always had been, for now that I had gotten away from the repressive influence of my birthplace I began to see that the generous and bubbling boyish impulses which had been considerably frosted in New England were, after all, my birthright."

Defender

He defended the Hispanic and Indian inhabitants of the Southwest ever afterward, and organized the Sequoia League to aid the Indians. He also founded the Landmarks Club to restore the early California Missions.

His later home, called El Alisal, located near the Pasadena Freeway in Los Angeles (and now the headquarters of the Southern California Historical Society), was the scene of many parties where Lummis entertained Western legends such as Charlie Russell, Frederic Remington, Will Rogers and John Muir.

As his son wrote later in a biography of his famous father, "To say the Southwest is practically to say his name."

Embrace

Lummis overcame his native New England reserve and embraced the people he met in New Mexico with a passion. He even admired that which would normally be considered unacceptable. He wrote of his beloved Southwesterners, "They swear methodically, gracefully, fluently, comprehensively, eloquently, thoughtfully-I had almost said prayerfully... there

The Poets' Corner

The Mirror

Today I passed in front of a mirror and stopped...

I saw a abused woman curled in the corner of a empty room, a woman lost in a strange land, a woman unappreciated for all she does, a woman full of anger, a woman unhappy with herself, a woman beaten down by life, a woman feeling unloved, a woman not wanting to live anymore, a woman not worth honoring. Tears began to roll down my face, as I wiped my tears and looked in the mirror one last time...

God said; Let me tell you what I see...

A woman in a room full of love, a woman of great courage, a woman of a giving heart, a woman restore with joy, a woman of endless beauty, a woman never willing to give up, a woman with a priceless life, a woman worth honoring. I honored you before anyone ever knew you existed, with the ability to wake up every morning, with the sun light of every new day, with the flowers blossoming on the first day of spring, but above all...

I honored you with my death upon the cross.

-- Naomi Valdez,
Downey

Poems for The Poets' Corner can be submitted to The Downey Patriot, 11525 Downey Ave., Suite A, Downey 90241 or via e-mail at downeypatriot@yahoo.com

is nothing brutal about it. It is courteous, tactful, musical, at times majestic. It carries a sense of artistic satisfaction."

While many later visitors to the American Southwest grew to love its panorama and beauty, none embraced it more ardently than Lummis.

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- Phil Frye, CareMore Member



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Fri., Dec. 8th
11:30am
Szechwan
11010 Paramount Blvd
Downey

Sat., Dec. 9th
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Denny's
5811 Firestone Blvd
South Gate

Mon., Dec. 11th
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Downey

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The Downey Patriot

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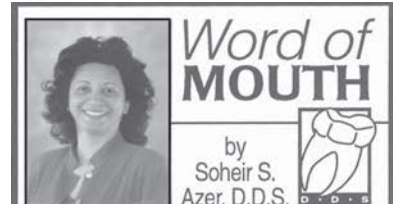


Question: I get frequent Headaches, like migraines; can Chiropractic help?

Dr. Coy:
Headaches have a cause. Products like aspirin may kill the pain, but can also damage the stomach, liver and kidneys. They do not cure the headache. Instead, these remedies simply mask the pain that is still there. Chiropractic looks for the cause that might be related to the neck, which affects the blood flow to the head - causing headaches. By correcting these pinched nerves, you get to the cause of the problem and relieve the headache.
Gerald L. Coy, D.C.

C.H.E.R CLINIC
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No one wants bleeding gums or bad breath. Fortunately, a new study finds that it is relatively easy to kill both of these birds with one stone. In fact, just two weeks of flossing, coupled with regular tooth brushing, was found to be all it took to reduce bleeding gums and bad breath. These findings are based on a comparison of brushing and flossing habits exhibited by 51 sets of twins who were between ages 12 and 21. One group brushed their teeth and tongues daily while the other group added flossing twice a day. At the end of two weeks, the group that flossed in addition to brushing had a 38-percent reduction in gum bleeding and less bad breath.

Good oral hygiene at home is essential to help keep periodontal disease and bad breath from becoming more serious or recurring. You don't have to lose teeth to periodontal disease. Brush, clean between your teeth, eat a balanced diet, and schedule regular dental visits for a lifetime of healthy smiles. Always feel free to discuss your dental concerns with us. We're located at 10800 Paramount Blvd., Suite 307, where we practice gentle dentistry. You can trust the health of your teeth to our extensive training and experience. Our concern is your comfort and confidence – our goal is to help you preserve your natural teeth for a lifetime. Please call (562) 923-3714 to schedule an appointment.

P.S. Bad breath and gum disease are often the first sign of poor oral health, which may lead to further gum (periodontal) problems.

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Driving Decisions

By Eric Pierce

One of my favorite things to do Friday mornings is review the week's edition of the Patriot. Using a red felt-tip marker, I circle any typos or errors that may have slipped past us on production day.

Some Fridays my hands become painted in red, like they've been bleeding.

Last week I circled a headline that – after much debate – I now regret running: “Elderly driver crashes along Downey Avenue.”

The headline was technically correct; the driver, a Downey man who reversed into a storefront window before driving into two parked cars and a pedestrian, was, indeed, elderly at 75 years old.

But what difference did age make? Did the driver's age play any part in the accident?

The answer is we don't know. My gut instinct tells me that the man probably reversed his car on accident when he meant to put it in drive. He probably was panicked and confused, and in the process crashed into the two cars and the innocent pedestrian. And the driver probably was panicked and confused in part because he was 75 years old.

But that's only speculation on my part, none of it substantiated by police.

So it was unfair of us to play up the elderly angle; it cast older citizens in a negative light.

Just because we suspected the driver's age played a part in the accident, we shouldn't assume that to be the case.

Of course, had the driver been 16 instead of 75, would the headline have read “Teen driver crashes along Downey Avenue”?

The answer is probably yes.

Nominations taken for 'Women of the Year'

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles County Commission for Women is accepting nominations for deserving women in Los Angeles County who will be recognized at the 22nd annual Women of the Year Awards Luncheon scheduled for March 12 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

The Commission for Women and the Board of Supervisors present the awards annually during National Women's History Month to women who work to bring about social and economic change and to promote women's equality, serve as outstanding role models for women, work on behalf of women's issues.

Nomination applications can be downloaded from the Commission's website at www.laacw.info or by calling Twila Kerr at (213) 974-1455.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Fitness fun

Dear Editor:

On the morning of Saturday, November 18, about 75 people gathered in front of Gauldin Elementary to clean up the community surrounding the school. The Gauldin Elementary Dolphin Fitness Club took part in the “Keep Downey Beautiful” city clean-up along with Carol Rowland and several other volunteers.

