



The Downey Patriot



Bowen: One fantastic teacher
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Vikings earn coach first win
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Friday, September 21, 2007

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

St. George receives a heavenly redesign

■ After two years, interior painting is finally completed. By all accounts, it was well worth the wait.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—For the second year in a row, Spiro Tsilikaras and his wife, Katerina Vlachou, both painters from Athens, have spent the better part of four months, from early spring to late summer, painting the icons on the Iconostasion, the Christ Pantocrator, and the wall icons of Downey's St. George Orthodox Church, as part of the church's "intensive" interior beautification program.

Last Friday, ultra-active parishioner Harold Tseklenis and I hastened to the church on Downey Avenue to view the artists at work, Harold cautioning me that Tsilikaras barely spoke a word of English. I was told also that the Very Rev. Archimandrite John E. Constantine, the church's third pastor since its founding, was going to be present. To our surprise—and relief—the brief introductions revealed that the iconographic artist is a '77 graduate of the Ruskin School of Drawing & Fine Arts at Oxford University, and he spoke perfect English.

We arrived to see Tsilikaras perched on a ladder painting the eyes of St. Sophia, whose otherwise finished stylized figure towered over her three daughters named Faith, Hope, and Love, on the western wall close to the church's entry vestibule, the *Narthex*. His wife was busy putting the finishing touches on another painting of a saint on the eastern wall.

A week before, prior to this Phase II-ending work which saw the completion of the paintings of angels, prophets, and saints on the walls, Harold says he himself witnessed Tsilikaras lying supine on his back on a scaffold working on the Christ Pantocrator on the domed ceiling of the church, in the attitude of Michelangelo painting his masterpiece on the ceiling of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

"I am of the Macedonian school," said Tsilikaras. "The Macedonian See ST. GEORGE, page 4

Citizens Academy re-opens its doors

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Week two of the Downey Police Department's newly reestablished Citizens Academy featured an introduction by Chief Roy Campos, who was dealing with personal matters last week, and a look into how Downey's emergency dispatch center works, with its computerized mapping system and systematic response techniques.

Students also received a rare peek into the police department's massive computer network system, which one day may drastically reduce the amount of paperwork the department records daily.

Curious to see how our police department really works, and anxious to document it for our readers, I'm attending the class.

Campos began by introducing himself to the class and giving a brief history. A native of Norwalk, his first job was at the local Golf 'N Stuff, buffing and polishing the pinball machines. Studying at Cerritos College, one day he noticed a flyer posted on a bulletin board announcing a police job – the rest is history.

See ACADEMY, page 4

Time Traveler

Corps of engineers celebrates 'century'

BY JOHN ADAMS, EDITOR EMERITUS

The Los Angeles District Army Corps of Engineers will celebrate 100 years of service at a gala ceremony at Cabrillo Beach Park in San Pedro on Thursday, June 25 (1998).

The location is appropriate, since the Engineers began construction of the San Pedro breakwater in 1898, with only 18 men. Since then the district's strength has risen and fallen. Prior to World War II the number of people working various civil works projects numbered more than 18,000. By shortly after Dec. 7, 1941, it had shrunk to less than 2,000 but by then the mission had shifted from civil works to building army camps and airfields.

With a present strength of 900, the Los Angeles District now covers 226,000 square miles, including Southern California, Southern Nevada, Arizona, and the southwestern corner of Utah. They currently work on four "mega" projects, one of which is the Los Angeles River Drainage Area (LARDA) flood control project (to strengthen and raise the banks of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries against the possibility of a "100 year flood" which might devastate an 82-square-mile area from Pico Rivera to Long Beach, including Downey).

Other major projects currently underway include the Santa Ana River Mainstem flood control project (San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties); the Tropicana/Flamingo Washes flood control project (Las Vegas); and the expansion of the Port of Los Angeles. The district still supports the Army and Air Force at nine bases in its area of responsibility.

The celebration of the Corps' 100th birthday here will begin at 10:30 a.m., with the honor guard from the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin presenting the colors. Tall sailing ships from the Maritime Museum, Ports of Call, and a fireboat, "The Scott," will salute the district from the Los Angeles Harbor. An honor flight of Marine aircraft will fly

See TRAVELER, page 4

'We've come a long way'



"Phase II" of the interior painting at St. George Greek Orthodox Church has been completed. Bright, colorful and two years in the making, the paintings were done by Spiro Tsilikaras and Katerina Vlachou, both artists from Athens, Greece. Photo courtesy St. George Greek Church

Puppy taskforce snags hundreds of animals

■ Puppy smugglers caught as they try to sneak infant animals across the Mexican border.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – The Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAA-CA) in Downey was one of several animal, health and law enforcement agencies participating in a recent operation targeting illegal puppy smuggling at the Otay Mesa and San Ysidro ports of entry.

The two-week operation, which began on Labor Day, resulted in 22 puppies being impounded, including two that had to be euthanized.

During the operation, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers directed drivers with animals to a secondary inspection area where animal control officers gathered statistics on the animals, their origin and destination. Drivers were asked to provide veterinary health records and, depending on the circumstances, were either cleared for entry, sent back to Mexico, or forced to relinquish the animals.

A total of 2,061 animals (including cats and hamsters) were recorded by officers between Sept. 3-16, including 157 puppies under three months old.

Thousands of underage puppies, many toy breeds, are brought into the U.S. for illegal re-sale, officials said.

"Buyers should beware when purchasing puppies at swap meets, in parking lots, and answering ads online or in throw-away newspapers," SEAA-CA's Capt. Aaron Reyes said. "These animals can cost from \$300 to \$1,000 and may be underage, sick and carrying diseases that are not initially visible."

Reyes said sick puppies can require thousands of dollars in veterinary costs to nurse back to health. They can also potentially create a health epidemic for animals and humans in the U.S., he said.



Two of the 157 puppies confiscated by animal control as they were illegally smuggled into the U.S. Photo courtesy SEAA-CA

"Many times these animals are not being taken care of properly and the sellers, brokers and transporters may face animal cruelty charges," said Reyes. "It is unlawful to smuggle animals into the United States, which is a federal crime."

The investigating agencies, dubbed the Border Puppy Task Force, were comprised of 18 California animal welfare and law enforcement agencies, including officials from the Centers for Disease Control and California Department of Health Services.

Realtors gather to hear top real estate advocate

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Alex Creel, senior vice president of governmental affairs and the chief lobbyist for the California Association of Realtors (CAOR), was the guest speaker at this week's legislative luncheon conducted by the Downey Association of Realtors at the Rio Hondo Events Center.

Creel, with legislators and legislative representatives in the audience, spoke Wednesday on CAOR's campaigns on Capitol Hill, including their battle to eliminate a controversial – but legal – private transfer tax they claim was leveling homebuyers with unfair fees.

The tax, a remedy of which is sitting on Governor Schwarzenegger's desk for approval, allows home builders to perpetually collect fees whenever a house is sold.

The fee, Creel said, has no cap, and reaches as high as 1.75 percent of the final selling price.

Furthermore, the fee is oftentimes buried in mountains of paperwork, something the CAOR loudly protests against.

Creel also spoke on other legal issues the CAOR and their team of lawyers have contested, including another transfer tax that would impose a \$25 document fee on Realtors.

That bill, introduced in Northern California, was ultimately defeated. Also speaking at the luncheon were Assembly Members Charles Calderon and Hector De La Torre, along with Senator Alan Lowenthal.



Downey Realtors gathered Wednesday for a legislative luncheon featuring chief lobbyist for the California Association of Realtors Alex Creel.

It adds up: Math teacher awarded \$2,500 grant

DOWNEY – Robert Kaplinsky, a teacher at West Middle School, has been awarded a Math Hero Award from MathMovesU, a national initiative from defense technology leader Raytheon Company.

Kaplinsky was one of 153 nominees to win a \$2,500 award. West Middle School received a matching grant of \$2,500.

“Raytheon is committed to raising awareness around the nation’s decline of math and science skills and believes that tomorrow’s engineers and technologists need to be excited by and interested in math today,” said Jennifer Chan, spokesperson for Raytheon. “Math Hero Awards from MathMovesU rewards teachers for promoting math to students in a fun and challenging learning environment.”

Kaplinsky was nominated by students, parents and faculty for his enthusiasm and interest in teaching math to others.

“The Math Hero Award from MathMovesU applauds Kaplinsky and 31 other teachers across the United States whose efforts in the classroom interest and engage students in math through effective and creative learning exercises,” said Chan.

Since the start of the program in late 2005, Raytheon’s MathMovesU has awarded \$2 million to students, teachers and schools nationwide.

Raytheon is a defense technology company with 2006 sales of \$20.3 billion and 73,000 employees worldwide.

Insurance reps honored for big sales

DOWNEY – Four local insurance representatives have been inducted into Farmers Insurance’s “Topper Club” for being top sales producers.

Isabel Rodriguez, Abraham Alvidrez, Aracely Mendoza and Guadalupe Diaz, all of whom practice in Downey, were honored for outstanding sales achievements during 2006.

Author to speak on writing her memoir

DOWNEY – Award-winning author Nora Szechy will be the guest speaker at the OLPH Catholic Women’s Guild meeting on Sept. 26 at 10 a.m. at the Parish Center.

Szechy will discuss the methods she used to write her memoir, “Nora: An Ordinary Girl from Inchicore.”

A salad luncheon will be provided by members of the Board. The community is invited.

Join OLPH Guild on trip to the casino

DOWNEY – Our Lady of Perpetual Help Women’s Guild is sponsoring a day trip to Fantasy Springs Resort & Casino in Palm Springs on Oct. 16.

The bus will depart at 7:30 a.m. Travelers will spend five hours at the casino before returning home around 5:30 p.m.

The casino offers slot machines, table games, a poker room, large arcade and bowling. Various dining choices are also available, including the Pizza Kitchen and their New York style pizza; The Café, offering salads, burgers, panini sandwiches, ribs and more; the Fresh Grill Buffet and their chocolate fountain dessert bar; and Starbucks.

The cost to attend is \$10, which includes \$10 in casino play. Visitors must be 21 or over. For tickets, call Sally Johnson at (562) 861-8370.



Jamie Cecelia Blomgren, daughter of Robert and Myra Blomgren of Downey, will wed Thomas Edward Duerr, son of Michael and Shannon Duerr of Long Beach, in July 2008.

Federal employees meeting Wednesday

DOWNEY – The Downey chapter of the National Association of Active & Retired Federal Employees will have their regular monthly meeting on Sept. 26 in the west building of Furman Park.

Chapter business will start at noon while a featured speaker from Behavioral Health Services will speak on the subject, “Medicines: Friends or Foes?” from 1 to 2 p.m., at which time the public is invited.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, call Robert Knerr at (562) 943-5513.

‘Friends’ of the library host silent auction

DOWNEY – Final bids for silent auction items currently on display at the Downey City Library must be received by noon on Sept. 29.

The Friends of the Downey City Library have selected numerous items to be auctioned off, including coffee-table book, “Golf Courses of Hawaii,” and sugar-free receipt book, “Sweet & Natural Baking.” Also to be auctioned off is a signed copy of Jan Burke’s “Kidnapped.”

Bids can be placed at the Friends Bookstore & Gift Shop located in the library.

Students visit Knott’s Scary Farm

DOWNEY – The City of Downey Community Services Department has scheduled a Knott’s Scary Farm trip for middle school students for Oct. 12, from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. For information, call (562) 904-7238.

MacDonald thanks Kiwanis for support

Executive director of Arc praises the Kiwanis Club of Downey for their continued support.

CONTRIBUTED BY GWYNN GUSTAFSON
KIWANIS CLUB OF DOWNEY

DOWNEY – Kevin MacDonald, executive director of Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County, spoke to the Kiwanis Club of Downey, as well as the Aktion Club of Downey and the Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis Club, at a recent luncheon.

MacDonald thanked Kiwanis for their years of support and stated, “Downey is really blessed to have such a wealth of service clubs and we at Arc know how fortunate we are to have their support. On a daily basis we have 420 people with intellectual disabilities benefiting from Arc’s many services, which include employment both on-site and in the community, and learning how to live independently or with minimal assistance.”

