

The Downey Patriot



Foster's loyalty to DRMC
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Arc installs new board
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Summer fashion tips for teens
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Friday, July 10, 2009

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

Couple makes good music together

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

Larry and Marge Lewis, like many in Downey, epitomize the American Dream.

Each has received a solid education, Larry earning civil engineering and MBA degrees from USC, and Marge coming out of Immaculate Heart College in Hollywood with a history and elementary education degree. Larry would go on and rack up more than 37 years service with the Los Angeles Department of Public Works until his retirement in 1995, while Marge (her full first name: Margery) would teach second grade in Rosemead for eight years.

They had married in June of 1964, the year they moved to Downey.

Today in their retirement years, their house in Downey is the setting to regular get-togethers with their three daughters and their husbands, as well as their two sons and their wives, and their grandchildren now numbering seven, the eldest 10 years old and the youngest a mere three weeks old.

The eldest daughter is a chemist living in Long Beach, a second daughter lives in Fullerton and is a high school teacher while a third daughter works as a freelance editor in Thousand Oaks. One son is a physical therapist in Long Beach; the other son is a Redondo Beach businessman.

See LEWIS, page 2



Fireworks lit up the Downey sky for 25 minutes on July 4. Photo by Art Montoya

City is happy with firework show

BY MARK SAUTER,
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER,
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

DOWNEY – The City of Downey would like to thank everyone who helped make the Discovery Sports Complex grand opening and 4th of July celebration a great success. The event drew thousands of people from around the area.

An estimated 1,200 people were in attendance for the morning ribbon-cutting and sports activities.

Twenty-four youth teams competed in baseball, softball, football and soccer games to help celebrate the sports park grand opening festivities. Approximately 5,000 community residents attended the evening fireworks show. Many more residents enjoyed the fireworks display from the neighborhoods and parking areas outside the Sports Complex.

Mayor Mario Guerra was especially pleased with the all-day event.

"My wish was for a memorable day at a special place in our city," he said. "My hope was a fun time for families and kids. My goal was to make sure we had a safe day and that no one was hurt. My dream was for a day that we can all look back on and know it was historic for our city. Every one of these expectations was exceeded and so much more."

City officials spent time during the six weeks leading up to the event planning for the big day and finishing the final park improvements. The collaborative efforts of the Police, Fire, Community Services and Public Works departments

Fireworks cause small fires

DOWNEY – Over the Fourth of July weekend, the Downey Fire Department reported that no one was seriously injured and that there were no major firework-related fires.

Firefighters, however, responded to eight small fires in trees and bushes. There was no damage to any structures aside from one house on Gunderson Avenue that experienced \$2,500 worth of roof damage from an illegal bottle rocket.

—Stephanie Cobau

ments preparing for the grand opening proved to be very effective. The event was controlled using the same type of management structure as an emergency incident. Thankfully, the event proved to be a safe and enjoyable experience for all who attended and worked at the event. There were no major problems.

City staff members were aware of the parking situation and had anticipated a possible overflow of vehicles. Special drop-off only lanes on Clark Avenue were established to help residents reduce their need to carry items long distances. Luckily, the two L.A. County owned parking lots were made

available on Imperial Highway. This helped alleviate part of the problem.

City transit buses were deployed to assist residents moving from the parking lots on Imperial. The buses also circled the Downey Landing parking lot. At the end of the much-anticipated fireworks show, the crowd quickly dispersed calmly and safely.

The city is most grateful for all the sponsors who showed their support. The three major sponsors were Kaiser Permanente who committed \$7,000 of event support, Supervisor Don Knabe with \$2,000 and Coca-Cola with \$5,000 of Coca-Cola products.

Parking issues aside, fireworks were great

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

Let me start by saying that I supported the city's decision to pay roughly \$25,000 for a 25-minute firework show at Discovery Sports Complex last Saturday. (The original figure was \$50,000 but community donations brought the number down.)

If the city of Downey can afford to dole out raises to its top management officials every six months (maybe I'm exaggerating, but only a little) and create new job titles for disenfranchised employees, then it can afford to produce a firework show for its residents -- especially when said residents are in the throes of a recession.

That said, I may be a little biased in my assessment of the firework show, which I can effectively review using only three words and a comma: crowded, but awesome.

I'm breaking up my review into three parts: the good, the great and the ugly.

THE GOOD:

•If the firework show becomes an annual tradition (and why shouldn't it?), Downey will finally have an event that brings the entire community together at the same time.

That's not to dismiss the Street Faire, produced annually by the Downey Chamber of Commerce. The Street Faire is a great all-day event, whereas the firework show brings the entire community together -- old and young residents alike -- for a collective 25 minutes.

Indeed, much of the fun Saturday was just being together as a community. Yes, I know that sounds corny, but it's true. Children were bouncing around in the bounce houses, seniors were lounging in chairs under rainbow-colored umbrellas, and teens were in groups of friends, just hanging out and being teenagers.

During the time I was at the park, it was relaxed and peaceful.

See FIREWORKS, page 5

Officials mull housing options downtown

■ City to decide how much affordable housing to put downtown.

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – A subcommittee composed of Mayor Mario Guerra and Councilman Roger Brossmer put off a decision Tuesday on whether proposed downtown housing should be made 100 percent affordable.

Approximately 50 units will be built at the city-owned Avenue Theatre and Verizon building, city officials said. It's now up to the city to decide whether 70 or 100 percent of the units will be made available for affordable housing.

Because the city purchased the properties with funds made specific for affordable housing, any units not meeting that criteria would need to be subsidized by the city.

According to statistics presented by city officials and Alfredo Izmatjtovich, a representative from developer National Core, a tenant's household income could not

exceed approximately \$40,000. A 2-bedroom unit would rent for about \$1,022 per month, below the market rate of \$1,400 per month, officials said.

A similar complex in Bell Gardens yielded 1,200 applications for 73 units, according to Izmatjtovich. The units sometimes serve as stepping stones for young families who eventually move into homeownership, he said.

Brossmer, however, expressed skepticism that a family living on \$40,000 a year – and paying \$1,000 in rent each month – would have enough disposable income to adequately support downtown businesses.

Brossmer and Guerra requested more information and will make their recommendation at a later time.

Under a "best-case scenario," construction on the units could begin in early 2010. Construction would take approximately 14 months to complete, officials said.

The downtown subcommittee meets on an as-needed basis inside a third-floor conference room at City Hall.

Concert series goes country

DOWNEY – The J.B. Walker Band will be joined by fellow country western group Chaparral when they perform a free concert this Wednesday at Furman Park.

The performance is part of the city of Downey's annual Twilight Summer Concert Series. The concert begins at 7 p.m.

The J.B. Walker Band is made up of Johnny Blankenship (vocalist, guitar, fiddle, 5-string banjo, mandolin and harmonica), Harvey Walker (baritone vocals, guitar and 4-string banjo), Buck Felts (bass), Bob Felts (drums) and JayDee Maness (steel guitar).

The Chaparral band includes Blankenship, Walker and Don Richardson (tenor vocals, string bass, 4-string banjo and guitar). All three have been inducted into the

Western Music Associations' Hall of Fame.

Individually and collectively, Chaparral has performed with Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, Sons of the Pioneers, Riders in the Sky, Rex Allen (junior and senior), Larry Gatlin, Merle Haggard, Charlie Daniels and more.

They have traveled around the world playing their blend of country, bluegrass and swing tunes. The band has also been featured on TV and in movies starring Bette Midler, Dennis Weaver and Clint Eastwood.

Residents are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets to the free concert. The Downey Rose Float Association will be selling food.

The summer concert series will continue through Aug. 26.



Chaparral, above, will perform Wednesday at Furman Park.

Lewis: Community is indebted to Larry and Marge Lewis.

Continued from page 1

Much to the benefit of the community, Larry and Marge haven't ceased to be useful and productive. A longtime member of the Downey Symphonic Society, Larry is in his sixth consecutive year as its president and it looks like the job is his for as long as he wants it. He says, "My criteria for doing something is, first, it's got to be worthwhile and, second, I have to enjoy it. God didn't put me here to be miserable."

Typical of his other service affiliations, he also has a long service history with the Downey YMCA board, the Unified Financial Credit Union in Whittier, David Wilson & Associates (the civil engineering support group at USC), is currently serving as committee chair of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and is a 20-year member of Kiwanis.

As well Marge has always been active in the community particularly with the Assistance League of Downey: she is at present in charge of Operation School Bell. She has also been associated with PTA H.E.L.P.S. for 20 years, and is its current treasurer.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church has been their spiritual base from day one; Larry is the longest-serving member of the Parish Finance Council.

Not surprisingly, both have been through the chairs of practically every service club they've joined.

Why their involvement with music in Downey? From age 7 Larry took violin lessons till he was about 14 or so, "until other interests took over." ("I enjoyed the music but not the practice"). He was part of the orchestra in elementary and junior high. One way Larry relaxes is listen to classical music, favoring Beethoven, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, and Rossini. Marge took piano lessons as a youth and has since high school enjoyed singing in choral groups.

In addition to her longtime membership with the Society's fund-raising arm, the Downey



Symphony Guild, Marge has been warbling with the Bellflower Civic Chorus for 20 years.

They point, though, to their eldest Long Beach-based 10-year old granddaughter as the real musical talent. They say her musical genes come from her dad's side of the family because of its strong musical tradition. The child has so far shown steady progress with the (shades of grandpa) violin.

Larry's sports activities in high school centered around cross country, football and tennis. Of the latter, he says: "I had a good forehand, a weak backhand, a great first serve that didn't go in, and a slow second serve, which my tennis opponent of course took advantage of."

"I was a fantastic bridge player, though," he says, permitting himself a bit of immodesty. "There was a time when I competed in L. A. bridge tournaments."

Today, bicycling down from Florence Avenue to Carson Street

along the 605 freeway with a few buddies is a Tuesday and Friday morning ritual, highlighted by coffee and a hearty breakfast at the Heartwell Golf Course coffee shop. Of Russian descent (his grandpa came from the Lake Baiku area), Larry says he enjoys "anything and everything" Marge cooks, but at the end of the day "I'm really a meat-and-potatoes guy." Especially with wine.