The students in the fitness club had been focusing on the six pillars of character as they exercised and put into practice healthy eating habits every day. This month the focus of the team just so happened to be on citizenship and the kids put their character to work by cleaning up the school and community. Parents, along with their kids, were given orange vests, garbage bags, latex gloves and visors with the “Keep Downey Beautiful” logo on it. Once everyone was put into a team, each group was assigned to a street or section in the neighborhood.

Before cleaning up the neighborhood, the team cleaned up Gauldin Elementary and planted some flowers to make the school beautiful. The kids even volunteered to care for the flowers throughout the year. Our councilman, Dave Gafin, was there to spur the children on.

After the city clean-up, everyone in the community was invited to a barbecue sponsored by the Gauldin Dolphin Fitness Club. Once everyone ate, the kids and their parents set up teams and played soccer and kick ball – everyone had lots of fun.

Later that evening, councilman Kirk Cartozian showed up to congratulate and thank the students for all their hard work.

The kids invested in their community by cleaning it up and keeping it beautiful. They improved their environment and fostered pride in their community. It's wonderful to see what can be accomplished when a community works together and it's a great example for our youth throughout the city of Downey.

— Alex Gaytan,
Downey



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Above-and-beyond service

Dear Editor:

This is a “Thank you” to our Downey police officers.

On Saturday, November 18, they came to my home and carried several large items from my “years of saving” I had stored in my garage out to the dumpster for disposal. This was a much appreciated (and totally unexpected) service. All I had to do to receive this service was make a phone call in response to the flyer which the police department had arranged to be delivered in the mail.

Now that is “above-and-beyond” service. Thank you!

— June Gwynn,
Downey

Something to be thankful for

Dear Editor:

I was so happy and thrilled when I went to West Middle School for senior citizen Thanksgiving dinner.

A big thank-you to students and staff for such a wonderful evening. Everyone was so attentive and helpful. What a special gesture to be escorted to a table.

It is great to know that there are caring young people in the city of Downey.

— V. Solis,
Downey

Pricing hang-up

Dear Editor:

You know what really peeves me? Looking at real estate ads that don't list prices!

Geez, there is nothing more frustrating than looking through ads of homes for sale and it states “call for price.” Who wants to shop not knowing the advertised price? No one. It makes me so mad when I see a home that I'm fairly interested in and there's no price to sway my judgment. If I can't know the price, how can I possibly be interested? After all, price is the driving factor in all purchases, isn't it?

There should be a law that mandates all real estate ads list the asking price. How many of us just don't bother calling because we figure if they are not listing the price it must really be out there? It's a real drawback in my opinion. I wonder what the JCPenney catalog sales would be like if all their ads said, “Call for price”? I wonder just how many calls they would actually receive. Or the Target sales paper, would you call on every item you were interested in? Purchasing a home is probably one of the biggest purchases you will ever make in your lifetime; I think it should carry an advertised price tag.

You can't create any interest without a set price. It's like when you go to the swap meet and you swear you are getting a raw deal because you dressed nice and look like you can afford more than the last patron. It's like price adjustments according to what they feel you can afford based on whatever criteria they feel works for them. I feel violated when that happens, don't you?

So maybe we should all refuse to give any business to any real estate agency that won't list their price. To me it's a waste of advertising and precious time if you don't give us the price.

— Stacy Rodgers,
Downey

Only 10 months away

Dear Editor:

The Downey High School football season ended with a tough loss to St. Paul. Nevertheless, I'd like to commend the coaches and the players for a good year overall. The preparation and practice time required must have been difficult to bear at times. I'm proud that the players stuck with it throughout.

I'm sure it was especially hard for those young men that didn't receive much time on the field. I wanted to acknowledge what had to be the toughest job of all. I have much respect for you guys.

I'm happy that there weren't many injuries this year and as a parent I am extremely thankful. I'd also like to give a huge thumbs-up to the boosters for a job well done. Another phase of the football games that is unappreciated by most.

Keep your heads up high. I'm already looking forward to 2007.

— Javier Moreno,
Downey

Enforce the ordinance

Dear Editor:

The Downey City Council recently denied an appeal for a zone variance to provide additional parking on R-1 property (The Downey Patriot, 11/17/06).

It would be nice, if there is an ordinance, that those autos that block our sidewalks were enforced.

— Frank Myers,
Downey

Same old problem

Dear Editor:

60 Minutes Sunday night had a segment on the problem facing virtually every state. In a small town in Pennsylvania, new businesses hired a large number of illegal aliens and crime immediately escalated and overwhelmed the police force.

In response to citizens afraid to go out at night, the mayor agreed to fine or close down businesses that hire immigrants who break the law and immediately the ACLU declared that illegal.

In effect, the ACLU protected those who broke the law and tied the hands of the mayor who tried to enforce it. The ACLU showed no interest in solving the problem.

— J. Hawkins,
Downey

BLAIR

Continued from page 1

46. This extra genetic material causes them to look a little different as well as take a little longer to learn things.

More than half of the assembly, however, was devoted to questions from the students. They wanted to know Blair's favorite color, candy, TV shows and especially, about Blair's girlfriend. Blair's comedic timing had the kids in stitches, and his interaction with mom, Gail, plus all of his answers to their questions showed the kids just how much they have in common with him. Some 4th and 5th graders were so impressed that they asked for Blair's autograph after the assembly.

