



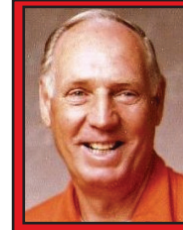
The Downey Patriot



Come hear a nutrition expert
See Page 2



Beard sworn in as new president
See Page 7



Local coach passes away
See Page 11

Friday, October 19, 2007

Vol. 6 No. 26

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

City, schools mark Character Counts

■ DUSD incorporating Red Ribbon Week into its Character Counts program.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Both the City Council and the Downey Unified School District (DUSD) have issued identical proclamations designating Oct. 21-27 as Character Counts Week, with both earnestly enjoining all their employees to “continue to seek out opportunities to emphasize the core ethical values (articulated in the Six Pillars of Character) in their work with young people” while encouraging all citizens, corporate and individual, to “model these traits of good character in an ongoing commitment to promote character development and ethical behavior in the youth of the community.”

The City Council issued its proclamation at its Oct. 9 meeting, while DUSD issued its own at its regular board meeting Tuesday. Explaining DUSD’s diminished Red Ribbon Week participation this year, which was previously done in tandem with sponsor Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate, Superintendent Wendy Doty said the district wants to focus more on its Character Counts program because of its day-to-day and year-round nature, as opposed to Red Ribbon Week, which is usually celebrated only on the last week of October.

Red Ribbon Week’s vital message, in tribute to the murdered DEA Special Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, however, encouraging young people to live a drug-free life, will always remain alive and relevant, she said.

Here are selected passages from the proclamation:

“Young people will be the stewards of our communities, nation and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character”;
See CHARACTER, page 4

Two teachers honored for student achievement

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—The Board of the Downey Unified School District Tuesday heard presentations by Teresa Medina, principal of Old River School, and Downey High School principal Tom Houts, honoring their chosen “Certificated Employee in the area of Student Achievement”: Lucy Atlas for Old River School and Bonnie Roybal representing Downey High.

“The first word that comes to mind when you think of Lucy Atlas,” said Medina, is “dedication—dedication to students, dedication to colleagues, dedication to her school, and dedication to the integrity of her teaching.” Medina said further that Atlas, who has been educating Downey students for over 22 years, through her unselfish sharing of her time and expertise with other teachers, has become an inspiration to her colleagues and a role model.

In acknowledging the praise heaped upon her by Houts, the much-honored Roybal (the California Jaycees’ “Outstanding Young Educator” for the city of Downey and the entire state of California, 1994; Fulbright Exchange Teacher to London, 1995-96) expressed her teaching philosophy thus: “Teaching should always be about what’s best for the students. I am constantly looking for new teaching strategies to actively engage my students, through rap and chants for grammar concepts, aerobics, music,

See TEACHERS, page 11



The Second Annual Philly’s Best Cheese Steak Bowl will be held Oct. 27 at the Philly’s Best at Downey Landing. The competition, as seen above at last year’s inaugural event, pits Downey and Warren High School football players, who will eat as many cheese steaks as they can in the allotted time period. The event is from 1 to 3 p.m. and all proceeds during that time will go to both schools’ boosters clubs. Photo by Art Montoya

Preemies clowning around



Over 100 premature babies born at Kaiser Permanente’s Bellflower/Downey Medical Center between 2001 and 2007 gathered with their families for a “Premie Reunion” last month. The annual event is put on by hospital staff, volunteers and employees of the hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The celebration, this year titled “Circus Fun,” gave parents and their preemies an opportunity to visit with medical staff and reconnect with other families who also had babies in the NICU. Photo courtesy Nancy Tovar Huxen

Doty, Shifflett honored at ‘champions’ award

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Downey Unified School District Superintendent Wendy Doty and Downey High School senior Caleb Shifflett were among a handful who were honored at the 4th Champions for Character Award ceremony held on Oct. 11 at The Grand in Long Beach for “exemplifying ‘Victory with Honor’ through their actions on and off the field.”

The two DUSD honorees represented the Foothill Area of the CIF Southern Section, easily the largest CIF unit in the state.

The state CIF established the “Pursuing Victory with Honor” program a few years ago in partnership with the Josephson Institute of Ethics to develop 16 principles of coaching, competing and teaching as a guide to sportsmanship, ethical behavior and fair play. The principles are rooted in the institute-generated and more inclusive Six Pillars of Character, namely, trustworthiness, responsibility, respect, fairness, caring and citizenship, which have been embraced by the district.

Doty was singled out from among school superintendents in the area for bringing “Pursuing Victory with Honor” into the district’s schools, and “for working with her city to incorporate sportsmanship in all youth programs.”

His principal at Downey High has called Shifflett, an aspiring West Point cadet with a 4.3 GPA, an indomitable individual and “the most dedicated and trustworthy student he has ever met.”

In his welcome address, CIF Commissioner of Athletics James T. Staunton said the honorees “represent all that is good about high school athletics. They represent hope for the future, when we can see our young people playing for the love of the game and the glory of sport.”



DUSD Superintendent Wendy Doty and Downey High School senior Caleb Shifflett were honored at a Character Counts ceremony Oct. 11 in Long Beach.

DMOA represented at international art show

■ The Downey Museum of Art will showcase their plans for the future in Pasadena this weekend.

DOWNEY – For the second consecutive year, the Downey Museum of Art (DMOA) has been invited to participate in Art International, an art fair now being held at the Pasadena Convention Center through Sunday.

Art International each year invites a handful of Southland museums to participate in the fair, along with dealers from throughout the country. Last year’s museums included Barnsdall, Frederick Weisman Museum/Pepperdine, Riverside, UCLA Fowler, and DMOA.

DMOA’s exhibit this year will focus on the Glidehouse and the DMOA’s new museum plan.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for the art world and art audience to get to know Downey,” DMOA Director Kate Davies said. “It is very generous of Art International to donate booths to Southern California museums.”

The fair will focus on American, European and California art – Old Masters, 19th Century, Impressionist, Modern and Contemporary – and include paintings, drawings, sculptures and photography.

Art International will be held in the Pasadena Convention Center’s East Pavilion. For more information, call (310) 287-1896.



Last week’s Downey Sports Reunion paid tribute to Downey High School’s 1957 CIF Championship football team. The reunion included players from that heralded team, including (from left), guard Steve Skinner, end Eddie Williams, Coach Gus Headington, and halfback Fred Gallagher. Photo courtesy Lash Stevenson

Former senator featured at breakfast

DOWNEY – The 22nd Annual Downey Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will feature former California State Senator Bill Morrow, who previously represented the 38th District including northern San Diego County and southern Orange County.

During his time in office, Morrow was chair of the Senate Veterans Committee, and vice chair of the Judiciary Committee and Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee.

He was voted "Legislator of the Year" in 2001 by the California Small Business Association.

The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast is open to the community and costs \$15. A breakfast buffet will open at 6:30 a.m. while the formal event starts at 7 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

For tickets or more information, call (562) 923-9616.

Help serve Thanksgiving dinner to needy

DOWNEY – Volunteers are needed for the 16th Annual Thanksgiving Outreach Dinner to be held Nov. 16 at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve a hot meal, set-up, decorate and more.

The dinner is being organized by Pastor Garnett Simpson-Grier and the Breath of God Christian Fellowship, in conjunction with the Aggressive Community Training and Services (ACTS) Foundation.

Food donations are also needed for the 100-plus baskets that will be prepared and distributed through Downey schools.

To volunteer or donate food, call the church office at (310) 767-9620. Financial gifts in lieu of food can be sent to Breath of God, P.O. Box 39903, Downey, CA 90239.

Christian club celebrates Thanksgiving

DOWNEY – The Downey Christian Women's Club will have their next meeting, "Happy Thanksgiving," on Nov. 14 at 11:45 a.m. at the Los Amigos Country Club.

The day will include a special feature by Music Boxes, music by Beverly Madra and guest speaker Donna Jacobson, who will discuss, "Chosen Twice for Adoption."

Cost is \$12 and includes a buffet lunch. Reservations are requested to be made by the Monday prior to the event.

For information, call Sonja at (562) 862-4347, or Delores at (562) 868-7135.

'Dia de los Muertos' celebrated

DOWNEY – Teens are invited to a free program at the Downey City Library celebrating "Dia de los Muertos" (Day of the Dead). The event will be held Oct. 30 from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. in the Cormack Room.

"Dia de los Muertos" is a three-day Mexican holiday honoring and celebrating loved ones who have died.

"Learn about the history of the holiday and decorate your own 'calaveritas de azucar' (sugar skull)," said Young Adult Librarian Julia Butler.

Everyone who would like to participate and decorate a "sugar skull" must register in advance at the library or call (562) 904-7360, ext. 32.

Shoppers may get style makeovers

DOWNEY – Shoppers at Stonewood Center may be randomly "ambushed" and receive free makeovers tomorrow, courtesy the "Teen Life of Style Crew."

Ambushes will begin at 2 p.m. Los Cerritos Center and Lakewood Center are also participating, with ambushes at 5 p.m. For more information, call (562) 904-1832 or visit www.shopstonewoodcenter.com.



The OLPH Catholic Women's Guild will host a meeting and luncheon Oct. 24 at 10 a.m. at the Parish Center. The guest speaker will be Joan Frey, pictured above left with Guild member Charlene McCluskey. Frey is a member of the American Association of Nutritional Consultants, the National Health Federation, and the Price-Pottinger Nutrition Foundation. The community is invited and lunch will be a freewill offering.



The John Hume Performing Arts Foundation (JHPAF) bestowed its annual Margene Glenn Award to Tony and Joyce Dusich of Downey. The award is named for the late Margene Glenn, who served as the president of Downey Civic Light Opera for over 25 years, and was the original recipient of the award in 2005. From left: Tony, Joyce and Larry Dusich.

Phillipses celebrate China connection

■ Couple hosts Chinese Consul General, who lauds them for continuous donations of medical books.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—After receiving a warm welcome from hosts Dr. Jordan M. Phillips and his wife, Mary, the new Chinese Consul General of Los Angeles, Zhang Yun, fresh from his previous post in Singapore, Sunday paid a glowing tribute to the founder and president of Medical Books for China International (MBCI), depicting the multiple Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Dr. Phillips, as embodying the very spirit of "brotherhood and friendship" itself in his continuing selfless efforts at helping improve medical education in China.

The Consul General told a gathering of friends (including the Frank Halls and the Bill Kirkwoods), old associates, staff and other wellwishers that Dr. Phillips and Mary "are old friends of China and really deserving of the Nobel Prize. As far as I'm concerned, they are the real ambassadors and consuls general for their country."

He informed the audience that a new school of medicine for foreigners is being built in Tianjin, made possible largely by the reservoir of donated medical books and literature coming from MBCI.

More than one of Phillips' former physician colleagues from UC-Irvine and UCLA also hailed his achievements and his "organizational genius." Downey Rotarian Phillips is among other things the founder of the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL), which continues to flourish today in its advocacy of minimally invasive gynecology.

