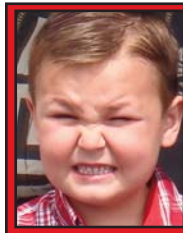


The Downey Patriot



**Little boy
has big heart**
See Page 7



**More support
for GOOD**
See Page 12



**Egg hunt a
blast for kids**
See Page 7

Friday, April 17, 2009

Vol. 7 No. 52

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

Downey Latina chasing her dreams

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – “American Idol” isn’t the only hit television show to feature a rising star from Downey.

Former Miss Downey Princess Jennifer Andrade is competing on the current season of “Nuestra Belleza Latina,” a Spanish-language beauty competition – “with a reality TV twist” – now airing on Univision.

Andrade left for tapings in Miami on March 1, family members said. On the show, Andrade is competing with 12 other young women for \$200,000 in cash and a contract with Maybelline Cosmetics.

The winner will also become the Latin American spokesmodel for JCPenney, work as a TV personality on Univision, and win a new car.

The show airs Sundays at 8 p.m. Similar to “American Idol,” one contestant is voted off every week by members of the public, who cast their vote via phone or text message.

Andrade has survived two eliminations and is now among the Top 10 finalists.

Family members credit Andrade’s drive and talent for her success.

“Jennifer embodies intelligence, grace, beauty and, above all, perseverance,” Kenia Andrade,

Jennifer’s sister, said. “I am blessed to have such a compassionate and talented sister in my life and am thankful that she has been able to convey her talent to viewers across the nation.”

Andrade, 20, attended Gallatin Elementary, East Middle School, and graduated from Downey High School in 2006. She made Downey High’s varsity cheer squad as a freshman and also played JV water polo.

In 2004, Andrade competed for Miss Teen Downey -- her first pageant competition -- and was named a Princess. She was a Miss Downey Princess two years later.

Andrade also won Miss Michoacan de California in 2008, held in Mazatlan, Mexico; was first runner-up in Miss Latina de California 2009 (also winning Miss Photogenic); and made the top 10 in the Miss Turismo Latino International 2009 in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

After attending Long Beach City College, Andrade transferred to UCLA where she is majoring in Communications, family members said. She worked as an entertainment reporter last summer on the Telefuturo show “Escandalo TV,” producing daily segments on tabloid gossip.

She has also worked as a print and swimsuit model, and has been booked on national Spanish com-



Jennifer Andrade, a former Miss Downey Princess, is competing on Univision’s “Nuestra Belleza Latina,” a Spanish-language TV competition airing Sundays at 8 p.m. Photo courtesy Andrade family

mercials and infomercials.

Since she was chosen to compete on “Nuestra Belleza Latina,” Andrade has been living in a Miami mansion, and is not allowed to communicate with family or friends.

Meanwhile, her family is asking the community to support Andrade with their votes on

Sunday.

“My family and I foresee a bright future for Jennifer since we have always believed that the basic success orientation is having an optimistic future,” Kenia Andrade said. “We will sustain our beliefs with hopes that Jennifer can continue to exhibit her passion until the final show.”

DMOA and Davies sued by former associate

■ Former business director alleges fraud, breach of contract in lawsuit.

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The Downey Museum of Art (DMOA) and its director, Kate Davies, are being sued by its one-time director of business and development, Anita McGarr, for breach of contract and fraud.

The lawsuit was announced recently by the law firm of Tredway, Lumsdaine & Doyle LLP of Downey, who filed a complaint on McGarr’s behalf on Feb. 10 at Norwalk Superior Court.

The suit alleges that McGarr is owed for professional services and a guaranteed outstanding amount as stipulated in a consultant agreement between the parties, to the tune of at least \$383,000.

The agreement, which was to have lasted for two terms, the first one from June 1, 2007 to June 1, 2009, and the second term lasting for another two years, was purportedly entered into by Davies and McGarr on June 1, 2007 and subsequently approved by the DMOA board circa June 29, 2007.

Davies declined to comment on the lawsuit.

According to the formal complaint, McGarr submitted her resignation from her position on Dec. 18, 2008.

In addition to breach of con-

tract and fraud, allegations against DMOA and Davies include unfair business practices.

As director of business and development, McGarr’s duties included, but were not limited to, business and program development, negotiations of program and/or project contracts and agreements, market research and analysis, and research regarding multimedia platforms and technology. One of her assignments was as a capital campaign manager, later known as a raffle drawing manager.

According to her resume, McGarr has had years of experience and involvement in the film/TV industry and multi-media children’s educational markets.

Davies has been at the helm as executive director of DMOA for a number of years. The museum is known to be in the midst of developing its “Blueprint for Sustainability” program primarily in the form of a new green museum called DMOA@TheGlidehouse, designed to pursue educational programs in sustainable and renewable resources, energy conservation and Eco-Green technologies to “support an educational hub of outreach programs” to the schools and the public.

Tredway, Lumsdaine & Doyle senior partner Joseph Lumsdaine and Raul Zermeno, Esq., were joint filers of the suit.

Bluebell the pit bull gets second leash on life

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Bluebell, the 1 ½-year old pit bull who was nearly killed after its owner dragged her by the leash behind a pick-up truck, has been transferred to a new shelter in Santa Monica.

Karma Rescue – a “no-kill” animal shelter – has taken control of Bluebell and will attempt to place her in a permanent home.

“Our efforts to re-home her did not pan out for one reason or another; either the fence was too short, the potential adopter had other dogs at home or they were not ready for the lifelong commitment,” said Captain Aaron Reyes, director of operations at SEAACA. “Fortunately, Karma stepped up and offered to continue caring for her while searching for the perfect

home.”

Bluebell was suffering from severe abrasions and an advanced stage of mange when she was literally dragged behind a pick-up truck on her way to SEAACA last year. Her former owner, who was going to have Bluebell put to sleep, was arrested and charged with animal cruelty.

Bluebell has fully recovered from her injuries, Reyes said.

“Bluebell has kept her chin up and beamed with love and joy every day she was with us here at SEAACA” Reyes said. “She loved her treatments, her daily walks and she was always very gentle with her pet toys, which littered her dog run.”

If you’re interested in adopting Bluebell, call Karma Rescue at (310) 512-RUFF (7833).



Bluebell greets Karma Rescue staff at SEAACA, while Sr. Animal Care Technician Frank Villa says goodbye. Photo courtesy SEAACA

Police arrest bank robbery suspect

DOWNEY – Downey police have arrested a 30-year-old Gardena man for robbing the Bank of America on Paramount Boulevard in Downey.

Mark Anthony Craig was arrested for the robbery that occurred March 31 at about 11:25 a.m., police said. A man entered the

bank and approached a teller window, where he simulated having a handgun, said Sgt. Randy Wells of the Downey Police Department.

The man left with an undisclosed amount of cash and fled to a vehicle he had parked near the bank, Wells said. A witness was able to get a partial license plate

number as the suspect drove away, Wells said.

Based on surveillance video and information supplied by witnesses, Downey detectives identified Craig as a suspect. He voluntarily went to the Downey police station for questioning, according to Wells.

Craig was arrested for bank robbery based on physical evidence and positive identifications from witnesses and the victim, Wells said. At the time of the robbery, Craig was on federal probation for a previous bank robbery conviction.

Cut those long meetings short!

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

It’s been a while since an article appeared in the Harvard Business Review about the communication process. It has become a classic.

For any effective communication to take place, it said, three requirements have to be met: first, the *speaker* has to speak clearly and in a voice loud enough to be heard. Secondly, care must be taken to have one’s *message* well-articulated, leaving no room for ambiguity. Thirdly, we must make sure the *listener* hears and understands the object of our speech.

There’s no more ideal setting than at City Council meetings where the workings of the communication process as defined above can be observed. Remember, the meetings provide a wonderful opportunity for both holders of public office and those who must speak in public to use their speaking skills to achieve certain ends.

And because they engage in discourse that affects the quality of life in the city, these people are held to higher standards than usual. When a department head or staff makes a presentation, it is clear that they’re there to explain as carefully and as fully and as *distinctly* as they can what there is to explain—both for the benefit of the Council

and the public. As a matter of common sense, this is a no-brainer. What’s the use of making a presentation when, even with a microphone, the presenter can barely be heard? And as a rhetorical tool, isn’t one supposed to develop a good, strong voice to make sure you get your point across? (You get extra points for a sonorous voice).

OK, the members of the City Council, presumably after doing their homework, first listen, then they ask questions, then they vote. But at bottom theirs are speaking roles. As elected officials, they advocate for their constituents’ concerns. They discuss budget line items. They argue about certain provisions of this or that proposed resolution or ordinance. Indeed, it is their business to talk. It is their duty to persuade. But it is also, so as not to unnecessarily waste the audience’s time, their duty to be brief, to address the issue head on and not digress, not ramble.

The Council has important, and substantial, business enough to take care of, that meetings should be done with dispatch. (If you want to see how a meeting ought to be conducted, go to any Downey Unified School District board meeting, and you’ll see what I mean.)

See MEETINGS, page 5

Free events mark library celebration

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library will celebrate National Library Week with a variety of free events sponsored by Friends of the Downey City Library.

Established in 1958 by the American Library Association, the celebration is observed by libraries across the country each April.

“National Library Week celebrates the value of books, reading and libraries,” said City Librarian Nancy Messineo. “Now is the perfect time to enrich your life by attending our programs.”

Monday, April 20

7 p.m.: “Margaret Read MacDonald Storytelling Workshop for Adults,” City Hall Council Chambers.

7 p.m.: “An Evening with Author Graciela Limon,” Cormack Room.

Tuesday, April 21

10:30 a.m.: “Preschool Storytime with Mayor Pro Tem Anne Bayer,” ages 3-5, Cormack Room.

7 p.m.: “Story Plays for Children with Margaret Read MacDonald,” ages 3-12, Cormack Room.

Wednesday, April 22

10:30 a.m.: “Bilingual Storytime in Spanish & English,” ages 3-5, Cormack Room.

Thursday, April 23

3:30 p.m.: “Teen Open Mic and Poetry Slam,” ages 13-19, Cormack Room

7 p.m.: “Alina Mendez and the Fiesta Dancers,” ages 3-12, Cormack Room.

Saturday, April 25

8 a.m.: “Los Angeles Times Festival of Books Bus Trip to UCLA,” call for reservations.

For more information on any of these events, call the library at (562) 904-7360, ext. 3.

Free bus ride to Festival of Books

DOWNEY – The Friends of the Downey City Library will sponsor a free bus trip to the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books on April 25.

The festival offers lectures, author panels, storytelling and writing workshops by more than 400 authors. Also featured will be book signings, cooking demonstrations and poetry readings.

“This trip is ideal for book lovers who don’t wish to drive and park on the Westwood campus,” said City Librarian Nancy Messineo. “Everyone who enjoys great books, good food and entertainment will want to join us.”

The bus will leave at 8 a.m. from the library’s parking lot and return at 5 p.m. Bus passengers must sign and turn in a liability waiver upon registration.

Bus transportation and festival admission are free but some events require advanced tickets. The excursion involves walking on the UCLA campus and participants are encouraged to bring a sack lunch or lunch money.

For reservations, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 132, or visit the library.



Alina Mendez will entertain at the Downey City Library on Thursday, beginning at 7 p.m.

Spanish dancers visiting library

DOWNEY – In celebration of National Library Week, Alina Mendez and the Fiesta Dancers will perform at the Downey City Library on Thursday from 7-7:45 p.m.

Mendez, an award-winning local teacher, will present stories, music and dances from Mexico, Spain and Caribbean.

