

The Downey Patriot



Students have choice of UCs
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Authentic Italian cooking
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Bankruptcy laws not as simple
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Friday, May 15, 2009

Vol. 8 No. 4

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

No Hitter!



Downey pitcher Chris Munoz, a force both on the mound and at the plate, had the best game of his young career last Friday: a no-hitter that gave the Vikings its first SGVL championship in more than 20 years. Read more, page 11

Grant allocations gain approval

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The City Council has approved the city's 2009-10 Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) program funds, except for one line item.

Voicing strong support for the work being done by the True Lasting Connections Family Resource Center, the Council voted to restore \$1,900 to what would have been a slashed down allocation of just \$1,500 originally programmed for TLC. Thus TLC will get its prior year's funding of \$3,400. The \$1,900 will be subtracted from a Senior Nutrition program.

Otherwise, the funding's out-

lines are as follows: next fiscal year, the city will be entitled to receive new federal grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the amount of \$1,497,099 in CDBG and \$797,761 in HOME funds, for a total of \$2,294,860.

In addition, \$135,000 is expected to be generated primarily from loan repayments as program income.

The federal grants must be used on activities that satisfy such HUD national objectives as the provision of decent housing, of a suitable living environment, and the expansion of economic opportunities, or otherwise addressing economic development activities primarily benefiting residents who are of low

See COUNCIL, page 4

City taking applications for military banners

DOWNEY – The city of Downey is now accepting applications for the Military Banner Program, a new plan designed to support, recognize and express appreciation to active American military service members currently serving overseas.

Banners listing the service member's name and branch of service will be displayed throughout the city.

In order to qualify for the program, honorees must be on active overseas duty with a branch of the

U.S. military. The honorees must also be a resident or relative of a Downey resident, or had been a Downey resident for some period during the ages of 1-21.

An application process will be used to determine eligibility. Upon approval, the city will order the banner and will be responsible for its installation and maintenance.

Donations are being solicited from residents and local businesses for the purchase of the banners. To make a donation, or to request an application, call (562) 904-1895.

Developers envision a 'grand entrance' to downtown

■ Gourmet Café property could see dramatic makeover.

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Will the Gourmet Café property at Firestone Boulevard and Downey Avenue be redeveloped into a new strip mall to serve as the de facto "grand entrance" to Downtown Downey?

The answer: possibly. City officials met in closed session Tuesday night to discuss details of redevelopment plans with Westland Industries, a Long Beach-based commercial leasing company that owns the property at 8250 Firestone Blvd., where Gourmet Café is located.

Details of the meeting were not released. But Yanki Greenspan, an executive with Westland Industries, confirmed his company's desire to redevelop the land.

"We are planning on redeveloping our property," Greenspan said in an e-mail to the Patriot. "The city of Downey is working with us on entitlements and some parking issues that we are facing."

Regarding the future of Gourmet Café, Greenspan said, "Gourmet Café will be approached, when the time is right, regarding their participation in the project if they wish to continue tenancy at that location."

Frank Arias, who owns the Gourmet Café restaurant, said he knew nothing about redevelopment of the property.

"I wish I could help you, but I have no idea what's going on," Arias said. "You know more than I do right now."

LoopNet.com, an online commercial real estate listing service, is advertising a new strip mall on the site. According to LoopNet, the "existing center will be completely transformed into a high-traffic food court. Westland Industries is working closely with the city of



Downey to create the 'grand entrance' to Downey's downtown." LoopNet has posted site plans and artist renderings, and advertises the property as "the first step to create the ideal pedestrian friendly downtown district."

Gilbert Livas, deputy city manager of community development for the city of Downey, downplayed the city's involvement in the redevelopment, but noted the property fell in the city's Downtown Outlay Zone.

Gourmet Café is almost directly across the street from what will soon become Porto's Bakery, which is expected to break ground later this year.

City officials have been aggressive in their efforts recently to breathe new life into the downtown. Last year, the city used housing money to purchase the Avenue Theatre and adjacent Verizon building, with plans to redevelop them at least partially into high-quality affordable housing.

Porto's is expected to attract up to 2,000 customers daily when they open on Firestone Boulevard, west of Downey Avenue. A two-story parking structure will be built to accommodate the expected increase in traffic.



City officials met in closed session this week to discuss a possible redevelopment of the Gourmet Café property, located at Downey Avenue and Firestone Boulevard. LoopNet photos

Budget shortfall may fall to cities

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

CULVER CITY – Downey Mayor Mario Guerra traveled to Culver City recently where Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger warned that the state may have to borrow billions of dollars from local municipalities in order to close the state budget gap.

Guerra was part of a coalition of local mayors to meet with the governor, where discussion revolved around how local governments will be impacted if next week's propositions fail at the polls.

Guerra said it seemed wrong that a fiscally conservative city like Downey "will have to pay the penalty for the lack of spending controls in Sacramento."

"If cities are forced to lend the

state their local tax dollars, many cities will have huge layoffs, which will include police and fire. This is wrong on so many levels," Guerra said. "We have worked hard with our fine staff to have a balanced budget for many years, and yet the residents of Downey are being asked to help bail out the state that has spent beyond their resources."

According to state law, the governor is allowed to borrow up to \$3 million from California cities twice every 10 years "for extreme fiscal hardships." Although the loan is required to be paid back within three years (with interest), Guerra said many cities could go bankrupt if forced to loan the money.

City officials are anticipating their own budget shortfall next fiscal year. A hiring freeze was implemented last June, with the exception of police and fire.



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger met with a coalition of local mayors, including Downey Mayor Mario Guerra, Monday in Culver City, where he warned that he may borrow up to \$3 million to balance the state budget. Photo courtesy city of Downey

Fundraiser to benefit Relay for Life

DOWNEY – Granata's Italian Villa will host a wine-tasting fundraiser May 30 with proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society's local Relay for Life.

Tickets are \$25 and include three wine-tasting tickets, unlimited appetizers, a door prize ticket, and five opportunity drawing tickets (the drawing will take place June 6).

The event is from 3 to 5 p.m. For tickets or information, call Sharon Newberg at (562) 940-6211.



Downey Adult School's dental program is offering three new certification courses. The first class begins June 1. Photo courtesy DAS

School offering new dental certification courses

DOWNEY – Downey Adult School will soon begin offering three new certification courses through its dental program.

Certification classes for California Dental Radiation Safety and Dental X-ray licensing begins June 1. Coronal Polishing and Ultrasonic Scaling certification starts July 14, and Infection Control certification will be offered in the fall.

Downey Adult School is the first approved school to offer infection control certification to all dental assistants in California. Their dental program has also been approved from the Dental Board of California and the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries.

For more information on enrollment, call the dental program coordinator at (562) 940-6200 or e-mail bdimaranan@das.edu.

Sadie Hawkins dance tonight

DOWNEY – Downey middle school students are invited to a Sadie Hawkins dance tonight from 7-10 p.m. at the Gary P. McCaughan gymnasium at Apollo Park.

To attend, students should be in the 6th-8th grades and have a current school ID. There will be no exceptions.

A dress code will also be enforced. Boys should dress in a collared shirt and slacks with a belt. A jacket is optional but preferred. No jeans, sandals, hats or bandanas are permitted.

Girls should wear a blouse or sweater that covers the stomach with a knee-length skirt, dress or "nice" slacks. No T-shirts, halter tops, jeans, sandals, hats or bandanas will be allowed. Top straps must be at least two inches wide.

Admission is \$6 per student, payable at the door. Snacks will be available for purchase throughout the event. For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

Amputees learn how to play sports

DOWNEY – Approximately 75-100 local amputees and people with disabilities will learn how to run, golf, fence, play soccer, basketball, football and compete in archery at a sports festival Sunday at Apollo Park.

Paralympic athletes at the Multi-Sport Festival will teach amputees and disabled people ages 2-60 how to compete in a variety of sports.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Apollo Park, 12544 Rives Ave.

Athlete registration is still available. For information, call (562) 803-3322.

Library auction items on display

DOWNEY – Twelve silent auction items are now on display in the foyer of the Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

Bids can be placed inside the library's Friend's Book Store until May 30.

Among the items to be auctioned: "Father and Son: The Bond," a collection of photographs and essays on the relationship between fathers and sons; "Here's a Little Poem" by Jane Yolen and Andrew Peters, a child's first book of poetry; "The Encyclopedia of Ships" by Tony Gibbons includes more than 1,500 military and civilian ships from 5000 BC to the present; "Exploring the West" by Herman Viola includes drawings, photos and maps from the early years of exploring the West.

OLPH hosting wine tasting

DOWNEY – Our Lady of Perpetual Help School will host its annual wine tasting event tomorrow on its campus from 6 to 11:30 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will be put into a fund that will be used to install air conditioning on its 60-year-old campus.

The event will have an international theme of wines, beers, hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Live entertainment and music will be provided by Satisfaction, and there will also be dancing, a live and silent auction, and raffles.

"Last year's event was very festive and fun for all who attended," said Veronica Zuniga, who attended last year and is a first grade parent. "We hope to raise money for air conditioning in the classrooms as many students complain of headaches, difficulty concentrating, and discomfort."

Presale tickets are \$35 or \$40 at the door. For tickets and/or donations, call OLPH School at (562) 869-9969.

Local businesses supporting this year's event include All-American Home Center, Frantone's Pizza, Mimi's Café, Pardella's Automotive, and Sambi's.

Razorback sign-ups at Apollo

DOWNEY – Downey Youth Football will continue sign-ups for the 2009 season at Apollo Park tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Other registration dates include June 6 (Furman Park), June 20 (Apollo), July 4 (Furman) and July 11 (Apollo).

Registration cost is \$185 for tackle football, \$130 for flag football, and \$100 for cheerleading. Boys and girls ages 5-14 are eligible for football and cheerleading.

For more information on registration or assistant coach opportunities, call Louis Morales at (562) 928-6081 or Mike Baumann at (562) 889-1183. Information is also online at www.downeyrazorbacks.com.



Fifteen St. Matthias students have been accepted by California universities. Photo courtesy St. Matthias

Universities take to St. Matthias students

DOWNEY – Despite budget cuts that required the University of California to offer admission to fewer students this year, 15 St. Matthias High School seniors out of a class of 87 received a total of 38 acceptance letters to UC campuses.

Of the 15, 12 are UC-bound in the fall: Nancy Martinez (UC Berkeley); Sally Soltero (UC San Diego); Genesis Bautista, Natalie Herrera and Arcylizet Iniguez, UCLA; Cynthia Gutierrez, Norma Martinez and Jessica Rubalcava, UC Santa Barbara; and Adriana DeAnda, Ana Godinez, Melissa Martinez and Graciela Soria, UC Riverside.

The UC system admitted 72.5 percent of California freshmen applicants, the lowest rate in 10 years. UC regents decided in January to reduce enrollment by 6 percent at the Davis, Irvine, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz campuses, while Berkeley and UCLA remain the same, and UC Merced, the newest campus, continues to grow.

"This was an exceptionally competitive year for admission to

UC," Susan Wilbur, UC's director of undergraduate admissions, told the Associated Press in April.

UCLA was the most competitive campus, admitting only 21.4 percent of California freshmen applicants.

The 15 St. Matthias students represent more than 17 percent of the senior class. Nearly all were accepted by multiple UC campuses, including five by UCLA. Other acceptances came from UC Riverside (11), UC Irvine (5), UC Berkeley (4), UC Davis (3), UC San Diego (2), and UC Merced (2).

St. Matthias High School, founded in 1960, is a Catholic high school for young women in Downey. More than 50 percent of its students receive financial aid in order to attend high school, and many will be the first in their families to attend college.

"I am so proud of our students and how they embrace the mission of our school," said Margaret Meland, principal of St. Matthias, "especially how they choose to live out the values they receive through Catholic education."

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LIFE. POWERED BY EDISON

Woman accused of dragging pit bull escapes charges

■ Bluebell the pit bull still in need of home.

