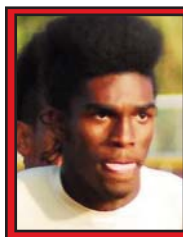


# The Downey Patriot



**Downey-Warren track pictures**  
See Page 11



**Donation for TLC Center**  
See Page 3



**Poet has words put to music**  
See Page 2

Friday, May 1, 2009

Vol. 8 No. 2

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

## Swine flu has not affected Downey

BY MARK SAUTER,  
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, CITY OF DOWNEY

**DOWNEY** – The recent daily news reports about a swine flu outbreak are a cause for concern for all of us. We collectively have great empathy for those who have already been affected by the H1N1 flu outbreak. Understandably, the City Council and city staff are concerned about the impacts the flu outbreak could have on our residents and the community.

For clarification purposes, the Department of Homeland Security has begun using the term 'H1N1' for the flu virus that has brought about the recent concerns. It is important to note this time of year is still considered flu season. There have been no reported cases of food or animal transferred flu virus. At the time of this writing, the duration of the H1N1 flu cycle is unknown.

To date, there have been no reported cases of H1N1 flu in the city. There has not been an increase in the number of patients complaining of flu-type symptoms, either. This has been confirmed with the Downey Fire Department and with Downey Regional Medical Center (DRMC).

City staff and the fire and police departments have taken the following actions:

- Reinforce the importance of standard precautions (protecting themselves from another person's respiratory secretions)

- Ensure all personnel are aware of the proper equipment and procedures for treating persons with flu-type symptoms

- Reviewed their existing plans for a large scale flu outbreak; and
- Confirming city staff's understanding of the importance of limiting exposure to others, if they become ill.

See SWINE FLU, page 3

## Sales tax revenue sees 13% decline

**DOWNEY** – Local sales tax revenue has fallen 13 percent compared to last year, according to a report presented to the City Council on Tuesday.

As of March 31, the city had taken in just over \$8.3 million in sales tax revenue, down from \$9.6 million the same time last year, the report says.

City officials blamed the decline on the national recession and a reduction in auto sales, which dipped 50 percent during last year's fourth quarter. Non-auto sales declined 10 percent during the fourth quarter, according to the report.

Property tax revenue, however, rose 4 percent, and generated \$11.4 million.

The city is forecasted to expend up to 97 percent of the 2008-09 budget, which ends in three months.

## Downey Street Faire tomorrow!

■ Annual event begins tomorrow at 9 a.m. along Brookshire Avenue.

**DOWNEY** – In what has become a much-anticipated community tradition, the Downey Chamber of Commerce will present the 16th annual Downey Street Faire tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission to the fair, located on Brookshire Avenue outside Downey High School, is free.

Downey High School's marching band will open the fair with a performance at 9 a.m. Live entertainment will continue throughout the day on a mobile concert stage set up at the school's front entrance.

Entertainers slated to perform include Warren High School's Jazz Ensemble Singers, Downey First Christian Church's Rock Over London, Sebastian Sidi, On Stage Dance Center, Jaguar, and Class 6 Band.

The food court will be located on Brookshire Avenue, not far from the stage. Vendors will include Frantone's, Pina Pizza House, Philly's Best, Dog Gone It, Argentinean Empanadas, Old Fashioned Kettle Korn, Old Memories Car Club (burritos, tacos, carne asada), B. Food International (gyros, falafel), Paula's Hot Dogs, California's Best Kettle Korn, Calvary Chapel of Downey (Filipino foods), Mustache Mikes Italian Ice, North Shore Hawaiian BBQ, Shave It, Thai-Mex BBQ, The Sweet Stop, and CERT/Woman's Club (tacos).



The Downey Street Faire draws thousands of visitors each year, including resident Faye Campbell, left, and Mayor Pro Tem Anne Bayer, shown at a past fair.

More than 200 vehicles will be showcased in the car show, featuring vehicles from Old Memories SGV Car Club. Also on Downey High School's south parking lot will be the Kid's Zone with inflatable attractions for children.

Also at the Street Faire will be more than 200 crafters, organizations and businesses offering products, services or information along Brookshire Avenue.

Kaiser Permanente is the fair's Platinum Sponsor. Downey Regional Medical Center is

Diamond Sponsor, and CalMet Services is Gold Sponsor. Other sponsors include 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); Downey Nissan (Car Show Sponsor); and DowneyConnect.com (Media Sponsor).

## Five named to volunteer Green Task Force

BY HENRY VENERACION,  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – Eager to press on with the work of a high-level review of city policies, procedures, and practices according to Sustainable Cities principles, the City Council Tuesday appointed five members to its Green Task Force.

The appointees will represent the district of the City Council member that nominated them.

The five: Nancy Swenson (appointed by Councilman Roger Brossmer); Bob Ciatti (David Gafin); Robert Rubio (Mayor Pro Tem Anne Bayer); Janet Molinaro (Luis Marquez); and Lars Clutterham (Mayor Mario Guerra).

Guerra and Marquez earlier volunteered to represent the City Council on the task force.

Still to be appointed are three 'experts' and another resident.

According to Deputy City Manager Desi Alvarez, a total of 12 applications were received from city residents, each one possessing various degrees of 'green' expertise.

The task force will serve for a term of 12 months, and will meet monthly to make specific recommendations to the City Council on "best management practices for the creation of a sustainable city."

In other action, the Council:

- Approved the submittal by the Downey Fire Department of their application for Assistance to

Firefighters Grant (AFD) funds in the amount of \$70,511 for the purchase and installation of "No Smoke Diesel Filters" to equip nine (9) Fire Department apparatus;

- Adopted a resolution authorizing the execution of a 5-year General Services Agreement renewal with the County of Los Angeles, to cover such miscellaneous services as traffic signals, city-owned lighting, bridge maintenance, and other tasks the city wishes the county to undertake;

- Approved the engineer's report for assessments within Assessment District No. 121 for FY2009-10; adopted a resolution declaring its intention to levy and collect lighting and landscaping assessments within the district; and set a public hearing for June 9, 2009, to consider setting such assessments;

- Adopted an ordinance approving the Restrictive Use Agreement with Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market, Inc. for the city-owned parking lot at 8356 Firestone Blvd.;

- Adopted an ordinance amending Section 3130.1 of the Downey Municipal Code relating to the designation of one-way streets within the city;

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

- Presented certificates of recognition to the members of the Downey Family YMCA Youth and



DUSD Board Member Nancy Swenson was one of five residents appointed to the city's Green Task Force on Tuesday.

Government Delegation;

- Heard a hearty endorsement by the Muscular Dystrophy Association to the Downey Fire Department of its participation in their annual Fill the Boot Fundraising Campaign;

- Proclaimed April 27-May 1 Safety Seat Checkup Week; April 2009 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; April 26-May 2 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week; May 9 as Kids Day; and urged city residents to lend their full support to the 2010 Census; and

- Presented a certificate of appointment to Octavio Silva to the Water Board, representing Council District 3.

The next public meeting of the City Council will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

## Money, staffing cited in closing travelogues

■ Too much time, effort and money went into the travelogue series, and city did not profit, officials say.

BY ERIC PIERCE,  
CITY EDITOR

**DOWNEY** – After 30 years of transporting visitors to exotic locales around the world, city officials are citing staffing and monetary considerations as the reasons they pulled the curtain on the Armchair Adventure Travelogue Series at the Downey Theatre last month, a decision that has rankled some Downey residents.

Although ticket sales helped cover most of the expenses, the city did not profit financially from the travelogues, said Thad Phillips, director of community services and acting theater manager.

"It was my recommendation not to continue it," Phillips said. "The economic situation everywhere is uncertain. I was not able to commit this early to a program when we don't know what resources we have."

When former theater director Kevin O'Connor, an active proponent of the series, retired late last year, his position was not filled. Instead, his duties were spread to other theater staff and Phillips took over as acting manager.

Each travelogue cost about \$18,000 to produce, Phillips estimated. That does not include the cost of printing tickets or time spent by employees booking and promoting the shows.

Downey resident Paul Winslow, 90, said he and his wife subscribed to the travelogue series for 16 years. He wasn't convinced that travelogues were a drain on city resources.

"I didn't think they required that much personnel," said Winslow, a 60-year Downey resident. "The travelogue itself is put

on by someone else. And an advantage to the city is it utilizes the theater, which sits idle a good part of the year. So the city gets rent from the travelogue – just heating and cooling is what they have to pay for."

Mark Keller, the theater's house manager, said about six employees and one volunteer worked each travelogue, which were presented Sunday afternoons. Travelogue producers doubled as narrators during the shows and were paid for their time.

Keller declined to say how much travel producers were compensated, but conceded "it was comparable to what other venues that do travel series pay."

Each travelogue showing sold a couple hundred seats, Keller said.

"Some films we sold well over 100 tickets on walk-up if it was a popular subject, others, not so much," he said. "It really depended on the subject matter."

Phillips said there are currently no plans to reinstate the travelogues, which last month wrapped its 30th season.

In the meantime, Phillips said city officials are working to define the theater's exact purpose and target audience. Officials have openly expressed a desire to "revitalize" the theater and make it more accessible to the community.

"One of the things we have to determine is what is our purpose?" Phillips said. "You can either bring in programming that someone maybe culturally believes is important but is more expensive, or you can go more commercial and sell more tickets."

"What we need to do is identify our niche, at a price point people locally would be willing to pay."

## Impact of state budget on DUSD laid out at meeting

BY HENRY VENERACION,  
STAFF WRITER

Consonant with the economic uncertainty of the times, the broad strokes of the 18-month budget draft presented Tuesday to the stakeholders of the Downey Unified School District amounted to an exercise in conditional propositions. It couldn't have been otherwise.

The event: a special joint meeting of the DUSD board with the Personnel Commission, with all the department heads/other administrators, principals, PTA representatives, heads of unions, and others, in attendance, "to discuss the current status of the state fiscal crisis and its impact on the [district]."

As if in answer to a deep pedagogical instinct, Superintendent Wendy Doty said at one point: "If we had more room, we could have invited the student council presidents, so they too will have an insight, according to their level of understanding, into the realities of the budget situation."

The realities were delineated by "budget czar" Kevin Condon, assistant superintendent of business services:

- Because of the state of the national economy (in recession since December 2007), and the disarray in the state budget, "we are in uncharted waters as we watch the legislature and the governor [yet] deal with changes to a budget that was enacted terribly late" and stands on shaky ground;

- To cope with projected budget shortfalls, the state's compromise counterstrategy consists of new and/or increased taxes, increased borrowing, and reductions to all state-funded programs, especially education (resulting in crippling cuts in Prop. 98 funds, on which the district depends for 75 percent of its total funding, with the balance coming from federal, state [taxes, etc.], and local funds; loss of COLA for the foreseeable future; further reductions to categorical funding, etc.);