Ashvin Patel, director of production, oversees the production lines at Arc’s Southeast Industries. Throughout the workday, dozens of individuals with disabilities fill tiny bags with shredded currency, paste labels on French-milled soap, and prepare plastic tubing for water filtration systems. Many companies recognize that the workers may have disabilities, but know that they too want to earn a living.

To aid those working on-site, the Kiwanis Club of Downey and the Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis Club partnered to establish the Aktion Club of Downey at Arc.

“The Aktion Club reaches out to the disabled community, giving them a chance to give back,” MacDonald said.

Currently comprised of 12 Arc members, the funds the Aktion Club raises each year through Christmas card sales are used to purchase gifts for residents at local retirement centers.

There are many innovative programs at Arc teaching independent and supported-living, all made possible through the new employment center and the on-site model apartment. There is also an inclusive after-school program – supervised by Arc staff – which integrates non-disabled persons with disabled children ages 6 to 17 at six local schools.

At the employment center, participants are put on a six-month program to work in the community. Each graduate of the program has a coach that accompanies them to the job and monitors their progress until they can work on their own.

The model apartment classes teach basic needs, such as how to use a washer and dryer, wash dishes and clean the house. There are 15 students in each class, with smaller groups learning how to shop at the grocery store.

Then there is the senior program. People with disabilities can now retire like everyone else who has earned the right to rest.

“We throw a retirement party with balloons and a retirement certificate, and then we help the retiree choose a senior program,” MacDonald said. “The program includes transportation to weekly events like bingo and exercise classes.”

Arc is a service for people with intellectual disabilities, a Center for Human Rights and a Family Crisis Center.

“We offer free counseling to help family members make informed decisions about the care of their loved ones,” said MacDonald.

MacDonald also reminded the group of the upcoming Arc Walk for Independence, which will take place April 5, 2008.

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Chris Bowen is named 'teacher of the year'

■ West Middle School teacher earns high praise from District, which also names new administrators.

By HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—The Board of the Downey Unified School District heard Lisa Rawlings, principal of Alameda Elementary School, present the LACOE (Los Angeles County Office of Education) Teacher of the Year Award to Chris Bowen, newly appointed Title I (assistance in reading and math for qualified students at DUSD) coordinator for West Middle School. He previously served in the same capacity at Lewis Elementary School.

With Bowen's wife and daughters in attendance, Rawlings cited his many fine qualities, capping the encomiums with, "He's just an outstanding teacher."

Earlier, the Board and the administrative staff, headed by Superintendent Wendy Doty, welcomed the district's new administrators (principals and vice principals).

In other action, the Board:

- Accepted with gratitude a cash donation from an anonymous donor of \$5,000, to be used to improve the baseball field and to purchase baseball equipment at Downey High School; a similar cash donation of \$5,000 from Kaiser Permanente, the amount to be used to cover the cost of an Insurance Enroller; and a donation of instructional materials and resource books for teachers from More Life Through Management's Alice Terry, valued at \$8,654;

- Authorized the payment of expenses for convention and conference attendance;

- Ratified the general agreements for FY2007-08 with Alton School, Barbara Dawson Educational Center, Leeway School, Oak Grove Institute, Provo Canyon School, Tobinworld, and Vista Behavior;

- Ratified Special Education payments;

- Ratified purchase orders by the Purchasing Department;

- Ratified payments for hourly, overtime, Civic Center work performed by classified personnel, Adult School, and Food Services for the month of July through August 2007;

- Ratified B warrants for payment of authorized purchase obligations incurred by law or district policy for August;

- Approved the agreement with Family Service of Long Beach to provide a counseling program to children and families referred from the District, effective Oct. 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008;

- Approved the services agreement with LifeCare Resources, Inc. for the DUSD Employees' Wellness program, effective Oct. 1, 2007 through Oct. 30, 2009;

- Approved the agreement with the TDS Group to administer DUSD's 403(b) plan programs in accordance with IRS codes and regulations;

- Approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Mount St. Mary's College Internship Program;

- Approved two change orders with P.W. Construction of Glendora involving the Downey High School new classroom building (Buildings "B" and "C");

- Accepted as complete various projects (paving, electrical, roofing and fencing) performed by various vendors;

- Approved the purchase of equipment in accordance with established purchasing policies and regulations;

- Ratified routine Personnel items until subsequent action is taken by



Chris Bowen - Los Angeles County Office of Education Teacher of the Year.

the Board of Education;

- Approved the abolishment of one position (the vacant Senior Instructional Assistant position,) at Gauldin Elementary, and the establishment of several new mainly limited-term positions at selected schools;

- Approved changes to the duties of Facilities/Construction manager;

- Ratified the increase to the unclassified salary schedule for the positions of Athletic Trainer;

- Authorized the service of the teacher granted a Provisional Internship Permit for the 2007-08 school year, to serve as a middle school teacher;

- Opened and closed a public hearing, and adopting a resolution that sufficient textbooks and instructional materials are available and consistent with the cycles and content of the curriculum frameworks;

- Adopted a resolution apportioning district appropriations subject to limitation for 2007-08;

- Approved the 2007-08 Downey Adult School course of study;

- Approved the Test Administration Calendar for the 2008 school year;

- Approved the Certification of Provision of standards-aligned instructional materials;

- Approved the unaudited actual Financial Report for FY2006-07;

- Ratified schedule for elementary bus stops for the 2008 school year;

- Following a prescribed multi-step process, opened and closed a public hearing inviting public response to the DUSD Board's initial bargaining proposals for a Successor Agreement with California School Employees Association, Chapter 746; and

- Endorsed the actions taken by the Superintendent on student cases.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 16, at the Gallegos Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave., Downey.

New School Administrators 2007/08



Ixchel Sanchez - Vice Principal, Downey High School



Kerrie Weiglin - Assistant Principal, Warren High School



Gilbert Rodriguez - Vice Principal, Columbus High School



Jennifer Robbins - Principal, Ward Elementary School



Cindy Ogren - Vice Principal, Carpenter Elementary School



Cynthia Benedetta - Vice Principal, Price & Alameda Elementaries



Julie Helm - Administrator, Special Education



Chris Velasco - Vice Principal, Old River School Elementary



Mark McLaughlin - Vice Principal, West Middle School

Class of '57 reuniting Oct. 13

DOWNEY – The Downey High School class of 1957 will host a 50th reunion celebration Oct. 13 at the Rio Hondo Events Center. The cost is \$80 per person for the Saturday night dinner.

Members of the class will also meet at Downey High School on Oct. 12 at 3 p.m. for a tour of the campus before attending that night's football game against Paramount High School.

The Saturday night reunion starts with a 6 p.m. reception. Attire is "dressy casual." For information, call Carolyn Jo (Ward) Weigand at (714) 971-0948 or Karlene (Sibley) McDowell at (714) 871-5805.



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ST. GEORGE

Continued from page 1

style is lighter, more expressive than the austere, dark style of Crete." (The Ionian style saw a rebirth in Renaissance Italy.)

Visibly pleased with the transformation that's slowly but surely taking place in his church, Fr. John said: "We've come a long way within a year's time. There's a lot of color in here now."

Indeed, the symbolic and iconographic style that characterizes Byzantine art has always been awash in color, initially with its frescoes and mosaics and today with its renderings in oil on canvas, used by Tsilikaras and Katerina. Tsilikaras told us they did the preliminary painting in their Athens studio and had the works shipped here and glued to the walls. The couple has since gone home to Greece.

Harold says work on Phase III next year will include doing additional paintings, e.g., the Annunciation over the altar and paintings of the Apostles, especially the four Evangelists. In this connection, he mentioned that the dome painting of the Christ and of the Virgin Mary behind the altar were funded by gifts from the Ladies of the Philoctetos Society.

"This whole thing is by no means finished," said Fr. John. Pointing to the wooden pews, he said, "These are only temporary. Also, we have yet to install glass doors. Hopefully we'll have them by next year."

Harold also pointed out a very interesting item: "From the eastern side of our church, on the outside, one can see at least five other churches, representing different denominations: the tower of the Presbyterian Church, OLPH, the Methodist Church, the First Baptist Church, and the First Christian Church.

Told that the inside of the Greek Orthodox chapel at Rose Hills was all covered and resplendent with icons, I asked how the many still unpainted, blank spaces inside St. George's will be utilized. Fr. John replied, with a wistful look: "That will be a task for the next generation."

TRAVELER

Continued from page 1

over during the ceremony. The event is open to the public.

The Corps and its efforts are intertwined with the history of this country. Mark Twain, who made a name for himself as a Mississippi steamboat pilot long before he became a literary light, said, "Everyone complains about the Mississippi River, but no one does anything about it..." (He said the same thing about the weather!) The Army Corps of Engineers did something. In 1824 they were the first to survey the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, to deepen the channels and remove sand bars. Before they were done, all the great rivers of America were made navigable by the Corps.

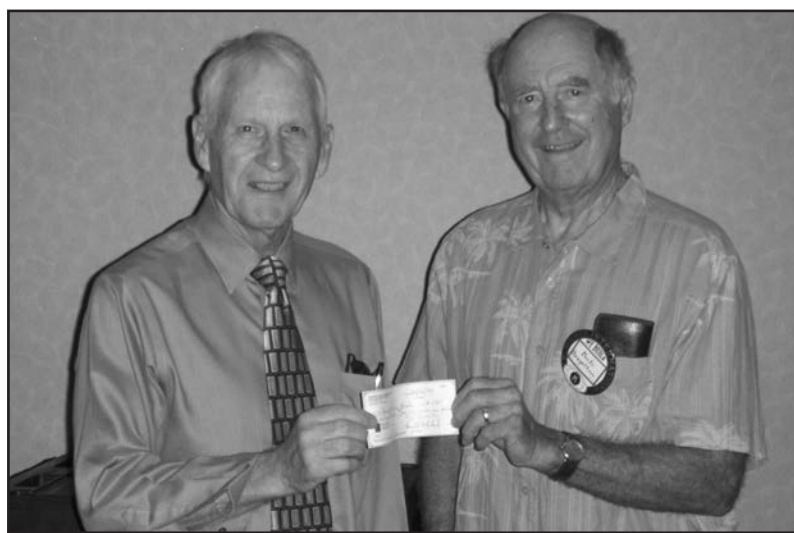
In 1902 the Corps started dredging and building Pearl Harbor, which had become a U.S. Territory in 1898.

By Dec. 7, 1941, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had built and had operating a radar station in the Pacific on Kahaku Point, northwest of Pearl Harbor. Early that Sunday morning two operators detected a strange flight of planes from the west. They frantically reported their find, but no one would listen.

Gen. George Patton, who spent his boyhood summers in Downey, subsequently graduated from West Point and before World War II, was ordered to find a site for a desert training center. He established Fort Irwin.

Among the Corps' recent accomplishments is the Indian Bend Wash (IBW) project located in Scottsdale and Tempe, Arizona, involving a greenbelt plan to absorb flood waters. Completed in 1984, it has been used as an example of successfully wedding recreational features into a flood control design, and shows the Corps' sensitivity to environmental concerns.

Originally published June 19, 1998. This concludes the "Time Traveler" series.



Dr. George Bridges (left), president of Downey Meals-On-Wheels, accepted a \$500 donation from Bob Brazelton and the Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis Club. The Downey Meals-On-Wheels program delivers food to Downey residents who are unable to cook for themselves and/or are unable to go grocery shopping, for only \$5 a day.

ACADEMY

Continued from page 1

Campos spent a good half-hour answering questions from students; no topic was out of bounds:

Does Downey PD need more funding to hire additional officers? No, Campos said, funding is not the problem. He lauded the City Council and City Manager, who regularly provide him with the money to hire more officers. The problem is, according to Campos, a lack of qualified candidates. Downey PD has strict qualification requirements for potential officers, and is not willing to take less than the best.

"We send these officers into houses where maybe a child is home alone," Campos said. "We have to absolutely trust our officers that they'll do the right thing."

Next question: With a need for more officers, does Downey PD advertise anywhere? Campos was blunt in his answer: "Nobody reads the newspaper. People are going online now. We advertised in the *Times*, the *Press-Telegram*, nothing."

Way to scare off our advertisers, Chief! But it's hard to argue with him; an increasing number of readers, especially the younger generation, are, indeed, getting their news online.

