



The Downey Patriot



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Friday, November 23, 2007

Vol. 6 No. 31

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

Ho, ho, ho! Santa is coming to town

■ Role of Santa Claus ingrained in Mark Keller.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR
DOWNEY – As it turns out, Santa Claus historians through the annals of time have been wrong: Jolly St. Nick doesn't live in the North Pole.

He resides in North Downey. And instead of working out of a mystical workshop with little green elves carrying out his every whim, he conducts his business out of a plain old office, sitting in front of a standard computer, quietly within the Downey Theatre.

Ho, ho, ho. Mark Keller, 41, has been serving as the city of Downey's unofficial Santa for decades, decking himself out in an expensive, tailor-made Santa suit and making himself available for schools, non-profit events, home visits, wherever the spirit of Christmas beckons him.

Sometimes he gets paid, sometimes he doesn't.

Keller has lived in Downey nearly his entire life. He's a product of the Downey school system, attending Maude Price Elementary and Griffiths Middle School before graduating from Warren in 1984.

As a child, Keller says his grandfather would don an old 1950's Santa suit on Christmas Eve, an event the entire family anticipated every year.

As Keller, a naturally tall and beefy individual, entered his teenage



Seven-year-old Andrew Mathis is the winner of the Downey Chamber of Commerce's "Be a Winner with Santa" contest. Andrew, a second-grader at Van Avery Prep, will ride with Santa Claus (Mark Keller) at the Holiday Lane Parade Dec. 2. Photo courtesy Downey Chamber of Commerce

years he took over Santa Claus duties. As the rest of the family drank eggnog, sang Christmas carols, and were otherwise merry, Keller would sneak to the garage and change into the costume, emerging to the delight of his family.

Word soon spread within family circles and, before he knew it, Keller was making appearances for friends, neighbors, Girl Scout troops, etc.

"It was nothing big or official," says Keller, a house manager at the Downey Theatre. "I didn't have business cards or anything."

He may not have had business cards, but he did have a reputation of being a good Santa. And so about 12 years ago, when the Downey Holiday Lane Parade lost its resident Santa Claus after he moved away, organizer Marsha Moode offered the position to Keller.

Keller gladly accepted it. He'll once again be the parade's featured attraction when it ambles down Downey Avenue Dec. 2.

Keller's transformation into Santa Claus, as he appears today, was a years-long process. He used his grandfather's Santa suit his first few years with the Holiday Lane Parade, eventually investing in a more contemporary model sold by

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WHS hall named after Donald E. LaPlante

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—The new \$8.9 million Donald E. LaPlante Hall that was dedicated at Warren High School on Thursday last week is named after an educator who has served on the Downey Unified School District (DUSD) board of education for the last 28 years, a period of time marked, said DUSD board president Willie Gutierrez who was emcee for the day, by the honoree's particular brand of wisdom and unique perspective on education. Gutierrez, who unveiled the bronze dedication plaque at ceremony's end, also said what a rare and distinct honor it is to have a building named after you while you're still alive.

In reviewing the main outlines

of LaPlante's life and career, board member D. Mark Morris, who has served closely with LaPlante in both school district and church affairs (as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints), noted the latter's uncompromising frankness and his uncanny command of financial details in both activity areas.

Superintendent Wendy Doty made the same observations, saying that LaPlante does indeed possess this flair for numbers and that he is the go-to-guy when money is discussed. What's more, his grasp of educational issues is unparalleled, she said, and being a negotiator for his fellow teachers in Duarte (where he has taught for 15 years) as president of the Duarte Unified

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DUSD board member Barbara Samperi and former DUSD Superintendent Ed Sussman flank honoree at last week's dedication of Warren's Donald E. LaPlante Hall. Photo by Stan Hanstad

Crank dat: Students get crunk at school dance

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Beats jumpin'. Bass bumpin'. Lyrics pumpin'. So much so, half-way through the City of Downey Community Services' Thanksgiving Dance, the DJ's sound system blew a fuse.

But that didn't ruin the night for the over 90 middle school students in attendance. As soon as the system was back up and running, they sprinted back onto the dance floor at Apollo Park's Gary McCaughan Gymnasium turned nightclub, anxious to dance the night away.

The dance began at 7 p.m., with students turning in parent permission slips and showing their ID cards. Students had to be in sixth through eighth grades at a school in the Downey Unified School District in order to attend. Cost was five dollars and if they brought a canned food, they would get a free treat from the snack shack in return. The canned goods collected would later be donated to PTA HELPS.

Prior to entering the dance, the students were searched for permanent markers, weapons, illegal substances, and other items that could be potentially harmful. They were also checked for dress code violations, which included gang affiliated clothing and inappropriate tops and skirts.

Once on the dance floor, it was like a typical junior high dance – no one was dancing and girls were with girls and boys were with boys. Five or six songs later, dancing had begun. Song choices ranged from Bob Marley to Gwen Stefani to Timbaland.

The kids cheered when one of their favorite songs came on, singing along whenever they could. In fact, when "Crank Dat Soulja Boy" by rapper Soulja Boy came on, everyone stopped what they were doing and performed the song's dance routine in unison. It was like watching the Macarena again.

Throughout the evening, city employees made their way around the room, making sure the kids were dancing and acting appropriately.

"We want the kids to have fun and dance," said city of Downey employee Devin Stewart. "But we also want to make sure it's fun in a safe way."

The event was also staffed by volunteers from the After Hours Teens in Action program, which allows high school students from Downey and Warren High Schools to participate in weekly activities, service projects, forums, and social events.

The city has hosted a Thanksgiving Dance for the past three years and this year's dance is the third in a year-long series of dances. Next month's dance, Winter Wonderland, will be held Dec. 14 at Apollo Park. The event is a dinner-dance, with a pasta dinner catered by Rio Hondo Country Club. Cost is \$10 and includes both the dinner and dance. Kids should dress semi-formal and may take professional pictures for the cost of \$5.

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

Tree lighting ceremony opens holiday season

■ Residents also urged to practice safe shopping habits to avoid becoming a victim.

DOWNEY – The City Council will kick off the holiday season with a tree lighting ceremony Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. in front of the Downey City Library. The actual lighting will occur at approximately 6:30 p.m.

The ceremony will include entertainment by local schools and the sale of light refreshments by the Downey Rose Float Association, said Assistant to the City Manager Scott Pomrehn.

Raffles will also be held beginning at 6:15 p.m., concluding at 7 p.m. Raffle winners need to be present to claim their prize.

"The start of the holiday season is a good time to remind residents that shopping Downey not only helps local businesses, but keeps a portion of sales tax revenue local as well," said Mayor Rick Trejo. "Spending your holiday shopping dollars in Downey will have a positive direct effect on public safety and the youth of our community."

A portion of sales tax paid on merchandise purchased from Downey merchants returns to the city of Downey to fund public safety and recreational programs.

The Downey Police and Fire Departments also reminded residents to keep safety in the forefront this holiday season.

"Being mindful of your surroundings and not putting yourself in compromising positions is the most effective way to stay safe," said Police Chief Roy Campos.

Safety recommendations include using credit/debit cards instead of cash; keeping purses, packages and cell phones out of sight when placed in your car; and keeping a watchful eye for situations that "do not feel right."

Campos also urged residents to report any suspicious or unusual activities to store employees, security guards, or police.

Collision kills man on leave from Navy

DOWNEY – A 26-year-old man on leave from the U.S. Navy died last Friday when the car he was riding in veered into oncoming traffic near the intersection of Florence and Brookshire Avenues, police said.

Abraham Boado, of Bell Gardens, was traveling west on Florence at about 4:40 a.m. when his 2004 Honda Accord reportedly veered left and collided with a 1995 Oldsmobile.

Irving Rojas, a passenger in the Honda, died at the scene, police said. A resident of Corpus Christi, Tex., Rojas had been stationed in Texas and was on leave from active duty in the Navy, according to police.

Boado and three people in the Oldsmobile were transported to a local hospital, police said.

Police said they did not know if drugs or alcohol played a role in the collision. – Eric Pierce

Man found dead after house catches fire

DOWNEY – An unidentified man was found dead inside his Dunrobin Avenue home Monday after his house caught fire, police said.

The fire was reported by neighbors at 5:17 p.m., said Sgt. Leslie Murray with the Downey Police Department. It took firefighters about 15 minutes to extinguish the blaze.

Murray said the cause of death was not known, and the police and fire departments would be conducting a joint investigation.

Two dogs also died in the fire, Murray said.

– Eric Pierce



A man and two dogs were found dead after this house at 12631 Dunrobin Ave. caught fire Monday. The man's identity had not been released as of press time. Photo by Eric Pierce

'The Nutcracker' playing in Downey

DOWNEY – Tickets are on sale now for "The Nutcracker" ballet to be presented by the Southern California Dance Theatre at the Downey Theater, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

Performances will be held Dec. 8 and 15 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 9 and 16 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are priced between \$21 and \$25.

For ticket information, call (562) 496-1766.

Pre-Christmas choir concert at church

DOWNEY – The public is invited to attend a free pre-Christmas concert on Dec. 8 at the Downey Stake Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Located at 12425 Orizaba Ave., the Stake Center is one block north of Imperial Highway between Downey Ave. and Paramount Blvd.

The 100-voice choir will perform under the direction of Frank Turner. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the concert will begin at 7 p.m.

Celebrate Christmas with Christian club

DOWNEY – The Downey Christian Women's Club will celebrate Christmas at their Dec. 12 meeting at Los Amigos Country Club.

The special feature will be Joy Grades of Edible Arrangements. Linda Bagley will be the meeting's speaker. Her topic is "Life is Like a Box of Chocolates." Diane Pierce will provide music.

The lunch meeting starts at 11:45 a.m. and the cost is \$12. The community (including men) is invited. Reservations are requested by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Delores at (562) 868-7135.

Tickets available for holiday home tour

DOWNEY – Tour four decorated Downey homes, shop at a boutique and bake sale, and enjoy home baked goodies at "Homes for the Holidays" Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the San Antonio Guild of Childrens Hospital Los Angeles of Downey, a \$25 donation is requested.

Tickets are available at Saywell Florist, 10235 Paramount Blvd. or Relini Salon, 7817 E. Florence Ave. To request tickets by mail, contact SAG Home Tour, 7860 Baysinger St., Downey, CA 90241.

All proceeds to the event will benefit the Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. For more information, call Stacy Brabant at (562) 927-8511.

