



The Downey Patriot



Eagle Scout status
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Musical plays final weekend
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TLC marks 10 years
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Friday, March 5, 2010

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



Saab will run for City Council

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Local attorney Alexis “Alex” Saab will run for the City Council’s District 4 seat, set to be vacated by Mayor Anne Bayer in November.

According to a press release announcing his candidacy, Saab graduated from UC Irvine and received a juris doctorate degree from Loyola Law School. He opened his Downey law firm business shortly after graduation.

“Growing up in Downey, I feel a sense of debtness to the city,” Saab said in a telephone interview. “I love the city very much. I feel now is a good time to try to contribute in any way I can.”

Saab, 34, praised the accomplishments of the current council, calling them “great.”

“The city’s done well attracting new businesses and I think we need to continue that path,” said Saab, who sits on the board of directors for the Downey Chamber of Commerce. “Downey has a tradition of fiscally conservative councils and our budget reflects that. We’ve had our problems, but compared regionally and even internationally, Downey has shown they can save for a rainy day.”

The city is currently facing a \$4.8 million budget deficit. A subcommittee was formed last week to look at options on how to deal with it.

Asked for ideas on how he would trim the budget, Saab said “we need to make sure we don’t cut any jobs.”

“My priority is to ensure no staff members are laid off,” he said. “Second, we’ll have to evaluate spending and, if necessary, make some adjustments. Obviously that is something that would have to be studied more closely.”

Regarding housing downtown, Saab, who serves on numerous committees of the Downey Board of Realtors, said he “hasn’t taken a position.”

“I think many residents don’t want housing there, but I haven’t taken a position because I’m not privy to not all the requirements regarding funds.”

How can Downey be improved? By encouraging more business, Saab said.

“People want to see that downey is being proactive,” said Saab, who serves as a trustee for the Southeast District Bar Association. “I think people want to see their government be proactive and not just wait around for the economy to improve.”

Bayer will be termed out of office this November. Councilman Mario Guerra faces reelection in District 2.

Saab said he has lived in Downey his entire life. He is married to Giovanna and together they have a 1 1/2-year-old son named Dominic.

Arc funding plummets to ‘record low’

■ Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County counting on March 27 Arc Walk.

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – With funding and contributions at a record low, the Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County is counting on its 14th annual Arc Walk on March 27 to help raise awareness, hope and financial support for its many participants and programs.

Since the economic downturn, the 54-year-old organization has suffered due to a decrease in donations from the community and a lack of funding from state agencies, but Executive Director Kevin MacDonald hopes this year’s Arc Walk for Independence will cultivate both hope and money.

“We are absolutely struggling like never before,” said MacDonald. “But we have a huge responsibility to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to provide them with the highest quality of life.”

Founded in 1956, the non-profit Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County in Downey provides vital services and training for over 400 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. From job training to basic education classes, the Arc offers its participants several programs to help



PHOTO BY ART MONTOYA

Officials with Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County, which serves people with mental and developmental disabilities, say they are “struggling like never before.” The annual Arc Walk fundraiser is scheduled for March 27.

support their full inclusion and participation in all aspects of the community.

“We don’t want them to sit at home on the couch all day,” said MacDonald. “They’re incredible human beings – they deserve help from the greater community. We want to change that mindset that they can’t do anything – they are worthy of decent programming.”

Since 1997, the organization has hosted the Arc Walk for Independence, which provides both a 1 and 3 mile route for registered walkers who donate \$10 to the Arc. Starting at Acapulco Restaurant and Cantina, the walk travels west on Firestone Blvd. to Lakewood Blvd., up to Florence Ave., around to Woodruff and back to Firestone.

“It’s a very unifying morning for people – to walk with people of disabilities,” MacDonald said. “I love it because we’re educating people. It’s really not about the money – it’s about a morning of giving hope to people who don’t get a lot of hope 364 days of the year.”

Despite economic challenges, the Arc Walk is still being supported by major corporations and companies who not only give monetary donations, but also send employees to attend the event. This year’s walk is being sponsored by LA County Supervisor Don Knabe who donated \$10,000 to the organization.

Also, Coca-Cola, Wescom Credit Union, Century 21 My Real Estate Co., All American Home Center and Stonewood Center are just some of the dozens of companies and individuals banding together to support the annual walk.

Although many corporations have pledged their support, MacDonald hopes the community will do the same.

“Our financials are as tough as any small business right now, but if we do the right thing for these people, it will work out,” he said. “We’re grateful for our own families – now we need to reach out and help other families and their way of life.”



Karen Carpenter would have been 60

BY JON KONJOYAN

It’s hard to imagine Karen Carpenter as a “senior citizen,” but March 2 marked what would have been her 60th birthday. (She died February 4, 1983 of cardiac arrest due to her battle with anorexia. She was 32.)

Today we remember Karen for her remarkable gift to the music world, and for her influence on so many contemporary artists, from Madonna and Chrissie Hynde to Sonic Youth and Gwen Stefani. But we also remember Karen as she wanted to be remembered, as a good person. She once said about the Carpenters: “We want to be remembered for our contribution to music. That’s the main thing in our lives: to present what comes from within us through our music. We want to be remembered as good musicians and nice people.”

Interest in the Carpenters continues to grow. Last year marked the 40th anniversary of the duo’s signing to A&M, and a commemorative CD release, “40/40,” hit #1 in Japan. Meanwhile, a fantasy novel about Karen called “Leave Yesterday Behind” was published, while a new book about the Carpenters by Randy Schmidt, “Little Girl Blue,” is due this summer.

If you grew up in the ‘70’s, Carpenters music was part of the soundtrack of your life. For the 1973 liner notes of “The Singles” hits collection, Digby Diehl wrote: “Although the Carpenters have been recording for only four years, it is already difficult to remember a sunny afternoon at the beach without them.” It was true. In that pre-YouTube, MySpace and iTunes era, when radio was virtually the only place to hear new music, their hits played non-stop from 1970 through about 1977. Their 1978 Christmas album became a modern classic and is a holiday airplay staple to this day. In 1981, they returned to the Top 40 one last time before Karen’s untimely passing.

Because Karen’s voice was ubiquitous, many people took it for granted. But she received well-deserved accolades from many of her peers, some of which are worth noting here. John Lennon once told her “You’ve got a fabulous voice,” while Paul McCartney reportedly called it “the best female voice in the world—melodic, tuneful, and distinctive.”

What made the voice so distinctive? A&M Records’ top brass Herb Alpert, who signed the duo, believed that Karen was drawing from her “dark side” when she sang. “A common trait in all great performers, instrumentalists or

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Looking back on...

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – In 1907, a petition began to circulate around the newly established community of Downey.

However, unlike other formal written requests, this petition was not political in nature, but rather religious. For the nearly 100 early Catholic settlers who sent the letter, a positive response would be the first step needed to establish a parish in the thriving city.

By December the settlers had their answer as Bishop Thomas Conaty announced that mass would be said in Downey every Sunday, a rare occurrence for Catholics living in a developing Los Angeles County.

As a result of the earnest petition and hardworking parishioners, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church would steadily grow from a small mission parish to a large Catholic community, giving birth to five subsequent parishes in the area. The 100-year-old church now stands as one of Downey’s oldest houses of faith.

Before services were regularly held in the city, Catholics living in Downey during the late 1800s had to travel outside city borders every week to attend mass in Los Angeles and San Gabriel.

Occasionally, Franciscan fathers would come to Downey to celebrate mass for Catholic families, but the majority of parishioners would journey to St. Joseph’s Church in Los Angeles after it was erected in 1888.

In 1908, after Bishop Conaty arranged for services in Downey

every week, Rev. P.J. McGrath of St. Aloysius Church was assigned responsibility for the Catholic population in Downey. He would travel to the city every Sunday.

Soon after Fr. McGrath began conducting services, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Monterey and Los Angeles purchased property from Downey Land and Improvement Association described as “a triangular lot bounded on the east by Crawford Street (which is now Downey Avenue), on the south by Fifth St. and on the west by New Street.

In 1909, a small frame church was built facing Fifth St. where Our Lady of Perpetual Help’s rectory and parking lot are located today. This original building was named in honor of St. Anthony and served as the church and later the parish hall for 43 years.

St. Anthony’s boundaries stretched from the Los Angeles River on the west to the San Gabriel River on the east, and from just south of Slauson Ave. on the north, to Imperial Highway on the south.

For years, Catholics from all across the region attended St. Anthony’s Church each week, and as the parish’s membership grew, the small mission church quickly became a large parent church, sponsoring and establishing churches in surrounding cities.

The church even took a new name in the early 1920s when the Redemptorist fathers who were assigned to the parish changed it to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

In 1927, Our Lady of Perpetual Help oversaw the establishment of Our Lady of the Rosary in



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN BROWN

Architects Newton and Murray designed a historic Italian Romanesque structure, inspired by St. Francis Assisi Church in Italy. The church was remodeled after the 1987 Whittier-Narrows Earthquake.

Paramount, which was called Clearwater at the time.

Later, Our Lady of Perpetual Help was sectioned off to establish St. Gertrude Church in Bell Gardens in 1938, St. Mariana de Paredes in 1950 in Pico Rivera, Bellflower’s St. Dominic Savio Church in 1954, and, finally, St. Raymond’s in Downey in 1956. All of these churches are still open today.

By the late 1920s, Downey’s population was around 5,500 with an estimated 75 Catholic families. The parish was expanding and in the opinion of Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Morris Smith it was time for a new church building.

In 1929, local industrialist E.M. Smith of EMSCO Aircraft and his wife, Mimmie, approached the

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“Rodgers and Hart – A Celebration” is now in its final weekend at the Downey Theatre. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. For tickets and information, call (562) 923-1714. Pictured above are veteran Downey Civic Light Opera actors Charlotte Carpenter and Joe Culliton who star in “Rodgers and Hart.”

Child support scofflaws finally paying up

■ County has collected \$9 million after cracking down on child support evaders.

LOS ANGELES – More than \$9 million in unpaid child support has been collected over the past two years from Los Angeles County’s worst child support evaders, according to a report from county Supervisor Don Knabe.

The evaders represent “a small group of parents who go to great lengths to avoid the law and avoid caring for their children by not paying their child support obligations,” Knabe said.