I asked the chief if being Hispanic helps him in his job.

"I see myself as a chief who happens to be Latino," Campos said. "I want to be a role model for everybody, not just Latinos. If a Latino or Latina comes up to me and says, 'Hey, you're my role model,' then great. But I want to set a good example for everyone."

I wondered about the media. What does he think about the media? Are they a help or hindrance? I know I get on my mom's nerves all the time.

"I go into it like anything else," said Campos, "with an open mind and a positive attitude." Campos said he's been burned by reporters in the past (rule number one: there's no such thing as "off the record") and by inaccurate or incomplete reporting.

There's also a frustration factor, Campos said, when police investigations limit the information he or his officers are able to put out. Media outlets can also slant news or omit information – purposely or not – and it sheds a bad light on police.

I can attest to the Chief's frustrations. This past April, Downey police shot and killed a man after he allegedly pointed a gun at them following a short pursuit on Pico Vista Road. The *Los Angeles Times* quoted a teenager as saying the suspect had both hands in the air when he was shot.

The *Times* failed to mention four other witnesses who corroborated the police account of what happened. Even more puzzling, the *Times* failed to mention that the suspect had reported himself to 9-1-1 and had left behind a suicide note. A suicide note! Put yourself in the Chief's shoes and wouldn't you be upset?

"The Downey Police Department has nothing to hide," Campos said. "Due to ongoing investigations there is information that we can't always immediately give out, so when you see those videos of a police shooting on TV, I just ask that you be a little bit patient and wait for all the facts to come out."

That about ended the Chief's portion of the class.

Up next was Supervisor Heidi Calhoun, who oversees the Department's dispatch center. A team of 11 full-time and three part-time dispatchers handle thousands of calls each year, 99 percent of which are answered in four rings or less.

The dispatch center is understaffed, Calhoun said, and suffers the same problem as police: a shortage of qualified personnel. All applicants must undergo psychological and medical evaluations, drug testing, a polygraph

The Poets' Corner

Poem

The clock of life is wound but once
And no one has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop
Whether at a late or early hour.

So now is the only time that is our own
To live, to love, to toil with a will.
Place no faith in the tomorrows
For the clock may then be still.

--John Kenneth DeKay,
Downey

(Submitted by Jennifer DeKay-Givens)

Poems can be submitted to *The Downey Patriot* at 11525 Downey Ave. Ste. A, Downey, 90241 or downeypatriot@yahoo.com

test, credit check and background check (where most of the applicants are lost). Dispatchers regularly work 13-hour shifts, confined to desolate spaces and must multi-task with a flood of incoming calls; it's a difficult job by any definition.

Three on-duty dispatchers gave the students a live tour of the dispatch center, located inside the Downey Police Department. Computers give dispatchers precise locations of officers, plotting them on a colorful map of the city. As calls come in, the dispatcher directs police officers to a location with a brief synopsis of the situation; if the caller requires medical or fire assistance, the call is transferred to the Downey Fire Department's dispatch center on Paramount Boulevard.

Dispatchers also assist officers in running warrant checks on stopped drivers. A name and/or birth date can search a national database for outstanding warrants; the database also includes information on traffic citations, failures to appear, etc. The amount of information that can be gathered in a matter of seconds is intimidating.

Dispatchers also have on file emergency contact information. If your business is broken into at 3 a.m., dispatchers can identify a contact person with a few short keystrokes.

After a short break (where students ate complimentary sandwiches and cookies), we heard Lieutenant Jim Heckel, who supervises the Department's information technology, as well as professional conduct standards (Internal Affairs).

"Technology is huge with the Downey Police Department," Heckel said, who added he's been paying his bills online since 1992.

Heckel demonstrated the AEGIS computer system, a humongous database storing loads of important information, including tickets and citations, DUI's, traffic accidents, arrests, orders of protection, vehicle impounds, property room inventories, etc.

The database contains information on all cars "touched" by Downey PD: cars involved in traffic accidents, hit and runs, DUI's, suspicious vehicles and more. The information helps to possibly link cars to different crimes.

The system includes booking photos and allows officers to enter specific characteristics, including scars and tattoos. So, for example, if you're robbed one day and notice the perpetrator had a tattoo of a snake on his upper arm, police would be able to do a search for suspects they have previously arrested with tattoos of a snake on their upper arms.

Mounds of other information is also stored on this system, including when a suspect's Miranda rights were read, by whom, and at what time.

Heckel also presented students with a look at the COBAN system, the in-car digital video camera system police units have installed inside their dash. The camera, as well as a wireless microphone worn by officers, is activated whenever a police unit turns on their lights and siren.

Even when the camera is not activated, it's still recording, Heckel said. In fact, when an officer flips on his lights and activates the camera, the camera backtracks and records one minute prior to being activated. (Say an officer witnesses a driver run a red light and flips on his lights and sirens. The camera will backtrack and record one minute prior, so the violation is caught on tape.)

Heckel played a few startling dash camera recordings, including one taken last year that showed a suicidal man walking down a Comolette alley with a gun pointed to his head. The man was killed by police when he reportedly turned the weapon on officers.

Another video, taken just last month, showed an officer narrowly avoiding a head-on collision by a drunk driver traveling on the wrong side of the road. The drunk driver, quite literally, came within inches of potentially killing a police officer.

One more video, time-stamped 8/25/07, shows a drunk driver slam into a patrol unit. A couple of shady witnesses, eager to incriminate a police officer, blamed the accident on the police, but the dash cam clearly told the truth.

The class ended well past 9 p.m., but nobody seemed to mind. Next week's lesson will be on patrol operations and recruitment, where we'll learn what phrases like, "4-10" and "3-12" really mean.

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Confess already

By Eric Pierce

Apparently, I chose the wrong weekend to go to Vegas. Just three days after I had checked out of the very same hotel, O.J. Simpson reportedly barged into a Palace Station hotel room, guns drawn, barking profanities, shouting orders and fleeing with an unspecified amount of sports memorabilia. (I'm sure you've heard the story.)

As if O.J. Simpson memorabilia is all that valuable! His 1974 Topps football card is going for 99 cents on eBay. Surely even he could afford that.

The Palace Station Casino & Hotel is not swanky by any means; not exactly the place to spot celebrities. Then again, O.J. Simpson is not a celebrity anymore. He's a sideshow, a freak, a morbid curiosity that belongs more appropriately in a traveling circus than on a golf course.

O.J. Simpson should be selling steak knives on a late-night infomercial. Or imploring Ford to bring back the Bronco; he would be their spokesperson! At least it would be an honest living.

I am so sick of O.J. Simpson, yet, it's hard to look away. You get the feeling he's going to confess to the murders at any moment now. You know he wants to. He can't wait to confess, to get that massive burden off his chest.

But he won't, because he's too stubborn. He's kept the lie up for so long now, he believes it himself.

Kids now are donning retro O.J. Simpson jerseys, throwbacks to his days at USC.

Now I don't have any kids yet, but there's no way they would be allowed outside the house wearing an O.J. jersey. (To be fair, they also won't be allowed to wear jerseys belonging to the San Francisco Giants, Phoenix Suns, or Boston Celtics. Clippers jerseys I'm still iffy on.)

USC, in fact, banned O.J. from their sideline, and who can blame them? O.J. is not exactly their best recruiting tool.

It would be similar to last fall, when Suge Knight showed up multiple times on the Downey High School sideline during football games. People were privately nervous, even those who shook his hand, but nobody said anything. Even with police just yards away, Suge's presence instilled an unfair sense of apprehension in people.

I'm not sure O.J. instills fear in people these days, except in maybe his lawyer, who must be thinking, every time the phone rings, "What has O.J. done this time?"

We need candidates with good judgment

By Lee Hamilton

All over the country, political candidates, consultants, reporters, campaign volunteers, and politically active citizens are pondering a single question: What do voters want in a candidate? Will voters be motivated in next year's elections by issues, personalities or some intangible mix of qualities in the candidates they're considering?

Every voter makes up his or her mind differently, of course, but my suspicion has always been that most voters weigh a mix of considerations; the true "single-issue voter" is rare. To be sure, they want to know candidates' stands on the issues they care about – how they articulate them and what they consider most important. They also want to get a sense of the candidates' overall vision and where they want to take us as a nation, how they see the role of the federal government at home and whether they propose a muscular or more restrained foreign policy.

They look for less tangible things as well, qualities that would make them comfortable with a candidate. Voters generally want a sense that a candidate knows why he or she is running for office – and in particular, that it has to do with a desire to accomplish goals or to improve the common good, rather than simply to slake some personal ambition.

Voters also want to feel good about a candidate's values, intelligence, and sensitivity to their concerns. This is why candidates who are masters of statistics and dense policy arguments sometimes leave voters cold, while candidates who can present a compelling "story" attract attention and support.

Over the years, poll after poll has suggested that voters put "integrity" and personal honesty at the top of their requirements in a candidate. My sense is that other concerns come higher. If voters like what a politician stands for or find some deeper personal connection, they can forgive a lot: Witness the re-election of Richard Nixon in 1972 or the high poll numbers Bill Clinton enjoyed despite questions about his personal conduct.

Good political judgment calls for a keen sense of what will work and what won't in a given set of circumstances, as what the best means might be to achieve policy goals – in essence, it requires that leaders see the world as it is, not as they would like it to be. It demands great insight into others: who is competent and who is not, who will speak the truth to them and who will not, whom to believe and whom not to believe, who will persevere and who will fold.

It demands equally keen insight into complex situations and events, and an ability to discern possibilities for progress that others might miss. Finally, it requires a keen sense of what can be accomplished given the personalities and events in play: when to compromise, when to yield, and when to stand firm.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



Letters to the Editor:

Help stop eminent domain

Dear Editor:

Many citizens in Downey will soon see notices in their mail or newspapers regarding the annual meeting of the Downey Redevelopment Project Area Committee, or PAC. They may not be familiar with this committee or the Project Area, so the PAC wishes to provide additional information about this event.

The Redevelopment Project Area is a zone that incorporates most of the land along Firestone Boulevard, much of downtown Downey Avenue, and a few other distinct neighborhoods. This designation grants the City sweeping powers to redevelop these communities that can affect all Downey citizens. Redevelopment is a very powerful tool, and fortunately, one that has been used with restraint in Downey. It allows the City to spend state and county tax revenue, to issue bonds without voter approval, and to seize property for economic development using eminent domain. With this extraordinary power comes the temptation to abuse it, which has been seen in many neighboring communities and on the news. However, in Downey, the Project Area Committee has resisted redevelopment abuse for over 20 years and is a large part of the reason eminent domain has not existed here for development purposes since 1987.

The PAC is an advisory panel comprised of citizens that have a stake in the Project Area; its members rely on their property in the area as a residence, livelihood, or investment. They volunteer their time to protect the residents of the Project Area while advising the City Council and staff on the direction and emphases of redevelopment. Because redevelopment allows cities to spend state and county money, it is extremely important that these funds be used responsibly. The PAC allows concerned citizens to contribute their visions for Downey's future, amplifying their voice and providing a forum for ideas, so that city planning better reflects the needs and ideals of the public.

Every year, the PAC holds an annual meeting to elect new representatives from the Project Area. These members are selected from four categories to represent their respective interests: Homeowners, Tenants, Business Owners and Community Organizations.

We invite all interested citizens to attend this year's annual meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cormack Room of the Downey City Library and to take part in this election, either to voice your concerns, to learn more about redevelopment, or to apply for membership. Candidates must be from the Project Area but need not be property owners; renters within the Project Area are equally affected and welcome. And membership is a light commitment – we meet only once a month, but that has been enough to keep eminent domain out of Downey for 20 years.

Please come, even if you have no intention of joining – active voters are just as important as the candidates they elect. The PAC membership still seeks your opinion as an affected party in the Project Area, and you might discover some useful information. Concerned citizens from outside the Project Area are also welcome to attend and give input; although they cannot serve as members on the committee unless a representative for another party.

So long as the PAC exists, we can prevent the return of eminent domain for economic development while advising the City on the fair and proper course of redevelopment planning. But to do this, we need the support and membership of the community – you.

Come to the Cormack Room of the Downey City Library at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 2 and see how you can shape our future!