One of his personal physicians meanwhile marveled at his "winning fight" against cancer and called him "truly an inspiration."

The occasion was MBCI's 28th annual banquet held at Chinatown. MBCI, headquartered at 13021 E. Florence Ave. in Santa Fe Springs (Tel.: 562-946-8774), has sent tons and tons of donated medical books and other materials to China's universities and libraries since its founding in 1981.

In fact, according to Mary, it is just about ready to ship its 20th 20-ton shipment to the port of Tianjin.

NARFE holds meeting this Wednesday

DOWNEY – The Downey Chapter of the National Association of Active & Retired Federal Employees will have their next meeting on Oct. 24 at Furman Park.

Chapter business will begin at noon, followed by a featured speaker from Behavioral Health Services on "Using Medicines Wisely" at 1 p.m.

For information, call Robert Knerr, president, at (562) 943-5513.

Halloween dance for kids Oct. 26

DOWNEY – The City of Downey Community Services Department is holding a Halloween dance, "Spookrageous," for middle school-age kids on Oct. 26 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Gary P. McCaughan Gym.

Kids should be of middle school-age and live or attend school in Downey. No costumes will be allowed.

Cost to attend is \$5, which includes dancing with a live DJ, raffles, games, and a snack bar for food and drinks. The first 50 kids in attendance will also receive a free glow stick.

For more details on the dance or its dress code, call (562) 904-7238.

Local artist Lea Myles giving demo

DOWNEY – The Traditional Artist's Guild of Paramount and Downey Art League will host a joint meeting Tuesday, with local accomplished artist Lea Myles serving as the guest demonstrator.

Myles' works are particularly noted for landscapes and florals, although she says she also enjoys seascapes and portraits. She currently paints in oils, acrylics and watercolors.

Myles also wrote, coordinated and appeared in the TV series, "The Magic Method of Oil Painting," featuring renowned landscape artist William "Bill" Alexander.

Myles served on the teaching staff of the St. Mary's Art Center in Virginia City, Nev. for 10 years. She was a faculty consultant with International Correspondence Schools for many years and a long-time member of the American Institute of Fine Art.

She was also founder, vice president and master instructor for Magic Art Schools, Inc., for 14 years before selling the company in 1988.

Myles is currently teaching oil painting at the Bellflower Adult School.

The Downey Art League meets at 7:30 p.m. at Furman Park, Building 1. For more information, call Ryo Terasaki at (562) 803-5857.

Advertise in your local newspaper.

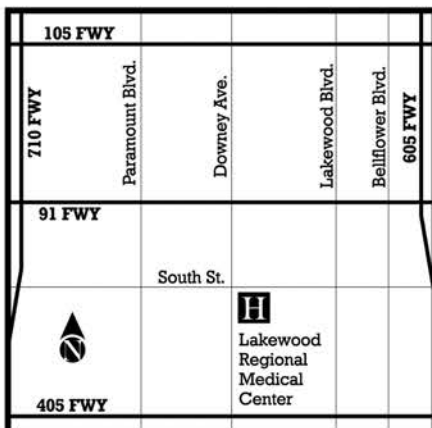
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Jazz artist in concert at Christ Lutheran

■ Chris Squires will present a blend of jazz, rock, gospel and classical in a church concert this Sunday.

DOWNEY – Jazz musician and producer Chris Squires will perform this Sunday at Christ Lutheran Church's Coffee House program, starting at 6 p.m.

New York-born Squires studied composition, piano and voice while playing piano and organ in pop music bands throughout Southern California.

In addition to being the music director at St. John Lutheran Church in Cerritos since 1981, Squires has worked as an arranger and orchestrator for the Kingsman Drum and Bugle Corps, the Bellflower Civic Chorus, and the Albuquerque and Pasadena Symphonies. He is also a staff accompanist at Orange County High School of the Arts.

Squires has played in many groups, including The City Blues, X S Baggage, The Mike Reilly Band, The Mills Brothers, The Merry Hills Players, and the CSUF Symphonic Winds. His own jazz group, The Rhythm Sharks, has worked for many years in the Long Beach area.

Squires recently produced a CD of original songs, "Major Songs in Minor Keys," and two instrumental albums, "Music for Relaxation," and "Nocturne."

Squires uses a variety of musical styles in his compositions, from modern jazz and techno to musical theater with big, soaring melodies. On Sunday, he will feature his own compositions as well as favorites from Broadway.

He will be performing with a small choral group as well.

"You will hear jazz, rock, classical and gospel music you have never heard before, plus a few favorites," Squires said.

The community is invited to the concert. Christ Lutheran Church is located at 7707 Florence Ave., between Paramount Boulevard and Old River School Road.



Acoustic 'Folk Music Jam' at Barbara Riley Center

DOWNEY – The second annual Downey Parks and Recreation Folk Music Jam will be held this Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center.

The event, featuring acoustic folk music from different cultures, is for all ages.

"This is an opportunity for everyone to share their music in a community environment and perhaps bring a little more tolerance and understanding to Downey while having fun," said Bea Romano, the event's co-host. "This is not a time to be shy; all levels of playing are welcome. It's also a great place to pick up new tunes."

The music jam is a drop-in event, free of charge and "just listeners" are welcome. For more information, call (562) 904-7226.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help School is hosting their annual carnival again this weekend, featuring rides, food, live entertainment, a car raffle booth, and more. Pre-sale ride and raffle tickets are available at the school, located at 10441 Downey Ave. The carnival will be open tonight from 5 to 10:30 p.m., Saturday from noon to 10:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 8:30 p.m.

Classical music host is guest speaker

WHITTIER – John Santana, popular longtime host of "Evening Concert" of KMZT-AM, will be the special guest speaker at the upcoming Concert Preview by the Rio Hondo Symphony Guild, scheduled for Nov. 2 at 10 a.m. at the First Friends Church in Whittier.

Santana is the programming director for KMZT and is also a musician and composer. He will speak on "Everyone's Favorites," the concert program to be performed by the Rio Hondo Symphony on Nov. 4. The concert will include works by Bach, Beethoven, Respighi, Gershwin and Tchaikovsky.

The public is invited to hear Santana's free lecture. For more information, call (562) 693-5516.

Downey band sweeps tournament

DOWNEY – The Downey High School Band and Color Guard recently attended the first Invitational Field Tournament for the 2007-08 school year at Glover Stadium in Anaheim.

The squads competed in Class 1A/2A/3A/4A Divisions, which had 10 schools in the Southern California area, and the musical repertoire this year was "A New Awakening."

The 90-member band was under the direction of Cory Olariu while Bruno Cilloniz directed the 24-member percussion squad. Jesse Minor served as marching director and Phaidra Reed directed the 24-member color guard squad.

Color Guard received first place for auxiliary in the 4A Division, which had six schools competing, and the Band was the sweepstakes winner for the Class 1A/2A/3A/4A Divisions for percussion, music and band categories.

'Meet the Maestros' Society's next film

DOWNEY – The Downey Historical Society's October program will include "Meet the Maestros" with Isham Jones on Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

The film also includes Betty Boop as "Minnie the Moocher" and Cab Calloway as the "voiceover."

The program will take place at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center in the John Downey Room.

'Harry Potter Magic' at library

DOWNEY – In celebration of Halloween, the Downey City Library will present the "Harry Potter Magic Show" on Oct. 25 from 7 to 7:45 p.m. for children ages 3 to 12.

The free event will be held in the Cormack Room and will feature the magic and themes from the J.K. Rowling books.

"Join Tony Daniels and his magic rabbit and dove as they take you into the world of Harry Potter," said Gina Orello, children's librarian.

Passes to the show will be distributed 30 minutes before show time due to limited seating.

For information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 4.

Luncheon celebrates DMOA's 50 years

DOWNEY – The Downey Museum of Art will host its annual luncheon at the Rio Hondo Country Club on Oct. 27 at 11 a.m.

This year's founder's luncheon celebrates the museum's 50th anniversary, presenting Lillian Ashton Brooks with an award for her work in supporting the museum. The Art Angels, as well as past board members, will also be honored.

The fashion show – moderated by Marsha Moode – will include fashions from Draper's & Damon's, and will follow the luncheon and awards ceremony.

Tickets are \$35 and reservations can be made by calling (323) 773-0074, or (562) 861-0419. Checks with names of guests can be mailed to the Downey Museum of Art, 10419 Rives Ave., Downey, CA, 90241.

Chamber plans 'Anniversary Mixer'

DOWNEY – The Downey Chamber of Commerce will host an "Anniversary Mixer" Oct. 25 at the Embassy Suites.

The mixer will start at 5:30 p.m. and feature refreshments, live entertainment and raffle prizes. Admission is free.

For more information, call the Chamber at (562) 923-2191.



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Desert Reign breaks ground on church

■ Property will also house an auditorium, pre-school, offices, and dialysis treatment center.

CONTRIBUTED BY JUDITH MASSEY NOTCHICK

DOWNEY – On Oct. 7, with a celebratory but low-key ceremony, Pastors Don and Deborah Metcalf (along with church leadership, families, and friends who make up the Desert Reign Assembly of God congregation) broke ground at their new church site at the intersection of Lakewood Boulevard and Hall Street.

Having walked around the property praying for safety and God's blessing and having turned over a few scoops of dirt with the symbolic golden shovels, Don Metcalf turned to the folks and said, "We've been working hard for this day for four years. I think it deserves a bit more than a puny little shovel!"

With that, Metcalf started up a huge John Deere tractor with a large hydraulic bucket (painted gold) and proceeded to break ground on a grand scale.

The Desert Reign worship center will consist of a 28,000 square foot building. It will house the offices, an auditorium available for community use when the congregation is not in service, a smaller sanctuary to welcome a Spanish congregation, and a pre-school.

Along with the church, the property will also be the new home for Da Vita Dialysis Services, a company offering on-site dialysis treatment. Da Vita's building will be built at the same time as the church.

"Having a business as a partner to a church just makes so much sense," said Don Metcalf. "This arrangement is great for both the business entity and those of faith who will utilize the land for their spiritual and educational needs, along with Desert Reign's desire to be able to assist the local city in making a location available for use...thus giving back to the city of Downey."

And so, the congregation gathered on the dusty property in the midst of sunshine and smiles. Folks were eager to push those shovels into the dirt and signify the start of their future hopes and plans. A sample of the dirt from the groundbreaking will be placed into a time capsule which will be buried on the property, along with a DVD of the ceremony and Metcalf's message given at the early morning service.

The pastor spoke about the difference between miracles and blessings: "In so many ways, as the leadership of this church and its congregation celebrated the triumph over so many obstacles, now in the past, they began to understand the true miracle of this day. In truth any bystander, after hearing the list of mountains which at one time existed for this congregation, would have thought they were simply dreaming about the vision that they saw ahead. But now that it is becoming a reality one has no other choice than to believe that miracles truly do happen."

