



The Downey Patriot



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8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240



Ladders rest against a portion of Downey's still-under-construction float, which is undergoing final preparations in advance of the Tournament of Roses Parade on Jan. 1. Photo by Brooke Karli

Rose Float in final stages of preparation

■ "Wild Western Days" can be seen New Year's Day in the annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena.

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The Downey Rose Float Association's (DRFA) 2008 Tournament of Roses Parade entry, "Wild Western Days," is well under construction, preparing for its television debut on New Year's Day.

The float, measuring 55-feet long, 18-feet wide and 25-feet tall, is DRFA's 54th consecutive entry. The float's western theme, complete with a saloon, hotel, dance hall, stage coach, dentist, grocery store, dry goods store, hardware store, school house, church and cemetery, complements the 119th Tournament of Roses Parade theme, "Passport to the World's Celebrations."

The Knott's Berry Farm Wild West Stunt Team will bring action to this year's entry, performing fight scenes atop the float. The Miss Downey Court, as well as Rick Porcaro of Downey Rent-A-Tux, will also be seen riding the float.

"I have always wanted to do a Wild West stunt float," said Kelley Roberts, construction chairman. "There's a lot of detail to this year's float – it's one of the hardest floats I have worked on."

"Wild Western Days" will display more than 10,000 roses, 6,000 orchids and 1,000 tulips in addition to the thousands of pounds of seeds and leaves being used.

The float has been a work in progress for over nine months and has been worked on by hundreds of volunteers. If built professionally, the float would have cost over \$300,000. But due to generous donations and continuous fundraising, the float cost DRFA \$70,000-\$80,000, organizers said.

Founded in 1952, the DRFA has completely funded, constructed and decorated each of their floats.

The Tournament of Roses Parade can be seen Jan. 1 at 8 a.m. on many local TV stations, including ABC, NBC, KTLA and Univision.

For more information, visit www.downeyrose.org, or www.tournamentofroses.com.

DUI checkpoints this weekend in Downey

■ Police will be actively searching for drunk drivers this holiday weekend.

DOWNEY – The Downey Police Department will be conducting DUI checkpoints tomorrow from 6:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. at various locations within the city, thanks to a special grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"DUI checkpoints are conducted to identify offenders and get them off the street, as well as (to) educate the public on the dangers of impaired driving," said Downey Police Sgt. Dean Milligan. "All too often members of our community are senselessly injured or killed on local roadways by impaired drivers. [The checkpoints are] an effort to reduce those tragedies, as well as insuring drivers have a valid driver's license. A major component of these checkpoints is to increase awareness of the dangers of impaired driving and to encourage sober designated drivers."

Patrol Capt. Rick Esteves said Downey police are working at being proactive in taking drunk drivers off the roads.

"It is the hope of the Downey Police Department to avoid serious injury and fatal traffic collisions by identifying and apprehending DUI drivers before they have a chance to cause a tragedy," said Esteves. "We believe a combination of education and enforcement will save lives, making our community a better place to live and work."

Traffic volume and weather permitting, all vehicles may be checked and drivers found to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol will be arrested. Milligan also encouraged motorists to call 911 if they spot a drunk driver.

Last year, 1,597 people were killed and over 31,000 injured in California in drug and alcohol-related crashes.

"When more people drive sober and safely, lives are saved. It's just that simple," said Christopher J. Murphy, director of the Office of Traffic Safety. "This grant will help make Downey just that much safer of a place to live and work."

An early visit from Father Christmas

■ Harley-riding Santa Claus meets with children at La Casita center.

BY GWYNN GUSTAFSON, KIWANIS CLUB OF DOWNEY

DOWNEY – Santa Claus rode into La Casita on his Harley Davidson recently, bringing gifts and putting smiles on the faces of children who otherwise might not have had a Christmas celebration.

Kiwanis Club of Downey brings this celebration to the children of La Casita every year.

La Casita is a woman's residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation treatment facility that also cares for victims of abuse. Under the guidance of caseworkers and counselors, families make strong and lasting strides toward a better life. Many have turned their lives around and now have children with them.

At the Christmas party, I met one woman who just received a letter from the court...she was getting her children back. It was a beautiful day, indeed.

Schooling is included in the rehabilitation program, preparing the women for employment. Schooling for the children prepares them to return to a regular classroom environment.

With a 75 percent success rate, many of the woman said they were fortunate to have La Casita, which is located at 10603 Downey Ave.

Lynne Appel, M.S., executive director of La Casita, encouraged women who are victims of domestic violence to call (562) 622-2268.

Community members interested in joining Kiwanis Club of Downey can visit www.downeykiwanis.org.



Children at the La Casita drug and alcohol treatment facility in Downey enjoy a surprise visit from Santa Claus, who visited the center Dec. 13 to distribute gifts and mingle with residents. The annual effort is a project coordinated by Kiwanis Club of Downey. Photo by Gwynn Gustafson

New traffic laws set to ring in the New Year

SACRAMENTO – With 2008 just around the corner, the public is reminded of several new laws that will ring in the New Year.

The most anticipated law, SB 1613 – due to take effect July 1, 2008 – prohibits drivers from using wireless telephones without a hands-free device while driving. In addition, drivers under the age of 18 will not be allowed to use a cell phone even with a hands-free device.

During the 2007 legislative year, 750 bills were signed into law, including 167 changes to the California Vehicle Code. Many of the changes regarding traffic safety, air quality and consumer protection take effect on Jan. 1, while others take effect July 1, 2008.

Following is an abbreviated summary of the new laws that will take effect Jan. 1, 2008, unless indicated otherwise.

Traffic safety

Wireless telephones – Prohibits the use of wireless telephones while driving, unless the telephone is designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking operation, and is used in that manner while driving. Base fine for a first offense: \$20, and \$50 for each subsequent offense. The law provides an exemption for emergency purposes.

Wireless telephones, under 18 – A person under the age of 18 is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone, even when equipped with a hands-free device, or while using a mobile service device. The law provides an exemption for emergency purposes.

Bicycle safety – A person operating a bicycle during darkness is required to utilize illumination devices while riding upon a highway, sidewalk or bikeway.

Traffic violation dismissals – The courts are prohibited from dismissing serious traffic violations, such as driving under the influence, hit and run, or reckless driving, through completion of traffic violator school or any other court-approved program of driving safety.

License plate coating – The use or sale of a product (spray coating) that would impair the reading or recognition of a license plate by an electronic device, such as a red light camera, is prohibited.

Driver responsibility – This law requires applicants for a driver's license renewal to sign a declaration acknowledging that being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs impairs the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Consumer protection

Restitution for victims – Authorizes the DMV to order restitution to victims who have suffered financial loss or damage by a vehicle dealer, manufacturer, distributor or transporter. The law allows restitution when the occupational license is suspended or revoked.

Consumer recovery fund – This law creates a special fund to compensate consumers who have suffered monetary losses as the result of a

vehicle dealership closure or insolvency. Funded by a \$1 fee collected by DMV on all vehicles sold by a dealer or retailer.

Air quality

Minor passengers smoking ban – This law prohibits anyone from smoking in a vehicle where minors are present, regardless if the vehicle is in motion or at rest. Law enforcement cannot stop a vehicle solely to determine whether a violation has occurred.

Air quality fees – The smog abatement fee, the vehicle registration fee, the vessel registration fee and the identification plate fee will be increased, effective July 1. Additional revenues collected will be used to fund a variety of fuel and vehicle technology projects through the Bureau of Automotive Repair and the California Air Resources Board.

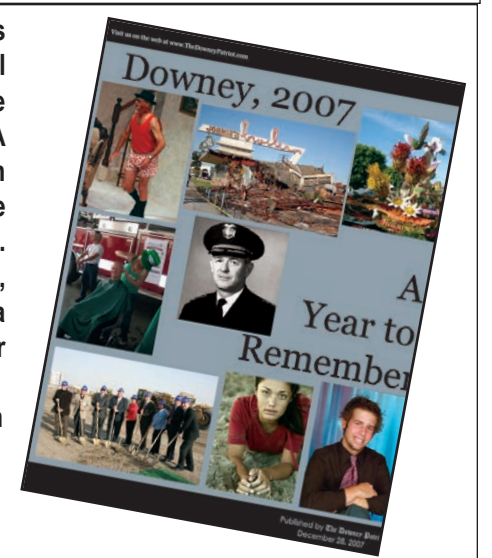
For a complete list of traffic-related changes in law, visit www.dmv.ca.gov.

The Downey Patriot

is moving!

Effective this Monday, our new address will be 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, located at the intersection of Florence and Downey Avenues. Our phone, fax and e-mail information will remain the same.

Inserted into this week's Downey Patriot is a special commemorative magazine entitled "Downey, 2007 - A Year to Remember." In case you missed it, please visit our office at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, after this Monday for a complimentary issue, or read it online at www.thedowneypatriot.com



New Year bringing new resolutions to get fit

■ A host of local gyms are available to help Downey residents achieve their fitness goals, each facility unique in its approach towards a healthy lifestyle.

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again. As 2007 rides off into the sunset and preparations are made to ring in the New Year, statistics show over 50 percent of Americans will establish a New Year's resolution.

According to www.rismedia.com, the top three New Year's resolutions for 2008 are getting out of debt/saving money, losing weight, and developing a healthy habit such as exercising or eating healthy.

It's no surprise losing weight came in at No. 2. It is, however, surprisingly difficult to follow through with a resolution involving gym memberships and organic granola bars.

When it comes to choosing a gym, it can be just as frustrating and stressful as buying a car. Which do you join? Which can you afford? Which works best for your schedule? Your family? Your body type? All of these questions come into play as you decide where to burn the calories.

Like many other cities, Downey is fortunate to have a wide variety of gyms to choose from. But as you may know, having a wide selection to choose from makes it even more difficult to decide what works best. The following are descriptions of some of Downey's gyms, complete with hours, costs, and programs offered.

Curves

Curves for Women has over 10,000 locations worldwide, offering a 30-minute, total body workout, which includes warm-up, cardio exercise, strength training, cool down and stretching. Although Curves locations are individually owned, promotional offers and programs are offered franchise-wide. To ring in the New Year, Curves is offering 30 percent off its service fee plus a free week on Curves Complete, an on-line weight management tool. Joining Curves costs \$44 a month with a one-year contract, or \$54 a month without a contract. A service fee is an additional \$149.

Equipment at each Curves location gets serviced on a regular basis and updated when needed. Downey has two Curves – one located on Lakewood Boulevard, and the other on Firestone Boulevard.

Curves – Lakewood Boulevard

Meena Katakia, owner of Curves – Lakewood Boulevard, said Curves is all about serving the community and the women of Downey. So much so, the women participate in the Downey Street Faire and a breast cancer walk every year, as well as host picnics and holiday gatherings. More importantly, Katakia said, is that Curves is a program that provides different goals for different women.

"Some women are here to stay healthy, some are here to strengthen themselves physically and emotionally, and some are here to meet new people and participate within the community," said Katakia. "But regardless of what you're here for, it's a quick 30-minute workout – in and out for the busy woman."

Curves – Lakewood Boulevard is located at 9206 Lakewood Blvd. in Downey and currently has over 300 members, ranging in age from 15 to 92. Their hours are Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3 to 7 p.m.; Friday 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m.; and Saturday 8 to 10:30 a.m. They can be reached at (562) 862-2220.

Curves – Firestone Boulevard

"Curves is a group of women that become sisters," said Cindy Duarte, owner of Curves – Firestone Boulevard. "They're more than members – they're family. They act as a support group to each other."

The women not only support each other, but also the community. The group partners with Home Instead, an organization that works with seniors, and also hosts a toy drive with the Marine Corps every year.

Curves – Firestone Boulevard is located at 9430 Firestone Blvd. in Downey and currently has nearly 400 members ranging in age from 13 to 80. Their hours are Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 7:30 p.m., and Saturday 8 to 11 a.m. Curves – Firestone Boulevard can be reached at (562) 803-3630.

