

The Downey Patriot



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Friday, October 30, 2009

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



For Leslie Jones, education was never an 'if'

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

Leslie Jones says that from the time she was 8, she always wanted to be a teacher. "I had wonderful teachers from kindergarten on. They made learning fun. They motivated us kids, they encouraged us. With their enthusiasm everything came to life. You could tell they loved what they were doing."

Not that she needed much motivating: "I was self-motivated. I've always set goals for myself. For instance, I'd tell myself, get good grades, and I just did it. I never doubted I was going to college."

Jones, who was to get her bachelor's in social sciences from CSU-Long Beach and a master's in education from CSU-Fullerton, had other things going for her. Born in Long Beach, she knew she was a Southern California belle, with a strong streak of Hollywood culture in her blood. An uncle owned a movie theater on Sunset Boulevard. Her dad worked for Rockwell here in Downey. She grew up surrounded by a large extended family.

"My brothers and dad were athletic, and we watched baseball, football, golf," she says. "I play humbling golf, but I like it. My cousins and I - we played a lot, laughed a lot. Today, I'm the youngest cousin of 28. Most of them live in the area."

"My extra reading," she goes on, "doesn't end with the works of my favorite mystery authors such as Patterson and Holbein, or biography (she just finished "True Compass" by Ted Kennedy), or Time and Newsweek." Sheepishly, she says, "I go read the Hollywood tabloids like People magazine. I like to read Hollywood gossip."

Her other interests extend to photography and music ("The whole gamut—from classical to big bands to jazz"). A favorite travel destination is London ("It's such a fascinating place, so full of history"); she'd like to eventually travel to all the continents—Australia, Africa, South America, etc.

Jones had an inauspicious start in education after college. She landed her first teaching job in 1976 as a grade two teacher at Rio Hondo Elementary. Declining enrollment (even then!) caused a transfer the following year to Imperial. Then she got a jolt at the

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A meeting with the President

Downey grad wins national business plan competition

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY - For Kalief Rollins, business couldn't be better.

At the age of 17, Rollins and his custom T-shirts have already been featured on national television and radio. He's met with President Obama in the Oval Office and now has \$10,000 to both market and distribute his inspirational designs.

"I felt blessed to go to the White House," said Rollins. "He [Obama] told me to keep up the good work - he said he was proud of me."

With the help of his 22-year-old brother Anthony, Rollins used his T-shirt business to beat out nearly 24,000 other students who entered the National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge sponsored by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE).

But long before claiming the grand prize at the competition in New York City earlier this month, Rollins was just another Downey High School student in Jeanette Hernandez's entrepreneurship class.

"He didn't really stand out in class - Kalief is not a talkative person so I didn't notice anything specific," said Hernandez, 28. "But he was very interested in competing. He's a very talented young man. I'm excited for the possibilities."

In Hernandez' class, each student was required to draft a business plan. The top three class presentations would be submitted to the regional competition in Los Angeles. Rollins decided to create a plan for his T-shirt business, Phree Kountry Clothing.



PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA/WHITE HOUSE

Kalief Rollins, 17, won \$10,000 in a national business plan competition for high school students. Rollins met President Obama, who told Rollins to "keep up the good work."

"Everyone that knows me knows that I have an entrepreneurial spirit," said Rollins, who graduated in June. "The idea came from my brother. He's always been an artist."

After winning the regional competition in May, Rollins represented Southern California in New York among 27 other finalists from around the country. Rollins' custom shirts that feature positive messages proved to be a success among the judges.

"It's overwhelming," said Rollins over the phone. "I'm very blessed at such a young age to be able to fulfill my dream."

Estelle Reyes, Acting Executive Director for NFTE

Greater Los Angeles, believes students like Kalief are an example of what education can do.

"Our mission is to teach entrepreneurship," said Reyes. "Higher education produces more focus and more power - that's our goal."

Since 1987, NFTE has worked with more than 280,000 students in low-income communities teaching entrepreneurial skills.

Hernandez is looking forward to helping other students follow in Rollins' footsteps, but she hopes to receive some help from the business community.

"If they want to see the start of another Kalief, they can come in here and be judges - coaches for these students."

The last time Hernandez saw Rollins, he sold her a shirt for \$20.

"He kept asking me, 'When are you going to buy a shirt?,' said Hernandez with a laugh. "It would have been good to get one for free, but he's only getting more popular."

Today, Rollins, now a freshman at Los Angeles Southwest College, encourages other students to pursue their dreams in spite of opposition.

"Keep going forward - never give up," said Rollins. "Stay focused - what ever your business is, keep working towards your goal. I'm on my way to achieving my goal."

Tesla approved for tax incentives

Deal will save Tesla from paying sales tax on \$320 million worth of equipment.

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY - Tesla Motors, in negotiations to open a vehicle production facility in Downey, reached a deal with state representatives this week to avoid paying sales tax on manufacturing equipment.

The agreement between Tesla and the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority means Tesla will not pay sales tax on \$320 million worth of manufacturing equipment.

Under the deal's terms, the transportation authority will assume title of manufacturing equipment purchased by Tesla directly from vendors.

When the transactions are completed, the transportation authority will transfer title of the equipment back to Tesla.

The arrangement will save Tesla more than \$28 million.

State law exempts the transportation authority from having to pay sales tax on equipment used to manufacture "advanced transportation products." The tax break can be passed on to qualifying producers of zero emission vehicles.

"By helping Tesla stay and expand in California, this agreement will create valuable jobs for our battered economy," said State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, who chairs the transportation authority. "And it will bring the added bonus of benefiting our environment. (Zero emission vehicles) are efficient and clean, and a critical weapon in our fight against climate change."

Tesla has not chosen a final location for its Model S production facility, but company representatives said they are seeking a site with existing infrastructure.

According to the agreement between Tesla and the transportation authority, Tesla will have six months to upgrade the facility, during which an average of 40 local construction workers will work daily on two shifts.

Another six months will be needed to install production machines, requiring 70 tradesmen.

When the facility becomes operational, two shifts will be split among approximately 600 production workers, including 60 facilities personnel and 130 employees in office operations.

Tesla spokesperson Ricardo Reyes said he had no update on site negotiations, but said the agreement with the transportation authority "will allow us to accelerate the production of fuel-efficient electric cars and electric powertrain components for other automakers."

"Silicon Valley has been our home from the start, and we hope to help California continue to be a leader in green collar job growth," Reyes said.

Downey officials would not comment on negotiations with Tesla, but Mayor Mario Guerra called the tax incentives "good news."

Father plans 5K run in son's memory

Sean Feliciano, 20, committed suicide earlier this year.

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY - As a former police officer, Bob Feliciano has endured hostile shootouts, car chases, riots and standoffs, but nothing he experienced could ever compare to the moment he discovered that his son was gone.

"When people ask me how I'm doing, I tell them I'm 75 percent of a person," said Feliciano somberly. "The other 25 percent of me is gone - that's my son."

Seven months ago, 20-year-old Sean Feliciano, a graduate of Downey High School, took his own life, leaving his family with many more questions than answers.

"Every parent who's lost a child knows what I'm going through," said Feliciano, 69. "I can eat a full meal and afterwards feel



like my stomach is empty - I never thought this would happen to me."

However, the Feliciano family is turning their tragedy into an opportunity to raise awareness for suicide prevention by sponsoring a 5K run next year, if the city of Downey approves their proposal.

"This is a monumental undertaking," said Feliciano. "But with the help of the community we can prevent this from happening to another family."

In memory of his son, Feliciano started the Sean Vernon Feliciano

Amazing Day Foundation, which raises money and awareness for suicide prevention.

"On his voicemail, he would always end his message by saying, 'Have an amazing day,'" Feliciano said.

Feliciano believes an annual 5K run in Downey could bolster the foundation and help thousands of young people battling depression and hopelessness.

"Sean was a competitor. He was a runner. We want to continue that tradition," Feliciano said. "Every 16 minutes someone takes their life. If we can save just one life, we've done something."

To coincide with National Suicide Prevention Week, the foundation has requested Saturday, Sept. 11 for the run, which would begin at the Lakewood entrance of Stonewood Center, move up towards Woodruff, down to East Middle School and back.

Feliciano, who now teaches criminal law at Rio Hondo Community College, said the run would call for a closure of

Woodruff from 8 to 9 a.m., and affirms that the closure is for a worthwhile cause.

"Sean was not just my son, he was an active member of this community - this was his home," said Feliciano. "I intend to have this run and it's my goal and objective to get the city on board."

Sheriff Lee Baca has agreed to be the run's grand marshal in addition to serving on the foundation's board, Feliciano said.

The Sean Vernon Feliciano Amazing Day Foundation hopes to partner with UC Santa Barbara, where Sean attended, and Rio Hondo Community College. Collected funds will go towards educational materials and prevention research.

"Sean was a good student. He was in the top five percent of his graduating class - nationally. We're losing our top kids," Feliciano said. "I know times are rough, but if the community supports this - we can make a difference. We can prevent the needless loss of life."

Council approves second phase of Imperial Hwy. enhancement

■ Mayor objects to landscaping plan for Imperial Highway.

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Over the objections of Mayor Mario Guerra, and thus by an eventual vote of 4-1, the City Council on Tuesday approved the plans and specifications of phase two of the Imperial Highway Traffic Throughput and Safety Enhancements Project which, in addition to the usual considerations

of enhancing traffic flow and safety, aims at “improving the aesthetics and visual appearance of the Imperial Highway Corridor through a series of raised landscaped median islands and associated improvements.”

The first phase of the project, which included the portion of Imperial Highway between Bellflower and Paramount boulevards, was completed in August 2007.

The second phase covers the segments between Paramount Boulevard and the west city limit, and between Bellflower Boulevard

and the east city limit.

The enhancements will include: a) the construction of new raised landscaped median islands within the project limits where they currently don't exist; b) the re-landscaping of the existing median islands within the project limits (in other words, the landscaping theme will continue in the same vein as that of Phase I); 3) and various other improvements.

It was on the landscaping issue that Guerra directed his focus, saying in effect that he preferred the landscaping that was done previously on Paramount Boulevard and

that staff could perhaps modify the plans.

A pointed discussion took place, with the argument prevailing that time was of the essence here, to enable the city to take advantage of time-constrained Federal Transportation Enhancements Grant requirements.

More specifically, immediate Council action was necessary, according to public works director Brian Ragland, to allow sufficient time to advertise the project for construction so that a construction contract may be awarded by early December.

Adoptions of black cats suspended for now

DOWNEY – The Southeast Area Animal Control Authority is temporarily suspending the adoption of black cats this weekend out of caution for Halloween.

Black cats will be available for adoption again beginning Nov. 3.

“Anyone interested in adopting a black cat during this period may place their name on the animal's impound card and pick him/her up after Halloween,” said Aaron

Reyes, director of operations for SEAAACA.

Reyes said the likelihood of black cats being used for pranks, party props or in cult rituals increases during Halloween.

“It is better to keep them out of harm's way by waiting a few more days before letting them go to their new home,” he said.

Reyes also offered a few tips to help pets cope during Halloween:

- do not give pets candy (dogs and cats can't digest chocolate)

- do not dress pets in costumes unless they are truly not bothered by it

- only take pets trick or treating if they are not bothered by kids in costume

- when securing pets indoors, leave the television or radio on to help alleviate stress, and always leave fresh water available. Be

careful when answering the door to trick-or-treaters if your dog is loose in the house.

Have your pet microchipped so it can be reunited with its family should it become lost. SEAAACA charges \$25 to microchip a pet.

