



The Downey Patriot

Arc gets accredited...again
See Page 2

Life without limits
See Page 5

'Water for Elephants'
See Page 7

Friday, March 2, 2007

Vol. 5 No. 50

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

Moratorium extended



Supporters of Johnnie's Broiler held a "ghost cruise" last Sunday, two days before the City Council voted to extend a moratorium on the property to 10 months and 15 days. Photos by James Quick III/Brooks Institute of Photography

GOOD luncheon tickets limited but still available

DOWNEY – Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD), which has gained national recognition for its determined efforts to combat gang activity in Downey, will hold its annual luncheon April 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Rio Hondo Events Center.

Invitations will be available during the month of March and the event is expected to sell out shortly after the invitations are made available.

The luncheon, attended annually by over 400 community leaders and supporters, will again highlight the work being done by the community-based organization.

Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer for the Los Angeles County Probation Department will be this year's keynote speaker. Taylor was appointed to his position last year and manages the largest probation department in the world.

With his 42 years of professional law enforcement experience, he is considered one of the country's leading experts on crime in our society.

For more information on attending the luncheon, call Barbara Lamberth, Downey Federal Credit Union CEO, at (562) 862-8141, ext. 223, or Stan Hanstad, Assistant Superintendent, Downey Unified School District, at (562) 469-5461.

Time Traveler

Garden hose made international headlines

BY JOHN ADAMS
EDITOR EMERITUS

On July 4, 1955, a common plastic garden hose brought the world's print and electronic media to a previously quiet home on Alderdale Avenue and turned the lives of the Downey residents into a living hell.

Rockwell's space shuttle has since made Downey famous and the Rose Float parades down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena every New Year's Day. But in 1955 the garden hose that suddenly started burrowing straight down into the ground was probably the most famous event ever to occur here.

It set the news world on its ear.

George J. Di Peso hated that hose.

It started on a Thursday afternoon when Di Peso's daughter, Suzanne, was watering the lawn. She suddenly ran to the house and announced that the garden hose was going straight down into the ground and she couldn't pull it out.

Her mother couldn't budge it either.

Di Peso tried to pull it out with his truck. Not only did the truck fail, but the hose continued to gain in its effort to disappear into Mother Earth. By Saturday night, 17 feet of the hose had gone down the hole.

Arthur Swisher, field superintendent for the Arroyo Ditch and Water

See TRAVELER, page 4

No development at Johnnie's for 10 months

■ Results from police's criminal investigation, meanwhile, expected in two weeks.

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – A moratorium halting development of the Johnnie's Broiler property was extended for another 10 months and 15 days by the City Council this week. The unanimous vote gives the city more time to explore their developmental options with the site, located at 7447 E. Firestone Blvd.

Some residents, including those from the "Friends of Johnnie's" and the Los Angeles Conservancy, have called for the restaurant to be redeveloped to its past grandeur, citing the drive-in's historical and cultural significance to not only Downey, but the entire Southern California region.

Others, however, argue for property owner Cristos Smyrniotis' right to redevelop the site, which had grown dilapidated in recent years and served as a used car dealership since 2002.

The building was almost entirely bulldozed on Jan. 7. No demoli-

-tion permits were pulled from the city, officials said, and police treated the matter as a crime.

Police officials said the case was in the hands of the District Attorney and their findings are expected to be presented to the city in two weeks.

Smyrniotis previously told this newspaper that he knew nothing about the demolition and blamed his tenants for the destruction.

Supporters of Johnnie's Broiler, meanwhile, organized a "ghost cruise" last Sunday. A large turnout of classic cars cruised from Bob's Big Boy in Toluca Lake to Johnnie's Broiler, where volunteers collected nearly 300 petition signatures calling for the restaurant's complete restoration.

A permit to turn Johnnie's into a "retail mall" was received by the city last October. The request was denied by the City of Downey Planning Division a month later.

Council terminates City Attorney Vose

■ Services of City Attorney Charlie Vose will be terminated July 1. Reasons are 'confidential.'

BY HENRY VENERACION
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—Confirming rumors, the City Council at the conclusion of its regular meeting Tuesday decided to terminate the services of City Attorney/Economic Development Director Charles S. Vose effective July 1, 2007.

According to City Clerk Kathleen L. Midstokke, the effectivity of the termination coincides with Vose's retirement date.

She wouldn't divulge the reasons for the stunning development, saying the matter, decided upon in closed session, was "confidential."

She would say only that staff has been directed to initiate the process to retain a law firm to assume the functions of the City Attorney's office, as well as to recruit a new Economic Development Director.

See COUNCIL, page 7

'True Grit' essence of Sara Cairns

BY HENRY VENERACION

The following is by no means a complete list of words/phrases used to capture the character of Downey Unified School District's Sara C. Cairns, Ph. D., should really be rendered in superlatives: commitment, dedication, sense of humor, breadth of interest, vision, drive, love of children, adventure, professionalism, focus on things that matter.

As Director of Secondary Education, after a solid educational grounding (B.S. in science and physical education, Cal State Poly in Pomona; master's in education, CSULB (Phi Beta Kappa); Ph. D. in education, administration/policy and planning, and curriculum and instruction, USC), she is knee-deep in, among other things, developing standards-based curriculum and instruction guidelines, coordinating the testing and assessment for all the middle and high schools in the district, coordinating and supervising grade and accountability reports to the state, administering the stellar AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) programs, coordinating data pro-

See CAIRNS, page 9

Downey man dies after crashing into bus

DOWNEY – Downey resident Nicolaos Colimitras, 66, died Feb. 19 after his car slammed into the back of a stalled shuttle bus going northbound on the 710 Freeway, authorities said.

Colimitras' 1997 Ford Escort struck the rear of a City of Los Angeles DASH shuttle bus that was stopped in the number one lane near the Arteria Blvd. exit, said authorities. According to the California Highway Patrol, he had been driving at 65 mph.

Colimitras was transported to Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead, CHP said.



R&B artist Nicole Kehl performing here Sunday

■ Kehl to give free concert as she promotes upcoming debut album.

DOWNEY – Pop and R&B songstress Nicole Kehl will give fans a sneak preview of her upcoming debut album when she performs a free concert this Sunday at 2 p.m. at Stonewood Center in the Macy's Court.

The performance is part of spring concert tour through seven Macerich shopping malls in Southern California. Kehl's professional music career began in 2001 when she joined the group, Fourte'. As a member, Kehl performed throughout her hometown of Salt Lake City before the group caught the attention of talent representatives who booked them a spot in a Radio Disney Jam Band.

Kehl was invited to perform throughout the 2002 Winter Olympics and continued to hone her skills by singing at malls, fundraiser events, fairs, baseball games, and other events. She was introduced to four-time Billboard number one hit songwriter Andrew Lane in 2004, who has helped in producing Kehl's debut album.

Kehl labels Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Chaka Kahn, Steve Perry and U2 as her musical influences. She's signed to Mega Music, a division of Universal Records.

For more information on the event, other tour dates or sample music clips, visit www.nicolemusic.com.



Arc passes review, gets three-year accreditation

■ Arc receives highest accreditation honor, number six for the non-profit organization.

DOWNEY – Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County was recently awarded the highest accreditation honor by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The three-year accreditation is the sixth consecutive honor for Arc, which serves over 400 individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

An organization receiving the CARF accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer-review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable and accountable.

The survey takes three days and is conducted on-site.

Arc also received an exemplary commendation for Elmo Cooper and Tom LaFontaine, consumers of Arc who also serve on the Board of Directors.

For information on Arc, or to join them for the Arc Walk for Independence on March 24, call (562) 803-4606.

Temple will celebrate Jewish Purim holiday

DOWNEY – Temple Ner Tamid of Downey will celebrate one of Judaism's most joyous holidays on March 4 at 4 p.m.

Purim celebrates the episode in Jewish history in which Queen Esther and her cousin, Mordechai, of ancient Persia, foiled a genocidal plot against the Persian Jews led by the villain Haman, courtier to King Xerxes. The celebration is marked by dressing in costumes, feasting and noisy revelry.

Temple Ner Tamid's festivities will begin with a short service in the synagogue sanctuary led by Rabbi Len Muroff and Cantor Ellen Jaffe-Gill. The rabbi, cantor and congregation will also read selections from the biblical Book of Esther, which tells the story of Purim.

The congregation will perform a Purim Shpiel, or short comic play, after the reading. Finally, everyone will enjoy a potluck dinner in the Temple's Fellowship Hall.

There is no charge for the Purim celebration and the community is invited. You should bring a vegetarian salad or dish to participate in the potluck.