Following the groundbreaking ceremony, construction crews began excavating the ground immediately, making it ready to being laying the foundations for the new buildings. After residing in a "mobile church" for three years, the congregation expects to host their first services inside the buildings in eight to nine months.

For now the congregation meets every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Dr. Thursday midweek services are held at the Crossroads Multinational Nazarene Church at 12229 Del Amo Blvd. in Cerritos. Southland Christian Academy located in Bellflower is another ministry of Desert Reign.

For more information call the church office at (562) 803-9093 or see www.desertreign.org.



Desert Reign Assembly of God's new sanctuary and offices should be complete in eight to nine months, church officials said.



Daniel R. Gold, an attorney with Tredway, Lumsdaine and Doyle, pictured above with Downey Soroptimist President Sue Potter, was installed as president of Downey's Optimist Club in a swearing-in ceremony Sept. 27 at Frantone's Pizza and Spaghetti Villa. Both organizations work together to hold yearly fundraisers for scholarships for women and children, in addition to making numerous donations to over 50 local community causes.

TLC lunch fundraiser this morning

DOWNEY – The True Lasting Connections Family Resource Center staff will present their annual fundraising luncheon this morning at the Rio Hondo Event Center. The community is invited.

True Lasting Connections offers services to families and children in need, including state health insurance enrollments for low-income families, free vision care, counseling services and more.

The lunch will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$28. All financial contributions are welcomed and tax deductible.

For more information or to reserve a table, call (562) 904-3577.

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(Join us for the Downey High School Field Show on Oct. 27 and hear this great sound.)

--C.A. Wickham,
Downey

Fate

The ploughman plods and scribes the earthy loam,
Then vanishes beneath some unknown sheath of grass,
The sailor sails the foamy seas then ports
And goes beyond the pale and lowered glass.
The hunter tracks to bag the luckless prey
The quarry and the man soon end their climb
Like fishermen who bait the hook and wait
To catch unwary fish, they too must find
That all mankind is mortal
Thus each will meet his fate.

--George Geller,
Downey

Elizabeth Serrano smiles big

DOWNEY – This month's winner of the monthly drawing in the Brace Connection "Get Your Smile On!" contest is Elizabeth Serrano.

The contest, which launched in April, is in search of the "Best Smile in Downey." Every month through December, there will be a prize drawing for a \$50 Stonewood Center gift card and the winner of the year-long contest will receive a \$4,000 scholarship, as well as a Playstation 3 and an iPod Nano.

To enter, parents of children ages 5 to 17 are asked to submit an application, a picture, and a short paragraph about why their child has the best smile in Downey.

Applications are available at www.smiledowney.com, or can be picked up at the Brace Connection offices, 10800 Paramount Blvd., Ste. 204.

For information, contact Matt Knox at (562) 922-8095, ext. 5006.



CHARACTER

Continued from page 1

"More than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions and civic groups";

"Scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by youth-influencing institutions and individuals to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character";

"Character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, though efforts by faith communities, schools, and youth, civic and human service organizations also play a very important role in supporting family efforts by fostering and promoting good character";

"The (1992) Aspen Declaration subscribes to the notion that effective character education is based on core ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society—trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship—and these 'Six Pillars of Character' transcend cultural, religious and socioeconomic differences."

The city and the district called on the people of Downey and all interested groups to observe the coming week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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Volunteer
Winter Cleanups

To Keep Downey Clean and Beautiful

All cleanups are from 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Join in to clean up the sidewalks and surrounding areas.
Bags, gloves & safety vests will be provided
Meet us in the following parking lots:

October 20 @ Lakewood Blvd. & Firestone
Parking Lot - behind Carl's Junior

November 17 @ Independence Park
12334 Bellflower Blvd.

December 15 @ Los Amigos Strip Mall
The corner of Paramount & Comolette

All cleanups are sponsored by **STONEWOOD CENTER**

"Great Raffle Prizes"

Anyone under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult

For more information call KDB @562-904-7159

ProNetworkers of Downey
Join us each Friday at 7:15am
Mimi's Cafe, Downey
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www.ProNetworkers.com

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A Book for Thee

By Eric Pierce

My childhood wasn't exactly perfect (whose is?) but I have no room to complain; there was always food in the refrigerator, toys in the backyard, and warm blankets on my bed.

Occasionally my mom would come home from the bakery with fresh *pan dulce* in a brown paper bag, and I would scramble to the kitchen to have first pick. (My favorite is that little red ball of bread, with coconut sprinkles on top. I don't know what it's called, but fellow Hispanics know what I'm talking about!)

Yes, my childhood wasn't perfect, but it was cherished. My biggest regret is that my love for books sometimes made me feel isolated from everybody else, whether it be my family or friends.

When others were playing baseball in the street, I was cuddled up in bed, reading "Where the Sidewalk Ends" and "A Light in the Attic."

I avoided the whole pog sensation of the 1990s; I was too immersed in the "Goosebumps" series by R.L. Stine.

To this day, "The Indian in the Cupboard" remains my all-time favorite book. And I refuse to watch the movie.

Dr. Seuss was a phenomenon unto itself, and rightfully so. And I would spend a good three hours trying to outwit the clever Encyclopedia Brown, mostly succeeding.

The place to indulge my book fixation was always the public library.

It's an honor to publish the events of the Downey City Library every week. Senior Librarian Jan Palen sends us new library titles every week, and we happily share them with the community.

Hopefully one day our library will resemble the Cerritos Public Library. (It's a monster of a facility; I swear all it's missing is a rollercoaster.)

Maybe one day this city can attract a full-service bookstore with an entire section devoted solely to Shel Silverstein and Dr. Seuss. Its impact on the community, I think, would be huge.

Rotary/YMCA pancake breakfast nixes drizzle

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

Another successful annual Rotary/YMCA Pancake Breakfast held last Saturday at Downey High School has come and gone, as its 59th version proceeded despite the slight drizzle all morning long that no doubt discouraged some would-be guests from sampling the low-fat link sausages prepared by the organizing committee.

The solution was simple as it was energy-sapping: Rotarian Stan Hanstad said they moved everything indoors (inside the gym) starting at 5 a.m., when it became clear that the rain wouldn't stop. And sure enough, a steady stream of pancake breakfast eaters/lovers, the majority of them whole families, started to fill their plates (three sausages and three pancakes per head), complemented by either at least orange juice or coffee, at 7:30 a.m., and the long line continued until practically the end of its allotted time, at 11:30 a.m.

It goes without saying of course that an activity of this scale cannot be accomplished without a lot of hard work and teamwork. There was the usual complement of Rotary volunteers, headed by the legendary "Mickey Mouse" pancake flipper and longest-running volunteer Angelo Cardono, Johnny Croshaw, Harold Tseklenis, John Lacey, Charles Hallums, Wendy Doty, Lorine Parks, the aforementioned Stan Hanstad, Barbara Lamberth, and Nick Adams, as well as the Y's Tod Corrin, Mario Guerra, and others. Familiar faces in the crowd included those of Councilmember Dave Gafin and his wife, the ubiquitous Frank and Edith Hall, and George Cade.

The important work of "maintenance" performed by Warren High's InterAct Club members should not be overlooked, said Hanstad. And kudos, too, go to the budding ballerinas and youth ensembles that did some rousing entertaining with their hip hop and other lively dance routines.

Student art competition underway

DOWNEY – The 15th Annual 34th Congressional District Student Art Competition is now underway, with the grand prize winner going on a trip to Washington, D.C. and having their artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

All artwork must be two-dimensional, no larger than 26x26 inches, and one or a combination of the following mediums:

- Paintings – oil, watercolor, acrylic, collage, etc.
- Drawings – pencil, pen, chalk, pastel, charcoal, etc.
- Prints – lithographs, silk screens, monotypes, woodcuts, intaglio methods.

Photography – no smaller than 8x10 inches, no computer manipulation allowed, negative of photo must be attached to qualify.

The competition is open to all high school students in grades 9 to 12 residing in the 34th Congressional District. Entries must be an original concept; the entry may not reproduce an image from somebody else's work in the same way or any other medium.

For more rules or information, call Veronica Flores at (213) 628-9230. The deadline to submit a work is Feb. 18.



Letters to the Editor:

No confidence in Congress

Dear Editor:

Among the millions of Americans frustrated with the refusal by the federal government to forcefully control illegal immigration is South Carolina Senator Glenn McConnell. As President Pro Tempore of the Senate, McConnell has explained why he is calling for the nation's first use of the U.S. Constitution's Article V provision for a convention of state delegates to propose constitutional amendments.

Considering the historic record-low level of just 11 percent public support for Congress and the widespread public concern about the many impacts of unchecked illegal immigration, especially on communities and local governments, this call for an Article V convention is extremely timely. Few Americans are aware of their constitutional right to an Article V convention, provided by the framers of our constitution as a kind of escape clause should citizens lose confidence in the federal government.

Could it be any clearer that Americans have lost confidence in this federal government?

We have something worse than a do-nothing Congress; we have a break-the-law Congress.

Last week, "Arnold the Governor" made it more impossible for local communities to control their own fate by making it illegal for landlords to question citizenship status or communities to make ordinances making it illegal to rent to illegals.

Americans that laud the Constitution and the rule of law, and want more effective actions to address illegal immigration – surely a super majority of citizens – should tell their state legislators that they support McConnell's proposal and the call for the nation's first Article V convention.

Even though our own House Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D) is number one in Congress with her record in supporting illegals first over Americans, I and all of us should call for her to support McConnell's plan.

— **Bill Spetnagel, Downey**

It's a bird...It's a plane...It's an editor

Dear Editor:

Is Superman amongst us? I, for one, believe he is.

You may know him as Clark Kent, mild-mannered reporter. Each week he pulls out his pen to give justice where it may serve, to report the news as it should be reported. (To the younger generation he opens his laptop.) I know this young man as your city editor.

His quiet, and so polite way about life, belies what is underneath. Bad guys watch out, they may be sitting in the back row just watching for the next big column. Good guys, it could be you too.

No matter what the story is, it will be fair and unbiased. Sometimes the stories are informational, sometimes they may be sad. Sometimes it is everyday news.

I look forward to each week's column. I'm sure others feel the same as I do. So to say kudos to you, Eric Pierce, and the staff writers of The Downey Patriot – keep up the good work.

— **Robert Gustafson, 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.

Rivalry at its worst

Dear Editor:

I am a longtime Downey resident. Our kids are grown now, but we spent plenty of time in sports programs in both the school and city leagues.

The other night, I was walking my dog in Apollo Park and stopped to watch a little league flag football game. It was the Bruins (blue and gold, like UCLA) against the Trojans (red and gold, like USC). While watching the game, I noticed a gentleman on the Trojans' side of the field wearing a shirt with the letters "F.U.C.L.A." I felt that this was not an appropriate message to wear around these children. I was just going to let it go until I was informed that the man was actually the Trojans' coach.