“This lively performance with audience participation is perfect for children ages 3-12 and their parents,” said Children’s Librarian Gina Orello. “Be sure to arrive early to see this colorful program for the whole family.”

Seating is limited and show passes will be distributed 30 minutes prior to the event, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library.

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

Graciela Limon to speak at library

DOWNEY – Award-winning author Graciela Limon will speak and sign books at a free event sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library on Monday from 7-8:30 p.m.

The program is part of a National Library Week celebration, April 20-26.

A native of Los Angeles, Limon is the author of six books, including “Song of the Hummingbird” and “Memories of Ana Calderon.” Her latest novel, “The River Flows North,” was published this month by Arte Publico Press.

Considered one of the key voices in contemporary Latin American fiction, Limon writes lyrical, dramatic novels about social justice, popular religion, feminism and cultural identity. “Hummingbird” tells the story of Huitzitzilin, who goes from Aztec princess to slave and concubine during the Spanish conquest of Mexico.

Limon is professor emeritus of U.S. Hispanic Literature at Loyola Marymount University. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish Literature from Marymount College, a Master of Arts Degree from the University of the Americas in Mexico City, and a Doctoral Degree in Latin American Literature from UCLA.

Limon received a 2008 “Phenomenal Woman” award from Cal State Northridge, an honor given to “individuals who have touched the lives of men and women in Los Angeles and around the world.”

Copies of her book will be available for purchase and signing at the event. To register, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 132, or visit the library.

Children’s reading event April 25

DOWNEY – A reading event to help promote early literacy among children will be held April 25 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Downey Memorial Christian Church parking lot.

Children from various grades will take turns reading sections from their favorite books. Each child will read for approximately 10 minutes before handing the book to the next child. This will continue until their particular book is finished.

All books will be age-appropriate and chosen by the Downey City Library.

Free fresh-baked bread will also be given away at the event.

For more information, call Shirley Johnson at (562) 862-2378. Downey Memorial Christian Church is at Florence and Brookshire avenues.

Jewish National Fund rep to speak

DOWNEY – Alyse Golden Berkley, spokesperson and representative for the Jewish National Fund, will be the guest speaker at Thursday’s meeting of the Ezra Center for Mature Adults.

The JNF was created in 1901 and incorporated in the U.S. in 1926 to support development in Israel. Today, the organization mainly focuses on ecology, water conservation, tourism, and education.

Registration begins at 9:45 a.m. at Temple Ner Tamid of Downey, 10629 Lakewood Blvd. A catered kosher lunch will be served after the program. Cost of the lunch is \$6 for Ezra members and \$7 for non-members.

For more information, call Miriam Brookfield at (562) 943-3170.



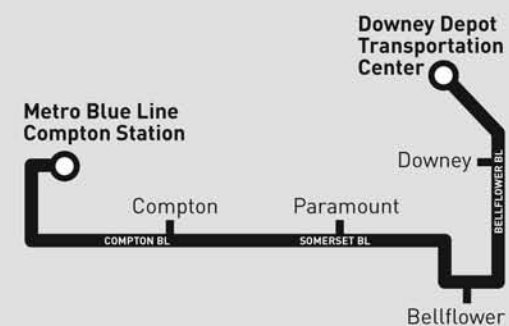
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Maria Pasillas, of Pomona, has announced the engagement of her daughter, Francisca Pasillas, to Rene Baez, son of Ricardo and Rosario Baez of Los Angeles. Rene and Francisca are both educators and reside in Downey. They have scheduled a December wedding.

Woman's Club rummage sale

DOWNEY – The Woman's Club of Downey will host a rummage sale and swap meet April 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the club's parking lot. Vendor tables are available for \$30 each. The sale will be held rain or shine. For more information, call Debra Miller at (562) 619-0269.

Free mulch for spring gardening

DOWNEY – Downey residents can receive up to 32 gallons of mulch for springtime planting at a free give-away tomorrow at the old Albertson's parking lot, 8320 Firestone Blvd. CalMet Services is providing the mulch. Residents should bring their own container. The give-away begins at 9 a.m. and ends at noon. For more information, call (562) 259-1239.

Christian Club celebrates 41 years

DOWNEY – The Downey Christian Women's Club will celebrate its 41st anniversary at an installation luncheon May 13 at Los Amigos Country Club. The meeting, which is open to men, will feature a grandma's attic and music by Richard Fox. Speaker Jan Patrizio will discuss "How to Discover Your Own Personal Oasis." The luncheon begins at 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$13 and reservations are requested by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Jean at (562) 861-1114.

Froggy to visit Downey library

DOWNEY – Froggy, the popular character in the picture book series by Jonathan London, will stop by the Downey City Library next week to celebrate National Library Week. Froggy will greet children Tuesday from 10-10:30 a.m. and 6:30-7 p.m.; Wednesday from 10-10:30 a.m.; and Thursday from 6:30-7 p.m. "Be sure to check out some favorite books in the 'Froggy' series, such as 'Froggy Gets Dressed' and 'Froggy Learns to Swim,'" said Children's Librarian Gina Orello. For more information, call the Children's desk at (562) 904-7360, ext. 4.

Rare Sinclair film to be shown

DOWNEY – "Upton Sinclair," a rare black and white, 16mm film that travels to the Monrovia home of the Pulitzer Prize-winning American author, will be presented Thursday at 7:30 p.m. inside the John Downey Room at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center. During the 39-minute film Sinclair talks about his run for California governor, his famous novel "The Jungle," and the campaign launched against him by MGM head Louis Mayer and *Los Angeles Times* publisher Harry Chandler, who labeled Upton a socialist and communist. Sinclair also speaks candidly about his family and his meeting with President Theodore Roosevelt. The Downey Historical Society is presenting the film. The meeting is free and open to the public.



The Downey Civic Light Opera has tapped Nicole Manly to portray Anytime Annie in "42nd Street," opening May 28 at the Downey Theatre. Manly previously appeared in DCLO's productions of "South Pacific" and "Dames at Sea." "42nd Street" plays through June 14. For tickets and information, call (562) 923-1714.

Dancers, actors sought for musical

DOWNEY – The Downey Civic Light Opera is holding auditions for residents wishing to be a part of their latest production, "42nd Street," which opens next month at the Downey Theatre. Auditions will be held Monday and Thursday at First Baptist Church of Downey, 8348 3rd St. Dance auditions are from 7-8:30 p.m.; all other roles will be auditioned between 8:30-10:30 p.m. "42nd Street" opens May 28 and closes June 14.

Fashion show, luncheon May 16

DOWNEY – A luncheon with a fashion show and entertainment will be hosted by the Woman's Club of Downey on May 16. The event is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$30 each and all proceeds will go towards scholarships for Downey students. For tickets, call Debra Miller at (562) 619-0269.

Business Watch meeting April 30

DOWNEY – Downey business owners are invited to learn about emergency preparedness and local crime trends by attending a Business Watch meeting April 30 from 2-3 p.m. inside the council chambers at City Hall. Similar to Neighborhood Watch, business owners receive training in business security, effective crime reporting, burglary, theft, shoplifting, and more. All Downey business owners are invited. For more information, call the Chamber at (562) 923-2191 or the city at (562) 904-1895.

Embezzler gets 5 years in prison

■ Gerald McAfee scammed Downey hospital out of \$1.3 million, then fled to Thailand.

LOS ANGELES – Gerald McAfee, the man convicted of embezzling more than \$1 million from a Downey hospital two decades ago, was sentenced last week to five years in prison.

At sentencing, McAfee begged for mercy and asked U.S. District Judge Manuel L. Real to allow him to return to his family in Thailand.

"I am humbly pleading and begging for mercy – not for me, for my children," McAfee said in court, according to the Associated Press. "The man you see before you now is not the foolish man who committed the crime in '86."

Real rejected the request, saying "this man has not been truthful for most of his life."

McAfee, 66, embezzled \$1.3 million from College Hospital in Downey in 1986. According to a

plea agreement, the money was placed in the brokerage account of a phony company. McAfee then took control of the cash in the form of bearer bonds and fled to Europe, prosecutors said.

A tip led authorities to Thailand in 2007, where McAfee had married and started a family under an assumed name.

McAfee spent eight months in a Thai prison before he was extradited to Los Angeles. He pleaded guilty to the charges last year in a plea agreement that called for a five-year prison term, the AP reported.

McAfee told the court he spent the money within five years of embezzling it, and had been working as an English teacher in Bangkok.

Crime Watch

Friday, April 10:

At 2:20 p.m. shots were fired in the area of Telegraph Road and Birchbark Avenue. The suspect fled before officers arrived. No one was injured. Witnesses identified a possible shooter. Detectives are investigating.

Saturday, April 11:

At 12:15 a.m. a street robbery occurred in the area of Imperial and Woodruff. No weapon was seen. The loss was a bicycle.

Sunday, April 12:

At 7:00 p.m. a street robbery occurred in the San Gabriel riverbed at Florence Avenue. The loss was a bicycle and wallet. Minutes later, Downey police officers saw the suspects near the riverbed at Telegraph Road, and the officers arrested the suspects, a 19-year-old and 24-year-old from the city of Pico Rivera. Both were charged with robbery.

Source: Downey Police Department

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11:30 AM
How-To Grow Orchids

1:00 PM
How-To Grow Vegetables

2:00 PM
Organic Gardening

SUNDAY

10:30 AM
How-To Roses

12:00 PM
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Ad Council pushes lupus awareness

Eighty percent of young women in the United States say they have little or no knowledge of lupus, according to a national online survey released this week by the Ad Council.

In an effort to raise awareness of lupus among women who are at greatest risk for the disease, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health is joining Ad Council to launch a national multimedia public service advertising (PSA) campaign to address the disease.

The PSA includes a testimonial from Artranese Brown, of Downey, who shares her personal struggles with lupus, including years of undiagnosed symptoms and the physical and emotional toll lupus has had on her.

The campaign was unveiled recently by Acting Surgeon General Steven Galson and model Mercedes Yvette. The PSAs were distributed to media outlets nationwide.

Lupus is a serious national health problem, affecting as many as one of every 200 Americans, according to the Lupus Foundation of America. Ninety percent of those with the disease are women and it is three times more common among minority women.

As a chronic auto-immune disease, lupus causes the immune system to mistakenly attack the body's own healthy cells and tissue as though they were foreign invaders, such as bacteria or viruses. It is one of the least recognized diseases and one of the most difficult to diagnose. It is an inflammatory disease that can attack many body systems.

The new PSA campaign primarily aims to reach minority women at childbearing age (18 to 44), who are at greatest risk of lupus. The objective is to help these women understand the disease and its effects and help them identify early warning signs so they can ask their doctor for a medical evaluation, officials said.

"Despite its prevalence in the United States, lupus is rarely discussed and often misunderstood among women in our country," said Dr. Wanda Jones, deputy assistant secretary for women's health

at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HSS). "Through this campaign with the Ad Council, we can significantly increase awareness and help women achieve early diagnosis, which will give them the greatest chance for improved health and long-term survival."

Without intervention, lupus can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, disability, and in many cases, death. The disease can have a wide range of symptoms, including fatigue, hair loss, painful or swollen joints, fever, skin rashes and kidney problems. However, in the majority of people who are living with lupus, early and effective treatment can minimize symptoms, reduce inflammation and pain, help maintain normal functions and prevent the development of serious complications.

"I took my symptoms seriously and was able to get diagnosed and start treatment early. As a result, I've been able to lead a healthy life," explained Yvette, a Lupus Foundation of America spokesperson. "Taking care of myself is all about finding the right balance — the right doctors, the right meds, the right people and the right workout."