The Downey Patriot



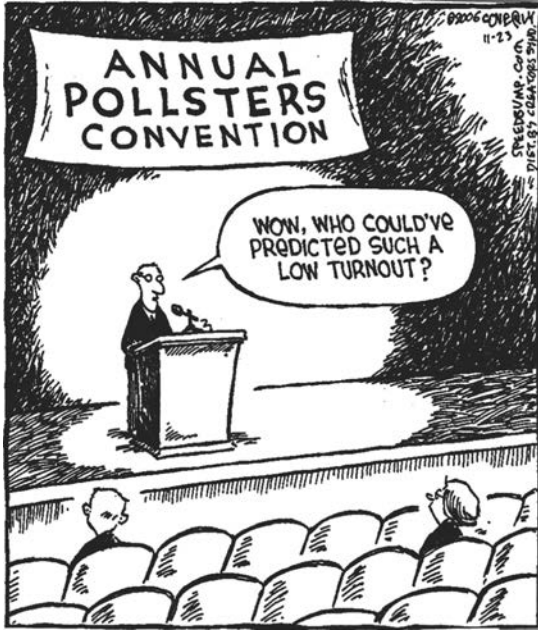
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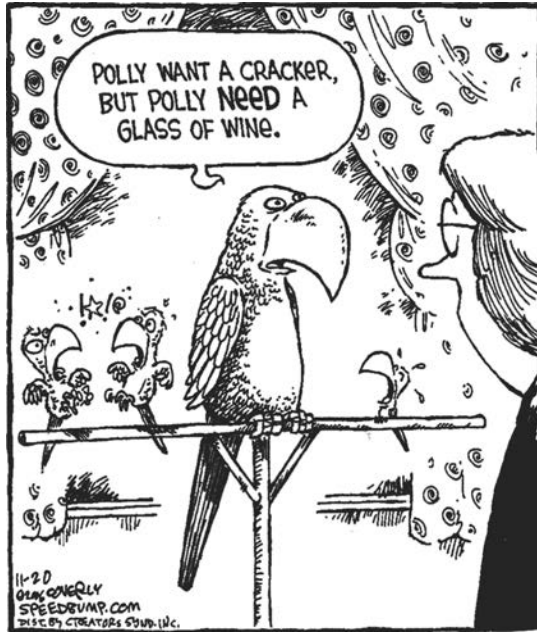
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For November/December

Sat. Dec. 2: **Band and orchestra competition** competition at Warren High School, 1 p.m.
Sat. Dec. 2: **'Cheers to Christmas'** luncheon by OLPH Women's Guild
Sun. Dec. 3: **Holiday Lane Parade** starting at 1:30 p.m.

City Meetings

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

6:30 p.m.: **Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner, mtg.**, for information call 426-6786.
6:30 p.m.: **Overeaters Anonymous**, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.
1st Mon., 4 p.m.: **2nd Century Foundation**, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.
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 Darren Dunaway at 806-5400.
12 p.m.: **Exchange Club of Downey**, at Sizzler, for information call Don Hollister at 927-5871.
6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call 923-9464.
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.
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.
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 Samb's, for information call Steve Allen at 622-7655.
12:30 p.m.: **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.
6:30 p.m.: **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.
7 p.m.: **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.
4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.
2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

Fridays

7:30 a.m.: **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Harry Sacks at 319-1063
3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.: **Women's "In His Glory" Ministry** at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

On This Day...

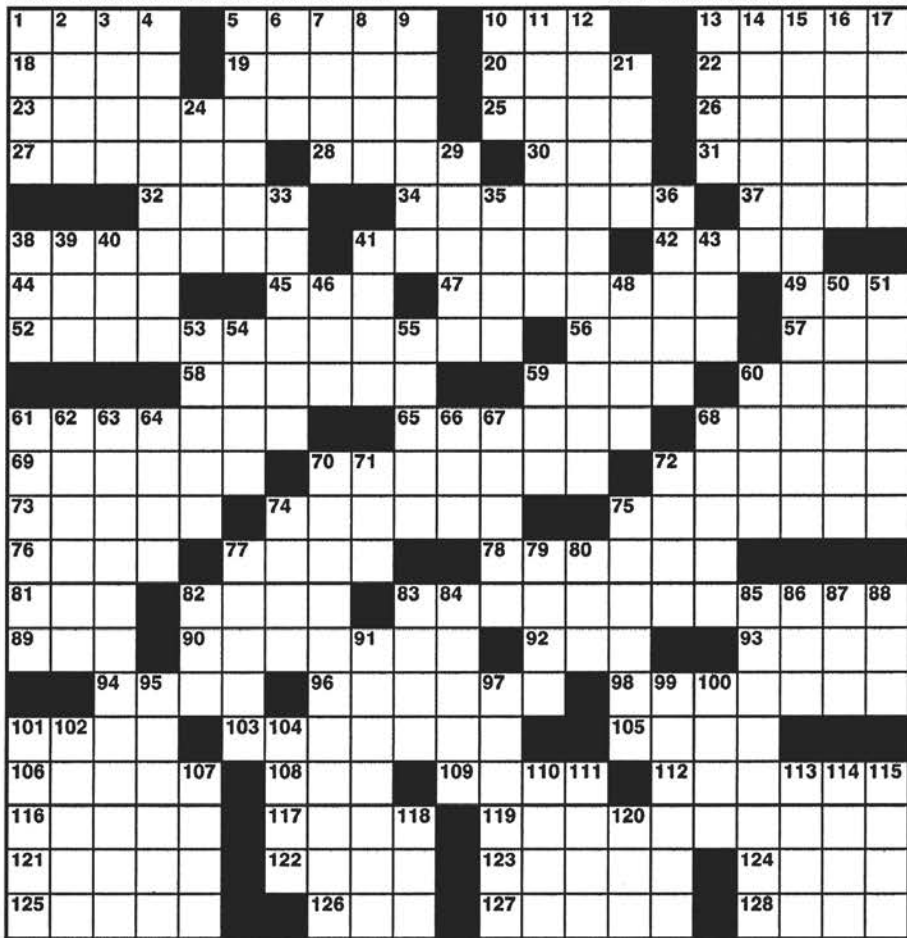
November 24, 1859: "The Origin of Species" by Charles Darwin, his famous and oft-debated theory that populations evolved through natural selection, is published. A second edition published less than two months later.
1951: "Gigi," a Broadway adaptation of the French novel, opens at the Fulton Theatre with a young and still inexperienced Audrey Hepburn in the title role.
1963: Alleged JFK assassin Lee Harvey Oswald is killed live on television by Jack Ruby.
2003: The PlayStation 2 is released in Europe to predictably strong demand. "Manufacturing delays" made the PlayStation 2 a hot item during the holiday season.

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THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
FRIENDS OF ATLAS: Featuring various earthy notables
by Gail Grabowski

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- 60 Pinto, for one
- 61 Study intently
- 62 Conductor Toscanini
- 63 "Secret Agent Man" singer
- 64 Citrus drinks
- 66 Snitch
- 67 English assignment
- 68 Salon color
- 70 "Friends in Low Places" singer
- 71 Umbrella part
- 72 Hourly pay
- 74 Shoved off
- 75 Champagne cocktail
- 77 Stockpile
- 79 Agitated state
- 80 Good to go
- 82 Fighter's org.
- 83 Fair-minded
- 84 Not miss (remain unrudded)
- 85 Renders inoperable, as a computer command
- 86 Kimono accessory
- 87 Minute
- 88 Orch. section
- 91 Go on a break
- 95 Burdens
- 97 Hoity-toity
- 99 Capital on the Hudson
- 100 "That's enough!"
- 101 Arrive at uninvited
- 102 Eagle's home
- 104 Dance and drama
- 107 Stand for a shot
- 110 Brazil neighbor
- 111 Bridge coup
- 113 Young one
- 114 Storyteller
- 115 Irish singer
- 118 Harry Potter pet
- 120 Energy



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

The name LEGO (1 Across) is derived from the Danish for "play"; coincidentally, "lego" can mean "I put together" in Latin. Actress JAYNE MEADOWS (83 Across) and her sister Audrey, the children of missionaries, were both born in China. The federal hourly minimum WAGE (72 Down), originally set at 25 cents in 1938, is currently \$5.15.