Temple Ner Tamid is located at 10629 Lakewood Boulevard. Shabbat Services are held every Friday at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (562) 861-9276 or email templenertamid@juno.com.



Tom Houts, Downey High School principal, accepts a \$50,000 contribution made by Kiwanis Club of Downey this month. The donation will help to bring state-of-the-art equipment to the new lab, expected to open in December. Photo by Gwynn Gustafson, Co-Op Cache Consulting

Realtors giving out four scholarships

DOWNEY – The Downey Association of Realtors will be giving out at least four \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from Columbus, Downey and Warren High Schools and Downey Adult School.

Applications are available at www.daor.com or by visiting a school counselor. Deadline to submit an application is March 2.

Outstanding kids sought for Hall of Fame

DOWNEY – Nominations are being taken for the Kids Day Hall of Fame, which honors the extraordinary achievements of Downey's youth.

Community leaders, employers, teachers, coaches and parents are encouraged to nominate kids in grades 1-12 who are achieving academically, athletically or improving themselves and their community.

All nominees are invited to the Kids Day Hall of Fame ceremony May 2 at the Downey Theatre where the top nominees will be inducted into the Hall, as chosen by a neutral panel of community members. All nominees and inductees will receive a "goody bag" and certificates of achievement.

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

Hackers infiltrate museum's phone lines

BY BROOKE KARLI
THE DOWNEY PATRIOT

DOWNEY – The Downey Museum of Art had to change all access codes on their message and phone lines after their voicemail was breached by international hackers last week.

According to Kate Davies, executive director of the museum, anyone who called the museum last week would hear a young man heavily breathing instead of the museum's message.

After the public alerted the museum of the distorted message, MCI Fraud Unit was able to trace the hacking back to the Philippines. According to MCI, the hackers gained illegal entry into the voicemail through their computers, hoping to leave a message that could be used for fraudulent long distance calls that would later be rerouted to the caller's phone.

Since the incident, DMOA has returned its voicemail to its normal recording.

The museum requests that any further difficulties be reported in an email and sent to dmoa.newmuseum@earthlink.net.

School of choice enrollment in April

DOWNEY – The Downey Unified School District will be conducting its annual school of choice open enrollment during the month of April for the 2007-08 school year.

Downey students wishing to attend a Downey school out of their attendance area may apply and may pick up an application beginning April 2 at any Downey school or at the DUSD office during the open enrollment period.

It is recommended that students, including kindergarten students entering a Downey school for the first time and wishing to apply for school of choice, should also register at the school in their assigned attendance area. This will guarantee registration in the district for the new school year.

Applications must be submitted to the DUSD office by the closing deadline of 4 p.m. on April 30. Applications are not processed on a first come, first served basis. A random, unbiased lottery will be held to place students on a school of choice waiting list for the 2007-2008 school year. Schools may accept students from the established waiting lists according to priority, but only if space is available.

For information, contact the office of pupil services at (562) 469-6554.

Photography winners announced

DOWNEY – The Warren High School ROP Commercial Photography Department has announced the winners of the Women's Club of Downey photography contest.

Lisette Fagundo took first place with "Fake France." Second place went to Kimberly Patron and her submission, "Modern Amusement," and Vivian Lee took third with "Lamplight."

Fagundo's photograph will now advance to district and possible state competitions.

"We didn't lose the game. We just ran out of time."
--Vince Lombardi

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DJAA taking baseball sign-ups

DOWNEY – The Downey Junior Athletic Association (DJAA) is now taking sign-ups for the baseball season.

Sign-ups will be held March 3 and March 10 at Apollo Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. New this year is t-ball for kindergarteners.

Children should have a copy of their birth certificate, last report card or school ID and registration fees, \$60, when signing up. The baseball league is open to boys and girls grades K-8.

Call (562) 861-3727 with questions.

Free tax services for firefighters

DOWNEY – Liberty Tax Service is waiving tax preparation fees for firefighters. The tax breaks will be honored March 3-11.

“Often the service these community servants provide puts them in harm’s way to keep our streets and neighborhoods safe. They respond quickly to our needs, and we wish to show our appreciation in this way,” Hiral Kapadia, owner of the Liberty Tax Service Downey branch, said. “This is our way of saying thanks.”

Liberty Tax Service is at 8646 E. Florence Avenue in Downey. For information, call (562) 904-1040.

Microsoft Excel class at Downey library

DOWNEY – Adults can learn the basics of Microsoft Excel during a free class offered by the Downey City Library March 10 from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the computer lab.

“Introduction to Excel” will teach students how to create a workbook, format worksheets, enter and edit data and use simple calculations and formulas. Excel can also be used to create spreadsheets for tracking finances or inventory items.

For reservations, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 32.

Reservations due soon for luncheon

DOWNEY – The OLPH Women’s Guild will hold its annual luncheon honoring their past presidents on March 10 at the Rio Hondo Events Center at 11 a.m. Price of admission is \$25 and reservations are due by March 5.

Payments should be sent to Polly Glenn, 7314 Cleargrove Dr., Downey, CA 90240. Checks should be made payable to Catholic Women’s Guild.

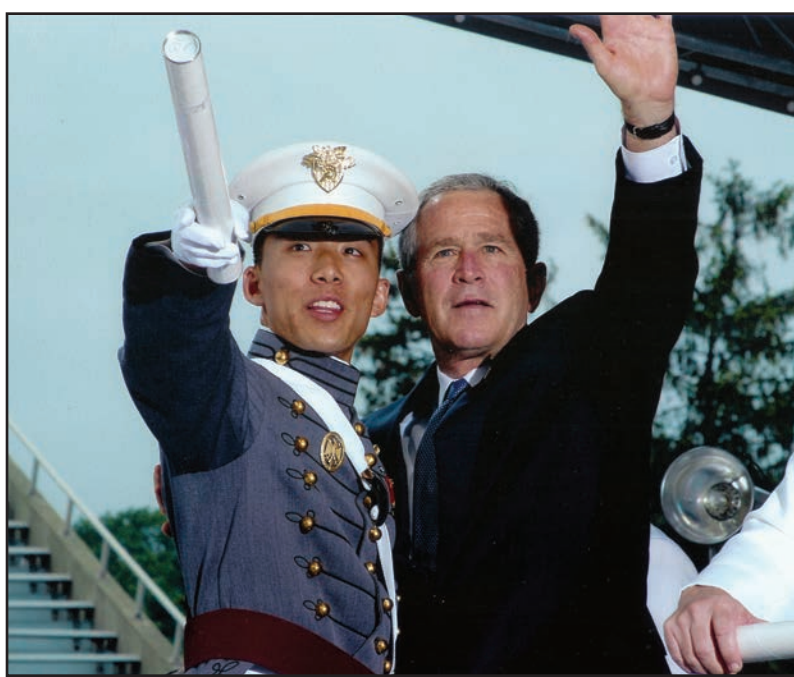
Rancho’s Amistad Gala March 24

LONG BEACH – The 21st Annual Amistad Gala, an evening to benefit the patients of Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center, will be held March 24 at the Westin Long Beach Hotel in Long Beach.

The black-tie event is titled “The Art of Partnership” and will feature a silent auction and reception starting at 5:30 p.m. and dinner and program at 7.

Rancho will be honoring Bank of America, Robert Thome, Marilyn Pires and the Los Amigos Research & Education.

For information on attending, call (562) 401-7053.



Second Lieutenant Eugene Choi, Warren alumni, graduated from the United States Military Academy on May 27, 2006 with a Bachelors of Science in International Relations and Environmental Engineering. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army by President George W. Bush. He then joined the Armor Branch and recently graduated from the Mounted Officer Basic Course at Fort Knox, Ky. His first assignment will be as a tank or scout platoon leader in South Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division.

Carranza graduates from Army course

DOWNEY – Army National Guard Pvt. Kevin A. Carranza has graduated from the Automated Logistical Specialist Advanced Individual Training course at the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School at Fort Lee in Petersburg, Va.

The course is designed to train soldiers to establish and maintain stock records and other documents such as inventory, material control, accounting and support reports, and automated and manual accounting records. Carranza was also trained to perform stock record/warehouse functions pertaining to receipt, storage and distribution.

He also learned to review and verify bills of lading, contracts and purchase orders, in addition to repairing and constructing shipping crates for equipment and supplies.

Carranza is the son of Rosa Carranza of Downey.

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Annual Arc Walk, still growing, set March 24

■ Eleventh annual walk expected to raise thousands and create awareness.