"Our research found that lupus is not listed among the top health concerns for women and many have minimal knowledge of the disease," said Peggy Conlon, president and CEO of the Ad Council. "By increasing the level of awareness and understanding about lupus and its symptoms, we can encourage women to seek a medical evaluation early so they can take control of the disease and reduce their risk for serious complications."

The Ad Council's survey found that only 18 percent of women are personally concerned about lupus. The majority of respondents expressed concern about other health-related conditions, including cancer (67 percent), depression (61 percent), high blood pressure (58 percent), diabetes (57 percent) and arthritis (52 percent). Approximately 29 percent could not correctly define lupus as an autoimmune disease, and 31 percent were not aware that women of childbearing age are most at risk.



Downey resident Artanese Brown is featured in a national public service advertising campaign aimed at raising awareness of lupus.

Yard sale to benefit boy with tumor

DOWNEY — Loretta Mulholland knows the pain associated with a family member battling cancer. Two years ago, her grandson, Warren High School graduate T.J. Peacock, died after a courageous battle with brain cancer.

As Peacock battled the disease, Mulholland witnessed the community offering their help and support. Now, she hopes to do the same.

Mulholland will host a garage sale April 24-26, where she plans to raise money for the family of Brett Barta, a 9-year-old boy from Bellflower who has been diagnosed with a tumor in his spine.

According to a MySpace posting soliciting help, Brett was admitted to Loma Linda Children's Hospital last summer after an MRI revealed the tumor. Brett underwent surgery and was progressing through physical therapy when a second MRI in December revealed that the tumor was still present.

Brett does not have insurance and his parents were laid off from their jobs, the posting said.

The yard sale will be held April 24-26, starting at 8 a.m. each day. Donations of clothes and furniture are also being accepted for the sale. The sale will be held at 7505 Sarabeth St., between Rives Avenue and Old River School Road.

POET'S CORNER

The Seasons

Autumn is the season of fall
And many leaves do fall

The flowers in their final bloom
And winter is about to come

We are lucky we're not back east
Where winter is a real beast

We live on the West Coast
And our problems are little, I suppose!

—Don Davis,
Downey

Just Yesterday

In the kitchen you will find
spoons, forks, knives, a refrigerator,
the microwave but, hardly a woman.
At the market place, pushing crates with
great strength
I look behind the strength and I see a woman
And guess who I caught on the phone
walking, talking, and strolling the baby
A burly beast with girlish cravings
On the other hand, it's a man taking care of
his baby.

Most of us go only through the motions of life
Only a few ever live
To live is to do what you feel is right
And if successful to the world you will give.

—James Hernandez,
Downey

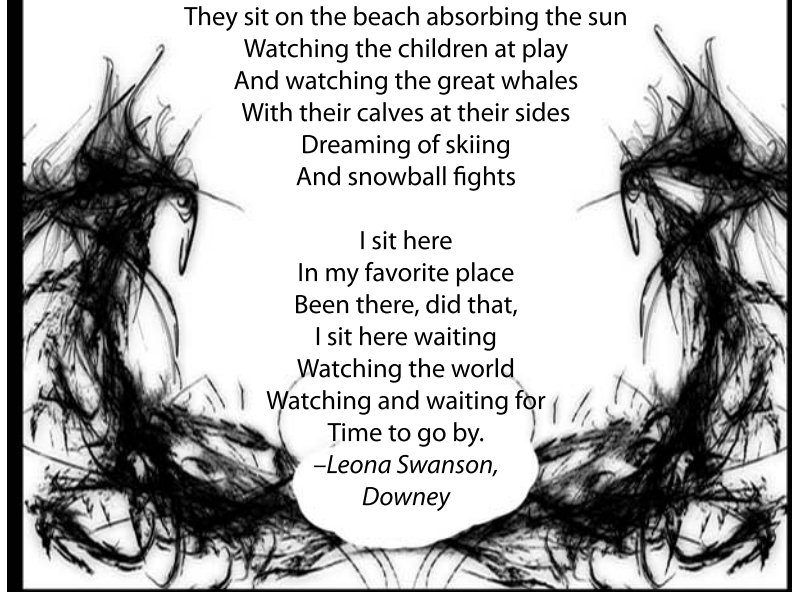
Watching

My friends in the north
Sit by their window and watch the snow fall
Watching the little birds
and the clouds sailing by
Watching the majestic deer
At the feeder below
And dream of the sun

My friends in the south
They sit on the beach absorbing the sun
Watching the children at play
And watching the great whales
With their calves at their sides
Dreaming of skiing
And snowball fights

I sit here
In my favorite place
Been there, did that,
I sit here waiting
Watching the world
Watching and waiting for
Time to go by.

—Leona Swanson,
Downey



Community Calendar

www.allaboutdowney.com

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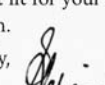
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Meetings: Let's get on with our lives.

Continued from page 1

Some successful CEOs have been known even to conduct their meetings standing up. They'll do anything to speed up their sessions, so they can get on with their work, with their routines, with their *lives*.

The listening public raise their voices to be heard, too. Usually, they complain about this or that issue. At times they want some action to be done, for their or their neighbors' benefit. Often, their presentations suffer from lack of organization, proper emphasis, force. Why is the political landscape filled with lawyers? Because of their training in logic, in the law, in rhetoric! They are expert at preparing a brief, they *took pains to learn how to speak!* (If their diction is not up to par, or if their delivery leaves something to be desired, they work on it. It's the same with Demosthenes, or Cicero, or Lincoln. It took them years to hone their speaking skills). OK, we'll never be like them. But at least we, every last one of us, should try to improve our speech (OK, rhetorical) skills. It's not impossible.

It's a joy to see and hear holders of public office, or those who must speak in public, with a modicum of these speech skills. There's a whole range of them, with each latticed with a host of syntactical and stylistic nuances. For my money, it's well worth the effort to look them up or brush them up.

Then perhaps attending the meetings at City Hall can be fun.

Students make most of spring break

LONG BEACH – Even before heading to New Orleans on an "Alternative Spring Break," Cal State Long Beach senior Nadine Henley knew she was heading to a truly devastated area where visitors' emotions can often get the best of them when they see the remaining destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Still, she wasn't completely prepared for what she saw and experienced on the week-long sojourn.

Henley was one of 35 students, faculty and staff from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) who made the trek to Louisiana. The group members did not use their Spring Break to hit the beach or the slopes, lay in the sun or just relax in preparation for the end-of-the-school-year push. Rather, they used their time off to help others, and they did it laying down a roof, putting up interior walls and working on exterior siding.

"Hurricane Katrina hit the area nearly four years ago, but there were still so many abandoned homes and businesses. I thought the situation would be a little better by now," said Henley, a senior sociology major who graduates from CSULB in May. "To me, they (the empty homes and businesses) were a constant reminder to the people of the tragedy that they all went through."

But it was the spirit of the people who returned to the devastated area and are working to rebuild their lives there that inspired Henley over the course of the week.

"It was amazing to see the people so full of life despite the hardships they are facing, and it was wonderful to hear the thanks and appreciation in person from the survivors of the area," she explained. "Additionally, working alongside a survivor from one of the most hard-hit environments was phenomenal, just experiencing that underlying faith."

This is the fourth straight year that CSULB students, faculty and staff have gone to Louisiana, but the first two years were trips to Lake Charles, La., an area in the southwest portion of the state that was devastated by Hurricane Rita. And for the second year in a row, CSULB President F. King Alexander joined the group later in the week for a couple days of "hammer time."

The 2009 CSULB Alternative Spring Break team worked with Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge Program, which provides opportunities for college students to spend a week building a house in partnership with Habitat for Humanity affiliates.

Arriving late in the afternoon on Sunday, the students received a tour of the greater New Orleans area on Monday – the good, the bad and the ugly – including the wards most devastated by Hurricane Katrina, the levees that gave way to the rising waters and, of course, the other more "touristy" sites of New Orleans – Bourbon Street, the French Quarter, etc.

From Tuesday through Friday, the work day began at 7:30 a.m. and lasted to about 3:30 p.m. as the group worked on four homes in the Musicians' Village area of New Orleans. Members of the group also worked two full days at the Habitat ReStore Store, unloading a dozen trucks of goods and materials and organizing all the merchandise in the store.

To take part in the Alternative Spring Break, CSULB students were required to take a class – "Political Science Special Topics 493: Politics, Culture and Disaster." Taught by Liberal Studies Professor Dan O'Connor, the course examines the events surrounding Hurricane Katrina and its impact on the Gulf Coast and the rest of the nation with a particular emphasis on the city of New Orleans.

"The most important thing I took home with me from this experience is not to take anything for granted and to be the change I wish to see," Henley said. "I found myself being grateful for our cold showers because, yes, they were ice cold constantly, but those in the storm didn't even get to shower."

Israel/Palestine relations discussed

NORWALK – Dr. John Haas, history professor at Cerritos College, will host the Olive Tree Initiative (OTI) from UC Irvine on April 22 from 2-3:30 p.m., where they will deliver an interactive discussion on their recent trip to Israel/Palestine.

The campus of UC Irvine has a history of clashes between pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian students. The OTI is comprised of student leaders from Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Druze and unaffiliated backgrounds. Last year, the students traveled to Israel/Palestine "to find out for themselves what is going on."

The forum is free and open to the public. A one-day parking permit is \$1.

The conference, which will be held inside Cerritos College's Wilford Michael Library and Learning Resource Center, will also be streamed live online at www.3cm mediasolutions.org.

For more information, call Haas at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2726.

Olympic star to deliver speech

NORWALK – Olympic medalist Brenda Villa will deliver the commencement address when Cerritos College hosts its graduating ceremonies May 16 at Falcon Stadium.

Villa, who grew up in Commerce, has played on the U.S. water polo team in the last three summer Olympics and has won two silver medals and one bronze medal. She served as team captain the last four years.

Villa scored 11 goals in the 2007 FINA World Water Polo Championships, helping Team USA win first place. She also helped lead the team to the 2007 Pan Am Games that qualified them for the Beijing Olympics last year.

The commencement ceremony will be Cerritos College's 52nd and begins at 5 p.m. The Board of Trustees will present degrees and certificates earned during the 2008-09 academic year.



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.

Prop 1A no answer for state's fiscal woes

Contributed by Gabriella Holt

When it comes to fiscal responsibility the California legislature has no credibility as shown by its all time low public approval rating of 21%. Why would Californians consider voting for the Prop 1A "spending reform" measure, drafted by the same government body that created this budget mess, which only adds to the recent largest tax increase in American history?

Prop 1A purports to create a "Budget Stabilization Fund" (rainy day fund), which requires the state to set money aside during surplus years to use during deficit ones. If only it were that simple...

The governor, through executive order, can stop fund transfers anytime. So much for the rainy day fund set aside. Then there is the issue of the spending limit.

The language of Prop 1A allows legislators to increase the spending limit by imposing new taxes and fees. No true spending limit, no true spending discipline. Prop 1A does nothing to address the structural deficit built into the budget process. More fancy footwork with no real change.

How about Prop 1A's ballot language, which barely mentions the massive tax increases? Knowing that voters won't support tax increases,

crafters of Prop 1A describe it as "budget stabilization and reform."

In actuality, Prop 1A doubles the taxes already imposed by the Legislature in this last "budget deal." Your raised income taxes, sales taxes, almost doubled car tax, will be extended another two years if Prop 1A passes. The tax credit of \$200 per year per child for dependent children will be eliminated. The average California family can expect to pay \$1000 more in yearly taxes.

Proposition 1A is like letting the fox guard the henhouse. It gives irresponsible politicians a bigger taxpayer treasure chest through a two-year tax extension giving greater payout for poor performance.

