



# The Downey Patriot



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Friday, February 5, 2010

Vol. 8 No. 42

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



## Terrones ordained into ministry

**DOWNEY** – In front of a standing room only audience, Annica Terrones was ordained into the ministry in the church of Jesus Christ on Sunday, and installed as Associate Pastor for Latino Ministries with Downey Memorial Christian Church.

Assisting with the ordination was the Central Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The ceremony included traditional hymns and liturgy, a sermon in two languages and music in three languages, reflecting Terrones's fluency in English, Spanish and Swedish.

Sunday's ceremony was also the last for senior pastor Dr. Robert Kurrasch, who has retired.

Terrones will spearhead New Beginnings, a dedicated effort to reach out to the younger generations in the Downey area.

"Annica is uniquely talented and prepared for this new ministry," Kurrasch said. "We Disciples describe ourselves as a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, and Annica stands at the forefront of a new generation of leadership bringing renewed hope to a world very much in need of healing at all levels."

Terrones was born in and grew up in Sweden. She, her husband and two daughters worked in Christian ministries in Sweden and Peru before moving to California in 2002.

She earned her Masters of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, and has more than 10 years experience leading youth groups, counseling, leadership training and community outreach.

Residents interested in New Beginnings are welcome to a meeting. The ministry meets every Friday at 7 p.m. at Downey Memorial Christian Church, 8441 E. Florence Ave. All ages are welcome.



Warren High School athletes signed letters of intent Wednesday in a ceremony held inside the campus library.

PHOTO BY ART MONTOYA

## Warren's athletes sign on the dotted line

Student athletes announce choices for college.

BY SCOTT COBOS,  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – Six athletes from Warren participated in National Signing Day by putting their signatures on their letters of intent to attend universities and compete at the next level on Wednesday.

Jesse Callier (football), Augafa Vaaulu (football), Chelsea Cabrajac (volleyball), Monique Diaz (cross country), and Daniel Kosakowski (tennis) all signed their letters while Dani Moreno (cross country) is still entertaining offers from other colleges.

As of Wednesday, Moreno had been offered scholarships from six different schools including Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Long Beach, Sacramento State University, UC-Santa Barbara, Arizona and UC-Berkeley.

Moreno is expected to make her decision by today but said Wednesday that although it's a good problem to have, she still

doesn't know what school she's leaning toward.

"It's definitely hard," she said. "I'm weighing the pros and cons. At the end of this week I should have a decision."

The decision for the biggest-named athlete of the group, Callier, was an easy one, saying that Washington head coach Steve Sarkisian made him feel right at home.

"I love their program," Callier said. "They have a great staff and they plan on doing special things with the program."

Callier's teammate Vaaulu will also be attending school on a football scholarship. He chose New Mexico State, and said he's ready to leave high school and move on to college.

"I fit in with the defense," Vaaulu said about New Mexico State. "The coach said I have a chance of starting."

For Kosakowski, a tennis prodigy that could have actually gone pro with his junior ranking being so high, the choice was an easy one because of his fanaticism for UCLA.

"Since I was very little I have always been a fan of UCLA," he said. "I basically can do whatever I want. I have an opportunity to play pro tennis or choose a career to pursue. Pro tennis is too much of a gamble right now."

For Diaz, who is attending San Francisco State, and Cabrajac, who is attending Cal State Long Beach, it was just a matter of the college itself, both saying that they simply liked the campus and surroundings.

"I like the area," said Diaz. "I love San Francisco and the team was a good fit for me. And I like the coach."

Cabrajac said she was happy she will remain near home and that the transition will be very easy.

"I love the atmosphere and it's not too far from the beach," she said. "I love the people there. They don't take themselves too seriously."

Only 2 percent of all high school athletes play at the collegiate level, Warren's athletic director Steve Hill said before player introductions. He added that less than 1 percent receive any financial aid to play at the next level.

## Reverend to study roots on sabbatical

Rev. Candie Blankman will retrace footsteps of her father in the Philippines.

**DOWNEY** – Rev. Candie Blankman of First Presbyterian Church of Downey has been awarded a grant to go on sabbatical "for a sustained period of reflection and renewal apart from the weekly rhythms and tasks of their work."

The Louisville Institute issued the grant, which awarded 39 total for eight or 12 weeks of study with a stipend of \$10,000 and \$15,000, respectively.

Blankman will leave for sabbatical Feb. 15 and return May 15.

As part of a church-wide time of exploring personal stories, Blankman will explore her father's story as a prisoner of war in the Philippine Islands and Japan and how that story has shaped her as a person and as a minister.

Blankman will retrace her father's footsteps when she walks part of the route of the Bataan Death March that her father survived. She will also visit two of the POW camps where he was interned and one of the places he was on work detail.

Though her father was not there, Blankman will tour Corregidor Island as it had significant impact on the Battle for Bataan.

From there, Blankman will travel to Japan where she will interview eyewitnesses of the forced labor of American and Allied soldiers in Japan. After surviving one of the Hellships that brought Bataan POWs to Japan, Blankman's father worked in a Mitsubishi copper mine for 1 1/2 years on the northern end of the main island of Japan. During that time he was interned at a camp called Sendal No. 6, or otherwise known as Hanawa.

Blankman will visit where this mine and camp were located.

Blankman's father, Kenneth Earl Davis, died in 2006 after suffering for several years from



Alzheimer's disease. But in 1988, Blankman began interviewing her father and recorded his stories about World War II and as a prisoner of war.

In 1993, she took her father to Boston to visit another Bataan survivor that he had not seen since their time in the Philippines.

Blankman will use her sabbatical time to put together her father's story, not only in writing, but also in drawings and paintings. Her father was a man of devout Christian faith and his experience as a prisoner of war shaped their family life.

While Blankman is gone, the church's congregation "will be exploring their own personal and corporate stories and sharing them with another," the church said in a statement.

When Blankman returns, a "great celebration and display of all that she and the congregation have learned" is planned. The community will be invited, church officials said.

"Louisville Institute believes that such time apart will strengthen and deepen the habits of heart and mind so crucial to the faithful practice of pastoral leadership – habits that all too often become marginalized by the daily and weekly demands of ministry and congregational life," the Louisville Seminary-based institute said in a statement. "Such reflective attention to personal and vocational renewal will equip pastors for more deeply fruitful, faithful and fulfilling ministry."

## Erasing graffiti requires a persistent attitude (and lots of paint)

BY ERIC PIERCE,  
CITY EDITOR

What appears to be ugly, indecipherable scribble to most of us is a language unto itself for Lisa Fox.

After eight years on the job, Fox, the city employee responsible for painting or scrubbing away much of the graffiti scrawled on Downey's concrete walls and sidewalks, has learned to read the scribble.

Each tag is a calling card of sorts, plastered on block walls, bus

benches, light posts and just about every nook and cranny accessible or imaginable.

"Taggers like to mark their territory," says Fox, 46. "Like dogs on their morning walk."

The city employs two full-time workers dedicated to graffiti removal, Fox and Gonzalo Garnica. A part-time employee works weekends and some holidays.

Fox's day begins at 6:30 a.m., when she reports to the public works yard located north of Independence Park. There, inside a

tiny office just large enough for two computers and not much else, Fox checks the Graffiti Hotline, which is really just a black, multi-line phone with voicemail that takes reports of graffiti from residents.

Graffiti reports can also be made online using the city's website. Checking the online database on Wednesday morning, Fox sees that one dedicated resident has reported 27 different instances of

See GRAFFITI, page 13



PHOTO BY ERIC PIERCE

## Guerra defends plans for downtown

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN,  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – Despite slow progress in Downtown Downey redevelopment, Councilman Mario Guerra assured nearly two dozen community members Tuesday evening that steps are in place to bring dynamic change to the area.

Speaking at a meeting of the Project Area Committee, Guerra discussed several redevelopment projects that are currently in the works, including Porto's Bakery, which Guerra believes will bring more traffic and business into the district.

"Porto's will open up this summer," said Guerra. "And whether you like it or not, it is going to dramatically change the downtown."

With concept boards in hand, Guerra also explained many upcoming city projects including the low to moderate-income housing units the city will build downtown where the Verizon facility and Avenue Theater now stand.

However, several residents expressed their concerns regarding the city's decision to transform both properties into affordable

housing units. Guerra assured those in attendance that the housing units would bring a positive change to the area.

"These apartments are not Section 8 housing," said Guerra, holding up a design of the structure. "These will be the nicest buildings in Downey – there will be a community room there – you and I will want to live there once they are completed."

The housing units, which will take about two and a half years to construct, will replace the Avenue Theater, a historic site that many residents are petitioning the city to preserve.

Guerra said he agrees that the downtown could use more cultural and artistic events, and offered ideas that could utilize the Avenue for both community activities and housing.

"George Krikorian, who owns Krikorian Theaters, proposed we turn the bottom into a Lucky Strike – with that classic bowling alley look – and put the apartments on top," said Guerra. "But a big percentage must be housing – if someone is interested in saving the Avenue, write us a check."

In addition to redevelopment projects, Guerra also hopes the city can change its image and brand itself as a community of innovation and aerospace history.

"Our city has 115,000 people, we have our own police and fire and our own school district," Guerra said. "We're big, but small in a way – we don't need to think small, we need to think big."

## Gomez lets his headlocks do the talking

■ Wrestler Damien Gomez is a person of few words.

BY SCOTT COBOS,  
STAFF WRITER

Even though not many words come out of the mouth of Warren High School's Damien Gomez, his 40-0 record sure does make a lot of noise.

Gomez, a 3-year wrestling letterman for the Bears, has been nothing but dominant since his early years and really came on the scene last year as a junior.

But low grades quickly erased the dominance of Gomez, and despite a 32-4 record, he watched his team compete in the CIF Finals last year from the sidelines.

A year older and a year wiser, Gomez finds himself with a 40-0 record sitting atop the league, the CIF Southern Section, and No. 3 in the state.

Success and lessons on the mat this year translated to success in the classroom. But it's not like Gomez didn't have the ability to do it. This year, the effort he's put on the mat has also been the same effort put in the classroom. Closer attention was paid and because of it he might find himself participating in the finals this year.

"We've just been attentive to [his classwork]," said Warren wrestling head coach Tim Brogden. "We're on top of it a lot more."

But it's much more than just paying attention and turning in work. Without a doubt Gomez has a chip on his shoulder and wants to prove all the naysayers wrong.

"This year I want to prove to



PHOTOS BY ART MONTOYA

Warren High School's Damien Gomez, top, pins an opponent from Gahr last year. Gomez is 40-0 this year and ranked No. 3 in the state.

myself how far I could have gone," Gomez said before his match against Downey on Tuesday.

He attributes much of his success to his parents, grandfather and uncle. He says that his quiet demeanor comes from them. It's because of them, he says, that he makes his actions speak louder than any words he may fathom.

With his success breeds other success as demonstrated with the rest of Warren's team. This year they were ranked No. 10 in CIF but will be moving up in the standings after recent wins over ranked opponents.

Not only is he winning all of his matches to continue his team's push up the standings, but his lead-

ership is guiding those teammates to work harder and get better, although that leadership might not be audible.

"He's a man of very few words," Brogden said. "He's very quiet and leads by example."

The example Brogden speaks of comes on the mat during practice and the off-season. Gomez is the hardest worker on the team and is known for his intensity during drills. He's also known for his off-season work as well.

During the off-season, Gomez is constantly training and participating in tournaments against the best opponents he can find, trying to better himself.

"Every weekend I had a tourna-

ment that my dad would drive me to," said Gomez in a quiet tone.

After all the tournaments and the long road back from academic ineligibility, Gomez feels he has a lot that drives him and with that motivation is driven to be the best.

"My family, my friends, school, myself and what happened last year," Gomez said, listing the things that make him want to continue his pursuit of perfection.

Those things motivate him and he's convinced that he's going to be the best. Right now, with a 40-0 record and a fire in his eyes, there's nothing left to say. It's all been said.

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## Library receives Civil War books

**DOWNEY** – The Friends of the Downey City Library has received a “generous” collection of Civil War books.

The books have been assembled on a book cart inside the store, located inside the library.

Residents, particularly Civil War and history buffs, are encouraged to peruse the collection and possibly add them to their collection.

The library is at 1121 Brookshire Ave.

## Meeting to preach good attitude

**DOWNEY** – Dr. Susan Mathieu, senior adult program coordinator at the Alpert Jewish Community Center in Long Beach, will be guest speaker at the Ezra Center for Mature Adults meeting Feb. 16 at Temple Ner Tamid.

Mathieu’s lecture is titled “Smile: No Groan-Ups Allowed.” She will give the eight reasons why “Americans can’t lighten up.”

The program begins at 10:30 a.m. and is followed by lunch at noon. Cost of the lunch is \$6 for Ezra members and \$7 for non-members.

For more information, call Miriam Brookfield at (562) 943-3170.

## Business mixer at DFCU

**DOWNEY** – Downey Federal Credit Union will host a business mixer Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Admission is \$3 and guests will enjoy refreshments, door prizes and networking opportunities.

For more information, call the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191.

## Networking this Tuesday

**DOWNEY** – Gary Benveniste of STAT Diagnostic Services and Carol Rowland of Keep Downey Beautiful will be guest speakers at Rise ‘N Shine networking Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at Downey Brewing Company.