2006/2007 Stauffer Scholars Awarded

DOWNEY – Stauffer Scholars Program awards totaling \$17,000 were received by 110 Downey Unified School District middle school students Nov. 7-8. Dr. Mary Stauffer presented the \$100 check awards during ceremonies held at the Barbara J. Riley Community Center.

The checks were given to enable qualifying students to start or add to a ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan.

Stauffer Scholar of the Year 2006/2007 awards and checks for \$500 were also presented to 12 middle school students during the assemblies. The names of these winners were engraved on a perpetual plaque which will hang at the respective school sites.

The \$500 recipients are: Toni Salgado, East Middle School; Paulina Sanchez, Griffiths Middle School; Joshua Topacio, West Middle School; Olivia Aguirre, Carpenter Elementary School; Alejandra MacDougall, Gallatin Elementary School; Jaqueline Alejos, Gauldin Elementary School; Elisabeth Shimada, Lewis Elementary School; Jared Topaio, Old River Elementary School; Jocelyn Prado, Price Elementary School; Mariah Montero, Rio Hondo Elementary School; Alexandria Vingino, Rio San Gabriel Elementary School; Victor Martinez, Unsworth Elementary School.



Luz Perez, center, of the school district's TLC program, spoke on the organizations work at a recent meeting of Soroptimist International of Downey. Pictured with Perez are Sue Potter, left, President of Soroptimist International of Downey, and Karina Madariaga of Downey Adult School.



Rolando Martinez and Maria Cortez will marry in a Dec. 1 wedding at St. Vincent Church in Los Angeles. The couple has three children: Michael and Mathew Cortez, and Christopher Martinez. Rolando, a 27-year Downey resident and a home theater system installer, is the son of Martha Valenzuela and Leocadio Cortez. Maria, a 10-year Downey resident and a real estate agent at Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate, is the daughter of Carmen Martinez. Her father is deceased. More information on the wedding is available by calling (213) 396-2328.

Soroptimist learns all about TLC's efforts

■ TLC's Luz Perez briefs Soroptimist on non-profit group's efforts at helping Downey's youth.

DOWNEY – Luz Perez, coordinator of the True Lasting Connections (TLC) program within the Downey Unified School District (DUSD), was a guest recently at a Soroptimist International of Downey meeting and shared information on the program.

The goal of True Lasting Connections is just that: to create a true lasting connection between the city of Downey and the families of the DUSD, Perez said. To meet this goal, TLC has partnered with more than 50 agencies of different facets. Aside from ensuring that each student receives physical, emotional and intellectual support, TLC provides services to help students and their families learn to become better participants in their school and within the community.

Case workers serve as the connection between families and available services, which include medical, vision and dental care, parental education, food and clothing, enrollment in low-cost health insurance programs, counseling, support groups, and referrals.

"I'm very proud to be part of this district," said Perez. "I try very hard to do my very best."

TLC last year received 1,117 referrals and administered 675 health insurance enrollments, Perez said. The program is entering its eighth year and exists solely on charitable contributions, foundation grants and services. Kaiser Permanente works hand-in-hand with the program – pediatricians make bi-monthly visits for medical care. And Dr. Sanchez from Total Vision Eye Care provides eye exams while Office Depot donates school supplies.

Many community service organizations, including Soroptimist International of Downey, help TLC with financial donations.

To learn more about TLC, call (562) 904-3577.

Behavioral specialist speaking at meeting

DOWNEY – The Downey Chapter of the National Association of Active & Retired Federal Employees will have their regular monthly meeting Nov. 28 at Furman Park.

Chapter business will start at noon followed by a featured speaker from Behavioral Health Services at 1 p.m., speaking on "Taking Charge of Your Medicines." The public is invited to hear the speaker.

For more information, call Chapter President Robert Knerr at (562) 943-5513.

City collecting toys for children

DOWNEY – The city of Downey is hosting their 22nd Annual Holiday Toy Collection Program, collecting new toys for underprivileged kids that will be distributed through PTA HELPS and other local children's programs.

The toy collection begins Monday and will continue through Dec. 14. Organized by the Public Works Department's Recycling Office, drop-points include City Hall, Downey City Library, Downey police station, Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, all Downey fire stations, all Downey public schools, and local businesses displaying a City toy collection box.

For more information on how you or your organization can help in the Holiday Toy Collection Program, call (562) 904-7103.

Free food, music at Jiffy Lube

DOWNEY – As part of its Customer Appreciation Day, customers who visit the Downey Jiffy Lube on Firestone Boulevard on Nov. 24 will be treated to Baja-style tacos, soft drinks, balloons, and music from 104.3 MY-FM and 102.7 KHIS-FM.

Free tacos will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (all paid guests and companions). 104.3 MY-FM will be on-site from 10 a.m. to noon, and 102.7 KHIS-FM will play music from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Jiffy Lube is at 7501 Firestone Blvd.

St. Raymond's boutique needs donations

DOWNEY – St. Raymond's Church is seeking items to be donated to their annual Christmas Boutique, this year scheduled for Dec. 2 from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To donate your homemade items that the church can use or sell, drop them off at the St. Raymond's Religious Education Office, Monday through Thursday between 8 a.m. and noon.

Raffle tickets are also available, with prizes including \$100, goodie baskets, a Game Boy, and more.



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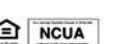
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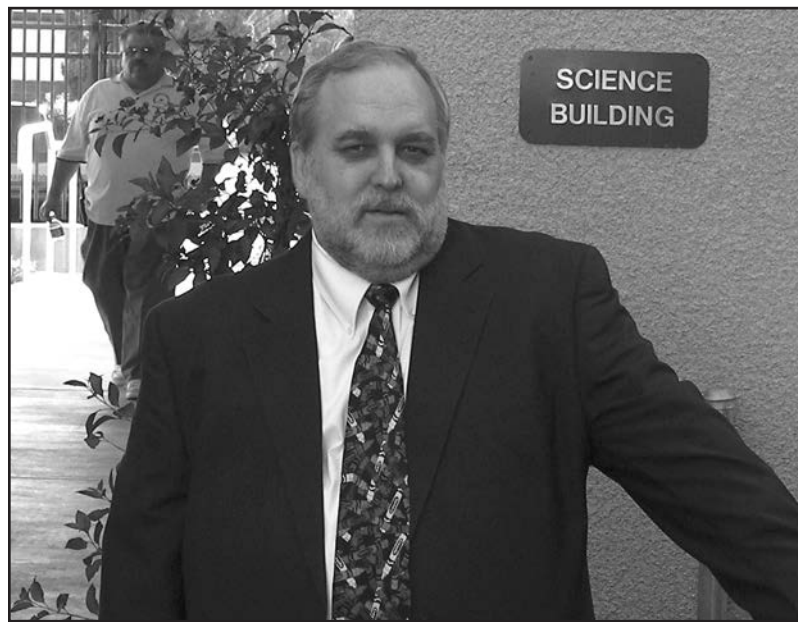


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Donald LaPlante's namesake has been lent to the new science building at Warren High School. Photo by Stan Hanstad

LAPLANTE

Continued from page 1

Education Association and having to negotiate with teachers in Downey on behalf of the district board, he sees labor-management issues from both sides. "This usually makes for trouble-free negotiations and agreements," she says.

Some 150 guests attended the late afternoon ceremony, including LaPlante's former fraternity brothers at USC, where he graduated in 1976 with a double major in journalism and political science (he also earned a master's in educational administration from Point Loma Nazarene University); a sizable delegation from Duarte; former board members Margo Hoffer (who only recently also got the new Downey High School science building named after her) and Cheryl Andresen; former Superintendent Ed Sussman (whose lending his name to the middle school that bears his name I think started a trend); community leaders including mayor pro tem David Gafin and Dr. Mary Stauffer; family members, including his wheelchair-bound 88-year old mother; and a large sprinkling of friends and associates.

John Harris, Warren High School principal, said the new

LaPlante Hall, with its 21 classrooms and three state-of-the-art, fully-equipped labs, dedicated to the study of physics, biology, physiology, chemistry and environmental science, is nothing else but a "continuing affirmation of our commitment to preparing our students for a better future."

It was on another Thursday afternoon nearly 51 years ago, on Dec. 20, 1956, he said, that Chief Justice Earl Warren, his family, and state, federal and local dignitaries, came to Downey to dedicate the Warren campus as a whole but with primary focus on the two-story classroom/administration building at 8141 DePalma St. The new LaPlante Hall also fronts DePalma.

In acknowledging the tributes, LaPlante (who, fellow board member Martha Sodemani observed, was more eloquent than usual), said it never occurred to him while he was going to Warren, from which he graduated in 1972, that he would one day receive such an honor. And for the first time ever, Sodemani said, she thought she saw a tear fall from LaPlante's eye, a clear indication that he was "moved and shaken to the core by it all."

SANTA

Continued from page 1

All American Home Center.

About five years ago that one, too, had to be replaced. This time, using his vast theater connections, he worked with a professional costumer to design a tailor-made suit made exactly to Keller's specifications. (Because of Keller's relatively tall height, he requested stirrups to keep his pants from riding up. It worked like a charm.)

Transforming into Santa Claus is a process. He slips on the pants and shirt, pulls on long black boots, and slides into a red coat. He needs to be completely clean shaven so he can glue a white beard and mustache tight. Then he applies makeup liberally to his face, making his cheeks rosy and his eyebrows snow white. Finally, he hides his straight black hair with a wig cap and tosses on a hairpiece and hat.

The entire ordeal can take close to an hour, Keller says, and usually requires the assistance of a helper.

"As Santa Claus, I'm representing the Chamber of Commerce, so I need to look good at the parade," Keller says, "soggy weather or not."

The Holiday Lane Parade is just one event Keller works. He regularly meets with children at Downey schools, visits retirement homes, and even meets with service clubs (a woman's club hired him once to don his costume and play the piano, another of Keller's specialties).

He makes personal visits to homes and businesses, with rates dependent on time and duties. Keller points out that he reinvests the money back into the community, sponsoring the Concerts in the Park, Holiday Lane Parade and Downey Street Faire.

"I'm definitely not getting rich off of this," Keller says. "I do it because I love it."

After so many years of playing Santa, Keller has become a master at his craft. He takes his time with children, letting them talk his ear off if they're so inclined. As the

child is rattling off his Christmas wish list, Keller keeps one eye on the parent, looking for a nod of consent if the gift is feasible.