By JOHN ADAMS
EDITOR EMERITUS

DOWNEY – A gala outdoor event that combines the finer aspects of exercise with the caring for one’s fellow man will be offered Sat., March 24 in the Stonewood Center lot next to the Acapulco Restaurant.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with walks of one and two mile courses set to start at 8 a.m.

The ARC, formerly known as the Association for Retarded Citizens, maintains training and educational facilities at 9501 Washburn Road, Downey.

In 10 years, this event has grown from 220 participants in 1997 to 2000 in 2006 and raised more than \$550,000 to help with the more than 40 programs.

The Arc hopes to exceed the 28 major sponsors of last year’s event. Many businesses, families and church groups participate as teams with cheering sections and balloons. A major high school marching band attends each year, along with many clowns and cartoon characters.

Registration is \$10 with children under 10 free.

Contestants will vie for Miss Downey crown

DOWNEY – Contestants have been announced for the annual Miss Downey Pageant, which will be held this year March 17 at the Downey Theatre.

There are 46 girls competing this year for the titles of Miss Downey and Miss Teen Downey.

Tickets to the pageant are \$22 and available for purchase through the contestants or by calling the pageant director, Susan Domen, at (562) 7172.

Anyone wishing to help sponsor a contestant or donate towards the awards program should contact Domen as well.

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ARC of Southeast Los Angeles County
WALK FOR INDEPENDENCE 2007
SATURDAY, MARCH 24

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TRAVELER

Continued from page 1

Company took a look. His only explanation was that the area around Rancho Los Amigos was known to contain quicksand. He said that might explain the hose's sinking, but didn't explain how the hose got through the thick layer of topsoil to begin with.

It couldn't be gophers, reasoned the experts, because gophers don't go straight down and have not been known to overpower trucks. The nearest sewer line was 30 feet away.

In the 1950s atomic radiation was a catch-all explanation for many aspects of the unknown. Geiger counters were called in, but they showed no unusual radiation.

Old-timers suggested that the Rio Hondo River might have changed its underground channel and be sucking the hose down.

Others recalled when they buried a cow 10 years before and barely got out of the pit alive when it caved in due to quicksand.

By this time the nation's wire service had got hold of the story.

Di Peso was disgusted with media hounds tramping across his lawn and asking him the same questions again and again. He was so tired he decided to end the matter, and cut the hose off Sunday night, covering over the spot where it had entered the earth.

The media and amateur scientists were aghast. They appealed to his sense of fair play. He couldn't just walk away from this!

Overwhelmed, he dug up the hose end and wired the pieces back together. It was now Tuesday night. The hose had slowed down. But it was still inching its way downward.

Meanwhile, in keeping with their growing fame as the keepers of the hose, the Di Peso family appeared on Art Linkletter's TV show, "House Party," and were given a TV. One Samaritan even donated \$5 for Di Peso to repair his battered lawn.

After the TV appearance the hose mania cooled down. The world may never know whether the hose disappeared into the earth in its entirety or was again cut. Di Peso had stopped talking. He and his family breathed a sigh of relief and returned to a normal life.

However, the hose has never been completely forgotten. John Vincent of the Downey Historical Society received a phone call from a columnist on the *Baltimore Sun* in July of 1988. The writer wanted to know if there was anything new about the hose?

His newspaper had carried a series of stories on the odd incident in 1955, and he said he'd encountered the old clippings and thought he'd call.

So you see, the story resurfaces occasionally, even though the hose doesn't!

Kids Day scheduled for May 12

DOWNEY – This year's Kids Day will take place May 12 at Furman Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the City of Downey Community Services Department has announced.

This will be the 20-year anniversary of the event, which will carry the theme, "Shaping a Healthy Future for Downey's Youth."

All of the awards, entertainment, refreshments and carnival supplies and prizes are obtained through the support of the community. Sponsors will be recognized at the Hall of Fame event May 2 at the Downey Theatre, in the winter Community Services Guide and in numerous press releases.

For information on how to contribute, call (562) 904-7238.

DRMC doctor named osteopathic president

DOWNEY – Dr. Mark Schneider became President of the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California (OPSC) last month and will serve for a one-year term, Downey Regional Medical Center announced this week.

The OPSC is a chartered divisional society of the American Osteopathic Association. It is the only professional organization representing the interests of osteopathic physicians in California.

Schneider also serves on the Downey Regional Medical Center Hospital Board of Directors and as Program Director of the DRMC Family Practice Residency Program. He practices with Community Medical Group in Downey.

At Schneider's Feb. 24 OPSC induction in Palm Springs, DRMC CEO Allen Korneff stated, "It has been my privilege to work with Mark for more than two decades, and I can tell you he is highly regarded by his physician peers and the physicians-in-training that he mentors. Mark Schneider joined our medical staff in 1984 and throughout his tenure with us has capably served in key leadership positions at the hospital."

"He was president of our medical staff in 2000-2002. He has served for multiple terms on the Medical Executive Committee and continues to be our Chairman of the Department of Family Practice, and Residency Director for our

'Mastering Your Speech' seminar

DOWNEY – Downey Toastmasters Club #587 is presenting "Mastering Your Speech" on March 6 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Room 116 at the First Baptist Church of Downey located at 8348 3rd St.

Lance Miller, the 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking, will share the many tips and secrets he discovered, developed and used to become the world champion.

The event is free and the community is invited. For information, call (562) 928-2658.

Family Practice Residency Program.

As a member of the Downey Regional Medical Center Board of Directors for nearly five years, he has proven to be a calm yet determined force for unity and progressive medical care in the midst of some very challenging times."

Osteopathic Physicians (Doctor of Osteopathy or D.O.) are fully educated and licensed to practice all aspects of medicine. They are physicians who may be certified to specialize in family medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, surgery, internal medicine, and all other medical specialties and subspecialties.

They use all of the resources of modern medicine to prevent, detect, and treat disease, but they also offer their patients something extra. Osteopathic physicians are specially trained to perform Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT), a method in which they use their hands to diagnose and treat the patient, giving particular attention to muscles and nerves, joints, bones. OMT is employed to relieve pain and discomfort and to assist the body's ability to heal itself.



The Poets' Corner

High Wire Act

High up above the garden wall
where cats but gaze and pigeons call
I saw a tree rat hurrying
along phone line scurrying

I thought perhaps that it would fall
And as I watched that rat so small
I paused a little worrying
And pitied that poor furry thing

This act has lasted several days
We both have had our separate ways
So ratty hasn't fallen yet –
Well, tree rats work without a net

— John Vincent,
Downey

2 a.m.

it's 2 a.m. and I can't sleep
because I'm thinking about you
tossing and turning, eyes shut tight
but my mind wanders back to you
I wonder if you're sleeping or if you're awake
and if so, what's on your mind?
it's 2 a.m. and I wonder
is it me that's on your mind?
I fight the temptation to grab my phone
and call you this late at night
I have nothing to say, nothing really
just that I love you and good night
I want to hear you say hello
I want to hear you speak
I want you to put my mind at ease
it's 2 a.m. and I can't sleep

—Eric Maxim,
Downey

Gafin will host series of town hall meetings

DOWNEY – Mayor Pro Tem David Gafin will update residents and business owners on the current state of the city, while discussing the challenges and successes of District 1, when he hosts a series of town hall meetings throughout the month of March.

"I want to hear from my constituents and update them on the happenings of the city," Gafin said. "Involvement is a fundamental ingredient to making our democracy work. My constituents elected me to represent them and getting together with them at their convenience to discuss our progress is extremely important to me."

Gafin will host five town hall meetings, listed below.

- March 7 6 – 7 p.m. Carpenter School, 9439 Foster Street
- March 15 6 – 7 p.m. Gauldin School, 9724 Spry Street
- March 21 6 – 7 p.m. Ward School, 8851 Adoree Street
- March 29 6 – 7 p.m. Lewis School, 13220 Bellflower Blvd.

Free child care will be provided during the meetings and no reservations are required. Meetings will follow similar format with question-and-answer periods at the end of each meetings.

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Limitless

By Brooke Karli

For the majority of my life, I have been raised going to church. And in the countless number of times I have sat in the green-colored pews, I have heard the personal testimonies of many individuals, ranging from the professional football player that was addicted to drugs, to the man who nearly killed his family and himself. Their testimonies weren't just about overcoming their addictions and problems, but more so about how God gave them new life.

In a packed sanctuary at Calvary Chapel of Downey two weeks ago, I heard a testimony unlike any I have ever heard before. Twenty-four year old Nick Vujicic has never been addicted to drugs, committed a crime or had thoughts of suicide. He instead has had to endure emotional hurts due to his physical appearance – he was born without arms and legs.

