

The Downey Patriot



Stonewood makes donation
See Page 9



Become a better storyteller
See Page 3



Kiwanis donates some more
See Page 3

Friday, April 3, 2009

Vol. 7 No. 50

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

A Sylvan Wonderland

BY ROSALIE SCIORTINO,
WRITERS' WORKSHOP WEST

Sometimes we come upon a certain place which remains forever clear and wondrous in our memory. Such a place is now gone, but did exist right here in my hometown of Downey.

We were 13 and in junior high school when Elizabeth, Ruth and I met for the first time. Quickly thereafter we named ourselves "The Three Lusty Cheers" and formed a lifelong bond. Elizabeth became Lizzie or Liz, Ruth was Ruthie, and I was Sallie.

Lizzie's large white house, set amid orange groves, was on Gallatin School House Road. Her aunt and uncle's home was on the south end of the property. The two families shared a tennis court and a rustic swimming pool which sloped from Granny's Green, a lovely spot of lawn shaded by large old trees. Lizzie's grandmother sat out there on pleasant afternoons, reading or doing needlework, the white wooden chair made comfortable with colorful cushions.

The Lusty Cheers were in many of the same classes in Downey Junior High School. They socialized at school and after classes at each other's homes. Occasionally Ruth and I were invited by Liz for a game or two of tennis and to swim.

We had just emerged from the pool one very bright summer afternoon when Lizzie, carrying a canvas bag, led Ruth and me on a walk

See MEMORIES, page 4

A Downey Symphony quiz

BY JOYCE SHERWIN,
DOWNEY SYMPHONY

Here's a little quiz for you.

It's about a field trip our 5th grade students enjoyed last week. Let's say you've done your homework and already know the kids went by bus – actually bus after bus after bus – to the Downey Theatre for a concert. You realize the theater doesn't hold 1,660 5th-graders, so each performance was given three times by the musicians of the Downey Symphony Orchestra.

You also know that transportation, theater rental, logistical planning, and lots of teachers and moms keeping order were handled by Downey's Unified School District, bless 'em.

Now for the quiz:

1.) How much does all that cost the Symphony? (Factor in one orchestra rehearsal in the theater, the three concerts, theater staff assistance, and clean-up.)

2.) The orchestra offers this great program for the kids every year. Where does the money come from?

3.) How do the Symphony Board and Symphony Guild raise money to pay for the regular evening concerts and all those Music in the Schools performances

See SYMPHONY, page 3



Accomplished singer Julie Simpson helped warm up a record crowd of 3,300 people who attended Saturday's Arc Walk for Independence, the signature fundraising event for Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County. The amount of money raised won't be known until Monday, but officials expect the final amount to surpass their goal of \$100,000. Photo by Art Montoya

Travelogue explores mysteries of ancient, modern Egypt

CONTRIBUTED BY THE
DOWNEY THEATRE

DOWNEY – The majesty of Egypt has long enticed travelers. Join Clint and Sue Denn as they cruise the historic Nile River aboard the MS Sun Goddess to discover the mysteries of this cradle of civilization when they return to the Downey Theatre this Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

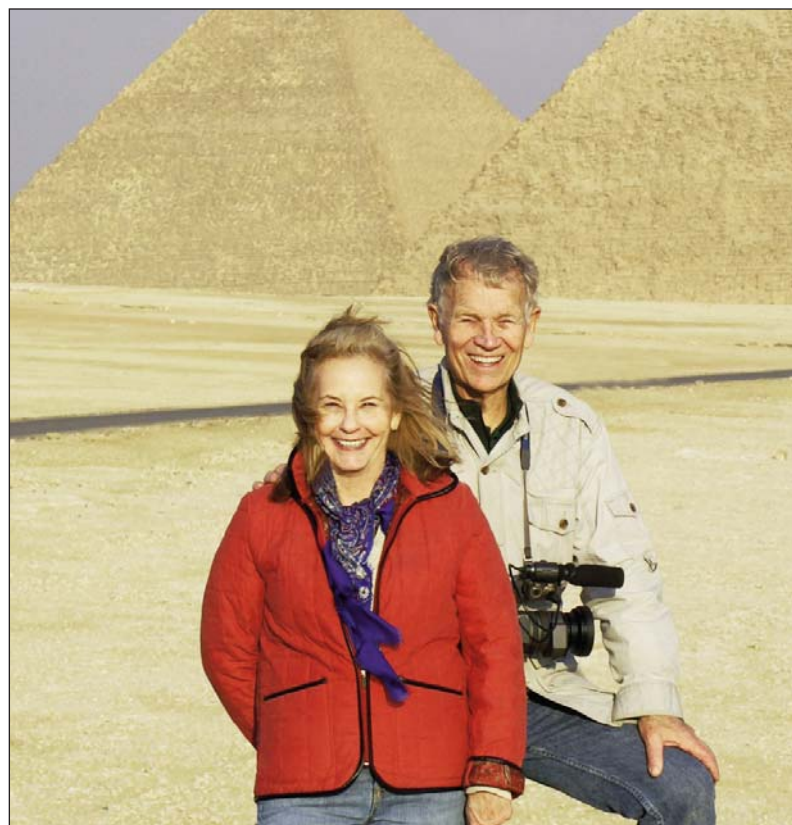
Their film, "Egypt's Treasures & Cruising the Nile," is the ninth film of the 2008/09 Armchair Adventure Travelogue Series.

The cities of Alexandria and Cairo are both ancient and unique. Cairo, a major city since the time of the pharaohs, and the port city of Alexandria, founded more than 2,300 years ago, both hold major fascination for every traveler and lover of history.

Alexandria, once the second city of the Roman Empire, sparkles against the Mediterranean Sea. We will visit Pompey's Pillar, the remains of the Serapeum Temple, and the Roman Amphitheater. No trip to Egypt would be complete without experiencing the Greco-Roman period of her magnificent history. We also see the ancient great library which has been restored to a state of the art research center.

In Cairo, a bustling modern metropolis of more than 16 million people, we explore the city's rich cultural heritage. Old Cairo's Khan el Khalili Bazaar offers a step back in time and a shopper's paradise. We will visit the beautiful Muhammed Ali Mosque and the ancient Citadel, a spectacular medieval fortress on a hill above the city. In Memphis we will see the Ramses II statue and Hathor Temple, then on to the world's oldest pyramid, Zoser Step Pyramid.

The Pyramids of Giza, the only remaining member of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, are the most famous monuments of ancient Egypt. The mysteries sur-



Clint and Sue Denn will present their travelogue on Egypt this Sunday at the Downey Theatre.

rounding their symbolism, design and purpose have often inspired debate. A symbol of strength and wisdom, the mysterious Great Sphinx presides over the Giza necropolis.

At Luxor we will begin our cruise along the Nile River, where people are still farming the same crops in the same way as their ancestors. Luxor contains the largest collection of historical monuments in Egypt. We will visit ancient Thebes and the Valley of the Kings (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, the Valley of the Queens, Karnak and, of course, the incredible Temple of Luxor.

Between Luxor and Aswan we will view the best preserved major temple in Egypt, the Temple of Horus at Edfu. On a high dune overlooking the Nile, experience the grandeur of the Temple of Kom Ombo. We stop in Aswan, Egypt's door to Africa, to visit Aswan High

Dam. It is an engineering marvel where we have a chance to see immense Lake Nasser.

Clint Denn has been a movie actor, author, photographer, underwater explorer, and teacher, as well as an award-winning filmmaker. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he joined in partnership with Col. John D. Craig, famed for his daring television series, including "I Search for Adventure" and "Of Lands and Seas." Together they wrote a nationally recognized text on scuba and skin diving, and produced several prize-winning films.

"Egypt's Treasures & Cruising the Nile" is the ninth Armchair Adventure" of a 10-film series. All films are on Sundays at 2:30 p.m. in the Downey Theatre.

Tickets for individual films may be purchased on day of performance only beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the box office. Adult tickets are \$7 and senior/student tickets are \$6 (cash or check only).

Capps' latest novel advances in contest

■ Warren graduate Shannon Capps plans to release 'Trains in the Distance' later this year.

BRUSH PRAIRIE, WA. – Former Downey resident Shannon Capps and his soon-to-be-released novel, "Train in the Distance," have made it to the quarterfinals of the 2009 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Awards (ABNAs).

The national contest is Amazon's way of finding the next John Grisham, Tom Clancy or Stephen King, and it included 10,000 applicants, the field recently narrowed to 500 to create the list of quarterfinalists.

"I feel extremely honored to be in the top 5 percent," said Capps, who graduated from Warren High School in 1982 and writes under the name S.W. Capps. "In a difficult industry like publishing, anything you can do to set yourself apart from the masses can only help."

From here, the ABNA list will be whittled down to the top 100, then the top 10, with contest finalists announced on May 15. Those finalists will be flown to Seattle for a celebratory gala in late May, where one grand prize winner will be chosen to receive a publishing contract from Penguin Books and a \$25,000 advance.

"Obviously, winning a national contest like this would be a wonderful thing for my career," said

Capps, 45. "But more importantly, this type of recognition would bring some much-needed attention to the city of Downey, the place I grew up and still call home."

Capps lived on Guatemala Avenue from 1964 to 1987, attending R o g e r



Casier and Maude Price elementary schools, Griffiths Middle School, and Warren, where he was an All-League second baseman on the baseball team. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism at USC, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 1987. From there, he worked as a TV reporter in Texas and Oklahoma before moving to the Pacific Northwest to pursue a full-time writing career.

"Train in the Distance," which is tentatively scheduled for a fall release, is Capps' second novel. The story details the plight of a young TV reporter forced to confront the sinister forces behind the

See BOOK, page 4

Estrada dominates in knockout win

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The boxing saga of Shawn Estrada, who lists his first job as "hustling in the streets" and whose brief resume includes a pivotal stop in Downey, continues its glory run.