VIP Workout

Tucked behind Warren High School sits VIP Workout, a gym owned by certified personal trainer Erwin Clamor.

VIP Workout consists of one-on-one training, beginning with health assessments and fitness tests and measurements. Services provided include private exercise instruction, fitness consulting and weight management.

Cost to workout at VIP Workout is \$50 an hour with a minimum purchase of 10 sessions, or \$25 per half-hour with a minimum purchase of 10 sessions as well.

Clamor records progress during each session and re-evaluates each client in between 10-week sessions. Clients are seen by appointment only.

Clamor said that the 60 percent of his clientele are women, with clients ranging in age from 16 to 75.

VIP Workout is located at 11600 Paramount Blvd., Ste. E, in Downey. Hours vary depending upon appointments. VIP Workout can be reached at (562) 904-4164.

Downey Family YMCA

For numerous decades, the Downey Family YMCA has not only provided a haven to build healthy bodies, but also healthy spirits and minds. Putting into practice Christian principles and the six pillars of character – trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship – the Downey YMCA puts forth a family-friendly environment.

According to Jessica Mendez, healthy lifestyles director, the Downey YMCA offers a variety of programs for young and old alike. Group exercises include Cardio Boxing, Cardio Dance (Zumba, Hip-Hop, etc.), Cardio Kick Boxing, Ladies in Motion, Martial Arts, Pilates, Body Sculpting, Yoga,



A gymnastics instructor at the Downey Family YMCA helps a tiny gymnast with her routine, one of the many classes available at the local Y. Photo courtesy Downey Family YMCA

Stretch 'N Tone, and P.T. Challenge, an intense cross-training class for those interested in Navy Seals exercises. The aquatics department offers lap swim and recreation swim, as well as swim lessons – both group and private – and water group exercises such as Aqua Aerobics, Aqua Motion and Arthritis Water Exercise.

Although the Downey YMCA offers a variety of adult programs, their specialty comes in serving the entire family, especially the kids. Their youth programs include Gymnastics, Fun & Fit, Yoga, Ballet, KidsDance, Tae-Kwon-Do, Jujitsu, Kid's Club, Kid's Zone, Teen Zone, and more. The YMCA also provides childcare for children six months old and older for parents using the facilities.

In addition to these programs, the Downey YMCA recently established two new programs – Coach Approach and FitLinxx, which go hand in hand. Coach Approach includes a series of one-on-one meetings with a wellness coach, assessing what works best for each individual's body. FitLinxx then comes into play and electronically tracks progress, monitoring workouts and providing vital information in determining whether or not goals are being met.

"We want Coach Approach to be a personal approach to setting goals," said Mendez. "We want the program to cater to all ages at all levels."

Cost for membership at the Downey YMCA is broken up into numerous categories: Youth Membership - \$21/month plus \$25 joining fee (ages 8 to 14); Adult Membership - \$44/month plus \$100 joining fee (ages 18 and up); Single Parent Family Membership - \$55/month plus \$125 joining fee (one adult with additional children and/or dependents under the age of 22); and Family Membership - \$72/month plus \$125 joining fee (two adults with additional children and/or dependents under the age of 22). Membership includes everything with the exceptions of swim lessons, Jr. Lakers, and camps.

The Downey Family YMCA is located at 11531 Downey Ave. in Downey. Their hours are Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. The Downey Family YMCA can be reached at (562) 862-4201.



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The Downey Patriot



Downey Rotarians Stan Hanstad, Assistant Superintendent DUSD, and Barbara Lamberth, CEO, Downey Federal Credit Union, collect gifts for Downey Rotary's local Adopt-A-Family. Photo courtesy Marianne Noss

Downey Rotary wraps Christmas spirit

DOWNEY – The Downey Rotary Club recently donated Christmas gifts to over 23 families throughout Downey through their Adopt-A-Family program.

Working with the Human Services Association, the Rotarians provided gifts to 88 children and 22 adults. The Downey Rotary Club also worked with Warren High School's Interact Club.

"The Downey Rotary Club looks forward to bringing holiday joy into the homes of chosen families each year," said Barbara Lamberth, Rotarian and CEO of Downey Federal Credit Union. "Knowing that a holiday gift will bring a smile to their faces brings joy into each of our hearts."

New classes offered at Adult School

DOWNEY – Downey Adult School's Career and Education Center is offering new classes for the New Year, beginning with their winter 2008 quarter.

Their new classes include Fantasy Body Art & Airbrushing; Creating Documents that get Attention; Introduction to Windows Vista; Creating Mail Merge Using Word 2007; Creating Tables in Word 2007; Explore Styles and Templates; Adobe Photoshop Elements; Older Americans Creating their Legacy; and Zumba.

"Downey Adult School prides itself in offering a wide variety of classes that are sought after, affordable and fun," said Downey Adult School Principal Roger Brossmer.

For a schedule of classes or to pre-register, visit www.das.edu or call (562) 940-6200.

Little League in search of former players

DOWNEY – The West Downey Little League is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2008 and is asking former players to submit photographs and stories for inclusion in a 50th Anniversary celebration.

Photos and stories can be submitted to WDLL, 11985 Old River School Rd., Downey, 90242, or by calling (562) 928-2837, e-mailing westdowney@yahoo.com, or visiting www.eteamz.com/westdowneylittleleague.

First Presbyterian hosting a 'celebration'

DOWNEY – The First Presbyterian Church of Downey invites the community to its Celebration Service, celebrating the rededication and reopening of the church sanctuary, on Jan. 13 at 3:30 p.m.

Since last July, architects, contractors and sound technicians have worked to reconfigure the chancel area and install adaptable seating, as well as new carpeting, paint and new lighting and audio systems. The goal of the project was to utilize modern technology to enhance worship programs without detracting from the ambience of the 121 year-old sanctuary.

The Celebration Service will also recognize the commissioning of Alfred Delgado as the new director of multi-cultural ministries, and provide church members and the community alike to rededicate their lives to ministry. A reception will follow the service.

The First Presbyterian Church of Downey is located at 10544 Downey Ave.

For information, call (562) 861-6752, or visit www.fpcdowney.com.

A year of adjustments for prep sports

SCOTT COBOS, CONTRIBUTOR

With another year in the books another set of memories are recorded in the minds of coaches, players and parents. This year was no different. One thing this year did bring was change. It appeared in rosters, coaching staffs, wins and losses and strategies.

The revolving door of sports turned all year long being most present in coaching staffs. A new coach for Downey football appeared, two new coaches for Warren baseball went through the program, and we're never sure who the basketball coach at Warren is.

The change in the programs adversely affected the programs as we saw during football season at Warren in the spring and during this recently passed football season at Downey.

Former baseball manager Ariel Guitron, replacing Steve Fullerton, struggled to make it past his first season at the helm. After the dust settled, the Bears finished in fourth place behind Paramount, Gahr and Downey. Not only that, the Bears were swept by the Vikings, one of the games coming all the way down to their last at bats.

The Bears finished the season under their new manager 11-15 and out of the playoffs. The Vikings were 17-11 and finished in third place, managing to get into the playoffs but making their appearance and losing in the first round.

New Vikings' football head coach Will Capps struggled in his first sea-

son at the helm as well. He implemented a lot of changes to the program and had to deal with a lot of roster replacements.

What was a very good football team last year was an average squad this year. Capps' team finished 3-7 overall and missed the playoffs. In probably what was their most important game, the Vikings lost to Warren 27-7. The game had big time playoff implications and probably could have sent Downey to the post season. Instead, we saw the momentum swing from Downey to Warren, which sneaked into the playoffs with a 6-4 record.

A rather unsurprising basketball season from both Warren and Downey completed itself early in the year. Downey finished their season 16-13, beating Warren both times they faced each other.

Warren head coach Kevin Hobbs led his team to a 17-12 overall record, but a 4-6 league record kept his team out of the playoffs. Nevertheless, it was a strong season played by both teams.

With all the changes this year, some things did stay the same. Warren and Downey softball maintained their elite status in the San Gabriel Valley League, both soccer teams had their ups and downs and both track teams remained consistent.

Goodbye to 2007. We will say hello to 2008 and make our resolutions. Hopefully those resolutions bring change. Hopefully those resolutions bring stability and consistency.

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With the busy holiday season over, The Salvation Army faces a new challenge. Between now and December 31 we must raise \$100,000 to sustain our ministries that feed and care for SE Communities poor into 2008. Please help us meet this year-end challenge because need knows no season!

I'll help meet the Year-End Challenge!

YES, I want to help The Salvation Army raise \$100,000 by December 31 help suffering families in the New Year. Here is my gift of:

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Sonia Molina approved to serve on commission

LOS ANGELES – Hancock Park resident Dr. Sonia Molina, who experienced first hand the poor conditions in which children lived back in her homeland of El Salvador, has been approved by the Los Angeles City Council to serve on the City's Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families (CCYF).

Molina, the founder of Molina Endodontics in Downey and an active leader in the City's growing Latino and Salvadoran communities, was appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and recently approved by the City Council to serve a four-year term on the CCYF's 15-member commission.

"I thank the Mayor and City Council for entrusting me to serve on the commission that makes important recommendations on how the City sets policy and allocates monies to address the critical needs of children and families throughout the city," Molina said. "I was raised in El Salvador during a politically turbulent time and saw first hand how the lack of basic support services impacted the quality of life for children and their families. Although conditions are much better today in Los Angeles than they were in El Salvador, I'm still very sensitive to these issues and I promise to bring passion and enthusiasm to my work on the commission."

The Commission is charged with coordinating the City's efforts to serve children, youth and their families, enhance the programs of City Departments, make policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council, annually review and update the City's legislative policy with regard to children, youth and family issues, and advocate for children, youth and families both within the City structure and the community.

"Dr. Molina has been one of the giants in the Central American community," said City Councilman Ed Reyes during Molina's confirmation hearing. The Councilman represents the Pico-Westlake District, which is

home to the City's Salvadoran community.

"She's been very instrumental in terms of putting together boards, acknowledging talent and bringing forward a community that has matured in a way that I'm very proud to say that I'm associated with, given all the benefits you've created for the youth," Reyes said.

Molina, who left El Salvador at the age of 17 with her two siblings to rejoin her mother in Maywood, is a founding member of the Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF), a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to expanding the political and economic contributions of Salvadorans in the U.S.

Among her many activities, Molina participates in numerous health fairs each year and provides free oral examinations to low-income members of the community. She also serves on the Board of the Los Angeles Dental Society, Latin American Dental Association, Harvard Alumni Association and the Women Dental Society.

Earlier this year, Molina was one of six Latinas to be named "La Mujer Salvadoreña Ahora Award" or woman of the year by the non-profit Asociación Internacional de Mujeres Salvadoreñas (International Association of Salvadoran Women) or AIMS. Other recognitions have included "Woman of the Year" by the City of Los Angeles, "Entrepreneur of the Year" by *Latina Style* magazine, and "Salvadoran of the Year" by SALEF.

Molina holds a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences from California State University, Long Beach, in addition to a master's degree in public health and her doctor of dental medicine degree from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. She also holds a postdoctoral graduate in endodontics from the UCLA School of Dentistry, where she also serves as an instructor.

Parents urged to prevent underage drinking

BY CONGRESSWOMAN LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD (CA-34) AND SUSAN MOLINARI OF THE CENTURY COUNCIL

The holiday season is a time for celebration with family and friends. Unfortunately, it is also a time when school vacations and holiday parties make for a tragic mix for many young people who drink alcohol.

According to the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, about 10.8 million Americans between the ages of 12-20 report current alcohol consumption. How did they get a hold of that alcohol? Research commissioned by The Century Council found that 65 percent of youth who drink say they get their alcohol from family and friends – including their parents, their friends' parents, older family members or older friends – with or without permission.