At first glance, it is a little strange to see a man made of only a head, torso and what he calls a "chicken wing," a piece of flesh that mocks the look of a foot, minus three toes. And you can't help but wonder how a person with such circumstances can be so happy and filled with life.

For Nick, it's all about perspective. Is it hard to live without the help of two arms and legs? Of course. Is it frustrating and sometimes unbearable? Undoubtedly. But for Nick, he looks at his life as a short visit here on Earth, and why not share his story with those who face challenges, whether physical or not.

There may be no medical explanation for Nick's condition, but he knows that there is a reason for everything – it's just a matter of what you do with what you're given.

For him, it's a transformation of going, "from life without limbs, to life without limits."

Visit his website at www.lifewithoutlimbs.org and be inspired by an individual who doesn't need arms and legs to make a difference in the world.

Health savings accounts: Vegas or bust?

By Laura L. Casey

What does *consumer driven health care* mean? Quick, run out and get a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP), stock your Health Savings Account (HSA) with tax free dollars and save, save, save on those monthly premiums. A dream come true.

First, did anybody really understand what they were buying when they bought their managed care PPO or HMO insurance? Did anybody read their Certificate of Coverage, the legal document that binds the subscriber to their insurance company, before some health crisis struck? Of course not, we're Americans - we never get sick. My employer provides me with 'good insurance'; I don't need to worry about a thing. The insurance industry's latest buzz, *Consumer Driven Health Care*, is the latest attempt to curb our health care spending.

When are we going to learn, that in order to improve our health care delivery system we are going to have to participate in the process and get out of denial? That now creates a financial crisis for the family in addition to the health crisis.

Truth be known, you will eventually place your chips on black and the roulette ball will land in the red - literally. Realize the insurance industry has already done the math and know the odds lie in their favor. They otherwise wouldn't be offering the product.

I still don't understand the term *consumer driven health care* and how it relates to helping the health care consumer make more informed choices. It may begin to make more sense when I can know what my care will cost and have a simple indemnity plan to cover what I use. After decades of teaching me how managed health care works I will keep my PPO and place my bets in Vegas.

Laura Casey is the author of "How to Get the Health Care You Want", available at www.amazon.com.

Corrections


- An item last week incorrectly stated that the Hoag Foundation was sponsoring an orchestra concert for Downey fifth graders. They are not.
- The caption underneath the photo of actress Erin Marie last week listed incorrect movie titles. She has not acted in any movies.
- The Gangs Out of Downey luncheon set for April 18 is not sold out, as previously reported. Tickets, expected to sell out, are still available.
- The singer Allinda will perform at La Villa restaurant Saturday, March 3.

Letters to the editor may be submitted by writing to The Downey Patriot, 11525 Downey Ave., Suite A, Downey CA 90241 or by e-mail to downeypatriot@yahoo.com

The Downey Patriot

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Letters to the Editor:

Bond interpretation

Dear Editor:
 Your staff writer reported that Downey Unified School District joined with some business called California Municipal Finance Authority and created a new entity and named it the Downey School Facilities Financing Authority (The Downey Patriot, 2/23/07). This new entity's first act was to authorize the school district to become indebted to the tune of \$24 million to the California Municipal Finance Authority, whoever they are.

The net result, says Kevin Condon, Asst. Supt. Business Services, will be to release \$1.5 million in additional funds for school modernization. This will save taxpayers money?
 My interpretation of what the article says is probably wrong, but the whole thing sounds like a bunch of flimflam, dealing off the bottom of the deck to me. Issuing bonds is something like taking out a second mortgage on your house. I'd like to know how general obligation bonds can be issued without approval by the voters; how much money the DUSD will receive and how much money in total they will have to pay back. And how will all the money be spent?

I'd also like to learn how I, as a property owner and taxpayer, will save money. Are my taxes going to decrease? Possibly, The Downey Patriot could explain this in a subsequent article so I know the DUSD is doing a good thing.

— Russell Rankin, Sr., Downey

Golden Arches first in Downey

Dear Editor:
 Now is the time to clarify the issue of McDonald's being first in Downey. That distinction belongs to San Bernardino.

The Golden Arches erected on the corner of Florence and Lakewood for all to see how many hamburgers sold is the first McDonald's Golden Arches – not the building preparing the food for customers.

Since Bob Riding has been visiting Downey for 45 years, perhaps I served him when Harvey's Broiler was in its prime.

Perhaps he will go see the Golden Arches on his next visit.
 — Catherine Reed, Downey

We like this idea, too

Dear Editor:
 I have a great idea, something you may already be doing. How about having a regular "Interview" column each week? How about an interview with Dr. Mary Stauffer? How about interviewing Gerald Caton or various city council members? Businesses, students, civic leaders, etc.?

As an example, I recently read a great bio piece by Henry Veneracion on Downey Unified School District's Kevin Condon. We are lucky to have so many wonderful people who do a great job or volunteer time to make Downey a better place. We have many people, like my mother, who in her late 80's is still very involved.

Interviews and human interest stories are insightful and always enjoyed by this reader.

Keep up the good work.
 — Larry Latimer, Downey

Donations greatly appreciated

Dear Editor:
 Downey High School Band Boosters would like to thank the following wonderful people who have donated to our children of hardship families:

Mas Nakamura of Downey, Clifford Young of Downey, Ivar and Helen Skovseth of Downey, David N. Stein of Downey Eye Care Center, John and Diana Moser, and Doug and Rachel McClure.

The money received helps students pay fees that range between \$350-\$500 each year.

We have some children that want to be in the music program but cannot afford to pay the fees due to financial reasons. We will not turn away any child who loves music and wants to participate in the program, but this of course puts a burden on the program, especially if we have several children that cannot afford to pay, so the donations are greatly appreciated.

— Jeni Meza, DHS Band Booster Treasurer

How much 'ugly' can a million buy?

Dear Editor:
 Just go look at any of the concrete catastrophes erupting in our neighborhoods. The uniqueness and charm of our West Coast bungalow and ranch-style city has been forever altered by these cold, character-less, stucco boxes that are long on gaudiness and short on style. These houses would fit better in a desert area like Indio or Moreno Valley, or a planned community like Irvine.

These things are all designed by architects who have at least one thing in common: they can't design a house with an attractive front door. Thirty-foot columns don't replace the warmth of a front door that says, "Welcome to our home, friends, come on in." Turrets and balconies shout, "Lower the drawbridge! The visitors approach!" What about the neighbors that now have shadow where there used to be sun and breezes? Canyon-like walls looming over your home must be very imposing and couldn't offer any sense of privacy ("...since you're now hovering over my backyard, what do you think of my backstroke? Oh, and I hope the top of my garage roof doesn't cut into your view of my driveway.")

As I was driving through our city today a thought occurred to me: some of these boxy balcony palaces look like flashy, cheesy restaurants in a foreign country. I know ugly (like beauty) is in the eye of the beholder, but I just can't seem to get this ugly out of my eyes! Seeing two of them racing to up right across the street from each other would be funny if it wasn't twice as ugly.

I wonder how many of the original buyers will stay in these houses for the rest of their lives. These have got to be the only type of real estate in California that will lose value from the instant they're bought. My home has nearly quadrupled in value in 10 years...but I can't see a million dollars of ugly being worth four million in 2017 (ugly may be cheap but I bet it won't bring a good return on the initial investment). How many of these houses will go into default in the next few years? I know how many Downey is stuck with: All of them.