Friday night at the Nokia Theater, the 6-ft. 1-inch Estrada delivered a three-knockdown KO over Oakland's Ray Craig (5-4, 2 KOs) in 1 minute 40 seconds of the first round in their scheduled 4-round super middleweight fight.

This was 23-year-old Estrada's third win in a row, all by KO, after turning pro. All his knockouts, the first in his debut fight with Lawrence Jones in Ontario in November 2008, and the second on Dec. 13 in Cabazon against Shaun Spaid, have come in the first round.

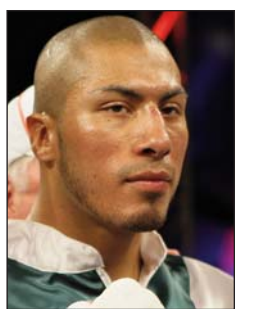
Estrada's bout was the second undercard fight in a special edition of ESPN's "Friday Night Fights." The 6-card program marked the first time ever a boxing event has been held at the sparkling 7,100-seat Nokia facility.

The main event featured the heavily-publicized non-title heavy-weight tussle between lumbering Samuel Peter of Nigeria, ranked 5th in the world and the former WBC champion, and 3rd-ranked Eddie Chambers of Pittsburgh. The favored, and speedier, Chambers won on a majority decision.

It was a night when the first three bouts (including Estrada's)

didn't go beyond the third round, all ending in knockouts. The rest of the bouts, ending in decisions, didn't thrill as much and proved to be anticlimactic.

The fourth match, won by Estrada's young Olympic teammate Javier Molina, who hails from



Commerce, nevertheless was absorbing in its own right as it was Molina's pro debut fight. Molina just turned 19.

Estrada was born and raised in East L.A., where he could easily have fallen through the cracks had it not been for the timely intervention by his father. Juan Leon Estrada was a former boxing Olympian himself, competing for the Mexican Olympic team in 1968. It was he who introduced Shawn, then age 12, to boxing. Fearing that Shawn was getting too enamored of the gang culture in the 'hood, Juan Leon arranged for his son to live with his aunt in Downey.

As fate would have it, while at Warren High School Shawn joined the 10-20 Club, a flourishing arm of Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD). He acknowledges his joining the

See ESTRADA, page 8

Bad News Bears

■ Bears' defense hibernates as Downey hosts a track meet on the base paths.

By SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Physical and mental errors coupled with too many walks continue to plague Warren, and it was evident in their latest loss against city rival Downey, faltering 13-3 on Tuesday.

Warren's modus operandi continues to be their struggles defensively and on the mound. Warren's pitching has given up an average of 17.5 runs in the past two contests.

The hidden number behind the hideous amount of runs allowed is the pitching staff's ERA which is below 5.00, a respectable number. Walks and errors are killing the staff and causing pitch counts to soar.

Consistency seems to have escaped Warren, looking good one game as demonstrated against defending league champions Paramount in a 7-3 loss, then laying an egg like the 22-5 loss against Gahr and Tuesday's loss.

"That's something we have to figure out," said manager Paul Alvarez about his team's inability to put together a string of steady performances. "That's something we addressed right now in our post-game talk. It's something we have to look for day-to-day and see how we can change that and keep the guys positive."

With a record of 1-3 in league play, Warren has a tall mountain to climb to get back into the race for third, but Alvarez is encouraged by what he saw early in the game when his team struck first with a run in the opening frame by manufacturing a run.

Daniel Catalan led the game off with an infield hit and then was bunted over to second base by Alex Solis. Catalan then moved over to third after an error and was driven in by Mason Shelton with a groundball to second base. Shelton was 2 for 3 with 2 RBIs on the night.

"I think we played well the first couple innings but little by little it started to get out of hand," Alvarez said. "But we're making improvements. I'm happy as compared to where we were the first five games of the season. We're making strides in the right direction."

Errors still continue to be an eyecore for Warren with the shoddy defense costing them way too many runs. Alvarez believes it's the basics that will set their ship right.

"Fundamentally we have to work on it," he said. "We have to slow the game down a little bit. We have a tendency that when we commit errors, it snowballs. It's a matter of changing the mentality and the mindset."

Confidence for the Bears can be built through today's game against Dominguez. Warren hasn't

lost a baseball game to the Dons in more than four years. Dominguez will be visiting Warren for their first match up of the year. Game time is set for 3:15 p.m.

As one ship is slowly sinking, another is starting to gain momentum and take off completely.

With the win, Downey has scored double digit runs for the sixth time this year. Offensively, the Vikings are starting to roll, averaging 14.6 runs during their 5-game winning streak.

More importantly, Downey pitchers are starting to find their groove, allowing just over a run per game. Against Warren, pitcher Jeremy Ruiz allowed all three runs, four hits, and racked up 11 strikeouts for the win.

"He was hitting his spots and pitched a good game," said Downey manager Jess Gonzalez. "He was on, his change up was good, and he pitched well."

Ruiz had room to relax and throw strikes with Downey's bats coming to life. Downey responded to Warren's first run with Ivory Thomas reaching base on a fielder's choice then stealing second base and third base in the bottom half of the first inning.

Cleanup hitter Michael Mazzarra reached first base on a walk then was caught stealing but managed to stay in a rundown long enough for Thomas to score. Thomas stole four bases on the night and was 1 for 2 with a base hit and was hit by a pitch twice.

The blow that ultimately ended Warren's night came in the bottom of the fourth inning when Downey scored seven runs before recording an out.

Leadoff man Cesar Valtierra began the inning with a double and moved over to third after a single by Alex Jimenez. Next, Thomas reached first base after being hit by



Warren has allowed an average of 17.5 runs the past two games, including a 13-3 loss to Downey on Tuesday. Photo by Art Montoya

a pitch.

The Vikings then strung together four straight hits by Mazzarra, Mark Palacios, Chris Munoz, and Bryant De La Campa. The four were accountable for driving in seven of Downey's 13 runs. Combined they were 7 for 12 against Warren.

"They were patient and they made them throw some pitches and they [Downey hitters] came up with some hits and they walked a couple guys which helped us out," said Gonzalez.

"We told our kids it's just another game. We can't get caught up in the Downey/ Warren [rivalry]. We're just going to worry about ourselves. That's the one thing we're going to worry about the rest of the year. Worry about

what we do and not worry about who we're playing."

Downey is now 3-1 in league play while doing it all without a standout ace on the mound. When asked who their stopper is Gonzalez said he really doesn't know and trusts whoever is out there that day.

The system seems to be working for Gonzalez with his staff holding down opponents from doing anything with the bats. Downey pitchers have only allowed 2.07 runs a game. With numbers like that, the Vikings should be able to find themselves in every game. The only blip on the radar screen was the 12-3 loss to Paramount earlier this year.

Gahr will be coming to town tonight in Downey's second league

test of the season and their man on the mound will have to do his job and so will the other seven guys behind him.

"We have to pitch and play defense [against Gahr]," said Gonzalez. "That's what it's going to come down to."

The Gladiators are the only undefeated team left in the San Gabriel Valley League and are one of three teams in the division that is believed to be in contention for the league title.

As always, the staple to Gahr's program is their pitching. The staff though does not have as great of numbers as Downey's which makes the match up even more intriguing.

Game time is at 3:15 p.m. at Yanez Field.

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EASTER WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Holy Week

Messiah Lutheran Church
10711 Paramount Boulevard • Downey • CA

Palm Sunday
April 5, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - with the Lord's Supper
April 9, 7 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrare Service
April 10, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Services
April 12, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Breakfast will be served between services at 9:15 a.m. and an Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m.

For more information call (562) 923-1215

Downey United Methodist Church
10801 S. Downey Ave. in Downey

Senior Pastor Lui Tran

Palm Sunday April 5th - 10:00am
Children's Easter Egg hunt after worship service.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil 8am-5pm & Service 7pm.

Easter Sunday Service April 5th
8:00am Youth Service
10:00am w/Bishop Mary Ann Swenson

A place to connect....to God, to people and to faith.

Holy Week

April 5—Palm Sunday at 10:00 am
Procession of Palms

April 9—Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm
April 10—Good Friday at 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday
The Resurrection of Our Lord!
7:00 am Sunrise Service
Followed by Balloon Launch
10:00 Worship Service
Followed by Light Brunch & Easter Egg Hunt

Christ Lutheran Church
7707 Florence Ave • Downey 90240

Easter 2009

"Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it."
Acts 2:23-24

Good Friday - Communion
Friday, April 10th at 12:00pm (Noon) at Calvary Chapel Downey, Main Sanctuary
Special Message and Communion by Pastor Jeff Johnson and Music by Jose Lopez
Habrá traducción en Español

The "Afterglow"
Friday, April 10th at 7:00pm at Calvary Chapel Downey, South Sanctuary
Special Messages - "The Last 7 Sayings of Christ" and Music by Kevin Moore

He's Alive Jubilation for kids
Saturday, April 11th at 10:00am at Calvary Chapel Downey, Main Sanctuary
A Celebration Just For Kids! (2yrs - 6th grade)

Sabado de Gloria
Saturday, April 11th at 7:00pm at Calvary Chapel Downey, Main Sanctuary
Message by Pastor Manny Lopez and Music by Two or More

Sunday Morning Easter Services
He Is Risen - Easter "Sunrise" Service
Sunday, April 12th at 5:45am
at Cerritos College Stadium - 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650
Message by Pastor Jeff Johnson and Music by CCD Worship Band
Habrá traducción en Español. Solo traiga radio portátil 88.9 FM.
(If it rains, meet at the church)

Sunday Services
Sunday, April 12th at 8:30am & 10:30am
at Calvary Chapel Downey, Main Sanctuary
Message by Pastor Jeff Johnson and Music by CCD Worship Band
Sunday School for Nursery through High School
Habrá traducción en Español

Calvary Chapel Downey
www.calvarydowney.org
12808 Woodruff Ave. Downey, CA 90242
For More Information Call: (562) 803-5638



Educator and author Dr. Margaret Read MacDonald will help celebrate National Literacy Week at the Downey City Library April 20-21. Photo courtesy Downey City Library

Storyteller, author to perform for Library Week

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library will celebrate National Library Week with special events featuring Dr. Margaret Read MacDonald, an award-winning storyteller, educator and author.