When a vehicle is added to the equation, the results are tragic. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, during the 2006 winter holiday season, alcohol-related traffic fatalities among youth under 21 accounted for nearly 40 percent of all traffic fatalities nationwide. In the face of these troubling statistics, it is clear that we must re-energize our efforts to work together, at all levels of government and in our communities, to stop underage drinking.

In recent years, the federal government has made a significant commitment to ending this public health crisis. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in conjunction with the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking sponsored more than 1,200 town hall meetings last year in communities all over the country to discuss the crisis of underage drinking. In December 2006, Congress passed into law the *Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act* (STOP Act) with the unprecedented support of public health and industry groups. The STOP Act, which was the first comprehensive national legislation created to fight underage drinking, makes permanent an Ad Council media campaign directed at parents to curb underage drinking, and establishes grants for colleges and communities to address the problem at the local level.

Following the historic signing of the STOP Act, the Surgeon General kicked off 2007 by issuing a Call to Action on Underage Drinking, placing a heightened national focus on the problem. The Call to Action includes recommendations for government and school officials, parents, other adults and young people as part of a concerted effort to prevent and

reduce underage alcohol consumption in our country.

At the local level, we recently launched the "We Don't Serve Teens" campaign in Los Angeles County to enlist the help of adults in curbing underage drinking. "We Don't Serve Teens" was developed by The Federal Trade Commission and The Century Council to inform adults that providing underage drinkers with alcohol is unsafe, illegal, and irresponsible. With the help of the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America, we have delivered educational materials in English and Spanish to more than 6,000 retail establishments in Los Angeles County. We will continue our work together in 2008 with school-based programs focusing on underage drinking prevention.

Underage drinking is not inevitable. When parents talk, their children really do listen. Numerous studies show that parents are the leading influence on their child's decision to drink, or not to drink alcohol. The key here, as with all difficult choices facing young people today, is for parents to begin and continue a dialogue with their children before they are faced with the decision to drink alcohol. There is no better time to talk to your child about the dangers of underage drinking than the holiday season. We offer the following 10 tips for parents to facilitate these important family discussions:

1. Be a good role model
2. Clearly state your disapproval of underage drinking
3. Reinforce that underage drinking is against the law
4. Take advantage of daily opportunities to let your children know they can talk to you about anything
5. Use a current newspaper article or recent event about alcohol as a way of raising the issue
6. Give your reaction to these examples. Ask your children for theirs. Listen carefully and don't criticize their answers
7. Help your children say "no" to alcohol and give them information and support needed to avoid it
8. Supervise your children
9. Recognize problem behavior and seek help when necessary
10. Make it a discussion, not an argument – learn from each other

For more information on underage drinking and ways to talk about the issue with the children, visit The Century Council's website at www.centurycouncil.org.

The Poets' Corner

payload of angels

without faith Fra Angelico's angels
would be trudging barefoot through a Florentine landscape
the muddy hems of their robes trailing in the frescoed margins
unable to get off the ground with those frilly little wings

what a fine disregard the Middle Ages had
for the proportion and scale of flying
these pectorals should be sprouting wings as big as gothic win
dows
if the angel messengers were to shoulder their weight
the way swans do or eagles

birds of the field have a fine disregard for being harbingers
much as we pin holidays or springtime on them
they arrive late pecking at granaries along the way
nonchalantly stopping altogether at backyard feeders

happily today my holiday wishes
lift off and soar untempted through the aether
propelled on the plumage of modern technology
transparent emails mechanics invisible
every byte as joyous and heartfelt
as those brought by any gold-tipped angels
Hosannahs and Happy Landings for the New Year

--Lorine Parks,
Downey

Nine (Inside)

I'm holding all this pain inside
So much anger blurring my eyes
What do you do when you've been used?
You end up lost and confused
You're coldhearted and careless towards me
Thinking only about yourself constantly
Why did you feed me all those lies?
Why did you exploit the affection inside?
I can't forgive you
For my pride don't show mercy
It don't see past what you've become
Life is too short to feel so suppressed
Over an insignificant someone
Needless to say, you've got the best of me
And turned it to the worst of times
But only I can forgive you and forgive myself
So I can let go of what's eating me inside

--Valerie Osegueda,
Downey



The Kiwanis Club of Downey recently installed their new board. They include (back row, left to right) Jeff Funk, treasurer; John Casillas, president; Dick Holmes, social events; Ashvin Patel, secretary; Mario Trujillo, president designate; Brad Reed, interclubs; and Roy Jimenez, immediate past president; (front row, left to right) Gary Nesbitt, member; and Jerry Wetzstein, nominating.

West Downey League taking sign-ups

DOWNEY – The West Downey Little League is now taking sign-ups for its 2008 season.

Registration will be held Jan. 8, 10, 15 and 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the West Middle School cafeteria; and Jan. 12 and 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the West Downey Little League field.

The league is also accepting free sign-ups for a new Challenger Division for children ages 5 to 18 with physical and/or mental disabilities.

For information, call (562) 928-2837, or visit www.eteamz.com/west-downeylittleleague.

Northwest Little League to host sign-ups

DOWNEY – Northwest Downey Little League will be taking sign-ups for the 2008 little league baseball season on Jan. 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Jan. 9 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Furman Park.

Applicants are required to bring three forms of residency verification. Tryouts will be held Jan. 12 at Furman Park and the season will begin on Feb. 23.

For more information, call Lance Torgerson at (562) 761-2148, or James Velloff at (562) 861-2696. Recorded information can be obtained by calling (562) 928-0363, or visiting www.nwdll.org.

Ring in the New Year with Women's club

DOWNEY – The Downey Christian Women's Club will celebrate the New Year at their next meeting, "A New Beginning," on Jan. 9 at the Los Amigos Country Club.

The special feature will be Marilyn Madru of Table Game. Vickie Caldwell will be the meeting's speaker, discussing "Finding Peace in the Eye of the Storm." Jacqueline Mc Evilly 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.

Congregational meeting at Temple

DOWNEY – The members of Temple Ner Tamid will be holding their semi-annual Congregational Meeting on Jan. 13 at 10 a.m. President David Saltzman will preside and a continental breakfast will be served.

For more information on the meeting or any of the Temple's services, call (562) 861-9276.

Downey Family YMCA

School Age Child Care

562 - 862 - 4201

The Downey Family YMCA has a program that fits your child care needs!

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Kindergarten—8th grades Monday—Friday 6:30am to 6:30pm

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KID & TEEN YISE PROGRAMS

(YMCA's INVESTING in STUDENT ENRICHMENT)

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- Dance (Hip Hop, Pom & Cheer, Jazz)
- Youth Fitness (Kids Tribe—hula hoop aerobics)
- Facility Privileges (Use of the main branch programs no extra cost)
- Sign Language
- Science

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Ombudsman

By Eric Pierce

There remains no greater joy to me than to receive a complimentary phone call or letter from a local resident who in some way benefited from *The Downey Patriot*, be it through a story we published or an advertisement they took advantage of.

Those are the moments that keep me going as a journalist, when I know the hard work put into the paper isn't for naught.

Validation of hard work is an incredibly powerful motivator. But this newspaper did slip up a few times this year, for which I'm embarrassed and contrite: we mistakenly reported (in a wedding announcement, no less) that a young woman's father was deceased when he was, in fact, alive and well (the family was blessed with a fine sense of humor and laughed about it later – after we published a correction); we mistakenly attributed a collection of films by an adult film star to a local teenage actress (an honest mistake, since both women share the same stage names); and we misspelled the name of Mary Lash in a lengthy and long-anticipated feature on the beloved philanthropist (we received an earful for that one).

But all things considered, I think this newspaper continued on its path towards journalistic betterment. *The Downey Patriot* was the first to interview Christos Smyrniotis and Ardas Yanik following the demolition of Johnnie's Broiler, our investigation of the destruction being cited by major TV news stations.

In fact, *The Downey Patriot* was sourced by both the *Los Angeles Times* and *Press-Telegram*, an honor of sorts considering both newspapers' substantial size in terms of both news staff and circulation.

Indeed, this newspaper grew by leaps and bounds as it relates to credibility by major market news organizations, not an easy feat for small community weeklies which are sometimes looked down upon as being inferior.

I believe *The Downey Patriot* is still sorely lacking serious crime coverage – truth be told, if somebody were to base an opinion solely off our reporting, they would think no crime is ever committed in Downey, which is false of course. The *Downey Eagle* before us did a splendid job covering criminal activity, and hopefully we can begin to mimic their method of coverage, an aspiration that has officially become my mantra for the New Year.

Judging from feedback received, Henry Veneracion's personal profiles on local upstanding residents and community members have been embraced, becoming a favorite of many readers, even if he does sometimes misspell the names of his subjects (Johnny Croshaw and Mary Lash come to mind).

Speaking of popular pieces, Dr. Alan Frischer has been a hit with his bi-weekly columns, which he writes solely for the benefit of the community.

This newspaper has also enjoyed heaps of community participation, with residents submitting pictures and stories of events we just can't cover due to our small staff size. Thank you to our contributors, and keep it coming!

I apologize if this column comes across as self-serving, but journalism today can sometimes breed egotism, self-righteousness, and sense of entitlement, all of which have no place in a newspaper. Even *The Downey Patriot*, if it is to continue to improve as a quality and honest source of information, sometimes needs a swift kick in the behind to avoid the pitfalls so many other news organizations fall into.

Former editor John Adams said it best when he wrote on May 3, 2002, "We promise to print your letters, reflect your ideas, and work with you to achieve a financially sound and culturally rich community.

Our readers deserve nothing less."
Bless you, John, you took the words right out of my mouth.

Letters to the Editor:

Measure G for 'Good Old Boys'

Dear Editor:
This week a minority of city councilmen, led by newly-elected member Mario Guerra, launched their campaign to remain in office as long as they can be overturning the will of the people in Downey with Measure G on the upcoming ballot.

If Measure G, which stands for "Good Old Boys," is passed, the men with the power of the city council will keep it, and women like Councilmember Bayer, who was denied mayor pro tem by these guys, won't have much chance of getting into their club. Without term limits as they are in Downey, women and those with surnames like Guerra, Trejo and Gutierrez will have a very difficult time getting elected to council, as beating an incumbent is nearly impossible. In fact, the councilmen behind Measure G wouldn't be in office now without term limits. While they benefited from term limits, they don't want anyone else to have a chance at their open seat.