The county’s Child Support Services Department launched a partnership two years ago with the District Attorney’s office to criminally prosecute parents who spend years avoiding child support payments. The county also launched a “Most Wanted Delinquent Parents” website.

The partnership has resulted in the collection of \$9.1 million in unpaid child support from delinquent parents, Knabe said. Additionally, 95 child support evaders were imposed jail time by the court.

“In virtually every case, these are parents who were given multiple opportunities to comply with criminal court orders but who repeatedly failed to live up to the terms of probation they accepted after conviction or after entering

pleas of no contest,” Knabe’s office said in a statement.

A team of law enforcement personnel pursue arrest warrants issued for parents charged with crimes for failing to support their children. Investigators have cleared 1,778 warrants by arresting or citing defendants or convincing them to surrender voluntarily in court, county statistics show. An additional 188 warrants have been cleared by other law enforcement agencies.

Of the 33 men and women that have been featured on the Most Wanted website, 15 have been arrested and six surrendered. The remaining 12 are “currently the subjects of active investigation,” county officials said.

Fundraiser for baseball team

DOWNEY – A fundraising trip to Stateline to benefit the Downey Express travel baseball organization will be held April 17.

Proceeds from the event will help fund state tournaments, equipment and uniforms.

To reserve a seat, or submit a donation, call Betty Mora at (562) 412-9113 or Dianne Pacheco at (562) 889-3816.

Despite tough times, Downey Adult School forging ahead

■ Employers are being picky, so students are learning new skills.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Because of the tough economic times, some adult schools in the southland have crashed and burned. Others, particularly the Downey Adult School (DAS) Career and Education Center, thrive. Why?

Roger Brossmer, who came aboard in 2003 and became adult school principal in 2005, offers the following reasons for the school’s success: excellent programs, hard-hitting management, fiscal acumen, updated technology. There is more, but these are the most important, he said.

When a news item reported that adult education classes at the Escondido Adult School “are ‘bursting’ as the unemployed and underemployed are trying to better themselves by learning new skills,” Brossmer said exactly the same thing is happening here in Downey.

A new wrinkle has also developed as people get laid off: they can’t get re-employed without a diploma (before, they could). Another consequence of this: employers can get picky.

Thus, high school/GED classes are conducted during the day, the evening and on the weekend—with 362 people enrolled, with a large increase in men.

If this doesn’t impress you, perhaps the following programs (as described and summarized for the most part by Brossmer) which enjoy the biggest demand, will:

•Vocational Nursing – two programs a year are now offered: for each class DAS tests over 600 applicants to fill just 30 spots.

•Medical Assistant (also a very popular class in Escondido) – now offer three classes, morning, afternoon, and evening: all classes are full, while 41 students attended the last orientation. (A similar phenomenon is happening in the case of Pharmacy Technician,

Medical Biller Coder, and Dental Assistant (a new program, and full)).

•Court Reporting – the program has doubled in size over the past two years

•ESL – classes are full, with close to 800 students enrolled; waiting lists for most levels.

•Computer Office Skills – day, evening and Saturday classes offered, to phase out Windows 2007 and offer Office 2010 in the fall; to stay on the ‘cutting edge’ of technology.

“To give even more flexibility to our students,” Brossmer noted, “DAS has expanded our online options.”

Because the district’s priority is to apply its education funds to its K-12 program, DAS’ basic source of funding (its \$6 million allocation) is vulnerable, especially as the economic crisis lengthens and deepens.

The school’s course of action? Raise fees.

Where before, ESL and high school diploma/GED were offered free of charge, now it costs the student \$45; Medical Assistant and Pharmacy Technician courses now cost \$1,595, while Vocational Nursing now commands \$5,995. Still, as compared to prices charged by private schools, DAS’ offerings are a bargain (Brossmer says most vocational nursing programs charge between \$25,000 and \$30,000). The quality is the



same, even higher here in some cases, he says.

This begs the question, “Why do students pay these huge amounts?”

The number one reason, of course, is the classical “imperfect information” (to offset this, DAS has engaged in aggressive promotion: thus it has its brochure, mail and online promo, print ads, signage).

DAS emphasized it also has several financial aid programs to help students, federal Pell grants

foremost among them. It also has begun partnering with the Downey Federal Credit Union, to provide loans to students.

The bottom line in all this, Brossmer said, is: “Our product offering is topnotch, adjudged the fastest growing, as well as the 15th largest, adult school in the state. Despite fee increases, attendance is up. Whether it will fall victim to draconian state budget cuts down the road, is beyond our control.”

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Carpenter: 'Finest female singer of her generation.'

Continued from page 1

singers," Alpert said, "is that great quality that tugs at your heart. It doesn't come from that bubbly, 'up' side of their personality. It always comes from their undercurrent of reality."

Composer Henry Mancini said "Karen had a quality about her that was so vulnerable, so exposed that she just demanded attention." He believed this is because "whatever she sang came right from the heart." Her voice, he concluded, was "the manifestation of everything within her. Maybe if she had more self-esteem, it wouldn't have been the same voice."

Journalist Paul Lester wrote: "Karen was the finest female singer of her generation, possessed of perfect pitch, able to soar between octaves in a single verse. (She had) that rare ability to share

moments of incredible intimacy with the listener, to sound as though she was singing just for you."

Pop music historian Paul Grein agreed: "If you made a checklist of the qualities of a great singer, Karen had them all: tremendous presence, a natural, conversational ease, and impeccable intonation and control. But a checklist couldn't begin to capture the emotion that she put into everything she sang. Karen had a remarkable facility for peeling away the outer layers of a song and getting to its core. And once she located a song's essential truth, she would relate it as if she were singing just to you."

Happy Birthday, KC. We miss you.
Jon Konjoyan is a music promoter and journalist.



Mursu a 'Bold Woman'

DOWNEY – Sadie Mursu has been named "Bold Woman of the Year" for 2010 by Christ Lutheran Church in Downey.

Mursu was recognized Feb. 28 for her work in the parish and the community.

As a community organizer, Mursu founded Alert Block Parents of Paramount, a coalition of parents, school district staff and the Sheriff's Department to identify and help at-risk youth. She headed the program from the early 1960s to 1976.

She volunteered 13 years as a secretary at Faith Lutheran Church (now Fe Y Esperanza) and was a longtime board member of Lutheran Maritime Ministries,

which offers chaplaincy and practical assistance to seafarers in the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports.

While not Finnish herself, Mursu became active in the Finlandia Foundation with her husband Armas, a real Fin. Today she continues as president of the Long Beach chapter of the Finlandia Foundation.

She also continues on the board of the Christian Dart Ball Association – a faith-based social organization – and chairs the Stewardship Committee at Christ Lutheran.

In addition, she is active with Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, singing in the choir and serving as a caretaker to those in need.

"Sadie is indeed an example of a woman acting boldly on her faith in Jesus Christ," the church said in a statement. "We give thanks to God for her faithful and bold leadership."

POET'S CORNER

Dull Times in Downey

They're bored, young apartment row residents,
Sparkling their lives creating incidents,
Roaming Downey's Desperado Street,
Shouting obscenities at each another,
Toking with vendors they easily meet,
Hiding kisses from the view of mother,

Claiming turf, good times, love and self esteem,
Downey's bored, young apartment row residents
Graffiti what they see, hear, think and dream,
Attempting to pass their dull times away
Without having to pay for their play.

–Norma Landa Flores,
Downey

Thought to Inhabit the Mouth

My material well being
thinks my thoughts for me
Only less the poor see
they too ignore me
"money" I sought none
and have none
Call me the sad one
the one made
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a heart that beats
And so will I reign in the
dark width of great peace.

–James Hernandez,
Downey

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Tax Directory

\$1.3 billion available in unclaimed tax refunds

Unclaimed refunds totaling more than \$1.3 billion are awaiting nearly 1.4 million people who did not file a federal income tax return for 2006, the Internal Revenue Service announced today. However, to collect the money, a return for 2006 must be filed with the IRS no later than Thursday, April 15, 2010.

The IRS estimates that the median unclaimed refund for tax-year 2006 is \$604.

Some people may not have filed because they had too little income to require filing a tax return even though they had taxes withheld from their wages or made quarterly estimated payments. In cases where a return was not filed, the law provides most taxpayers with a three-year window of opportunity for claiming a refund. If no return is filed to claim the refund within three years, the money becomes property of the U.S. Treasury.

For 2006 returns, the window closes on April 15, 2010. The law requires that the return be properly addressed, mailed and postmarked by that date. There is no penalty for filing a late return qualifying for a refund. Though back-year tax returns cannot be filed electronically, taxpayers can still speed up their refunds by choosing to have them deposited directly into a checking or savings account.

The IRS reminds taxpayers seeking a 2006 refund that their checks will be held if they have not filed tax returns for 2007 or 2008. In addition, the refund will be applied to any amounts still owed to the IRS and may be used to satisfy unpaid child support or past due federal debts such as student loans.

By failing to file a return, people stand to lose more than refunds of taxes withheld or paid during 2006. For example, most telephone customers, including most cell-phone users, qualify for the one-time telephone excise tax refund. Available only on the 2006 return, this special payment applies to long-distance excise taxes paid on phone service billed from March 2003 through July 2006. The government offers a standard refund amount of \$30 to \$60, or taxpayers can base their refund request on the actual amount of tax paid. For details, see the Telephone Excise Tax Refund page on IRS.gov.

In addition, many low-and-moderate income workers may not have claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC helps individuals and families whose incomes are below certain thresholds, which in 2006 were \$38,348 for those with two or more children, \$34,001 for people with one child and \$14,120 for those with no children. For more information, visit the EITC Home Page.

Current and prior year tax forms and instructions are available on the Forms and Publications page of IRS.gov or by calling toll-free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). Taxpayers who are missing Forms W-2, 1098, 1099 or 5498 for 2006, 2007 or 2008 should request copies from their employer, bank or other payer. If these efforts are unsuccessful, taxpayers can get a free transcript showing information from these year-end documents by calling 1-800-829-1040, or by filing Form 4506-T, Request for Transcript of Tax Return, with the IRS.