Prop 1A "reforms" do nothing to solve the State's structural deficit spending and make problems even worse by burdening already struggling Californians with higher taxes. Promised as only temporary, just like the sales tax introduced around World War II, history has shown that temporary tax is an oxymoron. Vote No on Prop 1A, May 19th.

Gabriella Holt, a former 54th Assembly District candidate, and Palos Verdes Peninsula School Board member, is president of Citizens for California Reform and a Los Angeles County Probation Commissioner.

IBM studies demand for smarter railways

According to a study released Thursday by IBM, increasing demand on rail systems in the U.S. and around the world will dramatically strain existing rail infrastructure. The study, "The Smarter Railroad," analyzes new approaches to modernize and build high-speed rail networks globally, such as those announced this week by President Obama.

Findings from the report indicate that the top key challenges in the development of better rail systems, cited by the world's leading global rail executives, were capacity and congestion; operational efficiency and reliability; structural and competitive issues; and safety and security. The report also highlights emerging technologies that will help rail companies better instrument, analyze and manage rail networks and equipment in real-time. The full report, "The Smarter Railroad," can be found online.

"The global rail industry in 2009 and beyond will struggle to meet the increasing demand for freight and passenger transportation, while aging systems and infrastructure complicate the problem," says Keith Dierckx, director of IBM Global Rail Programs. "However, rail companies around the world are starting to apply new technologies that will help them build high-speed rail systems that more efficiently move people, are more cost effective, and make more intelligent use of all rail assets, from tracks to trains. IBM is already working with railroads to build these smarter systems around the world."

Data indicates that \$300 billion will be spent globally to upgrade, expand and initiate railway networks during the next five years. These investments are designed to build a new rail infrastructure that can meet dramatically increasing rail capacity demand over the next two decades. Even meeting current demand requires that nearly 40 cents on every revenue dollar is spent maintaining the rail system.

IBM developed this report to help governments and railroad companies better understand and address the challenges facing both passenger and freight rail systems. Building these modern railroad systems requires information to be shared across the rail network and among many different stakeholders, including the rail company, shippers, car owners, travel agents, municipalities, intermodal carriers and customers.

IBM is building intelligent transportation systems around the world to help cities manage traffic congestion, improve urban environmental conditions and increase economic competitiveness. These systems leverage business consulting, advanced transportation analytics, Research, super-computing and new sensor networks. These projects include smart transportation initiatives in China, The Netherlands, Stockholm, Brisbane, Singapore, Dublin, London and other locations around the world.

IBM's smart rail projects involve software and services designed to collect and analyze data gathered from devices on trains, tracks, stations and other assets to improve the speed, safety, and reliability of rail service. For example, Netherlands Railways, one of the busiest national railway networks in Europe, is using IBM software to manage more than 5,000 trains in the Netherlands through a network of 390 stations and 2,800 kilometers of track.

The smart transportation system improves the on-time performance for more than one million passengers each day by more accurately matching the number of trains in service to expected user traffic. Netherlands Railways has been able to improve its operating efficiency by as much as six percent, netting the railway a cost savings of more than 20 million euro annually.

To view IBM's Institute for Business Value Paper, "The Smarter Railroad," go to www.ibm.com/travel/smarterrailroads

Don't run from your income tax woes

Running from the IRS is like the postman running from a big dog. You can run, but eventually it will catch up to you and bite you on the leg.

But it doesn't have to be that way. Michael Brewster, certified tax professional and author of the book "The Ultimate Straight Shooters Guide to Negotiation with the IRS to Resolve Your Problems," advocates being proactive about your tax problems.

"The more you run from the IRS, the worse it could be for you in both the short-term and the long-term," he said. "The IRS can take your house, it can garnish your wages, and it can make it impossible for you to maintain your standard of living. Dealing with them, however, can save you money and make your life a lot easier."

Learning and understanding what options are available to resolve a tax matter with the IRS is as critical as having a health plan or maintaining a steady job. It allows people to find and communicate with the necessary help to resolve their tax matter, according to Brewster.

"To deal with the IRS, the taxpayer must have an understanding of what options are available," he said. "If they do not have this understanding and/or seek the necessary help, they will pay more than they need not to mention the stress they will endure."

Brewster also believes that now is a vital time to address this issue, because the government is going into overdrive to collect money owed by tax dodgers.

"The economy is down," Brewster said. "People are losing jobs. They do not have the funds available to pay off back taxes owed. However, the government is in bail-out mode, and needs to borrow trillions to offset those costs. In addition, Congress is passing massive tax cuts, so the IRS is trying to collect back taxes from citizens at record speed to help offset the country's current expenses."

One of the more serious issues is the implied promises made by the large chain tax preparers who spend billions in TV ads touting their services. Tax preparers in the various franchises are typically not credentialed to be able to represent taxpayers. They can only assist with specific matters on the returns that they personally prepared.

"People are told via various commercials that they can resolve their tax problems for pennies on the dollar," he said. "They do not learn until it is too late that they did not qualify for the program and they still owe the entire tax amount. The taxpayers also end up paying much more than they should have."

Michael Brewster began his career when he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, continuing into the military space programs. He has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management, and has attended the American Academy of Tax Practice where he focused on Advanced Tax Law and IRS Procedure.

The Downey Patriot

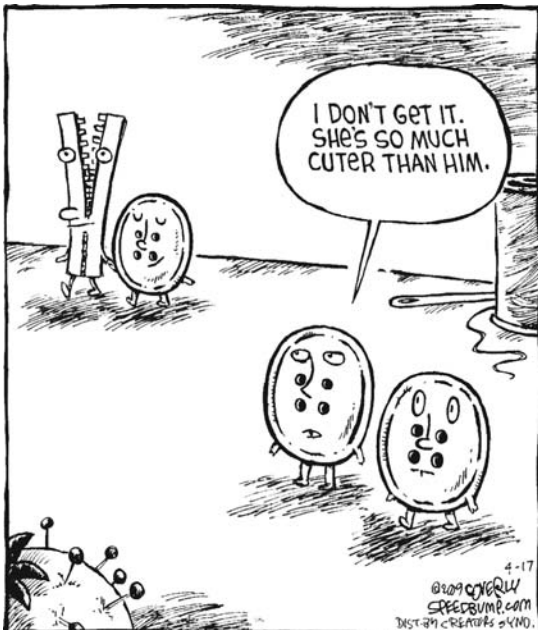
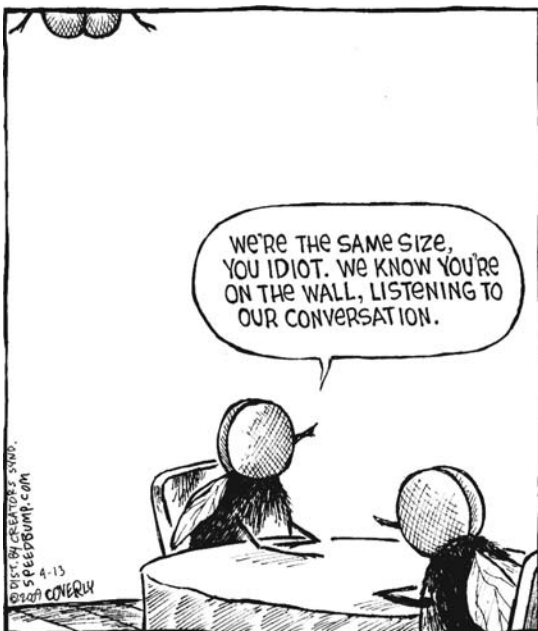
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For April

- Fri. April 17: **Soroptimist fundraiser**, Rio Hondo Event Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sat. April 18: **E-waste collection**, St. Raymond's Catholic School, 7 a.m.
- Sat. April 18: **CERT training**, Downey Fire Department, 8 a.m.
- Sat. April 18: **Free mulch giveaway**, former Albertson's building, 9 a.m.
- Sat. April 18: **Fashion show**, American Legion Post 723, 11 a.m.
- Mon. April 20: **Storytelling workshop**, Council Chambers, 7 p.m.
- Mon. April 20: **Author Graciela Limon**, Downey City Library, 7 p.m.
- Wed. April 22: **Gangs Out of Downey luncheon**, Rio Hondo Event Center, 11:30 a.m.
- Wed. April 22: **Grief workshop**, Messiah Lutheran Church, 2 p.m.
- Thurs. April 23: **Teen open mic & poetry**, Downey City Library, 3:30 p.m.
- Thurs. April 23: **"Upton Sinclair" film presentation**, Community Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Thurs. April 23: **"The Music Man" musical**, Calvary Chapel Christian School, 7 p.m.
- Thurs. April 23: **Spanish dancers**, Downey City Library, 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 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.
- 2nd & 4th Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley Senior Center, for info. 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.
- 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.

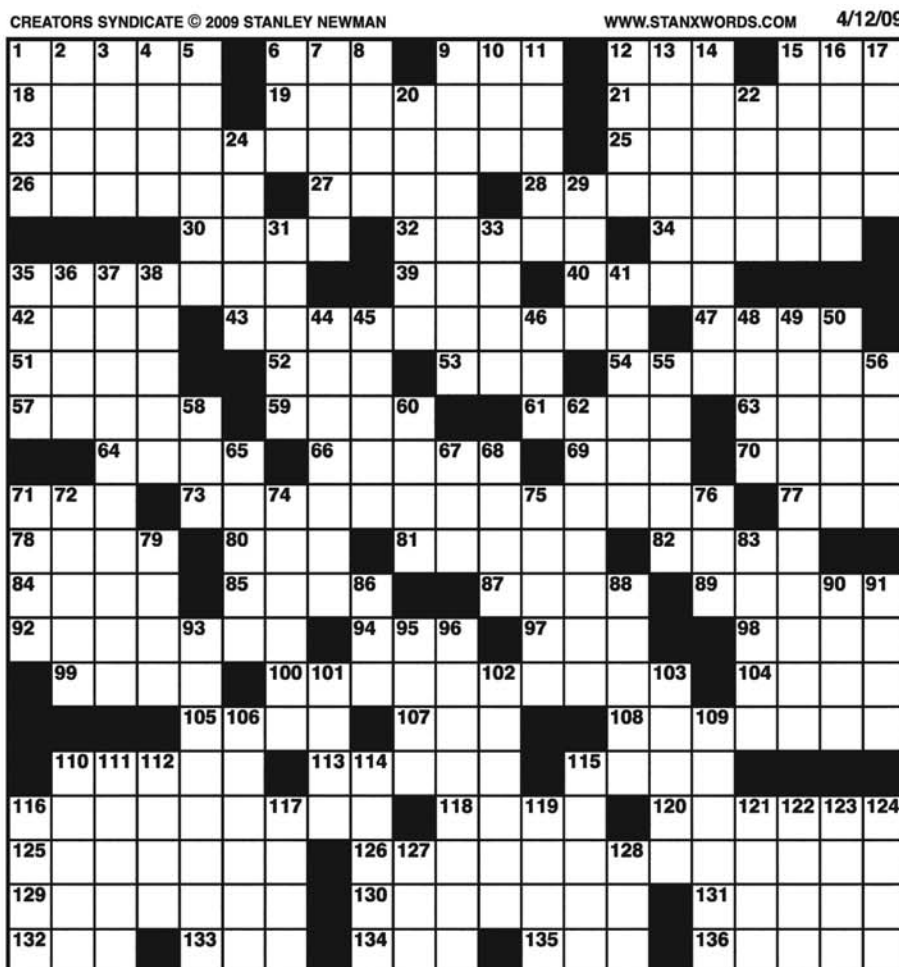
On This Day...