To report a case of animal cruelty, call SEAAACA at (562) 803-3301 or go online to www.seaaca.org.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF DOWNEY/COMMUNITY SERVICES

The city of Downey will host its annual pumpkin patch tomorrow, Halloween night, from 5-9 p.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center. The event is free and will feature carnival games, costume contests, crafts, food and more. The event is sponsored by the city of Downey, Optimist Club of Downey and Soroptimist International of Downey.

Credit union collecting food for the needy

DOWNEY – Downey Federal Credit Union is collecting food for needy families in Downey.

Collection bins for non-perishable food are located in the main

branch at 8237 3rd St. and in the express service office at Downey Regional Medical Center.

Some of the food being sought includes canned fruits and vegeta-

bles, peanut butter, tuna fish, canned meat, canned soup, canned meals, non-cook items and fruit juices.

Donations will be donated to

Downey PTA HELPS (Health, Education and Local Pantry Service). The credit union is also accepting monetary donations for PTA HELPS.

The credit union will also donate Thanksgiving baskets to families whose children attend their adopted schools, Ward and Lewis Elementary School.

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Downey man killed in crash

VENTURA – A Downey man was killed last week when the motorcycle he was riding went off-road and crashed west of Ventura, a local newspaper reported.

The victim was identified as Salvador Gonzalez-Larracilla, 33. According to the Ventura County Star, he was riding his motorcycle on the 101 Freeway near Padre Juan Canyon Road at about 5 p.m. Oct. 23.

He apparently maneuvered to avoid slow-moving traffic and his motorcycle ran off the road. The motorcycle crashed into two poles and Gonzalez-Larracilla was thrown from the bike, the newspaper reported.

He was taken by helicopter to Ventura County Medical Center where he died about four hours later, according to reports.

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Dentist looking to buy Halloween candy from kids

■ Dr. George Gholdoian will donate the candy to overseas troops.

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – When the last porch light goes out on Halloween night and every trick-or-treater is safe at home, after each scary costume is put away and the last Tootsie Roll is gobbled up, the real horror begins: dental cavities.

But one local dentist has a plan to both promote dental health, while also supporting America's troops serving abroad.

On Nov. 1, Dr. George Gholdoian, in collaboration with Operation Gratitude, will buy back candy from local kids for \$1 a pound and send the treats to sol-

diers serving overseas.

"We feel honored to do this," said Gholdoian, who opened his Downey dental office in 1966. "This is the first time we've done it, but this will be done on a yearly basis."

Gholdoian, 71, decided to host the buyback after his administrator of 37 years, Sylvia Gardea, read about Operation Gratitude in a dentist magazine.

"I thought it might be something we could do to help," said Gardea, 55. "It's important for all Americans, whether you're for or against the war, to support our troops."

Operation Gratitude was started in March 2003 when founder Carolyn Blashek sent her first four care packages to Iraq. Today, the California-based organization sends out more than 100,000 care

packages to American troops around the world.

"About 60 percent go to Iraq, 30 percent to Afghanistan and 10 percent to the ships and parts of Africa and India," said Blashek over the phone. "That will be changing – we'll have more going to Afghanistan than in the past."

Though Blashek believes the organization will meet its goal for this holiday season, she acknowledges that the economy has greatly affected their donations.

"Oh yes – they are down dramatically – about 30-50 percent," Blashek said. "We give out over 60,000 packages during the holidays. We don't say no – and I don't want to start saying no."

Annually, Operation Gratitude spends nearly \$1.1 million to send the care packages, each one costing about \$11 to send. Friends and

family of soldiers serving overseas can go online and request a care package be sent to their loved ones.

Gardea hopes the office can raise at least \$1,000 for Operation Gratitude, but insists that help from the community is needed.

"What ever little thing we can do here to make them feel appreciated – we should do," Gardea said. "We also want to get that candy away from the kids and promote dental health – you don't have to give up all of it, maybe just half – share it with our troops."

The candy buyback will last from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday outside Gholdoian's office on the corner of Lakewood Boulevard and Cherokee Drive.

In addition to accepting monetary donations, the office will also accept donations of ChapStick, batteries, beef jerky and handi wipes.

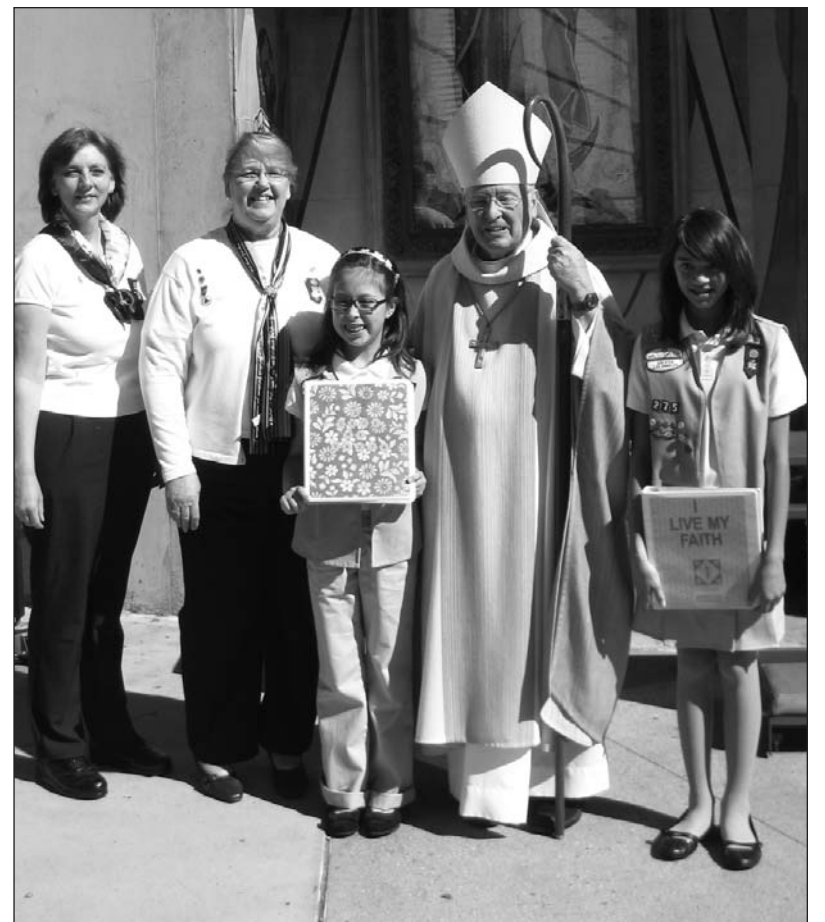


PHOTO COURTESY GLORIA LOPEZ

Two Downey Girl Scouts were among 32 girls in the Angeles Girl Scout Council to earn the "I Live My Faith Award" this year. From left: Karla Huffenback (co-leader of Downey Girl Service Unit), Linda Haverman (Downey Service Unit president), Amanda Lopez (Cadette Downey Girl Scout), Bishop Gerald Wilkerson and Lauren Wiese (Cadette Downey Girl Scout).

Downey OKs Mexican sister city

■ Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico becomes Downey's fifth sister city.

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – In a much-anticipated development honoring the spirit of peace and friendship between cities instigated by Dwight D. Eisenhower's International Sister Cities Program, Downey has just forged a bond with another city south of the border: Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico.

Fresnillo was by city resolution

formalized Tuesday as Downey's fifth sister city. The vote was 4-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Anne Bayer dissenting.

Downey has previously established affiliations with Guadalajara, Jalisco, Alajuela (Costa Rica) and Ensenada. Fresnillo, whose population of around 115,000 is nearly identical to Downey's, is the largest city in Zacatecas state in north central Mexico and is known to sit atop one of the world's richest silver mines, known as the Mina Proano or Fresnillo Mine.

Groups of Zacatecans in Southern California (the Southern California Diaspora) who saw the

benefits of a more collaborative, more meaningful relationship with their mother city/state had earlier advocated closer ties between Fresnillo and Downey, and expressed their wishes in tangible ways. Case in point: selected members of the Downey Fire Department in May conducted a five-day firemen and civil protection training program in Fresnillo, while a delegation from the city paid Downey a visit in July.

All that was left was a formal letter of intent from the city of Fresnillo. This was accomplished. In the meantime, as a further gesture of goodwill and as promised, Downey Fire donated a fire truck

to the city. It was delivered last month.

An eight-member Downey Fire team will head to Fresnillo soon to train its fire department on how to operate and maintain the truck.

Sister Cities engage in completely voluntary direct-contact, people-to-people programs that encompass student, cultural, professional, business, government, even athletic, programs.

Elected Sunday as Downey Sister Cities Association's new president was Mike Murray. For information about the association/how to join, call Paula Mejia at (562) 884-9657.

Thanksgiving dinner for seniors

DOWNEY – The 25th annual Thanksgiving dinner for senior citizens at West Middle School will take place Nov. 19 at 4 p.m.

This year, seniors can enjoy bingo as West Middle School students and staff serve them a free dinner. The school band will provide music.

For more information, call (562) 469-7318.

Volunteers needed for dinner

DOWNEY – Volunteers are needed for the 18th annual Thanksgiving Outreach Dinner to be held Nov. 21 at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center.

Men and women from local shelters will be served a Thanksgiving meal. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve a hot meal, set-up, decorate and more.

Food donations are also needed for the 100-plus food baskets that will be prepared and distributed through Downey schools and churches.

Anyone interested in volunteering or donating food should contact Breath of God Christian Fellowship at (310) 767-9620.

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Meetings will be held at the following locations

November 5 at 9:30 a.m.
Kaiser Permanente Orchard Medical Offices
Building C, 4th Floor, Room C43
9449 E. Imperial Highway
Downey

November 5 at 2 p.m.
Kaiser Permanente Orchard Medical Offices
Building C, 4th Floor, Room C43
9449 E. Imperial Highway
Downey

November 16 at 9:30 a.m.
Kaiser Permanente Orchard Medical Offices
Building C, 2nd Floor, Room C21 & C22
9449 E. Imperial Highway
Downey

November 16 at 2 p.m.
Kaiser Permanente Orchard Medical Offices
Building C, 2nd Floor, Room C21 & C22
9449 E. Imperial Highway
Downey

Contact us for more information. Seating is limited. To reserve your space at our informational meeting, call toll free at **1-877-834-0785** (TTY **1-888-758-6054** for the deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week.

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Space camp author to share story

DOWNEY — Author and teacher Mike Kersjes will speak and sign books at a special event Nov. 9 inside council chambers at City Hall.

The free program is sponsored by the Downey City Library and begins at 7 p.m.

Kersjes is the author of "A Smile as Big as the Moon: a Teacher, His Class and Their Unforgettable Journey."

A special education teacher,

Kersjes taught students with disabilities ranging from Tourette's syndrome and Down's syndrome to dyslexia and a variety of emotional disorders.

One autumn, he got the idea that his students would benefit from attending NASA's Space Camp, competing in activities similar to those experienced by astronauts in training. There was only one problem: the program was designed for gifted and talented

students.

Kersjes believed that, if given the chance, his kids could do as well as anyone in the program. His book is the inspirational story of how he and his students broke down barriers to attend and succeed at Space Camp.

"Mike's story is an example of how one teacher's faith and vision can yield amazing results," said Claudia Dailey, the library's literacy coordinator. "We encourage

teachers, parents and their families to attend."

The event is presented as part of the library's "One Book, One Community" reading of "Rocket Boys" with programs on a space theme.

Copies of Kersjes' book will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 132.

Jones: Has been with DUSD since 1977.

Continued from page 1

end of the '77-'78 school year. Because of Prop.13, she got laid off. But, as if on cue, good fortune again smiled: two days prior to the start of the new school year, she got hired back, this time to teach grade three at Alameda. Her employment at the Downey School District hasn't ceased since.

To this day, though, she chuckles at the thought for the first three years of her career she taught at three different schools.

