

The Downey Patriot



Coca-Cola feted for energy use
See Page 3



Space Center delays opening
See Page 2



Team back from Orlando
See Page 12

Friday, January 16, 2009

Vol. 7 No. 39

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

New retail center a dream come true for local family

■ Shopping center at Myrtle and Second steets opens Feb. 1.

BY MARY FORNEY,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Construction of the Myrtle Plaza shopping center is nearing completion and is expected to be open for business Feb. 1.

Located on the corner of Myrtle and Second streets in downtown Downey, the plaza has already rented five of its 15 retail spaces that range in size from 665 feet to 1,950 square feet.

The new shopping center occupants that have already signed leases include an internet coffee and yogurt shop, a women's clothing boutique, a shrimp specialty restaurant, a beauty supply store, and an escrow office.

Designed by Robert Stewart Architects of Long Beach, the shopping center is being constructed by E-Tech from Los Angeles.

Building a shopping center in Downey is a dream Myrtle Plaza owner Giovanni Persico, 81, shared with his wife Juseppina, who died in 2007 at the age of 75.

The couple acquired the property in 2002 and the shopping center construction began in February 2008.

"This has been a large project that has come to pass," said son Johnny Persico, 51. "We should have done this two years ago because it is tough building these days. You really have to have perseverance because the banks are holding back on everything."

"But my parents wanted to do this just for us kids – everything they did was for our future and the



Myrtle Plaza has already rented five of its 15 retail spaces. The retail center was the dream of Giovanni and Juseppina Persico. Photo by Mary Forney

future of their grandchildren."

With no more than fourth and fifth grade educations, Giovanni and his wife emigrated from Italy to Ohio during the 1950's. Working as a floor sweeper in an Italian deli and in a steel mill, Giovanni saved enough money to buy his first pizzeria in Cleveland which he named Pina Pizza after his wife.

In 1959, the Persico's moved to Downey and opened Pina's Pizza House on the corner of Firestone Boulevard and Second Street, and eventually Papa John's Car Wash. Now suffering from failing health, Giovanni sold the car wash two years ago and his children run Pina Pizza House.

"We have always done business as a family. My mother was still in

here working when she was in her 70's," Johnny said.

On April 15, the Persico siblings – Johnny, brother Caro, and sister Amerlia Alberico – will celebrate the 50-year anniversary of their parents first opening Pina's Pizza House in Downey.

"My parents instilled in us to save money and to work hard," Johnny said. "That's why they had what they had. Building the shopping center won't make us millionaires, but hopefully it will continue to generate income for our future family generations."

Giovanni's dream for his children and grandchildren – the Myrtle Plaza – is conveniently located behind the Persico family's Pina Pizza House restaurant.

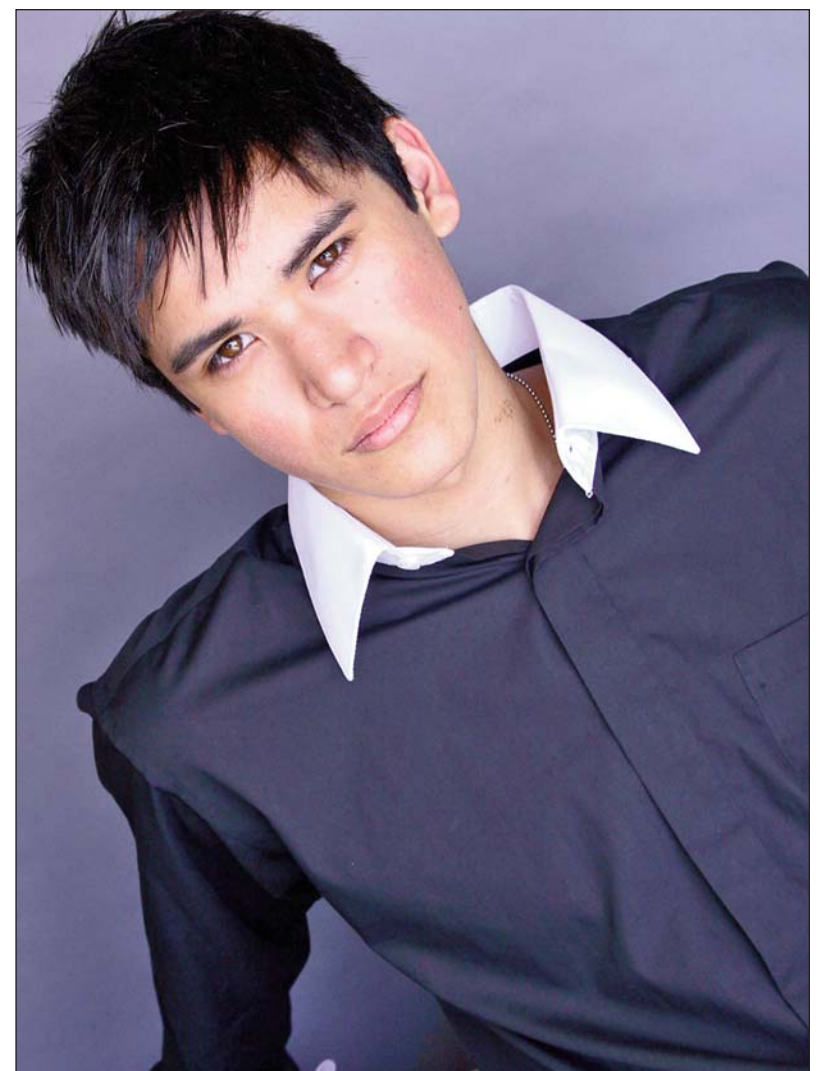
"This is very upscale and has so much class," said BRC Advisors Managing Partner Tom Papoulias.

"They spared no cost and used the finest materials constructing the shopping center. Even the brick parking lot is beautiful and looks so much better than just blacktop."

Johnny hopes to have a grand opening ceremony, but a date has not yet been set.

"We are just waiting for the certificate of occupancy from the city and the tenants can start moving into the shopping center," Johnny said.

Businesses interested in renting retail space in Myrtle Plaza can call Tom Papoulias at (562) 304-7616.



Downey resident and talented dancer Nathaniel Trasoras will take part in youngARTS Week in Miami, after being chosen from a pool of more than 6,000 applicants.

Dancer chosen for week in Miami

MIAMI, FLA. – Downey resident Nathaniel Trasoras, a young dancer and senior at Orange County High School of the Arts in Santa Ana, is one of 141 high school seniors selected from a pool of 6,000 applicants nationwide to participate in youngARTS Week, the core program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA).

The Miami-based program annually rewards exceptionally talented 17- and 18-year-old artists with an all-expense paid residency at youngARTS Week in Miami.

Nathaniel is also eligible for more than \$500,000 in prize money.

As one of the 2009 winners, Nathaniel will participate in a week

of workshops, classes, showcases, performances, exhibitions, and personal mentoring by some of America's leading artists.

"Each year youngARTS offers the most talented of America's young artists the encouragement and means to transform their dreams into a reality as it has done for many of our alumni," said Christina DePaul president and CEO of NFAA.

Past recipients include three-time Tony Award-nominee Raul Esparza, visual artist Doug Aitken, Broadway star and modern dancer Desmond Richardson, National Book Award-nominee Allegra Goodman and 2009 Grammy-nominee violinist Jennifer Koh.



A 23-member delegation from the Jiangxi Province, China toured Downey last week. It was the second Chinese delegation to visit Downey in two weeks. Photo by Ted Hiler/Downey Police Department

Downey hosts second Chinese delegation

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY — The city of Downey welcomed a 23-member delegation from Jiangxi Province, China on Thursday last week, the second visit here in little more than two weeks by high-ranking government officials from that country of 1.2 billion people.

On Dec. 23, Downey Regional Medical Center played host to a 30-member delegation from Jiangxi's

southern neighbor, Anhui Province. Anhui Province is 600 miles south of Beijing and 100 miles west of Shanghai.

Both visits, which include trips to such places as San Francisco and CalTech, were arranged by Pasadena-based U.S. China Business Institute, which has started an aggressive promotion of professional, cultural, and business exchanges between the two countries. Its president, Charlie King, acted as translator/interpreter for

the group.

Because of her Chinese connection through her and her late husband's Medical Books for China International, Mary Phillips again served as an unofficial tour guide/consultant.

In the absence of the other City Council members, Mayor Mario Guerra bore the brunt of questioning by the contingent, which ranged anywhere from how the police force tries to keep Downey safe to what impact the economic

slowdown has had on city operations. Assisting him on this were administrators/department heads including: assistant city manager Lee Powell, police chief Roy Campos, deputy city manager/community development Gilbert Livas, building director Linda Haines, community services director Thad Phillips, city clerk Kathleen Midstokke, and planning/economic development's

See CHINA, page 3

Optimism reigns despite DRMC's past troubles

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

It is no secret that, even before this era of bailouts and economic stimulus packages, the fate of Downey Regional Medical Center already hung in the balance and was a hot topic of conversation around town.

Indeed, at this time last year, the not-for-profit public corporation was, in the words of its executive vice president/chief operating officer Robert Fuller, "on the verge of bankruptcy."

Concerns about its viability as a continuing concern finally prompted the Downey Hospital Commission to call a special meeting last Dec. 3 to look at the situation. What its audited consolidated financial statements as of June 30, 2007, revealed was traumatic: an operating loss of \$35.5 million (we learned later that this figure was accumulated over four years), a negative working capital of about \$12 million, its cash position pre-

carious at best, etc.

In other words, the figures showed a hospital in deep trouble.

This is how Fuller, a graduate of Dartmouth and Stanford Law School who worked for an oil company and practiced law for over 30 years prior to joining DRMC in 2003, pictured the hospital's tribulations and struggles to right itself:

"We initiated a ground-level review/restructuring of operations (including its pricing structure, patient care delivery, the computer system, the whole system); The system was so broken the hospital was losing \$2 million a month, the sad state of affairs lasting through February of last year, and thus running a deficit of some \$10-\$15 million a year; We looked at everything, every charge, every bill";

"On the financing side, under the capitation formula, collection of accounts receivable in health-care took 90 days, while the traditional form of payment (fee-for-

See DRMC, page 3

Church to collect unwanted e-waste

DOWNEY – First Presbyterian Church of Downey will be accepting unwanted electronics at a recycling event tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Materials accepted are computers, monitors, TVs, LCD panels, printers, other computer related equipment, stereos, cell phones, VCRs, microwaves, and other household electronics. Not accepted will be air conditioners, de-humidifiers, smoke detectors and white goods such as washers, dryers, stoves and refrigerators. No appointment is necessary and a second round-up will be held Feb. 7. First Presbyterian Church is at 10544 Downey Ave. For more information, call (562) 861-6752.

Lee finishes leadership course

SAN ANTONIO, TEX. – Army Reserve 2nd Lt. Joshua S. Lee has graduated from the Army Medical Officer Basic Leadership Course at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Tex. The course is designed to train medical corps officers to be competent in and knowledgeable of the Army Care System, Army doctrine, and basic officer-soldier leadership skills; have an understanding of Army organizations, operations and procedures; possess an ability to apply the concepts of health protection for soldiers and their families; have the ability to communicate, interact and coordinate as a staff member; and orientation in military survival skills for the contemporary operating environment. Lee received a bachelor's degree from UC-Berkeley in 2001. He is the son of Young and Joan Lee of Downey.