What is wrong with DJAA? Is the league so desperate for help that they can only get volunteer coaches who would rather send vulgar messages than teach sportsmanship? These men should conduct themselves as role models, and not send degrading ideas to these kids by trying to humiliate the opposing team. Would they want their own children to be subjected to such behavior?

Some coaches and parents seem to put too much importance on winning. They should spend more time teaching the kids proper conduct and how to lose with dignity.

I can only hope that the families of his team were as appalled and embarrassed by his actions as I was. I'm very saddened by this, and glad my grandkids don't play in this league.

— **Edward Garcia, Downey**

The old way

Dear Editor:

My car started to give me trouble, but I was able to make it home OK. I haven't worked on a car for some years now, but now I am retired, so I guess I have the time.

I used to be able to fix anything with my whatchamacallit. I couldn't seem to fix it this time though. So I tried my thing-of-ma-jig. I couldn't seem to fix it with that either. So I tried to fix it with a couple of other doo-hickey's I had in my tool box, but they didn't work either.

I guess I was standing there looking kind of confused, because my neighbor came over. A young fellow, he said he had had the same problem. He showed me how to fix it with Super Glue and duct tape.

The young showing the old. That shouldn't be. The old should be showing the young. I say the heck to all this new technology. I liked it better the old way.

— **James E. Jones, Downey**

College fair at Cal State Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES – Assemblyman Charles Calderon will present a college fair Oct. 27 on the campus of Cal States Los Angeles.

The fair will feature admissions representatives from 30 colleges and universities, information on college admission requirements, financial aid workshops in English and Spanish, and a random drawing for thousands of dollars in scholarship money.

The event, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., is free to parents and high school students from the 58th Assembly District, which includes portions of Downey. For more information or to RSVP, call Carlos Illingworth at (562) 692-5858.

The Downey Patriot



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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For October

- Sat. Oct. 20: "Understanding and Using Personal Credit Wisely," Downey Library, 10:30 a.m.
- Sun. Oct. 21: **Jazz Concert**, Christ Lutheran Church, 6 p.m.
- Tues. Oct. 23: **Folk Music Jam**, Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7 p.m.
- Thurs. Oct. 25: **Downey Historical Society meeting**, Barbara J. Riley Center, 7:30 p.m.

City Meetings

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

- 6:30 p.m.: **Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner, mtg.**, for information call 426-6786.
- 6:30 p.m.: **Overeaters Anonymous**, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.
- 1st Mon., 4 p.m.: **2nd Century Foundation**, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.
- 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 862-6666.

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**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
- 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.
- 2nd & 4th Weds., 11:00 a.m. - **AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley CC, Call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
- 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...

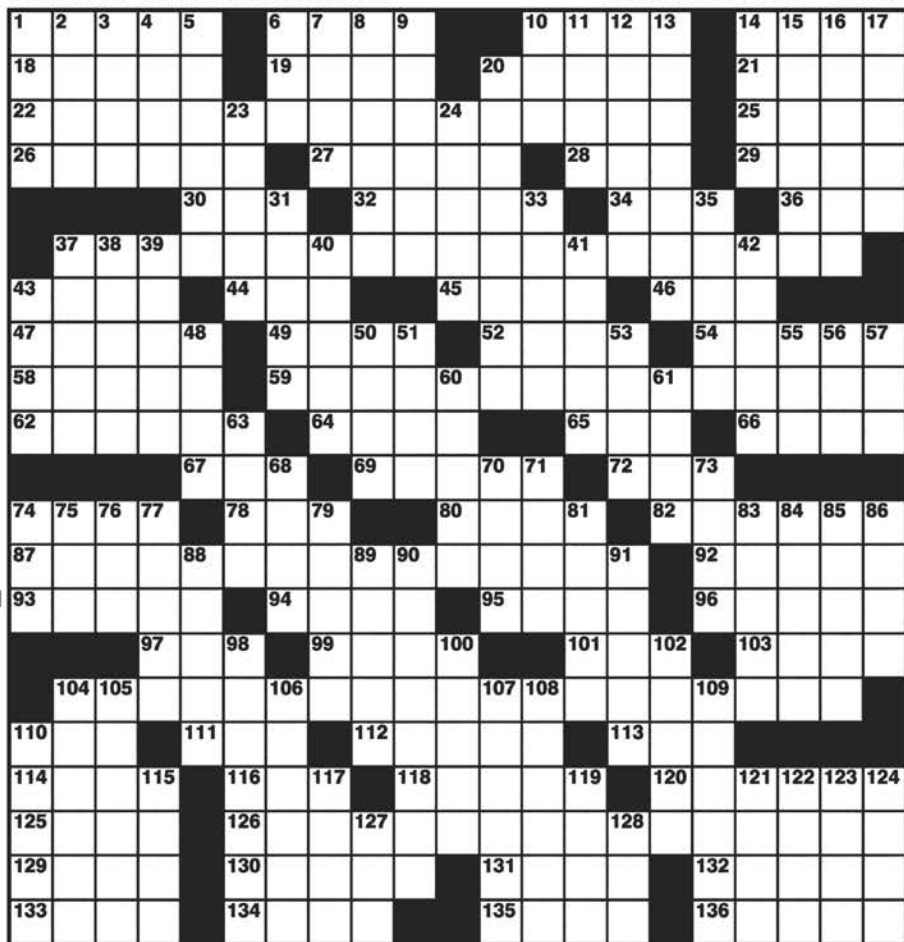
- Oct. 19, 1781:** British forces led by Lord Cornwallis surrender at Yorktown, Va., essentially marking the end of the American Revolution.
- 1960:** The United States places an embargo on Cuba.
- 1985:** The first Blockbuster Video opens in Dallas, Tex.
- 1987:** The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunges 508 points, or 22 percent, in an event known with-in financial markets as "Black Monday."
- 2003:** Mother Theresa is beatrified by Pope John Paul II.
- 2005:** Saddam Hussein defiantly proclaims his innocence as his crimes against humanity trial gets underway in Baghdad.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
DOWN IN THE MOUTH: A toothy one-liner
 by Randall J. Hartman

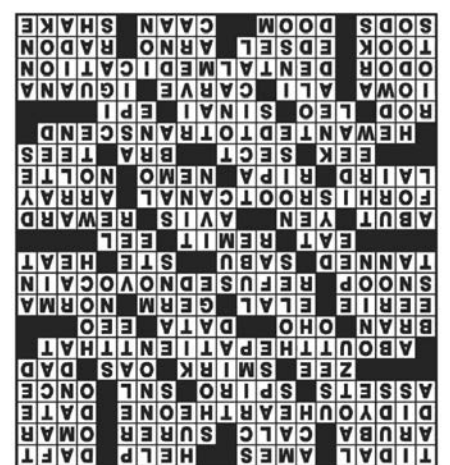
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| 67 Have for lunch | 4 Rock follower | 70 Lendl of tennis |
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| | | 123 Cozy corner |
| | | 124 Baby photographer |
| | | Geddes |
| | | 127 President pro _ |
| | | 128 Charged particle |

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

AMES, IOWA (6 Across, 114 Across) is the home of Iowa State University, whose athletic teams are called the Cyclones. "Dum Spiro spero" (27 Across), the motto of South Carolina, is Latin for "While I breathe, I hope." Formerly a Wisconsin congressman, Melvin Laird (93 Across) served as Secretary of Defense from 1969 to 1973.



Student shows it's never too late to go to school

By Brooke Karli
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – As if Maria Romo wasn't busy enough working as a make-up artist and tending to her 15-year-old daughter and 3-year-old nephew, she decided to go back to school.

Maria, 35, grew up in South Gate, graduating from South Gate High School in 1990. Soon after graduation, Maria began working at a bank and was a part-time student at Cerritos College, primarily focusing her studies in accounting. A year and a half later, Maria had her daughter, Maysie, and soon learned that is was too difficult to be an employee, student and mother all at once.

"I was extremely overwhelmed and knew that I had to sacrifice something," said Maria, a Downey resident for three years. "And I knew it wasn't going to be my daughter."

So Maria quit school and continued to raise her daughter and work for the bank. A few years later, when the bank was shut down, Maria pursued a career in cosmetology, landing her first part-time job with Elizabeth Arden. She was then asked to work as a full-time artist for Estée Lauder at Robinsons-May in the Montebello Town Center.

After four years at Montebello, Maria was transferred to Stonewood Center, where she spent the first five months working for Estée Lauder, later getting promoted to Counter Manager for Christian Dior. Following her two-year run with Christian Dior, Maria served as Counter Manager for Clinique.

Maria's career with Clinique – and Robinsons-May – ended when Robinsons-May merged with Macy's in 2006. That was when she decided to go back to school.

"I just knew that going back to school was something I really wanted," said Maria. "My perspective on school was so different from when I was in high school and my passion and drive was so much stronger. I was actually interested in school and wanted to learn."

Continuing to work as a freelance make-up artist, Maria enrolled as a full-time student in the Administrative Assistant program at Downey Adult School (DAS) in the fall of 2006.

"I found out very quickly that everything I had already learned – especially when it came to computers – was very outdated," Maria said. "I had to sharpen my skills everything I had already learned – especially when it came to computers – was very outdated," Maria said. "I had to sharpen my skills and learn new programs, and the funniest thing about it – my daughter helped me!"



Earlier this year, Maria began doing free-lance work for Chanel and Philosophy, which in turn would only allow her to attend DAS part-time.

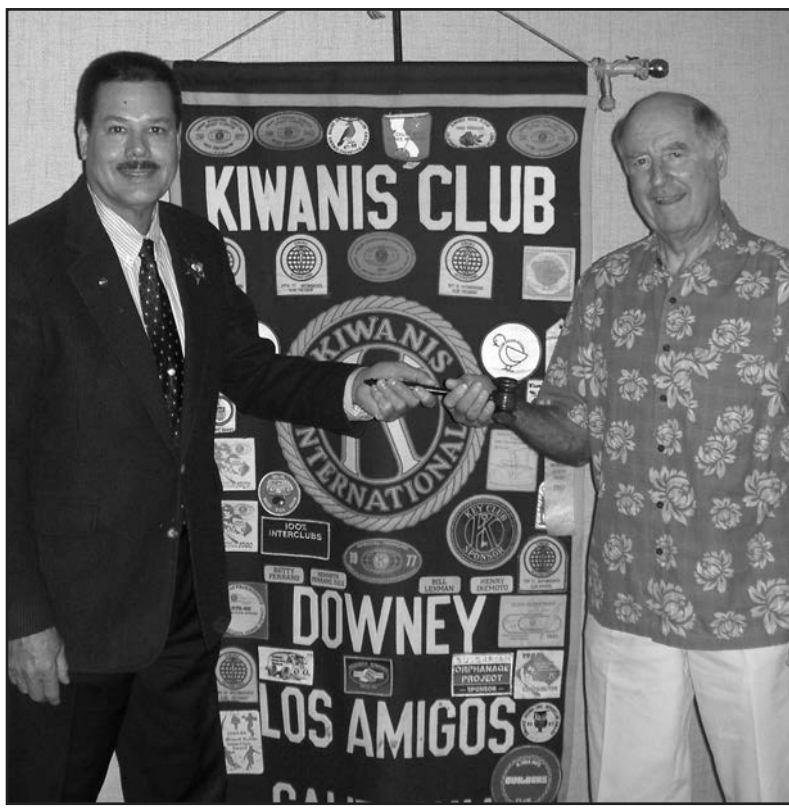
"What's so great about this school is that they are very flexible," said Maria. "I can work at my own pace and if, for some reason, I miss a class or assignment, they are very forgiving and allow me to make it up."