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call (562) 862-4892 or (562) 869-0780.

— The Downey Redevelopment Project Area Committee

Fair and balanced

Dear Editor:

The Downey Patriot is doing a great job. The right-wing Ayn Rand Institute articles provide balance for the racist, socialist writings of Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard.

—Randy Evans, 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.

Legislation aids families with soaring college costs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard joined her colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives in voting to approve legislation that makes the single largest investment in college financial aid since the 1944 GI Bill, helping millions of students and families pay for college.

The legislation, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 (H.R. 2669), which the House passed in July by a vote of 273 to 149, would boost college financial aid by about \$18 billion over the next five years. The legislation pays for itself by reducing excessive federal subsidies paid to lenders in the college loan industry by \$19 billion.

It also includes nearly \$1 billion in federal budget deficit reduction.

"At a time when college costs continue to skyrocket, I am proud to join my colleagues in voting for the College Cost Reduction Act that make college more affordable for 6.8 million college students with need-based federal student loans," Roybal-Allard said. "The measure also increases Pell Grant scholarships, which help more than 5.5 million mostly low-income students afford a college education."


"According to the College Board, tuition and fees at most four-year public institutions have soared in recent years, rising 35 percent since 2001. These high costs are financial barriers for many students seeking a college degree," Roybal-Allard said. "The College Cost Reduction Act will significantly help talented students from my district, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college and rely on Pell Grants and need-based federal loans to pay for the cost of college."

Under the legislation, the maximum value of Pell Grant scholarship would increase by \$500 over the next five years. When combined with other Pell scholarship increases passed or proposed by Congress this year, the maximum Pell Grant would reach \$4,900 in 2008 and \$5,200 in 2011, up from \$4,050 in 2006. Under the measure, an estimated 600,000 additional students would become eligible for a Pell Grant scholarship, expanding the assistance to more low and moderate-income students.

The measure also makes landmark investments in Hispanic-Serving Institutions, where Hispanics constitute 25 percent or more of the total enrollment at either the graduate or undergraduate level or both. Hispanic-Serving Institutions serving students from the 34th Congressional District include California State University-Los Angeles, East Los Angeles College and Cerritos Community College. The College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 provides \$200 million in grants to HSIs over the next five years. This investment would focus on building the capacity of HSIs to produce more graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

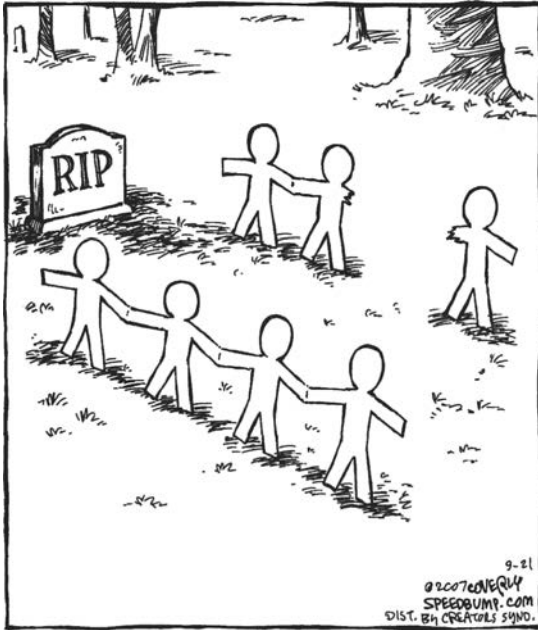
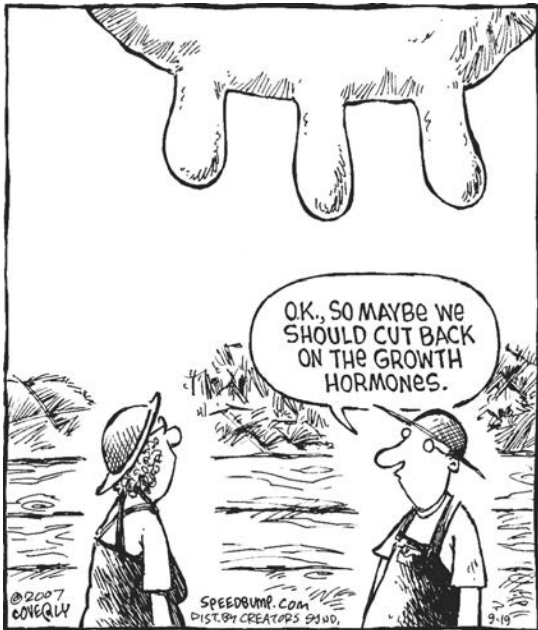
The legislation would cut interest rates in half on need-based student loans, reducing the cost of those loans for million of student borrowers. The College Cost Reduction Act would cut interest rates from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent over the next five years.

The Downey Patriot

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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For September

- Sat. Sept. 22: **Cheer Clinic**, Warren High School, 8 a.m.
- Tues. Sept. 25: **City Council meeting**, City Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. Sept. 26: **Nora Szechy speaks at Catholic Women's Guild**, OLPH, 10 a.m.
- Fri. Sept. 28: **"Back to School Dance"**, Apollo Park, 7 p.m.

City Meetings

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

- 6:30 p.m.: **Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner**, mtg., for information call 426-6786.
- 6:30 p.m.: **Overeaters Anonymous**, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.
- 1st Mon., 4 p.m.: **2nd Century Foundation**, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.
- 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.
- 3rd Mon., 7 p.m.: **American Legion Post 270**, Los Amigos Country Club, call 869-1053.
- 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 at Downey High School library, 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 a.m. - **Downey Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos CC, Call 927-8488.
- 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park.
- 3rd Weds., 6 p.m. - **American Business Women's Association**, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
- 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 Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618
- 3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.: **Women's "In His Glory" Ministry** at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

On This Day...

- Sept. 21, 1937: J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" is published.
- 1938: The Great Hurricane of 1938 strikes New York, killing over 600 people.
- 1945: TV and film producer Jerry Bruckheimer is born. Also born Sept. 21: Bill Murray (57), Stephen King (60), Dave Coulier (48), Faith Hill (40), Ricki Lake (39), Luke Wilson (36), Alfonso Ribeiro (35) and Nicole Richie (26)
- 1981: Sandra Day O'Connor is unanimously approved as the first female supreme court justice.
- 1994: Track and field star Florence Griffith-Joyner dies of an epileptic seizure.
- 1996: John F. Kennedy Jr. marries Carolyn Bessette.
- 1999: At least 2,400 people are killed when an earthquake hits Taiwan.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

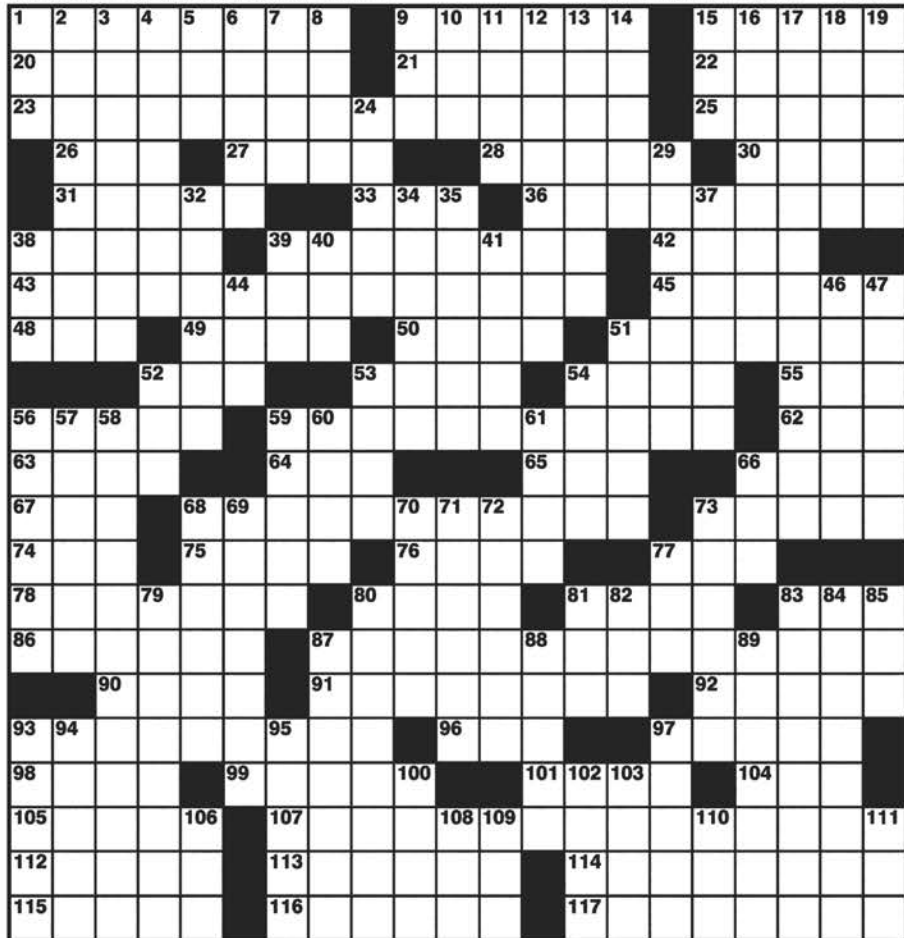
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

DOUBLE YOUR PUN: Plural wordplay

by Merle Baker

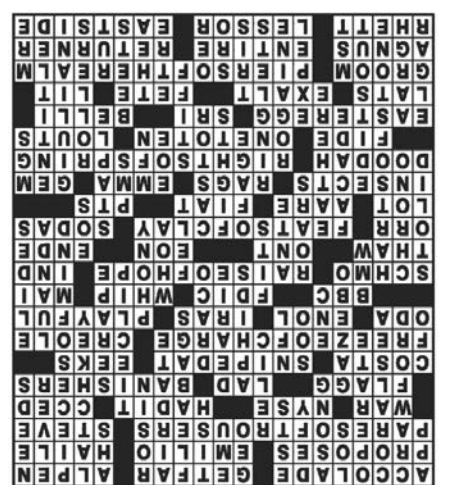
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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 73 Fountain orders | 9 Prefix with graphic |
| 1 Four-star review | 74 Destiny | 10 Flightless bird |
| 9 Accomplish a lot | 75 Swiss river | 11 Mrs. Addams, to Gomez |
| 15 Austrian peaks, to natives | 76 Decree | 12 Run-down hotels |
| 20 Puts forward | 77 Scoreboard nos. | 13 TV Guide information |
| 21 Actor Estevez | 78 Bugs | 14 Violinist's need |
| 22 Selassie | 80 Joplin music | 15 Sounds of satisfaction |
| 23 Cut-off shorts manufacture? | 81 Actress Thompson | 16 Springlock opener refrain |
| 25 Forbes of Forbes | 83 Beaut | 17 Ideas? |
| 26 Kids' card game | 86 "Camptown Races" | 18 Young eel |
| 27 Wall St. institution | 97 Attorney Melvin | 19 Can't do without |
| 28 "I've up to here!" | 98 Back muscles, briefly | 24 Museum piece |
| 30 E-mailed a duplicate to | 99 Put on a pedestal | 29 Haberdashery item |
| 31 Fried Green Tomatoes... author | 101 Throw a party for | 32 Garden structure |
| 33 Sprout | 104 Turned on | 34 Plant pests |
| 36 Those forcing expatriation | 105 Neaten | 35 Hon |
| 38 Rica | 107 British docks? | 37 Colorful shawl |
| 39 Attacked snidely | 112 Dei | 38 Corp. money manager |
| 42 Comics shrieks | 113 Unabridged | 39 Jack of Barney Miller |
| 43 Price control? | 114 Hardy's Clym Yeobright, for one | 40 Bears' org. |
| 45 Spicy cuisine | 115 Butler of fiction | 41 Northern constellation |
| 48 Harem room | 116 Landlord | 44 Business-letter abbr. |
| 49 Organic compound | 117 UN headquarters' Manhattan area | 46 Capital of Angola |
| 50 Some nest eggs | | 47 Slurs over |
| 51 Not serious | | 51 Ersatz |
| 52 English channel | | 52 Audi competitor |
| 53 Bank-window initials | | 53 Is the right size |
| 54 Defeat | | 54 Hold-your-horses command |
| 55 tai | | 56 Impassive |
| 56 Knucklehead | | 57 file (sequential archive) |
| 59 Cheering-up result? | | 58 Cervine statuary? |
| 62 Not of a party: Abbr. | | 59 Surf sounds |
| 63 Become friendlier | | 60 Start the pot |
| 64 NY neighbor | | 61 Knew somehow |
| 65 Long time | | 66 Greek dawn goddess |
| 66 The NeverEnding Story author | | 68 False front |
| 67 NHL great | | 69 Diner sign |
| 68 Well-made pottery? | | 70 Old enough |
| | | 71 They might be picked |
| | | 72 Olive Oyl's brother |
| | | 73 Paper fastener |
| | | 77 UK leaders |
| | | 79 Bleeps |
| | | 80 Curly locks |
| | | 81 Want-ad letters |
| | | 82 Prime world-trade customer: Abbr. |
| | | 83 Comics cry of despair |
| | | 84 Qualified |
| | | 85 Sports cars since the '20s |
| | | 87 Hair-raising brand |
| | | 88 Hardly limber |
| | | 89 Window-shade parts |
| | | 93 Pomp and Circumstance composer |
| | | 94 Comics cry of despair |
| | | 95 Kick out |
| | | 97 Borscht veggies |
| | | 100 Baseball great |
| | | 102 French 101 verb |
| | | 103 "Take ___ Train" |
| | | 106 Colo. clock setting |
| | | 108 Sellout sign |
| | | 109 Anthem preposition |
| | | 110 Same old thing |
| | | 111 GI chow |

