



The Downey Patriot



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fashion show**
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around**
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Judge Steverson**
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Friday, April 20, 2007

Vol. 5 No. 52

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

The 'sole' of Downey Avenue

■ Downtown Downey shoe store struggles to compete against big-name competitors and ever-increasing rent. Still, owner says, it's his store that is keeping him alive.

BY BROOKE KARLI
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Nuzzled between Downey Hair Studios and what is soon to be Cartozian Associates Real Estate, Boone's Shoe Service has served Downey for 27 years, providing repairs, polishing and orthopedic adjustments to local customers.

Boone's owner Berj Haidostian, 72, began his profession 30 years ago with his father in Syria. The two opened their own store, selling hand-made, customized shoes. When they decided to come to the United States in 1980, they found it was too expensive to custom-make shoes in America and quickly went into the repair business.

"When we found out that the owner of Boone's was wanting to retire, we decided to take over and continue with the business," said Haidostian. "It had already been in business for over 25 years."

Haidostian has continued to provide specialty services such as dye jobs (particularly important for brides-to-be), sole and heel repairs, and handbag repairs. And for the most part, American leather has been the primary choice of material due to its softness and flexibility.

But throughout the years, environmental and generational changes have contributed to declining business, according to Haidostian.

"The younger generations buy shoes on either end of the spectrum

– either they're really cheap shoes that aren't worth repairing, or they're really expensive shoes that hardly ever need work," said Haidostian. "And because of recent environmental bans, I am forced to import leather from Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Italy."

According to Haidostian, many American tanneries have shut down because of water contamination. After taking what they need from animals (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, etc.) and treating the leather with chemicals, the remnants of the material would be dumped into local rivers, which in turn would contaminate water. Therefore, many tanneries have shut down due to environmental bans.

Corporations and international factories – which benefit from cheap labor – are also a reason behind slow business, said Haidostian.

For Haidostian, married for 44 years and father of four daughters, it's a constant struggle just to make enough income to cover the store's rent.

"In 1980, we paid \$450 a month...now, I pay \$1,800 a month, which is a deal in comparison to my neighbors," said Haidostian. "I'm given a discount because I have been here so long."

The store's appearance confirms just how long it has been there: tattered green-checkered flooring is accompanied by empty shelves (which once displayed a variety of repaired shoes), barren



Berj Haidostian, an immigrant from Syria, is a fixture in Downtown Downey with his company, Boone's Shoe Service. Photo by Brooke Karli

front windows lead into two sections of brand new shoes for sale, and behind the counter sits numerous tools and machines, as well as a shelf occupied by boots and high heels.

"Those belong to customers who drop off their shoes but never come to pick them up," said Haidostian. "When I do an honest thing and not make them put down a deposit, that's usually when they have a repair done without payment

and pick up."

Finances have been so tight that Haidostian can't afford to hire help.

"I do the jobs of three people – I do the accounting, cleaning and repairing," said Haidostian. "I just can't afford to have employees."

Money aside, Haidostian finds it unlikely that he would hire people to do his job. "I haven't retired for two reasons – I love what I do and the shop keeps me alive and healthy," said Haidostian.

Park contract expected to increase \$165K

DOWNEY – The Downey City Council this week was expected to approve a \$165,000 increase in the amount of the contract for construction of an enhanced restroom, concession and storage building at the city's new park.

The council met Thursday with the Community Development Commission in a joint meeting to be held after this newspaper had gone to press.

In addition to mens and womens restrooms at the new Downey park, the increase would pay for a concession room with order window and a storage room for park maintenance and operations.

The increase would push the total value of the contract to \$6,309,372. Griffith Company is constructing the park, to be located at 12400 Clark Ave.

According to the City of Downey Public Works Department, the city will submit a \$100,000 grant application to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to help off-set the cost.



Four people were detained by Downey police Tuesday for trespassing onto the Johnnie's Broiler property. The four told police they were scavenging for recyclable material to sell. Three of the detained were released while another was arrested for an outstanding warrant. Photo by Eric Pierce

Car thieves beware: 'bait' cars hit streets

■ Downey police begin to use 'bait' cars in effort to curb rising auto thefts in city.

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Car thieves beware: That next car you steal may be hotter than you think.

The Downey Police Department, in coordination with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, started using "bait" cars this week, rigged and fully trackable vehicles used by police to help capture car thieves in a safer and more controlled environment.

The program, not entirely new to Downey but reintroduced because of a surging vehicle theft rate, is officially called the Taskforce for Regional Autotheft Prevention (TRAP). Cars are designed to trap the thieves by locking them inside the vehicles while a kill switch, accessible only by police, shuts off power to the engine and the vehicle rolls slowly

to a stop, where the thief is then apprehended.

Police began re-implementing the program in Downey on Wednesday in hopes of luring criminals.

The program is exciting, successful and somewhat controversial.

And The Downey Patriot was along for the ride.

TRAP was started in 1993 by the Sheriff's Department. One dollar from every vehicle registration with the DMV goes towards funding the program, which also enjoys generous support from the insurance industry, which has an obvious stake in putting vehicle thieves in jail.

See TRAP, page 12

Finding hope in the kindness of others

■ Ten-year-old Alondra Ramos finds comfort in those who donated blood in her battle with Leukemia.

BY BROOKE KARLI
STAFF WRITER

It was 9:30 a.m. and an array of people had already come and gone to donate blood for Alondra Ramos, a fourth-grader at Gallatin Elementary who was diagnosed with Leukemia in January.

The drive was held at Gallatin on Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a variety of donors ranging from school staff members to family and friends of Alondra to many others that saw the flier posted at various locations throughout the city.

Alondra's aunt, Monica Ramos, 33, said the blood drive was her first time donating and that she will continue to donate from this point on to help other people in need.

Ana Hernandez, 49, a friend of the Ramos family, said she has always been a donor, but that Alondra's drive meant saving someone she cared deeply for.

It was evident throughout the morning how many people cared for Alondra.

"We are so happy that we can

help," said Gallatin Principle

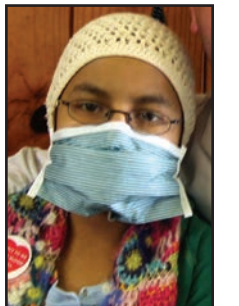
Steven Means. "I think the blood drive is an excellent example of the community here at Gallatin – we want to help Alondra and her family in any way possible."

Means was originally approached by Maureen Portillo, a member of the school's PTA, about hosting the blood drive.

"I just knew we had to do something to help this family," said Portillo. "And the best thing was to organize a blood drive and educate the students on Leukemia."

The student body at Gallatin not only learned about Leukemia and informed family and friends about the blood drive, but they also

See ALONDRA, page 4



RAMOS

Time Traveler Historic ranch house on Stewart & Gray Rd.

BY JOHN ADAMS
EDITOR EMERITUS

Few realize an old house in the 8700 block of Stewart and Gray Road is so rich in Downey history.

It was once the home of the Mussachia Family, pioneers here in Downey. They first arrived in 1885, and a son, Tony, graduated from Old River School's Class of 1906. He later married a Downey girl, Anna Riemer.

For a wedding gift, the bride's father gave them 20 acres of land, to which Tony later added 20 more. Those 40 acres of farm land are now the northern portion of Rockwell, bounded by Stewart and Gray to the north, Bellflower to the east and Lakewood to the west.

Tony and Anna had four children, Carl, Frank, Anna Marie and Anthony, all of whom attended Downey High.

During the height of the depression from 1934 to 1938, Mrs. Mussachia opened a restaurant, the Airport Cafe, located where the old Rockwell lobby stands today.

But the land was sold to Vultee Aircraft in 1938. The ranch house was then moved to Stewart and Gray, but had to be moved again when that road was paved through to Lakewood Boulevard. The house still sits in the 8700 block of Stewart and Gray Road today, a monument to the pioneer family which built it.

Meanwhile, the restaurant was moved to Lakewood and Borton Street in Bellflower. Unfortunately, it later burned. The foundation can still be seen next to Frank's TV Shop.

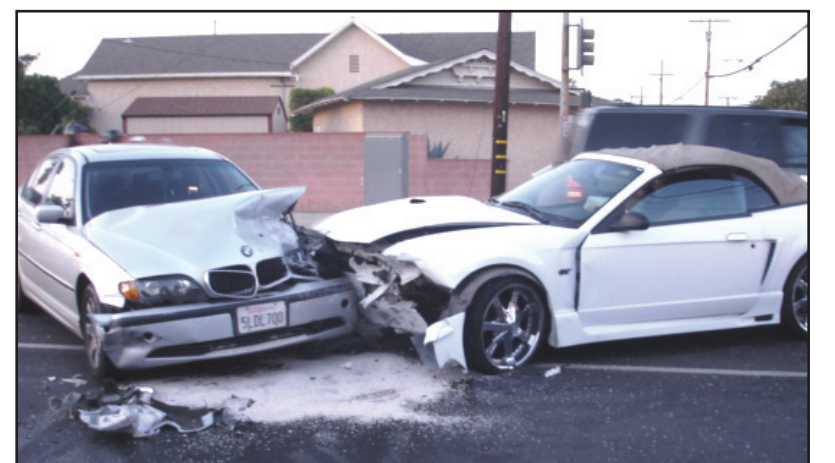
As for the family, Carl worked for Vultee, North American and then Rockwell. Frank ran a parking lot across the street from Vultee from 1937 to 1942. The old lot is now occupied by a rest home.

Frank then entered the Air Force, serving as a turret gunner in B-24 Liberators based both in North Africa and later in Italy. He was even shot down over Yugoslavia at one point, but made his way safely back to allied territory.

When he returned to the U.S., he built Frank's Cafe in 1945. He ran the cafe until 1950. The location is now occupied by a chiropractic office in the 12100 block of Lakewood.

Carl and Frank are retired now, but both can take pride in their family's pioneer history here. The old house is a testimonial to the generations of Mussachias who helped shape Downey.

(The Time Traveler wishes to thank Bob Thompson who did much of the research for this column.) Originally published April 1, 1994



On Thursday April 12, an accident took place on the corner of Rives Avenue and Stewart and Gray Road. A white Ford Mustang was driving westbound on Stewart and Gray, a maroon Ford F150 was south on Rives, and a silver BMW was stopped at the red light. According to preliminary police reports, the Mustang failed to stop for the red light and collided into the truck. The Mustang lost control and then hit the BMW. No major injuries were reported. –Jacqueline Mejia

Newcomers fashion show May 1

DOWNEY – The Downey Newcomers Club will host a benefit fashion show May 1 at the Rio Hondo Country Club. The day will start with social hour at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 11:30. The fashion show will start at 12:30 p.m. Tickets to the event are \$25 and proceeds will help the club award three scholarships to the Downey high schools and other local charities. This year's models are June Ferguson, Jeanne Henson, Edith Jones, Mary Kresonja, Estella Mendoza, Margaret Nelson and Norma Willis. They will be modeling fashions from Draper's & Damon's. For tickets and/or information, call Melba Willbanks at (562) 862-2799.

Golf tournament seeks players

DOWNEY – The Teen Challenge Ministry Institute serving Southern California is seeking golfers for their third annual Golf Classic & Banquet scheduled for May 7 at the Rio Hondo Country Club. The cost is \$150 per player (\$125 early bird special) which includes the awards banquet. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m., lunch is at 11 a.m. and the shotgun start at noon. Dinner, awards and silent auction begins at 5 p.m. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information, call (323) 569-2818.

Mayor, Curious George swing by

DOWNEY – More than 75 children and parents met Mayor Rick Trejo at a library storytime last week. Trejo read some of his favorite picture books to the children, who made a special handprint flower craft for him. The National Library Week event also featured an appearance by popular book character Curious George. For information on children's programs, call (562) 904-7350, ext. 4.

NARFE to discuss 'accidents in the home'

DOWNEY – The Southeast Chapter of the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees will hold its monthly meeting on April 25 at noon at Furman Park. A speaker from Behavioral Health Services will talk on "Accidents in the Home" from 1 to 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited to attend. For information, call Bob Knerr at (562) 943-5513.

Weekend celebration at St. Raymond's

DOWNEY – St. Raymond's Catholic Church will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary with this year's annual festival, "Homecoming: Let's Celebrate," from May 18 to 20. The festival will take place May 18 from 6 to 10 p.m., May 19 from noon to 10 p.m., and May 20 from noon to 6 p.m. The weekend-long celebration will include food, entertainment, games and Bingo. Raffle tickets will also be sold to win a grand prize of \$3,000. To sponsor a booth, call Dianne Pacheco at (562) 889-3816. To purchase raffle tickets or for information, call St. Raymond's at (562) 923-4509.