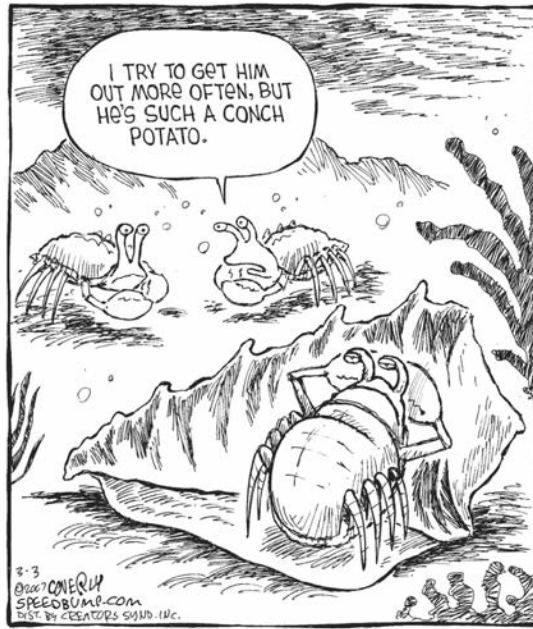
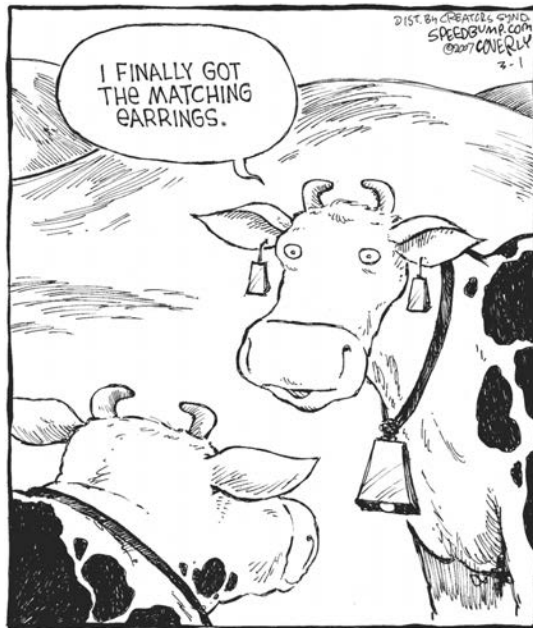
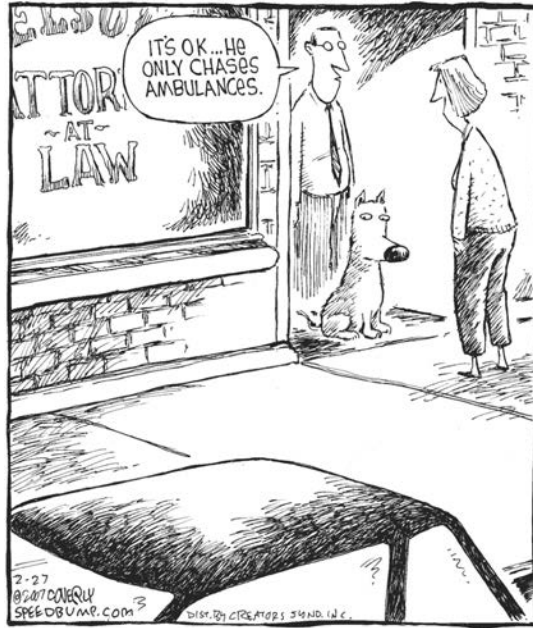
A million dollars can buy a lot of ugly, but it can't buy an ounce of charm. We need serious neighborhood preservation in our city. I understand there are laws on the books that relate to maintaining the character of existing neighborhoods. Can someone explain to me why they aren't being enforced?

— Richard McAllister, Downey

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For March

Sun. March 4: **R&B artist Nicole Kehl** performs at Macy's Court, 2 p.m.
Tues. March 6: **"Mastering Your Speech"**, Downey First Baptist Church, 7 p.m.
Thurs. March 8: **Book Lover's Club**, Downey Library, Noon

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 928-2658.
7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 441**, at Apollo Park Activities Room, for information call 923-3659.
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 Sambi'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...

March 2, 1836: Texas declares its independence from Mexico.
1903: The Martha Washington Hotel opens in New York City. It was the first hotel built exclusively for women.
1940: Elmer Fudd makes his television debut in the cartoon, "Elmer's Candid Camera."
1962: Wilt Chamberlain scores 100 points against the New York Knicks, setting the National Basketball Association record for points in a game.

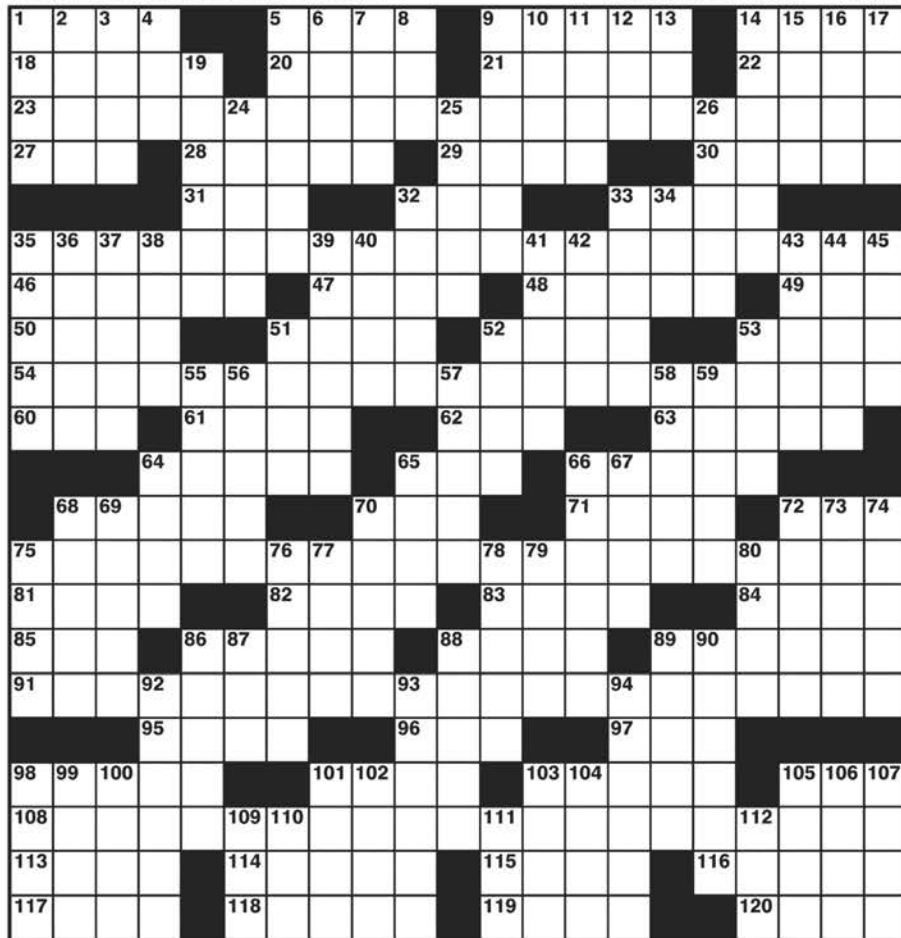
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

QUADRUPLE FEATURE: Forming sentences from one-word film titles
by Randall J. Hartman

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Get outta here!"
 - 5 Dutch cheese
 - 9 Big name in TV talk
 - 14 Polio-vaccine developer
 - 18 Hawaiian island
 - 20 '70s Israeli prime minister
 - 21 Carbon copy
 - 22 Bread spread
 - 23 Plenty of autos battle gridlock?
 - 27 Bear home
 - 28 Suspicious
 - 29 Tel Aviv filer
 - 30 Tuck away
 - 31 Bauxite or galena
 - 32 Santa __, CA
 - 33 RSVP enclosure
 - 35 Crime bosses lease Citizen Kane's mansion?
 - 46 Like this clue
 - 47 Laggard in an
 - 48 Aesop fable
 - 49 Expressed disapproval
 - 49 Opposite of long.
 - 50 Writer Eda Le __
 - 51 Nix
 - 52 Majestic display
 - 53 Director Kazan
 - 54 Cincinnati team has a long losing streak? " __ you kidding?"
 - 60 Architect Saarinen
 - 62 Camp or care preceder
 - 63 Roman historian
 - 64 Fund, as a scholarship
 - 65 Golfer Ernie
 - 66 Take the floor
 - 68 Below low
 - 70 Horatian creation
 - 71 Tree of life locale
 - 72 __ de deux
 - 75 Ignorant youngsters are afraid of Casper?
 - 81 Take on
 - 82 "Rad!"
 - 83 Subtraction word
 - 84 Novelist Seton
 - 85 Hardwood
 - 86 Penny-ante
 - 88 Scintilla
 - 89 Fourth-down player, often
 - 91 Mad foreigner spotted desperadoes?
 - 95 Sty cry
 - 96 Utmost
 - 97 Inlet, e.g.
 - 98 Paula of *American Idol*
 - 101 Bouillabaisse is one
 - 103 On the Ligurian
 - 105 Lots of mins.
 - 108 Silly medal winner bemoaned the summer?
 - 113 Like the Atacama
 - 114 In the company of
 - 115 French cheese
 - 116 Supernatural
 - 117 Writer Jaffe
 - 118 Great __ Mountains
 - 119 Drains
 - 120 Hound sound
- DOWN**
- 1 Toboggan, for one
 - 2 Short staff
 - 3 Soon
 - 4 Greek cross
 - 5 Roast hosts
 - 6 Letter starter
 - 7 Lighthearted
 - 8 __ Doubtfire
 - 9 Eyepiece
 - 10 Court statement
 - 11 Breadbasket item
 - 12 Picnic pest
 - 13 On __ Majesty's Secret Service
 - 14 Get mushy
 - 15 __ Romeo
 - 16 18 Across souvenirs
 - 17 Former Big Apple mayor
 - 19 Dome homes
 - 24 Sage and basil
 - 25 Thick as a brick
 - 26 President of Syria
 - 32 Road-sign symbol
 - 33 Discontinues
 - 34 Paul Bunyan's tool
 - 35 Port of Iraq
 - 36 Blood of Olympians
 - 37 It may come before supper
 - 38 Tony Shalhoub TV series
 - 39 It topped 12,000 in 2006
 - 40 Erodes
 - 41 Piano-key material
 - 42 Alaskan port
 - 43 Edgar __ Poe
 - 44 Dagwood's dog
 - 45 Beehive State
 - 51 __ Beach, FL
 - 52 Mom-and-pop orgs.
 - 53 *Phantom of the Opera* title character
 - 55 Streisand film
 - 56 Try another shade on
 - 57 Ran in neutral
 - 58 *Inside the Third Reich* writer
 - 59 Bell sound
 - 64 Summer Games event
 - 65 Get copy ready
 - 66 Two-person ride
 - 67 Palm Pilots and BlackBerrys
 - 68 Inventor Howe
 - 69 Hard to see through
 - 70 Giraffe cousin
 - 72 Loren's husband
 - 73 So far
 - 74 Rigel and Betelgeuse
 - 75 Karate blow
 - 76 Quarterback play
 - 77 Diploma feature
 - 78 Play in a puddle
 - 79 Greek cheese
 - 80 Crew member
 - 86 Texas culinary specialty
 - 87 Snookums
 - 88 Bisected
 - 89 City in Cole Porter titles
 - 90 Like some beds
 - 92 "I __ been a contender"
 - 93 Couch potato's lack
 - 94 Some guitars
 - 98 A great distance
 - 99 Bklyn. or Manhattan, informally
 - 100 Slay
 - 101 "Get outta here!"
 - 102 Race of about six miles
 - 103 Special atmosphere
 - 104 *Price Is Right* prize
 - 105 Roll-call response
 - 106 Commuter line
 - 107 Bit of choreography
 - 109 Airline to Stockholm
 - 110 "Very interesting..."
 - 111 CSI network
 - 112 "What's the big idea?"