Cost to attend is an order from the menu. For more information, call (562) 923-2191.

## Mothers club opens local chapter

**DOWNEY** – A local chapter of Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is opening in Downey beginning Thursday at 6:45 p.m.

MOPS meetings include guest speakers, arts and crafts for children, small group discussions and “the chance to build supportive relationships with other moms.”

The group will meet bimonthly from 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. at Downey First Christian Church.

Contact Rachel Shaw at Rachel@hopster550.com or visit www.newstreetchurch.com for more information.



Zachary Smith cradles a baby while volunteering in Haiti.

COURTESY PHOTO

# Warren alum travels to help Haiti victims

■ Zachary Smith spent 10 days helping people of Haiti.

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN,  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – Zachary Smith never thought that he would be on the frontlines, treating earthquake victims in Haiti and saving hundreds of lives, but after hearing a plea for help on the radio, the 31-year-old firefighter packed his bags.

“It was totally against my train of thought,” said Smith. “As first-responders, we don’t go unless requested to go so I won’t go somewhere unless I’m asked.”

But while listening to a radio broadcast, Smith felt inspired to help those living in the aftermath of the devastating magnitude 7.0 earthquake centered near Port Au Prince.

“I heard how atrocious the medical care was,” he said. “I heard that the large organizations were not responding. The Red Cross, UNICEF and Doctors Without Borders are great organizations, but they take a week or two to get in and set up.”

After hearing that a rapid response, vanguard style medical rescue team named Team Rubicon was looking for former Marines, soldiers, firefighters, medics, and RNs to help fill the gap until larger organizations could arrive in Haiti, Smith immediately called the organization, volunteering his time.

Smith, a Roseville resident who grew up in Downey and graduated from Warren High School, returned home on Sunday after spending 10 days in Haiti caring for hundreds of patients in makeshift tent cities near Port Au Prince.

Founded by former Marines,

Team Rubicon is a self-sustaining, all-volunteer, non-profit organization that calls upon skilled first-responders from across the country to provide medical assistance for victims in major disasters.

The first Rubicon team flew into the Dominican Republic and drove into Port Au Prince, avoiding the congested airport. The team soon found themselves operating a hospital until the larger medical organizations could arrive.

After trading shifts with his fellow Rocklin firefighters and taking several vacation days off from work, Smith bought a plane ticket to Fayetteville, North Carolina, where he met with Rubicon’s Bravo team at Fort Bragg.

Smith, along with nine other members of the Bravo team, was sent to relieve and restock the original Rubicon team.

The group flew to Haiti, where they spent hours each day treating victims with deep wounds, lacerations, foot fractures and severe eye injuries.

“That’s what we did – we were a trauma team,” said Smith. “We would go to the camps and befriend the locals. We’d get some good intel on where the most hurt people were and we’d treat them.”

Using four Toyota pickup trucks, the team would travel into the city and care for nearly 300 patients a day on the beds of the trucks. Those who were seriously injured were transported to the hospital.

Smith said there were many doctors and nurses in Haiti, but very few paramedics, making their role very difficult yet vital.

“The people were just in a state of bewilderment,” said Smith over the phone. “I couldn’t believe it, people weren’t asking for handouts – they were asking for jobs. They wanted to work.”

While in Haiti, Smith and his team members stayed at a Jesuit compound where each morning at 6:30 a.m. the people would have mass under a giant mango tree and pray each night before going to bed.

“Each morning we would go to mass and prepare our minds for the day ahead,” he said. “Bro. Jim would lead us – it was an amazing experience.”

The last 48 hours of Smith’s time in Haiti was spent administering medications to patients day and night. It was here that Smith met a woman that he will never forget.

As new patients arrived each day, Smith said the hospital staff was forced to kick out patients who had already received treatment.

“There was no room and we needed the space,” Smith said. “There was this elderly lady and we needed her bed – she had been there a couple of days for a back injury, but we needed her bed.”

In Creole, the woman began to beg Smith to let her stay, insisting that sending her to the streets would “send her to her death.”

“She kept saying it,” he said. “This was probably the most destitute woman in Haiti and she had no one. In 10 hours, she probably would have been dying on the street – but we were able to get her into a convent and save her life.”

Although his mission in Haiti is finished, Smith plans to continue his relationship with Team Rubicon as they assist in other disasters around the world, but in the meanwhile, he employs all Americans to give.

“Haiti was a poor country before, but now they are a hopeless country,” Smith said. “We’ve got to give – we are the only way they have hope to rebuild.”

## Police chief tapped for meeting

**DOWNEY** – The next Business Watch meeting will be held March 9 inside council chambers at City Hall.

Police Chief Rick Esteves will speak beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Business Watch is a crime prevention program that provides business owners with training in areas such as security, effective crime reporting, shoplifting prevention and more.

All Downey business owners are invited to join Business Watch.

For more information, call the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191 or the city of Downey at (562) 904-1895.

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## College hosting business symposium

**NORWALK** — Cerritos College will host a business symposium Feb. 19-20 feature keynote speakers and 18 workshops.

Some of the workshops available include Sexual Harassment Prevention, 5 Quick Steps to Inventory Reduction, Blog Your Biz: Social Media for Businesses, Ethics in the Workplace, and more.

Cost to attend is \$109 and includes two keynote lunches, access to the 18 workshops, and use of a resource room.

For more information, call Marjean at (800) 481-6555, ext. 1252, or e-mail marjeanc@selaco.com.

## Librarians share favorite books

**DOWNEY** — The public is invited to hear librarians discuss some of their favorite books during a lunch event at the Downey City Library on Thursday.

"I Love Books!" will be held 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Cormack Room.

A panel of librarians will give their recommendations on a variety of titles, including "Atmospheric Disturbances" by Rivka Galchen; "A Good and Happy Child" by Justin Evans; "A Voice in the Wind" by Francine Rivers; "The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox" by Maggie O'Farrell; "The Monstrumologist" by Richard Yancey; and "Ender's Game" and "Enchantment" by Orson Scott Card.

The book discussion is free to attend; a light lunch will be offered for \$5.

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

## Dementia topic of meeting

**CERRITOS** — Dr. Pinal Doshi from Pioneer Medical Group will present a lecture titled, "Dementia: Unraveling the Mystery," Wednesday at 8 a.m. at the Cerritos Senior Center.

Once considered a rare disorder, dementia is now considered a major public health problem affecting millions of older Americans and their families.

Doshi's program will explain dementia and how it affects the brain and daily activities.

The meeting is free. The Cerritos Senior Center is at 12340 South St. in Cerritos.

# Guerra sees trip to China as 'opening doors'

■ Councilman visits China, takes in technology.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

Without missing a beat, Downey councilman and former mayor Mario Guerra dashed off on a whirlwind visit to China in the company of three other delegates the day after the City Council adjourned its regular meeting last Jan. 12 and was back in plenty of time for the next one on the 26th.

He said what he saw was 'capitalism on steroids.'

This, of course, accords with what the world has been anticipating for a while: by most estimates, China's economy is about to plow ahead of Japan, if it hasn't done so already, as the second largest economy in the world.

Even so, says Guerra, he was not prepared for the many notable, some spectacular, advances China has accomplished for its 1.2 billion people, which is four times the size of the U.S. population.

"We took the Shanghai Maglev Train," he said, "and it took us 30 miles in less than 7 minutes, and at times it went over 325 kms. per hour. You could see it was going fast out the window but we could not feel the effect inside. Quiet and very smooth. I was wondering how it was going to stop and yet it came to a smooth and gentle stop. Awesome! This is the only place in the world basically where this is functioning."

Guerra considers this display of technology one of the major highlights of the trip. Downey belongs to the group of Joint Powers Authority cities that have clamored for the Orangeline Maglev train in Southern California.

Knockoffs and inversions of U.S. brands and logos are everywhere, he said. Thus, Radio Shack becomes Shack Radio, Marshall Fields would be Fields Marshall, and so on. Some companies have, however, set up legitimate franchises: the biggest fast food chain is not McDonalds, but KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken): "We had a sandwich at the train station and they must have a different type of chicken because [the taste] was not like [anything found] here." At one point, Guerra says, "Funny how our delegation laughed at me for having some chocolate candy bars in my briefcase, but after a



COURTESY PHOTO

Councilman Mario Guerra is interviewed by the Chinese press. Guerra traveled to China with a delegation from the Latin Business Association.

long ride on the government official bus, they were asking me if I had any left..."

In any case, it is a place where people seem to have a familiarity only with Kobe and Arnold. They were well-informed, though, about Downey and Tesla from the newspapers.

"We were followed by a TV camera crew and it was fun to be in your hotel room, turn on the TV and see your entire day on the screen. I could not understand what was being said but you can hear your name and see what you were looking at all day."

China is big on education. Another major highlight was the delegation's visit to New Century College, a beautiful new school of 4,000 students who are encouraged to learn the English language because they realize it will be to their (and their country's) benefit in the global society.

The students were very curious about a lot of things, and asked questions about Downey's space heritage, certain jobs ("Is accounting a good and 'honorable' job?"), etc. "They gasped when I told them I had five kids," Guerra says. China of course is run by the 70 million-member CPC (Communist Party of China) that has a one child per family policy and other restrictive rules, making the country modern and forward-looking in some aspects, but backward and primitive in others. Not a few prognosticators are hoping some balance can be established, but nobody really knows which political path China will choose to take

in the coming decades ahead—clearly a big foreign policy challenge.

The head of the college was chairman David Chin, "a good friend and businessman thought very highly in the country who acted as our official interpreter," Guerra says. Apparently no objection was raised when, in speaking to the students, Guerra introduced to them the concept of Character Counts, and even put the pillars up on a big board in front. Character Counts will now be part of the teaching at this school...In China! How cool is that?"

The trip was underwritten by the Latin Business Association (LBA), which counts 200,000 company members, making it the country's largest Latino business group with an outreach program to Latino business owners. LBA chairman Ruben Guerra (no relation) headed the delegation which included, besides Mario Guerra, mayor of Huntington Park Mario Gomez, and Councilman and former Bell Gardens mayor Pedro Acutencia.

The group obtained 'letters of intent for friendly cooperation' from the two places they visited: Xuyi County, called the crayfish capital of the world, and Suzhou in Jiangsu Province, where 100 American companies reportedly generate \$800 million locally.

"Taxpayers' money was never involved here," Guerra said, "and I made sure everything was sanctioned by our city attorney. The trip was about opening doors. It's laying the foundation."

## POET'S CORNER

### Downey noir

going for the first time to my new post office box  
I am aware of precautions I should take  
watch for shady figures lounging in parked cars, be attentive  
the large Post Office lot is completely empty on this Sunday morning  
still, in Victorian Downey with its surface propriety, who knows  
as Sherlock Homes says to Watson, the lowest and vilest  
alley in London does not present a more dreadful record on sin  
than does the smiling and lovely countryside  
entering the pink-blooming petunia-edged walkway I see  
nothing  
but Holmes says that is what I should expect to see when  
someone like him is following me, I am on the look-out  
for a person crouching in the clipped bushes  
and yes there is a man  
hunched under a big black sun shade selling  
chocolate bars for the rehab of alcoholics and drug addicts  
I get the connection, I move to amber alert  
in the deserted air-conditioned lobby where boxes line the walls  
I check for a slouching gungsel in trench coat and hat brim turned  
down  
providentially my box turns out to be at convenient eye level;  
so I won't be bent over off balance and then have my purse  
snatched  
most crimes committed are not murders but involve money or  
power

carefully I cup my left hand over my right  
I put in the easy-to-remember code I've been assigned  
C-H-E, dark symbol of counter culture and revolt  
three times I have to repeat this ritual  
because I can't see the dial under my left hand's shadow  
no one appears to intercept me so I retrieve my mail  
I will not throw it into trash bins while my name is still smudged  
on the labels  
quickly I get into my front seat and lock my door  
I am panting, this is the most dangerous moment  
when the box holder thinking to have reached the safety of the  
car  
lets down her guard and the intruder moves in

I have three letters, all coded as junk  
a magazine in a language I cannot read, significant  
and invitation to an event that took place last week  
and when I open an overdue bill saying my account is seven  
cents short  
I am elated, vindicated, the game is afoot  
with a little cultivation of its darker edges  
life can be a thriller  
—Lorine Parks,  
Downey

## Crime Report

### Thursday, January 28

At 5:30 p.m., a teenager was robbed of his iPod as he walked on Tweedy Lane near Dinsdale Street. The teen was approached by two males, one of whom grabbed the iPod from his hands then both suspects ran away with the iPod.

At 7:40 p.m., a teen reported that he had been robbed by two males the previous day in the area of Dinwiddie Street and Old River School Road. The victim had been walking when he was approached by the two suspects who demanded his cell phone. One of the suspects threatened to stick him with a needle if he did not give them his phone. The victim ultimately relinquished his phone.

### Friday, January 29

At 4 a.m., officers responded to a van engulfed in flames on Old River School Road at Firestone Place. Their investigation revealed that a bicycle had been stolen from the van before the van was intentionally lit on fire. Detectives and the Downey Fire Department are investigating this incident as Arson.