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Bring back local fix-it shops

By Erica Gies

As the recession drags on, people re-embrace frugality. They hold onto their cars a little longer. They buy used clothing or furniture. But amidst the rush to live within our means, something is missing from the resourcefulness of yesteryear: fix-it shops, home repair know-how, and products that last.

My grandmother lived through the Great Depression. She kept disposable pie tins for reheating her food and darned the holes in my socks. Her peers were similarly thrifty and skilled in basic mending and fixing. In business, cobblers used to resole shoes, and the electronics guy on the corner fixed TVs. Now those tradespeople are mostly gone.

Likewise when we try to fix things ourselves. We often can't buy a single part. Or more maddening, it's cheaper to purchase a whole new blender than to replace a single blade.

The truth is that the economics of small appliances, such as vacuum cleaners, toaster ovens, coffee makers and hair dryers, has been turned upside down, making them de facto disposable products. The same even holds for telephones, televisions, computers, and peripherals.

This is wasteful, unsustainable, and costly to us and to the environment. We've seen the repercussions of our throwaway society in out-sourced jobs, clear-cut forests, glutted landfills, and the rise of toxic electronics dumps in China and elsewhere.

In developing countries, many people still have the will and ability to fix things. Little goes to waste where thrifty, crafty people get entrepreneurial. But in our rush toward affluence, the United States has embraced designed obsolescence and careless consumerism, squandering vital resources and emptying our bank accounts.

There are logical reasons for our wastefulness, the chief of which is grossly underpriced goods that do not reflect their actual cost to the environment or society.

This business-friendly policy is technically termed "cost externalization," but what it truly means is that you and I pick up the tab via much higher taxes to clean up the mess that corporations leave behind. We pay for the environmental harm done by industry during natural resource extraction and waste disposal. We also pay higher healthcare costs, as environmental diseases, such as air pollution-induced asthma, increase. Today, even newborn babies carry a toxic load of industrial chemicals in their bodies.

To change these destructive patterns, we need a new system that makes corporations responsible for their products from cradle to grave (something already happening in Europe). Every product made in or imported to America should undergo a full lifecycle accounting. This means that a third party, other than the manufacturer, ought to calculate the real cost of the product from start to finish, including resource extraction; energy and chemical use in production; energy needed for shipping; and the energy and materials required for reuse, refurbishment, recycling, or disposal.

Companies especially need to step up to the plate and bear the cost of their products' disposal, which will make them more likely to build a valuable product that lasts, rather than crafting from a business model of planned obsolescence. In short order, companies will learn to adopt a zero-waste approach, moving from a linear manufacturing model to a circular one. Waste must be designed out of the system through better product design, cleaner production, and easily fixable products with reusable components.

Such changes sound expensive. In fact, companies that have made such innovations – including Intel, Interface Carpet, and Autodesk – have all saved money when they focus on production and energy efficiencies, consume fewer raw materials, and reuse waste. Many companies are currently producing two sets of products for the European and American markets. This is absurd and wasteful.

Pricing goods at their real cost will make them more valuable to us as well. When they break, we'll be more likely to fix them. Buying fewer replacements will save us money over time. We will also see reduced taxes for environmental cleanup as well as reduced health care costs. Finally, there will be a boom in fix-it shops and repair entrepreneurs.

Our 60-year experiment with the throwaway society has meant that with every product we've tossed, we've also discarded irreplaceable natural resources, energy, and human capital. It's plain foolish. We can do better – and save money while we're at it.

© 2010 www.blueridgepress.com Erica Gies has written for The New York Times, The International Herald Tribune, Wired News, Grist, and E/The Environmental Magazine. She resides in San Francisco, CA.

Organic tobacco not safer than regular variety

Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office has reached an agreement with Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company Inc. over the marketing and advertisement of their organic tobacco products including American Spirit brand cigarettes. The concern is that the current advertisements may mislead consumers into believing that organic tobacco is less harmful than other tobacco.

Attorney General Tom Corbett said that Santa Fe has no reliable, scientific evidence that proves organic tobacco is safer or less harmful than other tobacco.

Corbett said that any deceptive cigarette advertisements would violate the 1998 national tobacco settlement along with various state consumer protection laws.

Letters to the Editor:

Foundation seeks support

Dear Editor:

March 2, 2010 marked one year since my son, Sean, took his life at UC Santa Barbara. The purpose of this letter is not to commemorate his death but to seek support from residents and business members of the city of Downey.

On Feb. 23, myself and friends of Sean attended the Downey City Council meeting seeking a permit to have a 5K run/walk that would start at Stonewood Center and go on to Woodruff Avenue to East Middle School and back to Stonewood. The run is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 11, 2010, which is the last day of the National Suicide Prevention Week.

After my emotional presentation, members of our City Council voiced their concern over setting a precedent by closing Woodruff for approximately one hour. The Council voted 4-1 to have the matter brought back April 13. They instructed city staffers to survey the residents along the route of the run/walk. The request to the city to have this run began in June of 2009 and is now delayed another two months.

Myself and other members of the Amazing Day Foundation elected to start a digital petition seeking support from residents and Downey business people. The goal is to make Downey residents and business members aware of the Amazing Day Foundation purpose and to seek support for the event.

To find out more about the foundation, you may visit the Web page at www.amazingdayfoundation.org. You may find the digitized petition at www.ipetitions.com/petition/amazingdayfoundation/.

The reason for the 5K run/walk is twofold: to raise awareness of the loss of lives to suicide, and as a fundraiser. Please visit the petition page, and if you agree and are willing, please sign the petition.

— **Bob Feliciano,**
Downey

We've been conned

Dear Editor:

We Americans have been conned into believing that the more money we are forced to give to government (taxes), the better off we will be.

Both Progressive Republicans and Democrats have conditioned us to think that by turning to "big government" for "help/programs" that it will solve our problems. As we Californians can see by all the failure around us, the middle man, (government) is not working out the way they say it will. The progressives will say "Oh no. It's not government that is failing, but Capitalism that is failing". That is a lie.

If you look around this great country of ours, you will see some states that are not hurting financially like Utah, Nebraska, Texas, New Hampshire and Virginia. And the states that are the worst off financially are Illinois, New York, Connecticut, California and New Jersey.

Why the gigantic difference? That answer is easy. The States that are doing fine are all run by a majority of fiscally conservative politicians of both political parties. The states that are falling apart are run by the Progressives of both political parties.

It's easy to say our problems are with the Republicans or the Democrats. It's not. It's the Progressive politicians in both parties who think they are smarter with our money than we are. If you look at any government that is not doing well or failing, I will guarantee you that Progressives are in the majority.

Wake up Americans/Californians and start voting for fiscally conservative politicians to handle our hard earned money!

— **Jeffrey East,**
Downey

Parental responsibility

Dear Editor:

In response to the article "Funding for Student Meals Falls Short" (2/26/10), I have only this to say: It is not the job of the federal government to feed children.

It is the job of parents to feed their children.

— **Alaina Niemann,**
Downey

Missing columns

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regards to Eric Pierce's articles in the Downey Patriot. I miss him not writing something for the Editorial section.

I think he writes interesting articles. I always read this section to see what different people write.

Please tell him to start writing things for us to read.

— **Rosemary Thies,**
South Gate

America's unemployment

Dear Editor:

The U.S. Department Bureau of Labor Statistics tells us that presently more than 31 million Americans are unemployed. Faced with the worst economic upheaval since the Great Depression, millions and millions of Americans are hurting – big time. The few of us still alive who lived through the Depression will tell you those 12 years were no picnic. Many of us still have vivid images of that tragic time etched in our memories.

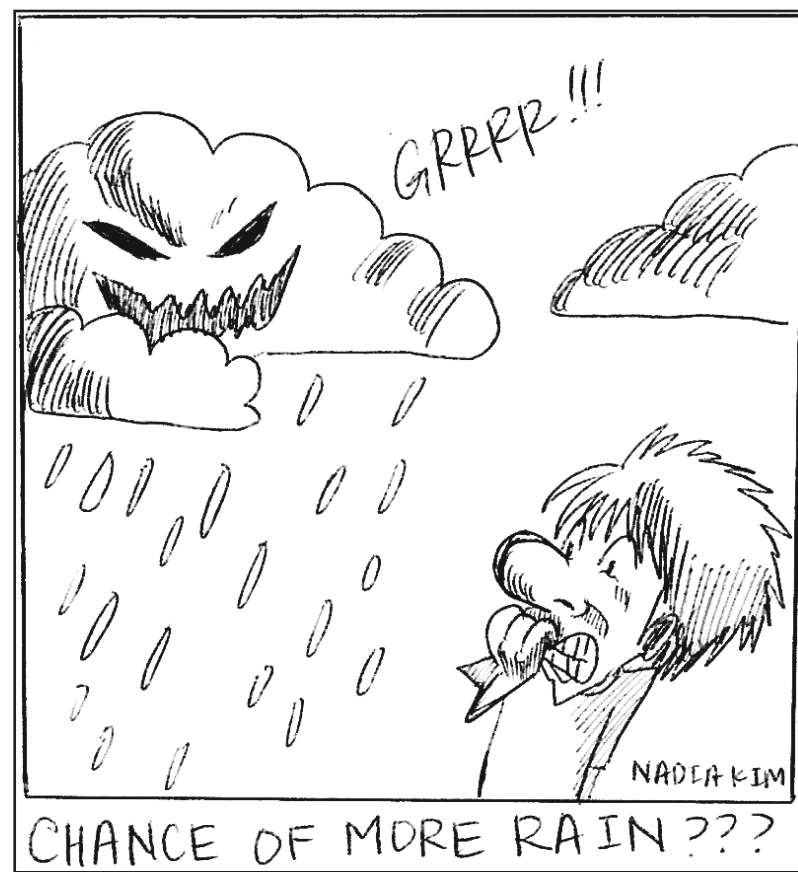
When looking for something to buy such as clothing, electronic equipment, tools or greeting cards (the list is endless), it is all "Made in China" or some other foreign country. The "Made in USA" label is seldom seen.

Many jobs formerly done by Americans have been farmed out or, as they say, "outsourced" to many foreign countries. When calling a technician for help with a purchase we are often connected to people whose English is limited and that makes it difficult to understand them. Many large corporations have moved their operations to foreign countries to have their products manufactured there instead of in the United States.