See BUDGET, page 2

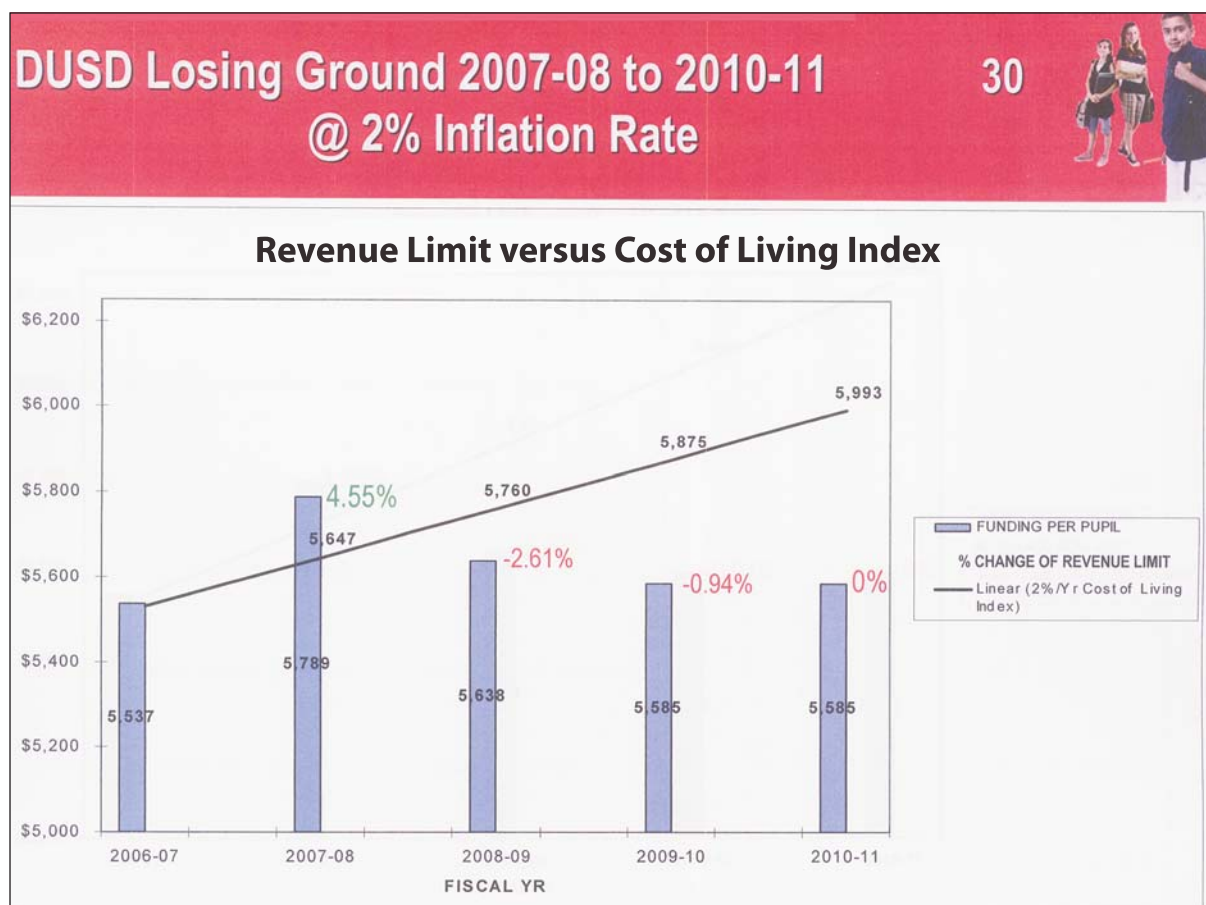
## Budget cuts: DUSD projects \$3.5 million budget deficit at close of fiscal year.

Continued from page 1

•Much of the state budget is contingent upon success of the May 19 ballot measures (especially relevant to DUSD are Props. IA ("rainy-day" fund), IB ("additional \$9.3 billion in maintenance factor amounts", and IC ("Lottery securitization bonds, to generate \$5 billion"), none of which are assured of passage, which would then lead to more cuts in the May/June state revise;

•The good news is that Tier III funds, already reduced as they are (such as those originally slated for Adult Education, CAHSEE Intervention Grants, Community-based English Tutoring, and the like) have been allowed to be allocated to other high priority programs; the bad news is that most of these monies have already been applied to said programs and therefore can't be touched anymore;

•Assuming a "flat" student enrollment ("better than 'declining'"), already contracted per pupil ADA-based base revenue limit is subject to the ravages of inflation, necessitating dipping into district reserves (which have been realized because of prudent fiscal management by the district); these reserves, however, can "evaporate fast" if a further close monitoring of costs vs. resources is not done, especially with so many "ifs" haunting the state budget process with their huge impact on the district budget; it's not inconceivable that



DUSD officials gave a public update this week on their budget status. This linear graph shows DUSD "losing ground" at 2 percent inflation. Courtesy DUSD

deficits can run up to a total of \$9 million in FY2008-09, and subsequent huge deficits in FY2009-10, if nothing is done to trim the budget further;

•As DUSD board member Don La Plante said, "We're beyond 'doing more with less', we're in [the slough of despond]."

•Thus, managing budgets will be difficult, especially because, as was already mentioned, of uncertainty regarding future modifications to the state budget; "We will have the highest deficit factor in California history";

•Although we believe both the United States and California have bright futures in the intermediate and long-term, it will definitely be a struggle to hold on in the short term (2-3 years, even longer);

What's to be done next? Said Condon: "Make any required adjustments for the June 30 budget adoption; continue to tightly control expenditures and identify additional savings opportunities via attrition, staffing vacancies, etc.; and continue to work on further budget reduction contingencies for 2010-11. We're sure of one

thing—there's a lot of question marks here, a lot of uncertainty."

"We're continually looking at how we can save, and where we can put the dollars we save where they can do the most good," said Doty. "The Adult School and the ROP Program have done a lot in this regard for the district. What we promise is we'll work as hard as we can to keep our programs going, with safety uppermost in our minds. We'll be reviewing the situation again in our June budget retreat."

If.....then.



Student Carolina Cormack had her poem set to music by jazz composer Ron McCurdy.

## St. Matthias student writes winning poem

DOWNEY — "Six A.M.," a poem by St. Matthias High School sophomore Carolina Cormack, was one of four winning poems chosen to be set to music by renowned jazz composer Ron McCurdy at the Huntington Library in San Marino on April 23.

McCurdy was performing his work "The Langston Hughes Project: Ask Your Mama, Twelve Moods for Jazz."

Cormack read her poem accompanied by McCurdy's jazz quartet on stage at the library before a large audience of students and educators.

McCurdy, a professor of music at the Thornton School of Music at USC, was also a member of the panel that chose the poems submitted by high schools in the Los Angeles area. McCurdy will present a written copy of his score of Cormack's poem to her school.

In her poem, Cormack, an English 10 Honors student, describes the early morning life of people living in difficult circumstances, including homelessness.

Her comment on social inequality and neglect invoke the spirit of Langston Hughes, whose poetry often confronted racial stereotypes and protested injustice.

"The Langston Hughes Project" is a multimedia concert performance of Hughes's kaleidoscopic jazz poem suite about the struggle for artistic and social freedom at home and abroad in the early 1960s. The concert features images from the Harlem Renaissance, a period in the 1920s and 1930s of African American literary and cultural achievement in which Hughes was an important influence.

McCurdy, an author of several books and articles who has performed and presented masterclasses in jazz all over the world, is past president of the International Association for Jazz Education and a consultant for the Grammy Foundation, Walt Disney Company, and the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. He is also a performance artist for the Yamaha Corporation.

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**The Downey Chamber of Commerce Presents... The 16th Annual Downey Street Faire**

On Brookshire Ave. At Firestone Blvd.  
**Saturday, May 2nd, 2009**  
**FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING**  
**9 AM - 5 PM**

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**FOOD - FUN ENTERTAINMENT CRAFTERS & MORE!**

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
9:00AM - Downey High Marching Band  
9:05-9:45AM - Jazz Ensemble Singers from "Warren High"  
10:00 - 11:00 AM - Downey First Christian Church DFCC "Rock Over London"  
11:20 AM - 12:50 PM Sebastian Sidi  
1:15 PM - 2:15 PM - Onstage Dance Center  
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM - Jaguar  
4:15 PM - 5:00 PM - Class 6 Band

**KIDS ZONE**

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**Sound System Courtesy of Don Knabe, Supervisor 4th District County of L.A.**

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## Swine flu: Hospital, fire department report no increase in flu cases.

Continued from page 1

The City and the LA County Department of Public Health have worked on contingency plans for a more involved flu outbreak, should the current problem escalate.

The Federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends the best way to limit the exposure to the H1N1 flu virus is to practice the following standard precautions:

- Wash your hands frequently (with soap for 30 seconds or use a hand-sanitizer until your hands are dry)

- Avoid touching your nose, mouth or eyes with unwashed hands

- If you or a family member is sick, have the affected person stay home from work or school.

- Stay away from those who are sick with the flu; and

- If you must cough or sneeze, do so into a tissue (then discard it) and

- Protect yourself from anyone coughing or sneezing

The flu virus can live for a period of time on surfaces touched by infected humans such as door handles in public places. It is wise to wash your hands after contacting such surfaces before touching your eyes, nose, mouth or eating.

As this message is being written, the World Health Organization (WHO) has increased the flu alert level to phase 5 (level 6 is a flu pandemic). This issue is changing frequently and interested parties should stay informed by checking the following websites:

Center for Disease Control ([www.CDC.org](http://www.CDC.org))

L.A. County Public Health Department ([www.lapublichealth.org](http://www.lapublichealth.org))

Department of Emergency Medical Services (<http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov>)

Press updates can be found at [www.youtube.com/lapublichealth](http://www.youtube.com/lapublichealth)

## Coupons urge residents to 'Dine in Downey'

**DOWNEY** – Approximately 40 restaurants have chosen to participate in the city's "Dine-In-Downey" promotion that encourages residents to stay local and purchase their meals from restaurants within the city's borders.

The program, conceived last year by Mayor Mario Guerra following the city's 3-day boil-water order, which forced the closure of almost all Downey restaurants, launched today and runs through May 17.

Residents can save 10 percent off their meal by clipping coupons

good for participating restaurants. The coupons are available in local newspapers (including the Patriot) through ad space purchased by the city and online at [www.DineInDowney.com](http://www.DineInDowney.com).

Coupons will also be available at tomorrow's Downey Street Faire.

The city will install 50 new street banners along Firestone Boulevard advertising "Dine-In-Downey." Promotional materials were also inserted into residents' utility bills.



The Gypsy Johnson Auxiliary presented DUSD's True Lasting Connections (TLC) Family Resource Center with a \$14,500 donation recently in support of the organization's vision and counseling programs. "TLC is seen as a great example of community-school partnership," said Luz Perez, coordinator of TLC. Dr. Robert Jagielski, director of pupil services for DUSD, said the program is a success. "TLC has led to improved student learning and has been a great support for our families in need," Jagielski said. Pictured, from left: Gypsy Johnson Auxiliary members Barbara Halbmaier and Kelly Holt, and TLC Coordinator Luz Perez, and Gypsy Johnson President Julia Desalernos.

## Parking lot sale at Downey church

**DOWNEY** – The Moravian Women's Fellowship will host a parking lot sale tomorrow from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., and all proceeds will benefit the local ministry of Moravian Church of Downey.

The church is located at 10337 Old River School Rd., two blocks south of Florence Avenue. For more information, call the church office at (562) 927-0718.

## City to honor military members

**DOWNEY** – With the Fourth of July national holiday only eight weeks away, the city of Downey had made plans to honor its local military personnel.

The City Council agreed this week to launch a city-wide banner program "designed to support, recognize, and express appreciation to" active military service members.

Councilman Roger Brossmer first proposed the idea. The city will cover the cost of the banners' installation and maintenance. Donations are expected to pay for the banners themselves.

To qualify for a banner, service members must be on active overseas duty with a U.S. military branch. Honorees must also be a resident of Downey, or had been a resident before they turned 21. Relatives of Downey residents will also be considered.

Details of the program are still being put together, including an application to determine eligibility.

## Police arrest man who stole purse

**DOWNEY** – A man who allegedly robbed a woman of her purse while she was placing her young son in her car has been arrested by Downey police.

Jose Garcia Rodriguez, 31, of Corona, was arrested April 28 after he robbed the woman in the parking lot of a strip mall on the 8000 block of Florence Ave.

According to police, Rodriguez approached the woman as she was placing her son into the car. He asked for money, but she refused, a police statement said.

When the woman placed her purse in the back seat, Rodriguez allegedly pushed her out of the way, grabbed the purse and fled to his vehicle, which was parked a short distance away.

Officers responding to the victim's call for help found Rodriguez and pulled him over. He was arrested and charged with robbery, the statement said.

The victim's purse and its contents were found inside Rodriguez's vehicle, police said.

## Razorbacks at the Street Faire

**DOWNEY** – Downey Youth Football will host sign-ups for the upcoming season at the Downey Street Faire tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration is limited and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost for flag football is \$130, tackle football is \$185, and cheerleading is \$100. Raffle tickets are available to offset the cost of registration.

Assistant coaching opportunities are still available. For more information, call Louis Morales at (562) 928-6081, Mike Baumann at (562) 889-1183, or go online to [www.downeyrazorbacks.com](http://www.downeyrazorbacks.com).

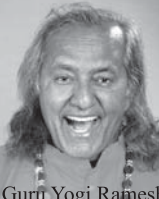
## The Brady's performing Monday

**DOWNEY** – Accomplished singers and performers Ray and Aylene Brady will headline Monday's OASIS program at Downey Adult School.