Melba Willbanks modeled the latest fashions at last year's benefit fashion show, presented by the Downey Newcomers Club. This year's show will be at Rio Hondo Country Club on May 1, with social hour at 10:30 a.m., lunch at 11:30 a.m. and fashion show at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each and proceeds will benefit local charities and scholarships given to Downey high schools. The show will be featuring "Out On The Town" fashions from Drapers & Damons. For tickets and information, call Melba Willbanks at (562) 862-2799.



Curious George gives a "thumbs-up" as Mayor Rick Trejo reads to, back row: Timothy Ramirez, Greg Guido, Mutasim Ali, Ayana Simpson and Jilliam Wilson. Front row: Dayan Cruz, Brian Velasquez, Arianna Torres and Nathan Aviles.

Former golf champion hosting free clinic

■ LPGA golf champion Pearl Sinn-Bonnani will teach kids the dynamics of golf at free clinic.

DOWNEY – Former LPGA golf champion Pearl Sinn-Bonnani will lead a free clinic for kids tomorrow, April 21, at Los Amigos Country Club starting at 1 p.m. Sinn-Bonnani was the winner of the State Farm LPGA Classic in 1988 and Seoul Ladies Open in 1999. She's a member of the Arizona State University Athletic Hall of Fame, Long Beach Golf Hall of Fame and Southern California PGA Junior Golf Hall of Fame. She is also the winner of over 50 junior golf championships and was the No. 1 ranked amateur in 1988. Top golf advisor Bob Cisco will also be in attendance and will give children tips on their putting. Cisco, author of "Ultimate Putting" and "How to Master the Art of Putting", has been featured on ESPN, Fox Sports, ABC, NBC, and was the guest speaker at the 2005 PGA annual meeting in Los Angeles. The clinic is free and local youth golfers are invited to attend.

Bomb scare at Marine recruitment office

DOWNEY – The sheriff's Bomb Squad removed a suspicious bag that had been tied to the door of the U.S. Marine Corps recruiting office on Firestone Boulevard in Downey last Friday, police said. The bag did not contain a bomb, but a plastic ball eight inches in diameter, police said. The bag was discovered by a recruitment officer when he was closing the office late Thursday night. He notified the Downey Police Department who dispatched the bomb squad, police said. No one was arrested in the incident.

Pair accused of stealing car parts

IRVINE – Two Downey men were arrested by Irvine police Sunday night after they were allegedly caught stealing parts and accessories from a Carmax car dealership. Javier Aguilar-Giron, 19, and Richard Blanco, 18, were reportedly caught by security guards stealing mobile electronics, tires and wheels. The pair was being held on suspicion of grand theft, police said.

Downey PTSA recognizes artists

DOWNEY – Downey High School PTSA invites the community to attend its first annual Reflections Recognition Event on April 25 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Downey High School cafeteria. The evening will honor participants of the 2006-2007 Reflections Program for their achievement in the Arts. All entries submitted will be on display and refreshments will be served. The community is asked to RSVP by April 22. For information and to RSVP, call Michelle Gil at (562) 862-4151.

The Downey Chamber of Commerce Presents...

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Several categories of custom -original cars from the 20's on up. Motorcycles, and pedal bikes. Something for everyone to see. Awards to be presented.

Entertainment

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

9:00 - 9:30 am Southland Harmony Chorus
9:45 - 10:45 am Jaguar
11:00 - 12:00 pm Sebastian Sidi
12:15 - 1:15 pm On Stage Dance Center
1:30 - 2:30 pm Flight
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Citibank to occupy long-vacant building

BY BROOKE KARLI
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The City of Downey will be welcoming the addition of a CitiBank and commercial center on the southwest corner of Firestone Boulevard and Lakewood Boulevard sometime this fall, said William Davis, Downey business development manager.

According to Davis, Citibank has already occupied the property, but abandoned the building over five years ago. An October 2006 Staff Report indicated that the applicant, Citigroup Realty Services, are requesting to change the architecture, exterior building materials, exterior colors and landscaping for the building located at 8764 Firestone Blvd. before reopening.

The applicant is proposing to construct a one-story bank building that will convey a contemporary architectural theme, featuring multiple columns, metal awnings with steel rods and glass storefronts.

“Nineteen feet along the Firestone Boulevard frontage will be dedicated to the City of Downey for future street widening purposes,” stated the Staff Report. “An additional six foot dedication will be taken on the Lakewood Boulevard frontage.”

The bank will use 6,038 square feet of the 30,465 square foot lot and will have 27 parking spaces.

A new retail center will also be developed just south of the bank, said Davis.

An August 2006 Staff Report indicated that the applicant, Cynthia Gomez, is requesting approval for the architecture, exterior building materials, exterior colors and landscaping for a new retail center and restaurant located at 11217 – 11239 Lakewood Blvd.

Gomez is proposing to construct a three-story commercial building on the southern half of the property, which would include retail and restaurant use on the first floor, retail use on the second floor, and offices on the third floor.

This building will also convey a contemporary architectural theme, featuring tall modular walls, multiple columns, arched entryways, a courtyard, a bridge walkway and a Spanish-style roof.

“The plan proposes 196 on-site parking spaces, a total that includes 137 subterranean parking spaces and 59 parking at grade,” stated the Staff Report.

The retail center will total 42,591 square feet on a 79,010 square foot lot. Subterranean parking will total 50,233 square feet.

Residents can pick up free mulch

DOWNEY – CalMet Services will provide Downey residents with up to 32 gallons of mulch for springtime planting at a give-away tomorrow, April 21, at the old Albertson’s parking lot at 8320 Firestone Blvd.

Residents should take their own containers. Mulch will be given away between 9 a.m. and noon. For more information, call (562) 259-1239.



Jim and Janie Myer celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary April 14. The couple met at First Methodist Church of Lynwood in 1938 and married on April 17, 1947. They have four children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The couple are longtime Downey residents.



Ben and Stella Benzette are celebrating their 73rd wedding anniversary on April 21. They married in 1934 in Kansas City, where they raised their three children. They have a total of 39 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. The couple moved to Downey in 1955 and are currently charter members at Downey Memorial Christian Church.

Dry cleaners targeted in series of robberies

■ Pair suspected of robbing three local dry cleaners over two-week period. Police seeks public’s help.

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Three separate Downey dry cleaners were robbed over a two-week period, and the Downey Police Department is seeking the public’s help in identifying the suspects.



Crown Cleaners at 12621 Paramount Blvd. was robbed March 29, A Martin Cleaners, 9226 Lakewood Blvd., was hit April 6, and the most recent robbery occurred April 11 at Blue Ribbon Cleaners, 8738 Imperial Hwy.

Police suspect two people are responsible for all three robberies.

In each case the suspects entered the store, brandished silver-colored, semi-automatic handguns, and forced the clerks to remove money from the cash register, police said.

In two of the robberies, the suspects also robbed the clerks and customers of their purses, police said.

No one has been hurt in any of the robberies and there is no vehicle description, police said.

The first suspect is described as a black male, 20 to 30 years old, 6’ to 6’ 3” tall, 200 to 250 pounds, with black hair, brown eyes and sometimes wearing a baseball cap. The second suspect is also described as a black male, 20 to 30 years old, 5’9” to 5’11” tall, 150 to 180 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

Anyone with information on the robberies is asked to call Detective Paul Hernandez at (562) 904-2368.

Coordinating Council reservations due

DOWNEY – Reservations are due today, April 20, for Downey Coordinating Council’s annual awards dinner planned for May 10 at the Rio Hondo Events Center.

Cost is \$25 per person. For reservations, call Shirley Mark at (562) 861-3065.

‘Blessing of the Animals’ this Sunday

DOWNEY – Downey Memorial Christian Church will conduct a “Blessing of the Animals” this Sunday at noon to which the community is invited.

Downey veterinarian Dr. Prakash Talati will be available to talk about caring for your pet and to answer questions. A regular worship service will precede the blessing at 10:30 a.m.

Downey Memorial Christian Church is at 8441 E. Florence Ave.

All-American HOME CENTER

How-To Seminars SATURDAY

11:00 AM
How to Install Sprinklers & Sod

12:00 PM
How to Care for Roses

1:00 PM
Time & Water-Saving Garden and How to Optimize Your Soil

2:00 PM
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SUNDAY

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How-To Pool Maintenance

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1:00 PM
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ALONDRA

Continued from page 1

raised \$2,700 for Alondra with their "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser and have sent encouraging cards and notes to the Ramos family.

Because of Alondra's health, she is no longer able to attend school and instead is tutored by teachers at Gallatin who volunteer their time.

Reggie Donahue, Gallatin resource specialist and member of the San Antonio Guild, whose mission is to "assist the [Children's] Hospital by contribution of service and funds," knew that their organization could make Alondra's education much more accessible.

"We thought, 'this is one of our kids...what can we do to help?'" said Donahue. "So I made some phone calls and within five minutes, the Guild had raised \$700 to purchase a laptop and webcam for Alondra. Now she can interact with her teachers and classmates from home and the hospital."

All this talk about Alondra and her family made me wonder if I would get a chance to meet her.

Then, around 10 o'clock, a soft silence fell upon the room - Alondra and her mother, Monica, had just arrived. Her presence sent chills down my body and I felt my eyes begin to well up.

Alondra looked like any other 10-year-old, wearing jeans, tennis shoes, reading glasses, a green sweatshirt, a multi-colored scarf and a white beanie. Although she was wearing a mask to cover her nose and mouth, and her hair was thinning out, it was her eyes that were gleaming with the hope and joy of a young girl.

She wasn't feeling particularly well and had stopped by for a short visit before heading to the Children's Hospital in Hollywood. She greeted everyone - whether she knew them or not - with a hug and a "thank you."

She made her way towards me, gave me a big hug and sat down next to me. She told me that she loved to write and that she just started to learn how to play the piano. She said she wanted to be a nurse when she grew up and that she loves meeting new friends and playing games during her visits at the hospital.

But when asked how she felt about her health condition, she answered in a way I will never forget.

"Sometimes I feel scared," Alondra said. "But I see everyone here trying to help me and it gives me hope in getting better."

Seeing Alondra, I'm sure, made the 45-minute donating process seem like a piece of cake to those waiting to donate. Filling out forms and having a needle in your arm for eight to ten minutes was a small price to pay to help a little girl in need.

The process begins with the signing of medical release forms, which include medical history and permission to take blood. Donors are then given a mini-physical before any blood is taken. During that time, the temperature, blood pressure and iron levels of each donor are determined. If the donor is in healthy condition, they are escorted to the "Maxmobile," a quarter-of-a-billion dollar RV from the Children's Hospital that is equipped with staff and the proper equipment needed to collect blood.

According to Patricia LeBlanc, donor recruiter for Children's Hospital, "Max" was implemented in February as the need for blood kept increasing and the availability of donors was limited.

"The 'Maxmobile' is named after one of our patients from Calabasas that was in constant need of blood, but could never get to the hospital to get it," said LeBlanc. "After he passed away, a

Friends of Downey Library riding to Festival of Books

DOWNEY - The Friends of the Downey City Library will sponsor a free bus trip to the UCLA Festival of Books on April 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival offers lectures, book reviews, storytelling and writing workshops by over 400 authors.

Also featured will be book signings by some of today's leading authors in addition to cooking demonstrations and poetry readings. The trip is ideal for booklovers who want to avoid the hassle of driving and parking on the Westwood campus.

The bus will leave 8 a.m. from the parking lot at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center and arrive back at 5 p.m. Bus transportation and festival admission are free but some events require advanced tickets.

Bus passengers must sign and turn in a liability waiver upon registration. For reservations call (562) 904-7360, ext. 32.



Alondra Ramos, above, with Raul Gonzalez of the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, which organized this week's blood drive.

family in Ojai started to raise money to fund a mobile blood station - and the RV continues to operate off of donations only."

LeBlanc went on to say that the hospital holds four to five blood drives a month, contributing to the 850 units of blood needed by the hospital each month.

"Whatever blood isn't used for a particular patient is used for our Intensive Care Unit," said LeBlanc. "We always have a need for blood."

Approximately 75 people were able to donate blood, some taking

the extra step in becoming a bone marrow donor. More than 75 people showed up, but some could not donate due to illness, use of medications and iron deficiencies.

A fundraiser was also held in Alondra's honor at Baja Fresh in Whittier on April 14.

For information on Children's Hospital or becoming a donor, visit their website at www.childrenshospitala.org.

For information on how to help the Ramos family, call Maureen Portillo at (562) 622-6672.