Washington is working hard to find ways to get our economy back on track but there are no easy solutions.

— **Byron Dillon,**
Downey

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



Seniors face new obstacles in getting care

The California Medical Association renewed its call for Congress to reverse deep Medicare cuts that took effect today and threaten the ability of senior citizens to get access to medical care.

"As physicians, our mission in life is to serve our patients and protect their health," said Brennan Cassidy, MD, president of CMA. "We are incensed that Congress has allowed these cuts to take place and forced many of us to re-evaluate whether we can afford to treat Medicare patients. We hope Congress will act immediately to restore this funding and ensure seniors get the care they need."

Cassidy and other CMA leaders have traveled to Washington, D.C., this week to lobby Congress for quick action. CMA has joined with the American Medical Association, AARP and other groups representing seniors and physicians to demand intervention.

California's congressional Democrats and senators have voted to repeal the formula, known as the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR), mandating the cuts. But, the Senate has failed to approve the measure.

Dr. Doug Woodburn, a general surgeon based in Ventura, Calif., who has been practicing for 20 years said beginning today he would have to stop seeing new Medicare patients. About one-third of Woodburn's patients are on Medicare.

"I have been treating Medicare patients for two decades, but with these cuts I don't think I can continue to do it. For now, I will continue to see new patients with cancer and other urgent problems," Woodburn said. "These are gut-wrenching decisions for physicians to make, but as the government keeps driving the cost of providing health care up and cutting reimbursement – now by more than 20 percent – it's hard to care for patients and keep our practice doors open."

CMA encourages all physicians and seniors to contact their members of Congress and U.S. Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein to advocate for restoring Medicare funding immediately.

The California Medical Association represents more than 35,000 physicians in all modes of practice and specialties. CMA is dedicated to the health of all patients in California.

Muslim group calls for discrimination probe

A prominent national Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization today called on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to investigate allegations that a Texas apartment complex had a policy of refusing to rent to Muslims or segregating them in buildings away from other tenants.

The Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) called on HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity to determine whether StoneBridg at Bear Creek apartment complex in Euless, Tex., violated federal fair housing laws.

According to an investigative media report, former leasing agents for the complex say Muslims, whom managers referred to as "curry people," were routinely refused apartments even when there were vacancies. The leasing agents said they were told by their supervisors that they could only rent to Muslims if they were all kept in two buildings of the 21-building complex.

"All Americans, regardless of faith or ethnic background, have the legal right to equal access to housing," said CAIR National Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper. "The struggle for civil rights will not move forward unless discrimination against one minority group is repudiated by all Americans."

He thanked those former employees of the apartment complex who came forward to expose the alleged discrimination.

Hooper said a recent survey by the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies showed that more than 4 in 10 Americans admit to anti-Muslim prejudice.

CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

The Downey Patriot

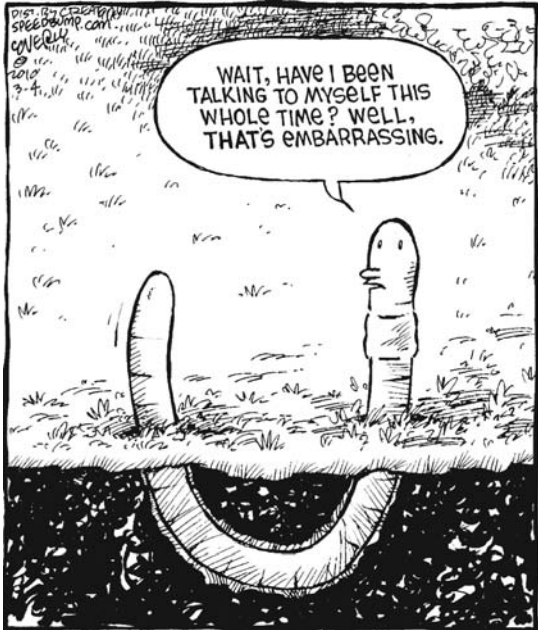
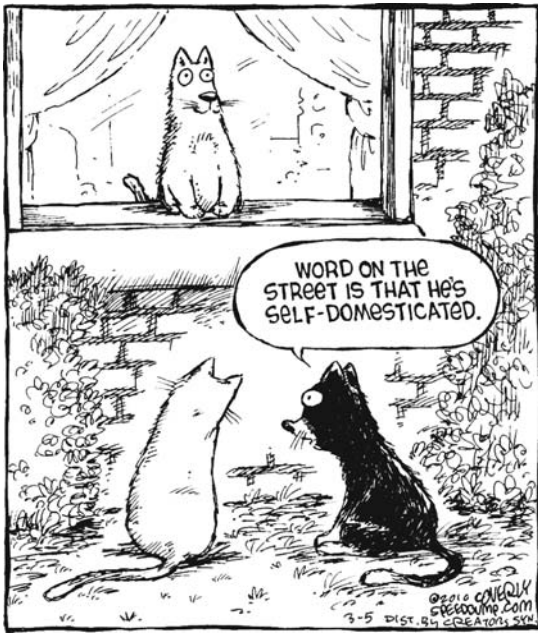
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For March

- Sun. March 7: **Final performance of "Rodgers & Hart"**, Downey Theatre, 2:30 p.m.
- Tues. March 9: **Early literacy class**, Downey City Library, 10:40 a.m.
- Wed. March 10: **MLS workshop**, Downey City Library, 3:30 p.m.
- Thurs. March 11: **Women of Distinction breakfast**, Rio Hondo Event Center, 7:30 a.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.
- Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at 7850 Quill Drive, for info. call John Fiorenza 652-4399.

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 Pearl Koday 633-4355.
- 2nd & 4th Weds., 5:30-9 p.m.: **Lions Club**, at Cafe & Stuff, for information call 803-4048.
- 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park, for info. call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
- 3rd Weds., 6 p.m. - **American Business Women's Association**, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
- 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at Barbara J Riley Center, call 943-5513.
- Wed. & Fri., 10:15 a.m.: **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

Thursdays

- 7:30 a.m.: **Connections Networking**, at Cafe N Stuff, for information, call Sandy Esslinger, (310) 491-8989.
- 7:30 a.m.: **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.
- 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
- 12:30 p.m.: **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.
- 6:30 p.m.: **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.
- 7 p.m.: **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.
- 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.
- 4th Thurs., 10 a.m.: **Assistance League**, at Casa De Parley Johnson. for information call 869-0232.
- 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.

Fridays

- 7:30 a.m.: **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618
- 3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.: **Women's "In His Glory" Ministry** at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

Saturdays

- 9 a.m.: **Farmers Market**, Second Street at New Avenue, for information call (562) 904-7246.
- 2nd Sat., 12:30 p.m.: **AAUW**, Los Amigos Country Club.

On This Day...

March 5, 1770: British soldiers responded to a crowd of taunting colonists by opening fire and killing five people in an event dubbed the Boston Massacre.

1946: Winston Churchill delivered his famous "Iron Curtain" speech at Westminster College in Missouri.

1953: Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin died after nearly three decades in power. He was 73.

1963: Country music singer Patsy Cline died in a plane crash. She was 30.

1982: Comedian John Belushi was found dead from a drug overdose. He was 33.

2004: Martha Stewart was convicted of lying to the government and obstruction of justice.

Birthdays: Author and pastor Joel Olsteen (47), Red Hot Chili Peppers rocker John Frusciante (40), actor Kevin Connolly (36), actress Eva Mendes (35), model Niki Taylor (35) and baseball player Paul Konerko (34).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: With a little something extra

by Doug Peterson

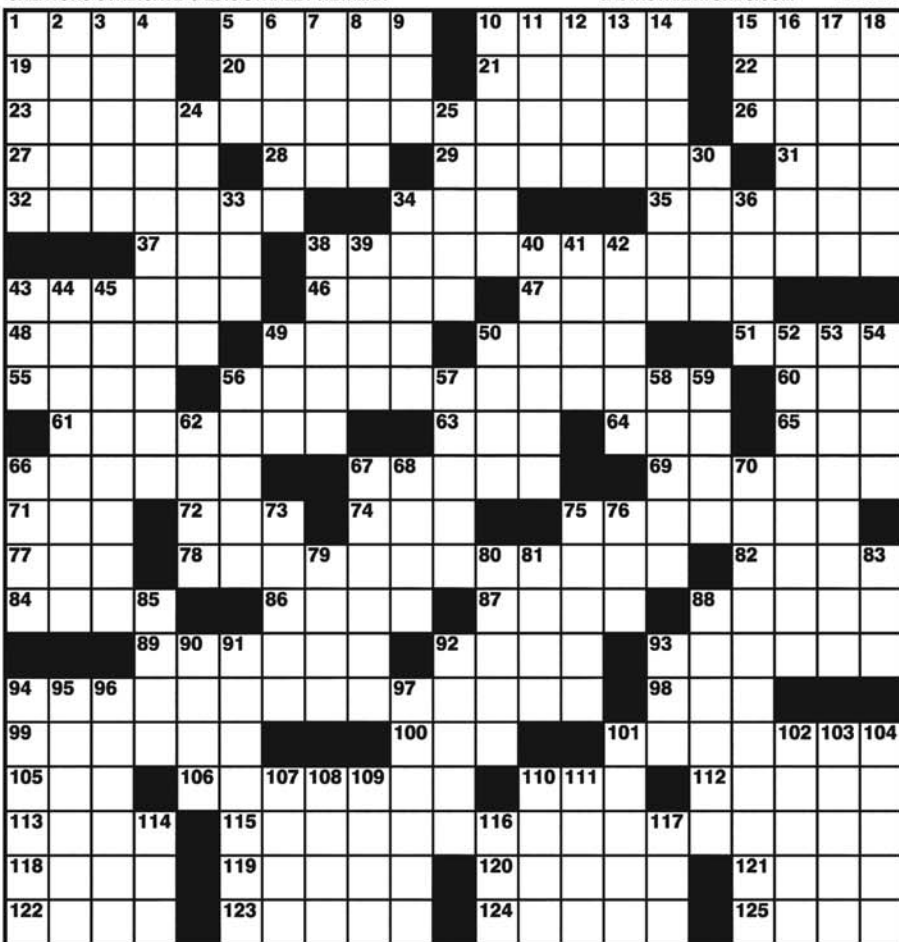
- ACROSS**
- 1 Unwanted 27 Across
 - 5 Bit of information
 - 10 Kauai salutation
 - 15 Just lying around
 - 19 British composer
 - 20 "Grand" music
 - 21 Grow narrower
 - 22 It holds the line
 - 23 Auto-parts thief?
 - 26 Palo __, CA
 - 27 Cyber-missive
 - 28 Mormons: Abbr.
 - 29 1945 Big Three site
 - 31 Tire-gauge abbr.
 - 32 Comic Dom
 - 34 Dirty dog
 - 35 Some spuds
 - 37 Nashville record label
 - 38 Brilliant squealers?
 - 43 Silvery strands
 - 46 Family's pronoun
 - 47 Press agent?
 - 48 Hoodwinks
 - 49 Spherical hairdo
 - 50 Walk with difficulty
 - 51 Pup squeaks
 - 55 Whittle down
 - 56 Reception for a beekeeper?
 - 60 Soup order
 - 61 Toast toppers
 - 63 Quarterback Manning
 - 64 Make a sharp turn
 - 65 Three, to Tomaso
 - 66 Conversation
 - 67 Jet down
 - 69 Push and shove
 - 71 Terrible grades
 - 72 Ground-bound bird
 - 74 Where Belg. is
 - 75 List of notables
 - 77 Mysterious hoverer