At 10 a.m., a teenager and his two companions were arrested on Imperial Highway at Bellflower Boulevard after being observed writing graffiti on numerous light poles. Officers arrested one of the teenagers, a resident of Lynwood, for vandalism. The other two teens, residents of Downey, were arrested for being in possession of vandalism tools.

At 11:45 p.m., a Valencia resident was walking in the 10200 block of Lakewood when a car drove up along side him and an occupant pointed a handgun at him. Officers stopped a car at Firestone and Old River School Road fitting the description provided by the victim. The victim identified the occupants of the car as being the suspects who pointed a handgun at him. Officers located numerous "airsoft" handguns and rifles inside the car. All three adult occupants were arrested for displaying an imitation firearm in a threatening manner.

### Saturday, January 30

At 2:30 a.m., a bicyclist was robbed of his wallet as he rode in the 9800 block of Imperial Highway. As he rode his bicycle, a vehicle pulled up along side him and two occupants exited. They demanded his property and stole his wallet before reentering their vehicle and fleeing the scene.

### Sunday, January 31

At 4:30 a.m., a 23 year-old South Gate man entered Tacos Mexico at 7852 Florence and attempted to steal a tip jar and a candy display. The suspect fought with employees who attempted to detain him. Officers arrived and arrested him for attempted robbery. No one was injured.

### Monday, February 1

At 1:30 a.m., officers responded to the Radio Shack located at 7956 Florence regarding a burglary at the location. Unknown suspects smashed the glass door, entered the business, and fled with numerous cameras and computer monitors.

### Tuesday, February 2

At 11:30 p.m., a father and son, both adults, were approached by two suspects in the 11900 block of Elm Vista. The suspects demanded money from the victims then punched both victims, knocking the father to the ground. Both suspects fled on foot without any loss. The victims did not sustain any serious injuries.

Courtesy Downey Police Department

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## Don't be left out of 2010 Census

**DOWNEY** – U.S. Census 2010 is fast approaching and the city of Downey would like to remind residents about the importance of being counted.

The census is conducted every 10 years, as required by the U.S. Constitution, and it is a count of every person living in the United States, which includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and non-citizens.

Being counted in the census is significantly important because the information collected will affect funding for our local community. Each year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to cities based partially on the census data. This money is used to repair our roads, provide funding to our police and fire departments, and provide funding for our schools and many other services.

Information from the census is used by businesses to locate supermarkets, new housing and other facilities. Census data also helps determine how many representatives we have in the state and federal governments.

Information collected through the U.S. census is absolutely confidential. It is illegal for the Census Bureau, or its employees, to share your personal information with any other government agency such as law enforcement, IRS, welfare, FBI, immigration, etc. Your responses remain confidential for 72 years.

Beginning in March, questionnaires will start to arrive by mail. Please take a moment to fill out the form and mail it back by April 1. This census questionnaire is one of the shortest in history! With only 10 questions, it should take only about 10 minutes to complete.

Please make sure to participate in the census. If Downey is undercounted by just 100 people, the city could lose up to \$1.3 million in funding over the next 10 years. Make Downey count!

For more information on Census 2010, please visit <http://2010.census.gov>.

## Deadline nears for art competition

Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) invites all interested high school students living in California's 34th Congressional District to participate in "Artistic Discovery" – the 2010 Congressional Student Art Competition. The deadline to submit entries is Thursday.

"The congressional student art competition helps to build self esteem in young artists and provides the community with valuable insight into the life experiences, challenges, and joys of our talented high school students," said Roybal-Allard, who is the honorary chair of the competition. "The art competition also recognizes the hardworking and caring teachers who provide their students with the inspiration, skills and tools they need to develop their artistic abilities."

Every year, Roybal-Allard sponsors the competition which is open to students in grades 9-12 who reside in the 34th Congressional District. The district includes the communities of Bell, Bellflower, Bell Gardens, Boyle Heights, Commerce, Cudahy, Downey, Downtown Los Angeles, Huntington Park, Little Tokyo, Maywood, South Park, Vernon, Walnut Park, and portions of Chinatown, East Los Angeles, Florence, Pico Union, and Westlake.

The winning entry represents the 34th Congressional District for one year in a national exhibit at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The winning student is awarded a \$1,000 scholarship, a gift certificate and cash prize and is flown to our nation's capital for the opening of the exhibit.

Artwork must be two-dimensional, no larger than 26 inches by 26 inches and must be an original concept. Entries along with completed and signed entry forms should be delivered to Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard's District Office at 255 E. Temple Street, Suite 1860, Los Angeles, CA 90012 by 5 p.m., Feb. 11.

Complete guidelines and information packets are available at all high school guidance and youth centers in the 34th Congressional District.

Interested students may also contact Angelita Ramirez at Congresswoman Roybal-Allard's district office at (213) 628-9230 for more information.

## Politicians fined for gifts

**SACRAMENTO** -- Local politicians are facing fines by a state ethics commission for failing to properly report gifts.

Assemblyman Hector De La Torre faces a \$200 fine by the Fair Political Practices Commission for not reporting a \$94.46 dinner provided by the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians.

De La Torre represents the southern parts of Downey in the state Assembly.

Sen. Ron Calderon, who represents local cities including Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs, but not Downey, was fined \$600 for not declaring a \$189.84 meal from Medtronic, Inc.; \$250 in golf fees from CA Telecom Association; and \$300 concert tickets from Verizon.

Calderon's brother, Charles Calderon, represents North Downey in the Assembly.

The commission will consider the fines at its Feb. 11 meeting in Sacramento.

## Letters to the Editor:

### Litter problem

Dear Editor:

Immediately after recent rainstorms, Downey was litter-free – a beautiful place to live but with each passing day litter begins to collect. Rain has washed our streets, sidewalks and buildings clean but discarded cigarettes, fast-food wrappers, dirty diapers, gum wrappers, etc. begin to appear.

Places to see accumulating litter: strip malls, fast food places, donut shops and liquor stores. It's not uncommon to see empty sacks and wrappers from these shops littering the parking area. Even along city streets one can see where occupants of an automobile finished their fast food then dropped the empty sacks on the street. Particularly difficult to clean up are the small smashed plastic containers of mustard and ketchup that are ground into parking surfaces.

People walking their animals should clean up the droppings since these wash through storm drains to the ocean. Discarded cigarettes are a big problem since they get into cracks in the pavement. Then rain or irrigation water floats them to the surface where they end up in the ocean.

The L.A. Times recently published a large picture and article about many discarded items that floated down the San Gabriel River. Some of the many things seen: discarded automobile tires, mangled shopping carts, numerous kinds of plastic containers, tennis shoes; you name it and it's there. Seal Beach receives refuse that has traveled along the 75-mile San Gabriel River and empties into the ocean.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is an area with an intense concentration of marine trash located between Hawaii and California. The exact size of the patch is unknown but some authorities say it is bigger than the state of Texas. As our population grows so does the amount of trash we produce. Attempts have been made to clean it up but there is simply too much material over too large an area to make any significant impact.

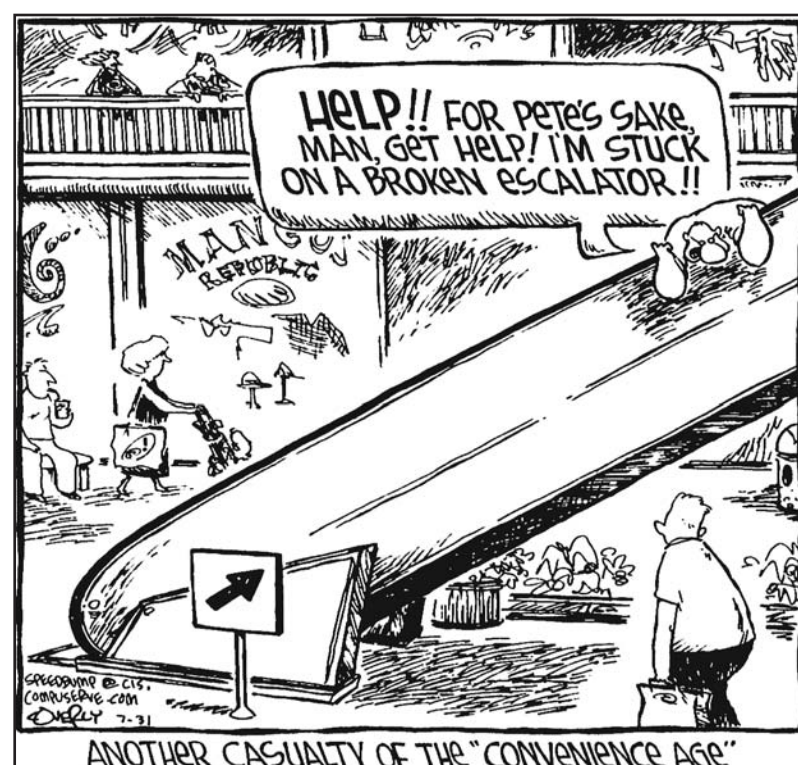
What we can do:

- Every time we see litter, pick it up and dispose of it properly.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle. Be conscious of all that you buy and be certain to avoid products with excessive packaging, especially in disposable products.
- Take part in local stream, river and beach cleanups. Though these don't solve the problem, they are effective at drawing attention to the greater problem offsho

We live near the ocean and the San Gabriel River drains directly into it. Our storm drains wash garbage and other forms of litter from our streets directly into the ocean so be conscious of this and don't litter

•Consider joining and/or supporting groups like Keep Downey Beautiful.

— **Byron Dillon,  
Downey**



### Hansen Bros

Dear Editor:

What a great feature story Christian Brown wrote for The Downey Patriot ("Looking Back On...The Hansen Brothers").

I am sure that we all learned so much about Downey's early history from the concrete company ran by Edward and Harrie to the subdivision homes and the many structures that were designed by Otto Hanson and are still standing proud!

Thank you, Christian, and also Bill Hansen for the front page photos.  
— **Ms. Jimmie Renner,  
Downey**

### No to Tesla

Dear Editor:

Would someone please explain to me why the City Council is so hell bent on getting Tesla Motors into Downey? I don't like their childish way of announcing where they will go – Downey or Long Beach.

The biggest factor to me is that they are a consistently losing company. Since opening nine years ago, they have lost an average of \$26 million a year. Maybe to our City Council that is not a lot of money, but it sure is to me.

No thank you for me.

— **Doris Hannon,  
Downey**

## Time to end travel ban to Cuba

Sarah Stephens, executive director of the Center for Democracy in the Americas, issued the following statement about the Foreign Aid budget request for 2011 which proposes \$20 million in wasteful spending on regime change programs for Cuba:

"Unless it's okay for the United States government to waste money on foreign aid programs that don't work, the Obama administration should remove the \$20 million in spending it has proposed on 'regime change' on Cuba.

"Many activities funded by this program are illegal in Cuba, would certainly be illegal if Cuba conducted them in our country, and they have long histories of wasteful spending in the U.S. and hurting the intended beneficiaries in Cuba. Activities funded by this program recently landed a U.S. contractor in a Cuban prison. If you ever wanted to find a wasteful and counter-productive foreign aid program, this is it.

"The paradox is this: not one of these wasteful programs can hold a candle to the one policy change that would pour American information

and ideas into Cuba, and bring both countries together – namely, ending the travel ban that stops all Americans from visiting the island and engaging the Cuban people, a 'program' which would cost the taxpayers nothing."

The Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA) is devoted to changing U.S. policy toward the countries of the Americas by basing our relations on mutual respect, fostering dialogue with those governments and movements with which U.S. policy is at odds, and recognizing positive trends in democracy and governance. For more information about CDA, visit our website.

CDA's report, "9 Ways for US to Talk to Cuba and for Cuba to Talk to US," published last year, recommended ending counter-productive 'regime change' programs and relying instead on policies of engagement to advance America's interests and lead to normal relations between the U.S. and Cuba.

## Credit card lawsuits becoming more common

By Steve Lopez

Whether or not we believe the news media about a declining US economy, one thing is for sure is that debt collectors are actively filing suits to collect debts. What was once almost unheard of has now become common practice and that is individuals being sued over credit card debt.

Increasingly, credit card companies and third party debt collectors are filing lawsuits against consumers in Limited Civil Jurisdiction in State Court. Limited Civil cases are worth more than \$10,000 but less than \$25,000 and the proceeding is formal unlike small claims lawsuits. In the recent months I have seen a dramatic increase in persons seeking advice on what to do when such lawsuits have been filed. What most want to know is what can be done when they in fact owe this debt. It is no doubt that getting sued is very stressful. But don't delay taking action once a lawsuit has been served. In most cases, a lawsuit is just another tactic used by debt collectors, oftentimes one that can be defended against and possibly disposed of.

Again, lawsuits are last ditch efforts by creditors or third party debt collectors to get the consumers to pay their debt. When an original creditor or third party collector determines that their collection efforts are not garnering the desired settlement of the account, they sue the consumer. This is usually after they have attempted to collect the debt for at least three months. Consumers in default on their credit card debts are not the deadbeats that collectors might have consumers believe. Most consumers in debt have gotten to that point because of unemployment, divorce, mounting medical bills and the ongoing recession. Being sued for a debt only adds insult to injury for a battered consumer.