Marge is of Irish and German ancestry, and is a frequent visitor to the city library. She prefers works of fiction and biography by such authors as Eudora Welty, Joan Didion, and Joyce Carol Oates. More and more, Larry's reading has focused on business literature (Fortune, Forbes, Business Week, etc.).

Their travels have included trips to Europe a number of times and a package tour to China (the Yangtze, Three Gorges Dam, etc.) two years ago. An annual trip to Maui is an invigorating part of

their lives.

The witty, well-informed, pragmatic Lester Lawrence Lewis (Larry's full name) doesn't lack for opinions. His comment on downtown redevelopment, reflecting his engineering background: "If change has to occur, it's got to be effected rationally. It's got to be lucid and consistent with zoning [guidelines] and the concerns of the community."

On physical reality: "This world couldn't have happened by chance. There's something bigger than us. Thus I believe in a prime mover. If we try to do good with our gifts, our time, and so on, and not hurt others, this is the constructive way to go."

"We've been very, very fortunate," he says. "I've done many good things in my life, but the smartest thing I did was marrying Marge."



Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bonasoro have announced the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer, to Ryan Alvaraz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Alvaraz, of Santa Maria. The wedding will take place June 26, 2010 in Pasadena. Jennifer is the granddaughter of Bill and the late Sharon Dodero of Mesquite, Nev. and Priscilla and the late Pete Bonasoro, who lived in Downey for more than 55 years.

Fundraiser for Avenue group

DOWNEY - A fundraiser to benefit the newly-formed ACAF (Avenue Cultural Arts Foundation) will take place tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Mambo Grill.

Chameleon Comedy, a local improv group, will provide entertainment. A portion of the night's proceeds will go towards the ACAF.

The community is invited to attend.

Art exhibit opens next week

DOWNEY - Original drawings, paintings and photographs by local emerging and established artists will be exhibited July 17-19 at Granata's Italian Villa.

The Artists Night Art Exhibition, sponsored by DowneyConnect.com, will feature more than 20 art pieces from 10 artists. The show will commence with its opening night July 17 at 7 p.m.

All art will be available for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting a scholarship fund for Downey students.

The exhibit will be open July 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. (reception at 7 p.m.); July 18 from 12:30-9:30 p.m.; and July 19 from 12:30-9:30 p.m.

Admission to the exhibit is free. For more information, call Luis Sanchez at (562) 334-6540 or visit www.theartistsnight.com.

Park Water hires new executive

DOWNEY - A former Bank of America executive has joined the corporate staff of Park Water Company, a Downey-based regulated public water utility.

Christopher Schilling was named co-chief executive officer along with Henry Wheeler Jr., company officials announced. The appointments, approved by Park Water Company's board of directors, became effective June 22.

Prior to joining Park Water, Schilling headed international debt placements for Bank of America-Merrill Lynch in London. He is already well-known to Park Water, having been an advisor to its board for more than 10 years.

Schilling received a BA in Economics and an MBA from Columbia University.



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Students who need grades should request them now

DOWNEY – The Downey Unified School District is in the process of converting to a new student information management system.

As a result, both current and former DUSD students who need transcripts, verification of attendance, or other school records must make their request by July 28.

The transfer of information is scheduled for Aug. 3-14, the two weeks immediately following the close of high school summer school.

Downey, Warren and Columbus high school offices will be closed during this time and will reopen Aug. 17. Elementary and middle schools will reopen Aug. 20.

As a result of the data conversion, school and district computers will not be able to access student grades or transcripts during the two-week period.

Haberbusch to speak July 28

DOWNEY – David Haberbusch of Haberbusch & Associates, LLP will be the guest speaker at the July 28 meeting of Rise 'N Shine Networking at Downey Brewing Company.

Haberbusch will speak on "ABC: Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors."

The meeting begins at 7:30 a.m. and cost is an order from the menu. RSVP by calling the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191.

Youth conference at local church

DOWNEY – The Love, Peace and Happiness Family Christian Church will host a 5-day conference specifically for children July 15-19.

The theme of the conference is "Called to Duty" and will feature guest speakers, dancers, Christian rap, drama productions, raffles and more.

The conference will include nightly services at 7:30 p.m. before culminating with a July 19 celebration at 3 p.m.

The church is located at 11022 Old River School Rd. For more information, call (800) 752-6552 or (562) 806-9890.

Latham installed in new role

DOWNEY – Dan Latham, an administrator with Warren High School's athletic department, has been installed as president-elect of the California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD).

Latham has already begun serving for the 2009-10 school year, officials said.

Kathleen Cordes, a retired administrator at Miramar College, is president of CAHPERD, a nonprofit organization that promotes health and dance programs in schools and communities.

Blood drive at Temple

DOWNEY – A blood drive to benefit the American Red Cross will be held July 23 at Temple Ner Tamid of Downey, 10629 Lakewood Blvd., from 2-8 p.m.

All participants will receive a coupon from Chili's restaurant. To schedule an appointment, call Cheryl Brownstein at (562) 861-9276 or log onto www.givelife.org and use sponsor code "nertamid".

Mile-long yard sale July 25

DOWNEY – The mile-long yard sale held each year along Pangborn Avenue will take place this year on July 25.

The sale, now in its ninth year, is held on Pangborn between Florence Avenue and Firestone Boulevard. More than 30 homes typically participate.

The sale begins at 7 a.m. and ends at noon.



Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County installed Raul Lopez as president of its board of directors at a dinner last month at the Rio Hondo Event Center. Pictured in the top row, from left: Steve Guzman, Lopez, Steve Roberson, Betty Morse, Ray Brown, David Gafin, John Lacey, Howard Morck, Marvin Newby, Pat Heineke and Dianne Lumsdaine. Center row: Meredith Perkins and Gladys Castro. Seated: Harriett Ibbetson for her son Greg, Lizeth Sanchez, Henry Marquez, Gladys Henderson, Lupe Tavera and Karen Avery.

History of flower market shared

DOWNEY – Author Peggi Ridgway will give a history of the Los Angeles Flower Market when she presents a slideshow presentation July 22 at the Downey City Library.

Ridgway, author of "Sending Flowers to America," will give her presentation in the Cornack Room from 7-8:30 p.m.

With more than 350 photos, the book records the contributions made by European immigrants to California's agricultural history. Their stories and anecdotes of years gone by are told in this book, along with photos.

The book showcases the role they played in supplying flowers to florists and consumers nationally during the years before imports, when fresh flowers could only be obtained domestically and California was the state that supplied them throughout the year.

Crucial to the book is the role played by the Los Angeles Flower Market, the "grand central" of the Southern California flower industry since its inception in the early 1900s.

Project manager Ridgway authored the main chronological history, sidebar stories and many of the family stories published in the book.

Ridgway has served as editor of The Bloomin' News, the bi-monthly newsmagazine of the Los Angeles Flower Market, since 1999 and is an award-winning freelance writer of more than 500 feature articles.

Everyone who attends the program will be entered in a drawing to win a free copy of "Sending Flowers to America."

For reservations, call the Adult Information desk at (562) 904-7360, ext. 1320.

Chamber honoring businesses

DOWNEY – The Downey Chamber of Commerce will honor outstanding volunteers and businesses at a luncheon July 31 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

The Chamber will recognize its small and large businesses of the year, outstanding committee persons of the year, director of the year, and volunteer of the year.

Cost for the lunch is \$25. RSVPs are due by July 24 by calling (562) 923-2191.

Roster spots filling up fast

DOWNEY – Downey Youth Football will hold their final day of registration tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Apollo Park.

Students will be placed on a waiting list for flag football (ages 5-7), Mitey Mite (7-9), Jr. PeeWee (8-10) and PeeWee (9-11). A few spots remain on the remaining teams.

Cost for flag football is \$130, tackle football is \$185 and cheerleading is \$100. Raffle tickets are available to help offset the cost.

A parent meeting will be held July 18 and the first day of practice is July 27.

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

Rise 'N Shine meeting Tuesday

DOWNEY – Elena Sanchez of Bright Health Physicians will be one of two featured speakers Tuesday morning at Downey Brewing Company.

Also scheduled to speak is Rick Fragoso of Just Wash It Pressure Washing.

The meeting is part of Rise 'N Shine Networking and begins at 7:30 a.m. Cost to attend is an order from the menu.

RSVP by calling the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191.

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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has made significant changes to the energy efficiency tax credits and gives homeowners greater credits on energy efficient home improvements. **For a limited time only**, the Federal Government is offering up to a \$1,500.00 Tax Credit and your local utility companies are offering up to **\$200.00 in CASH REBATES** when you invest in a new energy saving air conditioning system or furnace. Now, including rebates, discounts, tax credits etc., your total savings can be as much as **\$3,000.00!**

Did you know...? If your old furnace or air conditioning system is more than 12 years old you may be paying the utility company as much as 40 to 50% more than you should be in operating costs! With a new, energy efficient furnace or air conditioning system, the utility savings alone can offset the monthly payments! Financing is available.

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Expo Line Construction Impacts Blue Line
 Construction on the downtown segment of the future Expo Line between LA and Culver City is resulting in late night service delays for the Metro Blue Line. Sunday through Thursday after 8pm Blue Line trains will only run every 30 minutes. The delays are in effect through October.

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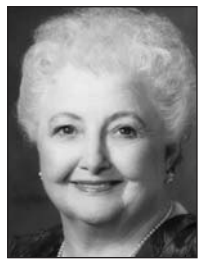
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Martha Hoopes, 89, passes away at home

DOWNEY – Martha Dennis Hoopes, a quilter, seamstress and member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, died at her home in Downey on July 4. She was 89.



Hoopes was born Feb. 14, 1920 in Provo, Utah to John Thomas and Zina Christeen Harris Furner Dennis. She was born 25 years to the day after her oldest sister, Merrilla.

She helped her mother run a boarding house after the death of her father at age 9. She graduated from high school and seminary in Provo.

She met Kenneth A. Hoopes in 1938 while he was attending BYU, and they were married Sept. 11, 1940 in the Salt Lake City LDS Temple.