- 78 Do the dishes while testifying?
 - 82 Garden perennial
 - 84 Bring into harmony
 - 86 Maiden loved by Hercules
 - 87 Munch on
 - 88 Transcription taker
 - 89 Response to "Am too!"
 - 92 Breakfast-chain acronym
 - 93 Break between classes
 - 94 At the head of an unsteady conga line?
 - 98 Dissatisfied remark
 - 99 Range
 - 100 By way of
 - 101 Lend a hand
 - 105 LummoX
 - 106 Saxony's capital
 - 110 Feel poorly
 - 112 Destroy by degrees
 - 113 "La Vie en Rose" singer
 - 115 Church softball team's motto?
 - 118 Heavenly bear
 - 119 Work with watercolors
 - 120 Cherry center
 - 121 Out of fizz
 - 122 Hammer end
 - 123 Hefty grapplers
 - 124 Mirren of *The Queen*
 - 125 Hardy heroine
- DOWN**
- 1 Made two-by-fours
 - 2 Steak designation
 - 3 Yearly record
 - 4 Average ocean wave?
 - 5 *Simpsons* exclamation

- 6 Heaps
- 7 Put on a peg
- 8 Clickable addresses
- 9 Satire mag
- 10 On the job
- 11 Café au __
- 12 Antonyms, for short
- 13 Take note of
- 14 Formally accuse
- 15 Soc. Sec. supplement
- 16 Greek oracle site
- 17 Makes known
- 18 Plaza Hotel moppet
- 24 Pizzeria orders
- 25 Short railroad tracks
- 30 Dept.-store stock
- 33 Mineo of moviedom
- 34 Ricochet
- 36 Out of whack
- 38 Parlor pieces
- 39 Contented sound
- 40 Thespian Langtry
- 41 __-Z (Camaro model)
- 42 Caffeine-pill brand
- 43 Cough-syrup amt.
- 44 Really soon
- 45 "Just because"
- 49 Veneration
- 50 Throw rocks at
- 52 Middle section of *Hamlet*
- 53 Makes off with
- 54 WWI German admiral
- 56 Frat letter
- 57 Off-the-wall
- 58 Student's declaration
- 59 They may be fragile
- 62 MGM founder
- 66 __ ex machina
- 67 Riches

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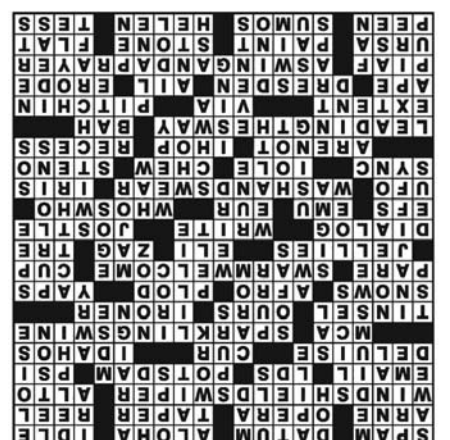
- 68 Mystical symbol
- 70 Trade in one's canoe?
- 73 Bringing to bear
- 75 Tearful
- 76 Half a bray
- 79 Knee-slapper
- 80 Inverted "e"
- 81 "Hold it right there!"
- 83 Call for help
- 85 Suffix meaning "procession"

- 88 Usher, often
- 90 Brie covering
- 91 Catches in a snare
- 92 "Of thee __"
- 93 Stat for a DH
- 94 Leave one's feet
- 95 Run out
- 96 "Attention!" opposite
- 97 Newspaper calendar listings
- 101 2-D surface

- 102 Card-game authority
- 103 Theories
- 104 "Fiddlesticks!"
- 107 Son of Isaac
- 108 Take a dip
- 109 *Flintstones* pet
- 110 Start a pot
- 111 Mega-celebrity
- 114 Ceiling appliance
- 116 Inense residue
- 117 Write

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 town of DELPHI (16 Down) was revered by ancient Greeks as the center of the universe. Marcus Goldwyn-Mayer by his successive film companies in the 1920s. The suffix -CADE (85 Down) is derived from the word "cavalcade," which in turn is derived from an old Italian word meaning "horse back raid."





From Legs to Wheels

By DEBORAH WON,
INTERN

Whizzing by in the driver's seat to show off their newly acquired licenses and permits, more and more juniors and seniors begin to move onto the next exciting level of the teenage years as the second semester rolls in: the evolution from legs to wheels. Evident in the increase of school parking lot traffic, many students count down the days till the exact moment that they are legally able to jump to the wheel.

"I started driving legally when I was 15 1/2," said junior Luis Herrera. "I wanted to start driving in high school as early as possible because you can get to school at your own time, and you can leave after school when you want."

The process of acquiring a license may begin exactly six months after a student turns 15. If under 18, the student must take certain driving classes before obtaining a permit, either at a driving school or online. The most popular place for Driver's Education amongst the student body is Pacific Driving School, located in Bell Gardens, while many students also take the classes online with the AP Driving School. Following the completion of these classes, the student can go to a nearby DMV and take the written permit test. It is only after six months with a permit that a minor can return to the DMV to take the behind-the-wheel test to officially receive the golden badge of legalized driving.

However, reaching the 16-year-old breach mark doesn't ensure full freedom with driving. Effective as of 2006, a revision in the Brady-Jared Teen Driver Safety Act stated that a minor, for the first 12 months of acquiring a driver's license, cannot transport passengers under 20 at any time, and cannot drive at all between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. Previous to 2006, these rules applied for only the first six months of the driver's license, not an entire year. This limited license is referred to as a provisional license, and since day one has caused complaints among students and even parents, and has ultimately led to disregard for the law.

"I think the age limit of 16 is a good standard, but I do not agree with the law of having to wait an entire year to drive anyone that is under 20 years old," said junior Heather Adamson, a recent acquirer of her driver's license. "This is an unrealistic amount of time, and I think 6 months is better."

Similarly, many other students agreed and shared the same viewpoints as Adamson. A com-

Downey's Best Dance Crew

By JOANNA QUINTANA,
INTERN

DOWNEY – Students who can move to a beat will all be given the opportunity to show off their skills at the upcoming Downey's Best Dance Crew competition, held by Downey High School's own dance team on March 12 in the gym.

Modeled after the popular television show, America's Best Dance Crew, this competition is just a fun activity Downey students can become involved in by dancing or supporting their friends. The judges will consist of three members of the dance team and one faculty member. What the judges expect to see at this competition is a good deal of the latest trends in teen dancing.

"As a dance team, we thought it would be cool if we'd bring the

competition to Downey High School," says dance team member and junior Stephanie Guzman. "There are a lot of kids who like to shuffle and dance and we thought it would be cool to give them an opportunity to show what they have."

Downey's dance team has succeeded in offering both students and even non-students a chance to get involved and express their talents in front of an audience. Leading the team and directing the event is Leslie Patterson, a faculty member at the high school.

"I personally am really looking forward to the event" Patterson said. "My team and I have been working really hard to put together an exciting night of dance and entertainment. I have heard that we have a lot of talent-

ed students on campus and we are really excited to see all of the routines the crews put together."

The team's main focus, before the competition takes place, is to draw in a large amount of performers and audience alike. They plan on keeping the audience entertained with available food, shout-outs, and even on-the-floor dancing with the DJ. They spread the word by pasting posters on hallways and around campus while also playing music during lunch nearly every day to encourage teenagers to get in the groove and sign up.

"Mainly, we're just trying to get the word out and trying to get sign-ups so that we can make this competition possible," says Guzman. "It would be a great opportunity for all the students here and it would just be a really

fun experience."

Although students are encouraged to express themselves, the high school's rules and regulations will still be enforced.

"All of the routines will be previewed and approved by me the Wednesday before the event" said Patterson. "Dress code and language will be strictly enforced."

The dance team urges students who have something to show on the dance floor to sign up at the booth located in front of the rally stage during lunch. Fifteen crews have already signed up and although crews are preferred, singles are also welcome. All are invited to come on March 12 to enjoy the competition and, of course, support fellow Downey students as they bust a move.

Botany Class at Downey Holds Tomato and Pepper Sale

By GABRIELA COYA,
INTERN

DOWNEY – Downey High School's Botany class, in collaboration with teacher Greg Pittenger, is growing a large variety of tomatoes and peppers to be sold on Sat., April 3, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the swap meet at the school, and on Mon., April 5, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the school's south parking lot.

Students will be offering a wide range of fresh tomatoes and peppers in pots that aspiring avid gardeners can plant and grow in their homes and patios. According to Pittenger, the feel and taste you will get from these vegetables is incomparable to that of any of the store-bought variety.

"The quality of tomatoes in the store is quite low," he said. "They're not developed for the best flavor but to survive harvesting and shipping. Because the tomatoes sold in the grocery store are harvested while green, they're not very sweet."