Some lawsuits are brought by original creditors and some are brought by third party debt collectors who purchase the debt at a discounted rate. Most times debts are purchased for pennies on the dollar. Original creditors might include the banking institution that extended credit, for example Citibank or Chase, or a retailer, like Target, Macy's and or Sears. Third party collectors suing consumers over credit card debt have purchased the debt from the original creditor or from previous debt collectors as holders of the account. That means that the consumer no longer owes Target or Sears but that now the consumer owes the person who is attempting to collect the debt. Sometime these third parties are law firms who specialize in debt collection.

It is important to keep in mind that the value of the debt decreases over



time as the ability to collect the debt declines over time. While the dollar amount of debt in default will continue to grow because of interest and penalties, the original debt value drops. Debt collectors buy a bulk of defaulted credit card accounts for much less than the amount of the initial debt. This is important because this will be key to negotiating down the debt.

Lawsuits have strict response deadlines. Consumers must file a response with the court within 30 days from the date the lawsuit is served. If a consumer fails to meet the response deadline, the debt collector may seek a default judgment. This will mean that the consumer is no longer able to respond to the lawsuit or participate in the lawsuit. The debt collector will then ask the court to issue a judgment against the consumer which he can use to put a lien on the consumer's property or garnish the consumer's wages.

For the above reasons, once a lawsuit is served, the first thing to do is consult with a lawyer as quickly as possible as to avoid missing the response date. Next, check the credit report to determine who has collected on the particular account in the past and when the account went into default. That information, plus any other letters or other material related to the account, should be reviewed by an attorney to determine if there are defenses available. One example of a good defense on a credit card debt would be the tolling of the statute of limitations. The statute of limitation prohibits persons from collection on credit card debts over four years old. Any defense that is viable can only be presented if the consumer acts fast and within the statutory time limit of the lawsuit.

Finally, many debt collectors, especially third party debt collectors, may have difficulty proving details regarding a debt. Defense strategy is the key in such cases. An experienced lawyer, familiar with various debt collectors and their practices will be able to assess the possibility of settling the debt out of court for less than the original amount as well as the possibility of getting a case dismissed altogether. Consumers may want to settle a credit card lawsuit because of the potential liability as the ones discussed earlier and in addition, the credit report and credit scores may also be affected. This is particularly significant for the consumer who is interested in making a big purchase, such as a house or a car in the future.

As lawsuits over debt become more common, consumers should keep in mind that there may be valid defenses to the lawsuit even if the debt is owed.

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

## The Downey Patriot

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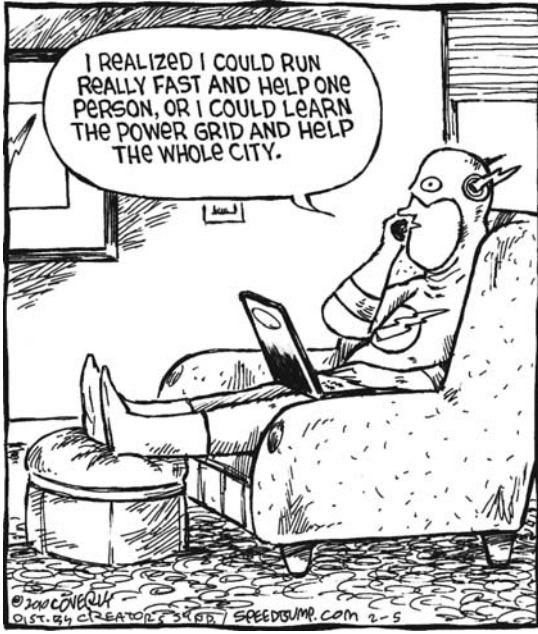
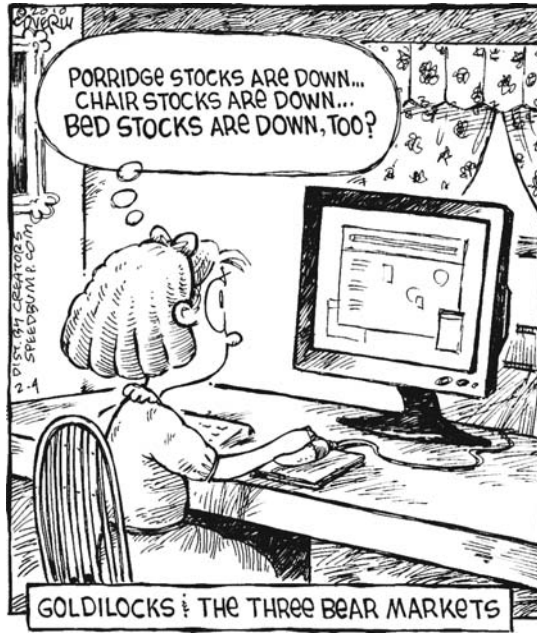
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The Downey Patriot is published weekly by Jennifer DeKay-Givens. Controlled Distribution, 25,000 copies printed. Distributed by CIPS Marketing Group, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



# Downey Community Calendar

### Events For February

- Tues. Feb. 9: **Rise 'N Shine networking**, Downey Brewing Company, 7:30 a.m.
- Thurs. Feb. 11: **Business mixer**, Downey Federal Credit Union, 5:30 p.m.
- Thurs. Feb. 11: **Mothers of Preschoolers meeting**, Downey First Christian Church, 6:45 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

- 8:00 a.m.: **Job Club**, 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

- 9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
- 10 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at 7850 Quill Drive, for information call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.
- 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.
- 1st Tues., 7:30 a.m.: **Gangs Out of Downey**, at City Hall training room.
- 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: **Sertoma Club**, at Cafe 'N Stuff, for information call 425-7936.
- 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 7850 Quill Drive, for information call Marie Puch at 869-4366.
- 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.
- 10 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at 7850 Quill Drive, for information call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.
- 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.
- 10 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at 7850 Quill Drive, for information call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.
- 2nd Sat., 12:30 p.m.: **AAUW**, Los Amigos Country Club.

## On This Day...

**Feb. 5, 1917:** Despite a veto by President Woodrow Wilson, Congress passes the Immigration Act of 1917, banning "undesirables" from entering the country, mostly immigrants from Asian countries.

**1993:** Federal judge Kimba Wood withdraws from consideration for attorney general after disclosing she had employed an illegal immigrant as a babysitter for seven years.

**2003:** Secretary of State Colin Powell urges the U.N. Security Council to take action against Iraq, claiming Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and was harboring terrorists.

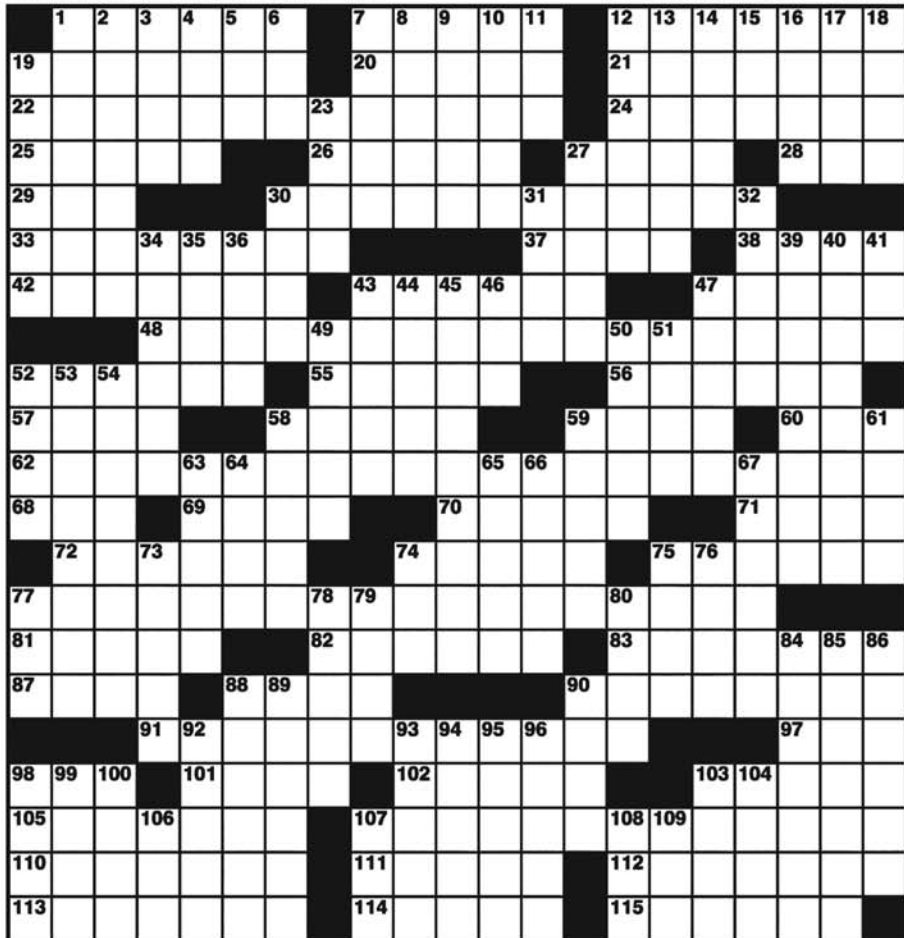
**Birthdays:** Baseball Hall of Famer Hank Aaron (76), football Hall of Famer Roger Staubach (68), actor Tim Meadows (49), actress Jennifer Jason Leigh (48), singer Bobby Brown (41) and soccer star Ronaldo (25).

## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**CALLING THE PIED PIPER: Rodental wordplay**  
 by Merle Baker

- ACROSS**
- 1 Discordant
  - 7 Josh
  - 12 Kitchen flipper
  - 19 Roundabout
  - 20 "Bone" prefix
  - 21 Some Gulf residents
  - 22 Places for slogans unsuitable for kids?
  - 24 Straightens
  - 25 Aunt    Cope Book
  - 26 Musicians McCoy and Hefti
  - 27 Musical set in ancient Egypt
  - 28 Taxpayer ID
  - 29 Aswan, for one
  - 30 Self-effacing buccaneer?
  - 33 Apple-pie extra
  - 37 D-Day transports
  - 38 Car-roof variety
  - 42 City on the Mediterranean
  - 43 More than one
  - 47 Unit of applause
  - 48 Scold during the Easter Parade?
  - 52 Bill    (menu)
  - 55 Le   , France
  - 56 Concerning a catalyst
  - 57 Cut of beef
  - 58 Free-for-all
  - 59 Pepsi challenger
  - 60 "Mamma   !"
  - 62 Mistakes one learns from?
  - 68 "That's amazing!"
  - 69 Seek
  - 70 On    (trying to reduce)
  - 71 Nautical direction
  - 72 Sounded loudly
  - 74 Getz et al.
  - 75 *Being and Nothingness* author
  - 77 Frank Sinatra?
  - 81 Rival of Dad's and Barq's
  - 82 Colossus locale
  - 83 Ranges
  - 87 Three, in Germany
  - 88 Field of expertise
  - 90 Slides
  - 91 Used car dealer's allotment?
  - 97 "C'est la   !"
  - 98 Farm female
  - 101 Kitchen add-on
  - 102 Vintner's concern
  - 103 Glacial ridge
  - 105 Blows one's top
  - 107 Unpredictable Mask actor?
  - 110 Coming up
  - 111 Big name in tractors
  - 112 Puff the Magic Dragon's land
  - 113 Not standing straight
  - 114 Gloomy, in poetry
  - 115 Roberto or Sandy of baseball
- DOWN**
- 1 Competition in the sky
  - 2 Restrain
  - 3 Numerical prefix
  - 4 Association payments
  - 5 Carried out
  - 6 Device between cable and TV
  - 7 Family emblem
  - 8 Abbr. on a business sign
  - 9 Lagoon encloser
  - 10 Have a vague impression
  - 11 Goddess of the dawn
  - 12 Insignificant one
  - 13 National Zoo favorites
  - 14 Facing the pitcher
  - 15 Menlo Park monogram
  - 16 Coffee servers
  - 17 Coffee covers
  - 18 Part of NCAA
  - 19 Ascribe
  - 23 Word on a penny
  - 27 Congress divider
  - 30 "Nagila"
  - 31 Make arrangements
  - 32 Wide-lapel jackets
  - 34 Seaside sight
  - 35 Vacationer in a camper
  - 36 Emerald Isle
  - 39 Diner order
  - 40 Mini ha-ha
  - 41 West Coast summer hrs.
  - 43 "Positive thinking" proponent
  - 44 Punch up
  - 45 Coincidental
  - 46 Fish eggs
  - 47 Flaubert's birthplace
  - 49 Larceny
  - 50 *Dilbert* cartoonist
  - 51 Make cookies
  - 52 Designer Cassini payments
  - 53 Ancestor
  - 54 No-parking zone
  - 58 Galileo's world
  - 59 Lidded box
  - 61 Suit to
  - 63 Lobbed
  - 64 Violinist Leopold
  - 65 "    you!" (challenger's words)
  - 66 Gershon and Lollbrigida
  - 67 Striking
  - 73    Ababa
  - 74 HBO alternative
  - 75   -Coburg (old German duchy)
  - 76 New Testament book
  - 77 Youth
  - 78 Jacques, in a kids' song
  - 79 Comparative word
  - 80 Unskilled laborer
  - 84 *Billy Budd*, for one
  - 85 Trendy social network
  - 86 Hay-fever sign
  - 88 Duds
  - 89 Like some rural roads
  - 90 Pop singer Grant
  - 92 Fable creator
  - 93 Less likely
  - 94 Be of one mind
  - 95 Pageant winner's wear
  - 96 Prefix for change
  - 98 Yale students
  - 99 Habit
  - 100 Petro-Canada competitor
  - 103 Periodic table stat.
  - 104 Wander
  - 106 Command for DDE
  - 107 Teacher's deg.
  - 108 Chinese tea
  - 109 Fa-la connector

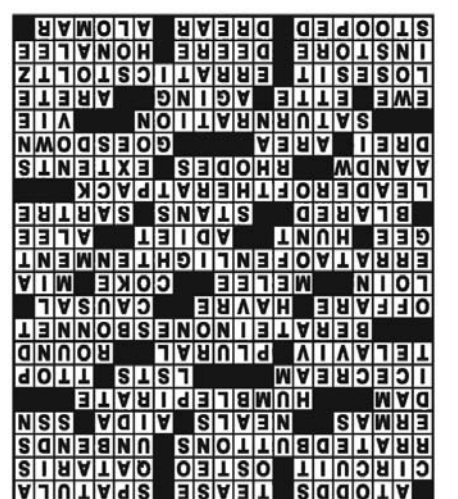
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- 66 Gershon and Lollbrigida
- 67 Striking
- 73    Ababa
- 74 HBO alternative
- 75   -Coburg (old German duchy)
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

Specifically, a T-TOP (38 Across) is an automobile roof with removable panels on either side of a rigid bar. An STB (6 Down), or set-top box, converts cable-TV signals to viewable images. The three giant PANDAS (13 Down) currently at the National Zoo are Mei Xiang, Tian Tian, and their cub Tai Shan.