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2007 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 9/16/07



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

The full name of "Forbes" publisher Malcolm Stevenson Forbes, Jr. is the Clym Yeobright (114 Across) is the Hardy novel "The Return of the Native;" The northern constellation "Dragon" is located near Ursa Major and Ursa Minor.



Razorbacks play tight games, defense prevails

CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE BAUMANN, DOWNEY YOUTH FOOTBALL
DOWNEY – Every youth tackle football game played Saturday at Downey High School was a close decision during action in week two. Once again the Razorbacks won five of the six contests.

Downey's MityMite Razorback Red (7, 8 and 9-year-olds) dominated the game offensively, but scored only once, on a Jordan Mayes 20-yard sweep. However, the defense, particularly Jesse Saenz, Drew Gonzales and Danilo Diaz, held Twin Cities (Pico Rivera/Whittier) scoreless to win their second game of the new season.

Lakewood held the Razorback White MityMite team scoreless, 13-0 in the second game. The Razorbacks' only real scoring threat came on a 45-yard pass reception from Jordan Cardenas to Justin Ayala late in the game but the Hogs could not punch it in from inside the five-yard line.

The Junior PeeWee (8, 9 and 10-year-olds) played in an exciting overtime game, beating Inglewood 39-32. Most of Downey's scoring was on long, time consuming drives, and conversely, Inglewood's scores were on long runs. Justin Ramirez scored Downey's initial TD, but on the first play after the kickoff, Inglewood tied the score at 7-7. Downey scored after another long drive to lead at the half, 13-7.

The second half started in a similar manner. Inglewood took the kickoff and quickly scored to lead 14-13. Justin Huff straight armed his way to a 65-yard touchdown run, and Jake Cook added the PAT for the Downey lead, 20-14. Inglewood came right back on a long sweep to tie the score at 20. Downey's Huff and Cook pounded the ball on the next drive, which culminated in a five-yard plunge by Anthony Menendez.

On fourth down and 25 yards to go for the first, Inglewood not only converted, but scored to tie the game at 26. Huff capped the Downey scoring with an 11-yard TD run with 40 seconds left. Unbelievably, Inglewood scored on a 54-yard run to send the game into overtime. Justin Huff scored for Downey in the overtime and for once the Hog defense held on for the win.

PeeWee Razorbacks played stingy defense in shutting out Torrance 6-0 and improving their record to two wins without a loss. The defense held Torrance to only two first downs and did not allow them into Razorback territory the whole game. The Hogs scored on a 45-yard pass from QB George Reyner to Daniel Sanchez.

The Razorback Junior Midgets (10, 11 and 12-year-olds) were held scoreless in the first half against Inglewood and trailed 6-0. The Hogs tied the game late in the final quarter and sent it into overtime when David Saenz scored on a 55-yard run. Saenz scored again in the overtime period, and the Downey defense held for the team's first victory of the young season.

For the second week in a row the Razorback Midgets (11, 12, 13, and 14) scored on the opening kickoff with speedy Derek Smith dashing 70 yards, untouched. After a good defensive stand the Hogs drove for another score by Smith to lead Wilmington, 12-0. Uncharacteristic penalties and mistakes held the Razorbacks scoreless the rest of the game, but the defense turned in another gem of a game, holding Wilmington to six points.

Little League holding elections

DOWNEY – West Downey Little League will be holding general elections for spots on their board this Tuesday at West Middle School.

The elections will be held inside the cafeteria on campus at 7:30 p.m. Parents of the players are strongly urged to participate in the election process. According to West Downey Little League's information officer, a majority of the parents must show up in order for elections to happen. If a majority does not show up, the elections will be rescheduled for a later date.

Only parents of players in the league are eligible to run for general member positions on the board. The board will then appoint those general members to positions such as president, vice president, treasurer and others.

For more information, visit the league's website www.eteamz.com/westdowneylittleleague or call (562) 928-2837.

— *Scott Cobos*



Downey High School football players catch a breather in their 42-23 win over Schurr last week. Photo by Art Montoya

Vikings bounce back to dominate Schurr

BY AMARYLLIS VELASCO, DOWNEY PATRIOT INTERN

DOWNEY – Last Friday night at Allen Layne Stadium, the question on everybody's mind was whether or not the Downey varsity football team would make their comeback from their previous game against La Habra and give Head Coach William Capps his first win of the year.

They did, at a final score of 42-23.

As impressive as Schurr High School ranks, being last year's CIF champions, Athletic Director Tom Thompson didn't take the Vikings lightly. "I was very optimistic by how things went our first game, the problem is that Downey is a tough game for us," he said. "In the past 18 years, we have only beaten them four times. This match should have been interesting. We should only have been so lucky."

As the first quarter commenced, Schurr made the first touchdown of

the night, followed by Downey only a couple minutes later. Downey quarterback Antonio Mendez made himself a crucial player throughout the game, completing 11 passes out of 21 attempts for 273 yards and two touchdowns, including a 1-yard touchdown run.

After the first half, the offensive line weakened a bit, which allowed the Spartans a couple extra touchdowns.

Regardless, the Vikings took charge of the game. Other impressive players include running backs Eric Hayes and Jerimiah Higgins, and wide receiver David Mullins. Higgins scored the final two touchdowns of the night, which helped lead Downey to victory.

Capps, Downey's coach, could not be happier about the results, saying, "We played fantastic, we stepped up to the challenge, it was 42-23, pretty phenomenal."

Running back OK after being carted off field

BY SCOTT COBOS, CONTRIBUTOR

EL MONTE – Losing a key player in an offense built around what he does could be disastrous to a football team as the Warren Bears found out in a losing effort to Arroyo High School last week. The mood was somber and spirits were low when running back Nate Colbert was carted off the field due to injury in the 24-14 loss.

Colbert was tackled funny and sustained a mild concussion in the first quarter, according to team officials. After the play, medical crews put a neck brace on Colbert and gingerly lifted him onto a board to make sure he didn't sustain any other injuries.

He was then transported to USC Medical Center where he was then forwarded to Kaiser Permanente in Bellflower where additional tests were run. According to team officials, Colbert is expected to miss two weeks and should be ready for the start of league play.

The injury may have acted as a distraction to the Bears. Warren's defense allowed 21-first-half points. This first-half performance was the complete opposite of the previous week's spirited play against Santa Fe High School.

Warren did score in the first half trying to climb back into the game. Warren quarterback Alfonso Gonzalez was 8 for 17 through the air, passing for 153 yards with a touchdown completion to halfback Jesse Callier.

Callier took over the rushing duties after Colbert's departure. He finished the game with 11 carries for 73 yards. Along with the touchdown

reception, Callier also had one on the ground.

The Bears' defense finally settled down in the second half, only allowing three points. Unfortunately for them, it was too late. Warren's offense was unable to jumpstart itself for a comeback.

"We had our chances to get back in the game," said Warren Assistant Head Coach Chris Benadom. "We just weren't able to get it done."

Warren cheer clinic tomorrow

DOWNEY – Warren High School's cheer squad is hosting their annual cheer clinic for girls 5-13 tomorrow from 8 a.m. to noon inside the school's gymnasium.

The cost is \$25 and includes a snack, pom poms, and admission to the Sept. 28 football game (for one girl and one parent) where girls who participate in the clinic will perform.

Walk-ins are also welcome. For information, call (562) 400-8703.

DJAA registration tomorrow

DOWNEY – The Downey Junior Athletic Association is now taking sign-ups for flag football.

Open registration will be held tomorrow at Apollo Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All players must be in grades first through eighth.

Cost is \$60 and players must bring a copy of their birth certificate and school identification card. For information, call (562) 861-3727.

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 Foo Fighters - *Echoes Silence*
Patience & Grace
 Down - *Down III - Over the Under*
 Iron & Wine - *The Shepherd's Dog*
 Chris Botti - *Italia*
 Chaka Khan - *Funk This*
 Queen Latifah - *Trav'lin' Light*
 Keyshia Cole - *Just Like You*
 Jagged Edge - *Baby Makin' Project*
 Jill Scott - *Real Thing: Words & Sounds 3*
 Brian Setzer Orchestra - *Wolfgang's Big Night Out*
 will.i.am - *Songs About Girls*
 Randy Travis - *Songs of the Season*
 Source: Amazon.com

DVD Releases

MOVIES

Dora the Explorer - *Save the Mermaids*
 Knocked Up
 Next

TV/MISC.

King of Queens - Season 9
 My Name is Earl - Season 2
 Numb3rs - Season 3
 The Unit - Season 2
 The Untouchables - Seasn. 1, Vol. 2
 What About Brian - Complete series
 Source: Amazon.com

Video Game Releases

Bratz: The Movie - PS2, Wii
 World Champion Paintball - PS2
 Hot Wheels Beat That - PS2, X360, Wii
 Jackass: The Game - PS2
 Cabela's Trophy Bucks - PS2, X360
 CSI: 3 Dimensions of Murder - PS2
 World Series of Poker 2008 - PS2, PS3
 Dance Dance Revolution: SuperNova 2 - PS2
 Soul Nomad - PS2
 CSI: Hard Evidence - X360
 World Series of Poker: Battle - X360
 Halo 3 - X360
 Skate - PS3
 Juiced 2: Hot Import Nights - PS3
 Blazing Angels 2: Secret Missions - PS3
 Dave Mirra BMX Challenge - Wii
 Balls of Fury - Wii
 Ninjabread Man - Wii
 Dragon Blade: Wrath of Fire - Wii
 Dewy's Adventure - Wii
 Victorious Boxer - Wii
 Source: ebgames.com

Book Releases

"Playing for Pizza" by John Grisham
 "The Choice" by Nicholas Sparks
 "Run" by Ann Patchett
 Source: barnesandnoble.com

Book Releases

"Making Money" by Terry Pratchett
 "Shoot Him If He Runs" by Stuart Woods
 "Bridge of Sighs" by Richard Russo
 "The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War" by David Halberstam
 "Fire in the Blood" by Irene Nemirovsky
 Source: casenet.com

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'My California': A 6-month wonder

By Brooke Karli, Staff Writer

If you could write a book about your experiences while living in California, what would you say? Would you write about the sandy beaches, snow-covered mountains or dusty deserts? Would you write about the different cultures or the California girls? Possibly the weather? The traffic? The earthquakes?

Regardless of what you would write, it is safe to assume that no matter how long you've lived in California, there is a personal connection with the state that can be shared.

In comprising "My California: Journeys by Great Writers," editor Donna Wares wanted to share personal stories by people who had encountered California in ways we can all relate.

While some can relate to Edward Hume's essay "The Last Little Beach Town," others may relate to Michael Chabon's "Berkeley" or Anh Do's "My Little Saigon."