Jones taught grades two, three and four from 1978 to 1989. During this time, as program funding became available, she assumed additional duties as a resource teacher for the district's school improvement program. She was then appointed as a program specialist for school improvement and

elementary curriculum, reporting directly to Wendy Doty, who was then the director of instruction and curriculum at the district.

Her duties would again take a dramatic shift: she went from staff to an administrative role (she got her administrative credential in 1990, the year she obtained her master's), as she subbed at such schools as Gaudin, Ward, Carpenter and Williams as principal or vice-principal, from 1989 to 1995.

"From 1995 to 1998 I served as the principal at Carpenter, and from 1998 to 2004 I was the principal at Lewis. In 2004 I became director of categorical programs. These experiences at the administrative level have benefited me enormously at my job," she says. "Anyway, I consider all of them

learning experiences. The insights I've gained are precious. And, still, I continue to learn."

A partial list of the many wide-ranging areas Jones oversees as DUSD director of categorical programs includes federal and state-funded programs such as: Title I, which provides assistance in reading and math to 'qualified' students (those that don't yet attain the 'proficiency' level) at all 15 schools in the district, as well as OLP and St. Raymond's; the planning and administration of programs and varied services for English Learners (last year numbering more than 4,000 students), involving Economic Impact Aid (EIA) and implementing the California English Language Development Test (CELDT), etc.; coordinating the preparation of the Single

School Plan for Student Achievement in all schools, directing Categorical Program Monitoring; and, of course, the preparation of the Consolidated Application itself for said grants.

"It's funny," she says. "I consider myself a verbal person and so I went for English and social sciences in school, not math and science. But now I have to deal with statistics and budgets, which of course involves a lot of figuring and reckoning, not to mention planning and monitoring and such. At any rate, there's a lot going on. We're busy."

Through all this, Jones appears composed and serene—and happy. "I've been fortunate to work here. Everybody's been very supportive, and I've formed good friendships. And, yes, we have great kids in this district. They're inquisitive. They want to learn."

Jones, who is unmarried, says: "I live vicariously through the students, through other children. I have plenty of nieces and nephews. I can be the one to spoil them, and then send them home to their parents."

POET'S CORNER

Roswell II

A silver disc flashed
in the sunlight
Perhaps it was just
a mirage

For no one was found
In the trash of
the crash

but has anyone checked
the garage?

—John Vincent,
Downey

Road Trip - Smooth Rolling

With the first stretch of morning
Coffee is steamy hot
Bags are ready to go
And so am I

With the sun still sleeping
The neighborhood so quiet
We roll out the driveway
Off we go

With the windshield clean and clear
We watch the road unfold
Like enjoying a movie show
On the open road

With stops to stretch our legs
And discoveries along the way
The camera clicks excitedly
To capture another day

—Christina Anderson,
Downey

When Building a Bridge to Success

Education Matters

COMMUNITY PRIDE

Carmen Avalos grew up in our community. A working mother of six children, she understands the pressures facing families today as they work hard to make ends meet.

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

With her experience as a teacher she knows how to provide every student, regardless of his or her background, the educational opportunities they need to succeed.

CREATING JOBS

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Carmen Avalos

Cerritos College Board

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OLDIES BUT GOODIES CONCERT 2009

NOVEMBER 7 @ 7:30 P.M.

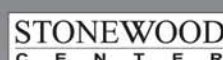
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Thousands receive H1N1 vaccine

By Mark Sauter, Deputy City Manager

The free flu-shot clinic sponsored by the City of Downey and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) on Tuesday was a very well-attended event. More than 1,000 people were in line waiting for their vaccinations when the clinic opened at 1 p.m.

On Tuesday morning, because of limited vaccine supplies, the director of DPH directed his staff to limit the vaccinations to specific targeted groups: young people 6 months of age to 24 years, pregnant women, chronically ill people age 25-64, health and emergency care providers and those caring for (or living with) infants less than 6 months were all vaccinated as quickly as possible.

At one point in the afternoon more than 500 people were vaccinated in a one hour period of time. DPH staff members successfully dispensed the H1N1 vaccine to 2,460 area residents during the course of the clinic operations.

Once DPH officials arrived at the clinic with the new directive, volunteers and staff walked the entire waiting line to issue the new information. This action was carried out approximately 90 minutes before the opening of the clinic. Unfortunately, many in line had already been waiting for a few hours. Those in line who were not in the targeted groups were informed of the recent decisions.

As a result of the changes on Tuesday morning, many more members of the targeted groups in attendance were vaccinated.

More than 60 Downey area volunteers worked hard to ensure the clinic operated efficiently. The registration area was staffed by students from Downey Adult School, the Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Community Emergency Response Team. City staff from Police, Fire, Public Works, Administration and Community Services Divisions all contributed to the organization and operation of the event. Kaiser Hospital and the County Mental Health Department provided informative handouts and small gifts to attendees.

Future Downey free flu-shot clinics are planned for Saturday, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5. However, at this time DPH is unable to confirm the availability of the H1N1 vaccine for these clinics. Once the availability of the H1N1 vaccine for these clinics is confirmed, Downey area residents will be notified through the Downey Patriot newspaper and the City website.

Letters to the Editor:

Politics and religion don't mix

Dear Editor:

Mr. Dan Cristea's argument that our economic and social troubles can be ameliorated, if not solved, by placing our national motto inside our City Council chambers is yet another attempt by a few to, not so tacitly, impose over others. ("In God We Trust Movement Comes to Downey," 10/23/09) Mr. Cristea surely does not speak for all taxpayers, religious or otherwise.

Religious displays belong in places of worship. Although many, if not most, of our public representatives are profoundly religious—very few admit otherwise—Council Chambers are not such places, regardless of the people inside. Come to think of it, I don't recall ever seeing such a sign prominently displayed inside a place of worship. Maybe that's where Mr. Cristea should first focus his efforts. I imagine his suggestion would be well received there.

Rather than placing one inside council chambers, how about attaching a sign—about the size the one Mr. Cristea would deem appropriate for City Hall—on a conspicuous area of his property; his front lawn for example or maybe the roof of his house. That would still qualify as a public display and nobody, except maybe some of his neighbors, would be at all concerned.

What if all of Mr. Cristea's many supporters, including some of our elected officials, did the same thing? Prominent displays of religious faith on people's front lawns: Our economy would no doubt recover much faster. Doing this might even encourage others to express their personal views on religion publicly.

Anyone who opts for my suggestion, though, might be wise to first check with the city's Code Enforcement Department. I'm not sure they'll allow it. If this happens to be the case, Mr. Cristea and his supporters should not despair. Let's not forget that people all across the land carry with them, in their wallets and purses, those same words imprinted across their money.

Though I support freedom of belief, I cannot stand by while an outspoken minority tries to implement bandwagon kitchen epiphanies as recourse to correct what they perceive to be a chaotic and Godless landscape. I would argue that God has not "been taken out of the public square" as Mr. Cristea states. What has changed, to his obvious distress, is that many more are now willing to debate and even challenge religion in the public sphere.

I strongly oppose Mr. Cristea's suggestion. I believe the act of placing such a religious display inside the halls of democracy does little more than satisfy some people's personal desire for religious vindication, and this is why some of us view such displays as a threat, not to our beliefs but to our freedom.

— Miguel Rojas,
Downey

Like peas in a pod

Dear Editor:

You are right when you say you can't read minds, but like most men, you obviously are unable to think ahead and/or anticipate as most women do. (Eric Pierce's Column, 10/16/09) We see a situation and react: "Do you need help?" "Can I help?" "Let me do that for you," etc.

You sound like my husband. If the trash can is full, why do I have to ask you to take it out? Are you blind? Can you see that the trash can is full? If I ask that the trash be taken out, I'm met with, "Where is it?" (You've lived in this house 30 years. It's in the same place it's always been.) Then I get, "Where do you want me to put it?" But I'm sure you get the gist.

If I go to the grocery store, would it ever occur to you when I get home to help bring the groceries in? These are but a couple of examples. I wonder what the reaction would be if women decided to sit on their behinds, eat Bon Bons, watch TV and be completely oblivious to all that is going on around them.

This isn't about "mind reading," it's about loving a person, anticipating their needs and being there when needed. It isn't about "mind reading." It's about thinking!

— Beverly Smith,
Downey

Presidential haters

Dear Editor:

The letter to the editor, "Stop the Insanity," should apply to the writer and all the other haters of President Obama. (Letters to the Editor, 10/16/09) And I do mean haters.

As soon as the presidential election was over, and before he even took office, the likes of Rush Limbaugh and the rest of the sore losers were predicting national catastrophes, from terrorist attacks to a takeover of the U.S. by illegal aliens. They were predicting impending doom, but basically rooting for failure. And it hasn't stopped since.

Every paragraph of the letter is filled with catastrophic expectations, based on distorted perceptions to further a political agenda. You can listen to talk shows and scan the Internet and read almost identical junk initiated by those that encourage this sort of demagoguery, and then try to report it as a grass roots response to the President's policies.

There is always more than one way to approach problems facing the nation. An honest and fair dialogue should always be respected. But rejecting ideas based on stale ideology and catastrophic expectations is not in the best interest of the country.

I would like to remind the writer and others that from time immemorial doomsday predictors of human-initiated catastrophes have always been wrong.

— Alex Ambruso,
Downey

Cerritos elections

Dear Editor:

I have been a teacher and counselor at Cerritos College for over 20 years and I am writing today to give my support for Tom Chavez for the Cerritos College Board of Trustees election next Tuesday, Nov. 3.

I have worked with Tom Chavez for many years at Cerritos College. He is a 28-year retired employee of the college and given his involvement in campus-wide committees and his leadership over the years, I believe Tom Chavez has the skills and vision necessary to address the important issues facing the college. These issues include student success issues related to basic skill attainment, transfer rates for students to four year universities, and continuing effective communication between the Board of Trustees and the administration.

Tom has pledged to become an earpiece to the Board from the community. It is for these reasons that I hope you will consider joining me and the Cerritos College faculty and staff in supporting Tom Chavez for the Cerritos College Board of Trustees on Nov. 3.

— Sylvia Bello-Gardner,
Cerritos College Counseling Faculty



Long live Clark Avenue

Dear Editor:

The Patriot's article on the renaming of Clark Avenue stated that 46 properties participated in a survey on the subject, that 18 supported the change, and that such constituted a 62 percent favorable vote. ("Clark Avenue is Renamed," 10/23/09) This would seem to indicate that there was some influence in the presentation, because even a fifth grader would recognize such as extremely fuzzy mathematics, since 18 out of 46 is only 39 percent.

If any similar calculations were made in the engineering and construction of any locally-built spacecraft, then we would not be celebrating any success. We all need to hope that the Learning Center inspires local students to present better evaluations. Astute citizens are left to ponder how deeply much fuzziness pervades other matters and who reports the counts. However the math is of less consequence because, as Eric Pierce so aptly noted, the wrong people (the owners) were surveyed rather than those most impacted (the occupants and residences) by the change. The Council, as a supposedly "representative government", skipped those who should have been represented the most.

The hollow suggestion that the City might have an "outreach program" to assist with the impact, is an empty, minimalistic, and extremely short-sighted value. The City Council cannot magically have all of the necessary changes accomplished with a stroke of its gavel.

Beyond the post office forms, the much greater problem will come with the need to notify all of the personal and commercial contacts of every resident and business, like checking/credit card/mortgage accounts, friends and family, entire Christmas card and contact lists, business and personal stationery, commercial/professional listings and licenses, auto-registration and drivers licenses. Many of these come with an associated fee.

These will need to include many oft-forgotten seldom-recalled contacts, like overdue refunds, alumni association, newspaper/magazine subscriptions, religious/fraternal/social-club memberships, water/electric/gas/telephone/cable/satellite/cellular-phone/Internet-service providers, health insurance companies, Medicare, Social Security Administration, alarm companies, termite contractors, the Franchise Tax Board, the IRS, and the list goes on and on. Having experienced the county-wide re-numbering in the 1940's showed that it wasn't trivial.