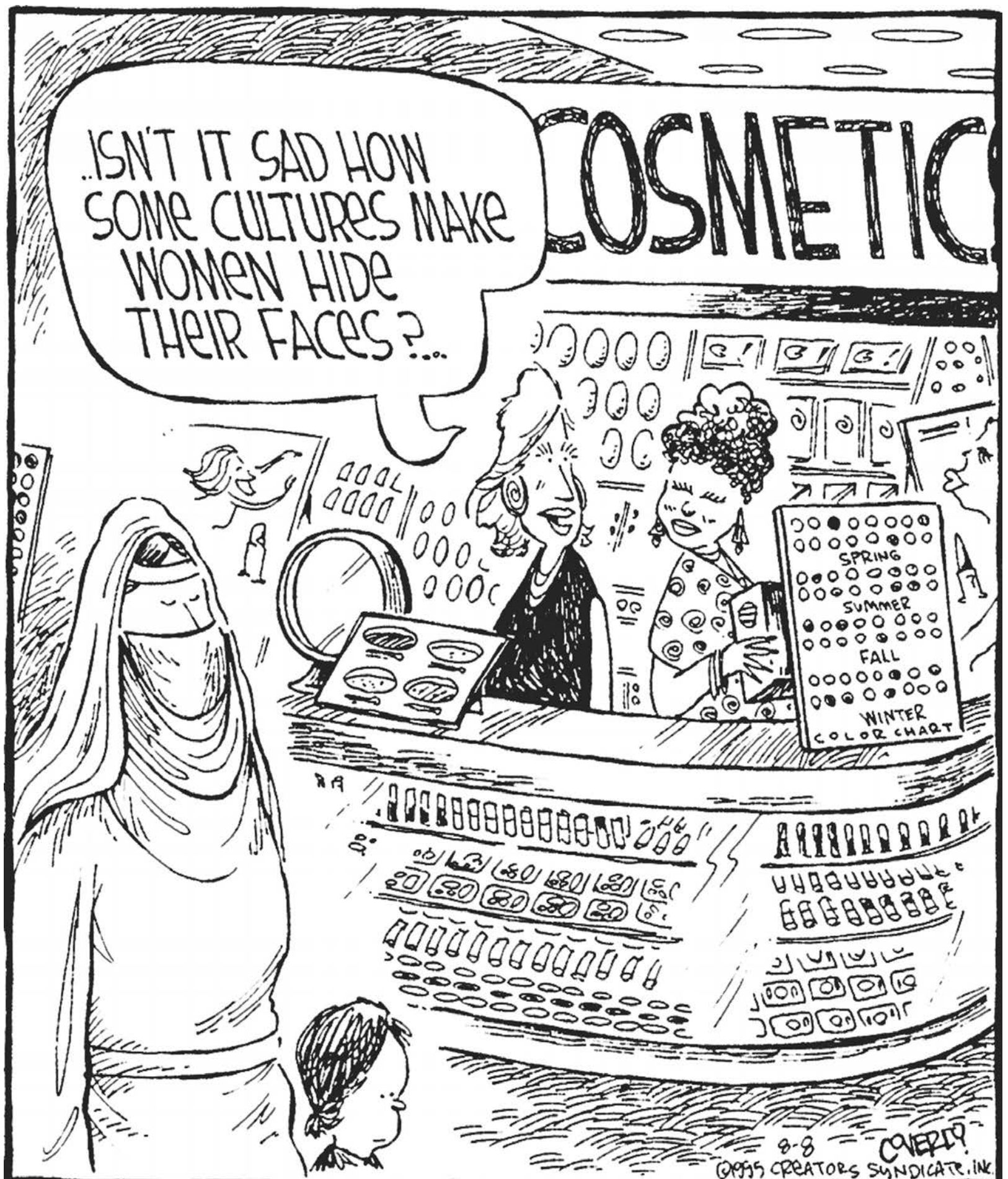
The proponents of Measure G claim "G stands for good." In addition to "Good Old Days," it stands for gall and greed for more power. Vote no on Measure G.

— Brian Heyman
Downey

The Downey Patriot

Jennifer DeKay-Givens..... Publisher/Adv. Director
John Adams..... Editor Emeritus
Eric Pierce..... City Editor
Henry Veneracion..... Staff Writer
Brooke Karli..... Staff Writer
Dorothy Michael..... Display Advertising
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Letters to the Editor:

DMOA's history

Dear Editor:
On behalf of the Downey Museum of Art's Board of Directors and myself, I would like to thank you for your generous support in covering our story throughout the year.

And especially for Henry Veneracion's stories on the 50th Anniversary Luncheon and on DMOA's 50-year history. It is important that our community over the years keeps alive the knowledge of DMOA's purpose and founding history in the community.

The coming year will be an exciting one for us with the launch of our Web site on January 11 and the start of our major fundraisers on Jan. 30 that will bring us closer to building DMOA @ The Glidehouse.

Thank you too for providing the community of Downey with such a valuable service. The Patriot as a local newspaper helps to support democracy in the most basic way by educating and informing the community.

All the best and a very happy New Year to you all!
— Kate Davies,
Executive Director, Downey Museum of Art

Letters to the editor may be submitted by writing to The Downey Patriot, 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey CA 90240 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.

Harsher sentencing

Dear Editor:
Even if Johnnie's Broiler has passed its prime – as some have said – it still needs to be rebuilt. It needs to be rebuilt for the same reason that people who rob banks don't get to keep the money when they get out of prison. In a civil society you can't do something bad, say I'm sorry, wait for the controversy to die down, then go about your merry way with your ill gotten spoils.

If the restaurant is not rebuilt, then owner Christos Smyrniotis will have gotten what he wanted. It will be a message to other developers with a "problem" building that all they need to do is demolish it, or partially demolish it, wait a while, pay a fine and then they get clear land. No, if a developer demolishes a historically important building, the punishment needs to hurt. How about 15 years in prison? That would hurt. That would send a message. How about a fine that's 10 times the budget to the project they intend to build? That would hurt.

But restoring the site to what it was before the developer removed or damaged the structure would hurt, too. Not only would he have to foot the bill for the reconstruction, but he wouldn't have use of the site for his new project. Then he wouldn't win. Do this a half-dozen times and developers will stop "accidentally" tearing down historical buildings that don't fit their plans.

— Alan Bell,
Downey

A reading community goes to the dogs

BY JAN PALEN, SENIOR LIBRARIAN, DOWNEY CITY LIBRARY

When the selection committee for the Burbank Public Library's "Burbank Reads" project reviewed possible book titles, they had some tough choices. Should they select a literary classic or contemporary biography? Would their community respond to a book about local history? Should they pick something of interest to students or seniors? This was their first community read project, and they wanted an accessible, entertaining book that would appeal to many in their city. They found it in "Marley and Me." When their mayor and city council members mentioned it was among their favorite books, the selection committee knew they picked a winner.

John Grogan's affectionate memoir, subtitled "Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog," is the tale of a young couple who naively think that owning a puppy will be good practice for raising a family. The yellow Lab they find "on sale" turns out to be one of the more expensive purchases they will make, but also brings them years of priceless memories. They soon learn that their new dog is neurotic and from the get-go, Marley has the upper paw. Marley is the type of dog that makes his owner fail obedience school. He ingests everything that isn't bolted down, and a few things that are. He makes even airport security want to call security. When his owners spend thousands of dollars to repair the garage he has destroyed, Marley plans a repeat performance.

But Marley also has his endearing side. Seducing a cute poodle, Marley has the run of an outdoor Florida restaurant, to the delight of other diners. Marley also milks his 15 minutes of fame as a movie star with his own brand of disquiet on the set. But for all the effort that Marley demands, he gives back a lifetime of devotion. When the Grogans finally have to say goodbye, it is a poignant tribute to the inexplicable bond

between animals and humans.

Grogan's humorous book, while not a literary masterpiece, gave the Burbank Library lots of ideas for related programs. The kick-off event for their community read was a popular "Dog Walk" throughout the city, attended by more than 150 dogs and their owners. Although the library couldn't afford to hire "Dog Whisperer" Cesar Millan, they did feature Dr. Karen Halligan, author of "What Every Pet Owner Should Know." Over a period of several weeks, the library offered a film festival for dog lovers as well as special events on dog training, first aid for pets, a speaker from the local animal shelter, and a program on seeing-eye dogs.

For children, the library sponsored a pet fashion show and a program for kids and their stuffed animals. Book discussions were held at the central library and several branches. Louise Paziak, Burbank's Library Assistant for Programs and Publicity, said the public responded enthusiastically to their programs but that next year they would try to staff fewer programs over a shorter period.

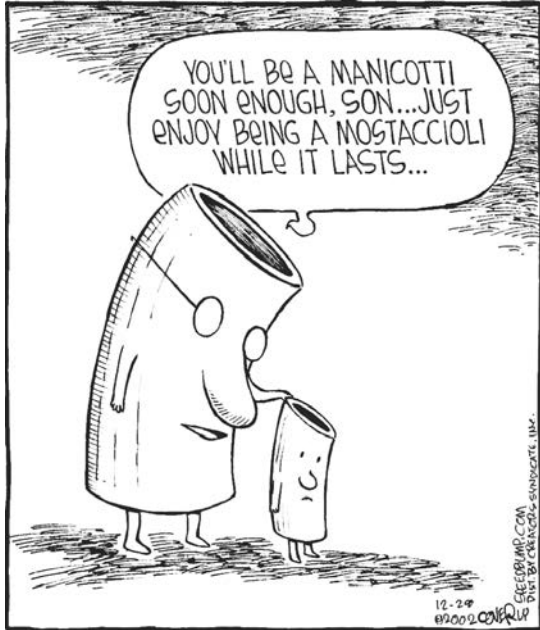
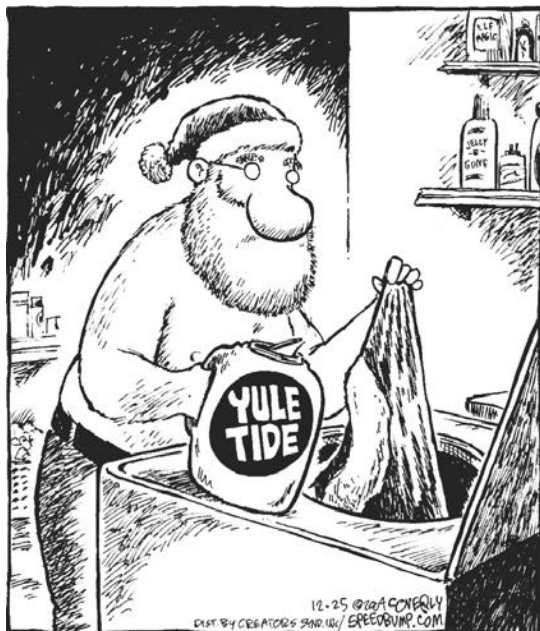
Paziak estimates that about 1,500 patrons checked out the book during the community read. Their local Barnes & Noble bookstore partnered with them and had a window display featuring "Marley and Me" during the project. The library got the word out through bookmarks, posters and flyers. Next year they even plan to advertise on Burbank City trash trucks!

One simple book about a couple and their wildly devoted dog captured the imagination of readers and library supporters in Burbank. Its universal themes sparked city-wide energy, fun and a stronger sense of community. What could happen if everyone in Downey reads the same book together?

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



On This Day...

Dec. 28, 1832: John C. Calhoun becomes the first vice president to resign his position, stepping down over differences with President Andrew Jackson.

1908: An earthquake and tsunami kill an estimated 60,000 people in Messina, Italy.

1945: The "Pledge of Allegiance" is officially adopted by Congress.

1948: DC-3 airliner NC16002 disappears on a scheduled flight from Puerto Rico to Miami. With 29 passengers and three crew members aboard, the plane is never found.

1954: Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington is born. Also born Dec. 28: Stan Lee (85), Seth Myers (34), Sienna Miller (26) and John Legend (29).

1981: The first American test-tube baby, Elizabeth Jordan Carr, is born.

2000: Retail giant Montgomery Ward announces it is going out of business after 128 years.

Downey Community Calendar

Events For December/January

Mon. Dec. 31: *The Downey Patriot* opens its new office, 8301 E. Florence Ave. Ste. 100.
 Tues. Jan. 1: "Wild Western Days." 2008 Tournament of Roses Parade, 8 a.m.

City Meetings

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

6:30 p.m.: **Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner**, mtg., for information call 426-6786.
 6:30 p.m.: **Overeaters Anonymous**, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.
 1st Mon., 4 p.m.: **2nd Century Foundation**, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.
 2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: **American Legion Auxiliary #270**, at United Methodist Church, for info. call 923-2481.
 2nd Mon., 3 p.m.: **Keep Downey Beautiful**, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7159.
 3rd Mon., 7 p.m.: **American Legion Post 270**, Los Amigos Country Club, call 869-1053.
 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Numismatists**, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

Tuesdays

9 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Vince Zoida at (714) 761-4439.
 9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
 9:30 a.m.: **Adventure with the Bible**, at the First Baptist Church call 928-4153.
 12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information call Darren Dunaway at 806-5400.
 12 p.m.: **Exchange Club of Downey**, at Sizzler, for information call Don Hollister at 927-5871.
 6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call 928-2658.
 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 441**, at Apollo Park Activities Room, for information call 923-3659.
 7:30 p.m.: **Southland Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines**, at Downey's Woman's Club, for information call 947-6802.
 2nd and 4th Tues., 7:30 a.m.: **Chamber "Rise&Shine" Networkers**, at Nordic Fox. for info. call (562) 923-2191.
 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: **Sertoma Club**, at Bakers Square. for information call (562) 927-6438.
 2nd Tues., 7 p.m.: **Downey Fly Fishers**, at Apollo Park, for information call 943-3904.
 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: **Writer's Workshop West**, at at Downey High School library, for info call 862-3106.
 Last Tues., 11:00 a.m.: **Los Companeros Service Club**, at Los Amigos Country Club, for info call 863-1549.