As part of Literacy Month at the Downey City Library, Donna was asked to speak this week on the process of getting the book started and published.

According to Donna, she pitched the idea of creating a California travel anthology to Paddy Calistro, publisher of Angel City Press, with the desire to donate all proceeds to benefit the California Arts Council.

Although Paddy was on board with the project, Donna feared finding authors willing to donate their work under a pressing deadline would be a daunting task. But after making a few phone calls, she quickly realized that authors — many authors — were more than willing to partake in the project.

"The process was a six-month wonder," said Donna, a journalism professor at California State University, Long Beach. "Not only did I get to work with writers that I admire, but I also got to experience their own Californias."

Ultimately, Donna ended up with 27 authors, all of whom had different stories to tell of their time in California. The authors, ranging from poets (Dana Gioia, devorah major and Chrissy Yost), to novelists (T. Jefferson Parker, Percival Everett and Aimee Liu), to journalists (Patt Morrison, Daniel Weintraub and Héctor Tobar), donated their pieces, knowing all proceeds would benefit the California Arts Council.

According to their website, the California Arts Council works to provide a "broad public understanding of, and appreciation for, the positive impact the arts play in enriching culture, economic, and intellectual life in our communities and schools."

Because the Art Council's budget had been cut back 97 percent since 2000, and Californians were only spending three pennies per capita in 2003 in support of the arts, there was no question as to where the proceeds would go, said Donna. Since the book's first publishing in 2004, over \$85,000 has been donated to the Arts Council.

"All of us had the idea that 'My California' would begin a reversal of fortune for the arts in California," Donna said. "We wanted to raise money and awareness of the critical need to save the Golden State's creative soul."

In addition to the authors donating their work, Kate Cohen, Donna's partner at californiauthors.com, offered to do the graphic designing of the book's cover, while David Hockney offered "Pearlblossom Hwy 11-18th April 1986 (Second Version)," a photo collage for the book's cover. Bill Ralph of Molly Incorporated donated the entire first printing of "My California" and Los Angeles book publicist Jackie Green offered to help with promotion.

When putting the book together, Donna originally wanted to organize the book according to themes, but instead found that each piece had "unexpected treasures that seemed to fall into place with one another."

"My California" is a special road trip through California as seen through the eyes of 27 people," Donna said. "Some stories provide fresh takes on familiar places, while others take you into the corners of the state. But all stories provide a strong sense of place."

Thus far, four cities — Long Beach, Whittier, Santa Barbara and Sacramento — have adopted "My California" as a community read, providing numerous copies at their libraries and schools. The book is currently in its fifth printing and has also been on the *Los Angeles Times* Bestsellers list.

For more information on Donna Wares or "My California: Journeys by Great Writers," visit www.californiaauthors.com.

This magician is through clowning around

By Brooke Karli, Staff Writer

When 9-year-old Ramon Medellin bought his first magic kit at a toy store in Hollywood, he had no idea his new hobby would soon transform him into a magician.

Ramon, who is now 28 and a Downey resident, is a comedy magician, "performing tricks in a comical sense," as he would put it.

When first starting out, at the age of 15, Ramon worked as "wacko the clown," a name he adopted after someone said he was "wacko." For three years he performed at various events, including birthday parties, for audiences young and old.

Following his stint as a clown, Ramon got more involved in magic. He began spending money — lots of money — on tricks that would be needed to better his performances. For example, he spent over \$1,200 on "The Magic Table," a table Ramon saw David Copper-

field use in one of his shows.

Ramon then joined "The Magic Castle," a private club where magicians are offered lectures, resources and a place to perform. Those part of the club must pay for their membership and in order to experience the Castle, you must be invited by one of its members.

Although Ramon tends to primarily practice comedy magic, he also dabbles in other forms of magic, such as classical magic — a form of magic that includes the classic linking of rings, pulling a rabbit out of a hat, etc. — and mentalism — a form of magic that involves moving objects with your mind, reading minds, levitating, etc.

Ramon currently works as a general manager for Magic City in Paramount, a company that distributes materials to magic shops throughout the world, and is a regular performer at the Hollywood



Improv, performing a show at least once a month. He has also performed at the Ice House in Pasadena, the Ontario Improv, and the Irvine Improv, in addition to shows performed for private parties (i.e. birthday parties, corporate events, etc.). Occasionally, Ramon also works at the Hollywood Magic Shop, where he has run into magicians such as David Copperfield, Criss Angel and David Blaine.

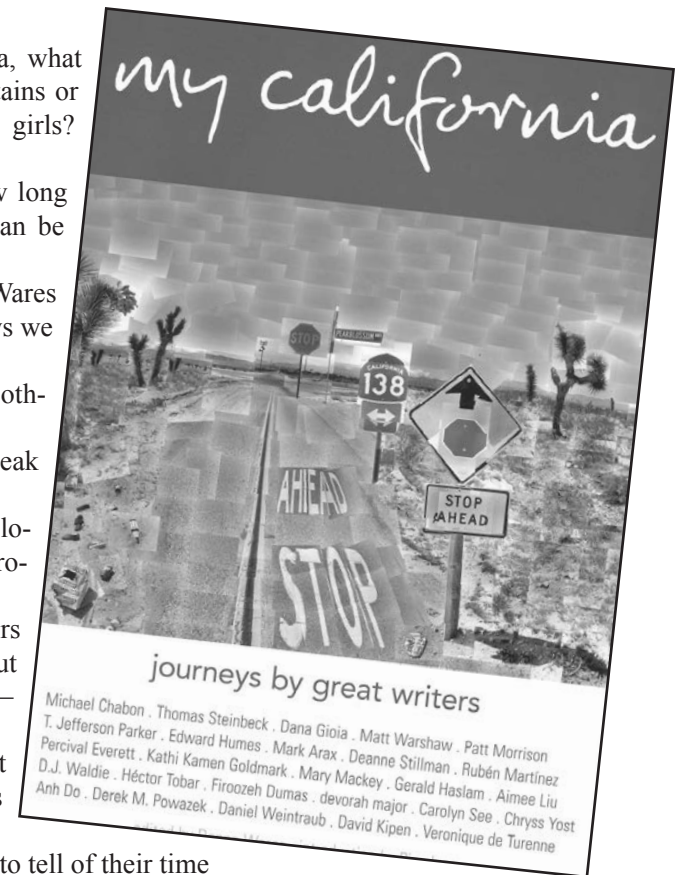
"I love making people laugh and getting a reaction out of them," Ramon said. "I can't believe I get paid to do what I do."

According to Ramon, those that have influenced him most in the magic industry include Fielding West, David Copperfield, Wayne Dobson, and Lance Burton.

Even though it is Ramon's dream to do magic full-time, he is not yet ready to quit his job to pursue that type of position.

"I just want to do magic, travel, and meet people...if I get to do that full-time, then great. But if not, I don't mind having to work," Ramon said.

For more information on Ramon, or to book him for an upcoming event, visit www.ramonmedellin.com, or www.myspace.com/ramonsmagic.



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THE BRAVE ONE R	(10:20 1:15 4:10) 7:05 10:00
DRAGON WARS PG13	(12:05 2:30 4:55) 7:20 9:45
3:10 TO YUMA R	(10:55 1:45 4:35) 7:25 10:15
SHOOT 'EM UP R	(11:00 1:20 3:40) 6:00 8:20 10:40
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Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate's life for me!

By Brooke Karli, Staff Writer

Q: Why did the pirate only buy one earring?
A: Because it was a buck-an-ear!
 What better way to start off "Talk Like a Pirate Day" at West Middle School?

Ye heard me correctly, matey. The holiday was invented in 1995 by John Baur (Ol' Chumbucket) and Mark Summers (Cap'n Slappy) of the United States, proclaiming Sept. 19 as "International Talk Like a Pirate Day."

And West Middle School made sure to celebrate their pirate pride. Cap'n Robert Kaplinsky's 7th grade honors algebra class not only learned about the absolute values of positive and negative numbers, but also walked the plank while doing so.

The Cap'n, dressed in pirate garb from head to toe, decked out his PowerPoint presentation with Jolly Roger, a pirates' skull-and-crossbones flag. Those not following along were threatened with a walk down the plank.

"You have to have fun," said the Cap'n. "The kids will never forget days like this - when their teacher is dressed like a pirate."

When instructing his class about the absolute values of positive and negative numbers, he chose four pirates to aid - two positive pirates, and two negative pirates. Each pirate walked a certain amount of steps along a number line before falling off the plank and into the sea.

"When you're falling off the plank, you have to smile because you're a positive pirate," said the Cap'n.

"Ayes," "arrrs" and "shiver me timbers" echoed amongst the crew. "Talk Like a Pirate Day" is awesome because it's fun and it's a break from our daily routine," said Matt Pacheco, one of the Cap'n's lads.

And even though Kendall Zarate couldn't find her pirate attire, she thought the holiday was a great way to show off someone's sense of humor, also providing for a fun way to learn. Melina Adashefski especially liked how the Cap'n related the day's lesson with the holiday, wishing there were more days like this throughout the year.

Looks like these pirates are on the lookout for next year's "Talk Like a Pirate Day."

That is, if they haven't already walked the plank.

Library announces newly arrived titles

DOWNEY - The Downey City Library invites the community to read the following new titles now available at the library:

FICTION

• "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini. From the author of "Kite Runner," a novel of Afghanistan as seen through the lives of two women.

• "Fire in the Blood" by Irene Nemirovsky. Set in a small French village before WWII, this is a newly-discovered novel by the author of "Suite Francaise."

• "Mad Dash" by Patricia Gaffney. Vivacious Dash Bateman is in a 20-year marriage on the verge of imploding.

• "Signed, Mata Hari" by Yannick Murphy. This is a new novel based on the life and death of a woman whose name is synonymous with treachery.

• "Zig Zag" by Jose Carlos Somoza. In 2015, Madrid physic teacher Elisa Robledo receives a phone call that plunges her back 10 years to a time when she worked with the famous Spanish physicist David Blanes.

NON-FICTION

• "Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World" by Alan Greenspan. The former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board shares his insights on the global economy.

• "Enrique's Journey" by Sonia Nazario. This is the true account of a 17-year-old boy from Central America and his harrowing search to find his mother in America.

• "Things I Overheard While Talking to Myself" by Alan Alda. After a near-fatal illness, actor Alda takes a new look at the world and his life's purpose.

• "What High Schools Don't Tell You: 300+ Secrets to Make Your Kid Irresistible to Colleges by Senior Year" by Elizabeth Wissner-Gross. This book is a road map to help students stand out in the competitive college admissions process.

• "Why We'll Win: the Left's Leading Voices Argue the Case for America's Toughest Issues" & "Why We'll Win: the Right's Leading Voices Argue the Case for America's Toughest Issues" by Milton Friedberg. Companion volumes give liberal and conservative views on fundamental rights and issues that will shape our future.

The Downey City Library is located at 11121 Brookshire Ave. For information, call (562) 904-7360.

Singles mingle at birthday mixer

DUARTE - Singles between the ages of 40 and 59 celebrating their birthdays in the months of September and October are invited to attend a "Singles Birthday Party Mixer" on Oct. 19.

The party will include a sit-down dinner, birthday cake, party favors and dancing.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of what month they were born. The party will be held at the Old Spaghetti Factory, located at 1431 Buena Vista St. in Duarte. Cocktails are at 7 p.m., followed by dinner at 8 and dancing until 11:30.

For information, visit www.supersinglemixers.com, or call Rookie MacPherson at (213) 999-9899.



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Shiver me timbers, thar's a pirate in ye classroom! West Middle School celebrated "Talk Like a Pirate Day" this week, a huge hit with the students. Photo by Brooke Karli

Disney artist giving free demonstration

PARAMOUNT - The Downey Art League and Traditional Artist's Guild of Paramount will meet this Sunday at Progress Park in Paramount to hear guest demonstrator Michael Humphries. The meeting begins at 2 p.m.

Humphries began his professional art career at Walt Disney Studios, painting backgrounds on such films as "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?," "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," and "The Lion King." He was art director on "Fantasia 2000" and most recently was production designer for Sony Pictures' "Open Season."