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – An animal rights group is speaking out after the Los Angeles District Attorney declined to file charges against a woman who nearly killed a young pit bull terrier by dragging the dog behind her car.

Bryana Wilson, of Norwalk, was accused of placing the dog, now named Bluebell, into the back of a pickup truck before driving to the SEAACA animal shelter in Downey. The dog apparently fell out of the truck and was dragged by its leash for several blocks.

Bluebell had lost consciousness by the time it arrived at SEAACA, where Wilson was planning to have the dog put to sleep due to a case of mange.

SEAACA officials took custody of Bluebell and Wilson was charged with animal cruelty.

"This dog's open sores, red, raw skin and hair loss took months to develop. This painful and itchy condition did not happen overnight," said Lois Newman, president of the Cat and Dog Rescue Association (CDRA) in Los Angeles. "Untreated mange this bad can shut down a dog's organs and kill a dog. It's cheap and easy to treat with over-the-counter medications. This crime alone is enough for a cruelty case to be filed."

In addition to the lack of veteri-

nary care, the CDRA said charges should have been filed for nearly dragging the dog to death and transporting an animal illegally in the back of a pickup truck.

"These are clear violations of California state law. If these laws are not enforced, what is the point of having these laws on the books?" said Newman. "This is a perfect example of why it is against state law to transport loose or improperly restrained dogs in an open truck bed. It's dangerous for people trying to swerve to avoid a fallen dog, and it's often deadly to the dog."

"It wasn't like this dog was having a quality life before the owner took the dog to the animal shelter to be killed," Newman continued. "The owner wasn't exactly on the way to the dog park to play. This owner allowed this dog to get to the point that the dog was suffering and in pain. This owner was taking the young dog to be killed for an easily treated skin problem."

SEAACA officials said dozens of people offered to adopt Bluebell, but none of the homes were found suitable. The dog was recently turned over to Karma Rescue, a Santa Monica-based "no-kill" animal shelter.

Anyone wishing to adopt Bluebell should call (310) 512-RUFF.

In the meantime, the CDRA encouraged animal lovers to protest the lack of criminal charges by writing to Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley (scooley@da.lacounty.gov) and Supervisor Don Knabe (DKnabe@lacbos.org).



Downey Civic Light Opera veteran actor Ed Krieger will return to the DCLO to star as Abner in "42nd Street," opening May 28 at the Downey Theatre. Krieger was previously seen in "Will Rogers Follies," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Hello, Dolly" and "Tintypes." For tickets to "42nd Street," call (562) 923-1714.

DCLO releases schedule

DOWNEY – Season tickets are now on sale for the Downey Civic Light Opera's 2009-10 spring season, which includes the return of the Lerner and Loewe classic, "My Fair Lady," on October 1.

The rest of the production schedule includes "Rodgers & Hart, A Celebration" (Feb. 18 – March 7) and "Carousel" (May 27 – June 13).

"My Fair Lady," based on George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion," made a star of Julie Andrews and is considered one of the most literate musicals ever written, including memorable songs such as the rousing "Get Me to the Church on Time" and the poignant "I've Grown Accustomed to her Face."

"My Fair Lady" is one of the rare instances in which nothing is lost between a great play and its musical adaptation, said Marsha

Moode, executive director of the Downey Civic Light Opera.

"Rodgers & Hart"

Lorenz Hart, who died relatively young, was a gifted lyricist unique in his ability to blend the breezy energy of sophisticated city life and the universality of romance into a wised-up slang that has never dated. He wrote clever love songs for adults, and Richard Lewine and John Fearnley's idea for this retrospective shows how Richard Rodgers' music stayed with him all the way.

Rodgers adapted to a wholly different musical personality in Oscar Hammerstein II, who wore his heart on his sleeve. In "Carousel," his book and lyrics reveal how any heart can be capable of great love and goodness, even that of a carney roustabout.

Season tickets can be ordered by writing to the Downey Civic Light Opera, P.O. Box 429, Downey, CA 90241, or by calling (562) 923-1714.

Free concert, festival at Warren

DOWNEY – The Warren High School Symphonic and Jazz Bands will present a free concert May 29 at the school's stadium.

A family festival with entertainment, food vendors and 50/50 raffle will be available before the concert, beginning at 5 p.m. The concert starts at 7 p.m. Admission to the festival and concert is free.

Warren choirs in concert Thursday

DOWNEY – The Warren High School Choral Department will present its annual Spring Concert this Thursday at Downey First Christian Church, starting at 7 p.m.

Robert Petersen will direct the concert, which will feature all five award-winning Warren choirs: Vocal Ensemble, Concert Choir, Mixed Choir, Men's Choir and Men's Varsity Choir.

"We are very proud of our Warren choirs. Our young men and women have earned much deserved accolades and awards based on their commitment to excellence and their love of music," Petersen said.

Concert tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the door. Downey First Christian Church is at 10909 New St.

Car wash to raise money for family

DOWNEY – The Warren High School band department will hold a car wash today from 4-7 p.m. to raise money for the family of Alex Ceja, a former student who passed away recently.

Ceja, 18, graduated from Warren in 2008 where he participated in the school's marching, pep, jazz and concert bands, in addition to the wind ensemble.

Students will also conduct a yard sale tomorrow from 6 a.m. to noon. Proceeds from the car wash and sale will be donated to Ceja's family to assist with their recent funeral and hospital expenses.

Downey High School will host the car wash along the bus lane at Brookshire Avenue from 4-7 p.m. Cars are \$5 and trucks/SUVs are \$8.

The yard sale will be at 9916 Downey Ave., north of Florence Avenue.

Military policeman coming home

DOWNEY – Army Reserve Sgt. Sherman E. Johnson is returning to the United States after a deployment to the Iraqi Theater of Operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Johnson is the son of Charlene Johnson of Downey.

Sherman Johnson is a military police member with 19 years of military service. He is normally assigned to the 812th Military Police Company in Orangeburg, N.Y.

Church hosting 5K run/walk

DOWNEY – The Moravian Church of Downey will host its second annual 5K Run-Walk on June 13 starting at 8:30 a.m.

The 3.1 mile route starts in the church's parking lot at 10337 Old River School Rd. and winds through the neighborhood before finishing back in the parking lot.

The top male and female finishers in each of four age categories will receive medals, and all participants will receive T-shirts and "green" goody bags. There will also be a raffle for sponsor-donated items.

More information and registration forms are available by calling the church office at (562) 927-0718 or online at www.thebelfry5k.com. Pre-registration is encouraged.

Man charged in property reassessment scam

LOS ANGELES – Criminal charges were filed Wednesday by the District Attorney against the operator of a private company that offered to "assist" homeowners with filing property tax reassessment forms for substantial fees.

Sean McConville, 29, surrendered to Ventura County authorities in connection with a criminal case filed against him there. McConville reportedly lives in Simi Valley but his company, Property Tax Reassessment, lists a post office box in Los Angeles

County as its business address, authorities said.

McConville was charged with one felony count of attempted grand theft of personal property and 32 misdemeanor counts of violating the state's Business and Professions code by false advertising and business solicitation with a misleading governmental term or symbol.

According to the complaint, McConville was previously convicted of robbery in 1997.

McConville ran one of about a

dozen such operations that sent out mail solicitations – appearing governmental and with misleading content – offering to assist homeowners for fees of \$179 or more to file property tax reassessment forms.

The service is provided free by the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office.

McConville is currently being held on \$70,000 bail. He is expected to be arraigned either today or early next week.




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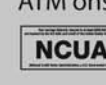


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City of Downey

Summer Day Camp Programs

SPORTS CAMP
 Ages: 8-12
 June 22-August 28

This 10 week summer day camp offers children an opportunity to learn 12 hours of skills each week from a professional in a specific sport. All camp activities are conducted in a safe, well-supervised environment. Camp includes, excursions, swimming, mini-trips and a daily snack. For ages 8-12

"Top Chef"
 July 20-24

Campers will go through food handling training and make several fun and delicious dishes. Menu's will be prepared, and our own restaurant opened at the end of the week for friends and family. This camp is designer for campers ages 6-16, and features many delectable competitions with plenty of challenges.

Adventure Camp
 A Summer camp especially designed to challenge teenagers with exciting and interesting activities conducted by trained recreation personnel. Independence Park will be the headquarters, with excursions, swimming, and weekly mini-tips.
 Ages 11-14
 June 22-August 28

Wilderness Camp
 Ages 6 - 10
 June 22-August 28
 10, One Week Sessions

An exciting day camp where children will make arts & crafts, cook, and participate in many exciting activities including weekly excursions & and weekly pool trips.

Camp costs include supplies, materials, daily snack and weekly excursion.

"Survivor Camp"
 July 27-31

Tribes are formed and the fun begins! Competitions require teamwork and dedication to overcome obstacles, and build camaraderie. Everyone at Survivor Camp is a winner! No one gets voted off this island, but only one team can be the ultimate at survival. Based on a popular TV series, you may even get to eat a bug! Ages 6-16

Harry Potter Camp
 August 3-7

We will train students to be the next big Camp Wizard! We study magic, potions, horticulture and flight. Participants will build wands, capes, hats and everything needed to become a Kid Wizard. Target ages are 7-16 years old.

"Downey Tennis Camp"
 June 29-July 24

This camp is designed for ages 6-16 & caters to children who are preparing to begin and advance their tennis skills. Campers will learn basic strokes, shot placement, serves, volleys and strategies in tennis play.

Specialty Camp Cost:
 \$115 per week

Camp Hollywood
 This six week day camp is a fun and educational camp geared toward children ages 8-13 interested in the theatrical arts. Campers will have the opportunity to learn and participate in all of the best areas of theatre including acting, playwriting, scenery and props, costumes and makeup

Extended Care Available:
 \$40 session, first child
 \$35 session, additional Child
 Extended care is available for Sports, Adventure, Wilderness, Skate, and Hollywood Camps

Early Bird Registration is on May 20, 2009 from 5:30-7:30pm at Gary P. McCaughan Gym at Apollo Park.
 General walk-in registration will begin Tuesday, May 26, 2009 from 8:00am-5:00pm at City Hall, Community Services Department.
 Registration is a first-come first-served basis.

For more information, please call City Hall at 562-904-7238 or check www.downeyca.org

Council: Funds distributed to several community-based non-profits.

Continued from page 1

and moderate income. Among the city's project headings indicated as eligible for CDBG funding are: a) property improvement/preservation—housing rehabilitation; senior paint & fix-up program, and home modification program; b) code enforcement; c) public service activities provided by: TLC, the Community/Senior Center, Adult Literacy Program, Arc of Southeast LA County, ASPIRE program, Rio Hondo Temporary Home, and So. Calif. Rehabilitation Services.

Accounting for the bulk of the HOME grant are housing rehabilitation and affordable housing partnership projects.

The Council meanwhile authorized the city manager to submit the Action Plan and the grantee certifications to HUD.

Moreover, because of the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provided federal stimulus funds to HUD for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP), it behooved the city to approve a substantial amendment to its original CDBG Action Plan to incorporate this additional funding.

The city indeed has done this. It was notified earlier that its allocation of HPRP funds is \$611,834. These funds the city intends to use for homeless prevention and rapid re-housing. The Recovery Act requires fund recipients to expend 60 percent of HPRP funds within two years, and 100 percent of HPRP funds within three years of the date of the grant agreement.

The four categories of eligible activities for the HPRP program include: financial assistance (short-

term and medium-term rent assistance, security deposits, utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, even motel/hotel vouchers); housing relocation and stabilization services (housing search and placement, legal services, credit repair); data collection and evaluation (software purchases, lease/purchase of computer equipment); and administrative costs (training of staff, preparation of reports, audits, monitoring and similar costs related to administering HPRP).

Although HPRP's intent is to rapidly transition participants to stability, it is not intended to be in the nature of a long-term assistance program for participants, nor will it be able to address all the supportive services needed to prevent long-term homelessness.