The Poets' Corner

Windy City

I saw my neighbors tree fall
And the others uprooted
The damaged cars are a sight

Chicago is noted for being the windy city
But the storm that attacked today
Puts southern California in the running

We have earthquakes, fires and floods
Each one under control
Of police and fire firefighters

Thank God for their help
So much depends on
Good men which is why I pray

Good Lord keep our men safe
Free from harm and let them do
Their duty to help the people of my city

-- Virginia Ingram,
Bell Gardens

haiku

spring garden memo
please do not pick the flowers
for your eyes only

-- Lorine Parks,
Downey

Poetry contest taking submissions

The International Library of Poetry will award over \$100,000 in prizes in its annual poetry contest, open to all poets, published or not.

The deadline to enter is June 30. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free.

To enter, send one original poem, any subject or style, to: The International Library of Poetry, suite 19925, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be 20 lines or less and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries can also be submitted online at www.poetry.com.

City is hiring for the summer

DOWNEY - The City of Downey is currently recruiting for several positions within the Community Services Department for temporary, summer employment.

Positions are available with various day camps, working with children between the ages of 4 and 14, and the aquatics program, which serves all ages. The aquatics program operates at Downey High School and the day camps are held at various parks throughout Downey.

For information on the application process, call the Personnel Department at (562) 904-7293. Specific questions regarding the positions should be directed to Dan Belling at (562) 904-7238.

APRIL 16 - JULY 21

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SPRING 2007 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT pg. 4



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INTRO TO WINDOWS VISTA™ pg. 16

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*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. All loans are subject to credit approval. Other rates available. Rates subject to change without notice.

Letters to the Editor:

Watch your speed

Dear Editor:

As I was getting my 7-year-old ready for school this morning (Wednesday), a car driven by an unlicensed woman crashed into the kitchen of our home.

Although the damage on the outside looks minimal, the impact caused structural damage inside. Our kitchen table was destroyed, the legs snapped in two. A chair was thrown 7 feet away and plaster from the wall was found 19 feet away from the point of impact inside the house. A chair that my late grandfather made by hand was destroyed. Plaster and glass everywhere.

This happened at 7:35 am and only by the grace of God was my son not having his breakfast at the kitchen table, for if he had been he could have been killed. I have thanked God many times today for sparing any of us from injury, including the unlicensed driver. The car was greatly damaged, but someone was able to drive it away.

Now my family is faced with months of construction, inconvenience, disruption and added stress all because someone was so irresponsible to allow an unlicensed, untrained driver to drive their vehicle. My son or I could have been severely hurt or killed, but did the driver or the person who came to get her even say to me, "I'm sorry"? No, there was nothing said to me at all. Crash into our house, destroy our property, then they go on their way. Even though a Spanish speaking Police Assistant had to translate for the driver, there was still no attempt to apologize at all. The driver just got a ticket. Big whoop. We get destruction and months of repairs. And, although I'm sure there were witnesses, no one else came forward to speak to Police.

What type of people have the residents of Downey become? I shudder to think.

Excessive speed played a major role in this accident – near a school, where and when many children are walking to school. This residential intersection has a four-way stop, however many drivers of all ages and both genders choose to ignore it. Please, for your sake and the sake of others, watch your speed. The speed limit in residential areas is 25 mph, even if it's not posted. Slow down and get to where you're going safely and set good examples for our local youth.

—Janice Allen,
Downey

Fed up with mansionization

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this article for a very dear friend of mine.

I live in Downey and I've written in the past with regards to mansionism and how I detest them being built. However, now my story is changing color!

Who decided to paint the mansion being built next to me bright "Frenches" mustard yellow? Tell me! I need to dawn a pair of sunglasses just to leave my home. When I walk outside I literally get blinded by this ugly thing. Tell me, does the City of Downey have anything on the books with regards to paint colors?

Well it should! Take a drive down Lexington Road and get a load of the "New" Big Yellow House and be sure to wear your sunglasses as you drive by.

You know, I've put up with bull-dozer shaking my walls so hard my pictures fell off. I've dealt with the constant hammering, the blasting music, the trash left behind and the trash strewn all over the street and my car, the dust that invaded every part of my living space, not having any parking because of the trucks, worker's cars, and delivery drops at the work site. How much more does the owner of the hideous mansion being built expect me to endure?

I am about at my limit here! I've had the expense of cleaning up the mess left by his workers, as it makes its way to every inch of my property! I've had to sweep out my garage every single weekend since July of 2006 due to all of the dust and debris that blows into it, as well as my backyard, while his precious mansion project takes place. When will I reap the benefits of the darn thing being built?

NEVER. So I ask the City of Downey – who will pay for my pain and suffering while the wealthy mansion-builder profits?

You know I wonder if I can sue this darn mansion owner for all the headaches his project put me through this past year. I'm not ever going to profit from his project and so far all I got to do is complain and clean up after his workers. Where are "The Inspectors"? Do they even exist?

Who else out there has been burdened by on-going mansionism in Downey? Please come forward and speak up!

—Stacey Rodgers,
Downey

Vultee Field?

Dear Editor:

Understanding that the new Downey park at the Landing is in need of a name, may I respectfully suggest that it be called Vultee Park or better Vultee Field which was the designated name of the landing or airport during and after World War II.

This would honor the memory of Gerard Vultee, the famous aircraft designer and originator of the Vultee Aviation Company which made a great contribution to aviation before and during the war.

Vultee and his wife Sylvia were killed in the crash of their personal plane January 28, 1938 on the way home from Washington with the first large contract for a basic trainer aircraft of which more than 11,000 were made at the Downey plant in the next five years.

— John Vincent,
President, Downey Historical Society



In favor of term limits

Dear Editor:

I'd like to go on record as being for term limits.

Yes, I read in the Downey Patriot that this would be addressed at the last City Council meeting, but I didn't attend because I see it as a waste of time, since I, along with many others, worked for over a year trying to stop the building of these big "Monster Mansions." Everyone on the Council knew that the majority of their constituents were against them, but that didn't matter. They (some) chose to go with the "big money" builders, contractors, realtors, etc., instead of representing those who put them in office.

Frankly, I was most pleased to see some termed-out. Those wanting to do away with term limits say, "let the people decide." The problem with that is, people vote by name recognition, and few know what is being done. Those who belong to many organizations usually win because their friends vote for them. I don't know Mr. Guerra and have nothing against him. But one has to wonder why he chose this as his first effort. Term limits were voted in by the people, so why is it being addressed again? I feel 8 years is sufficient time to pursue an important agenda.

My wish is that our Federal Senators and House of Representatives could be termed out. Wouldn't it be wonderful to wake up one morning and find Ted Kennedy was out of office? At present, I don't feel I have any representation by Sen. Feinstein, Sen. Boxer or Lucille Roybal-Allard, but they have name recognition and franking privileges, so it is almost impossible to get "new blood" in these offices. So their greedy, power-hungry pursuits continue to benefit them and not the constituents. We have term limits for our state officials, and believe me, I'm more than happy that they will be termed out.

I don't like the attitude that because Downey seems to have quite a lot of money, let's throw it away on a "special" election (typical of elected officials). Maybe it would be better spent on repairing the surface roads that have been torn up by the heavy equipment used to build these "Monster Mansions!"

—Elsa Van Leuven,
Downey

Working to keep Downey beautiful

Dear Editor:

Downey has an excellent graffiti removal system. Call the Graffiti Hotline (923-4484) and it will be removed as soon as possible. The continued success of this program depends upon our prompt calls to the hotline when graffiti is seen. The sooner it is reported, the sooner it will be removed.

A new truck for graffiti removal will soon be delivered. This state-of-the-art truck has many excellent features, one being mixing of paint at the site. It eliminates many employee hours taking paint samples from the job to a paint store for mixing of replacement paint.

Abandoned shopping carts should be promptly reported by calling the toll free hotline (1-800-252-4613) and they will be collected in 24-48 hours. When calling these hotlines it is important to precisely give the location so time isn't wasted searching for the carts or the graffiti. If the problem still remains after a reasonable time, call the hotlines again and make another report.

Illegally posted signs are often up for days and they should be promptly removed. Let's continue to Keep Downey Beautiful.

— Byron Dillon
Co-chairperson, Keep Downey Beautiful

Immigration double standard?

Dear Editor:

High-tech firms and other businesses are urging Congress to increase the number of visas available for skilled foreign workers after immigration officials announces this week that the 65,000 visa cap was reached within hours. This H-1B Petition introduced by Congress will allow intelligent immigrants to come to our country to take jobs from Americans while we are building a wall to keep out the un-intellectual from taking jobs from Americans.

What a double standard; so if you are not intelligent, too bad. The intelligent people should get in line like everyone else.

But really folks, we all know it is just another way for businesses to increase profits by paying these people less than they would pay Americans. It is people from Congress who are also Americans that are setting this policy. Remember that old question: Who sold the guns to the Indians?

— Mike Sandoval,
Downey

Heaven-sent letter

Dear Editor:

We just wanted to say thank you for your continued support of our church's activities and for placing our announcements in your paper during the last few months. We really appreciate your efforts and all that you do to publicize the various activities within the City of Downey.

You provide a tremendous service and each week showcase Downey as a special community.

— Cheryl Collier
Downey Memorial Christian Church

Wishing Wells mystery

Dear Editor:

I am curious about the history of the Wishing Wells in the yards of so many Downey homes. I love them and I am so appreciative that so many still remain.

— Betty Oz Ryder,
Downey

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. Letters may be edited for style and/or content. Letters must include a full name and address for verification.

DUSD open house schedule released

DOWNEY – The Downey Unified School District has released the school open house schedule for 2007:

Old River ES	May 11	6 to 7 p.m.
Williams ES	May 17	6 to 7 p.m.
Rio San Gabriel ES	May 22	6 to 8 p.m.
Alameda ES	May 24	6 to 8 p.m.
Gauldin ES	May 24	5 to 7 p.m.
Lewis ES	May 24	6 to 7 p.m.
Unsworth ES	May 24	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Ward ES	May 24	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The Downey Patriot



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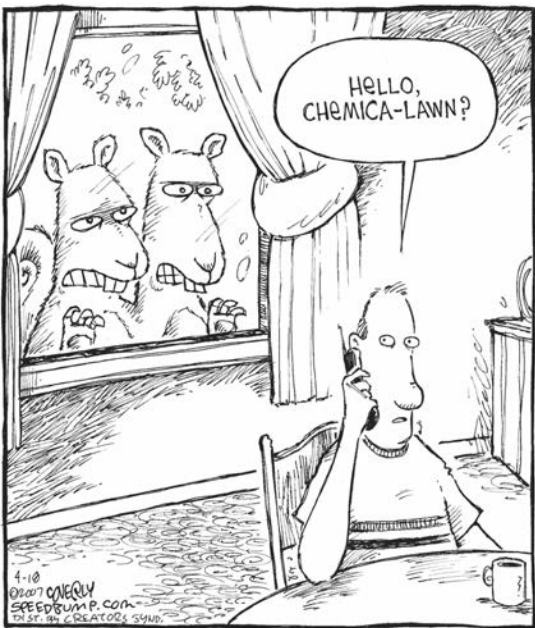
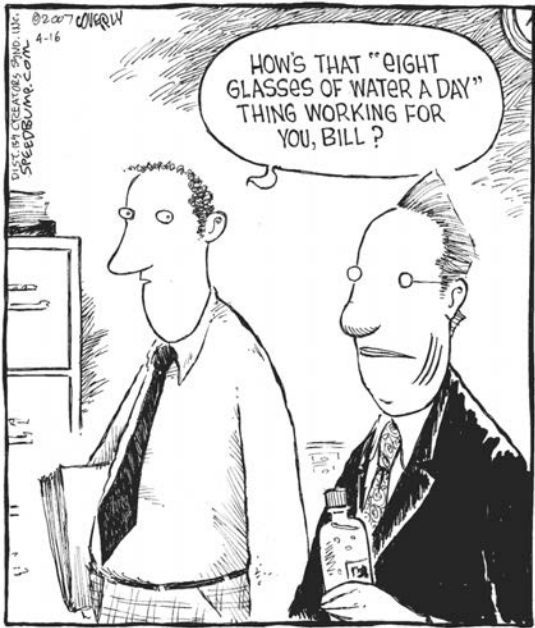
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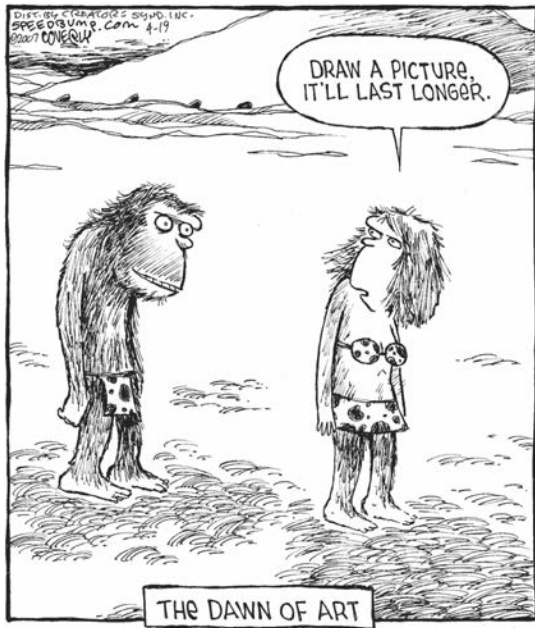
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For March/April

Sat. April 21: "Healthy Kids Day", Downey Family YMCA, 9 a.m.
Sat. April 21: Free Golf Clinic for Kids, Los Amigos Country Club, 1 p.m.
Sun. April 22: "Blessing of the Animals", Downey Memorial Christian Church, 10:30 a.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 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 Barbara Briley-Beard 869-7618.
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...