Wednesdays

7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
 1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, for information call 869-8782.
 1st Weds., 10 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call Barbara Briley-Beard 869-7618.
 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Emblem Club #309**, at Downey's Elks Lodge, for information call 868-4386.
 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Sister Cities Ass'n**, at Maude Price School, Call 862-7197.
 2nd Weds., 11:45 a.m. - **Downey Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos CC. Call 927-8488.
 2nd & 4th Weds., 11:00 a.m. - **AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley CC, Call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park.
 3rd Weds., 6 p.m. - **American Business Women's Association**, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.
 Wed. & Fri., 10:15 a.m.: **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

Thursdays

7:30 a.m.: **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.
 7:30 a.m.: **Connections Networking**, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414.
 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
 12 p.m.: **Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee**, for information call 928-4153.
 12 p.m.: **Optimist Club of Downey**, at Sambi's, for information call Steve Allen at 622-7655.
 12:30 p.m.: **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.
 6:30 p.m.: **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.
 7 p.m.: **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.
 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

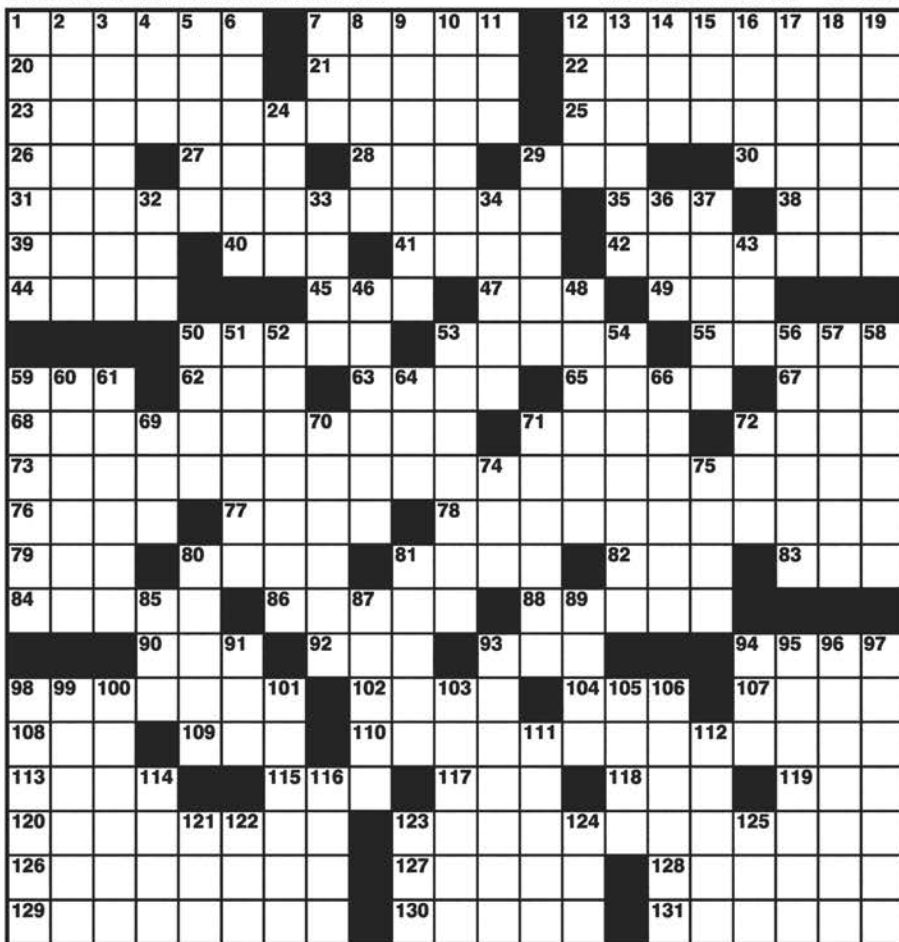
Fridays

7:30 a.m.: **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618
 3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.: **Women's "In His Glory" Ministry** at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
TIMELY GIFTS: Two-thirds of a famous dozen
 by S.N.

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2007 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 12/23/07



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 - 94 Lucie Arnaz's dad
 - 98 Mischievous girls
 - 102 Billion-selling cookie
 - 104 007 adversary
 - 107 Poker declaration
 - 108 Two-way preposition
 - 109 Fr. holy woman
 - 110 Ten
 - 113 Doll's word
 - 115 for Evidence (Grafton book)
 - 117 Good name, for short
 - 118 Mr. Potato Head piece
 - 119 "I'm impressed!"
 - 120 See 25 Across
 - 123 Four
 - 126 Start slowly
 - 127 Stayed home for dinner
 - 128 Go bananas
 - 129 Allow
 - 130 Essential attributes
 - 131 Obliterates
- DOWN**
- 1 Emilio Estevez film
 - 2 Qatar, for one
 - 3 Do some home work
 - 4 Tin source
 - 5 Dictatorial bosses
 - 6 Celebratory
 - 7 tai (cocktail)
 - 8 More than disappoint
 - 9 Absorb
 - 10 Latin epic
 - 11 Flavor-enhancer letters
 - 12 USN rank
 - 13 Pester
 - 14 Ostrich relative
 - 15 "Tasty!"
 - 16 Gyro ingredient
 - 17 Native Alaskans
 - 18 Feathered friend
 - 19 Talks back to
 - 24 Apple or pear
 - 29 Dome home
 - 32 Requirements list
 - 33 Mental flash
 - 34 Dame
 - 36 Agcy. with a flower logo
 - 37 Light source
 - 43 Sci-fi sighting
 - 46 Borneo beasts
 - 48 More than attentive
 - 50 Galley notation
 - 51 Son of William the Conqueror
 - 52 Most unusual
 - 53 Assumed as fact
 - 54 Graceful runner
 - 56 Turn abruptly
 - 57 Free-for-alls
 - 58 Haunt
 - 59 Steffi Graf's hubby
 - 60 Concluding operations
 - 61 Shopping centers
 - 64 T-shirt sz.
 - 66 Marine fish
 - 69 Uninteresting
 - 70 Popular potatoes
 - 71 Parking place
 - 72 Muscle car of yore
 - 74 Filbert, for instance
 - 75 Vitamin amts.
 - 80 Senior members
 - 81 DC subway
 - 85 Commando weapon
 - 87 Means to ends
 - 89 "My Way" singer
 - 91 Favorite
 - 93 Cowboy crooner, at times
 - 94 Sour-cream creation
 - 95 Asylum seekers
 - 96 Parliamentary term
 - 97 Swallows
 - 98 Infant-photographer
 - Anne
 - 99 Turkey's highest point
 - 100 Perseus foe
 - 101 Taken care of
 - 103 Typos
 - 105 Hidden valley
 - 106 Darwin's ship
 - 111 Champagne quantity
 - 112 Shady place
 - 114 Affirmation exclamation
 - 116 Composer Stravinsky
 - 121 Central
 - 122 Vb. form
 - 123 Maximum level
 - 124 Helpful connections
 - 125 OT book

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 reference to "class" at 22 Across is the taxonomic (biological) classification class MAMMALIA, which includes all mammals. The parliamentary term SINE DIE (96 Down), Latin for "without a day," refers to an adjournment without a date set for a future session. Australian-born children's photographer Anne Geddes (98 Down) has sold over 10 million books and 15 million calendars worldwide.



Paging Dr. Alan Frischer...

By DR. ALAN FRISCHER

Which disease was responsible for 50 to 100 million deaths worldwide in 1918? The flu! Not what you guessed? This common viral disease is now easily preventable by means of a yearly vaccination. Have you had the flu vaccine this year? For those of you who have not, is it because you're worried about getting sick from the shot itself? Allow me to clear up any confusion.



The 1918 epidemic was by far the worst in recent history; two later major epidemics in 1957 and 1968 killed 70,000 and 33,000 Americans, respectively, but had nowhere near the fatalities of that earlier tragedy. Over the past 20 years in the United States, there have been 11 flu epidemics and over 20,000 have died each year.

Who dies from the flu? In most epidemics, 90% of those who die are older than 65 and the remaining deaths are primarily among children under the age of five. Otherwise healthy people between those ages usually have no serious or life threatening encounters with the flu. The 1918 epidemic is famous for a few reasons: It not only killed the most people of any flu epidemic, but the vast majority of the deaths were among young healthy people who normally do not die from the flu.

A flu epidemic occurs when the flu virus evolves significantly from strains that had circulated before. This occurs rapidly, and when the current vaccine is not effective against the new virus, the population does not have immunity, and there is no time to create a new vaccine. The result is that many people get sick. Scientists keep a close eye on new strains and patterns of global spread of the flu in order to anticipate and prevent potential major epidemics.

The flu vaccine is inactivated, meaning that it contains virus that has been killed. **Killed virus cannot give you the flu!** Each vaccine contains three strains of influenza viruses, which change each year based on international surveillance data and scientific estimations about which types and strains of viruses will circulate. It takes the manufacturers of flu vaccine nine months to create a new vaccine, so they have to predict early in the year which strains will be most prevalent. This is accomplished by sampling flu viruses from all around the world and basically voting on the three most likely to cause trouble.

The major side effects from the flu vaccine are possible fever, headache, and body aches that may occur from 8 to 24 hours after receiving the vaccine. Much less common, affecting people allergic to eggs or some other component of the vaccine, is hypersensitivity or allergic reactions ranging from rash to serious breathing trouble. Finally, approximately one in a million people vaccinated can get the very rare Guillian Barre Syndrome, a progressive and usually reversible neurologic disease.

The flu vaccine does not provide immediate protection, but takes about two weeks to kick in. At that time, antibodies providing protection against the virus infection develop. Even when the flu vaccine does not contain an exact match to the invading flu virus, it usually still provides some protection.

The best time to get vaccinated is during the months of October, November, and early December. Flu season can begin as early as October and usually goes on until May. Almost everyone can get vaccinated, and it is highly recommended if you are at high risk of serious flu complications or if you live with or care for someone at high risk for serious disease. People at high risk include children aged six months through five years, pregnant women, those who are 50 and older, people of any age with chronic lung or heart disease or various cancers, and people who live in nursing homes and other long term care facilities.

Whenever possible, take advantage of preventive measures, including vaccination. An ounce of prevention is always better than a pound of cure. I wish you all good health and happy holidays.

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

Hospital visit can cure what ails you

CONTRIBUTED BY LAKEWOOD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

LAKEWOOD – Urgent care is not a substitute for emergency care, thus the optimum scenario is to have the availability of urgent care within a hospital's traditional emergency department (ED). Often your primary care physician can offer guidance, and when necessary, direct you to the appropriate care facility. If you are unable to reach your primary care physician or you do not have one, having urgent care capabilities within a hospital's ED will allow you peace-of-mind whether going for a very serious problem or an illness or injury that may seem minor, such as flu symptoms or an insect bite.

"This time of year it's all about flu, colds and stomach bugs," said Andrew Kassinove, M.D., and emergency room physician at Lakewood Regional Medical Center. "Influenza is a viral infection that attacks the respiratory system, including your nose, throat, bronchial tubes and lungs. Although it's commonly called the flu, influenza is not the same as the stomach virus that causes diarrhea and vomiting."

Millions of people, including 500,000 Americans, died in the 1918 influenza pandemic. Today, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as many as 36,000 Americans die each year of complications of influenza and more than 200,000 are hospitalized.