This sale is inspired by similar successful tomato and pepper sales held by the arboretum at Cal State Fullerton and at the Los Angeles County arboretum in Arcadia. All proceeds will help Downey's Botany program in buying new supplies and materials, and hopefully, help purchase a greenhouse for the school.

On both sales days, an assortment of 25 different types of tomatoes and a dozen types of peppers ready-to-plant will be available to the general public for \$2.50 each or five for \$10.

"We will be selling many types of tomatoes and peppers since there are hundreds and hundreds of varieties," Pittenger said. "We'll have all sorts of tomatoes. There will be white ones, striped ones, green ones, and even monster-sized ones. And the peppers we have go from being very, very mild to habanero hot."

Pittenger will be available both days offering free advice and suggestions to anyone interested in gardening with questions on the fertilization of the plants and disease control. He assures that there is a tomato and pepper for everyone and that if people have any questions concerning which one is right for them, they can feel free to ask questions.

Captain EO Returns to Disneyland

By JOSEPH APODACA,
INTERN

Through the power of online fanatics, imagination, and a little pixie dust, Michael Jackson's Captain EO 3D attraction has found its way back home at Disneyland's Tomorrowland Theater, touching down on Feb. 23 after almost a 13-year absence.

While sales of the late King of Pop's biggest albums were resurrected following his death in June 2009, fans of the gloved-one wanted more and they set their sites on Captain EO. After being pulled from

mon argument amongst various students, with and without licenses, was 'what good is a license if you can't drive around with your friends?'

"The age limit of 16 years old is definitely good, but one should be able to get an official license, not a provisional one, at the age of 16," said Herrera.

Although it may seem that students are arguing from only their own perspective and may have a biased view on this law, even parents were grumbling about the extension to the age limit restrictions, particularly one that is so hard to regulate.

"I forced my son to comply with the provisional license rule for the first six months," said a teacher and parent who wished to remain anonymous. "But when the new revision stated that he had to wait another six months, I told him you know what, go ahead and drive around with your friends, just don't get caught! Plus, how is any parent supposed to regulate such a law, they could just go pick up their friends when they're out and the parents would have no clue."

Disneyland in the late 1990s following Jackson's child molestation allegations, fans took to the blogosphere and pleaded to Disneyland executives to bring back the attraction to honor the pop star. EO succeeds its successor, Honey I Shrank the Audience, in the Tomorrowland Theater located next to Space Mountain.

Captain EO reopened to much fanfare and, as expected, long lines. Fans traveled from as far as San Francisco and waited as early as 3 a.m. to get a glimpse of their idol. Now billed as the Captain EO Tribute, guests can enjoy the original 1986 spectacle in enhanced digital quality and stellar surround sound. In addition, guests are greeted by cast members with 3D glasses and behind the scenes footage of Jackson, director Francis Ford Coppola and the entire team at

work on flat screens.

Anticipation builds high upon entrance into the theater, where guests are seated into fully functional seats that move along with Jackson's signature dance moves. For those who remember watching the show during its first run, all of your favorite characters are back and as loveable as ever. EO's sidekicks Hooter, Fuzzball, and the rest of the gang are the first to reunite with guests, with Jackson appearing two minutes into the show accompanied by uproarious applause from fans as he appears onscreen.

Captain EO's mission throughout the show is to give the evil witch queen of an orbiting planet a gift to make her see beauty within. Naturally, the gift of song and dance is in store, with Jackson and many backup dances breaking into "We Are Here To Change The

World" for the queen. Once her inner beauty is revealed, everyone celebrates to an early version of Jackson's song "Another Part Of Me", which was later featured on his album "Bad".

As guests depart the theater, illumination is visible across the faces of all, those who are witnessing it for the first time and those who remember watching it as children. The Captain's return has no doubt resurrected the Tomorrowland Theater and has done an excellent job of keeping Jackson's legacy alive for new and old generations of fans. An enjoyable attraction for all ages, it features one of pop culture's most prominent figures and it keeps you off your feet for 20 minutes. As of now, this must-see show it is billed as a limited engagement; catch a viewing soon before the Captain departs again.

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Clippers conducting clinic here

DOWNEY – The Los Angeles Clippers will hold a week-long basketball clinic at Apollo Park during spring break.

Children will receive professional instruction in defense, ball handling, shooting, passing and strength training.

Participants will also learn concepts and strategies to become a more efficient basketball player.

The clinic will be held April 5-9 and is open to boys and girls ages 7-17.

Cost is \$150 for the week and includes one ticket to an upcoming Clippers game.

The city of Downey is handling registration.

For more information, contact Kevin Ellis at kellis@downeyca.org or (562) 904-7128.

Basketball camp at Apollo Park

DOWNEY – Phillip Scott, an assistant director with the NBA, will lead a basketball camp for kids beginning March 22 at Apollo Park.

According to a flier, "In this workshop [students] will learn the same innovative techniques the pros learn to claim their stake as the best basketball players in the world."

Two sessions will be offered, the first starting March 22 and the second on May 3.

Cost is \$75 per session or \$25 per day.

For more information, contact the city of Downey's Kevin Ellis at (562) 904-7128 or via e-mail at kellis@downeyca.org.

Apollo Park is located at 12544 Rives Ave., north of Imperial Highway.

Golf tournament will feature Dodger greats

■ Tournament is a fundraiser for 10-20 Club, which assists local youth.

BY SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – More than 100 golfers have already signed up to participate in the first annual golf tournament benefiting the 10-20 Club at Montebello Country Club on Monday.

Ex-Dodger Kenny Landreaux will be the guest celebrity host and will also be participating in the scramble format tournament that includes green fees, golf, cart, lunch and dinner after the round, and prizes.

According to the club's founder Darrell Jackson, Landreaux has been instrumental in putting together the event that will be the crown jewel of the club's fundraising efforts.

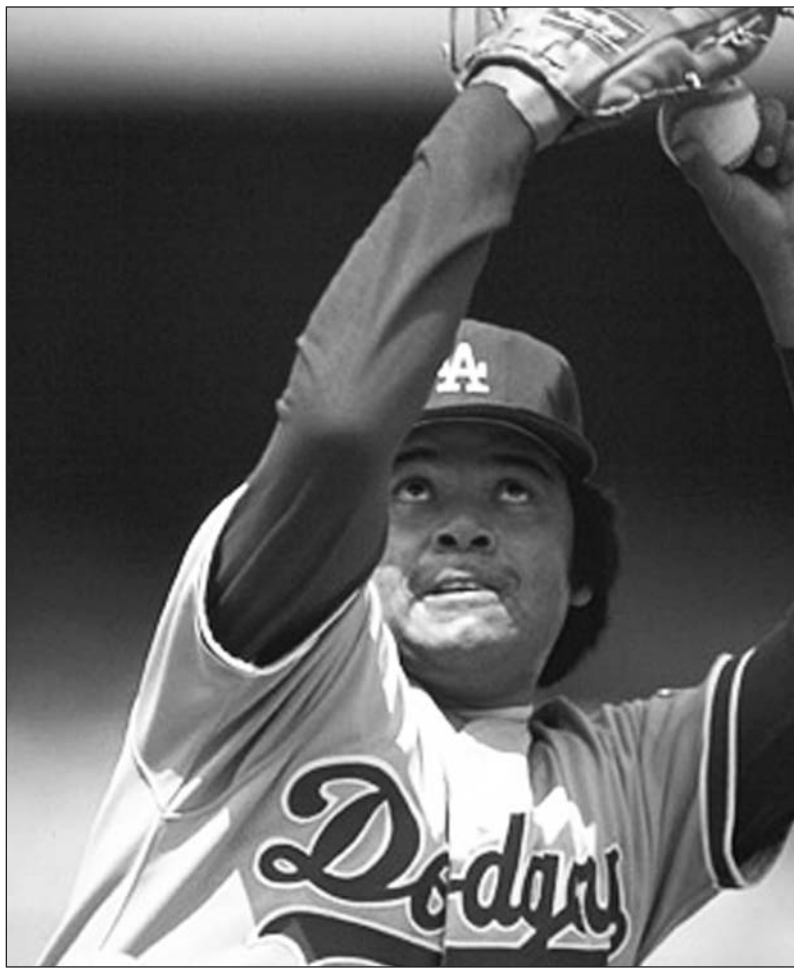
"This is a major fundraiser as long as we're able to continue to provide outreach services for Los Angeles County youths," Jackson said. "The fundraiser is very significant and important."

Jackson also said that Landreaux has been great at getting other celebrities to come participate in the tournament such as ex-Dodgers Maury Wills, Tommy Davis, Fernando Valenzuela, and players Hubie Brooks, Al Downing, and Willie Ford.

Landreaux has also been able to attract a few former NFL players and some actors and actresses.

Along with the celebrities and ex-professional athletes, the Los Angeles Dodgers themselves got involved by donating raffle items and goodie bags for the post tournament festivities. Coca Cola will be providing refreshments for golfers as well.

Other organizations that have contributed to the tournament's cause are La Palma Community Hospital, Lakewood Regional Hospital, and Dr. Stewart



Former pitching phenom Fernando Valenzuela will be among the former baseball players attending a golf tournament fundraiser to benefit the 10-20 Club on Monday.

Finklestein of Cerritos Family Group, an ex personal doctor to the late Michael Jackson in the late 90s.

Jackson said so far planning for the event has gone very well with the contributions of such major organizations.

"I'm really excited [for the tournament]," Jackson said.

There are also some baseball Hall of Fame items donated for auction by Rod Carew. Signed memorabilia from Hall of Famers Tony Gwynn and Reggie Jackson were also donated.

The primary purpose of the 10-20 Club, which is an extension of Gangs Out Of Downey, is to provide services to all youth and their families who reach out for help.

The organization has said that it is their commitment to accept and support all youth without prejudice in their mission statement.

The 10-20 Club works with local governments, schools, business, civic organizations, and residents. Services provided by the club include a crisis hotline, drug tests as requested, drug and alcohol education and treatment, family support groups, anger management classes, group and individual counseling, and other community services.

Donations are always accepted. All contributions can be made to the 10-20 Club and mailed to 8221 E. 3rd St., Suite 403, Downey, Calif., 90241.