April 20, 1889: Nazi leader Adolf Hitler is born in born.
1972: Apollo 16 lands on the moon.
1979: President Jimmy Carter is attacked by a "berserk" rabbit during a fishing expedition in Georgia.
1999: Two students open fire in a shooting rampage at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. Twelve students and a teacher are killed; another 24 are wounded.
2005: A new bill limits the amount of debt help received by filing bankruptcy.

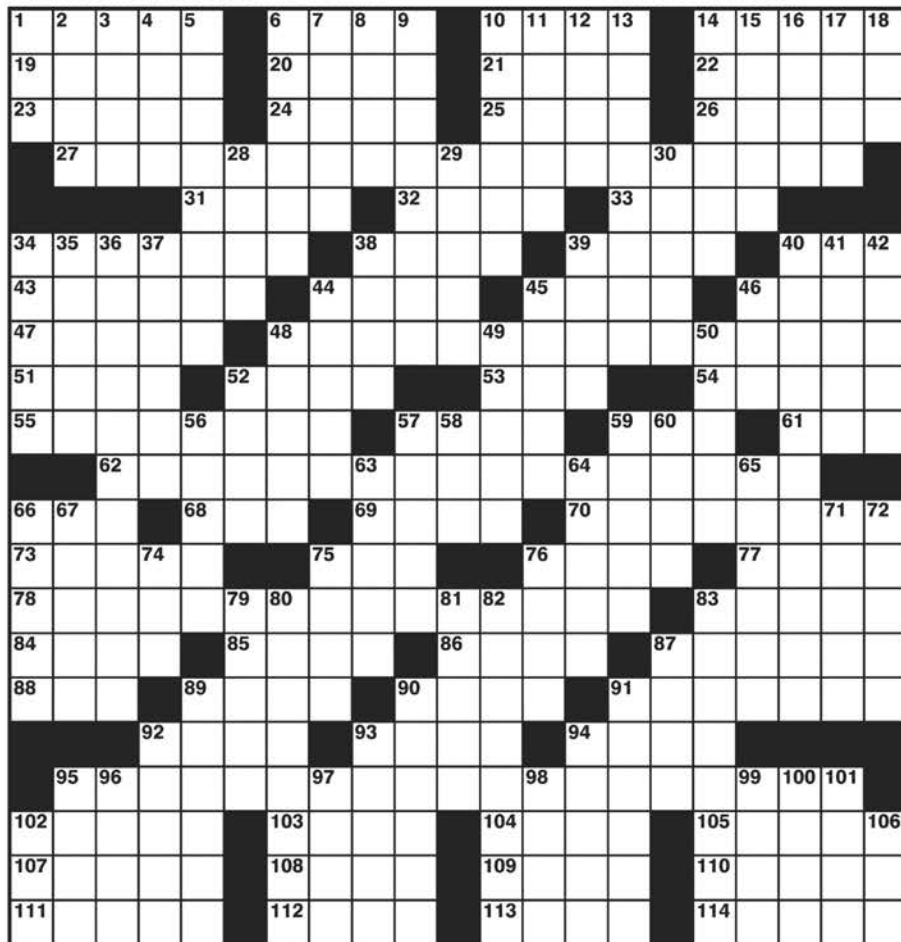
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

WORD OF THE WEEK: Phrases with a little something added
by Randolph Ross

- | | | |
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| 1 Very cold | 69 Streets of Paris | 7 Tuckers out |
| 6 LAPD alerts | 70 Checkmate, e.g. | 8 Log feature |
| 10 "Let ___" (Beatles tune) | 73 Go back to the tailor | 9 Avoid a chill |
| 14 Settle, as a debt | 75 Recycling receptacle | 10 Nassau or Key West |
| 19 Dollar alternative | 76 Slugger Sammy | 11 Quaint preposition |
| 20 Beat badly | 77 High-tech appt. books | 12 Roseanne's last name |
| 21 Influence | 78 IRS' military revenue source? | 13 Optometrists' procedures |
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| 26 Cell-phone service structure | 87 Nothing more than | 18 "___ out!" (ump's call) |
| 27 Greetings from the IRS? | 88 NY-to-Bermuda dir. | 28 Bar sounds |
| 31 One, in Weimar | 89 Heidi's home | 29 Taut |
| 32 Conked out | 90 Bailiwick | 30 75 Across contents |
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| 34 Show of affection | 92 It's not good | 35 Ballerina Shearer |
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| 44 Letter opener | 103 House adjunct | 40 West Coast IRS target? |
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| 48 Informal request to an accountant? | 108 Nobelist Wiesel | 44 Homer's spouse |
| 51 Cube maker Rubik | 109 Diplomacy board game | 45 Traffic sign |
| 52 Stuffed shell | 110 Gawked at | 46 Big dos |
| 53 Ending for boot or crock | 111 Having little patience | 47 Cares for |
| 54 Toot one's horn | 112 Travel | 48 Chicago film reviewer |
| 55 Storage unit | 113 Match components | 49 Even |
| 57 Tattled | 114 Closes in on | 50 Fried: Sp. |
| 59 Stick in a parlor | | 51 Hot spot |
| 61 Primitive signatures | | 52 Jazz player's instrument |
| 62 Ideal 1040 strategy? | | |
| 66 Lucasfilm sound system | | |

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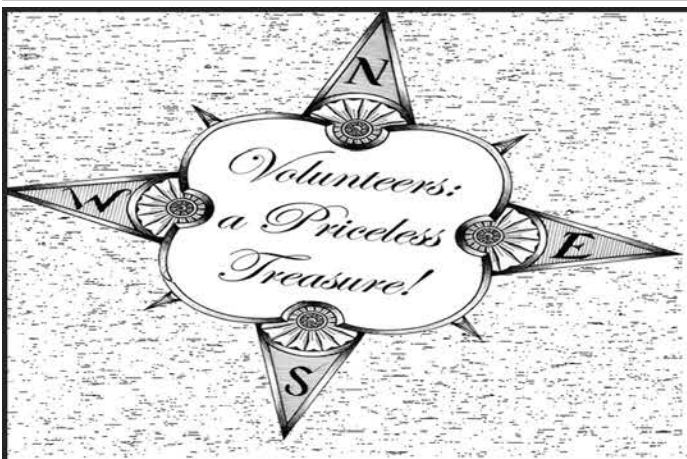


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| 60 Bear up there | 79 Thing of the past | 94 Wordworth, for one |
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| 66 Green surroundings | 83 Earnest attachment | 98 HOMES part |
| 67 Estate sharers | 87 Catchall abbr. | 99 Bus Stop playwright |
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| 72 TV sports awards | 90 Head wreath | 101 ___-do-well |
| 74 Stipulations | 91 Pub sprees | 102 Piece of comedy |
| 75 Asks for humbly | 92 "Snowy" bird | 106 NFL scores |

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 THX (66 Across) theater sound system is named for George Lucas' first feature film, "THX 1138," Chartered in 1836, EMORY University (15 Down) was named for John Emory, a bishop that had inspired its Methodist founders. Buenos Aires-born composer LALO SCHIFRIN (97 Down) has written more than 100 scores for films, TV shows and video games.





Auxiliary

- | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Mario Acevedo | Marion Clauson | Janet Giertz | Josephine Hudson | Howard Park | Jean D. Smith | Vicky Winter |
| Lucy Aguero | Judith Commodore | Nann Goldstein | Ann Hutchinson | Loveta Park | Rosalie Smith | Wini Yurechko |
| Floralie Anthony | Beth Corrin | Rosa Gomez | Terry Knoth | Maricela Perez | Shirley Smith | Winnie Zello |
| Victor Atallah | Mary Lou Danielsen | Valla Mae Gomez | Pat Landin | Maria Pierce | Yvonne Swain | Florence Zywocki |
| Coral Axon | Mary Dawson | Claudia Graham | Isabel Laqui | Lenore Pohl | Julie Sweatt | |
| Janet Baez | Ellia Deblois | June Greene | Marion Leger | Millie Powell | Pamela Tapia | |
| Nancy Bazz | Creszentia Devereux | Helen Gregorio | Joan Lingrey | Fran Reveley | George Toerge | |
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| Jean Brown | Kimberly Fox | Anita Henderson | Jeanne Ohlemacher | Lenora Schwappach | Joyce Watson | |
| Mabel Brown | Wilma Garcia | Shirley Hersh | Joanna Orsel | Shirley Sheibe | Dell Williams | |
| Betty Carlson | Margaret Garde | Helen Higgins | Christina Pappas | Mildred Sherreitt | Lois Wilson | |

In Memoriam.

- Dagmar Tonkovich
 Bruce Rodgers
 Jim Fergus
 Marguerite Ruminer
 Carol Raabe
 Cathy Coe
 Mildred Schaffner
 Merritt Yancy

Volunteer Corps

- | | | | | | | |
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 Shamia Salih
 Brenda Velis
 Mark Ryan Yap

During National Volunteer Week, April 15 - 21, we wish to thank our treasured volunteers for caring about patient and visitor safety and comfort. We also congratulate the DRMC Auxiliary on their 50th anniversary! Now is a great time to learn more about a wide variety of volunteering opportunities. Please call: (562) 904-5321.



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 www.drnci.org



Roger and Debbie Pio listen as Mayor Rick Trejo presents a National Library Week proclamation with Nicholas Pio, age 11. Also on hand at last week's presentation were Library Advisory Board member Mary Crawford and City Library Nancy Messineo.

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www.pronetworkers.com

YMCA to tour classic, restored car collection

DOWNEY - The Downey YMCA will tour the Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar in June, where they will explore fully-restored classic cars, including Rolls Royces from 1913. The tour, scheduled for June 21, costs \$35 and includes lunch, guided museum tour and bus driver gratuity. Lunch will be at Hometown Buffet. The bus will leave at 9:15 a.m. and return at 6 p.m. Reservations are due by May 7 and can be made by calling Tommy Sue at (562) 862-4201.

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Car show, bands and more at Faire

Entertainment starts at 9 a.m. and will continue all day in annual event scheduled for April 28.

DOWNEY - Over 200 vendors will line both sides of Brookshire Avenue at the 14th Annual Downey Street Faire scheduled for April 28 with a group of Aztec dancers opening the event.

Festivities will start at 9 a.m. with the Southland Harmony Chorus, followed by Jaguar at 9:45, Sebastian Sidi at 11, Onstage Dance Center at 12:15 p.m., Flight at 1:30, Class 6 Band at 2:45 and Ultimate Karate Center at 4.

Avianna, Daughter of Isis belly dancers will perform between acts. Also to be featured will be a Kid's Zone (open to all ages) with a super slide, joust, spider climb, Ferris wheel, moon bounce, rock wall, games and children's rides.

Two food courts will be available this year, each featuring funnel cakes, Philly cheese steaks, Italian sandwiches, sausages, pizza, tacos, hot dogs, gyros, falafels, pastries, cotton candy, kettle corn, shaved ice, Thai barbecue, smoothies and more.

A car show in Downey High School's north parking lot will feature over 100 vehicles from the Old Memories Car Club, SGV Chapter, this year. Aztec dancers will be performing at the car show as well.

The fair is produced by the Downey Chamber of Commerce's Street Faire committee, made up of volunteers and headed by Rick Rodriguez. Committee members are Fionnuala Anderson, Janet Baez, Century 21 My Real Estate; Joe Becker, Nordic Fox; John Casillas, Indymac Bank; Linda Castellanos, Big Blue House Real Estate; Mike Hemsath, Stormforce; Steve Hoffman, Law Office of Steven J. Hoffman; Mark Keller, 'Santa Claus'; Karina Madariaga, Downey Adult School; Jan Scott, Pacific Western Bank; Tony Taylor, Qwest Homework Assistance; and Jeannie Wood.