"Most people who get the flu recover completely in one to two weeks, but some people develop serious and potentially life-threatening medical complications, such as pneumonia," said Kassinove. "[As soon as you become] ill, especially at nighttime, over the weekend, or on a holiday, going to a hospital's ED that is close and offers urgent care is a smart solution for getting back on the road to recovery."

Kassinove goes on to explain that while the flu and cold symptoms can be similar, influenza is much more serious because it drastically reduces the body's ability to fight off other infections. There are two main kinds of flu viruses – influenza A, which can make you really sick, and B, which is usually milder.

Because flu viruses are unstable, an immune system exposed by infection or vaccine one year wouldn't recognize it was the same virus the fol-

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

Winter solstice an important springboard

By HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

The winter solstice (Dec. 21) marks the official start of winter, and to most people it means snow accumulations and cold, sometimes bitter cold, weather. I've leaned against the strength of a minus-fifty degree winter wind, and I know the feeling. We Southern Californians should be so lucky at this time of year to be enjoying balmy fifty-sixty degree daytime temperatures when Chicagoans or Buffalo residents shiver in their fleece boots.

Seen in a different light, though, the winter solstice should be a welcome event. It is actually a turning point. From now on, the nights begin to grow shorter and shorter, culminating in the summer solstice (June 21), when we'll experience the longest stretch of daylight and the shortest period of night. Thus the cycle, and the rhythm, of the seasons.

It's also noteworthy that it comes so close to the start of a new year, when, for many people, articulating New Year's resolutions has become a ritual. Perhaps the majestic sweep of planet earth around the sun has something to do with this urge, in ways we do not know. No matter. What matters is it gives us occasion to at least give expression to our inmost wishes for the as yet unspoiled year ahead. The symbolism almost presents itself: even in bleakest weather, there is hope.

...

For the city, this was a year of silent growth and consolidation. Except for a few pieces of the "puzzle," the basic elements of the IRG-driven Downey Landing project were put in place, with the final touches due to be made in the coming year. Kaiser-Permanente's expansion in Downey continues apace; its new hospital facility should bring added lustre to the community. The stewardship of Dave Gafin as mayor began, with visions of fully beefing up Downey police personnel dancing in his head. With its continual infrastructure upgrade, its enlightened support of the educational and cultural segments of the community, and a set of forward-looking economic policies, the city's boast of a limitless future shouldn't fall in the empty category.

...

I've got a few nuggets about education I want to share. Authorities past and present agree that the best academic preparation for anything—a profession, further specialization, or for living a good life—is a liberal education.

Charles Murray, W. H. Brady Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, equates liberal education with not just academic accomplishment but the encouragement of the acquisition of wisdom. This, he wrote, requires being steeped in the study of ethics: "children must know what it means to be good." The study of history aids in this, in addition to acquiring a basic mastery of the "analytical building blocks" of grammar and syntax, as well as logic. Thus he says young learners should be given the tools and the intellectual discipline for expressing themselves as adults.

Peter Berkovitz, a senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and who teaches at George Mason University School of Law, says: "Properly conceived, a liberal education provides invaluable benefits for students and the nation. For most students, it offers the last chance, perhaps until retirement, to read widely and deeply, to acquire knowledge of the opinions and events that formed them and the nation in which they live, and to study other peoples and cultures. A liberal education forms individuals fit for freedom."

He also says: "Citizens today are called on to analyze a formidable array of hard questions concerning war and peace, liberty and security, markets and morals, marriage and family, science and technology, poverty and public responsibility, and much more. No citizen can be expected

Nurses needed for disaster preparedness

WHITTIER – The Red Cross Rio Hondo Chapter in Whittier, which serves the communities of Downey, Bell Gardens, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier and some unincorporated service areas, needs nurses to volunteer toward preparedness for a major disaster.

To volunteer, contact Rosina Smith at (562) 864-7842.

lowing year. That's why there's a new vaccine every year.

"Vaccination of people at high risk each year before the influenza season is currently the most effective measure for reducing the impact of influenza," Kassinove said.

	Is it a cold or flu?	
<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Cold</i>	<i>Flu</i>
Fever	Rare	High (102-104 F) Last 3-4 days
Headache	Rare	Severe
General aches and pains	Slight	Usual and often, severe
Fatigue, weakness, tiredness	Quite mild	Early and severe, Last 2-3 weeks
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sneezing	Usual	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Sometimes, dry	Common, can become severe

What can you do to prevent from catching or spreading a cold or the flu?

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently. Wash hands before eating or touching the eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- Always use good respiratory hygiene.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. When you have finished, throw the tissue away.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer every time you cough or sneeze. Washing your hands helps keep from spreading illness among co-workers and family.
- If possible, stay home from work, school and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.

students in grades 9 -12 who reside in the 34th Congressional District.

The winning entry represents the 34th Congressional District for one year in a national exhibit at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The winning student is awarded a \$1,000 scholarship, a gift certificate and cash prize and is flown to our nation's capitol for the opening of the exhibit.

Artwork must be two-dimensional, no larger than 26 inches by 26 inches and must be an original concept. Entries, along with completed and signed entry forms, should be delivered to Congresswoman Roybal-Allard's District Office, 255 E. Temple St., Ste. 1860, Los Angeles, CA 90012 by 5 p.m. on February 13, 2008.

Complete guidelines and information packets are available at all high school guidance and youth centers in the 34th Congressional District.

to master all the issues. But liberal democracies count on more than a small minority acquiring the ability to reason responsibly about the many sides of these many-sided questions." A liberal education, he says, will provide this ability.

But my all-time favorite on the subject is an article in the *Atlantic Monthly* several years ago entitled "The Essentials of Education" by Sir Richard Livingstone of Oxford University.

The common thread that runs through all [true] education, he said, is to show what is first-rate in any subject. "Education will be incomplete and unsatisfactory if it fails to give a clear view of what is first-rate in the subject studied. Otherwise we may have got some knowledge, but we shall not have got education."

"The aim of education, then" he posits, "is to know the first-rate in any subject that we study, with a view to achieving it as nearly as our powers allow. If we could fix this firmly in our minds, we should not stumble through a variety of lessons, lectures, and books like a drunk man, only partially aware where we are or what we are doing. We should cease to think that we go to school or college to pass examinations or to secure degrees or diplomas or to satisfy our teacher, though these may be and are incidental and limited objectives. We should have brought order into our education by realizing its true aim and we should have deepened in our minds through practice the sense that a worthy purpose in life is the desire for excellence, the pursuit of the first-rate."

An educated man should know what is first-rate in such subjects as literature, art, architecture, and music, he said, as well as, if possible, science and philosophy. And where, he asks, does one learn what is first-rate? "The only way to learn it is to meet it," he said. "A medical student will learn something from seeing a great surgeon in the operating theater, or a great doctor in the hospital wards, which all the textbooks in the world cannot tell him. If anyone wishes to know how to teach, let him go and see a great teacher in the classroom. In any field the only way to learn what is first-rate is to see it. And the same surely is true in life itself. If we wish to know what the good life is we must make the acquaintance, and, if possible, keep the company of those who have known its meaning, and, better still, of those who have lived it. And if we wish to see man full face, it is to religion, literature and history that we must turn."

"The tenseness and strain of our daily occupations favor short sight," he goes on. "We have to focus our eyes on the business of the moment, and the power of long vision is easily lost. But man needs a long vision in life and should view it through bifocal spectacles. Through one lens he sees the immediate business of the moment; otherwise he will not do that business well. Through the other he sees life and our occupations and himself in the light of what Plato calls all time and all existence."

He said Lincoln was such a man. "He was a practical statesman, dealing all the time with the day-to-day problems of politics and war. Yet he was a man who at the same time saw them in the light of the eternal issues. The feeling which Lincoln's words give in the Gettysburg speech and— even more—the magnificent close of the Second Inaugural, is given in one way or another by the great Greeks, by Dante, by Shakespeare. They enlarge our vision. Read them, make them your companions through life; otherwise you may live on its surface and forget its depths."

CSULB receives science grant

LONG BEACH – The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) awarded a four-year \$950,694 grant to the Department of Science Education at California State University, Long Beach to help improve science teaching in kindergarten through second grade.

The "K-2 Teaching Learning Collaborative" (TLC) is a partnership between CSULB, Montebello and Garvey School Districts in Los Angeles County, as well as the K-12 Alliance, a statewide professional development organization. CSULB's Department of Science Education is part of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and collaborates with the university's College of Education.

The grant will fund 42 teachers for a series of summer institutes and small group lesson study teams throughout each school year for the next three years. In addition, a small number of participants will receive additional support to become program facilitators at school sites. The project will also build on the work the districts have done to support English language learners. The summer institute will be coupled with district training in English language development (ELD) and specially designed academic instruction in English.

Assistant professor Susan Gomez-Zwiep and assistant professor William Straits will coordinate the research component that will focus on the programs' impact on student achievement and teacher growth. The current research plan will include both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.

The quantitative piece will utilize district ELD and language arts assessments to measure growth in those areas as well as instruments developed specifically for the program to gauge both student and teacher growth in science. The qualitative research methods will provide a deeper, more three-dimensional picture of teacher growth during the three years they participate in the program.

The grant program is modeled after an earlier CPEC program for grades 4-12 and a current program for teachers in grades 4-9.

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'Tintypes' visits the turn of the century

DOWNEY - The Downey Civic Light Opera will be presenting "Tintypes" Feb. 21 through March 9.

Similar to "Ragtime," "Tintypes" takes the audience back to the turn of the century, when America consisted of slower-paced days of ice cream socials and hoop skirts, also giving way to the bustling world of automobiles, electricity and the telephone.

The production features popular songs from 1890 to 1917, including "Yankee Doodle Dandy," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "Bill Bailey," "Toyland," "Shortnin' Bread," and "The Ragtime Dance."

Marsha Moore will be in the director's chair and Eddy Clement will return as musical director. Making his DCLO debut as choreographer is Casey Garritano.

For information, or to purchase tickets, call (562) 923-1714. Group rates are available.

'Rehearsal for Murder' a modern mystery

LA HABRA - "Rehearsal for Murder," a mystery, psychodrama involving the death of actress Monica Welles on the opening night of her Broadway debut, will be playing Jan. 18 to Feb. 10 at the La Habra Depot Theatre.

A year after her death, Welles' fiancé - playwright Alex Dennison - creates a new play as part of a scheme to flush out the killer, bringing the murder suspects back together in the theatre where it all began. The suspects include Bella, the eccentric producer; Lloyd, the fastidious director; David, the smarmy leading man; Karen, the rising star; and Leo, the bumbling comic star. They all have motives, but the clues eventually lead to a thrilling final twist and the murderer's real identity.

"This play has it all - suspense, romance, and a play within a play," said Philip Brickey, director. "The plot will keep you guessing until the very last moment with the audience on the edges of their seats."

"Rehearsal for Murder" was adapted by D.D. Brooke from a highly successful 1982 teleplay written by Richard Levinson and William Link. The teleplay was awarded the 1983 Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students, children and seniors.

For information, or to purchase tickets, call (562) 905-9625, or visit www.lhdepottheatre.org.

The La Habra Depot Theatre is located at 311 S. Euclid St. in La Habra.

'Disney on Ice' returns to L.A.

LOS ANGELES - "Disney on Ice presents Princess Wishes," an ice-skating event featuring favorite Disney characters, will be featured at the Los Angeles Sports Arena Jan. 3-6 and at the Long Beach Arena Jan. 9-13.

Tickets are priced from \$16 to \$65. For tickets, visit www.disneyonice.com or call (213) 480-3232.

Playhouse features 'The Deadly Game'

LONG BEACH - The Long Beach Playhouse Mainstage Theatre will be featuring "The Deadly Game," a mystery thriller by James Yaffe, Jan. 4 - Feb. 9.