Baby boomers spark demand for caregivers

LOS ANGELES – As large numbers of local baby boomers pass age 65, the demand on informal caregivers, which is already high, will further impact the physical, mental, and economic health of community members across Los Angeles County, according to a report released today by the Department of Public Health.

"More than 1.2 million people in Los Angeles County today provide care to a family member or another adult in need," said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and Health Officer. "Unpaid care takes a toll on the health and well-being of local individuals and families, and has a major economic impact not only on these families, but on local businesses, the workforce, and society as a whole."

More than two-thirds of caregivers in LA County reported caring for someone 65 years of age or older. As the Baby Boomer generation (those born between 1946 and 1964) ages, the number of informal caregivers in LA County is expected to rise dramatically. The risk for chronic disease increases with age, resulting in a growing need for assistance with activities of daily living among persons with long-term illnesses such as late-stage diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, and Alzheimer's disease.

"In light of recent cuts to senior services, these new data underscore the importance of prevention efforts to lessen the impact, both physical and financial, of chronic disease risk in our community," said June Simmons, CEO of Partners in Care Foundation. "This report also stresses the need to make community-based chronic disease management

as well as caregiving services and resources available to all."

Informal caregiving includes a range of activities, such as assisting with personal hygiene and other activities of daily living, helping with medication and visits to the doctor, managing finances, and providing emotional support. According to the report, L.A. Health - Informal Caregiving: Implications for Public Health, almost one in seven adults in Los Angeles County reported providing this type of care during the past month to a relative or an adult who is aging or has a long-term illness, chronic condition, or disability. One-quarter of informal caregivers in LA County spent 20 hours or more per week providing unpaid care to someone who needs help in addition to working full time.

Nationally, informal care, if paid for, would cost \$375 billion per year, amounting to about 2.7 percent of the US total GDP for 2007. These costs do not include the estimated \$17 billion in lost productivity to businesses due to workplace disruptions, absences, reduction of full-time to part-time hours, and leaving work to be a caregiver. Informal caregivers provide about 80 percent of all long-term care services in the United States.

Resources for caregivers seeking help or support are listed in the report, and include the Los Angeles County Department of Community and Senior Services, the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging, the Alzheimer's Association, and the National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA). To access the report, please visit www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ha



The St. Raymond's Knights boys varsity basketball team won the Southland League title after posting an undefeated season. The Knights went 9-0 and won their games by an average of 22 points. The boys now head into the playoffs, where they will compete with 64 other teams in the Los Angeles County CYO Championship, to be held at Staples Center.

Can wild turkeys be planted on private land?

Q: Is it possible (and legal) to purchase live wild turkeys to turn loose on my property to see how they do? Is there any law against buying live wild turkeys inside California or outside the state and having them shipped here?

A: There is nothing illegal about selling or purchasing domestic poultry sold as wild turkeys.

However, it is not legal to release into the wild turkeys that have been domestically reared for propagation or hunting purposes. Only wild turkeys trapped from the wild by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) may be released into the wild.

In addition, no person having possession or control over any wild

animal legally imported under the provisions of this chapter shall intentionally free, or knowingly permit the escape, or release of such animals, except in accordance with the regulations of the commission.

According to DFG upland game bird and turkey expert Scott Gardner, aside from the fact that you cannot legally release domestically reared turkeys onto your property, biologically, no matter what the turkeys look like, if they were domestically hatched, they are domestic birds. Upland game birds imprint immediately on their hen, and without her they will not learn the skills to be wild. Domestically reared birds will not survive.

Q: What is the correct and legal way to transport a rifle on a motorcycle? Can you clarify?

A: A motorcycle is a vehicle and the laws governing possession of loaded shotguns or rifles in a vehicle apply the same as if you are in a car or truck. According to Lt. Todd Tognazzini, if you are in a legal hunting area on a way open to the public or other public roadway, Fish and Game Code Section 2006 prohibits an unexpended (live) round in the firing chamber. If you are on a public highway (whether paved or not), then Penal Code Section 12031 applies which prevents ammunition from being attached to the firearm such as in the magazine.

Q: If I am fishing and am continually harassed by seals and sea lions, is it lawful to shoot them with a non-lethal paint ball?

A: DFG does not manage or regulate interactions with marine mammals. California sea lions and Pacific harbor seals have been fed-

erally protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act since 1972, and thus harassing, capturing, killing or attempting to do so is prohibited and carries a hefty fine.

People seeking legal methods for deterring marine mammals in order to protect their property, fishing gear and catch from damage by sea lions and seals can find recommendations and approved methods on NOAA's Web site at www.nwr.noaa.gov. And yes, paint balls are an approved method that may be used under certain conditions, but please read the NOAA information before doing so.

Q: I have out-of-state friends who would like to shoot Beldings ground squirrels on a private ranch. Since Beldings squirrels are a rodent and a nongame animal, do they need non-resident hunting licenses?

A: The recreational take of any wildlife including nongame mammals such as ground squirrels would require your friends to obtain a non-resident hunting license.

Nongame mammals may be taken without a license if the animals are injuring growing crops or other property. The authority to take nongame mammals without a license under these conditions applies only to the owner or tenant of the premises or employees and agents in immediate possession of written permission from the owner or tenant.

Carrie Wilson is a marine biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game. She cannot personally answer everyone's questions but will select a few to answer in this column each week. Contact her at CalOutdoors@dfg.ca.gov.

Crime Report

Thursday, Feb. 25

At 11 a.m., a resident in the 8700 block of Byers arrived home to find two males exiting his backyard carrying a backpack. The males had just burglarized the resident's home and ran when they saw the victim. Officers conducted a search and arrested two males age 17 and 22 for burglary.

At 8 p.m., officers arrested a 16 year-old Downey resident for vandalism and a 19 year-old Downey resident for a warrant after receiving reports of subjects drinking on the railroad tracks behind Leach Grain and Milling located in the 8100 block of Pivot.

Friday, Feb. 26

Detectives conducted a probation search of a home in the 8100 block of 5th Street where a 17 year-old boy on probation for "tagging" resided. Detectives found several cans of spray paint in the boy's bedroom, which he is prohibited from possessing. He was arrested for violating his probation and taken to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.

At 2:45 p.m., five suspects, some of whom were armed with handguns, entered Pet Town (7804 Florence) and robbed both customers and employees. The suspects also stole ten puppies, which they concealed in large duffel bags. Nobody was injured during the incident.

Saturday, Feb. 27

At 2:00 a.m., a 21 year-old Downey man was robbed at knife point by two males as he stood outside a bar in the 9100 block of Telegraph. Responding officers located the two suspects in the 9400 block of Telegraph and arrested them for robbery.

At 2:30 p.m., a domestic argument between a boyfriend and girlfriend in the 8500 block of Imperial became violent when the male threw a kitchen knife at his girlfriend. The knife missed and nobody was injured. The male, a 42 year-old Downey resident, was booked for assault with a deadly weapon.

Sunday, February 28

At 4:00 a.m., an officer attempted to pull over a vehicle driving without headlights at the intersection of Imperial and Paramount. The driver, a 59 year-old Norwalk resident, did not pull to the curb and continued driving at 20 miles per hour. The driver eventually pulled over was arrested for drunk driving.

Courtesy Downey Police Department

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Optimism reigns at Downey

■ **TRACK AND FIELD:** After second place finish last year, Vikings eye top of the standings.

By ALYSSA WYNNE,
SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – After blowing away the competition last year, Downey's boys and girls track and field team is a fresh start with many of the runners, throwers, and jumpers being freshman and sophomores.

"We have over 110 girls I think. That's high for this year," said girls head coach Amy Overgauw. "We have quite a few athletes [from other sports], but most of them just do running. Like they'll do cross-country in the fall and track in the spring. But we have both. We've got a lot of young girls and a lot of girls who came out for the first time as juniors and seniors this year."

Senior sprinters Christina Matthews, Kameya Johnson and Annalise Wiesenberger, have improved immensely since they were freshmen, said Overgauw. These ladies have worked very hard in the last two years and are expected to leave this year with a bang. Junior sprinter, Brittany Householder, did cross-country for the first time and rather than lose form, she just improved what she was able to do.

Giovanna Dan is only a sophomore but she competes in pole-vault, triple jump, high jump, and long jump. She went to league and won a medal last year in triple-jump as a freshman.

The long distance squad is composed of a lot of younger girls, including Alissa Wiesenberger, Allison Barrera, and Meghan Nevarez. These girls are underclassmen, but they did very well in cross-country and Overgauw anticipates that they will not disappoint in track.

High-jumper Steven Williams, went to CIF last year and came very close to breaking the school record and more than likely will this season. Pole-vaulter and senior, Dillon Atchley has broken two school records and is expected to break even more.

Lacrosse beginning season

By ALYSSA WYNNE,
SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – The Downey boy's lacrosse team remains hopeful though they are expected to have a difficult season after losing approximately 20 players to the graduating class of 2009.

With starters and second string players that average 3-4 years of experience, Downey is not expected to fail. The starters this year include Frankie Castellanos, George Martinez, and Leo Marquez as mid-fielders. The second string line technically counts as starts, and the midfielders in this line are Jacob Michael, Marquis Mustin, and Ian Padilla. Joseph Silva, Jonathan Flores, and Javier Robledo are playing as starting attackers, with Nick Farina being the only guaranteed defensive player, and Nathan Hanker taking up the goalkeeper position.

Downey's first official game is today at 7 p.m. against Jordan High School at Downey's Allen Layne Stadium.

Second to none

■ **SOFTBALL:** After second place finish last year, Vikings eye top of the standings.

By SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – According to Downey softball manager Micah Karzen, his team's goals and expectations differ from each other going into the 2010 season. But the idea of having a monster season is shared.

Last year, Downey finished 19-10 overall and 7-3 in San Gabriel Valley League play, good enough for a second place finish, just two games behind league champion Warren.

Karzen said what possibly led to a second place finish instead of a league title was the way they approached their schedule.

"I think we found ourselves focusing on the next game or the next games down the road," he said in a phone interview.

He also said that he thought it was possibly his fault for holding such high expectations and goals for last year's team that led to the

lack of attention to the present. This year he said they plan on taking a more game-by-game approach to make sure that his team stays focused.

But what he's most excited about is that again this season he has a team that he thinks has the capabilities of winning league and possibly a CIF championship.