Norman Kutcher was DUSD psychologist

■ He was a school psychologist for over 40 years, working with students with disabilities.

DOWNEY – Norman Kutcher, a school psychologist in the Downey Unified School District for over 40 years, died Nov. 1 from cancer.

A resident of Orange, he was born in Glassport, PA on July 19, 1931. He was a graduate of Oliver High School and the University of Pittsburgh.

He was drafted into the army during the Korean War after graduation. Upon discharge, he obtained his Masters Degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

He spent most of his adult life as head psychologist in the Downey Unified School District, serving students with disabilities and students in crisis.

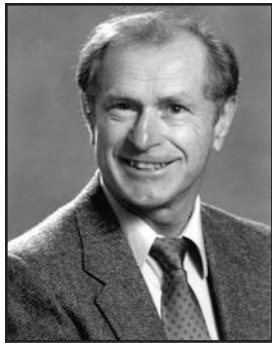
An active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Orange for more than 40 years, he served as an elder as well as various committees.

In his spare time, he enjoyed sports, gardening, socializing, bridge and traveling.

Kutcher is survived by his wife, Ruth; son, Kevin; daughter-in-law, Jeannine of Tigard, Oregon; daughter, Kelly of Orange; three grandsons, two granddaughters, two nephews, a niece and two great grandnieces, in addition to numerous in-laws.

Memorial services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Orange on Dec. 3.

In lieu of flowers, family requested donations be made in his memory to First Presbyterian Church of Orange, 191 N. Orange Street, Orange, CA 92866 or VNA Hospice at 2500 Red Hill Blvd., #105, Santa Ana, CA 92705 or the American Cancer Society.



Norman Kutcher



ERIN HERCULES – She leaves behind two daughters.

Erin Hercules, 43, passes away at home

■ She was bank manager at Washington Mutual.

DOWNEY – Erin Kathleen Kennedy Hercules, an employee in banking for 20 years and manager at the Washington Mutual Financial Center, Downey north branch, died Nov. 6 at her home. She was 43.

She was born Jan. 1, 1963 at Queen of Angels in Los Angeles to Robert and Evelyn Kennedy.

She enjoyed country music, especially Toby Keith, traveling to Hawaii and Las Vegas, spending time with family and friends, and shopping for purses.

She is survived by her two daughters, Amelia and Jennifer Hercules; mother, Evelyn Kennedy; brother, Brian (Dina) Kennedy, and their children, Nicole and Nicholas; brother, Richard Kennedy, and his children, Richard and Tiffany; and sister, Susan (Erick) Kennedy Renovales.

A rosary was held in her honor on Nov. 16 at St. Raymond's Catholic Church. Funeral services were held the following day at the same church. She was laid to rest at All Souls Cemetery in Long Beach.



CHRIS SHAFFER – Passed away Nov. 17.

Chris Wayne Shaffer supported Razorbacks

■ Memorial fund set up for his two children.

DOWNEY – Chris Wayne Shaffer, an active member of the Downey Razorback football club, died last Friday, Nov. 17. He was 38.

He was born June 2, 1968 in Lynwood.

Shaffer is survived by his parents, Emily and Wayne Shaffer; two children, Aaron and Jessica Shaffer; brother, Mike Shaffer; sister, Robbyn Chapman; grandmothers, Lillian Shewman and Dorothea Shaffer; and nieces and nephews, Cody, Jake, McKenna and Mason.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been set up for Shaffer's two children. Checks can be mailed directly to Christopher W. Shaffer Memorial Fund, c/o LBS Financial Credit Union, 4916 Bellflower Blvd., Lakewood, CA 90712.

Services are pending. For information, e-mail trejchapman@verizon.net.

Masonic Lodge meeting every Monday

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

For information on placing an obituary, call (562) 904-3668

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Pictures from last week's Downey/St. Paul CIF playoff game.

Photos by Art Montoya

Fumbles, mistakes end Downey's season

■ Tubbs rushes for 88 yards and keeps Downey close but penalties do them in.

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – One step forward, two steps back. So went the story of Downey's opening round CIF playoff game, spurts of efficient offense bringing them tantalizingly close to possible victory, before costly turnovers brought them back to harsh reality.

The Vikings never managed to get their offense in rhythm and lost to visiting St. Paul 16-0 Friday, ending Downey's football season.

Vikings running back Darren Tubbs struggled against a hefty St. Paul defensive line, rushing for 88 yards on 20 carries. He fumbled twice in the game and St. Paul recovered both times.

The Swordsmen put up points quickly, rallying around their speedy running game to go ahead 7-0 six minutes into the first quarter.

St. Paul threatened again in the second quarter but Viking Joseph Diaz intercepted a pass and ran it to Downey's 32 yard line.

Tubbs then ran Downey all the way to St. Paul's 23, putting the Vikings in prime position to score.

But then the mistakes started happening.

Back-to-back holding penalties and an illegal procedure drove Downey back 35 yards and, after the nifty pick and Tubbs' running, the Vikings were faced with a 1st and 41.

That seemed to be the theme of the game, Downey penalties negating Tubbs' running.

The Swordsmen kicked a field goal midway into the fourth quarter, making it 10-0, and recovered the ball on the ensuing kickoff after it was misplayed by Downey.

St. Paul eventually scored again a few minutes later to complete the scoring.

Little League conducting early sign-ups

DOWNEY – West Downey Little League will soon start conducting early bird sign-ups for the 2007 baseball season.

You must have a certified birth certificate (abstracts will not be accepted) and three forms of proof of residence (California ID or drivers license and two utility bills).