The Brady's have been performing for more than 30 years. They have been married 32 years and are longtime singers with the Bellflower Civic Chorus and Downey Senior Follies Show.

The OASIS program is open to all older adults and is held in the Harriett Payne Event Center at Downey Adult School.

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




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Blizzberry 8408 Florence Ave.	Ichiban Sushi 11020 New St.	Robeks Juice 114 Stonewood St.
Bon Appetite Sushi & Salad 7808-10 Florence Ave.	Kelly's Coffee & Fudge Factory 118 Stonewood Center	Royal Food Express 9125 Imperial Hwy #C
Cafe OPA 9905 Paramount Blvd.	Leonardo's Ceviche Co 10244 Lakewood Blvd.	Sambi of Tokyo 8649 Firestone Blvd.
Café n' Stuff 9306 Firestone Blvd.	Mambo Grill 11018 Downey Ave.	Shakey's Pizza #50 12030 Paramount Blvd.
Ceviche del Rey 7404 Florence Ave.	McDonalds #19956 10207 Lakewood Blvd.	Sizzler Downey 10315 Lakewood Blvd.
Chili's Grill & Bar #1050 12030 Lakewood Blvd.	Mexico 86 11851 Paramount Blvd.	Stox Restaurant 9518 Imperial Hwy.
Elephant Bar Restaurant 12002 Lakewood Blvd.	Narai Thai Cuisine 7611 Firestone Blvd.	Subway #104 7930 Florence Avenue, Unit 7
Frantone's Pizza Downey 9148 Telegraph Rd.	Papa John's Pizza #2839 7840 Firestone Blvd. #102	Subway #26401 9228 Lakewood
Gourmet Cafe 8250 Firestone Blvd.	Philly's Best Downey 12008 Lakewood Blvd.	Sutha Thai Cuisine 10341 Lakewood Blvd.
Granata's Restaurant 11032 Downey Ave.	Pieloon 10822 Lakewood Blvd.	The Downey Brewing Company 10924 Paramount Blvd.
H. Salt Fish & Chips 10339 Lakewood Blvd.	Pina Pizza House 11102 Paramount Blvd.	Tokyo Garden 11946-48 Paramount Blvd.
Hackers Bar & Grill 10627 Old River School Rd.	Plaza Guadalajara 11011 New St.	Wendy's #9656 14305 Lakewood Blvd.
	Pop's Cafe 7840 Florence Ave.	

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## Full slate of events planned for Kids Day

**DOWNEY** – The 22nd annual Kids Day, a community event showcasing the activities, organizations and contributions of Downey's youth and youth service providers, will be held May 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Furman Park.

This year's theme is "A Celebration of Healthy Youth in a Caring Community."

Kids Day festivities will include a penny carnival, two stages with music and dance entertainment, a middle-school mural contest promoting "going green" and environmentally prudent activities, informational vendors promoting health and fitness-related projects and services, scouting villages, a moon bounce and slide, and a variety of food and drink available for purchase from community-based organizations.

The seventh annual 2-mile Fun Run begins at 10:45 a.m. The first 100 people to register will receive a goody bag and all participants who cross the finish line will receive a ribbon. Runners can register at the Community Services Department inside City Hall or at the park on the day of the event, starting at 10 a.m.

The Downey Fire Department will also host their Community Safety Fair at Kids Day. Visitors can view the department's Urban Search and Rescue Truck and all of its gear. Fire personnel will also present a vehicle excavation and fire extinguisher demonstration.

The Public Works Department will also host its Environmental Fair, demonstrating how Downey is "going green" through several eco-friendly exhibits.

For more information on Kids Day, call the Community Services Department at (562) 904-7238.

## Moravian Church to present concert

**DOWNEY** – Downey Moravian Church will present a "Moravian Musicales" on June 1 at 7:30 p.m.

The concert will feature the church's all-trombone choir, chancel choir, and vocal and instrumental soloists.

The program is part of the church's 55th anniversary celebration.

The concert is free but a freewill offering will be taken. For more information, call (562) 927-0718.

## OLPH Guild installing officers

**DOWNEY** – The OLPH Guild will install its officers for the 2009-10 term at an 8:30 a.m. Mass on May 15.

Breakfast at Mimi's Café will follow the ceremony. Guests will have their choice of three entrees: 1) a half order of eggs benedict with red skin potatoes; 2) Monterey omelet, with bacon; or 3) pain perdu French toast with eggs, potatoes and bacon or sausage.

To attend, mail a check made payable to Catholic Women's Guild and indicating your menu choice to Lou Ugliano, 10409 Pico Vista Rd., Downey, CA 90241. Deadline for reservations in May 11.



**Mark Keller and Jasmin Amezaga are pleased to announce their engagement. Both are longtime residents of Downey, graduates of Warren High School, and house managers at the Downey Theatre. The couple looks forward to a spring wedding next year.**



**The Lurssen family, regular patrons of the Downey City Library, accepted a proclamation on behalf of the library from Mayor Mario Guerra celebrating National Library Week in Downey April 19-25. The presentation was made at the April 14 City Council meeting.**

## Free hearing tests offered

**DOWNEY** – In honor of National Better Hearing and Speech Month, the Rivers Group is offering free hearing screening tests for Downey residents.

The Rivers Group is a family practice established in 1960. They are at 8202 Florence Ave., Suite 100, in Downey. To schedule an appointment, call (562) 862-9629.

## POET'S CORNER

### Night Life

At four in the morning  
The sound of the truck  
Plays out its song at the stoplight.

An ode to just one person  
Whose children are still sleeping,  
Who had coffee in the dark,  
And pulled his jacket tight  
Against the chill.

I lay here awake:  
Another car turns at the light.  
It rounds the corner past my house.  
Perhaps he's coming home  
Much, much too late.

My mind floats out  
To hear the sounds,  
And memories of other nights.  
A fire truck shrieks through the dark,  
And I am a small child,  
Watching headlights grow against my wall,  
Then veer across the room and out of sight.

I follow them  
Across the town  
And down the hill  
To places decades gone,  
To where my mother hears my cry,  
And comes to tuck my blanket  
Tight against my chin

The light turns green,  
The bark of the truck brings me back  
To a lone man up early  
At a time when each small man  
Is heard above the din

In the Heat of the Night  
A time when all the anchors  
Are stripped away, and we are naked  
In the Still of the Night  
And alone, and floating with our fear,  
Floating with our feeling  
'Till the dawn.  
–Frank Kearns,  
Downey

## Local symphony in concert tomorrow

**DOWNEY** – The Los Angeles County High School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alan Mautner, will present their annual May Concert at the Downey Theatre tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. General admission tickets are \$15.

In addition to Carnival Overture by Dvorak, the orchestra will perform the Lincoln Portrait by Copland and the Enigma Variations by Edward Elgar. They will also host Michael Acosta, concertmaster, performing the first movement of the Conus Violin Concerto.

Mautner, who grew up in Downey and graduated from Warren High School, where he was a 3-year member of the Warren Band, has been conductor of the LACHSA Symphony Orchestra and String Chamber Music for the past 17 years. He is principal cellist of the La Mirada Symphony, the Valley Cultural Chamber Orchestra, and also regularly performs with the Mozart Classical Symphony, as well as being director of the Wildwood Summer Institute Senior High Orchestra.

He teaches Ensembles and Strings Classes at Cal Poly Pomona, and Conducting and Theory at Cal State Los Angeles. He also teaches cello privately and performs in many ensemble groups, including the trio, Violonic, founded and lead by Harry Scorzo, also of Downey.

## Keeping You Healthy from A to Z

**Upcoming Health Education Programs May-June, 2009**

**FOR EXPECTANT PARENTS**

**The Stork Tour:**  
Expectant Parent Family Birth Center Tour  
Wednesday, May 6 or June 3 – 4 to 6 p.m.  
DRMC Conference Room A

**Childbirth Education Classes (Series of 4)**  
Mondays, June 8, 15, 22, 29  
7 to 10 p.m. – DRMC Conference Room A or B  
\$75 per couple (To register for this particular class, please contact instructor Roselyn Smith 714-319-4267 or prep4baby@sbcglobal.net)

**Breastfeeding Workshop**  
Tuesday, May 12 – 7 to 9:30 p.m.  
DRMC Conference Room C – \$10 per person

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**Grief and Loss Program:** First Saturday of each month 2 to 4 p.m. – Contact: Jim at 562-945-5769

**Overeaters Anonymous:** Every Monday, 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Contact: Alice at 562-927-0887

**Sarcoidosis:** Last Saturday of each month – 1 to 3 p.m.  
Contact: Sarcoidosis Network at 562-809-8500

**Restless Legs Syndrome of Southern California:**  
3 meetings held each year on Sundays from, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. – Contact: Janis at 714-633-0123

**OTHER CLASSES**

**Community CPR:** Tuesday, June 2 – 6 to 10 p.m.  
DRMC Conference Room C  
\$25 per person or \$40 per couple

**Diabetes Health Fair:** Saturday, June 13

**Healthy Heart Nutrition Class:**  
Wednesday, May 13 or June 10 – 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
DRMC Conference Room A or B

Downey Regional Medical Center  
Your Community Hospital  
11500 Brookshire Avenue, Downey, CA 90241

For additional information or to register for any class (unless otherwise noted), please call 562-904-5580.

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# Swine hysteria

Eric Pierce

I'm not a doctor or a scientist, but I have a hunch that all this swine flu talk is a bit overblown. To read the papers, you'd think the world was coming to an end. Tomorrow.

An *L.A. Times* headline in Thursday's newspaper seems to concede the point: "Swine flu is less severe than thought." Then, in smaller print: "Scientists are concluding it isn't as deadly as its 1918 counterpart, or even the average flu."

"Or even the average flu"? Does that mean everyone got whipped up into a frenzy for nothing?

I spoke to a respected doctor from Downey Regional Medical Center this week (no, it wasn't Dr. Frischer), and he laughed a bit at the hysteria surrounding the fever.

"The world is not coming to an end, at least not because of swine flu," he said. "What people don't know is that more people die every year from common influenza than swine flu, so in my opinion the media is overblowing this a bit. But that doesn't mean we're not taking the matter seriously or prepared to handle a potential pandemic."

Helping the city keep a handle on the situation is Mark Sauter, deputy city manager for emergency preparedness. Now I'm not a fan of the way Sauter was "promoted" to his new position last year, but I'll be the first to admit he did a heck of a job this week.

Sauter kept this newspaper updated with swine flu developments, literally around the clock, and when we had questions, he had answers. From a public information standpoint, and with a potential emergency on the horizon, it helped that we knew exactly who to call for knowledgeable insight. And Sauter stepped up.

The City Council's appointments to the new Green Task Force has raised a couple eyebrows and rankled at least one resident who has openly questioned the selection process.

Moustafa Elsherif, a 25-year employee of the AQMD (Air Quality Management District), was one of 12 residents to apply for a spot on the volunteer commission. And while his resume brims with experience, he was bypassed by the Council.

It doesn't pass the smell test.

"One council member chose a school district board member, another chose a good-looking friend," Elsherif writes in a Letter to the Editor. "The city HR should have at least screened the 12 applicants and recommended some of them to the Council for final choice. Otherwise...why waste our time?"

- Each Council member appointed one resident to the taskforce:
- Mayor Mario Guerra: Lars Clutterham
  - Mayor Pro Tem Anne Bayer: Robert Rubio
  - Councilman David Gafin: Bob Ciatti
  - Councilman Roger Brossmer: Nancy Swenson
  - Councilman Luis Marquez: Janet Molinaro
- Ciatti, the owner of two energy-related businesses, is the most qualified of the bunch. Molinaro didn't even apply for the position.

# Protect yourself against foreclosure rescue scams

Contributed by the Downey Association of Realtors

If someone who is not your mortgage lender promises to save your home and asks for you to pay money up front, watch out. Fraudulent foreclosure consultants target homeowners who are behind on their mortgage payments.