Currently, Maria attends DAS Monday through Friday at times which permit her to take and pick-up her daughter from school. She expects to finish the program this year and hopes to work full-time in administration for the County or City of Los Angeles.

Although she looks forward to settling into a full-time position, she will also continue to do make-up for weddings, quincianeras, anniversaries, graduation and prom pictures, and any other special occasion.

"Make-up has been such a big part of my life, there's no way I would ever stop doing it," Maria said. "The only difference now is that I'm fully focused on starting a career in a field I have been interested in since high school."

For information on attending Downey Adult School, visit www.das.edu



Bob Brazelton (right), president of Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis Club, recently passed the gavel to incoming Kiwanis president Roy Beard. Beard has been involved with Kiwanis for several years, working with the Kiwanis Pathfinder Project, a program that takes 50 students from local high schools to Camp Whittle each year for a leadership conference. For information regarding Kiwanis, contact Beard at (562) 904-1020.



Dick Holmes, Gary Nesbit, Lynne Appel and Lee Powell of Kiwanis Club of Downey hold the winning numbers from a recent Opportunity Drawing, which raised \$4,200. Kiwanis Club supports various local programs, including the annual Rancho Los Amigos Pediatric Day and the Christmas party at Las Casitas, a shelter for abused women and children. To join Kiwanis Club of Downey, visit their weekly noon meeting every Thursday at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Munger inducted into Legion of Honor

■ Gary Munger found wealth where he least expected it - as a volunteer with Kiwanis.

By Gwynn Gustafson, Kiwanis Club of Downey

DOWNEY – Gary Munger became the newest member of the elite Legion of Honor of Kiwanis International after meeting the strict requirement: be a Kiwanis member in good standing for 25 consecutive years.

Sounds simple. Attend meetings, pay dues and help with community-support projects for 25 years, a quarter century of giving back to the community. But what led Gary to his involvement with Kiwanis?

Gary went on a search for wealth in his youth, literally panning for gold – which didn't pan out. He knew wealth could be earned through higher education, so off he went to college as a pre-med student, working as a shoe salesman to support himself during those lean years. Discovering medicine was not in his heart, so he turned to law. Gary Munger, Esq. has law offices in Downey.

As to the wealth he hoped to obtain, Gary found that in 1981, when he joined Kiwanis.

"Kiwanis has enriched my life," Gary said, reflecting on his 25 years. "Some of the finest people I have ever had the occasion to meet were Kiwanians."

His involvement with Kiwanis has been as passionate as his pursuit of wealth: chairman of eight Kiwanis International Committees; Kiwanis Club of Downey president for two years; secretary for four years; and division secretary for three years. He currently sits on the board of directors.

Gary previously received accolades as Kiwanian of the Year and was honored with the Hixson Fellowship Award.

Others who have joined the Legion of Honor: Cliff Mills, 54 years; Leon Everson, 53 years; Richard Holmes, 45 years; Dick Lane, 38 years; Richard Lehn, 37 years; Alan Korneff and David Jackson, 36 years; and Chris Greenbeck, 32 years.

"This club has a long and storied history in Downey," said 28-year Kiwanian Ed Schneeberger. "You can be good, you can be great, but without new (and dedicated) member, you don't exist."

Learn to use your personal credit wisely with help from experts

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library will offer a workshop Oct. 20 for consumers interested in managing their credit.

"Understanding and Using Personal Credit Wisely" will be offered from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Cormack Room. During the free program, an instructor from Springboard Nonprofit Consumer Credit Management will explain a FICO score, how it is calculated and ways to improve your credit rating.

"This is a perfect introduction for those who want to learn about credit reports and (how to) use credit responsibly," said Librarian Nancy Munoz.

To register, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 3.

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New & noteworthy titles at the Downey City Library

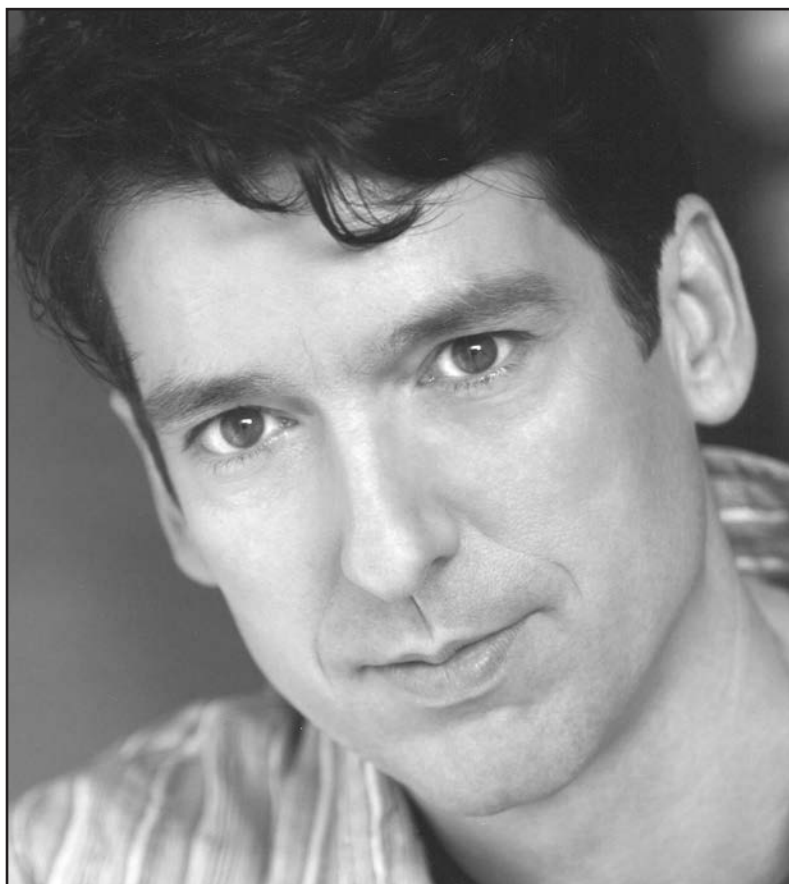
Fiction

- **"The Darkest Evening of the Year"**: by Dean Koontz. The latest suspense thriller from Koontz features a dedicated dog rescuer, the golden retriever she saves and the murderous adversaries they must face together.
- **"Into Hot Air"** by Chris Elliott. Comedian Elliott writes a spoof on the classic survival tale, featuring Everest-bound celebrities who endure hurricane-force winds, blinding blizzards, off-key singing and more.
- **"Rhett Butler's People"** by Donald McCaig. The life and times of the dashing Rhett Butler unfold in this long-awaited novel that parallels "Gone with the Wind."
- **"Star Wars: Death Star"** by Michael Reaves and Steve Perry. Veteran "Star Wars" authors tell the full story of the Death Star, the moon-sized space station that has fascinated fans of the series.
- **"Tipperary"** by John Delaney. Born in 1860 to an Anglo-Irish family, itinerant healer and journalist Charlie O'Brien chronicles his life and loves during a turbulent era that would shape modern Ireland.

Non-Fiction

- **"Best of California's Missions, Mansions and Museums: a Behind the Scenes Guide to the Golden State's Historic and Cultural Treasures"** by Ken McKowen. Travelers, teachers and history buffs will enjoy this tour book to over 130 statewide destinations.
- **"Math You Can Really Use - Every Day"** by David Alan Herzog. Not your typical, dry math text, this book gives practical tips to help you get the best deals shopping, figure how much to tip, or compute your current gas mileage.
- **"The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court"** by Jeffrey Toobin. The CNN legal analyst gives a detailed perspective on the justices from America's highest court.
- **"Rachael Ray: Just in Time"** by Rachael Ray. The popular TV host shows cooks how to make the most of every minute in the kitchen with all-new recipes for great meals in 15-30 minutes.
- **"You, Staying Young: the Owner's Manual for Extending Your Warranty"** by Michael Roizen and Mehmet Oz. Two medical experts reveal the mysterious mechanisms of aging in the latest book from this popular series.

Visit the library at 1121 Brookshire Ave. or www.downeylibrary.org or call (562) 904-7360 ext. 3 to check out or reserve these new titles.



This is the last weekend to see "Curly McLain" (Robert Standley) and the cast of "Oklahoma!" at the Downey Theatre. Tickets can be purchased by calling (562) 923-1714.

OLPH Guild to view 'Dead Sea Scrolls'

DOWNEY - The Our Lady of Perpetual Help Women's Guild is sponsoring a day trip Nov. 14 to the San Diego Museum of Natural History to view the "Dead Sea Scrolls." The group will board the Amtrak train at the Fullerton station for the two-hour trip. Museum admission is \$20 while the roundtrip train ticket is \$40 for adults or \$32 for seniors. All fees must be paid to the Guild in advance. There will also be an additional cost for the 2 1/2 mile taxi ride to and from the San Diego train station to the museum. Guests need to find their own way to the Fullerton train station; car-pools are being formed and drivers can volunteer by calling the Guild. The train will depart Fullerton at 9:02 a.m. and depart San Diego at 4 p.m. For reservations, call Charlene McCluskey at (562) 776-1177 or (562) 884-7704. Reservation and payment deadline is Nov. 4.

Leon Fleisher performing live

COSTA MESA - Acclaimed American pianist/conductor Leon Fleisher will perform with the Emerson String Quartet on Thursday in the Orange County Performing Artscenter's (sic) Samueli Theater. Fleisher was recently selected as a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors Award for lifetime achievement. Tickets to the show are \$60 and go on sale this Sunday. They will be available by calling (714) 556-2787 or online at www.ocpac.org.

Woman's Club releases 2008 casino schedule

DOWNEY - Due to the continued success of their monthly bus trips to the Pechanga Resort & Casino in Temecula to benefit their Scholarship Fund, the Woman's Club of Downey has released their 2008 bus schedule: Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, and Dec. 1.

All trips are scheduled on a Monday and parking is provided at the Woman's Club, located at 9813 Paramount Blvd. in Downey. The Woman's Club opens at 7 a.m. on trip days, offering donuts and coffee for sale.