And once such notices are sent to these contacts, then the hopeful addressees need to verify that the notices were received and properly acted upon.

While it is true that the Postal Service makes some effort to return some mail noting an address change for some period of time, many mailers take little action based on them — preferring to simply drop the recipient or cease contact by noting that the mail is undeliverable, all to the detriment of the addressees.

Some real-estate property gets taken over by County governments when tax bills are not properly paid even when the agencies have been notified of new owners and their addresses; it remains the owners' responsibility to pay whether or not they ever receive a bill or notice.

Additionally there are some things which get taken-over by the State like dormant bank accounts, safe-deposit boxes, and investment/insurance dividends, when entities make little-to-no effort to find the rightful owners, because it is easier for them to dump a customer rather than to try to locate them.

Then, too, the City will need to take steps to notify the Postal Service, the County Assessor and Recorder, all map makers, all GPS providers, etc. etc.

While I remain in favor of honoring the lost crew of STS-107, making the street name change was not the proper manifestation. However, if the City felt compelled to further involve the street, then there were several other much-less-impactive potential alternatives:

- overlay the street name rather than change it;
- posting an additional name of "The Columbia" on poles and/or monuments that will not impact the current addressees.
- establish the corner at Lakewood as "Columbia Triangle"
- establish the corner at Imperial as "Columbia Square"
- make ingress from the north less complicated by re-opening the Lakewood corner.

With apologies to Sir Winston: seldom before has so much inconvenience been heaped upon so many for the needs of so few.

There are some other age-old observations that seem applicable to this situation:

- the government governs best which governs least.
 - administrations are not judged by the quantity of legislation but rather by its quality and effectiveness.
 - if it isn't broken, then don't fix it — however — some governments never see a situation that they can't make worse, just so they can fix it.
 - keep it simple
- Clark Avenue: Long may it remain in the history books.

— Hugh T. Hoskins,
Downey

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

What people are saying...



TWITTER

Regarding 'In God We Trust' inside City Hall:

@tonytimes: that's unnecessary. If people want to believe in a god, they can do it outside of my towns city hall.

Regarding Clark Avenue name-change:

@crosstown_rival: Now I'm dated. Perhaps I should start a Facebook group called "When I was your age, Columbia Way was Clark Avenue."

@Brandiee: LAME! I'm still calling it Clark Ave.

@saxpoetdown: nooo it has to stay as Clark Ave

Regarding temporary suspension of black cat adoptions:

@johnny1027: How sad that we have to do that...

Random musings:

@Rosieposie: Downey firemen at king taco =)

Follow The Downey Patriot on Twitter: www.twitter.com/downeypatriot.

www.TheDowneyPatriot.com

Regarding Luis Marquez running for State Assembly:

"Even though I am a registered Republican, I would definitely support Luis Marquez over a Fabian Nunez politico any day. Where can we get more information about his candidacy? Is there a website set up?" -- urbanplanningstudent

Regarding Don Cheto's appearance in Downey:

The fact that Don Cheto is a humble man does not make him a joke, and for some of you that think he was a bad choice to represent our community, let me give a word of advice: he represents a large part of immigrant people that came to this country looking for the American Dream. He started from the bottom: he used to sell tacos to support his family and got a chance to touch and help others, and I actually listen to his show, every day. He might not have a high education like most of us, but he is an inspiration to all those who think they don't have a chance.
-- lalazydm

The Downey Patriot

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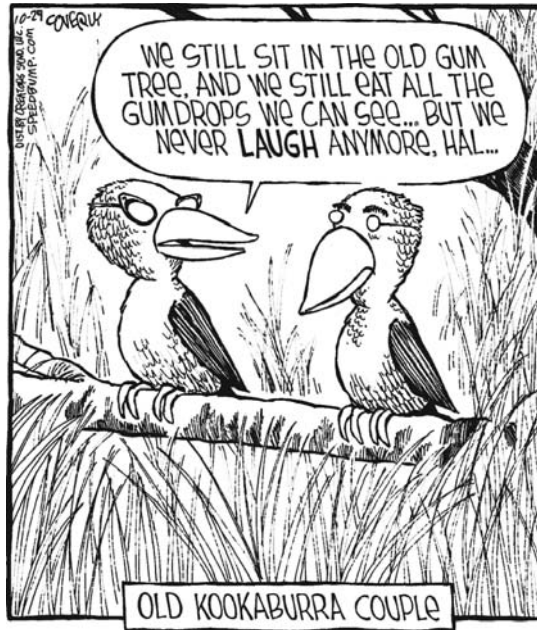
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



On This Day...

Oct. 30, 1938: Orson Welles's "The War of the Worlds" plays live on the radio, leading some listeners to believe a real martian invasion was happening.
1960: The first successful kidney transplant is performed in the United Kingdom.
1974: Muhammad Ali scores an eighth round knock out over George Forman in a match fought in Zaire and dubbed "The Rumble in the Jungle."
1975: The New York Daily News runs the headline: "Ford to City: Drop Dead" one day after President Gerald Ford vowed to veto a federal bailout of New York City.
Birthdays: Football coach Dick Vermeil (73), actor Henry Winkler (64), musician Gavin Rossdale (42) and actress Nia Long (39).

Downey Community Calendar

Events For October/November

Sat. Oct. 31: **Car wash**, Warren High School & other locations, 10 a.m.
 Sat. Oct. 31: **Pumpkin patch**, Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 5 p.m.
 Tues. Nov. 3: **Open mic for teens**, Downey City Library, 3:30 p.m.
 Thurs. Nov. 5: **'Night of the Living Dead'**, Warren High School, 7:30 p.m.

City Meetings

1st Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.: **Redevelopment Project Area Committee**, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 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 Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: **Library Advisory Board**, at Downey City Library.
 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.: **Water Board**, at City Hall.
 4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.: **Emergency Preparedness Committee**, at Fire Station No. 1.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

7:30 p.m.: **Job/Career Coaching**, at The First Presbyterian Church, for info. call 861-6752.
 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-Beard 869-7618.
 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
 2nd Weds., 7 p.m.: **Downey Sister City Assoc.**, at Maude Price School, for information call 884-9657.
 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 Barbara J Riley Center, call 943-5513.
 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.
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.
 4th Thurs., 10 a.m.: **Assistance League**, at Casa De Parley Johnson. for information call 869-0232.
 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.

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.
 2nd Sat., 12:30 p.m.: **AAUW**, Los Amigos Country Club.

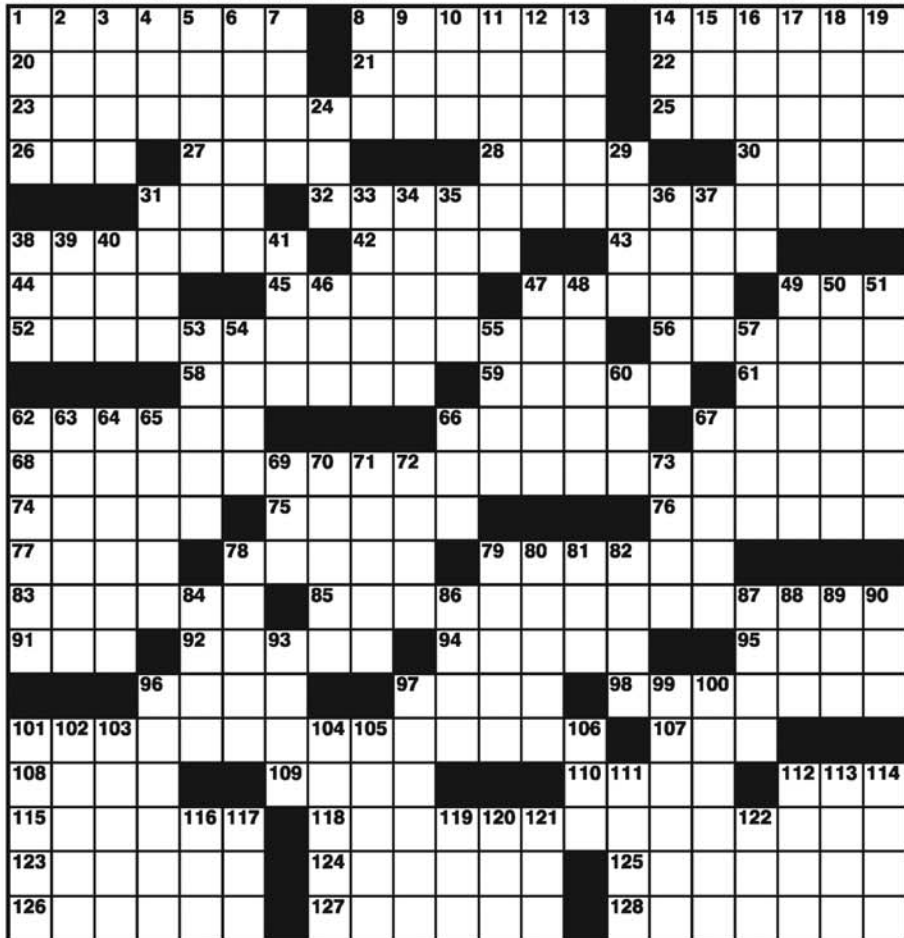
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

E-TRADE: Engaging in vowel play
by David W. Cromer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gat welder
 - 8 Court stat
 - 14 Like many Shakespeare plays
 - 20 Corona
 - 21 Train amenity
 - 22 Romeo's home
 - 23 Doctors' prescriptions?
 - 25 Cleans thoroughly
 - 26 Cornerstone abbr.
 - 27 Tends to tots
 - 28 Tortilla flour
 - 30 Toolbar option
 - 31 Clear tables
 - 32 On-demand spa service?
 - 38 Debase
 - 42 Distinctive flair
 - 43 Track tournament
 - 44 *The Mammoth Hunters* author
 - 45 Like ammonia's scent
 - 47 Nautical direction
 - 49 Advanced deg.
 - 52 Late-winter vows?
 - 56 "Sounds good to me"
 - 58 Tick away
 - 59 Make up for
 - 61 Untouchables leader
 - 62 Capital on the Missouri
 - 66 Teacake
 - 67 Scrapbooking stuff
 - 68 Like a mature baker?
 - 74 Loses weight, with "down"
 - 75 Visibly affected
 - 76 Put in order
 - 77 Swedish pop quartet
 - 78 Thick
 - 79 "Pipe down!"
 - 83 Ancient oracle site
 - 85 How to handle a delivery route?
 - 91 Noshed
 - 92 Facing the pitcher
 - 94 Generator output
 - 95 Elvis Presley
 - 96 Utah ski resort
 - 97 Ashen
 - 98 Heaped (up)
 - 101 IRA or Keogh?
 - 107 Tiny colonist
 - 108 Not up yet
 - 109 NYC theater district
 - 110 Campus military grp.
 - 112 Crunchy sandwich
 - 115 Of the back
 - 118 Legal mess?
 - 123 *Blithe Spirit* spirit
 - 124 Summoned forth
 - 125 Everglades locale
 - 126 Bad smell
 - 127 Domingo et al.
 - 128 Spanish shawls
- DOWN**
- 1 Cobbled together
 - 2 Unselfish pronoun
 - 3 Wine designation
 - 4 Portion: Abbr.
 - 5 50-50 chance
 - 6 Nancy Drew's aunt
 - 7 Plundered, old-style
 - 8 Blood classification letters
 - 9 Anatomical pouch
 - 10 Hindu title of respect
 - 11 *The Cometh*
 - 12 Evil personified
 - 13 Romantic rendezvous
 - 14 RCA products
 - 15 VCR button
 - 16 Run in
 - 17 Cheese from Holland
 - 18 "You're __ trouble, young man!"
 - 19 Social stratum
 - 24 Govt. stipend
 - 29 Magazine filler
 - 31 Indonesian island
 - 33 Foam-ball products
 - 34 Icky stuff
 - 35 "Look at me!"
 - 36 Raptor's nest
 - 37 __ good example
 - 38 Garfield, e.g.
 - 39 "What was that?"
 - 40 Shoebox letters
 - 41 Shuttle org.
 - 46 Beat walker
 - 47 Take, as advice
 - 48 Graph lead-in
 - 49 Magician's word
 - 50 Hawthorne character
 - 51 Arid expanse
 - 53 Bruce and Laura
 - 54 Spread in a tub
 - 55 Billiards accessory
 - 57 Small files
 - 60 Just out
 - 62 Spanish inn
 - 63 Sceptic's remark
 - 64 Fit for food
 - 65 Update, as cartography
 - 66 Tofu source
 - 67 Shells and elbows
 - 69 Salt Lake City collegian
 - 70 Columbus' home
 - 71 Lacks
 - 72 Shoe stretcher
 - 73 Angling need
 - 78 "Same here!"
 - 79 Shoulder wrap
 - 80 Something on a rack
 - 81 Unseal, poetically
 - 82 Major conflicts
 - 84 Not quite a majority
 - 86 Natural springs
 - 87 Diplomatic skill
 - 88 Annoy
 - 89 *Simpsons* bartender
 - 90 Finish up
 - 93 Pointed part
 - 96 Contributes
 - 97 Pro quarterback
 - 99 Manning
 - 99 Rat someone out
 - 100 Newscast honcho
 - 101 Loses luster
 - 102 Hasp fastener
 - 103 Chutzpah
 - 104 Barn baby
 - 105 Unaffected
 - 106 To and __
 - 111 Switch positions
 - 112 Sonar echo
 - 113 Put in a hold
 - 114 "Jabberwocky" opener
 - 116 Curved line
 - 117 __-di-dah
 - 119 Bout-ending letters
 - 120 Poetic adverb
 - 121 Hwys.
 - 122 Notable span