- April 17, 1492:** Christopher Columbus receives permission from Spain's Queen Isabella to sail in search of an ocean passage to Asia.
- 1790:** Benjamin Franklin, one of our nation's Founding Fathers, dies in Philadelphia. He was 84.
- 1951:** Mickey Mantle makes his major league debut with the New York Yankees.
- 1961:** A group of about 1,500 CIA-trained Cuban exiles launch the Bay of Pigs, an unsuccessful invasion to overthrow the government of Fidel Castro.
- 1964:** Ford unveils the Mustang.
- 2001:** All-time home run king Barry Bonds hits his 500th career homer.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
TOOTY-FROOTY: With the theme revealed at 126 Across
 by Fred Piscop

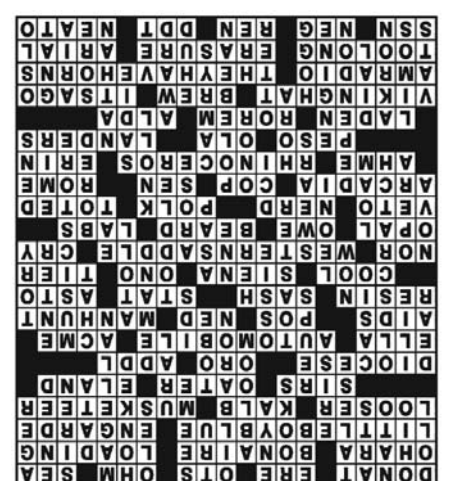
- ACROSS**
- 1 Oscar winner as Mr. Chips
- 6 Bard's "before"
- 9 Tie-breaking periods: Abbr.
- 12 Resistance unit
- 15 Multitude
- 18 Rhett Butler's bride
- 19 Isle near Aruba
- 21 Filling with cargo
- 23 Nursery-rhyme snoozer
- 25 Fencer's cry
- 26 Not as strict
- 27 NPR Journalist Marvin
- 28 Athos or Aramis
- 30 Knighted ones
- 32 Western film
- 34 African antelope
- 35 Bishop's domain
- 39 Gold, in Guatemala
- 40 Not included: Abbr.
- 42 Singer Fitzgerald
- 43 Road-test need
- 47 Highest level
- 51 Gives a boost to +, for short
- 53 With 113 Across, Pulitzer Prize composer
- 54 Search for an escapee
- 57 Amber material
- 59 Beauty-pageant adornment
- 61 GNP, e.g.
- 63 Regarding, in memos
- 64 Not exactly friendly
- 66 Tuscan city
- 69 Beatle bride
- 70 Management level
- 71 Common conjunction
- 73 Cowboy's seat
- 77 Get blubbery
- 78 Australian gem
- 80 Be in debt
- 81 Part of a Santa costume
- 82 Chem classes
- 84 Bill squelcher
- 85 Social misfit
- 87 President after Tyler
- 89 Schleppe
- 92 Simple, peaceful place
- 94 54 Across participant
- 97 DC bigwig
- 98 Seven Hills city
- 99 Sigher's words
- 100 Safari sighting
- 104 Green land
- 105 Cozumel cash
- 107 Suffix with schnozz
- 108 Lunar vehicles
- 110 Weighed down
- 113 See 53 Across
- 115 Pierce portrayer
- 116 Topper for Hägar
- 118 Witches' concoction
- 120 "We're on!"
- 125 One-band set
- 126 Theme answers' commonality
- 129 Needing cutting
- 130 Paper smudge
- 131 Computer typeface
- 132 Info on a W-2
- 133 Opp. of 52 Across
- 134 Stimp's pal
- 135 Banned bug spray
- 136 "Peachy keen!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Sweetie pie
- 2 Kent State's state
- 3 Alliance since '49
- 4 Cultural doings
- 5 Honor Thy Father author
- 6 Flow back
- 7 Corner pieces
- 8 "Orinoco Flow" singer
- 9 Getty or Rockefeller
- 10 Play about Capote
- 11 Boss' summons
- 12 Soccer-stadium cries
- 13 Sounded like a goose
- 14 Portuguese explorer
- 15 Warning sound
- 16 Cut out
- 17 Golden __ (senior)
- 20 In full flower
- 22 Flash-drive filler
- 24 Pension-plan law
- 29 Russia's __ Mountains
- 31 Signs on again
- 33 Option for Hamlet
- 35 Letter starter
- 36 "Would __ to you?"
- 37 Beezebub
- 38 Timex competitor
- 41 Supply partner
- 44 Bread browner
- 45 Davis of Do the Right Thing
- 46 Driver's lic. et al.
- 48 Cyber-conversation
- 49 Amp purveyor
- 50 Stage direction
- 55 Lagoon site
- 56 Loyalist of 1776
- 58 "Immediately!"
- 60 Basil or oregano
- 62 Rugrat
- 65 Actress Tea
- 67 GPS reading
- 68 "Immediately!"
- 71 __ Scotia
- 72 Puccini work
- 74 States under oath
- 75 Cropped up
- 76 Do lunch
- 79 Rich soil
- 83 Yawning, maybe
- 86 601, in old Rome
- 88 Rounded hill
- 90 Mideast ruler
- 91 Comfy retreats
- 93 Put one's trust in
- 95 __ about
- 96 Trellis climber, perhaps
- 101 Bar mitzvah dance
- 102 Accord competitors
- 103 __ Hawkins Day
- 106 Gilder's lack
- 109 Lane or Hale
- 110 Prom rentals
- 111 Tire hub of 2 Down
- 112 Panel reading
- 114 Web-footed mammal
- 115 Bestow upon
- 116 Dyers' vessels
- 117 Dukes of Hazzard villain
- 119 Olmert or Barak
- 121 None too happy
- 122 72 Down piece
- 123 Pesky swarmer
- 124 Capital on a fjord
- 127 Charlemagne realm: Abbr.
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

BONAIRE (19 Across), one of the Netherlands Antilles, is a popular destination for scuba divers and snorkelers. Former NBC newsman Marvin Kalb (27 Across) is currently on the faculty of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Most of the world's OPAs (78 Across) mined today come from Australia.





Easter Eggstravaganza

By: Britawnya Craft, Intern

On Saturday April 11th Furman park held their annual Easter eggstravaganza. The event took place from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., residents from all over the city were in attendance. The main event was the Easter egg hunt that took place at noon, there were three arenas separated by age. Children zero through four had their own area, children five through eight had a spot, and finally kids from nine through twelve received their own area as well. At the end of the hunt, all children received prizes. 3 year old Downey resident Kaleigh Wright stated, "I'm going to find all the eggs, I want a Dora toy."

The prizes consisted of candy, games and toys. Not only were Downey residents but children from surrounding cities also attended. The usual turn out for the



Photo by: Paul Heidecker

event can consist of anything from 200-500 people. Aspire Volunteer and Furman park worker David Perez states, "Usually about 500 people [attend], but depends on the weather."

Attendees of the event found out about Furman's egg hunt through schools and the Downey

library. Furman park provided several different services children found quite interesting. 8 year old Karla Gomez states, "I got my face painted and I took a picture with the bunny." Downey princesses were in attendance at the event, providing young and old children with face painting. There was also an arts and crafts section located at the basketball court, a picture area where the special guest included the Easter bunny, and also a bounce house (jumper). Downey resident

Lorena Gomez states, "[I was] relieved, it's nice." Overall, the event had a wonderful turn out, with at least 400 people in attendance. Another year kicked off with out a hitch for Furman park, and children were primarily happy to take a picture with their favorite fuzzy bunny.

Allison Iraheta: Makes Top 6?

By: Bridget Sagrero, Intern

Allison Iraheta hit the "American Idol" stage again on Tuesday, performing hit song "I Don't Want To Miss a Thing," by Aerosmith.

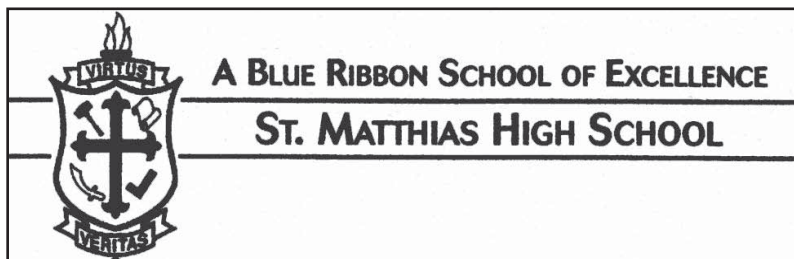
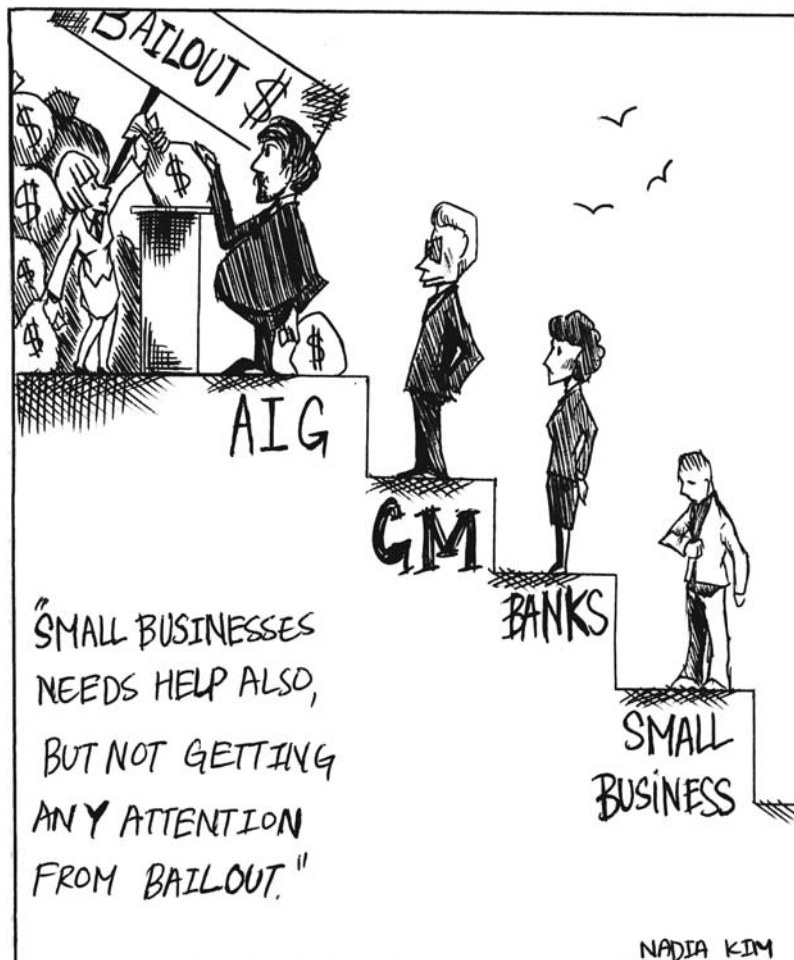
This week being "Movie Week" the top seven contestants got to work with Quentin Tarantino. Tarantino was a guest judge on "Idol" back in season three, and is now well known for his films. His goal was to give the group advise on how to perform their songs to the audience and judges and truly deliberate. After having his one-on-one with Iraheta, he felt she was not fully performing to her potential.

Iraheta performed amazingly, starting off in the center of the stage and as the song picked up put so much emotion into her song and passion not seen before. She still seems to amaze me and the judges with her voice.