Here's what you can do to avoid becoming a victim. Don't transfer title or sell your house to the foreclosure rescuer. Fraudulent foreclosure consultants often promise that if the homeowners transfer title, they may stay in the home as renters and buy it back later. The foreclosure consultants claim that transfer is necessary so that someone with a better credit rating can obtain a new loan to prevent foreclosure. Beware! This is a common scheme "rescuers" use to evict homeowners and steal all or most of their home's equity.

Don't pay money to people who promise to work with your lender to modify your loan. It is unlawful for foreclosure consultants to collect money before (1) they give you a written contract describing the services they promise to provide and (2) they actually perform all the services described in the contract, such as negotiating new monthly payments or a new mortgage loan. However, an advance fee may be charged by an attorney or real estate broker who has submitted the advance fee agreement to the Department of Real Estate for review.

Don't pay your mortgage payments to someone other than your lender, even if he/she promises to pass the payment on to the lender. Fraudulent foreclosure consultants often keep the money for themselves.

Don't sign any documents without reading them first. Many homeowners think that they are signing documents for a new loan to pay off the mortgage they are behind on. Later, they discover that they actually transferred ownership to the "rescuer."

Don't ignore letters from your lender. Consider contacting your lender yourself, as many lenders are willing to work with homeowners who are behind on their payments.

Do contact a housing counselor approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) who may be able to help you for free. For a referral to a housing counselor near you, contact HUD at (800) 569-4287.

If you transferred your property or paid someone to "rescue" you from foreclosure, you may be a victim of a crime. Please register a complaint with the Attorney General's Public Inquiry Unit by calling (800) 952-5225.

## Letters to the Editor:

### Questions about travelogues

Dear Editor: There is a lot more involved in the cancellation of the travelogues than cited in the letter from Evelyn Colvin ("Bring Back Travelogues," 4/24/09).

A profound feeling of mistrust between city officials and the older longtime patrons of the Downey Theatre has developed. The patrons don't trust the officials to provide answers to why the travelogues were cancelled. Some of our members have phoned, others have attended City Council meetings, none have been pleased with the brush-off, the white-washing or the stonewalling type of deceitful answers they were given.

We have spoken to the staff of the theater. They were surprised at the cancellation. They encouraged us to express our displeasure. We had hoped for some newspaper support, or is the political climate a little too hot for the Patriot to look into the matter? Was the decision to cancel made in a secret behind-closed-doors session? Who made the decision? Why don't "they" want their patrons to know the truth? Why can't "they" be a little more honest and forthright?

The theater staff has been left out of the loop. The cancellation can't be based on economics. The staff is ready to renew for this year if the program is reinstated.

There seems to be skulduggery afoot.  
— Carl E. Jones,  
Downey

### Going green

Dear Editor: Once again, *The Downey Patriot* is to be congratulated for covering two subjects of national interest with local significance in its April 24th issue: first, energy conservation/environmental sustainability and second, historic preservation/urban renewal.

Henry Veneracion's front page story on the 8th Annual Municipal Green Building Conference and Expo held two weeks ago at the Gas Company Energy Resource Center was valuable in informing our city's readers of the nationally important resource and programs on energy conservation and green building available here at home, in Downey.

The conference brings together municipal officials and professionals engaged in policy and implementation of green imperatives, green building, energy and water conservation and environmental sustainability at the local level. It is a recognition that successful public policy programs have a much better chance of acceptance and success when driven by local initiative as also demonstrated in the annual conference of mayors, and again as demonstrated by large cities like London, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Madrid and San Diego, and small cities like Pasadena, Anaheim, Santa Monica, Fountain Valley and San Clemente, to name just a few.

One would be hard pressed to find many cities in the U.S. or Europe which do not have adopted policies and programs to promote green building and sustainability of the environment. And when one reads about them, it is reduction in energy costs and the move toward sustainability and energy independence that are the chief drivers. Reduction of green house gases and of the carbon footprint is the incidental great contribution!

Global warming is automatically addressed with prudent use of resources and the reduction of use of fossil fuels. The momentum toward the sustainability movement worldwide was very much in evidence throughout the conference. The overwhelming theme was go green and save money, and improve life on this planet.

It is gratifying to be able to report that two members of the Building and Safety Department attended the conference last year and two from city administration attended this year. But what is more gratifying is to note that Downey has finally decided to get on board the green movement with the launch of the Green Task Force on Tuesday, after years of prodding. It should be noted, however, that Desi Alvarez and the Public Works Department have been greening Downey with water conservation and reuse, recycling and tree-planting programs for several years now.

The second significant item covered in the Patriot of April 24 was addressed in George Redfox's letter dealing with the Avenue Theatre. A number of letters have appeared in the Patriot, and there has been much talk about preserving the Avenue as a specialty movie house.

Admittedly, there may not be much architectural value to the building, but the Avenue is a significant element to Downey's past. One can make the case that since it dates from the early 20's, historically it is more significant than either Johnnie's Broiler or McDonald's. More importantly, preserving the Avenue as a movie house — properly run — may be the only chance of revitalizing Downey Avenue.

The Avenue Theatre as a 3-screen movie house dedicated to exhibiting limited distribution films, art, classic films, and a venue for private screenings would attract attendance not only from Downey but from the surrounding cities, people who now must travel to Pasadena or Santa Monica to view such films.

Yes, it could also become the venue for the recently discontinued travel series films at the Downey Theatre. And it will not compete with the Krikorian. It will complement it and provide a much-needed entertainment locally for grown-ups. It should be noted that a petition has already been started to convey to the city the overwhelming support for saving the Avenue for serious movies for a significant segment of Downey's voters. After all, city money is involved.

Others who support the idea can join in. Public policy is best when driven from the public up to elected and appointed officials.

— Harold Tsklenis,  
Downey

### Projects downtown

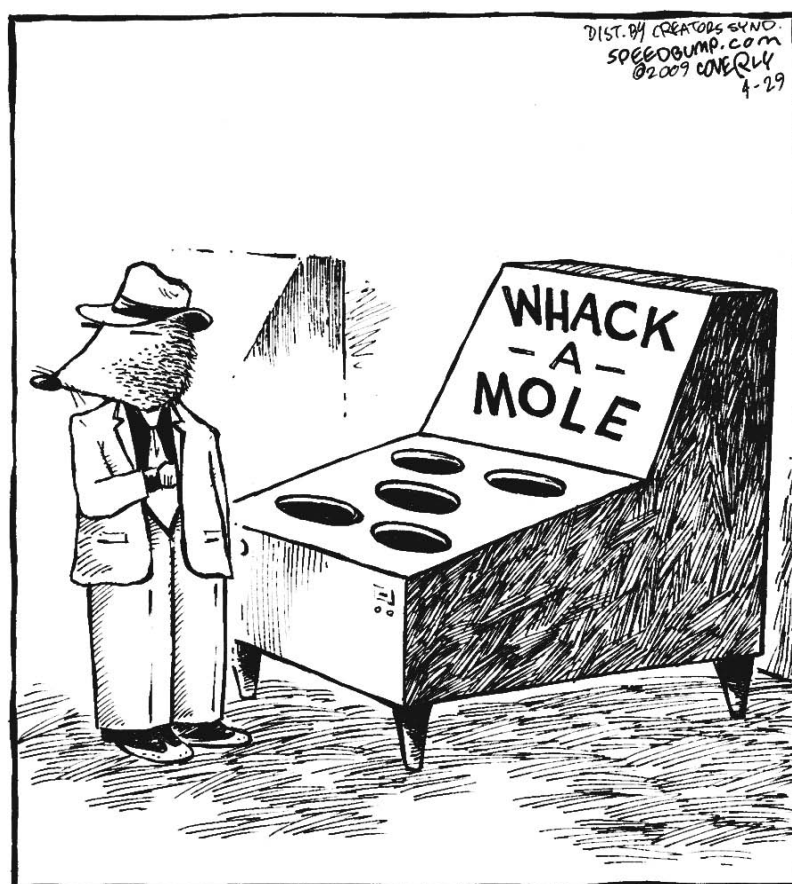
Dear Editor: George Redfox's letter of April 24 is right on the money ("Avenue Theatre Plans," 4/24/09). I wrote a similar editorial on Feb. 27 addressing the same subject.

It appears that the so-called "developers" are dead set on trying to push their agenda for high-density project housing in the heart of our commercial community. It was ill-conceived and wrong then, and it is still ill-conceived and wrong.

High-density, low-income, project housing in the Avenue Theatre location is probably one of the worst things that can happen to our community. The types of individuals that inhabit high-density, low-income, project housing are not what we want or need for our community. Go into South Central Los Angeles into an area with high-density project housing and you'll get a feel for what we'd be in for if we put the same here in Downey.

Downey needs and wants art and culture, not individuals that will destroy what we have taken decades to create. Citizens of Downey, speak up, stand up and protect your homes and families, resist having the heart of our community ruined with high-density project housing, and let's find out who the individuals are that are selling us out.

— Jonathan Brownlee,  
Downey



### Basic science

Dear Editor: A recently released national survey commissioned by the California Academy of Sciences reported among other findings that only 59 percent of adults know that the earliest humans and dinosaurs did not live at the same time. Various mainstream media outlets used this to conclude and popularize the idea that "American adults flunk basic science."

We, the people of Downey, think otherwise and are proud to be among the 41 percent that have not been brainwashed by the poison of evolution. This is due in part to the Creation Booth we hosted last year at the Downey Street Faire where, among other displays, we had a poster easel with the following four statements:

- 1.) God created dinosaurs and man on day six of creation.
- 2.) Dinosaurs have always lived with man.
- 3.) Noah took dinosaurs into the ark.
- 4.) Some dinosaurs may still be alive today.

I encourage you to come visit our booth again this year as we celebrate "2009 Year of Creation," in strong opposition to the Establishment's celebration of the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of his racist work whose complete title is this: "The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection: The Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life."

Who are the favored races, Charlie?  
— Dan Cristea,  
Downey

### Lifesavers

Dear Editor: Last Monday morning, at 12:55 a.m., I received a call from my sister; my dad was being rushed to the hospital because he was experiencing chest pains. The paramedics had already been called.

I arrived at the hospital about 20 minutes later to find my dad was being taken into surgery. He had suffered a heart attack and a metal stent was placed in his heart. Thankfully, my dad recovered and is back home with my mom, hopefully able to enjoy life for another decade or two (minus the diet of hamburger and fries).

That morning when my mom called 911, she entrusted my dad's life to perfect strangers; strangers who remained calm throughout the ordeal, strangers who gave my dad words of encouragement on the drive to the hospital, strangers who were instrumental in saving his life.

My mom called 911 and the Downey Fire Department arrived less than seven minutes later (not bad for guys who were probably in their PJs, enjoying a good night's sleep when the call came in). The fast response of the DFD saved my dad's life. My family and I are eternally grateful.

This "thank you" can in no way express the gratitude we have for the Downey Fire Department, but thank you anyways, Station No. 4 "A Shift." Each of you made a difference in not only my dad's life, but those that love him.

— Sylvia Rand,  
Downey

### Green Task Force fiasco

Dear Editor: During Tuesday's City Council meeting, I was very surprised when the mayor and each council member picked a friend or relative to be a member of the volunteer Green Task Force. I am questioning the legality of such poor immoral procedure.

The city HR should have at least screened the 12 applicants and recommended some of them to the Council for final choice. Otherwise, why bother and have an open application with an equal opportunity to all applicants? Why waste our time?

If it is legal (after all, there is no compensation, it's a volunteer basis) for the mayor and council members to just pick their friends without highlighting their qualifications, it is, in my opinion, unethical.

One council member chose a school district board member, another chose a good-looking friend, and the mayor was very impressed with recycling at Downey plants. They may be impressive, but I bet if I walk into the city maintenance yard, schools or even the soda plant they will have some serious air quality issues. So what is green with air pollutions or air toxins?

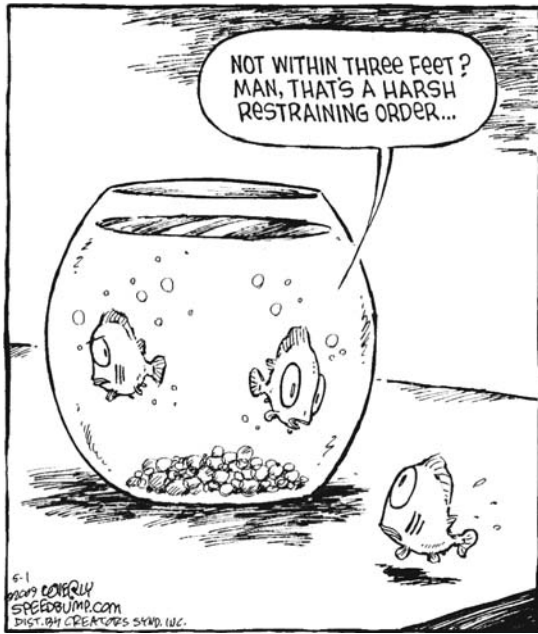
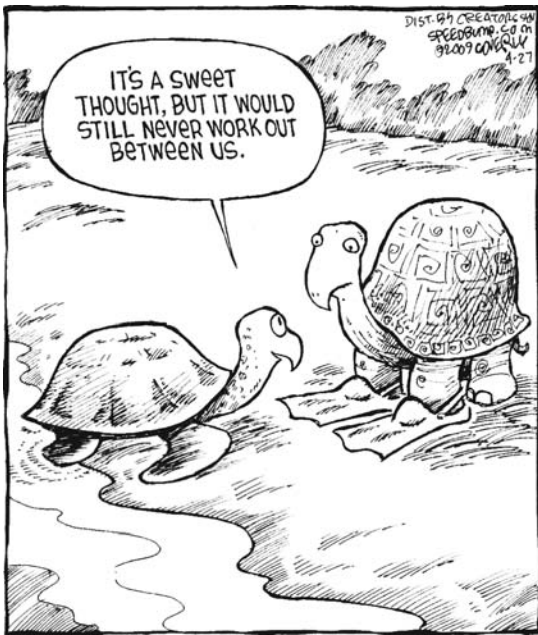
Finally, at the end of this friendly procedure, no one had the decency to thank those applicants who were not lucky enough to volunteer their time and experience to the so-called Green Task Force. Now I know I was lucky not to join the Green Fiasco.

— Moustafa Elsherif,  
Downey  
(Moustafa Elsherif spent 35 years with the Air Quality Management District, but was not chosen to be a part of the city's Green Task Force.)

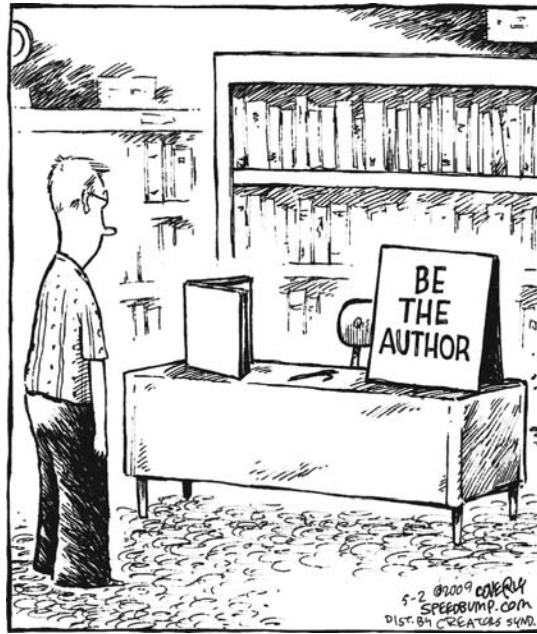
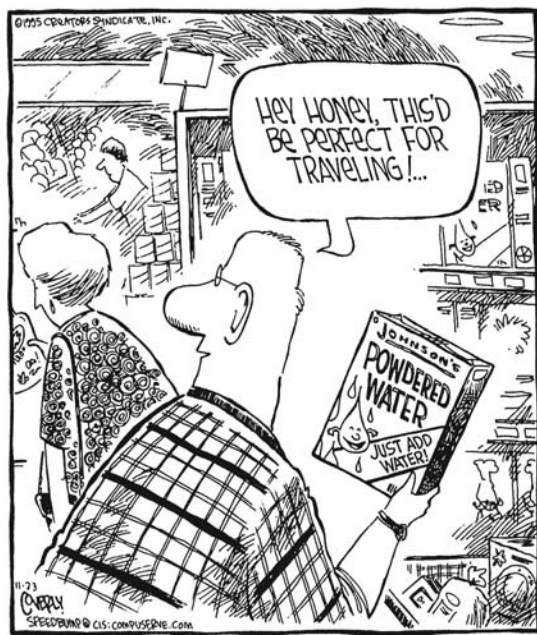
Letters to the editor may be submitted by writing to *The Downey Patriot*, 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240 or by e-mail to [downeypatriot@yahoo.com](mailto:downeypatriot@yahoo.com). Letters may be edited for style and/or content. Letters must include a full name and address for verification.

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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



# Downey Community Calendar

### Events For May

- Sat. May 2: **Parking lot sale**, Moravian Church of Downey, 7 a.m.
- Sat. May 2: **Downey Street Faire**, Brookshire Avenue, 9 a.m.
- Sat. May 2: **LACHA Orchestra**, Downey Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun. May 3: **Bingo luncheon**, St. Raymond's Catholic Church, 1 p.m.
- Mon. May 4: **DRMC Golf Classic**, Rio Hondo Golf Club, 9:30 a.m.
- Mon. May 4: **Fashion show**, Rio Hondo Event Center, 10:30 a.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-Beard 869-7618.
- 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
- 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
- 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...

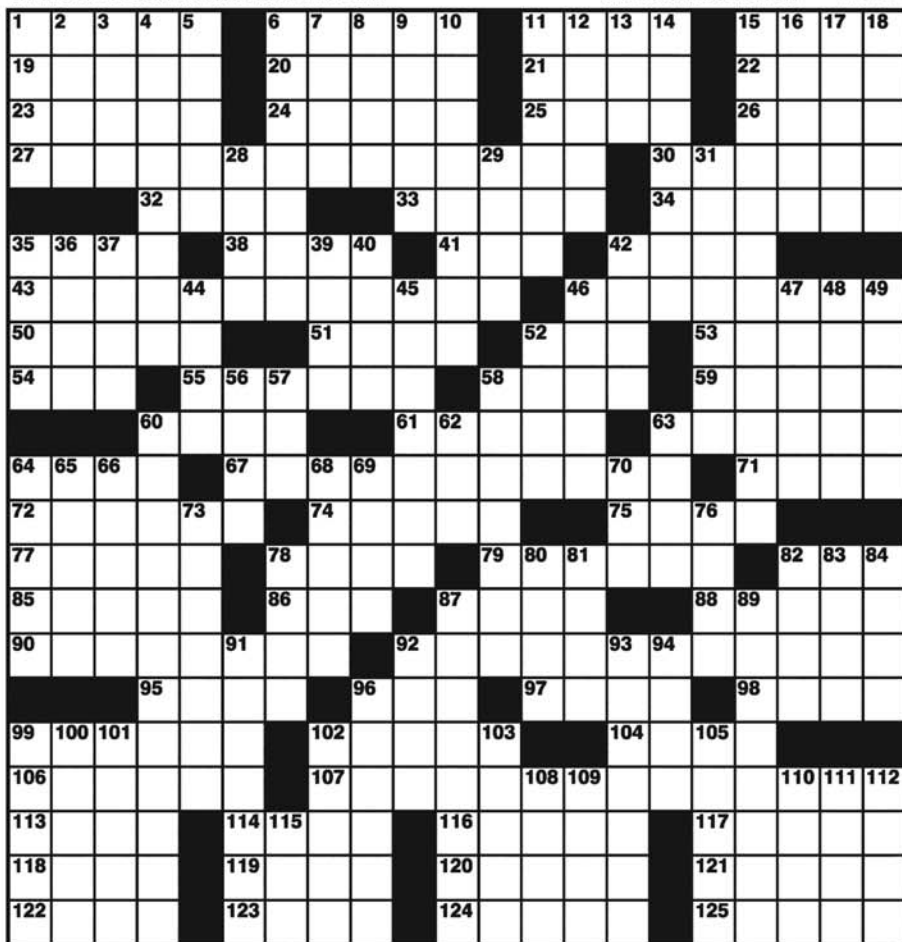
- May 1, 1786: Mozart's opera "The Marriage of Figaro" makes its debut in Vienna.
- 1931: The Empire State Building in New York is dedicated.
- 1941: "Citizen Kane" premieres in New York.
- 1967: Elvis Presley marries Priscilla Beaulieu in a Las Vegas ceremony.
- 1991: Texas Rangers pitcher Nolan Ryan throws his seventh career no-hitter.
- 2003: With a "Mission Accomplished" banner hanging behind him, President Bush proclaims major combat in Iraq over.

### THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**GOING NATIVE: Country-style wordplay**  
 by Shirley Soloway

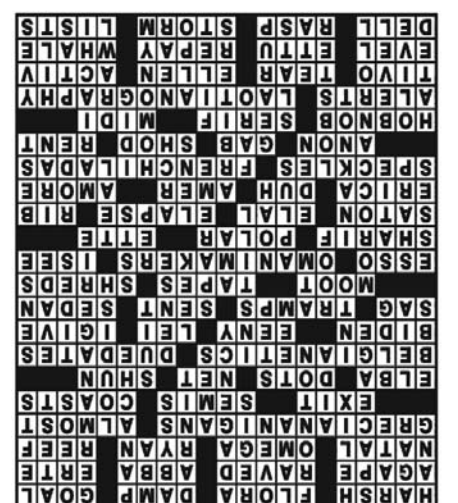
- ACROSS**
- 1 Gruff
  - 6 Botanist's specimens
  - 11 Humid
  - 15 Soccer score
  - 19 Clearly flabbergasted
  - 20 Enthused
  - 21 Diplomat Eban
  - 22 Russian-born artist
  - 23 Of birth
  - 24 Last Greek letter
  - 25 Actor O'Neal
  - 26 Coral formation
  - 27 Athens funny business?
  - 30 Approaching
  - 32 Go out
  - 33 Final Four games
  - 34 Erosion-prone areas
  - 35 Island east of Corsica
  - 38 What kids may connect
  - 41 Clear
  - 42 Steer clear of
  - 43 Brussels science?
  - 46 Obstetrician's estimates
  - 50 Cheney successor
  - 51 Counting-rhyme starter
  - 52 Luau wear
  - 53 "Uncle!"
  - 54 Get tired
  - 55 Walks heavily
  - 58 On its way
  - 59 Family car
  - 60 Not worth arguing about
  - 61 Repairs, perhaps
  - 63 Pulls apart
  - 64 Exxon's ex-name
  - 67 Muscat cash cows?
  - 71 "Understood!"
  - 72 Streisand's Funny Girl costar
  - 74 Completely opposite
  - 75 Luncheon ending
  - 77 Squelched
  - 78 Airline since 1948
  - 79 Go by
  - 82 Bit of barbecue
  - 85 Author Jong
  - 86 "I should've known that!"
  - 87 Part of ASPCA
  - 88 Livorno love
  - 90 Features of some bird eggs
  - 92 Parisian Mexican food?
  - 95 Attribution abbr.
  - 96 Yak
  - 97 In flats, perhaps
  - 98 Fiat payment
  - 99 Rub elbows
  - 102 Font feature
  - 104 Calf-length skirt
  - 106 Tips off
  - 107 Vientiane science?
  - 113 VHS successor
  - 114 Go like the Dickens
  - 116 Talk host DeGeneres
  - 117 End of *The Crucible*
  - 118 Dareddevil Knievel
  - 119 Accusatory phrase
  - 120 Make good on
  - 121 Largest animal that ever lived
  - 122 Spot for a farmer
  - 123 Hoarseness of voice
  - 124 Tempest
  - 125 Mentions one-by-one
- DOWN**
- 1 Nail to the wall
  - 2 Petri-dish stuff
  - 3 Be important
  - 4 It started with Sputnik
  - 5 Slinky's shape
  - 6 Jai alai venue
  - 7 Tibetan cleric
  - 8 Place for pizza
  - 9 Kelly's cohost
  - 10 Campaign manager
  - 11 "Rats!"
  - 12 Bottomless pit
  - 13 Finance grad
  - 14 Flair
  - 15 Berlin zoo?
  - 16 Snacks with milk
  - 17 Bikini Atoll event
  - 18 Road-test maneuvers
  - 28 Verdi opera
  - 29 Iowa State city
  - 31 Kind of flashy
  - 35 Simmers down
  - 36 Star Wars princess
  - 37 Construction co. job
  - 39 Overflow
  - 40 Procedure part
  - 42 Look good on
  - 44 Enthusiastic about
  - 45 Impart gradually
  - 46 Tightly packed
  - 47 Maritime phenomena
  - 48 Get around
  - 49 Judgment
  - 52 Vichyssoise ingredient
  - 56 Mouth part
  - 57 Deposit site
  - 58 "Oh, please!"
  - 60 Rabat music?
  - 62 GPs' group
  - 63 Former fleet fleet
  - 64 Most of 63 Down
  - 65 Acute
  - 66 *Gymnopédies* composer
  - 68 High grade
  - 69 Ancient mariner
  - 70 One's good name, for short
  - 73 All tied up
  - 76 Blue hue
  - 78 Perfect place
  - 80 Glasses glass
  - 81 Roguish
  - 82 Made fun of
  - 83 Persia, today
  - 84 Outperform
  - 87 Dispute deciders
  - 89 Mexican musician
  - 91 Maine course
  - 92 Old West card game
  - 93 Bear, to bare
  - 94 "Cool, man!"
  - 96 Prepare
  - 99 Like a villain
  - 100 "Drab" color
  - 101 Cut at an angle
  - 102 Narrow strips
  - 103 Prepare fish, perhaps
  - 105 Southern accent
  - 108 Purina alternative
  - 109 Approach
  - 110 Fund-raising grps.
  - 111 Dagger handle
  - 112 Jacques-\_\_\_ Cousteau
  - 115 78 Across stat.

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2009 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 4/26/09



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.

ELBA (35 Across), site of Napoleon's first exile, is about 30 miles east of Corsica, where Napoleon was born. Scientists believe the SPECKLES (90 Across) on birds' eggs strengthen the thinnest areas of the shells. Specially, the blue WHALE (121 Across) is the largest animal that has ever lived.





## Clean after-prom party at the Rives Mansion

By: Britawnya Craft, Intern

Warren's prom ends at midnight which means the night is dedicated to the seniors of 2009, their plans may either include attending a local party or just hanging out with friends at various locations. One local party differs from the rest, the Rives Mansion is hosting its first ever Clean-After Prom party. This event is being arranged by Lauren Baumann and Warren senior and Miss Teen Downey Princess Natalia Armador.

The party was designed to give seniors another alternative to the usual expectations of prom night. The clean party will not consist of the usual aspects that go along with other prom parties, such as drinking, drugs and sexual behavior. Girls are encouraged to sleep over at the mansion and boys are sent on their way by two pm. The entrance fee into the party is a \$10 cover fee. The night will include food, fun and games. The party's purpose is to give girls an alternative so that they won't feel pressured into having sex with anyone on prom night.

Lauren Baumann and Natalia

Armador met through the Downey Rose Float Association, and began working together through the Downey Princess program. They devised this party and saw it as an opportunity to give back to the community. The Rives Mansion is located off of Paramount Boulevard and serves as the landmark of Downey. Making it simple, for teens to find the house and feel safe on prom night. Prom attendee Kirstin Worden said, "I think it's good that there will be a clean prom after party for those who would like to attend, it gives [seniors] the option of not getting caught up with distractions of the night." Prom attendee Vanessa Camacho said, "I think it's great for many people, especially for those who aren't looking for trouble, gives them an option." The prom after party serves as a safe haven for some due to many intoxications and dangerous activities that are associated with the night. Natalia Armador states, "I wanted to give people an alternative.."



THE TERROR OF THE SWINE FLU!!!

## VIDEOGAME RELEASES

X-Men Origins: Wolverine - 5/1/09

XBOX 360, PS3, Wii, PC, PS2, PSP, DS

Crysis Maximum Edition - 5/5/09

PC

Patapon 2 - 5/5/09

PSP

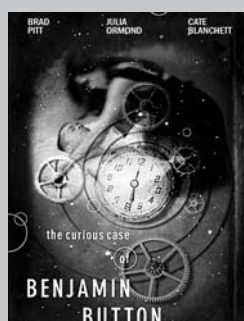
Sacred 2: Fallen Angel- 5/12/09

XBOX 360, PS3



## DVD RELEASES FOR MAY 5

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button  
Last Chance Harvey  
Frankenhood  
Boston Legal: Season 5  
Lipstick Jungle: Season 2  
October Road: Season 2



## MAY 12

Taken  
The Grudge 3  
Personal Effects  
Possession  
Penn & Teller: Bullsh\*t!: Season 6  
Two and a Half Men: Season 5



## Operation Prom

By: Helena Park, Intern

With Prom looming around the corner, many students at Warren High are worried about the cost of getting there. However, Warren has provided a solution that has helped relieve many seniors who couldn't afford the pricey tickets. Prom ticket prices are ranging from \$75 to \$95 and many students felt overwhelmed about the increasing prices of senior activities. With yearbooks, caps and gowns, class rings, grad night, and other school activities, many seniors felt burdened with the load of money they

had to pay, and with the recession still intact, many families are struggling to meet these high costs.

The fundraiser for seniors began on March 5th and ended on April 1st, then started again on April 6th until May 6th when ASB seniors wanted to make it a bit easier for the seniors who wanted to go to prom, but were having trouble affording it. Warren's ASB advisor, Cari White says, "This is not meant to be a fundraiser for ASB, but is strictly being used to assist seniors financially."

The fundraiser required the seniors to sell "Southeast LA Enjoy," a coupon book, for \$20 each. For each book, the student gets a \$10 profit, which directly goes to their prom tickets. In order to get one's prom fully paid for, the student had to sell 8 books, of which they receive one free book.

More than 140 seniors took this opportunity and checked out many coupon books, currently there are about 30 seniors who have their ticket fully paid for. "I think it's great that the school is providing us

with these kinds of opportunities because it really does lift a huge weight off of ours and our parent's wallets," said senior Nancy Kim. Many seniors have cited that this fundraiser has been very beneficial for them. Kim further adds, "They should definitely have this fundraiser for next year and the years after that because there are always going to be students that are having trouble with the financial demands of being a senior."

## Los Angeles Times Festival of Books

By: Bridget Sagrero, Intern

The largest literary event in America known as "Los Angeles Times Festival of Books" entertained and dazzled attendees on Saturday and Sunday at UCLA.

According to *Los Angeles Times* the book festival began in 1996, with the goal of bringing together people of all ages who create books with people who love to read them. This festival is known to bring more than one-hundred and thirty-thousand people every year.

"Every type of publisher you can imagine is here and to see a hundred and fifty thousand people in a weekend, in a city that gets made fun of for being culturally shallow turned out to celebrate reading and books is amazing," said Mike Fricano, who is an editor

for L.A. Youth.

This prestigious book festival attracts people from all over Southern California along with others around the country, all with the common love of books. At this festival most of the exhibitors are publishers along with literacy and cultural organizations that sell and promote books and distribute related information. Books sold here are of different languages and genres.

One of the authors that attended the festival this year was Eric Carle, who was celebrating the 40-year anniversary of his children's book, "The Hungry Caterpillar."

Over 100 panel discussions, readings and features were found at this event with almost 450 different

authors to hear and see as well. All of the festival's authors were asked to stay at least an hour to sign copies of their books at official signing areas after their discussions. Most of the books signing areas were held in front of Bunch Hall near Campbell Hall.

"Today I saw Ray Bradbury and he was excellent, he's always good, and I saw Peter Yarrow and he was amazing as usual," said Michelle Roche, who is not a newcomer to the festival.

An event of such enormity not only was put together by the *Los Angeles Times* but had the help of the UCLA campus and volunteers. Several of the volunteers were in different areas of the campus trying their best to help out people with

questions. Just because these volunteers were working most of the time did not mean they did not get to enjoy the festival as well. "I actually met Tom Hayden and I've seen Terry Brooks which is another science fiction author, but I normally come and volunteer," said Dixie Long who has been volunteering at this event for 10 years. "Anything else that I see is extra, just because I've wondered around a little."

Even though this event was open freely to the public there were minor suggested donations. During the book festival there were a couple of indoor panel and speaker sessions that required tickets.

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# Students show appreciation for good music

BY JOYCE SHERWIN,  
DOWNEY SYMPHONY

During the month of April, five musicians came to Downey several times each week, crisscrossing the city to visit some of our most important public buildings, interacting with some of our most important residents.

The musicians are from Downey's symphony orchestra, the buildings house the city's elementary schools, and the important residents are our children, kindergartners through fifth graders, the enthusiastic, responsive audiences for the Quintet's Music in the Schools performances.

This year's emphasis is on Musical Character, and everyone has a great time with it. At Williams School, Carolyn Osborn's violin depicts the lovely princess Scheherazade, and little faces soften. Mark Artusio's huge bass becomes a lumbering, good-natured elephant. Giggles.

A boy's cheeks puff out in imitation of Robert Coomber's mighty blasts on the trombone. Danielle Squyres' irresistible snare drum propels an imaginary marching band, then it's Gershwin on the xylophone, and she tosses in "The Simpson's" theme for fun.

"Music has a lot of different personalities," Mark tells the students, "just like you guys. Music is a language and it can talk to you and you can understand it."

Before the Quintet's performance at Unsworth, one of the second grade teachers, Mrs. Olson, mentioned to clarinetist Patty Massey that she gives her students a unit and test on Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf," so

Patty incorporated that into her demonstration of the clarinet's characteristics. Afterward, a student wrote, "Dear Patty, I want to be just like you someday. I like how you played the part of the Cat in Peter and the Wolf. It was like I was hearing the story...Kirsten."

Mission accomplished.

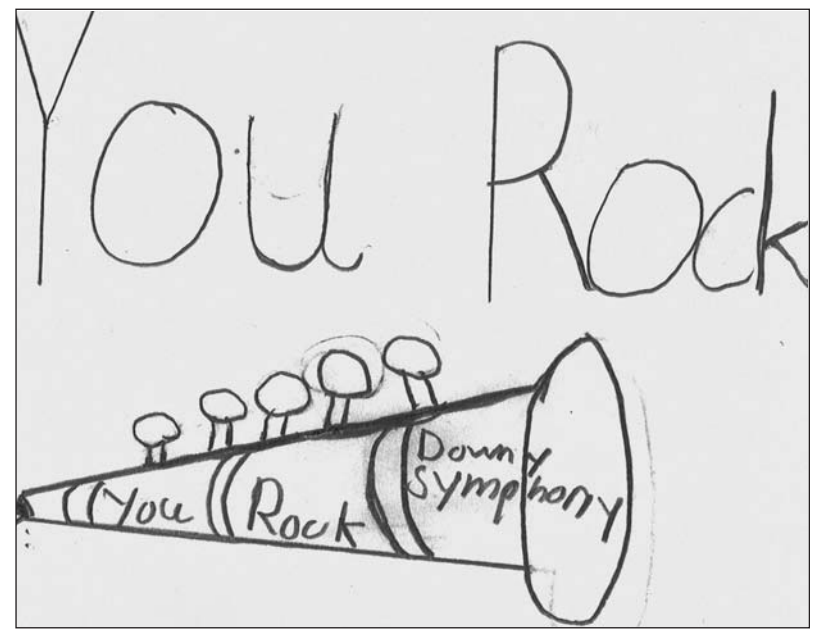
From Downey's 13 elementary schools and four parochial schools, the response is gratifyingly the same, year after year. Many of the children write a note of thanks, embellished with charming drawings of the musicians, their five instruments, even their music stands, and the Quintet and members of the Symphony Board read every one of those letters.

The annual presentations at their schools prepare students for exciting field trips in their third and fifth grades, when they go by bus to the Civic Theatre for concerts played by the entire Downey Symphony. But this year the Symphony Board could not secure funding for the third graders, and that was felt everywhere.

"Christy Schroeder teaches kindergarten at Imperial School, and said, "I played flute beginning in third grade. I am so sorry there was no third grade concert this year." Also at Imperial, Barbara Van Dyk noted that there is little class time for music and other arts, though more is expected of students now. "Music education is part of the soul," she added.

At Williams, Rubina Toriz "loves that the students get this exposure to music," and that her class remembers the Quintet from last year. Debora Sanders appreciates the intelligence of her third graders and is sorry they had no theater concert this spring. And Mrs. Vincent added, "Tell the Board we really missed you for the third grade concert. I have my kids dress up a little - 'Wear audience attire,' I tell them. It helps us listen better."

So the Downey Symphony's Music in the Schools program is an important ingredient in our children's education. Perhaps this was summed up best by Sharon Hudgens, who teaches second grade at Unsworth School. She wrote, "Dearest friends, Thank you for the gift of inspiration. You have brought a treasure to our lives."



Downey students showed their appreciation to the Downey Symphony with cards, letters and drawings. The symphony visited several DUSD schools recently, showing students that classical music can be fun.



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## Prom fashion tips from the Teen Life of Style Crew



**Tiffany Ford**

Hey, ladies! Prom is here, and it is time for you to make your grand entrance. Anny Lee at Lakewood Center has beautiful dresses for your special night. They carry short, mid-length, and long dresses, good for both prom and after-prom parties.

This turquoise blue-beaded short dress is perfect for an after-prom party event, as well as prom itself. It was \$180 and goes well with gold shoes, sold at Anny Lee's for just \$39. This fashion affair also goes well with a gold purse, bringing out the gold beads in the dress, for just \$35.

But wait! Anny Lee sells select jewelry that goes well with all of their stylish dresses. They also offer alterations right there in the store. Anny Lee's dresses will make everyone want to stop and stare as soon as you step out of that stretch limousine. So hurry in before you miss out on the hottest prom dresses the world has ever seen.



**Joseph Szekula**

Nothing tops your outfit like cologne! If you want to go to prom looking and smelling the best, then take my advice: Euphoria men's cologne by Calvin Klein has a phenomenal smell and it will have your date hugged up against you throughout the whole night!

It can be found in the cologne department in Macy's at Stonewood Center for \$65. It is a bit pricey, but it's worth every penny!



**Stanley Doeum**

For prom I decided to go plain and simple, wearing all black and a Van Heusen Branded Red Tie I got from Macy's for about \$30. I like the tie because it's a plain, vibrant bright red color that just caught my eye.

Macy's had many other color ties to go with your date, so check Macy's at Stonewood Center.



**Lauren Alvarez**

Prom is around the corner and I know every girl is looking for the PERFECT dress! One of the trends this prom season is making a statement with anything bright. While everyone is wearing the little black dress, ensure you stand out with a bold, colored dress like this one.

This mermaid-shaped gown can be found at Cache for only \$139 (on sale) at the Los Cerritos Center. Blues usually work on about anybody and how can you go wrong with a dress like this? And on the night of prom, you'll feel like a prom queen!



**Sunnie Mao**

I've always looked forward to prom because you get to dress up like a movie star. Of course, every girl wants to be remembered for having the cutest ensemble.

Well, if you want to be that one girl, I suggest you buy a jeweled headband. They always improve your hair-do, but they never clash with your dress. Now your probably thinking, "Where can I buy one?" and I've found your answer. Chloe's Accessories, at the Stonewood Center, sells a fantastic variety of diamond headbands for only \$15.99! Now, go rock your prom in style!

## New Titles at the Downey City Library

### Fiction

- **"The 8th Confession"** by James Patterson. As San Francisco's most glamorous millionaires mingle at the party of the year, someone is watching--waiting for a chance to take vengeance on the city's most celebrated couple.
- **"Collector of Worlds"** by Iliya Trovanov. This fictionalized account imagines the life of Sir Richard Francis Burton, a 19th-century British colonial officer and translator with a rare ability to assimilate into indigenous cultures.
- **"The Geometry of Sisters"** by Luanne Rice. What is one sister without the other? Rice explores the complex emotional world of love and loyalty between three pairs of remarkable sisters.
- **"Loitering with Intent"** by Stuart Woods. New York cop turned lawyer Stone Barrington travels to Key West to track down the son of a wealthy man.
- **"Murder in the Latin Quarter"** by Cara Black. One of the most appealing heroines in crime fiction, fearless P.I. Aimee Leduc returns in Black's latest mystery that captures the spirit of Paris.

### Non-Fiction

- **"Be Yourself, Everyone Else is Already Taken: Transform Your Life with the Power of Authenticity"** by Mike Robbins. The author shows how to overcome fear and embarrassment, accepting responsibility for mistakes with honesty and resilience.
- **"Coach Wooden's Leadership Game Plan for Success: 12 Lessons for Extraordinary Performance and Personal Excellence"** by John Wooden. Inspiring tips on leadership and team building from the legendary UCLA coach.
- **"Crave: Why You Binge Eat and How to Stop"** by Cynthia Bulik. The director of the Eating Disorders Program at the University of North Carolina shares proven techniques for conquering food cravings.
- **"Getting Into Guinness: One Man's Longest, Fastest, Highest Journey Inside the World's Most Famous Record Book"** by Larry Olmstead. The author provides a hilarious look at the culture and history of the "Guinness Book of World Records."
- **"Smithsonian Ocean: Our Water, Our World"** by Deborah Cramer. In this beautiful book with 300 photographs, a gifted science writer explains why people's lives depend upon the sea.

Visit [www.downeylibrary.org](http://www.downeylibrary.org) and click on "New and Notable Books" to browse more titles

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At the Rio Hondo Golf Club



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## Offensive surge puts Warren in playoff contention

■ What has gotten into the Bears? After starting the season 2-8, Warren is averaging nearly 10 runs in their last 10 games. With one playoff spot remaining, the Bears could be scary.

By SCOTT COBOS,  
STAFF WRITER

Baseball really is amazing. There's a reason why the professionals play 162 games during the regular season. There's a reason why the high school schedule is longer than any other sport. Warren and Downey square off against each other next week and that's an interesting match up because of its implications. But first, what has gotten into the Bears in the past 10 games?

There is a noticeable difference between the first 10 games the Bears played and the last 10. In the first 10 games of the season, Warren was only 2-8, struggling immediately out of the gates losing their first three games.

You could feel everyone in the stands tighten up every time a ball was hit on the ground to an infielder or when a fly ball was hit during a windy day. The biggest weakness of Warren as everyone could see was their defense.

People would hold their breath when Warren had to make a more-than-routine defensive play. During the first 10 games, Warren committed on average 2.7 errors per seven innings.

The errors were also taking its toll on the pitching staff. Obviously, the more pitches a pitcher needs to make, the less in control he is of his own stuff. Warren hurlers were averaging four walks a game.

Walks cause errors and errors cause walks. Either way you look at it, the formula ends with unearned runs and losses which would account for the 9.1 runs per game allowed by the Bears.

You can score a billion runs per game, but if you're allowing 1,000,000,001, you aren't going to win. But the Bears weren't scoring off the charts. They were only scoring 3.5 runs per game during the first half.

The dagger came in game 10 of the season where they took on Downey and were neck and neck

with them until the late innings. Warren was only behind two runs going into the bottom of the fourth when the wheels came off.

Downey scored seven runs then cruised the rest of the way winning 13-3. The Bears were definitely the Bad News Bears at this point.

But why would being the Bad News Bears be so awful? Warren manager Paul Alvarez took great exception to our Bad News Bears headline, not commenting after Tuesday's game because of it. He shouldn't have taken exception.

Warren's numbers vastly improved after the Viking pillaging. The next 10 games would see the Bears score 9.8 runs per game (a 4-run improvement), allow 5.5 runs per game (a decrease from the 9.1 per game allowed) and an error and a walk less per game.

Shades of what former manager Steve Fullerton used to tell his teams started to immerge. Baseball is a simple game he used to say. You catch the ball, throw the ball, and hit the ball. The Bears are all of a sudden doing all of the above.

The result? A 7-3 clip in those 10 games, an upset of Gahr, a playoff spot still up for grabs, and the much needed confidence going into a crucial series against the class of the league Downey Vikings.

While this story differs a little from the actual Bad News Bears (no one player dominates even though there have been clutch pitching performances and at bats) there is one thing that Alvarez shouldn't get bent out of shape over when having the moniker of that scrappy, up-to-no-good team. In the second half, the teams who play Warren can expect bad news. Why? Because the Bad News Bears win. In fact, they win a lot.

Are the Vikings scared? Most likely no, considering they do have the best pitching staff and second best hitting in the league. Downey's only hiccup in league play was their season opening loss against Paramount.

The 12-3 blowout loss had people pulling their own imitations of

Keanu Reeves in "The Matrix" saying "Whoa." It was known that Downey might struggle against Paramount who is the defending champions of the San Gabriel Valley League, but it wasn't imaginable that it would be a double-digit runs loss.

The funny thing is how hindsight is 20-20. Downey had their Cal State Fullerton bound stud Ivory Thomas struggle in the game, and arguably the hottest player this side of the Earth Chris Munoz go 0-fer.

The point is it was only one game. Now, Thomas is pulling his own version of "Manny being Manny" by batting an easy going, but expected .404, and is also in the Top 3 of every batting statistic on his team.

Munoz has absolutely exploded leading the team in batting average (.477) and homeruns (six), and is second in base hits (21) and RBIs (23). While this is great and a definite plus for the team considering his sub-par numbers from last year, the statistics that stand out are the ones that have him standing on a mound of dirt.

There were early signs of his dominance (five batters faced in the opener against Paramount, all five batters were retired), but no one knew what was next for this kid.

Of course, scouts who saw him pitch against California earlier in the season kind of saw it coming. There were whispers from a couple scouts suggesting to others that this kid could be pretty good. No one's really sure if by pretty good they meant he would gather numbers that are so devastating, it's comical.

The gushing over Munoz is cyclical but this season is his show. With an ERA of 0.21 (one earned run allowed all season), an opposing batting average of .082 (only nine hits allowed), with 42 strikeouts and five wins, how can you not drool over him?

It's almost heart-breaking though for pitchers Jeremy Ruiz and Jesse Silva because of the

shadow Munoz casts considering they both have ERAs that are under 2.00. Not only that, Ruiz has more wins than Munoz (6), and Ruiz has more strikeouts than Munoz (50).

Manager Jess Gonzalez during post game interviews is so calm and collective regardless of a win or loss. This is a trait that all three of his pitching studs mimic. They never look rattled, they never look overly excited. They do look in control. With these statistics, you can't deny that they are.

Downey is 17-4 overall (9-1 in league and haven't lost a home game) and Warren is 9-11 overall (5-5 in league). When both teams step on the field against each other, it really is anyone's game. The craziest things have happened in Downey/Warren games whether it be a walk-off homerun in baseball, a last second 3-point shot in basketball, or a game winning field goal in football.

This series next week will not be any different. Both teams will be playing for pride, that's automatic, but while the series is important to both teams, it is more so to the Bears.

They're clinging on to hope of slipping in to the playoffs. In order to do so, they realistically need to sweep the Vikings. With the way they've been playing of late, it might happen.

Downey has taken what is almost like a two week vacation because they've been playing Lynwood and Dominguez. Both teams are awful and Gonzalez could have played his freshmen and still won. It makes you wonder if the Vikings may have fallen asleep while playing the worst of the worst teams in the league.

If one team is in a slumber and the other one is wide awake and peaking at the right time, the series could be a real treat to watch. Warren smells post season, Downey wants a championship. This series could ultimately determine who gets what.

The prediction for the series next week is...does anyone have a coin?

## Confident Warren upsets Gahr, 11-7

■ Adan Cabrales pitches complete game and strikes out seven as Warren scores its biggest upset of the season.

By SCOTT COBOS,  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – If declining comment after a game is one of Warren manager Paul Alvarez's new tactics to improving his team, it's working, along with everything else he's been doing for the past three weeks.

Warren's gutsy 11-7 upset over the Gahr Gladiators Tuesday not only spoke volumes of how they're not done in league play, it showed how the first half of the season is not the second half with the Bears going 7-3 since the week before Spring Break. It also drove one more nail in to the coffin that is Gahr's San Gabriel Valley League championship hopes.

Putting up the first runs of the game in the second inning helped the Bears initiate some momentum offensively and helped them score three crucial runs in the third inning with a 2-run single by Gene Gonzalez, and two run-scoring singles by Chris Cota and Troy Cook in the fifth inning.