Registration dates are:
Tuesdays, Dec. 5 and 12 - 6 to 8 p.m. - West Middle School cafeteria
Thursdays, Dec. 7 and 14 - 6 to 8 p.m. - West Middle School cafeteria
Saturdays, Dec. 2, 9 and 16 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - snack shack

Registration cost is \$55 for t-ball (ages 5 and 6) and \$85 for Rookie, A, AA, AAA and Majors. Third child receives half-off registration and the fourth child is free.

Try-outs will be held Jan 6 and 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children must be over the age of 8 to try out.

For more information, visit www.eteamz.active.com/westdowneylittleleague.



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Christmas musical quite 'extraordinary'

DOWNEY – Combine a type-A business man, a group of less than honorable salesmen and a young with a challenge that will change the world and what do you have? "An Extraordinary Christmas," a holiday musical to be presented Dec. 8-10 at First Baptist Church of Downey.

The original musical looks at the Christmas story as it relates to ordinary people and how their involvement in this event altered history. The originally-scripted musical includes a 45-voice choir, drama, dance and special effects.

The musical is child-friendly, as many of the major players are children. Original costumes designed for the musical is a highlight of the musical.

Performances are Dec. 8, 9 and 10 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. Complimentary tickets can be ordered by calling (562) 923-1261, ext. 275 or online at www.fbcdowney.org.

Holiday Lane Parade scheduled Dec. 3

DOWNEY – The 55th annual Holiday Lane Parade is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 3, at 1:30 p.m. The parade will start down Downey and Lexington Avenues before ending near City Hall.

Street closures are expected that day beginning at 11:30 a.m. All streets should be open by 5:30 p.m.

Downey Regional Medical Center is this year's major sponsor but several other businesses and residents have donated money as well. The parade is a yearly tradition older than the city itself.

A trophy and award presentation will be held in front of City Hall after the parade. The community is invited to attend.



CONTEST WINNERS – These are the winners of the Ward Elementary Character Counts coloring contest. Their work is currently on display inside Downey Federal Credit Union. From left: Denise Barajas, Violeta Flores, Richard Lozano, and Angela Guerrero.

Student work on display at Downey credit union

■ Coloring contest teaches kids virtues of 'Character Counts.'

DOWNEY — Downey Federal Credit Union (DFCU) is displaying the work of the winners of the Ward Elementary School Character Counts coloring contest inside its main branch.

All students from K-3 were encouraged to enter the contest, displaying their interpretation of one of the six pillars of Character Counts. Finalists were given a dollar coin and a thank you.

There were eight winners, two from each grade. Each winner was given a prize package to reward them for their efforts.

Winners include Denise Barajas, Kindergarten; Adrian BuenRostro, Kindergarten; Carmen Rea, first grade; Richard Lozano, first grade; Violeta Flores, second grade; Maria Jose Aispuro, second grade; Angela Guerrero, third grade; Xavier Guerrero, third grade.

Orlandus Waters, Executive Vice President of DFCU stated, "Downey Federal Credit Union is happy to be a partner with the Downey Unified School District. We support the district's adoption of the Character Counts tenets—Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship."

Bellflower art group schedules meeting

BELLFLOWER – Rafael Maniago will be the guest demonstrator when the Bellflower Art Association meets Dec. 12 at Thompson Park in Bellflower. The meeting runs from 7:30 to 10 p.m. and is free to the public. For information, call Charlene Mueller at (562) 633-9011.

'It's Christmas Time' at club meeting

DOWNEY – 'It's Christmas Time' is the title of the next meeting of Downey Christian Women's Club, whose next luncheon is scheduled for Dec. 13 at Los Amigos Country Club.

The day's special feature will be "Jewelry and Ponchos by Victoria." Lillie Knauls will provide music and speak on "Songs of Songs."

Men are invited to the meeting, which starts at 11:45 a.m. The price is \$12 for the buffet lunch and reservations are requested by calling Ginnie at (562) 927-8488 or Delores at (562) 868-7135.

Find the right Santa this holiday season

■ Professional Santa gives advice on hiring the perfect Santa Claus.

BY ALAN KATZ

FUNNY FARM ENTERTAINMENT

In addition to the holiday dilemma of what to buy Uncle Fred for Christmas, many families and companies are plagued with the question "Where do we find a Great Santa for our holiday party?"

There are several places to find the Jolly ol' Elf.

A web search can be helpful and there are several sites that specialize in renting a Santa but they are strewn across the U.S. In your web search put in your city name and the word Santa Claus for best results. Also search for entertainment companies. Many of them have several Santa's in their rooster. These are usually listed under entertainment companies, singing telegrams or party planners. You can always go old school and break out the yellow pages.

Another way is to go to a local mall or city sponsored event and check out the Santa there and see if they are good and ask their elves if they are available for your event. Then there is also the time tested "Word of Mouth" method. Ask around, somebody knows one.

Through an agency you can expect to pay from \$150 to \$250 per hour. Freelance Santa's can charge from \$125 to \$200 per hour.

When you call specify what you are looking for whether it is for kids or adults or mixed group.

Decide what type of Santa you want a "Traditional Santa" or a "Comic Mingling Santa" or the new trend for adult parties "BAD Santa". Some Santa's will just come in and just say Ho Ho Ho and pass out gifts, other Santa's will sing songs, tell stories, pass out gifts and pose for pictures and entertain or mix and mingle.

Real beard or simulated beard? Many people want a real beard "Miracle on 34th St." looking Santa and while that's all well and good but remember they are at the top of the price bracket. Real bearded Santa's, since they are older, may not be as active while simulated beard Santa's are usually younger and more active and can charge less.

Whatever your choice is make sure the Santa has a clear understanding of what you expect to make your party a success. Ask for references there are some creepy people out there. Remember there is a lot more to being Santa that putting on a suit and saying Ho Ho Ho. Many Santa's have had years of experience behind them (and lots of milk and cookies in them) and will help you plan their visit.

The final option is to purchase your own Santa Suit and do the Ho Ho Hoing yourself. Don't skimp on a suit. Buy a nice suit with good material and fur. It may cost a little more but it will last.

Finally, have fun with it and make this Christmas one to remember. It's the only one this year.

Alan Katz has been a professional Santa Claus for over 17 years and currently works as the Santa at the Long Beach Marketplace Shopping Center. He can be reached at (562) 799-1206.

Popular yogi offering free yoga lessons

PARAMOUNT – Local yoga guru Yogi Ramesh is leading free yoga classes every Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. at his Universal Yoga Center in Paramount. Everybody is welcome.

The "laughing yoga" class emphasizes healthy hearts, body and mind and instant stress relief. Ramesh has been practicing yoga for over 45 years.