"Idol" judge Paula Abdul went on to compare her to Adam Lambert, another contestant, saying that she possesses the same "special sauce" he does in authenticity. Lambert is my favorite contestant next to Iraheta and to be compared to him by Abdul was Iraheta's biggest complement yet in my eyes. Simon Cowell another judge went on to say that she was the girl's only hope left in the competition and that he could see her going all the way to the end and I completely agreed.

Cowell's and my own predictions of Iraheta making it all the way to the end reached one step closer to becoming true. On Wednesday's show she was the first to be saved and made it to the next week's show. With that said the bottom three consisted of Anoop Desal, Lil Rounds, and Matt Giraud. Last week both Desal and Rounds were part of the bottom three but got lucky when the votes came in just enough to save them. Dasal like last week made the cut and left Rounds and Giraud left in the bottom.

Before Rounds and Giraud got the news of who else was saved Miley Cyrus hit the stage as a guest performer and sang her latest song "The Clime." I strongly felt that Rounds would be going home but was wrong. With Rounds saved, Giraud gave his last performance



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Shawn Goodner

By: Helena Park, Intern

On Tuesday afternoon, SEACA received a wonderful gift from Shawn M. Goodner, a 7 year old boy who collected donations of blankets, sheets, and towels.

Goodner, a first grader at Downey Christian School, began this project last year to help support the animal shelter in Downey. His dream of becoming a veterinarian is what triggered him into starting this project. With the great support of his grandparents, friends, neighbors, and school, he managed to collect over 15 bags of donations.

Goodner amazed Aaron Reyes, the Director of Operations at SEACA, by putting together such a meaningful donation for their animals all on his own.

"The blankets, comforters, and towels are very useful because they go to the injured, sick, and nursing mothers," said Vicky Hernandez, the Adoption Manager at SEACA. "Donations are great because we go through so many blankets and towels and it's what keeps us going."

At SEACA, Goodner was able to see how his donations would be used for the animals and he was able to witness actual veterinarians doing their jobs. He was also given the opportunity to walk a dog and learn more about the needs and how to care for animals. Goodner's grandmother, Mary Hauk, has been a tremendous support for Goodner and his project. By always being his constant companion, she helped guide Goodner in setting this project up. She believes that this is a great opportunity for him because it will teach him the virtue of giving and sharing.

"I'm astonished that such a



Photo by: Helena Park

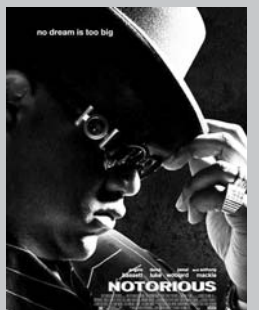
young boy would think of all and kitty litter. this... he really has potential to

come up with bigger projects, said Hernandez. "If he can comprehend such a big project at seven, just imagine what he can do in just five years... he's going to just excel."

SEACA was grateful for all the donations they received. They are always willing to accept any donations that would help them out such as blankets, comforters, towels, newspapers, toys,

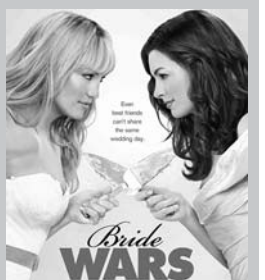
DVD RELEASES FOR APRIL 21

- Frost/Nixon
- Notorious
- The Wrestler
- Into the Blue 2: The Reef
- Ron White: Behavioral Problems
- My Own Worst Enemy: The Complete Series



DVD RELEASES FOR APRIL 28

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- S. Darko: A Donnie Darko Tale
- The Uninvited
- JCVD
- Spin City: Season 2



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March 6, 2009 Queen Esther Spa benefit with the 2009 Miss Downey Contestants & 2008 Reigning Court. In this picture: 2008 Miss Downey, Sarah Lopez (foreground) and the newly crowned 2009 Miss Downey, Kathia Morales.

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Standout pitching has Downey (unexpectedly) in first place

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

An interesting development has come to the attention of the Downey Patriot Sports Committee (of one) when it comes to the case of the San Gabriel Valley League baseball season.

At the beginning, it was written by the committee that Downey would probably finish third or at least compete for second place. After the preview and predictions were published, a certain sports writer who shall remain nameless, ahem, Scott Cobos, ahem, was chewing the fat with one of the parents at a Downey game.

The parent at first was cordial when she first heard who he was but then quickly realized that this sports hack, I mean writer, had predicted that her son's team would finish third.

Elegantly, she said he was wrong. The counter argument was that Paramount, the defending champions and favorite to win league again, had just beat the Vikings 12-3 the week before.

Good argument at the time. Not so much now. The Vikings, a team who lost an ace pitcher in Nate Coronado along with a couple other seniors last year, all of a sudden find themselves atop the standings of the SGVL with a relatively

easy schedule to close out league play.

Obviously, there were some gross oversights when predicting the league's outcome. The highly touted Ivory Thomas is doing what he's expected to do batting .381 with 23 runs scored, one homerun and seven RBIs, but there was no way anyone would predict Chris Munoz to completely explode statistically at the plate and on the mound.

To give you an idea of how a 5-foot-4 player turned from a pumpkin into a box score beast, last year Munoz batted a pedestrian .229 with 22 runs scored and only five RBIs, not to mention the goose egg that was put in the HR column.

This year, Munoz is batting .487, scoring 19 runs, has 21 RBIs and five homeruns with two of them coming in one game in back-to-back at bats. Let's put these offensive numbers into perspective.

In a matter of one year, he's batting .200 points higher, has almost equaled his run total from last year in half the amount of games, has increased his RBI total four-fold in half a season and has all of a sudden found a homerun stroke that had completely eluded him.

Has anyone asked him to urinate in a cup yet? I'm just kidding. The kid only weighs 140 pounds

and his head has maintained its size although if it were me putting up these insane numbers, my head, otherwise known as my ego, wouldn't be able to fit through the doorway.

Thomas received a full scholarship to Cal State Fullerton earlier in the school year. I wouldn't blame Munoz for standing in the school library holding a pen and waiting to sign letters of intent to other high profile baseball programs.

This is only half of what he's done for the team. While he's a huge asset for the team offensively, what he's doing on the mound is almost completely overlooked.

In a season where Downey manager Jess Gonzalez basically admitted the starting pitcher for the day was determined by drawing a name out of a New Era 59-50 ball cap, Munoz has risen to the top of the 6-man rotation the Vikings have. No, you didn't read that incorrectly, the Vikings have had six different players start a game.

Last year, Munoz's pitching was almost non-existent. He only appeared in one game and lasted four innings. His ERA was so high that cosmonauts in the International Space Station were scratching their head and saying what was that as it soared by them. So maybe it wasn't that high, but a 12.25 ERA is not good by any means. Also, in his only appearance, he received the only real number that matters: one loss.

This year he must have called his buddy San Francisco Giants' pitcher and reigning Cy Young Award winner Tim Lincecum and asked "Dude! How do you throw Cajun fastballs, because after all they are by-you, get it? Also, how do you drop the hammer that is your curveball all the while only weighing about 30 pounds?"

In other words, his numbers are off the charts because of the stuff he brings to the table. Munoz throws hard and spots his fastball. To keep hitters off balance, he drops in a hard 12-6 curveball that travels along the same plane as his fastball.

The results? An ERA that can't be seen with the Hubble telescope (0.22), eight scattered hits in 31.2 innings, six wins and 39 strikeouts that has Gonzalez saying to himself "Who's Nate Coronado?"

There's no question though who's fueling Downey's run at a league title. Sorry Ivory. You're still the man, no doubt, but Chris is killing it right now.

Let me be the first to say that Warren might be getting a bad rap for their sub-par season they've been having in league. Like a bad ex-girlfriend's excuse, it's not you, it's me. In this case it's not Warren, it's the league.

Like basketball, the Bears were unfortunate enough to play in an extremely tough division. Setting aside the failing programs of Lynwood and Dominguez, they have to play against Downey, Paramount and Gahr.

Would you mind waiting a second while I check something? OK,

thanks, I just needed to confirm that the three teams just mentioned are ranked in CIF's polls for Division III.

According to the polls that were released April 6, Downey was unranked but mentioned as another team on the rise and should be ranked in the next set of polls after winning the season series with Paramount and Gahr. Gahr was ranked No. 2 but might slide down a few spots, and the defending league champions Paramount were ranked No. 6. That's three top-10 teams in the SGVL.

It's not easy to compete with that as the Bears are learning. The silver lining among the clouds though is this: in non-conference play, they aren't doing too badly.

Yes, a few games did get away from the Bears and their record should be better than what is shown, but they're beating a few quality teams such as St. Bernard which is a very good team who is among the top teams in their league, and St. Monica, another team that's around the top of their division.

The Bears were able to keep it close with Paramount, a team that gave the Vikings their only league blemish this year, won the games that needed to be won against Dominguez and Lynwood, and beat Cerritos earlier in the season.

While there's probably a good chance the Bears will not make the playoffs this year, manager Paul Alvarez was right when he said that his team is headed in the right direction.

Compared to the disasters of the last few seasons, the Bears are starting to bounce back in the post-Steve Fullerton era. Warren, traditionally a winning program, is finally starting to make progress. It's possible that they're still a couple years away from winning anything like a playoff spot or a league championship, but at least they're heading in that direction.

Like the old proverb goes, you're too deep in the forest to see the trees. Maybe everyone's too cozy with the SGVL that they don't realize that Warren is a decent team too as they continue to prove it with the good showing they're having in the St. Paul Easter Tournament.

The tournament is customarily known to have good teams in it and Warren as of Thursday morning is 2-1. The loss probably eliminates them from winning the tournament but it looks as if they're going to place somewhere in the top.

Is it possible that with a little momentum the Bears could make a late run in league play and perhaps take a few teams by surprise? As one sports writer learned last year after a Letter to the Editor from a Warren assistant coach chewed him out saying the writer had no experience with baseball, even though that writer played the game for 15 years of his life and correctly predicted everything else in the season, anything is possible in this game.



After finishing their season 12-0, the Ballers have been named the DJAA's Frosh Division champions. The Ballers also went 12-0 last year. Pictured in the top row, left to right: Coach Daniel Gomez, Jay Moseback, Coach Lovel Johnson Sr., William Gomez, Chris Marrero and Coach Ron Bautista Sr. Bottom row: Kai Vincent, Lorel Johnson, Ron Bautista Jr., Nick Robles and Brian Cardenas. Not pictured are Luis Medaris, Ife Kalejaiye and Jordan Mann.



The Lil' Ballers were runner-ups in the DJAA's Mitey Mite Division. The Lil' Ballers lost only one game this season, finishing 11-1. Top row, left to right: Coach Thomas Lucas, Coach Lovel Johnson Sr., and Coach Rodger Brewster Sr. Middle row: John Beeks, Jahveon Medaris, Steven George, Rodger Brewster Jr. and Anthony Lucas. Bottom row: William Lucas, Danielle Marrero, Alexandria Lucas and Alec Dubane.

Munoz emerges as staff ace

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY - After a game earlier in the year, Downey manager Jess Gonzalez was unable to give a clear-cut answer when he was asked who the ace of his pitching staff was.

But the picture became clearer following another dominating performance by pitcher Chris Munoz when he shut out the defending San Gabriel Valley League champions Paramount 6-0 last Friday at Paramount.

Munoz has emerged as one of the elite if not the best pitcher in the division now moving his record to 5-0. What's making this even more incredible is the 0.22 ERA he has recorded throughout the season.

The shutout is his second in a row after he tossed one over Gahr just a week prior to his most recent performance.

Eyes are now shifting to the 5-foot-6, 140-pound senior as he was just featured in a *Press-Telegram* article and labeled as an emerging force in the Long Beach area as well.