The platinum sponsor is Colin Clarke, Century 21 Jervis & Associates, and the diamond sponsor is Downey Regional Medical Center. Silver sponsors are Big Blue House Real Estate, Banco Popular, CareMore Health Plan, CalMet Services, Stonewood Center, Press-Telegram and Wescom Insurance. Bronze sponsors: All American Home Center, Alliance Physicians Medical Group, Downey Savings & Loan, Onstage Dance Center, Security Land Escrow and Southland Credit Union.

Friends of the Faire are Call Yellow, Century 21 My Real Estate, Don Dixon & Associates Insurance, Downey Bible Church, Downey Care Center, Downey Party Rentals, Laurie's Personal Pet & House Sitting, Los Amigos Country Club, Law Office of Steven J. Hoffman, Mitchell Personnel Services, Penske Toyota, Marian Perumean and Mark Keller.

Symphony's Annual Gala Fundraiser

DOWNEY - The Downey Symphony Guild presents, "Cuatro De Mayo," the Annual Gala Fundraiser for the "Music in the Schools" program and the Downey Symphony, on May 4 at the Women's Club of Downey at 6 p.m.

The evening will include Mexican cuisine, entertainment, and silent and live auctions.

Cost is \$65 per person, or \$520 for a table of eight. Reservations are due on or before April 25.

Checks should be sent to Marie Eckstrom, 9700 Garnish Dr., Downey, 90240.

For information, call (562) 861-8507.

Moravian women holding yard sale

DOWNEY - The Moravian Women's Fellowship will have a yard sale April 28 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Moravian Church parking lot, with all proceeds going towards the ministry of the church.

The church is located at 10337 Old River School Rd. in Downey.

EXPOSED! What Many Drug Companies Don't Want You To Know About Headache Relief
Downey, CA - A newly released free report reveals what leading medical research has proven to be a very effective headache treatment. This free headache report reveals why headache sufferers have been left in the dark for so long and how they can finally live free of over-the-counter medication once and for all. To receive your free copy mailed to you today, call the toll-free, 24-hour headache hotline at **1-888-368-6265**.

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The Downey High School Jazz Ensemble will perform a free concert this Monday inside the Downey Adult School cafeteria. The show will start at 4 p.m.

Jazz ensemble performing Monday

DOWNEY - The Downey High School Jazz Ensemble, with Director Cory Olario, will perform at Downey Adult School's OASIS program this Monday at 4 p.m.

The ensemble has won many awards and recognitions for their music and last year performed at the Hollywood Bowl. They are scheduled to perform at the Walt Disney Concert Hall on May 11.

Monday's performance is free. Registration starts at 2:45 p.m. an optional full-course dinner will be available at 4:45 for \$3.50.

Downey Dial-a-Ride can provide transportation to the event. For more information call Downey Adult School at (562) 940-6200.



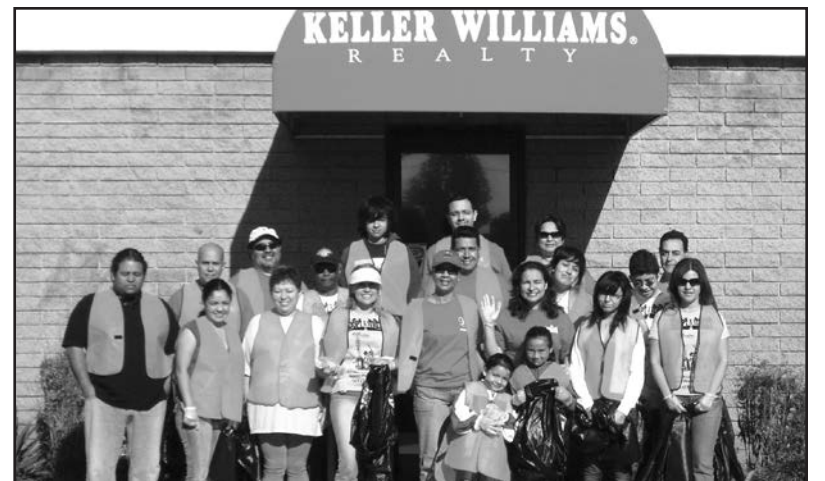
Santa Fe High School sophomore Coralia Ortiz has been named a Youth Advisory Member of the Bernabe Community Center, headquartered in Downey. Ortiz has been involved with the Bernabe Center for two years, serving as a coach, referee and tutor. Ortiz is pictured above at a recent volunteer fair at her school where she recruited volunteers for Bernabe programs.

Softball sign-ups for children

DOWNEY - The Bernabe Community is taking sign-ups for its softball season scheduled to start in May.

The league is open to boys and girls ages 11 to 14. All games will be played at the Lakeside Middle School fields located at 11000 Kenney St. in Norwalk. Cost to sign up is \$30 and registration deadline is May 1.

Sign-up sheets are available at the Lakeside Middle School office or by calling the Bernabe Community Center at (562) 863-1899.



About 30 volunteers, including agents of Keller Williams Realty in Downey, collected 20 bags of trash off Florence Avenue between Paramount and Florence. The effort was the first of four clean-ups scheduled for this year and was done in conjunction with Keep Downey Beautiful. The next clean-up will be held June 16 and volunteers are welcome. For information call Valerie Fairman at (562) 818-0357.

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Stacy Morrison, a 2004 Warren High School graduate, will be graduating from California Baptist University in Riverside on May 5. Morrison is graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a minor in Philosophy. She will be attending CBU as a grad student in Education this fall. She hopes to return to Downey and teach English at Warren.

Kids Day packed with family events

■ Fire department will give live demonstrations and display Urban Search and Rescue truck.

DOWNEY – Kids Day, the annual community event showcasing the activities, organizations and contributions of Downey's youth and youth service providers, will take place May 12 at Furman Park.

The event, now in its 20th year, is themed "Shaping a Healthy Future for Downey's Youth" and will recognize the city's 50th anniversary with murals from middle school students. Over 30 vendors will have information booths.

Kids Day will also feature penny carnival booths, two entertainment stages, a "scouting village," and an 18-foot slide for children. Food and drinks will be sold by community-based organizations that serve children and families.

A two-mile "fun run" is open to all ages and will start at 10:45 a.m. The first 100 people to register for the run will receive a goody bag and everybody who crosses the finish line will receive a medal. Check-in and same-day registration will begin at 10 a.m. in the northeast corner of the park.

The Downey Fire Department will host the Community Safety Fair at Kids Day and will have the Urban Search and Rescue truck and all of its gear on hand. Firefighters will also give a vehicle excavation and fire extinguisher demonstration.

The Public Works Department will offer their Environmental Fair, demonstrating all the things the community can do to conserve water and the environment.

For more information on Kids Day or to be a Kids Day sponsor, call the Community Services Department at (562) 904-7238.

New Downey park still needs a name

■ Contest open to residents of all ages; deadline to enter is May 14.

DOWNEY – The City of Downey is hosting a contest to name the new 11-acre park slated to open on Clark Avenue early next year.

The park will be Downey's first in 30 years and feature two baseball fields, two soccer fields and restrooms. Two acres have been designated for the Columbia Space Science Learning Center.

Rules and criteria of the contest are listed below:

- Open to Downey residents, students attending school in Downey, Downey business owners and people that work in Downey (excluding City of Downey employees and their immediate family, appointed boards and commissioners)

- The park shall not be named after a service organization or business

- There is a limit of one name per entry form. Limit three entries per person

- Entry forms must be filled out completely and legibly

- If two or more entry forms are received with the same proposed name, the first entry received will be considered

- Recreation and Community Services Commission members will review and forward their top three recommendations to the City Council

- The City Council will review the entry forms, may make additions and will approve the final selection

- Entry forms may be mailed to the City of Downey Community Services Department, Park Naming, P.O. Box 7016, Downey, CA 90241-7016, or online at www.downeyca.org or faxed to (562) 904-7296.

The winner will be recognized at a city council meeting and invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony as a special guest. Entry forms are available at various city-wide locations including parks, the Downey City Library, City Hall Community Services counter or downloaded from the city's website. Forms will also be sent to each school within the Downey Unified School District.

Deadline for entries is May 14.

'Healthy Kids Day' at YMCA

DOWNEY – The Downey YMCA will host "Healthy Kids Day" tomorrow, April 21, in its front parking lot and take camp and summer child care sign-ups.

Kids can enjoy a rock wall (9 to 11 a.m.), three-point basketball shootout, arts and crafts, bouncer, face painting, games, free food and demonstrations of Y classes.

Events will run from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For more information call (562) 862-4201.

Cerritos College commencement

NORWALK – Cerritos College will hold its 50th annual commencement ceremony to honor its graduating students on May 12 at 5 p.m. in Falcon Stadium.

This year's commencement speaker will be Cerritos College Mathematics Professor Manuel Lopez.

The commencement is open to the public.

Career expo and job fair at college

NORWALK – Cerritos College's annual career expo and job fair will be held April 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the school's Student Center. The event, which attracts more than 500 attendees each year, is free and open to both Cerritos College students and the general public.

Attendees should dress in business attire and bring copies of their resumes.

During the expo, attendees will have the opportunity to talk to recruiters, learn about the companies, explore job opportunities, network with recruiters, and receive suggestions from employers on resumes and interviewing skills. Employers representing business, finance, technology, healthcare, retail and other industries are scheduled to participate in the expo.

Cerritos College's Job Placement Office will offer free resume critiques in the weeks leading up to the expo. Resumes can be dropped off and picked up seven days later. A computer lab will also be available to create or update resumes.

Employers wishing to participate in the expo can call (562) 860-2451, ext. 2366 for information.

De La Torre is honored by CSU

California Assemblymember Hector De La Torre has been selected as "Legislator of the Year" by the California State University.

The CSU's students, alumni, board of trustees, chancellor and the 23 campus presidents honored De La Torre last week for his work in support of higher education. Some of his work includes authoring legislation that made Cal Grants more accessible to older and returning students. He also authored a bill that allows older students to take high school exit exams on Saturdays.

De La Torre was elected to the 50th Assembly District in 2004 and represents Downey, among other cities. Recently appointed Rules Committee chair, he is also part of Speaker Fabian Nunez's leadership team, and oversees the Assembly's \$115 million operational budget.

"Being recognized by the California State University and named 'Legislator of the Year' is an honor," De La Torre said. "Last year I worked with the CSU to increase the age limit for recipients of the Community College Transfer Grant from 24 to 27 to better reflect the 25-year-old median age of Cal State students. This year, I am partnering again with CSU to increase grant awards to Cal Grant B recipients. With the cost of higher education continuously rising, it is vital to increase aid to keep college accessible for all qualified students."

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Theatre classes offered to all ages

LOS ANGELES – The Asian Pacific American Theatre Company's East West Players is offering its annual 6-week Summer Intensive Workshop from July 9 to August 18 in the Little Tokyo area Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Classes will include the fundamentals of acting, speech, scene study, movement for actors, dance, and musical theatre. A series of informal guest lectures are also offered to give students a better understanding of the industry.

"The Summer Intensive Workshop invites actors to 'stretch' the limits of their theatrical experience and talent through physical, mental and vocal technique," said Tim Dang, EWP's producing artistic director. "Workshops, seminars and lessons focus on exploring various aspects of the theatre process as a means of creative personal expression and as a path to becoming a professional actor."

Cost for the full six weeks is \$1,500. Full-time enrollment is encouraged, although students may sign up for individual classes based upon availability.

EWP is also offering a creative play class for 8 to 9 year olds and 10 to 12 year olds. Creative play is a one-week workshop held from August 20 to 24. Session One is from 9 to 10:15 a.m. for 8 to 9 year olds and costs \$100. Session Two is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for 10 to 12 year olds and costs \$150.

"Students will expand their imagination in a nurturing and supportive environment through theatre games, improvisation and story telling," said Marilyn Tokuda, EWP's arts education director.

All classes will be held at the David Henry Hwang Theatre located at 120 Judge John Aiso St. in Los Angeles.

For information on the Summer Intensive Workshop and creative play, call Marilyn Tokuda at (213) 625-7000, ext. 15.

Extreme motorsports expo hits O.C.

COSTA MESA – Extreme Motorsports Expo will present a high-octane mix of vehicles and accessories for all off-road and speed fanatics May 18-20. Thrills include FMX jumpers, Rhino demos, monster trucks and Monster Kool Bus rides.

Among the vehicles to be displayed are sand rails, rock crawlers, quads, desert trucks, dune buggies, 4x4s, lifted trucks, ATVs, dirt bikes and high-speed watercraft.