MacDonald will present a free storytelling workshop for adults April 20 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 11111 Brookshire Ave. The program is for parents, teachers or other adults who want to learn to be a better storyteller.

On April 21, MacDonald will present an evening of stories and fun for children ages 3-12 at 7 p.m. in the library's Cormack Room.

"Margaret Read MacDonald is a dynamic storyteller and instructor," said Claudia Dailey, the library's literacy coordinator. "Come participate in the singing, chanting and moving in what she calls story plays."

Space is limited and free tickets will be distributed 30 minutes prior to show time.

MacDonald has toured internationally and has been called "the grand dame of storytelling" by "School Library Journal." With a PhD in folklore and degrees in children's literature and library science, she is also the author of 55 print and audio books on folktales.

Copies of her book will be available for purchase and signing at the events. For reservations or information on National Library Week, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 132.

Textbooks open for viewing

DOWNEY – The public is invited to examine textbooks being considered for adoption by DUSD's board of education.

The books would be used in middle and high school special education, high school English, high school foreign language, and high school math classes.

The textbooks are in line with state codes and regulations, DUSD officials said.

Copies of the books will be on display in the second floor lobby of the Gallegos Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave., April 6 through May 11. The office is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The board of education is expected to recommend adoption of the books at its May 12 meeting. Suggestions or criticisms of the textbooks must be submitted in writing to the superintendent by May 5.

Symphony: Where does funding come from?

Continued from page 1

in every elementary school in the city?

4.) Many orchestras across the nation have had to curtail concerts or close down entirely. What is the situation with Downey's orchestra? (a) down the tubes, (b) struggling but determined, (c) doing fine, thanks.

OK, end of quiz, pencils down. Here are the answers:

1.) How much does the 5th-grade concert cost? \$17,000. Need that repeated? \$17,000.

2.) Where does the money come from? In previous years we have received funding for this portion of the Music in the Schools program by soliciting support from individuals in the community or through corporate grants.

For the second year, a bunch of angels called the Downey Kiwanis Foundation paid the entire tab, recognizing the value of excellent, live music in the experience of children. We are thrilled and thankful for the Kiwanis Foundation's enlightened generosity.

3.) How do we pay for the rest of the year? By ensuring first-rate concerts, we feel that people will tell their friends, buy tickets, and come. By opening kids' minds to great music, we build future audiences. Ongoing support comes through donations from individuals, local government, businesses, service clubs, and schools PTAs. We research and submit grant proposals. We sell ads for the printed

concert programs. We sell the programs. The Guild presents fresh, fun events throughout the year to raise money and community awareness. We auction stuff: live auctions, silent auctions, and the famous Baton Auction where you get to conduct the orchestra. We sell goodies at intermission. We watch every expense. We squirrel supplies, resources, space. We work hard. But we are lavish when it comes to commitment and enthusiasm.

4.) And how are we doing overall? Well, not one Downey Symphony treasurer in living memory has failed to warn his board at each monthly meeting, "We're in danger of not making it." But you may have noticed that we celebrated the orchestra's 50th anniversary last year, and just finished an exciting, successful Year 51. So the correct answer is (b). We've always struggled, but we've always been determined as well, and that has resulted in a treasure for any city – its own symphony orchestra.

We hope you see it that way, and will support the Downey Symphony for many more good years. We welcome your financial help, or course, but also your involvement in our activities and your resolve to keep the music alive. You are a treasure, too.

Please visit our website at www.downeysymphony.com or leave us a message at (562) 403-2944.



City officials attended a groundbreaking Saturday for a Habitat for Humanity house at 12812 Blodgett Ave. Habitat for Humanity provides "simple, decent, affordable housing" to people in need. Neighbors were also offered free exterior home repairs. Photo courtesy city of Downey



Teri Akloff, center, recreation supervisor for the city of Downey, and Thad Phillips, left, director of community services, accept a \$1,000 donation from Jeremy Fitzl, president of Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis, in support of the city's annual egg hunt, this year taking place April 11 at Apollo, Dennis the Menace, Furman and Golden parks. Festivities begin at 10:30 a.m., and the egg hunts start at 11:30. For information, call the city's Community Services Department at (562) 904-7238.

Downey Theatre hosting comedy show

DOWNEY – Chamelon Comedy will perform a night of stand-up and improv comedy tomorrow at 7 p.m. at the Downey Theatre.

Chamelon Comedy is a youth comedy group. The event will benefit the Downey Rose Float Association and their 2010 float, "Jewels of the Pacific."

Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door or by calling Gary Head at (562) 760-9880.

Blankman to speak Wednesday

DOWNEY – Candie Blankman, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Downey, will be the featured speaker at Wednesday's meeting of Citizens for Downey at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

In addition to her service at the church, Blankman also heads a non-denominational group "which has a mission and goals for our community."

The meeting is free and begins at 7:30 a.m. An optional breakfast buffet is available for \$10 (\$15 for couples) at 7 a.m. The public is invited and no reservations are required.

Egg hunt for kids April 11

DOWNEY – The city of Downey will host its annual "Eggstravaganza" event for kids April 11 at local parks.

Free activities, including face painting and crafts, begin at 10:30 a.m. The egg hunt begins at 11:30 and will be divided into different age groups.

Parents can also take pictures of their children with the Bunny for \$2. Members of the Miss Downey and Miss Teen Downey courts will be volunteering at the sites, along with the Volunteers and Downey police explorers.

The event will be held at Apollo, Dennis the Menace, Furman and Golden parks. For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

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Arc
of Southern Los Angeles County
Walk for Independence
www.arcwalk.org

Thank You!

A Special Thanks to all those that participated and supported the Arc Walk for Independence.

Thank You for caring about people with intellectual disabilities and supporting Arc.

We had a record crowd of over 3,300 people.

On behalf of over 400 people with intellectual disabilities.

Thank You!

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Book: Download book chapter online for free.

Continued from page 1

station he works for. Under increasing threat of danger, he fights tirelessly to expose the truth, but in the process uncovers something far more powerful: the truth about himself.

"It's one part coming-of-age tale, one part whodunit," Capps said. "And with my own experience as a TV reporter, I was able to present a pretty accurate picture on

the real – and often ugly – world of television news, the one behind the perfect hair and the glitzy sets."

Capps' first novel, "Salmon Run," was published in 2007, and is available at Borders in Pico Rivera and online at Amazon.com.

To read more about the ABNA contest or to download a chapter of "Train in the Distance" for free, readers can visit www.amazon.com/dp/B001UG39WO.

Memories: Wondrous escape existed here.

Continued from page 1

down Gallatin Road which separated acres of orange groves. Our wet suits dripped water into our sandals as we trudged east to the end of the narrow paved road where it disappeared into a jumble of green at the edge of the dry San Gabriel Riverbed.

The town of Downey in the '30s had many large orange groves and orchards of other citrus fruits. When temperatures dropped below or near freezing, smudge pots beneath the trees were lit to warm the air and save the fruit. During those times, Lizzie's natural platinum hair turned a strange shade of grey-green from the soot generated from the pots. Living in the midst of an orchard she got a concentrated dose of the dirty stuff.

When we reached the edge of the riverbed, Liz led us down a rough path which wound deeper around tall trees and rich undergrowth. A tangle of vines and brush were pushed aside as we snaked behind our leader. I was amazed that not far from my house existed this secluded, green retreat. It was

one of the most magical places I could imagine. There was a dream-like quality to it, both mystical and ethereal.

The sun made moving patterns on the path as breezes moved the leaves of the lofty trees. We walked further into this secret green place. The only sounds were from birds and buzzing insects. The place seemed more and more enchanted as we walked into a small clearing where a wooden table, four chairs, and a bench had been placed. I could see they had been there through many seasons.

Our hostess invited us to sit at the table as she took from the bag she had carried a tin of homemade oatmeal cookies and a thermos of iced tea, and three paper cups. Ruthie rose to gather a few blooming weeds which she placed in the center of the table. Afternoon tea in Nature's Sanctuary – that is how it seemed to me – a place almost holy. Remember, I was 13 years old.

I thought how fortunate Liz was to live near this place – to walk to it with a book or a dream and to immerse herself in its natural, quiet beauty any time she felt inspired.

Today, nestled deep in the recesses of my mind and heart is the memory of our camaraderie and of that magical sylvan retreat which seemed very far from reality. And to think it existed not in some remote, exotic location, but right here in my hometown.

Dr. James Holman was local surgeon

DOWNEY – Dr. James Holman, a physician, surgeon and resident of Downey since 1965, has passed away.

Holman was active in the community with his late wife, Eileen, and their seven children. Later, he included his current wife, Jerlene, in his tradition of activity and involvement.

Holman served as Chief of Surgeon in Grand Island, Nebr. and again in Racine, Wis. In the mid-1960's he came to Downey Regional Medical Center.

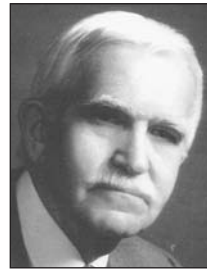
At Downey Regional, Holman was director of medical education for 18 years, president of the medical staff, and served on the hospital's board of directors, Memorial Trust Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Million Dollar Club.

He also was president of the Southeast District #10 for Los Angeles County. Statewide, he served as a member of the California Accreditation and Licensure Survey. He also contributed to medical efforts in Mexico and Zimbabwe.

Holman belonged to the Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis Club and Chairman's Round Table of the Downey YMCA, in addition to serving on the Y's board of managers. He attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

Holman is survived by his wife, Jerlene; children, Steve (Mary), Michael (Kathy), Jere, Kevin, Tara (Jim), Brian (Debbie), and Sheila; and grandchildren, Seamus, Lauren, Matt, Sarah, Joe, Max, Krysta and Veronica.

A visitation was held Tuesday at Miller-Mies Mortuary. A funeral Mass took place Wednesday at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Interment took place at Rose Hills in Whittier.