Together they had four children. The family moved to Downey in 1953.

Hoopes was the great niece of the Prophet Joseph Smith – founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – through the lineage of his brother, Hyrum Smith, that was martyred with his prophet brother in the Carthage Jail in 1844 by an angry mob.

Hoopes served in many capacities in the church's auxiliary, including the Primary and Relief Societies and in Sunday school. She also sang in many church choirs and performed in stage plays.

She is survived by her daughters, Carole (Carl) D'Amico and Mary (Randall) Christine Redding; son, Kenneth (Isabel) James; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

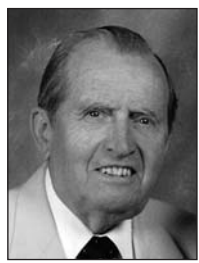
She was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Kenneth Hoopes, on June 6; son, Dennis Lyle Hoopes; and one grandchild, Carl David Borup. She was all predeceased by all eight of her siblings: Merrilla Worthington, Zina May Bird, Vera Furner, Pearl Irene Forsey, Sarah Rachel Clark, Ann Adalaide Jaussi, John Doran Dennis and William Harris Dennis.

A viewing will take place today from 9:30-10:45 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 12425 Orizaba Ave., in Downey. Funeral services will immediately follow. Interment will take place at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier.

Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary is handling the services.

Harold Frentz worked at Bank of America

DOWNEY – Harold G. Frentz, a resident of Downey, passed away June 26 with his family by his side following a long battle with leukemia. He was 90.



Frentz was born March 23, 1919. He was the oldest of four children and grew up in Waseca, Minn. After graduating from high school, he and his family moved to California.

He worked for Bank of America and retired after 40 years as a vice president.

Frentz is survived by his wife, Elsie; sister, Marion Ervin; daughters, Diane Pagenkopp and Joan Miller; grandchildren, Lori Bliss, Ron Pagenkopp, Heidi Pohl and Sheri Sanchez; and six great-grandchildren.

A viewing was held yesterday at First Baptist Church of Downey. Memorial services will take place today at 2:30 p.m. at Oneonta Congregational Church in South Pasadena.

Garstang was active in business community

DOWNEY – Robert Edward Garstang passed away June 28 at The Villa assisted-living residence in Downey. He was 98.



He was born Oct. 13, 1910 in a farmhouse in Linn, Mo. He was a resident of Downey for more than 50 years and was active in civic and community business affairs for much of that time.

Garstang came to California in 1929. His first job was with the First National Bank in downtown Los Angeles. He graduated from the American Institute of Banking and Accounting in 1936.

During WWII, he was employed as a cost accountant at North American Aviation in Inglewood. He entered the real estate business following the war, and was a member of the California Real Estate Association and the National Association of Real Estate Boards.

In 1952 he served as vice president of the Southeast Realty Board and was elected president in 1953. He was elected a director of the California Real Estate Association and continued to serve for 15 years – 10 of those years as legislative chairman.

Garstang received awards in 1963 and 1968 for his achievements from the Downey Board of Realtors and the California Real Estate Association. In 1968, Garstang joined World Savings and Loan as a loan officer and retired as vice president in 1975.

He is survived by his brothers, Thomas of Bells, Tenn. and William of Belle, Mo.; daughters, Lorraine and Janet; sons, Robert Elliott and Donald; grandchildren, Kirsten and Derek; and great-grandchildren, Zane, Mattea and Aaron.

Services were held Wednesday at Rose Hills Memorial Chapel.

Maureen Clayton passes away at 70

DOWNEY – Maureen “Chickie” Helen Ord Clayton, a 48-year resident of Downey, passed away June 30. She was 70.

She was born at Queen of Angeles Medical Center in Los Angeles. She worked as a transportation coordinator for College Hospital.

She is survived by her sons, Michael (Catherine) Ord and Kevin (Carrie) Ord; daughter, Kim (Dan) Stroman; and grandchildren, Meghann, Christopher, Matthew, Carly, Kristina, Cowen, Kayley and Kelsey.

Funeral services took place Wednesday at St. Raymond's Catholic Church in Downey, with Father John Higgins officiating. Burial took place at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier.

Murray Grieff survived by family

DOWNEY – Murray Grieff passed away June 24 at his home in Downey. He was 72.

Grieff was born in New York. He lived in Downey for five years and was employed at San Antonio Shoe Corporation in Tustin.

Grieff is survived by his daughter, Paula (Andy) Meli of Universal City, Tex.; grandchildren, Patrick Murray Grieff, John Meli and Sarah Meli, all of Universal City, Tex.; great-grandson, Patrick Murray Grieff II; and sister, Henrietta Bowers, of Los Angeles.

POET'S CORNER

God Bless These Troops Of Ours

God bless these troops of ours
And make the fighting cease
It's all within Thy powers
To bring us lasting peace.

On land, in Air, at Sea
Our troops have just one plan
To keep our country free
Protect their fellow man.

On land, at Sea, in Air
We're what they're fighting for
It's time to say a prayer
As they go off to war.

In Air, at Sea, on Land
Our fighting troops are brave
While God is in command
Long may Old Glory wave.

In Air, on Land, and Foam
God give them victory
And bring them safely home
And keep our country free.

God bless these troops of ours
In Air, on Land and Foam
Protect them by Thy powers
And bring them safely home.
—Bill Milburn,
Downey

Mel Ready active in LDS Church

DOWNEY – Mel Ready, son of Richard Levi and Elna Thayne Ready, passed away at home June 26 surrounded by family following a brief illness. He was 51.



Ready was born Jan. 7, 1958 in Bellflower. He attended Imperial Elementary, West Middle School and Warren High School, graduating in 1976. While at Warren, he was on the wrestling and football team.

Ready served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Montevideo, Uruguay from 1977-79. After returning, he married his high school sweetheart, Laura Jean Benson, on May 25, 1979 in the Los Angeles LDS Temple.

Ready worked a variety of jobs while going to school, allowing his wife to stay home with their children. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Cal State Los Angeles in 1986. He then went to work for a variety of accounting firms.

He began work for Elite Information Systems in 1998 and worked there for 10 1/2 years. His positions included manager of the support department and client relationship manager. He moved to Latham & Watkins law firm in July of 2008, where he was an accounting and finance project manager. He remained there until his death.

Ready was active in the LDS Church and served in many capacities, including as Young Men's president, as a Sunday school teacher and primary teacher, and as scoutmaster. He was called into the bishopric in October of 2006, where he served as second and then as first counselor to Bishop Bukowski of the Downey Second Ward.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Laura Jean Benson Ready; and their 10 children and four grandchildren: Bryce Benson Ready (married to Camilla Charene Thomas, children Noah Benjamin and Aaron James Ready), Jason Melvin Ready, Mariah Jean Ready Rollins (married to Daniel Nathan Rollins, children Ethan Daniel and Laura Jean Rollins), Brandon Benson Ready, Sharon Joy Ready, Tara Lynn Ready, Derrick Aaron Ready, Rebecca Ann Ready, Christal Marie Ready and Nathan James Ready.

He is also survived by his half-sister, Verda Dawn Hampton of New Mexico; brother, Marlo (Tanna) Ready of New Harmony, Utah; sister, Darla (Jimmy) Dart of Hurricane, Utah; and sister, Melissa (Daniel) Sukut of Koonska, Idaho.

A funeral took place July 2 at the Downey LDS Stake Center. He was interred at Mendon City Cemetery in Mendon, Utah on July 7.

Audrae E. Costa

April 10, 1909
To
July 10, 1998

My happy heart went with you when you were called away, and now I'm sad and lonely. I live from day to day.

My life is cold and empty. The skies are never blue, my aching heart is throbbing with memories of you.

Each day is with out purpose, the nights are filled with tears. I'm living without reason in doubts and fears.

I should not spend life grieving, but this is how I feel, I am in a web of sorrow, grief cannot conceal.

Time may heal my heartache, but no happiness I'll see 'til the LORD brings us together just as it used to be.

I miss you so much, Sweetheart.
Wally

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Count On Us Through All Stages Of Life

Fireworks: Program can be shortened.

Continued from page 1

No drunks or gang-bangers in sight. And what else can you ask for on a holiday?

(As I'm writing this I just realized I completely forgot another perennial, community-enhancing event, the Holiday Lane Parade, also produced by the Downey Chamber of Commerce. A great parade, for sure, but my opinion that a Fourth of July firework show should become an annual tradition remains the same.)

•In my informal survey of park gatherers, the Discovery Sports Complex received mostly rave reviews. The park was clean -- glistening, even -- and the picturesque Kaiser Permanente hospital and Columbia Memorial Space Center served as perfect bookends to Downey's newest park in more than 30 years.

My only complaint (besides the absence of a parking lot, but I'll get to that later), was that the baseball diamonds seemed miniature. At least one full-sized diamond would have been great for a competitive softball league for adults. (Scott Cobos, a staff writer here, is pushing for a place for Frisbee golf, but, um, I think he's alone in that.)

THE GREAT

•The best part of the firework show was the show itself. Simply put, the fireworks were awesome.

The show began at 9 p.m. exactly. By that time most people had already staked out their spot on the grass. The fireworks were huge, loud, colorful, professional and captivating (I could go on forever with the adjectives). The smiley face design was a favorite, judging by the audible gasps from the crowd.

Pyro Spectacular, producers of the show, did a magnificent job. The crowd was left impressed and longing for more.

THE UGLY

•If there's one thing that keeps people away from another firework show next year, it would be the parking, or lack thereof. Unless you were handicapped, parking was non-existent.

The city had two designated parking lots for Saturday's show, both on Imperial Highway. Shuttles were available from 5-10:30 p.m.

Still, this didn't stop people from parking (or trying to park) along Rose Avenue, James Street, or any other residential street (any available parking here went fast).

People also parked at the nearby Jiffy Lube and even at Downey Landing and made the walk over. It seemed no matter where you parked, a long walk was inevitable.

The shuttle at Parking Lot 2 (where I parked) quickly filled up, so people just camped out there. I heard similar camps broke out at Downey Landing.