"The Deadly Game" is about three retired men of law in a remote house in the Swiss Alps that amuse themselves by going through the legal ceremony of prosecuting strangers who drop in. An American traveling salesman is their guest on a snowy evening and although their 'deadly game' seems foolish to him, he agrees to it to humor his hosts. Since he has never been guilty of a crime in his life, he is unable to propose anything they can try him for. After a little amiable social conversation, the retired prosecutor discovers a plausible case: he accuses the traveling salesman of having murdered his boss.

Tickets for the Jan. 4 preview performance are \$12 each, or two for \$20. Tickets for opening night on Jan. 5 are \$25, which includes a champagne reception with the director, cast, crew and playhouse staff. Regular ticket prices are \$22 for general admission, \$20 for seniors and \$12 for students (for Friday and Saturday performances only).

Ticket information is available by calling the box office at (562) 494-1014, or visiting www.lbph.com.

New & noteworthy titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- **"Acts of Nature"** by Jonathan King. Private eye Max Freeman and Detective Sherry Richards escape to the Everglades for a peaceful getaway, until a violent hurricane rips through south Florida; and that's the least of their worries.
- **"The Appeal"** by John Grisham. In the bestselling author's latest legal thriller, justice is for sale - and only the rich can afford it.
- **"Breakfast with Buddha"** by Roland Merullo. A successful New York editor embarks on a road trip and spiritual journey in this low key comedy.
- **"A Free Life"** by Ha Jin. After the repression of the democracy movement in China, Nan Wu drops out of a U.S. graduate school to find his voice as a poet.
- **"Smart Girls Like Me"** by Diane Vadino. It's December 1999 in New York City. Betsey, a 24-year-old assistant editor of a dot com fashion magazine is making plans for the end of the world.

Non-Fiction

- **"The Elder Wisdom Circle Guide for a Meaningful Life: Seniors Across America Offer Advice to the Next Generations"** by Doug Meckelson. A group of 600 seniors share their thoughts on living well.
 - **"Everything He Hasn't Told You Yet"** by Burton Silver & Martin O'Connor. This is a communication guide to help you get the men in your life to talk about the things that matter.
 - **"How I Learned English: 55 Accomplished Latinos Recall Lessons in Language and Life"** by Tom Miller, editor. In this inspiring collection of essays, Latinos reveal how they mastered the challenges of the English language.
 - **"Madonna: Like an Icon"** by Lucy O'Brien. A journalist gives an in-depth look at the star, her music and her life.
 - **"Sneaky Chef: Simple Strategies for Hiding Healthy Foods in Kids' Favorite Meals"** by Missy Lapine. Tips for parents who want to make a habit of nutritious family meals and snacks.
- Visit the library at 11121 Brookshire Ave. or www.downeylibrary.org or call (562) 904-7360 ext. 3 to check out or reserve these new titles.

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.

'Phantom of the Opera' coming next year

COSTA MESA - The Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera" will return to Segerstrom Hall at the Orange County Performing Arts Center for a four-week engagement next year from March 26 through April 19.

The show will be produced by the Cameron Mackintosh/Really Useful Theatre Company. Harold Prince will direct.

Ticket prices are \$21.25 to \$73.25 and are available by calling (714) 556-2787 or online at www.ocpac.org.

'The Crusaders' to perform Jan. 19

COSTA MESA - The Crusaders, with guest vocalist Randy Crawford, will be performing at the Orange County Performing Artscenter on Jan. 19.

Known as the original superstars of jazz-funk, The Crusaders' brand of hard swing is a rich blend of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and Count Basie.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$79 and can be purchased at the box office located at 600 Town Center Dr. in Costa Mesa, or by calling (714) 556-2787 or visiting www.OCPAC.org.

New Entertainment this week

CD Releases

- Radiohead - *In Rainbows*
 - Vanessa Paradis - *Divinidyle*
 - J.R. - *Life by Stereo*
 - Elvis Presley - *Elvis: Viva Las Vegas*
- Source: Amazon.com

DVD Releases

- MOVIES**
- "Resident Evil: Extinction"
 - "September Dawn"
 - "Shoot 'Em Up"
 - "War"
- TV/MISC.**
- "Weird Science -- Seasons 1 & 2"
 - "Roy Jones Jr -- Greatest Fights"
- Source: Amazon.com

Book Releases

- "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks
 - "The 12 Second Sequence: Shrink Your Waist in 2 Weeks!" by Jorge Cruise
 - "Age of Miracles" by Marianne Williamson
 - "Bleeding Kansas" by Sara Paretsky
 - "The Essential Chomsky" by Noam Chomsky
 - "How Not to Look Old: Fast and Effortless Ways to Look 10 Years Younger, 10 Pounds Lighter, 10 Times Better" by Charla Krupp
 - "In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto" by Michael Pollan
 - "The Shooters (Presidential Agent Series #4)" by W. E. B. Griffin
- Source: barnesandnoble.com

Concerts

- FRIDAY, DEC. 28**
- George Lopez - Nokia Theatre
 - Pato Banton - HOB Anaheim
 - Reverend Horton Heat, Hank II - Grove of Anaheim
 - Young Dubliners - Coach House
- SATURDAY**
- Cheap Trick - Galaxy Theatre
 - Dancing w/ the Stars - Staples Cent.
 - George Lopez - Nokia Theatre
 - Zebrahead - HOB Anaheim
- SUNDAY**
- Chris Brown, Bow Wow, Sean Kingston, Soulja Boy, Shop Boys - Gibson Amphitheatre
 - George Lopez - Nokia Theatre
 - Metro Station - El Rey Theatre
 - War - Grove of Anaheim
- MONDAY**
- Chris Brown, Bow Wow, Sean Kingston, Soulja Boy, Shop Boys - Gibson Amphitheatre
 - George Lopez - Nokia Theatre
 - O.C. New Year's Eve - Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre
 - Slightly Stoopid - HOB Anaheim
- TUESDAY**
- Social Distortion - HOB Anaheim
- THURSDAY**
- B.B. King - HOB Anaheim
- Source: Casenet

Video Game Releases

- Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock with Guitar - PS2, X360, PS3, Wii
 - Kidz Sports: Basketball - Wii
 - Monster Truck Offroad - Wii
 - Myth Makers: Orbs of Doom - Wii
 - Classic British Motor Racing - Wii
 - Big Racer 2 - Wii
 - Kawasaki Quad Bikes - Wii
- Source: egames.com

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ALIENS VS. PREDATOR 2 R	(11:15 1:45 4:15) 6:45 9:15
ALIENS VS. PREDATOR 2 R	(12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15
THE GREAT DEBATERS PG13	(10:45 1:45 4:45) 7:45 10:45
THE WATER HORSE PG	(10:50 1:35 4:20) 7:05 9:50
NATIONAL TREASURE 2 PG	(10:20 1:20 4:20) 7:20 10:20
NATIONAL TREASURE 2 PG	(11:20 2:20) 5:20 8:20
P.S. I LOVE YOU PG13	(10:30 1:30 4:30) 7:30 10:30
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR R	(12:15 2:50) 5:25 8:00 10:35
WALK HARD R	(11:35 2:05 4:35) 7:05 9:35
I AM LEGEND PG13	(11:45 2:15 4:45) 7:15 9:45
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS PG	(10:30 1:20 4:10) 7:00 9:50

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ALIENS VS. PREDATOR - REQUIEM R (12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20)

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP PG (10:55, 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55)

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR R (11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:25, 10:05)

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS PG (10:00, 10:45, 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45, 7:00, 7:45, 10:00, 10:45)

P.S. I LOVE YOU PG-13 (11:00, 1:55, 4:45), 7:40, 10:40

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY R (10:05, 12:25, 2:50, 5:20), 7:55, 10:25

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS PG (10:10, 11:10, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:35, 5:30), 7:05, 8:00, 9:30

I AM LEGEND PG-13 (11:05, 1:50, 4:40), 7:30, 10:20

THE GOLDEN COMPASS PG-13 10:15 PM

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Downey resident Mary Aguilera passed away Dec. 8. She is survived by a large family.

Mary Aguilera will be missed by family

DOWNEY – Mary Aguilera, Downey resident for seven years, passed away on Dec. 8. She was 74.

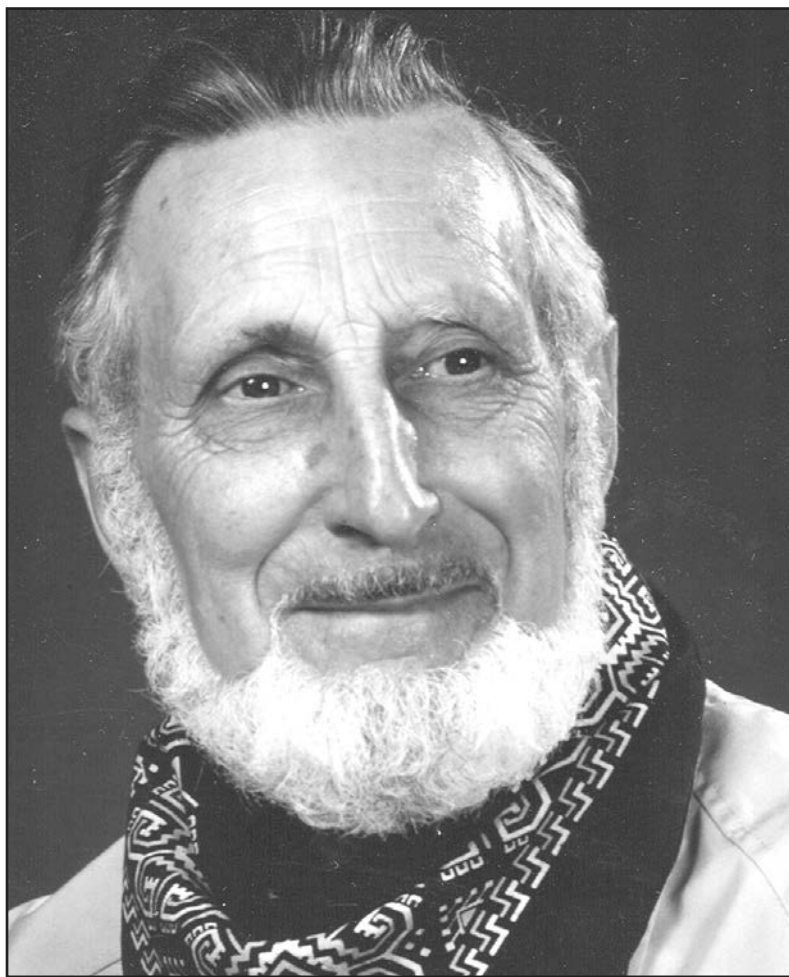
Aguilera was born on March 7, 1933 in Safford, Ariz. to Demesio and Emma Contreras. She attended school in Oxnard, Calif. and later lived in Lordsburg, N.M., where she met and married Frank V. Aguilera, a WWII veteran. In 1966, they moved their family to California.

Aguilera was an active member of her church and enjoyed listening to music, singing, cooking, and spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by daughters, Burma and Lily, and husband, Frank.

She is survived by nine children, 20 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Services were on Dec. 13 at McCormick Mortuary in Hawthorne. Interment services were on Dec. 17 at Riverside National Cemetery.



Ervin Jay During resided in Downey for 58 years before passing away Dec. 12. He was 89.

Ervin Jay During worked for LAUSD

DOWNEY – Ervin Jay During, Downey resident for 58 years, passed away on Dec. 12 at the age of 89.

During was born in Ludlow Township, Ill. in 1918. He supervised over 52 schools for the Los Angeles Unified School District, retiring after 25 years. He was the last of 13 siblings to pass away.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Faye; son, Craig (Mary) During; daughter, Claudia Huert; granddaughter, Shelby (Kevin) Riggs; and great-grandchildren Emma and Jason Riggs.

Services were held on Dec. 18 at Rose Hills Memorial Park.