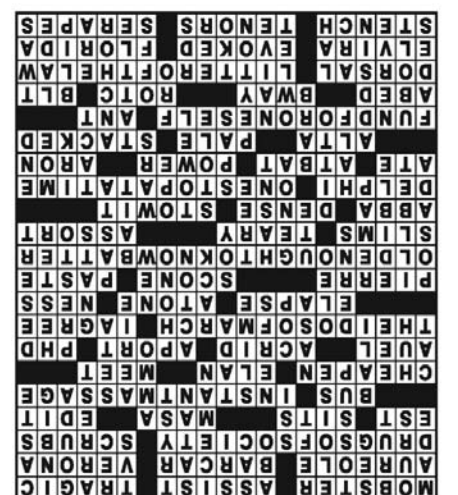
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- 122 Notable span

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.

Noel Coward play "Blithe Spirit" summoned during a séance in the ELVIRA (123 Across) is the ghost Bismarck and Jefferson City. Missouri River; the other two are one of three state capitals on the tortillas. PIERRE (62 Across) is corn dough that is used to make MASA (28 Across) is the Mexican





Downey High School's Eco Club Participates in Local Beach Cleanups

By: Gabriella Coya, Intern

In an effort to continue its tradition of helping the environment, the members of Downey High School's Eco Club have started participating in local beach cleanups sponsored by Save Our Beach.

Save Our Beach conducts beach and riverbed cleanups in Seal Beach and Long Beach. Hundreds of volunteers get together and pick up trash the third Saturday of every month from 10 pm to 2 pm. As part of their dedication to reducing waste, the organization even uses reusable trash bags instead of regular plastic bags.

"It's cool how everyone gets together and helps the environment voluntarily, not even for community hours, but because they truly



care about the environment," said Downey senior and Eco Club member Catherine Pudlik.

Through Eco Club, young peo-

ple interested in saving the environment get together and share their common passion.

"It's an awesome event and I like how kids our age get the opportunity to change the planet," said Downey junior and Eco Club vice president Andrea Lomeli. "Stuff like this doesn't happen every day."

For more information on the organization Save Our Beach and clean ups, visit www.SaveOurBeach.org.

Warren High School's Culinary Arts Center Deemed Phenomenal

By: Deborah Won, Intern

From out of the dust and debris-filled whirlwinds of construction that engulfed Warren these past couple years, the brand new, state-of-the-art Warren Culinary Arts Center emerged, causing gawks of awe from both teachers and students alike.

This new facility, with its high-tech structure and numerous components were subject to curiosity and compliments from all around campus, as no other facility like this has ever been built on Warren's school grounds.

"The kitchen has really expensive machines, and the machines pretty much do everything for you," said Freddy Gallardo, a senior at Warren and a student of the foods class in the culinary arts program. "It's great because they're brand new and really great to work with, so I really enjoy being in that class."

"The students at Warren High, as well as ROP students enrolled in the district, are allowed access to the center," said Therese Duffy, the Culinary Arts teacher at Warren.

The program is truly fortunate this year, giving students that are a part of the program particular access to the new facility and all of its state-of-the-art features. Amongst these commendable features is an Electrolux combination steamer/convection oven, as well as a blast chiller.

Once a mere classroom located

Trick or Treat for UNICEF

By: Jennifer Cho, Intern

Downey Key Club members are participating in the annual Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF event asking for door-to-door donations on Halloween evening to help raise money for poverty stricken youths in Africa and other underdeveloped regions.

"I think it's a good cause and I'm glad Key Club is participating," said club president Christina Arsenescu.

Arsenescu says Key Club will be setting up two stations in North Downey, where upperclassmen and underclassmen will walk around the neighborhood in groups to collect donations from members of the community. Key Club also sold homemade Rice Krispie treats and other desserts after school this week to help raise other funds for the event. All proceeds will go

towards Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.

Club secretary Sandra Lee says she heard about the event from a past Key Club member and decided the club should participate this year.

"We're blessed with things other kids don't have," Lee said. "It feels nice knowing that we're helping children in need."

The club has already raised \$63 from a recent car wash and set a goal amount to raise tomorrow evening. Some club members are anticipating the event to see how much they can accomplish as a cooperative group.

"We're hoping to raise \$500," said club treasurer Sara Paik. "If we already raised that much so far, imagine how much we can raise in one night."

Advisor Lauren Wack says she thinks it's great that students are spending their Halloween raising money for a worthy cause instead of traditional trick-or-treating.

Sponsored by UNICEF, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF was launched on Halloween in 1950 when five Philadelphia school children collected door-to-door donations to assist children in other parts of the world. The money raised from the event goes to provide clean water, food, school supplies, and other necessary items for children in over 150 nations.

While the main purpose of the event is to help the children in struggling countries, Key Club members say they also hope the event will be a unique bonding experience between all the group members.

"We want underclassmen and upperclassmen to overcome the age difference to join together and support this notable cause," said club representative Rebekah Jin. "It's going to be fun, and members can get to know one another through this event."

The event is scheduled to take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Theft at Downey High School

By: Joanna Quintana, Intern

Past events of theft and possibilities of incidents occurring in the future have taught both faculty members and students at Downey to be increasingly aware of their surroundings and even more protective of their valuables.

It would appear that a student has more to learn from high school than what a teacher can teach them in the classroom, one of those lessons being whom to trust and to what extent that trust should reach. When attending a school containing more than 4,000 students, incidents such as theft are almost certain to occur, and every student must prepare for such an incident should it ever happen to them.

"A lot of students do not practice common sense," said Downey Vice Principal Horacio Freijo. "They put a lot of faith in the general public. What I tell a lot of students is that nine times out of ten, this could have been avoided if you had just used common sense."

It seems, however, that past incidents have indeed made an impact on Downey students. More teenagers are taking care to keep their valuables protected by carrying them around or leaving them in safe spots. However, keeping your valuables safe and hidden can be a difficult task with so many students and such a large school.

"There's a lot that goes on at Downey High," said Gerard Gomez, student at Downey. "There's a lot that goes on in the locker room also. I can't trust to leave my bags around because there's always going to be people looking and trying to see what you have so that they can jack you after."

Athletes find keeping their belongings safe even more difficult

than the average teenager hanging out in the quad during lunch or snack. Many sports force athletes to put enough trust in an area to leave their belongings and valuables, placing them at a higher risk of being a victim from theft. Though coaches make extra attempts to ensure the safety of their athletes' belongings, thieves still find a way to make their presence known. Such incidents have affected various athletic teams, as well as their coaches.

"I wouldn't exactly call it a flaw in security since security can't possibly be everywhere," said Amy Overgauw, an English teacher and cross country coach. "However, I honestly feel like we're lucky it hasn't happened to [the cross country team] before. So, it doesn't surprise me, particularly. I think it's sad, but thieves have been stealing since there was money; since there has been something to steal. There have always been thieves, there have always been people who take things that don't belong to them, but I think in general there's a lack of people taking responsibility for themselves."

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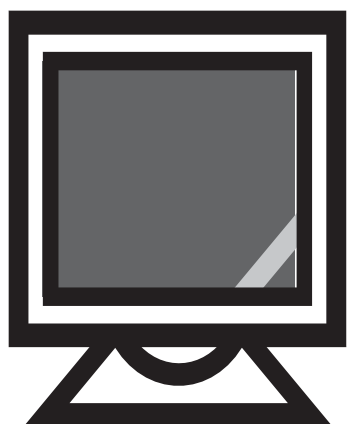
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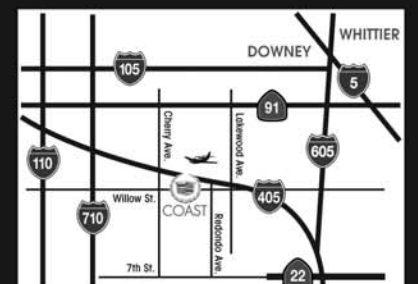
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ERIC PIERCE

Where art thou, Kirk Gibson?

It's not a fun time to be a Los Angeles Dodgers fan. Just ask, well, anyone.

The Dodgers (and, more importantly, the fans) have finally come to the realization that they're imposters. Frauds. Talented enough to squeak into the playoffs, but not nearly talented or inspired enough to get by the elite teams in the National League, nevermind the New York Yankees, the best powerhouse money can buy.

The worst part is, I have a feeling the Dodgers are OK with their inadequacy. Exhibit A is their desperate acquisition of Vicente Padilla.

Padilla was the equivalent of an expiring loaf of jalapeno bread, put on the discount shelf by a grocery store at a drastically reduced price in the hopes that somebody - anybody - would be desperate and/or stupid enough to dole out a few cents and risk late-night worship to the porcelain god.

The Dodgers took that gamble and where are they now?

It's all very reminiscent of the Dodgers' late season acquisition of Manny Ramirez last year. A smart business decision then, it has manifested into a \$25 million mistake for Dodger fans today. ('Mistake' doesn't even convey how bad the Dodgers screwed up with Ramirez. Put it this way: giving Manny \$25 million to dog it next season makes the Lamar-Khloe marriage look like a smart idea.)

Unless Major League Baseball has the intention of removing female fertility treatments from its list of banned substances (and soon), the Dodgers are in trouble.

Jason Schmidt is Exhibit B.

Juan Pierre is Exhibit C.

The bloated Andrew Jones is Exhibit D, E and F.

Things don't figure to get any better, what with Frank and Jamie McCourt beginning World War III in the courts.

What free agent in their right mind would choose to come to the Dodgers now, save for the over-the-hill, injury-prone wash-up looking for a career resurrection? (Prediction: Dodgers sign Mark Prior and trade for Gary Matthews Jr. this off-season.)

What it all means is we'll be living off that Kirk Gibson 1988 highlight reel for at least another year.



PHOTO BY CARLOS ONTIVEROS

Downey wide receiver Jabari Ruffin escapes defenders during the Vikings' 41-14 victory over Paramount last week.

It's a happy homecoming

Downey makes easy work of Paramount, 41-14, to stay perfect in league.

By JOSEPH APODACA, SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – The Vikings continued their San Gabriel Valley League winning streak after taking home a victory from the Paramount Pirates last Friday, winning 41-14.

The win against the Pirates brings Downey's league campaign to 2-0 and their overall season record to 3-4.

The Vikings managed to score six touchdowns over the course of the game. Linebacker Steven Williams scored the first touchdown of the night during the second quarter after running from the Paramount 10-yard line into the end zone. Full back Joseph Ortiz scored the second touchdown in the latter half of the second quarter, after quarterback Steven Cervantes completed a pass from the 21-yard line to him.

Tight end Isaac Dan completed a 65-yard score for Downey's third touchdown. Linebacker Justin Haro made a subsequent touch-

down in the third quarter following running back Kyle Lewis' first of two throughout the night. Lewis also scored the night's final touchdown, building the Viking's lead to a cushy 27 points.

Cervantes completed 17 passes for 244 yards while wide receiver Dallas Lopez completed a single 60-yard pass. Lewis was the leading rusher, gaining 112 yards while Cervantes gained 34 yards mostly scrambling out of passing situations. Wide receiver Jabari Ruffin received the most passes, with five receptions for 65-yards while Isaac Dan caught four passes totaling 103 yards.

Though the Vikings ended up winners in the end, the Homecoming game started off slowly. Not a single score was tallied during the game's first quarter. Several interceptions and tackles prevented either team from moving the ball down the field effectively.

Cervantes contributed to the sloppily played first quarter by having one of his passes picked off. Immediately though, Paramount was whistled for three consecutive illegal procedures. All these events pointed to possibly a long night for both teams.

The Vikings continued to stall

midway into the second quarter, but began to pick up their game after Williams scored the first touchdown. They shined particularly in the third quarter, where Lopez caught the Paramount kickoff and moved it to the Downey 38-yard line. Once Downey had possession of the ball, Cervantes completed a pass to Dan, who completing the 65-yard play by taking the ball down the field into the Paramount end zone for a touchdown.

The Homecoming festivities, though celebrated by students and fans, was not as welcomed by the referees. Officials threw a flag on a play during the fourth quarter after demanding that the marching band put a stop to their music while the game was in session.

Dominguez is always tough

Dons defeated Downey last year, but are not nearly as strong.

By JOSEPH APODACA, SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – Downey hopes to continue its hot streak in league tonight as they visit the Dominguez Dons this evening.

The Vikings have so far been undefeated in their San Gabriel Valley League campaign, winning 35-34 against Gahr on the road and 41-14 against Paramount at home. Their overall season record now rests at 3-4, with an additional win outside of league play against Schurr and four losses to La Serna, La Habra, Kennedy and Santa Fe.

Tonight the Vikings face off against their fellow SGVL members Dominguez, who are currently 0-2 in league play and 1-5 for their season. Last season, the Dons took home the victory from the Vikings, winning 49-21. The Dons settled their league campaign last year at 2-3 while the Vikings ended at 3-2.

The Vikings continue to build their stamina and strength as the season progresses. Quarterback Steven Cervantes has brought his overall passing record to 71 complete passes totaling 870 yards.

Loss ensures Downey will finish second in league

Loss to Paramount ensures Downey will finish second in league.

By ALYSSA WYNNE, SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – Downey tennis received its second blow in league against the Paramount Pirates on Oct. 22, losing 13-5.

"That match determined who wins league amongst us," said Downey player Jennifer Kheang. "We had the same amount of wins as Paramount, and had won and lost against each once. Now, we lost the third match and are second in league."

Even No. 1 singles player Sandra Lee struggled in her sets. They were not their usual "easy wins." Lee had to put actual effort into her matches but she persevered, scoring 7-5, 6-3, and 6-3. No. 2 singles player Christina Arsenescu was not as lucky, however, and scored 1-6, 5-7, and 4-6 in her sets. No. 3 singles player,

Irene Saavedra, was just as discouraged as her teammate Arsenescu, but perhaps more her set scores being 0-6, 0-6, and 2-6.

Luckily, No. 1 singles partners Katie Medina and Janette Rico stuck through their sets and pulled through after only losing one, 4-6, and winning the others 6-1 and 6-1.

No. 2 doubles partners Christine Tran and Caroline Tran were happy to be reunited but evidently, were rather rusty. The girls scored 1-6, 1-6, and 2-6 on their three sets. No. 3 doubles partners Rosanna Calderon and Claudia Guzman earned set scores of 0-6 and 0-6. They were substituted for Alex Desuyo and Sharon Kim, whom are both from Downey's junior varsity team but were still unsuccessful, 0-6.

"Paramount sees us as their rival," said Downey senior Wesley MacDonald. "We're like their Warren. That's just how it is for sports."

Sadly, Downey has no more matches against the Pirates this season until the league tournament Nov. 3-5.

Caroline Tran returns from injury

By ALYSSA WYNNE, SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – Downey tennis had their third and final match against the Gahr Gladiators on Oct. 20 and glided to an easy win, 14-4.

With No. 2 doubles player Caroline Tran back from her sprained ankle, she was able to play alongside sister and partner, Christine Tran, which indubitably made the girls happy.

The Tran sisters did not play in the final match though, rather, Sharon Kim, Alex Desuyo, and Jennifer Kheang substituted for them.

"[Head coach Denise] Diego put everyone in for this game to give them playing time," said Kheang. "This is one of our easier

matches."

This statement could not be truer. No. 1 singles player Sandra Lee crushed her competition, as usual, with sets of 6-1, 6-1, and 6-0. Her teammate, No. 2 singles player Christina Arsenescu, did just as well, dominating her opponent with set scores of 6-0, 6-2, and 6-0. No. 3 singles player Irene Saavedra was not as successful as her fellow players, her sets were 5-7, 0-6, and 6-0.

The doubles team did just as well as their singles teammates did. No. 1 singles partners Katie Medina and Janette Rico thumped out their adversaries; their sets were 6-1, 6-3, and 6-1. No. 2 doubles partners Claudia Guzman and Rosanna Calderon were good as well, with scores of 5-7, 6-4, and 6-1.

Downey golf wins SGVL title

By JARED HEAD, SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – With a final score of 242-248, Downey High School's girls golf team defeated Warren and won their first ever SGVL Championship.

Down by nine strokes going into the final pairing, Downey rallied back against Warren to win by six. Nicole Kim shot 48 while Jenna Redd shot the low score of 47.

"They were better than us," Warren Coach Rob English said. In the SGVL Individual Finals, Warren junior Savannah Vilaubi finished first in SGVL. Darleen Yao placed 3rd and Amanda Harrison came from 8 strokes back to qualify for CIF, finishing 7th. For Downey, Nicole Kim fin-



PHOTO COURTESY VALERIE VALAUBI

Savannah Vilaubi, Warren High School junior, ranked No. 1 overall in the SGVL. On Monday she shot an even-par 36 at Los Amigos and on Tuesday shot 78 at Rio Hondo Golf Club. This gave her the individual league championship and was also awarded MVP for league.

ished 6th in the SGVL making her the only Downey High golfer to move on to CIF this Monday to be

played at Landmark Country Club in Hemet.

Vikings win two of three

■ Offense goes stagnant in second half, but Warren still wins, 38-21.

By JOSEPH APODACA,
SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – The Downey boys' water polo team played three tough games last week, taking home two victories against Bell Gardens and El Rancho and a loss against Cerritos.

The Vikings were defeated by the Cerritos Dons 18-5 but completed their week on top by beating the Bell Gardens Lancers 13-3 and the El Rancho Dons 16-8. The Vikings are now 2-2 for their San Gabriel Valley League record and 5-6 for the season overall.

At Tuesday's game against Cerritos, the Vikings' toughest opponent, only three players managed to score on the Dons. Derek Dodson scored three while Serro Park and Richard Gomez scored one each. Cerritos has been a consistent challenge for the Vikings over the years, whose offense and defense strategies prove no match for the extremely well trained Cerritos squad.

"They [Cerritos] are always just good and quick. They have won CIF for three years already, so it was really hard to keep up," said Park.

Wednesday's game saw the Vikings victorious again, scoring 13 goals on the Bell Gardens' goalie. Dodson led the goals with four, Derek Klotzer with three, Gomez with two, and Park, Juan Rivas, Andrew Caero and Ian Pacheco all scoring one each. Thursday's match against El Rancho saw Dodson score eight goals, Park and Klotzer with three each, while Caero and Rivas scored one each.

"El Rancho was a close game. I didn't want to lose to El Rancho like last year so we were patient on the 6-on-5s and our shooting was smart," said Park.

Fouls were relatively light for the Vikings last week. Juan Rivas received two in the Cerritos game while Caero, Park, and Klotzer received one. Caero and Dodson received two in the Bell Garden game while Gomez received one. Finally, Klotzer and Gomez received two in the El Rancho game while Caero and Dodson received one each.

With Klotzer as the team's sprinter, the Cerritos match saw the Vikings win two out of four sprints, thus taking control of the new period, in the second half of the game. The Vikings also won every sprint in the Bell Gardens game while taking three out of four in the El Rancho game.

The skill level of the young team continues to improve as the season moves into league games. Dodson continues to lead the team in the number of goals scored over the course of the season with a total of 61, excluding tournament goals. Gomez continues to impress both his coaches and teammates, making strong attempts to move the ball down field into play. 6-on-5 plays also prove to work well for the Vikings, who use tactics learned in practice to better their chances at a goal.



PHOTO BY PAUL HEIDECKER

Jesse Callier rushed for 212 yards and three touchdowns in the first half last week against Lynwood. It was enough for Warren to escape with a victory, 38-21.

Warren may be its own biggest threat

■ Offense goes stagnant in second half, but Warren still wins, 38-21.

By SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Despite a second half lapse, Warren stayed undefeated in San Gabriel Valley League play with a scary 38-21 victory Friday night at Justice Stadium.

After a stellar first half that saw Warren running back Jesse Callier rush for 212 yards on 20 carries and three touchdowns to help build a 35-7 lead, Warren didn't find the end zone again in the game.

With a huge lead going into halftime, the Bears looked content on running down the clock on Lynwood, but instead almost gave up the lead and the game when the Knights came sprinting out of the gates scoring two quick touchdowns to start the half.

"We came out lazy, tired and stuff," said Callier about the close call in the second half. "I've seen a lot of teams that score a lot of points and they get comfortable. That happens."

Warren's four touchdown lead quickly became a two touchdown

advantage with Lynwood scoring quickly on a 10-yard rush after flying down half the field in their first possession of the third quarter, then quickly again after a Warren three-and-out on a quick slant pass that went 54-yards.

Defensively Warren recovered enough to stop the bleeding in the third quarter then rediscovered themselves in the fourth quarter forcing three straight turnovers, two fumbles and a turnovers-on-downs, to end the threat.

"I don't know," said Warren head coach Chris Benadom about what happened in the second half. "We came out flat after halftime. I don't know what happened in the second half."

"Maybe it was a little bit of everything. Maybe a little tired, maybe a little lazy, I don't know. I have to talk to my guys and see what they say."

The first half was a breeze for Warren who was in complete control of the game and their offense. Things came easy to the Bears and even in their minor gaffes, Warren was able to scramble away and compensate for their errors on the run.

On a drive in the second quarter after recovering their own inside

kick, the Bears ran a fake triple reverse then threw the ball down the field to a streaking Callier on the sidelines who made a spectacular catch. The play was called back due to a penalty, but on the next play, Callier dashed out of the backfield for a 35-yard touchdown run.

Another play displayed a broken down pocket that had quarterback Sam Bettencourt playing defender dodge ball. Bettencourt managed to sidestep numerous defenders, breaking a few tackles on the way and turned a sure loss of yardage into a 20-yard run.

But the second half was what Benadom was worried about. Visibly not happy with his team's effort saying the good that can be taken from this game was that they played a very good first half of the game.

"We'll take that and work on our second half of our game next week," he said after the game.

Callier finished his night with 298 yards on 33 carries. Bettencourt passed for 75 yards and a touchdown, and receiver Bailey Cowins caught five passes for 57 yards and a touchdown.

Warren hosts Paramount tonight at 7 p.m.

Paramount is not a cakewalk

By SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – It's almost tiring saying that Warren should win essentially every game they play, but in all honesty they should run away with the San Gabriel Valley League championship and win every game. This is not any truer than tonight when they host the Paramount Pirates, a team who is likely the weakest team in the division.

Last year, it wasn't exactly the easiest game ever for Warren locking up at Paramount and scoring only 28 points. While the Pirates continue to be that scrappy team that could upset anyone at any time, their biggest weakness is their offense as they've showed in the past, scoring only one touchdown against Warren last year in the final quarter of the game and averaging under 14 points a game in all of their losses.

Their defense is actually a

strength of theirs as they showed last year again stopping Warren running back Jesse Callier in his tracks for a human 181 yards on 41 carries.

SGVL play has proven unkind to the Pirates this year, losing to Lynwood 35-7 and Downey 41-14. It's possible that the defensive allure they had last year left along with their graduating seniors.

It could be a long night then for Paramount with Warren having essentially all of their offensive starters returning from last year, with the exception of their offensive line.

Look for the Bears to give Paramount a heavy dose of Callier

all night long. Downey and Lynwood are both running teams and they had great success against the Pirates. With the area's leading rusher on their team, this should be nothing short of a successful offensive night.

Warren need not worry much about Paramount's offense as they have no real threat in the backfield, under center, or lined up on the outside. This year, the Pirates are averaging just over 100 yards of offense per game.

Their best weapon is their quarterback Anthony Downing Jr., who averages 68 passing yards per game. Downing Jr. only has one touchdown recorded on the season.

3 seconds is enough

■ Freshman Meghan Nevarez wins first place at Mt. Sac.

By ALYSSA WYNNE &
JARED HEAD,
SPORTS INTERNS

DOWNEY – On Saturday, Downey participated in one of the nation's largest cross country invitational meets at Mt. Sac.

Freshman runner Meghan Nevarez ran a 20:05 3-mile and earned first place in her race at early in the morning. She beat a competitor from King High School by a mere three seconds. Nevarez was running against 150 other girls from schools across Los Angeles County.

Also successful in taking home a medal was sophomore runner Alissa Weisenburger, her 3-mile run totaling 21:19. She earned eighth place out of 114.

Last year's race had a record of more than 22,000 students participating in the meet. The Mt. Sac Invitational first started in 1948 with only boys and men running,

from high school and college. Now, after 62 years, boys and girls, men and women, are running from elementary schools and colleges.

The same philosophy has remained with the race after all these years: "Promoting Cross Country as a great individual and team sport, while building confidence, self-respect and friendship among the thousands of participating athletes."

—Alyssa Wynne
Warren

Both of Warren's cross country teams descended onto the difficult course and both came away with high marks.

Warren's Christopher Enriquez placed 21st and covered the distance in 15:52. He was followed up by Alec Dominguez in 34th and Eric Quintero in 45th, clocking in at 16:06 and 16:15 respectively.

The Lady Bears, under Coach Jay Waldron, fared even better, placing 6th overall on the performances of Dani Moreno who charged to 11th place in 17:55, followed by Danielle Rodriguez in 15th at 18:11 and Monique Diaz in 40th at 18:41.

—Jared Head

Registration open for Turkey Trot

NORWALK – Combining a friendly spirit of competition with community goodwill, Cerritos College will host its annual Turkey Trot on Nov. 17.

To enter the 1.5-mile walk/run, participants must donate one canned food item, which is then given to the city of Norwalk's Food Bank for need families in the Norwalk area.

Each year, the event raises nearly 1,000 cans of food from its 200-plus participants. Many who participate choose to exceed the one-can requirement, while others choose not to walk or run but donate to the event.

The first 100 finishers will receive a commemorative Turkey Trot T-shirt.

A raffle will be held at 11:45 a.m. Race participants do not need to be present to win.

Pre-registration is encouraged by calling Dr. Ni Bueno at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2874.

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WEEK 7 FOOTBALL RANKINGS

1. Mira Costa (5-2)
2. St. Francis (6-1)
3. Culver City (6-1)
4. Leuzinger (6-1)
5. Palmdale (5-2)
6. Alemany (4-3)
7. Warren (6-1)
8. Chaminade (5-2)
9. Palos Verdes (4-3)
10. Redondo (4-3)

CIF rankings are compiled based on votes by coaches and media.

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To schedule a pick-up, call Shirley Johnson at (562) 862-2378.

Haunted house at Rancho today

DOWNEY – Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center will host its annual haunted house maze today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This year, Knott's Berry Farm is donating props and monsters that will arrive in hearses for a parade to the haunted house.

The haunted house is located on the second floor of the Jacqueline Perry Institute. The event is for Rancho patients and their families and is not open to the public.

Knott's Berry Farm monsters will arrive at 1 p.m. and will visit with patients, stop for photos and perform a magic show for patients.

"The Halloween Haunted House is a wonderful tradition at Rancho which gives our patients a chance to have fun," said Rancho CEO Jorge Orozco. "The props and monsters that are being provided by Knott's Scary Farm will make this year's event even more spectacular and entertaining for the patients."

"Rancho thanks Knott's Scary Farm for their participation and contribution to the haunted house," Orozco added.

The event is sponsored by Rancho's therapy staff.



PHOTO COURTESY KATIE PIAZZA

Students from a YMCA after-school program at Rio San Gabriel Elementary sold artwork and baked goods to raise money. They used to half the money for a pizza party and donated the other half to a charity that helps homeless animals.

Kids raise money for charity

DOWNEY – Students from the YMCA after-school program at Rio San Gabriel Elementary celebrated national Character Counts Week by donating more than \$160 to PetSmart Charities.

The children hosted a sale where they sold their own artwork and baked goods donated by their site director. They used the money to have a pizza party and make the

donation.

"The children could have easily asked their parents for money to have a pizza party, but they wanted to be responsible and earn their pizza party the fair way," said site director Katie Piazza. "The students were very caring when coming up with the idea to donate half of their earnings to help homeless animals. They also displayed traits

of responsibility and trustworthiness by handling the money raised and selling their own artwork."

Piazza said the Downey YMCA incorporates the Character Counts program and the "six pillars of character" into its daily curriculum. The six pillars include trustworthiness, responsibility, respect, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Church to present follies show

DOWNEY – Downey United Methodist Church will present "Follies 2009," a music, comedy and vaudeville show, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

The show will feature profes-

sional and amateur performers. Richard "Diamond Dick" Daggett and Martha "High Kick" Sodetani will serve as masters of ceremony.

Tickets are \$10 per person and include dessert. Children

12 and under are free. Proceeds will benefit the mission projects of the United Methodist Women.

Tickets are available at the church office and by calling (562) 861-9777.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF DOWNEY

Mayor Mario Guerra said he has received numerous letters regarding the caring and generosity of Katie Piazza, a site director for a Downey YMCA child care center. Piazza was honored with the Diakonia Award last month.

Piazza honored with Diakonia Award

DOWNEY – Katie Piazza, a recreation leader with the Downey YMCA, was honored with the Mayor's Diakonia Award at the Sept. 22 City Council meeting.

Piazza is site director for the licensed child care center at Furman Park. According to Mayor Mario Guerra, Piazza "genuinely cares about the children at the center and does anything to help brighten their day."

Piazza also rescues dogs, buys clothes and toys for kids and volunteers with the Rio Hondo Elementary PTA (she has no children).

"She is an extraordinary person who goes above and beyond the highest expectations," Guerra said. "I have received many letters about her special gifts with others and her humble responses when praised."

Guerra said Piazza took interest in a young boy who lost his mother in a car accident last year. Piazza "was always there to greet him with a smile" and made sure he was able to attend a field trip to the zoo recently. She even packed him a special lunch.

"The little boy's heart was touched as well as ours," said Guerra, who started awarding Diakonia (Service) Awards earlier this year. "He felt special, loved and safe, and it meant so much to him and to us all."

"Katie is certainly one of the reasons this award was created," Guerra continued. "She is the spirit of what it means to serve others: small things with great love and she has gone far beyond and I am honored to be able to recognize her and encourage others to follow her example of serving each other in our fine city."

To nominate a person for the Diakonia Award, call the City Council office at (562) 904-7274 or e-mail mguerra@downeyca.org.

All American wins national award

DOWNEY – All American Home Center was honored as a Member Purchase Awards winner at the Do it Best October Market held in Indianapolis on Oct. 11.

All American placed first nationwide in the total volume category, Valspar Paint, for a single store.

"All American is delighted to be recognized by Do it Best Corp.," said company CEO Greg Fuller. "Our success is a tribute to our associates' hard work and our customers' loyalty. We thank them for their continued support."

Jay Brown, vice president of sales and retail development for Do it Best Corp., said retailers like All American are building on the co-op's 64-year legacy.

"Do it Best Corp is fortunate to be exclusively member-owned, which fosters a truly entrepreneurial spirit," Brown said. "All American's growth is a reflection of the success that Do it Best Corp retailers are experiencing in markets around the world. We're proud to have them as one of our member-owners."

Friends of library hosting sale

DOWNEY – The Friends of the Downey City Library will host their annual Holiday Marketplace on Nov. 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. inside the library's Cormack Room.

Items for sale will include handmade crafts, fall and Christmas decorations, baked goods, holiday storybooks, CDs and DVDs, Agatha Christie leather-bound books, holiday cookbooks and more.

Prizes will also be raffled. Free hot wassail punch will be served.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the library.

Santa Claus raffle tickets on sale

DOWNEY – Raffle tickets are now on sale for an opportunity to ride with Santa Claus during the Holiday Lane Parade on Dec. 6.

Tickets are \$1 and can be purchased at the Downey Chamber of Commerce offices, 11131 Brookshire Ave., Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Children must live in Downey and be between the ages of 5-10. The drawing will be held Nov. 2.

For more information, call (562) 923-2191.

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Wall Street banker, author to speak in Long Beach

LONG BEACH – William Cohan, former Wall Street senior banker and award-winning investigative reporter with knowledge and insight into the world's current financial crisis, will be the featured speaker at the third annual Cal State Long Beach Distinguished Speaker Series on Nov. 18 at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center.

Cohan will speak on his most recent book, "House of Cards: A Tale of Hubris and Wretched Excess on Wall Street," which was released in March.

Doors to the event will open at 6 p.m. with the feature address beginning at 7:30 and a panel discussion to follow. There will be a book-signing opportunity at 9:30.

"House of Cards" talks about the collapse of Bear Stearns & Co., describing the last days of the company and its ensuing sale to JP Morgan Chase. The sale, at an outrageously low price, initiated the nation's financial meltdown in 2008.

How and why the financial meltdown happened is the primary focus of the book.

Cohan worked on Wall Street for 17 years, including time at JP

Morgan Chase. He served as an associate and then vice president at Lazard Freres, was a director in mergers and acquisitions at Merrill Lynch and later a managing director at Chase. Before working on Wall Street, Cohan was an award-winning investigative newspaper reporter in Raleigh, N.C.