In other action, the Council:
•Accepted the improvements and the maintenance responsibility for the work completed under the Miscellaneous Concrete Construction and Repair Improvements Project, and approved the final construction contract amount of \$318,392.74;

•Awarded a contract totaling \$1,618,753 to Sialic Contractors Corporation dba Shawnan for residential street pavement rehabilitation in several areas of the city; Shawnan's bid was approximately 33 percent lower than the Engineer's Estimate;

•Approved the plans and specifications for an on-call contract for street and concrete repairs and minor public works improvements within the public right-of-way in the city prompted by numerous service requests from the public; and granted authority to advertise for bids on the project;

•Accepted the street and water improvements and maintenance

Former Downey resident pens a play

LONG BEACH – John Barry, a former longtime resident of Downey now living in Rogers, Ark., is one of four aspiring playwrights to win a spot to showcase his play in the Long Beach Playhouse New Works Festival.

His play, a murder-mystery titled "Three Feet Back," will be read May 30 at 2 p.m. at the Long Beach Playhouse Mainstage Theatre, 5021 E. Anaheim St.

There is a suggested donation of \$10 to attend. A post-performance discussion will follow the reading.

responsibility for the Lakewood Blvd. Improvement Project in connection with the development agreement with Citibank, and approved the final contract amount of \$539,529.44;

•Accepted the improvements and maintenance responsibility for the Civic Center north parking lot upgrade, and approved the final construction contract amount of \$251,661.09, and also earmarked \$8,426.59 from the Police Department's asset forfeiture fund for the project;

•Adopted a resolution adding a mandatory penalty of \$4.50 for all parking offense fines, thus amending the parking violation fine schedule; the \$4.50 will go to the State Court Facilities Construction fund;

•Introduced an ordinance authorizing an amendment to the contract between the City Council and the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), referencing life insurance benefits known as Pre-Retirement Option 2W Death Benefit and the Fourth Level of 1959 Survivor Benefits that apply to local miscellaneous members; and adopted a resolution of its intention to approve said ordinance;

•Heard a presentation by

Assemblyman Hector De La Torre honoring Julia Desalemos as 50th Assembly District "Woman of the Year" from Downey;

•Heard a presentation by the Pasadena Tournament of Roses' float entry chairperson Bob Miller gifting the Downey Rose Float Association with a large portrait of its Founder's Trophy-winning 2009 float entry, "Broadway's Golden Age";

•Heard Mayor Mario Guerra proclaim May 17-23 as National Public Works Week;

•Likewise heard Guerra proclaim May 2009 as "Older Americans Month," while honoring longtime Downey resident and volunteer Cleo Latimer as epitomizing the best qualities Downey's older population offers in "enhancing the quality of life for us all";

•Also named May 2009 as the "Month of the Young Child," as a group of young costumed children entertained with a surprise (and well-received) song-and-dance routine; and

•Presented a certificate of appreciation to Downey resident Jose Armando Juarez for his service in Iraq and Germany.

The next regular public meeting of the City Council will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26 at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

POET'S CORNER

My Mother's Garden

She never lost her love for Spring and its promise
Each May Day morning found her knee-deep in Sicilian meadows,
gathering

poppies, carnations and sweet peas

That tradition sailed with her to America and in my mind's eye
I see her luxuriant chestnut hair loose 'round her young shoulders
as she plucked blooms on that far-off island hillside --
bowers to fill the house with fragrance

Now I tend her American garden
the bulbs and seeds she lovingly nestled here among her herbs
those

many years ago still produce the daffodils, gadiolus, and poppies
that brighten my life

that help make April days almost bearable

—Rosalie Sciortino,

Downey

Professional Shopper's

Lament

Rosilind loves to buy shoes,
Pumps and tennies, in blacks and blues.

She has to wear,
Three hundred pair,
Even for her summer cruise.

Liberated she must be,
She swears her life is so free.
Her husband of course,
He wants a divorce,
Works ten hours a day she works three.

A professional shopper!
They say no one can top her.
She bought Stonewood Mall,
Then each Big Lot Stall,
Until the banks had to drop her.

—Ben Platt,
Downey



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The Secret to Anti-Aging: Age Well Fair





Presented by
Bill Kim, MD

Saturday, May 16, 2009 • 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Hosted by Downey Regional Medical Center
11500 Brookshire Avenue, Downey, California 90241
Co-Sponsored by the Downey YMCA

For more information contact Jessica Mendez,
YMCA Healthy Lifestyles Director at 562-862-4201
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Letters to the Editor:

Mutual appreciation

Dear Editor,
After reading the article titled "Students Show Appreciation for Good Music" (Downey Patriot, 5/1/09), and seeing the darling pictures the children drew, I felt compelled to write you.

I have had great pleasure over the last 15 years playing various music programs for the elementary school children of Downey. The program highlighted in the pages of your newspaper has provided musical instruction to these students through two 45-minute school assemblies performed in each of Downey's 13 public elementary schools and four of the parochial schools every year. In addition, two full orchestra concerts are performed in the Downey Theater each year, one for the entire third grade class and another for the entire fifth grade class of Downey Unified School District.

I have been privileged to participate in this program. Year after year the children have always been a wonderful, enthusiastic audience and a joy to see. We've learned a lot from each other and had much fun together.

Although perhaps many in Downey take it much for granted, I know this has been possible only because the teachers and school principals of the Downey school district do an outstanding job in creating the environment of respect and intellectual engagement so obvious in all the children we see. In my years coming to Downey this has been absolutely consistent throughout every school, and I would like to express my deep gratitude and admiration to them.

I also want very much to acknowledge and thank the Downey Symphony "Music in the Schools" program for the tremendous support they have given us over the years. As they say in Hollywood, "None of this could have been possible without you!" However, the article did not mention a large portion of their funding, given by the Musician's Performance Fund, has dried up recently and will not be available next year. I pray something can be done to keep this wonderful program going. Every time we perform in Downey's schools I hear from teachers and students alike how very much they value and appreciate the lessons in music we bring them.

— **Mark Artusio**

Sherman Oaks

Mark Artusio is principal bass with the Downey Symphony and is one of the five musicians from the orchestra who perform in the Music in the School program.

Many thanks

Dear Editor:
The American Legion Auxiliary 270 would like to thank everyone who bought a poppy at the Downey Street Faire. This money helps the veterans at the Long Beach VA.

Again, thanks, and thanks to the Downey Chamber of Commerce for having the Street Faire.

— **Julie Guetthe,**
Commander, 1953

Explanation given

Dear Editor:
This is in response to the letter in your paper last week titled, "Seeking Explanation" by Elsa Van Leuven.

Since she asked, let me 'splain it to you.' Why are people so upset about waterboarding and other forms of torture that were approved by our leaders? To start with, because these illegal acts are a promotional tool for terrorists and others who hate us. They are Al Qaeda's best recruiting tool and undoubtedly have helped to recruit more terrorists who may try to attack us in the future.

Supposedly we are a society that follows our own laws. If our laws are not good enough, we should change them, not break the laws. The lawyers and others she defend advocated illegal acts of torture and illegal spying, and for that they should have some consequences.

Regarding tears over abortion and mothers who were given a choice and decided not to continue their pregnancies, in a quote from Doctors without Borders, "Today, more than half of the deaths of children under age 5 are due to malnutrition." Would you rather have babies die of starvation after they are born?

Many mothers are unable to care for the children they have now, much less if they bring more into the world. The resources on this planet are not sufficient to keep up with unlimited human reproduction. Women don't always have the choice of whether or not to get pregnant, but they should have the choice of whether or not to have a child.

— **Anita Rivero,**
Downey

Travelogues at the Avenue

Dear Editor:
I am writing about two articles which I read during the past two weeks. One refers to the fact that the travelogues "did not show a profit." The other refers to plans for the Avenue Theatre as a "mixed housing and business facility" (in a business-only area?) or the use of the theater for cultural affairs, since it is less expensive than the beautiful Downey Theatre.

In the first place, since when does the city need to "show a profit"? The city is there to serve its citizens, and if it breaks even, all the better. But a profit? No! We already pay taxes for that. Or has our city government lost all sense of proportion?

At first, no information was available on the sudden cancellation of this popular program. Why the secrecy? Then it turned out that "no profit was made."

A letter also informed us that the Avenue Theatre would be less costly than the Downey Theatre.

We always voted for the city representatives for our district. We will now be more careful and watch their performance. At present, I see a very sad performance.

Perhaps it is time to reschedule the travelogues for 2009-10 at the Avenue Theatre. I am sure that many of the senior citizens of Downey have enjoyed movies at the Avenue for decades, before it closed.

It is now time to use this less costly facility for the travel shows, among other cultural activities. Please reconsider and reschedule.

— **Ingrid Altman,**
Downey

Culture at the Avenue Theatre

Dear Editor:
The latest suggestion for the future of the Avenue Theatre, by Jared Head of Chameleon Comedy, is a real Renaissance idea ("High Hopes for Avenue Theatre," 5/8/09).

To have a rotating program of film, stage plays, the Shakespeare and other classic firebrands, art galleries, and performance artists, would make Downey a seedbed for the arts. These are events that would not compete with the Downey Theatre because the rent at that venue is too high for start-ups, improv groups and experimental artists.

To have a small theater in a prime location is a necessity for such beginning talents. And Downtown Downey is the ideal place. We would be attracting audiences from far beyond Downey, who would shop and stroll and take refreshments on the beautifully landscaped streets. Perhaps two or three blocks on Downey Avenue would become a pedestrian mall on show nights on weekends.

I am certain that an Avenue Arts group would soon develop, a kind of foundation of local benefactors who would like to encourage live art, artists and fine films. Their contributions would help underwrite the continuing cost of the presentations.

I hope the City Council will see the possibilities that this opens up, like the transaction for Alladin's magic lamp, old building for new Avenue Arts Center, for Downey.

— **Lorine Parks,**
Downey

Trust in public figures

Dear Editor:
I must congratulate you for how much important content you got into so few lines in your recent article ("No Trust," 5/8/09).

For all too long we have as a nation excused wrongdoing and we have made excuses for those who have strayed from an honorable course.

Whether it be Freddy Mac, the SEC, a person in the Congress or some major bank who has manipulated accounts for their own gain, we generally have managed to excuse their acts and now when the whole of our financial world is near collapse we continue on as if nothing much has happened.

I want to thank you for personally saying, "Enough is enough!" Personally, I'd like to see more of the public expressing and living your beliefs. While it is a tad late the ship can still be saved with true effort to get it on a better course!

Possibly the youth of our nation can see they have been led down a road to near certain destruction if we continue to make excuses for dishonorable conduct. Fact is Manny is just the tip of the iceberg!

— **Richard B. Pridham,**
Downey

Dear Editor:
There is much to contest about your opening statements, Mr. Pierce: "Nothing in life seems real these days."

Whoa, my journalistic friend, when have children the need to simply look up to athletes?

OK, Manny and Kobe cheated. But did a real local hero (name any tenured Downey teacher or police officer worth his/her salt here) get mentioned?

The obvious point is to plan on who you trust. Athletes are obviously a bad bet.

Take your local doctor, nurse, teacher, social worker, or any other community resource provider you can name. These people are the real deal. How about focusing on them for once!

You will feel being a fan an easier and more enjoyable task, dear *Downey Patriot* editorialist!

— **Ruth Resendez,**
Downey

Food drive a success

Dear Editor:
Last Saturday was the National Association of Letter Carrier and the United States Post Service's National Food Drive. This food drive is conducted every second week in May throughout the United States.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our most heartfelt thanks to the community for their contributions to this most worthy cause. Because of the community's thoughtfulness we have collected approximately 8,000 pounds of food for our charities: Downey PTA HELPS and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.

The community can be proud they have helped a lot of people. I also would like to take a moment to thank all the letter carriers who put forth the extra effort on Saturday to deliver their routes and collect all the food. Thank you, one and all.