"I learned early on never to make any promises," Keller says. "It's always, 'I'll see. Let me check my list.' I don't want the kids to be disappointed later on."

Sometimes, Keller says, children will ask him to end world hunger. Other times, parents will request Keller ask their children to pick up their grades in school. But most of the time, Keller has no idea what the kids are talking about.

"Toys from the '70s and toys from the '90s are totally different," Keller says. "I don't read the catalogs; I talk to the kids to find out the new toys."

Being the day after Thanksgiving, today of course marks the start of Keller's busy season. He's preparing for a two-day storytime event at the Downey City Library in addition to the city of Downey's annual "Breakfast with Santa Claus," where kids can meet with Santa at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center before having breakfast with their parents.

Keller says he has an engagement just about every day now through Christmas; on Christmas Eve, he expects to work until 2 a.m. He has a self-imposed rule, however, to take Christmas Day off and spend the day with his family.

Even Santa Claus needs his rest.

And despite the increasing commercialism of the holiday season, or maybe because of it, there remains something magical about Christmas, and Santa Claus, and Keller knows it.

"Christmas is about the kids," Keller says. "What it boils down to is, are the kids having fun? The kids are what matter."

Mark Keller is available for Santa Claus visits during the Christmas season. For information, call (562) 818-2078.



Marla Frazee, author of "Santa Claus, the World's Number One Toy Expert," will speak and sign books at the Downey City Library on Dec. 1.

Santa Claus author at Downey library

DOWNEY – Children's author Marla Frazee will speak and sign books Dec. 1 from 1 to 1:45 p.m. at the Downey City Library.

Frazee, author of the picture book, "Santa Claus, the World's Number One Toy Expert," will discuss what it's like to be an author and illustrator. Adults and children of all ages are invited to the free program. Copies of her book will be available for purchase and signing.

"This is a rare opportunity to get the perfect holiday gift book signed by the author," said children's librarian Gina Orello.

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

Books up for silent auction at library

DOWNEY – The Friends of the Downey City Library have selected a variety of books for their Holiday Silent Auction showcase at the entrance of the library.

The books include "In Search of America," by Peter Jennings; "Frank Sinatra – An American Legend," by Nancy Sinatra; and an illustrated children's book, "Who Was Born on This Special Day."

Bid cards are available in the Friends Gift Shop inside the library. The auction ends Dec. 8 at noon.



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11/23/07

Diving into the Hall of Fame

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – You may know him as a physician. You may know him as a community supporter. But Dr. Floyd Stauffer, 91, is also a national and worldwide diving champion, a title that inducted him into the University of Chicago's Athletic Hall of Fame.

While attending the University of Chicago from 1933-38, Stauffer participated in diving and water polo, both of which he learned as a child growing up in Chicago. In 1937, his senior year of undergraduate studies, he placed third in 3-meter diving and fourth in the 1-meter competition at the Intercollegiate Championships. He was a Western Conference medal winner and an outstanding water polo player, leading the university to the Big Ten water polo title, also in 1937.

Following the completion of his master's degree from Ohio State, doctorate degree from the University of Southern California, and serving in the U.S. Navy, Stauffer joined the Master's Diving Program in the mid-1970's, when the program began. Stauffer competed in 1-meter springboard, 3-meter springboard and 10-meter platform diving, receiving 130 National Championships and 30 World Championships.

"I won a championship on every continent," said Stauffer, a Downey resident since 1953. "It's a privilege to be able to see the world while doing what you love."

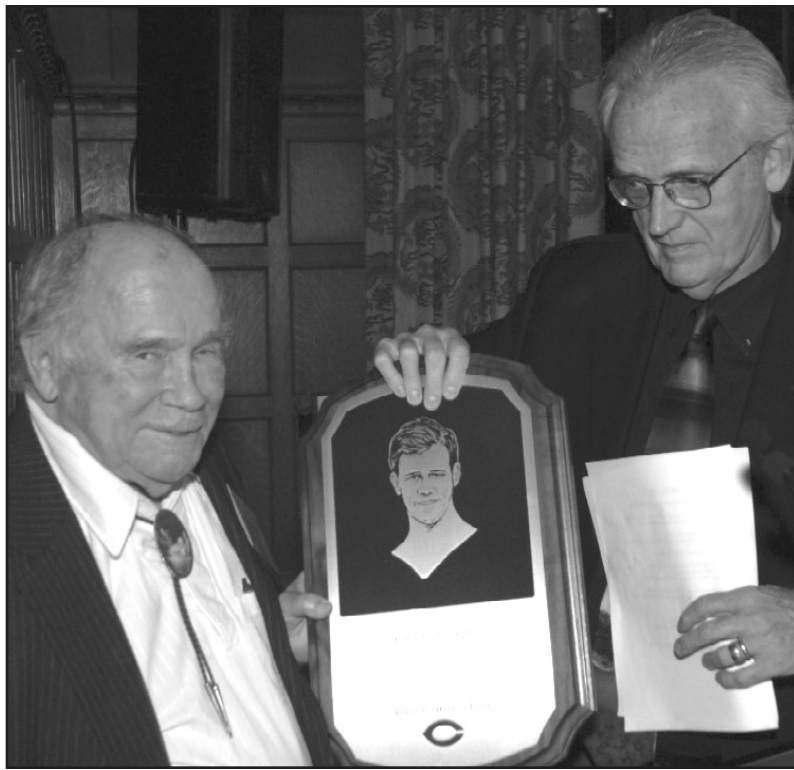
He also competed in 49 U.S. Masters National Diving Championships, receiving 115 gold, 18 silver, and five bronze medals.

Stauffer participated in his last competition in 2006, the same year he was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame, located at Stanford University. The 2006 induction, he believes, is what nominated him for the University of Chicago's Athletic Hall of Fame.

The Athletic Hall of Fame's induction was on Oct. 19 and his wife, Dr. Mary Stauffer, as well as their five children and their spouses, watched Floyd and six others receive recognition for their athletic accomplishments.

"It was the first time in 70 years going back to the university," said Floyd. "It was fun taking my kids around the city and showing them where I grew up."

Floyd Stauffer practiced medicine for over 45 years and has been retired since 1999.



Dr. Floyd Stauffer, left, was inducted into the University of Chicago's Athletic Hall of Fame last month. An accomplished diver, he was inducted last year into the International Swimming Hall of Fame at Stanford University.

Chanukah presentation at Stonewood

DOWNEY – Stonewood Center will host a public Chanukah presentation by clergy and members of Temple Ner Tamid on Dec. 9 at 4:30 p.m. in the J.C. Penny court.

Chanukah is an eight-day Jewish celebration that commemorates the victory of faithful Jews against Syrian-Greek rulers who tried to destroy Jewish culture in 165 B.C.E.

Rabbi Len Muroff and Cantor Ellen Jaffe-Gill will explain the significance of Chanukah for Jews and describe some of its rituals. Members of the temple will then join the rabbi and cantor in lighting a "chanukiah," a candelabrum with nine branches, followed by the singing of holiday blessings and songs.

For information, call Temple Ner Tamid at (562) 861-9276, or email templeneramid1@juno.com.

Community invited to 'folk music jam'

DOWNEY – The City of Downey Parks and Recreation Folk Music Jam will be held on Nov. 27 at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone ages 16 to 106 are invited to attend. Participants will have the opportunity to share a variety of traditional music in a community environment. All styles and levels of playing are welcome.

For information, call (562) 904-7226, or email DowneyFolkMusic@yahoo.com.

The Poets' Corner

The Island Winds

In gusty winds at Waikiki,
The palm leaves wave so gracefully
As island dancers move and sway
And sing their ballads this windy day -
Creating such a peaceful scene
And filling hearts with thoughts serene!

A harvest moon that dazzles bright
Floats behind the clouds at night
But soon the wind that ever blows
Displaces the clouds so the moon now glows
Over the waves peaked in white -
Towering over buildings - oh what a sight!
--Martha J. Morrissy,
Downey

Growing Dim

He watches my every move
as I clean up after him. He
tries to lap up his mistake.
His amber eyes, growing dim,
show me he's sorry.
I tell him it's okay.

He's lost so much weight. The vet
says it's his age. He's lived
a long life for a shepherd; fourteen.
The muscle tone is not as strong
as it used to be, but his appetite is.
That part hasn't changed yet.
He can still run to the fence
and bark a loud warning
to anyone who comes too close.

One day, he'll look at me with
dimmer eyes. I know it is sure to
come. His legs will give out and he
won't be able to get up. Until then,
we can still have our hugs and walks.
And when it's his time, the memory
of him will be etched in my brain
until I meet him again.

And I know I will.
--Margaret Hehman-Smith,
Downey

www.TheDowneyPatriot.com

OLPH Women's Guild Christmas lunch

DOWNEY – The OLPH Women's Guild will hold their Christmas luncheon, "Christmas around the World," Dec. 8 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Socializing begins at 10:30 a.m. and a buffet lunch, including champagne, coffee and tea, will be available at noon.

Reservations are \$30 and are due by Dec. 1. Send your check, payable to Catholic Women's Guild, to Polly Glenn, 7314 Cleargrove Dr., Downey, CA 90240.

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THE
DOWNEY GRAFFITI HOTLINE NUMBER
923-4484
Report graffiti or persons performing the act to this number.

Time for Action

By Eric Pierce

Hasn't it been long enough? Eleven months after Johnie's Broiler was unceremoniously torn down in January, the filthy carnage remains unmoved at Firestone Boulevard and Old River School Road.

The community has been patient up to now, but patience has an expiration date.

The property is a wreck, graffiti "artists" are perilously climbing the Johnie's signage to cause further defacement, and the city prosecutor admitted the building's surviving windows were intentionally broken out so vandals wouldn't hurt themselves on jagged pieces of glass, a potential liability issue to the City.

I have a better idea to limit the City's liability: clean up the mess.

Eleven months after the demolition, the site should have been cleared by now. It's unsightly, it's dangerous, and it goes against everything that the City stands for: beautification, development and progress.

It would take less time to clean up the mess than it would to count the hundreds of code violations it currently encompasses.

A flimsy chain-link fence does nothing to shield the ugliness from passing motorists.

Have we simply grown used to its repugnance?

No matter which side of the fence you sit on (restore Johnie's, don't restore Johnie's), it would be fair to say that anything would be better than what we see right now.

A tofu restaurant would be better than the current monstrosity.

The criminal trial has concluded and the perpetrator has been punished. It's now up to the City to stop dragging their feet and do their part to "keep Downey beautiful."