Ramesh also offers yoga lessons for parties, meetings or special events. For information, call (562) 808-0804. Universal Yoga is at 15317 Paramount Blvd. in Paramount.

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Can't get enough of 'Too Many Tamales'

■ Stage adaptation celebrates Spanish tradition of tamale-making during the holidays.

LOS ANGELES – The Bilingual Foundation of the Arts (BFA) presents the tenth anniversary and final production of "Too Many Tamales," a holiday favorite for all ages, celebrating tradition, family and friends. Beginning Friday, December 1 and running through Saturday, December 30, "Too Many Tamales" will be performed in Spanish and English at Teatro Carmen Zapata at BFA, 421 North Avenue in Los Angeles.

Based on the children's book by Gary Soto, and adapted for the stage by Margarita Galbán and Lina Montalvo, "Too Many Tamales" is filled with music, laughter and fun. The story is set on Christmas Eve: young Maria plays with her imaginary friends as her mother tends to last-minute dinner preparations. As Maria helps her mother make tamales, she discovers she has misplaced her mother's engagement ring. Believing the ring got into the *masa*, she convinces her cousins to eat the whole batch of tamales in an effort to find the ring. After consuming all of the family's Christmas Eve dinner, Maria learns a valuable lesson, and witnesses a miracle of love that reunites her family.

"Too Many Tamales" is performed in Spanish and English, with the Spanish opening night on Friday, December 1 and the English opening night on Friday, December 8. Performances are every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening at 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. through December 30.

Tickets are \$15 for children 12 years and younger, and \$17 for adults. All preview tickets are \$10. Advance reservations are suggested by calling the box office at (323) 225-4044.

'The Wonderelles' perform Dec. 5

DOWNEY – The Wonderelles will perform a free concert outside City Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 5, part of the city's 50th anniversary celebration.

The concert will be held in the cul-de-sac west of City Hall from 3 to 6 p.m. Featuring bop music of the 1950s, the Wonderelles will sing Happy Birthday at 3:40, 4:40 and 5:40 p.m. Cake and refreshments will be served at these while supplies last.

In addition to live music, visitors will also receive a commemorative giveaway. The program will also include announcement of the "Happy 50th Birthday Downey" coloring contest winners (3:45 to 4 p.m.) and recognition of residents and businesses also celebrating their 50th birthdays (4:45 to 5 p.m.).

Kids ages 3 to 12 can enter the coloring contest by picking up an entry form in City Hall at the Community Services Department located on the second floor. Entries for the contest are due by Dec. 1.

Residents and businesses wishing to be recognized should call City Hall at (562) 927-7286.

Local photographer has work exhibited

DOWNEY – After winning two awards in the recent Open Art Competition sponsored by the Lakewood Artist Guild, Downey photographer Alan D. Williams will have his work showcased at the El Dorado branch of the Long Beach Public Library through Nov. 28.

The showing includes competition winners in both painting and photography.

One of Williams' pieces won both an Honorable Mention and Vendor Award from Tuttle Cameras of Long Beach. His work differs from that of other photographers in that it resembles abstract painting.

While he uses a computer and the Web to showcase and sell his photo-abstracts, Williams does not use any digital manipulation to create them, preferring to utilize only analog and optical image control.

The library is located at 2900 Studebaker Road, just south of Spring Street in Long Beach. It is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Examples of Williams' work can be found online at www.adwphoto.com.



HOPPING FUN – Peter Rabbit was a storytime surprise for children (left to right): Juillian Wilson, Paige Narro, Jake Rodriguez, Tera and Chenidle Wilson, Saida Soto and Christopher Aviles.

Peter Rabbit makes local appearance

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library celebrated Children's Book Week Nov. 13-19 with a special visit from Peter Rabbit.

Children who attended storytime on Nov. 14 had a chance to meet Peter himself. Peter also stopped by on Nov. 16 during a performance by Judith Helton as beloved children's author Beatrix Potter.

For information on library programs for children, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 4.

Seating available for Rose Parade

DOWNEY – The City of Downey Community Services Department still has assigned grandstand seating available for the 2007 Tournament of Roses Parade.

The bus will depart from the City Hall flag pole area on Jan. 1 at 6:30 a.m. with an approximate return time of 2 p.m. Sign-ups are at City Hall Community Services Department from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Cost is \$64 per ticket. For information, call (562) 904-7238.

Theatre tangles with a Titanic mystery

LONG BEACH – "Scotland Road," a mystery/thriller by Jeffrey Hatcher, will open at the Long Beach Playhouse Studio Theatre on Nov. 25.

The production takes place in the last decade of the twentieth century, where a beautiful young woman in nineteenth-century clothing is found floating on an iceberg in the middle of the North Atlantic. When rescued, she says only one word: Titanic.

The woman, Winifred, is taken to an isolated spot on the coast of Maine where an expert on the sinking of the liner, a mysterious man named John, has arranged to interrogate her for six days. His goal: to crack her story, get her to confess she's a fake, and reveal her true identity.

John's only clue is her enigmatic references to an unknown place called "Scotland Road."

Ticket prices are \$20 for the Nov. 25 opening, which will be followed by a champagne reception with the director, cast and crew. Sunday matinees are Dec. 3 and Jan. 7 at 2 p.m. and regular Friday and Saturday evening performances are at 8 p.m.

Tickets are available by calling the box office at (562) 494-1014.

Veterans get in free to '1940s Radio Hour'

LA HABRA – The La Habra Depot Theatre is celebrating the holiday season with the swinging sounds of big band music of "1940s Radio Hour," a popular Broadway musical set to run Nov. 25 through Dec. 17. Opening weekend shows are free to veterans and active duty military personnel in full or partial uniform.

The Depot has set aside 50 tickets for military personnel, but they must be reserved in advance.

With a backdrop of World War II, this musical comedy shows the often touching, often hilarious pre-show, broadcast and post-show carry-overs of the "WOW Cavalcade of Stars." In addition to Christmas songs, this fun production includes pop songs such as "Ain't She Sweet," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "Old Black Magic," "Kalamazoo," and 18 other numbers from the 1940s era.

The radio program is seen through the eyes of the theater audience who become the actual radio station audience on December 22, 1942. With its tuneful score, high-energy comedy and nostalgia for a bygone era, this is a show suitable for the entire family.

Written by Walton Jones with songs by numerous artists, "1940s Radio Hour" is directed by Tiffany Witham-Aguirre.

Performances are Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children, students and seniors.

Phone reservations are available by calling (562) 905-9625. The La Habra Depot Theatre is located at 311 S. Euclid Street in La Habra.