— **JoAnne Davis,**
Letter Carrier, United States Postal Service
Editor's note: See a picture from the event on Page 13

California teachers oppose Prop. 1A

By Marty Hittelman, president, California Federation of Teachers

The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) opposes Prop. 1A because our leaders look at the "whole child" when evaluating public policy. Students are affected by what takes place outside, as well as inside, the classroom. Prop. 1A would force deep cuts to the non-Prop 98 portion of the state budget, especially public health and services to children in poverty, seniors and the disabled. Educators know that children who come to school sick or hungry cannot learn.

Prop. 1A will cut billions of dollars from education and other funding that students need within a few years.

Prop. 1A will cut higher education, which is not protected by Prop. 98. The cap on the state budget will require ongoing cuts to the California State University and University of California, or force student fee increases, or both, even in good times. CSU student fees have risen more than 110% since 2002. UC students have faced similar increases. Prop 1A will continue the trend of pricing working families out of a university education.

When combined with Prop. 1B (which CFT supports), Prop. 1A would mandate the payback of Prop. 98 monies owed to schools. But that is money already owed to the schools. If Prop. 1A fails, educators will seek other ways, through the courts, for example, of recapturing those funds. Prop. 1A is bad public policy. There are other avenues to ensure the payment of past-due Prop. 98 monies, CFT opposes.

In addition, Prop. 1A doesn't do what it says it will. Read the text for yourself. It fixes nothing in the state budget process, and digs the fiscal



CORRECTION: A photo in last week's issue about Rio San Gabriel Elementary's victory at the Carnival of Champions included an accompanying photograph of a fifth-grade athlete. The photo did not include a caption, but for clarification purposes the student was Juan Rivera, a student at Old River Elementary School.

Humane standards for hens

Dear Editor:
If out-of-stage egg producers don't want their eggs to rot away in the supermarkets, they should at least give their hens enough space to spread their wings.

California voters overwhelmingly supported Proposition 2 because we believe that it's unethical to cram birds in tiny, filthy cages. For that reason, we should support AB 1437 – the bill that will require out-of-stage egg companies to comply with our more humane standards. I believe that the best way to help hens is to not buy eggs at all, but if AB 1437 passes, it will help lessen the suffering of countless hens around the country, and that's something everyone, everywhere can get behind.

— **Laura Frisk,**
Encinitas, Calif.

Affordable housing's negative stigma

Dear Editor:
In this democracy, there are many unfortunate people who have, through no fault of their own, lost their jobs. Many of these people have families, including children, who are American citizens, who have not committed any crimes.

Since these people have no income, they cannot afford over \$1,000 rent, and rents continuously are raised every year. I do not understand why Jonathan Brownlee calls these people "not what we want or need for our community" (Letters to the Editor, 5/1/09). Since when are American families not welcomed in a community?

Can Mr. Brownlee tell the community where "these people" are supposed to live if there is no affordable housing, like there is in England, Canada and many other western industrialized countries?

"These people" are American citizens who have not committed any crimes and it is barbaric to force them to live on the unsafe streets. According to the news, people who live on the streets have been shot to death, burned to death, robbed and beaten, in addition to not having access to healthful, sanitary living.

This is an especially serious problem for senior citizens, many of whom are living in a fixed income. A Kaiser Permanente spokesperson said, "More people are living into their 90's and early 100's." With the continuously rising rent, where are these people supposed to live?

I've lived in this country all my life and I've never seen such a disregard for the survival (housing, safety, etc.) of American citizens who have not committed any crime. In political science we learned, "If it happens to someone today, it can happen to you and your family tomorrow. No one has a lease on life. No one has any guarantees of what tomorrow brings."

It appears as though the citizens of Downey should speak up for their unfortunate neighbors who, through no fault of their own, have lost their jobs (California has a higher unemployment rate than many other states), and try to help them get affordable housing and stay out of harms way (living on the streets, which would ruin Downey faster than anything else).

I'm proud to know a developer who cares about people enough to help them live a safe, decent life where they can contribute to their families, and Downey.

— **H.L. Julian,**
Downey

The Downey Patriot

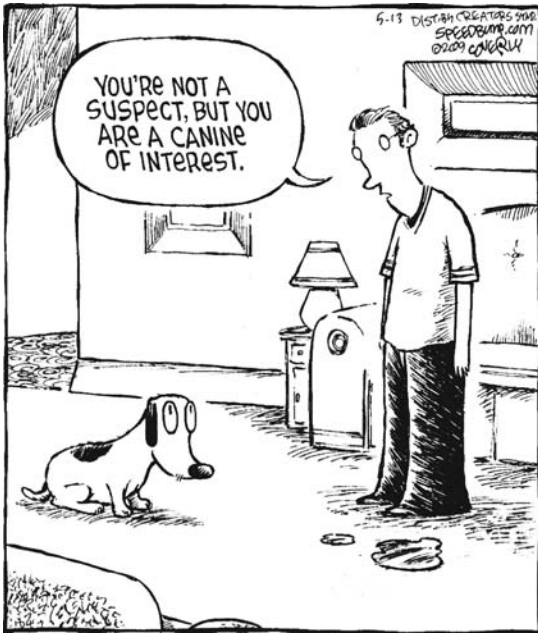
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For May

- Fri. May 15: **Car wash fundraiser**, Downey High School, 4 p.m.
- Sat. May 16: **Spinal cord conference**, Rancho Los Amigos, 10 a.m.
- Sat. May 16: **Fashion show**, Woman's Club of Downey Clubhouse, 11 a.m.
- Sat. May 16: **Wine tasting**, OLPH School, 6 p.m.
- Sun. May 17: **Paralympic sports festival**, Apollo Park, 10 a.m.
- Thurs. May 21: **Warren choir concert**, Downey First Christian Church, 7 p.m.

City Meetings

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

- 2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: **American Legion Auxiliary #270**, at United Methodist Church, for info. call 923-2481.
- 2nd Mon., 3 p.m.: **Keep Downey Beautiful**, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7159.
- 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Numismatists**, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

Tuesdays

- 9 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Pat Rooney at 923-5352.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
- 12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information call Brian Saylor at 927-2000.
- 6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call John McAllister 869-0928.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
- 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: **Sertoma Club**, at Cafe 'N Stuff, for information call (562) 927-6438.
- 2nd Tues., 6 p.m.: **Downey Fly Fishers**, at Apollo Park, for information call 425-7936.
- 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m.: **Community Emergency Response Team meeting**, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
- 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: **Writer's Workshop West**, at at Downey High School library, for info call 862-3106.

Wednesdays

- 7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
- 1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park.
- 1st Weds., 10 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call Barbara Briley-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.

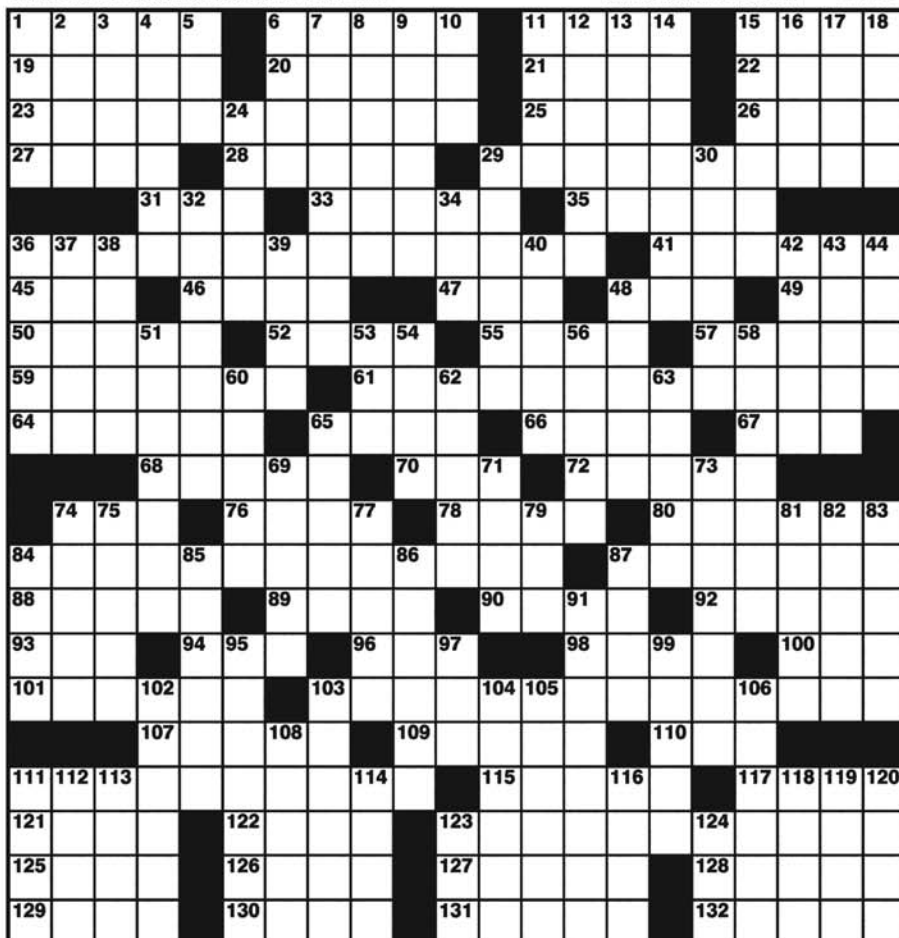
On This Day...

- May 15, 1886:** American poet Emily Dickinson dies at her Massachusetts home. She was 55.
- 1940:** Nylon stockings go on sale in the United States.
- 1942:** As a result of the war, 17 states begin rationing gasoline. Each person typically received between 3-8 gallons of gasoline per week. Exceptions were made for doctors, police officers, etc.
- 1970:** Police shoot and kill two black student protestors at Jackson State University in Mississippi.
- 2006:** Saddam Hussein refuses to enter a plea as an Iraqi judge charges him with crimes against humanity.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
SOUND THINKING: Listen and learn
 by Doug Peterson

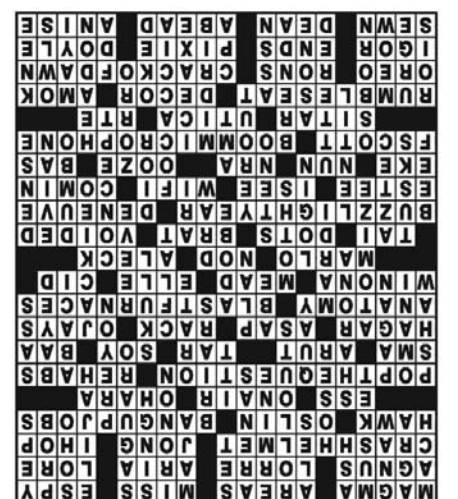
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

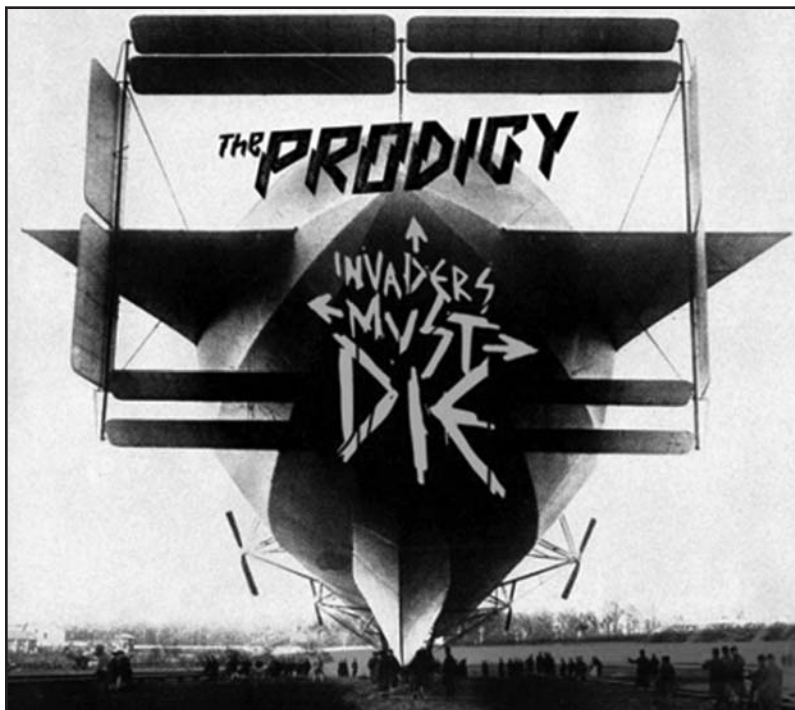
The first starring role for Peter Lorre (20 Across) was the 1931 Fritz Lang film "M." Arthur Conan Doyle (128 Across) debuted Sherlock Holmes in his 1887 novel "A Study in Scarlet." Fiji native Vijay Singh (13 Down) has won the most PGA tour events of anyone not from the U.S.