Predictably, Clark Avenue was a mess immediately following the show. A mob of people overflowed into the streets as they tried to get back to their cars.

Maybe next year (if there is a next year), Downey Studios or Kaiser Permanente can lend some of their land for parking. It would alleviate a lot of the congestion and save people's feet.

The city can also cut costs next year by eliminating the daytime events and concentrating solely on the fireworks.

CONCLUSION

•Parking issues aside, the Fourth of July firework show has potential to become a community staple. It didn't do anything to alleviate the illegal fireworks being shot off throughout the city (eight bushes and trees caught fire around the city), but it definitely achieved its goal of bringing the community together.

Hooray for fireworks.

Letters to the Editor

Fireworks reaction

Dear Editor:

We and our dog do not appreciate young people shooting off powerful fire crackers outside our bedroom window up until 11:47 p.m.

Also, rockets and thrown sparklers can cause serious damage or fire to the roof of a house or car and should be limited to our local parks. Otherwise they constitute a serious injury or fire just waiting to happen, and it will.

Without better control it's time to eliminate all fireworks in Downey.

— **James Hawkins,**
Downey

Dear Editor:

[Saturday's] fireworks at Discovery Sports Complex served as a delightful alternative to the costly and dangerous fireworks at home. But perhaps next year the city will investigate the cost of renting parking at the adjacent Downey Studios movie complex.

I'm fairly certain residents would have no problem paying a \$1 or \$2 parking fee if it means avoiding a 1-mile or 2-mile walk.

— **Conrad Peters,**
Downey

Dear Editor:

Bravo to the city for a job well done Saturday with its fireworks display. My family thoroughly enjoyed the event and hope it returns next year.

— **Bryan Mitchell,**
Downey

Letters to the Editor

Keep investment private

Dear Editor:

The following may be a little hard to accept or even understand by those that have been conditioned in a philosophy of government known as collectivism but Lawrence Christon's question in his Letter to the Editor (6/19/09) does need to be answered properly rather than in a rhetorical "yes of course" fashion which he clearly intended to project.

This was his question in the context of the Avenue Theatre controversy: "After all, isn't the purpose of government, including city government, to serve the needs of the people?" The Americanist answer to this question is a resounding "No."

It is true that local police departments have as their motto: "To protect and to serve." This is not only an appropriate motto but it is also a good lead-in into what government is all about, namely, to protect the rights of individuals against those that would trample them and bring them harm. It is in this manner that government serves our needs.

Among these rights are "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," to quote a famous document. "To secure these rights, Governments are instituted," the document continues. The purpose of government in general is to be a negative force by protecting our God-given rights, as I have just alluded to. It is not to be a positive force as in doing things for people, like providing food, housing and health care for them.

This is especially relevant at the federal and state level but it also applies at the municipal level to a great extent. Just look at the Downey city budget and this will be evident. There are some small areas where we decide to deviate a little, such as paying for a library or the grand opening of a new city park, complete with wonderful firework show. But such activities are usually sponsored in part by the generous donations of us, the individuals and the business community rather than via taxation entirely.

The problem with the recent Avenue Theatre brouhaha is that both the people that are lobbying for arts and entertainment as well as the city who apparently purchased the property with "housing agency money" fail to understand the role of government as a negative force rather than as a positive one. When people start to perceive that they can vote for people who will give them what they want, whether it be housing or arts and entertainment, then the ones who can shout the loudest will get their way. Or they might not even shout at all but work quietly behind the scenes.

The problem is that if we go that way as a nation and state we will lose the freedoms we just celebrated a few days ago. Let's hope that we in Downey will not follow the example of our federal or state governments but rather help the "Avenue organizers" channel their artistic resources and talents in the private sector. And let our city officials learn a lesson namely to never again spend taxpayers money for real estate redevelopment regardless of what agency those tax dollars came from.

Investment in our great republic always came from the private sector. Put it in the public hands and expect to reap what any communist country reaps: shortages, bribery, corruption and moral failure. With Independence Day just days behind us, let's honor those that worked and fought to give us this greatest nation in history, by keeping what they have given us: a free republic.

— **Dan Cristea,**
Downey

Solar system fees

Dear Editor:

Of a dozen cities in southeast L.A. County, the city of Downey charges the most for a permit to install photo-voltaic solar systems (\$1,162), according to a survey by the Sierra Club and a story which ran last week in the Long Beach Press-Telegram.

In addition to being one of the highest fees charged by local government to install PV solar systems, Downey's method to calculate the fee is against the law established to promote the installation of renewable energy sources, according to the Sierra Club.

Downey's vaunted "green task force," created by Mayor Mario Guerra to study ways the city can save energy, should start with an investigation of the outrageous permit fee the Building Department is exploiting from property owners seeking to "go green" themselves by installing PV solar systems. The fee will exceed the savings from this renewable technology for several years, and is a disincentive to install such systems, according to the Sierra Club study.

It seems the only thing that is renewable in the city of Downey is the City Council's quest for revenue from permit and other so-called fees. Such "fees" are really taxes in disguise, which will kill off yet another industry in our city in the midst of the worst recession since the Great Depression.

The mayor talks about the savings the city hopes to reap from the 'green' measures to be recommended by his task force. The only 'green' Guerra is interested in is the money collected from property and business owners in our city in the PV solar system permit fee and hundreds of others on the city's fee schedule.

If Guerra is really interested in promoting green technology, he and other members of the Council should direct the Building Department to cut the permit fee for PV solar systems to zero. Then start on the others.

— **Brian Heyman,**
Downey

Climate bill

Dear Editor:

Capping emissions is capping economic growth. An analysis of the Waxman-Markey bill by the Heritage Foundation projects that by 2035 it would reduce aggregate gross domestic product by \$7.4 trillion. In an average year, 844,000 jobs would be destroyed, with peak years seeing unemployment rise by almost 2 million.

Consumers would pay through the nose as electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket, as President Obama once put it, by 90 percent adjusted for inflation. Inflation-adjusted gasoline prices would rise 74 percent, residential natural gas prices by 55 percent, and the average family's annual energy bill by \$1,500.

Hit hardest by all this would be the "95 percent of working families" Obama keeps mentioning as being protected from increased taxation. They are protected, that is, unless they use energy. Then they'll be hit by this draconian energy tax.

President Obama has called on the U.S. to "lead by example" on global warming. During the campaign, he said "We can't drive our SUVs and eat as much as we want and keep our homes on 72 degrees at all times, and then just expect that other countries are going to say OK."

Soon we may not be able to. Other countries can just sit back and watch Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard and the Liberal Socialist destroy us.

— **Bill Spetnagel,**
Downey



Debt and gratitude

Dear Editor:

My heart was stirred when our pastor announced at the June 21 services that over 600 people attended the funeral service of Lance Cpl. Joshua Whittle, who gave the ultimate gift for our country – his life. I was also touched at City Council when a war veteran, Mr. Johnson, spoke of Whittle's courage and in remembrance of him.

Having lost a son a few months ago, I know the pain and grief of losing someone you love dearly.

We owe such a debt of gratitude to these wonderful young men and women who choose to serve their country. We don't show them nearly the gratitude and appreciation they deserve – we can't.

I'm not sure that I should include this in this letter, but it was almost unbelievable when I read that now in Afghanistan, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI), a credible veteran of the Army and FBI, says he has watched the Mirandizing of terrorist suspects. This Miranda warning is based on the Constitution's 5th Amendment, which guarantees suspects the right to not self-incriminate or testify against themselves.

Since when did an Afghan terrorist fall under the U.S. Constitution? This edict had to come from President Obama. If Khalid Sheikh Mohammed had been Mirandized, he would never have given the information that saved many American lives.

I sometimes wonder which side our president is on. He needs to realize that young lives are in peril and war is war – not some "be nice" game.

— **Elsa Van Leuven,**
Downey

The mayor and downtown

Dear Editor:

Does Mayor Mario Guerra listen to the people of Downey? It doesn't seem so, according to his "Thoughts from the Mayor" printed in the Downey Patriot on June 19.

Guerra claims to take in consideration 115,000 people in every decision, but throws off a city's outcry as a mere issue.

The mayor claims that there has been no interest for the past six years in the Avenue Theatre and is upset as to "why it's an issue now." Because it was owned by a private company until it was bought by the city of Downey only one year ago. To think that there was no interest in it until it was put on his plate is just out of touch with his constituencies.

I, myself, looked into obtaining the theater in hopes of creating a community or repertory theater, only to hit dead-ends by being told that it was going to be a banquet hall. Just what downtown needs...another restaurant next to another restaurant next to a restaurant.

Mayor Guerra thinks that if you have enough restaurants next to each other, people will come. Wrong. You eat and go do something else. But the problem is there is nothing else. Thousands of people are not going to come all the way to Downey for another Cuban bakery. The Tropicana Cuban Bakery on Paramount does great business, but thousands?

The mayor also referenced a similar situation in Fullerton as something that didn't work. The restoration of the Fox Theater is booming there. Almost \$2 million was just given to them from the state of California to continue help with the vitalization, while big-name vendors continue to anchor there with the theater as their center point.

The Downey Theatre is more than "just a few hundred yards away" from the Avenue. And yes, the theater is very beautiful but very large and costly to maintain. However, since that theater was built in 1970, why is the council just now getting around to "exploring ways to fully utilize its potential"?

When the people of Downey went to the many open City Council meetings and displayed their concern over the Avenue Theatre, that should have been a verbal and visual sign that somebody cares. But did the mayor see or listen?

He was too busy telling us about the new bar and grill opening next to the Starbucks that's across the street from a Starbucks.

— **Karl Schott,**
Downey

Friday reading

Dear Editor:

A special thanks to Jerry Kline who brings the Downey Patriot to Southland assisted-living center every Friday.

A lot of us have lived in Downey many years – my own family over 55 years and reside at Southland now. We look forward to receiving the Patriot.

Thanks, Jerry!

— **Priscilla Bonasoro,**
Downey

Appreciation

Dear Editor:

Thank you so much for including the Belfry 5K press release and photo in last week's edition (6/26/09) and online. We really appreciate the press and are excited to be able to share the event with our community.