Register early for snow day Feb. 7

DOWNEY – Children ages 3-11 are invited to enjoy a "Snow Play Day" Feb. 7 at Apollo Park, but pre-registration is required and limited to a first-come, first-served basis. Each snow session is 45 minutes long. Sessions will begin at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m. Cost is \$8 kids and \$2 for adults to accompany children ages 3-5. Sixteen tons of snow will be brought in for the event, along with three sled runs, a snow play area, and a snowman. Photos with the snowman are \$2 each, while supplies last. Registration will begin Wednesday at the Community Services Department inside City Hall. Permission need to be completed at time of registration. For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

Final chance for Ponytail tryouts

DOWNEY – Final registration and tryouts for Downey Ponytail softball will take place this weekend at Independence Park. Girls must tryout in their own division. Tryouts are scheduled Saturday at 10 a.m. for 14U and 12:30 p.m. for 10U. They continue Sunday at noon for 12U and conclude at 2:30 p.m. for 8U. Girls are advised to arrive early.



Connections networking recently installed new officers for 2009. They include, from left: Nick Smith, vice president (LPL Financial); Sandy Esslinger, president (Juice Plus); Dorothy Michael, secretary (The Downey Patriot); and Pam Powers, treasurer (Pacific Western Bank).

Pageant applications now available

DOWNEY – Applications for the 2009 Miss Downey/Miss Teen Downey Pageant are now available at many sites throughout the city, the Downey Rose Float Association has announced. Applications are available at Downey and Warren high schools; Griffiths, East, West and Sussman middle schools; the Downey Chamber of Commerce; and the Downey City Library. An application can also be downloaded from the Downey Rose Float Association's website, www.downeyrose.org. Miss Downey contestants must be between the ages of 16-23 by March 21, and must live, attend school or work in Downey. Miss Teen Downey contestants must live or attend school in Downey, and be between 13-15. The fee to apply is \$18. Completed applications should be mailed to DRFA P.O. Box 765, Downey, CA, 90241. Deadline is Jan. 23. An orientation will be held Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. inside the library's Cormack Room.

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Space Center opening delayed

DOWNEY – The opening of the Columbia Memorial Space Center in Downey has been indefinitely postponed as the new center needs more time to get up to speed. The center had been scheduled to open to the public Jan. 31. "Delays with the completion of some of the exhibits and the installation of the Space Mission Simulator are the main reasons for the postponement," Executive Director Jon Betthausen said in a press release. "The additional time will allow the city to move into the building and to ensure operations are functioning as efficiently as possible prior to opening." Mayor Mario Guerra echoed the sentiments. "We will hit the ground running when everything is ready to go," he said. "This will be a great addition to the city of Downey, and a real asset to our community and region. And we want to make sure everything is working smoothly before our grand opening." The center was named an official memorial to the Space Shuttle Columbia by a joint resolution of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The Columbia Memorial Space Center will honor the crew of STS-107 lost on Feb. 1, 2003: Rick Husband, Willie McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark and Ilan Ramon. The center was officially dedicated by the City Council on Nov. 15. The new grand opening date will be later this year and will be announced soon, Betthausen said.

City updating list of contractors

DOWNEY – General contractors interested in being added to the city of Downey Housing Division's bidders list must attend a meeting Jan. 23 at 8 a.m. in the Gallatin Room at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center. The city's Housing Division hosts an annual orientation meeting regarding its Home Improvement Program for low and moderate income property owners. A typical project may include reroofing, kitchen and bathroom remodeling, restucco, plumbing, repipe, window replacement and painting. Projects will involve treating areas identified as containing lead-based paint. These areas require treatment by licensed sub-contractors certified by the State Department of Health Services in the removal or stabilization of lead-based paint. Projects could range from \$1,000 to \$40,000. Qualifying contractors are required to possess a valid California contractor's license, liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million total liability with the city of Downey listed as an additional insured, and Workman's Compensation insurance. Contractors must also supply the name, address, telephone number and Department of Health Services license number for the sub-contractors to be used in lead-based paint treatment. For more information, call Mark Morris at (562) 904-7167.

Newspapers All Across USA
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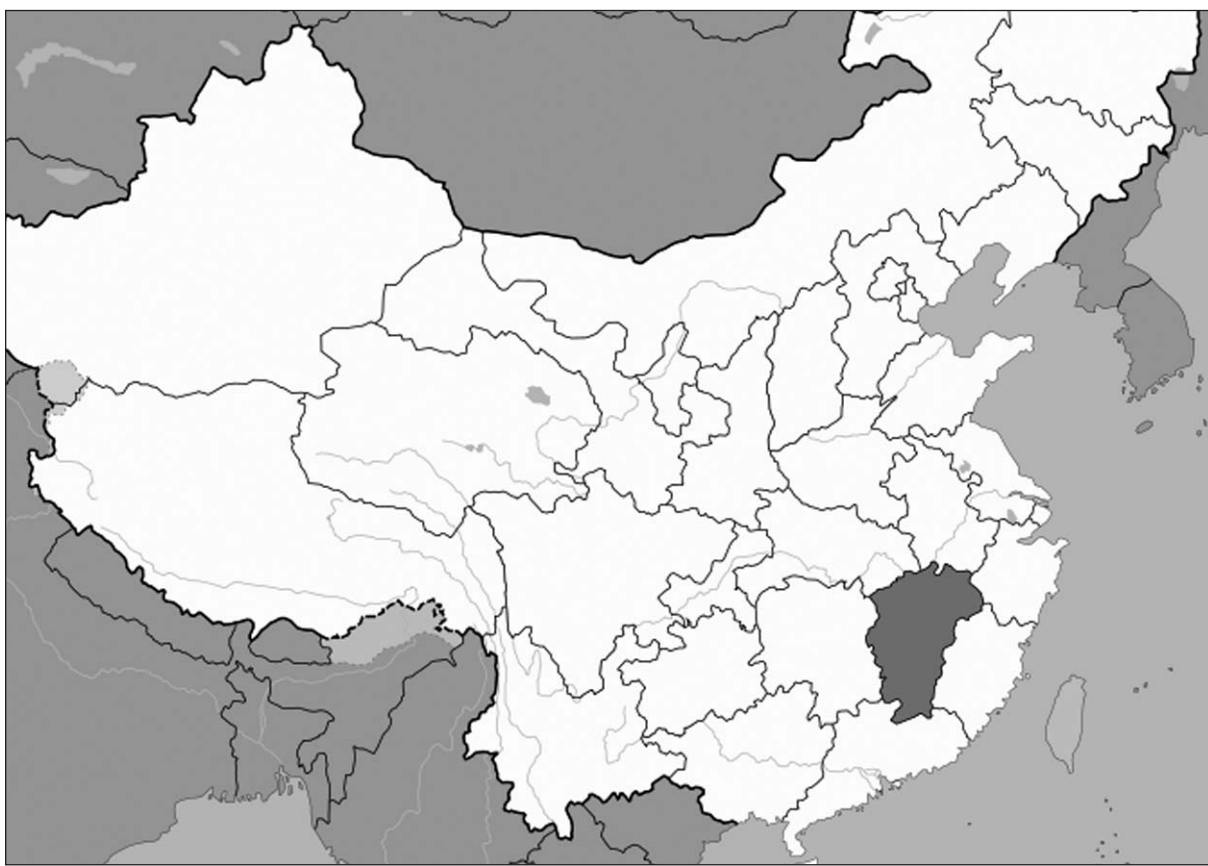
Reserve your spot at one of the these events:

Fri., Jan. 16 • 10:00am IHOP 4991 Lincoln Ave Cypress	Mon., Jan. 19 • 2:00pm Mimi's Café 12727 Towne Ctr Dr Cerritos	Tues., Jan. 20 • 2:00pm Original Roadhouse 15156 E Whittier Blvd Whittier	Wed., Jan. 21 • 2:00pm Denny's Restaurant 5811 Firestone Blvd. South Gate
Thurs., Jan. 22 • 2:00pm Mimi's Café 17919 Gale City of Industry	Fri., Jan. 23 • 10:00am Carrows Restaurant 10640 Rosecrans Ave. Norwalk	Mon., Jan. 26 • 2:00pm Marie Calendars 340 E. Whittier Blvd. La Habra	Tues., Jan. 27 • 2:00pm Mimi's Café 15436 Whittier Blvd Whittier

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Jiangxi Province is located near the eastern border of China.

China: Officials give grand tour.

Continued from page 1

Steven Yee, Assistant deputy city manager Scott Pomrehn acted as tour director.

In both PowerPoint presentation and a lengthy question-and-answer session, Guerra took pains to explain the city's history, organization and chain of command, its aerospace/aviation heritage, the hospitals in its midst, its parks and

other amenities (golf course, etc.), its 24 schools, Downey Studios and Learning Center, and its redevelopment efforts (Porto's Bakery, etc.).

He also pointed out the central role Downey water plays in Coca-Cola's bottling operations and the bottled water (Dasani) industry.

Before and after a buffet lunch-

eon at Hackers Grill, the delegation was treated to a tour of City Hall, the Police Department, Fire Station #1, Downey Studios, the Columbia Learning Center, etc.

The delegation's next stop is the east coast for a glimpse of New York, Boston, and Washington, D.C., before heading home.

DRMC: Hospital received help from local legislators.

Continued from page 1

service) had a turnaround of 30 to 60 days, which was aligned to the accounts payable schedule";

"It's hard to imagine, but no one before us fingered capitation as the chief source of the hospital's troubles, but, after exhausting all other possible scenarios, our three-man team did (composed of president and chief executive officer Ken Strople, M.D.S. consultant Richard Yardley, and myself);

"We had to seek the intersection of state legislators Alan Lowenthal and Hector de la Torre to talk with the five insurance companies (Blue Shield, Scan, United/Pacific Care, Health Net, Aetna) with whom we had capitation contracts. On July 23 last year at the Embassy Suites, they heard us out; by the end of August, four of the five agreed to let us out of the capitation arrangement; then it took another four to five months before we sealed the deal."

To further solve its cash/working capital problems, DRMC has not only obtained an extension of its \$7.1 million (max) line of credit with its bank, but is negotiating to have it increased to \$12-\$15 million. Should this fail, it has other options.

Moreover, the four insurance companies (i.e., all except Aetna) have extended it a 3-year \$10 million loan, at no interest, and no payment until the end of the first year). Another lender, which Fuller left unidentified, is issuing the hospital a \$5 million short-term loan.

"I'm not saying we're now wal-

lowing in money, we're still in a tight situation, and it's all a question of timing now," said Fuller. "But even as late as 2006, the data was so screwy, it's hard not to feel a sense of accomplishment when before you were looking at a \$15-\$20 million loss and today you can see a \$10-\$20 million gain."

"It was in April that we stopped the cash loss," he continued. "We have been operating in the black now for five consecutive months. We hope that in the spring, we can start to build our cash back. Most of our payments totaling \$10-\$12 million to our vendors will be made in the next 60 days. To date we have 14,000 claims representing 32,000 patients but spread out over 50 different hospitals.