Downey Museum closed for holidays

DOWNEY – The Downey Museum of Art will be closed for the holidays and will reopen Feb. 1.

Staff, however, will be working at the museum and if a group is interested in visiting, they can make an appointment by calling (562) 861-0419.

Resident Lila M. Mann passes away at 88

DOWNEY – Lila M. Mann passed away Dec. 21. She was 88.

Mann is survived by daughters, Alice Weisman, Lois Landgren and Helen Harlin; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Jan. 5 at Downey United Methodist Church at 2 p.m. Interment took place at the Riverside National Cemetery. Donations can be made to the Parkinsons Disease Association.

Get help reducing property taxes

CERRITOS – The County of Los Angeles is sponsoring a series of free seminars during January, February and March to assist property owners who feel their taxes should be lowered due to a decline in the value of their property.

The 90-minute seminars will be offered six times at six locations. The seminar closest to Downey will be at the Cerritos Park East Community Center, 13234 E. 166th St. on March 24 at 10 a.m.

The seminars will cover taxpayers appeal rights and when to file an application for reduction in assessment. The seminars will also cover how to prepare for a hearing, what qualifies as admissible evidence, what will happen at the hearing and what to expect after the hearing.

For more information on the seminars, call (213) 974-4240.

Richard Hannon, 1930-2007

Richard Hannon, born March 21, 1930 in Brooklyn, New York, died December 20, 2007 of congestive heart failure and Alzheimers. Richard moved to California in 1941 with his mother and step-father. His father, John Hannon was gassed during World War I while serving in France and lived out his life at Sawtelle Veteran's Hospital.

Richard graduated from South Gate High School in 1948. He served on board the U.S.S. Kearsarge for 2 years during the Korean War. After the service he went to Los Angeles City College to get his degree in sociology.

In 1955 Richard married Doris Sipowicz and they had 2 children; Cindy and Mike.

Richard was preceded in death by his father, mother, step-father and brother, John. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Doris, daughter Cindy Robb, son Mike Hannon, and 4 grandchildren, Doug and Matt Robb, and Sarah and Erika Hannon.

Paid Obituary

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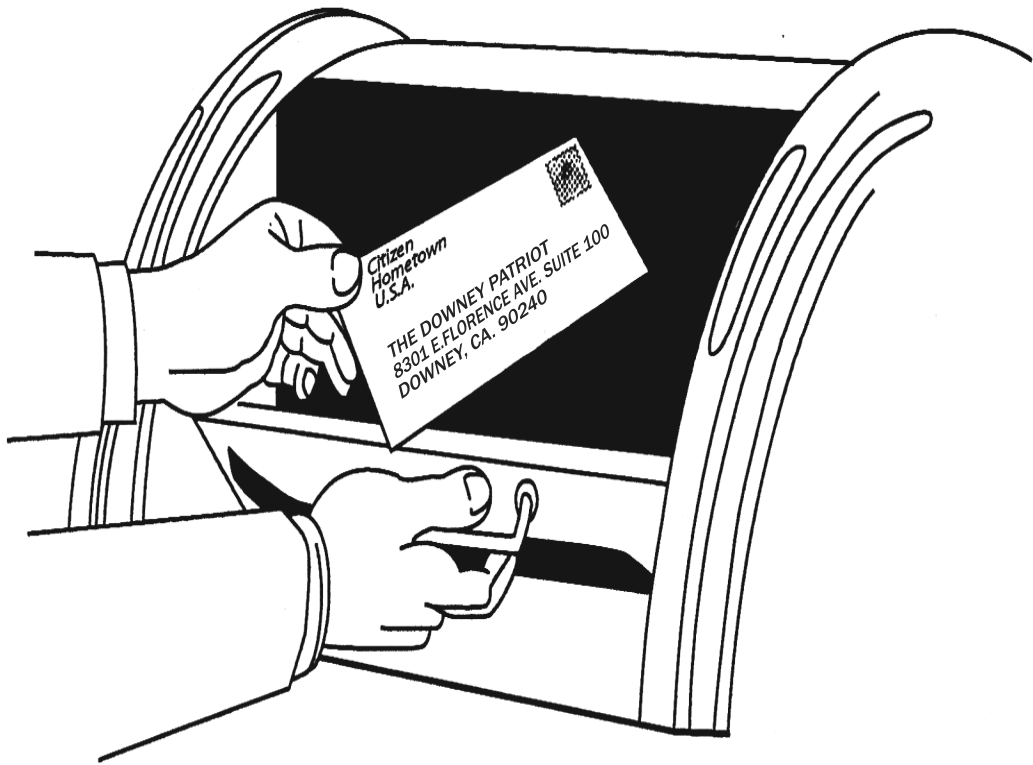
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Christmas trees to be recycled by CalMet

DOWNEY – Downey residents receiving automated curbside trash collection may place their holiday trees curbside on their regular trash day. Collection of trees will run from Dec. 26 to Jan. 18.

The trees will be collected by CalMet Services, the city's franchised refuse hauler, and taken to the Puente Hills Landfill, where they will be composted or ground up and used for the County Sanitation Districts' Landfill Cover Project.

Before being picked up, all tree stands and decorations should be removed, trees over four feet tall should be cut in half and trees should not be put into bags. Flocked trees will also be picked up.

Residents and businesses may also bring trees to a "Tree Drop-Off Bin" at the city's Public Works Yard parking lot, located at 12324 Bellflower Blvd., behind Independence Park. The drop-off will be available from Dec. 26 to Jan. 18.

Commercial accounts such as businesses and apartments may call CalMet at (562) 259-1239, ext. 7, for free pick-up of holiday trees. Trees must be set out at the curb and not by trash bins.

In addition, the Downey Fire Department suggests the following tree fire safety tips:

1. Provide a water reservoir for your tree and maintain the water level at two-thirds full, the first watering should be with warm water.
2. Placement should be away from fireplaces, wall heating units, and central heating air ducts. A distance equal to the height of the tree.
3. Any lights placed on your tree should be U.L. approved and in good condition.
4. Check for dryness by standing in front of a branch, grasp it with reasonably firm pressure and pull your hand toward you, allowing the branch to slip through your grasp. If needles fall off readily, the tree does not have adequate moisture content and should be removed immediately.



Elizabeth Salguero recently joined the staff at Century 21 My Real Estate Co. Salguero attended East Los Angeles College and has a license in cosmetology. "Elizabeth is an asset to our team with her enthusiastic approach and customer skills," said Steve Roberson, owner and broker. To contact Salguero, call (562) 927-2626.



Century 21 My Real Estate Co. welcomes Charita King to their office. King has a bachelor's degree in finance and an associate's degree in computer business information systems. "Charita has shown a lot of motivation, drive and persistence," said Angie Pierce, office manager. To contact King, call (562) 927-2626.



Vivian Shaffer recently joined the staff at Century 21 My Real Estate Co. "She will be delivering a high level of quality service and customer satisfaction in her real estate dealings," said Steve Roberson, owner and broker. To contact Shaffer, call (562) 927-2626.

Photography class geared towards local handicapped students

DOWNEY – Downey Adult School will be offering a new class when its winter session begins Jan. 10, "Digital Photography and Photoshop Elements," a class specifically designed for adults with a physical disability.

The distinctive class was developed in conjunction with Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

The class will teach students what to look for when purchasing a digital camera, the basic and more advanced functions of a digital camera and menu systems. Students will also learn how to download pictures, use a kiosk machine, and get pictures processed through a photo processing website.

In addition, the class will teach students how to take better pictures and how to touch up pictures and add special effects using Adobe Photoshop Elements, the world's leading graphic arts software.

The class is a good opportunity for students to discover their creativity, develop a new hobby or gain skills for a potential career, said instructor Virginia Rooney, who received the Downey Unified School District's "Teacher of the Year" award in 2005.

Michael Ziegler, a professional photographer who has owned and maintained a photo studio and lab for 30 years, will also help lead the class.

"Digital Photography and Photoshop Elements" will meet Thursdays 3 to 5:30 p.m. at Downey Adult School from Jan. 10 to March 20. There is a \$15 registration fee.

For more information on this or other classes, call (562) 940-6200 or visit www.das.edu.

Roybal-Allard recognizes Port of L.A. anniversary

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard joined her colleagues on Dec. 5 in speaking on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives during a Special Order in support of a resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Port of Los Angeles. House Resolution 822 passed the House on Dec. 5 by a vote of 410 to 0. A House Resolution is a non-legislative measure that is effective only in the House and does not require approval by the Senate or the President. The full text of Roybal-Allard's remarks, followed by a list of the participating members of Congress who spoke during the Special Order, appear below:

"Madam Speaker: I rise today in support of House Resolution 822 recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Port of Los Angeles, and I commend Congresswoman Laura Richardson for its introduction.

When the port opened in 1907, the population of the City of Los Angeles stood at only 300,000 residents. Today, the city is a thriving

metropolis of more than four million residents, and is the second largest city in the nation. This transformation into a sprawling urban giant is due in part to the ever growing global trade that passes through the Port.

The port is a major gateway to the Pacific Rim. It handles an estimated \$225 billion worth of cargo a year. With the neighboring Port of Long Beach, it is the largest container port complex in the nation and the tenth largest in the world.

The Port of Los Angeles is critical to the local economy. It contributes \$1.4 billion in state and local tax revenues, provides 259,000 jobs, and pays \$8.4 billion in wages annually.

On this historic 100th anniversary, I salute the Port Authority, the City of Los Angeles, the communities of Wilmington and San Pedro which hosts the port, and especially the thousands of hard working men and women who ensure the port's daily operations and reliable movement of goods."

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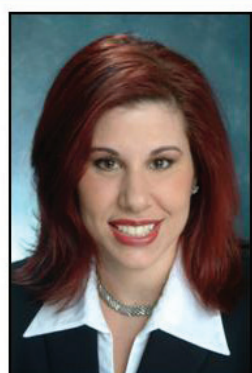
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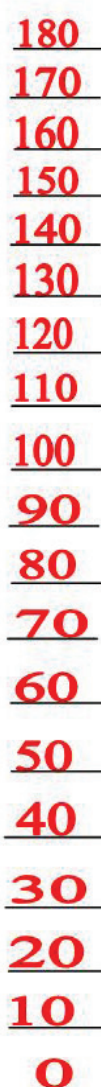
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Felix Garcia



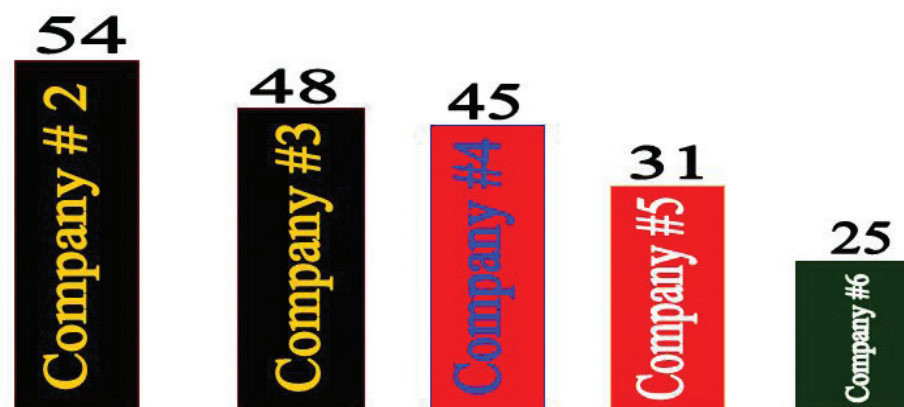
Felix Lopez



180
170
160
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Irma Sandoval



Tami Sladana



Monique Fernandez



Maria Cortez



Yolanda Urena



Pam Lee



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Angel Martinez



Flor Rodas



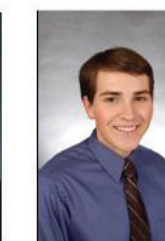
Arlene Tanner



Moises Amescua



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