By the way, I am really impressed with the Patriot's website. I know you've updated (transformed) it in the last year and it looks great!

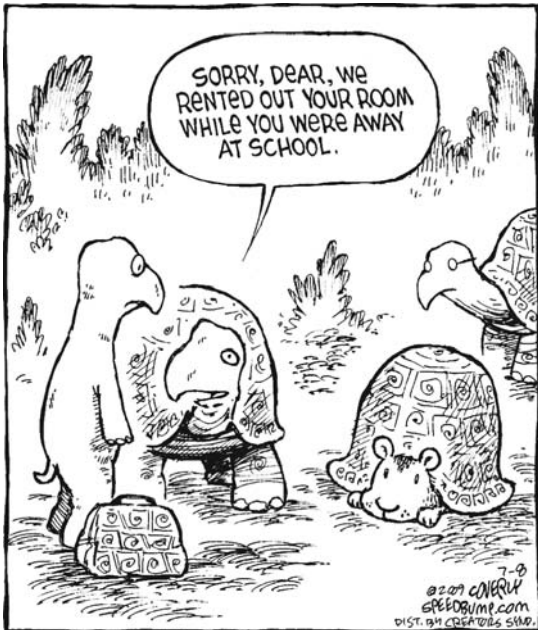
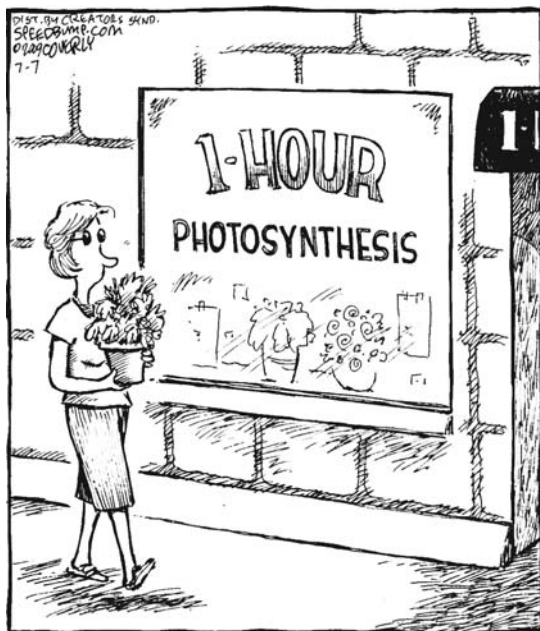
— **Valerie DeTilla,**
Moravian Church of Downey

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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



On This Day...

July 10, 1850: Millard Fillmore is inaugurated as the 13th President of the United States.
1958: Highest tsunami wave ever, reaching 524m high, is recorded at Lituya Bay, Alaska.
1978: World News Tonight premieres on ABC.
1980: Alexandra Palace is burned down.
1998: Roman Catholic sex abuse cases end when the nine altar boys who claimed they were sexually abused by former priest Rudolph Kosto were paid \$23.4 million.
2005: Hurricane Dennis hits the Florida Panhandle resulting in billions of dollars in damages.
Birthdays: actress and singer Jessica Simpson (29), actor Adrian Grenier (33), and "Rascal Flatts" singer Gary Le Vox (39).

Downey Community Calendar

Events For July

Sat. July 11: **Razorbacks sign-ups**, Apollo Park, 11 a.m.
 Sat. July 11: **Fundraiser for ACAE**, Mambo Grill, 7 p.m.
 Tues. July 14: **Rise 'N Shine networking**, Downey Brewing Company, 7:30 a.m.
 Wed. July 15: **Concerts in the Park**, Furman Park, 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.
 7 p.m.: **Out Post 132 Royal Rangers**, at Desert Reign Church, for info call 928-8000.
 1st Weds., 10 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call Barbara Briley-Bear 869-7618.
 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
 2nd & 4th Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley Senior Center, for info. call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park, for info. call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
 3rd Weds., 6 p.m. - **American Business Women's Association**, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.
 4th Weds., 6:00 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.: **Connections Networking**, at Cafe N Stuff, for information, call Sandy Esslinger, (310) 491-8989.
 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

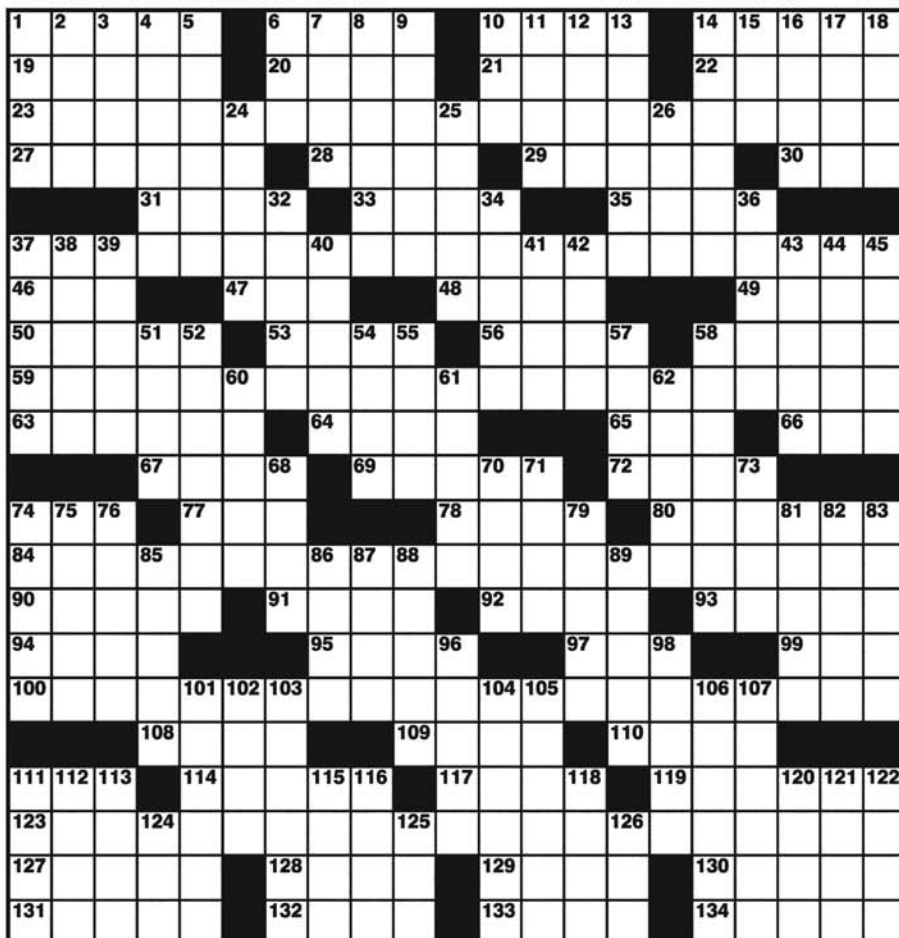
9 a.m.: **Farmers Market**, Second Street at New Avenue, for information call (562) 904-7246.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
FULL-LENGTH IDIOMS: With something in common
 by Shirley Soloway

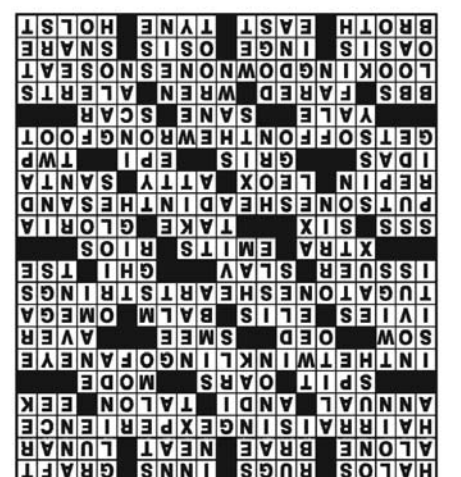
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land" (66 Across) is the source of "April is the cruelest month." LEO X (91 Across) was pope when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses, in 1517. NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM (38 Down), Latin for "new order of the ages," appears under the pyramid on the reverse of \$1 bills.



Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer



scientific forums on a regular basis. It's extremely unlikely that someone acting independently has come up with a miracle cure without the scientific community being aware. There is no global conspiracy keeping effective treatments from the public. Trust me, if it works and will sell, a gigantic profit-based pharmaceutical company will jump all over it.

Herbal medicines may be effective in treating a chronic problem, but after long-term use, some tend to accumulate in the body and actually become toxic. The affected organ is usually the liver, whose job it is to detoxify most chemicals. The chemicals in an herb that restores depleted levels in your body over, say, a three-month period may reach excessive levels after 12 months. Most herb-taking consumers have no idea as to which ones may accumulate and become toxic, and which ones will not.

Patients regularly come into my office and state that they have stopped their "dangerous" prescription medication in favor of some "natural", "safer" herbal remedy. Oftentimes a relative or hairdresser has convinced them to make this bold move. It's time to discuss the risks of taking herbs.

The earliest recorded evidence of herbal medicine use dates back 5,000 years. It is discussed in ancient Indian, Chinese, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Syrian texts. Today, it is a rapidly growing marketplace that measures in the multi-billions of dollars annually. Many herbs have been studied scientifically, and have proven benefits - prescription drugs are often made, or were originally made, from herbal ingredients.

Herbal remedies can offer a valid alternative for patients who are disillusioned or dissatisfied with traditional pharmaceuticals or big pharmaceutical companies. On the other hand, along with their often-lower side effects frequently comes far less efficacy than their prescription counterparts. Furthermore, many do have some degree of risk, and it's critical that patients be fully informed of potential complications.

The first concern is that a seriously ill patient might stop their effective prescription and substitute a safer but less effective herb. As a rule, you should consider herbs for minor or chronic, but not life-threatening problems. Examples might include digestive problems, menstrual cramps, joint/arthritis problems, skin irritations, minor anxiety and depression, or headaches. Be highly skeptical if an herbal product offers miracle cures. Consider that scientists are doing research all over the world and competing to see who can come up with effective treatments first. Data and research findings are presented in formal

Another pitfall is when herbal remedies are mixed with prescription drugs. It is a two-fold problem: the doctor is often unaware that a patient is taking the herb, and the patient is unaware of the risks of the drug interaction. Further, doctors are not formally trained in herbal medicine, so even if they know which one you are taking, they may not be aware of the dangers. For example, a commonly used and effective herb, glucosamine chondroitin, can both thin the blood and exacerbate diabetes. That is particularly dangerous if the patient is already on a blood thinner or has poorly controlled diabetes.