The Woman's Club first-class bus, provided by Pechanga, leaves promptly at 8 a.m. and returns to Downey between 5:30 and 6 p.m. Bingo, featuring a grab bag of prizes, is played on the bus going and returning.

Each guest will receive a \$5 voucher for casino play and is encouraged to register for a "Rewards Card" at the casino for additional benefits. Guests must be at least 21 years old.

Cost of each trip is \$6 for Woman's Club members; \$11 for non-members. All reservations must be paid one week prior to departure date. No refunds will be given for last-minute cancellations.

For reservations and/or additional information, call Jeanine Keys at (562) 923-6620 or Doris Patterson at (562) 869-0377.

New Entertainment this week

CD Releases

- Carrie Underwood - *Carnival Ride*
- Seether - *Finding Beauty in Negative Spaces*
- Heart - *Dreamboat Annie*
- Rob Zombie - *Zombie Live*
- Juanes - *La Vida...Es un Ratico*
- Robert Plant/Alison Krauss - *Raising Sand*
- Serj Tankian - *Elect the Dead*
- Gary Allan - *Living Hard*
- Hurricane Chris - *5150 Ratchet*
- Coheed & Cambria - *No World for Tomorrow*

Source: Amazon.com

DVD Releases

- MOVIES
- Hostel Part II
- Meet the Robinsons
- Mr. Brooks
- TV SHOWS
- The L Word - Season 4
- The Sopranos - Season 6
- The Adventures of Young Indiana Jones - Vol. 1
- Veronica Mars - Season 3
- NCIS - Season 4

Source: Amazon.com

Video Game Releases

- Harry Potter Collection - PS2
- Spongebob: Atlantis Squarepants - PS2
- King of Fighters XI - PS2
- High School Musical - PS2
- Nicktoons: Attack of the Toybots - PS2, Wii
- Moto GP 07 - PS2
- Clive Barker's Jericho - X360, PS3
- Ace Combat 6: Fires of Liberation - X360
- Conan - X360, PS3
- Naruto: Rise of the Ninja - X360
- Tomb Raider Anniversary - X360
- Juiced 2: Hot Import Nights - PS3
- Eye of Judgment - PS3
- Ratatouille - PS3
- Playground - Wii
- Namco Museum Remix - Wii
- The Sims 2: Castaway - Wii
- Hannah Montana: Spotlight World Tour - Wii
- Naruto: Clash of Ninja Revolution - Wii
- Zack and Wiki: Quest for Barbaros' Treasure - Wii

Source: ebgames.com

Concerts

- FRIDAY, OCT. 19
- Jennifer Lopez - Staples Center
- Rick Springfield - HOB Anaheim
- SATURDAY
- 'Weird Al' Yankovic - Greek Theatre
- Boys Like Girls - HOB Anaheim
- Eagles - Nokia Theatre
- Jennifer Lopez - Staples Center
- Silversun Pickups - Wiltern
- SUNDAY
- Eagles - Nokia Theatre
- Benise - Greek Theatre
- MONDAY
- Interpol - Forum
- TUESDAY
- Jesus and Mary Chain - Wiltern
- WEDNESDAY
- Eagles - Nokia Theatre
- Boys Like Girls - HOB San Diego
- Jennifer Lopez - Cox Arena
- THURSDAY
- Peter Dinklage - HOB San Diego
- Tim McGraw - Gibson Amph.
- Pipettes - Wiltern
- Blonde Redhead - Wiltern

Source: Casenet

Book Releases

- "Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House" by Valerie Plame Wilson
- "Ghost" by Alan Lightman
- "The Kennedys: Portrait of a Family" by Richard Avedon
- "Due Considerations: Essays and Criticism" by John Updike
- "Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox" by Maggie O'Farrell
- "Rigged: The True Story of an Ivy League Kid Who Changed the World of Oil, from Wall Street to Dubai" by Ben Mezrich
- "Out of Sync" by Lance Bass
- "Shakespeare: The World as Stage" by Bill Bryson
- "Now and Then" by Robert B. Parker
- "Book of the Dead" by Patricia Cornwell
- "The Ghost" by Robert Harris
- "Basic Black: The Essential Guide for Getting Ahead at Work (and in Life)" by Cathie Black
- "A Lick of Frost" by Laurell K. Hamilton

Source: barnesandnoble.com

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MICHAEL CLAYTON (11:10, 2:05, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40)

TYLER PERRY'S WHY DID I GET MARRIED? (11:05, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15)

WE OWN THE NIGHT (11:20, 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30)

THE HEARTBREAK KID (11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:20, 10:10)

THE GAME PLAN (11:00, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40)

THE KINGDOM (11:15, 1:50, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05)

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THE COMEBACKS PG13 (10:30 12:55 3:20 5:45 8:10 10:35)

30 DAYS OF NIGHT R (11:10 2:00 4:50 7:40 10:30)

RENDITION R (10:50 1:45 4:40 7:35 10:30)

SARAH LANDON PG (10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00)

WE OWN THE NIGHT R (11:00 1:50 4:40 7:30 10:20)

MICHAEL CLAYTON R (11:15 2:05 4:55 7:45 10:35)

WHY DID I GET MARRIED? PG13 (11:30 2:20 5:10 8:00 10:50)

WHY DID I GET MARRIED? PG13 (2:50) 8:30

THE FINAL SEASON PG (12:00) 5:40

THE HEARTBREAK KID R (11:30 2:15 5:00 7:45 10:30)

THE GAME PLAN PG (11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00)

FEEL THE NOISE PG13 (2:45) 7:45

RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION R (12:15) 5:15 10:15

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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" tonight.

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 p.m. and dancing until 11:30 p.m.

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

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Razorbacks jostle for playoff spots

By Mike Baumann, Downey Youth Football

DOWNEY – With the results of week six now in the book, the Razorback organization finds all six teams within the possibility of making the conference playoffs. Some of the teams have a slim chance, while others will have to stumble in the next two weeks to eliminate themselves.

Despite a 30-0 loss to a smaller but speedy Gardena MityMite team, Razorback Red's 2-1 league record provides a chance to make the Northern Division playoffs. The Razorbacks did a good job defending the inside run, but Gardena's speedy backs were able to successfully attack the outside.

Mity Mite White improved to 4-2 on the season, with a shutout over the Twin Cities Wolverines, 20-0, but the two losses are league losses and endanger their playoff chances. Adrian Ochoa scored in the Hogs' first possession on a 35-yard touchdown run and Downey added a Jordan Cardenas to Jonathan Garcia pass for the PAT.

A 25-yard touchdown run by Mason Marquez and the successful PAT by Stephen Zepeda made the score 15-0. The Razorbacks capped the scoring with a 45-yard pass/run from Cardenas to Garcia. The defense produced two fumble recoveries by Justin Ayala and Anthony Covarrubias to stymie the Wolverine's attack.

Junior PeeWee Razorbacks shut out Gardena, 13-0. The win could set up a tie-breaker for the Northern Division title if they win in the next two weeks.

Downey's PeeWee Razorbacks must face an undefeated Santa Monica team this weekend after a 30-0 loss to Gardena. The PeeWee's are 2-3 on the year with a 1-1 league record.

A 32-0 loss was the score of the Junior Midget's game as their winning streak came to a screeching halt to the Gardena Panthers. Except for the third quarter, the Panthers scored in every quarter. Additionally, the Panther's held the offense completely in check allowing only one first down in the entire game. Penalties and other mental mistakes resulted in a lackluster performance by Downey.

The undefeated Midgets, 6-0 overwhelmed Buena Park 42-6 in a non-conference contest. For the fourth time this season, Derek Smith and his supporting cast ran the opening kickoff back for a touchdown. Alex Martinez scored two touchdowns (20 yards and 42 yards) on the Razorback's pitch play.

The Hog defense played an important role in the rout. Jabari Ruffin blocked a punt early in the game and Eddy Cyprus Moreno picked up the ball for the score. Ryan McFaddin tackled the Buena Park running back in the end zone for a safety to make the score 22-0. Dwayne Franklin dashed to paydirt for 40-yards on a belly play and Smith had a 75-yard pass/run touchdown from Andrew Magana to cap the scoring for the Razorbacks. A victory against Santa Monica this weekend could set up a showdown of two undefeated teams in week eight against the Palos Verde 49ers for the Northern Conference championship.

Games this week, both flag and tackle, take place at Downey High School beginning at 8 a.m. as the Razorbacks host Santa Monica.



Alex Martinez runs for one of his two touchdowns on the day as the Midgets beat Buena Park, 42-6, last week. The Midgets stayed undefeated with the win. Photo courtesy Mike Baumann

Warren bucks trend, trounces Lynwood

By Scott Cobos, Contributor

DOWNEY – Warren Head Coach Jeff Welch was so ecstatic about his football team's win last Friday that he needed a second to catch his breath in order to talk after the game.

"Lynwood three years ago beat Warren 58-0, then 44-0, and then last year I came back we got beat 35-21, so they've been on a role," Welch said. "This year I told the kids we have to get this program back and the first thing we have to do is beat Lynwood first game in league and the kids did a great job."

Coming off a bye-week, Welch's team staged a second-half comeback to surge from a 13-point deficit to defeat a very tough Lynwood Knights team. Warren scored 20 unanswered points in the third and fourth quarters, led by sophomore running back Jesse Callier.

Callier who has taken over the starting running back spot on the team led all rushers with 28 carries for 159 yards including a rushing touchdown. He exploded for 119 second-half yards on the ground.

"Jessie Callier is an incredibly talented young man," Welch said. "As he matures and learns more about the game of football he's going to be a phenomenal kid."

Not only was Callier an offensive force, defensively he also recovered and returned a fumble for a touchdown that ultimately lifted Warren to the win. Putting an exclamation point on his performance, he intercepted Lynwood's final pass attempt in a last minute effort to tie up the game.

"I don't think I did that great," a humble Callier said after the game. "I didn't perform to the best of my ability."

Lynwood's head coach Mark Williams put his team's loss on the many turnovers the team committed. "There were too many fumbles," he said. "There were too many turnovers and you can't have turnovers."

The Knights played a clean first half, but then turned the ball over five times in the second half, including a stretch of four straight possessions in the third quarter where they fumbled the ball three times.

That last fumble was returned for a touchdown by Callier, which

San Gabriel Valley League Football Standings

School	Record
Dominguez	4-2
Gahr	4-2
Warren	4-2
Downey	2-4
Lynwood	1-5
Paramount	1-5



Downey Football Schedule

10/19 @ Dominguez @ 7 p.m.
10/26 vs. Lynwood @ 7 p.m.
11/2 @ Warren @ 7 p.m.
11/9 @ Gahr @ 7 p.m.



Warren Football Schedule

10/19 vs. Paramount @ 7 p.m.
10/26 @ Gahr @ 7 p.m.
11/2 vs. Downey @ 7 p.m.
11/9 @ Dominguez @ 7 p.m.