He also had a big day at the plate with a 3-run triple and a RBI double to help fuel the Vikings' offense over what was to be a

favorable rival in the division. The victory pushes Downey to the front of the pack and the road to a championship looks much easier now that their schedule no longer features Paramount or Gahr.

The Vikings' next game will be next Tuesday at Dominguez. Game time is 3:15 p.m.

Warren

Things are starting to turn Warren's way after a sweep of Lynwood last week and a couple wins in the St. Paul Easter tournament.

The Bears were able to take a two-game set from the Lynwood Knights beating them last week 14-0 on Tuesday and 16-1 last Friday, and they have been playing well in the St. Paul Easter tournament beating St. Bernard High School 6-1 and St. Monica High School 11-5.

While the Bears are struggling in league play, their non-conference schedule has shown that they can hang with tough teams and in some instances beat them.

Warren has a tough schedule ahead of them when they resume league play with Paramount coming to town next Tuesday to start a two-game series and Gahr to follow the week after.

Paramount will be at Warren Tuesday at 3:15 p.m.

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Travelogues come to a close with 'Sea to Sea in a Model T'

CONTRIBUTED BY THE
DOWNEY THEATRE

DOWNEY – Join Don and Fran Van Polen as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of Henry Ford's Model T Roadster traveling from the Puget Sound in Washington State to the Eastern most town and lighthouse in America in their film "Sea to Sea in a Model T" presented this Sunday, April 19, in the Downey Theatre at 2:30 p.m. This film concludes the 2008/2009 "Armchair Adventure" Travelogue Series.

It was 100 years ago that Henry Ford introduced the first Model T Ford. It was the car that changed America. No other product made in this country would have such a profound effect on the nation's economy as Henry's Old Car! Soon, one out of seven workers in America would be in the auto industry and half of all cars on the road would have the name "Ford" written on them.

He would later build the largest factory in the world, the Rouge River Plant outside Detroit. More than 100,000 people would work there in one day. For the next 20 years, Henry Ford would build more than 15 million Model T's. Never were so many cars of one style built than that old car. It was the automobile that put America on wheels. Henry Ford claimed that his Model T would be the last car the country would ever need!

We've had at least two generations of traveling in the fast lanes and freeways and it's time to see the country from the slow lane. Slow roads have a sense of discovery; they tell us about the past and take us to places where real America lives. Driving that old car may not be the fastest way or the shortest; it may not be the easiest, but it certainly is the best way.



"Sea to Sea in a Model T" closes out the travelogue series Sunday at the Downey Theatre. Photo by Vicki and Chuck Rogers

Henry Ford's old car was meant for those old roads.

Enjoy the remarkable stories and scenery along the way as Don and Fran Van Polen travel from "Sea to Sea in a Model T" telling the story of Henry Ford's old car.

Don and Fran Van Polen grew up in the Dutch community of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Many times, they, as well as their parents, would enjoy the "travelogue culture" which thrived so successfully back in the 60's. Don graduated from Calvin College and later attended the University of Arizona taking graduate studies in the field of Criminology.

With this background, he later became a junior high math/science teacher and school administrator for 10 years. Don always believed that if you can communicate with a teenager, you can converse with any other age group.

One night, in Waupun, Wisconsin, they attended a travelogue by Robert Brower called "Spring Captures Holland" and the

Van Polens were smitten. Bob Brower's system of large format slides shown on multiple screens was impressive to say the least.

The Van Polens, using this technique, moved to the West Coast where they carried on the same tradition for many years. Their travels have taken them from the steaming jungles of New Guinea to the ancient streets of Jerusalem, and the slums of Calcutta, not to mention the grandeur of America. A highlight of those years was when one of their productions, "Autumn Across America" was selected as the feature program at the World Convention of the Photographic Society of America in Seattle where they received a standing ovation. Their presentations have been shown in some of the largest venues in North America and featured at photographic conventions along with the Kodak Cavalcade.

In the year 2000 they decided it was time for change and they switched to the Digital Wide-

screen Video Format. Some of their other digital productions are "Into the Unknown", the story of Lewis and Clark; "A Taste of Old Holland", a pilgrimage to the land of their ancestors and "Hawaii on the Widescreen".

"Sea to Sea in a Model T" is the 10th and final travelogue of the 2008/2009 season and the final film of the "Armchair Adventure Series." The Downey Theatre staff expresses their gratitude to the subscribers of the series for their wonderful support and patronage for these past 30 years.

The film is on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the Downey Theatre located at 8435 Firestone Blvd. Tickets for the last film may be purchased on day of performance only beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the theatre box office. Adult tickets are \$7 and senior/student tickets are \$6 (cash or check only).

For more information, please call the theatre box office at (562) 861-8211, Monday through Friday, between noon and 4 p.m.

'Music Man' presented by Calvary Chapel kids

DOWNEY – Calvary Chapel Christian School in Downey invites the community to their upcoming production of Meredith Willson's "The Music Man," opening Thursday at 7 p.m.

The production will play three times only: Thursday at 7 p.m., April 24 at 7 p.m., and April 25 at 2 p.m.

"The Music Man" cast includes more than 230 choral students. Each production will include a "special treat" from the school's Culinary Arts department, and an art exhibit will be featured after each performance.

Tickets are \$5 and are available after Calvary Chapel Downey services and in the high school and elementary school offices. The school is located at 12808 Woodruff Ave. For more information, call (562) 803-4076.

New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- **"Cursed"** by Carol Higgins Clark. Private investigator Regan Reilly moved from L.A. to New York City, but is called back to her old stomping ground to help a young friend who believes her life has been cursed since birth.
- **"Hungry Woman in Paris"** by Josefina Lopez. A journalist and activist, Canela believes passion is essential to life; but lately it seems to be in short supply. Cooking school in Paris is a sensual and spiritual reawakening that teaches her to savor the world around her.
- **"I Can See Clearly Now"** by Brendan Halpin. In 1972, four young, talented songwriters come together to create the music that will define a generation's childhood.
- **"The Renegades"** by T. Jefferson Parker. Some say that outlaws no longer exist, that the true spirit of the American West died with the legendary bandits of pulp novels. Deputy Sheriff Charlie Hood knows nothing could be farther from the truth.
- **"The Story of a Marriage"** by Andrew Sean Greer. Living in San Francisco in 1953, Pearl care for her ailing husband and son. When a stranger appears at her door, she begins to question her marriage and the husband she thought she knew.

Non-Fiction

- **"American Eve: Evelyn Nesbit, Stanford White, the Birth of the 'It' Girl, and the Crime of the Century"** by Paula Uruburu. Model Evelyn Nesbit was the most photographed woman of her era—and the center of the scandalous Stanford White murder.
- **"The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon"** by Marcus Borg, and John Dominic Crossan. Two top Bible scholars present a fresh perspective on early Christianity with this new view of a radical Paul.
- **"Growing Up Again: Life, Loves and, Oh Yeah, Diabetes"** by Mary Tyler Moore. With generosity of spirit and sly humor, Moore presents the intensely private and sometimes startling story of her life with diabetes.
- **"Intelligence and How to Get It: Why Schools and Culture Count"** by Richard E. Nisbett. Social psychologist Nisbett asserts that intellect is not primarily genetic but is principally determined by societal influences.
- **"Mommywood"** by Tori Spelling. The actress and author chronicles her adventures as the mother of two small children.

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

Don't let food allergies ruin a night out

While the average American family eats out fairly frequently, for the growing number of people who suffer from life-threatening food allergies dining out is often a rare treat.

When even a crumb-sized piece of food can trigger a potentially fatal reaction, it can be very difficult to find a restaurant that can safely accommodate your needs.

Linda Coss, author of "How to Manage Your Child's Life-Threatening Food Allergies: Practical Tips for Everyday Life," provides the following recommendations for dining out with food allergies.

Beware of the Dangers of Cross-Contamination – From the food allergy perspective, one of the biggest problems with food prepared in a restaurant setting is the cross-contamination between different dishes that can take place in the restaurant kitchen. If you react to minute quantities of an allergen, your food is likely to

require special handling by the restaurant staff.

Avoid High-Risk Situations – Some restaurants have a particularly high risk of cross-contamination, and are often best avoided altogether. Depending on what allergens you're avoiding, this can include buffets and self-service salad bars (for most allergies); Asian restaurants (for nut, wheat, soy and fish allergies); African, Thai and Indian restaurants (for nut allergies); bakers (for nut, milk, egg and wheat allergies); seafood restaurants (for fish or shellfish allergies); and ice cream shops (for nut, milk, egg and wheat allergies).

Bring Your Emergency Medication – When your family first arrives at a restaurant, check to be sure that you have your emergency medication (for use in case an allergic reaction should occur) with you. If it is not with you, do not stay at the restaurant.

Avoid Busy Times and Holidays – Avoid going to restaurants during their busiest hours or

during their busiest days, when the staff will not have time to properly deal with your special needs.

Speak to the Chef or Manager – Find out exactly what ingredients are in the suggested menu item. Then ask about the ingredients of any other foods that the dish might come into contact with during the preparation process (i.e., what else is made on that grill, cut at that station, fried in that oil, flipped over with that spatula, etc.). Discuss everything in detail, and be sure the restaurant understands that the allergies can be fatal.

Order Plain, Simply Foods – Avoid sauces, gravies, filling and so forth unless you are completely sure of their ingredients.

"Dining out with food allergies is certainly a challenge," explains Coss. "The secret to success is advance planning plus clear communication with the appropriate members of the restaurant staff."

Linda Coss is also the author of two popular food allergy cookbooks, "What's to Eat?" and "What Else to Eat?," both of which provide recipes for cooking without dairy, egg, peanut, or tree nut ingredients. All three books are available at www.foodallergybooks.com.

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STATE OF PLAY PG-13 (11:00, 1:40, 4:35), 7:40, 10:25
HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE G (11:10, 1:50, 4:30), 7:10, 9:50
OBSERVE AND REPORT R (12:20, 2:45, 5:05), 7:35, 10:00
FAST & FURIOUS PG-13 (11:45, 12:35, 2:10, 2:50, 4:45, 5:15), 7:15, 8:05, 9:45, 10:20
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Mother's Day is May 10!!!

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The Downey Patriot will publish a special section dedicated to Mother's Day. For only \$25.00, you can honor your mother, grandmother or that someone special with a 1.98" by 3" announcement.

Deadline for announcements is May 4 and will be published on May 8, 2009.

Include the following information:

- ✓ Completed Information Card
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Patricia Stringer was 89 when she died April 10. Funeral services are scheduled for today at 1 p.m. at Rose Hills.

Patricia Stringer was longtime resident

DOWNEY – Patricia C. Stringer, a member of First Baptist Church of Downey, passed away April 10 from an age-related illness. She was 89. She was born Oct. 3, 1919 in Dayton, Ohio to James and Edna Ray. She married Embert (Bert) Stringer on Feb. 14, 1940 and they were married for 69 years. They moved from Ohio to Downey in 1944. She is survived by her husband, Embert; three children, Susan Machowsky of Downey, Embert (Sonny) Stringer Jr. (Debra) of Whittier, and Paul (Patrice) Stringer of Draper, Utah; 13 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, James; sister, Dorothy; and great-grandchild, Lincoln. Services will be held today at Rose Hills Memorial Chapel at 1 p.m. Condolences can be sent to embert@roadrunner.com.