Finally, some herbal treatments may be downright dangerous. While there is little harm in taking ginseng, there certainly could be with ephedra. Ephedra can elevate blood pressure, speed up the heart, and has even triggered heart attacks. Consumers self-prescribe

these substances, and since they are not regulated by the FDA (which some feel is a benefit), the risks are often unknown to the buyer. Herbs are often changed, contaminated, modified, or added to other herbs with unpredictable consequences. Remember, claims made by the manufacturer need not pass FDA scrutiny.

Clearly, patients must educate themselves regarding benefits and risks of herbs before choosing to take them. Herbs originate from natural sources, but so do many prescription medications. Like prescription medications, they have the potential for risks and serious complications, and must be treated with respect.

It is certainly time to add some study of herbal medicine to the medical and pharmacy school curriculums. Because so many of us have taken or continue to take herbal supplements, their effects and interactions with prescription medications should be added to pharmacy computer databases so that patients can have drug-herb interactions checked before taking them.

My parting suggestions:
 •Tell your doctor if you are taking any herbal supplements
 •Learn about the effects and side effects of anything you are taking
 •Educate yourself on the possible interactions between any herbs you may take and your prescription medication
 •Never automatically trust the claims made by those marketing herbal products

Good health to you all!

Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and current chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.

Day camp for autistic children available

SEAL BEACH - A summer day camp designed specifically for children with autism will be offered in Seal Beach this August.

The camp is being offered by the Autism Partnership, an agency established in 1994 by psychologists Ron Leaf and John McEachin.

Experts in applied behavior analysis will staff the camp, and

each themed-based week will provide campers with games, arts and crafts, and more.

The camp is open to children entering grades 1-8 this fall. Cost is \$325 per week; shadow support is available for an additional \$65 per hour.

For more information, visit www.autismpartnership.com.

Kathy Foster: a life of commitment, loyalty

CONTRIBUTED BY DOWNEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

If there's one way to describe Kathy Foster, it would definitely be as a woman that values long-term commitment.

She and her husband, Jim, have been married for 32 years. She's worked for Downey Regional Medical Center - her only employer since graduating from nursing school - for 31 years. And, she and her family were Downey residents for 23 years.

Kathy's career at Downey Regional Medical Center is a classic example of "moving up the corporate ladder." Initially hired in 1978 as an RN in the surgical and intensive care units, Foster has since served as Utilization Review Coordinator, Department Director for Medical Records, and Administrative Director for Clinical Data, Planning and Review Services.

Her most recent promotion came this past March, when she was appointed Vice President, Compliance/Risk & Quality. In her position, she is responsible for a number of hospital departments, including risk and quality management, medical staff services, Downey Regional's family practice training program, corporate compliance, case management, social services, and education, among other programs.

But Foster's life hasn't been solely focused on her impressive career at Downey Regional. She's thrived in her personal life as well.

Foster and her husband Jim, the service manager for LA Freightliner, just celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary on July 5. Their two grown daughters, Alyson and Melissa, were raised in Downey, where they were involved with the YMCA, the Assistens, and as cheerleaders and student council members at Downey High School.

Their ties to Downey remain strong - Alyson is a sixth grade English teacher at West Middle School in Downey, and Melissa works at Downey Regional as an RN in cardiology.

The couple has also been blessed with three grandchildren:



Alyson and her husband are the parents of son Jett, 2, and Melissa and her husband are the parents of son Landon, 18 months and daughter Sydney, born in May, 2009. All three grandchildren were born at Downey Regional Medical Center.

Foster earned her RN at St. Vincent's School of Nursing in Birmingham, Alabama. She and Jim married while she was enrolled in nursing school, with the couple relocating to Southern California after Foster's parents moved here.

Her mother, Ellia Deblois, was a long-time member of Downey Regional's auxiliary, heading up the gift shop for a number of years. Ms. Deblois contributed an impressive 11,500 hours of volunteer service to the auxiliary, but is no longer able to volunteer due to a recent illness.

"A career in health care is an excellent way to be involved with people and to do good things,"

notes Foster. "Yet it's a difficult time for hospitals due to the increasing population who are uninsured. We're here for everyone—but we're still a business and need to pay our bills, so there are always challenges."

What has kept Foster at Downey Regional for more than 30 years?

"I love the family atmosphere here," she explains. "We care for our patients like they're family. The medical staff provides excellent care, and I've enjoyed working with members of the governing board, my fellow staff members and the volunteers. I'm very proud of the hospital—our focus is always on the patient, just as it should be."

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Word of MOUTH
 by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.

As public attention focuses on a number of transmitted diseases, this office would like to affirm our unwavering commitment to stringent guidelines set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which ensure protection from infectious diseases. These measures include steam autoclaving all instruments and hand pieces after every use. Disposable items are used whenever appropriate. Dentists and staff wear protective eyeglasses and disposable gloves during treatment. All areas that are touched during the procedures are covered with a plastic wrap and changed after each patient to eliminate cross contamination. All surfaces, chairs, lights, and units are thoroughly disinfected before and after every patient's use. Attention to these and other measures ensures our patients' (and our staff's) health and safety.

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P.S. An autoclave is an instrument-cleaning device that utilizes steam under pressure to kill pathogens; ultrasonic cleaners do so with sound-wave technology.

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The Downey Ponytail 10U Gold team won first place in the Riverside Girls Softball Summer Slam Tournament, hosted over Father's Day weekend. The 10U girls, along with 12U Gold, advanced to represent the South Bay District in state competition, to be held in Lancaster this weekend. Bottom row, from left: Samantha Rocha, Erika Esprio, Chelsea Lopez, Celeste Hernandez, Jocelyn Hernandez, Sierra Rodriguez and Sarah Brasher. Top row: Assistant Coach Alfredo Rocha, Joelene Garcia, Karen Roman, Andrea Gonzales and Head Coach Chris Hernandez. Not shown: Jelissa Castanon, Nicole Gutierrez, Assistant Coach Ruben Gutierrez and Manager Kim Gutierrez.



The Downey Silver Cherries cheer team will represent California in the national Cheerleading Championships to be held July 25 in Grand Rapids, Mich. The squad practices twice a week with their coach, Chantel Hernandez, and qualified for nationals by placing first in several local cheer competitions throughout the year. Top row, from left: Desirae, Kelsey, Alta and Brianna. Middle row: Dennise, Leah and Mariah. Bottom: Aldana, Stephanie, Nicole and Sierra.

Is playoff system fair for baseball?

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

It was a great year for Downey and Warren athletics. Warren had a football team go relatively deep into the playoffs, Downey had their basketball team get into the playoffs after a last minute scrap, Warren's softball team got into the playoffs by winning the league title, and Downey's baseball team won a title and was considered a favorite to go deep into the playoffs.



Scott Cobos

But with time, you have the ability to take a step back and look at everything with a closer eye. Warren football should have won the game they lost that eliminated them. But it was their fault. They had a week to prepare. Downey basketball wasn't really given a chance against the team that won the whole thing, but they came out ready to play. It wasn't their fault that the team they played was so talented.

Was it Downey baseball and Warren softball's fault that they were eliminated? This is brought up because the current playoff system for baseball is flawed in such a way that it could be compared to the Bowl Championship Series in college football. The reason why football and basketball aren't put into this equation is because of the factors that come into play.

In football, you have a week to prepare. With that week, you can simulate quarterbacks, running backs, receivers, defensive schemes, special team plays, and even weather conditions. All the information you need to know is gathered a week before the game. You can prepare, and the end result

is because of your own doing.

In basketball, you have a couple days to prepare for a team. The ability to know what plays they run often, what player is the most dominant rebounder, who is the leading scorer and why, and many other things is readily at a team's hands. Also, the floor is flat, the rim is always 10 feet above the ground, the backboard is always made of fiberglass, and the half court line never moves.

Both sports give you so much time and so little ability to blame a loss or a win on something out of your control. With that said, the playoff system with football and basketball works.

With baseball and softball, it's a different story. One bad hop, one missed call, or one gust of wind can be the determining factor between a win and a loss. It's always been said that baseball and softball are games of inches. An inch here or there could mean a called strike three or a walk. A foot here or there could mean a home-run, a fly out, or a foul ball.

How is it that CIF is so comfortable in knowing that the "best team" will win five straight games in softball or baseball? It's borderline ridiculous to assume that the best team will win five straight games regardless of the conditions in front of them.

It would be unfair to call a team that has been outplayed the whole game but some how managed to win in the last inning because of a rock in the outfield that sent a base hit screaming in an unpredictable direction a champion.

Look at the playoff schedule for baseball teams. First playoff round consists of five games (if needed), and the second round and World Series is a best of seven series.

Why does baseball do this? Because, on any given day, the worst team can beat the best team because of a little rock, or an unevenly dragged part of the

infield, or a massive gust of wind that made a ball hit 320 feet go 400 feet instead.

So, you ask yourself, did Downey baseball or Warren softball get the wrong end of the stick?

The argument is easier on Downey's side because of the circumstances. First off, Downey was ranked in the top 5 going into the playoffs, yet in the three games they played, hosted only one game.

A team that busted itself the whole season should not be given the cruel fate to go play another team that was ranked lower than them, not to mention has to drive two hours to face them on the road.

Second, Downey threw their best gun at them in Chris Munoz. The kid had an ERA under 1.00 the whole season and you're telling me that all of a sudden he becomes human and gives up three runs?

Third, Downey was shutout in this game. But statistically, the Vikings averaged over 10 runs a game. How does a team with this

type of offensive firepower just go quietly into the night?

One game can't determine it. Now, if the Vikings were to lose two games out of a three game series, then yes, it's completely plausible that they were not the best team out of the pairings. But a lone game isn't adequate enough to determine who the better baseball team (or softball team) is.