CD Review

By: Keysi Carrasco, Intern



The eagerly anticipated fifth studio album, *Invaders Must Die*, by The Prodigy was finally released to their American fans on March 3. This is the first album in five years that the British hardcore electronic rock band has released and is also the first album under the new band label, Take Me to the Hospital.

The band was a huge hit in the early 1990s with hardcore ravers and technoheads; many of which are glad that they have continued to keep their old-school ways with their new albums while still adding a few new simple touches and sounds.

The opening track "Invaders Must Die" definitely shows how far the band has come and almost makes you laugh when you listen to the lyrics. With its opening line, "We are The Prodigy," then followed up by, "Invaders must die," it makes you wonder what the band is trying to say. It seems as if they are letting everyone know that they are back and for all others to step aside, which is pretty amusing when you think about the other bands trying to step up to the plate like "Hadouken!"

Invaders Must Die is the first album to feature all three band members since 1997 and even features James Rushnet, from Does It Offend You, Yeah? as a co-producer on the tracks "Omen" and "Invaders Must Die." Dave Grohl, from Foo Fighters was also featured on drums for the tracks "Run with the Wolves" and the ending song "Stand Up," which off a sense of ending coming to the night and for the club-goers to return home.

Invaders Must Die comes with a CD and a bonus DVD that

includes a few songs from the album. The album runs for \$14.99 at Best Buy and many other stores like Target.

The album was a huge success in the U.K. making it to the top of the charts and even made it to the top five in many other countries. When released to the U.S. it opened at No. 117 on the charts but quickly jumped to No. 58 within the second week.

While it may not be too high on the charts for the U.S. Billboard, it is still obvious that the band is a huge hit worldwide with its great electronic beats and rave dance tracks, making it an album that definitely belongs on your iTunes playlist.



Golden Bear Awards 09

By: Michelle Muller, Intern

The Downey Theatre was the place to be for Warren's Golden Bear Awards on March 27, where students who excelled in different areas of study were recognized for their achievements.

The Grand Golden Bear Winner for the 2008-2009 school year was Charlene Ramos. Not only was Ramos recognized as Grand Golden Bear, but was also recognized for her outstanding achievements and performance in both English and Social Science.

The plaque winners of the night were Patrick Labib in the Associated Student Body (ASB) category, Mario Castillo for boys athletics, Leslie Poole for girls athletics, Daniel Mason for Business/Computers, Cristhian Santos for English Language Development, Nathalie Ramirez for Family and Consumer Science, Dana Kendall for Foreign Language, Erin Johnson for Industrial Arts, Timothy Long for Instructional Support, Michelle Müller for Journalism, Kevin Ninomiya for Mathematics, Herman Tu for Musical Instrumental, Zaneta Kim for Musical Vocal, Molly Worthy for Pep Squad, Destinee Bernal for Physical Education, Emily Gregorio for the Regional Occupational Programs/Career and Technical Education (ROP) category, Anna Wood for School Service, Richard Lee for Science, Kelly Weir for Theatre Arts, and



Nadia Kim for Visual Arts.

The event consisted of appearances made by the Downey Unified School Districts, Board of Education members which included President Mr. D. Mark Morris, member of the District Administration, Dr. Wendy L. Doty, who is the superintendent, and of course Warren's Administrative Team.

The categories for the awards varied between the many activities that students can partake in on campus other than the usual curriculum, whether it is band, choir or ROP. These might just be seen as extra curricular courses or activities a student can take part in at school, but as seen it is something in which you can be recognized if hard work is exemplified.

"The event was really entertaining," said Warren High School student Nilda Alecio. "It was interesting to see what students were recognized for what categories." Overall, there were nearly 200 students recognized for their outstanding performances throughout the school year, but only 22 were selected as recipients for a Golden Bear Award. "I wasn't surprised to see a lot those people who won the plaques win, because those that I know were always hard workers."

The Golden Bear Awards were first created back in 1989, to recognize and honor students on campus, who are "the best of the best". The potential receivers of these awards are selected by teachers who feel that the student has shown a consistent determination to do excellent academically.

Every nominated person for a Golden Bear award received a pin and certificate to recognize them for their hard work. Those students that showed exemplary determination and devotion, were awarded with the Golden Bear award, which is the highest honor that can be received in the 22 categories.

The night concluded with a gathering at the patio located outside of the Downey Theatre, were families, friends and teachers gathered discussing the results of the night after students were recognized with the awards.

Viking Awards 09

By: Jennifer Cho, Intern

Downey High held its 18th annual Viking Awards at the Downey Theatre last Thursday night.

This awards ceremony recognized outstanding academic achievement displayed by Downey High students in a wide range of subject areas.

Teachers nominated the students based on their academic achievement displayed throughout this school year. Each nominated student attended a mandatory meeting on April 24 in the gym to discuss behavior expected of a Viking Award nominee as well as take an individual picture that would appear on a video screen at the awards ceremony.

"Out of 4000 students at Downey High, about 260 were nominated for the Viking Awards," said vice principal Horacio Freijo, who coordinated the Viking Awards.

Awards are given for almost every subject area Downey High has to offer. From the nominated students in a specific subject area, some are chosen to receive a medallion, and from the group of medallion recipients, one student is chosen to receive the prestigious Viking Award statue.

The evening ceremony began promptly at 7 p.m. with ASB president Katelyn Catt leading the audience in the Pledge of Alliance, followed by Downey High's very own Jazz Choir singing of the national anthem.

Principal Tom Houts welcomed and thanked the audience for attending the event. He proceeded to introduce the Masters of Ceremony, science teacher Jeff Giles and English teacher Cara Cleek. Although they made minor errors in their speeches, they laughed nervously with the audience and joked about their mistakes.

Every Viking Award nominee completed a Student Biography Card, which provided information and interesting facts about the student. On stage, Houts interviewed recipients of the statue about their hobbies and talents as well as asking graduating seniors their plans for college.

"So, it says here on your bio card that you can belly dance," said Houts to Xiomara Anaya, the recipient of the award for English Language Development. "Could you please show us? Mr. Olariu [Jazz Choir director], could you play something on the piano for her

to dance to?"

Anaya, a senior, surprised and wowed the audience with her belly dancing.

Vincente Velasco, a senior, was challenged to hula hoop for the audience on stage.

"Your bio card says that you're really good at hula hooping, so to see just how good you are, we have a little surprise for you," said Houts. Velasco was presented with three hula hoops, and he impressed the audience with his ability to hula hoop with three hoops at once.

Matthew Apodaca, the recipient of the Performing Arts award, showed the audience his talent of improvisation by acting like a bad principal and bad doctor.

"Come to Comedy Sportz!" said Apodaca. "It's like this, only ten times better!"

Lisa Seong-Young Kim, a junior, had a very special talent. When asked on stage if it was true that she had never gotten a B since first grade, she claimed that it was true.

"My G.P.A. is 4.83," said Kim. Several seniors announced their plans for college.

Vicky Beyrooty, a senior, announced that she is attending UCLA in the fall.

"I'm going to major in engineering," said Beyrooty.

Marro Park, a senior and the recipient of the award for Social Studies, announced that he is also becoming a UCLA Bruin.

"I'm planning to major in economics," said Park.

When asked why Bernie Glasser, a history teacher at Downey, was his all-time favorite teacher, he amused the audience with his humor.

"He's my favorite teacher because he taught me that size doesn't matter," said Park, poking fun at Glasser's height. Glasser did not take offense at this joke and hugged Park on stage.

Ricardo Mayo, the valedictorian for this year's graduating senior class, announced his plans for college.

"So, just like Lisa [Kim], Ricky has never gotten a B in his life, and his G.P.A. is, oh, I don't know, a 4.9?" said Houts to the audience. "And he's been accepted to some universities called Stanford, Yale, and Princeton. Where are you going, Ricky?"

"I'm going to Princeton," said Mayo, the last recipient of the night. "I want to become a writer."

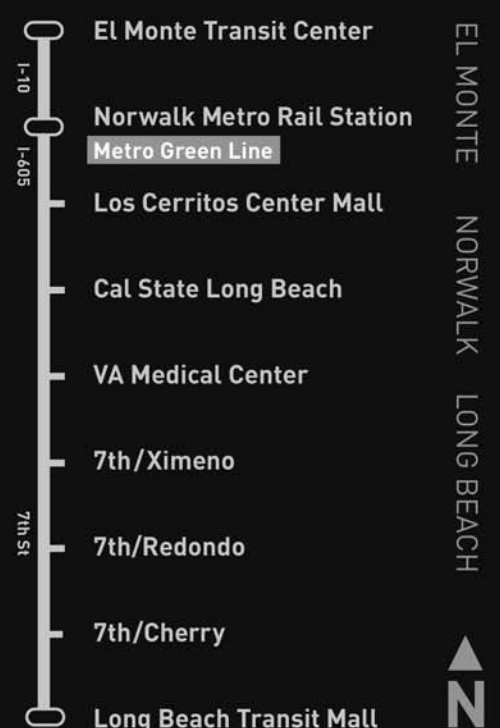
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Blue Man Group visiting casino

VALLEY CENTER – The music, comedy and multimedia theatrics of Blue Man Group are coming to the Harrah's Rincon casino near San Diego on May 30.

The critically-acclaimed show has been called "visually stunning," "wildly inventive," "and hysterically funny."

Tickets are \$55 for reserved seating for \$75-\$85 for preferred seating and can be purchased at all TicketMaster outlets.

Military uniforms can say a lot

WHITTIER – Guest speaker Chris Hansen will speak on "U.S. Military Records and Uniforms for the Past 200 Years" at tomorrow's meeting of the Whittier Area Genealogical Society.

Hansen will explain how to identify a time period by examining military uniforms in photos.

The meeting begins at 1 p.m. at the Whittier Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., in Whittier. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call (562) 941-0818.

Summer acting course offered

LONG BEACH – The Long Beach Playhouse will begin offering its Summer Youth Theatre School beginning July 13. The two-week long program is open to students entering third grade through high school.

Students will be trained in all areas of theater performance, including basic acting techniques, improvisation, text analysis, scene study, voice, and movement.

Along with the fundamental curriculum, students will be able to choose from a selection of elective classes that includes playwriting, clowning, stage combat, Shakespearean monologues, and musical theater.

The cost of the program is \$300 and each school day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the Long Beach Playhouse at (562) 494-1014, ext. 506.

Finding a deeper appreciation for Italian cuisine

DOWNEY – Patty Maneerod, a culinary manager at the Downey Olive Garden, has always been happy to go the extra mile to provide her guests with a genuine Italian dining experience.

Recently, she was willing to go the extra 4,000 miles and participate in company-sponsored training in Italy, where she and 13 fellow managers spent a week learning about Italian culture and cuisine and enhancing their culinary skills at Olive Garden's Culinary Institute of Tuscany.