The cushion helped Bears pitcher Adan Cabrales withstand the inevitable offensive spurt the best offense in the league would have. Cabrales was cruising through the first four innings then ran into trouble in the bottom of the fifth.

Gahr scored three runs with two outs and hung a 5-run inning on the scoreboard to bring them even with Warren, 6-6. In the inning, Cabrales could be seen laboring, often pacing around the mound buying himself time to rest and make the next pitch.

Cabrales struggled through the inning allowing three hits, two walks and a hit batter. But the crafty lefty weathered the storm and got through the inning.

The Bears responded in the top of the sixth inning with back-to-back run scoring base hits by Mason Shelton and Cota to give the Bears a 3-run lead going into the bottom half of the inning.

Surprisingly enough, Cabrales, after throwing over 100 pitches to this point, trotted back out to the mound and turned in two blue-collared innings, allowing only one more run to finish off the Gladiators and pull the biggest upset of the season.

Cabrales struck out seven

batters in the complete game victory, and while he did not completely shut down Gahr, kept his team in the game long enough to pull out the win.

Coming home today to play Gahr for the last time this season, Warren hopes to forget the last time the Gladiators visited. Gahr came away with a 22-5 victory and looked like the superior team.

The tide may have turned Warren's way now with the upset victory and the way they've been playing lately. Warren's confidence has to be at a season high and a 2-game sweep of the week-long series is not out of the question.

Not only would a win today add more of a strut to the Bears' current swagger, it also makes the rivalry series against Downey next week even more crucial. While the perfect storm would still have to happen, the Bears still have an outside chance of finding themselves in the playoffs.

Warren would have to win today, then upset Downey twice and take care of business against Dominguez in the last two games of the season. They would also need Gahr to play with a chip on their shoulder next week and sweep away the Paramount Pirates to have a chance.

First things first though. Warren will need to win again at home today against Gahr. Game time is 3:15 p.m.

### Downey

The Vikings tour of terror continued on Tuesday with another all-around thrashing of the Lynwood Knights at home, winning 15-0.

Downey manager Jess Gonzalez was able to get everyone in the game even though it only lasted five innings.

Pitcher Jeremy Ruiz picked up the victory, allowing only one hit and two base runners. He also struck out five.

Chris Munoz also added to his MVP season with another homerun, and Alex Jimenez and Ivory Thomas contributed with three base hits a piece.

The Vikings who continue to take steps toward a San Gabriel Valley League crown will visit Lynwood today. Game time is 3:15 p.m.

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# Iraheta advances on 'Idol': A birthday wish come true?

BY BRIDGET SAGRERO, INTERN

**HOLLYWOOD** — With the grand finale only three weeks away, now 17-year-old Allison Iraheta hit the "American Idol" stage Tuesday night performing a composition from George Gershwin, "Someone to Watch Over Me."

The Rat Pack era was brought back this week and so came along a special guest to mentor the top five contestants before their performance. Jamie Foxx worked with each of the contestants and gave constructive criticisms and advice on how to deliver their songs to the best of their abilities.

Iraheta — second to perform — hit the stage and sang a song much ahead of her time, very beautifully. Her singing style went well with the song and she had a good performance. The piano and band complemented her voice as she put emotion and sincerity into the song.

"I was starting to think you did need someone to watch over you being in the bottom three, it was a crime those weeks, but I ain't nervous for you anymore," said judge Kara DioGuardi.

DioGuardi went on to say that Iraheta was not a "one trick pony" or just some "rocker chick," but that her performance was way beyond her years. She said that if Iraheta's performance didn't get her into the finals, she didn't know what else could.

Before giving his opinion on the Tuesday performance, judge Simon Cowell asked Iraheta something interesting. He asked her if she saw herself winning the competition at the level the show was.

"I think I can, I think all of us have that chance right now," responded Iraheta after seconds of digesting the question. Her confi-

dence level did not seem to waver and Cowell picked up on that.

"I don't feel that belief in you still, I thought it was a great performance...it's great to hear you sing a song like that...but I have a horrible feeling you could be in trouble tonight," said Cowell.

The competition was close this week, making it hard to predict who was going to go home next, but once Wednesday came, shock and relief was what many felt. The top five opened the show with Duke Ellington's "Don't Mean a Thing (If it Ain't Got That Swing.)"

Host Ryan Seacrest conducted the elimination process a little differently. Seacrest went to contestant Matt Giraud and asked him to step to the left, not letting him know whether or not he was in the bottom three or not. Danny Gokey was next and he was asked to move to the right, and at this point the confusion was running high. Next on the list was Kris Allen and Iraheta, Allen taking the left and Iraheta the right, leaving Adam Lambert in the middle.

If that was not confusing enough, Lambert was asked to pick a side to stand with and he went to the right, only to be moved to the left and was told that he was in the bottom three. Iraheta's Monday birthday wish might have come true for her because she was safe again. After having to wait impatiently through three special performances, Giraud was the unfortunate "Idol" to have to leave the show.

The special performers were Natalie Cole, Season 5 winner, Taylor Hicks, and Jamie Foxx. Cole performed a song off her album, "Something's Gotta Give." Off his new album, Hick sang "7 Mile Breakdown," and Foxx his current No. 1 song, "Blame it."



Warren's girls varsity distance team overpowered Downey in the 1-mile race held Wednesday at the Downey-Warren Track Meet. The varsity teams were competing for second place in league, while the freshmen and sophomore teams battled for first place. Photo by Art Montoya



Jesse Callier passes off the baton to a Warren teammate to beat Downey in the 4x100 relay Photo by Art Montoya



It was a close race to the finish, but Downey took first in the 110-meter hurdles. Photo by Art Montoya

## Cosmetology students display talent

**NORWALK** — Cerritos College Cosmetology and Esthetician students will host a hair and makeup runway show Monday.

Entitled "Past, Present & Future of Beauty," the event will showcase students' original hair and make-up design with a live DJ.

Following the runway presentation, there will be networking opportunities for students and attendees to get connected with local business owners, salon owners, and fashion writers.

Admission to the event is only \$1. All proceeds will go to the Cerritos College Cosmetology Club.

For more information, call Bryan Griffith at (562) 618-1713.

## Local woman at Army training

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** — Army Spec. Hyesuk Min has completed basic combat training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C.

Min is the sister of Hyeyoung Min of Downey.

During the nine weeks of training, Hyesuk Min studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training. Min also practiced drill and ceremony, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, and more.



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**Mother's Day is May 10!!!**

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 1.986" by 3" announcement.

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

Include the following information:  
✓ Completed Information Card  
✓ Photo  
-- By Mail - photo must be 2" x 3"  
-- By EMail - photo must be 300 dpi (DowneyPatriot@yahoo.com)  
✓ Check payable to The Downey Patriot

Send to:  
The Downey Patriot, 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240

**The Downey Patriot**  
8301 E. Florence Avenue, Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240  
Line = approximately 20 to 23 characters including spaces and punctuation

Line 1 (Mother's Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 2 (Your message here) \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please call The Downey Patriot with any questions regarding your announcement. Phone (562)904-3668

# PTA appreciates its East Middle School teachers

CONTRIBUTED BY THE EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA

There are 56 teachers at East Middle School and each one brings something special to the students there. Teachers often help struggling students before and after their school day begins and ends. We have teachers who e-mail and contact parents on a regular basis so all of us can work together to help our children succeed. We have teachers who open their classroom doors early, and those who stay late.

East Middle School's teachers make programs and clubs available to their students; without these teachers giving extra care and time these activities would not be possible.

East Middle School teachers have an 85 percent teacher involvement in their "Guiding Knights" program. Guiding Knights is a special program unique to East. Our dedicated teachers guide and mentor one (or more) at-risk or troubled student throughout the school year.

This program can have a tremendous impact on our middle school youth who are struggling with serious decisions that impact their lives.

Teachers reach students by finding something good in each child and working to bring that something positive out. This act of kindness shows not only their commitment to teaching but a real sense of caring for the students.

Within the East staff there are opportunities and a need for teachers to do even more than the hard work it takes to be an East Middle School teacher. The special teachers listed below do volunteer work and continue to give time to our children.

Russ Arnold makes a difference in the lives of our students in the special education department. Victoria Arosteguy edits the Knights Vision newsletter which is mailed to our school families, and she volunteers to make the school's PTA directory. Robert Becker gives his time to our school's technology department and ESL. Kevin Dodge works with our ASB department, our student senate, and our puzzle club. Ron Hancock and Cindy Ekk run the scholarship club. Kelly Hauben works with the ELD students, giving a lot of her extra time. Heidi Henock runs the AVID program and gives time to our school's drama club. Lorine Hille is the GATE coordinator. Chad Im and Michael Gregory run our



National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8, and all 56 teachers at East Middle School are special, says the PTA.

Builders Club. Gregory also is head of our school's science department and still gives time to our athletic programs.

Andrea Keene is our very special band teacher who puts in so much time with our beginning band, intermediate band, concert band, jazz band, and she still makes time to volunteer to make choir possible for our students to have a chance to discover a love and knowledge of music. Vincent Lavalle is the activities director and PE chair. Robert Mallory makes the Chess Club possible. Wendy Marci runs the Title 1 program. Cindy Montenegro, thank you for making the Bible Club possible for our students. Tracy Parry

is our math chair. Joshua Roberson, thank you for all your work with our school's yearbook.

Joyce Robinson runs East's Sunshine Club. Christine Sparangis brings the Poetry Club to our students. Allyson Stella is our school's social studies chair. Juliana Sturgeon is in charge of our Running Club. A huge thank you and recognition to Sheri Martin and Coach Zap for our boot camp program and this city's one and only "Downey to New York" program.

Teaching truly is a work of heart.

To every East Middle School teacher: you are valuable, irreplaceable and appreciated by your

students, parents, PTA and East Middle School administration. Thank you for making the students feel welcome and cared for. Thank you for empowering our young people by building developmental assets such as positive experiences, relationships, and inner strength.

Thank you for showing our community ways you can and do make a difference!

# Catherine Wilson, 96

DOWNEY – Longtime Downey resident Catherine Wilson passed away April 26 after a short illness.

Wilson was born Feb. 7, 1913 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and moved to Los Angeles when she was 9. She graduated from Fremont High School and married George Wilson in 1932. They moved to Downey in 1953 where she was a homemaker and raised her family.



Wilson was a member of Downey United Methodist Church and was active with the United Methodist Women, the Miriam Circle, and the popular "Granny Squares" crafting group. For many years she attended the OASIS class at Downey Adult School. She also passed the time listening to audio books provided by the Braille Institute.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George; son, Thomas; daughter-in-law, Glenda; grandson, Michael; and brothers, Robert and David Moodie.

She is survived by her daughter, Louise Harrell; sons, Al (Elaine) Wilson and Russell Wilson; daughter-in-law, Joan Wilson; 14 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held tomorrow at 11 a.m. at Downey United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested contributions to Downey United Methodist Church or the Braille Institute.

# Cecilia Miller, 85

DOWNEY – Cecilia Mary "Casey" Miller, a longtime Downey resident, passed away at home surrounded by family on March 28.

Miller was born Oct. 22, 1923. She lived in Downey for 65 years with her husband, Rafe Banks Miller, Sr., who preceded her in death in 1993.

For the past 31 years, Miller was active at the chiropractic office of her son, Dr. Jeff Miller. She became a strong advocate of alternative health care and was the inspiration for four of her children attaining doctor of chiropractic degrees.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cal State L.A. and a lifetime teaching credential from Gov. George Dukemajian. During the last 10 years of her life, she devoted her time to Bible study interpretation.

She is survived by children, Rafe Miller and his wife, Karen, Patricia Miller and her partner, Roger Kavan, Michael Miller and his wife, Karen, William Miller and his partner, Faith Jordan, and Jeff Miller; sister, Helen Ceizyk; and grandchildren, Alexa, Brendan, Madison, McCall, Garrett, Matthew, and Andrew.

In addition to her husband, she was also preceded in death by her youngest daughter, Kathleen Miller VanAuken, in 1979.

A memorial service will be held Thursday at Newport Mesa Church in Costa Mesa. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested contributed to Newport Mesa Church, 2599 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa, CA 92627, or the Ruby Ranch Horse Rescue based out of Ramah, Colo.

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