If you have five rounds of games, and it's the best of three games in each round, it is possible that the playoffs could take more than a month. But when it comes down to it, aren't we trying to find out who the best team in the section is?

We shouldn't have to question ourselves at the end of a season which baseball or softball team is the best. It should be known without a doubt.

After all, having a great regular season is one thing, but if you can't prove that the regular season wasn't a fluke, it really wasn't worth playing for.

CRIME REPORT

Friday, July 3: An armed robbery occurred at the intersection of Hall Road and Coldbrook Avenue at 1 p.m. The loss was \$60. The victim was not injured.

Saturday, July 4: At 10:05 a.m., a 15-year-old male from Downey was arrested for vandalism after he was identified by a witness as having just defaced a Dumpster in the alley behind the 10000 block of New Street.

• A strong-arm robbery occurred at 10:15 a.m. in the area of Lakewood Boulevard and Priscilla Street. The victim pursued the suspect and, with the help of several bystanders, detained him until Downey police arrived. The suspect, a 24-year-old from South Gate, was booked for robbery. The loss was a gold necklace.

Sunday, July 5: At 8 a.m., officers arrested a 59-year-old woman at her home on Rio Hondo Place after the woman poured boiling water on her husband and hit him over the head with a steel pot. The victim was taken to a local hospital and treated for 2nd degree burns.

Source: Downey Police Department

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A tale of two rivers

By Don Niemand

I was born and raised in Davenport, Iowa on the Mississippi River. Davenport is bounded on the south by the Mississippi (yes, south because the Mississippi runs from east to west at Davenport) and on the north by Duck Creek. The Mississippi is a mile wide at Davenport and Duck Creek is larger than many western rivers, so there was always somewhere for me to enjoy my favorite pastime, fishing.

After World War II and college, my wife and I moved to Los Alamos, N.M., where I worked on the atomic bomb. The Rio Grande River is just a few miles east of Los Alamos, and the city is bounded on the west by Frijoles Creek. Both are good places to fish, although I had to learn to fish for trout instead of catfish.

Our first two children were born while we lived at Los Alamos, and this posed a problem. All housing there was rental housing handled by the Atomic Energy Commission. You were qualified to rent a place based on your family need, length of service and salary level.

When our first child was born we were allowed to move from an apartment to the two-bedroom part of a two-bedroom/four-bedroom duplex. When our second child was born, we were eligible for a three-bedroom structure when one became available. Because of my low salary and short service, and the disturbance caused by four teenagers with motorcycles in the other part of our duplex, the wait seemed interminable.

A fellow I worked with had come from California and subscribed to the L.A. Times. In perusing the paper, I found that North American Aviation in Downey was hiring so I applied for a job. When I received an offer, I announced I was leaving for California. This was the winter of 1951-52.

My co-worker showed me pictures in the Times of Firestone Boulevard in Downey where water was flooding the storefronts. Since I was familiar with the spring floods in Davenport where the river spilled over its banks regularly, I wasn't concerned.

My mood brightened greatly when I noted on a map that Downey had the Rio Hondo River as its western boundary and the San Gabriel River as its eastern boundary. At least I would have a place to fish after work if I chose to. I mentioned this to my co-worker, and when his laughing subsided, he explained that these were seasonal rivers that were dry most of the time.

So here I sit in my easy chair surrounded by two dry rivers, my fishing pole gathering dust and my nylon line rotting, waiting for a chance to go fishing again.

The Downey Patriot welcomes non-fiction, first-person stories from Downey residents for publication in the newspaper. Stories may be e-mailed to eric@thedowneypatriot.com or mailed to Downey Patriot, 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240. Unfortunately, stories submitted to this newspaper cannot be returned.

'Legally Blonde' musical comes to Orange County

COSTA MESA – The first national tour of "Legally Blonde: The Musical" will begin performances at the Orange County Performing Arts Center on Sept. 8. "Legally Blonde: The Musical" follows sorority star Elle Woods, an underestimated blonde who doesn't take no for an answer. When her boyfriend dumps her for someone more "serious," Woods puts down the credit card, hits the books, and sets out to go where no Delta Nu has gone before: Harvard Law. Tickets to "Legally Blonde: The Musical" are \$20-\$80 and go on sale Sunday.

They will be available online at www.ocpac.org or by calling the box office at (714) 556-2787.

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* ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS 3D PG (9:40, 11:00, 12:00, 1:25, 2:25, 4:00, 4:50), 6:30, 7:15, 9:00, 9:45
PUBLIC ENEMIES R Fri & Sat (9:30, 10:15, 12:40, 1:25, 3:50, 4:35), 7:00, 7:45, 10:10
Sun to Tue (9:30, 10:15, 12:40, 1:25, 3:50, 4:35), 7:00, 7:45, 10:10
MY SISTER'S KEEPER PG-13 (10:55, 1:45, 4:30), 7:20, 10:00
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN PG-13 Fri to Mon: (11:40, 12:20, 3:00, 3:40, 6:20, 7:00, 9:40, 10:20; Tue: (11:40, 3:00, 3:40), 6:20, 7:00, 9:40, 10:20
THE PROPOSAL PG-13 (10:50, 1:35, 4:15), 7:05, 9:50
THE HANGOVER R Fri to Mon: (9:45, 12:05, 2:35, 5:10), 7:45, 10:15; Tue: (2:35, 5:10), 7:45, 10:15
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SUMMER WHAT'S HOT TIPS



Sunnies Mao
Summer...Who doesn't love summer? We get to sleep in, buy summer clothes, and spend our days at the beach.

Of course, there are some must need items for summer: sunglasses, bathing suit, shorts, and a beach bag! You can find all of these items at Beachworks in the Los Cerritos Center.

During my visit, a bright, yellow Billabong beach bag caught my eye. It had lots of pockets and compartments, the perfect bag for the beach, and it only costs \$42.

Lauren Alvarez
It's time to have fun because...it's SUMMER! What's the hottest trend this summer?

Well, of course a great pair of gladiator sandals is a necessity, but why not dress up the summer a little bit more by trying these adorable shoes? They come in bronze and gold or black and white. They are more than perfect for a summer night out and even have a zipper in the back as an extra detail.

The gladiator-inspired heels can be found at Bakers (Stonewood Center). Oh and the surprises aren't over just yet. These strappy heels were originally \$79.99 and are now only \$39.99!

Tiffany Ford
Hey all you party people! It's the moment we've all been waiting for, summer is here!

It is time to throw out those overcoat jackets, and those UGG boots, and head down to PacSun. Right now, PacSun is having the best sale of the summer.

Vibrant colors are hitting the beach. Get this fabulous tank or select tops for just \$10 in any color. These white shorts, perfect with my white shades, are just \$36.50 and swim, shorts, and boardshorts are currently buy one, get one 50% off.

My so fly white Kirra shades are \$15, but are also being sold for two for \$20. Last, but most certainly not least, my reversible Volcom swim top was only \$42 and buy one, get one 50% off.

This sale is crazy, and can only be found at PacSun in the Lakewood Center Mall. Don't miss out on these hot deals. Have fun in the summer heat, with PacSun!

Joseph Szekula
It's getting hot and it's time to put those jackets away and get ready for summer!

One way to keep cool is to keep it simple by wearing a v-neck. But if you're a person of designs and stripes on shirts, Pac Sun of Stonewood has both plain and graphic v-necks starting at low price of \$15.95.

Another way to keep cool this summer and not spend any money at all is to cut a pair of jeans you already have into shorts. The best thing of all is that you can cut them how you want them; shorts or long, make your new pair of shorts you!

Got the look? You could strut your stuff on the runway at the Back to School Fashion Shows for Lakewood, Los Cerritos and Stonewood Centers. Teens, you could be the face of fashion and possibly the experts on styles and trends. Simply apply in person at one of the Casting Calls at Lakewood, Los Cerritos or Stonewood Centers:
Lakewood Center Center Court July 31 4-7 pm
Los Cerritos Center Main Court August 1 3-6 pm
Stonewood Center Macy's Court August 2 3-6 pm
Teens must fill out an application and be ages 16-18 and enrolled in 10th-12th grade in the Fall of 2009. More information is available at www.teenlifeofstyle.com.

Lives unravel in Playhouse's 'Side Man'

LONG BEACH – "Side Man," a drama by playwright Warren Leight, opens tonight at the Long Beach Playhouse Studio Theatre.

In jazz vernacular, a sideman is a dependable musician-for-hire who merges in with the band or, as the gig requires, stars as its solo performer. Leight wrote "Side Man" through recollections of his father, Donald.

This play tells the story of Clifford Glimmer, the only son of a talented but self-absorbed jazz trumpeter, Gene, and his alcoholic wife, Terry. Through three decades from the 1950s into the 1980s, Clifford tracks the hit-and-miss career of his father as well as his parent's tumultuous relationship.

Clifford's memories recreate the telling events surrounding the unraveling of three lives. The production includes mature language.

"Side Man" opens tonight with a preview performance at 8 p.m. Tickets for tonight's showing are \$12 each or two for \$20. "Side Man" will continue until Aug. 15.

For more information on tickets, call the box office at (562) 494-1014. The Long Beach Playhouse is at 5021 E. Anaheim St. in Long Beach.

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NOTICE OF HEARING ON VERIFIED PETITION TO ESTABLISH A NEWSPAPER AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION

(California Government Code §§ 6000, 6020)
Case No. VS019238
Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF JENNIFER DEKAY-GIVENS TO HAVE THE STANDING OF THE DOWNEY PATRIOT AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION ASCERTAINED AND ESTABLISHED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on July 29, 2009 at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in Department C of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, located at 12720 Norwalk Boulevard, California 90650, Petitioner intends to apply for an order, pursuant to California Government Code § 6000 declaring The Downey Patriot to be a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles, California.