"With 17 years of experience as a banker on Wall Street, William Cohan offers audiences an insider's point of view of this nation's greatest financial crisis since the Great Depression," said Art Levine, a professor legal studies in business at Cal State Long Beach and founder/director of the Distinguished Speaker Series. "His unique and close-up perspective combines his knowledge of the investment banking industry with his skills as a story-teller and investigative journalist."

Reserved tickets to the Speaker Series event are \$45 (\$40 with advanced purchase). Preferred seating is \$60. A limited number of sponsor tickets are available at \$100, which includes a sponsor reception and dinner with the speaker preceding the event.

For tickets or other information, visit www.distinguishedspeakerseries.com.

Seven tips to Windows 7

Good riddance Vista! Microsoft's Windows 7 is finally here. With tons of new features and improvements, the highly acclaimed update from Microsoft is set to become the largest Microsoft desktop operating system ever. *Getting Started with Windows 7* is one of the very first books published by friends of ED, dedicated to teaching users everything you need to know about getting the most out of Windows 7.

Straight from the chapters of friends of ED's latest release *Getting Started with Windows 7*, here are the top seven tips every new Windows 7 user should employ to get the most out of this latest Windows version:

1. Pinning Programs to the Start Menu

One way to ensure that your favorite programs are easily accessible is to make them immediately visible when the "Start" menu appears by pinning them to the "Start" menu. To pin a program to the "Start" menu, pick up the program you want—it can be in the recently used list, it can be in the "All Programs" menu, or you can find it with the search box. Then right-click the program and choose "Pin to the Start Menu."

2. Using Jump Lists to Open Files and Run Programs

Sometimes a program listed in your "Start" menu will include a small right arrow. This arrow means the program has a "Jump List"—a special menu that offers convenient access to recently used files (and, in some cases, common tasks that are related to the program). To view a Jump List, just leave the mouse pointer over the program listing for a moment.

3. Previewing Program Windows with the Taskbar

The taskbar allows you to easily switch between open programs or windows and, like the "Start" menu, can provide convenient access to frequently used programs. You don't necessarily need to click a program's taskbar button to see what the window contains. If you simply place the mouse pointer over the taskbar button, a preview window will pop up displaying the program's name and a thumbnail image of the window.

4. Choosing a Theme

The themes listed in the "Personalization" window display a preview of the desktop background pictures and the window color for each theme. Each Aero theme contains multiple pictures. When you select an Aero theme, the default is to show all the pictures in the theme as a slide show so that the background changes to another picture within the theme every 30 minutes. This means you'll have a new desktop background every 30 minutes.

5. Using Sticky Notes

If you're the type of person who jots down info or reminders onto scraps of paper, Sticky Notes may be for you. To run this program, type "Sticky" in the "Start" menu's search box. Then you can type directly onto a note on the Windows desktop and right-click a note to change its color. Your notes are saved when you close the Sticky Notes program.

6. Using Gadgets

Gadgets are miniature programs that run directly on the Windows 7 desktop and that allow you to obtain information and perform tasks without having to take the time to visit a website or run a conventional piece of software. For example, you might use a gadget to monitor the local weather, sports scores, or news headlines. To use gadgets, right-click any open area on the desktop, and then choose Gadgets.

7. Finding Games to Play

For those times you'd rather play than be productive, Windows 7 includes a group of ten games including checkers, chess, backgammon, and various card games.

"*Getting Started with Windows 7*" was written by Joseph Moran and Kevin Otnes and released Monday. It is available www.friendsofed.com.

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Herb Alpert may have surprises

COSTA MESA – Legendary trumpet player Herb Alpert will perform a one-night-only concert at the Segerstrom Hall in Costa Mesa on Dec. 5. Alpert will be joined on stage with his wife, vocalist Lani Hall.

Alpert and Hall, both Grammy winners, may debut a few songs at the concert.

"My love for jazz is rooted in its spontaneity...hopefully creating an exciting and unique musical blend without ever closing the space for spontaneity," Alpert said.

Hall added, "These songs have been floating around in our minds over the years. When we added our own personal touch to them, they came to life and now we're all on the road together with a blank canvas before us. Not knowing where this will lead adds to the musical excitement, and for us to share it so intimately with the audience is a dream come true."

Tickets to see Alpert and Hall are \$25-\$74 and are available at www.oepac.org or by calling (714) 556-2787.

Orchestra to play at Thorne Hall

LOS ANGELES – The Santa Cecilia Orchestra will open its 17th season Nov. 22 at Thorne Hall, located on the campus of Occidental College in Eagle Rock.

Nov. 22 is St. Cecilia's Feast Day, an occasion celebrated in earlier centuries with concerts dedicated to music's heavenly patroness. The orchestra takes its name from Santa Cecilia, the patron saint of music.

The concert will begin with Antonio Vivaldi's "Concerto Grosso." Sonia Marie De Leon de Vega is music director.

Tickets are \$20 and \$26 (\$7 for children 17 and under) and are available by calling (323) 259-3011 or online at www.scorchestra.org.

New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- **"Breaking the Rules"** by Barbara Taylor Bradford. When a psychopathic killer vows to shatter the world of a star model, she knows she must break the rules to protect her family and her life.
- **"Evidence"** by Jonathan Kellerman. Alex Delaware and detective Milo Sturgis investigate the murder of a couple and expose the shadowy side of glittering Los Angeles in this thriller by the bestselling author.
- **"Once in a Blue Moon"** by Eileen Goudge. The owner of a bookstore in Blue Moon Bay, a sleepy seaside resort, tries to reconnect with her sister, who had been sent to foster care thirty years earlier.
- **"A Single Rose"** by Barbara Delinsky. Matchmaking comes as easily to Victoria Lesser as breathing. Then two of the couples she has brought together decide to turn the tables, and set up a match for her with a treasure-seeking professor who is sailing to Costa Rica.
- **"Vanessa and Virginia"** by Susan Sellers. The author's first novel speaks in painter Vanessa Bell's voice as she addresses her sister, Virginia Woolf. The story depicts the lives of the sisters and their astounding circle, which burst upon late Victorian England and shattered both the artistic and cultural boundaries of the times.

Non-Fiction

- **"Cop Without a Badge: the Extraordinary Undercover Life of Kevin Maher"** by Charles Kipps. The high-speed biography of Maher, an "excitement junkie" who became an informant for the police, the FBI and the DEA.
- **"Five Ways We Grieve: Finding Your Personal Path to Healing after the Death of a Loved One"** by Susan Berger. The author offers practical advice for healing from a major loss in this presentation of five basic styles of grieving.
- **"Fresh Mexico: 100 Simple Recipes fro True Mexican Flavor"** by Marcela Valladolid. This cookbook aims to invigorate America's taste for real Mexican food--dishes that can be accomplished on any busy weeknight but that still express the authentic flavors of the native cuisine.
- **"The Haunting of America: from the Salem Witch Trials to Harry Houdini"** by William J. Birnes and Joel Martin. The authors chronicle a wide variety of what they view as occult and mystical experiences in a comprehensive account that spans centuries, from colonial times to 9/11.
- **"The Power of No: How to Keep Blowhards and Bozos at Bay"** by Beth Wareham. The perfect book for anyone who has ever been passed over for a promotion, dated jerks, married a disaster, suffered too many fools, or just needed more time alone, this title will teach you how to manage what you don't want and get what you do.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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Chili cook-off deemed a success

DOWNEY – Soroptimist International of Downey hosted its first annual chili cook-off fundraiser Oct. 4 at the Downey Elks Lodge.

The event was “overwhelmingly attended” and featured 20 chili entries from contestants competing in four categories and a Peoples Choice Award.

Judges included Downey Mayor Mario Guerra, Paramount Mayor Diane Martinez and Downey Chamber of Commerce President Robert Zavala.

Patricia Kotze, president of Soroptimist International of Downey, called the event a “huge success.”

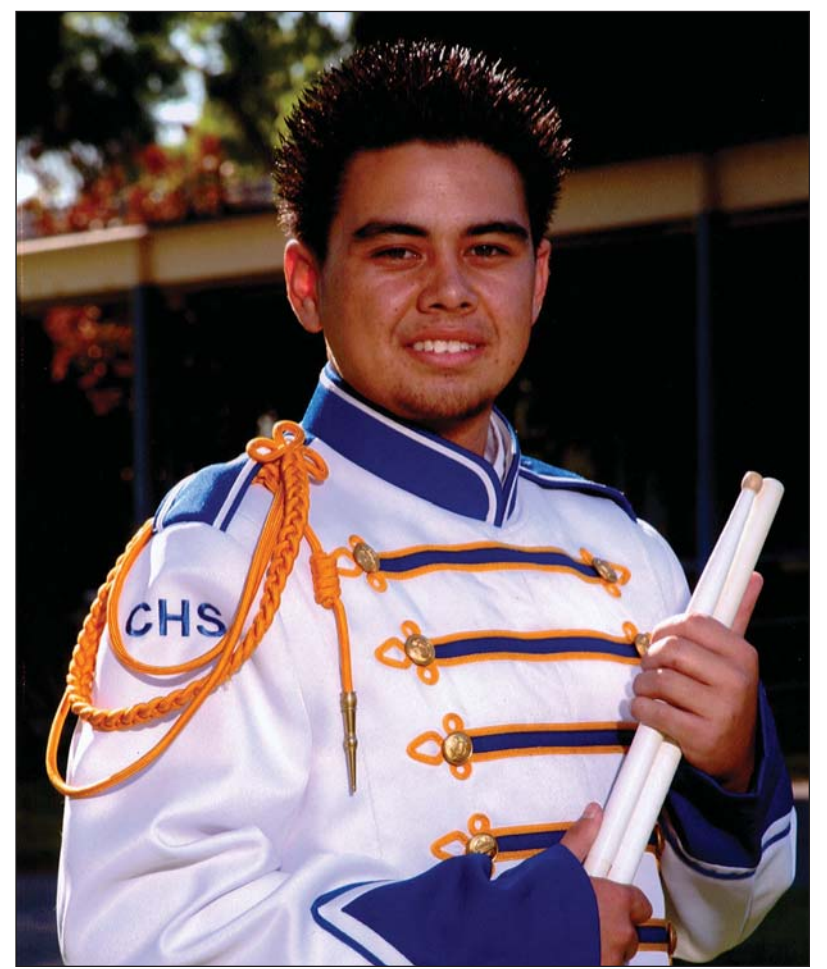
“The contestants were definitely enthusiastic and are looking forward to next year’s event,” she said.

Money raised from the event will go towards local service projects and scholarships.



PHOTO COURTESY SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF DOWNEY

Twenty chili entries competed for trophies at the first annual chili cook-off hosted by Soroptimist International of Downey earlier this month. Top row, left to right: Bob Winningham, Scott Devereux, Downey Fire, Michelle Winningham, Lorraine De Remer, Gary De Remer, Julissa Medina, Sam Mathis, Pete B., Downey Fire, Michael Heineke, Sam Armstrong, Mario Guerra, Dan Potter, Maureen Potter and Paul Granata. Bottom row: Diane Martinez, Patty Kotze, Robert Zavala and Meredith Perkins.



Downey resident Andrew Rivas has been accepted into the Tournament of Roses Honor Band and will play center snare in the 2010 Tournament of Roses Parade. Rivas, currently a junior at California High School in Whittier where he plays in the marching band, is a member of Full Force Percussion, a competitive band that plays with other indoor drum corps throughout the state. Last year, they secured a place in the World Drum Finals in Dayton, Ohio, and in the past have entertained during halftime of Clippers games at Staples Center. Rivas, who has also acted in TV commercials and movies, says his goal is to join the U.S. Marine Corp Marching Band.

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