Mildred Wylie was school secretary

DOWNEY – Mildred E. Wylie, a former longtime resident of Downey, died on March 1. She was 94.

She was born in Jefferson, Tex. and grew up in Neosho, Mo. where she met her husband, Emory M. Wylie. They were married in 1932 and moved to Downey with their baby daughter in 1936.

She was a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Downey, and was employed at Downey High School as a secretary to the principal for 20 years. She was a member of the Downey Community Hospital auxiliary, and belonged to the Santa Gertrude Chapter D.A.R. of Downey.

Wylie had been residing at Morningside, a retirement community in Fullerton, the last six years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, who passed away in 1999. She is survived by her two daughters, Dorothy Crabtree and Betty Jane Wheeler; grandchildren, Vicki Wendt-Holland, Tamara Wendt-Kardashian, Lisa Kendrick, Jeffrey Wheeler, and Dan Wheeler; and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Rose Hills in Whittier on March 6.



POET'S CORNER

Untitled

Beyond
a word that prompts
a mental scene,
a place not near at hand.
A lush and verdant
land of green,
or harsh and
desert land.
Perhaps something
just out of reach
alas, beyond
our Ken,
perhaps a warm
and sandy beach,
to visit now
and then.
So much of life
is well beyond
our grasp or
so it seems,
these things of which
we are so fond
are ones only
in dreams.
Even beyond
our dreams
in fact,
is where
our treasures lie.
Somehow just where
it is not exact,
and one but wonders why.
-Elmer Anthony,
Lakewood

Joyful Singers set to entertain

DOWNEY – The Joyful Singers, under the direction of Chris Squires, will perform "A Choral Celebration" Monday as part of the OASIS program at Downey Adult School.

The Joyful Singers are a new mixed-chorus. Their performance will include solo favorites, choral harmony and musical skits.

The OASIS program welcomes all older adults. Programs are held inside the newly-renovated Harriett Paine Event Center at Downey Adult School.

Enrollment is free and begins at 2:45 p.m. The program begins at 3:45 p.m. and is followed by an optional dinner which may be purchased for \$3.50 at time of enrollment.

For more information, call (562) 940-6200.

Thomas Brady Jr. was Korean War veteran

DOWNEY – Thomas L. Brady Jr., a Korean War veteran, passed away March 26 at his Downey home where he had resided since 1965.

Brady was a contractor and owner of T&J Plumbing. He was formerly a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Downey, and was a member of the Whittier Area Community Church when he died.

He was an Eagle Scout, and belonged to Scoutmaster Troop 433. He was a veteran of the Marine Corp. Reserves, and served with the Coast Guard during the Korean War.

Funeral services were held March 20 at the Whittier Area Community Church, with Pastor William Ankerberg officiating. A graveside service took place at Rose Hills in Whittier.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Loretta Jean Brady, and family.

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Word play

By Eric Pierce

Congratulations to staff writer Henry Veneracion for somehow finding a way to work the word “gobbledegook” into one of his columns (story is below). It’s not unusual for Henry to work some French or Spanish into his articles, but “gobbledegook” takes the cake.

It reminds me of some of my own favorite words. They are (with definition from Merriam-Webster):

- Crapulous:** sick from excessive indulgence in liquor;
- Discombobulated:** upset or confused;
- Mollycoddle:** a pampered or effeminate man or boy;
- Gruntle:** to be happy, the opposite of disgruntled;
- Zaftig:** well-rounded figure, pleasingly plump;

Bonus points if you can use that final word as a compliment and avoid being punched in the gut.

It’s always fun to learn new words, as long as you don’t use them to make other people feel less superior.

I think that’s the reason I could never get into Shakespeare.

At long last Council whittles down list of priorities

By Henry Veneracion

In a way, the stretched-out 3-session City Council Priority Workshop that recessed (gulp!) Tuesday (“to around budget preparation time”) was an ambitious exercise. And, for some precarious moments, it seemed to o’erleap itself.

To his credit, Mayor Mario Guerra courageously owned up to instigating it. The bold intent of the workshop seemed clear enough: 1) departmental presentation and City Council discussion/direction of departmental priorities; and 2) City Council discussion/direction of city goals and integration of goals with departmental priorities.

The underlinings above are mine. They never happened. Maybe the people concerned, to use Bush’s famous malapropism, ‘misunderestimated’ the time frame involved, or maybe they will be addressed the next time around. But this is clearly a case of not delivering as promised.

Anyway, after the final departmental presentation on Special Projects was made by deputy city manager Desi Alvarez, and the usual follow-up queries (about AB 139, etc.) were answered, out came the Council’s ‘final goal list’ of 49 ranked items. Ranked on top of the list was “Expand/improve public information through website enhancements, including utility bill management, pushed e-mail alerts and notices, and interactive on-line directory of events and civic groups.” To someone who hadn’t attended any of the two previous workshop sessions, and to read this statement for the first time (without at least a nodding acquaintance with the sentence and an inkling of what it signifies), this must have read like pure gobbledegook.

“What do we do with this list?” cried one council member, I forget who. “And how do we proceed?”

A confused chatter ensued among the obviously ill-prepared council members. City Manager Gerald Caton offered to penetrate the fog: “Why don’t you classify them into primary, secondary, tertiary (I’m paraphrasing here), etc., goals? Based on these specific, agreed-upon goals, we the staff can then develop our programs around them.”

The confusion went on for several more minutes, until someone (I think it was Guerra, if memory serves) said, “Why don’t we go down the list and strike out the obvious duplications?”

So this was done. And lo and behold, to their amazement, the 49-item list was pared down to 28, then finally 17. There was rejoicing then in the kingdom (of the lost!).

The clock ticked 9:30 p.m. The session had started at 6:30 p.m.

Throughout the whole 3-session exercise, there was, in addition to the omissions indicated above, no mention of Vision 2025, the so-called ‘general plan’. The exercise is being conducted *in vacuo*.

The directive to staff at adjournment was to look at the 17 items and come back with costing attached, etc.

We’ll (again) see how this goes.

Home value assessment results now available online

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles County property owners can go online to find out if their home or condominium was assessed a decline in value, which could lead to lower property taxes, Los Angeles County Assessor Rick Auerbach announced this week.

Approximately half a million properties saw their property values decline, Auerbach said. That could mean a reduction in property taxes without needing to file any forms.

To see if your home’s property value was reduced, log on to www.assessor.lacounty.gov and enter an address or Assessor Identification Number (AIN). The assessor’s office reviewed property purchased primarily between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2008. In some “particularly hard hit areas of the county,” the review will include properties purchased as far back as 2000.

Letters to the Editor:

Beyond the pundits

Dear Editor:

Ms. Elsa Van Leuven’s Letter to the Editor deserves a response (“Obama’s Change, 3/27/08). She offered no alternative suggestions, just mere criticism of President Obama, who has been in office for a little more than 60 days.

We’re in this mess because individuals like her sat back and said nothing while this financial crisis was unfolding, accepted eight years of no oversight or regulation, and supported a president that abdicated his responsibilities to others and lacked the skills for analytical thoughts and failed to take steps to address the problems that were in the public’s view showing trouble brewing.

As a resident of this city, I watched numerous banks and mortgage brokers write countless sub-prime loans. Was she complaining about them?

It’s easy to pass judgment on a new president who must address two badly managed wars, a failing economy that was long in the making, and offer no constructive suggestions other than to list items that in your view are wasting taxpayers’ money. This mess started as far back as Reagan and has been moving towards calamity through the Bush administration.

I agree in part with one statement Leuven made: there are jokers in Washington, but they are far outnumbered by Republicans than Democrats. I do support a president that is technology-wise and uses it, and I support any opportunity to hear him discuss what direction he’s going in, be it through Leno or other sources.

We cannot rebuild our country overnight. We all have to sacrifice and start thinking. If you have complaints, make them to Congress and register with the White House your concerns, but I suggest Leuven start learning more about what brought us to the edge of a cliff before she starts blaming a man who had nothing to do with the mess we’re in today. Our local library has numerous books that are written by independent thinkers and observers. Expand your mind beyond the pundits that want us to believe this is all Obama’s fault. Know who the players are and how they benefited over the past 30 years.

— **Jacki Michaels, Downey**

Dear Editor:

The Obama detractors certainly have short memories. Again, it was a previous administration that introduced the stimulus package as well as the bailout. It was an earlier administration that allowed bandits to pillage companies by instituting “deregulation.” And what about the “trickle down theory”? If people at the top do well, then that benefits the “little man” down at the bottom.

Is your home as valuable as it used to be? Are you getting the same interest rates on your savings and CDs and 401(k)? Are you doing well in the stock market?

I have the feeling that if President Obama were able to part the waters of the Red Sea, find a cure for all the diseases of the world, end famine and bring world peace, that would not be enough. They would deny he did it or blame him because he didn’t do enough. I’ll bet their heads are exploding over the trip to Europe. Could the anger directed toward this man be more than political bias?

— **Lois Rossi, Downey**

Letters to the editor may be submitted by writing to *The Downey Patriot*, 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240 or by e-mail to downeypatriot@yahoo.com. Letters may be edited for style and/or content. Letters must include a full name and address for verification.



Arc Walk a success

Dear Editor:

It was a morning when our community came together like never before to give hope and encouragement to people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. The Arc Walk participants gathered together over 3,300 strong (the largest crowd ever) on a beautiful morning to tell the world that they care and they want to help.

As an organization that has fought for the rights of people for disabilities for 53 years, we could not have been prouder and we want to give thanks for all those that attended the Arc Walk for Independence last Saturday.

We of course thank our wonderful corporate sponsors who despite a difficult economy, still gave what they had. I noticed a CEO in the crowd from a major financial institution, but you wouldn’t know it, because he just wore a Walk shirt and walked with his team. There was Taylor’s team, a proud family who wore pink shirts with Taylor’s picture on it. I met the 9-year-old who raised \$112 because she wanted to help people. We had newborns come in their strollers, but we also had 90-year-olds who walked three miles. We had schools and churches and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and Little League teams who walked together for a common cause.