"The American landscape has always fascinated me, the solitude of a deserted barn or farmhouse, or the simplicity of an old wooden garden bench with its paint cracked and peeling," Humphries said. "So much of nature intrigues me and inspires me to paint. The way light reflects off of an old watering can is just as compelling to me as the grandest of landscapes."

"Finding new ways of interpreting and presenting these images is my joy. I knew from an early age that art would be my passion in life."

The community is invited to the free event. Progress Park is located at 15530 Downey Ave. in Paramount.

To advertise in your hometown community newspaper, call Dorothy or Jennifer at (562) 904-3668

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'Jazz from A to Z' presented at OASIS

DOWNEY - Dr. Thom Mason will be presenting "Jazz from A to Z" this Monday at the Downey Adult School OASIS Program.

Mason is a professor of jazz studies at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, as well as a nationally recognized educator and jazz performer.

"The program will include an entertaining multi-media presentation along with recordings, rare photographs, film clips, stories and a live demonstration and performance," said Harriett Paine, OASIS coordinator.

The program begins at 3:45 p.m. with an optional dinner to follow. The program is free of charge, but dinner is \$3.50.

The Downey Adult School is located on the corner of Woodruff Avenue and Imperial Highway in Downey.

Community invited to meet conductor

DOWNEY - The Downey Symphony Guild invites the community to meet, hear and visit with Clyde Mitchell on Oct. 20 at St. George's Greek Orthodox Church of Downey at 11 a.m.

Mitchell will be the symphony's first guest conductor of the 2007-08 season.

The event will also include a viewing of the newly-finished sanctuary dome and a luncheon, prepared by the Ladies Philoptochos Society.

Donations are \$25 per person and proceeds will benefit the Downey Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Music in the Schools Program and the Greek Women's Guild. Checks can be made out and mailed to the Downey Symphony Guild, 9700 Garnish Dr., Downey, 90240.

St. George's Greek Orthodox Church of Downey is located at 10846 Downey Ave.

For information, call Rosalie Sciortino at (562) 862-3106.

Johnie's Broiler cruise planned Oct. 14

DOWNEY - A "Holy Ghost Cruise" to "help rebuild Harvey's Broiler" is planned for Oct. 14. Cruisers will depart Bob's Big Boy in Burbank at 9:30 a.m., making their way to Johnie's Broiler in Downey.

The event is being coordinated by the Coalition to Save the Broiler. For more information, visit www.saveharveysbroiler.com.

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Faith in Downey: Yom Kippur

By MARY FORNEY AND ERIC PIERCE

Last night, before sunset, began the holiest holiday celebrated in Jewish communities around the world – Yom Kippur.

Pronounced YOHEM ki-PAWR, meaning “Day of Atonement,” this High Holy Day stems from Leviticus 16:29-30: “And this shall be a statute forever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.” (King James Version)

Downey Adult School teacher Suzanne Gilon is among the local Jewish Yom Kippur observers today.

“This is a day of reflection, prayer and repentance,” Gilon said. “We are to think about what we’ve done this year and if we’ve wronged anyone, we are to ask for their forgiveness and make amends.”

Growing up in a closely-knit Jewish community in New York, Gilon remembers everyone in the neighborhood getting dressed up and walking to the synagogue.

“It’s a day of fasting and if you are orthodox, you don’t drive, turn on the lights, cook or even talk on the telephone,” Gilon said. “The day is to be spent thinking about our actions and being in prayer.”

Traditionally, drinking water is not even allowed until after nightfall tonight. The Talmud also specifies no washing and bathing, no wearing cosmetics or deodorants, and no wearing leather shoes.

Donning white is customary because the color symbolizes purity and the promise of our sins being made white as snow.

Believed to be a call to repentance, synagogue services generally end Yom Kippur with a long blast on the shofar – a ram’s horn blown like a trumpet.

Yom Kippur concludes the 10th day of Tishri, or “10 days of repentance,” which began with the High Holy Day Rosh Hashana – the first day of the Jewish New Year. Yom Kippur occurs during September or October.

Following the Gregorian calendar, 2007 is the Jewish year 5768. In 2008 or the Jewish year 5769, Yom Kippur will begin at sunset Oct. 8 and end at nightfall Oct. 9.

Liturgy

Yom Kippur has its own candlelighting blessing. After the candles are lit, the Shehecheyanu prayer is recited.

The evening service that begins Yom Kippur is commonly known as Kol Nidre, named for the prayer that begins the service. “Kol nidre” means “all vows,” and in this prayer, we ask G-d to annul all personal vows we may make in the next year. It refers only to vows between the person making them and G-d, such as “If I pass this test, I’ll pray every day for the next six months!”

This prayer has often been held up by anti-Semites as proof that Jews are untrustworthy (we do not keep our vows), and for this reason the Reform movement removed it from the liturgy for a while. In fact, the reverse is true: we make this prayer because we take vows so seriously that we consider ourselves bound even if we make the vows under duress or in

times of stress when we are not thinking straight. This prayer gave comfort to those who were converted to Christianity by torture in various inquisitions, yet felt unable to break their vow to follow Christianity. In recognition of this history, the Reform movement restored this prayer to its liturgy.

There are many additions to the regular liturgy. Perhaps the most important addition is the confession of the sins of the community, which is inserted into the Shemoneh Esrei (Amidah) prayer. Note that all sins are confessed in the plural (we have done this, we have done that), emphasizing communal responsibility for sins.

There are two basic parts of this confession: Ashamnu, a shorter, more general list (we have been treasonable, we have been aggressive, we have been slanderous...), and Al Chet, a longer and more specific list (for the sin we sinned before you forcibly or willingly, and for the sin we sinned before you by acting callously...) Frequent petitions for forgiveness are interspersed in these prayers. There’s also a catch-all confession: “Forgive us the breach of positive commands and negative commands, whether or not they involve an act, whether or not they are known to us.”

It is interesting to note that these confessions do not specifically address the kinds of ritual sins that some people think are the be-all-and-end-all of Judaism. There is no “for the sin we have sinned before you by eating pork, and for the sin we have sinned against you by driving on Shabbat” (though obviously these are implicitly included in the catch-all). The vast majority of the sins enumerated involve mistreatment of other people, most of them by speech (offensive speech, scoffing, slander, talebearing, and swearing falsely, to name a few). These all come into the category of sin known as “lashon ha-ra” (lit: the evil tongue), which is considered a very serious sin in Judaism.

The concluding service of Yom Kippur, known as Ne’ilah, is one unique to the day. It usually runs about 1 hour long. The ark (a cabinet where the scrolls of the Torah are kept) is kept open throughout this service, thus you must stand throughout the service. There is a tone of desperation in the prayers of this service.

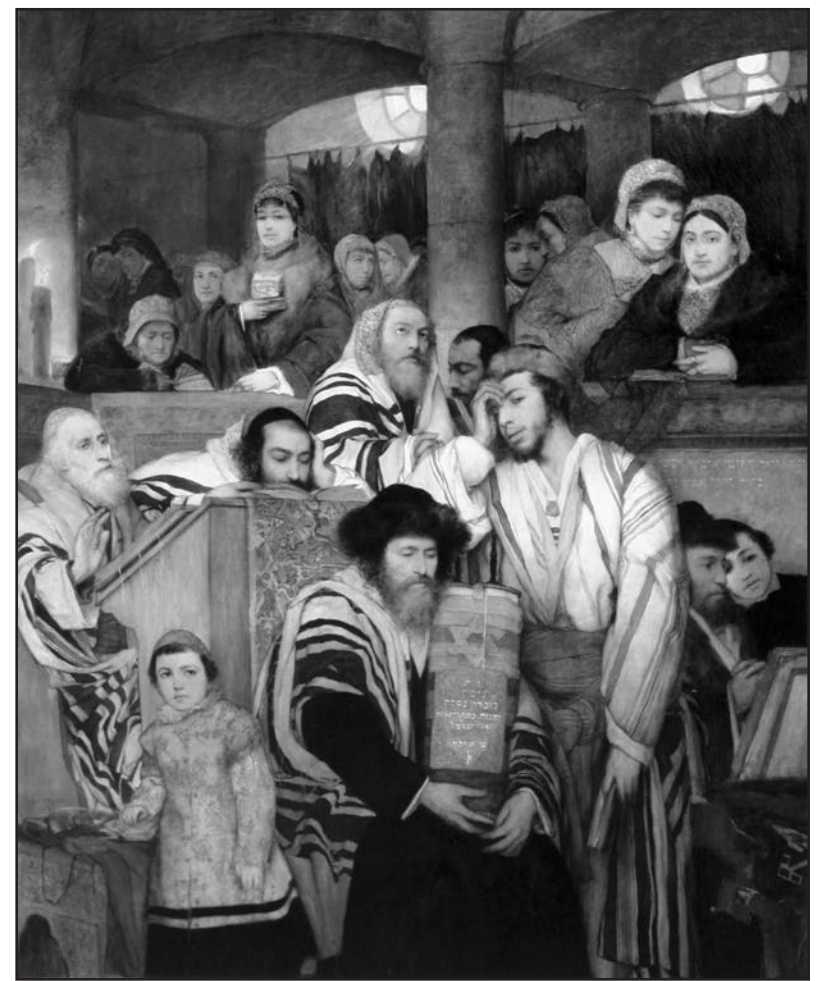
The service is sometimes referred to as the closing of the gates; think of it as the “last chance” to get in a good word before the holiday ends. The service ends with a very long blast of the shofar. See Rosh Hashanah for more about the shofar and its characteristic blasts.

After Yom Kippur, one should begin preparing for the next holiday, Sukkot, which begins five days later.

Information from the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise was used in this report, portions of which were reprinted with permission.

This concludes the “Faith in Downey” series.

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Artist Mauryc Gottlieb created this painting in 1878 depicting Ashkenazi Jews praying in a synagogue on Yom Kippur.



An 11th century manuscript of the Hebrew Bible, as exhibited by the University of Oslo in Norway.

Farewell to ‘Faith in Downey’

By BROOKE KARLI
STAFF WRITER

For the past 19 weeks, *The Downey Patriot* has been publishing “Faith in Downey,” a series designed to highlight faith and religion in Downey, featuring 22 churches and temples of different beliefs, sizes and historical backgrounds.

The idea to tackle such a series came after observing the importance religion has amongst our community.

Although the idea was not my own, the series had become my primary assignment. I went into the project excited to explore other faiths, considering I was only familiar with my own. But the task of writing on these different faiths proved to be difficult, to say the least. After all, I had to provide the community with simply a taste of what others believed, all the while being sensitive and respectful to their faith while trying to remain unbiased.

Easier said than done.

But putting that aside, I walked away from each interview wiser than the one before, learning that in every religion, it’s not just about doctrine, but also lifestyle. Every person I encountered was passionate about what they believed, donating their time and money not to a church or temple, but to a “family.” Their place of worship was their haven, their home, their motivation to live for what is morally, spiritually and ethically right. And regardless of what division may be caused amongst their congregation, they are forgiving and willing to move forward.

In addition, I learned that there are over 50 churches and temples in Downey, some of which meet in their own buildings, while others meet in high school auditoriums and hotel ballrooms. I learned that some places of worship have been here before Downey was even incorporated, and that some just opened their doors this past Easter. Some host thousands at an average worship service, while others are home to a handful.

Some places of worship believe in Jesus Christ, while others worship Buddha. Some only believe in the Old Testament, while others use their own supplements in addition to the Bible. Some buildings have stained glass windows and altars complemented by hanging crosses, and some buildings have neither.


However, the biggest difference I observed is this: much division is caused amongst churches and temples due to differences in Biblical interpretations. For example, the Episcopal Church, as well as the Lutheran Church and Catholic Church, are very similar in tradition, but differ in doctrine, varying in their use of sacraments – baptism, Eucharist, reconciliation, confirmation, marriage, holy orders, and the anointing of the sick.

But the one common denominator seen in all faiths – at least here in Downey – is that regardless of the differences they may have with one another, they have tolerance for what the other believes, a lesson all too unfamiliar with society. So often we are quick to judge those that believe a certain faith, but really, who are we to say who is right or wrong?

This series wasn’t about favoring one faith over another, or putting any faith under a dark light, but rather getting the community acquainted with a topic that is often swept under the rug.

