

The Downey Patriot



Doctor still stays active
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Pint-sized hero
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Downey wrestling photos
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Friday, February 12, 2010

Vol. 8 No. 43

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



Julie Bliss

Academy helps kids get back on track

By Henry Veneracion,
Staff Writer

Education is built on the bedrock of the three R's—reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. A weak foundation in any of these three areas imperils the structural integrity of any building rising from it.

This is clearly the rationale behind the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, which mandates that all students attain grade-level proficiency in reading and math by 2014, with testing done every year in the third thru eighth grade, etc., to insure the flow of federal funding wherever applicable.

Anyway, NCLB has been deemed ambitious by some, impractical by others.

But the mandate by NCLB was not the main impetus that led to the establishment over two years ago of the Gallatin Learning Center. Its reason was more elemental: teachers saw some students needed some remediation in their reading and math skills. Ergo, it was time for some sort of intervention program. If it takes extra effort to do this, the effort will be made. An effort was made, too, not to mention the "r" word, to avoid any stigma often attached to the word. Thus the academy's title.

According to its coordinator, fourth grade teacher Julie Bliss, the academy in its first year began with six classes, each with 15 students, representing the third, fourth and fifth grades (for a total of 90 students). Last year, it added two more classes, with second-graders thrown into the mix (for a total of 120 students served).

This year, the math program was dropped and the decision to concentrate more on the reading program allowed the federal stimulus money (the funding source) to be spread around from 15 to 18 students per class, and allowing first graders to take advantage of the program.

The academy's roster this year thus includes: a class of 18 in Grade 1; a class of 18 in Grade 2; a class of 18 in Grade 3; 3 classes of 18 each in Grade 4 (54 total); and 2 classes of 18 (36 total) in Grade 5—for a grand total of 144 students in the academy.

The 45-minute program (three times a week) is a before and after school program, with most students opting for the earlier time slot (8-8:45 a.m.) over the 3:15-

See **ACADEMY**, page 12

Looking back on... Parley Johnson House

■ Home was built in the 1920s for Parley and Geline Johnson.

By **CHRISTIAN BROWN**,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – It was the summer of 1955 and Don Frieze, fresh out of Downey Union High School, was looking for a summer job when he received an offer to work for Geline Gates Johnson.

"I was hired by Mrs. Johnson for one month during that summer," said Frieze. "I took the place of her gardener, chauffer and handy man while he went back to Mexico to visit his family."

After interviewing Frieze for the position, Johnson showed Frieze her property at the intersection of Florence and Rives avenues.

"She also took the time to give me a lengthy and personal tour of her home and also of her yard that I would be taking care of," Frieze said. "It was very impressive, part of that being because I could tell she was very proud of it all."

Today, the Johnson home is still a source of pride as the 6,000-square-foot residence, originally built for Mr. Parley Johnson and his wife, Geline, continues to serve as both a testament to incipient Southern Californian architecture and as a city landmark, documenting Downey's rural beginnings.

Casa de Parley Johnson, as it was originally named, was built in the late 1920s for prominent citrus rancher Parley Johnson, born in Riverside, Calif. in 1890, who became interested in ranching after World War I.

Parley's interest in orange groves was understandable. The Johnson family had extensive citrus holdings during the early 1900s and concentrated on the development of the Valencia strain of oranges.

After attending college in Los Angeles, Parley Johnson was very influential in the community and



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN BROWN

The front yard is an elaborate garden filled with many of the original plants including rose bushes, orange and banana tress. Gypsy Johnson was an avid gardener.

later became one of the founders of the Automobile Club of Southern California in 1900.

In 1925, Parley married Geline Gates Richardson (her friends called her Gypsy) and shortly thereafter hired well-known architect Roland Coate, who is recognized today as a major proponent of Southern California's Monterey style homes, to design a Downey residence for the couple.

Originally centered in 50 acres of orange groves, the Parley Johnson home sported formal gardens in its front yard that were designed by landscape architects Florence Yoch and Lucille Council who designed gardens for classic Hollywood movies, such as the 1939 blockbuster "Gone With the Wind."

Today, the front gardens remain intact with many of the same rose bushes and orange trees that were planted more than 80 years ago. Similarly, the inside of the house has not changed much either.

After walking through the front door, the main floor features a tiled, two-story entrance hall that bears an L-shaped stairway with a wrought iron banister. On the floor, hand-made red tiles imported from

Mexico line the ground with different patterns in each room.

Walking down a side hallway leads to the 24 by 36 foot living room, which features a ceiling made of hand-hewn wooden beams. In addition to the large fireplace in the room, each window is draped with Fortuny cotton, which was woven especially for the house.

Another hallway reveals a door that leads to the large basement underneath the house where the original machinery from Parley Johnson's orange orchards still resides. Also, in the basement is the innovative furnace system used by Johnson in the 1920s to heat any room of his choosing at the click of a button upstairs.

On the second floor, there are three bedrooms, one master bedroom with his and hers bathrooms for Parley and his wife, and two smaller guest bedrooms, also with their own bathrooms.

Each bathroom is covered with tile, which was a great luxury in the 1920s. Both sides of the second floor have access to wooden balconies

See **JOHNSON**, page 4

Musical set to open at Downey Theatre

■ 'Rodgers & Hart: A Celebration' opens next week at the Downey Theatre.

CONTRIBUTED BY THE
DOWNEY CIVIC LIGHT OPERA

DOWNEY – Next weekend at the Downey Theatre, Marsha Moode, executive director and producer of the Downey Civic Light Opera Association, will be opening, for a three weekend run, the second musical of the 2009-2010 season, "Rodgers & Hart: A Celebration."

Thou swell! Normally when you go out to see a musical, it's to delight in or at least appreciate the story, characters, production values – including sets and costumes – dance, music crafted to capture the overall atmosphere, and songs written to highlight a character's emotions. You don't usually go just for the songs, which don't give you the same bang for your buck.

But the music and lyrics of Rodgers and Hart in this celebration provide more than recompense. In the case of Richard Rodgers, you'll discover a wholly different musical temperament than the one he showed in his collaborations with Oscar Hammerstein II (the only other song writer he worked with). Hammerstein was a deft lyricist, but he had a sunnier temperament



Musical director Eddy Clement and executive producer Marsha Moode.

than Hart and was more at home with big-hearted Americana – even the exotic "The King and I" kept its eye on the triumphal strength of simple decency. With Hammerstein, Rodgers was grand, sweeping, romantic, an American waltz king.

Lorenz Hart was a different story, a complete anomaly in the Broadway scene of glitter and grandeur, showgirls and show-stopping Grand Old Flag production numbers. Boy meets girl has always been at the heart of the musical; Hart was first to say "Wait a minute!" Where others were content to see love triumph, he was the first to wonder out loud about the price of victory, or at least recognize the wounds of battle.

"The loving loves/the hateful hates/the conversation with the flying plates," from his song "I Wish I

See **MUSICAL**, page 11

Sewer rates may be raised soon

■ Rates have only increased twice in last 25 years, city officials say.

By **CHRISTIAN BROWN**,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Four months after a study revealed that the city's aging sewer system was in dire need of rehabilitation, public notices were sent to more than 26,000 property owners last week informing them of a sewer fee increase, which will cover maintenance expenses.

According to the public notice, the city last increased sewer rates in 1997 and has only increased the rates twice in the last 25 years. However, staff proposed the rate increase to bring the city sewer system into compliance with stricter state requirements and to combat growing maintenance costs.

In 2006, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a Sanitary Sewer Order, which mandated that publicly-owned sewer collection systems in California provide a consistent statewide approach for reducing sewer overflows.

As a result, the city issued a sewer management plan, which identified several areas in need of repair including many pipes that are well over 50-years-old. According to the plan, the improvements will total \$7.92 mil-

lion over the next 10 years.

Under the current proposal, the average single-family household will pay a fixed bi-monthly charge of \$5.48 plus a variable charge that depends on the amount of water usage.

In spite of the rate increase, Public Works Director Brian Ragland assures residents that the new rate is still much lower than those of neighboring cities.

"And it's not a done deal yet," said Ragland over the phone. "You can turn in a protest vote saying you're not in favor of the increase. There will be a vote on March 23. If more than 50 percent of the rate payers don't want it, there will be no increase."

On Tuesday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m., the City Council will hold a public hearing where property owners and rate payers can voice their opinions and submit written protests against the proposed increase.

If approved, Ragland said, the rate increase will initiate an aggressive program that will help the city to be less reactive to repairs and more proactive.

"The new rate will cover our existing activities and move them up to a higher level," he said. "As our infrastructure gets older, it has more problems – we need these higher rates to improve our effectiveness."

If accepted by property owners and rate payers, the new rate increase will take effect in July.

Students recognized for charity

■ Amy Gebart and Christopher Lee both honored.

By **ERIC PIERCE**,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Two Warren High School students were recognized for their scholastic and community achievements when they were presented with the Downey Youth Service Award by Downey Kiwanis and The Downey Patriot.

Amy Gebart and Christopher Lee, both seniors at Warren, received the award at a dinner ceremony at the Rio Hondo Event Center. They also received \$100 gift cards to Stonewood Center.

"Warren High School is very proud of these outstanding students who represent what is right with kids today," said Shirley Stewart, AP coordinator at Warren. "Not only do they excel in their academics, they also understand the importance of serving others. They have



Amy Gebart and Christopher Lee, pictured above with family members and Kiwanis member Fernando Vasquez, right, were honored 1st week for their high grades and community service.

learned from firsthand experience what a difference one individual can make."

Gebart will graduate in June as a Distinguished Graduate. She is No. 3 in her senior class with a 4.76 GPA and has accumulated more than 200 hours of community service.

She is currently president of the Art Club and is in charge of painting murals around campus. She also co-chairs Girls League's major fundraiser, which will support the Girls League Scholarship and Warren's library.

Gebart spearheaded an effort to
See **AWARD**, page 12

Sister to speak at OLPH luncheon

DOWNEY – Sister Kathleen from the Sisters of Notre Dame will be the guest speaker at an Ash Wednesday luncheon Feb. 17 inside the Parish Center behind Our Lady of Perpetual Help School.

Admission is \$10 and includes a hot, meatless lunch and six 50-50 tickets.

Rose Float fundraiser Wednesday

DOWNEY – A fundraiser to benefit the Downey Rose Float Association will be held at Bob's Big Boy on Wednesday from 4 to 10 p.m.

When diners present a flier, 20 percent of the total bill will be donated to the Rose Float.

Fliers can be downloaded at www.downeyrose.org.

Golf event cancelled

DOWNEY – The St. Raymond Golf Tournament scheduled for this Monday has been cancelled.

Anyone who purchased a ticket may obtain a refund at the St. Raymond's School office.

For more information, call Mario Mendoza at (323) 377-1535.

At 90, Dr. Ozaki still stays active

DOWNEY – Friends, co-workers, former patients and colleagues gathered in Downey recently to celebrate the 90th birthday of longtime Downey physician Rei H. Ozaki, MD, who retired just a few years ago from his practice with CareMore.

The surprise celebration was a bit overwhelming for the doctor, a Downey pioneer who came to the city almost 60 years ago as a young physician eager to help his patients. Back in the 1950s, from his office on 3rd Street, Ozaki delivered babies, tended to the old and infirmed, and dedicated his professional life to caring for hundreds of Downey families.

Ozaki attended Loma Linda University, where he completed his medical education and received formal training as a family doctor who delivered almost all of the care to his patients.

Each morning, he would arrive at Downey Community Hospital to perform surgery and then spent up to 10 hours each day in his office seeing patients. He returned to the hospital in the evening to care for and visit patients.

"It was a time in healthcare when family doctors like myself did everything in medicine for our patients, from delivering their babies to caring for their grandparents and doing surgery," Ozaki recalled. "If I fit the bill for an old-fashioned doctor, then so be it – that's what I was and continued to be for decades."

Today, even at 90, Ozaki still



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Rei Ozaki, a Downey physician since the 1950s, was surprised with a 90th birthday party recently. Ozaki still stays active, assisting Dr. Arthur Edelstein in Downey.

works, getting up each day to help Dr. Arthur Edelstein, a Downey eye physician.

"I don't have a practice any more but I still keep my fingers in the medical arena by helping my fellow colleagues," Ozaki said.

His work and his love for his rose garden seem to keep a twinkle in his eye.

"I'd still be seeing my patients if I could," Ozaki added. "I miss them terribly."

It is not uncommon for Ozaki

to be greeted by his former patients, or their children or grandchildren, all of whom he treated as a family physician.

"He is an amazing doctor, the kind of doctor whose spirit for caring for patients was contagious to all of us," said Sheldon Zinberg, MD, a longtime Downey physician who founded CareMore and worked alongside Ozaki. "He never took a vacation or days off. He committed his life to making sure his patients were well and

healthy."

Today, as he battles the aches and pains that come with living to be 90, Ozaki still can be found on the computer in Edelstein's office, researching new advances in medicine.

"Medical science still amazes me, and it keeps my mind engaged," he said.

Sounds like just what the doctor ordered.

Meeting to address Apollo Park

DOWNEY – Residents in the Apollo Park neighborhood are invited to a community meeting Feb. 20 at 9 a.m. to discuss possible modifications or improvements to the park.

The city of Downey is applying for a state Proposition 84 grant that allows for cities and counties to fund open space acquisition, expansion and revitalization of parks.

The grant application process requires the collection of resident and user input for the use of potential grant funds.

The meeting will be held at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center.

For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

Gala to benefit music program

DOWNEY – A St. Patrick's Day luncheon to benefit the Downey Symphony Guild is scheduled for March 12 at the Embassy Suites.

Katie Hare and the guild's board of supervisors are organizing the gala, which will feature entertainment and a silent auction.

Proceeds will benefit the Music in the Schools program and the Symphony Orchestra.

For more information, call (562) 861-3106.

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Owe taxes? Payment plans available

SACRAMENTO – Taxpayers who are experiencing financial hardship and cannot pay what they owe can establish payment plans, according to a news release from the Franchise Tax Board (FTB).

Payment plans are usually approved if the balance owed is less than \$25,000 and can be paid within 60 months, the FTB said. The FTB can also usually help with state tax liens for financially distressed homeowners trying to sell or refinance their homes. When a home sells for less than the loan balance, the FTB can sometimes remove its tax lien from the property to allow the homeowner to complete the sale.

Tax liens typically must be paid before a real estate escrow can close. The lien remains in effect on any other property the taxpayer currently holds or later acquires.

The FTB can also help people refinancing or modifying an existing home loan. Homeowners can request that the new or modified loan to have priority over the tax lien. This allows prior home loans to be refinanced or modified without first having to pay the lien.

Taxpayers who cannot resolve their accounts online should call the phone number listed on their billing notices. Residents without Internet service may request a payment plan by calling (800) 689-4776, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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Valentine's Day is Sunday, Feb. 14

Pet adoptions half-off tomorrow

DOWNEY – In celebration of Valentine's Day, the price of pet adoptions at SEAACA tomorrow have been cut in half.

On Saturday only, dogs can be adopted for \$50 each. Two cats can be adopted for \$30 total.

Fees include spay/neuter, first set of vaccinations, microchip and de-worming.

"When you think of unconditional love, a dog or cat comes to mind for most of us," said Dan Morrison, executive director at SEAACA.

SEAACA will open at 10 a.m. tomorrow and close at 5 p.m. You can preview adoptable animals at www.seaaca.org.

Free movie, dessert at church

DOWNEY – Downey First Christian Church is offering an alternative to long lines and expensive evenings this Valentine's Day – a free movie and dessert night at church.

The church will be showing the 2009 inspirational movie, "Fireproof," followed by homemade dessert.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the movie will begin at 6. No childcare will be available.

Downey First Christian Church is at 10909 New St., one block north of the Krikorian Theater.

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By Eric Pierce

The world is a much better place when you're in a relationship. I'm not sure I know this from experience, but it's what I've been told by more than a few women. They have driven that concept into my head to the point where I actually believe it.

It's a form of brainwash probably developed by the military. Or Hallmark.

Anyway, in honor of Valentine's Day this Sunday, I offer to men everywhere the following tips for swooning women off their feet. If executed correctly, these tips will have the ladies pounding on your front door, baking you cookies and fixing the collars on your shirts.

If they don't work, you're probably just ugly.

Romance Advice – For Men Only!

1.) Buy her flowers, but be careful. Apparently different flowers have different meanings. For example, did you know begonias mean "Beware! I am fanciful!"? It's true; check out flowers and their meanings at www.aboutflowers.com.

2.) Save a memento from your first date and hide it somewhere safe. (If it was a movie, save the ticket stub; dinner, save the receipt.) Later, if you're lucky enough to make it to your one-year anniversary, you can frame the memento and have an easy – and, more importantly, inexpensive – gift.

Bonus: She'll think you're incredibly sweet. Heh, heh, heh...

3.) If you know your girlfriend will be visiting you at work, make sure to mark her birthday on your calendar. Use an exclamation point for added emphasis and use the whole box. If you want to go the extra mile, ignore the ridicule of your co-workers and plaster your girlfriend's face on your computer's background.

4.) Grab a couple brochures from local spas and salons and have her "accidentally" find them at your house two months before her birthday. Act disappointed when she finds them, explaining that she ruined her birthday surprise.

5.) Give up a Sunday and go shopping with her. Later, have a mutual friend call her and say, "Gee, he must really like you. He gave up playoff tickets to go shopping with you!" Of course, there really were no playoffs, but she doesn't need to know that.

6.) Change the oil in her car. Women love that for some reason.

Bonus: It gives you an excuse to get all buff and oiled up for her.

7.) If walking down the street and an extremely attractive woman strolls by, and your girlfriend catches you staring, simply look at your girlfriend and say, "Wow, did you see the hips on her? I couldn't even see around her!" Your girlfriend will grin and nod in approval.

8.) Unless her last name is Roker, never talk weather on a first date. That is just bad.

9.) Buy her a nice blouse or T-shirt from her favorite store. And, no matter what you do, don't buy a size Large. Go with a size Small, even if it's ridiculously obvious it won't fit.

10.) Write her a short letter and drop it in the mail. Letter writing is a lost art and she'll appreciate the uniqueness of the act.

Tip: Write something sweet, but not especially cheesy. If you have trouble telling her how you feel, tell her that. And put the thesaurus down: don't use big words unless you actually know what they mean. Also, don't try comparing her to Beyonce (she'll see right through it) or Jennifer Aniston (you're calling her old).

11.) Buy her mom a Mother's Day gift. Gift cards are OK, just not from Victoria's Secret, genius.

12.) Send your girlfriend flowers the day before Valentine's Day. Tell her you just couldn't wait to make her feel loved. Aww...

Bonus: Women love receiving flowers at work, mainly because they like making other women feel insanely jealous. Men, you must use this debauchery to your advantage.

13.) Help an old lady load her groceries into her car. Your point, of course, isn't really to help the old lady, but rather to impress your girlfriend. Resist the urge to flex.

14.) Buy her a pottery wheel...Have you never seen "Ghost" before?

15.) Have a classic novel handy inside your car. ("Sense and Sensibility" by Jane Austen is a good one.) You don't actually have to read the book (in fact, for the sake of your already dwindling masculinity, I prefer that you don't); your girlfriend just has to think that you're reading it.

Tip: If she asks how you like the book, say, "It's actually pretty fascinating, although the author's blatant exploitation of women is a tad unnerving." If she presses you to elaborate, ask her if she's lost weight.

Hopefully, men, with these tips you will be on your way to pleasing your woman in ways neither of you ever dreamed possible.

Of course, if you really want to make her happy, wash the dishes.

Eric Pierce is city editor of The Downey Patriot. He is in a relationship (barely) but still utterly clueless about women. He has absolutely no idea what he is talking about.

Ode for Valentine's Day

Is everything known about love,
about its awesome power to uplift
or break one's heart?

Can anyone explain
Its wonderful capacity to heal
or make a mess of things?

Love freely gives, yet much demands.
It liberates, yet it restricts.
It's the nature of the beast.

Love is ideal pursued, driving one forward.
Love is kind, is patient, yet is blind:
Unchecked, it falls over the cliff.

So, remember, young and old lovers:
with all thy loving, get understanding,
thou yet may gain eternal bliss.

--Henry Veneracion

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Johnson: House was left to Assistance League.

Continued from page 1

that line both the back and front of the house.

In Mrs. Johnson's den, all of the original furniture is still in place as she left it, including her French daybed which dates back to the 1700s and dozens of books from the 1800s. A second staircase leads to the laundry room and kitchen on the first floor where irons and ironing boards are built into the walls for easy accessibility.

Parley Johnson died in the late 1940s, and Gypsy lived in the house until her death in 1986. At that time it was bequeathed to the Assistance League, a national, non-profit, community service organization that came to Downey in 1976. Gypsy had many friends who belonged to the all-female organization at the time of her death.

The Assistance League of

Downey raises money year-round for its community philanthropic projects including Operation School Bell, which provides clothing for needy students and H.O.M.E. (Housing of Medical Emergencies), which is a facility that houses the families of patients being treated at Rancho Los Amigos.

Moreover, the Johnson home is a rare medium of exquisite architecture and subtle elegance that represents an erstwhile era where the wealthy and prominent people in society were the local businessmen and women.

Despite Downey's parochial beginnings in the mid 1800s, by the early 1900s, the small community was home to very influential people who helped cultivate its potential as a city of innovation.



A painting inside the home shows Gypsy in her latter years, sitting in her garden.



This 1930 photo is of the 24 by 36 foot living room, which features a fireplace, Fortuny cotton drapes and hand-hewn beams on the ceiling.

Students urged to apply for scholarship

DOWNEY – The Assistance League of Downey is offering \$1,000 scholarships to graduating Downey high school students “who have excelled as community volunteers.”

To qualify, students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and be in good standing, including citizenship and attendance.

Applications are available at each high school's guidance office. Applications must be postmarked by March 31 and mailed to Assistance League of Downey, Scholarship Award Committee, 11026 Downey Ave., Downey, CA 90241.

Awards will be announced at the annual awards ceremony scheduled at each high school at the end of the school year.

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POET'S CORNER

Trash Don't Last

When I feel a tear down my cheek
The rings of phones begin discrete
Facades halt, revealing a side weak
Who calls without need to benefit?
I blame the callers rent of wit
Peering ear with line I find fit
To end the call at once I'm lit
For hokes that fill minds with such hope
I wrote my lines to prepare much cope
I enter my state beneath grace
At once, I pain to die as waste
Wondering the how and why I phase
Together with hate and rage for the plate
They gather strength from harsh instants
Moments of dread and bleakness of rants
Downey my face goes, deep within sheets
Furhter deep than sheets of great heap
Add a crust a meadow and grass
There I am as sorrow, trashed at last.

–James Hernandez,
Downey

Totally, Completely

Close your eyes
Let the warm of his sun
The fullness of His compassion
Surround you

Let the soft spring breezes
Let the fragrance of blossoms
Let the music of little birds
Penetrate every fiber of your being

Let your spirt rejoice
In the fullness of His love
As you put aside all
Frustrations and worry

Totally, completely
We find peace
–Leona Swanson,
Downey

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Feb. 13 ▪ 14 ▪ 15



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Help for first-time homebuyers

Last week, the Southern California Home Financing Authority, a joint powers authority between Los Angeles and Orange Counties, issued mortgage revenue bonds for the purpose of assisting low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers in obtaining below-market rate first-mortgage loans.

SCHFA issued \$25 million in bonds to fund its First Home Program. It is anticipated that 80-100 loans will be originated under this bond issuance.

The Program offers qualified first-time homebuyers one of two options: (1) a 4.70% interest rate without a grant for down payment and closing assistance; or (2) a 5.125% interest rate with a grant for down payment and closing cost assistance equal to 3% of the first loan amount. The program will also be used to purchase foreclosed properties in conjunction with the Community Development Commission's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and Housing Economic Recovery Ownership Program (HERO).

Qualified veterans (even those who are not first-time homebuyers) may also use either of the two program options described above.

The First Home Program offers the opportunity for homeowners with an adjustable rate loan made between 2002 through 2007, to refinance their existing loan with a 30-year fixed-rate loan at 4.70%. Other restrictions apply.

"The First Home Program provides valuable assistance through grants and loans to families who might otherwise be unable to afford a home," said Sean Rogan, Executive Director of the Community Development Commission. "To date, working with participating private lenders, SCHFA has helped over 5,000 families in Los Angeles County purchase a home through its homebuyer programs," he added.

Under the Program, the maximum annual family income cannot exceed \$84,480 in Los Angeles County, and \$103,320 in Orange County. The maximum home price is \$708,495 for a new or existing home in both counties. These limits are subject to change under federal guidelines. Eligible homebuyers cannot have owned a home in the last three years, except in specified target areas.

Additional information about the program and a list of participating lenders can be obtained at www.lacdc.org or by calling the Information Line at (323) 890-7249.

International adoption can be a daunting task

Nine out of 10 Americans believe adopting a child from another country is a meaningful way to make a difference in the world, but every year fewer families are able to complete the process of international adoption.

Resolving that statistical discrepancy is at the core of a campaign by Chances for Children, a child welfare organization, to reform the system of intercountry adoption, said Craig Juntunen, child welfare advocate and founder of Chances for Children.

"Most Americans believe putting an at-risk, orphaned child into a loving and attentive family is a very good thing to do," Juntunen said. "But because of systemic problems, fewer people are adopting every year."

Chances for Children released the results of a survey Wednesday showing that 65 percent of Americans believe international adoption is on the rise. However, the stark reality is that intercountry adoptions to the U.S. are in a free-fall.

And among those who have considered intercountry adoption, more than two-thirds say they have not acted because of red tape, high costs, and the overwhelming difficulty of the process, according to the survey, conducted by M4 Strategies of Costa Mesa.

Because of these unnecessary barriers, the number of intercountry adoptions to the U.S. has fallen by about 45 percent from 2004 (22,990 adoptions) to 2009 (12,753), according to the U.S. State Department.

Juntunen said the survey results demonstrate that international adoption has practically become discriminatory as problems in the system prohibit many American families from bringing a child into their homes.

"These results prove what we have been saying all along," Juntunen said. "The system of intercountry adoption is in need of significant change. The frustration stems from not being able to put these families and children together in a sensible period of time and at a reasonable cost."

The first of its kind in 13 years, the survey of 1,000 respondents indicates many Americans have a higher opinion of international adoption than some organizations which refer to adoption as a "last resort."

The survey also found that:
93 percent of Americans have a favorable view of adoption;
48 percent of Americans report they have the physical space in their home to support another child; and,

53 percent believe parents who adopt a child tend to be more responsible parents than many parents with biological children.

Those who have considered international adoption said they would be interested in visiting a single-source, first-step adoption web site featuring testimonials from recent adoptions, news about changes in national and international adoption law, and methods for submitting questions and receiving quick answers about adoption.

"This survey underscores many strong viewpoints and perceptions about international adoption by the American public," Juntunen said. "These attitudes will help us form a positive movement to create sweeping change to the system."

Letters to the Editor:

Hansen memories

Dear Editor:

I would like to express appreciation for the article written by Christian Brown regarding, Ed, Harrie and Otto Hansen. All of us who represent subsequent generations of the Hansen family treasure the memories of growing up in the idyllic town of Downey.

Stories abound that recall the adventures and opportunities experienced in our lives as we look back to earlier times. I recently attended the 60th reunion of our class at Downey Union High School. I was impressed by the number of families who still live in or near Downey. It was a most rewarding time spent with "old" friends!

Christian Brown was so very thoughtful in gathering information for the article. His writing captured the spirit of the three Hansen brothers. Your article is very much appreciated by several generations of our family. Thank you.

— **Bill Hansen,**
Pasadena

Notice's clarity

Dear Editor:

Today I received my Notice of Public Hearing on the city's proposed sanitary sewer increase, slated on March 23. With my last few city sanitation services bills in my hands, it wasn't any strain for me to calculate what my (hefty) increase would be if the proposal is adopted as is by the City Council.

I am experienced in this kind of thing, but is this going to be the case for the average Downey sewer rate payer?

With all the justifications for the sewer rate increase given in the notice, the writer(s) neglected the most important element, and that is clarity of presentation. To put it succinctly, it should include a simple example of a sewer charge calculation before, and after, an increased rate for comparison purposes, and not just a set of three "after" examples like in the blue box in the middle of the second page. This is what an engineer would be expected to do (I am speaking from personal experience, having been an aerospace engineer in and around Downey until my retirement 21 years ago).

You cannot expect from the average layman to effectively assemble such data, in order to make an informed and accurate decision in a matter such as this.

The purpose of this letter is not to criticize this city proposal or to raise a protest at this time. I am not a specialist in sanitary sewer maintenance and therefore in no position now to judge its merits. But I do feel that if our city's powers-that-be want to increase my sewer fee by a factor of four to five, they owe me a better explanation than the half-baked story they presented with this notice.

It seems like it was written by a hurried city bureaucrat, and frankly, it would give bureaucrats a bad name!

— **Gerald Altman,**
Downey

New cigarette tax would raise millions

Raising California's cigarette tax by \$1 per pack would bring in \$575.2 million in new annual revenue to help close the state's budget shortfall, while also reducing smoking and saving lives, according to a national report released Wednesday by a coalition of public health organizations.

The report comes as states grapple with unprecedented budget shortfalls and face devastating cuts to education, health care and other essential public services. The report details the revenue and health benefits to each state of a \$1 cigarette tax increase.

In California, a \$1 cigarette tax increase would also:
Prevent 228,700 kids from becoming smokers;
Spur 118,300 current adult smokers to quit;
Save 104,500 residents from premature, smoking-caused deaths; and
Save \$5.1 billion in health care costs.

A nationwide poll released along with the report found that 67 percent of voters support a \$1 tobacco tax increase, with backing from large majorities of Republicans (68 percent), Democrats (70 percent) and Independents (64 percent).

The poll found that voters far prefer raising the state tobacco tax to other options for addressing state budget deficits. While 60 percent favored increasing the tobacco tax for this purpose, more than 70 percent opposed every other option presented, including higher state income, gasoline and sales taxes and cuts to education, health care, transportation and law enforcement programs.

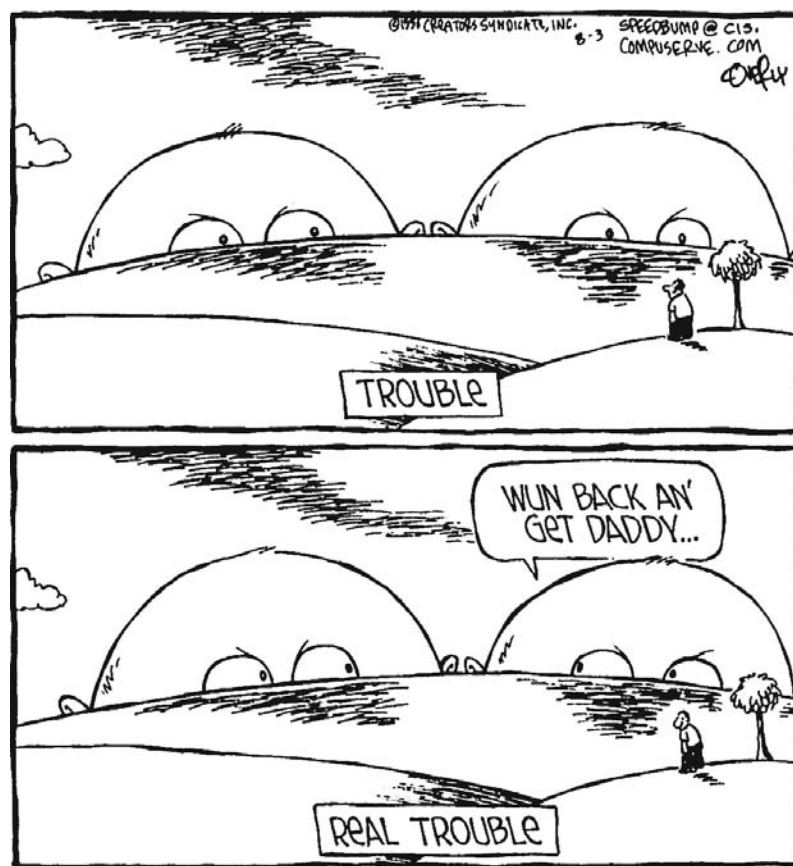
"This report shows that raising tobacco taxes is truly a win-win-win for California. It is a budget win that will help protect vital programs like health care and education, a health win that will prevent kids from smoking and save lives, and a political win with the voters," said Matthew L. Myers, President of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

The report was released by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Lung Association and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. It is titled Tobacco Taxes: A Win-Win-Win for Cash-Strapped States.

Currently, California's cigarette tax is 87 cents per pack, which ranks 32nd in the nation. The national average is \$1.34 per pack. The scientific evidence is clear that increasing cigarette prices is one of the most effective ways to reduce smoking, especially among kids. States will achieve even greater revenue and health gains if they also increase tax rates on other tobacco products, such as smokeless tobacco and cigars, and if they dedicate a portion of their new tobacco tax revenue to fund programs that prevent kids from smoking and help smokers quit.

Tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death in the United States. In California, tobacco use claims 36,600 lives and costs the state \$9.14 billion in health care bills each year. Currently, 15.4 percent of the state's high school students smoke, and 130,200 kids try cigarettes for the first time each year.

The national survey of 847 registered voters was conducted from January 20-24, 2010, by International Communications Research and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points. More information, including the full report, state-specific information and detailed poll results, can be found at www.tobaccofreekids.org/winwinwin.



Jobs, jobs, jobs

Dear Editor:

I am writing regarding a letter sent last week asking why the Downey City Council and the City of Downey is so aggressively working with Tesla Motors to have them build their manufacturing plant in our fine city. (Letters to the Editor, 2/5/10)

There are many reasons but first and foremost the answer is jobs, jobs and more jobs. Tesla will create between 1,200 and 4,000 new high paying, high tech manufacturing jobs in our city and region. Jobs mean quality of life and public safety and more revenue for our city and citizens. Something our city is known for and will continue to work towards for our citizens. We created over 4000 new jobs in Downey last year without Tesla and we need to continue to work hard to create more.

Financially this is a great opportunity for our city in many ways and we are excited about the technology and advances and benefits they bring to our community. Our staff and council have worked very hard and we are looking forward to having Tesla in Downey. We work with them on a daily basis and are very happy with our relationship.

This is the right deal, at the right time, at the right place. Downey and Tesla share a vision of what can be and we expect the greenest manufacturing plant in North America. With many jobs and revenues to our city. Downey is a very special place and our history and legacy of the historical buildings at Downey Studios will continue with the technological advances a company like Tesla represents.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss with anyone what is happening and why. Feel free to email me at cityhall@downeyca.org if you have any more questions or call me on my personal cell at (562) 706-4114. All my best.

— **Dn. Mario Guerra,**
Councilman, City of Downey

Blame the Democrats

Dear Editor:

Can we please make something perfectly clear? President Obama and his "administration/people" keep blaming Republicans for blocking or stopping the plans and promises he made on the campaign trail. This is 100 percent not true.

The Democrats have a majority in the Senate and a majority in the House of Representatives. The Republicans could not stop any of his legislation even if they wanted to.

The Progressives in the Democratic Party are fighting with the moderate Democrats. That is what is stopping the Obama administration from passing legislation. It's the Democrats who are up for re-election this November who are stopping all his "hope and change," not the Republicans.

P.S. A big thank you to all Democrats and Republicans who are doing their best to stop all this insane spending.

— **Jeffrey East,**
Downey

Teamsters allege automaker broke promises

On Jan. 30, dozens of Teamsters who deliver new cars for a living, along with consumer activists from CarBuyersBeware.com, staged a song and dance action inside the Washington, D.C. Auto Show to educate auto show attendees about Fiat/Chrysler's broken promises.

The video of this performance is now online and can be viewed on YouTube.

Fiat/Chrysler received \$14 billion in the taxpayer-funded auto bailout that was meant to help the economy and save jobs. However, the company is now moving work away from the professional carhaul companies that have delivered their vehicles to dealerships for many years. The loss of this work could put these carriers out of business, leaving up to 5,000 people without jobs and health care. And by using cut-rate carriers, Chrysler risks new cars being damaged when delivered.

Teamster carhaul drivers are asking Fiat/Chrysler to keep their bailout promise and not destroy the jobs that support them and their families. Consumer advocates are also concerned that with Fiat/Chrysler moving work to less-experienced companies, new cars could be improperly secured and transported, which could lead to hidden damages to tires, rims, axles and the overall frame. A recent report, "Damaged when Delivered?" documents these practices by low-road carhaul companies.

The demonstrators also handed out leaflets to attendees that read, "Fiat/Chrysler Buyers Beware: Hidden Damages On New Cars?"

Contributed by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, founded in 1903 and representing 1.4 million men and women in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

The Downey Patriot

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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For February

Tues. Feb. 16: **Ezra meeting**, Temple Ner Tamid, 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Feb. 17: **Fundraiser for Rose Float**, Bob's Big Boy, 4 p.m.
Thurs. Feb. 18: **Ribbon-cutting**, Advanced Wellness & Chiropractic, 4:30 p.m.

City Meetings

1st Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.: **Redevelopment Project Area Committee**, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.: **Planning Commission**, Council Chamber at City Hall.
1st Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.: **Recreation and Community Services Commission**, Council Chamber, City Hall.
1st Thursday, 9 a.m.: **Traffic Committee**, Training Room, Second Floor of City Hall.
2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: **City Council/Community Development Commission**, Council Chamber.
3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: **Library Advisory Board**, at Downey City Library.
3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.: **Water Board**, at City Hall.
4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.: **Emergency Preparedness Committee**, at Fire Station No. 1.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

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 (562) 927-6438.
2nd Tues., 6 p.m.: **Downey Fly Fishers**, at Apollo Park, for information call 425-7936.
3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m.: **Community Emergency Response Team meeting**, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: **Writer's Workshop West**, at at Downey High School library, for info call 862-3106.

Wednesdays

7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, at 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.

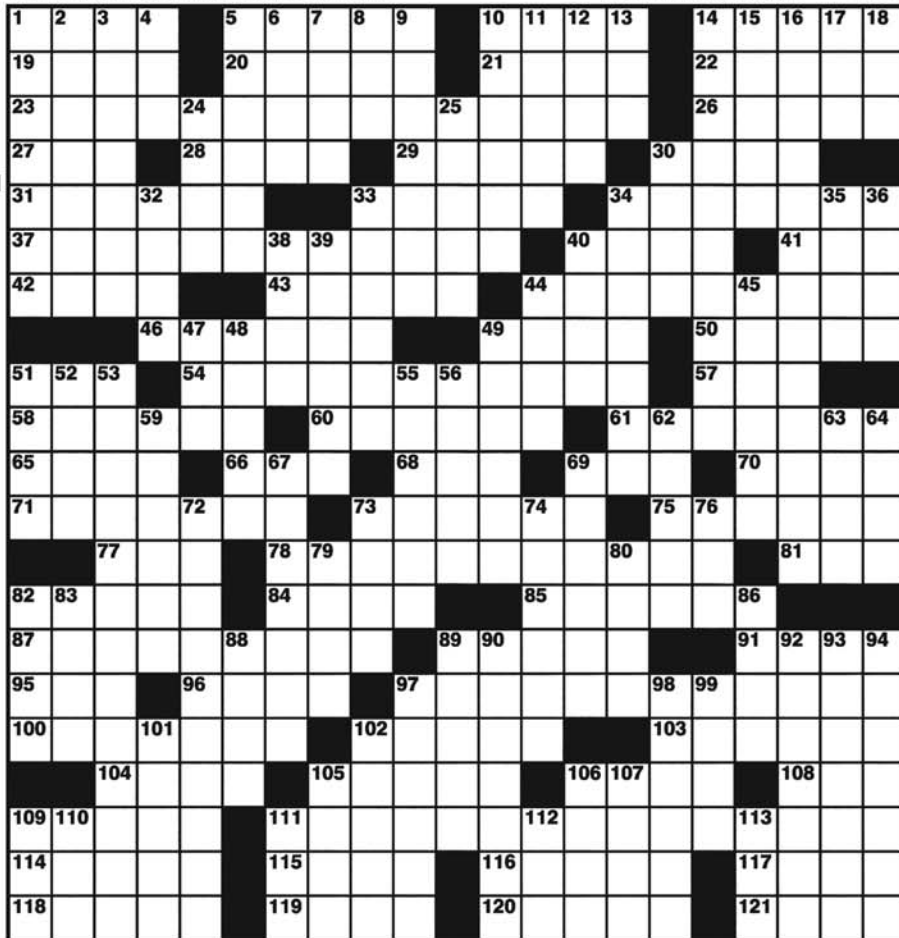
On This Day...

Feb. 12, 1554: Lady Jane Grey, the former monarch of England, is beheaded after being found guilty of treason. Her father, Henry, Duke of Suffolk, was executed a week later.
1870: Women in the Utah Territory gain the right to vote.
1909: The National Association of the Advancement of Colored People is founded in New York.
2000: Charles Schulz, creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip, dies at age 77.
2004: Defying California law, San Francisco begins performing weddings for same-sex couples.
Birthdays: Basketball Hall of Famer Bill Russell (76), author Judy Blume (72), actress Joanna Kerns (57), talk show host Arsenio Hall (55), actor Josh Brolin (42) and actress Christina Ricci (30).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
TWO-PARTY SYSTEM: Equally split, in fact
by Merle Baker

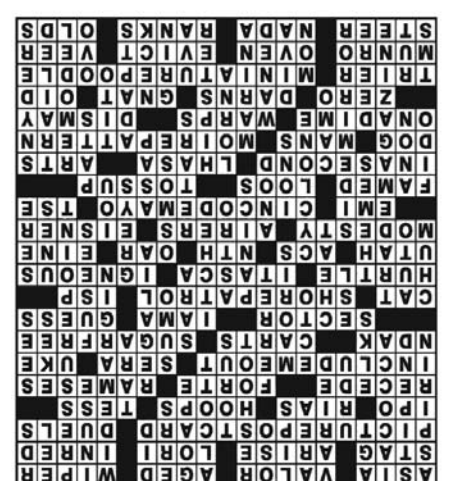
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- 1 It's about 17 million square miles
 - 5 Heroism
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 - 22 How losses are often shown
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 - 27 Wall St. debut
 - 28 Narrow inlets
 - 29 Basketball, slangily
 - 30 ___ of the D'Urbervilles
 - 31 Fall back
 - 33 Specialty (95 Across)
 - 34 Ancient Egyptian king
 - 37 Sam Goldwyn malapropism
 - 40 Evening, in Rome
 - 41 Luau instrument
 - 42 Minn. neighbor
 - 43 Grocery carriers
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 - 46 Economic division
 - 49 "___ Rock" (Simon & Garfunkel song)
 - 50 Speculate
 - 51 "Cool" dude
 - 54 Navy police
 - 57 AOL, e.g.
 - 58 Rush violently
 - 60 Lake ___ (source of the Mississippi)
 - 61 Rock category
 - 65 2002 Winter Olympics site
 - 66 Cooling units, for short
 - 68 Highest degree
 - 69 Rowboat need
 - 70 Berlin article
 - 71 Unassuming nature
 - 73 Broadcasters
 - 75 Former Disney head
 - 77 British record label
 - 78 Mexican-American celebration
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 - 82 World-renowned
 - 84 *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* author
 - 85 Even chance
 - 87 Very quickly
 - 89 Capital of Tibet
 - 91 Sciences' counterparts
 - 95 111 Across, e.g.
 - 96 ___ best friend (95 Across)
 - 97 Inadvertent digital-image waves
 - 100 Quick way to stop
 - 102 Twists out of shape
 - 103 Daunt
 - 104 It's nothing
 - 105 Fixes holes in hose
 - 106 Flying pest
 - 108 Suffix for human
 - 109 Judge or juror
 - 111 It's bigger than a toy
 - 114 Short-story writer Alice
 - 115 Baker's need
 - 116 Throw out
 - 117 Change course
 - 118 Direct the course of
 - 119 It's nothing
 - 120 Enlisted personnel
 - 121 Car pioneer
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 - 4 Sales rep.
 - 5 Not of a piece
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 - 9 Film again
 - 10 *Jo's Boys* author
 - 11 Freak out
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 - 13 Carried out
 - 14 Sizable degree
 - 15 Not vacant
 - 16 Sensitive spot
 - 17 Shocking fish
 - 18 Map lines: Abbr.
 - 24 Pakistani language
 - 25 Doughnut shape
 - 30 Fictional plantation
 - 32 Fraternal members
 - 33 Discover, with "out"
 - 34 Trappings
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 - 38 Outer: Prefix
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 - 47 Night-school subj.
 - 48 Swindler
 - 49 Had a hankering
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 - 52 Assembly-line product
 - 53 *Daily Variety*, for one
 - 55 Loses control
 - 56 Prefix for physics
 - 59 Unifying ideas
 - 62 Zane and Lady Jane
 - 63 French articles
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 - 67 Destructive spinner
 - 69 Absorb gradually
 - 72 Trucker's safety device
 - 73 "And giving ___ up the chimney..."
 - 74 Fixes, as a road
 - 76 Debt letters
 - 79 Charged atoms
 - 80 "Make it snappy!"
 - 82 Name on a bowl, maybe
 - 83 Poetic adverb
 - 86 Encouraging touches
 - 88 Military wear, for short
 - 89 Judy Garland's younger daughter
 - 90 No square
 - 92 Make over
 - 93 Wasn't winning
 - 94 Big name in pretzels
 - 97 Dockage place
 - 98 Modifies suitably
 - 99 One of the Jackson Five
 - 101 Caterpillar competitor
 - 102 Decreased
 - 105 Prima donna
 - 106 Broad smile
 - 107 Banjo part
 - 109 "Registered" corp. symbols
 - 110 Boring routine
 - 111 Calendar abbr.
 - 112 Charlottesville sch.
 - 113 ___-vegetarian

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

The first windshield wiper (14 Across) was patented by Alabama real-estate developer Mary Anderson in 1903. By definition, IGNEOUS rocks (61 Across) are of volcanic origin. Canadian short-story writer Alice MUNRO (114 Across) received the 2009 Man Booker International Prize for lifetime achievement.



Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer



As the child grows and makes more of their own choices, one of the most difficult things to control is their diet. The reasons for this are many, including the simple facts that fast food and junk food can taste good, and sometimes due to convenience or cost, parents facilitate it. These foods are highly processed, and loaded with fats, sugar and salt. Take this opportunity to show your children, from an early age, the difference between nutritious natural foods and junk foods, snack foods, and fast foods. Did you know that a "Double Gulp" Coke at 7-Eleven contains 48 teaspoons of sugar? Teach your children to eat natural foods and not processed junk foods – and set a good example for them!

For several weeks, I have devoted this column to health promotion. Today, let's discuss preventive measures specifically aimed at children.

As a father to three daughters, I have ample wisdom to impart about health care and prevention. Does that mean that they listen and act on what I tell them? Perhaps not...unless chocolate counts as one of the major food groups. Trust me; I understand the challenge here. Nonetheless, here are some guidelines for parents to help steer our children in the right direction. At least some of these measures are under our control!

One of the first decisions a mother will make is whether to breast-feed. Assuming that it's feasible, nursing is always best – it's the most complete nutrition for the baby's development, and as an added benefit, passes on the mother's immunity. Parents can also ensure that the child has regular visits with the pediatrician, and that vaccinations are up to date.

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another golden opportunity for you to benefit: Participate in their exercise by taking them to the park, walking with them, or playing games with them. Enroll them in community sports activities from an early age. Remember that childhood obesity predisposes them to hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease.

Dental care is a critical component of your child's health. Teach them to clean their teeth twice every day, starting at an early age. In the beginning, they will need your supervision and direction, and it will be your responsibility to schedule regular dental visits. Discuss with your dentist whether fluoride is right for your child; it has been shown to reduce cavities by 40%.

Hazards are a major health risk for children. Accidents kill 13,000 people a year, including 1,000 children. Poisoning, drowning, falls, burns, choking, suffocation, and cuts are the major causes of death. Some safety precautions come with common sense, and others have to be learned. Use smoke alarms

properly, lock cabinets which contain poisons and medicine, avoid toys that can be choking hazards, keep knives out of reach, use care with scalding drinks, and never leave children unsupervised anywhere near water, whether it be a bath tub or pool. A parent knows that there are hazards everywhere. We hear the expression "little children, little problems, big children, big problems." As our children get older, their issues do get bigger. Teach them not to smoke. Your words will not be enough; 20% of adults still smoke. Look at living with children as your motivation to quit! Children exposed to second-hand smoke in the home have an increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome, middle ear infections, respiratory tract infections, and asthma exacerbations.

Alcohol is a major issue, beginning very early on: drinking nearly any quantity during pregnancy can cause fetal alcohol syndrome, a condition that leads to developmental and growth retardation. Again, it is not merely what you say to your children, but the exam-

ple you set. Teach them that the regular consumption of alcohol can have many negative effects. Driving under the influence of alcohol is the major cause of fatal accidents on the road. Alcohol impairs judgment and may lead to children putting themselves in harm's way. Alcohol is a toxin to the liver, brain, heart, intestines, nerves, and other organ systems. As they get older, teaching them to consume in moderation may be appropriate, however in families where there is alcoholism, total abstinence is absolutely necessary. Those prone to alcohol addiction simply do not have the ability to stop at one drink.

Even before your children leave for college or become independent, alcohol and drugs are a reality. At best, we have 18 years to introduce them to the values that they will carry away with them.

How our children manage to survive and how we parents survive raising them is a total mystery to me. But it happens, generation after generation. Let us realize that we have a brief but wonderful opportunity to truly make a difference.

May you not only survive the child-rearing years, but also truly enjoy the gift of parenthood. Good luck and good health to you all!

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

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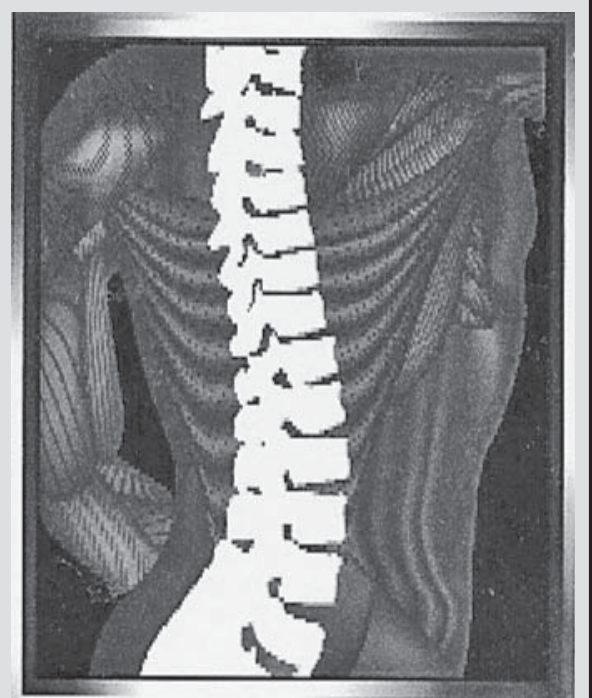
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Not a typo: Downey sweeps Dominguez

■ **BOYS BASKETBALL:** Steven Cervantes leads Downey with 15 points.

BY SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – It was totally possible that after a gut-wrenching loss to the Paramount Pirates last Wednesday that Downey could have packed it in and played a miserable game against Dominguez.

Instead, for the first time in 23 years, Downey boys' basketball swept the regular season series against the Dons last Friday night with a 56-42 victory.

Downey did come out flat in the first quarter and still wasn't looking too great in the second quarter, but a second half surge helped the Vikings do something that they haven't done in over two decades.

Down by as many as 10 points to being up by as many as 10 points can be described in a tale of two halves according to Downey head coach Larry Shelton.

"We weren't ready to play," Shelton said about his team coming out of the locker room to start the game. "There was no focus. It was a really tough loss we took the other night and I think there was a lot of residue from that."

Downey from the looks of the first half was definitely feeling the hangover from a heartbreaking loss against Paramount, but it was Tyler Ellis, and Steven Cervantes and Edgar Ruiz off the bench who pushed the Vikings to a victory in a must-win situation.

"Steven Cervantes is a great competitor and he's missed a lot of games for various reasons this year so he hasn't established himself like I thought he would but tonight

was the best game he's given me," Shelton said about Cervantes who led all Downey scorers with 15 points off the bench.

"Daniel Bustamante off the bench played really well," Shelton said continuing on. "Edgar in the first half was the one guy that did come to play. Our bench was huge for us tonight."

From the start, it seemed as if Downey was searching for someone who wanted to shoot the ball. Ruiz was immediately put in to the game in the first quarter to hopefully inject some instant firepower into an offense that wasn't getting to the hoop.

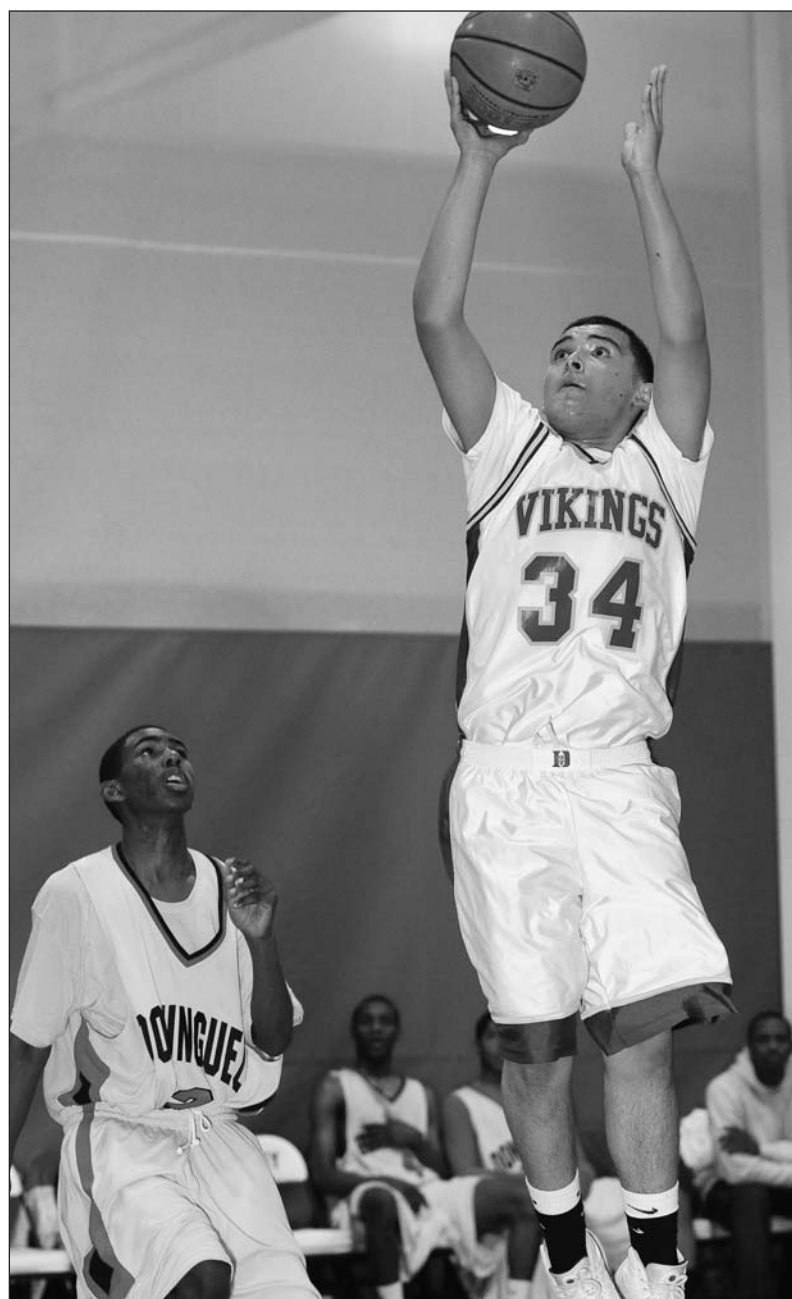
Ruiz and Ellis combined for 9 of the 10 points Downey scored in the first quarter. After the opening minutes, the Vikings found themselves in a 13-10 deficit.

Downey's struggles continued in the second quarter with widely missed shots, sloppy passing, and stupid fouls. Dominguez was getting to the basket with ease being led by Xavier Hayes who had 6 points in the quarter.

All of Dominguez's 13 points in the second quarter were in the paint and Downey looked like they were in a tough spot going into the half down 26-16. A reminder of the game plan and the contributions of the bench helped Downey spark something offensively as they took their first lead at the 3:00 mark in the third quarter.

"Zero strategy," Shelton said about changing anything at the half. "I told them our game plan was the same when we beat them a few weeks ago. It just came down to playing hard and we didn't do that in the first half. I told them this was a big character check for them."

Cervantes in the third quarter was a major catalyst in Downey



Downey forward Edgar Ruiz puts up a shot during the Vikings' 54-42 victory over Dominguez last week.

getting the lead scoring 4 points and stealing the ball twice in a 45 second span with one steal leading to an easy lay up and the lead.

In the fourth quarter, Downey had opened up a 10 point lead and

never looked back. With the win, it keeps Downey hanging on for playoff life with a huge game at home to end their season tonight against the Bears. Game time is 7 p.m.



Downey wrestlers breaking records

■ **WRESTLING:** Downey sets record with 11 individual championships.

BY SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Downey wrestling's domination over Warren last week was just another notch in the belt that is their record breaking season.

On Saturday, Downey took another step in etching their name in Downey wrestling history by completely dominating the San Gabriel Valley League wrestling individual finals.

The No. 1 team in CIF Div. V had 11 different champions including David Andrade (112), Ivan Garibay (119), Jacob Barberena (125), Ruben Penland (135), Brandon Pineda (140), Aaron Esquer (145), Edward Carbajal (160), team captain Brandon McDonald (171), Kenny Lee (189), Rudy Calderon (215), and heavy-weight Robert Chism.

The record-breaking 11 individual championships is something that co-head coach Miguel Soto said was something his highly touted team shouldn't forget.

"Setting a school record of 11 league champions out of 14 weight classes is a memorable accomplishment for 2010," he said. "Our wrestlers shouldn't feel immensely proud and it's a great way to start off the postseason. It was a stellar performance to have 13 finalists

and 11 to win it."

Many in the wrestling community though feel as if Downey made its biggest stride forward last summer with the addition of highly accomplished coach Monico Enriquez as co-head coach. Soto is the biggest believer of this move.

"The best part of Coach Enriquez is his commitment to building character, not just championships," Soto said. "It was that quality I'm positive that got my administrators involved in bringing him in. It really shows that Downey High cares for the student as a whole and does its absolute best to offer as many avenues of success for the students to experience."

With the combined efforts of Soto and Enriquez this year, Downey is an incredible 16-0 in dual meets, 4-0 and successfully defended champions of the SGVL at the varsity and junior varsity level, and had five top three finishes in six tournaments, including three tournament titles.

The Vikings also defeated six ranked teams this season in St. John Bosco, Norwalk, Paramount, Calvary Chapel Downey, Mayfair and their league rivals Warren by a combined score of 330-96.

Tomorrow, the team will wrestle at El Camino College for the CIF Div. V team dual championship. The Vikings are hoping to capture the CIF title after falling just short with a second place finish last year.

Rally not enough as Downey loses

■ **BOYS BASKETBALL:** Vikings put together 19-0 run, but fall to Paramount, 58-55.

BY SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – A 19-0 run is supposed to be a kill shot in prep basketball. It's supposed to be a shot that most teams can't come back from and it's supposed to propel you to a victory for the night.

Instead, it proved to be the difference between a close loss and an absolute blow out for the Downey Vikings, losing 58-55 last Wednesday night on the road, putting their playoff hopes between a rock and a hard place.

Paramount had opened up the game with a 3-point shot, but after that shot Downey went on a tear scoring the next 19 points with Dami Adefeso scoring 6, Erick Gomez hitting two 3-point shots for 6 points, and Tyler Ellis scoring 4.

The Vikings got too complacent after their first quarter dominance and immediately found

themselves in a dogfight after an 8-0 run in the second quarter by Paramount made the game close again.

In the end though, it was Paramount's offensive rebounding that proved to be the difference in the game.

"In the fourth quarter, they won the game on offensive rebounding," said Downey head coach Larry Shelton. "I don't know how many points they had on put-backs in the fourth quarter, but that was the difference in the game without question."

Up until the fourth quarter, Downey had not allowed an offensive rebound to the Pirates. In the fourth quarter alone, they allowed five with all of them coming in the final minutes of the game.

The loss proves to be a major blow to Downey's playoff hopes with them probably having to win out to contend for at most a third place finish in the San Gabriel Valley League or at the very least a wild card berth for the playoffs.

"It's a tough loss and you have to regroup and you have three more games to play," Shelton told his team after the game. "Realistically finishing in the top three is very

difficult. Now we have to see if we can get a wild card and win out. But there's still more basketball to play and we can't quit at this point."

After the first quarter, Downey fell into a lull defensively and offensively allowing an 8-0 run to get Paramount back in the game. Downey also went without a field goal for five minutes in the quarter.

The lull also led to sloppy defense and Paramount's confidence going through the roof before the half was up. Even though Downey was up by a handful of points going into the locker room at halftime, it was a very shaky lead.

Offensively, Downey for the first time saw a zone defense from Paramount and weren't able to establish themselves until later in the second half.

"We struggled when they changed to the zone and it took us until the middle of the third quarter to find our equilibrium against their zone," Shelton said. "I think that changed the rhythm of the game."

By the time the third quarter ended, Downey was still clinging to an 8-point lead but the momentum had dramatically shifted to Paramount.

All knotted up 55-55 in the fourth quarter, Paramount's Leo Maidana hit the game winning 3-point shot with 21 seconds to go. He had shot two 3-pointers in the same possession and missed, but Paramount was able to rebound the ball each time setting the stage for the game winning shot.

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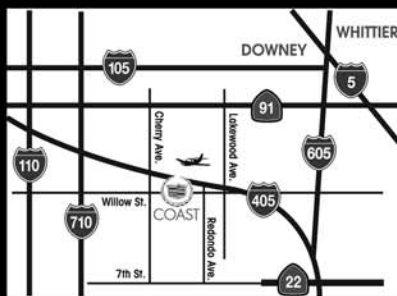
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Turnovers cost Bears the title

■ **GIRLS BASKETBALL:** Warren turns the ball over 18 times in 56-52 loss to Lynwood.

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – It was for their first league title, and it was quite the show, but the Warren girls' basketball team fell just short against the defending San Gabriel Valley League champions Lynwood last Wednesday 56-52 in a game that went all the way down to the final seconds of the game.

After trailing all game, the Bears finally caught up to Lynwood tying the score with 4:53 in the third quarter, battled through the majority of the fourth quarter, and even came within 2 points off a jump shot from Tahja Matthews after giving back the lead, but late turnovers doomed the Bears as they watched their first ever league title slip away.

"Turnovers beat us," said Warren head coach Rachel Palmer. "The first half we didn't quite score like we wanted to. That kind of hurt us a little. Defensively we stepped up huge. In the first game they killed us. I'm proud of my girls. They fought."

The Bears lost the turnover battle with Lynwood giving away the ball 18 times to Lynwood's 14 times. Warren had to start fouling with the clock winding down in the fourth after a late turnover.

"If we take care of the ball and minimize the turnovers and make easy lay ups, we win this game," Palmer said.

Warren at the half was down 30-22 but started the third quarter with an 11-3 run to tie up the score led by Franny Vaaulu and Danielle Rodriguez. Vaaulu finished the game with 15 points and 15 rebounds. Rodriguez had 9 points, five rebounds, and four assists.

The fourth quarter was a battle and in the last few seconds Matthews had an opportunity to tie up the score but missed an open 3-point shot in the close corner of the court.

Palmer, albeit the loss, was still impressed with the way her team played and said that she knows her team has a bright future with only a handful of seniors on the roster. The future is especially looking good for Justene Reyes she said.

"We love her," Palmer said. "She has a bright future for us. She has a long way to go though. Obviously there were some freshman mistakes but she's not afraid of the basketball."

Lynwood had started the game on an 8-1 run and the Bears didn't score their first field goal until 1:48 left in the opening quarter. After stopping the 8-1 run, Warren responded with a 6-0 run of their own before the quarter was over. The Bears turned the ball over seven times in the first eight minutes and Vaaulu picked up two quick fouls.

Defensively, Warren picked it up in the second quarter but was still unable to stop Lynwood's Kejuana Gardner from driving to the basket. Gardner had a game-high 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Warren was within 1 point in the middle of the quarter but the Knights went on a 9-0 run before Vaaulu scored beneath the basket to end the quarter. Vaaulu had 8 points in the second quarter, 6 of them coming off offensive rebounds.

Up to this point, Rodriguez, a possible league MVP, had been kept in check with only 2 points and one assist.

Warren will wrap up their season tonight on the road against the Downey Vikings. Game time is 5:15 p.m.

League title within Downey's grasp

■ **GIRLS WATER POLO:** With victory over Warren, Downey would claim league title.

By JOSEPH APODACA, SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – The lady Vikings continue to remain unstoppable as they tread closer and closer to emerging as league champions, taking out the St. Joseph's Jesters 17-6 in one of the last games of the season.

The girls managed to stay ahead of the Jesters the entire game, with Brenda Rosero and Meghan Nevarez scoring the most goals throughout the course of the match. The Viking's are now 14-3 overall and remain undefeated in their league campaign, settling at 4-0 as of last week.

By today, the girls will have already completed their season and faced off against the Warren Bears in the season's most anticipated game. While the score for that game was unavailable at press time, the girls remained confident that it would be the Vikings who would take home the victory, just days before the big game.

"We only have Warren left. If we beat them, we're league champions," said an excited Dominique Diaz.

The girls have not only impressed their fans and their coach Mark Jones throughout their successful run, but have also impressed themselves. A year or two ago, the thought of making it to league champions was hardly on their radar. Fast forward to now, the title is within their grasp and they know just what to expect once they



PHOTO BY CARLOS ONTIVEROS

A Downey water polo player attempts to score against a St. Joseph's defender.

get there.

"[We expect to play] teams that will challenge us and make us play smarter," said Diaz.

Now that their season has reached its end, the girls have had time to reflect on all that has gone on in the water these past few months. In a season that started off exciting, with a massive 18-8 win against Estancia, the excitement never died out, lasting up until the very last stroke.

"The most exciting moments were preparing for, and beating,

Cerritos. We also found out we were ranked number one in CIF," said Diaz. "Even now, preparing for CIF is exciting."

Not every single game, however, was as exciting as certain others. The team favored games that were called closer in score rather than completely shutting out their opponents, giving them more to work with throughout the game's four periods.

"The least exciting moments are playing games where we slaughter another team," said Diaz.

"It's a horrible way to put it, but those games really aren't any fun."

Improvement is a major component to any sports team, and the lady Vikings are no stranger to that. While they are the first to say they have been strong from the beginning, they are quick to shine light on teammates that have impressed them this year.

"One of the most improved has been Jessica [Badalamenti]. She's learned a lot more about the game and knows how to step up when we need her to."

Vikings end season on a positive note

■ **GIRLS BASKETBALL:** Downey cruises in wins over Paramount and Dominguez.

By ALYSSA WYNNE, SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – Downey's girls' basketball used Paramount and Dominguez last week to prepare themselves for their final games against Gahr and Warren making their week a successful one pounding the Pirates 58-24, and the Dons 73-38.

The victory against Paramount started quickly, and once the Vikings found that there was no

need for much aggression, it slowed significantly. Point guard Katie Marifian had 14 points, four steals and four assists for Downey, with the majority of them in the first quarter.

Guard Irma Urzua was a leading scorer in the game and guard Rayana Villalpondo provided Downey with four assists and eight rebounds.

Friday's victorious game against Dominguez was not an alarming one. The Lady Vikes had their defense up tremendously with 10 total rebounds from forward Brie Hatter, and 10 steals from Marifian.

Offense remained high during

the first and second quarters but after halftime, Downey only scored three points in the third quarter. Downey shrugged off the inconsistency and brought the game back to their level with another 22 points to end the game. Marifian contributed 19 points, majority of them coming in the fourth quarter, and Love aided her team as well, with 14 points.

During halftime in the Dominguez game, Downey's head coach Nathan Harris made a special tribute to the seniors he will be letting go after this year. He recognized injured forward Patsy Pan for her one year on varsity, forward Krystal Walker for giving her two

years on varsity, Marifian for holding three years on varsity, and Debra Lovell for sticking to four full years as a starter on varsity.

Each lady was given a bouquet of fresh flowers with a little balloon, designed as a basketball, attached.

They also received digitally processed scrapbooks flooded with pictures from their years of playing.

"These ladies have given their lives to this team," said Harris. "They have played with heart on varsity and I wish them luck in the future."

Vaaulu paces Warren with 21 points

■ **GIRLS BASKETBALL:** Warren too big for Paramount, win 61-39.

By ALYSSA WYNNE, SPORTS INTERN

PARAMOUNT – Paramount's court lacked all advantages after the Pirates' received a trouncing in a home game against the Warren girls' basketball team last Friday, losing 61-39 to the Bears.

Warren brought their intense offense to the game and wasted no time in scoring points. The game was littered with basket's in the first and second quarter, but like many games played against Paramount the offense subsided to a minimum after halftime and defense grew heavier instead.

But when the offense was at its prime, center Franny Vaaulu scored

21 points though she desired more after attempting more than 30 shots at Paramount's basket. Point guard Danielle Rodriguez scored 12 points, the majority of them in the first half, and aided with nine assists. Guard Tania Ayala made eight steals for her team and Vaaulu had 15 rebounds to her name at the conclusion of the game.

Forward Justene Reyes ended her game with nine rebounds as well, more than half of them being defensive.

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Source: www.comingsoon.net

FEBRUARY WHAT'S HOT TIPS



Francesca Baldi
Friendship Fashion Finds

From Lucy and Ethel, to Betty and Wilma this month celebrates life long friendships with International Friendship month. What better way to celebrate your friendship than a little gift to show you care? No need to break the bank for this souvenir just head over to Forever 21 and pick up something dashing. I found this adorable black, satin headband for only \$4.99 at Forever 21 in the Stonewood Center. No better way to make a bold fashion statement than sporting this killer look. Celebs like Lady Gaga, and everybody's favorite Gossip Girl, Leighton Meester were the first to scoop up this look and have been flaunting these over the top hair accessories. So show your best friends just how much you think about them and head over to Forever 21 and snatch up your headbands for International Friendship month.

Erika Kimura
Sweet Scents

International Friendship month is a unique and wonderful time of year that is devoted to honoring your friends and friendships. You can show your love and appreciation by giving them fun and creative gifts! At Sephora, they are offering a scrumptious collection called Dylan's Candy Bar Re-treat. This unique line includes a savory body lotion, shower gel, ice cream sugar scrub, and candy butter cream all in the scent of birthday cake batter! Your friend isn't into birthday cake batter? No problem, the line also includes different scents like Coconut Bon Bon, Strawberry Licorice, and Chocolate Cupcake! With a fantastic price of \$16 per item, you'll be sure to make your friend's day without breaking your wallet. International Friendship Month gives us the opportunity to celebrate the cherish the friendships we have. So go and show your appreciation for the friends in your life with a sweet gift!

Brittney Miller
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'Hairspray' tickets go on sale Sunday

COSTA MESA – "Hairspray," the Broadway musical comedy that inspired a major motion picture, is coming to the Orange County Performing Arts Center April 6-11. "Hairspray" won eight Tony Awards in 2003 – including Best Musical – and enjoyed a six-year run on Broadway.

"Hairspray" tells the story of Baltimore's Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair. Her only passion is to dance and win a spot on the local TV dance program, "The Corny Collins Show," and, overnight, is transformed from outsider to irrepressible teen celebrity. But a plus-size trendsetter in dance and fashion vanquish the program's reigning princess, win the heart of heartthrob Link Larkin and integrate a television show without denting her 'do?

Tickets to see "Hairspray" start at \$20 and go on sale Sunday. They will be available online at www.ocpac.org or by calling (714) 556-2787.

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* **VALENTINE'S DAY PG-13** (10:50, 11:20, 1:35, 2:05, 4:20, 5:00, 7:10, 7:55, 9:55, 10:40)

* **THE WOLFMAN IR** (12:05, 12:50, 2:25, 3:10, 4:45, 5:30, 7:05, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10)

DEAR JOHN PG-13 (11:15, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55)

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE IR (10:50, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45)

EDGE OF DARKNESS IR (11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30)

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New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- **"36 Arguments for the Existence of God"** by Rebecca Goldstein. An atheist with a soul is in for some soul-searching in this latest novel by the award-winning Goldstein. Cass Seltzer, a university professor specializing in the psychology of religion, lands a best-selling book and an opportunity to teach at Harvard.
- **"The Infinities"** by John Banville. The author uses Greek gods as characters in this earthy romp that also takes a wise look at what is meant to be human.
- **"The Man from Beijing"** by Henning Mankell. In a Swedish hamlet, 19 people have been massacred--and the only clue is a red ribbon found at the scene. Judge Birgitta Roslin has particular reason to be shocked: her grandparents, the Andrens, are among the victims.
- **"Tonce a Spy"** by Keith Thomson. A former spy now ravaged by Alzheimer's is thrust back into danger--and now his son is in deep as well. Thomson writes a debut thriller with energy, wit and style to spare.
- **"Roses"** by Leila Meacham. The author's multigenerational family saga, set in East Texas circa 1914-1985, charts the transformation of Mary Toliver, a wide-eyed 16-year-old heiress, into a calculating cotton plantation queen as hardheaded as Scarlett O'Hara.

Non-Fiction

- **"Figure Skating's Greatest Stars"** by Steve Milton This beautifully illustrated book profiles 60 great skaters, including champions in men's, women's, pairs and ice dancing.
- **"Notes from the Cracked Ceiling: Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin and What it will Take for a Woman to Win"** by Anne E. Kornblut. A White House correspondent argues that America is not ready for a woman president and offers a guide for overcoming these barriers.
- **"Parallel Play: Growing Up with Undiagnosed Asperger's"** by Tim Page. In this captivating memoir, Pulitzer Prize-winner Page writes about growing up gifted and unknowingly suffering from Asperger's syndrome, expanding on a popular essay he wrote for "The New Yorker."
- **"The 6-Week Cure for the Middle-Aged Middle"** by Mary Eades, M.D. and Michael. Eades, M.D. Doctors Mary and Michael Eades provide a plan specifically for eliminating the visceral fat that accumulates around the organs that is the true cause of the middle-age bulge.
- **"The Wisdom of Your Dreams"** by Jeremy Taylor. The author shows how to tap your subconscious and discover how the hidden messages in dreams can change your life.

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Toastmasters win club contests

DOWNEY – Downey resident Alaina Niemann took first place in Toastmaster International Club 587's annual international speech-writing contest, which took place Tuesday at First Baptist Church of Downey.

Rene Estrada won first place in the Table Topics contest, while Downey residents Richard Elliot and Finnoula Anderson won second place in the International and Table Topics contests, respectively.

All first-place winners will now compete in the Area Contest that will be held Feb. 27 at Jacobs Engineering, 5757 Plaza Drive, Suite 100, in Cypress, at 8 a.m.

The contest is open to the public. A "small fee" is payable at the door.

Snow play for children Feb. 20

DOWNEY – Room is still available for the city of Downey's "Snow Play Day" Feb. 20 at Apollo Park.

Children ages 3-12 can enjoy 16 tons of snow, equipped with three sled runs, a snow play area and a snowman.

Cost is \$9 for a 45-minute session, and \$5 for adults who are required to accompany children ages 3-5.

Registration is being taken at the Community Services Department at City Hall, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. City Hall will be closed Monday for Presidents Day.

For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

Wellness center opens Thursday

DOWNEY – Advanced Wellness & Chiropractic, located at 8036 3rd St., Suite 103, will celebrate its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

Advanced Wellness & Chiropractic specializes in workers' compensation and personal injury, nutrition and pharmaceutical grade supplements, nutritional weight loss and more.

The ceremony is open to the public. The Downey Chamber of Commerce is assisting with the ribbon-cutting.

Musical: Tickets now on sale.

Continued from page 1

Were in Love Again," is vintage Hart, as is "This can't be love/because I fell so well./No sobs, no sorrow, no sighs."

Whether Hart's homosexuality, his alcoholism, or the licensed neuroticism enjoyed by a certain kind of worldly New Yorker (he graduated from Columbia with a journalism degree) have anything to do with it, nobody before – and only one lyricist since in Stephen Sondheim – understood the complication of love better than he did.

A lot of his songs are sweet-tempered and hopeful, like "My Romance," "Manhattan," and "Wait Till You See Her." He was often witty, and his economy and inventive skill with a lyric were astonishing.

But a lot of his most moving work touched not just on the ambiguities and mixed blessings of love (what today we would call trade-offs), not to mention self-delusion ("Falling in Love With Love is Falling for Make Believe"), but of the deeper confusions of being alive, those mysterious pockets of disappointment and melancholy that steal over us like an unaccountable mood. "Where or When," "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered" and "It Never Entered My Mind" are classic examples of the incurable human condition of dismay.

Hart lived hard, emotionally as



PHOTO COURTESY DOWNEY CIVIC LIGHT OPERA
Kit Wilson, Michael McGreal, Glenn Edward and William Crisp make up the Downey Civic Light Opera Association's male quartet. The organization will present "Rodgers & Hart: A Celebration" next weekend at the Downey Theatre.

well as physically. When Rodgers approached him to do what would become 1943's "Oklahoma!," Hart knew that blue skies and windswept plains were not for him, and graciously declined. He died within the same year at the age of 48.

"Rodgers & Hart: A Celebration" will be presented Feb. 18 - March 7 (three weekends) at the Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd. Performance times are Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. There is one "preview" per-

formance scheduled on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 8 p.m.

The Downey Civic Light Opera Association's box office hours are Tuesdays – Fridays, 1–5 p.m., and also one hour prior to performance.

Tickets may be charged by phone, (562) 923-1714, with MasterCard, Visa, or Discover Card. Students, seniors and group rates are available.

Submitted by Downey Civic Light Opera Association will special thanks to Lawrence Christon



Patrick Matias, of Downey, recently finished basic training for the Air Force.

Matias completes basic training

SAN ANTONIO – Air Force Airman Patrick Matias has completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex.

Matias completed an eight-week program that included training in military discipline, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Matias earned four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Matias is the son of Downey residents Anthony and Hazel Matias.

College to host job fair

NORWALK – Cerritos College's annual Career Expo and Job Fair will take place March 23 in the Library/Falcon Square sidewalk.

During the expo, visitors will have an opportunity to speak to recruiters, learn about companies, explore job opportunities, network, and receive tips on resumes and interviewing skills.

Employers representing business, finance, technology, healthcare, retail and other industries will participate in the expo. The current list of participating employers includes Caltrans, Home Depot, L.A. Restaurant Management, L.A. County Fire Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Bellflower Unified School District, Southern California Edison, Target, the University of Phoenix, and more.

The event, which attracts more than 500 visitors each year, is free and open to the public. Visitors are encouraged to dress in business attire and bring copies of their resume.

The expo and job fair begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m.



A \$1,500 check was donated from the Los Angeles County Medical Association Alliance to the Downey Symphonic Society for the Music in the Schools program. The funds are a grant from the Moore White Foundation. Pictured left to right are Alliance co-presidents Gloria Crum and Ruth Hillecke, and Larry Lewis, president of the Downey Symphonic Society.

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Pre-register for 'Princess for a Day'

DOWNEY – Girls between the ages of 5-10 are invited to be treated like a princess for a day at an event March 6 sponsored by the Downey Rose Float Association.

Miss Downey, Miss Teen Downey and their courts will treat girls to mini manicures, hair and makeup sessions, interviews, photos and more. The girls will also receive lunch, participate in arts and crafts, and take home a gift bag.

Cost is \$25. The event is limited to 125 participants.

Pre-registration will be taken tomorrow from 11 a.m. to noon at the Downey City Library.

The event will be held at Trinity Baptist Church.

Immunizations for kids Feb. 24

DOWNEY – Free immunizations for children will be offered at Maude Price Elementary School on Feb. 24 from 3 to 7 p.m.

In conjunction with St. Francis Medical Center, children ages 4 to 18 can receive immunizations for chicken pox, hepatitis A and B, DTP, MMR, polio, meningococcal, HPV and tuberculosis.

All immunizations are free and no appointment is necessary. A parent or guardian must accompany children.

Maude Price is at 9525 Tweedy Lane in Downey. For more information, call (562) 904-3589.

Raise your financial IQ

DOWNEY – Downey Federal Credit Union is sponsoring a series of financial education workshops starting Feb. 23.

The workshops, titled Financial IQ 101, are free and will be held in the Downey Unified School District's ROP Room at 11627 Brookshire Ave.

The first topic is "Build a Basic Budget." Visitors will learn how to establish credit if you don't have any and how to set short and long-term goals.

The meeting is from 5 to 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Marianne Noss, marketing manager at Downey Federal, at mnoss@downeyfcu.org or (562) 862-8141, ext. 254.

Event to celebrate Asian culture

NORWALK – Cerritos College, the Chinese Culture Association of Southern California and the Cerritos Chinese School are partnering to present a spring festival March 13.

"The Year of the Tiger" will be celebrated through traditional dishes, various performances and workshops that include touches from many Asian cultures.

Performances will include a traditional lion dance, traditional songs, cultural dances, martial arts and more. Hands-on workshops showcasing various heritages will include mahjong (a board game), knotting demonstrations, calligraphy, brush painting, lantern making and handcrafts.

A fashion show will feature traditional and contemporary fashions from the Asian cultures.

The festival will be held in the Cerritos College Student Center, 11110 Alondra Blvd., from noon to 3:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.



Gangs Out of Downey hosted an open house last week and donated \$18,000 to the Downey Police Department to support the school policing program. Police Chief Rick Esteves, above, accepts the check from GOOD president Dr. Robert Jagielski.

Award: Students helping others.

Continued from page 1

collect needed supplies for the animals at SEAACA, and spends about 20 hours each year helping decorate Downey's rose float.

"I love being involved in the community because it fulfills me outside of my high school experience," Gebert said. "I love to see that my work can help people and that I can give back because I have received so much from the Downey community."

Lee is ranked No. 9 in Warren's senior class with a 4.62 GPA. He devotes the majority of his volunteer time to Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, where he works in the Foundation

office, Art Department (working on a marbling project with patients) and in the thrift store.

Through Key Club, Lee has participated in the Arc Walk and volunteered at Kids Day and the Christmas tree lot.

He has also assisted Heal the Bay with their beach clean-ups and Warren's track and field team with their track meets.

"I like to help other people," Lee said. "It is important to me to volunteer because people need help. It brings everyone together. It makes Downey a better place to live."

Fernando Vasquez, a member of Downey Kiwanis, coordinates the Downey Youth Service Award.

"By recognizing and honoring young leaders, Downey Kiwanis hopes to instill the value of community service," he said. "It's important to develop future generations of leaders."

The Downey Youth Service Award is presented to students in grades K-12 who reside and attend school in Downey and are active in community service. Recipients are chosen by a member of Downey Kiwanis Club and a staff member from *The Downey Patriot*.

To nominate a student, contact Vasquez at (562) 261-7601 or fvasquez562@gmail.com, or write to The Downey Patriot, Attention Eric Pierce, 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.

Academy: Empowering kids.

Continued from page 1

4:00 p.m. slot because of transportation, convenience, etc., factors.

Except for those in Grade 1 (who are first taught phonetic awareness), instruction is based on a popular text, "STARS: Strategy to Achieve Reading Success." It covers such themes as reading strategy, building reading comprehension, etc.

Important to the program's effectiveness is the contribution by the volunteer-teachers who, Bliss says, are already familiar with the kids and with whom the parents feel comfortable: "The parents can drop off their kids who get reading help from trusted and credentialed teachers. These are great teachers who are willing to give up their own time to help these kids."

"Doing an outstanding job coordinating the program," to quote DUSD asst. superintendent/instructional services Dr. Jerilyn King-Brown, is academy coordinator Julie Eidinger Bliss, a longtime Downey resident who got her master's in education-

al leadership from CSU-Long Beach last June. She has taught fourth grade a total of 12 years, eight at Old River School, four so far at Gallatin. She was a substitute teacher for five years before this.

Bliss says her principal, Dr. Rani Maline-Bertsch, "has been supremely supportive of the program. It has been her particular focus this year."

Armed originally with a bachelor's in business administration, major in human resources, from Cal Poly, Bliss started out on a career as a human resources manager at a savings and loan company.

When son Matt was born two years later, she quit her job. Daughter Lauren came four years later. When Matt was in kindergarten, she started volunteering at his school. By this time, she began wondering if teaching as a career might not be such a bad idea. She was a volunteer for five years. When Lauren was in kindergarten, Bliss went back to school and started substitute teaching at the district. It was when Lauren reached fourth grade at Old River School that Bliss got her teaching creden-

tial from CSU-Long Beach and began teaching fourth grade at the school in earnest.

Bliss' love for teaching since the switch is total. "I'd teach for nothing because I love to be with kids," she says. Husband Steve is plant superintendent for an air conditioning firm in L.A. Matt, fresh out of CSU-Fullerton with a mechanical engineering degree, has found employment with Raytheon. Lauren is in her third year at CSU-Long Beach working on her school psychology degree while she volunteers as a second grade ASPIRE mentor at Gauldin.

Of the academy's impact, Bliss says: "The parents like it. They have somewhere to go where someone can help their kids. We teachers at Gallatin like it. We've observed a noticeable improvement in our students' reading skills. If nothing else, if we can help them gain confidence in themselves in their reading, the program can be regarded as a success."

She adds: "I'd like to empower them, make them feel they can do it themselves. I'd like them to take responsibility for their own learning."

Radio show moves to Thursdays

NORWALK – "Kidz n Sports," an Internet talk show about youth athletics, has moved to a new time slot effective this week.

The show will now air Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. online at www.AdrenalineRadio.com.

"Kidz n Sports" is hosted by Mike Davis – referred to as Coach Mike – who has eight years experience as a varsity softball coach. He

coached the Norwalk High School junior varsity team in 2009.

"Most of the subject matter on 'Kidz n Sports' has to do with coaching, parenting, medical issues, etc. that apply to all youth sports," Davis said. "So even if we have a softball coach as a guest, while some of the discussion will be softball specific, there are principals and techniques that can be

applied to other sports as well. This is important especially since many young players play multiple sports even up through high school."

For more information, including show guests, call (562) 945-6469 or go online to www.kidzn-sports.com.



Students from Ward Elementary toured Downey Federal Credit Union last month to learn about banking.

Students learn about finances

DOWNEY – Twenty third-grade students from the enrichment class at Ward Elementary School visited Downey Federal Credit Union on Jan. 27 to learn about saving money.

Students received a tour of the credit union, making stops at the merchant teller, the teller window, member services and the loan department. At each station, the supervisor of that department explained what his or her job entailed, and did a demonstration of their job function.

The tour ended in the president's office, where students learned what it's like to be president of a credit union.

Students also learned how to write a check and balance a check book, and examined foreign currency before creating their own money. The credit union served lunch and led a question-and-answer session.

"The credit union's purpose is to serve the city of Downey and educate our youth," said Barbara Lamberth, president of Downey Federal Credit Union. "We consistently offer financial education to all schools and residents in Downey throughout the year to help both students and their parents become more financially aware."

Jennifer Robbins, principal of Ward Elementary, added that, "The students left the building with a better understanding of how a financial institution operates and how they can start saving."

Students slim down, get healthier

NORWALK – The results of a 16-week weight management program at Cerritos College "have been outstanding," school officials announced this week.

The Cerritos College Student Health and Wellness Center, in partnership with the Health Education Department, launched the "Pound by Pound Challenge" last fall.

The program included a free initial fitness evaluation, physical exams, consultation with a licensed dietician and nutritionist, support group, boot camps, an exercise journal and copy of the "Calorie Fat & Carbohydrate Counter."

Two hundred students, staff and faculty participated in the first semester. The total pound loss for the semester was approximately 400 pounds.

One person lost as much as 19 pounds and reduced their triglycerides and cholesterol levels by 75 percent, school officials said.

"This program helped me a lot," said Anna Flores, a student who participated in the program. "The combination of physical exercise and nutritional education taught me what I can eat and what I can do to lose weight and become healthy."

The program was started by Nancy Montgomery, coordinator of Student Health Services. She said she saw a strong need for health education among Cerritos College students.

"While in college, students are known to eat unhealthy and indulge in fast food," she said.

Montgomery wrote a grant proposal to Kaiser Permanente in Bellflower last year and won the grant. With the grant in hand, she involved the Physical Education/Health Department, hired a dietician and nutritionist and developed a semester-long weight management program.

More than half of the participants who followed both an exercise and diet plan lowered their high lipid levels by 10 to 24 percent. Two of the five participants with diabetes got off or decreased their diabetic medications.

"The program is life-changing for these participants," Montgomery said. "We would love to keep this program going so we can help improve students' health and lifestyle."

For more information about the Pound by Pound program, call the Student Health and Wellness Center at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2321.

Physician named 'Super Doctor'

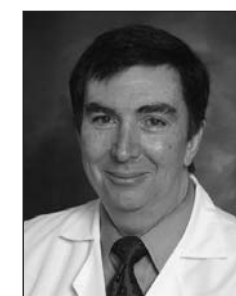
DOWNEY – Dr. Jerry Floro, a board-certified cardiologist practicing out of Downey and Long Beach, has been selected as a 2010 Southern California Super Doctor by *Los Angeles* magazine.

The list, published in the magazine's January 2010 issue, is comprised of the top 5 percent of doctors in Los Angeles and Orange counties, as determined through peer nominations, a blue ribbon panel review process, and independent research.

Floro received his undergraduate degree from USC and attended medical school at Vanderbilt University, completing his training at Vanderbilt and Harbor General-UCLA Medical Center.

He currently practices at Pioneer Medical Group's Downey and Long Beach locations.

To schedule an appointment with Floro, call (562) 904-8144.



Funeral scheduled tomorrow for Brian David Morris

DOWNEY – Brian David Morris, a life-long Downey resident and son of Downey school board member D. Mark Morris, died Saturday from complications of surgery following a serious car accident last month. He was 28.

Morris was hit by a car that ran a red light on Jan. 10. He was taken to St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood where he was listed in critical condition with a concussion and fractured clavicle and pelvis.

He was released to home care 2 ½ weeks later. On Saturday morning, he was rushed to Downey Regional Medical Center after having difficulty breathing. He passed away at the hospital.

Morris was born Nov. 9, 1981 at the Kaiser Permanente hospital in Bellflower. He attended Gauldin Elementary, East Middle School and graduated from Downey High School in 1999. He continued his education at Cerritos College, and was accepted to Cal State Dominguez Hills for the fall of 2010, where he was to major in accounting.

Morris was employed the past three years by Strayers, Saylor & Associates as an assistant accountant. He was a CTEC registered tax preparer.

Morris was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and attended the Downey 5th Young Single Adult Branch on Paramount Boulevard. He attended and graduated from a four-year seminary program in 1999. He also graduated from the LDS Institute of Religion course in 2004.

He served as a councilor and auditor for the Downey California Stake for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and also served as a Sunday school president. He was recently called to the Elders Quorum presidency. Morris also served seven years as a temple worker in the Los Angeles Temple.

From 2001-2003, Morris served on a two-year mission in Guatemala city of South Mission. He became fluent in Spanish and “developed a true love for the people,” family members said.

Morris was an active member of Boy Scouts of America, where he advanced to Order of the Arrow. In May of 1999, he received the Seagull Award from the Los Angeles Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America for his “attributes, ability and desire to become a great leader, not only in church, but the community as well.” He also served as a merit badge counselor.

Funeral services are scheduled for Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 12425 Orizaba Ave., in Downey. A viewing will take place 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. prior to the service. Interment will be at Rose Hill Memorial Park, at Gate 10.

Morris was preceded in death by two sisters: Elizabeth Morris in 1977 and Evelyn Morris in 2008.

He is survived by his parents, D. Mark Morris and Pamela Morris; sisters, Allison Marshall, Kathryn Morris and Sharon Morris; and one brother, Wayne Morris.



James Wagy owned Russell's Bike Shop

DOWNEY – James R. Wagy, 73, passed away Feb. 2 at the VA hospital in Long Beach.

He was born and raised in Downey and graduated from Downey High School in 1954. He was a veteran and served in the U.S. Air Force.

Wagy was the owner of Russell's Bike Shop until 1981. The shop was founded in 1944 by his parents, Russell and Freda Wagy, pioneers of Downey.

He was a longtime member of the Masons, Downey Lodge 220.

He is survived by his children, Vicky, Michael and Russell; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Joseph William Peck funeral today

DOWNEY – Joseph William Peck passed away Feb. 6 in Downey. He was born in Philadelphia on Aug. 14, 1929. He moved to Spokane, Wash., where he met and married Sheila, his wife of 56 years.

They moved to Downey where he worked for Mobil Oil Corp. He was an active member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Knights of Columbus and the Elks Lodge.

He was preceded in death by his son, Jimmy, and one brother and sister.

He is survived by three sisters; children, Joseph, Shannon, Mary Kayo, Megan, Danny and Erin; and 17 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held today at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church at 11 a.m. Interment will take place Monday at Riverside National Cemetery with military honors.

Sick Downey boy honored for courage

DOWNEY – A young boy who is recovering from a rare and painful illness has been awarded the Hero of the Month award through national charity Kids Wish Network and participating facility Kaiser Permanente in Bellflower.

Miguel Cabrera is a 6-year-old boy from Downey who was admitted to Kaiser Permanente with red, bloody blisters covering his body. He was originally thought to have Kawasaki's disease, but the prognosis turned out to be Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, an extremely rare condition which originates with flu-like symptoms and results in red blisters which cover your body and cause the top layer of the skin to die and shed.

The blisters were so severe that they developed in Miguel's eyes and he temporarily lost his vision. Despite all the pain and hospitalization, Miguel's mother said his condition is improving.

“He is doing better but he's still in the healing process,” said Miguel's mom, Norma. “Doctors said sometimes it takes a full year for recovery. My son endured a lot of pain. I will never forget the day he told me he didn't want to die. It broke my heart into a million pieces.”

The staff at Kaiser Permanente in Bellflower decided to nominate Miguel as the Hero of the Month for his strength and courage.

“We wanted to choose him because what he went through was

very difficult especially for a six year old,” said Miguel's child life specialist at Kaiser. “He was better than an adult would be considering what he's gone through. The whole family was amazing.”

The Kids Wish Network Hero of the Month program honors children aged 3-18 who have overcome a difficult or traumatic event and shown great courage in doing so. The recipients of the award are given a T-shirt, certificate and gift card valued between \$200 and \$500 depending on their age.

“It was such a joy to see our son overwhelmed with happiness. He is happy to know he is considered a Hero,” said Norma. “Miguel loves his award. He is so happy.”

Miguel's gift card was valued at \$200. Norma said that he hasn't spent it yet, but is looking forward to doing so.

She said he keeps asking his family what they would like him to buy for them.

Hospital recruiting new nurses

LAKEWOOD – Lakewood Regional Medical Center, in an effort to address the nationwide nursing shortage, is offering an 18-week residency to prepare aspiring RNs for their first jobs.

The Versant Residency Program was designed “by nurses for nurses,” hospital officials said.

“Lakewood is investing in its nursing staff to provide a higher standard of care for the community,” said Jodi Hein, chief nursing officer at Lakewood Regional. “This program will increase our staff numbers and better prepare our nurses for the professional and emotional aspects of their careers.”

“The residency program not only benefits patients, but nurses, ancillary staff, administrators and physicians,” she added.

Students who enroll in the program will receive instruction on current and emerging clinical guidelines; personalized bedside training; debriefing sessions “that offer a forum for exchange among participants”; mentors who provide personal support and career development; and an online tool to monitor progress.

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the number of people age 65 or older in 2008 represented 12.8 percent of the population. By 2030, that number is expected to reach 20 percent.

Hospitals nationwide are preparing to recruit and train registered nurses to help care for the aging population.

“I am excited that Lakewood Regional Medical Center and Tenet Healthcare have the foresight to invest in our future nurses,” said Terri Newton, assistant chief nursing officer and program coordinator. “The program can only improve the quality of care that this hospital provides.”

Anyone interested in applying for the Versant Residency Program at Lakewood Regional should contact Human Resources at (562) 602-6725.

David Masciave was longtime barber

DOWNEY – Longtime Downey resident and barber David Masciave passed away Jan. 28 at the age of 66.

Masciave was a barber in Downey for more than 47 years.

He was born in Rochester, N.Y. and moved to Downey with his family in 1958.

He is survived by his wife, Marge; son, Michael; step-daughter, Andrea; grandson, Jerod; brothers, Vincent and George; sisters, Maryanne and Gloria; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Feb. 20 at Florence Avenue Foursquare Church, 11457 Florence Ave., in Santa Fe Springs, at 11 a.m.



Shirley Zrelak was longtime resident

DOWNEY – Shirley Ann Zrelak, a longtime Downey resident, passed away Feb. 6 in Sun City, Ariz. She was 80.

She was born in San Bernardino on Oct. 15, 1929, to Vincent and Esther Woolsey. She enjoyed playing the piano and had hopes of playing professionally.

She enjoyed shopping, reading and travel, and made many trips to destinations such as Rio, Germany and Japan.

Zrelak belonged to Soroptimist International of Downey and the Catholic Daughters, and was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Zrelak, and daughter, Sandra Gaskill.

She is survived by her family, including John Zrelak of The Dalles, Ore.; Kathy Parmaley, of Glendale, Ariz.; Tim Zrelak, of Downey; grandchildren, John, Joey, Dwayne, Dianna, Andrea, Laura, Devon and Aidan; three great-grandchildren; and other friends and family.

Services will be held Saturday at 7 p.m. at Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary. Interment will take place at Riverside National Cemetery on Monday at 10 a.m.



Arts festival in La Habra Heights

LA HABRA HEIGHTS – The Hillcrest Festival of Fine Arts will celebrate its 50th year when it's presented Feb. 26-28 in La Habra Heights.

Food and entertainment will be available, and visitors can browse and shop for a variety of art, including watercolor and oil paintings, sculptures, photography, ceramics, pottery, handmade jewelry, glass, woodwork, hand-woven clothing and more.

Admission to the festival is free. The festival will be held at Hillcrest Church, 2000 West Road, in La Habra Heights.

For more information, call (562) 947-3755.



Six-year-old Miguel Cabrera, diagnosed with Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, has been named “Hero of the Month” by the Kids Wish Network for his bravery in battling the disease.

SAVE THE DATE

March 27, 2010

www.arcwalk.org

A one or three mile Walk to raise funds for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

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Walk Starts at

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Arc is a private non-profit organization serving over 400 people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities every day in 14 different programs.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION (BS124251)
 NOTICE IS GIVEN that on March 4, 2010 at 8:45 a.m., or as soon after that time as the matter may be heard, petitioner Jennifer DeKay-Givens will move for an order pursuant to Government Code §6008 adjudicating The Downey Patriot as a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Downey and County of Los Angeles. The hearing will be held in Department 19 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.
 The Petition sets forth the following:
 1. Petitioner, Jennifer DeKay-Givens, is publisher of the newspaper known as The Downey Patriot, which is seeking adjudication under Government Code §6008 as a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Downey.
 2. The Downey Patriot is published for the dissemination of local or telegraphic news and intelligence of a general character in the City of Downey, California. The business address is 8301 E. Florence Avenue, Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.
 3. The Downey Patriot has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers, and substantial paid distribution in the City of Downey.
 4. For more than three years preceding the filing of the petition, the petitioning newspaper has been established under the name of The Downey Patriot, and has been so established and published, that is, issued and sold or distributed regularly every Friday in the City of Downey.
 5. During each of the three-year period preceding the filing of this petition, the newspaper has maintained a minimum coverage of local news and intelligence of a general character of not less than twenty-five percent of its total inches; it has a principal office of publication located in the City of Downey, County of Los Angeles.
 WHEREFORE, petitioner prays that The Downey Patriot be adjudicated pursuant to Government Code §6008 as a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Downey, Downey Judicial District, County of Los Angeles, State of California.
 DATED: November 11, 2009
 LISA GRACE-KELLOGG
 Attorney for Petitioner
 Published in The Downey Patriot, #VS019238 2/12/10, 2/19/10

Call Linda Larson to put your ad in The Downey Patriot Classifieds section
 Deadline is Wednesday at 11:00 am
 (562) 904-3668

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 Advertising Space will be Friday Feb. 12, 2010 @ Noon PM
 Classifieds will be Wednesday Feb. 17, 2010 @ 11:00 PM

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www.TheDowneyPatriot.com

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De La Torre lands key endorsement

SACRAMENTO — Local Assemblyman Hector De La Torre, who represents south Downey in the state Assembly, has been endorsed by the California Medical Association in the race for state insurance commissioner.

In his five years in the state Assembly, De La Torre has supported “expanding access to health care, ensuring patients get the coverage they deserve and holding insurers accountable,” the California Medical Association said in a press release announcing the endorsement.

“Hector De La Torre has fought hard for patients and courageously taken on insurance companies to demand transparency and accountability,” said Brennan Cassidy, M.D., president of CMA. “California’s physicians are proud to endorse Hector De La Torre for insurance commissioner because we know he will do an outstanding job.”

In 2007, De La Torre authored AB 1342, which prohibits insurers from refusing to pay for a medical treatment after it has been authorized and provided. The legislation was signed into law and took effect in 2008.

In 2008 and 2009, De La Torre authored measures sponsored by CMA to tackle the growing problem of insurance companies canceling coverage for patients after they become sick and medical bills begin to mount. A congressional investigation last year found that three insurers used rescissions to cancel more than 20,000 policies over five years, saving the companies \$300 million in claims.

AB 1945 and AB 2 both sought to create an independent board to review decisions made by health insurers and health plans to cancel coverage for patients after they get sick. The legislation also would have forced insurers to continue providing coverage until receiving a ruling from the board.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed both bills.

Rummage sale for candidate

BELLFLOWER — A rummage sale with proceeds benefiting the campaign of Assembly candidate P.J. Mellana will be held Feb. 20 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 14515 Eastbrook Ave. in Bellflower.

Mellana is a candidate for the state Assembly’s 50th District, which includes southern parts of Downey and other local cities. Primary elections are in June.

Mellana will be on hand for a meet-and-greet.

For more information, visit www.vote4orpj.com.

Family Feud



Local family to appear on ‘Feud’

DOWNEY — The Banks family of Downey will be featured on an episode of the “Family Feud,” scheduled to air Monday at 6 p.m. on KCAL Channel 9.

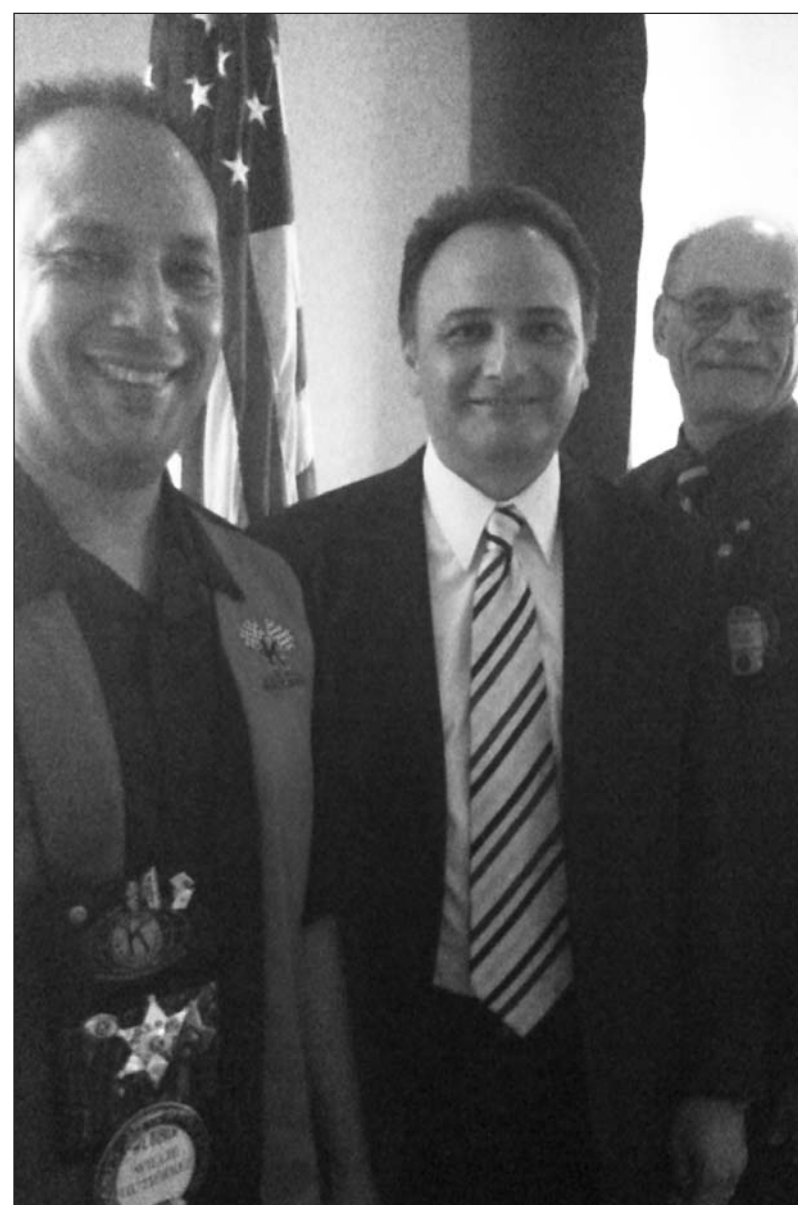
The Banks family includes Tez, a professional basketball player overseas; cousin Nikki, president

of a female motorcycle club; mom Ta-Nia, a city worker; sister Jayme, who is self-employed; and cousin Ron, a professional basketball player in the NBA developmental league.

The new season of “Family Feud” institutes new changes to the

show, including a “bull’s eye” round, and an increased prize of up to \$30,000 at the end of the Fast Money Round.

Families that win for five days in a row also receive a new car.



Gilbert Livas, assistant city manager for the city of Downey, was guest speaker at the morning meeting of Downey Kiwanis this week. Livas spoke about new and completed projects in Downey, and the revitalization of the downtown area. He is pictured above with, at left, Willie Gutierrez, president of Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis and school board member, and Councilman David Gafin, right.

Free pretzels on Feb. 20

DOWNEY — Auntie Anne’s at Stonewood Center is offering consumers the opportunity to taste a freshly-baked soft pretzel on Feb. 20 free of charge.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Auntie Anne’s will give visitors one free Original or Cinnamon Sugar pretzel.

Auntie Anne’s can text message consumers to visit the store for their free pretzel. For a reminder, text WAKEUP to 80565.

For more information, visit www.freepretzelday.com.

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 Tuesday at Temple Ner Tamid.

Mathieu’s lecture is titled “Smile: No Groan-Ups Allowed.”

The program begins at 10:30 a.m. and is followed by lunch. 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 Watch at City Hall

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 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.


College hosting 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, 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.



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<p>BACK ON MARKET!</p>  <p>AFFORDABLE BUY! 2 BD, 1 BA home in E. LA on a R-3 Lot Priced at: \$249,900 Call Carrie for info 562-382-1252</p>	<p>CALL NOW!</p>  <p>OPEN HOUSE 3 BD, 1.75 BA, 2 car garage, pool. 7544 Cleargrove Call for Times Priced at: \$429,000 Call Marie Picarelli @ 562-618-0033</p>	<p>CALL NOW!</p>  <p>ORIGINAL OWNER Lovely N. Downey home w/ 3 BD, 2 BA, newer roof, paint, A/C, over 1,700 sq. ft., Standard Sale! Call Mario for more details 562-533-7433</p>
<p>REduced!</p>  <p>PROBATE SALE Charming 2 BD, 2 1/2 BA Downey condo, w/ 2 car garage & patio. Call Carrie for info 562-382-1252</p>	<p>WOW!</p>  <p>NORTH EAST DOWNEY! 8 BD, 8 BA, 3 car garage, pool/ spa, 7,352 sq. ft., 10,440 sq. ft. lot. Priced at: \$1,575,000 Call Marie Picarelli @ 562-618-0033</p>	<p>WOW!</p>  <p>OWNER MAY CARRY! 3 BD, 3 BA, nearly 2300 sq. ft. of living space, + rumpus room HUGE 14700 sq. ft. lot!! Virtual tour at www.MARIOERSICO.COM Call Mario for a private showing 562-533-7433</p>
<p>IN ESCROW!</p>  <p>EXTRAS GALORE! 2 BD, 2 BA, remodeled, Downey home. Priced at: \$369,900 Call Carrie for info 562-382-1252</p>	<p>WANT TO INVEST?</p>  <p>2 Units, 3 BD, 1 BA & 1 BD, 1 BA, 2 car garage Priced at ONLY: \$260,000 Call Ben & Stephanie Banuelos (562) 217-8384</p>	<p>FOR SALE SOON!</p>  <p>4 BD, 2 BA, over 2,500 sq. ft. of living space, everything freshly updated. STANDARD SALE! Call Mario for more details 562-533-7433</p>
<p>RENTALS AVAILABLE!</p> <p>11705 1/2 Coldbrook - Downey 2 BD, 1 BA Apt., washer & dryer included. \$1,200 - Month</p> <p>8951 & 53 Atlantic, South Gate 640 sq. ft. commercial \$650 - Month 985 sq. ft. commercial 1,000 - Month CALL CARRIE TODAY 562-382-1252</p>	<p>SOLD!!!</p>  <p>329 65TH ST. LONG BEACH 2 BD, lrg family room w/ fireplace, 1,203 sq. ft., 4,000 sq. ft. lot. SOLD FOR \$299,000 Call Pam Lee (562) 618-0390</p>	<p>MARIO DID IT AGAIN...</p> <p>IN ESCROW</p>  <p>7834 4TH ST. ~ DOWNEY Huge Master Suite. Glorious kitchen & Family room 4 BD, 3BA, 3000 + Sq ft. Remodeled. MAKE OFFER!! I CAN SELL YOURS TOO! CALL MARIO TODAY!</p>
<p>AVOID PROBATE!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living Trusts Wills <p>Call Today to make Your Living Trust!!! CALL CARRIE TODAY! (562) 382-1252</p>	<p>Thinking about a career in Real Estate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLASSES START NOW!!! COMPLETE IN ONLY 8 WEEKS! ALL 3 COURSES JUST \$299 <p>CALL TODAY!!! 562-861-7257</p>	<p>ATTENTION!!!</p> <p>MARIO IS NOW TAKING LISTINGS! LOW Inventory of Homes + LOTS of Buyers TOP \$\$\$ FOR YOUR HOME! Call For a FREE CONSULTATION! (562) 533-7433 MARIO PERSICO SELLS DOWNEY! Born*Educated*Lives*Worships in Downey!</p>

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Michael BERDELIS
"The 24 Hour Agent"
(562) 818-6111
www.MichaelBerdelis.com
#1 Agent in Downey
50 homes sold in 2009!

Call Michael for a FREE Market Evaluation
or FREE Short Sale Analysis!



<p>Cash Flow! 5 units in Huntington Park! 2 BD, 1 BA House + four 1-BD units! Price: \$499,900 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>	<p>One of a Kind 4 BR, 3 BA Downey home in cul-de-sac with large master suite and remodeled kitchen. Price: \$525,000 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>	<p>Don't Miss This! 3 BD, 2 BA home w/ new kitchen, master BD, liv rm & fam rm, new windows, new roof, and large yard. Price: \$529,000 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>
<p>OPEN HOUSE</p>  <p>A-1 Neighborhood! Lg 3 BD, 2 BA home in the NE Dow area boasting an open floorplan w/ almost 2,000 sq ft living space & a master BD and BA. This 7,500 sq ft lot is perfect for RV parking! Price: \$529,000 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111</p>	<p>Northeast Downey Pool Home! 4 BD (possible 5th BD) including master suite, 2 BA pool home with new kitchen with granite counter tops and new cabinets, and large yard with newer pool. Price: \$565,000 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111</p>	<p>NE Downey Development! 5 BD + loft (possible 6th BD) 4 BA w/ 3,839 sq ft, large re-landscaped backyard & 4 car att. Garage. Price: \$990,000 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>
<p>New Construction on Large Lot! 6 BD, 5BA, 4,770 sq ft., on a 13,661 sq ft lot w/ pool and 3 car detached garage. Enjoy such palatial living at a great price. Price: \$1,150,000 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>	<p>Fabulous Custom-Built Home! 5BD, 5BA home on a large lot near Rio Hondo Country Club and Furman Park. Features: Master suite with wet bar and fireplace, intercom and surveillance system. Price: \$1,225,000 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111</p>	<p>The Perfect Palace! 6 BD, 7BA, 7,500 sq ft, 10,890 sq ft lot, dual-staircase entry, Vegas-style master suite, and resort-like backyard. Price: \$1,249,000 Call Michael @ 562-818-6111</p>

View these homes at: www.MichaelBerdelis.com

Downey High School wrestling

The Downey High School wrestling team will compete for the CIF title tomorrow at El Camino College. The team grappled with and defeated Warren High School on Feb. 2.

Photos by Carlos Ontiveros