## Columbus suffers from bad reputation

BY ALYSSA WYNNE,  
INTERN

**DOWNEY** – Columbus High School is a small high school nestled in Downey with the simple mission of “providing a safe and non-threatening environment that emphasizes a multiethnic and multicultural educational program directed toward the diverse and changing needs of its students;” but is such a goal really necessary?

“Majority of the students come here to either make up credits,” said school office manager Linda James. “Or, and many of them [do], choose to graduate with us. We help them make-up credits and they can graduate early if they’re really working hard.”

Many rumors have been around the other high schools that Columbus passes out credits like candy. Like most rumors, this one is false. The students have to work for the credits they receive just as much as any other student at Downey or Warren. But rather than sitting in class and listening to a lecture, these students have to complete thorough packets which they are only allowed to work on while at school in order to receive just one credit. Sure, this seems like a fairly easy assignment, but consider that a Downey or Warren student must only sit in class and do the bare minimum in order to receive five full credits. The weight of the work is incredibly even at this point.

Columbus students only have to receive 190 credits in order to graduate. This seems very unfair to the local high schools because those schools require their students to receive 220 credits to graduate. However, it is much easier to earn five credits at Downey or Warren than it is to earn five at Columbus. Not to mention, the credits earned at Columbus do not include the 30 elective credits that Downey and Warren both require to graduate. Columbus does not offer Fine Arts or Foreign Language or other electives, they have the classes that students need.

The students at Columbus have been doted with harsh words such as lazy, slacker, druggie, and idiot. Their school is even referred to as “Colum-dumb.” But none of these titles are deserved. There are many students at Columbus that are genuinely there because they fear the idea of a big school or are very deficient in the English language, said James. Yes, many of them may be lazy, and some of them may be delinquents, but the difference between these students and high school dropouts, are that these students try.

Currently there are 359 students enrolled and 13 teachers teaching, and there are many more students signed up for Columbus next semester.

## Retro is a hit at Winter Formal

BY DEBORAH WON,  
INTERN

**LONG BEACH** – Winter Formal was deemed a success for Warren High as the stupendous venue, array of music, and fun atmosphere all contributed to making this year’s “Retro Romance” dance on Jan. 29 at Club V20 a huge hit.

“Absolutely, I had a blast at Winter Formal this year,” said junior Savannah Vilaubi when asked if she had a good time at the school dance. “And the venue was especially impressive, it fit the theme and was a perfect place for this dance. The music was really good, too.”

Club V20, a popular location in Long Beach, was gorgeously decorated and set up in preparation for the event. The venue had a roomy two-level dance floor for those who wanted to dance the night away, as well as two lounge areas of booths and tables for students to sit down and relax. The bar served ice-cold water, while a large table was filled with snacks ranging from gummy worms to chocolate-dipped strawberries.

Of course, there was a photo booth with a professional photographer, as the picture line was open for the first few hours so couples and groups could get their Winter Formal pictures taken.

“Winter Formal was so much fun, and I was out on the dance floor with all my friends practically the entire time,” said junior Briana Bedran. “There were a lot of people that attended, but luckily the dance floor was spacious enough so it wasn’t too cramped. And the DJ played a lot of good music as well.”



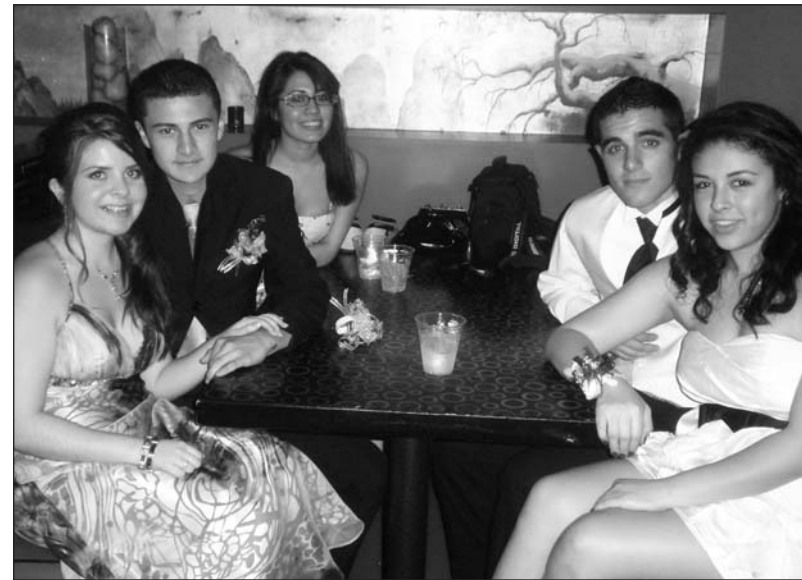
PHOTOS BY DEBORAH WON

### Warren High School’s Winter Formal was held at Club V20 in Long Beach last week. The dance was retro-themed.

The dance floor was truly something else. With approximately 500 students in attendance, they swarmed onto the floor to dance with their dates and friends, as the DJ played a large variety of popular songs, with the three flat-screen T.V.s located around the dance floor displaying the music video of each song.

In accordance to the theme, Retro Romance, there were several songs intermixed during the dance that were from the 80s and 90s. Surprisingly, these “old-school” songs were quite a hit as many students sang along as they danced.

Speaking of hits, the night wouldn’t have been complete if it



wasn’t for the Michael Jackson tribute that was played by the DJ midway through the dance. Students cheered as the ever-so-famous “Thriller” and other songs by the King of Pop were accompanied by scenes of Jackson’s moonwalk and other performances.

As the clock neared 11 p.m., the DJ announced that the dance was coming to an end, as the speakers boomed “This is How We Do It,” a still-popular 90s song, as the finale to yet another memorable night for the Bears.

## Downey’s Winter Formal was a thrill ride

BY JOANNA QUINTANA,  
INTERN

**BUENA PARK** – Love was in the air of one magical night at Downey High School’s 2010 winter formal, themed “Love Story” by Taylor Swift, which occurred Jan. 28 at Knott’s Berry Farm.

Limos, party buses, and cars lined up along the border of Knott’s Berry Farm as students slowly crawled out adorned with sparkling gowns and crisp tuxedos. Even before 8 p.m., a crowd of excited students had already been waiting eagerly to possibly grab one of the few tables made available inside the hall where the dance was to be held. Many arrived in groups and made no delay in snapping photos so as to remember this magical night so filled with the promise of fun and maybe even love for some.

After a thorough check-in of setting an incredibly bright pink wristband on each individual’s wrist as well as showing tickets and identification, students were

finally allowed inside the park. All followed the entwining path marked by ropes that eventually led to the hall surrounded by Timber Mountain Log Ride, Accelerator, and Perilous Plunge. Students were given the option to wait in a line to buy and then take photos, step into the hall and begin dancing, or linger off to one of the rides made available specifically for the guests attending this dance. Only a selected few rides remained open, however. Those who needed fresh air after dancing in a sweaty crowd made use of Supreme Scream, Timber Mountain Log Ride, Wipeout, and Boomerang, taking care to secure all clothing items and bejeweled objects.

Those containing a craving for food could have grabbed a few cupcakes, ice cream, cookies, and other such treats before heading out to dance or ride. Young ladies did not hesitate to wear a short dress and one pair of very glittery jeans could have been found somewhere in the crowd. However, all gowns and suits

became one colorful throng in the middle of the dance floor as students danced in tune to the music playing, sometimes even dancing to the same tunes again and again. However, most held damp faces of contentment as they enjoyed one final dance—a slow one—before gathering all belongings and following the roped trail back to the entrance of the theme park. The effects of a 4-hour dance showed as young ladies walked on bare feet and with heels in hand.

Though the dance had given students a sufficient amount of time to have their fun and eventually tire, the party was not over for

some. Limos and party buses were parked promptly to either return students to their home or take them on a detour before finally heading back home. Downey High’s love story, however, had ended for the night.

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Deborah Won

Joseph Apodaca - Sports

Alyssa Wynne - Sports

Paul Heidecker - Photographer

Carlos Ontiveros - Photographer

### Scholarships available for students

**DOWNEY** – Applications are now available for \$750 scholarships from the Downey Association of Realtors.

Applications can be downloaded from [www.daor.com](http://www.daor.com).

To be eligible, students must be seniors at Warren, Downey or Columbus high schools. Four students will be chosen for scholarships.

Application deadline is April 1.

Friday, February 5, 2010

Student Life

The Downey Patriot 7

## Loss drops Downey to fourth place

■ **GIRLS BASKETBALL:** Downey can't recover from early 20-point deficit.

By **ALYSSA WYNNE,**  
SPORTS INTERN

**DOWNEY** — "To be honest with you, I am not worried about Warren at all right now," said Downey head coach Nathan Harris after the Warren game last week. "Because we play Gahr on Friday and Gahr is who we're battling with for third place to try to make the playoffs. We are definitely prepared to beat them."

After hoping for weeks that they would finish the season in third place, a weak first half led Downey's girls' basketball team to a 72-62 loss against Gahr last Friday and placed the team in fourth place in the San Gabriel Valley League.

The first half ended with Gahr coming out with a 20-point lead over Downey.

Demetria Love finished with 10 rebounds for the Vikings, while Debra Lovell aided defensively with eight defensive rebounds.

Leading the offense was point guard Katie Marifian, who scored exactly half of all of Downey's points. Her monstrous game greatly aided Downey in the end, but it was not just her that helped the girls. Irma Urzua practically scored the remainder of the points with 15 baskets.

## Downey eyes playoffs after win over Bears

■ **BOYS BASKETBALL:** Vikings beat Warren, 49-43, to stay in playoff contention.

By **SCOTT COBOS,**  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** — According to Downey head coach Larry Shelton, the Downey-Warren basketball game is the biggest match up of the year every year regardless of the two team's records.

In this case he could be dead on as his team kept Warren at arm's length with a 49-43 win at Warren last Wednesday.

The win for Downey puts them right in the playoff picture with five games to go and set up a very important night out with the Paramount Pirates this past Wednesday.

"The kids came back [after the Lynwood loss] with a solid effort tonight," Shelton said. "This is the one we had to win to create a little separation between us and the teams behind us. It's setting up a big game against Paramount."

Warren showed throughout the night that it was a much improved team from last year and in fact had a lead after the first quarter. All night long Downey had trouble getting shots for their guards, but forward Edgar Ruiz had one of his best nights of the season scoring 19 points and pulling down eight rebounds.

"[Ruiz was] huge obviously," Shelton said. "Warren knows us so well, and we know them so well that you know when you play them it's going to be a knock-down, drag-out, low-scoring game. We couldn't get our shooters shots



PHOTO BY CARLOS ONTIVEROS

Downey guard David Rivera shoots over Warren's Chad Corapi.

tonight. Warren did a great job defensively and the only place we could go was inside and Edgar made them pay and it's a good thing he was here tonight."

Downey's starting guards Josh Carreto and the team's leading scorer Tyler Ellis, combined for only 3 points in the game. Their difficulty to score from the outside gave Ruiz a chance to shine in the paint and Ruiz made the best of it.

"They couldn't guard in the post and my teammates looked for me and got me the ball," said the junior forward Ruiz.

After Ruiz exposed Warren's inability to guard down low in the post, forward Dami Adefeso and guard David Rivera attacked, combining for 16 points and six rebounds of their own.

By no means was it a clean game by Downey with their being a huge discrepancy between the two teams in fouls and turnovers. Downey committed 22 fouls to Warren's 14 fouls, and turned the ball over 14 times to Warren's eight giveaways. Downey also lost the rebound battle grabbing 25 rebounds to Warren's 29.