We are deeply touched by the level of genuine caring for a population so overlooked. We continue to provide services for almost 400 people every day with a renewed spirit and an awesome responsibility to help each person reach their full potential and take more steps toward independence.

I simply want to say thank you to all those that walked the Arc Walk and continue to believe in the dignity and value of people with intellectual disabilities. We will gather again on March 27, 2010 because our cause never goes away, but we believe in celebrating the successes of the people we all serve.

To each participant, we say thank you for loving, caring and walking.
— **Kevin MacDonald, Executive Director, Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County**

Rethink chicks as Easter gifts

Contributed by the Center for Disease Control

Easter brings to mind brightly-colored eggs, baskets full of candy, and large chocolate bunnies. Traditions associated with the Easter season are enjoyable for children and adults alike. However, some Easter traditions are of particular concern for children, placing them at risk for serious illness.

Baby animals, including baby chicks and ducklings, are sometimes given as gifts or put on display at this time of the year. Because they are so soft and cute, many people do not realize the potential danger baby birds, such as chicks and ducklings, can be to small children. Young birds often carry harmful bacteria called salmonella. Each spring, some children become infected with salmonella after receiving a baby bird for Easter.

Bacteria that are carried in the bird’s intestine contaminate their environment and the entire surface of the animal. These bacteria can be harmful to humans. Children can be exposed to the bacteria by simply holding, cuddling or kissing the birds and by contact with bird enclosures or bird environments. Young children are most susceptible to infection because they are more likely than others to put their fingers into their mouths and because their immune systems are still developing.

Why should I not give young children chicks and duckling for Easter? Young children are at particular risk for salmonellosis, and chicks and ducklings can carry salmonellosis at any time of the year. Each spring there is an increase in demand from hatcheries and farms to supply young animals for Easter. To meet the demand, baby birds – especially chicks and ducklings – are specially hatched in large quantities and are shipped around the country.

Hatching and shipping many animals at one time increases the stress upon the animals and makes them more prone to becoming ill or shedding harmful bacteria such as salmonella. The likelihood of animals shedding salmonella bacteria and infecting others is likely to increase.

How is salmonella transmitted from chicks or ducklings to children? Children become infected by putting their fingers or other things (pacifiers, toys, etc.) contaminated with bird droppings into their mouths. Baby birds often do not appear dirty but may have feces and bacteria on their feathers and beaks – places where children are likely to touch.

Birds might also contaminate their physical environment and children can become infected if their hands come in contact with this environment.

How do I reduce the exposure of young children to salmonella from chicks and ducklings?

- Do not give chicks or ducklings to young children as Easter gifts.
- Do not let children under 5 handle baby chicks or other young birds.
- If anyone touches the chicks or ducklings in their environment, make sure that they was their hands immediately afterward. Pacifiers, toys, bottles or other objects should not touch the baby birds or their enclosures. If these objects do become contaminated, was them with warm, soapy water.
- Do not allow anyone to eat or drink while interacting with birds or their environment. Keep the bird area separate from areas where food and drink are prepared or consumed. Do not allow chicks or ducklings on table surfaces or places where food will be prepared or eaten. Talk to your healthcare provider about possible risk of salmonella.

What are the signs of salmonella infections in humans? Most people have diarrhea, fever, and stomach pain that start one to three days after they ingest the bacteria. These symptoms usually resolve after one week. Other symptoms might be nausea, chills, headaches or a general achy feeling. Young children, the elderly, and other immunocompromised persons may have a more severe infection.

Titanic belongs to all of us

By W. Mae Kent

Since March 24, Titanic historians, aficionados and ordinary Titanic buffs have been abuzz with the latest controversy surrounding the famous ship. Word has come through the Associated Press that a maritime judge in Norfolk, Virginia will soon be handing down a momentous ruling on ownership rights to the great vessel. In particular, Judge Rebecca Beach Smith will rule on the RMS Titanic, Inc.’s degree of ownership of the wreck, its artifacts, and the establishment of a monitoring system to safeguard the site.

Controversy is nothing new with the Titanic. In fact, its very creation was the result of conflict and competition between two shipping companies: Cunard and White Star Lines, both of whom were vying to have the fastest, most luxurious ships to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

Since the Titanic sank to the ocean floor on that fateful April night 97 years ago, arguments over ownership of the wreck and its artifacts have been waged. And to muddy the waters so to speak, the ship went down in international waters; all of the original owners have long since departed this life, and since they believed that the sunken vessel no longer had any tangible value, they left no succession of ownership.

As early as 1914 schemes had been hatched to raise the Titanic, even though no one really knew the exact spot in the Atlantic of where the ship went down. And since there was no actual vessel to be had, the controversy over ownership kind of lacked sea legs. However, since geologist Dr. Robert Ballard – a Downey High School graduate – and his French/American crew found the resting place of the ship in 1985, those sea legs have been found. While Ballard and his company,

RMS Titanic, Inc. was awarded ownership and salvaging rights in 1994 by a U.S. District Court, the controversy over who should own the vessels and its artifacts has not gone away. The U.S., French and English governments have all expressed opinions declaring ownership interests in the vessel.

But does any government or any one country have the right to own the famous ship? My heart says “no.” The passengers who died in the great tragedy came from all over the world: Italy, Germany, Sweden, Australia, Greece, France, Armenia, Poland, England, China, Spain, Austria, Scotland, Syria, America, Ireland; and these are just the countries that I have personally been able to identify through research as having citizens on the ship. Since all of these countries were represented on the ship through their citizens, no one country should have ownership of the Titanic and its artifacts.

Establishing international ownership and security of the site will be a huge task. There are so many things to be considered, like the question of Ballard and RMS Titanic Inc.’s legal rights to the site. And then there are questions about how the various nations can share ownership of the site, protect it, and procure and preserve its artifacts.

I strongly believe the Titanic belongs to all of us. I hope Judge Smith’s ruling will honor its victims who hailed from around the world and preserve the legacy of the ship for future generations of every nation.

W. Mae Kent is the author of a new novel, “Titanic: The Untold Story.” Visit her online at www.titanicuntoldstory.com.

The Downey Patriot

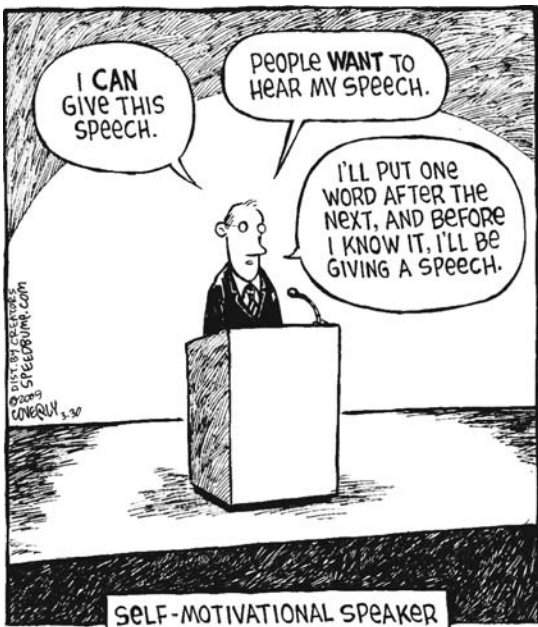
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For April

- Sat. April 4: **Comedy fundraiser**, Downey Theatre, 7 p.m.
- Sun. April 5: **Egyptian travelogue**, Downey Theatre, 2:30 p.m.
- Mon. April 6: **Trip to Pechanga Resort & Casino**, Woman's Club, 8 a.m.
- Mon. April 6: **Joyful Singers concert**, Downey Adult School, 3:45 p.m.
- Mon. April 6: **Chris Bowen talk & book-signing**, Downey City Library, 7 p.m.
- Wed. April 8: **Citizens for Downey meeting**, Rio Hondo Event Center, 7:30 a.m.
- Wed. April 8: **Christian Women's Club meeting**, Los Amigos Country Club, 11:45 a.m.
- Wed. April 8: **Downey Youth Football registration**, Downey High cafeteria, 7 p.m.

City Meetings

- 1st Tuesdays, 6:30 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information call Brian Saylor at 927-2000.
- 6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call John McAllister 869-0928.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
- 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: **Sertoma Club**, at Cafe 'N Stuff, for information call (562) 927-6438.
- 2nd Tues., 6 p.m.: **Downey Fly Fishers**, at Apollo Park, for information call 425-7936.
- 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m.: **Community Emergency Response Team meeting**, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
- 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: **Writer's Workshop West**, at Downey High School library, for info call 862-3106.

Wednesdays

- 7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
- 1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park.
- 1st Weds., 10 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call Barbara Briley-Bear 869-7618.
- 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
- 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
- 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.
- 4th Weds., 6:30 p.m.: **Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting**, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
- 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.
- 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
- 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.

On This Day...

- April 3, 1860: The Pony Express, the express mail service serving North America, begins service between St. Joseph, Mo. and Sacramento, Calif.
- 1882: Notorious outlaw Jesse James is shot and killed in St. Joseph, Mo.
- 1922: Acclaimed actress Doris Day is born. Also born April 3: singer Wayne Newton (67), singer Tony Orlando (65), "Frasier" actor David Hyde Pierce (50), comedian and actor Eddie Murphy (48), actress Jennie Garth (37), "MadTV" comedian Aries Spears (34), pop singer Leona Lewis (24), and actress Amanda Bynes (23).
- 1936: Bruno Hauptmann is electrocuted for the kidnap and murder of the Lindbergh baby.
- 1968: Less than 24 hours before his assassination, Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his "mountaintop" speech to a group of striking sanitation workers in Memphis.
- 1996: Theodore Kaczynski, the Unabomber, is arrested at his remote Montana cabin.