Clean up Johnie's Broiler and inform the community of what you plan to put in its place.

We've waited long enough.

Black-eyed Friday

By Brooke Karli

It was 1996 – the year of the Tickle Me Elmo. I was 12 years old and had insisted my mom take me shopping the day after Thanksgiving, also known as Black Friday. I had been saving up my allowance to buy my closest girlfriends Christmas gifts and Wal-Mart had exactly what I wanted – Barbie's for \$2 and bath sets, complete with shower gel, lotion and body mist, for \$3.

The day arrived and at 4:30 a.m., we loaded into our minivan, stopped for doughnuts and hot chocolate and waited outside Wal-Mart until the doors were opened.

Those in line, mostly women, appeared to be calm and collected. After all, they most likely spent the day before slaving in the kitchen and entertaining family, and now, they were waiting in line at Wal-Mart trying to get their hands on the year's most popular toys, while saving a buck or two.

Well, they had me fooled, to say the least.

No sooner did the doors unlock than the shopping beasts were unleashed.

Women were running through the aisles, knocking over displays, shoving and pushing one another, even bad-mouthing each other as they headed towards the toy department.

They found the Elmo's.

"You better hand over that Elmo," one woman threatened. "I've been in line way longer than you."

"It's not my fault you couldn't get back here fast enough," the other yelled back.

I was appalled. Are these women seriously fighting over a red fur-ball that laughs?

They found the \$2 Barbie's.

I had three in my arms.

A woman walked right up to me and said, as she ripped them from my possession, "You don't need these."

I yelled back, "Those are mine!"

She didn't look back and that was the last I saw of those Barbie's.

With tears in my eyes, I searched for my mom. I go to grab my cart and realize that the two bath sets I had were also gone.

Everything I had saved my money for was taken – by grown-ups.

I found my mom, told her what happened, and said I never again wanted to shop the day after Thanksgiving – ever.

Looking back, I realize those women probably needed those items more than I did. But it still doesn't justify how they behaved.

Now, if I decide to shop the day after Thanksgiving, I do so after lunchtime – there's just as many sales and there's not as many people.

And well, there's less chance of me walking away in tears.



Letters to the Editor:

Response from DRMC

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to Donn Irving's letter to the editor ("Numbers Don't Lie," 11/16/07), citing the last three years of Downey Regional Medical Center's financial results for the Charter Ball. I understand he raised the same question at a recent City Hospital Commission.

Tax returns and the special IRS Form 990s that non-profits like Downey Regional are required to file are in particular complex documents. Understandably Mr. Irving encountered some difficulty in interpreting the IRS documents in his calculations. He has only included half of the numbers reported to the IRS so his numbers tell only half the story. Mr. Irving is perhaps further confused by the hospital's fiscal year which is June 30th. This creates Charter Ball reporting that is off one year from the year of the tax return as noted below. All of the events he has referenced are from two, three and four years ago.

However, the major issue is that the IRS requires fundraising events to separate out the 'tax deductible' portion of the event from the portion that is the 'fair market value' of 'good and services' received by the donor. A ticket for \$300 to a dinner event may have \$150 of value to the donor that must be deducted from his donation. The balance is the tax deductible (donation) portion he/she may deduct of the original \$300.

In reporting our results DRMC and all non-profits must make this seemingly arbitrary division of funds. Mr. Irving has failed to look at the preceding page in each of those tax returns that he has quoted. That page is captioned "Excluded Contributions." This is the portion that is pure donation and would tie to the donor's personal tax deduction. The numbers on both of the two pages must be added together to get the total revenue for any non-profit event.

His numbers need the additional calculation below to get the complete and accurate picture.

2004 Tax Return

Charter Ball (2003): Direct Expense \$251,292; Gross Expense Revenue: \$110,212 + **\$187,352 Excluded Contributions = \$297,564**; Net Income: **\$40,272** – not minus \$141,080.

2005 Tax Return

Charter Ball (2004): Direct Expense \$218,054; Gross Expense Revenue: \$99,326 + **\$150,244 Excluded Contributions = \$246,570**; Net Income: **\$31,519** – not minus \$118,728.

2006 Tax Return

Charter Ball (2005): Direct Expense \$234,151; Gross Expense Revenue: \$110,890 + **\$154,926 Excluded Contributions = \$265,816**; Net Income: **\$31,665** – not minus \$123,261.

Let me hasten to add that Mr. Irving has happened on the three poorest performing years of the Charter Ball. This event is a source of pride and a 32-year-old cornerstone of fundraising at DRMC. Historically it has done well. Even with those poor performing years the event has raised just under \$2 million dollars in the past dozen years.

Our 2006 Charter Ball, 12 months ago, hasn't been included in a published tax return yet. When it is, it will show the following:

Charter Ball (2006): Direct Expense \$202,317; Gross Expense Revenue: \$176,680 + **\$231,435 Excluded Contributions = \$408,115**; Net Income: **\$205,798**.

As stated two weeks ago, we think our most recent Charter Ball held earlier this month will net us something north of \$100,000 – Another good six-figure year.

As the new executive responsible for managing the Medical Center's fund-raising activities, I am committed to working with our leadership to

improve our fundraising. It is a basic truth that special events are the least effective form of fund-raising.

Our donors and the community at large can be assured that we are constantly working to increase the number and amount of gifts to the hospital as well as the percentage that is directly benefiting the Medical Center and the 100,000-plus patients we serve each year. If Mr. Irving would like to meet with Ken Strople, President and CEO, or me to discuss this further we always have an open door policy.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that the most efficient and effective gift to Downey Regional Medical Center (or any organization) is a simple check. This is a community hospital. Your gifts make your hospital better and stronger.

— **Gregory Bonn, CFRE, FAHP**
Executive Vice President, Fund Development
Downey Regional Medical Center
P. O. Box 7010
Downey, CA 90241-7010

Roads a disgrace

Dear Editor:

First of all, kudos to Mr. Clark and Mr. Gutierrez (Letters to the Editor, 11/16/07). They took the words right out of my mouth.

Now, on another note, I'd like to make a comment on the streets in Downey. We are paying plenty in gasoline taxes but the roads are a disgrace.

One example is a stretch going east on Florence in the right-hand lane on the west side of Fairford. I've called several times on this to Public Works. They say they will look at it but that's it.

They can put medians on Paramount, Lakewood and Imperial with shrubbery which must be maintained but do little repairing of the roads.

I don't understand it.
— **William Rossington,**
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.

Nominations for volunteer award open

DOWNEY – Soroptimist International of Downey is seeking candidates for the Violet Richardson Award, an award that honors young women between the ages of 14 and 17 for community volunteer action, such as fighting drugs use among children, crime prevention, violence awareness, cleaning up the environment, and working to end discrimination and poverty.

The Violet Richardson Award was named after the first Soroptimist president in 1921. The award program begins at the local Soroptimist club level, where Soroptimist International of Downey presents several hundred dollar cash award to the winner who displays the volunteer action level within the community in addition to academics and social activities. The winner then becomes eligible for one of 29, \$1,000 awards.

Last year's winner was Kendra Huff, a senior at Warren High School, who volunteered in several programs within the community, Katrina relief programs, and church projects in Mexico helping the less fortunate.

Applications for the award program are available at Downey, Warren, Columbus and Pius X St. Matthias High Schools, Downey City Library, and other agencies where teens volunteer. Applications are to be turned in to the Soroptimist of Downey by the first week of December.

For information, call Patricia Kotze at (562) 319-0411.

The Downey Patriot



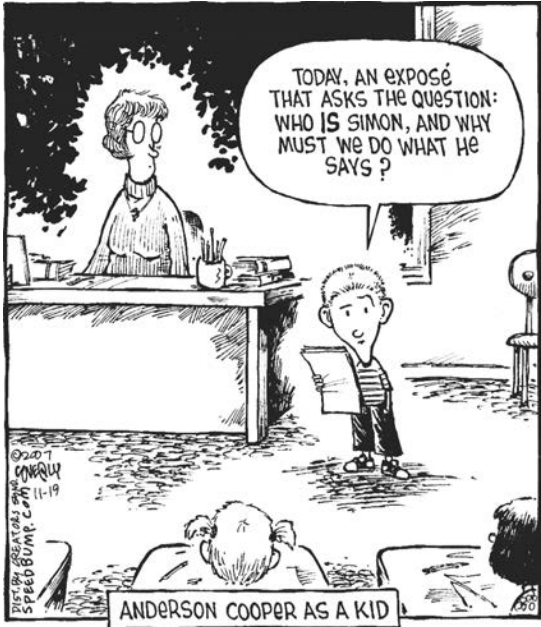
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Downey Community Calendar

Events For November/December

- Sat. Nov. 24: **104.3 MY-FM**, Jiffy Lube, 10 a.m.
- Tues. Nov. 27: **City Council Meeting**, City Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. Nov. 28: **NARFE Meeting**, Furman Park, 1 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 1: **Children's Author Marla Frazee**, Downey City Library, 1 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-Bear 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 Samb's, for information call Steve Allen at 622-7655.
- 12:30 p.m.: **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.
- 6:30 p.m.: **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.
- 7 p.m.: **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.
- 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.
- 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

Fridays

- 7:30 a.m.: **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call 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...

Nov. 23, 1936: The first edition of "Life" magazine is published. Originally a weekly magazine, it eventually took the form of a monthly newspaper supplement, just recently ceasing publication.

1954: Musician Bruce Hornsby is born. Also born on this day: Robin Roberts (47), Lisa Arch (36), Trick Daddy (35), and Miley Cyrus (15).

1976: French diver Jaques Mayol descends 100 meters into the ocean without breathing equipment.

1980: About 2,600 people are killed when a series of earthquakes strike southern Italy.