Hackers hosting all-star comedy night

DOWNEY – Hackers located inside the Rio Hondo Events Center will host an all-star comedy night on Nov. 30, featuring stand-up comics from 15 previous comedy shows.

The night will be hosted by Rudy "Funky Cold" Medina. Performers will include Honest John and headlining is Tommy Chunn, a familiar face on HBO and BET Comic Review.

Tickets are \$10 presale and \$15 at the door with a two-item minimum. The event is expected to sell out.

For tickets, call Marc Shelton at (562) 806-5020.



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Local Concerts this week

- FRIDAY**
Cedric the Entertainer - Long Beach Terrace Theatre
Dixie Chicks - Staples Center
Lionel Richie - Kodak Theatre
- SATURDAY**
Fab Four - HOB Anaheim
Katt Williams - Gibson Amph.
- SUNDAY**
Lionel Richie - Anaheim Convention Center
- MONDAY**
Tyrese - HOB Anaheim
Alice in Chains - Wiltern
- TUESDAY**
Alice in Chains - Wiltern
Lloyd Banks - HOB Hollywood
- WEDNESDAY**
Barenaked Ladies - Gibson Amph.
Danzig - Wiltern
Trans Siberian Orchestra - Forum
- THURSDAY**
INXS - HOB Anaheim
Music of Frank Zappa - HOB Holly.

New on DVD this week

- MOVIES**
A Star is Born
The Ant Bully
Clerks II
Pandora's Box
See No Evil
Superman Returns
Van Wilder - Special Edition
- TELEVISION**
7th Heaven - Season 3
Bones - Season 1
The Cheetah Girls 2
Criminal Minds - Season 1
An Evening with Kevin Smith 2
Joan of Arcadia - Season 2
St. Elsewhere - Season 1

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

DEJA VU PG13	(10:30 1:30 4:30) 7:30 10:30
THE FOUNTAIN R	(11:30 2:00 4:30) 7:00 9:30
TENACIOUS D PG13	(12:00 2:30) 5:00 7:30 10:00
DECK THE HALLS PG	(10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45
HAPPY FEET PG	(10:00 12:45 3:30) 6:15 9:00
HAPPY FEET PG	(11:30 1:45 4:30) 7:15 10:00
CASINO ROYALE PG13	(11:20 2:40) 6:00 9:20
CASINO ROYALE PG13	(12:20 3:40) 7:00 10:20
LETS GO TO PRISON R	(10:20 12:45 3:10) 5:35 8:00 10:25
FLUSHED AWAY PG	(10:00 12:20 2:40) 5:00 7:20 9:40
BORAT R	(11:00 1:20 3:40) 6:00 8:20 10:40

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DECK THE HALLS PG (11:25, 1:55, 4:25), 7:15, 9:45
DEJA VU PG13 (10:50, 1:45, 4:45), 7:45, 10:45
TENACIOUS D IN THE PICK OF DESTINY R (12:00, 2:30, 5:00), 7:35, 10:05
★ CASINO ROYALE PG13 (11:45, 3:10), 6:45, 7:30, 10:00, 10:45
★ HAPPY FEET PG (10:45, 11:30, 1:20, 2:15, 4:00, 4:50), 7:15, 9:55
BABEL R (12:20, 3:45), 7:25, 10:40
BORAT R (12:25, 2:50, 5:10), 7:40, 10:05
FLUSHED AWAY PG (11:40, 2:15, 4:40), 7:10, 9:30
THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE R (11:30, 2:00, 4:30), 7:00, 9:40

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1/2 Price Lunch
Buy any entrée during lunch and any two regular beverages and get a second entrée (of equal or lesser value) for half price. Cannot be combined with any other offer, discount, or coupon. Coupon good for up to two discounts per party of four. Only the lower priced entrée will be discounted. No cash value. Valid at participating locations only. Not valid on Thanksgiving Day, 11/23/06. Offer expires 12-17-06. POS CODE: MKTG 2 MKTG promo 2

1/2 Price Dinner
Buy any entrée during lunch or dinner and any two regular beverages and get a second entrée (of equal or lesser value) for half price. Cannot be combined with any other offer, discount, or coupon. Coupon good for up to two discounts per party of four. Only the lower priced entrée will be discounted. No cash value. Valid at participating locations only. Not valid on Thanksgiving Day, 11/23/06. Offer expires 12-17-06. POS CODE: MKTG 2 MKTG promo 2

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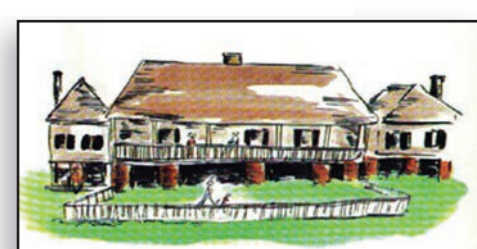
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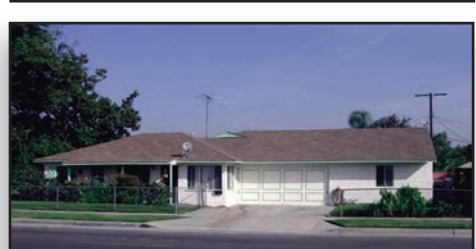
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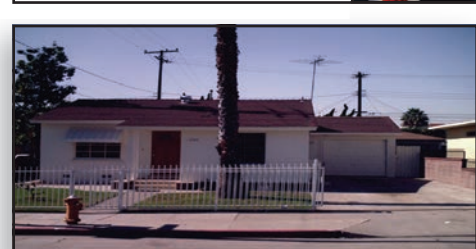
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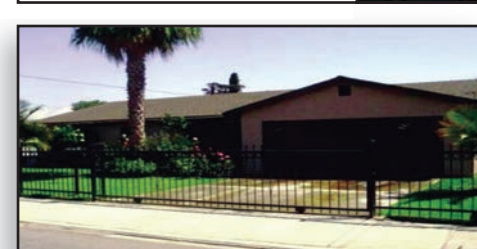
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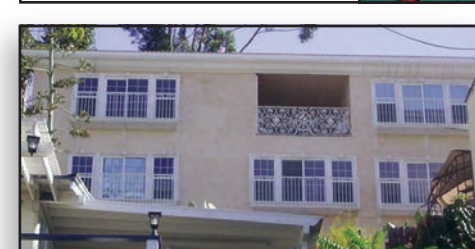
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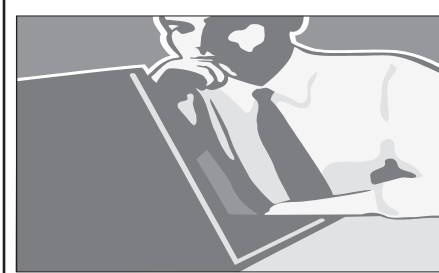
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PAYS TRIBUTE**