Each year, Olive Garden selects approximately 100 managers to travel to Italy as part of the restaurant's ongoing culinary training program. The experience is designed to bring the genuine Italian dining experience alive for managers and, upon their return, to their restaurant and guests.

At the Culinary Institute of Tuscany, Maneerod worked under the direction of Olive Garden executive chefs to learn time-honored traditions of Italian cooking by refining ingredient selection skills, learning the secret to layering sauces and perfecting al dente pasta to create the most flavorful meals.

"Having the opportunity to train in Italy was an amazing experience that has deepened my love for Italian cuisine," Maneerod said. "Starting with the freshest ingredients is the key to creating the most flavorful dishes."

While in Italy, the group also visited Olive Garden's Riserva di Fizzano restaurant and the Rocca delle Macie winery, Olive Garden's partner and one of Italy's leading producers of Tuscan wines. There, in the scenic rolling hills of

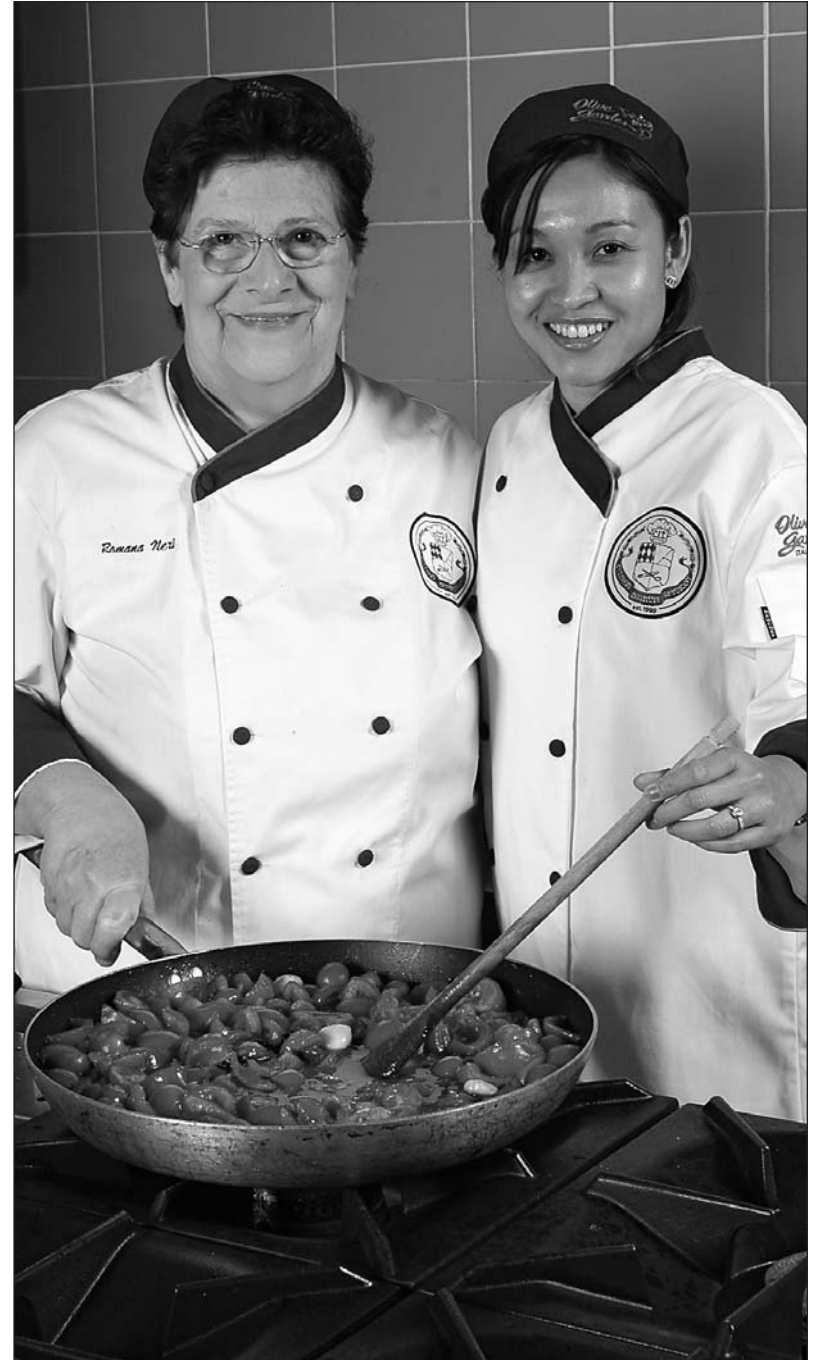
Castellina in Chianti, Italy, the class learned about the history and tradition of Italian winemaking, and gained first-hand knowledge of the important role wine plays in the Italian meal.

In addition to the time managers spent training in the kitchen and touring the wineries, the group went sightseeing throughout Rome, Florence and Tuscany, experiencing the rich history of Italy and the hospitality of its people.

"The passion that Italians have for food, wine and the entire dining experience defines how they live life...with enthusiasm and generosity," Maneerod said. "I always felt at home and I'm excited to bring that spirit, warmth and passion back to our guests."

Managers are selected to train in Tuscany by their director of operations and senior vice president based on their restaurant leadership and passion for the genuine Italian dining experience. Over the course of almost a decade, Olive Garden has sent more than 900 managers and employees to Italy as part of its immersion program designed to inspire, motivate and educate employees.

"Our goal is for each manager to return with a deeper understanding of the Italian dining experience and the relationship that exists between food, wine and service," said Valerie Insignares, executive vice president of operations for Olive Garden. "As a manager, they have a tremendous opportunity to invigorate our restaurant teams who can then share our passion and connection to Italy with every guest."



Patty Maneerod, a culinary manager at the Downey Olive Garden, traveled to Italy recently where she spent a week learning about Italian culture and cuisine.

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'Stomp' making return to Long Beach

LONG BEACH – "Stomp," the international sensation, will make its return to Long Beach at the Long Beach Terrace Theatre May 22-23.

The return of the percussive hit also brings some new surprises, with some sections of the show now updated and restructured.

"After creating new routines for 'Stomp Out Loud' in Vegas, [co-creator] Luke Cresswell and I decided it was time to rework elements of our main production, 'Stomp,'" said co-creator Steve

McNicholas. "Stomp has evolved a great deal ever since its first incarnation at the Edinburgh Festival. Every reworking has involved losing some pieces and gaining new ones, but has always stayed true to the original premise of the show: to create rhythmic music with instantly recognizable objects, and do it with an eccentric sense of character and humor."

A new piece, "Paint Cans," evolved out of the "Boxes" routine in the Las Vegas show and "Donuts" is a piece that imple-

ments huge tractor tire inner tubes, worn around the waist on a bungee cord.

For many years, show creators had looked for a "Stomp" equivalent of the Latin percussion instrument the guiro, a gourd-shaped open-ended instrument with ridges along the side that are rubbed by a wooden stick to create its sound. The climatic trash can sequence "Bins" has been restructured to include a guiro-like new found instrument: strip-lighting recycling containers.

From its beginnings as a street performance in the UK, "Stomp" has grown into an international

sensation over the past 14 years, having performed in more than 350 cities in 36 countries worldwide.

"Stomp" continues its run with the ongoing Broadway production at New York's Orpheum Theatre, a North American tour, and two productions overseas – a London company and a European tour. A production in Las Vegas from "Stomp's" creators, "Stomp Out Loud," is now playing at Planet Hollywood.

Tickets to "Stomp" in Long Beach are priced between \$27.50 and \$47.50 and are available at the Long Beach Terrace Theatre box office or all Ticketmaster outlets.

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★ STAR TREK PG-13 Fri to Sun. (9:45, 10:30, 12:50, 1:35, 3:45, 4:30) 6:45, 7:30, 9:50, 10:35; Mon to Wed. (10:30, 12:50, 1:35, 3:45, 4:30) 6:45, 7:30, 9:50, 10:35

★ GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST PG-13 (11:45, 2:15, 4:50) 7:20, 10:10

★ X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE PG-13 Fri & Sat (9:35, 10:00, 11:20, 12:05, 12:40, 2:00, 2:40, 3:20, 4:40, 5:20) 6:05, 7:25, 7:55, 8:40, 10:00, 10:40, 11:20; Sun. (9:35, 10:00, 11:20, 12:05, 12:40, 2:00, 2:40, 3:20, 4:40, 5:20) 6:05, 7:25, 7:55, 8:40, 10:00, 10:40, 11:20; Mon to Wed. (11:20, 12:05, 12:40, 2:00, 2:40, 3:20, 4:40, 5:20) 6:05, 7:25, 7:55, 8:40, 10:00, 10:40

★ OBSESSED PG-13 (11:25, 2:10, 5:00) 7:50, 10:25

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Cuban festival Sunday in L.A.

LOS ANGELES – The 15th annual Cuban Music Festival, a celebration of the Cuban Independence Day, will take place Sunday from noon to 7 p.m. at Glendale Boulevard and Park Avenue in Los Angeles.

The free family festival includes a stage with live Cuban music, a dance floor, food and art vendors, and a children's play area.

For more information, call Claudia Duval-Arrue at (818) 383-2563.

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Downey CERT teams: preparing for emergencies, one resident at a time

BY MARK SAUTER,
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER,
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Downey Fire and Police Department personnel prepare for all types of emergencies. Whether it's a non-emergency, public assistance response or a large scale fire response involving hazardous materials and the utilization of many local and outside resources all incidents demand proper staffing, specialized training and organizational skills.

However, during a disaster, the number and scope of incidents can overwhelm conventional emergency services. There are simply not enough emergency resources available to mitigate all of the problems that may be caused by a serious earthquake or other large scale disaster. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help fill the immediate needs a

community experiences when a disaster strikes.

Several years ago specially trained Downey firefighters began teaching the CERT curriculum to interested members of the community. Since that time, more than 200 Downey community members have learned the essentials of basic emergency operations through this training.

The Downey Fire Department is again offering a free CERT training course starting Saturday, May 30 and continuing on June 6th and 13th. The three Saturdays of training (24 hours total) conclude with the presentation of a FEMA CERT certification. Classes start each Saturday at 8 a.m.

The CERT program is an all-risk, all-hazard training program designed for residents and business members. This valuable program is designed to develop the physical and mental skills necessary for self-protection and to assist families, neighbors and neighborhoods in an emergency situation.

CERT is a positive and realistic

approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens may initially be on their own and faced with an emergency situation. Trained citizens can take actions that will make a difference. It is true, untrained people will volunteer to help others, despite the dangers. However, one goal of the CERT program is for graduates of the program to respond effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.

In the CERT training, citizens learn to:

- manage power and water utilities
- put out small fires,
- treat the three medical killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock,
- provide basic medical aid,
- search for and rescue victims safely,
- organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective,
- collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.

The CERT team meets the third Tuesday of each month at the headquarters fire station at 12222 Paramount Blvd. The meetings consist of a segment of related continuing education and an open meeting reviewing and planning for program offerings such as expanded training and community education. CERT members will soon be providing limited neighborhood operational training to community groups. Past CERT graduates are encouraged to contact the Fire Department if they have not been involved in the program recently.

Several Downey CERT team members have continued with their training and volunteered for assignments with the Red Cross to disasters across the country.

To sign up for the upcoming Downey CERT training class, contact the Downey Fire Department at (562) 904-7345.

Counsel's Corner: Bankruptcy, do you qualify?

Bankruptcy laws originated in England as a method of satisfying creditors by distributing a debtor's assets among creditors as payment for the debts. While the law was originally intended to satisfy creditors, it has evolved into a method of equitable treatment for both debtor and creditor. One of the primary purposes of bankruptcy is to give a debtor a new beginning in life by clearing debts so the debtor can pursue future opportunities without the pressure of debt. In the 1970s, the main reason for bankruptcy was high medical bills. Today, it is high credit card balances.