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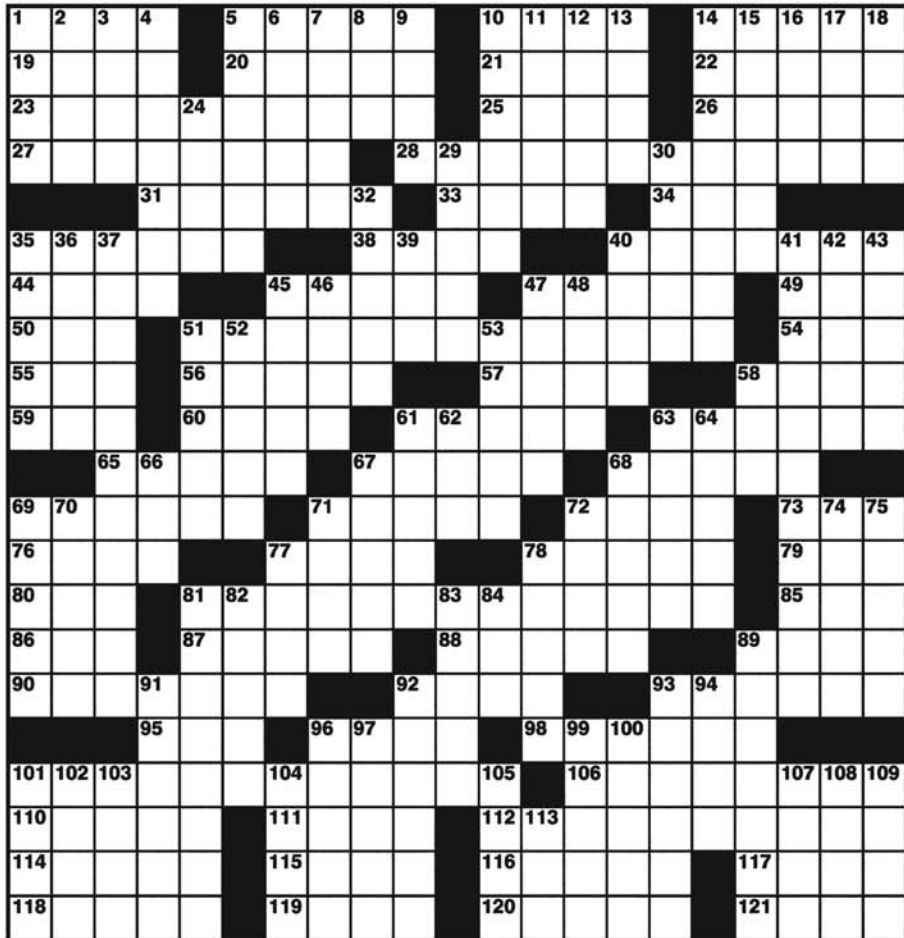
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

LET'S SEAT: Featuring edible wordplay
by Gail Grabowski

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | 73 "Without question!" | 8 Actress Long |
| 1 Move like lava | 76 Spice from a single nutmeg tree | 9 Comes to a close |
| 5 Single-handedly | 77 Beat soundly | 10 Rudder locations |
| 10 Mariner's mop | 78 Put in stitches | 11 Acknowledged the crowd |
| 14 Take by force | 79 Theater success letters | 12 La Scala solos |
| 19 Tiny quantity | 80 LAX posting | 13 Soothing application |
| 20 Michigan state bird | 81 Stole Spartan weapons? | 14 Kitchen towels |
| 21 Plantation of fiction | 85 A question of technique | 15 Entice |
| 22 Circulation mainstay | 86 Place for a flock | 16 Niagara River source |
| 23 Look down on money? | 87 Peruvian range | 17 Fr. holy women |
| 25 Downright nasty | 88 Avian perch | 18 Yarn |
| 26 Hawker's talk | 89 Cooked up | 24 Written reminder |
| 27 Hound of the Baskervilles setting | 90 Sailor's shore leave | 29 Poultry purchase |
| 28 Overact for the camera? | 92 BLT spread | 30 Prompter's job |
| 31 Map line | 93 Grew rapidly | 32 Clock sounds |
| 33 &&&& | 95 One-time link | 35 Cylindrical sandwiches |
| 34 Swiss canton | 96 "Without delay!" | 36 Staff members |
| 35 Fritters away | 98 For mature viewers | 37 Checked out a grouch? |
| 38 Mischief makers | 101 Keep canines quiet? | 39 West of Tinseltown |
| 40 Certain betrothed | 106 Wrongdoings | 40 Sawbuck halves |
| 44 Moneyed, in Madrid | 110 Kitchen gadget | 41 Rural fraud? |
| 45 Chocolate source | 111 In pumps, perhaps | 42 Keep an ground |
| 47 Gasket | 112 Microsoft moles? | 43 Bert's roommate |
| 49 Sculling item | 114 Hidden agenda | 45 Autumn beverage |
| 50 Nabokov heroine | 115 Karaoke need | 46 Served perfectly |
| 51 Farm playground equipment? | 116 African grassland | 47 Deed holder |
| 54 Big brewer | 117 What the suspicious smell | 48 Orange throwaway |
| 55 Writer with ink | 118 Oscar winner as June | 51 Robbery, for one |
| 56 Midway attractions | 119 Port of Yemen | 52 Keeps out of sight |
| 57 Renters of rooms | 120 Saber cousins | 53 Fathered |
| 58 Prefix for freeze | 121 Hankerings | 58 Jungle swinger |
| 59 IRS ID | | 61 Potato pancake |
| 60 Picked from a lineup | | 62 Put into service |
| 61 Enticed | | 63 Circus star |
| 63 Walk carefully | DOWN | 64 High-tech music boxes |
| 65 Fictional Gantry | 1 Pugilist's weapon | 66 Weave a tangled web |
| 67 Police weapon | 2 Nessie's home | 67 RPM measurers |
| 68 College assignment | 3 Oklahoma tribe | 68 Handle roughly |
| 69 Watery swirls | 4 Grows fond of | |
| 71 Saw socially | 5 Shaded areas | |
| 72 Guerilla's garb, briefly | 6 The Maltese Falcon actor | |
| | 7 Like Humpty Dumpty | |

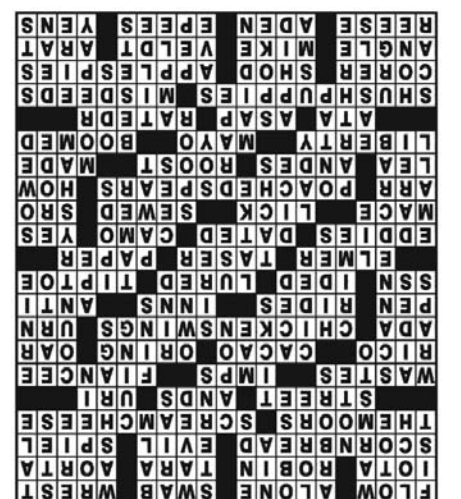
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- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 69 Online shopping mecca | 83 Window covering | 101 Lasting mark |
| 70 "Is it too risky?" | 84 Tofu base | 102 Give an edge to |
| 71 Chop up | 89 Union demand, perhaps | 103 Strongly encourage |
| 72 Ho-hum grades | 91 Board-room props | 104 Gen. Patton's alma mater |
| 74 Wear down | 92 Lass | 105 Keep a nest egg |
| 75 Scattered seed | 93 Attacks from all sides | 107 Irish homeland |
| 77 Curtsier | 94 Ten to one, for one | 108 Senior member |
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| 81 Short hole on a course | 97 Piped up | |
| 82 Pub sign | 99 More than enough | |
| | 100 Jalapeño feature | 113 Get-up-and-go |

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.

CACAO beans (45 Across) were used as currency in the ancient Aztec empire. MACE (76 Across) is produced from the seed covering of the nutmeg. REESE Witherspoon (118 Across) won an Academy Award for her portrayal of June Carter in the 2005 film "Walk the Line."





Allison Iraheta: the new Christina Aguilera

By: Bridget Sagrero, Intern

Allison Iraheta, "Downey's very own Idol" as she's been recently called, had another performance on "American Idol" on Tuesday, when she performed "Don't Speak" by No Doubt.

I am not the biggest fan of "American Idol" and to be honest I don't think I have ever seen a full episode until Tuesday night, which I enjoyed watching. I could not wait to see what the top 9 actually sounded like and of course to hear and see Iraheta perform.

I could not help but be in awe about the song she was going to be singing, since this time around it was up to the contestants to choose a song to perform. Once she hit the stage she was truly amazing, making minor mistakes as well as making the song "Don't Speak" fit and reflect her own style and originality. She did not just sing but also played the guitar in the intro of her

song.

The moment she opened her mouth to sing the first couple of lyrics she reminded me of Christina Aguilera. Iraheta is only 16, but has a voice so powerful and strong that it almost seems as if it were not coming from her. Aguilera too had such a strong voice as a young girl and made it big, and there is no doubt in my mind that Iraheta is heading in that path, whether or not it is through "Idol."

Iraheta was wearing a pink puffy knee-high laced dress that had an unusual white-belt-looking thing hanging down the middle, with black leggings, and white open-toed heels. She also had an interesting hairdo going on that was quite distracting for me. It appeared to me that she was trying a little too hard to look edgy and have the rock star look, when she

very well did not need to do so.

The judges made sure to point out her wardrobe, especially Randy Jackson. They all said that she was a great singer and had talent, but that her outfit was a distraction. I agreed with that statement, especially with her hair.

I see why Iraheta has been able to make it all the way up to the top 9 and hope she will make it even further in this competition, but she has to keep it up. The wait is getting shorter and the other contestants are trying their hardest to bring their best performance forward. It is now up to the public to keep voting for her.

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) at Warren

By: Britawyna Craft, Intern

Starting on March 22, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) began their stay at Warren. Every six years, every school (college and high school) gets accredited by WASC. If a high school is not accredited, any students attending that school will not have their grades count and that student is ineligible for entrance into a four-year university.