2004: Dan Rather announces he would resign his position as lead anchor of "The CBS Evening News" the following March.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

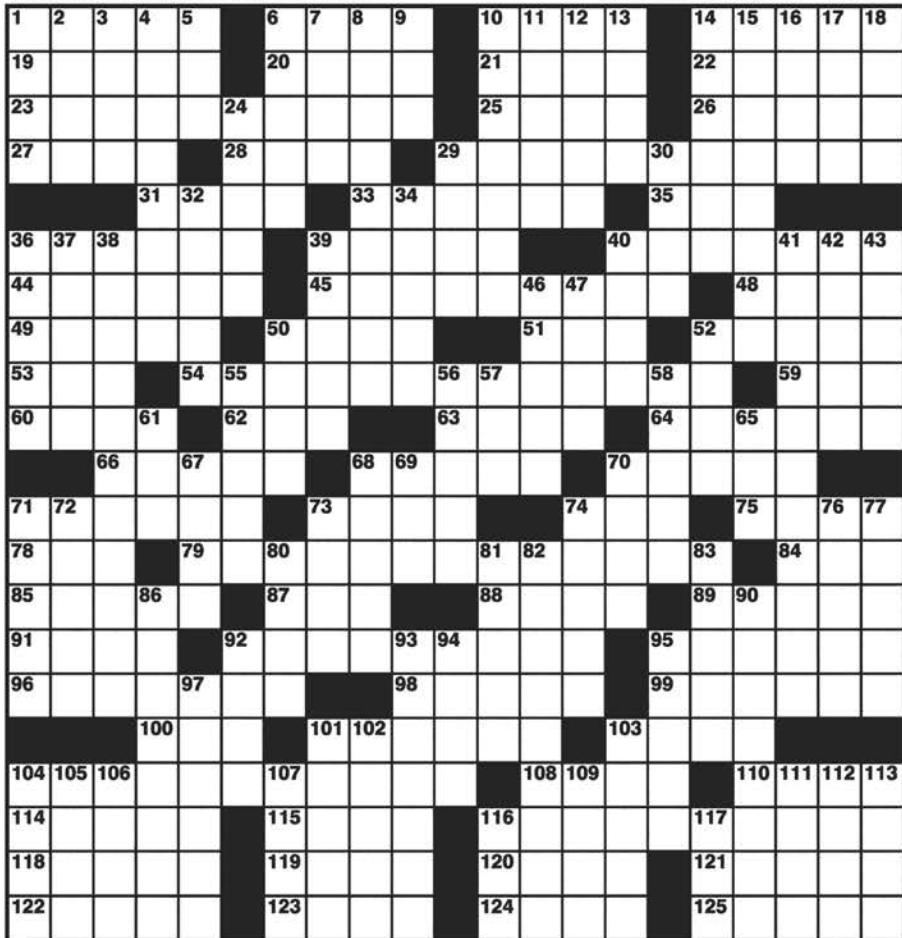
BODY LANGUAGE: All of a similar format

by Frances Burton

ACROSS

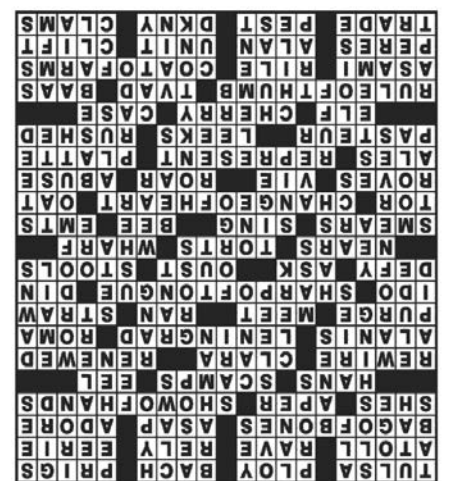
- 1 City on the Arkansas
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- 20 Enthusiastic review
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- Andersen
- 33 Little rascals
- 35 Japanese delicacy
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- 45 Saint Petersburg's former name
- 48 Actress Downey
- 49 Clean completely
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- 51 Sought office
- 52 Malt-shop freebie
- 53 Wedding whisper
- 54 Verbally acidic
- 59 Clatter
- 60 Resist boldly
- 62 Inquire
- 63 Send packing
- 64 Bar seats
- 66 Approaches
- 68 Civil wrongs
- 70 Boat's place
- 71 Defames
- 73 Spill the beans
- 74 Hive dweller
- 75 Ambulance workers
- 78 High rocky hill
- 79 Decision alteration
- 84 Cereal grain
- 85 Wanders about
- 87 Engage in a contest
- 88 Stadium sound
- 89 Treat badly
- 91 Tavern drinks
- 92 Stand for
- 95 River in Nebraska
- 96 French chemist
- 98 Onions' kin
- 99 Got to go faster
- 100 Gremlin
- 101 Pie flavor
- 103 Check out
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- 108 Commercial break
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- 114 "Same here!"
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- 118 Shimon of Israel
- 119 Ladd or Alda
- 120 Cohesive group
- 121 From Here to Eternity star
- 122 Line of work
- 123 Irsome individual
- 124 Fashion letters
- 125 "Casino" seafood
- 5 '80s prime-time alien
- 6 Magician's aids
- 7 Narrow road
- 8 Snooze too long
- 9 "You betcha!"
- 10 Hindu priest
- 11 Greek fabulist
- 12 Bird's talons
- 13 It means "under"
- 14 Female fowl
- 15 Serious warning
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- 17 Hem in
- 18 Picks up on
- 24 Causes of distress
- 29 Sri Lankan garment
- 30 Flow into
- 32 Pisces follower
- 34 Poem division
- 36 Expeditious
- 37 Avoid capture by
- 38 Psychological conflict
- 39 Salesperson
- 40 Called up
- 41 The grapevine
- 42 Computer correspondence
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- 46 Earn before taxes
- 47 Mouth off
- 50 Bulk
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- 55 Extremely unkind
- 56 Give up
- 57 Egyptian boy king
- 58 Cinema worker
- 61 Affirmative response
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- 67 Rainbow sections
- 68 Fierce one
- 69 Dollar bill
- 70 Put on
- 71 Sandal feature
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- 73 Cut quickly
- 74 Regular routes
- 76 Sample food
- 77 Spirited horse
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- 83 Ankle bone
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- 95 Spanish museum
- 97 Kay Thompson character
- 101 Argentina neighbor
- 102 Hawaiian dances
- 103 Feline
- 104 Deeply absorbed
- 105 Person on-line
- 106 Zhivago's love
- 107 Golf hazard
- 109 Having a swelled head
- 111 Opera solo
- 112 Radio switch
- 113 Grounded planes
- 116 Llama chew
- 117 Govt. media regulator

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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.

The Arkansas River (1 Across), a tributary of the Mississippi, flows through Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. The Russian city of St. Petersburg (45 Across) was called Petograd from 1914 to 1924, and LENINGRAD from 1924 to 1991. At a median age of about 28.5, UTAH (2 Down) is the "youngest" US state.



Paging Dr. Alan Frischer...

BY DR. ALAN FRISCHER

Can you remember when you first used one? They have become a big part of our everyday life. We communicate with loved ones and friends on them, we shop with them, buy stocks with them, conduct research with them, and do homework on them. We play games and meet new friends; even future spouses.



Lower back pain can be a consequence of using a chair with no separate back to adjust for lumbar support, or no arms to adjust for height. Don't sit on the edge of the seat and lean forward, and never cross your legs. Have your keyboard positioned centrally in front of you. A chair seat that is too long can put pressure behind the knees, causing rear pain radiating from the thigh. Are your feet resting firmly on the floor? If not, try a footstool.

Working in a cold room can cause muscle spasms. If your drink of choice is coffee or tea, you might suffer from dehydration and loss of potassium, another source of muscle spasms.

Neck pain is a common side effect of working on the computer. Is your screen positioned too high? Your head and neck should be fairly straight, with your gaze at a slightly downward angle when viewing the screen. Take frequent posture breaks to prevent overusing one group of muscles. Is your telephone tucked under one ear? Try using a head set to give those muscles, tendons, and vertebrae some relief.

Painful wrists and fingers can be another source of problems. Does your desk have edges that push into your wrists and impede circulation? A gel wrist guard can be used for protection. Wrist and finger pain can also result from the wrong chair height: the height should allow for a perfect L-shape between the shoulder, elbow and wrist. If your chair has arm rests, adjust them to preserve this L-shape. Your wrists should be fairly straight, with the fingers horizontal to the keyboard. Relax, and strike the keys gently.

Do you have a dirty mouse? Dirty mice result in unnecessary repetitive actions, which can lead to overuse syndrome. Research has shown that overuse of the mouse is more likely to cause painful symptoms than is typing on the keyboard. Place your mouse directly in front of your shoulder, and consider alternatives to the traditional mouse, including optical

mice, tracker balls, joystick (eraser head) mice and touch pads.

Many computer users suffer from eyestrain and resulting headaches. These might be the consequence of glare from the monitor or overhead lights. Your desk should be placed between lights and not directly under them. If your light is directly overhead, try turning it off and using a lamp instead. Eyestrain may also result from window glare - experiment by closing those blinds. Clean your screen, adjust the contrast or brightness, and don't sit too far back. If problems persist, have your eyes examined, tint your glasses, or try a larger and brighter monitor.

What about the affects of radiation on health? Computer screens, like television screens, emit radiation called VLF and ELF (very low frequency and extremely low frequency). While nothing has been proven, for now common sense tells us not to over-expose our bodies. It is interesting that more radiation is actually emitted from the sides and rear of the screen than from the front! A wise rule would be to keep a safe distance (more than 24 inches) from the front, sides, and back of your monitor, and from any other monitor in the room. Also of interest is that computers continue to emit radiation for a few hours after turning them off, so if your computer is in your bedroom, make sure that it sits at least 24 inches from your bed. Keep in mind that laptop technology is different: instead of CRT (cathode ray tube) monitors, they use liquid crystal monitors, which do not emit radiation. Flat screen monitors can also be a good alternative, as they also emit much less radiation.

Finally, I have not addressed the incredibly complex psychosocial issues that arise when we spend less and less time interacting with our fellow humans and more and more time behind a computer screen. I'll address this issue in the future. For now, strive to keep balance in your life.

As always, I wish you health.

Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 11525 Downey Ave., suite A, Downey, CA 90241



Greg Martin, right, a board member at Precious Life Shelter, a supportive services program for homeless pregnant adult women, accepts 35 donated turkeys from Mark Korth, CEO of Lakewood Regional Medical Center (LRMC). To celebrate the hospital's 35-year anniversary, LRMC launched a year-long campaign of thanking the community by asking organizations for items on their "wish list" and then donating in lots of 35.

How to safely buy medication online

CONTRIBUTED BY BRYAN A. LIANG, PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE MEDICINES

Buying drugs online has never been easier. Today, there are thousands of websites offering brand-name medications like Lipitor and Viagra at a fraction of what they cost at your local drugstore. Many even sell drugs without asking for a prescription. Some offer "in-house" doctors that will both diagnose you and prescribe medications over the Internet, saving you the hassle of going to your physician and then the drugstore.