The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (BAPCPA) was signed into law by President George W. Bush on April 20, 2005, and became effective on October 17, 2005. The Act represents one of the most comprehensive overhauls of the Bankruptcy Code in more than 25 years, particularly with respect to its consumer bankruptcy reforms. The intent of Congress was to improve bankruptcy and practice with a dominant theme of restoring personal responsibility and integrity to the bankruptcy system.

The passage BAPCPA made it harder for some people to file bankruptcy. And a few filers with higher incomes are no longer allowed to use Chapter 7 bankruptcy, but will instead have to repay at least some of their debt under Chapter 13. All debtors now have to get credit counseling before they can file a bankruptcy case and additional counseling on budgeting and debt management before their debts can be wiped out. And, because the law imposes new requirements on lawyers, it is sometimes tougher to find an attorney to represent you in a bankruptcy case.

Here are some things you should know if you are contemplating bankruptcy:

Under the old rules, most filers could choose the type of bankruptcy that seemed best for them and most chose Chapter 7 bankruptcy (liquidation) over Chapter 13 bankruptcy (repayment). The new law prohibits some filers with higher incomes from using Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

Under the BAPCPA rules, the first step in figuring out whether you can file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy is to measure your "current monthly income" against the median income for a household of your size in your state. If your income is less than or equal to the median, you can file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. If it is more than the median, however, you must pass "the means test" another requirement of the new law in order to file for Chapter 7.

The purpose of the means test is to figure out whether you have enough disposable income, after subtracting certain allowed expenses and required debt payments, to make payments on a Chapter 13 plan. To find out whether you pass the means test, you subtract certain allowed expenses and debt payments from your current monthly income. If the income that's left over after these calculations is below a certain amount, you can file for Chapter 7.

If you're looking for an easy way to determine your eligibility under the means test, unfortunately there is not. The calculations are quite cumbersome. You can access this information on the United States Trustee's office web site www.usdoj.gov/ust. However, most attorneys will do the calculations for you for free of charge.

If you pass the Means test, you can file for bankruptcy under either Chapter 7 or Chapter 13. However, most people opt for chapter 7 because chapter 7 liquidates (gets rid off) all your debts.

So if you are contemplating filing for bankruptcy you should determine if you pass the means test as soon as possible, this will avoid a lot of hassle down the road.

The purpose of this column is to provide general information on the law, which is subject to change. It is not legal advice. Consult a lawyer if you have a specific legal problem.

Jason Williams passes away at 30

DOWNEY – Jason James Williams, a lifelong Downey resident who worked as a self-employed plumber, passed away May 11. He was 30.

Williams is survived by his parents, James and Brigitte Williams; fiancé, Nicole Simpson; son, Braden Williams; daughter, Aubree Williams; sister, Christy Valdez; and brother-in-law, Louie Valdez.

A memorial service will be held at Miller-Mies Mortuary today at 1 p.m.

Rancho conference focuses on spinal cord injuries

DOWNEY – Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center will host its annual Spinal Cord Injury Conference tomorrow at the Downey campus.

The conference will bring together clinical leaders in medical rehabilitation to discuss new treatment strategies, medical complications of spinal cord injuries, assistive technologies, and issues related to community reintegration of persons living with spinal cord injuries, and related topics.

"People with spinal cord injuries face very complex physical and emotional challenges in their recovery," said Jorge Orozco, CEO of Rancho. "This conference will provide practical tools and resources for clinicians to address these issues with their patients to


improve outcomes and quality of life."

Keynote speaker will be Richard Anderson, professor of neuroscience in the division of biology at the California Institute of Technology. He will discuss developments in neuroprosthetics, a series of devices that can substitute a motor, sensory or cognitive modality damaged as a result of spinal cord injury.

The cost to attend the conference is \$150, which includes course materials, lunch, parking, and certificate.

For more information on the conference, call (562) 401-7972 or e-mail ranchosconfer@comcast.net.

Rancho has been one of the nation's rehabilitation leaders for more than half a century, and named one of "America's Best Hospitals" in rehabilitation by "U.S. News & World Report" for 19 consecutive years.



Alex Ceja
May 13, 1990 - April 21, 2009

Downey resident and CSULB student, Alex Ceja, passed away on April 21. Alex was born May 13, 1990 in Glendale California, to Victor and Maria Ceja. He grew up in Echo Park and in Downey, California with his four sisters, April, Chris, Stephanie and Isabella. Alex was a 4 year Warren Band Member in which he played the Tenor Sax and Mellophone. After graduating from Warren High School, Alex began to study Computer Engineering at Cal State Long Beach. We love him very much and he will continue to live on in our hearts.



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Munoz pitches no-hitter, gives Downey SGVL title

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – No means no, and in this case, it means no hits. Downey's Chris Munoz made sure of that, tossing a no hitter against rival Warren last Friday in a 5-0 victory.

Munoz continues to shine in a year that has been nothing but spectacular for him. The no hitter was not only a great personal accomplishment but with Gahr's loss to Paramount on that same

day, it also assured Downey's first San Gabriel Valley League championship in over 20 years.

In the game, Munoz also collected two more hits, one of them being another homerun, and three RBIs. Mark Palacios and Bryant De La Campa also drove in a run of their own in the game.

With the win, Downey will collect the No. 1 seed out of the SGVL for the CIF playoffs and will most likely be rewarded an easy first round game at home because of their No 2 overall ranking in the

coaches polls.

Tuesday wasn't kind to the Vikings after an 11-5 loss to Gahr but could probably be attributed to the fact that they already had league wrapped up.

Pitchers Jeremy Ruiz and Jesse Silva were both roughed up by Gahr's offense giving up 13 hits and 10 earned runs.

The Vikings wrap up the regular season on the road against Gahr today at 3:15 p.m.

OLPH going to Harrah's Casino

DOWNEY – The OLPH Women's Guild is sponsoring a daytrip to Harrah's Rincon Casino on May 19.

Cost of the trip is \$10 and includes a \$5 voucher to be used at the casino, gift shop or buffet. Free bingo will be played on the bus.

Guests must be at least 21 years old with a California ID or driver's license and must provide an emergency contact number. To reserve a seat, call Anna at (562) 923-2988.

Vaaulu homer sparks late comeback

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Downey softball manager Micah Karzen was able to describe the difference in the game against Warren on Tuesday with one name.

"Franny Vaaulu," he said. "Do I need to say anything more? She pitched pretty good and hit two bombs. There's nothing else to talk about. Franny Vaaulu was the difference in the game."

Vaaulu played hero for the Bears, who were trailing 3-1 in the bottom of the sixth inning, and hit

a 3-run homerun to put them up 5-3 which turned out to be enough for the Bears to hold on at home. Vaaulu also pitched her team to a complete game victory and all but helped wrap up a San Gabriel Valley League championship for the Bears.

"It was pretty wonderful," said Bears manager Mary Starksen about her team's victory. "There are a couple of times where Downey put the ball in play and they scored, then our girls answered back. That's kind of one of our strong points is that we respond together as a team. And

one of our mottos have been somebody has to lead and the rest will follow and I think Franny [Vaaulu] did that."

Vaaulu not only led but dragged her team to the finish line. Not only did she pitch well and keep her team in the game, but she also accounted for four of the five runs. In the 5th inning she led off with a solo homerun, finishing the game with a stat line that read 3 for 3, two homeruns, two runs and four RBIs.

"She's really peaking defensively, offensively and pitching," said Starksen. "And I can only hope for her to keep rising."

Downey opened up the scoring in the top of the fourth inning after a 2-run single by Courtney Grana. Eileen Rico started the inning with a leadoff walk, and moved to sec-

ond after Vaaulu walked Debra Lovell. The two runners moved up one more base after a wild pitch and were driven in by Grana putting the Vikings up 2-0.

The Bears would then go quietly in the bottom half of the fourth but then have Vaaulu lead the 5th inning off with her solo shot to bring her team within one.

In the top half of the sixth inning, Downey would respond with a leadoff triple by Dana Perez who would later be driven in by Katie Medina, pushing the lead back up to two at 3-1.

But in that fateful bottom half of the sixth, Warren's Tina Iosefa would drive in a run before Vaaulu's game winning 3 run homerun.

The Vikings would get one base runner in the top of the seventh but wasn't able to muster up a rally.

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- **"The Last Child"** by John Hart. A young boy hunts for his missing sister and uncovers some dark truths in his North Carolina hometown.
- **"The Secret Keepers"** by Mindy Friddle. At age 72, Emma Hanley plans to escape small-town Palmetto, South Carolina, and travel the globe. But when her fickle husband dies, Emma finds herself juggling the needs of her adult children.
- **"Shadow and Light"** by Jonathan Rabb. When an executive at the renowned German Ufa film studios is found dead, it falls to Nikolai Hoffner, a chief inspector in the Kriminalpolizei, to investigate.
- **"Summer on Blossom Street"** by Debbie Macomber. Lydia Goetz, shop owner of "A Good Yarn" on Seattle's Blossom Street, offers a class called Knit to Quit, for people who want to quit something--or someone--and start over.

Non-Fiction

- **"Beyond Red and Blue: How 12 Political Philosophies Shape American Debates"** by Peter S. Wenz. Why Americans do not divide neatly into red and blue or right and left but form coalitions across party lines on hot-button issues.
- **"Healing and Preventing Autism"** by Jenny McCarthy and Jerry Kartzinel, M.D. The mother of an autistic son teams up with a preeminent doctor to write the first book on a new treatment for healing conditions associated with autism.
- **"I'll Scream Later"** by Marlee Matlin. The Academy Award-winning actress and role model for 30 million deaf and hearing-impaired people serves as an inspiration in overcoming adversity.
- **"Public Cowboy No. 1: the Life and Times of Gene Autry"** by Holly George-Warren. A reporter shares a detailed look at the life of an American icon.
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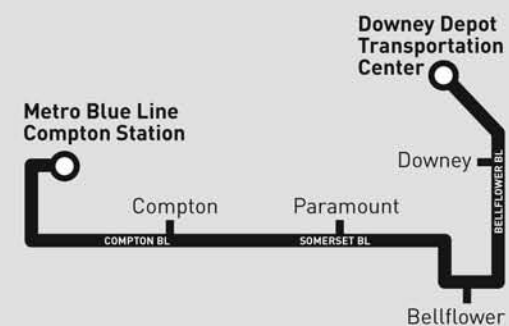
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Father's Day is June 21!!!

Send a message in
The Downey Patriot!



Father's Name
Line 2
Line 3
Line 4
Line 5

ACTUAL SIZE

The Downey Patriot will publish a special section dedicated to Father's Day. For only \$25.00, you can honor your father, grandfather or that someone special with a 1.986" by 3" announcement.

Deadlines for announcements is June 15 and will be published on June 19, 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 (Father's Name) _____

Line 2 (Your message here) _____

Line 3 _____

Line 4 _____

Line 5 _____

Billing Information
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____

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

Hats Off to the Graduates!

Congratulations,
Class of 2009!




Photo Here

Graduates Name
Line 2
Line 3
Line 4
Line 5

ACTUAL SIZE

The Downey Patriot will publish a special section dedicated to commencement and graduation ceremonies. For only \$25.00, you can honor your graduate with a 1.986" by 3" announcement. They will be listed by school and by name.

Deadlines for High School announcements is June 8 and will be published on June 12, 2009.

- Include the following information:
- ✓ Completed Information Card
 - ✓ Photo of the Graduate
 - 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:
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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 (Graduate's Name) _____

Line 2 (School) _____

Line 3 (Your message here) _____

Line 4 _____

Line 5 _____

Billing Information
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____

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

Fashion show at Woman's Club

DOWNEY – The Woman's Club of Downey will host a fashion show fundraiser tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. inside its clubhouse. Cost is \$30 per person. For tickets, call Debra Miller at (562) 619-0269.

Church hosting community picnic

DOWNEY – The Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church will host a community picnic May 25 from 11 a.m. until sundown. Shish kebab and chicken kebab dinners will be offered for \$15. There will also be raffles, prizes and games for the entire family. The community is invited to attend. The church is located at 9516 Downey Ave., north Florence Avenue.