"This is a busy time also for the

hospital due to the rise in pneumonia and other respiratory cases, said Fuller. "Thus it's going to be a very expensive time. It's all been difficult, of course, but once we get through this winter, we'll start making money. Our model says 2009 will be an OK year. Hopefully, we'll issue a new set of statements in February. Our auditors right now are working on the figures."

Thus, all indications are that the hospital's fortunes are on the rebound.

Said Chuck Hutchinson, who served for 20 two years on the hospital board and was president at one time: "If they can show they can make a profit, I think there's a good chance that the hospital will make it."

Coca-Cola presented environmental award

By MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – When it comes to businesses saving energy and being environmentally conscious, Coca-Cola Enterprises in California is striving to be at the forefront.

The Coca-Cola bottling plant in Downey illuminates a newly integrated lighting system and environmental efforts which include solar power generating panels, energy efficient vending equipment, hybrid trucks, sustainable packaging, and recycling.

Coca-Cola's major lighting retrofit project in its California facilities will decrease energy consumption by 113 million kilowatt hours and decrease carbon dioxide emissions by 74,301 tons over the next 20 years.

Acknowledging the near completion of the project, Coca-Cola Enterprises was awarded the Orion Energy Systems Environmental Stewardship Award during a ceremony Jan. 9 at the bottling plant in Downey.

Public officials in attendance included the city of Downey Mayor Mario Guerra; city council members Roger Brossmer and Luis Marquez; 27th District, California State Senator Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach); California Governor Arnold Swarzenegger's Deputy District Director Araceli Gonzalez; and U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's Field Representative Elizabeth Delgado.

"At Coca-Cola Enterprises, corporate responsibility and sustainability is where the world touches our business and where our business touches the world," said Terry Fitch, general manager and vice president of Coca-Cola Enterprises' West Business Unit.

"We're doing everything we can to help reduce our carbon footprint in California and across the country, because we believe that responsible and sustainable business practices like this will not only help us manage through these complex times, but will also ensure the long-term growth of our company, sustainable development in our communities, and protection of the environment."



Coca-Cola Enterprises was awarded the Orion Energy Systems Environmental Stewardship Award during a ceremony Jan. 9 at the bottling plant in Downey. Attending the event was Arnold Schwarzenegger's Deputy District Director Araceli Gonzalez, Downey City Council member Luis Marquez, Mayor Mario Guerra, Sen. Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), and Downey City Council member Roger Brossmer.

The Orion fixtures are engineered to optimize input energy and maximize lighting output. The systems include high-intensity fluorescent lighting that uses 50 percent less energy and provides 50 percent more light.

The amount of energy saved is enough to power 537 homes a year.

"This is a historic moment," Lowenthal said. "Corporate citizens such as Coca-Cola Enterprises and Orion Energy Systems are saying that the solution to pollution is prevention. The solution to pollution is sustainability. The solution

to pollution is reducing our carbon footprint."

The energy and environmental issues that Coca-Cola Enterprises has been addressing are energy conservation and climate change, water stewardship, and sustainable packaging and recycling.

Orion Executive Vice President Michael Potts said that the environmental efforts of Coca-Cola Enterprises takes significant power off the electrical grid which tends to lessen the upward pressure that exists on power prices and the need for new power plants.

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DUSD's Nancy Matthews presented with Vision Award

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The Board of Education of the Downey Unified School District Tuesday heard Special Education director Kent Halbmeier present the Superintendent's Vision Award in the area of Personnel to Nancy Matthews, program administrator in special education for the district.

Halbmeier said the 33-year special education careerist was being honored "because she is clearly extremely qualified, highly skilled, and totally dedicated." He pointed to her background and training as including a BA from Whittier College, an elementary multiple subject credential from CSU-Los Angeles and an MA in school administration from National University. In addition, she holds specialty credentials authorizing the teaching of students with severe disabilities, learning disabilities, autism, and kids with emotional disturbances.

Instrumental in developing the district's Early Intervention Program since its inception, Matthews, who came to DUSD in 1976, "has assembled an amazing team of professionals who are exceptionally well-prepared and dedicated to teaching children with disabilities," Halbmaier said. "Success in dealing with these children requires qualified teachers, as well as a support staff such as school psychologists, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, and para educators or senior instructional assistants."

Matthews' primary responsibility today, he noted, is the direct supervision of the district's Early Childhood Programs (preschool) located at Alameda, in addition to the district-wide programs that provide instruction to children diagnosed with autism.

The Board, meanwhile, received the audit report on all district funds and accounts for the 2007-08 fiscal year as prepared by Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP, Certified Public Accountants.

In other action, the Board:

- Accepted with gratitude cash and in-kind donations from various individuals and parties, including a cash donation of \$1,000 from the Ellen and Clarence Peterson Foundation, to be used for eye exams and eyeglasses for district students in need; and cash donations of \$600 from the Downey Association of Realtors, \$500 from Scanlon, Guerra, Burke, Insurance Brokers, \$220 from Souhail and Katherine Israwi, and \$200 from Robin Martin—to be used in support of the TLC Family Resource Center;
- Authorized the payment of expenses for convention and conference attendance;
- Ratified the general agreements with DG Therapy Group and Rossier Park Elementary School for the 2008-09 fiscal year;
- Ratified the payments for special education placements;
- Ratified the settlement agreement regarding Case # 2008110752 and approved payment of \$3,250;
- Approved the appointment of members to the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Community Advisory Committee and extending the terms of other members;
- Ratified purchase orders by the Purchasing Department;
- Ratified the issuance of payroll orders for hourly, overtime, Civic



Nancy Matthews has worked with special education children for 33 years. She was awarded the Vision Award in the area of Personnel this week. Photo courtesy DUSD

Center work performed by classified personnel, Adult School, and Food Services, through December 2008;

- Ratified B warrants;
- Ratified the contract between LACOE (LA County Office of Education) and Downey-Montebello SELPA, "Participation in a Full-Service LEA-County-Local Plan for Special Education," effective July 1, 2008-June 30, 2013;
- Ratified the amendment to the contract for special education transportation services for individual(s) with exceptional needs, with LACOE, effective July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009;
- Ratified the contract for network services and support educational telecommunications and technology, with LACOE, effective July 1, 2008-June 30, 2011;
- Accepted the quarterly uniform complaint report summary;
- Authorized the advertisement for bids for an annual contract for weed control services, to be charged to M.O.T. funds;
- Approved the change orders involving various work performed by various vendors doing construction/modernization at Warren and Downey High schools, as well as fencing work for the Maintenance Department and at Rio Hondo Elementary School;
- Accepted as complete electrical, fencing, and concrete work performed by various contractors;
- Approved the adjustments to the unrestricted budgets of the 2008-09 General Fund, Adult Education Fund, Cafeteria Fund, Capital Facilities Fund, County School Facilities Fund, Reserve for Capital Outlay Fund, Self Insurance Fund, Self Insurance Workers Compensation Fund, Self Insurance Health and Welfare Fund, Self Insurance Dental Fund, and the Self Insurance Vision Fund; as well as to the restricted budgets of the same General Fund, the Adult Education Fund, and the Deferred Maintenance Fund;

POET'S CORNER

Kind of Confused

I started thinking when I heard somebody call somebody a nobody. I thought every somebody was somebody to somebody. I thought I was somebody too. Could somebody get confused, and think that I am a nobody too?

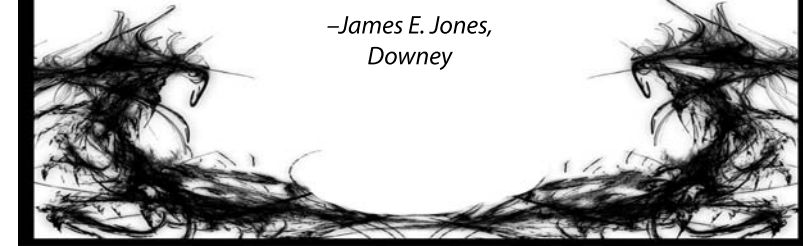
I started thinking if every somebody was somebody to somebody. Then every somebody would have somebody to be somebody too. Then every somebody would be somebody and I would be somebody too. The somebody couldn't get confused and think that I am a nobody too.

I started thinking about every somebody being somebody when I remembered my Cousin Lenny. My Cousin Lenny is a nobody. That is because that is who Lenny is, a nobody. Could somebody get confused, and think that I am a nobody too?

I started thinking if I can tell a somebody that is a somebody from a nobody and a nobody from a somebody. Could every somebody tell a somebody from a nobody and a nobody from a somebody. Could somebody get confused and think that I am a nobody too?

I started thinking I feel like I just went around in circles. I am back to where I started, and haven't got a clue. I just give up, it's just too much, I just got so confused. But I think you are somebody, and I hope you think that I am somebody too.

—James E. Jones,
Downey



- Acknowledged receipt of claim dated Dec. 3, 2008 submitted by the law offices of Payam Y. Poursalimi, on behalf of Yvonne Rodriguez, and denied same in compliance with Government Code Section 911-15 and 945;
 - Approved routine personnel items until subsequent action is taken by the Board of Education;
 - Ratified the establishment of three new limited-term positions, assigned variously to Pace/LACOE E. D. Site, West Middle School, and Ward Elementary School (all special education assignments);
 - Approved the changes to the duties of Database Coordinator, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, Lead Food Service Assistant, and Student Testing Technician, as shown in their duty statements, all taking effect on Jan. 13, 2009;
 - Adopted a resolution listing the criteria for determining the order of seniority for those certificated employees with the same date of first paid service in a probationary status;
 - Ratified the settlement agreement regarding Case #N200510082, and approved the payment of \$13,500; and
 - Endorsed the actions taken by the superintendent on all student cases.
- The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009 at the Gallegos Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave.

About Dr. Bordas
USC Graduate
Fellow and Associate:
American Academy of Implant
Dentistry
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Association and the Academy of
General Dentistry
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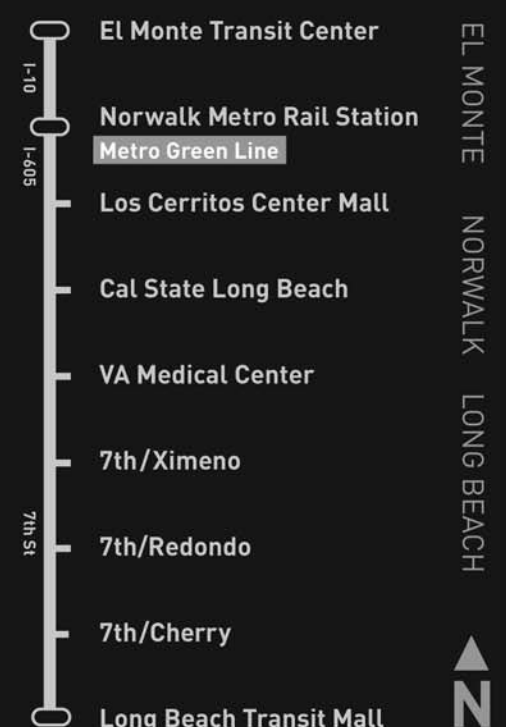
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Super Tuesday

By Eric Pierce

I'm not the type to call in sick to work unless I really am sick (or in Vegas), but I'm tempted to change my ways, at least for one day.

This Tuesday will be a historic day in the history of our nation, as President-elect Barack Obama takes the oath of office and assumes control of the single most important job in the world.

I hope people will consider taking the morning off to watch the event live on TV. I also hope schools will turn Tuesday into a live history lesson and allow their students to watch the inauguration and ask their teacher questions.

I believe Tuesday will be an event I will one day tell my future children about. And their children.

I may be over-selling this, but I don't think so.

Seniors may be vulnerable at home

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, senior citizens usually experience lower rates of crime. But when seniors are victimized, there is a 92 percent chance the crime will occur in or near their homes.

"As we age, our safety and security needs change, so it's important to take extra precautions to keep ourselves and our senior family members safe," said Steve Shapiro, director of product management for ADT Security Services. "Although statistics show seniors are less likely to be vulnerable to some types of crime, they are more likely than any other age group to be victims of crime in their own homes."

To help better protect America's seniors from property crime and personal theft, ADT has developed the following essential safety tips:

- Never hide keys under the doormat, in the mailbox or in a planter. Burglars will go straight for these typical hiding spots to look for spare keys. Spare keys should be left with a trusted neighbor.

- If you decide to install an alarm system, consider one that is monitored for burglary, fire, carbon monoxide and medical emergencies. These alarm system features can be life-saving if you, or a loved one, become incapacitated while in the home.

- Install and use good locks on doors and windows. Good locks are the first line of defense against home invasion – it is also important to make sure your locks are in working order.

- Never give credit card, Social Security, phone card or bank account numbers to callers who ask for this information to "verify" prizes. If they have to ask for this personal information, it is a sure sign they are fakes – never give personal data over the phone, unless you know who you are dealing with.

- Recently there have been cases of seniors being targeted to send cash to someone posing as a grandchild. If you receive a call like this, you should always call the child's parents for verification, even if they say they do not want their parents to know.

- When service or delivery people come to your door, ask for ID and check with their company if you are still unsure. When in doubt, research the company by calling police or the Better Business Bureau. Reputable companies will have no problem with your request for more information.

Most importantly, Shapiro wants everyone to remember, "Thinking about home security should be a top priority, especially as we grow older and live longer."

Contributed by ADT Security Services

Letters to the Editor:

City spending

Dear Editor:

I'm writing regarding the hire of an emergency deputy city manager by the city. It concerns me that now we have three or four deputy city managers. Is Downey that difficult to manage?

I want to know what emergency I'm being protected from that legitimizes this kind of overspending by the City Council. Since *The Downey Patriot* states that we are already well protected from an earthquake or a plane crash, it appears that the water problem brought this on. Perhaps the city should have the water checked by two agencies, thereby eliminating the need for this expensive overpaid position.

I guess we should be grateful that the Assistant Fire Chief position has been eliminated. It makes me wonder if one was really needed in the first place. Not from personal knowledge, but from *The Downey Patriot*, we've learned that there were internal problems in the Fire Department, so instead of solving them it appears they just made a new, higher-paid position.

Has Downey fallen into the same pitfall as our federal and state governments have? They don't know when to quit spending. People are losing their jobs and their homes. Many have lost a lot in the stock market. Orange County is laying off employees, but Downey is hiring highly-paid employees. Again, I'd like to remind the Council that the president of the United States only makes \$400,000 a year.

I'll end this by asking if the pensions in Downey are funded. Many in Downey would like regular town hall meetings so we may have our questions answered and also express our views. Please review and rescind this latest decision of hiring another deputy city manager.

— Elsa Van Leuven,
Downey

The Downey Patriot

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Letters to the Editor:

Join the fun

Dear Editor:

Downey Newcomers Club recently met at the Rio Hondo Event Center. Kim Yeager, president, and Paula Lou Roberts, vice president, were waiting to greet old members and some that recently joined our club. Like most clubs in Downey, the Newcomers could use a few new members.

Actually, the Newcomers is a "fun" club – yes, we do a few scholarships, donations to the Downey Rose Float Association, Downey PTA HELPS, Meals on Wheels, and other events that need a helping hand. However, primarily we have a monthly luncheon "out" at a local restaurant or one of the country clubs for bingo and card games of every sort.

There is something that most ladies would enjoy so give us a call and see about joining. Each member receives the monthly newsletter listing various events and current news – which keeps us in touch with one another.

Anyone interested should call (562) 861-5424 for information.

— Downey Newcomers Club

Potential of downtown

Dear Editor:

Over the past year or so, meetings of the Downey Redevelopment Project Area Committee, and the appearance of director of economic development John Perfit before a packed Cormack Room last week (reported in *The Downey Patriot*), have been intended to gauge public reaction to the city's plan to convert a couple of newly purchased properties, the Avenue Theatre and the Verizon building, into residential spaces. Some of that was discussed. But there's been an unintended consequence to the plan. The reason so many showed up, young and old, is that the city has also been pondering additional uses for those properties. A lot of people are unhappy about what a dead zone Downtown Downey has become, despite the city's intermittent efforts to spiffy it up (see Paul Granata's letter last week). Now they see a way to change that: bring arts and entertainment to downtown.

This is an idea that's clearly been gaining momentum over the past few weeks, judging by letters to your editors and commentary at the meeting. And it's not just voiced by people who miss the old theater out of nostalgia for their younger days. You can feel the electricity in the air, the eagerness of spirit, from people who see its enormous potential for enlivening downtown, whether through art films, A-list studio films that bypass the Krikorian, indie festival works, or even, as Lorine Parks suggested in your pages last week, a venue for local filmmakers (or all of these things). It can also serve as a late night spot for jazz and rock groups (the ETC storefront on 2nd Street showed the appetite for the latter recently).

The Verizon building has even more potential. I don't know if it has an auditorium or lecture room. If there is, or if one can be built, there's no reason why it can't host solo and chamber music recitals, like the string section of the Downey Symphony, or sets from our own great Pancho Sanchez, literary and poetry readings, lectures, and even performances of great American musical numbers by professionals from the Downey Civic Light Opera (Actors Equity offers a waiver for this kind of busman's holiday). The Downey Museum of Art could move some of its art exhibitions over. Classes could be held in every discipline.

Whenever the city puzzles out loud what to do with its properties, you always hear about bringing in more restaurants and businesses. But every city has restaurants and businesses. They alone aren't going to distinguish Downey. It's an odd situation to be in where, aside from the DCLO and a couple of other venues, Downey not only fails to draw audiences, diners and customers from nearby communities, it doesn't even draw the majority of its own residents.

There was a time when Downey was referred to as the Beverly Hills of the Southeast Region, largely because an educated professional and semi-professional class built beautiful homes to live in, and enjoyed excellent city services, including an exemplary police force. The Regency Room was as fine a dining and dancing supper club as any in the region. Marmac's the all-you-can-eat prime rib joint, was written up in *Time* magazine.

A lot has changed. The Regency is a car lot and Marmac's is long gone. Downey is still a fine community — particularly when you regularly hear tales of corruption in the nearby cities of Bell Gardens, Bell, South Gate, and the horror story that's become Maywood. But Prada, Dolce & Gabbana and Cartier's won't be moving in anytime soon. Nor should they. The demographic has changed.

Still, that's no reason to think that there are no smart people in Downey, that all we're expected to do is shop, eat and go home. The Cormack Room meeting, full of people ranging from teens to octogenarians, disproved that assumption. They're deeply hungry for the kind of life that only the lively arts and entertainment can bring, and there are a lot of artists and performers out there who wouldn't need a lot of coaxing to give Downey a try. Physically the downtown area is already a natural. Now that the Downey Theatre's do-nothing manager has departed, taking his six-figure salary with him, the city could seriously consider what to put in there to complement the DCLO and the travelogue series. Add that to the Avenue Theatre, and the Verizon, and eateries like Mimi's, the Embassy Suites, and Granata's – all within walking distance of each other, which is crucial – and you start to have a scene echoing Fats Waller's line, "This place is jumpin'."

This is much easier said than done, of course. The city has no precedent for this sort of thing, no proven mentality for understanding culture beyond giving it lip service, and it would surely have to hire someone to manage as an arts entrepreneur – maybe even form a small counterpart to L.A.'s Department of Cultural Affairs. This could be a hard sell to taxpayers with other priorities, and God only knows what havoc the national and international economic crisis is going to wreak locally. And how well would our new condo and apartment dwellers put up with any kind of commotion downstairs?

Perfit and the PAC have been clear that they are only "conduits" to the City Council, which has no first-hand knowledge of the issues discussed in the Cormack Room. Nobody knows what the developers, who've already been contracted, are going to do, or even what their capabilities are beyond the obvious. And if the restaurateur who's already bought into the Avenue Theatre decides to rip out its seats in favor of dining room, goodbye Avenue Theatre.

But a couple of city officials were at the Cormack Room meeting. One is a member of the city's planning commission and seemed keenly interested. The other was Mayor Mario Guerra.

"You talk too much! You don't listen!" someone yelled at hizzoner. "I'm listening, I'm listening!" he protested, amiably.

Let's hope so. A lot's at stake.

— Lawrence Christon,
Downey



Suspicious of job title

Dear Editor:

The more I read and hear about the newly filled position of Deputy City Manager/Public Safety Emergency Operations Chief, the more I become suspicious. The title alone is so grandiose it seems to demand the generous salary that accompanies it.

As I have been reading in *the Patriot* a description of the multitudinous tasks the new chief must deal with, I'm astonished Downey has been able to survive since 2005 with the position open. But it did.

On the other hand, I've heard rumors that filling this position merely provided an opportunity to shelve a person who was not effective in his previous position. Or was it filled in hopes of staving off a harassment and discrimination suit filed against the city of Downey and former fire chief? *The Patriot* article clearly indicates that the suit plaintiff's problem was with the fire chief. Adding the city just allowed reaching for deeper pockets.

I am a retired aerospace engineer with a Master's degree in engineering. I have had over 80 engineers reporting to me at various times, but I never made a fraction of the \$185,000 (\$315,000 including benefits, I guess) this prestigious position commands. After all, one of those tasks is "training the city – making sure our communications go where they need to go." Sounds a bit like a mail clerk, but what do I know?

I'm not a rabble rouser. Maybe we desperately need that position filled, and maybe Mr. Sauter is the ideal person to fill it. But these are tough times. I know my net worth has plummeted, and I've lost the battle to prevent McMansions on both sides of me, but I would have hoped that our new City Council would be more responsive to the needs of the city's tax-paying residents.

We should make every dollar we spend productive, such as not filling the position of Assistant Fire Chief for now. Maybe there are other positions better left open.

— Don Niemand,
Downey

Quick response time

Dear Editor:

As a 30-year resident of the city of Downey, we have had three instances when we have called 911. Each time we have received excellent responses from Downey city employees.

This past New Year's Day, we had a plumbing emergency. We could not turn off the water at the meter, and water was flowing down the street. We called the fire department and were told that the public works department handles this type of emergency.

Within 20 minutes I received a call from public works supervisor Tim Graves. He said he would be right over. He showed up at our house, quickly assessing the situation, he acted instantly to solve the problem. By the way, he was soaking wet.

I thanked him, but he said it is just part of his job.

— Mike and Diana Borzi,
Downey

Lincoln and Obama

Dear Editor:

A presidential inauguration with historic epic will occur next week. It comes in a year that the 200th anniversary of our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, is celebrated.

While Barack Obama was voted in by a large majority vote, Lincoln was barely elected by less than 40 percent of the popular vote. However, if one of the other candidates were elected, this country would have taken a different path.

Lincoln was considered a racist based on today's standards but his Emancipation Proclamation paved the road for all minorities in the U.S. society today. Men like Martin Luther King Jr. (his birthday celebrated on Monday) and Barack Obama (his inauguration a day later) would perhaps not have their place in history.

As a Hispanic Republican, I am reminded that President Lincoln was a member of the newly formed Republican Party in the 19th century. If it wasn't for Lincoln, Hispanics could have been slaves as well. One of those other candidates had plans of conquering Cuba for slavery. We are reminded again of Lincoln's greatness, however, not as a Republican but as an American that brought his country first in his attempt for unification of the nation.

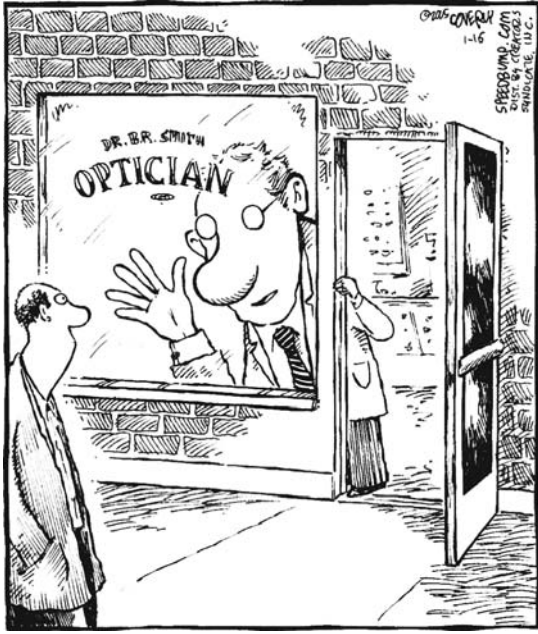
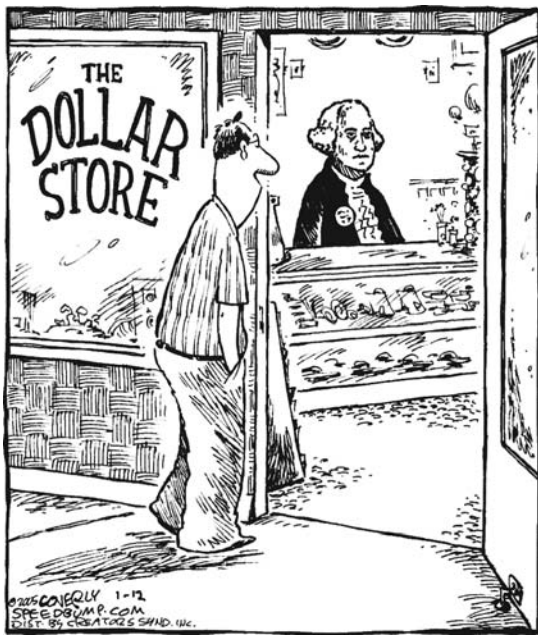
Mr. Obama faces the same issues as President Lincoln did. He faces the issues of unifying a nation that faces economic difficulties and racial prejudices. Mr. Obama comes from a mixed culture of white and black background. He knows how to face these issues. Every American must support this man as he has shown in his cabinet nominations that he can be as diverse as his background. He is currently showing that he is not the total leftist-liberal as he was painted during the campaign.

However, after all of the nominations and pomp, he will be Mr. President. He has a long and rough road of unifying this nation. Will he be the diverse president for all peoples or that liberal candidate? Can he attain what Lincoln did for this nation over 100 years ago? Can he make Lincoln proud as the nation commemorates the 200th anniversary of his birth?

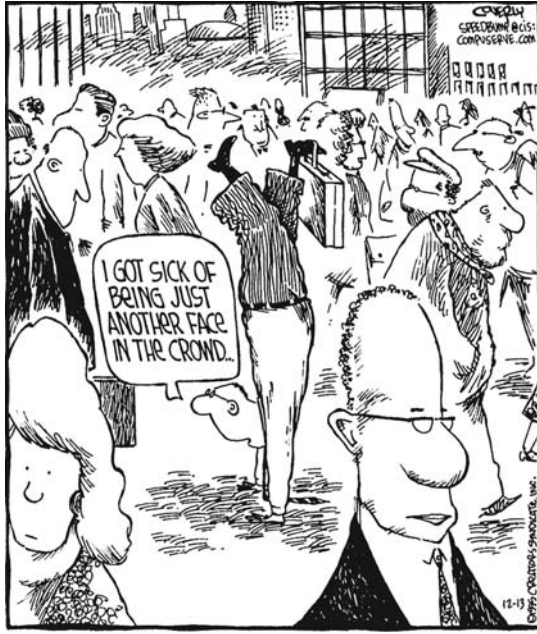
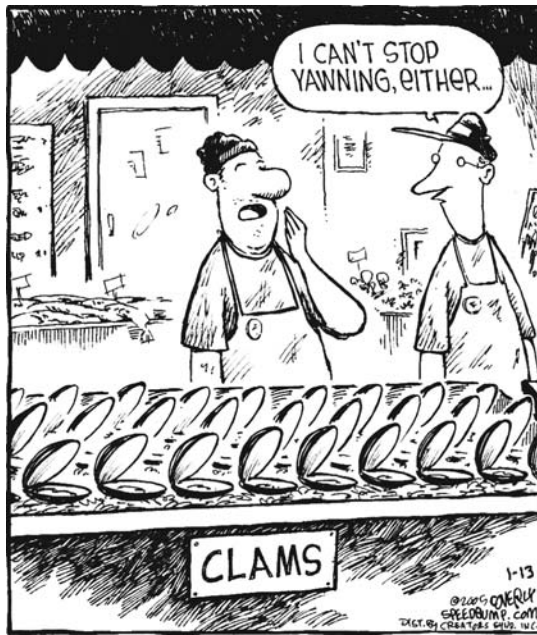
It is not a time to reflect on the past several years but a time to move forward with the new administration and only hope that God helps him because it will help each of us.

— Carl Mir,
Downey

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For January

Sat. Jan. 17: **Ponytail softball tryouts**, Independence Park, 9 a.m.
Sat. Jan. 17: **Songs of the 20th Century**, Temple Ner Tamid, 7 p.m.
Wed. Jan. 21: **Pre-registration for children's snow day**, City Hall, 8:30 a.m.

City Meetings

1st Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m.: **Redevelopment Project Area Committee**, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.: **Planning Commission**, Council Chamber at City Hall.
1st Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.: **Recreation and Community Services Commission**, Council Chamber, City Hall.
1st Thursday, 9 a.m.: **Traffic Committee**, Training Room, Second Floor of City Hall.
2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: **City Council/Community Development Commission**, Council Chamber.
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 Pat Rooney at 923-5352.
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.
2nd and 4th Tues., 7:30 a.m.: **Chamber "Rise&Shine" Networkers**, 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.
1st & 3rd Weds., 7:00 p.m.: **After-Care Post Cencer Therapy Group**, for information call 923-4800.
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 Tues., 11:00 a.m. - **AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley CC, Call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park, for info. call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
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**, 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 Sambis, 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.

Saturdays

9 a.m.: **Farmers Market**, Second Street at New Avenue, for information call (562) 904-7246.

Sundays

3rd Sun. Odd # Months 1:30 p.m.: **Aerospace Legacy Foundation**, at First Baptist Church Room 120.

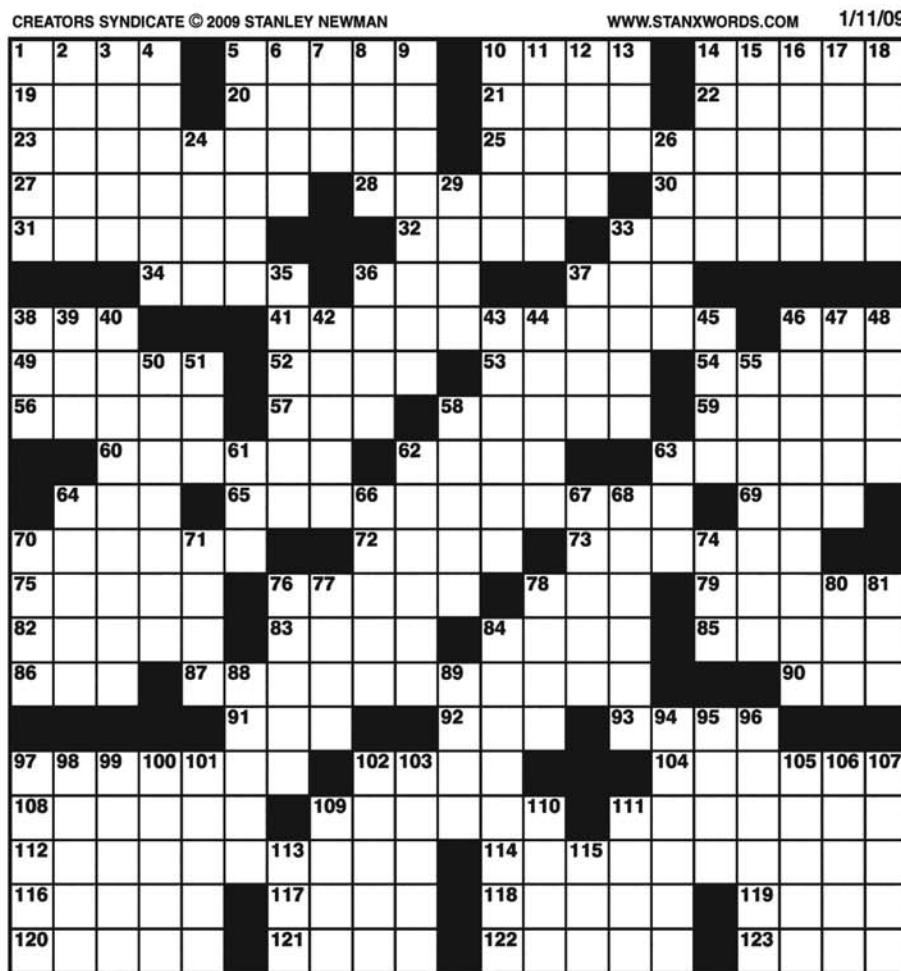
On This Day...

- Jan. 16, 1547: Ivan the Terrible is crowned Czar of Russia at age 16.
- 1942: Oscar-nominated actress Carole Lombard is killed in a plane crash near Las Vegas.
- 1988: Sports commentator Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder is fired by CBS over racist comments he made a day earlier.
- 1991: Operation Desert Storm gets underway.
- 2003: The Space Shuttle Columbia blasts off from Cape Canaveral, Fla.
- 2004: Michael Jackson pleads innocent to child molestation charges. A jury later found Jackson not guilty.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

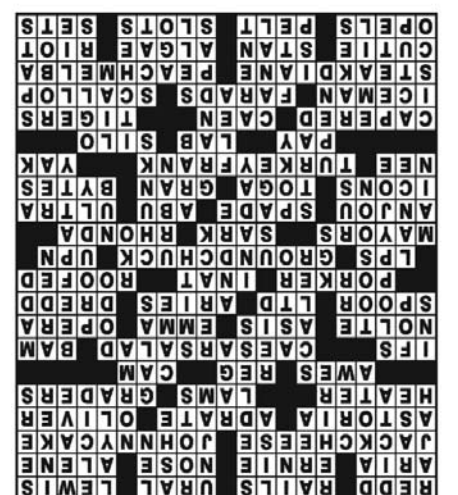
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
WHO'S ON THE MENU?: You'll find out shortly
by Fred Piscop

- ACROSS
1 Comedian Foxx
5 Roller-coaster parts
10 Orsk's river
14 Clark's expedition partner
19 54 Across highlight
20 Baseball great Banks
21 Mr. Potato Head piece
22 Coeur d'Alene ID
23 "Monterey" dairy product
25 Corn bread on the griddle
27 Oregon city
28 Classified cost
30 Dickensian orphan
31 Auto device
32 Makes a run for it
33 Professors, at times
34 Bowls over
36 US Pat. Off.
37 Video recorder, for short
38 Question marks
41 Romaine concoction
46 Emeril catchword
49 Cape Fear star
52 Yard-sale stipulation
53 Thompson of *Howards End*
54 La Scala offering
56 Animal's trail
57 Inc., overseas
58 Sign of spring
59 Judge (Stallone film)
60 Sty dweller
62 Take the waist (alter, perhaps)
63 Put a top on
64 Vinyl stack
65 Butcher-shop buy
69 WB merger partner
70 City officials
72 Cutty (historic ship)
73 Girl in a Beach Boys title
75 Pear type
76 Bogart sleuth
78 Dhabhi
79 Part of UHF
82 Desktop pictures
83 Frat-party attire
84 Canaria (Atlantic island)
85 Data-storage units
86 Alumna bio word
87 Barbecue item
90 Shaggy Tibetan beast
91 Pony up
92 Test site
93 Fodder's place
97 Frisked about
102 Normandy city
104 Fierce competitors
108 Block deliverer of old
109 Capacitance units
111 Seafood tidbit
112 Flambéed beef entrée
114 Fruit-and-ice-cream dessert
116 Adorable one
117 Getz of jazz
118 Tiny pond plants
119 Wild time
120 German autos
121 Strike repeatedly
122 Casino machines
123 Puts in place
DOWN
1 Monarch of India
2 Demagnetize
3 Formal rulings
4 Sioux group
5 Bring back on board
6 Bailiwick
7 Suffix with opal
8 Sister of Bart Simpson
9 Like some grapes
10 Fix, as a printer
11 Carrots and beets
12 1975 Wimbledon winner
13 Cariou of Broadway
14 Eric Clapton tune
15 Spanish national hero
16 Emulate Arachne
17 Printing-press gadget
18 They do readings
24 Support for a cast
26 Oscar winner Shearer
29 Strains from a sitar
33 Big bashes
35 Tackle-box gadget
36 Senate Majority Leader after Frist
37 Made the scene
38 Helpful connections
39 Dandy dresser
40 Messy sandwich
42 Minute Maid Park player
43 Start over, in pool
44 Common alias
45 Bygone bird
46 Hamburger center
47 As You Like It forest
48 "Designate a Driver" org.
50 Prematurely
51 Mess up
55 With one's head held high
58 Conductor Previn
61 Metric wts.
62 24 hours from now
63 *Swing Time* studio
64 Tilted's weapon
66 Grammarian's concern
67 Part of HUD
68 Substantial amounts
70 Water carrier
71 Sign of corrosion
74 Well-worn pencil
76 Fine fiddle
77 Slow-paced
78 Speedy steed
80 Stephen of V for Vendetta
81 "Shoot!"
84 Some dotting relatives
88 Turn topsy-turvy
89 Dog bane
94 Hankerings
95 Actor Neeson
96 Wide-eyed stargers
97 Big name in computer networks
98 Be a brat
99 Pro golfer Calvin
100 Spammer's medium
101 Chip-gathering tools
102 Gondola's locale
103 "Looks everything!"
105 Dallas matriarch
106 Man of steel
107 Mr. Peanut footwear
109 It's inevitable
110 Unload, in a way
111 "Scram!"
113 AOL, e.g.
115 In the past



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 name of Idaho city Coeur d'Alene ("heart of the awl") The UPN (69 Across) and WB TV networks merged in 2006, to form the CW. Canadian-born NORMA Shearer (26 Down) won a Best Actress Oscar for her role in the 1930 film "The Divorcee."





Job hunt is tough, not impossible

By: Bridget Sagrero, Intern

With the economy struggling, finding a job can be a difficult thing to do, especially for teenagers. Teens are eager to go out in search of a job in the city of Downey and are ready to make money. Some get lucky and get the first job they apply for and others not so much.

"I've been looking up and down Downey, Lynwood, and South Gate looking for a job since summer and I get the same response from them all: 'Sorry we can't afford to hire any more people.'" said Lidia Rodriguez, 17.

Rodriguez was able to get a group interview at a store called Zumiez, in Stonewood Center, where she had no luck.

"They broke it down to us that maybe 10 out of all three groups were going to get picked. They explained [that] because of the economic troubles out there, that it was harder for them to hire more people."

First impressions are crucial. They are a big factor in what can either get one an interview with the manager of the place and having the possibility of getting hired or it can get one an instant rejection.

Certain places have a "look" that they want to portray such as Hot Topic which is a more "gothic/punker" look or Hollister that reaches more for the "classic American" look. When applying to such places with an obvious "look," it is best to dress the part before asking for an application or going in for an interview.



Photo by: Bridget Sagrero

In some places it might not matter much, as long as one looks presentable.

"I dressed in a normal white shirt and a pair of jeans, your basic casual clothing," said Jonathan Mendez, 17, who has been working at Del Taco for a year. "Del Taco was actually the first place that I went to and luckily I got hired after applying."

Finding a place that has an open position can be hard, but once they are found, qualifications

become another obstacle. From the various types jobs one may be looking for, most jobs look for experienced people that look approachable, nice and friendly.

"I almost didn't get the job because I didn't have any experience but the owner said I looked nice, smart and a potential great employee," said Eva Rangel, 17, who has been working at 3rd Street Coffee for six months. "I had applied to about 10 other places and none of them wanted to hire

me because I had no other real job experience."

Job hunting may not be easy, but with persistence, a nice friendly-first impression, positive attitude, and an attempt to look the part, one might find a nice job in the city of Downey. Teenagers should be in no rush to find a job. School should always come first and a job should be looked for when the time is called for.

From Poor Vlad's Almanack

By Vlad Ionescu, Intern

1. Fish and guests smell in three days, however beware, freshmen and their slang smell in three seconds.
2. Put it off 'till tomorrow and you'll do it before the rooster wakes.
3. Make enemies today, get jumped tomorrow.
4. Make friends today, keep them forever.
5. If studying 7 days a week yields poor grades, you're obviously not studying right.
6. Seize the day, or it will seize you... Day tends to brag.
7. Freshmen- potential roadkill; Seniors- population control. What harmony!
8. The strangest people make the most loyal friends.
9. He who asks many questions may get good answers, and later, likely will get good grades.
10. Teacher's pet gets greatest benefits. The envious laugh at him.
11. Your opponents encourage

you to practice little before the game.

12. The organized man wastes time organizing. The messy man has not enough time to organize.
13. If you party like there's no tomorrow, you won't remember.
14. The best way to never tell a lie is to never put yourself in the scenario where you need to.
15. Those that play hard to get, fear that they have nothing to offer.
16. The man that works hard will find his less competent friend mopping his floors later.
17. High school is temporary- Good times are remembered, bad times leave scars.
18. Complain plenty, and people will have plenty to complain about you.
19. The best malevolent remarks are the ones kept in a closed mouth.
20. The man who makes aphorisms and puts them in the city newspaper is probably procrastinating on an assignment.

Café Desha

By Keysi Carrasco, Intern

The choir department at Warren High School is giving students a chance to show off their musical talent at Café Desha every Friday during lunch. Café Desha is run by the choir director, Robert Peterson, along with many of his students on staff.

Café Desha wants to provide the opportunity for singers who are tired of singing in the shower and think they are ready to take on the stage. The stage is open to anyone and you can expect to see fully formed bands, or even students who just want to have fun with the karaoke machine.

Students can come in, sit down and enjoy live music performed by some of their fellow classmates for free with snacks available for purchase.

With Café Desha becoming so popular this year, they have begun giving out free wristbands to the first few students who wish to get priority seating. Those students are let in 10 minutes before the show starts so that they can avoid the crowd of students that rush in to get seats. For some, the crowd is no problem.

"Even though the place is crowded, it is still a lot of fun. We get to hang out and listen to our friends play some good music," said Christina Nelson, a senior at Warren.

Peterson encourages everyone to come to the choir room at lunch every Friday to watch or even join in on the music. If your nerves are holding you back from performing, try sitting in the audience for a bit to settle into the encouraging and laid back atmosphere.

The Decision

I see the way you look at her,
Across the crowded room.
The tiny, sudden, little stare,
That starts to fully bloom.

You fight the thoughts out of your mind,
It's something you must dread.
A little thought,
That kiss you sought,
Must soon be put to bed.

Unless you choose,
And figure out,
The one you want indeed,
True love's sweet kiss will only tell,
The truth you seek and need.

- Emily Helsley

Financial aid limbo

By Brianne Schar, Intern

Price is always a hush-hush topic while going through the college selection process. I have been told by counselors and teachers that I should not consider price as an issue, but I cannot believe that to be so.

I am already feeling the burden of college costs and I am not even attending college yet. I have already spent nearly \$600 on AP, SAT and ACT tests and the applications themselves, which is only the price to be considered for admittance. Still, there are others who have spent much more than me.

While there are fee waivers available to help offset these costs, my family, like numerous other middle class families, does not qualify. So what are the middle class families to do? We can either lie on the applications, make sacrifices to pay for these expenses, or opt out of the tests and fees, ultimately leading to giving up the dream of going to a four-year university.

Some of my classmates have actually told me that they have lied on their forms in order to receive fee waivers and other educational-related price cuts. It seems outrageous to me that a state that is considering cutting the school year short due to budget deficits would let things like

this slip by.

Even more importantly, the tuition at a private university can cost, on average, \$50,000 a year. These colleges offer great financial aid packages to low-income students. However, it seems as if low-income is code for near poverty. The average middle class family that is living paycheck to paycheck is left in the dark as to how they will finance higher education.

It seems there is only room at these universities for the extremely rich or the extremely poor. I wish it were not this way because I have been working very hard throughout high school to receive exceptional grades and am now left to wonder if I will even be offered any financial aid.

I feel like any little thing that my family has done to get ahead has hurt me in my chances of receiving financial aid. Taking responsibility and attempting to save money for college will count against my chances for receiving aid. It is disappointing to know that other families that have chosen to be irresponsible and careless about financing college will receive more aid. This just provides an incentive to let the government, which has enough debt as it is, to take care of you.

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Arc bracing for cutback in state funding

BY MARY FORNEY,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Hundreds of intellectually-impaired adults are facing shrinking or loss of services this year as the State of California threatens a 10 percent cutback in funds to Arc of Southern Los Angeles County.

With its main office in Downey, Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County serves 20 surrounding cities. Arc was established locally in 1956 after the Kennedy administration sought to eliminate state-funded institutions for the disabled and utilize community-based services and programs instead.

What started out as a handful of parents sitting around a table sharing concerns about how they were going to care for their intellectually-impaired adult children has grown into programs that foster natural life benefits and responsibilities. Promoting self-reliance and success, today's Arc offers vocational services, job development and coaching, adult development and day training activity centers, after school programs, senior services, supported living, independent living training, food services training, transportation services, basic adult education classes, and an advocacy center.

"We have received only one increase in state funding in 12 years," said Arc Executive Director Kevin MacDonald. "It was a 3 percent increase two years ago."



Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County has received just one increase in state funding in 12 years, according to Executive Director Kevin MacDonald. Photo by Mary Forney

"Our funding has been frozen for a long time. Every year we go through a crisis of how we're going to make ends meet because we service 14 different programs and more than 400 people with intellectual disabilities."

Cutbacks or loss of services could be devastating to Arc consumers and their families – especially the senior population.

"Many of the seniors don't have parents anymore or siblings that can take care of them," said Downey resident Dwight Simpson. "So they end up in institutional facilities or on the street."

His brother Larry Simpson, 58, has resided with him since the death of their parents. Larry has been an Arc consumer his entire adult life. Awarded "Senior of the Year" in 2008, he retired in 2007 after 14 years working in the Columbia High School cafeteria through the Arc program. His age and health have lowered his abilities to work, so now he participates in the Arc program designed for intellectually disabled senior citizens.

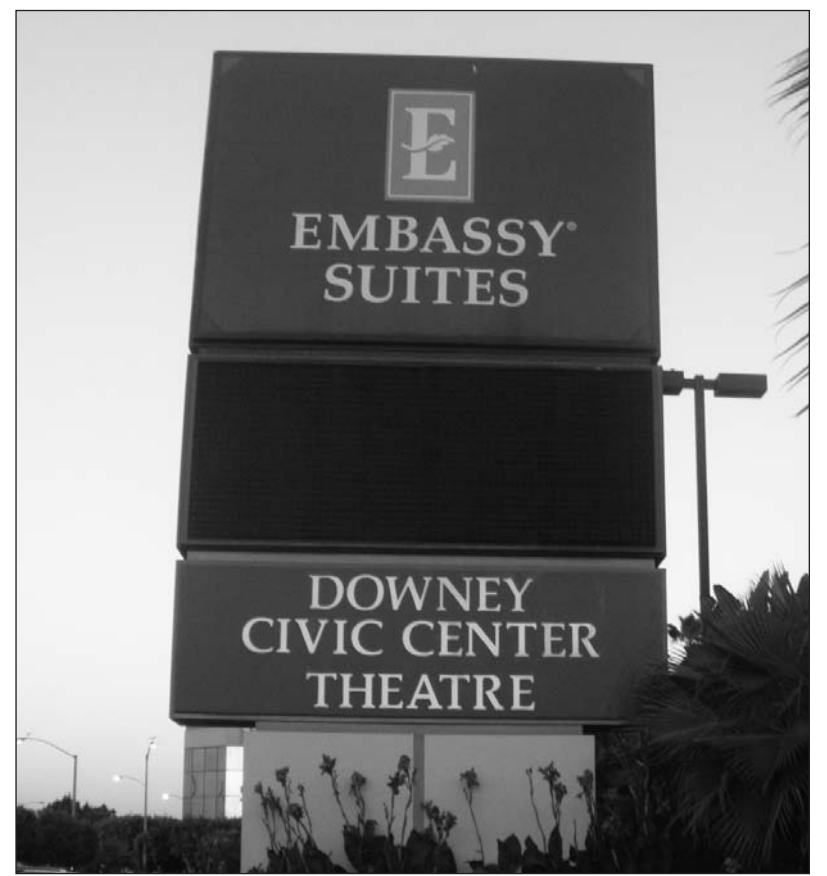
"The senior program gives Larry a purpose and some sense of normalcy," Dwight said. "It would

be difficult on him if he didn't go because he looks forward to it every day."

MacDonald agrees as he worries what Arc services might have to be trimmed to accommodate the cutback and the impact it would have on the consumers.

"It is life changing when they get a job," MacDonald said. "They want it so much that they show up for work everyday and try harder. Their dedication is what makes them exceptional employees."

"This isn't about the actual numbers. This will put people out on the streets or close services that are vital to someone's life."



The current electronic sign outside Embassy Suites has been non-operational the past three years. Photo by Eric Pierce

Theater marquee to be replaced

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – What's playing at the Downey Theatre? Soon, a simple glance out your car's window should answer that question.

The City Council agreed to appropriate \$94,000 this week to replace the broken theater marquee and electronic sign outside the Embassy Suites. In its place will stand a slightly larger monochrome amber electronic message center.

Similar to what's already in place, the new structure will be composed of four separate pieces, including a 10-ft. tall aluminum base, 54-in. high Downey Theatre signage, 6-ft. tall message board, and 13 1/2-ft. tall Embassy Suites sign.

The city will enjoy exclusive

control over the programming and operation of the message center, although the Embassy is entitled up to 30 percent of the sign's available message time, according to Thad Phillips, Downey's director of community services.

The city will be responsible for the sign's service and maintenance, but the Embassy will cover the cost of electricity, Phillips wrote in a staff report.

Built in 1983, the sign has been non-operational the past three years. In 2006, the City Council approved spending \$150,000 to replace the sign, and the funds have been continually carried over.

The hotel was sold last summer, and is now ready to move forward with the project, Phillips wrote in the report.

Concert at Temple Ner Tamid

DOWNEY – Cantor Ellen Jaffe-Gil and guest soprano Leah Ellias will present a concert, "Songs of the 20th Century," tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Temple Ner Tamid of Downey.

The concert will include a raffle and silent auction of more than 50 items, including signed fine artworks, crystal, groceries, and theater coupons.

Admission to the fundraiser is \$20, or \$36 for reserved seating. For tickets, call the temple at (562) 861-9276.

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Library auction items now on display

DOWNEY – The Friends of the Downey City Library are now displaying their February silent auction items in the lobby of the Downey City Library.

Items to be auctioned include “Disney’s Gardening with Mickey,” featuring popular gardening ideas from Walt Disney theme parks and resorts; “I Love Lucy – The Classic Moments,” featuring 40 of the most memorable scenes from the iconic TV show; “The Smithsonian Collection of

Newspaper Comics,” including hundreds of comic strips from 1986 through the mid-1960’s; “David Copperfield” by Charles Dickens, a Franklin Library edition and; “Turning the Tide of War,” with detailed maps and battle plans examining the 50 battles that changed the course of modern history.

Bids can be placed inside the Friend’s Book Store until noon, Jan. 31. The book store is also conducting a half-price sale on already reduced coffee table books, Christmas books, and best-sellers.

Concert to feature harp soloist

BY JOYCE SHERWIN, DOWNEY SYMPHONY

DOWNEY – The Downey Symphony Orchestra’s season continues this month with a concert on Jan. 31 that may be just what you need in these iffy times.

Music Director Sharon Lavery titles the program “Heaven at Your Fingertips,” and makes good on the promise by bringing to us renowned harp soloist JoAnn Turovsky playing “Mendocino,” a work composed for her by Robert Litton and given its world premiere at this performance. Turovsky will be featured also in Maurice Ravel’s Introduction and Allegro with the orchestra.

The concert opens with Mozart’s Impresario Overture, and concludes with Mendelssohn’s 3rd Symphony, the “Scottish.”

Concert time is 8 p.m. in Downey’s Civic Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd. at Brookshire. A pre-concert discussion begins at 7:15 and is free for ticket holders.

Tickets for the performance are \$20 and \$25 and may be purchased by calling (562) 403-2944. In addition, the theater box office will open for ticket sales on Wednesday, Jan. 28, between noon and 4 p.m., and from 6:30 p.m. the night of the concert.

Special note for Downey elementary school students: Through our Music in the Schools program, the Symphony sees how much you enjoy attending an orchestra concert, and many of you have told us that you especially love hearing a harp. So we are offering a special ticket price to you for this concert: A school child, \$5; an accompanying adult, \$10.

Arc hosting open house Jan. 23

DOWNEY – Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County, which provides support and services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, will hold an open house Jan. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. for the opening of Arc’s new state-of-the-art teaching kitchen. Guided tours will also be given of Arc’s 14 programs and services.

Arc provides services to more than 410 people, including classes at Downey Adult School. Arc also operates the Southeast Industries packing and assembly plant, a new seniors program, day programs, and more.

For more information, call (562) 803-4606, ext. 230. Arc’s annual signature fundraiser, the Arc Walk for Independence, will be held March 28.

Church hosting enchilada sale

DOWNEY – The women of the Moravian Church of Downey will be holding their annual enchilada sale Jan. 31.

Enchiladas come two in a pan and are suitable for freezing. Meet and cheese combination enchiladas are \$4.75 per pan and cheese enchiladas are \$5 per pan.

The enchiladas may be picked up at the church between noon and 5 p.m. on Jan. 31. Call the church office at (562) 927-0718 to place an order.

The Moravian Church of Downey is at 10337 Old River School Rd., north of the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Cardiovascular Fair at hospital

DOWNEY – Downey Regional Medical Center will host its annual Cardiovascular Wellness Fair on Feb. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the hospital’s conference rooms.

The fair, which is open to the public, will feature a variety of complimentary screenings and activities, including: carotid and respiratory screenings, blood pressure checks, consultations with a DRMC pharmacist, nutrition consultants, massages, cooking demonstrations with Jennifer Miyagawa, giveaways, raffles, and Mended Hearts representatives.

The fair will also feature a heart healthy snack (served at about 9 a.m.) and a presentation by Paiboon Mahaisavariya, MD.

For more information, contact Downey Regional Medical Center’s Cardiac Rehabilitation Department, (562) 904-5413.

Genealogy authority named speaker

WHITTIER – Well-known genealogy authority Curt B. Witcher will be the speaker at the 26th annual day-long seminar scheduled by the Whittier Area Genealogical Society on Feb. 28.

The event is open to the public and will be held at the Greenleaf Masonic Temple in Whittier. Registration is \$32 if completed before Feb. 21, or \$35 at the door.

To register, contact Judy Poole at (909) 985-6657.

New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- “**The Independence of Miss Mary Bennet**” by Colleen McCullough. In a new novel about the characters of “Pride and Prejudice,” Jane and Elizabeth’s sister Mary embarks on an adventure of her own.
- “**The Leisure Seekers**” by Michael Zadorian. Married for more than fifty years, an elderly couple diagnosed with cancer and Alzheimer’s disease become runaways, determined to meet the end of the road on their own terms.
- “**Little Bee**” by Chris Cleave. A novel about the friendship between two disparate strangers: one an illegal Nigerian refugee, the other a recent widow from suburban London.
- “**Second Opinion**” by Michael Palmer. Medical crime writer Palmer crafts a suspenseful thriller about a physician who uncovers a deadly conspiracy after her father becomes the victim of a hit and run accident.
- “**Tinkers**” by Paul Harding. A lyrical, psychological novel about George, a man on his deathbed who loves the precision of the antique clocks he restores, but is at the mercy of chaotic forces around him.

Non-Fiction

- “**1001 Ideas for Floors**” by Emma Callery. This illustrated source-book offers ideas and solutions for flooring projects suited to every room and budget.
- “**The Big Rich: the Rise and Fall of the Greatest Texas Oil Fortunes**” by Bryan Burrough. How the Big Four wildcatters rose to affluence in Texas society to become the Big Rich.
- “**Panic: the Story of Modern Financial Insanity**” by Michael Lewis. The author examines the impact of public perception and actual events during five recent financial crises.
- “**Street Gang: the Complete History of Sesame Street**” by Michael Davis. Readers of all ages will enjoy this off-screen history of the beloved show that revolutionized children’s television.
- “**A Tribute to Heath Ledger: the Illustrated Biography**” by Chris Roberts. This book includes highlights and photos from the life and career of the award-winning actor who died at age 28.

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Tue to Thu: (11:05, 1:55, 4:45), 7:45

★ **PAUL BLART: MALL COP PG** (11:15, 12:00, 1:35, 2:20, 4:00, 4:55), 6:40, 7:20, 9:10, 10:00

BRIDE WARS PG (11:25, 2:05, 4:30), 7:10, 9:45

GRAN TORINO R
Fri to Mon: (12:25, 3:20, 4:45), 6:10, 7:35, 9:00, 10:30;
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THE UNBORN PG-13 (12:15, 2:40, 5:10), 7:25, 9:55

BEDTIME STORIES PG (11:10, 1:50)

MARLEY & ME PG
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Downey Real Estate TODAY!
By Art Hernandez, Century 21
January 16, 2009

As of January 1 of 2009, Downey is now experiencing a decline in Inventory with only a 3 month supply, with most of 2008 holding steady at a 6 month inventory. November and December which is known to be slow in any market condition has been very active with buyers, and offers on bank owned properties in a lot of cases still reaching 20 plus in affluent neighborhoods.

Interest rates for purchase money loans on single family residences have come down, today with 10% down there are real rates of 4.85% for conforming non jumbo and 5.0% for conforming jumbo. This has been a great blessing for buyers. It has been even better for sellers, who can now if marketed correctly have a larger pool of buyers who can afford more home.

Lower rates, with that in mind when should you refi? If you are not saving at least 3/4 of a point and don't plan to refinance in the next 5 years than it is worth the cost of the loan. But keep in mind if you are refinancing more than 80% of your home value and are not paying PMI (property mortgage insurance) the cost of this insurance will most likely offset any savings you might have had with the refinance.

Where is Downey headed? Although nobody is used to these conditions in the economy, Downey has not had it rough when compared to the rest of the nation or the rest of the county. We will never suffer the same fate as other neighboring communities, and will always have a healthy supply of new buyers looking for a great community like Downey. Thank you for your time and consideration!

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Annie M. Bearse was foster mother

DOWNEY – Annie M. Bearse, a licensed foster mother for the state of California for more than 40 years, died Jan. 10. She was 95.

She was born in Centralia, Wash. and belonged to a variety of organizations, including Sons of Italy, VFW, and the Maywood Moose Lodge. She was also a member of First Christian Church of Bell.

She is survived by her only child, Donald B. Bearse; daughter-in-law Cynthia; granddaughter Kimberly Milne; grandson Steven D. Bearse; great-granddaughters Stephanie and Rebekah Bearse; sister-in-law Margaret Sonney; and nieces Vivian Kolhoff, Rosalie and Judy Sonney, and Cathy Hodel.



A funeral will be held today at 10 a.m. at Inglewood Cemetery.

Jewell Lee Hemphill passes away at 94

DOWNEY – Jewell Lee Hemphill, a fan of gospel music who, with her husband, supported several ministries, died Jan. 8 at The Villa retirement home in Downey. She was 94.

She was born in Amarillo, Tex. and lived most of her life in and around Clayton, N.M. In 2004, she went to live with her sisters in California. Her final days were spent at the retirement home.

She is survived by her sisters Virginia and Robena Beckner of Downey; nieces Charlene Ikard and Sandra Etherley; nephew DeWayne Beckner; great nieces Jaylene, Alicia, Nicole, Yamizel, Tara and Danae; great nephews Bradley, tanner and Geoffrey; six great-great nieces and nephews; and many cousins.

Funeral services will be held Saturday. She will be buried at Clayton Memorial Cemetery in Clayton, N.M.

Story of Jewish National Fund told

DOWNEY – Alyse Golden Berkley, spokesperson for the Jewish National Fund, will be the guest speaker at Tuesday's meeting of the Ezra Center for Mature Adults. Registration begins at 9:45 a.m. at Temple Ner Tamid in Downey.

Berkley's topic is "The Story of JNF, the Jewish National Fund: Past, Present and Future."

The JNF was created in 1901 and incorporated in the United States in 1926 to support development in Israel. The organization's main focus areas are now ecology and planting trees; water development and conservation; tourism and recreation; and education.

A catered kosher lunch will be served after the program at a cost of \$6 for Ezra members and \$7 for non-members.

Business Watch meeting Jan. 29

DOWNEY – A meeting of Business Watch, a crime prevention program for local business owners, will be held Jan. 29 at noon inside council chambers at City Hall.

Participants of Business Watch receive training in business security, effective crime reporting, and burglary and theft prevention.

The meeting is free and begins at noon. For more information, call the Downey Chamber of commerce at (562) 923-2191 or city of Downey at (562) 904-1895.

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Expect Dons to continue reign

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

San Gabriel Valley League Preview

There won't be much shuffling in the boys' basketball standings this year in league play. In one of the most competitive leagues in CIF, it's hard to see any movement in placement. It's no real news to say Dominguez will finish on top. The real news will be how many teams will become playoff eligible as five of the six teams in the league made appearances in last year's post season.

Without a doubt, the Dominguez Dons should continue their dominance over the San Gabriel Valley League that they've maintained through the years. Last year, Dominguez didn't lose any league games and went on to finish with 32 wins on the season before winning the CIF championship crown.

The Dons play lock-down defense, score way too many points for anyone to come close to winning and should have all but one player from last year returning. They were ranked No. 1 in their CIF Section, No. 2 in the state of California and No. 7 nationally. No question, Dominguez will be on top when all is said and done.

Lynwood finished their season right behind Dominguez last year winning 21 of 28 games, a 70 percent clip. The Knights also have most of their starting lineup returning, including the league's leading scorer Keon Pledger. Pledger is currently averaging 25.8 points per game.

The Knights shouldn't have any problems finishing in what has come to be known as the actually attainable first place in the SGVL, second place. Their run and gun offense should give them enough fuel to cruise.

Right on their heels last year were the Gahr Gladiators. It's almost eerie how similar the two teams are. They're both fast, high-scoring teams who normally want to run the ball up and down the court and their opponents out of the gym.

Gahr will have a lot of holes to fill as a good majority of their team last year were seniors. In fact, head coach Bob Becker has a sophomore on the team listed as a team captain.

The Gladiators are normally an extremely athletic team just like their football squad. If there's a dangerous team in the league, Gahr would probably be it. Their athleticism will give them a chance every night, but that said, a third place finish would be expected, and a second place finish wouldn't be a surprise.

The Paramount Pirates have always been a scrappy bunch. They will never overwhelm you with their offense or completely buckle you down with their defense but they will out hustle teams and surprise them when the buzzer goes off and the scoreboard shows they won.

Last year, they managed to win 16 games and get into the playoffs. While they did lose in the first round, they'll most likely be better this year. No one should over look the Pirates but they probably don't have the talent to finish better than fourth. They will get an at-large bid.

While a fifth place finish last year sounds like a down year, Downey

looked at it as an emotional lift. From what seemed like an improbable finish, the Vikings won the important games when they needed to, finishing with the minimal amount of wins needed to get an at-large bid for the playoffs.

This year, they went out to Orlando, Fla. to play in the KSA Holiday Basketball tournament and finished third in their bracket which is no small feat considering the nation-wide talent they faced.

They aren't better than Dominguez, they probably aren't better than Lynwood and Gahr but they can be better than Paramount and depending on the wave they're riding that game, could beat Gahr and Lynwood. They'll get into the playoffs again this year, but it's too hazy to predict what their seeding will be.

Warren will be on their second year under head coach Brent Willis who had an impressive start to last year's season. His team seemed to disappear at the end, especially in league where their only win was against Downey.

The Bears look to rebound from last year and win enough games to slip into the playoffs, but it doesn't appear likely nor do many sportswriters sound optimistic, especially the producers of Maxpreps.com, which have the Bears ranked extremely low in the state.

The program continues to rebuild under Willis. Last year he was on record as saying that it could take a year or two to install his system of basketball. Patience is the key with this team. Soon enough the Bears will be playing where they need to be. Maybe just not this year.

Warren water polo continues roll

DOWNEY – Riding in on a wave of confidence, Warren's girl's water polo team continues to roll into league play starting this week with a second place finish in the Western Orange County Shootout Tournament.

The Lady Bear's averaged seven goals a game during the tournament that was held last week and showed they can hang with the best.

Two of Warren's best wins came in games versus Ayala and La Canada high schools.

Against Ayala, Hannah Colvin scored two goals in the first half while the team's defense helped catapult them to the 6-5 win leaving Ayala scoreless in the third quarter of play.

Their win against La Canada later in the tournament avenged an early season loss. Warren managed in the second half to hold La Canada scoreless while they scored three of their four goals in their comeback effort.

–Scott Cobos, Staff Writer

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Downey High School placed third in the KSA Basketball Tournament held in Orlando, Fla. last month. The team organized fundraisers for more than a year to raise money for the trip. After departing at 10 p.m. Christmas night, the team returned home on New Year's Eve. The boys won three of their four games. *Photo courtesy Debbie Black*



The 57th annual Holiday Lane Parade will be rebroadcast on Time Warner Channel 36 at 3 p.m. on Jan. 17, 21 and 31. The parade was hosted by Marsha Moode and Lawrence Christon.



The city of Downey Community Services Department will give children the chance to play in snow when they haul 16 tons of the white stuff to Apollo Park on Feb. 7. Pre-registration is mandatory and begins Wednesday at City Hall. Information: (562) 904-7238

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<p>A Sizzling Buy! 4 BD, 3 BA remodeled North Downey pool home, large master bedroom, travertine floors, granite counters, and much more. Price: \$599,900 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>	<p>Splash! Splash! 3BD, 2BA, 1,507 sq. ft., on a 9,042 sq. ft. lot. Large yard with pool and covered patio. Price: \$525,000. Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	<p>Downtown Downey Development! 2BR+den, 1BA house w/ 2 car garage & large parking in backyard, on a 8799 sq ft lot, can be built into a 7000 sq ft office/retail bldg. Price: \$499,900 Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>

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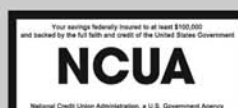
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