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2007 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 2/25/07



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.

Among the many film and stage portrayals of Golda Meir (20 Across) are Ingrid Bergman, Anne Bancroft, Faye Dunaway and Judy Davis. The Great Smoky Mountains (118 Across) are part of the Appalachian range, straddling the Tennessee-North Carolina border. The sheep's-milk cheese described in Homer's "Odyssey" is usually considered to be an early form of FETA (79 Down).



COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

In other action the Council:

•Adopted an urgency ordinance extending, for a period of 10 months and 15 days, a moratorium on any further actions affecting the property known as "Johnie's Broiler" located at 7447 E. Firestone Blvd. Councilmember Kirk Cartozian said the situation won't be resolved overnight and that the moratorium will provide sufficient time to consider all possible options (concurring by everyone), including laying the groundwork for possible "criminal and civil" litigation (Dave Gafin), against the property owner.

Lennie Whittington suggested that the graffiti problem at the site was getting worse, and that abatement procedures are needed.

•Approved the extension of an on-call real estate appraisal services agreement with The Bronstein Company Inc. (TBC), as the city continues with its right-of-way acquisition efforts for Phase 3 of the Lakewood Boulevard Improvement (LBI) Project (between Telegraph Rd. and Fifth St.). The city has worked with Tarzana-based TBC before. The agreement applies to other related projects, including roadway improvements (anticipating future increased traffic volumes) at the Paramount Blvd./Firestone Blvd. and Bellflower Blvd./Imperial Highway intersections;

•Referred to a Hearing Officer an appeal of conditions on the previously issued police permit for entertainment/dancing issued to Hully Gully, located at 9559 Imperial Highway;

•Adopted a resolution prohibiting parking of vehicles on both sides of Paramount Blvd. (between Florence Ave. and Lubec St.), a distance of approximately 800 ft., to "improve traffic flow, reduce congestion and enhance traffic safety." The measure would moreover ease the movement of emergency vehicles as Fire Station No. 3 is located in that stretch;

•Adopted a resolution approving the final subdivision of Parcel

Map No. 60925, located at 9804 Brookshire Ave., approving an agreement with the subdivider and accepted a subdivision improvement cash deposit as surety. The agreement contains necessary public works and safety improvements as conditions of approval. The improvements generally call for installation of a streetlight, street trees, water meters, sewer laterals, driveway approaches, and property line monuments;

•Adopted an ordinance amending Section 3186 of the Downey Municipal Code relating to the speed limits for Tweedy Lane. The California Vehicle Code (CVC) requires engineering and traffic (E&T) surveys be conducted periodically for many roadway segments in order to post speed limits and allow enforcement by radar. Based on recently completed E&T surveys by the Public Works Department, in conjunction with still current 2004 Federal/State manual procedures, the speed limit between Florence Ave. and Suva St. will be increased from 25mph to 30 mph, that between Suva St. and Gallatin Rd. stays at 25 mph (speed limit is always 25mph in school zones when children are present);

•Awarded a cash contract to Palp, Inc., dba Excel Paving Company, who submitted the lowest bid, in the amount of almost \$2.5 million, and appropriating \$1.5 million from the Prop C Funds and \$1.1 million from the Gas Tax Fund, for the construction of raised medians of Imperial Highway between Bellflower Blvd. and Paramount Blvd., for a total distance of about 1.9 miles.

In the course of further deliberations, with contributions from the floor and Councilmembers alike, it was made clear that similar improvements to cover the entire city limits of the Imperial Highway corridor are planned. After Councilmember Mario Guerra pointed out that the proposed new light on La Reina St. would have a disruptive impact on the immediate vicinity, City Manager Gerald Caton said a team including perhaps the concerned Councilmember(s) seek the input of the would-be affected citizens, and that the matter be brought up in the next Council meeting.

•After the City Clerk formally brought up the matter of the varying

agenda placement order of the "City Council Announcements, Requests for Future Agenda Items and Conference Meeting Reports," the Council, in a minute action, decided to place Council Announcements at the top of the hour, to take advantage of a greater crowd at the beginning of meetings, and put Requests for Future Agenda Items at the end.

Gafin says he is reviving the concept of a town hall meeting. The first of such meetings was scheduled for yesterday, March 1, at Alameda Elementary; the second is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7 at Carpenter. He said Asst. to the City Manager Scott Pohmren has prepared a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation for the purpose.

In other non-agenda public comments, someone pointed out that the city look into the fencing that would protect the proposed Space Learning Center and park. The Council said it would attend to this.

In closing staff comments, Caton dispelled fears by some that the opening of the Downey Landing retail complex might have a deleterious effect on Stonewood Mall. Instead, the City Manager said, Stonewood reported a 5 percent sales increase last year, and made plans to add capital improvements to the mall.

The next regular public meeting of the City Council will be on Tuesday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

Book club chooses 'Water for Elephants'

DOWNEY - The Downey City Library Book Lover's Club has chosen "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen as this month's featured selection.

In the book, 90-year old Jacob Jankowski is spending his days in a nursing home but recalls his colorful life with the Benzini Brothers Circus during the Depression era.

The book club will meet March 8 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Cormack Room of the library. New club members are invited to the meeting and light refreshments will be served.

Reservations are recommended by calling (562) 904-7360, ext. 3.

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Tue, Mar 6th & 20th
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Wed, Mar 7th
10:00am
Hometown Buffet
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'I Land' one-person performance in L.A.

LOS ANGELES – East West Players continues its 41st anniversary season with "I Land," a solo performance written and performed by Keo Woolford and directed by Roberto Uno.

At once hilarious, defiant and transcendent, "I Land" weaves together traditional Hawaiian hula, hip-hop, Hawaiian talk story and spoken word. "I Land" is acclaimed actor and hula dancer Woolford's moving search for the meaning of heritage in a post-modern world. In this semi-autobiographical journey, Woolford navigates the many worlds where hula lives, from backyards parties, to Hollywood kitsch, to the realm of the sacred. Along the way islands separated by geography and culture collide: a hotel hula show and a conservatory audition, Catholic high school and an evangelical church service, a moment of pop stardom and the opportunity to learn from a hula master.

"We are very excited to have Keo Woolford on our stage once again," Tim Dang, East West Players' artistic director, said. "East West Players is very excited to bring this new solo piece to the stage. The fusion of bringing different elements of what it is to be Native Hawaiian and American is what EQP is all about. Keo's charming personality and talent will draw in any audience member."