"We just had to battle," Shelton said. "Overcoming the differences in fouls was a big part of tonight's game."

It was apparent on the night that Downey would have to overcome their sloppiness after Warren opened up with a 7-0 run lead by 5 points from Warren's Moises Benitez. Downey quickly responded after a timeout with a 6-0 run sparked by 4 points from Ruiz.

Downey struggled handling the ball in the opening minutes turning over the ball three times that all lead to points off turnovers and the Vikings found themselves in a 2-point deficit, behind 10-8 going into the second quarter.

Opening up the second quarter with a 6-0 run quickly grabbed the lead for Downey and they tightened up their defense making Warren take tough shots from the perimeter. The Vikings managed to keep the Bears at arms length with more easy points in the paint by Adefeso and Ruiz, but weren't able to pull away in the quarter because of some sloppiness at the end of the quarter.

Warren, trying to break their 24-game losing streak in the San Gabriel Valley League, continued their peskiness getting second chance points from offensive rebounds, but the Bears were unable to make any kind of run with their only starter Benitez reaching double digits in points for the game.

In the third quarter, the Vikings opened up their largest lead of the game, 8 points, in order to keep Warren at bay after some nervous moments in the fourth quarter when Adefeso, one of Downey's top scorers fouled out with 7:08 left.

The win for Downey keeps them in the playoff picture with the second half of league play on its way this week.

## Warren snaps 25-game league losing streak

■ **BOYS BASKETBALL:** Win over Dominguez ends league drought.

By **JOSEPH APODACA,**  
SPORTS INTERN

**DOWNEY** — The drought is over and the monkey is finally off the backs of Warren after finally winning a league game and beating Dominguez 49-42 last Friday, ending a 25-game losing streak in San Gabriel Valley League play.

The Bears are now 11-12 overall, which includes league, non-league and tournament games. Thanks to their win against the Dons, they are now 1-5 in their league.

While the team experienced a rough start in their league campaign, losing five games last month to Dominguez (62-60), Lynwood (62-37), Paramount (69-47), Gahr (85-46), and most recently the Downey Vikings (42-29), they managed to come out ahead 7 points over Dominguez. The win for the Bears marks their comeback, where early on in the season the team was successful in their tournament games.

The game against the

Dominguez Dons was a success for the Bears from the beginning. Junior Rene Bagaygay scored 11 points in the first quarter including being 3 for 3 from behind the 3-point line. Bagaygay's lead catapulted the Bears ahead 19-5 by the end of the first quarter.

The Bears were in control of the close game. Senior Javan Polk and sophomore John Elam, both forwards on the team, earned double digit points and rebounds each by the end of the game's second quarter, limiting the effort of the Dominguez team to score second chance points.

The team was no doubt excited over their first league win, but no one could be happier than Warren's first-year head coach Ryan Hart. While he is happy to take home wins, he feels everything before and after the game is what matters most.

"The most impressive thing about our team is our willingness to grow during practice. The most important two hours a day is during that time, not game day," said Hart.

"Our biggest strength would be our half-court defense," said Hart. "Our biggest weakness is holding onto the ball—turnovers."

## Downey beats No. 1 Cerritos

■ **GIRLS WATER POLO:** Players are 'ecstatic' after win over top-ranked Cerritos.

By **JOSEPH APODACA,**  
SPORTS INTERN

**DOWNEY** — Downey is singing the songs of victory yet again, taking down one of their biggest opponents of the year, Cerritos, in a San Gabriel Valley League game last week.

The Vikings shut down Cerritos for the first time in years, winning the game in a highly competitive match 6-2. In addition to their major win against Cerritos, the Vikings lost a non-league game against Canyon High School, losing 8-7. The Vikings almost called the Canyon game a victory, staying ahead of the division-two team up until the final period and losing by a single goal.

With the loss against Canyon and the win against Cerritos behind them, the ladies are now 13-3 overall. The Vikings remain undefeated in league at 3-0.

Downey's Winter Formal dance, which was held just hours after the Cerritos game, did not prevent the girls from losing focus and taking home their biggest victory of the season. Senior Sarah Aguayo started the game off with the first goal for the Vikings, followed by three goals from senior Dominique Diaz and two from

freshman Meghan Nevarez. Nevarez managed to win three out of four sprints to start off every period.

"Everyone was ecstatic [about the win]," said Diaz. "Cerritos is ranked No. 1 in our league and division so it was exciting to beat them."

Now that the pressure of bringing down Cerritos is over, a whole new test awaits the lady Vikings: defeating Warren. Faced with the obstacle of playing in Warren's size-challenged pool, the girls nevertheless are looking forward to the big game.

"If we play smart, we will win," said Diaz.

The girls have proved that they have the skills to take down any team that comes their way. A strong offense has benefited them throughout the season, with the girls making good use of the shot clock while getting in several good goals. Defense has also proved successful for them, keeping their opponents far away from their goal. The girls are not worried about the Warren team as a whole, but more so about the location itself.

"[Our main focus] is that, the pool. It is our biggest obstacle. I'm expecting Warren to come out even stronger [than last year] because they lost to Cerritos and we beat Cerritos. They'll be out to tie for league champions."

## Downey overcomes Gomez to win CIF title

**DOWNEY** — For the first time in 15 years, Downey wrestling successfully defended its championship against Warren, steamrolling the Bears 44-12 and showing why they're ranked No. 1 in CIF.

In dominating fashion, Downey managed to win all but three matches including the marquee match-up of Damien Gomez versus David Andrade.

Gomez was ranked No. 3 in the state heading into the match and held a 39-0 record this year while Andrade was 21-9.

Quickly, Andrade scored two points to take the lead but Gomez quickly fired back, scoring 5 points before almost getting Andrade to submit. Gomez kept control of the match and was up 8-2 before pinning Andrade in the third period.

That was the last time Warren saw any of the lead as Downey took complete control of the match.

—Scott Cobos, Staff Writer

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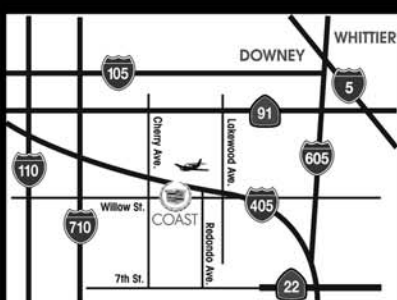
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## Super Bowl XLIV

### Who will win?



**Rick Esteves,**  
Police Chief,  
Downey Police Department



**Whitney Wigle,**  
Marketing Manager,  
Stonewood Center

Who will win Super Bowl XLIV this Sunday, between the New Orleans Saints and Indianapolis Colts? Depends on whom you ask.

Police Chief Rick Esteves chose the Colts because "they have too many offensive weapons," he said.

Whitney Wigle, of Stonewood Center, agreed.

"Colts all the way," she said. "Peyton Manning is unstoppable."

Robert Zavala, president of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, chose the "underdog" Saints, as did Dr. Alan Frischer.

"I am predicting a New Orleans victory," Frischer said. "They are my sentimental pick."

Raul Porto, owner of Porto's Bakery, chose New Orleans because they are closest to his native Cuba.

Kirk Cartozian, the former councilman, also picked the Saints.

"Who dat?!", he said.



**Robert Zavala,**  
President,  
Downey Chamber of Commerce



**Raul Porto,**  
Owner,  
Porto's Bakery



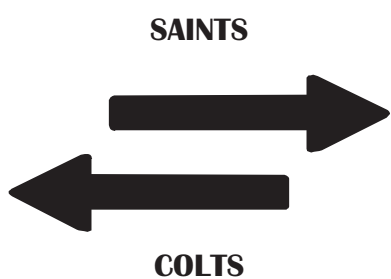
**Jorge Orozco,**  
CEO,  
Rancho Los Amigos



**Kevin MacDonald,**  
Executive Director,  
Arc of Southeast L.A. County



**Scott Cobos,**  
Staff Writer,  
The Downey Patriot



**Kirk Cartozian,**  
Former Councilmember  
City of Downey



**Dr. Alan Frischer,**  
Chief of Medicine  
Downey Regional Medical Center



**John Vincent,**  
President,  
Downey Historical Society

## Tempers flare as Downey, Warren play to tie

■ **GIRLS SOCCER:** Penalties fly as Downey and Warren play to 1-1 tie.

By **ALYSSA WYNNE,**  
SPORTS INTERN

**DOWNEY** – A vicious game loaded with yellow cards and even a red card occurred last Tuesday when the Vikings competed in their first soccer game against Warren this season, and even with such ferocious play the game ended tied, 1-1.

"Overall, they did good," said forward Krystal Rojas. "They were together—it was a good game. We were all focused, we really wanted it, and we really wanted to win. We played with heart, but I don't know, I guess it wasn't enough."

The ladies went into a failed overtime with neither team scoring in the 10 minutes that the referee's supplied the players. Even with loads of competition Downey made only one goal, which was made by forward Brandi Neilan. Aggression got in the way of every run the girls attempted and even lead to defensive player Brianna Bobadilla receiving a red card. Downey argued that Bobadilla's red card was unnecessary due to it being all-ball. But the referee saw

her tripping the Warren player, as she kicked the ball, as interference.

Fouls were committed left, right, and center by both teams and Downey alone received approximately 10 yellow cards. The red card limited Downey to having only 10 players on the field, and yet they were still able to keep up with Warren. If the Vikings had an extra player in the game, they would have had a better chance of winning, said Rojas.

Also included in Downey's soccer games last week were victorious games against Dominguez and Lynwood. In the first half of the Dominguez game, Downey played sloppily and slowly. But after halftime, Downey picked up the pace and scored three goals by Crystal Fresquez, Sabrina Estrada and Neilan, respectively, and zero from the Dons. The Vikings then cruised to a 4-0 win over Lynwood.

After all these games, Downey remains tied for first with Warren. The only way Downey may keep this tie, or even come out on top, would be for them to remain undefeated and arrive prepared for the next Downey-Warren game. This game will occur next Wednesday Feb. 10 at 3 p.m. at Warren.



The Downey Crush AYSO 10U team were named division champions for 2009. Front row, from left: Andrew Cervantes, Daniel Appel, Joshua Salguero and Christopher Daniel. Back row: Team Manager Shirley Appel, Coach Manny Rincon, Mark Lujan, Isaac Cuevas, Sebastian Perez, Jacob Garnica, Joe Bolanos and Assistant Coach Leonel Perez. Not pictured: Luciano Veron and Assistant Coach Pepe Cervantes.

## Vikings learn not to overlook Gahr

■ **BOYS BASKETBALL:** Downey runs out of gas in fourth quarter.

By **SCOTT COBOS,**  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – After the basketball game against Warren last Wednesday, Downey head coach Larry Shelton was talking about a showdown against Paramount this week and completely overlooked their game against Gahr.

While he expected struggles against Gahr and made sure to point out that the road to the playoffs for his team will go through Paramount this week, his team showed something completely different from their first game against Gahr, running with them for three quarters but falling 67-54 last Friday.

Downey came within 3 points of Gahr and was making a second half run before running out of gas in the fourth quarter, getting caught up in a turnover battle and a 3-point competition with the Gladiators.

Although these struggles were expected against the pressure Gahr puts on teams defensively, Shelton still expected more from his team in the game.

"I was so disappointed in how we came out tonight," he said. "I could tell in the shoot-around today that they weren't very focused. You would think that with the playoffs on the line we could come out with a better effort to start with. I don't know if it was Winter Formal or the fact that we didn't have school today. We were not ready to go when the bell rang today."

The Vikings had their Winter Formal scheduled the night before and because of finals week did not have class that day. Whatever the reason for their lack of intensity, it especially showed on the defensive end with four of five starters for Gahr scoring in double digits.

Gahr's Davon Potts and Charles Nebo scored 13 points each, Anthony Martinez scored 15

points, and Ervin Ware had the biggest game with 19 points, eight assists, and 10 rebounds.

Downey did show improvement from their first match up where Gahr completely ran them out of the gym. Gahr's full court press, while still stifling, did not affect Downey as much even though they still turned the ball over 20 times.

The game saw Downey's guard Tyler Ellis get out of his shooting funk scoring 11 points, forward Dami Adefeso start to find some consistency scoring 7 points, pulling down eight rebounds, and blocking four shots, and David Rivera and Erick Gomez both scoring in double digits.

"We've grown as a team," Shelton said. "We're a lot better team than we were three weeks ago. I think the younger kids are figuring out the intensity level you have to bring and when they do bring it we can compete with these teams. Unfortunately in the first quarter we didn't bring it."

Immediately in the first quarter, Downey had trouble with turnovers giving the ball back eight times. But it was a 7-0 run by Gahr ignited by 6 quick points from Nebo that really kicked off a game that Downey would have to scramble back to keep competitive.

Downey found ways of getting around Gahr's full court press though with deep passes down the court. Poor shooting plagued the Vikings early and they found themselves down 19-5 after one quarter with their first bucket of the game scored by Rivera with 3:36 left in the first quarter.

Defensively the Vikings buckled down and forced Gahr to take some difficult shots in the second quarter. Forward Edgar Ruiz

scored 5 points off the bench in the quarter and Adefeso also chipped in 3 to help the Vikings hang tough in the game. Gahr's Jon Benson scored 5 points though to help Gahr ward off the Vikings.