Joe Ray Alcon was WWII veteran

DOWNEY – Joe Ray Alcon, a decorated World War II veteran, passed away April 12. He was 84. Alcon was born in New Mexico and served in the Army during World War II. He was a PFC Rifleman and was awarded three Bronze Battle Stars, a Presidential Citation, a Good Conduct Medal, and a WWII Victory Medal. He lived in Downey for 23 years. Alcon is survived by his wife, Michelle Alcon; and nine children, Lance, Nathan, John, Mark, Jake, Ray, Michelle, Vanessa and Vianca. A funeral service was held yesterday at Linaje Escojido Church in Downey.

April 19-25 proclaimed National Library Week in Downey

By HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – “Our nation’s libraries,” to quote Mayor Mario Guerra’s proclamation Tuesday of April 19-25 as National Library Week, “are modern community centers for opportunity, education, self-help and lifelong learning.”

“Librarians are trained professionals, helping people of all ages find and interpret the information they need; and “Libraries can help you discover a world of knowledge.”

He then urged all residents to visit the library to “take advantage of our wonderful resources and programs.”

City librarian Nancy Messineo also spoke, reinforcing Guerra’s message and thanking all manner of supporters of the library.

In other action, the Council: •Authorized staff to submit, via the city of Los Angeles, a grant application for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), the funds to be used for crime suppression and prevention, especially targeting street robberies; •Authorized staff to submit a grant application for the Cops Hiring Recovery program, the

grant to provide funding (entry-level salary and benefits) for one full-time sworn police officer position that had previously been frozen;

•Accepted the improvements and maintenance responsibility for the Discovery Sports complex and appropriated \$832,183 from various funds for the resulting funding discrepancy;

•Approved the agreement with Steven Andrews Engineering for the preparation of plans, specifications and engineer’s estimate for the construction of a sewage pump station to replace the existing Blandwood Road and True Avenue lift stations, and appropriated an amount not to exceed \$88,975 for the purpose;

•Accepted the Independent Cities Risk Management Authority (CRMA) grant funds in the amount of \$6,404 for the purchase and installation of back-up cameras for four Fire Department apparatuses;

•Adopted a resolution amending Resolution No. 6709, accepting a fee and waiving six required parking spaces for a new restaurant at 11045 Downey Ave. in the Downtown Parking Assessment District which will be operated by Paul Granata;

•Adopted a resolution approv-

ing the submittal of transportation improvement project applications for the 2009 Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO) call for projects; and authorized the city manager to execute all agreements as necessary to receive and expend any awarded grant funds.”

•Adopted a resolution approving the submittal of the “Woodruff Avenue at Via Amorita Pedestrian Traffic Signal” application for safe routes to school funding (8th cycle);

•Adopted a resolution establishing a No Stopping Anytime prohibition on the south side of Somerset Ranch Road south, west of Lauredale Ave.;

•Adopted a resolution approving the appointment of Octavio Silva to the Water Board for Council District Three;

•Adopted a resolution approving the destruction of certain obsolete records of the Fire Department;

•Introduced an ordinance approving a restrictive use agreement with Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market, Inc. for the city-owned parking lot at 8356 Firestone Blvd.;

•Introduced an ordinance amending Section 3130.1 of the

Downey Municipal Code relating to the designation of one-way streets;

•Introduced an ordinance amending Section 3186 of the Downey Municipal Code relating to the speed limits for Rosecrans Ave.;

•Heard presentations of certificates of recognition to Rayana Gallindo and Celeste Hernandez for their participation in the opening day ceremony of the Downey Girls Ponytail Athletic Association;

•Heard presentations of city pins to Miss Downey, Miss Teen Downey and their courts;

•Heard a proclamation of April 2009 as DMV/Donate California Month, underscoring the importance of organ, tissue, marrow and blood donations as life-giving acts recognized worldwide as “expressions of compassion to those in need”; and

•Heard presentations of certificates of recognition to Stonewood Center and the Frase family for their volunteer assistance with the Keep Downey Beautiful cleanup program.

The next regular public meeting of the City Council will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28 at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

Financial seminars at local church

DOWNEY – Financial Peace University (FPU), a 13-week program teaching families how to handle their money through common-sense principles and accountability, will present two classes at the Lord’s Grace Church in Downey on April 27 and 30.

Classes are taught by Dave Ramsey, who began teaching FPU classes in 1994.

The program consists of 13 lessons taught by Ramsey on DVD. After each lesson, the class meets to help each other plan budgets, discuss successes and temptations, and support each other as they work to beat debt and build wealth.

Students need to purchase a kit to start the class. For more information, call Jeff Kerkoff at (818) 383-3176 or e-mail jeffnelly@juno.com.

The Lord’s Grace Church is at 7360 Foster Bridge Blvd. in Downey. Classes begin at 7 p.m.

Seniors invited to make new friends

DOWNEY – Downey AARP invites the older community to its meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center.

Meetings begin at 11:30 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. The group enjoys entertainment, luncheons, speakers, trips and bingo.

Seniors are invited to attend and make new friends. For more information, call Lorene Frazier at (562) 861-6075.

NARFE meeting Wednesday

DOWNEY – The National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees Southeast chapter will meet Wednesday at noon at Furman Park.

Pampered Chef catalogs will be distributed to all in attendance. Orders from the catalog will help the chapter financially. For more information, call (562) 943-5513.

Make plans for Street Faire, May 2

DOWNEY – Brookshire Avenue will once again be filled with vendors and thousands of guests when the Downey Chamber of Commerce hosts its 16th annual Street Faire on May 2.

The community event will have a centrally-located food court, live entertainment all day, a kid’s zone, and a car show with more than 200 classic automobiles.

The fair is free and the community is invited. For more information, call the Chamber at (562) 923-2191.

This year’s fair sponsors include Kaiser Permanente, Platinum Sponsor; Downey Regional Medical Center, Diamond Sponsor; CalMet Services, Gold Sponsor; AppleCare Medical Group, Australian Swim School, CareMore, Financial Partners Credit Union, The Point Insurance Services, Shave It, and Talbert Medical Group, Silver Sponsors; Downey Savings & Loan, and RMI International, Bronze Sponsors; Don Dixon & Associates Insurance, Krikorian Premiere Theatres, “Santa Claus” Mark Keller, Law Offices of Alexis Saab, Sanchez Villa Realty, and Southern Calif. Alcohol & Drug Programs, Friends of the Faire; Downey Nissan, Car Sponsor; and DowneyConnect.com, media sponsor.

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 <p>OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! Charming Duplex in Downey w/ 2 BD, 2 BA & other unit 1 BD & 1 BA Price: \$409,900 Call Carrie @ 562-382-1252</p>	<p>BANK REPO!</p>  <p>INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY IN DOWNEY! 29 office suite, 48 parking spaces, 30,052 sq. ft. lot Priced at: \$1,599,999 Call Jason Lockwood (562) 619-2979</p>	<p>NEW LOW PRICE!</p>  <p>OWNER SAYS "SELL IT!" Huge Master Suite. Glorious kitchen & Family room 4 BD, 3BA. 3000 + Sq ft. Remodeled. MAKE OFFER!! A MUST SEE! Virtual tour at www.MARIOBERSICO.COM</p>
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<p>IN ESCROW!</p>  <p>A SMART BUY! 3 BD, 2 BA home in Downey w/ living room, fireplace, nice back yard & freshly painted! Price \$349,900 Call Carrie for Info 562-382-1252</p>	<p>N. DOWNEY!</p>  <p>CUSTOM POOL HOME! 4 BD, family room & gourmet kitchen w/ top of the line appliances! Upgrades galore! 2,800 sq. ft., 11,000+ sq ft Only \$730,000 Call Marie Picarelli (562) 618-0033</p>	<p>AND HE DID IT AGAIN...</p>  <p>SPLISH SPLASH IN CHEROKEE ESTATES! Gorgeous 4 BD, 3 BA, 2,300 sq. ft. on a 9,600 sq. ft. lot. Entertainer's Delight! MUST SEE! Call Mario for a private showing 562-533-7433</p>
<p>FOR RENT!</p>  <p>NEAR STONEWOOD MALL! 3 BD, 1 BA home in N. Downey. \$2,000 a month Available May 2009! Call Carrie for Info 562-382-1252</p>	<p>SUPER BUY!</p>  <p>MOBILE HOME + LAND 2 BD, 2 BA in Moreno Valley. Call for More Details PRICE: \$399,000 Call Mary Jane Lee 562-618-0390</p>	<p>AND HE DID IT AGAIN...</p>  <p>BANK OWNED HOUSE IN DOWNEY 2 BD, 1 BA, approx. 900 sq. ft., 7,500 sq. ft. lot. 2 car garage I CAN SELL YOURS TOO Mario 562-533-7433 SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!</p>

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 <p>Cherokee Estates Charmer! 4BD, 2.75 BA, N. Downey Home w/ spacious family rm, updated kitchen w/ newer appliances & granite counters, pool size yard, 9900 sq ft. lot, and a master bedroom. Priced at: \$649,000 Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	 <p>A Real Charmer! 3BD, 3BA, over 3,000 sq. ft. on 10,000 sq. ft. lot, w/ many upgrades! Price: \$795,000 Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	 <p>A-1 Neighborhood NE Downey 5 BD, 4 BA home w/ entertaining floorplan, 3240 sf, large master suite, oversized 3 car gar w/ workshop, many great amenities, & large yard with pool/spa. Price: \$995,000 Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>
 <p>New Construction! 6BR, 6.5 BA, 5219 sq ft living space, on a 7,709 sq. ft. lot, including a large master suite with retreat, fireplace, walk-in closet, master BA, and an entertainer's backyard with pool/spa and slide. Price: \$1,349,950 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>	 <p>NE Downey Home! 3 BD, 2.5 BA, 2587 sq ft, large master bedroom, new roof, 3 car garage, 10,005 sq ft lot. Priced right @ \$769,950 Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	 <p>Home Sweet Home! 3BD, 2BA, including a master bedroom w/ large bathroom, 1,603 sq ft, 6,230 sq ft. lot size, hardwood floors, pool, and patio. Price: \$549,900 Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>
 <p>A Real Steal! 5 BD + office, 4 BA, master suite w/ fireplace, 3,750 sq ft, 6,480 sq ft lot. Price: \$849,000! Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	 <p>Centrally Located! 3 BD, 2 BA North Downey home, 1539 sq ft living space, 6360 sq ft lot, 2 car det garage. Price: \$359,900 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>	 <p>MOVE RIGHT IN! NE Downey pool home w/ 5 BD, 4 BA, 4700 sq ft living space, 7500 sq ft lot, gorgeous master suite w/ fireplace & balcony. Price: \$999,900 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>

View these homes at: www.MichaelBerdelis.com

Gangs Out of Downey luncheon Wednesday

For tickets, call (562) 862-8141, ext. 223



American Capital Realty Inc. of Santa Fe Springs has signed on as a Silver Sponsor for this year's GOOD (Gangs Out Of Downey) luncheon, to be held Tuesday at the Rio Hondo Event Center. Left to right: American Capital Realty owners Phil Persicci (founding member of GOOD) and wife Bonnie, and owner Winnie Long and husband Mel. American Capitol Realty Inc. has supported GOOD for 20 years. This year's keynote speaker is NFL Hall of Famer Jim Brown, whom many consider to be the greatest running back in NFL history.



Stan Hanstad, Chairman of the Board at Downey Federal Credit Union, presents a \$2,500 donation to Barbara Lamberth, treasurer of Gangs Out of Downey and CEO of Downey Federal Credit Union.



On March 26, Rio Hondo Elementary School welcomed parents and friends to their annual Career Day. Students enjoyed hearing about the life of a dog handler, policeman, pastry chef, costume designer, magician, Gas Company employee, dentist, construction manager, and more.