If that sounds too good to be true, that's because it is. Hunting online for bargains makes sense, but it can be incredibly dangerous. It is often difficult - if not outright impossible - to tell whether or not drugs purchased online are authentic. That's a risk that can be deadly.

According to the World Health Organization, about 10 percent of globally traded drugs are fakes. In some countries, according to the Food and Drug Administration, more than half of all drugs are fake.

Counterfeiting networks use high-tech graphics and fraudulent serial numbers to mimic brand-name drugs. Most counterfeits originate in Asia and Latin America where regulations are poorly enforced. Penalties for counterfeiting in these regions are slight compared to the profits criminals can reap. Some experts have estimated that counterfeit sales will total \$75 billion worldwide by 2010. Purchasing drugs closer to home is hardly any safer.

Many Canadian pharmacies obtain their drugs from European wholesalers. And because pharmaceuticals move freely among the 27 E.U. members, drugs purchased from England or Germany could have easily originated in Romania or the Czech Republic, where safety regulations are poor.

With more websites selling counterfeit medicines, it's more important than ever to follow a few simple guidelines when purchasing drugs online.

First, never purchase prescription medication from a website that does not require you to mail in a prescription. Moreover, legitimate w-pharmacies should always have an easy way for you to contact a certified pharmacist for medical consultation. Avoid sites that do not display a physical U.S. street address and a toll-free phone number. Also, avoid websites selling only "lifestyle" medications for conditions like obesity and impotence.

Finally, you can search for "Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites" by going to www.vipps.info. This website was created by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy to identify online pharmacies that are safe and appropriately licensed.

The VIPPS team reviews the policies and practices of Internet pharmacies and performs on-site inspections of each pharmacy's facilities. Those that are up to code display the blue VIPPS seal.

Bryan A. Liang, MD, is the vice president of the Partnership for Safe Medicines.

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Word of MOUTH
by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.

If missing teeth are not replaced, it can greatly compromise a person's ability to eat and talk properly. To avoid these unwanted outcomes, the dentist will likely recommend a removable partial denture or "bridge" if some natural teeth remain in the mouth. These prosthetics consist of replacement teeth attached to a pink or gum-colored plastic base and metal framework that holds the denture in place in the mouth. If all teeth are missing due to decay, injury, or illness, a full denture can be fitted to the mouth, eight to twelve weeks after all remaining teeth are removed. In the meantime, patients are outfitted with "immediate" dentures until the "conventional" dentures are ready for permanent use.

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P.S. Beneath the place where missing teeth once stood, shrinking alveolar bone creates hollows in the face that make a person look older and less healthy.

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Frank Arias, right, owner of Gourmet Café, hosted the Active Older Adults' Thanksgiving luncheon last week. Photo by Brooke Karli

Gourmet Café dishes Thanksgiving lunch

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Over 85 people packed into Gourmet Café on Nov. 15, enjoying an inexpensive Thanksgiving meal at the Active Older Adults (AOA) Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Those in attendance included a large group from the Downey Family YMCA Aquatics Department, and a small group from the Downey Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

This is the second year the restaurant has hosted the luncheon, growing on last year's 30 visitors.

"I loved that we had so many people this year – the number just kept growing and growing," said Gourmet Café owner Frank Arias. "It's good business for us, but it's even better that we can serve people in our community."

For \$7, participants enjoyed a full Thanksgiving lunch – turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, bread, side salad and pumpkin pie.

"We have chosen to host our luncheons at Gourmet Café because it's close, convenient and the food is great," said AOA coordinator Tommy Sue Paluch. "Frank is willing to do just about anything to make sure we enjoy ourselves."

The group will be taking over the restaurant once more next month for their Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 13.

Teens ambushed with free style makeovers courtesy Stonewood

DOWNEY – Stonewood Center, Lakewood Center and Los Cerritos Center hosted a Style Crew Ambush – Homecoming Edition on Oct. 20 at each of the three shopping centers, giving free style makeovers to random teen shoppers.

The makeovers were conducted by the Teen Life of Style Crew members, who were looking for "two students who were high school bound who wanted to have a style makeover from head to toe who was willing to look for their homecoming dance outfit or their homecoming game outfit," said crew member Kristine Urzua.

Urzua and fellow crew member Carlee Rasmussen were at Stonewood Center where they purchased two complete outfits for two Warren High School students using two \$150 Visa gift cards.

One of the "ambushed" students was looking for her homecoming dance outfit while the boy was searching for a homecoming game outfit.

Both makeovers were done using clothing and accessories from Stonewood Center stores, including Express, Sheikh Shoes, Wet Seal, Hollister Co., and Vans Shoes.

"Both students did a wonderful job being ambushed and they looked really good," Urzua and Rasmussen said. "We enjoyed being able to share our knowledge on fashion with others who were willing to take our advice. This was a great event and the two students who were ambushed looked great in their outfits."



Teen Life of Style crew members Kristine Urzua, left, and Carlee Rasmussen gave free style makeovers to two Warren High School students recently who were shopping for homecoming outfits.

City of Downey offers winter camps

DOWNEY – The City of Downey Community Services Department will be offering two winter camps from Dec. 26 to 28, and Dec. 31 to Jan. 4 at Wilderness Park for youth ages 6 to 14 and "Camp for Champs" for ages 6 to 18.

Cost is \$80 a week and \$75 for an additional child from the same family. Weekly fees include supervision, lunch and beverage, daily snack, and a weekly excursion, which will be to Krikorian Theatres the first week and the Long Beach Aquarium the second week. Camp hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and extended care is available from 7 to 9:30 a.m., and 3:30 to 6 p.m. Extended care costs \$35 a week and \$30 for a second family member.

The camp will give youth an opportunity to make new friends and participate in holiday crafts, activities and weekly excursions.

"Camp for Champs" is a comprehensive camp for youth who have permanent physical and mental disabilities that limit their mobility and inhibit their participation in able-bodied programs. The youth represent a wide variety of diagnoses, including spina bifida, autism, down syndrome and other disabilities.

Registration began last week at the Community Services Department, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

For information, call (562) 904-7238.

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New Entertainment this week

<p>CD Releases</p> <p>Westlife - Back Home Lovemusik - Original Soundtrack Genesis - Live Over Europe 2007 Mudvayne - By the People, For the People Pitbull - The Boatlift Primordial - To the Nameless Dead Hannah Montana - Hannah Montana 2: Rock Star Edition The Ocean - Precambrian B Real - The Gunslinger III Lil' Flip - We Got Next T.I. & Jim Jones - When the North & South Collide Part 3 Source: Amazon.com</p> <p>DVD Releases</p> <p>MOVIES "Bratz" "I Know Who Killed Me" "Hot Rod" "Mr. Bean's Holiday" "Skinwalkers" "Waitress" "Who's Your Caddy" TV/MISC. "Futurama - Bender's Big Score" "Happy Days" - Season 3 "Laverne & Shirley" - Season 3 "Mork & Mindy" - Season 3 "The O.C." - Complete Series Source: Amazon.com</p> <p>Video Game Releases</p> <p>Petz Dogz 2 - PS2 History Channel: Battle for the Pacific - X360, Wii Cranium Kabookii - Wii Cruis'n - Wii Game Party - Wii Puzzle Quest: Challenge of the Warlords - Wii Source: ebgames.com</p>	<p>Concerts</p> <p>FRIDAY, NOV. 23 Big Bad Voodoo Daddy - HOB Anaheim Cold War Kids - Wilmeton Down - Santa Monica Auditorium Hot August Night - Galaxy Theatre John Fogerty - Nokia Theatre Lenny Williams - Grove of Anaheim Rahsaan Patterson - El Rey Theatre</p> <p>SATURDAY Big Bad Voodoo Daddy - Wilmeton Frankie Negron - El Rey Theatre David J - Coach House La Quinta Estación - Nokia Theatre Mike Epps - Gibson Amphitheatre Travis, Maximo Park - HOB Ana.</p> <p>SUNDAY Gene Loves Jezebel - Coach House</p> <p>TUESDAY Fall Out Boy, Gym Class Heroes, Plain White T's - Long Beach Arena Jose Gonzalez - Henry Fonda Th. Social Distortion - HOB Anaheim Straylight Run - El Rey Theatre</p> <p>WEDNESDAY As I Lay Dying - Wilmeton Raspberries - Grove of Anaheim</p> <p>THURSDAY Cafe Tacuba - Gibson Amphitheatre Decemberists - Wilmeton John Butler Trio - Grove of Anah. Whitestarr - HOB Anaheim Source: Casenet</p> <p>Book Releases</p> <p>"Good Dog, Stay." by Anna Quindlen "Lord John and the Hand of Devils" by Diana Gabaldon "Magical Moments of Change: How Psychotherapy Turns Kids Around" by Lenore Terr "P. Allen Smith's Living in the Garden Home" by P. Allen Smith "A Year with the Queen" by Robert Hardman Source: barnesandnoble.com</p>
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New & noteworthy titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- "Love Over Scotland" by Alexander McCall Smith. This gentle satire is the latest in the "44 Scotland Street" series by the author of "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency."
- "Play Dead" by David Rosenfelt. Offbeat, outspoken attorney Andy Carpenter saves the life of a golden retriever by defending him in court, only to discover that the dog may be a key witness in a 5-year-old murder.
- "Song Yet Sung" by James McBride. A powerful novel about a runaway slave, from the author of "The Color of Water."
- "The Street of a Thousand Blossoms" by Gail Tsukiyama. A moving drama of two Japanese brothers before, during and after World War II, which explores the importance of family, tradition, nature and art.
- "Three Bags Full" by Leonie Swann. A witty, philosophical murder mystery with a charming twist: the crack detectives are sheep, determined to discover who killed their beloved shepherd.

Non-Fiction

- "Chasing Life" by Sanjay Gupta, M.D. The author blends futuristic science with personal accounts of life extension and practical advice on slowing the aging process.
- "Come on Down! Behind the Big Doors at the Price is Right" by Stan Blits. Fans will find program trivia and highlights from America's longest running game show.
- "Digital Photography Quicksteps" by Doug Sahlin. From managing controls and settings to editing images, this guide shows you how to take great digital photos right away.
- "Ending the Food Fight: Guide Your Child to a Healthy Weight in a Fast Food World" by David Ludwig. The author gives parents a program to help their child win the battle against obesity.
- "Walking in Your Own Shoes" by Robert A. Schuller. The senior pastor of the Crystal Cathedral explains how to discover God's direction for your life.