We aren’t asking that you share the same beliefs or even agree with them, but simply respect them. That in itself is practicing the universal faith of treating others as you would like to be treated.


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James Armstrong was involved in community

DOWNEY – James Armstrong, longtime Downey resident, passed away on Sept. 18 at the age of 91.

Armstrong was born on June 6, 1916 and joined the Army Air Corps in 1941. He later served in the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command until 1964, where he retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He then worked on U.S. government contracts, also becoming experienced in tracking government property for inventory purposes, publishing numerous articles on the topic.



Following retirement, Armstrong tutored individuals through the Downey City Library Literacy and Training Program as a volunteer. He was also a member of the Downey Historical Society and a volunteer for the American Heart Association.

Armstrong was preceded in death by father James A. Armstrong and mother Hazel O. Armstrong.

He is survived by wife Dai; sisters Dorothy Jones and Marian Rhoades; daughters Pamela Armstrong, Olivia Armstrong, Sarah Armstrong, and Jenny Taylor; son James Armstrong; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; three nephews; one niece; and friends Tom Lee and Lori Keenan.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Friends of the Downey City Library, or to the Downey Historical Society.

James Lester Logan was an active Baptist

DOWNEY – James Lester Logan, Downey resident for 45 years, passed away on Sept. 8 at the age of 90.

Logan was born on March 3, 1917 in Washington state. He was captain of an L.S.T. in the U.S. Navy, serving until 1946. He later moved from South Gate to Downey, where he resided for 45 years until the death of his first wife, Wilma of 55 years. Both were active members of the First Baptist Church of Downey.



He is survived by wife of eight years, June Moore Logan; sons James and Jerry (Patty); stepdaughters Peggy, Janet (Greg), and Carol (Bill); grandchildren Ron (Melissa), Michael (Gail), Chad (Kate), Dionne (John), Bill, Travis, Katie, Steve, Shannon, and McKinna; and great-grandchildren Madeline, Ian, Josh, Jessica, Daniel, Zachary, Cameron, Richard, and Alexander.

Memorial services will be held tomorrow at the Los Altos United Methodist Church at 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to Ability First, 3770 East Willow St., Long Beach, CA, 90815.

Yoga guru hosts laughing yoga class

ORANGE – Yoga guru Yogi Ramesh will be hosting a laughing yoga class tomorrow from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at The One Center in Orange.

According to Ramesh, laughter burns calories at dramatically higher rates than conventional exercises, energizing all the cells in a person's body. Laughter also induces mood-enhancing endorphins and creates a feeling of happiness, suppressing stress-inducing chemicals.

Cost for the class is \$20 and registration is required. To register, or for information, call (562) 808-0804.

Hume Foundation honors volunteers

DOWNEY – The John Hume Performing Arts Foundation will be hosting the 3rd annual Margene Glenn Award on Oct. 13 at 12:30 p.m. at Granata's Italian Villa in Downey.

The Margene Glenn Award is an annual recognition of outstanding volunteer service to the community. This year's honorees are Tony and Joyce Dusch, longtime residents of Downey that have contributed their time and resources to numerous civic projects including the Downey Children's Theatre, Inc.

The event includes lunch and those interested in attending must make reservations by Oct. 6.

To make reservations, or for information, email friggie@roadrunner.com, or call (562) 869-0422.

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The Downey City Library will celebrate the cultural richness of Mexico with a special family event, "Fiestas de Mexico," featuring Alina Mendez (above) and the Fiesta Dancers, this Thursday from 7 to 7:45 p.m. Mendez, an award-winning local teacher, will present stories and dances from Mexico in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The free musical program with audience participation is being sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library.

Reeve Foundation awards grant to National MS Society

DOWNEY – The Southern California Chapter of the National MS Society has received a \$10,000 Quality of Life grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation (CDRF). The award was one of nearly 100 grants totaling approximately \$900,000 awarded by CDRF to nonprofit organizations that help people living with disabilities become more fully integrated members of society.

The Chapter will use this grant to launch a wellness program targeting Spanish-speaking Latinos with MS at The Eric Small Center for Optimal Living with MS at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. Through this weekly program – conducted entirely in Spanish – participants with progressive MS and significant challenges related to this disease will engage in a range of physical, emotional, and recreational wellness activities. The preventative, restorative, and rehabilitative services will assist MS participants to improve healthy lifestyle habits, optimize independence, enhance emotional wellness, overcome daily challenges and achieve personal goals.

The program is now being offered in English on Thursdays at Rancho, and the Chapter will launch a Spanish version on Wednesdays beginning later this fall. The program will serve Latinos from the surrounding areas of East Los Angeles, South Bay, Long Beach, San Pedro, and southwest San Gabriel Valley.

"We are thrilled that the CDRF has joined the movement to help address the challenges of living with this chronic, unpredictable and often disabling disease," said Mercy Willard, the Chapter's director of community development and outreach. "This grant facilitates outreach to the Spanish-speaking MS population by minimizing barriers to care and by helping people with MS in adapting to and coping with the changes the disease may bring."

Founded in 1999 by the late Dana Reeve, the CDRF Quality of Life grant program recognizes the numerous needs of people with disabilities – primarily paralysis – and their families, and the importance of providing services and programs that enable them to participate in all areas of life. To date, CDRF has provided 1,262 Quality of Life grants totaling over \$10 million to organizations nationwide that help improve opportunities, access and day-to-day quality of life for these individuals and their families.

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Genevieve Kellett was active with many clubs

DOWNEY – Genevieve Morrissey Kellett, a resident of Downey since 1951, where she and husband Norm Kellett built their dream home, died on Sept. 11.

Kellett was an associate member of the Assistance League of Downey for the past 43 years. She also enjoyed memberships in the Downey Art Angels, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Guild, and several bridge clubs.

Kellett suffered a stroke on July 7 of this year. She was supported in her recovery by the Rehabilitation Hospital at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. She was cared for by Dr. Richard Adams, son of longtime friend and former Downey resident, Carmen Adams.

When she returned home, a team of independent caregivers tended to Kellett. She died peacefully on Sept. 11.

Kellett is survived by her children, Mary McCullough, Ellen (Carl) Driess, Michael Kellett, and Beatrice (Kelly) Cain; grandchildren, Kevin (Amy) McCullough, Justin (Tanya) McCullough, Scott Driess, Erin (Alex) Keyan, Molly Kellett, Dylan Kellett, Brent Morris-Cain, and Nevan Cain; and great-grandchildren, Grace, Eamonn and Marley McCullough.

Memorial services were held Sept. 18 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Downey. Funeral arrangements were handled by Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary.

A memorial fund has been established for anyone wishing to make a donation in Kellett's name. Donations may be sent to the Memorial Medical Center Foundation, restricted to Memorial Rehabilitation at Long Beach Memorial, 2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA, 90806, or call (562) 933-4483.



Service academy workshop Oct. 27

DOWNEY – Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard will host her annual "Informational U.S. Service Academy Workshop" at the Downey City Library on Oct. 27 at 8:30 a.m.

The service academy is for those interested in earning a university degree in return for five years of service in the military.

Academy representatives and current students will be at the free workshop to answer questions regarding eligibility requirements, cadet life, academics, athletics and career opportunities after graduation.

Port of L.A. security discussed

DOWNEY – Captain Marty Renteria of the Port of Los Angeles will speak on the port's safety at the Sept. 25 meeting of Rise 'N Shine Networking Group.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 a.m. at Nordic Fox restaurant. The cost to attend is an order from the menu.

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Downey still part of Strayer's world

By Henry Veneracion, Staff Writer

DOWNEY—For 30 years, Richard J. Strayer had conducted his business, Business & Financial Group, Inc. (formerly Bell Gardens Bookkeeping Service, which he and his dad, Gale, formed in 1971), in an office building they owned on Paramount Boulevard.

He and his wife, Gloria, raised their twin sons here. He served as president of the Downey Rotary Club in '86-'87 and the Downey Chamber of Commerce in 1998.

He has since moved his business operations to Anaheim, and his residence to Yorba Linda (Gale Strayer died in 1972), but like many former Downey residents, Strayer, a Cal State Los Angeles accounting graduate, has not severed his ties to Downey. For one thing, he remains as active as ever with Downey Rotary: in fact, he and fellow Rotarian Lorine Parks are currently writing a history of the club, from its beginnings in 1924.

"We're getting hold of people who have stories to tell, as well as memorabilia, stuff like that. And we'll keep on adding significant things as they become available," Strayer says. Completion date is the end of the year.

"My dentist, printer, general contractor, and real estate agent are all here in Downey," he says, and adds: "I still bank here, and like going to Nick Adams' Philly cheese steak house."

Strayer believes "the service clubs in Downey are what makes Downey Downey, and that they're doing a good job. The Chamber, I think, does a great job in promoting business here. Also, some of my best friends have come from the Chamber and the Rotary."

An Enrolled Agent ("someone who is licensed to practice before the Internal Revenue Service") like his dad, Strayer has also served as president of the San Gabriel Chapter of the Inland Society of Tax Consultants ('75-'76), the Southeast Toastmasters Club ('81), and the Mid Cities Networking Club ('97).

He has been an H. D. Vest advisor since 1997 and is its Orange County Chapter director. He is an NASD (National Association of Securities Dealers) licensee in both California and Nevada. He also holds a California insurance license.

When I visited his Anaheim office, Strayer, an avid fisherman, had just returned from Alaska for some salmon fishing, and was already itching to fly with his now grown twins for some weekend fishing in the Sacramento River. "I didn't know they had lots of salmon there," he says. His fishing expeditions have taken him to Mexico and Costa Rica.



Certified tax professional Richard Strayer maintains ties to Downey.
Photo courtesy Richard Strayer

He also hunts with his buddies, mainly in the north and central parts of the state (Lake Shasta, etc.), golfs (Rio Hondo, Palm Desert), usually with his wife, who works in sales and marketing for a printing company, and rubs elbows with antique car enthusiasts (Long Beach, Pomona, etc.). Their travels have taken them to Africa, Egypt, Europe, China, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, and Hawaii.

He says he has lots of relatives in and around Grand Island, Nebr., from where his parents originated.

Strayer says 99 percent of all tax cases are settled in the Tax Court's Audit and Appeals section, with all the complex and exasperating big-ticket cases accounting for the remaining one percent.

Strayer, with his vast amount of experience, would know.

Costco to open its doors in Lakewood

LAKEWOOD – Costco will become the fifth anchor store at Lakewood Center making it the single largest enclosed shopping center in the Los Angeles metro area. The move is a first for Costco in Southern California, where it has never before opened its doors as part of a super regional shopping center.

"This is a time when retail formats are converging, and we are reinventing the concept of the regional shopping center," said Art Coppola, president and CEO of Macerich. "This is an important new hybrid model with great potential to fuel growth for well positioned retail properties."

The 159,000 square-foot store is tentatively scheduled to open in fall 2008 on the site formerly occupied by Macy's, which relocated to the former Robinsons-May store following last year's Federated-May merger.

In July 2006, Lakewood Center's managing parent company, Santa Monica-based macerich, acquired the vacant Lakewood department store from Federated Department Stores, Inc. in a deal that included 11 redundant Federated locations nationally.

"Joining Lakewood Center is a significant move for Costco," said Jeff Brotman, Costco founder and chairman of the board. "Locating at a top performing center in the heart of Los Angeles is going to create a dynamic synergy unlike any other location we have to date."

Costco Wholesale operates an international chain of membership warehouses, mainly under the "Costco Wholesale" name, that carry quality, brand name merchandise at substantially lower prices than are typically found at conventional wholesale or retail sources. The warehouses are designed to help small-to-medium-sized businesses reduce costs in purchasing for resale, for everyday business use and for individuals who purchase for their personal needs.

The 2.86 million-square-foot Lakewood Shopping Center is anchored by distinguished anchors – JCPenny, Macy's, Mervyn's, Target and now Costco. Along with Pacific Theatres and more than 250 shops and restaurants, it is the largest enclosed shopping center in the greater L.A. area.

"The announcement confirms that Lakewood Center will remain a leader in delivering what shoppers want: value, quality, and convenience. Costco will introduce a fresh experience and an important new shopping option for our residents," said Diane DuBois, Lakewood's mayor.

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