Photo by Art Montoya

swung the game back around to Warren's favor. From that point, the Bears never looked back.

Lynwood quarterback Barfield Ellis was 10 for 17 on the night for 105 yards passing with an interception. Running back Kevin Ayers led his team with 16 carries for 101 yards and a touchdown.

Welch said his team played a "very undisciplined first half of football" to start the game and was not initially happy with their performance.

"Penalties, fumbles, I mean, I don't know if part of it might have been the week off that we had but really that's unacceptable if you're going to compete out here," Welch said. "I think the kids realized at halftime they did not play a good first half and we reminded them to play disciplined football."

The Bears responded and buckled any other scoring opportunities by Lynwood. The rest was left to Callier and company.

Warren quarterback Alfonso Gonzalez also jumped in on the fun with another efficient night. Gonzalez completed 8 of 12 passes for 96 yards and a touchdown pass.

At first the offensive unit looked a little sluggish possibly due to the week break, but then found their legs in the second half.

"We just stayed disciplined," said Callier about his team's performance.

Warren looks to continue their success tonight at home against Paramount High School. Game time is 7:00 p.m.

Downey High School, meanwhile, returned to its winning ways against Paramount High School last Friday, beating them 21-12.

The Vikings scored early and often enough to beat the Pirates, who continue their slide in the San Gabriel Valley League.

Downey's defense held Paramount to one touchdown all night until the last minutes of the game.

The Vikings are on the road tonight to face the daunting task of taking on Dominguez, this year's defending league champions. Game time is 7 p.m.

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Experts give emergency preparedness tips for senior

■ Harriett and Susan Paine will make presentation at Downey Adult School's OASIS meeting.

DOWNEY – In recognition of National Preparedness Month, Susan Paine, a member of Downey's Community Emergency Response Team and a Senior Real Estate Specialist, along with Harriett Paine, former consultant for Downey's Family Disaster Preparedness program and the city of Downey's "Older American of the Year 2007," will present a common sense preparedness guide for older Americans at Monday's OASIS class at Downey Adult School.

Various types of emergencies – from evacuations, earthquakes and potential terrorist attacks – will be covered.

"By evaluating your personal needs and making an emergency plan that fits those needs, you have a better chance of survival," said Harriett Paine.

An extensive display of equipment will be available for viewing and new material from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross will be distributed.

All older adults are invited to attend the free meeting, to be held inside the Downey Adult School auditorium at 12340 Woodruff Ave. Registration starts at 3 p.m. and the program will be followed by an optional full-course dinner. Dinner tickets can be purchased for \$3.50 at the time of enrollment.

Downey Dial-A-Ride can provide transportation to those who qualify. For more information on the meeting, call (562) 940-6200.



Susan Paine, above, gives an emergency preparedness class at a Downey Adult School OASIS meeting last year. The class will be offered again this Monday. Photo courtesy Susan Paine

Coach Henry Springer passes away at 83

DOWNEY – Henry "Hank" Springer, commonly known as "Coach," passed away on Oct. 14 at the age of 83.

Springer was born on Nov. 7, 1923 in Memphis, Tenn. to Cletus and Anna Springer. At the age of three, his family relocated to South Gate, where he was raised. He later graduated from South Gate High School, where he participated in track and field as a shot putter.

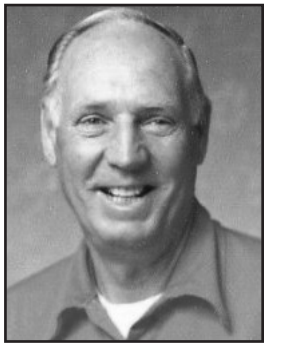
He attended Compton College, earning two National Championship titles in shot put. In 1950, he earned athletic acclaim at the University of Southern California, graduating with a master's degree in education in 1955. He also served in the U.S. Army during WWII.

Springer began his career in secondary education in 1950 and taught physical education at Huntington Park High School for 32 years. He also coached cross-country, football and track and field.

He and his wife, Doris, lived in Downey from 1952 to 1983, moving to Carlsbad upon retirement. He also coached track and field at Carlsbad High School in the late 1980's.

Springer is survived by wife Doris; sons Marc and Brian; and grandchildren Christopher, Carmen, Brianna and Katelyn.

A celebration of life ceremony will be held on Sunday at noon at the Carlsbad High School Athletic Stadium, 3557 Lancer Way.



TEACHERS

Continued from page 1

drama, and poetry." Not averse to making her point(s) through dance, she said "the best reward I can ever receive is when a student I had in my class five, 10, 15 years later comes to visit me and still remembers some of the chants we learned like 'Yo, Baby!' and tells me that I made a difference in his/her life. What other job in the world can give you that!"

In other action, the Board

•Also heard East Middle School principal Brent Shubin present what Boardmember Don LaPlante later branded as "ridiculously unattainable" API/AYP (Academic Performance Index and Adequate Yearly Progress) test targets middle schools are supposed to achieve every year as mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act, in the areas of language arts and mathematics;

•Accepted with gratitude donations in cash and in kind from a few individuals and corporations;

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

•Ratified the general agreements covering July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 with various entities including:

Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis Center, Hillside Education Center, Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes, Lovaas Institute for Early Intervention, Maxim Staffing Solutions, New Haven Youth and Family Services, Pyramid Autism Center, Rossier Park Elementary School and Junior-Senior High School, and Zinsmeyer Academy;

•Ratified Special Education payments which, noted Boardmember Tod Corrin, were "quite substantial";

•Ratified the Final Settlement Agreement, Case No. N2007020567, for \$5,000;

•Approved the additional District memberships (California School Nutrition Association, School Employment Law Consortium) for the 2007-08 fiscal year;

•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 August through September;

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

•Ratified the contract for consultant services related to the California Storm Water, California School Monitoring Group (CSMG), with the Los Angeles County Office of Education, effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008;

•Ratified the contract with the Los Angeles County Office of Education to reimburse administrative costs related to the California Medical Assistance Program 2006-07, effective July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007;

•Ratified the School Safety Police Program agreement with the City of Downey, effective Sept. 4, 2007 through June 20, 2008;

•Ratified the services agreement with ROI HealthData Resources,



Lucy Atlas



Bonnie Roybal

LLC, to perform healthcare audit services, effective Oct. 1, 2007 through Sept. 30, 2009;

•Approved the proposed agreement for professional services with Breon & Shaeffer, effective Oct. 16, 2007 through June 30, 2008;

•Approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Downey Education Association and DUSD to increase the PAR Pal stipend;

•Accepted the quarterly Uniform Complaint Report summary;

•Awarded the services agreement for fiber optic local area network ethernet service (e-Rate) to Time Warner Cable, Anaheim, in the amount of \$19,995 per month for a total contract period not to exceed seven years, to be funded by district and e-Rate funds;

•Awarded a contract to Terra Pave, Inc., Whittier, in the amount of \$400,000 for improvements and repairs to asphalt and concrete areas in the district;

•Approved various change orders for various construction, installation, modernization, and maintenance projects;

•Accepted as complete fencing and electrical projects performed by vendors;

•Approved the adjustment of the 2007-08 Adult School Fund restricted budget to reflect an increase to the fund balance in the amount of \$56,582;

•Approved the adjustment of the 2007-08 Cafeteria Fund restricted budget (\$6,591 decrease), that of the 2007-08 General Fund restricted budget to reflect a decrease to the fund balance in the amount of a little over \$4 million; and an increase to its unrestricted budget of \$328,564;

•Approved the transfer of the maximum allowable amount of 15 percent of Block Grant monies into other eligible categorical programs for the 2007-08 fiscal year;

•Approved the purchase of a piece of equipment, in accordance with established purchasing policies and regulations;

•Acknowledged receipt of two claims submitted on behalf of two claimants, and denied same in compliance with Government Code Sections 911-15 and 945;

•Approved routine Personnel items until subsequent action is taken by the Board of Education;

•Authorized the services of teachers for various instructional purposes, and the establishment of new (mostly limited-term) positions corresponding to appropriate job classifications, meanwhile approving the changes to the duties of Floor Maintenance Worker;

•Ratified the appointment of C.S.E.A.'s nominee, Stephen Sampley, to the DUSD Personnel Commission, effective Dec. 1, 2007, for a three-year term;

•Adopted a resolution in support of Character Counts Week – Oct. 21-27;

•Received and approved the annual administrative report on Developer Fees for fiscal year 2006-07;

•Approved the use of the Single Budget Option, which requires that the district's final budget for the 2008-09 fiscal year be adopted at an advertised public hearing by July 1, 2008;

•Heard the initial bargaining proposals from the Downey Education Association/CTA/NEA; 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, Nov. 20, at the Gallegos Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave., Downey.

Annie (McAllister) Orta emigrated from Scotland

DOWNEY – Annie (McAllister) Orta, 68, died Oct. 12 at her home in Yorba Linda.

Most fondly remembered for her thick Scottish brogue, Orta was born and raised in Scotland before moving to Downey.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother.

She is survived by her three children, Kathy, Neil and Michele; two sisters; one brother; and seven grandchildren.

A Memorial Service was held yesterday at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Placentia.



Regina McMullen was local children's advocate

DOWNEY – Regina Estelle McMullen, also known as "GiGi" or "Jean," a volunteer at local schools who would also open her home to newborn infants seeking adoption, has died.

McMullen was born in South Gate in 1936 and resided in Downey since 1965. Besides being active in the community through her children's activities, she was also known to many as "The Baby Lady," taking care of mostly infants in their first few months through the Bureau of Adoptions. She did this for more than 20 years, housing as many as 54 children.

McMullen also donated time and money to Gallatin Elementary School, which her children and grandchildren attended.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, James Dean McMullen; sisters, Eileen Manson and Patricia McMullen; son, Michael (Rene) McMullen; brother, Jim Lisner; and three grandsons, James, Grant and Sean.

Services were held Oct. 4.





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Traffic excuses get old to police

■ The good news? Officers admit there *is* a way to get out of a speeding ticket. The bad news? Your house needs to be on fire.

By ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Stealth motorcycle officer Corp. Wayne Raymond has just about heard it all in his 17 years working traffic enforcement.

“But officer, I was running late for work, I promise I won’t do it again.”

“But officer, I was just making a quick run to the ATM, that’s the reason I wasn’t wearing my seat belt.”

“But officer, I was in a hurry because...blah blah blah.”

“Unless you tell me your house is on fire, you’re going to receive a citation,” Raymond said. “Do I make friends? No. Do I care? No.”

Such is the life of a motorcycle traffic officer, as the Downey Police Department’s Citizens Academy learned this week.

Raymond is a quirky, fun-loving police officer. He jokingly counts Erik Estrada and Larry Wilcox from “CHiPS” fame as his heroes, and even does one heckuva Elvis impersonation, if you ask him politely.

His enthusiasm for the job shines through, which is one of the reasons he’s routinely tapped to speak to local civic groups and organizations, splicing on traffic safety. He teaches local driver’s education programs at Downey and Warren High Schools, and sometimes patrols their campuses on bicycle, making him a familiar face to students.

He might also be a familiar face to you if you’ve ever received a traffic citation in Downey; in his 17 years, Raymond said he’s issued over 25,000 citations and investigated over 3,200 traffic collisions.

Eight full-time motorcycle officers are assigned to enforce Downey’s traffic laws, Raymond said, and that’s not limited just to cars. Traffic includes pedestrians, bicycles, parades, marathons, clean-up crews, and even ridden animals, not that this city sees much of those.

“All of these have to be managed or else there’s chaos,” Raymond said. “The primary goal of managing traffic is safety of the community.”

The fact is, traffic enforcement ranks right up there with Code Enforcement as one of the most unpopular and contested divisions of the Downey Police Department. It’s a fact Raymond has grown accustomed to, attributing it to part of the job.

“If I wanted to be everyone’s friend, I would have been a fireman,” he jokes.

But in all seriousness, Raymond said successful and visible traffic enforcement brings order to a city, and ultimately reduces crime, improving a community’s quality of life.

He even has a formula for it:

Uniformed police equals visibility. Visibility equals crime deterrent. Crime deterrents equal fewer crime victims. Fewer crime victims equal a safer community. And a safer community equals a greater quality of life.

He also said traffic enforcement needs to abide by a four-part system to really be successful. These include:

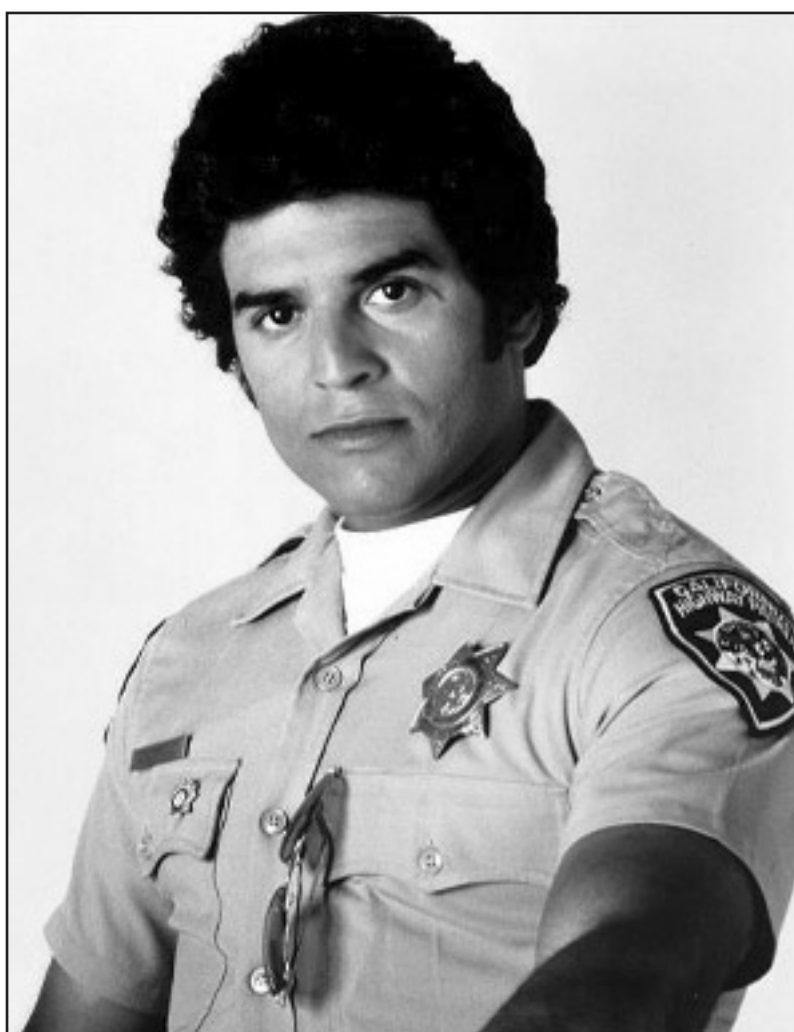
- 1.) System of laws – Enforcement of the California Vehicle Code and Downey Municipal Code
- 2.) System of education – Driver’s training, understanding of signs, signals and markings
- 3.) System of enforcement – Citations and impounds
- 4.) System of accountability – The judicial system, which levies fines, probation, suspensions and revocations

Traffic citations in Downey range anywhere from \$30.50 to \$336.50, depending on the violation, Raymond said. The most severe violation is for parking in a handicapped-designated parking spot, no matter for how long. Raymond said he usually issues one or two handicap violations in this city every day.

The Downey Police Department’s traffic division is comprehensive, and includes parking enforcement, street sweeper enforcement, accident investigators, motorcycle officers, traffic detectives and police assistants.

Two civilian parking enforcement officers recover stolen and abandoned vehicles, Raymond said. They each write about 1,000 street sweeping citations per month.

Police assistants, Raymond said, are four full-time civilian officers who take reports when no follow-up investigation is available or necessary. These usually include hit-and-run cases involving parked cars that



Downey Police Department Corp. Wayne Raymond admits to being an Erik Estrada fan, although he says “my hair never looks like that at the end of the day.”

occur overnight and parking lot fender-benders.

Traffic detective Rosie Gutierrez investigates fatal collisions, hit and runs with workable evidence, submits court filings for criminal violations, and conducts impersonation investigations. (Raymond said some drivers with no ID sometimes give false aliases. Police can legally take somebody into custody for lacking identification, though that’s rare.)

Last year, vehicle violations in Downey produced \$730,000 for the City, Raymond said. Parking tickets brought in another \$750,000. It’s not much money, Raymond said, especially when compared to the City’s \$130 million budget.

“We don’t (issue citations) for the money. Citations equal only 3.3 percent of the City General Fund,” Raymond said. “We issue citations in the name of safety.”

Because police use laser technology, Raymond said the chances of beating a speeding ticket in court “are about zero.” Still, he and other traffic officers are in court every week responding to subpoenas and appearing before the judge.

Roving around the city, Raymond said he has a number of favorite haunts. He regularly situates himself at Florence/Woodruff, pulling over speeding vehicles. He also likes Imperial Highway, underneath the bridge adjacent to Downey Municipal Court. But really, Raymond said, he and fellow traffic officers go wherever they are needed.

He recalled one July 4 holiday when there was very little traffic on city streets. He said he drove over to a portion of the 105 Freeway that slices through Downey and, in the span of only one hour, pulled over 12 speeding drivers, none traveling slower than 100 mph.

Speed kills, Raymond said, and it’s a proven and logical fact. Speed plays a factor in 1/3 of all fatal collisions nationwide, he said. Speed increases the likelihood of a collision and increases the severity of a collision,

while reducing the amount of time needed to avoid a collision.

A lot of it is common sense, Raymond said.

“The speed limit on Florence is 40 miles per hour,” Raymond said. “But in the early morning, with that thick fog out there, is it safe to drive 40 miles per hour? No.”

Nine people died in traffic collisions in Downey last year, a high amount for a city the size of Downey’s. The highest number of traffic fatalities ever in one year is 11, Raymond said.

Downey, like any city, also has drunk drivers on the streets. And Raymond has no tolerance for them.

“These people need to be in jail,” Raymond said. “They’re hurting people and they need to be held accountable.”

Others topics Raymond touched on:

•Every year the Downey Police Department participates in the “Click It or Ticket” program. A state grant pays for about 50 hours of overtime for officers who concentrate solely on citing unbuckled drivers.

•Crosswalks are dangerously misleading. Although they protect pedestrians legally, they do not protect pedestrians physically.

•Residents can request a speed trailer in their neighborhood (the mobile radar system that flashes how fast a car is traveling) by calling the Downey Police Department and asking for Sgt. Dean Milligan. The city owns two such trailers.

•Thirty-eight percent of all traffic fatalities are DUI related. On weekdays between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m., 1 in 8 drivers will be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. On weekends, between 1 and 6 a.m., the odds jump to 1 in 4 drivers.

•1 in 3 teens will get into a collision that’s their fault within their first year of driving. It’s his prediction that one day the minimum driving age will be 18.

•Police try to avoid using the term “accident” when referring to traffic collisions. “Accident,” Raymond said, implies the collision was unavoidable.

•In 2006, the Downey Police Department issued 28,997 non-moving violations. A little over 15,000 moving violations were issued during the same time frame.

•The California Vehicle Code prohibits tint -- regardless of shade -- on front windows because it reduces visibility. But tinted sunglasses, even at night, are legal. Similarly, loud music is prohibited because it’s said to impair driving, but deaf people are issued driver’s licenses every day.

The moral of the story is to drive smart, drive safe and obey the law. Or else you may find yourself on the receiving end of a hefty citation.

“I don’t care what you say, you’re going to sign,” Raymond said. “You can call me what you want. I like taking people’s cars. It’s that accountability thing.”

Myths vs. Facts

MYTH: Traffic problems aren’t really that bad or important.

FACT: The average American is more likely to be involved in a traffic collision than be a victim of a crime.

MYTH: Speeding is not a big deal and nobody cares.

FACT: Speeding vehicles are amongst the most reported citizen complaint in regards to traffic-related offenses. Citizens are concerned for their neighborhoods.

MYTH: Police should be out arresting “real” criminals, not hassling drivers.

FACT: Many “serious” criminals are routinely caught as a result of traffic stops.

MYTH: Police issue citations to make money for the City.

FACT: Most of the revenue generated by a citation goes to the courts and counties. The amount of money the police department makes is a drop in the bucket.

MYTH: Police stop cars because they’re new, shiny and expensive.

FACT: It’s not about the car, it’s about your right foot.

MYTH: Officers issue citations because they need to fill monthly quotas.

FACT: Downey Police Department officers have no quotas, which are illegal in California.

Source: Downey Police Department

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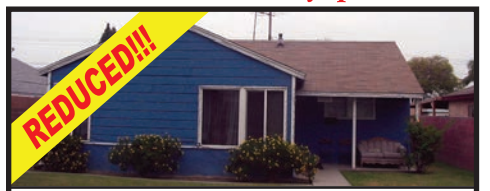
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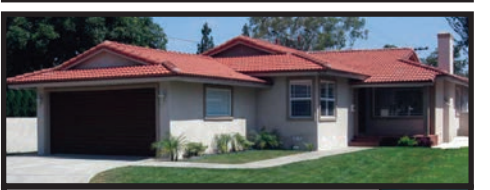
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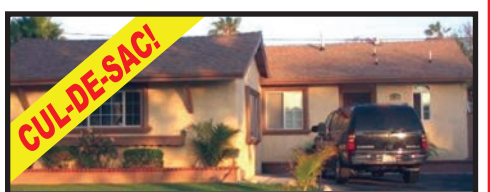


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OPEN HOUSE
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