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YOUR HOMETOWN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Cancer survivor offers words of inspiration

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—Twenty-nine year old Matt Jones, a transplanted Kentuckian who moved to California only two years ago, is a cancer survivor who has been going around delivering inspirational talks about his near-death experience and how he overcame the disease.

Tuesday he outlined to the Downey Rotary what happened. He found out he had leukemia in November of 2002, and over the next two years would alternately experience remissions and relapses of the dreaded disease, until the cancer reached his brain in 2004. This was when he slipped into a semi-coma, and everybody thought he was going to die. A successful bone marrow transplant gave him a second lease on life and he finished his chemo treatments in June, 2005. In June the following year, he would finish a grueling Rock-and-Roll marathon.

Today he says he's totally cancer-free, and he has since written two books: "Going Through Hell? Don't Stop!" and "Life's a Marathon" as personal testaments to his victory.

He wove his Rotary address around three themes: 1) Visualize your victory; 2) Take action; and 3) Check your attitude. He said a program of success or overcoming challenges begins with a clear vision of your goal, and this power of vision will energize your program. Acting on your ideas will serve to release the "music" in you. "Too many people die with their music still imprisoned inside them," he said. And never give up, as an all-conquering attitude will scatter obstacles in your path.

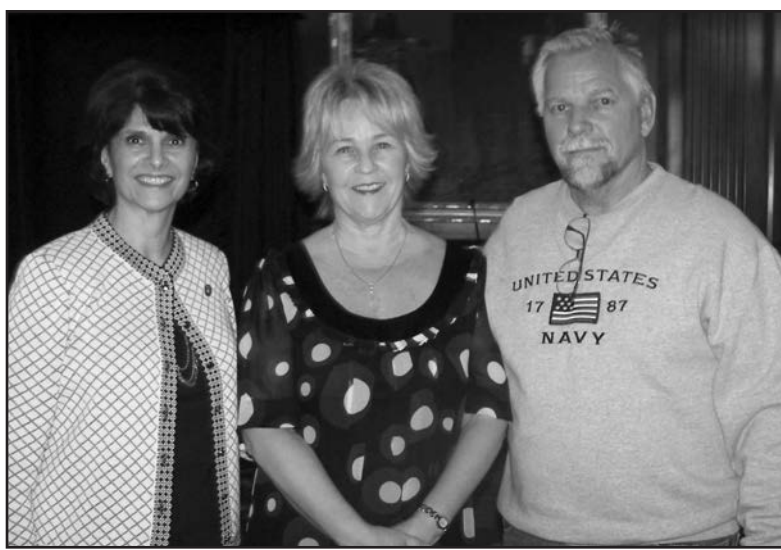
The above themes are better understood if one heeds his "Five P's of Success," which are printed on the back of his calling card: 1) Purpose (you have a special purpose); 2) Passion (live with passion—for life, yourself, and others); 3) Positive attitude (the choice is yours); 4) Perseverance (stick-to-it-iveness is the key to success); and 5) Personal empowerment (daily improve our mind, body, and soul).

Here's a couple more of his favorite sayings/admonitions: "Every failure has come with at least an equivalent or greater benefit" (from Napoleon Hill) and saying, every morning, "It's good to be alive!"

Of course if you're a wide reader or have a curious mind, these rules of success should have a familiar ring. And if you personally have met daunting challenges in your personal life, you will have compiled by now your own set of do's and don'ts. Still, because the 6'3" Jones' medical problem was unique, his response had to be unique. If you want to find out more about this coping process, you can reach him at 213-291-9873 or 620-340-7648, or by e-mail at Matt@MatthewDJones.com.



The Women's Prayer Group of Downey United Methodist Church recently filled 300 boxes to be sent to Operation Christmas Child next week. The church's congregation purchases the boxes for \$15 each to pay for the items included in each box. Pictured are Prayer Group members (left to right) Ruby Thompson, Nita Matarazzo, Nancy Egge, Marilyn Boss, Brenda Warner and Alicia Edquist.



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34) meets with Downey Adult School Program Coordinator Judy Laman who traveled to our nation's capital to urge lawmakers to support federal funding increases for adult basic education and literacy programs. Pictured, left to right: Roybal-Allard, Laman, and her husband, Jim Laman.

Art competition looks to discover local talent

LOS ANGELES – Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) invites all interested high school students living in California's 34th Congressional District to participate in "Artistic Discovery," the 2008 Congressional Student Art Competition.

"The congressional student art competition helps build self esteem in young artists and provides the community with valuable insight into the life experiences, challenges, and joys of our talented high school students," said Roybal-Allard, the competition's honorary chair. "The art competition also recognizes the hardworking and caring teachers who provide their students with the inspiration, skills and tools they need to develop their artistic abilities."

Every year, Roybal-Allard sponsors the competition which is open to students in grades 9-12 who reside in the 34th Congressional District. The district includes the communities of Downey, Bell, Bellflower, Bell Gardens, Boyle Heights, Commerce, Cudahy, Downtown Los Angeles, Huntington Park, Little Tokyo, Maywood, South Park, Vernon, Walnut Park, and portions of Chinatown, East Los Angeles, Florence, Pico Union and Westlake.

The winning entry represents the 34th Congressional District for one

Cloise Lee McCarley Battle of Saipan veteran

DOWNEY – Cloise Lee McCarley, a longtime resident of Bell and most recently of Downey, passed away at his home on Oct. 31. He was 87.

McCarley graduated from Bell High School in 1939. He served in the Navy during World War II as a mechanic on an aircraft carrier, taking part in the Battle of Saipan.

He served as a football coach for six years for the Bell Pop Warner football organization. He also ran for the Bell City Council in 1970.

McCarley is survived by his wife, Dorothy; children, Maureen Davis, Sean McCarley and Terrence McCarley; sister, Eileen Bauer; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 10925 Valley Home Ave., in Whittier, tomorrow, Nov. 24, at 2:30 p.m.

Linda L. Morales succumbs to ALS

DOWNEY – Linda L. Morales, a longtime Downey resident, passed away Nov. 17 from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Morales was born in French Camp, Calif. on May 21, 1943, to Cecil and Juanita (Walters) Garrison. With her husband, Jesse G. Morales, Jr., Linda established Morales Pool Plastering, which they successfully operated for many years. Linda also became a Licensed Vocational Nurse in 1971 after returning to school.

In addition to Jesse, Linda is survived by her son, David P. (Genie) Limon; daughters, Tamara R. Lockhart and Yvette M. (Joe) Rincon; mother, Juanita Garrison; mother-in-law, Abelia Morales; brother, John Garrison; sisters, Jeanette Hinsz, Brownie (Jim) Carr, and Sandra Talbert; grandchildren, Bradley Lakin, Julianne Lockhart, Alexa, David and Skylar Limon, and Joshua, Britteny, Nicolette and Victoria Rincon.

She was preceded in death by her son, Jesse Morales III.

A vigil service will be held today, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m. at White's Funeral Home in Azusa. A funeral mass will take place tomorrow at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. She will be interred next to her son following the mass at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Rowland Heights.

Contributions in her memory may be made to The ALS Association, 27001 Agoura Rd., Suite 150, Calabasas, CA 91301.



Kiwanis Club of Downey mixed business with pleasure recently, raising over \$100 at their annual turkey shoot (dart throw). The money will go towards the annual Christmas party at La Casita, a drug rehabilitation and alcohol residence in Downey. Kiwanis members Bob Jacobs and Dick Lehn won a turkey and Cornish hens at the turkey shoot, respectively.

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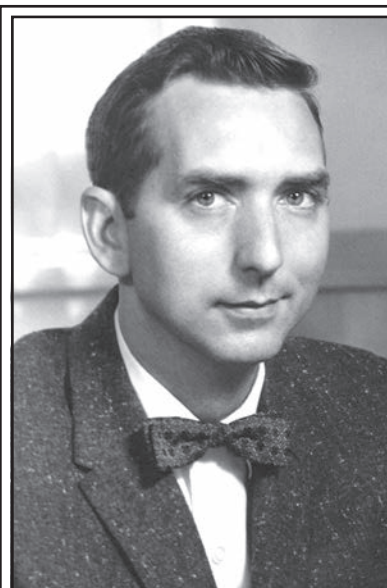
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Dr. Joseph Elder "Bill" Bryan

October 14, 1920 - November 17, 2007

Dr. Joseph Elder "Bill" Bryan, Junior, M.D., beloved husband, father and Physician, passed away at his home in Downey on Saturday, November 17, with his wife Betty Jean present.

Dr. Bryan was born in New Castle, PA, on October 14, 1920. He attended Grove City College, and received his M.D. from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in 1945.

Interning at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, he met Betty Ohara, R.N., who became his wife of 61 years.

He served three years as a Captain in the Army Air Corp, stationed at Ft Sam Houston, San Antonio TX, and at Fort Pepperil in Newfoundland., and did his four year residency in Urology back at Jefferson Medical College.

Relocating his growing family to Los Angeles in 1953, Dr. Bryan opened his private practice in Downey in 1955 and joined the staff of then Downey Community Hospital, serving as Chief of Staff from 1959 to 1960, and from 1976 to 1978. He was also staff physician at Children's Hospital, Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital (now Queen of Angels), USC Medical Center where he supervised residents, and volunteered time at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital.

Ever concerned about the rising costs of medical care to his patients, Dr. Bryan worked for many years with Congressmen Del Clawson and Jack Kemp to introduce legislation which eventually led to the creation of Medical Savings Accounts.

An avid hunter and member of the NRA, Dr. Bryan, along with his eldest son, enjoyed hunting trips within the continental U.S. and Alaska. Visitors to his office on Brookshire Ave. were greeted with several big game trophies from these excursions. He was a close personal friend to the late Roy Weatherby of Weatherby Rifles.

His wife and family were members of Hollywood First Presbyterian Church where he served as an Elder. Dr. Bryan was also active in the Downey chapters of Rotary and the Christian Businessmen's Committee for many years.

Upon his retirement from 45 years of full time practice in Downey, Dr. and Mrs Bryan served on short term assignments with Franklin Graham's World Medical Mission in both Russia and Haiti.