Woolford returns to the East West Players stage after his performance in "Stew Rice" which garnered rave reviews by numerous critics. Other East West Players productions include "Pacific Overtures," "Heading East," and "Big Hunk O' Burning Love." He has appeared on stage nationally with the London Palladium, IMUA! Theater Company, Red Room and the Morgan-Wixson.

Director Roberta Uno is currently the program officer for Arts, Media and Culture at the Ford Foundation. She is one of the co-founders and the founding artistic director of the New World Theater at the University of Massachusetts.

"I Land" was recently performed at the Asia Society and Museum for one weekend in November. After its run at East West Players, it will return to the East Coast with the Ma Yi Theater Company from April 20 – May 13.

"I Land" opens locally March 21 and closes April 8. Opening night will be accompanied by a pre-performance cocktail reception and a post-show reception with the cast and creative team. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. An American Sign Language-interpreted performance is scheduled for April 1 at 2 p.m.

All performances will be held in the David Henry Hwang Theater at the Union Center for the Arts, located in Little Tokyo at 120 Judge John Aiso St., Los Angeles.

General ticket prices are \$35 in the orchestra and \$30 in the balcony. Opening night tickets are \$60 for all seats. Senior, student and group discounts are available.

For tickets, subscription requests or more information, call (213) 625-7000 or visit www.eastwestplayers.org.

Orchid auction open to the public

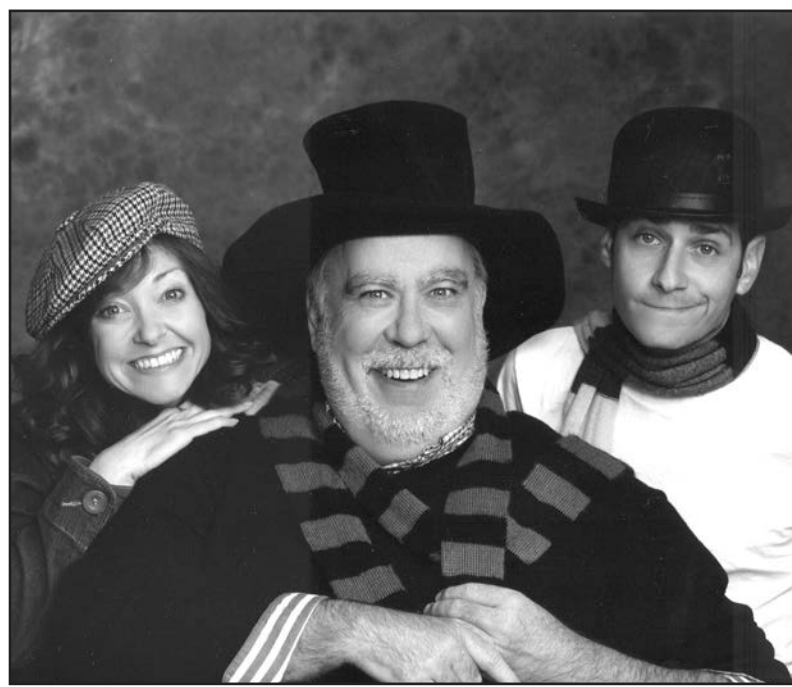
LONG BEACH – The annual orchid auction of the Long Beach Amateur Orchid Society will be held March 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 496, 5938 Parkcrest in Long Beach (1/2 block south of Carson and Woodruff).

Orchids of all kinds, including cattleyas, dendrobiums, phalaenopsis, vandas and cymbidiums, will be available for purchase. The plants will be supplied by award-winning commercial growers and amateur collectors.

The event is open to the public and serves as the major fundraiser for the Society. For information, call (714) 539-4937.

Library will honor volunteers at breakfast

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library will be hosting its 23rd Annual Volunteer and Major Donor Recognition Breakfast on April 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Rio Hondo Golf Club.



Stephen Reynolds, Susan Dohan and Jeffrey Landman star in the Downey Civic Light Opera production of "The Roar of the Greasepaint - The Smell of the Crowd", now playing at the Downey Theatre. Marsha Moode is executive director and Brandee Williams choreographer. Tickets are available by calling (562) 923-1714. The final performance is March 11.

Sebastian Sidi concert this Saturday

DOWNEY – Sebastian Sidi will give a free live instrumental concert this Saturday, March 3, at La Villa Peruvian Restaurant in Downey, starting at 8 p.m.

The night will also feature an opening performance by up-and-coming artist, Allinda, who will sing popular songs by Celine Dion, Whitney Houston and other well-known artists.

Sidi's music is a blend of rock, classical, tango, and Latin rhythms. He will also be joined by Jim Sitterly, violinist for John Tesh.

Reservations are available by calling (562) 923-1219. La Villa is located near the intersection of Downey Avenue and Stewart & Gray Road.

Information is also available at www.myspace.com/sebastiansidi or www.myspace.com/allinda.

Art Institute giving away six scholarships

LOS ANGELES – Are you a high school student passionate about the film industry? Do you like to design or animate? Develop web sites?

If so, you're invited to enter the High School Scholarship Competition sponsored by The Art Institute of California – Los Angeles. The Art Institute will give up to six high school seniors graduating in 2007 a full-tuition scholarship to complete studies in one of its programs.

Specific eligibility and entry details are available at www.aischolarship.com/losangeles.

Downey graduate offers advice in book

DOWNEY – Emanuel Balarie, a graduate of Downey High School, has recently finished writing a book titled, "Commodities for Every Portfolio: How You Can Profit from the Long-Term Commodity Boom," which can be purchased on Amazon.com.

After graduating from UC Berkeley, Balarie started his career with Merrill Lynch in San Francisco and was later the vice president of investments at Euro Pacific Capital in Newport Beach.

Currently, he is the senior market strategist for Wisdom Financial, where he advises high net worth individuals and institutions on the commodity markets.

Some of Balarie's media appearances include CNBC, The Wall Street Journal, MSNBC, The Economist and Money Week.

"I have often regretted my speech, never my silence."
--Xenocrates

'Glory of Easter' returns to Cathedral

GARDEN GROVE – "The Glory of Easter," seen worldwide by millions, returns March 23 to the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove. Since debuting more than 20 years ago, the show has become a vivid recreation of the betrayal and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

"The Glory of Easter brings one of the holiest days of the year to life," said co-director and writer Jeanne Dunn. "Watching the performance under the all-glass cathedral allows a personal connection to the characters, creating a unique and emotional bond with the audience and the cast."

"The Glory of Easter" features a pre-recorded score by the Long and Seattle Symphony orchestras, colorful period costumes, flying angels, live animals and a cast of more than 200 volunteer and professional performers. For years, entire families have come together to be a part of the production.

"Being a part of the show strengthens their commitment to each other and their faith," said Dunn. "One can feel the emotion seeing a mother onstage with her son, or father and daughter performing together."

"The Glory of Easter" presents state-of-the-art special effects and environmental elements such as earthquakes, thunder and lightning. Combined with eight trumpeters and four drummers who perform from the balconies, the music travels throughout every corner of the Cathedral.

The flying angels provide an important role, acting as God's messengers throughout the production.

"As the angels descend high atop the ceiling, it's as if they are coming down from heaven," said Dunn. "The audience is always amazed by their gentle yet powerful presence."

As the 2007 engagement begins, Dunn looked ahead on how its message will impact the audience this season.

"After the performance, many leave the Cathedral with tears in their eyes," she said. "The thought of the ultimate sacrifice is a powerful emotion. Our goal with 'The Glory of Easter' is to continue the message of forgiveness for future generations."

"The Glory of Easter" performs most nights, March 23 – April 7. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.crystalcathedral.org or call (877) 54-GLORY.

Tickets are \$35-\$45 with special discount nights and group pricing available. The Crystal Cathedral is at 12141 Lewis Street in Garden Grove.