Century 21 Spotlights Character Counts Around Town

Great leadership starts at the top and then catches on like a flame. CENTURY 21 My Real Estate pays tribute to the Downey Unified School District for providing an opportunity for Character Counts training within the district. Under the direction of Director of Secondary Ed., Dr. Sara Cairns, a two-day Character Counts seminar was held. Teachers from each of the elementary schools and middle schools were chosen by their principals as recognized leaders willing to go back to their schools and implement their new knowledge. For two days teachers, as well as administrator Orchid Rocha and school board member Martha Santori, participated in training taught by Mary Jo Enyeart, West Middle School teacher and District Teacher Trainer for Character Counts. In addition to two full days packed with hands-on lessons, the teachers were treated to lunch provided by local Downey businesses Chipotle and Vistar. If you haven't heard about the Six Pillars of Character Counts, we challenge you to talk to a student in the Downey School District. It's clear that modeling great character starts at the top and works its way around the entire community.

Seminar participants include: Tiana Baccaro (Williams), Lindsay Barnes (Lewis), Liliana Bauer (Gauldin), Mario Bollom (East), Susan Bouris (Ward), Allison Box (Williams), Rebecca Brauser (West), Steve Catron (Griffiths), Isela Chan (Sussman), Trisha Cox-Nichols (Rio San Gabriel), Mary Dagani (Rio San Gabriel), Melissa Finn (Price), Jennifer Gonzalez (Alameda), Carol Gutierrez (Alameda), Dan Harney (West), Carrie Kim (Alameda), Brenda Lee (Ward), Joan Martin (Price), Sheri Martin (East), Brad Mathews (Lewis), Christina McCarty (Rio Hondo), Amy McLaughry (Unsworth), Terri Medina (Old River), Maricela Moreno (Gallatin), Angie Neumann (Griffiths), Dennis Petersen (Lewis), Cindy Ratelle (Price), Teddie Richard (Rio Hondo), Misty Rios (Gallatin), Ross Roybal (Old River), Katy Smyrniotis (Unsworth), Judy Spear (Rio San Gabriel), Brenda Staples (Gauldin), Cheyenne Swenson (Gallatin), Tricia Taggart (Carpenter) and David Tanaka (Gallatin).

**DOWNEY'S BEHIND THE SCENE
SUPERSTARS**

Happy Thanksgiving from the Prudential 24 Hour Team!

As we sit down with our families this holiday season, we wanted to share our blessings with the Downey community.

At Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate, we are thankful for...



Mel & Rita Berdelis
... We are blessed with a wonderful family and the amazing people we work with. We are truly thankful for the continued support of all of our clients and customers.
Mel & Rita



Michael Berdelis
...my wonderful family, friends and a prosperous year.



Frank Moreno
...my wonderful family, friends and associates. It's been a privilege to represent my clients and an honor to be referred by past clients and friends.



Jose Garcia-Yanez & Erika Gonzalez-Garcia
... for our children, family, friends & our wonderful clients.



Mary Jane Lee
...great family and great friends.



Jessica Lawrence
... God bless our clients & we thank you for another great year!



Jami Berdelis
...wishing my family and friends a Happy Thanksgiving.



Marie Picarelli
... my family, friends and the opportunity to work with wonderful people.



Zeke Pinaya
Happy Thanksgiving to all my wonderful clients I have worked with from the past, present and near future. I am thankful for your business.



Gabriel Reyes
...my wife Sylvia, who's smile lights up the room & our dog Luna, who is always happy to see us.



Edward Gonzales
...Love. Love from my family and friends that are my biggest supporters and the love for what I do which drives me everyday!



Vanessa Marquez
... my family, friends, clients and my associates at work.



Russell Skersick
...my *Brokers* that keep me employed!



Mary Frize
... my family and friends.



Rocio Gomez
... my family, friends and wonderful clients.



Amparo Gastelum
...my family, friends & my Grandson.



Richard Reyes
...family and friends.



Roger Beltran
...for your business.



Ken Ishiki
...my family and friends



Maureen Lopez
...my family, friends and the wonderful people I work with.



Luz Ortega
... family, friends and clients.



Cesar Rivas
...family, friends past and future clients .



Maria Nicolaou
... that I work with my family and friends.



Mario Persico
... God's continued blessings and grace, my family and friends.



Carmen Chavez
... I'm thankful for my career at Prudential.



Arlene Tanner
...health, family, friends and the support of my clients.



Monique Fernandez
...my family and God's blessing.



Cristina Picarelli
...my family, friends and clients.



James & Anton Polidore
...God, our family and the Prudential 24 Hour Team.



Angel Martinez
... the health, love & support of my family and friends.



Irma Rodriguez
...my life, my family and you... my clients.



Carrie Uva
... health, family & terrific clients.



Armando Martinez
...for all the support in the past year from my family & friends .



Maria & Armando Rivas
...our beautiful family & our children.



Susan Martene
..the health of myself, my family and my friends.



Helen Lancaster
...the love of the Lord and all the blessings He has brought into my life.



Carmen Fraire
...the people that believe in me.



Katonja Neal
...my home, family and friends.



Pat Walraven
...for my family, friends and their health.



Myriam Angulo
...wishing my family, friends and clients a Happy Holiday.



Manny & Vanessa
...our families & friends and our wonderful clients who have been so supportive.



Pat McCallum
...my 59 years in Downey and the friends and clients I have here.



Andi Grant
... God blessing me with beautiful family, friends and the opportunity to represent great people.



Irma Sandoval
...a wonderful family and all the blessings I have received this year .



Maria Elena Serrano
...all the blessings I have received and the opportunity to serve the community.



Dawnie Frize
...for my kids, my family and friends and the great clients & staff of Prudential 24 Hours.



Felix Garcia
...my family, my friends, clients & all the Great staff of Prudential.



Penny Watson
...over 25 years of keeping my clients happy.



Vicki Spearman
...love, support and health of my family.



Irma Valadez
...my beautiful family, friends and the blessings from God.



Ben & Stephanie Banuelos
... our family and clients.



Jimmy Spathos
...health, family and all my clients.



Christina Davilas
...the support, health and love of my family and friends.



Felix Lopez
...Mel and Rita and the wonderful 24 Hour staff.