Down 29-20 going in to the second half, Ellis' 3-point shot early in the quarter helped the Vikings bring the deficit back down to 3, but Downey started losing steam and Gahr extended their lead to 42-32 going into the final quarter.

The Vikings battled back led by the 3-point shooting by Gomez but Ware always had an answer to Downey's scoring attack in the

fourth quarter.

The loss put Downey's league record at 3-3 going into this week. After the game, Shelton said that it would take at least six league wins in order to get into the playoffs and that even with his team's surprising showing in league, he's not ready to make any assumptions on his team.

"I'm not ready to call us a good team until we close the deal in the next few games," he said.

Downey's next game is tonight at home against Dominguez. Game time is 7 p.m.

## Early Deadlines for 2-19-10 Edition

Advertising Space  
will be  
**Friday**  
Feb. 12, 2010  
@ Noon PM

Classifieds  
will be  
**Wednesday**  
Feb. 17, 2010  
@ 11:00 PM

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Gene Sais and Olga Juarez were married Jan. 23 at harvest Christian Fellowship, with Pastor Greg Laurie officiating. The couple recently returned from a honeymoon.

## Learn to prevent a stroke

**LAKWOOD** – Lakewood Regional Medical Center will host a free stroke and diabetes lecture Tuesday at 6 p.m. The lecture will cover stroke education, healthy eating tips and how to prevent a stroke. For more information, call (800) 813-4345.

## Sick pelicans may be victim of rain runoff

**DOWNEY** – Pelicans normally found near the coast are turning up sick in local cities, including Downey, and last week's rainstorms may be to blame, animal control officials said today.

Sick pelicans have been picked up by animal control officers in Downey, Buena Park, Vernon, Paramount, Bellflower and Lakewood, according to Capt. Aaron Reyes, director of operations for the Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAACA).

"Our officers are reporting that all the birds, despite being found in different cities and on different days, all appear to be suffering from lethargy," Reyes said.

As of Thursday morning, officers had collected nine sick pelicans, including one that died.

Officials think last week's thunderstorms may be responsible for the sick birds.

"Heavy rainfall typically increases pollutants in the waterways, and washes the oils from a pelican's feathers, making it difficult to fly or catch food," said Dr. Brad Brunskill of SEAACA.

The pelicans are being stabilized at SEAACA headquarters in Downey before being transported



PHOTO COURTESY SEAACA

Dr. Brad Brunskill and Orpha Chavez, OS, examine the latest sick pelican to arrive at the SEAACA animal care center in Downey.

to International Bird Rescue in San Pedro.

Officials warned residents not

to attempt to capture a downed pelican and instead to call SEAACA at (562) 803-3301, ext. 229.

## Ex-Pico Rivera councilman facing charges

**PICO RIVERA** – Former Pico Rivera city councilman Ron Beilke appeared in court today to face more than half a dozen counts, including perjury and conflict of interest.

Beilke has been charged with one felony count each of perjury and conflict of interest, according to deputy district attorney Sandi Roth of the Public Integrity Division. Beilke was also charged with four misdemeanor counts of conflict of interest and two misdemeanor counts of accepting a gift in excess of the legal value.

Prosecutors allege that between 2006-2008, Beilke voted to approve three contracts for construction work at an intersection immediately adjacent to his privately-owned Weinerschnitzel franchise.

Beilke also voted to approve a contract between Pico Rivera and Krikorian Theatres while receiving free movie tickets totaling \$3,400 from the company, according to prosecutors.

Beilke was elected to the Pico Rivera City Council in 2005. He lost re-election in November.

If convicted, Beilke faces a maximum of seven years, eight months in prison.

# MAN Food



FAMILY FEATURES

### Man cannot live by meat alone.

Surveys of eating habits suggest that men eat more meat and far fewer fruits and vegetables than women do. Men usually reach for comfort foods that are warm, hearty and satisfying. Men should be eating better because a bigger waistline can hurt their heart health. Is it possible to eat healthy and still get the satisfaction of "man food"? The answer is yes.



Products displaying the heart-check mark meet American Heart Association food criteria for saturated fat and cholesterol for healthy people over age 2. [heartcheckmark.org](http://heartcheckmark.org)

### Balancing Act

When it comes to making meat choices, there are two words to remember: *moderation and lean.*

**Moderation:** The American Heart Association recommends eating no more than six ounces of lean meat or fish each day. A three-ounce cooked portion of meat is about the size of a deck of cards. Here are some examples:

- 1/2 of a skinless chicken breast or a chicken leg with thigh
- 3/4 cup of flaked fish
- Two slices of lean roast beef

**Lean:** There are 29 cuts of meat that qualify as "lean." The American Heart Association has a list of extra-lean meat choices certified to be low in saturated fat and cholesterol. If you look for the American Heart Association's heart-check mark on food packages, you'll find a growing list of deli meats, beef, chicken, bison, turkey, pork, seafood and more.

### What to Eat

An overall heart-healthy eating plan is important. The American Heart Association has simple recommendations:

- Eat a variety of foods from all food groups and choose vegetables, fruits, whole-grain products and fat-free or low-fat dairy products most often.
- Eat less junk food, i.e., limit foods and drinks high in calories but low in nutrients, and limit saturated fat, *trans* fat, cholesterol and sodium.
- If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation. This means an average of one to two drinks per day for men.

To find heart-healthy foods in the grocery store, start by making your grocery list online. Visit [heartcheckmark.org](http://heartcheckmark.org) to build your list from more than 800 products ranging from meat and dairy to vegetables and snacks, all certified by the American Heart Association to be low in saturated fat and cholesterol. Print your list for future use, or access it from your Web-enabled mobile phone or PDA at [mylist.heartcheckmark.org](http://mylist.heartcheckmark.org).

Men don't have to feel unsatisfied by eating healthy. Eating well can be satisfying and delicious, even for a guy. For more information on eating heart healthy visit [americanheart.org](http://americanheart.org).

### Tips for Eating at Steakhouses

Can you eat steak on a heart-healthy diet? You bet, as long as it's a reasonable portion of *lean* beef.

- Don't order king-sized cuts. About three ounces of a thinly sliced cut is perfect, or choose a six-ounce steak and enjoy non-meat entrees the rest of the day.
- Steakhouses generally prepare your food to order, so ask to have all visible fat trimmed before the meat is cooked.
- Many steakhouses do a superb job with seafood—look for fish on the menu and ask your server about the catch of the day. Research shows that eating oily fish containing omega-3 fatty acids (e.g., salmon, trout and herring) may help lower your risk of death from coronary artery disease.

### Instead of

Fatty cuts of meat, such as rib eye, porterhouse, T-bone

French fried, au gratin or scalloped potatoes

Caesar or marinated salad

Fried vegetables

Pie and ice cream

### Try

Leaner cuts, such as London broil, filet mignon, round or flank steak, sirloin tip, tenderloin

Baked potato or rice, easy on the butter

Green salad with dressing on the side

Steamed vegetables

Angel food cake, sherbet or sorbet

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101126 LENDER 04/08

### Shop smart!

Live well!  
Look for the heart-check mark!

All products bearing the heart-check mark meet the American Heart Association's nutrition criteria per standard serving size to be:

- Low in fat (3 grams or less)
  - Low in saturated fat (1 gram or less)
  - Limited in *trans* fat (less than .5 grams)
  - Low in cholesterol (20 milligrams or less)
  - Moderate in sodium, with 480 milligrams or less for individual foods
  - Contain at least 10 percent of the Daily Value of one or more of these naturally occurring nutrients: protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, iron or dietary fiber.
- Also:
- Seafood, game meat, meat and poultry, as well as whole-grain products, main dishes and meals must meet additional nutritional requirements.

### Tex-Mex Chili Pie

Serves 4; 1 1/2 cups per serving

Perfect for wintry nights or while sporting events, this hearty chili is accented with crisp corn tortillas, fat-free cheddar cheese and dollops of fat-free sour cream. This recipe is worth repeating, so save time now by making a double batch and storing the leftover chili in an airtight container for up to 6 months in the freezer.

#### Chili

- 1 pound extra-lean ground beef
- 1 15.5-ounce can no-salt-added black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 14.5-ounce can no-salt-added diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 8-ounce can no-salt-added tomato sauce
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup chopped red onion
- 1/2 medium yellow bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 medium green bell pepper, chopped

- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt-free all-purpose seasoning blend

#### Tortillas

- Cooking spray
- 4 6-inch corn tortillas

#### Toppings

- 1/2 cup shredded fat-free cheddar cheese
  - 1/4 cup fat-free sour cream
- In large nonstick skillet, cook beef over medium-high heat for 6 to 8 minutes, or until browned, stirring frequently to turn and break up. Using slotted spoon, transfer beef to 2- to 3-quart slow cooker. Add remaining chili ingredients to slow cooker, stirring to combine. Cook on high for 3 to 4 hours or on low for 7 to 9 hours, or until onions and bell peppers are tender and flavors have blended. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 375°F. Lightly spray a baking sheet with cooking spray. Using sharp knife, cut each tortilla into

8 triangles. Place in single layer on baking sheet. Lightly spray tops with cooking spray. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, or until chips are golden brown and crisp. Transfer baking sheet to cooling rack. Let chips cool for 15 minutes.

When chili is ready, place 8 tortilla chips with pointed end up around inside of each rimmed soup bowl. Ladle chili into bowls. Sprinkle cheddar over chili. Top each serving with dollop of sour cream.

**Nutrition Analysis (per serving):**  
Calories 371, Total Fat 6.5 g, Saturated Fat 2.5 g, *Trans* Fat 0.0 g, Polyunsaturated Fat 1.0 g, Monounsaturated Fat 2.5 g, Cholesterol 67 mg, Sodium 317 mg, Carbohydrate 40 g, Fiber 8 g, Sugars 12 g, Protein 39 g

**Dietary Exchanges:** 2 starch, 2 vegetable, 4 very lean meat

Recipe copyright © 2008 American Heart Association. For more information on heart-healthy grocery shopping, visit [heartcheckmark.org](http://heartcheckmark.org).



## Art show opening at CSULB

**LONG BEACH** – A group art show titled “All Pinned Up” will open Valentine’s Day at Cal State Long Beach.

The show will be held in the school’s Dutzi Gallery, off 7th Street, Feb. 14-18.

Hours are Sunday – Tuesday, noon to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, noon to 7 p.m.; and Thursday, noon to 5 p.m.

## Romantic comedy at Queen Mary

**LONG BEACH** – “The Poetry of Pizza,” a self-proclaimed “cheesy” romantic comedy by Deborah Brevoort, opens Feb. 19 at the Queen Mary’s Royal Theater.

In “The Poetry of Pizza,” love blossoms when two unlikely soul mates – an American poetry professor and a Kurdish refugee – find each other in a most unexpected setting: a pizza parlor in Copenhagen.

Director Anne Justine D’Zmura explained that, in fusing romance with weightier themes, the play “speaks to the idea of accepting the other, of opening ourselves up to new experiences, questioning previous judgments and stereotypes, and celebrating our differences.”

“The Kurdish struggle with genocide has been extraordinary, yet most Americans remain unaware. We are so distracted by our own culture, a blanket that often covers our eyes,” D’Zmura said.

California Repertory Company is producing the play, which runs Feb. 19 – March 13.

Tickets are \$20 general admission; \$16 for students, military and seniors 55 and older. Parking at the Queen Mary is \$8 for theatergoers, and \$6 for Cal State Long Beach students and people who have dinner aboard the ship.

For more information, including performance times, call (562) 985-5526 or visit [www.calrep.org](http://www.calrep.org).

## Fashion show to benefit Boys & Girls Club

**COMMERCE** – A fashion show to benefit the Rio Hondo Boys & Girls Club will take place Feb. 21 at Steven’s Steak and Seafood House in Commerce.

Admission is \$35 and includes a buffet lunch, raffles, door prizes, boutiques and more.

Social hour begins at noon followed by lunch at 12:30 p.m. and the fashion show at 2.

The admission price is tax deductible. For more information, contact Robert Rubio at [rubio@rhbgc.org](mailto:rubio@rhbgc.org).

## 2010 census topic of meeting

**DOWNEY** – Carlos Vasquez of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of the Census will speak Feb. 23 at Downey Brewing Company.

His topic will be “2010 Census.” The meeting is part of Rise ‘N Shine networking.

Cost to attend is an order from the menu. For more information, call (562) 923-2191.

## Soroptimist stays busy in 2010

BY PATRICIA KOTZE

**W**hether behind the scenes, right out there in front, or in the middle of a Sunday’s *New York Times*, Soroptimist International and the local club right here in Downey is continually, day in and day out, throughout the year, moving forward with their mission to make a difference in women and children’s lives; one service project, one fundraiser, one meeting, and one member at a time.

Since the new term started in September, 2009, with Patricia Kotze as president, the Downey club has had several mentionable accomplishments to achieve their goal of the 2009-2010 commitments. There is always the continued search to recruit new, dedicated members, and the club’s first Annual Chili Cook-off Fundraiser with, at the time, judges: Mario Guerra, mayor of Downey; Diane Martinez, mayor of Paramount; and Downey Chamber president, Robert Zavala.

The event was a community success, produced a new club record in ticket sales, and exceeded the goals for fundraising.

The members of the club have helped to build the new Downey Habitat for Humanity house, which was recently dedicated; participated with the Optimist Club of Downey, headed by President Bob Winningham, in working at the Pumpkin Patch event (sponsored by the city of Downey); provided the special education students at Alameda Elementary School with gifts and Santa Claus memories (portrayed by Sam Mathis, Optimist member) at Christmastime; provided basic grooming essentials, sweatshirts, and socks for 140 residents at Bell Manor; and assisted the Sertoma Club and brought fruit baskets to the elderly at the Soroptimist Village in Norwalk.

Additionally, the club members completed their Keep Downey Beautiful street cleanup on Downey Avenue and adopted two families during the holidays through the Exchange Club and a local church, collecting and raising funds for both.

Yesterday, the club held one of its signature awards breakfasts and honored three women in the community who are head of households, have financial hardship, and are looking to return to school and further their educations.

Valentine’s Day will be celebrated with a service project at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center for the patients and the children receiving care.

On March 13, the club will hold its annual yard sale, and later in the month will hold its second signature awards breakfast, honoring certain women in the community with the Women of Distinction and Ruby Awards.

Finally, on April 16, the well known, fabulous casino fund raising event will be held. This year’s casino theme will be “Going on a Safari.”

The concentration to raise more



PHOTO COURTESY SOROPTIMIST

scholarship dollars is needed more today than ever before due to the economy and rise in higher vocational and general education costs. The club will be once again looking for community and corporate sponsorship involvement to make this event the best ever – because the more the Downey Soroptimist raises, the more scholarships to our local students can be given out before the end of the school year.

The casino night fundraiser will be followed by the Student Scholarship Breakfast awards presentation in May.

As we end the first month of 2010, the Soroptimist Club of Downey is asking for more involvement from its community, so as a community and the best one around, we can give back and truly make a difference.

Patricia Kotze is the current President of Soroptimist International of Downey and is president and managing partner at Diversified Risk Management, Inc., located in Downey. She is also a board member for the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

## DVD RELEASES FOR FEBRUARY 9

Couples Retreat  
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Source: [www.comingsoon.net](http://www.comingsoon.net)

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## One night with Paula Deen

**HOLLYWOOD** – Nationally renowned restaurateur, television chef and cook book author, Paula Deen, is one of the most recognizable and popular in the group of those who can be called “celebrity chef.”

On March 4, Hollywood’s famed Pantages Theatre will host a one-night-only event, “An Evening With Paula Deen and Family,” in which Deen and her family will give each audience member a rare opportunity to share a delicious evening with the icons that they have come to know and love on television.

In addition to the live stage event at the Pantages, a limited number of tickets are being offered for a pre-show dinner taking place at 6 p.m. at nearby Citizen Smith, where guests will share in a rare opportunity to enjoy a special dinner with Paula Deen and family prior to their show.

Deen is best known for her “down-home” personality and traditional Southern cooking. For this special on stage event, Deen and Family will present an evening of cooking demonstrations, storytelling, and Q and A. This staged event will be fully equipped with big screens to ensure that all audience members receive a clear view of the on stage demonstrations.

Deen has authored nine cookbooks, publishes the magazine “Cooking with Paula Deen”, and

stars in three TV shows on the Food Network, “Paula’s Home Cooking,” “Paula’s Party” and “Paula’s Best Dishes.”

Jamie and Bobby Deen were once well-known as the sons of Paula Deen, but today they are stars in their own right. Having made many appearances on their mother’s Food Network show, they currently star on their own Food Network show “Road Tasted.” Paula and her sons own and operate the popular restaurant, The Lady & Sons, in Savannah, Georgia.

Along with traditional theatre seating at the Pantages, there are two special seating options. A limited number of premium on-stage seats will allow some guests an up-close-and-personal experience, just feet away from the action.

Tickets for “An Evening With Paula Deen and Family” go on sale Sunday at 10 a.m., and will be available for purchase online at [www.BroadwayLA.org](http://www.BroadwayLA.org) or by phone at 1-800-982-ARTS(2787).

Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Pantages Box Office and all Ticketmaster ticket outlets.

Tickets range in price from \$35 - \$200.

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# Albert Leroy Cain funeral tomorrow

**DOWNEY** — Albert Leroy "Roy" Cain, 89, died at home with his family in Downey on Feb. 1, following a battle with cancer.



Cain was born Dec. 31, 1920 in Longford, Kans. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corp during World War II. He was stationed throughout the Asiatic-Pacific Theater, participated in numerous battles and campaigns, and received awards which included the Philippine Liberation Medal with two Bronze Stars. He also served in the Korean War and attained the rank of Sergeant First Class.

Cain married Margaret Otero on Feb. 15, 1948 in Los Angeles. He was a member of the Meat Cutter's Union for more than 30 years and worked in various markets throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

He was a member of the Downey Elks Lodge and Disabled American Veterans Association Chapter 156 located in Downey.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret; and sons, Kenneth and Roy Douglas.

He is survived by his daughters, Terri Cain and Julee Schrader; grandchildren, Megan Schrader, Jeffrey Cain, Ryan Schrader, Patrick Schrader and Jake Cain; sister, Karen Brewster; as well as nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Visitation will be at 5 p.m. today at the Downey Zrelak Mortuary. A funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at the Calvary Cemetery located at 4201 Whittier Blvd. in Los Angeles. Burial with military honors will immediately follow the Mass.

A luncheon reception will follow the burial at the Downey Elks Lodge. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations in Cain's name to the Vitas Hospice (www.vitascharityfund.org).

# Audrey Stafford was teacher, author

**DOWNEY** — Audrey Josephine Stafford, a Downey resident for more than 50 years, passed away Jan. 29 at the age of 96.



She was born in Marshall, Mo., and graduated magna cum laude at age 20 from Missouri Valley College. She taught for more than 40 years, and continued to maintain a close relationship with the college president and her staff.

Stafford was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Downey, and was published twice as an author.

She is survived by her sister's and brother's families; caregiver, Maria Rodriguez and her family; and numerous friends from college and church.

A viewing will take place Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon at Miller Mies Mortuary in Downey. A memorial service will follow at 1 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Downey.

# Marian Buck was longtime teacher

**DOWNEY** — Marian Buck, a longtime teacher who worked with handicapped children in Downey for several years, died peacefully at home Jan. 9.



She was born in Butte, Mont., grew up in Redondo Beach, and graduated from Redondo Beach High School in 1949. She attended the University of Redlands and San Jose State and began a teaching career in Compton.

In 1955, Buck contracted polio. She spent three months in an iron lung and more than a year of hospitalization and rehabilitation at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey. This left her in a wheel-

chair, unable to walk, but she went on to complete her education at Long Beach State and Los Angeles State with a credential to teach orthopedically handicapped children.

She taught at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital School and physically handicapped children in the Downey Unified School District until her retirement in 1987.

Despite her own physical limitations, Buck once said of her education and career, "I never thought I couldn't."

She married her husband, Graham, in 1960, honeymooned in Hawaii. She was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of Redondo Beach, a member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, and an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society of

Key Women Educators, where she held many offices, including president.

Buck continued her education through Ominilore College of extended education.

She was predeceased by her husband, Graham; her brother, Harrison McCandless, MD; and her nephew, Michael McCandless.

She is survived by her sister-in-law, Barbara McCandless; brothers-in-law, Brad (Becky) Buck and Greg (Nancy) Buck; and nephews, nieces, cousins, friends and her caregiver, Scarlet Aquino.

A celebration of life was held Jan. 19 at Rice Mortuary in Torrance. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to the Torrance Memorial Hospice Foundation, 3440 Lomita Blvd., Torrance, CA 90505.

# Graffiti: Constant cat and mouse game.

Continued from page 1

graffiti along a quarter-mile stretch of sidewalk on Imperial Highway, from Columbia Way to Ardis Avenue.

After divvying up the case load with Gamica, Fox climbs into her paint-splattered Ford F-350 SuperDuty truck, homemade beef jerky at her side, and gets to work.

"I absolutely love my job, I feel like I'm helping people," says Fox as she drives south on Bellflower Boulevard, on her way to an office building whose parking lot had been sprayed with graffiti. "If I can make you feel better and put you at ease, that makes me feel good."

Fox doesn't just paint over graffiti; she also provides peace of mind to residents who are sometimes spooked to spot a fresh piece of graffiti on their property.

"The reality is that only a small percentage of graffiti in Downey is gang-related," Fox says. "I would put it at about 5 percent. The rest are just stupid taggers."

On Fox's truck are a multitude of paints and chemicals. Fox's tools of choice are a 20-ft. paint roller and hot-water pressure washer. (Gamica has a newer truck, purchased about three years ago from Roadline Products. It comes equipped with a paint-sprayer.) Twelve colors are on Fox's truck, but the most used are beige, beige-gray, cement gray and green for Dumpsters. If someone has tagged the wall of a uniquely-colored business, Fox will get a paint sample, purchase paint from the local Sherwin-Williams, and return later.

Fox takes photographs of every tagging she comes across. The photos are uploaded at the end of the day to a database maintained by the Downey Police Department. The photographs help police keep track of the destruction caused by taggers and, in some cases, recover restitution for the city.

When it comes to tagging, no wall is too high, no ledge too pre-

carious. When Johnnie's Broiler was open, its 100-ft. tall "Fatboy" sign was regularly defaced, Fox says. Another popular target is the rooftop of Fallas Paredes, the clothing store on Firestone Boulevard, west of Lakewood Boulevard.

"These kids have taken some serious risks," says Fox, a mother herself.

Fox says she is most busy during the school year, when students will use markers and tubes of liquid acrylic to tag blank walls, sidewalks and mailboxes on their way to and from school. Parks are also regularly hit, as is the parking structure behind the Krikorian Theater.

One maintenance person is in charge of the parking structure, but he can be easily overwhelmed. On

Wednesday, the man called Fox for help after the top floor had been decimated by graffiti.

The structure's top floor had been hit hard — graffiti was on the walls, on the floors, on the elevator's walls, on the awning over the elevator and on the staircase. Graffiti was everywhere, though it was apparent that not all of it was new.

"I could be here for a week," said Fox, surveying the damage.

Although Fox wouldn't say it exactly, the downtown parking structure has a not-so-stellar reputation for scandalous dealings, particularly on the top floor. It begs the question: at what point does a property owner become responsible for cleaning up their own building?

In this case, with so much graf-

fit, Fox could only cover the most egregious of taggings. The hand-written graffiti on the trash can and stairwell would have to wait.

"I'm not a painter," she says.

By 10 a.m., Fox had already spent about three hours at only two locations. As she painted over graffiti on one wall, she would spot more graffiti on the sidewalk. It's a never-ending cat and mouse game between Fox and the taggers causing the destruction.

"I get a lot of satisfaction painting over a piece of graffiti that some kid has sprayed in the morning, and by the time he walks home from school it's gone. It sends a message that he can't do that in Downey."

"It's like a game for me. I think it's a sickness."

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<p><b>RENTALS AVAILABLE!</b> 11705 1/2 Coldbrook - Downey 2 BD, 1 BA Apt., washer &amp; dryer included. \$1,200 - Month 8951 &amp; 53 Atlantic, South Gate 640 sq. ft. commercial \$650 - Month 985 sq. ft. commercial 1,000 - Month CALL CARRIE TODAY <b>562-382-1252</b></p>	<p><b>SOLD!!!</b></p> <p>329 65TH ST. LONG BEACH 2 BD, lrg family room w/ fireplace, 1,203 sq. ft., 4,000 sq. ft. lot. <b>SOLD FOR \$299,000</b> Call Pam Lee (562) 618-0390</p>	<p><b>MARIO DID IT AGAIN...</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>21002 AVENIDA FLORESTA, LAKE FOREST 4 BD, 3 BA, 2,000 sq. ft. 7,000 sq. ft. lot located in Serrano Park <b>SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!</b></p>
<p><b>AVOID PROBATE!</b> Living Trusts Wills Call Today to make Your Living Trust!!! CALL CARRIE TODAY! (562) 382-1252</p>	<p><b>Thinking about a career in Real Estate?</b> CLASSES START NOW!!! COMPLETE IN ONLY 8 WEEKS! ALL 3 COURSES JUST \$299 CALL TODAY!!! <b>562-861-7257</b></p>	<p><b>ATTENTION!!!</b> MARIO IS NOW TAKING LISTINGS! LOW Inventory of Homes + LOTS of Buyers TOP \$\$\$ FOR YOUR HOME! Call For a <b>FREE CONSULTATION!</b> (562) 533-7433 MARIO PERSICO SELLS DOWNEY! Born*Educated*Lives*Worships in Downey!</p>

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<p><b>DON'T MISS OUT</b> 4 BR, 2 BA \$290,000 Call Roger 562-477-4527</p>	<p><b>DOWNEY POOL HOME</b> 4 BD, 3 BA 2,162 sq. ft. Call Waleed 714-745-7575</p>	<p><b>SHORT SALE</b></p> <p><b>Priced To Sell</b> 2 BR, 2 BA \$300,000 Call Amparo 562-445-7375</p>	<p><b>Outstanding Agents, Outstanding Results</b></p>	
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