Steve Roberson, broker/owner of Century 21 My Real Estate, provided his rendition of "My Woman, My Wife," and "On a Beach Somewhere" when Kiwanis Club of Downey and Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis joined together recently to celebrate Valentine's Day. Photo by Gwynn Gustafson, Co-Op Cache Consulting

New on DVD this week

- MOVIES
Borat: Cultural Learnings of Amer. Confetti
Fast Food Nation
Let's Go to Prison
Peter Pan (Platinum Edition)
The Three Musketeers (1948)
- TELEVISION/MISC.
Hawaii Five-O - Season 1
Moonlighting - Season 5
Northern Exposure - Season 6
Stargate Atlantis - Season 2

New CD's this week

- Mary Chapin Carpenter - *Calling The Notorious B.I.G. - Greatest Hits*
Korn - *MTV Unplugged*
Relient K - *Five Score and Seven Years Ago*
Gary Allan - *Greatest Hits*
Finger Eleven - *Them VS You VS Me*

Local Concerts this week

- FRIDAY, MARCH 2
DJ Quik - HOB Anaheim
Jumpin' Jack Flash - Coach House
Snow Patrol - Gibson Amph.
- SATURDAY
AFI - Coussoulis Arena (San Bernardino)
DJ Quik - HOB Hollywood
Dropkick Murphys - Grove of Anaheim
Musiq - HOB Anaheim
- SUNDAY
DJ Quik - HOB Hollywood
- MONDAY
Christina Aguilera - Honda Center
- TUESDAY
Christina Aguilera - Staples Center
The Killers - Santa Barbara Events Center

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★ WILD HOGS PG-13 (11:40, 2:15, 4:50), 7:25, 10:05
ZODIAC PG (11:50, 3:20), 7:20, 10:45
ASTRONAUT FARMER PG (11:05, 1:45, 4:25), 7:20, 10:00
THE NUMBER 23 PG (12:00, 2:40, 5:10), 7:45, 10:15
RENO 911: MIAMI PG (11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45), 8:00, 10:15
BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA PG (11:10, 1:40, 4:15), 7:00, 9:30
GHOST RIDER PG-13 (11:00, 1:45, 4:30), 7:15, 10:00
MUSIC AND LYRICS PG-13 (11:20, 2:00, 4:30), 7:05, 9:45
NORBIT PG-13 (11:30, 2:05, 4:40), 7:10, 9:55

Times for Friday-Thursday, March 2-4, 2007
Bargain Matinee () Advance ticket sales
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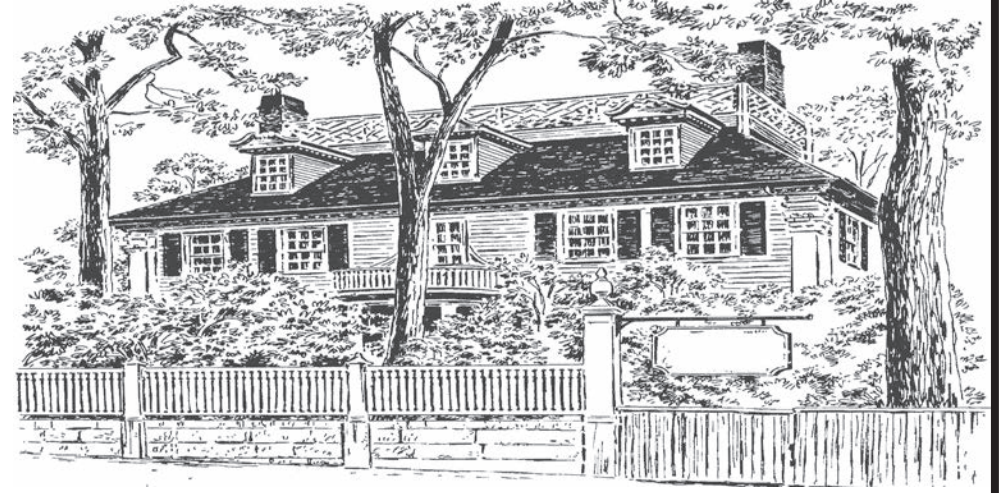
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TOP PRODUCTION
Manuel Acuna

TOP SALES
Oscar Rivera

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1,926 Sq. Ft. North Downey home has formal living room, step down family room w/fireplace, Master suite has remodeled bath w/ spa tub.
Only \$725,000



North Downey Deal!
3 BD 1.75 BA, fireplace in living room, large rear yard 2 car garage, 1,300 + sq. ft. Priced @ \$578,500 to \$598,500
Call for Appointment!



Mario Persico
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www.MarioPersico.com

NEW LISTING!



Lots for your money in Downey!
Unbelievable, Must see Property! 3 BD, hardwood floors, copper plumbing, newer roof, freshly painted, 3 car garage, 7,000 Sq. Ft., Must Call Mario To See! Price \$564,900
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433

REDUCED!



Best Home Per Sq. Ft. In N. Downey!
4 BD, 3 BA, Newer Carpet, Copper Plumbing & 2,111 Sq. Ft. Just Reduced to \$699,000 - \$714,000
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433

A MUST SEE!



North Downey-Newly Updated! Reduced!
This super clean home features 3 BD, 2 BA, hardwood floors, newer roof, freshly painted, central air, and so much more. Move In Ready!!! \$624,900
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433

Mario Did It Again!!!

IN ESCROW!!



IN ESCROW! IN ESCROW! IN ESCROW!

Cute as a button in North Downey!
Freshly updated home w/ 3BA, 2 BA, hardwood floors, approx. 1,450 Sq. Ft. on an almost 8,000 Sq. Ft. Lot more!! Call for details- Priced @ \$669,000
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433

Mario: Born in Downey/Raised in Downey Lives in Downey/Worships in Downey
***** SELLS DOWNEY *****



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"Let's Talk Real Estate...and Law, Too!"
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New Listing!



Near Stonewood Mall!
Charming 3 BD. 1 BA home with living room, Dining room, hardwood floors & 2 car garage, Priced @ \$579,900
Call Carrie Uva Today @ 562.382.1252

Call Today!



North Downey Home
Lovely 3 BD, 2 BA home in nice Neighborhood with 8,494 sq. ft. lot
Priced @ \$664,900
Call Carrie Uva Today @ 562.382.1252

Duplex!



Downey Duplex
2 units featuring 1 unit w/ 2 BD, 1 BA, laundry room, & living room. Other unit w/ 1 BD, 1 BA, living room, 2 car garage, Live in one, rent the other. Price \$699,900
Call Carrie Uva Today @ 562.382.1252

In Escrow!



Fixer Upper!
Large lot 11,891 Sq. Ft. in Bell Gardens w/ 4 Units. Office exclusive listing Price @: \$499,900
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89 Homes SOLD in 2006!

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Feature of the Week

REDUCED



Country Charming!
Charming 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with guest house in Orange Estates (near Furman Park). Featuring hardwood floors, large living room with fireplace, formal dining room, den with fireplace, spacious kitchen with breakfast nook, and a master bedroom. Other amenities include central air & heat, copper plumbing, reverse osmosis & drink-ing water system, and 3-yr new roof.
Reduced to \$859,950!



Pool Home Near Stonewood Mall
4 BD (2 up & 2 down), 2 BA, Open Floor Plan.
Price: \$749,900
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Tuscan Beauty!
6 bed, 4.5 bath, over 5600 sq ft, 14600 sq ft lot, built in 2002.
Price: \$2,099,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Remodeled Like New - 2006
4 bed, 3 bath, travertine floors, granite countertops in kitchen & baths, huge master suite, over 2900 sq ft living space.
Price: \$999,900
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

OPEN HOUSE



Remodeled N.E. Downey Pool Home!
3 bedrooms + guest house, 3 baths, pool, 2 car detached garage, remodeled kitchen & baths w/ travertine and granite.
Price: \$939,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Quality & Elegance!- Built in 2007!
5 BD, (4 up & 1 down) 4.5 BA newly constructed home w/ Lg. master BA, marble floors, granite kitchen, & 2 car garage.
Price: \$1,349,900
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

REDUCED



Dive Right In!
3 BD, 1.75 BA, living room w/ fireplace, 2 family rooms, & large pool.
Priced to sell \$699,999
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



A-1 Neighborhood
6 BD, 3.5 BA, 4 Car Garage, master suite, on a 10,690 sq. ft. lot.
Price: \$1,299,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Picture Perfect!
3 bedrooms + bonus room, 2 bathrooms, remodeled kitchen & baths, great landscaping.
Price: \$825,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Honey, Stop the Car!
3 bed, 2 bath Downey home w/ guest house, granite kitchen, copper plumbing.
Price: \$579,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

OPEN HOUSE



Home Sweet Home!
3BD+bonus room, 1.75 BA, inside laundry room, Extra long 2 car garage, on a 6728 sq. ft. lot
Price: \$669,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Remodeled North Downey Condo!
Large bedroom, spacious living room, Remodeled Kitchen & Bathroom,
Price to SELL: \$349,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

OPEN HOUSE



Northeast Downey Condo!
2 BD, 2 BA townhouse-style condo w/ remodeled bath, newer paint & carpet, & underground parking.
NOW @ \$409,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

www.MichaelBerdelis.com Call Michael today at (562) 818-6111