Brotherhood hosting breakfast

DOWNEY – The Brotherhood of Temple Ner Tamid will host a Memorial Day breakfast May 25 in the temple's Fellowship Hall. The "Jewish style" breakfast begins at 10 a.m. The event includes door prizes donated by Joe Kaufman, with a grand prize of a 14K gold chain, courtesy Harold Mark. Cost is \$10 per adult Children under 12 are \$7. Reservations are necessary by sending a check to Temple Ner Tamid, Attn: Brotherhood, 10629 Lakewood Blvd., Downey, CA 90241.

Family Fun Night is on May 28

DOWNEY – The 11th annual Family Fun Night at Downey High School will get underway May 28 from 4 to 9 p.m. Admission is free and the public is invited. The event features activities for the entire family, including live bands, mariachis, multicultural dance performances, inflatable slides and jumpers for all ages, and an exotic petting zoo and pony rides for children. SEACA will also be sponsoring pet adoptions. A wide variety of ethnic foods, traditional favorites, and desserts will be sold. Last year, more than 6,000 people attended Family Fun Night. Visitors are encouraged to bring their chairs and blankets to enjoy the evening. Family Fun Night is presented on the campus of Downey High School. For more information, call vice principal Karen Dabney-Lieras at (562) 869-7301, ext. 5579.

Cindy Vega golf tourney June 16

DOWNEY – The first annual Cindy Vega Golf Classic has been scheduled for June 16. The tournament will be held at the Rio Hondo Golf Club and will include dinner afterwards. All proceeds will go towards a scholarship fund created in Vega's honor. Individuals can play in the Classic for \$125 per person or \$400 per foursome. Businesses can also sponsor a tee box and hole for \$100. Single tee boxes or hole side sponsorships are also available for \$60 each. Guests can attend the dinner only for \$25. Donations are also being accepted for a raffle. The deadline to register is May 27. If you have any questions about the event or donations, please contact Eric Watts or Rob English by e-mail at CindyVegaGolfClassic@yahoo.com or call the Warren Banker's office at 562-869-7306 ext. 5816. The Cindy Vega Scholarship Fund is a charitable organization that honors the life of Cindy Vega. Vega was a teacher and ASB director at Warren High School and was most known for her leadership, enthusiasm and generosity. She died in 2008, and a scholarship fund was established in her memory.



Downey postal employees collected more than 8,000 pounds of food from residents during a food drive last week. The food will be donated to the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and Downey PTA HELPS. Read the Letter to the Editor on Page 5.



Downey Regional Medical Center honored its auxiliary members with a special luncheon recently.

Hospital honors its auxiliary

DOWNEY – Downey Regional Medical Center honored the members of its auxiliary with a special luncheon April 29. More than 70 guests were in attendance, including auxiliary members, employees and hospital management. In remarks made during the luncheon, hospital CEO Ken Strople noted that 101 auxiliary members contributed 21,286 hours of service from April 2008 through March 2009. "According to the Independent Sector, the value of a volunteer is equal to \$19.51 per hour, which means that this group donated \$415,290 worth of service," Strople said. Auxiliary volunteers work in 19 departments throughout the hospital and also staff the gift shop. For information about auxiliary membership or other volunteer opportunities at Downey Regional, call (562) 904-5465.

Volunteers needed for hospital disaster drill

DOWNEY – Downey Regional Medical Center and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center are seeking volunteers to participate in a disaster drill on June 10 from 7 a.m. to noon. The drill will take place on both hospital campuses. Approximately 40 volunteers are needed to portray disaster victims who may be severely ill or injured. Volunteers will be asked to sign a consent form acknowledging their permission to participate and also to take their picture for training purposes. Parental consent forms are required for any minors participating. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided to volunteers. Participants will need to attend an informational meeting at the hospital on June 8. For more information or to volunteer, call Downey Regional's Education Department at (562) 904-5580.

Moravian Church to present a concert

DOWNEY – Downey Moravian Church will present a "Moravian Musicale" 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.

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<p>Carrie's May Activity FOR RENT...</p> <p>8269 DePalma ~ Downey Available June 1, 09 8951 Atlantic ~ South Gate 640 sq. ft. commercial space FOR RENT Available NOW! 3, 8953 Atlantic ~ South Gate 985 sq. ft. commercial space FOR RENT Available NOW</p>	<p>WONT LAST</p>  <p>BANK REPO! Newer 4,135 sq. ft. home 5 BD, 4 BA, North Downey location! Bank says sell \$749,900 Call Marie Picarelli (562) 618-0033</p>	<p>IN ESCROW!</p>  <p>SHORT SALE! HUGE 3 BD, 3BA Amazing Floor plan, Vacant & Move in Ready! Sold in '05 for 740k Now...\$499,000!!</p>
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<p>Cherokee Estates Charmer! 4BD, 2.75 BA, N. Downey Home w/ spacious family rm, updated kitchen w/ newer appliances & granite counters, pool size yard, 9900 sq. ft. lot, and a master bedroom. Priced at: \$635,900 Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	<p>A Real Steal! 5 BD + office, 4 BA, master suite w/ fireplace, 3,750 sq ft, 6,480 sq ft lot. Price: \$849,000! Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	<p>Investment Opportunity 3BD SFR on a 5,720 sq ft lot w/ potential to add a 2nd unit. Property has a 2 car detached garage & large yard. Perfect for either remodeling existing house or for the contractor-type looking to build on lot. Price: \$299,000 Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>

View these homes at: www.MichaelBerdelis.com



The Warren High School Choral Department will present its annual Spring Concert this Thursday at Downey First Christian Church, starting at 7 p.m. Concert tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the door.

District congratulates ROP student recognition winners

By HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Speaking before the Downey Unified School District (DUSD) Board of Education Tuesday, Phil Davis, director of Support Programs and the motivating force behind the district's successful Career Technical Education (CTE) program, put the achievement of the ten Downey High and Warren High students who took part recently in the ROP Student Recognition Competition held at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) in context:

"A total of 38,000 students attend LACOE's 22 districts, from which 140 students were asked to participate. [Averaged out], each district would have sent 6.4 students to the event. DUSD sent 10, clearly close to double the average!"

What's even more heartwarming, Davis said, paying tribute to "our great staff and hard-working students," is the fact all ten contestants for 2008-09, five each from Downey High and Warren High, all won medals.

He then introduced two "very important people," ROP counselors Antoinette Brown and Michael Frye, the first working at WHS and the other at DHS, who "deserve much of the credit for the success of the CTE program at the two sites."

The silver medal winners a) from DHS: Nancy Rodriguez (careers in education), Briann Tyson (professional dance/creative arts), Christina Vasquez (pharmacy technician), and Vicente Velasco (computer-assisted drafting); b) from WHS: Emily Gregario (film and TV production) and Nicolette Klesynski (graphic arts).

The bronze medal winners a) from DHS: Lafleche Giasson (careers in education); and b) from WHS: Ryan Ha (commercial photo), Lacy Johnson (office occupations), and Jasmin Medrano (supermarket occupations).

Davis afterwards recognized Construction Technology (CT) teacher Kent Kiess, along with his four students composing his CT class at Warren (Francisco Rivera, Ryan Robles, Richard Molina, and Ian Benton) who competed locally and placed third at the state-level SkillsUSA competition held in Fresno.

Meanwhile, Superintendent Wendy Doty announced that Davis has been named "Administrator of the Year" by the L. A. County Industrial Technology Education Association (LACITEA). Formal award ceremonies are scheduled for tomorrow at Knott's Berry Farm.

In other action, the Board:

- Accepted with gratitude cash and in-kind donations from individuals and organizations/groups including \$14,500 from the Gypsy Johnson Auxiliary in support of the

TLC Family Resource Center;

- Approved the payment of expenses for convention and conference attendance;

- Ratified the payments for special education placements;

- Approved the Career Technical Education application for 2009-10 funding associated with the Carl D. Perkins C&TE Improvement Act of 2006;

- Ratified purchase orders by the Purchasing Department;

- Ratified the issuance of payroll orders for hourly, overtime, Civic Center work performed by classified personnel, Adult School, and Food Services, through April 2009;

- Ratified B warrants;

- Approved the financial advisory service agreement (for disclosure of tax-exempt bond finances) between DUSD and Dale Scott & Col., Inc., effective May 12, 2009 through May 12, 2014, or as otherwise indicated;

- Approved the agreement with Quintessential School Systems (QSSA) for services and support of the Student Data Information System effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010;

- Approved the Workers' Compensation self-insurance service agreement with Southern California Risk Management Associates, Inc., effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010;

- Ratified the agreements between Downey Adult School (DAS) Career and Education Center and &-Day Dental Euclid and Lincoln Office, Scott A, DDS, Inc., Children's Dental Fun Land, Douglas Nguyen, DDS dba Norwalk Dental Associates of Dr. Nguyen, Alon Offir, DDS, Inc. Orthodontics, Mahesh A. Sejpal, DDS, and Smile Care Dental, to furnish practical experience to students enrolled in the Dental Assistant program; between it and GYN/OB Medical Group, to students enrolled in the Medical Assistant program; and between it and Community Pharmacy as well as Medicine Cabinet, to students enrolled in the Pharmacy Technician program;

- Authorized the advertisements for bids for the purchase of snack foods, pre-made pizzas, bread products and dry & refrigerated foods, to be charged to the Food Services fund;

- Rejected all bids associated with the Downey High School modernization of Bldgs. J, K, and N (received against Bid #08/09-12), and authorized the re-bid of same, pending review of options and revisions to scope of work, against Bid #08-09-14;

- Approved the change orders involving purchase orders for various items ranging from pre-made pizzas to credit card arrangements with various vendors, to modernization work at Warren High School (new library, classroom building), as well as that at Downey High (Building "B" construction);

- Accepted as complete electrical, fencing, backhoe, paving, and concrete work throughout the district, as well as structural steel/miscellaneous metal, aluminum, hydraulic elevator projects done related to the modernization at Warren High, and the installation of an enhanced vapor recovery (EVR) system for DUSD's transportation department—performed by various contractors;

- Approved the adjustments to the 2008-09 General Fund restricted and unrestricted budgets, as well as to the restricted 2008-09 Deferred Maintenance Fund and County School Facilities Fund budgets;

- Acknowledged the receipt of claim dated April 2, 2009 (received on April 7, 2008), submitted by State Farm Insurance Companies, on behalf of Juan A. Soria, and denied the claim in compliance with Government Code Section 911-15 and 945;

- Approved routine Personnel items until subsequent action is taken by the Board of Education;

- Tabled the abolishment of 45 classified positions (mostly instructional assistants) to the June 9 meeting, to make sure its context and impact are clear to all parties concerned;

- Approved the establishment of five new positions corresponding to the current classification of Senior Instructional Assistant (with varying pay grades), farmed out to Rio San Gabriel, Carpenter, West Middle School, and Downey High School;

- Approved the changes to the duties of Utility Worker as shown in revised duty statement, effective May 12, 2009;

- Approved a maximum of 200 words for candidate statements for the November 3, 2009 Board of Education election (candidate to pay filing cost at filing time);

- Approved the proposed middle school and high school textbooks for the 2009-10 school year;

- Reviewed the high school algebra textbooks for adoption for the 2009-10 school year;

- Approved the designation of the Board members to the different graduation ceremonies;

- Approved the Memorandum of Understanding establishing a special hourly summer school rate for a speech and language pathologist for the 08-09 school year only;

- Approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Downey Education Association regarding the temporary suspension of Article VII, Part A (class size for grades 1-3);

- Authorized the Declaration of Need for fully qualified educators for the 2009-10 school year; and

- Endorsed the actions taken by the Superintendent on all student cases.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be a regular one to be held at 5 p.m. on June 9 at the Gallegos Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave.