

The Downey Patriot



Air Force promotion
See Page 2



Crowned Miss Teen Victory
See Page 3



Proud to serve in the Navy
See Page 2

Friday, August 21, 2009

Vol. 8 No. 18

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

A story of preparedness, survival & heroism



PHOTO BY PAUL HEIDECKER

The girls' cross country team at Downey High School knew exactly what to do when their coach, John Kosarich, suffered a heart attack during training in Turnbull Canyon. Kosarich credits the team, and four mountain bikers who happened upon the scene, with saving his life.

Coach is alive thanks to team

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY — As a lifeguard at Norwalk Aquatic Pavilion, Evelyn Cruz learned CPR just in case of an emergency, but always hoped she'd never have to use it.

But Cruz had no choice on July 18, when girls' cross country coach John Kosarich suffered a heart attack while training with his Downey High School team in Turnbull Canyon, the hills north of Whittier.

While trailing his runners on a mountain bike, Kosarich, 68, collapsed and went into full cardiac arrest. Cruz, who graduated from Downey High School in June, was assisting Kosarich with the team when it happened.

"I was shocked at first — he had no pulse," said Cruz, 17. "We were just trying to find a phone — I knew I had to do CPR."

As a result of Cruz's quick action, and the help of some admirable bikers, Kosarich survived the incident, receiving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation for more than 20 minutes before paramedics arrived to revive him.

"Sometimes people panic and don't know what to do," said Amy Overgaauw, who coaches track and field at Downey High. "But Evelyn and the girls were right on it."

Minutes after Cruz began CPR, four bikers stopped to help when they saw the girls gathered around Kosarich. All four bikers just happened to be Downey residents and one was a registered nurse.

As an educator in critical care at USC Medical Center, Marcelo Astudillo, 42, immediately started chest compressions when he saw that Kosarich was not breathing.

"I've been in critical care for so long — it's just an instinct," said Astudillo over the phone. "Every time we stopped, he still had no pulse."

Due to their position in the hills, cell phone reception was inconsistent and the paramedics struggled to pinpoint their location.

"There was no help," said Astudillo. "We all did a round [of CPR] while we waited for the paramedics."

Astudillo and the other three bikers, Kenny Soto, Ramon Aquilar and Anthony Nunez, are no strangers to Turnbull Canyon. Astudillo said the group rides the canyon route together two to three times a week, but had no plans of taking the course they took on July 18.

Kenny Soto, 29, who graduated from Downey High in 1998, remembers their decision that day.

"Normally we go just up and down, but that day we went up another trail," said Soto, who works for the city of Downey in the public works department. "We debated whether to go left or right — we went around the back way and we saw them."

After more than 20 minutes, the paramedics arrived, using a defibrillator to jolt Kosarich's heart back into rhythm. Astudillo watched Kosarich's response as the paramedics worked on him.

"He started gagging and reaching for his mouth," said Astudillo. "I was relieved at that time. I knew he was going to be OK."

After hearing the story, Mark Sauter, the deputy city manager of public safety and emergency operations, felt it was remarkable.

"It's incredible that this ad hoc team could do such a good job," said Sauter, a former paramedic. "It was an amazing chain of events. If any of the things in the chain had been broken, John would not be with us."

Kosarich was taken to Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital in Whittier, where doctors discovered that five of Kosarich's arteries were blocked. Kosarich

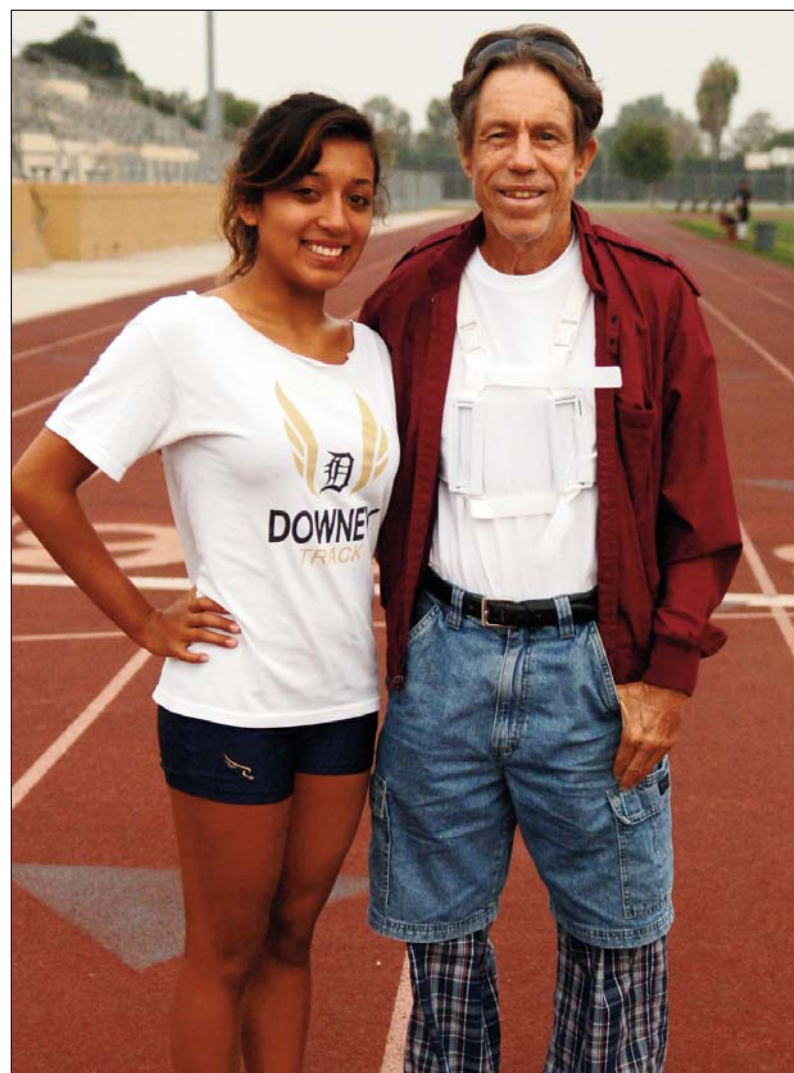


PHOTO BY PAUL HEIDECKER

underwent heart surgery to replace the arteries and was released from the hospital on July 26.

Kosarich credits his team and the four bikers for keeping him alive.

"I owe them my life — I love them because of that," said Kosarich. "I ignored the indicators. I wasn't following the guidelines — but now I am."

While visiting Downey High School last week, Kosarich, a slender man with gray hair and clear eyes, walked sturdy and determined. Though unable to drive, Kosarich still attends practices and expects a full recovery soon.

"I'm still relying on people, but

I'm back now," said Kosarich with a smile. "I'm back in the fold."

During a city council meeting on Aug. 11, Sauter arranged for the bikers and the girls' cross country team to be honored with certificates of recognition for their actions.

"This is a learning experience — we need to be prepared for things," said Sauter. "I hope more people will learn CPR."

Astudillo believes everyone should get CPR certified and maintains that it was no accident that Kosarich survived.

"He got another chance to live," said Astudillo. "God put us there — it wasn't his time to go."

Marine band to close out concert series

■ Summer concerts will end with a patriotic bang.

DOWNEY — The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band based out of Twentynine Palms will delight the community Wednesday at Furman Park for the finale of the city of Downey's Twilight Summer Concert Series.

Established in the late 1950s, the band is one of the youngest Marine Corps musical units. A band from its inception, it was later reestablished as a drum and bugle corps and remained that way until 1990, when a restructure of the Corps music program formally established the 12 Marine Corps bands that exist today.

The band travels extensively throughout the western United States. Recent tours have seen the band in Nevada, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

Some of their most popular performances are at the annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena and the Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival in Estes Park, Colo.

In order to fulfill their mission of providing music for military ceremonies, community events, recruiting programs and other official events, the 51 band members perform in a wide variety of ensembles to include concert band, ceremonial band, brass band, woodwind quintet, jazz combo and brass quintet.

The men and women of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band are trained Marine riflemen who serve as a perimeter security/machine gun platoon during times of war. With Gulf War veterans in their ranks, they give full meaning to the term "Marine Musicians."

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band carries on the proud tradition of military music forged by the whistling fifes and rolling drums of the first Marine Musicians of 1775.

Chief Warrent Officer 2 Stephen B. Giove is the band officer while Gunnery Sgt. Carl J. Vanderzee is the bandmaster.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. and is free.

Start of school year brings high hopes

■ Officials preparing for new school year, which begins Sept. 3.

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY — For 22,265 Downey Unified K-12 kids, it's back to school Sept. 3 amid high hopes they'll get at least the rudiments they'll need in their individual educational odysseys.

Rooting for them to succeed are their parents/families and teachers, of course, as well as school officials and, indeed, every involved stakeholder in the whole vast, vital educational enterprise.

Board goals

There's no higher priority on the Board of Education's list of goals year after year. In fact, at its next regular meeting this Tuesday, it's set to adopt the following as its number one goal for 2009-10: "Schools will continue to improve *student achievement* by developing and implementing an action plan to meet their State Academic Performance Index (API) growth targets and their Federal Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) targets for numerically significant subgroups."

To realize this goal, the Board, for one, is expected to continue its commitment to teacher training with emphasis this year on such areas as the so-called Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) designed specifically for English Learners, as well as guided

reading methods to Title I (assistance in reading and math for qualified students) and English Development (ELD) programs in grades 6-8, as well as mathematics courses where they are most needed.

Information system

The district is big on online data analysis and reporting: the board's endorsement of the district's proposed newfangled student data/management system is anticipated as this will assist in the generation of "school benchmark assessments and data disaggregation" for instructional planning purposes.

The creation and implementation of an on-line work order requisition system for MOT (department of Maintenance, Operations, Transportation) and Technology is likewise on the list.

Another major objective is to get Columbus High School accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, with both CTE and credit recovery courses scheduled to be integrated into the curriculum.

Meanwhile, it's not about to lose sight of its commitment to monitor and adjust budget priorities as the year progresses, as a consequence of "severe" state education funding cuts.

New culinary arts facility

Another top goal is the completion of the final modernization phase at Warren High School, even

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Harrison W. Gipple, grandson of Col. (Retired) and Mrs. Harvey W. Gipple, of Downey, was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Lt. Gipple will be assigned to Kadena Air Force Base at Okinawa, Japan. While there, he will be flying the Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft. Gipple is a 2007 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and completed his flight training at Columbus Air Force Base in Columbus, Miss.

Carol Kim serving proudly in the Navy

BY STEPHANIE COBAU

DOWNEY – Currently aboard the Navy's USS Nimitz, 21 year old Carol Kim is performing duties as an E-3 airman. Having joined the Navy one year and eight months ago, Kim has been enjoying her time in service, stating "The Navy has been life changing. It is a great opportunity to see different places and meet new people. Not to mention it pays for your education."

Kim is currently on a Western Pacific deployment working to defend America's interests of spreading peace and stability abroad. This tour of duty will continue for six months and upon her return Kim will be stationed in Washington.

During her deployment, Kim's specific job is to work on parachutes, liquid oxygen, and life preservers, which are vital to saving pilots' and aircrew members' lives.

The USS Nimitz, currently carrying a crew of 5,000, departed from San Diego Aug. 31 under

Captain Michael C. Manazir. The USS Nimitz travels under the philosophy "Teamwork... A Tradition."

On board, Rear Adm. John W. Miller Commander CSG 11, states enthusiastically, "I'm proud of these sailors, and all their families for the mutual commitment to support their country. This deployment is the culmination of a lot of hard work. We are ready."

Kim's day-to-day routine includes 12 hours of work followed by free time to relax, during which she enjoys watching movies and running. Currently looking to make a career out of the military, Kim plans to serve for a total of 20 years and then become a history teacher or school counselor.

Prior to enlisting, Kim resided in Downey and attended East Middle School and Downey High School. During her time at Downey High, she was a member of the cross country and track team.

Kim's parents still reside in Downey.



Carol Kim, 21, is aboard the USS Nimitz on a Western Pacific deployment. A Downey High School graduate, she plans to serve in the Navy 20 years before becoming a teacher or school counselor.

Faust installed as Assistance League president

DOWNEY – Judith Faust has been elected as the 52nd president of the Assistance League of Downey, the organization has announced.

Faust has been an active member of the Assistance League since 1982 and has held many offices, including terms as treasurer.

She is affectionately known as "the Book Lady" in the Second Tyme Around Thrift Shoppe.

Other officers for 2009-10 include Charlene McCluskey, first vice-president, membership; Jean Johnson, second vice-president,

philanthropy; Judy Berg, third vice-president, ways and means; Willellyn McFarland, recording secretary; Karen Hoferer, corresponding secretary; and Jo Wilbur, treasurer.

The Assistance League of Downey is one of the more than 120 chapters of Assistance League, a national nonprofit organization. Last year, 200 member volunteers, including the Gypsy Johnson and Assisteens auxiliaries, volunteered more than 17,000 hours and helped more than 10,000 people in the Downey area through its philan-

thropic programs.

The organization's Operation School Bell program provided clothes and shoes to more than 350 children referred by DUSD, and \$10,000 was awarded in scholarships. Kids on the Block performed educational puppet shows and skits in every Downey elementary school, and more than \$14,000 in free dental care was provided.

The Assistance League of Downey also distributed 100 teddy bears to the Downey police and fire departments to use at their discretion, and more than 2,000 wrapped

Christmas gifts were distributed to nursing homes and other agencies. H.O.M.E. (Housing of Medical Emergencies), located near Rancho Los Amigos, provided housing to more than 250 patients' families this year.

Programs are supported by the Second Tyme Around Thrift Shoppe located at 11026 Downey Ave. and the annual Christmas Tree Brunch, to be held this year Nov. 22 at the Long Beach Hilton.

For information about membership, call the thrift shop at (562) 869-0232 and leave a message.



Judith Faust is the 52nd president of the Assistance League.

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Downey resident Michelle Page was crowned California Teen Miss Victory and Miss California Teen first runner-up at the California American Coed Pageant held Aug. 6-9. Page will now compete for the national title of American Teen Miss Victory in Orlando this November.

SEAACA: Buy one cat, get one free

DOWNEY – In one final push to place cats into homes this summer, SEAACA (Southeast Area Animal Control Authority) is offering a 2-for-1 deal where adopters can take home two cats for only \$25.

The reduced fee includes spaying and neutering, first set of vaccinations, de-worming and a microchip.

SEAACA normally reduces adoption rates for felines during the summer. The 2-for-1 deal is sponsored by the Found Animals Foundation out of Los Angeles.

“This is essentially an adopt one get one free program running concurrently with our in-house summer program,” said Dan Morrison, executive director for SEAACA. “Adopters can bring two cats into their family, with all the bells and whistles, for only \$25.”

Morrison said reduced rates helps SEAACA place more cats in adoptive homes during the summer.

“We haven’t officially tallied the results thus far, but we know that cat adoptions went from single digit to double digit totals on an almost daily basis this summer,” he said.

Last month, SEAACA placed 175 cats in homes, compared to 130 in July 2008.

The reduced rates are scheduled to expire Aug. 29.

Girls invited to Downey cheer camp

DOWNEY – Downey High School cheerleaders will offer their annual cheer camp Sept. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to noon inside the school gym.

Girls between the ages of 5-13 will learn game action cheers and perform during halftime of the Sept. 25 Downey varsity football game at Allen Layne Stadium.

Cost of the clinic is \$25 and includes a T-shirt and two admission tickets to the football game.

For information and registration, call Kim Buss at (562) 822-4265.



From left: Councilman Luis Marquez, Mayor Mario Guerra, Rick Rodriguez, Sgt. First Class Rick Rodriguez Jr. and Sgt. Daniel Rodriguez.

Book signing at Bob’s Big Boy

DOWNEY – Authors John Eng and Adriene Biondo will sign copies of their latest book, “Southern California Eats,” Sept. 26 at the new Bob’s Big Boy in Downey from 2-3 p.m.

“Southern California Eats” is described as part homage, part guidebook to some of the areas most unique eating establishments, including Hollywood’s Formosa Café, the LAX Theme Building, and ultra-modern Google coffee shops.

The book-signing will also include a car show.

RMI International wins Latin business award

DOWNEY – Rick Rodriguez, a Downey resident and immediate past president of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, and his wife, Lupe, have been awarded the prestigious SOL Business of the Year Award from the Latin Business Association.

The award was presented at a banquet July 24.

The Rodriguez’s own and operate the security firm RMI International, which offers a vast array of security services, from event staffing and parking enforcement to guarding of international dignitaries.

More than 1,200 Hispanic-owned businesses across the U.S. with annual sales topping \$10 million were considered for the SOL Award.

On the same night, the Rodriguez’s two sons were also honored. Sgt. First Class Rick Rodriguez Jr., a senior drill sergeant at Fort Jackson in South Carolina, and Sgt. Daniel Rodriguez, of the Los Angeles recruitment battalion, received the Chairman’s Hometown Hero Award. Both young men have each served two tours of duty in Iraq.

New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- **“Benny and Shrimp”** by Katarina Mazetti. Shrimp—an intelligent, tidy, widowed librarian—meets Benny—a gentle, overworked milk farmer—prompting an unlikely love story that should not be as complicated as it seems.
- **“Best Friends Forever”** by Jennifer Weiner. Popular TV personality Valerie Adler turns to her Illinois hometown friend Addie Downs in a novel about loyalty, family history and small town secrets.
- **“The Girl Who Played with Fire”** by Stieg Larsson. When a sex trafficking expose is about to be published, two reporters are found murdered and the fingerprints on the weapon belong to Lisbeth Salander, a genius hacker.
- **“Short Girls”** by Bich Minh Nguyen. Two estranged Vietnamese sisters, each wrestling with their own lives, careers and romances, are reunited at their father’s American citizenship party and forge a new relationship.
- **“The Year of the Flood”** by Margaret Atwood. After a natural disaster destroys most human life, two women survive but realize they can’t stay locked away and must decide their next move.

Non-Fiction

- **“Beginner’s Guide to Beethoven”** by John Deathridge. This book profiles the achievements of the master composer against the backdrop of his personal life and time.
- **“Julie and Julia: My Year of Cooking Dangerously”** by Julie Powell. To escape the doldrums of an unpromising career, the author cooks every recipe in Julia Child’s classic, “Mastering the Art of French Cooking,” a year-long endeavor that transforms her life.
- **“Late Editions: a Love Story”** by Bob Greene. The veteran Chicago columnist and CNN contributor recalls his days as a copy boy and other assignments with two rival newspapers that reflected Midwestern life and nostalgic journalism.
- **“What Do You Want from Me? Learning to Get Along with In-Laws”** by Terri Apter. Marriage is not only a bond between two individuals: it establishes an intricate connection between entire families. A psychologist offers insights on managing conflicts and expectations to build healthier relationships with in-laws.
- **“What’s Math Got to Do with It?: Helping Children Learn to Love Their Least Favorite Subject”** by Jo Boaler. This guide for parents and teachers cites America’s low ranking in global math performance and offers solutions for motivating reluctant students.

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

Crime Watch

Tuesday, Aug. 11

• At 10 p.m. a 19-year-old Downey resident was carjacked and briefly kidnapped at gunpoint in the area of Woodruff Avenue and Muller Street. The suspects drove the victim around the city, finally ordering him out of the car, unharmed. The victim immediately contacted Downey Police who spotted the stolen car in the downtown area. Ultimately, the two suspects, a 16-year-old female from Pasadena and a 15-year-old male from Downey, were arrested and booked for multiple felony charges.

Friday, Aug. 14

• At 10:50 p.m. a Downey officer on patrol saw a suspicious male seated inside a car in the Bally’s parking lot (12027 Lakewood Blvd.). The officer noticed damage to the car’s door handle and saw a second male that appeared to be acting as a “look out.” The officer detained the two subjects, and after further investigation, determined they had broken into the damaged vehicle. The suspects (both residents of Los Angeles) were arrested for burglary.

Saturday, August 15

• At 12:35 a.m. a robbery occurred at a home in the 7000 block of 4th Street. The four suspects took an undisclosed amount of money and a cellular phone before fleeing. No one was injured.

• At 12:45 a.m. an assault with a knife occurred at the Pow Wow Bar located at 9560 Firestone Blvd. During a fist fight inside the business, the suspect pulled out a knife, stabbed two victims, and fled the scene before officers arrived. The victims were transported to local hospitals where they were treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Source: Downey Police Department

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Aug. 25, 10 a.m.
Coco’s
5809 Lakewood Blvd.
Lakewood, 90712

Aug. 31, 10 a.m.
Talbert Medical Group
818 W. Alondra Blvd.
Compton, 90220

Aug. 25, 10:30 a.m.
IHOP
5655 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, 90036

Sept. 2, 10 a.m.
Marie Callender’s
12402 E. Washington Blvd.
Whittier, 90602

Aug. 27, 10:30 a.m.
Grinder’s
8521 S. Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles, 90045

Sept. 8, 10 a.m.
Marie Callender’s
7860 Florence Ave.
Downey, 90240

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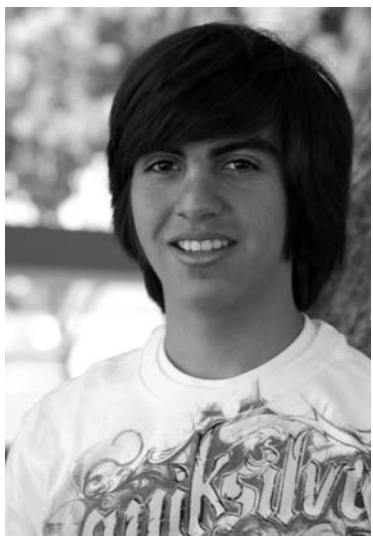
Introducing the 2009 - 2010 Student Life Writers



Downey High School student Alyssa Wynne is an ambitious writer who avoids laziness like the plague, already shaping up to turn her goals of attending a four-year university and becoming a successful journalist into a very possible reality. Wynne's plans for her future explain her great enthusiasm for other interests, such as soccer and politics, is proof to be shown that Alyssa is a hardworking individual as a whole. After playing the challenging sport of soccer for over five years, seventeen year-old Alyssa Wynne finds that she enjoys the fierce competition of the game and the opportunity to receive a natural high from pushing herself to her limit. The political world draws in Wynne as a journalist eager to meet those who are changing the world, and write about the changes that mark the progress of society. Although this teenager may differ in her interests and goals for the future, Alyssa shares common fears of the dark and bugs, and common loves of spending time with friends and attending the happiest place on earth: Disneyland. **Interview by Joanna Quintana**



Senior year is the year where everyone gets their chance to shine. It is the year where young men and women seek out new opportunities and prepare themselves for their future. For Downey High School senior Gabriela Coya, new opportunities and preparation are aspects she is well used to. "I'm looking forward to having more of a role at Downey and enjoying my last year of adolescence," stated Coya. As the newly instated president of her school's Ecology Club, Gabriela, who is referred to as Gaby by her peers, has the chance to bring significant change not only to the school, but to the community as well. In addition to her efforts to save the environment, she exercises her freedom of speech rights as vice president of the Junior Statesmen of America club, also known as JSA. Along with her cabinet positions on two demanding clubs, Gaby is a 4.0 student who juggles A.P. and honors classes. An only child, Coya enjoys American literature, Broadway plays and show tunes, and spending time with her friends for fun. College and careers are on her radar, however she is keeping her options open. **Interview by Joseph Apodaca**



Carlos Ontiveros, 16 years old and an upcoming junior at Downey High School, is the newest intern photographer for the Downey Patriot. He constantly seeks opportunities to apply his photography skills, and his resume includes shooting weddings, individual photo shoots, and a year-long experience as a freelance photographer. In addition, Ontiveros will be joining the yearbook staff at Downey High School this upcoming school year. Although much of his time is invested into his passion for photography, he also enjoys traveling and playing computer games. With aspirations to become a professional photographer, Ontiveros hopes that this internship will be the experience that takes him a step closer to his goal. **Interview by Deborah Won**



Joseph Apodaca is currently entering his freshman year at Cal State Long Beach, where he plans to major in Journalism and minor in Communications. A graduate of Downey High School, he always enjoyed writing. During his four years of high school, he said he tried to "make the most of it and get involved" by dedicating himself to the water polo team both as a player and team manager, the swim team, and the yearbook staff as a writer. While writing for the school yearbook, he gained insight as a journalist not only by writing, but also being apart of the editorial board as Copy Editor, where he read and edited all the stories before publication. He raved about working with an "amazing staff and Ms. Napoli, who is equally amazing" and claimed Downey's yearbook staff "hasn't seen the last of me." Apodaca, a fraternal twin, enjoys frequent visits to theme parks such as Disneyland and Universal Studios Hollywood with his annual passes, game nights, and going out to dinner with friends. He applied for the internship at the Downey Patriot as a stepping-stone for his journalism career. **Interview by Gaby Coya**



The most interesting aspect of Jared Head when he first expressed interest in interning with The Downey Patriot was his passion toward sports. Head, 20, has shown the ability to understand the daily ins and outs of the sporting world through his experiences with other organizations. Along with interning at The Downey Patriot, Head works with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim graphics department and helps patch together clips to show on the big screen during games. Head's sports knowledge and experience will be a major contribution toward the newspaper's sports page. When he's not in the field or at Angel Stadium, Head also participates in many community activities and participates with many community organizations. He also is currently enrolled at Cerritos College. Head also enjoys watching auto racing and golfing. **Interview by Scott Cobos**



Along with being the newest addition to Student Life, Deborah Won is involved in many other activities: cheerleading, piano, politics, and founding her own club.

Won, 16, is a rising junior at Warren High. A cheerleader since eighth grade, Won will be on the varsity cheer squad this year. She has been playing the piano since 3 and occasionally plays piano accompaniment for the I.A.M.S. (Institute of Art, Music, and Science) Youth Ensemble.

Won says she is interested in politics and hopes to major in political science in college. She has had years of leadership experience through A.S.B. (Associated Student Body) and was Sophomore Vice President at Warren.

Won says she is starting her own club on campus this year called Small Change.

"We want to promote student participation in Warren High activities and provide fundraising opportunities to students," she said. **Interview by Jennifer Cho**



Jennifer Cho, 16 years of age and a rising junior at Downey High School, has been writing for the Downey Patriot as an intern since the Spring of 2009. A consistent reader of the newspaper, she discovered this internship opportunity while reading an open call for intern applications in the Downey Patriot. Cho is known for her diligence in her studies, and has had rigorous honors and AP classes throughout her high school career. A well-rounded and highly involved student, Cho plays for Downey High School's tennis team, and holds the position of Secretary for Key Club, both since her freshman year to present. Adding to her list of school activities, she will also be a part of the yearbook staff this upcoming year. Outside of school, Cho has dedicated ten years to master the piano, and has also volunteered at the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center's volunteer office since her 8th grade summer. Journalism is one of her key interests, and she is excited to continue her internship to expand her knowledge and experiences. **Interview by Deborah Won**



Writer Joanna Quintana, has professed that whatever career path she chooses she plans to be the best at it; perhaps this is why she has been one of the lucky eight selected to be an intern at the Downey Patriot. She hopes that someday her experience at the paper will help augment her writing skills even if she does not go into journalism. As a senior at Downey High School, Joanna takes mentally draining Advanced Placement and Honors classes in order to achieve her goal of attending a four-year university. Joanna, 16, is not all work and no play though. She adores traveling and hopes to travel nearly everywhere in the world. She is very passionate about running and is on both the Cross-Country team and the Track and Field team at her high school. The California native despises the cold and wishes for nothing but nice warm temperatures, naturally. Boredom is an enemy to her just as it is to any teenager and she facilitates the burden by going out with her close family and friends. **Interview by Alyssa Wynne**



Adoration for photography, kindness, and intellect has allowed Paul Heidecker to attain his internship, for the second year, at the Downey Patriot as a photographer. A position he so righteously earned is due in part to the talent and eye he possess for the art. Although Heidecker fancies being a successful photographer he would love to become a professional athlete in golf, his second passion. He has pursued the sport by joining the Downey High School golf team and participating in their respective competitions. The amiable junior enjoys playing video games and going out with his close friends, just as other sixteen-year-old boys. As for academics, Heidecker excels in mathematics and will be taking Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus this upcoming fall at his high school. His above average ability in arithmetic and stupendous skill in golf will likely get him into Arizona State University where he dreams to go after high school. From there he hopes to accomplish his goal of being a fabulous and perhaps famous still or fashion photographer. **Interview by Alyssa Wynne**

2009-2010 Interns for The Downey Patriot

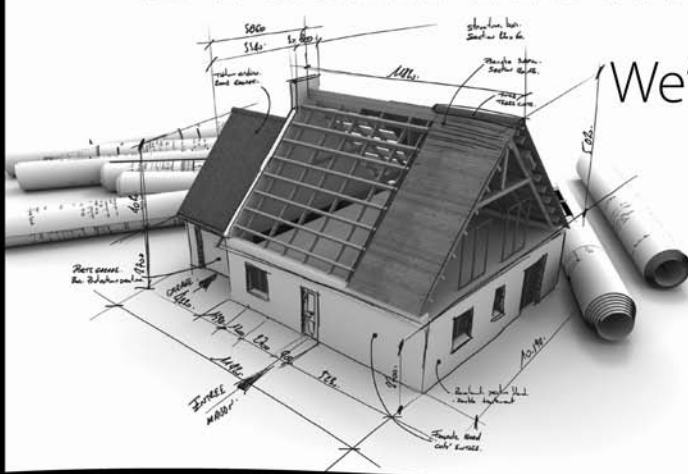
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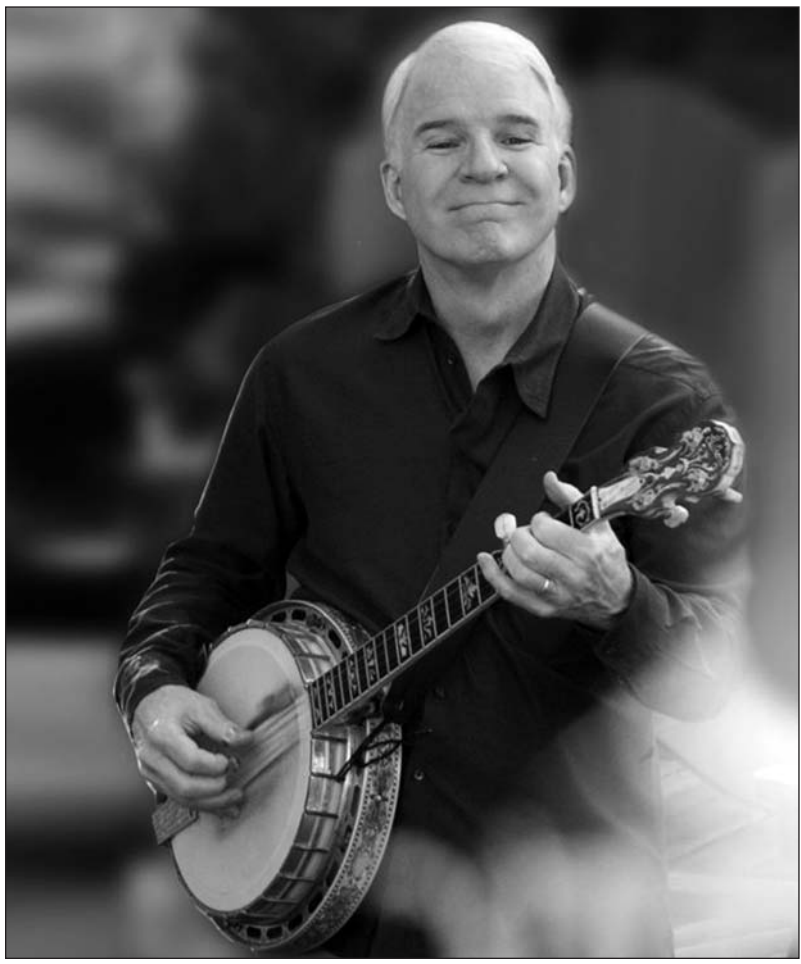
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Steve Martin will return to his native Orange County when he performs Oct. 30 in Costa Mesa. *Publicity photo*

Steve Martin returns to where it all started

COSTA MESA — Steve Martin, the multi-talented and award-winning actor, comedian, musician and author, will perform a one-night-only engagement Oct. 30 at Segerstrom Hall in Costa Mesa.

Martin, his banjo and the Steep Canyon Rangers will perform skits and music from his latest release, "The Crow: New Songs for the Five-String Banjo."

The performance brings Martin back to Orange County where he was raised and spent his formative years.

Martin, a Kennedy Center honoree, enjoyed a quick rise to stardom. During college, he nabbed a job writing for "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour," which eventually won him an Emmy Award for writing. He went on to write material for hit shows "Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour" and "Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour."

When he decided to take his own comedy act on the road, he got the attention of Johnny Carson, who put him on "The Tonight Show" where Martin became a frequent guest. His stints on the show led to his debut on "Saturday Night Live."

Around this time, Martin released a series of popular comedy albums that helped launch signature phrases such as, "I am a wild and crazy guy" and "Excuse me!" Martin won Grammy Awards for the albums "Wild and Crazy Guy" and "Let's Get Small."

Martin's next stop was the movies. His first big success was "The Jerk." It was the first full-length film he wrote and starred in, and its success opened even more doors for Martin. Over the years, he starred in numerous hit movies including "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid," "The Man with Two Brains," "All of Me," "Little Shop of Horrors," "Roxanne," "Planes, Trains & Automobiles," "Parenthood," "LA Story," "Father of the Bride," "Shopgirl,"

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Francois Chau stars as Serge in "Art," a Tony Award-winning play opening Sept. 16 in Los Angeles. *Publicity photo*

Defining the value of 'Art'

LOS ANGELES — "Art," a Tony Award-winning comedic play about three friends who try to define the value of art, will open the 44th season of East West Players when it opens Sept. 16 at the David Henry Hwang Theater at Union Center.

"Art" revolves around a 4' x 5' white canvas, painted with fine white diagonal lines. Is this art? Serge believes it is, and is willing to pay \$200,000 for it. When Marc flat out laughs at the ridiculousness of the situation, a third party is brought in for an objective opinion. Yvan agrees with both.

When three opinions clash, three 15-year-long friendships are put to the test. At the breaking point, Serge hands Marc a felt tip

pen and dares him, "Go on."

"Art" has won numerous awards, including the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award and the 1998 Tony Award for Best Play.

Opening night will be accompanied by a pre-performance cocktail reception and a post-show reception with the cast and creative team.

Performances are Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. "Art" closes Oct. 11.

Opening night tickets are \$60 for all seats. General admission tickets for other shows are \$25-\$35. For tickets and informational, call (213) 625-7000 or visit www.eastwestplayers.org.

'Girls Night Out' at mall

LOS ANGELES — The Westfield Shopping Center in Century City will host free screenings of "Legally Blonde 1 & 2" Wednesday beginning at 8 p.m.

The event, titled "Girls Night Out," begins at 6 p.m. with drinks, food and makeovers.

Guests will have an opportunity to win gift bags and tickets to see "Legally Blonde The Musical".

Westfield Shopping Center is at 10250 Santa Monica Blvd. in Los Angeles.

The screenings will take place on the dining terrace on the second level.

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Middle Eastern laughs Sept. 22

HOLLYWOOD — The Middle Eastern Comedy Festival will present a benefit comedy show Sept. 22 at the Laugh Factory in Hollywood.

The Middle Eastern Comedy Festival features writers, actors, directors and comedians of Middle Eastern heritage. According to its mission statement, the group works to "dispel negative stereotypes of Middle Easterners in film, television and other media."

For tickets and more information, visit www.mideastcomedifest.com.

Drama opens tonight in Long Beach

LONG BEACH — "In Arabia We'd All Be Kings," a new production by Alive Theatre, opens tonight for a 4-week engagement at the Old Expo Furniture Warehouse in Long Beach.

The modern-day drama is set in New York City and asks the question, "What do you do when your life is pushed to its limits?"

Tickets are \$15 or \$12 for seniors and students. For tickets and schedule information, visit www.alivetheatre.org or call (562) 508-1788.

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Woman convicted of Lakewood murder

NORWALK – A Norwalk Superior Court jury convicted a 25-year-old woman last Friday on murder and other charges in connection with the knife attack on four people in a Lakewood home three years ago.

The jury deliberated about two days before convicting Virginia Ann Krall of one count of second degree murder, three counts of

attempted murder and one count of residential burglary, said Deputy District Attorney Frank Dunnick.

The jury also found true allegations Krall used a knife and the victims suffered great bodily injury.

According to prosecutors, Krall had been staying with friends in Lakewood when she broke into a nearby home at about 3 a.m. on June 16, 2006.

The first victim, a woman, was stabbed several times but managed to flee as she tried to warn her grandmother and aunt.

Krall was convicted of the second-degree murder of the first victim's mother, Yolanda Meraz. The attempted murder convictions were for attacks on the first victim, her grandmother and her aunt. All survived multiple stab wounds.

Krall was arrested at the scene by Sheriff's deputies and has remained in custody on more than \$2 million bail.

Krall entered a double plea of innocent and innocent by reason of insanity. The jury that convicted Krall will now decide if she was sane or insane during the time the crimes were committed.



Charlotte Carpenter returns to the Downey Civic Light Opera for a seventh time to star as Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady," opening Oct. 1 at the Downey Theatre. Carpenter appeared as Adelaide in "Guys and Dolls," Nancy in "Oliver," Sally Bowles in "Cabaret," Anna Held in "Tintypes" and most recently as Dorothy Brock in "42nd Street." "My Fair Lady" will play until Oct. 18. For tickets and information, call (562) 923-1714.

Garden party becoming a tradition

■ Fundraiser, now in its second year, benefits the Downey Symphony.

BY JOYCE SHERWIN,
DOWNEY SYMPHONY

DOWNEY – Last summer about this time, the Downey Symphony's garden party was so much fun, so delicious, and so successful, the Board made an easy decision: we must do this again.

So invitations are now in the mail for the Second Annual Symphony Garden Party, 2009 edition, which promises all the delights of the first affair and some wonderful new twists of its own.

The date is Sunday afternoon,

Sept. 20, from 4-7 p.m., in the spacious garden of Dr. Walter Kelley, who served many years on the Symphony Board and is delighted to offer his flower-bordered lawns and spreading patio for this fundraising event.

Live music is on the bill, of course, starting with fun stuff offered by brass and wind students from USC. And then pianist Pauline Yang, who wowed her Downey audience last fall as soloist with the orchestra, will play for us, right there, up close and dazzling.

Reservations at \$75 benefit the Downey Symphony and its Music in the Schools program. For information and reservations, please call (562) 928-4122.



The Downey Symphony travels to Downey schools each year to introduce children to classical music. A fundraiser Sept. 20 will help keep the program going. Photo courtesy Joyce Sherwin

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MGM PHOTO

Downey resident Yolanda Adele was serenaded by Elvis Presley during a Las Vegas performance in 1969.

All shook up

BY YOLANDA ADELE,
WRITERS' WORKSHOP WEST

The summer of 1969 was Elvis Presley's opening night at what was then The International Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas. It was the first time he performed in public for more than nine years. According to a Newsweek article dated August 11, 1969, the showroom was filled with 2,200 seats two times per day during four weeks; total attendance reportedly topped 101,509, a new Las Vegas record. The gross receipts were \$1,522,635 also a Las Vegas record.

My husband made reservations six months in advance to be there for our seventh wedding anniversary; it was his anniversary gift to me.

The orchestra played the powerful theme from 2001 Space Odyssey to a reverberating crescendo when Elvis finally made his highly anticipated appearance and took command of the stage, wearing a white jump-suit.

The air seemed to fill with electrifying energy and euphoria as the audience stood and applauded with thunderous frenzy.

My husband bribed a couple of waiters and a maitre'd to sit me up front center stage. I didn't sit for long. I rose and pressed my body up against the platform as some women from behind me rushed the stage when Elvis teasingly pulled his scarf off his neck to wipe his brow (which I now know contains his DNA) before offering it to his adoring fans.

I raised and waved my hand to plea for the appraised scarf. I screamed out his name. He turned and looked right at me, giving me his trademark, upper lip curled smile, and said "Hold on honey, I'll get to you."

One of his body guards pointed a flashlight beam on my burnt orange hot pants (shorts) and matching calypso blouse that I wore, that seemed to cue the lighting technician, because changing color lights washed over me repeatedly before panning the rest of the audience in the auditorium.

Then a single large spot light followed Elvis as he moved nearer to me and knelt down on one knee directly in front of me. I was mesmerized by his sapphire-blue eyes as he sang "Love Me Tender." I was sure he was singing just to me. Slowly Elvis leaned forward to slip his scarf over my head until it reached the back of my neck pulling me closer to him. I stood on my tip-toes, closed my eyes...then he kissed me on the lips softly and tenderly. Women shrieked fervently, but he chose me.

I opened my eyes feeling a bit shook up and disoriented. All sounds seemed muffled before everything went dim and I fell to the ground. I vaguely heard someone say, "She's fainted, give her some room!" And I remember thinking, If only Elvis could give me mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

That was 40 years ago, yet the images of that magical time in my life are vibrant in the recesses of my mind; where I visit from time to time when I need a break from the doldrums and I'm once again feeling vital and all shook up.

Writers' Workshop West, active since 1962, is open to anyone interested in writing fiction, non fiction, drama, and poetry. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Downey High School library. For information, call (562) 862-3106

Brett Favre is back! Anyone care?

BY SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

I received a text message a few days ago from our city editor, Eric Pierce, saying that I should rewrite my column from a couple weeks ago about Brett Favre's retirement. When I look back on that column, I'm glad that he wrote the headline saying something to the effect that Favre is finished maybe.

Obviously it's been all over the news and I wouldn't be surprised if ESPN has a clip that they're ready to use and loop for days stored away in a closet somewhere for whenever Favre retires and decides to return again.

This story has become so old that even the biggest Favre fans have started not to care. My girlfriend, probably the biggest Favre fan this side of the Rocky Mountains, said to me without flinching, when I asked what she thought, "Whatever."

And she's right. And I told Pierce that I already wrote Favre's obituary. I refuse to write about his third coming. I mean, for heaven's sake, he's not Jesus Christ. So you know what this column is about? It's not about Favre coming back to the NFL.

This column is not about Favre returning to the Minnesota Vikings, a team that effectively immediately burns any connections left with the Green Bay Packers. How much of a slap in the face to all Packer fans is it that he signed with the enemy?

This column is definitely not about how two years ago, Favre stood up in front of the press and said that he knew he could play one more year but he didn't think he wanted to, sobbing as he struggled through what we thought to be a genuine retirement speech.

This column sure isn't about how just months after he retired the first time, he went crying to the

Green Bay Packers about possibly returning and making the organization he played with for so many years completely undercut Aaron Rodgers, a young quarterback who has a bright future.

I won't even begin to tell you how this column is not about how Favre then proceeded to start a war in the media about how the Packers basically wouldn't let the man play for another team and that the organization should just let him do his thing and either be given his release or be traded.

There's no way that this column is about how Favre did help the New York Jets for a while until he played with an injury that basically sucked all the life out of his gun slinging arm that had gotten him through so many years of football. The Jets started the season 8-3 but then finished 1-4, keeping them out of the playoffs.

And there's no way this column is about Favre doing the same song and dance act this year that he did last year.

You know, maybe this column is about how he is a big football diva that just refuses to exit stage left even though his time in the spotlight has long ago left him. I don't know about you, but I'm sick of Favre.

Now, obviously I've never met the guy, but does it really take a scientist to figure out that the guy is way past his prime and that he's just doing this to see how long he can last until he ends up in a wheelchair?

Favre's time is over and it should have been over two seasons ago. But hey, he likes to play football apparently, even though he should be playing in his backyard in his Wrangler jeans. He should be in a booth somewhere giving analysis on football games, not being the cause of analysis.

But you know something? I don't care anymore. Whatever.

DJAA now accepting registration

DOWNEY - The Downey Junior Athletic Association (DJAA) is now accepting registration for flag football.

The league is open to boys and girls, in kindergarten through eighth grade, who live or attend school in Downey. Non-Downey residents may be allowed to participate based on space availability.

Registration on or before Aug. 31 is \$60 and may be paid by cash or money order only. The price increases to \$65 after Aug. 31.

Final day to register is Sept. 14.

Registration will be taken at Apollo Park on Aug. 22 (9-11 a.m.), Aug. 24 (6:30-8 p.m.), Aug. 31 (6:30-8 p.m.), Sept. 5 (9-11 a.m.), Sept. 8 (6:30-8 p.m.), Sept. 12 (9-11 a.m.) and Sept. 14 (6:30-8 p.m.).

Parents should bring their child's birth certificate and report card when registering. For more information on registration or coaching opportunities, e-mail info@djaasports.org.



Downey Youth Basketball, a youth travel team for children 12 and under, was crowned national champions at the Starvision 2009 National Youth Basketball Tournament in Las Vegas earlier this month. The Downey team was formed only five years ago by two coaches at the Downey YMCA. Last year the team decided to participate in national tournaments; in 2008-09, the team participated in 15 national tournaments, and won 11 of them.



The United States Tennis Association held its youth tennis program recently at Independence Park. The 6-week program is for first-time players and is partially funded by the 1984 Olympics held in Los Angeles. Top row, from left: Instructor Linda Gomez, Adam Araiza, Olayinka Bamidele, Ronak Zebarjedi, Ahtziri Mora-Romero and Instructor Silvana Consuegra. Middle row: Zachary James, Luckey Sarei, Precious Sarei, Lauren Lozano and Richard Lozano. Bottom row: Schance Sarei, Ty-Jahia Johnson, Lauren Martinez and Natalie Rosales.



Joe Vasquez receives \$1,500 check from Downey Rotary Club president Jim Boyd, for District 5280's Ecuador Rotary International Project. Vasquez is senior assistant governor in charge of the district's international services division.

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The Downey Patriot, a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles, State of California, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. VS019238

LEGAL NOTICES

SUMMONS (Family Law) Citacion (Derecho Familiar) Case Number (Numero de Caso) FAMRS 800738
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Name): Kimberly Soledad Terceros AVISO AL DEMANDADO (Nombre):
 You are being sued. Lo están demandando.
Petitioner's name is: Adolfo Burbano Nombre del demandante:
 You have 30 calendar days after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120 or FL-123) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter or phone call will not protect you.
 If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form.
 If you want legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. You can get information about finding lawyers at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), or by contacting your local county bar association.
 Tiene 30 días corridos después de haber recibido la entrega legal esta Citación y Petición, para presentar una Respuesta (formulario FL-120 o FL-123) ante la corte y efectuar la entrega legal de una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefónica no basta para protegerlo.
 Si no presenta su Respuesta a tiempo, la corte puede dar órdenes que afecten su matrimonio o pareja de hecho, sus bienes y la custodia de sus hijos. La corte también le puede ordenar que pague manutención, y honorarios y costos legales. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario un formulario de exención de cuotas. Si desea obtener asesoramiento legal, póngase en contacto de inmediato con un abogado. Puede obtener información para encontrar a un abogado en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en el sitio Web de los Servicios Legales de California (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org) o poniéndose en contacto con el colegio de abogados de su condado.
NOTICE: The restraining orders on page 2 are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. These orders are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.
AVISO: Las órdenes de restricción que figuran en la página 2 valen para ambos cónyuges o pareja de hecho hasta que se despida la petición, se emita un fallo o la corte dé otras órdenes. Cualquier autoridad de la ley que haya recibido o visto una copia de estas órdenes puede hacerlas acatar en cualquier lugar de California.
 The name and address of the court are (El nombre y dirección de la corte son): Superior Court of San Bernardino 8303 North Haven Avenue, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
 Name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are: (El nombre, dirección y número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante si no tiene abogado, son): Adolfo Burbano, 7201 Haven Avenue E1113, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701, 909-518-2349
Date (Fecha): March 7, 2008
 Ariene Salazar, Deputy (Asistente)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served as an individual.
AVISO A LA PERSONA QUE RECIBIO LA ENTREGA: a usted como individual.
 Published in: The Downey Patriot, # VS019238 8/21, 8/28, 9/4, 9/11/09

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Letters may be edited for style, space and/or content

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Toastmasters competing in area contest

DOWNEY – Downey residents Freddy Clark and Alaina Nieman will compete in the Toastmaster's Area Contest on Aug. 29 at 8:30 a.m. at the Smart & Final corporate offices in Commerce, 600 Citadel Dr.

Clark and Nieman qualified to compete in the area contest by winning local competitions. Clark took first place in Downey's Toastmaster Club 587 Evaluation Contest held Aug. 4, while Nieman won first place in the Humorous Contest held Aug. 12.

Local clubs such as Downey's Toastmaster Club 587 offer residents a chance to practice and hone communication and leadership skills. Toastmaster Club 587 meets every Tuesday at First Baptist Church of Downey, room 116, at 6 p.m.

SAT, PSAT seminars next month

DOWNEY – A series of seminars to prepare high school students for the SAT and PSAT exams will be offered by the Assistance League of Downey beginning next month.

Students who attend the seminar will take practice SAT and PSAT tests while instructors offer test-taking tips.

The seminars will be offered Sept. 12, Sept. 26, Oct. 10, Oct. 24 and Nov. 21. All seminars are from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Downey High School.

Students who attend a DUSD school are allowed to attend. Registration before Sept. 5 is \$40 and includes the book, "Preparing for the SAT 1/PSAT." The price increases to \$60 after Sept. 5.

Enrollment is limited. For an application, call Alice Yamada at (562) 861-2318.

Books open for bidding

DOWNEY – The Friends of the Downey City Library has announced their silent auction items for the month of August.

Items are on display in the library's foyer and include "The Children of Hurin" by J.R.R. Tolkien, tales from middle-earth from times long before "Lord of the Rings"; "The Red House Mystery" by A.A. Milne, from the creator of Winnie the Pooh comes a lovely English-style mystery complete with locked rooms and a missing suspect; "100 Years of Oz" by John Fricke is a century of classic images from the "Wizard of Oz" collection of Willard Carroll.

Bids can be placed in the Friends Book Store located inside the library until Aug. 29.

Shop, save and support a cause

DOWNEY – The Women's Guild of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church will host its fourth annual "Shopping Extravaganza" Oct. 10 at the Citadel Factory Outlets in Commerce.

Residents who purchase a \$20 ticket from the Guild will enjoy steep discounts at the outlets on Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ticket-holders will also receive three raffle tickets, wine tasting, lunch from Ruby's Diner, and a goody bag.

Proceeds from ticket sales will help fund the Guild's scholarship fund and its work with local organizations.

To purchase tickets, or for more information, call Sally Johnson at (562) 861-8370.

Car wash having grand opening

DOWNEY – A ribbon-cutting ceremony for Pro Hand Car Wash, located at 10030 Lakewood Blvd. (next to the Valero gas station), will be held Aug. 21 at noon.

The Downey Chamber of Commerce will assist with the event. The community is welcome.

Stonewood collecting jeans

DOWNEY – Now through Aug. 23, Stonewood Center is collecting new or gently used jeans to donate to the Long Beach Rescue Mission.

All who donate will receive a gift and discounts from participating Stonewood retailers.

Donations will be accepted at the Guest Services desk.

Tickets to oldies show now on sale

DOWNEY – The sixth annual "Oldies but Goodies" concert to benefit Easter Seals will be held Nov. 7 at the Downey Theatre.

Headlining the event is the band Ronnie & the Classics. Their act has been described as "an explosive show filled with energy, animation, choreography and great music."

The concert is sponsored by Century 21 My Real Estate and the Downey Chamber of Commerce. For information on tickets (\$25) or sponsorships, call the Chamber at (562) 923-2191.

Resident conned by phony \$50 bill

By Stephanie Cobau

DOWNEY – On Aug. 15, around 5:30 p.m. an unsuspecting Downey resident residing on Brookmill Road was given a counterfeit \$50 bill at a yard sale as payment for a \$5 item.

The goal of the criminal was to be given \$45 of real change after making only a \$5 purchase with the counterfeit \$50 bill.

The resident, who requested to remain anonymous, explains, "Two

men pulled up in a car but only one stepped out. Then the man walked up to the espresso machine and asked to buy it without removing it from the box to look at it."

Reflecting upon the man's actions, the resident now realizes that the reason the man never opened the box was because he was only concerned with being given the \$45 worth of change.

Counterfeit money is not always obvious to recognize to an untrained individual. The resident

did not realize that the bill was counterfeit until she took it to a local bank.

The resident now wishes that she had taken more care to ensure that this did not happen and would like to encourage others to become more informed about counterfeit money. The resident also believes that anyone having a yard sale should purchase a counterfeit money detector pen in order to ensure that they are not taken advantage of.

The Downey Police Department would like to remind Downey residents of some simple ways to check bills in order to insure that they are not counterfeit.

On all current bills, presidential faces are ridged, a security thread is present, color shifting ink is discernable, and a water mark is viewable.

On the \$50 bill that the Downey resident received, the security thread should have been roughly 1/4 of an inch away from the presidential portrait.

Hundreds receive foreclosure help

■ Housing counselors provided assistance on 288 mortgages.

DOWNEY – More than 500 people trying to save their homes attended a foreclosure prevention workshop at Downey Adult School on Aug. 8, where credit counselors and lenders offered free assistance.

Organized by the office of Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34), housing counselors provided assistance on 288 mortgages.

Visitors received on-site assistance and one-on-one counseling.

"I am truly sorry that unfortunate circumstances in your life have brought you here today," Roybal-Allard told the crowd in opening remarks. "But you are not alone in your time of crisis."

According to Roybal-Allard,

foreclosures in the U.S. have tripled since 2006 and reached a record-high during the first half of this year. Congress this month passed the National Foreclosure Mitigation Program, a \$63.8 million bill that provides funding to organizations that offer foreclosure counseling.

Roybal-Allard also warned residents against fraudulent services and paying for loan modifications.

"Families in Downey have been victimized by these swindlers," she said. "You can protect yourself against this fraud by only working with free HUD-certified counselors."

To find a local HUD counselor, visit the NeighborWorks website at www.nw.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard warned a large crowd at a foreclosure prevention fair in Downey to protect themselves against phony loan modification services.

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 Tropical Paradise With Guest House! 4BD, 2BA remodeled home w/ 2BD, 2BA attached wing off main house, and a separate guest house w/ kitchen & bath. All on a 14,500 lot w/ new pool and spa! Price: \$975,000 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com	 Quality Construction at a Bargain Price! 5 bedroom North Downey home with approx 6200 sq ft of living space on an 8000 sq ft lot with pool & spa. Builder's higher-end workmanship will be noticed as you walk this beautiful property scheduled to be finished within 30 days. Price: \$1,249,000 Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111	 Great Estate Amongst Others! 5 BD plus an office, 6.5 BA North Downey new home in an area surrounded by newer homes. The home has 6,400 sq ft living space, completely new with many upgrades, and situated on a 9,387 sq ft lot. Purchase this home once complete for \$1,349,000! Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111
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Unique Auto Spa in Downey was one of several homes and businesses recognized with Beautification Awards by the city of Downey.

Beautification award winners announced

DOWNEY – The 2009 Home and Business Beautification Award winners were recently decided upon by the Keep Downey Beautiful program and the City of Downey. These awards are given annually to individuals who dedicated their time to maintaining, improving and beautifying their homes and businesses. The Business Beautiful award winners include the Corner Church, Vaca Performance & Dyno

Inc., Unsworth School, Unique Auto Spa and Calvary Chapel of Downey. Home Beautiful award winners include Henry E. Foster, Jim Actkinson, Mary Arseneau, Ed Knebl, Darcy McLeod, Kendra and Patrick Hunter, Dr. Carl W. Stewart, and Dr. and Mrs. Ritchard Fishman. Home Improvement awards were given to Valentine Herron Jr., the Secord Family, Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Torres, and Gene &

Monica Gonzales. The last award category, included recipients Shady Lane Apartments, Pinebrook Villas Apartments, Arizonian Apartments, Marco Polo Apartments, Rancho La Paz Apartments, and the San Lucus Apartments. Keep Downey Beautiful meets the second Monday of each month 3p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Downey City Hall. *—Stephanie Cobau*



Realtor discovers old photo

DOWNEY – When local realtor Gene Sais did a walkthrough of a property he was selling a few years back, he made a curious discovery. Sais found a historic 1934 photograph of the very property he was selling at 11625 Paramount Blvd. Presently home to the University

Bible Fellowship, the property was previously known as Gabriel's Log Cabin Café. After years of holding on to the photograph, he recently donated it to the Downey Historical Society. "Thank you, Gene, for giving us this great photograph for our archives," said George Redfox, a

member of the historical society. If you have old photographs of Downey, Downey housing tract brochures, or any other piece of local history and would like to donate them to the historical society, call (562) 869-2777 or visit www.downeyhistoricalsociety.org.

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