The Petition sets forth the following:

Petitioner Jennifer DeKay-Givens respectfully alleges and verifies that:

1. She is the Publisher of The Downey Patriot, a newspaper whose principal office of publication is located at 8301 E. Florence Avenue, Suite 100, Downey, California 90240. The newspaper was established under the name "The Downey Patriot" on May 3, 2002, and has been printed and published under that name on a weekly basis since then. The Downey Patriot currently is published each Friday morning in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

2. The Downey Patriot is published for the dissemination of local and telegraphic news and intelligence of a general character in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. The Downey Patriot covers news stories and other items of interest to the local community. For example, The Downey Patriot's regularly featured content includes, among other things: News, Dining & Entertainment, Health & Wellness, Sports, Opinion, Letters to the Editor, Obituaries, and Events. In addition to these regular features, The Downey Patriot also provides in-depth cover and feature articles. This local and/or telegraphic news and intelligence of a general character consistently has comprised well over 25% of The Downey Patriot's total inches during the one year period preceding the date of this Petition.

3. The Downey Patriot has a bona fide list of 185 paying subscribers. That is, The Downey Patriot has a real, actual, genuine subscription list containing only the names of those 185 persons and entities that are in good faith paying regularly for subscriptions. The Downey Patriot enjoys a diverse subscriber base. In addition to individual subscribers, several local businesses have purchased annual subscriptions. The Downey Patriot's annual subscription fee for home delivery is \$20.00, and its annual subscription for mail delivery is \$72.00.

4. For at least one year preceding the filing of this Petition, the mechanical work of producing The Downey Patriot, that is, the work of typesetting and impressing type on paper, has been performed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. Specifically, since August 10, 2007, copies of The Downey Patriot have been printed by Southwest Offset Printing Company ("Southwest"), located at 13630 Gramercy Place, Gardena, California 90249. The Downey Patriot currently is distributed to the public from Southwest's office. The Downey Patriot, therefore, has been issued from the same County and State where it is printed and published, has been both printed and published in the same County and State, and has been published weekly since August 10, 2007.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner now prays for a judgment ascertaining and establishing The Downey Patriot as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, pursuant to California Government Code §§ 6000 and 6020.

Dated: June 26, 2009
Karen A. Henry, Esq.
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
865 S. Figueroa Street, 24th Floor
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www.thedowneypatriot.com

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

Children have alternatives to summer school

BY STEPHANIE COBAU,
DOWNEY PATRIOT INTERN

DOWNEY – Given that the Downey School District does not offer a summer school program for its students, many of them have become engaged in other educational and physical fitness activities. The most prominent activities this summer include YMCA sponsored events, library programs, park visits, and swimming in the Downey High School pool.

The consistently popular YMCA offers affordable classes for children and teens such as gymnastics, ballet, swim lessons, jujitsu, taekwondo, hip hop, jazz and even yoga. These activities are geared toward helping the children who participate develop a positive self image as well as improving their overall physical fitness level.

The summer day camp program that the YMCA offers brings together children from kindergarten through seventh grade to teach them the “six pillars of character” and facilitate their participation in weekly themed activities.

The program allows the children to take field trips to the California Science Center, Disneyland, and a number of museums.

Aside from the physical fitness benefits that the children enjoy from participation in the YMCA Summer Day Camp, they also learn social skills, team work, and group dynamics skills. The program is unique in that it exposes the children to many new challenges and situations that they may not experience during the academic school year.

In addition to the aforementioned programs, the YMCA also enrolls children in the popular Camp Whittle. This camp includes a week long adventure in the San Bernardino Mountains, which encompasses all the typical camp activities, such as canoeing, swimming, hiking, and building camp fires. The camp also has a special program for campers ages 14 to 17 that allows them to go backpacking and rock climbing.

The Downey City Library has funded its yearly “Let’s Go Play” program that allows children to participate in crafts and water

activities for free. This program also sponsors low cost events, such as the “Picnic in the Park” on July 17th and the “Splash Day” water balloon toss on July 30th.

The library also encourages children to participate in their classes, which include Intro to Acting, Camera Tech, Chess, Creative Dancing, Drawing, Golf, Ice Skating, Bowling, and Martial Arts. Additionally, its yearly summer reading program has attracted many new patrons. On the first day of the program alone, there were 82 new library cards issued and 4,079 books checked out. Aside from helping children improve their reading skills, the program lets children attend theater performances and interact with one another to bolster their self-confidence and build social skills.

Furthermore, the Downey City Library provides an arena in which middle and high school youth can give back to the community. Volunteers will have the chance to help the library with everything from its daily work to its special events, providing them with the opportunity to discover from a new

vantage point the many wonderful opportunities the library affords its staff and patrons.

The Downey parks have proven to be a popular place for children to go this summer. With weekly concerts in the park as well as a multitude of activities, children will never be bored for want of plentiful entertaining pastimes.

In particular, the Independence Park will provide children the opportunity to participate in the 2009 Skateboard Competition hosted by Madrid Skate. Other local parks include the Apollo Park, the Dennis the Menace Park, and the Rio San Gabriel Park.

Despite the fact that school’s doors are closed in the coming months, given Downey’s ample variety of summer opportunities, its children will enjoy an educational and fulfilling vacation.

For more information on Downey’s YMCA and Library activities, visit www.ymcala.org and www.downeylibrary.org, respectively.

New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- **“Black Water Rising”** by Attica Locke. Jay Porter narrowly escaped life in prison and is now a struggling lawyer trying to reconcile the bitterness of his life experiences with the idealism of his beliefs.
- **“Border Songs”** by Jim Lynch. Six foot-eight and socially awkward, Brandon is a rookie patrol agent along the U.S.-Canada border who is more at home with the birds until his streak of successful smuggling busts.
- **“Castaways”** by Elin Hilderbrand. In a group of four successful couples who call themselves The Castaways, Greg and Tess seemed to have what everybody wanted. But when the two mysteriously drown during a trip to Martha’s Vineyard, their deaths stir up more secrets in their close-knit community.
- **“Strangers”** by Anita Brookner. Reclusive retiree Paul Sturgis leaves his London flat for a holiday in Venice, where he meets Vicky Gardener, an intriguing and lovely woman in the midst of a divorce and at a crossroads in her life.
- **“Swimsuit”** by James Patterson. Beautiful supermodel Syd disappears during a photo shoot in Hawaii and LA Times reporter Ben Hawkins receives a visit that pushes him into a deal with the devil.

Non-Fiction

- **“Bonnie and Clyde: the Lives Behind the Legend”** by Paul Schneider. The author describes the Depression-era environment that set the stage for two outlaw lovers and their four-year murder and robbery spree, ending in a hail of bullets.
- **“The Healthy Divorce: Keys to Ending Your Marriage While Preserving Your Emotional Well Being”** by Lois Gold. A family mediator gives tools for navigating the difficult process of divorce while preserving your dignity and emotional health.
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Downey: My hometown

BY ROSALIE SCIORTINO

The city of Downey I knew as a youngster was a small, largely suburban-rural community. Long before it became a city it was fragrant with orange blossoms in spring and sooty-dirty when the temperature dropped to freezing and the smudge pots were lit to keep the fruit from frost bite in the many orange groves.

A man with a horse-drawn disc contraption weeded and plowed our orchards. He made shallow basins around all the trees to contain the water at irrigation time. The water for this came from an irrigation ditch nearby. It was out-of-bounds for us children but secretly we dangled our feet in it on warm summer days. The moving water was clean and deliciously cool.

When my father ordered some exotic fruit or food stuff from other places, he drove in his Model T Ford to the train depot in Downey to pick it up. We heard the trains come through Downey at night. The sound of them set me to dreaming of far places yet to be experienced.

Downey was ideally situated in relation to the city of Los Angeles, to the mountains and the shore. We

were not far from any of these attractions, yet were far enough to have a flavor of our own.

It was a sleepy town with one main street, now Downey Avenue. There we had one theater, the Meralta, and I remember a department store, a bank, a shoe store, barber shop and grocery store. The Home Bakery there sold delicious pineapple pies for 25 cents.

My father bought our big two-storied house and property from a Mr. Squires. There were six of us siblings and my parents there where College Avenue ended and met Clara Street. Later, College Avenue became Paramount Boulevard, which now ribbons its way north to other cities. Clara Street became Florence Avenue.

Huge trucks loaded with hay from the cities of Hynes and Clearwater came thundering to a stop at our corner and made the ground shake.

Our Downey schools were about a mile from our home. In good weather, we walked, cutting diagonally through neighboring ranches. On rainy days our older siblings drove us to and from school. Much later we rode the school bus.

At one time, during World War

II, troops of soldiers were stationed south of our home on 7th Street and Paramount Boulevard. The boys whistled and waved at us young girls when we drove by in my brother’s convertible. And we drove by often!

We were content here in Downey and our many Los Angeles relatives liked it so well they came nearly every Sunday to spend the day “in the country.” They went home with boxes of fruits from our orchard after feasting at Mama’s table.

My youngest brother, Joe, and I spent most of our summer days outdoors. Children from neighboring ranches were our playmates. We had a vast two-acre playground right in our backyard where we were the bad guys and the good guys having rubber gun fights, chose teams for baseball games, played miniature golf, high jumped, performed dramatic plays and played school in our playhouse, climbed trees, and sometimes just lay on our lawn and looked at the clouds.

Our old mongrel dog, Jack, was included in all our activities and summoned us when we were called to go indoors with a particular bark.

Jack was the original and expert tire-biter. He raced after cars traveling east on Clara. How disconcerting that must have been for those drivers! By some miracle he lived undamaged to a ripe old age.

At bedtime we heard the rustling of sleepy birds high in the palm and magnolia trees outside our open windows. The fragrance of jasmine and orange blossoms filled the night. We fell asleep between crisp cotton sheets which had dried on a line in the sun and we awoke to the aroma of breakfast wafting up from downstairs.

It seems logical to assume that our physical and social environment influences us in ways we don’t even recognize. Now that I have many friends here and have become active in some of the social aspects of the city, I cannot see the point of moving. Our little city is changing; it isn’t the safe haven we once thought it was, it isn’t perfect, but it’s my hometown and it suits me just fine.

‘My Hometown’ was written by Downey resident Rosalie Sciortino in commemoration of the Downey Historical Society’s annual membership luncheon, held June 27.



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