Expo hours are Friday, 5 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$12 per adult (13 and older); juniors (7-12) are \$5 and children 6 and under are free.

Information: (714) 241-9055 or visit www.extrememotorsports.com.



Theater veteran Erin Marie returns to the Downey Civic Light Opera in the role of "Bet" in "Oliver!" opening May 31 and running through June 17. It will mark Marie's seventh appearance in Downey; she also performed in "The King and I," "The Music Man," "Annie Get Your Gun," "Bye Bye Birdie," "Good News," and, most recently, "The Roar of the Greasepaint – The Smell of the Crowd." For tickets and information, call (562) 923-1714. The box office is open Tuesdays and Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Symphony preparing for 'Cuatro de Mayo'

BY ROSALIE SCIORTINO
DOWNEY SYMPHONY GUILD

DOWNEY – Downey Symphony Guild members are busily preparing for their colorful Cuatro de Mayo gala to be held Monday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the Woman's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd. in Downey.

The striking table setting, the room decoration, the delectable menu of Mexican favorites, the special items lovingly wrapped for the live and silent auctions, and that complimentary margarita as you enter the hall – all this to make a fiesta complete in every way.

And why is the Guild striving to make this evening enjoyable as well as profitable? "Because it is a labor of love to support our Music in the Schools program and for sustaining our wonderful Downey Symphony Orchestra," says Katie Hare, hard-working ways and means chairman. She adds: "Gather together some amigos and come share this annual effort and know you will be helping the Guild's aim as you enjoy an evening of warm hospitality with friends and neighbors."

Tickets are \$65 per person, a portion of which is tax deductible. Please make your reservations and payments by April 25 to Downey Symphony Guild, 9700 Garnish Dr., Downey, 90240. Information: (562) 869-2120. Gracias.

Musical review opening in Bellflower

BELFLOWER – "Putting it Together," a musical review by Stephen Sondheim, will be presented at the Bellflower Theater Company starting May 4.

General admission tickets are \$18 or \$15 for students and seniors. The opening performance will be followed by a champagne reception with the director, cast and crew.

For more information call (562) 867-3524. The Bellflower Theater Company is located at 9831 Belmont St. in Bellflower.

No joke: Comedy night for seniors

LONG BEACH – The Long Beach Playhouse will premier "Over the Hill Comedy Night" May 6, an intimate event featuring live stand-up comedy inside the Playhouse Gallery.

Comedians over the age of 40 will present clean comedy shows starting at 6 p.m. The entire show runs for about 90 minutes.

Tickets are \$5 and available at the door or by calling (562) 494-1014.

OC Fair releases May schedule

COSTA MESA – The Orange County Fair & Exposition Center has released their May schedule of events:

- May 4-6 31st Annual Home Remodeling & Decorating Show
- May 6 Custom Classic Car Show
- May 12 Demolition Divas Roller Derby
- May 18-20 Extreme Motorsports Expo

For more information visit www.ocfair.com.



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Arctic Monkeys - *Favourite Worst Nightmares*
Simply Red - *Stay*
Radiohead - *Airbag*
Norman Brown - *Stay With Me*
Joe - *Ain't Nothing Like Me*
Clutch - *From Beale Street to Oblivion*
Marillion - *Somewhere Else*
Panda Bear - *Person Pitch*
Saxon - *The Inner Sanctum*
Jane Monheit - *Surrender*
Charlotte Gainsbourg - *5:55*
Feist - *Reminder*

Source: Amazon.com

New on DVD this week

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One Day at a Time - Season 1
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Source: Box Office Mojo



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Local Concerts this week

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

Ice Cube - HOB Anaheim
Ricky Martin - Staples Center
Jamie Foxx - Gibson Amph.
Heuy Lewis & the News - Pala
Kenny Rankin - Pepperdine Univ.
The Fab Faux - HOB Hollywood

SATURDAY

Bangles - Pechanga
Jamie Foxx - Gibson Amph.
Wisin & Yandel, Tego Calderon,
Rakim y Ken-Y - Honda Center
Joshua Radin - El Rey Theatre
Five for Fighting - Wiltern
Sin Banderas - Kodak Theatre
Ice Cube - HOB Hollywood

SUNDAY

Gwen Stefani, Akon - Coors Amph.
Young Dubliners - Loyola
 Marymount University

MONDAY

Iggy, The Stooges - Coach House
 Jet - HOB Anaheim

TUESDAY

Blood Brothers - El Rey Theatre
Jagermeister Music Tour - HOB Anaheim

WEDNESDAY

Megadeath - Forum
Ice Cube - HOB Anaheim
Lemonheads - El Rey Theatre
Core Taylor - Wiltern

THURSDAY

Heaven and Hell - Coors Amph.
K.C. and the Sunshine Band - Grove of Anaheim
Pretty Rickey - HOB Anaheim
Stephen Marley - HOB Hollywood

Source: Casenet

April 21, 2007 Time: 9:00-12:30

Healthy Kids Day

Camp & Summer Child Care sign up

Events: RockWall (9:00-11:00), 3 point basketball shootout, arts & crafts, bouncer, face painting, demonstrations of Y classes, games and free food.

Location: Downey YMCA Front Parking Lot



Downey Family YMCA
 11531 Downey Ave.
 Downey, CA 90241
 (562)862-4201
www.ymcala.org
 Contact Person: YMCA Staff

Abril 21, 2007 Horario: 9:00-12:30

Día de la Salud del Niño

Inscripciones para Campamentos y guardería de niños en el verano.

Downey Family YMCA
 11531 Downey Ave.
 Downey, CA 90241
 (562)862-4201
www.ymcala.org


Persona a contactar: YMCA Staff

Eventos: Escalar una pared de piedra (9:00-11:00), tiro de baloncesto, artes y manualidades, brincolín, maquillaje, demostración de clases ofrecidas en el YMCA, juegos y comida gratis.

Lugar: Downey YMCA



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and

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Friday, April 20th, 5-10 pm:
 ** PARABOLA ** MISTERB ** DL SMITH

Saturday, April 21st, 12 n - 10 pm:
 ** DJ DLITE ** ANGELIQUE **
 ** MISTERB ** THE GOOD LIFE BAND **

*CHRIS ANDERSON BAND * CPT. BAD JACK & BLOODY KATE *

Sunday, April 22nd, 11 am - 9 pm:
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9813 Paramount Boulevard

~ Proceeds benefit Rancho ~

Ten ways seniors can change...for the better

BY SUE MILLER

You get up achy, stiff and tired. You check the obituary listings to see who is still around. You meet with friends and everyone complains about being ignored by family, former business associates, and the few friends that are still around. Your opinions are never taken seriously and you feel your relatives are resenting you for living too long and spending what would have been their inheritance.

Sounds familiar and depressing, doesn't it? It needn't be that way. The examples cited are never going away. But we can change, even slightly, and prove to ourselves that we are still vital and productive seniors. Now is the time to update our personal 10 commandments. Here are 10 ways in which senior citizens, or anybody, can change for the better.

1. Get up and force yourself to exercise every morning. Anything that you do will make you feel both mentally and physically better.
2. As long as you don't see your own name in the obituary list, you are better off than those who are listed, and you can begin to challenge the new day.
3. Instead of always complaining about your family, recall how great they really are and what the both of you have accomplished and achieved. You should be proud of them, but more important, they should be proud of you.
4. Your opinions and viewpoints are important to you and you should not be ashamed to express them regardless of how outlandish. It shows you are thinking and trying to stay up with the world.
5. Try traveling to see different parts of this country as well as foreign countries. There are many organizations that cater to seniors.
6. Go to movies in the afternoon (popcorn is free on Tuesday). For hearing problems, look for foreign films that have English subtitles.
7. Take chartered bus tours to parks, museums, theatres, and casinos. Take very little money to the casinos and always look for the free or inexpensive buffets. The ride is relaxing and the scenery is beautiful.
8. Check out books in the libraries that have a big selection of books in large print. The most current fiction and non-fiction books are now both in regular and large print.
9. Recognize and accept that you are a senior. When driving your car becomes dangerous, turn in your license and keys before your children start to pressure you.
10. You should always regard yourself as number one. Your children will respect you for your independence.

So get off your duff, and live each day to the fullest. Enjoy your wife or husband, find a friend, a partner or, yes, even a new spouse to share your life. If you don't have one, keep on looking, it is never too late.

Sue Miller is the author of "I'm Tougher Than I Look" (Williams Cohen Press 2006). You can visit her website at www.intougherthanilook.com.

'Godspell' a whimsical view of Jesus

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Theatre Department will present "Godspell," a musical based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning April 27 at 8 p.m. Five additional showing will follow opening night.

"Godspell" presents a 'whimsical view' of Jesus, as his followers and disciples reenact parables and scenes from Jesus' life with great energy through song and dance.

Performances will be held at the Cerritos College Burnight Center Theatre. General admission tickets are \$18; senior citizens and Cerritos College students with current spring ID get in for \$15.



Veteran journalist Dave Lopez was emcee of the Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD) luncheon held this week at the Rio Hondo Country Club. The luncheon highlighted the work done by GOOD, which works to proactively eliminate gangs from the community.

'Visiting Mr. Green' a comedic drama

LONG BEACH – "Visiting Mr. Green", a comic drama about the lives of two New York City opposites, opens April 21 at the Long Beach Playhouse. It will run through May 26.

"Visiting Mr. Green" chronicles the relationship of two men: a cantankerous, disorientated 86-year-old widower living in poverty in a New York City apartment, and a 25-year-old gay corporate executive. Brought together by court order after the younger man drives into Mr. Green as he crosses the street, they have conflicts in lifestyle, values and expectations. Mr. Green is a packrat, surrounded by months of unread mail, decades of crumpling telephone books and an isolation anchored only by his traditional Judaism. Ross, also Jewish but not observant, is a neat freak and a spendthrift.

After a rocky start, the two learn not only to coexist but also to peel back the layers of their emotions, face their own demons, and use each other's strengths to conquer them.

Ticket prices for opening night are \$25, which include a champagne reception following the performance. Regular ticket prices are \$22 or \$20 for seniors. Student ticket prices are \$12 for Friday and Saturday shows with valid student ID.

Gigi Fusco Meese directs the production. For more information call the box office at (562) 494-1014.

Exhibit features best of student work

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Art Gallery will feature its annual exhibition of student artwork, on view through May 8.

The annual exhibition features more than 100 student artworks chosen by Cerritos College Fine Arts instructors from their courses that include photography, drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, computer graphics and design, video and computer animation, among others.

Artworks will be exhibited inside the Art Gallery, Fine Arts building, room 50, Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays and Wednesday, 6 to 9 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Yoga master conducting workshop

GLENDALE – Downey's own Yogi Ramesh will host a "laughing yoga" workshop May 6 at The Village in Glendale. Cost is \$45 per person or \$40 if you register before April 29.

Ramesh says his yoga helps increase lung capacity, improve circulation and reduces period pain and insomnia. A member of the California Yoga Teachers Association, he is the founder of the Universal Yoga Center in Paramount. For information, call (818) 265-9833.

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FRACTURE R	(11:15 2:00 4:45) 7:30 10:15
SLOWBURN R	(12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30
DISTURBIA PG13	(11:45 2:25) 5:05 7:45 10:25
PATHFINDER R	(11:15 1:50 4:25) 7:00 9:35
PERFECT STRANGER R	(11:00 1:45 4:30) 7:15 10:00
REDLINE PG13	(11:30 2:00 4:30) 7:00 9:30
THE REAPING R	(11:35 2:10 4:45) 7:20 9:55
ARE WE DONE YET? PG	(10:15 12:40 3:05) 5:30 7:55 10:20
MEET THE ROBINSONS PG	(10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30
BLADES OF GLORY PG13	(10:25 12:50 3:15) 5:40 8:05 10:30

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IN THE LAND OF WOMEN PG-13 (11:25, 2:05, 4:40), 7:20, 9:55
★ VACANCY R (11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30), 7:50, 10:05
DISTURBIA PG-13 (11:00, 1:40, 4:45, 7:20, 4:15, 5:05), 7:00, 7:45, 9:30, 10:15
THE HOAX R (11:05, 1:55, 4:45), 7:35, 10:25
★ PERFECT STRANGER R (11:15, 2:00, 4:45), 7:25, 10:20
ARE WE DONE YET? PG (11:45, 2:10, 4:55), 7:30, 9:55
BLADES OF GLORY PG-13 (11:50, 2:15, 4:35), 7:25, 9:50
MEET THE ROBINSONS G (11:20, 1:50, 4:20), 7:10, 9:40

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For a location near you, visit www.mariecallenders.com.

TRAP

Continued from page 1

The program is multi-jurisdictional, meaning law enforcement agencies from throughout the state work together, specifically targeting neighborhoods prone to high vehicle theft rates.

TRAP has a small fleet of cars at its disposal, ranging from low-end imports (a popular target because of their ease to steal and interchangeable parts) to high-end trucks and SUVs. Most of the cars are donated or loaned by insurance agencies.

Each vehicle is outfitted with hidden cameras that capture both audio and video and, in addition to the kill switch, a special module that prohibits the vehicle from traveling over a certain speed, usually 35-40 miles per hour.

According to Sheriff's Department Sergeant Tim Glover, who helped coordinate this week's sting in Downey, video taken from the hidden cameras are used as evidence in court. Sometimes, Glover says, the videos capture suspects bragging about other crimes, which can lead to more arrests and more charges.

TRAP has also reportedly been credited with helping capture probation offenders, suspects with "two strikes" on their record and even a high-level Mexican Mafia member.

Many thieves target cars sporting expensive accessories, including tires, wheels and sound systems, says Glover. They steal the car, strip it of anything valuable, and then dump it in South Central Los Angeles or other remote areas.

On Wednesday, more than a dozen police officers and detectives from the Downey Police and Sheriff's Department were working on the TRAP program. The bait was a higher-end SUV equipped with premium wheels.

In the first sting observed by the Patriot, the vehicle was parked

in the Best Buy parking lot at Downey Landing. The SUV was left running with the keys in the ignition, idling quietly, in one of the first stalls near the entrance.

Police officers in unmarked cars watched from afar while uniformed police formed a perimeter. Walkie-talkies squawked as two young men walked past the vehicle slowly, eyeing it nonchalantly. They seemed interested (they kept glancing back at the SUV as they walked away) and police said they had been spotted loitering earlier in the day in the Bally's Total Fitness parking lot.

The two didn't take the bait, however, and after 15 minutes police called to move the SUV to a new location.

Next up was the corner of Downey Avenue and Fontana Street, behind the Arco gas station. The bait was parked on Fontana, facing Brookshire Avenue.

Again, the vehicle was left running, keys in the ignition.

It wasn't long before the bait attracted interest. A car full of young men pulled alongside the SUV and idled beside it, surveying the scene. By pure chance a Downey motorcycle officer happened to drive past at that moment and the car drove off.

Still, three young men soon walked from around the corner and hopped inside the bait car. Literally two minutes had passed since the bait was dropped off and the car had already been stolen.

The SUV proceeded down Fontana while four unmarked police cars scrambled to get behind it. Adrenaline rushed as police officers delivered precise coordinates to their partners and uniformed police on the outside perimeter converged.

Before the suspects could reach the end of the block, a matter of 10-

15 seconds, two more police officers screeched from around Brookshire, lights and sirens blaring, blocking the suspects.

Nearly a dozen officers pulled and pointed their guns, screaming at the suspects to show their hands and exit the car.

The driver, looking agitated at having a fully-automatic weapon pointed directly at his face, complied. A Hispanic male with a shaved head, late teens to early 20's and sporting a vintage Jerry Rice Raiders jersey, pleaded his case as officers cuffed him. He was simply driving his buddy's car, he said, he didn't steal a thing.

After all, the suspect told police, the keys were in the ignition. How could he have stolen the car when the keys were in the ignition?

Police didn't pay much attention. They were busy extracting the two other scared young suspects, who turned out to be Columbus High School students.

Critics of TRAP claim the program is entrapment. Police, critics say, entice victims by leaving the bait car running in full public view. Parents of juveniles are especially critical of the program as they defend their children, police say.

The police don't dispute they do sometimes leave the car running but they argue that most law-abiding citizens wouldn't hop into a car and drive off, whether it was running or not.

The bait car isn't always left running either; sometimes the car is parked and locked and other times the car is left open but with the key in the ignition.

What's not debatable is the program's success, at least on Wednesday: In less than three hours a total of eight people were arrested for stealing the bait car, including five in a sting near Independence Park.

At 5 p.m. police broke for lunch, a short reprieve before hitting the streets again.

Open house hosted by Downey Police

DOWNEY - The Downey Police Department will host their 50th Anniversary open house on May 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The open house will include a station tour, police car and motorcycle displays, police tactical equipment exhibits, CSI demonstrations and 50 years of Downey Police memorabilia.

Barbeque and refreshments will be provided.

The police department is located at 10911 Brookshire Ave.

Gauldin set to celebrate Earth Day

DOWNEY - Gauldin Elementary School will host an Earth Day celebration on April 21 featuring two plays to be performed by fourth and fifth grade students.

Also featured at the event will be face painting, arts and crafts, tree and flower planting, litter clean-up, recycle drive, presentation on the watershed process, and a Cal-Met mulch giveaway.

The event is free and runs from 1 to 4 p.m.

For information call Alex Gaytan at (562) 396-6042.

Watercolor artist giving free demo

DOWNEY - Watercolor artist and instructor Tom Fong will be the guest demonstrator at Tuesday's meeting of the Downey Art League at Furman Park.

Fong is past president of Watercolor West and has conducted international workshops and demonstrations. He was featured in an article titled "20 Great Teachers" by American Artist.

The meeting will run from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and the community is invited.

Expert answers to DMV questions

BY GEORGE VALVERDE

DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Q: I am getting ready to buy a new car. Is there any way to find out how much my registration will cost before my purchase?

A: Yes. The DMV's web site, www.dmv.ca.gov, has a vehicle registration fee calculator feature that can give you that information, as well as other information such as sales tax and vehicle license fees. This is also a place to identify how much of your registration fees you can write off for tax purposes. Just click on the Online Services link and then the Vehicle Registration Fee Calculator. It will prompt you to answer a few questions and give you information based on your answers.

Q: My grandmother recently fell ill and can no longer transport herself around town. I will be her main source of transportation but was wondering if it would be possible to obtain a disabled persons placard for my car?

A: Unfortunately, only people issued disabled placards can use them legally. Although the disabled person does not necessarily have to own or drive the vehicle to use the placard, they must be present when the placard is displayed. If you'd like to have your grandmother apply for a disabled placard, go to www.dmv.ca.gov, click Forms and Most Commonly Used Forms. Once you are there, you will find an Application for Disabled Person Parking Placard or Plates under Plates, Placards, and Stickers. Click to download the form, print it out and mail to the appropriate location listed on the document.

Q: I was involved in a car crash where there was property damage for more than \$800. Do I need to report it to the DMV?

A: Yes. When you're involved in a collision, report it to DMV using the Report of Traffic Accident Occurring in California form located online, under Forms. You or your insurance agent, broker, or legal representative must complete the form and send it to the DMV within 10 days if someone is killed or injured (no matter how minor the injury) or if the property damage is over \$750.

Q: My teenage son is getting ready to start driving and will be taking the driver's training course this summer. Does the DMV provide any material for parents regarding teen driving?

A: Yes. Parents can now go to www.dmv.ca.gov and click on the Publications link to find a "Parent-Teen Training Guide" to use as resource for current traffic laws and other related teen driving information. The DMV also has a teen-specific site designed to provide useful information to teenagers who are gearing up to take their driver's test - both written and behind the wheel. While there, teens can take a sample test, get test tips and even simple ways to save gas.

Networking group hearing Brian Adams

DOWNEY - Brian Adams of Endless Possibilities will speak on "Customer or Client?" at the April 24 meeting of Rise 'N Shine Networking at the Nordic Fox restaurant. The cost is an order from the menu.

To attend, RSVP with the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191.

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All rise for London Steverson, one of Downey's finest citizens

By HENRY VENERACION
STAFF WRITER

When asked what he would like his legacy to be, Judge London L. Steverson, who has been serving as federal administrative law judge with the regional Social Security Administration's Office of Hearings and Appeals located at the corner of Dolan St. and Firestone Blvd. for 18 years, says: "I wish to be remembered for a life of faithful service to humanity."

Judge Steverson is a familiar face in town, especially if one patronizes the Embassy Suites Hotel, which is right across from the Social Security Administration offices. It is a favorite haunt of his. It is at the Embassy Suites where, when he is off duty, one is likely to encounter him, wearing that charismatic smile, his lean 6'3" frame in all likelihood dwarfing everyone he meets.

One of his social strengths is his knowledge of languages. A native of Millington, Tennessee, he can talk fluently in Spanish and German, is adept at conversational French, knows "some Hungarian" (his wife is from Hungary), and is currently studying Mandarin Chinese. He amazes me by his command of Tagalog, the Philippines' national dialect and my native tongue. In fact, in preparing this article, I would couch some of my phrases as a sort of trial balloon, as well as say my felicitations and thank you's, in Tagalog, and he would invariably reply in kind, with perfect diction and intonation, and I have never even once caught him off-guard. (It turns out he has been to the Philippines on a number of occasions, and has lots of friends there, including "a few former girlfriends").

Judge Steverson was a career U.S. Coast Guard officer before becoming a judge, you see, and he has been to many corners of the world, particularly to Antarctica (twice), Eastern Europe, and South America, including Chile, Brazil, Argentina, the Panama Canal (twice) and, of course, especially through his active affiliation with the Sister Cities Association of Downey, Costa Rica and Mexico.

He is as closely identified with his Social Security judgeship as his very active affiliation with Sister Cities, his favorite volunteer gig.

Judge Steverson's reached his present perch as a federal judge adjudicating family law, Social Security, workmen's comp, welfare, widows'/orphans'/infants' insurance/benefits issues and the like, as a result of a combination of talent, opportunity, commitment, discipline and faith.

Born March 13, 1947, he went

to a segregated elementary school in Tennessee, graduating valedictorian from the all-black Woodstock High School in Memphis. In 1968, as a result of an executive order by President Truman in 1948 desegregating the armed forces and President Kennedy goading the United States Coast Guard Academy particularly to tender appointments to Black high school students (there being no discernible black participation in the services at the time), Judge Steverson became one of the first two African-Americans to graduate from the USCG Academy. He graduated with a BS degree in engineering and was commissioned as a Second-Lieutenant. He was to spend 20 years in the service.

His first duty assignment out of the Academy was in Antarctic research logistical support, serving as a deck watch officer aboard a Coast Guard cutter, an icebreaker, and as head of the Marine Science Department. This provided him his first taste of responding to another icebreaker's distress call in frigid waters. Subsequent assignments included a duty tour from 1970 to 1972 in Juneau, Alaska as Operations Duty Officer, and leading a search and rescue operation in September, 1971 when an Alaskan Airlines Boeing 727 airline passenger plane bearing 109 passengers went down in drizzling rain and fog on the side of a mountain about five miles from the airport (there were no survivors).

In 1972, Judge Steverson was reassigned from Alaska to Washington, D.C. to become the Chief of the newly-formed Minority Recruiting Section of the USCG, and was charged with working toward desegregating the nearly all-white USCG, starting with the USCG Academy. His intensive efforts resulted in 28 black cadets gaining entrance into the Class of 1977 and again in 1974 when 20 black cadets were admitted as part of the Class of 1978. It was from these cadets that the Coast Guard's first black officers of flag rank were to come in the 1990's, officers such as Admiral Joseph Jones, Admiral Errol Brown and Admiral Manson K. Brown. A parallel function was finding minority college graduates who were willing to receive direct commissions as lawyers and as aviators. This too proved fruitful.



Judge London Steverson spent 20 years in the Coast Guard before pursuing a career in law.

While still in the Coast Guard, in 1974, Judge Steverson entered the National Law Center of George Washington University, graduating in 1977 with a Juris Doctor of Laws degree. William Barry, former Attorney General under President Clinton, was a classmate.

He next worked, from 1979 to 1982, as a Law Specialist in the 12th Coast Guard District Office in San Francisco. As an Assistant U. S. Attorney, he was charged with the collection of civil penalties under the Federal Boating Safety Act, and as Assistant District Legal Officer, he was required to defend as well as prosecute military members who had been charged with violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

From 1982 to 1986, he served as the Chief Marine Investigating Officer for the Marine Inspection Office in Battery Park, New York. The job, he says, was similar to that of a city prosecutor. With a staff of ten investigating officers, he investigated marine disasters for negligence and causes of action. "Any marine personnel found to have violated a marine safety law," in his words, "was charged and tried before a Coast Guard administrative law judge at the World Trade Center, where he worked for two years on the 6th floor. In the case of a major marine disaster with multiple loss of life, a formal Board of Inquiry would be convened under the direction of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)."

He became the Chief of the Investigating Division at the Marine Inspection Office in New York, NY, and in 1986 was detailed to the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System under the

Office of the then Vice President George H. W. Bush.

When he retired in June 1988, he became the first black Coast Guard Academy graduate to retire as a regular line officer from the service. He held the rank of Lieutenant-Commander during his last 10 years of service. He says he thinks he knows the reason why he was passed over for promotion five times and did not attain the rank of Commander. He doesn't dwell much on the issue.

He retired to Dumont, New Jersey and practiced law in New York, with a focus on family law and defending Coast Guardsmen accused of federal crimes. He is a member of the New York State, New York City, and Tennessee Bar Associations.

His appointment as a federal administrative law judge by President George W. Bush came in July, 1990. He was assigned here, which forms part of the Ninth Region in California.

Judge Steverson, firm in his belief that law is the "noblest profession one can aspire to," says he harbors "100 percent satisfaction" with his function as judge. Being able to hand down rulings from the bench that affect the fates of thousands makes him feel, humbly, as a "servant of God." He is a member of the Seventh Day Adventists, and as an avid student of Bible history, he sprinkles his comments with Biblical allusions. Crediting Presidents Kennedy ("He was Moses") and Lyndon B. Johnson ("He was Joshua") as the catalysts of the profusion of civil rights legislation that precipitated the civil rights movement in the 1950s, he says he pursued law after he had a dream in which he had "a vision

from God," back when he was serving in 1971 in Juneau, instructing him to become a lawyer.

Another of Judge Steverson's passionate 'loves' is his involvement with the Sister Cities Association of Downey, of which he was president 7 straight years, from 1993 to 2000. He is serving now as its current Secretary. Now down to a membership of 45, it was established by the city of Downey under President Eisenhower's "People to People Program," conceived and initiated in 1956 as a new approach to "securing peace around the world through the establishment of personal people-to-people friendships between Americans and the peoples of other nations." The way Judge Steverson, displaying his wit and ability to "cut through the crap," says the idea of the program, in simple terms, really, is to "prevent people from killing each other" — through friendly relationships and mutually beneficial programs. It was the city of Downey that established the first Sister city affiliation in Mexico, when an affiliation was forged with the city of Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico on Aug. 26, 1960. The cities of San Quintin, Baja California and Alajuela, Costa Rica followed. He says he enjoys the Sister Cities' 'ambassadorial' or diplomatic aspects.

Among the multifarious activities engaged in are student and business information exchanges, as well as art/cultural ones, paramedic/earthquake preparedness training, medical training, donations

of medical equipment and supplies, toy and clothing distribution for underprivileged children, athletic equipment/programs, environmental information exchanges, and so on.

Judge Steverson has a 2-year old daughter and two grown daughters from a previous marriage. His wife, Sylvia, is also a lawyer. Her latest distinction is as a writer — she has just written a healthy recipe book titled "Children's Healthy Menu and Recipe Guide," available on www.amazon.com.

His take on Downey? "I think Downey is a small town with a big city's heart," he says. A resident of Downey since 1990, he says it's one of the best cities in which to live. "Everything is here — churches, schools, a good city government, good police, fire, and other public and community services — you name it, we've got it here. And it's relatively a safe place in which to raise your kids."

And in addition to traveling, he likes to read (Bible History, European History, World War II, and, of course, Law). He also belongs to the Los Angeles Adventurers Club, The club, he says, looks for "off-the-beaten track high adventure."

With his integrity, his accomplishments and his ongoing service, Judge London Eugene Livingston Steverson, solid citizen of Downey, is, as somebody remarked, "a good man to know."

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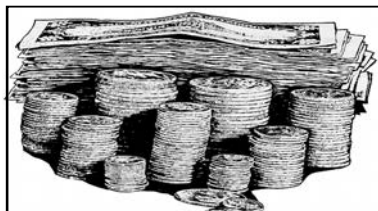
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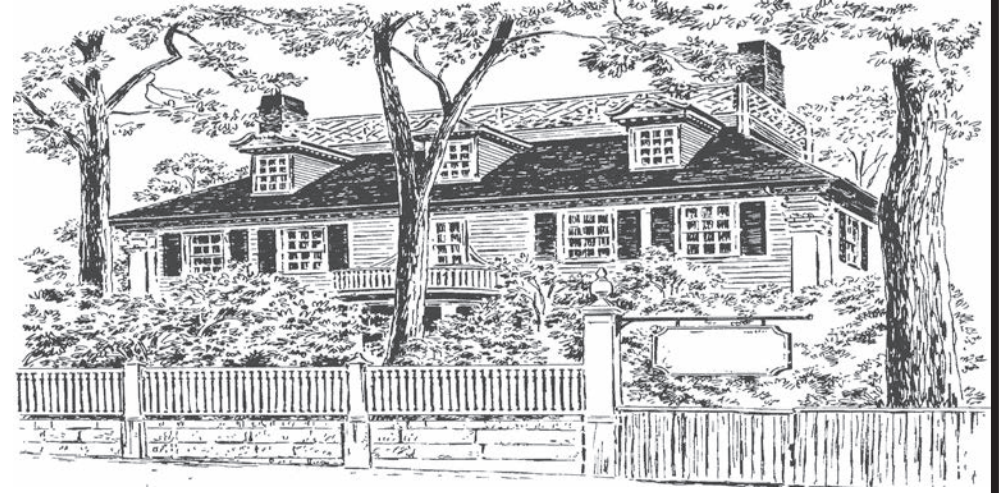
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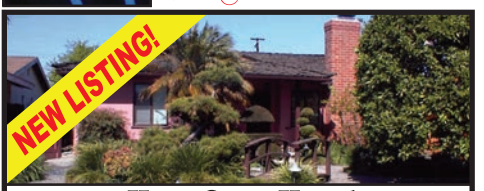
- Behind on your payments?
- Owe more on your house than its worth?
- Need out?
- Bankruptcy?

Call today for a private consultation!

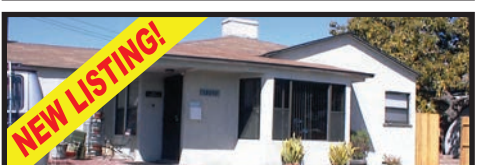


Subject To Bank Approval!
3 BD, 2 BA home in a nice area that needs work. Priced below market value. Call Roger Beltran today, or visit www.RogerBeltran.com
See Other Inventory at www.RogerBeltran.com

Vicki Spearman
"I Care For Downey"
562-367-9520
Vicki@Prudential24Hours.com



Home Sweet Home!
3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, with premiere tub, master suite w/ walk-in closet, pool, FA/CA, great neighborhood. Priced @ \$680,000
Call Vicki Spearman Today @ 562-367-9520



"Great Buy"
3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths, master suite w/ walk in closet, 80 Ft. wide lot, 2 car detached garage, 1,264 Sq. ft. home. Priced @ \$580,000
Call Vicki Spearman Today @ 562-367-9520

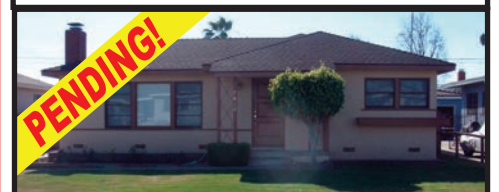
Mario Persico
"Mario Moves You...24 Hours a Day!"
562-533-7433
www.MarioPersico.com



Best Priced Home Per Sq. Ft. In N. Downey!
4 BD, 3 BA, Newer Carpet, Copper Plumbing & 2,111 Sq. Ft.
Just Reduced to \$684,950. Send all offers!
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433



North East Downey Townhouse!!
This Unit features 3 BD, 3 BA, 1,541 Sq. Ft. Located in highly desirable "Glenbrook North" complex
Must Call Mario To See! Price \$474,900
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433



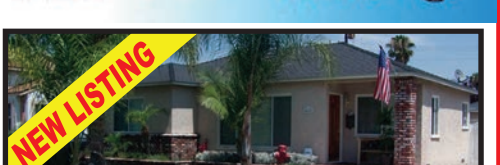
In Escrow!!
This super clean home features 3 BD, 2 BA, hardwood floors, newer roof, freshly painted, central air, and so much more. Move In Ready!!! \$599,950
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433



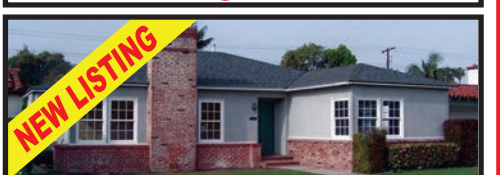
SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!
SOLD!!
Freshly updated home w/ 3BA, 2 BA, hardwood floors, approx. 1,450 Sq. Ft. on an almost 8,000 Sq. Ft. Lot
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433

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

Jose Garcia-Yanez
"The Service You Deserve"
562-519-4010



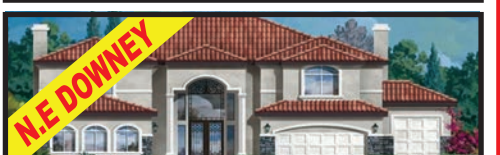
Move Right In!
Impeccable 3 BD, 2 BA home with remodeled kitchen & bathrooms formal living room and den. Priced to sell \$679,000
Call Jose @ 562-519-4010



Prime Location!
7 BD, 7.5 BA, executive office, approx. 6,500 Sq. Ft., 10,880 sq. ft. lot w/ pool and state of the art amenities Downey's most prestigious home!!!
Call Jose @ 562-519-4010



Pool Home!!
5 BD, 3 BA, 3,100 Sq. Ft. of Living space on a 8,200 Sq. Ft. Lot, with pool & spa built in 2006
Call Jose @ 562-519-4010



Prime Location!
7 BD, 7.5 BA, executive office, approx. 6,500 Sq. Ft., 10,880 sq. ft. lot w/ pool and state of the art amenities Downey's most prestigious home!!!
Call Jose @ 562-519-4010

www.Prudential24Hours.com (562) 861-7257



Michael Berdelis
"The 24 Hour Agent"
562-818-6111

89 Homes

SOLD in 2006!

Chairman Circle
Award Winner
2000-2006!

FREE Market Evaluation!

Feature of the Week



Oh! What A Feeling!

Spacious 3 BEDS, 2 BA, LG. Yard w/ Spa & 500 sq ft guest house.
Priced to sell @ \$675,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



New Construction - 2007
On Large Lot! 5 bedroom, 4 bath home, NE section of Downey, backyard big enough for pool.
Price: \$1,295,000
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



A-1 Neighborhood!
3 bedroom, 2 bath home in Northeast Downey with large backyard and pool!
Price: \$999,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Move Right In!
3 bed, 3 bath, large master bdrm, NE section of Downey, 2144 sq. ft. home on a 7,625 sq. ft. lot.
Price: \$799,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



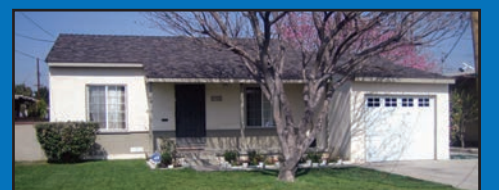
Charming Home near Furman Park!
4 BD, 3 BA, 2500 sq. ft. with guest house, in Orange Estates!
Priced to SELL at: \$859,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



I'm Gorgeous!
Spectacular 9,300 sq. ft. lot w/ pool & sport court, 3 BD, 2 BA home. Completely remodeled kitchen and upgraded bathrooms. Too many upgrades to list.
Price \$699,950
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: \$995,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



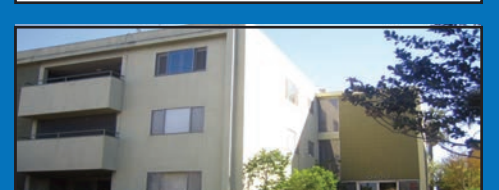
Large Lot - 10,300 Sq Ft!!
4 bedroom, 2 bath home w/ potential to add a guest house.
Price: \$699,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



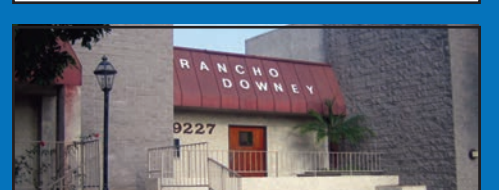
A Smart Buy!
3 bed, 2 bath Norwalk home (on Downey border) with family room and larger master bedroom w/ fireplace.
Price to sell @ \$534,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Honey, Stop the Car!
3 bed, 2 bath Downey home w/ guest house, newer kitchen, central air & heat and much, much more.
Price: \$579,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



"Remodeled North Downey Condo!"
Large bedroom, spacious living room, remodeled kitchen & bathroom.
Price to SELL: \$319,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



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