Dr. Bryan will be remembered for his gentle spirit, his tireless and generous service to his many patients, and for his deep devotion to his Christian faith and his family. He is survived by his wife, Betty Jean, his daughters Beverly Starr and Judith Lee Wiepert, sons Joseph Elder "Jeb" Bryan III and Donald Callahan Bryan, and by nine grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and by his sister Jane Lynch of New Castle, PA. Two of his grandsons, Shane Starr and Eric Wiepert, have become Medical Doctors at the inspiration of Dr. Bryan.

A memorial service will be held in Wylie Chapel at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, on Tuesday November 27 at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to:

World Medical Mission
P.O. Box 3000, Boone, N.C. 28607

Please note the Ruth Ann Bryan Fund, #011243 in the memo line of the check.

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(562) 861-8904

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Gutierrez closes out term as president

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—Tuesday's meeting of the Board of the Downey Unified School District marked the last time Willie Gutierrez banged his gavel as board president, with board member Tod Corrin assuming the role at the next organizational board meeting on Dec. 18.

Gutierrez thanked his colleagues for graciously helping him along in the performance of his duties in the past year. "It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve in such good company," he said, adding that he is looking forward to working with a new head in Corrin.

At any rate, he said, "It all came by so fast."

The Board meanwhile welcomed Superintendent Wendy Doty back from her sojourn in China. She reported that the country of 1.3 billion people is today following both a communist and capitalist path, in roughly equal measures, "with a little socialism thrown in."

In other action, the Board:

- Accepted with gratitude donations in cash and in kind from several donors, including: photography equipment, valued at \$10,000, to be used by the photography class at Warren High School, from John H. Dawson; and student gift certificates, valued at \$65,250, to be used as incentive awards for the district's elementary school students, from Frantone's Pizza;

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

- Ratified the general agreements with California Unified Service Provider, LLC (for FY 2007-08), and with Five Acres School (for FY 2006-07 and FY2007-08);

- Ratified Special Education payments;

- Ratified amended signatories, as presented, retroactive to July 1, 2007 and to remain in effect until subsequent action is taken by the Board of Education;

- Ratified purchase orders by the Purchasing Department;

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

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

- Ratified the agreements between the Downey Adult School Career and Education Center and John P. Cardin, Jr., M.D., as well as with Villa Elena Healthcare Center, to furnish practical experience to students enrolled in the Medical Assistant program;

- Ratified the agreement with Public Economics, Inc., to provide a Residential and Commercial Fee Justification Study Update, effective Nov. 1;

- Ratified the contract for the 2007-08 Participation in Marine Education Programs, Science and Conservation Education with the Los Angeles Office of Education, effective Sept. 1, 2007 through Aug. 31, 2008;

- Approved the 2007-08 Operation application for the K-3 class size reduction program;

- Named the Downey Adult School cafeteria the Harriett Paine Multi Purpose Room;

- Approved the various change orders for the Downey High School new classroom building (Bldg. "C") with PW Construction, Inc. of Glendora, as well as those for the new library/classroom building and modernization projects at Warren High School, with various vendors;

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

- Approved the adjustments in the restricted and unrestricted budgets of the 2007-08 Adult School Fund;

- Approved the budget transfers between the major objects of both the 2007-08 Adult School and General Fund restricted budgets;

- Approved the transfer of \$1,100,000 from the General Fund to the Deferred Maintenance Fund;

- Approved the transfer of \$5,060,036 from the Unrestricted General Fund (Special Education) for the 2007-08 special education ADA contribution;

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

- Approved the declaration and sale of district surplus property and

abated the income to the General Fund;

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

- Authorized the services of the teachers, as submitted, assigned a subject area not listed on their teacher credential for the 2007-08 school year, pursuant to Education Code, Sections 44256(b) and 44263;

- Ratified the establishment of one new position with duties corresponding to the current classification of Child Care Assistant, assigned to Downey Adult School 15 hours per week, effective Oct. 15;

- Approved the changes to the duties of Food Service Supervisor-Middle School;

- Approved the Arts and Music Block Grant Funding Plan, and adopted Resolution No. 200708-04, Arts and Music Block Grant Funding;

- Received the 2006-07 Annual Report;

- Reviewed the proposed 2008-09 Course of Study for the middle and high schools; and

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

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at the Gallegos Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave., Downey.

Community Center hosts contest

DOWNEY – The following holiday events will be taking place at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center:

- The Annual Downey Holiday Home Decorating Contest is currently accepting entries through Dec. 6. There are several categories to enter and trophies will be given to top winners in each category.

- The City of Downey Licensed Childcare Program will be offering winter-break daycare from Dec. 21 to Jan. 4 for all school-aged youth in kindergarten through eighth grades. Open registration begins Nov. 12 at four childcare sites, including Gallatin Elementary, Rio San Gabriel Elementary, Rio Hondo Elementary, and Imperial Elementary. Cost is \$100 per child per week. Fee includes snacks, mid-week excursion and transportation, and all-day care from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For information on any of these events, call (562) 904-7227.

Families needed for exchange students

DOWNEY – International exchange high school students are in need of homes in Downey to stay while they study in this country during the 2007-08 school year.

The host family is responsible for providing a bed, family meals and a safe environment. Exchange students have their own spending money and health insurance. The nonprofit STS Foundation will facilitate the relationships. For more information, call Sean at (800) 522-4678.

Shabbat services every Friday at Temple

DOWNEY – Temple Ner Tamid invites the community to attend Shabbat services every Friday evening at 7:30 p.m.

The first Friday service of the month is a learning/teaching service; the second Friday is a traditional service; the third Friday is a family and celebrations service; and the fourth Friday is a music service.

Services are conducted by Rabbi Len Muroff and Cantor Ellen Jaffe-Gill, with Norberto Guinaldo at the organ.

Following the services, Kiddush is held. Oneg Shabbat follows in the Fellowship Hall, with refreshments provided by the Temple's Sisterhood. For information, call the Temple office at (562) 861-9276.

Carnivale ringing in New Year

COSTA MESA – Ring in the New Year at the Orange County Fair & Exposition Center Carnivale Dec. 31 from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

From the Lollipop Girls to the Technomania Circus, from Baja Ballroom to Bourbon Street Square, from dynamite dancing to live bands, enjoy the music, dancing, food and flavors of Brazil and New Orleans' Mardi Gras.

Admission is \$75 per person. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster outlets and online at www.ticketmaster.com. For more information, visit Web site www.nyecarnivale.com.



Representatives from Phoenix House of California thank Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34) for her efforts to secure federal funding for the organization's adolescent substance abuse treatment programs that serve hundreds of at-risk children in Los Angeles County each year. A member of the Appropriations Committee in Congress, Roybal-Allard secured \$400,000 in federal funds in recent years to enable the organization to expand its rehabilitation services and to address the teen methamphetamine crisis in the County.

Woman's Club releases 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 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.

2008 Rose Parade tickets for sale

DOWNEY – The City of Downey Community Services Department has been assigned grandstand seating for the 2008 Rose Parade, where Emeril Lagasse will preside as Grand Marshal.

Tickets are \$66 each and there is no limit on the amount of tickets to be purchased. The bus will depart from the City Hall flag pole area on Jan. 1 at 6:30 a.m. and will return around 2 p.m.

Sign-ups will be taken at the City Hall Community Services Department, as well as at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For information, call (562) 904-7238.

Orientations for foster-adoptive parents

SANTA FE SPRINGS – The Aspira Foster & Family Services hosts orientations every Tuesday at 10 a.m. for those interested in becoming a foster-adoptive parent.

Orientations are held at 10350 Heritage Park Dr. Suite 202 in Santa Fe Springs. For information, call Claudia at (562) 941-6967.

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Happy Thanksgiving from the Prudential 24 Hour Team!

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

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



Michael & Jami Berdelis
... Our wonderful family, friends and a prosperous year. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

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

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

Mario & Kelly Persico
... God's continued blessings and grace, our family and friends.

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

Helen Lancaster
...god for being alive.

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



Russell Skersick
...my new baby girl, friends & family

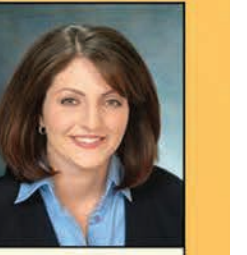
Jason Lockwood
...my *Brokers* that keep me employed.

Zeke & Erik Pinaya
Happy Thanksgiving to all our wonderful clients we have worked with from the past, present and near future.

Vanessa Marquez
... for the clients who give me the opportunity to make their dreams come true.

Richard Calzada
... all the training that I have received here at Prudential.

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



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

Carmen & Stephanie
... We are thankful for our career at Prudential.

Richard Reyes
... family, friends and clients.

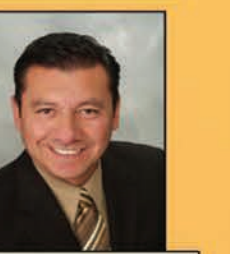
Roger Beltran
...for your business.

Pat McCallum
...my 60 years in Downey and the friends and clients I have here.

James Polidore
...God, my family and the Prudential 24 Hour Team.

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

Marie & Cristina Picarelli
... our family, friends and the opportunity to work with wonderful people.



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

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

Mary Jane & Pam Lee
... God bless our clients & we thank you for another great year!

Oscar Barragan
...my family, friends and clients.

Damien Tenorio
...all the clients that I have worked with this year!

Ken Ishiki
...my family and friends

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

Julio Garcia
...family, friends and all the agents at the Prudential Family



Peter Licon
...for all the support in the past year from my family & friends .

Maria Razo
...family, friends past and future clients.

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

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

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

Moises Amezcua
...Love from my family and friends that are my biggest supporters.

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

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



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

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

Marlene Sanchez
...health, family and all my clients.

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

Irma Sandoval
... support of my family.

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

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

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



Tami Saldana
...A fresh start at Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate.

Claudia Cienfuegos
...my decision on becoming an agent.

Yolanda Garcia
...the people that believe in me.

Lorena Avila
...wishing my family, and friends a wonderful Thanksgiving.

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

Telly Ntzouras
...I feel blessed because of my wonderful family & clients.

Yolanda Urena
... For my beautiful daughter Isabella.

Amparo Gastlum
...my husband Rafael, my grandson Max, and Chrystal & Jessica



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

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

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

Armando Martinez
...wishing my family, friends and clients a Happy Holiday.

Tania Quevedo
...for the health of my loved ones, & life.

Flor Rodas
...the health of my family & friends.

Carmen Fraire
...being part of the prudential family.

Johanna Soto
...my son Johnny, my family and Mel & Rita for being so kind!