At Warren, teachers were found throughout their classes and halls scrambling about, attending midday meetings involving WASC representatives. These meetings

were to consist of informing representatives about procedures teachers use in their classrooms, discuss test scores, and also for representatives to get a better understanding of Warren and how it is run. Teachers were not the only ones anxious about the arrival of WASC. Michelle Bertinelli, a junior, worked tirelessly with a few other Warren Bears to prepare for WASC. These students gave up their Saturday to help the school get organized, clean the campus, and make posters and nameplates for teachers.

Administrators at DUSD have expectations they expect every student to meet by graduation. These expectations are found throughout the school and are known as the Warren Expected School Wide Learning Results (WESLR). Warren believes that all students should be academically enriched, possess effective communication and problem solving skills, and be able to research and also to take an active part in learning.

The WASC representatives were found throughout the campus displaying their name tags, interviewing students, teachers and administrators. Warren senior Jessica Robles stated, "I have faith that my school will succeed, the staff is great and our school looks really nice, any member of WASC could see that."

Representatives observed the campus and classrooms to determine whether or not Warren would continue to be an accredited school. As Warren English teacher Mrs. Jessica Davis said, "Warren's curriculum is based on standards."

The English standards at Warren are based upon reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Freshman Alexis Denes stated, "Warren is an awesome school with [cool] teachers and students." Although many students are unaware of the seriousness of this standard review, they had become aware of the presence of the WASC representatives. Sophomore Helene Sparangis stated, "I felt a little nervous when a [WASC] person would walk into a room and observe."

While underclassmen held different feelings about the review than the graduating seniors, one thing was certain: everyone was a little nervous. Senior Ivette Rodarte said, "It's kind of scary, especially for the kids who have already been accepted into the universities. If Warren doesn't get accredited, they sure can't go." Results of the review will become available within the next few weeks, leaving many teachers, students, and parents on the edge of their seats.



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DVD RELEASES FOR APRIL 14

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Apply for the volunteer Green Task Force

The City of Downey is inviting residents to submit applications to the volunteer Green Task Force. Community members and experts will meet monthly for a full year and will make recommendations to the City Council on best policies and programs for furthering a sustainable city.

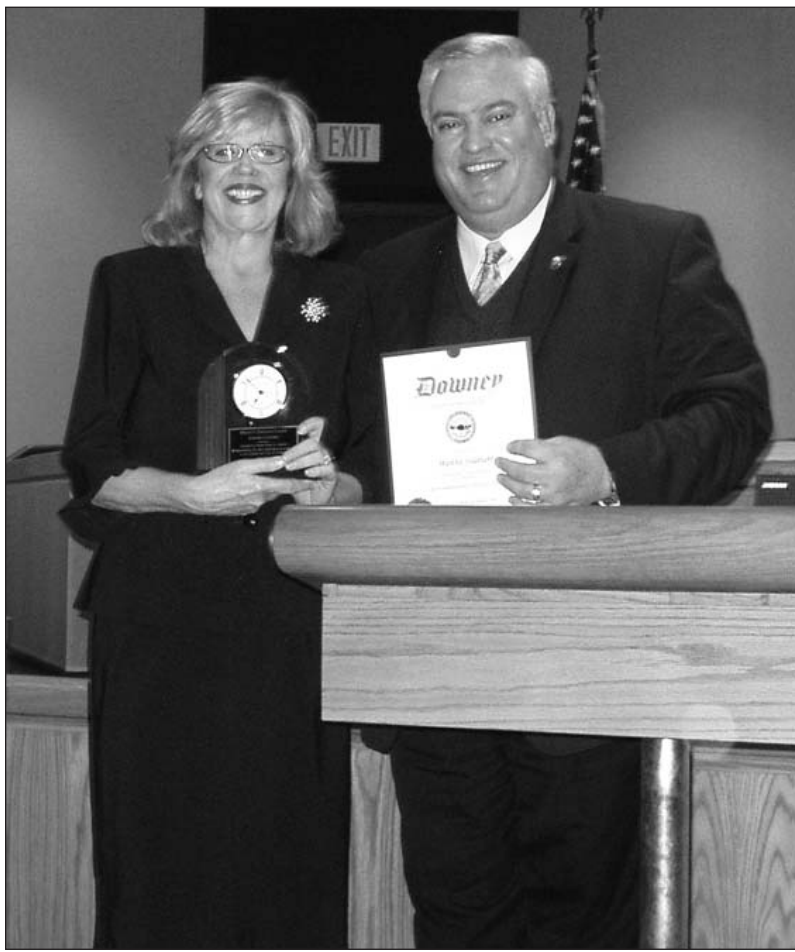
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DUSD board member and community leader Martha Sodetani was honored with the Mayor's Diakonia Award at the March 24 City Council meeting.

Sodetani honored with Diakonia Award

DOWNEY – DUSD board member Martha Sodetani was the third recipient of the Mayor's Diakonia Award recognizing outstanding service to the community.

Sodetani received the award at the March 24 City Council meeting. In addition to her duties on the school board, Sodetani is actively involved with several community organizations, including the Assistance League of Downey, Downey PTA, Coordinating Council, Gangs Out of Downey, and Character Counts.

Sodetani is dedicated to reaching out to others and demonstrates how simple acts of kindness can make a difference, Guerra said.

"I am very proud to call Martha my friend," he said. "The example she has given to me and others makes her a very special person and it would be wrong of me not to recognize her."

The Mayor's Diakonia Award is presented each month to outstanding community volunteers. Diakonia means "servant" in Greek.

To nominate a volunteer, call the City Council office at (562) 904-7274.

Razorbacks to begin registration

DOWNEY – Downey Youth Football will hold its first sign-ups of the 2009 season at its annual "Back to Football Night" on Wednesday at 7 p.m. inside Downey High School's cafeteria.

Registration will be taken for tackle football, flag football, and cheer-leading for boys and girls ages 5-14.

Downey Youth Football has chosen its head coaches for the season. The coaches are Robert Olide, flag football; Fernando Cardenas, Mitey Mite; Ron Marquez Jr., Pee Wee; EJ Enslin, Pee Wee; Mike Baumann Jr., Midget; and Kyle Hudspeth, Midget.

Cheer coaches are Maritza Preciado, Mitey Mite; Diane Rivera Jr., Midget; and Lisa Macias, Midget.

Assistant coaching opportunities are still available. For information on coaching or registration, call Louis Morales at (562) 928-6081, Mike Baumann at (562) 889-1183, or visit www.downeyrazorbacks.com.

Ponytail softball opens registration

DOWNEY – Downey Ponytail softball is now accepting registration for its 2009 season.

Early registration on or before April 15 is \$70. Late registration is \$80. Try-outs will be held April 19 and 25 at 11 a.m.

All try-outs and registration are conducted at Independence Park, 12334 Bellflower Blvd. Downey Ponytail is open to high school-age girls born between 1990-94.

Fashion show at American Legion

DOWNEY – American Legion Post 723 will host a fashion event April 18 and the community is invited.

The event is titled "Fashions at High Sea" and will feature fashions by Glory M'Lou and jewelry from Park Lane.

Social hour begins at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. The fashion show starts at 1 p.m.

Cost is \$15 and proceeds will benefit Girls State. For more information or reservations, call Nancy Watson at (562) 413-6414.

Yoga sessions begin Tuesday

DOWNEY – New yoga sessions with Yogi Ramesh begin Tuesday at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center.

"Do yoga now and live a stress-free, happy life," Ramesh said.

For information on registration, call (562) 904-7223.

James Yun finishes basic training

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Downey resident James J. Yun has completed basic combat training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, Yun studied the Army mission, history, tradition, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and more.

Yun is the son of Pyongok Yun of Downey. He graduated in 2007 from Columbus High School.



Is it a prank or simple mistake by Public Works? A Horton Avenue street sign located at DePalma Street was taken down last week and replaced with a Horton Avenue sign, a mistake (or prank) that confused residents and prompted calls to our office. City officials said they would "look into it" but did not offer an explanation. Photo by Eric Pierce

Estrada: Next fight April 11 in Vegas.

Continued from page 1

club, and the influence of the likes of Stan Hanstad and Darrell Jackson, as primary factors in turning his life around. He had earlier lost an older brother to gang violence.

The plan was for Juan Leon to watch Shawn fight in the flesh in Beijing last year, but it was not to be: he was too ill to go. Indeed, by the time Shawn returned home to L.A., his father had already died of kidney and liver failure. He turned pro soon after.

Last Friday's boxing extravaganza, attended by boxing aficionados of all stripes including whole families, was underwritten by Goossen Tutor Promotions which has agreed to promote Estrada's and Molina's fights. Both are represented by Bravo Management's Arnulfo Bravo.

When Estrada sat down in the press area after his fight, I greeted and congratulated him on behalf of Hanstad and Jackson. His face brightened up and broke out in a big smile and said, "Oh, yeah? Say 'hello' to the guys."

Asked if he expected his bout against Craig, whose record fell to 5-5, to end as quickly as it did, Estrada said, "No. I knew he was an experienced fighter."

Next fight up for Estrada: he'll be part of another Goossen Tutor Promotions boxing program April 11 at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, headlined by Paul Williams-Winky Wright, and including a match featuring the heralded up-and-coming Cristobal Arreola of Riverside against heavyweight contender Jameel McClintock of New York.

Estrada has been quoted as saying, "My life continues to flourish through my 2-year-old daughter Alyssa and now my professional career. I'm looking forward to making 2009 memorable for my family, my fans and me. It's all about moving ahead and growing from my life's experiences.... I know to be a world champion I need to dedicate myself to achieving that goal. I will do the work it takes to make it there no matter how difficult the task."

A Goossen Tutor Promotions press release announcing its signing of Estrada and Molina meanwhile had this to say about their prospects: "It should be very interesting to watch the development of Shawn Estrada and Javier Molina as their careers move forward in the professional ranks over the next several years to see if their names can be added to the list of former Olympians who became World Champions."

Desire, meet Opportunity. It should be interesting, indeed.

Hypertension: The Silent Killer

Speaker:
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Family Practitioner

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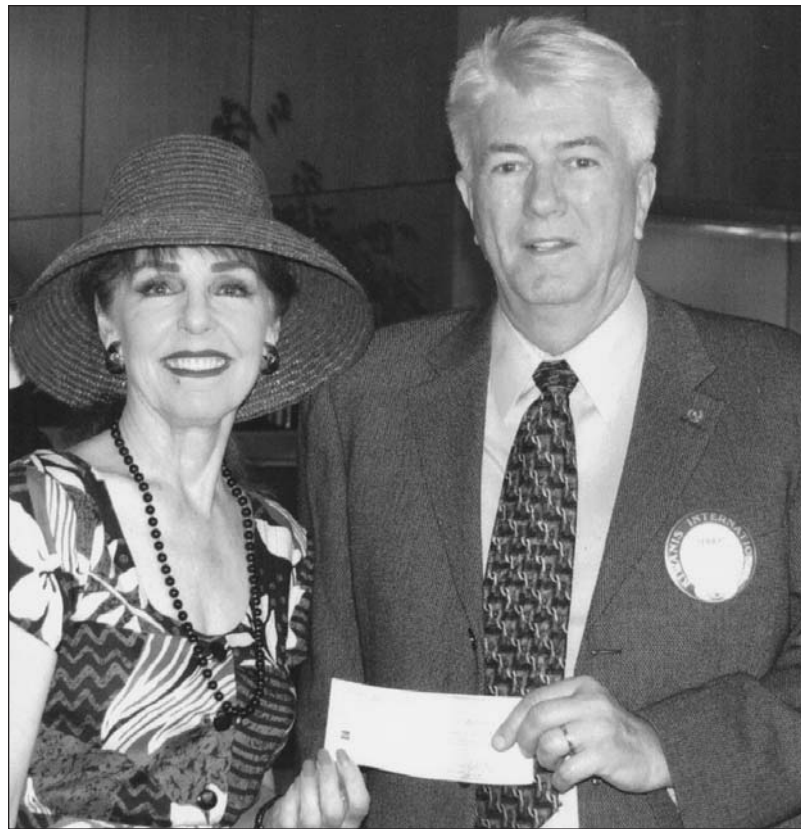
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Please call (562) 904-7236 with any questions regarding selection.



Stonewood Center in Downey donated a \$500 gift card to Soroptimist International of Downey for its upcoming fundraiser, "A Night at the Copacabana Casino," at the Rio Hondo Event Center on April 17. From left: Stonewood's Patty Kotze, Charlie Hallums and Whitney Wigle, and Soroptimist members Monica Goel, Jan Scott and Mia Vasquez.



Marsha Moode, executive director of the Downey Civic Light Opera, accepts a \$900 donation from the Downey Kiwanis Foundation. Presenting the check is foundation president Jerry Wetzstein.

Children's reading event April 25

DOWNEY – A children's reading event will be held at the Downey Memorial Christian Church parking lot April 25 from 10 a.m. to noon. Children in grades 3-6 will read an age-appropriate book – as chosen by the Downey City Library – for 5-10 minutes and then pass off it to another child until the book is finished. Downey resident Shirley Johnson is organizing the event, which is done in association with the annual Walk the Talk Against Child Abuse. To sign up for the reading event, call Johnson at (562) 862-2378.

Downey teacher to speak Monday

DOWNEY – Author and educator Chris Bowen will speak and sign books at the Downey City Library on Monday from 7-8:30 p.m. Bowen is the author of "Our Kids: Building Relationships in the Classroom." Bowen, who currently teaches at West Middle School, also taught reading and math at Lewis Elementary School in Downey. He was recently honored as "Teacher of the Year" in Los Angeles County. Bowen's book is geared for teachers, parents and anyone who wants to improve their relationships with children. "The key to success with children is building a personal relationship with each child," Bowen said. "There is a huge difference between being tough and being strong. Anybody can be tough...but it takes the strength of patience, empathy and honesty to build the more effective, lasting relationship." At the free event, Bowen will discuss his experiences as a teacher and give tips for improving relationships at school and at home. Copies of his book will be available for purchase and signing, and light refreshments will be served. To register, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 132.

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12 ROUNDS PG-13 (11:20, 1:50, 4:35), 7:20, 9:55

THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT PG-13 (12:10, 2:35, 5:00), 7:35, 10:05

*** MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D (DIGITAL 3DX)** PG (11:00, 11:45, 1:30, 2:15, 4:00, 4:45), 6:30, 7:15, 9:00, 9:45

I LOVE YOU, MAN R (11:30, 2:05, 4:50), 7:25, 10:00

KNOWING PG-13 **Fri to Sun:** (11:05, 1:55, 4:55), 7:50, 10:35; **Mon & Tue:** (11:05, 1:55, 4:55), 7:50

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Classes, activities available for young and old

DOWNEY – A variety of classes and activities are planned this spring at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center. Seniors are invited to socialize as they enjoy their favorite trivia games, board games, cards and puzzles every Thursday from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday Walkers has begun for residents over age 50 who are interested in joining a walking club. New walkers should arrive at 8:30 a.m., and walking/stretching begins at 9. Free promotional pedometers will be provided to all walkers. Sign-ups continue for the free California Telephone Access Program (CTAP) screening and distribution scheduled for April 10. Physicians from Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital will provide screenings and residents who qualify will receive a free telephone. An eligible person must have existing phone line service and be visually and hearing impaired. The Make-It & Take-It craft class for seniors begins April 2 from 1-3 p.m. Cost is \$20 for the 4-week session. All supplies and materials are provided. Pilates is a form of exercise to help improve your body strength, flexibility and endurance. The next 5-week class begins April 6 at 10 a.m. or April 9 at 10:30 a.m. The fee is \$35 for seniors over age 50, or \$40 for residents 18-49. The city of Downey's licensed child care program will offer day care during spring break, April 13-17. Children ages 5-11 will receive care from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$105 per child, per week, and includes daily snack and a mid-week excursion to John's Incredible Pizza. CareMore will offer a free glucose screening to residents over 50 on April 3 from 9-11 a.m. Rhythm, Rhyme and Fun, a 5-week class for children 2-4, begins April 4 at noon. Children will have fun clapping, singing and moving. Cost is \$28 per child. The 3-week Fun-N-Messy class for children 2-4 begins April 2 at 4 p.m. or April 4 at 1 p.m. Cost is \$15 per child. A 12-week adult jazz dance class begins April 9 at 7:15 p.m. or April 10 at 1 p.m. Cost is \$72 per person and is open to beginner and intermediate levels. A chess class for kids ages 6-11 begins April 15 at 3:30 p.m. Cost for the 6-week class is \$40. A workshop on April 21 from 6-9 p.m. will show students how to build their own topiary design. Cost is \$35 plus a \$15 materials fee payable to the instructor. Tai Chi 1 (Chi Gong) for adults begins April 22 at 10 a.m. for adults. The 6-week class costs \$35. Tai Chi 2 is the same price and begins April 22 at 11 a.m. An authentic Indian cooking workshop will be held April 23 from 6-8 p.m. Learn to cook with spices, oils and about the main staples of Indian cooking. Cost for adults is \$15 plus a \$5 material fee payable to the instructor. Learn about Downey's neighborhood watch program on April 27 from 9-10 a.m. Learn how to make your neighborhood a safer place and meet a Downey police officer to ask questions and/or express concerns. For additional information regarding any of the programs, or to learn about other programs and classes, call the community center at (562) 904-7227. The Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center is at 7810 Quill Dr.

Job Opportunities
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Character Counts puppet show

DOWNEY – A puppet show about Character Counts will be presented at the April 8 meeting of the Downey Christian Women's Club. Irene McClanahan will make the presentation. The meeting's guest speaker is Gloria Feralio, who will speak on "How Your Life Can Have a Happy Ending." The meeting begins at 11:45 a.m. at the Los Amigos Country Club. Men are invited to attend. Cost for the buffet luncheon is \$13. Reservations are requested by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347.

New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- "1942" by Robert Conroy. Japan invades and conquers Hawaii after the attack on Pearl Harbor, in this provocative alternate history novel from the author of "1945."
- "Cream Puff Murder" by Joanne Fluke. Bestselling author Fluke serves up another yummy installment in her Hannah Swensen mystery series.
- "Dante's Numbers" by David Hewson. A literate, page-turning tale that finds detective Nic Costa zipping between Rome and San Francisco to solve a murder and the theft of a priceless relic.
- "Darling Jim" by Christian Moerk. The Walsh sisters, fiercely loyal to one another, are not immune to "darling" Jim's powers of seduction, but find themselves in harm's way when they begin to uncover his treacherous past.
- "Handle with Care" by Jodi Picoult. Bestselling author Picoult explores issues of medical ethics and personal morality in her latest novel. When faced with the reality of a fetus who will be disabled, should a parent have the right to consider termination?

Non-Fiction

- "Beside Every Successful Man" by Megan Basham. Advice for today's "stay at home" wife or mother who wants to strengthen the relationship with her partner and still achieve financial freedom.
- "Here's the Story: Surviving Marcia Brady and Finding My True Voice" by Maureen McCormick. The star of "The Brady Bunch" shares her experiences in Hollywood, her battles with drugs and depression and her triumphant struggle to save her family.
- "Home Fronts: a Wartime America Reader" by Michael Foley. This is a rich collection of wartime letters, song lyrics, articles, and documents about 20th century conflicts from the Spanish American war to Iraq.
- "Martha Stewart's Cooking School" by Martha Stewart. Lessons and 200 new recipes for the home cook from the expert on stylish living.
- "Real Education: Four Simple Truths for Bringing America's Schools Back to Reality" by Charles Murray. The author of "The Bell Curve" challenges the priorities of today's educational establishment and explains why many children cannot learn in school.

Visit www.downeylibrary.org and click on "New and Notable Books" to browse more titles

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Arc Walk for Independence

Saturday, March 28

Photos by Art Montoya & Chuck Anna