"We have the talent here at this school," he said. "We have pitching, defense, and hitting."

Returning is his best starter and one of the best pitchers in the league Brittany Colenzo. Colenzo appeared in every game last year and pitched over 150 innings with a sub-2.00 ERA. Karzen is hoping to drop that total number of innings and give her some rest so she'll be fresh toward the end of the season.

Hitting is what will make or break this team this year, specifically situational hitting.

"I think our biggest question is if we will produce in the clutch," Karzen said, saying his team left too many runners on base last year.

The Vikings are hoping to get some additional pop in their lineup with the addition of Lauren Castellon. Castellon played her

freshman year but didn't participate last year due to off the field issues.

She'll be returning to the team and Karzen said he already has her pegged as his No. 4 hitter in the lineup in the hopes that her power hasn't diminished with the season off.

Eileen Rico and Staci Rodriguez are being looked at to jumpstart the offense as their projected No. 1 and No. 2 hitters in the lineup. Karzen said he expects Rodriguez to get on base often and Rico to become one of the more consistent hitters on the team.

"If [Rodriguez and Rico] do well, we'll do well," he said.

Defensively, Karzen thinks his team will be one of the best if not the best with the glove in the league and possibly the area.

"I really don't see a weakness, on this team," he said.

The Vikings have already started their preseason workouts and will soon be participating in tournaments to gear up for league play which Karzen said will pose their biggest challenge.

"Every year the only team that matters is Warren," he said.

Vikings look to make a splash

■ **SWIMMING:** Season begins next week; Downey is optimistic.

By JOSEPH APODACA,
SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – Just when we thought it was safe to go back in the water. The Downey Vikings are back after a short layoff from water polo and ready to make a splash, as swim season is ready to commence next week against St. John Bosco and St. Joseph's.

Many of Downey's swimmers are coming off a highly successful season of water polo. The boys ended there season this past November with an overall league record of 3-2, making it to the first round of CIF. The girls completed their season two weeks ago, going undefeated in league compiling a 5-0 record and making it to the CIF semifinals.

Each season, the Downey swim program gains in popularity and this season is no different. Both boys and girls squads are at about 50 members each, crowding the Viking's Olympic-size pool. The large number of members has even the coaches amazed.

"It's impressive to run practices with a full pool, at some point there may be around 100 swimmers in the water," said Downey boys' head coach Shaun Delhousay.

The boys may have had close to three months off from competing in the water, but that does not mean they have let go of their work ethic. Practices have already been underway for a few weeks, with league and CIF already on their radar.

"I see a hard working team and kids willing to try their best for this upcoming season," said senior Serro Park. "We'll definitely see the talent and dedication after a swim meet because we don't like losing."

Park along with junior Derek Dodson are Downey's sprinters to watch, with both competing for top billing in the 50-meter freestyle and the 100-meter freestyle. Junior Derek Klotzer is Downey's long distance swimmer to watch, as he takes on the challenging 200-meter

and 500-meter freestyle events.

While the girls have had hardly any rest since the completion of their water polo season, they are ready to jump right back into the water. Senior Dominique Diaz is expected to compete in the 200-meter IM and 100-meter butterfly events while fellow seniors Sarah Aguayo and Brenda Rosero are preparing for the 200-meter and 500-meter freestyle. Freshman Meghan Nevarez, also participating in track, is ready to take on the 200-meter IM and 50-meter freestyle.

Team frustrated with season's end

■ **WATER POLO:** Upset loss against La Quinta leaves girls disappointed.

By JOSEPH APODACA,
SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – After an almost perfect ride throughout their season, the tide has settled for the Downey girls' water polo team, who lost to La Quinta High School last week in the CIF playoffs semifinals round, 7-5.

La Quinta went on to play Cerritos for the championship title, but lost to the defending champions 10-9 in overtime.

Despite losing their chances at taking the CIF championship home, the ladies no doubt had an impressive run. They won the first two games in CIF, taking out Montclair with an impressive 19-2 blowout victory and Santa Ana Valley 7-3, in a game that nearly cost the girls the chance to progress further because of their struggles in

the pool.

Now that their season has come to an end, the girls' final overall record rests at 17-4. In addition to being ranked No. 1 in their division in the coaches' polls earlier this season, the girls took their San Gabriel Valley League campaign by storm, going undefeated in five games against the likes of Gahr, Paramount, Cerritos, St. Joseph's, and Warren. Though the girls are proud of the job they have done this season, their heart was set on

Warren season falls just short

■ **GIRLS BASKETBALL:** Bears reflect on season after second round exit.

By ALYSSA WYNNE,
SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – Despite a second round exit in this years' CIF playoffs, the Warren Bears' girls' basketball team had quite a successful season, coming close to their first San Gabriel Valley League title ever, just falling short with an 8-2 record.

Warren dominated league this year after breezing through every game against Dominguez, Paramount, Downey, and Gahr. But their preseason games were what prepared them for league. The ladies beat top schools and set themselves as the team to beat in every tournament they played. However, Warren did have an enemy, and though many assumed it was Downey, the villain came in the form of Lynwood.

"I think that when we played [Lynwood] here, we prepared for something a little bit different and Lynwood came out in a different way," said Warren head coach Rachel Palmer. "We can't get over this hump, I think because it's Lynwood. You know, it's Lynwood."

Lynwood remained the thorn in Warren's side during the entire season. The Knights brought power and height to the court whenever they played the Bears. In their first game against each other, Lynwood sneaked by Warren and defeated them.

In their second and final game of the season Palmer prepared her ladies to play with heart so they would be tied for first in league.

"Our goal is to go out and see if we can finish 9-1," said Palmer at the time before the second game was played.

The game was tight throughout and it all came down to the winding moments of the fourth quarter. Warren had tied the score with a couple minutes to go and even took a brief lead, but the lead disappeared and became a deficit and the Bears went home 4-point losers.

Aside from the troubles with Lynwood, Warren met a worthy opponent when they entered the playoffs and lost to Jordan in Long Beach by 2 points.

This season, although they had great talent and fantastic coaching, it was their chemistry that set the tone. The ladies communicated effectively and ran a beautiful offensive strategy. They continued to push themselves and did not take their victories for granted. Never for a moment did they get bigheaded about their talent. Even the top players doubted themselves.

"We can improve everything actually," said center Frances Vaalu. "I think we need to work harder."

Vaalu had a monstrous season averaging 14 rebounds per game. Not only did Vaalu dominate on the boards but she scored over 350 points this season and 400 rebounds, total.

Point guard Danielle Rodriguez, a strong candidate for all-CIF, orchestrated the offense at a high level. Rodriguez played in every game of her season and averaged 14 points per game and close to 10 assists per game. The highly touted sophomore is expected to return next year and perform at a higher level with another year of experience under her belt.

the championships.

"It's just frustrating and disappointing the way we finished because it didn't end like it was supposed to," said captain Dominique Diaz.

Seniors Diaz and Brenda Rosero led the team with the most goals scored throughout the season. Freshman Meghan Nevarez was the most consistent sprinter on the team, often winning all four in a game for possession of the ball. Goalie Faith Hundtoff kept com-

mand of the goal, keeping away shots from opponents more often than letting them enter the goal.

The success the girls enjoyed can only be contributed to the full team effort and the chemistry the girls shared in and out of the water.

Just because water polo has ended for the girls, does not mean they are finished in the water. Swim season is approaching quickly and many of the girls intend to make a major impression.

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OLPH: Among Downey's oldest houses of worship.

Continued from page 1

pastor, Fr. John J. O'Brien, and proposed to build a new church as a memorial to their mothers and as a gift to the Diocese of Los Angeles.

After the architects released a drawing of the new church, the *Downey Live Wire* reported that "the Catholic church will be Italian Romanesque of the Transition period" with traces of Gothic influence "evident in the pointed arches and windows."

By 1931, the new church, which seated about 450 people, was completed and furnished at a cost of nearly \$100,000.

Ten years later, Fr. Patrick Carey was appointed pastor of the growing parish, where he would serve for more than 30 years.

One of his goals was to establish a school for the parish's children. Prior to this time, Catholic students either attended St. Matthias in Huntington Park or the local public schools, but on Dec. 17, 1947, Our Lady of Perpetual Help purchased the 3.5 acre site on Downey Ave. After the Sisters of Notre Dame of Cleveland agreed to staff the school, it opened in 1948 with 124 students in three classrooms.

Today, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School has more than 300 K-8 students, a larger staff and Consultative School Board made up of school parents, parishioners, alumnae, faculty and community members.

In 1951, the church was remodeled to increase its seating capacity. In an engineering feat, the church was cut through its width at the front of the nave and the sanctuary was moved 47 feet south on railroad tracks. A 65 by 47 foot addition was added between the two sections, almost doubling the seating capacity.

After the 1987 Whittier-Narrows Earthquake damaged the aging church, the congregation was divided over whether to remodel the 56-year-old building or to raze it and construct a new sanctuary. However, the church was simply



St. Anthony's Church, shown here in 1909, was located on Fifth Street, between Downey Avenue and New Street.



PHOTOS COURTESY DOWNEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
This is a 1913 photo of the first communion class at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Downey.

reinforced and modified.

Just last year, Our Lady of Perpetual Help celebrated its 100th anniversary as a Catholic community in Downey. It now stands as a symbol of the strength, patience and resolve of our city's forefathers.

When these men and women moved to Downey to live and work, it's evident that they not only brought their skills and talents, but they also brought an enduring faith, which can still be seen today.

Latimer to sign copies of new book

DOWNEY – Larry Latimer, author of "Images of America: Downey," will speak and sign books at the Downey City Library on March 18 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Cormack Room.

A resident of Downey for more than 50 years, Latimer became interested in researching his family history and the early pioneers who traveled long distances to settle in the area. Using resources at the

Downey Historical Society, Latimer scanned hundreds of old photographs, maps, biographies, family records, old phone books, newspapers and census records to complete his book.

"Historical research is like traveling through time," said Latimer, who credits John Vincent and the Downey Historical Society for their resources and assistance on the project. "I am confident that

'Images of America: Downey' will be enjoyed by all and convince everyone to look for old photos and artifacts of Downey and donate them to the Historical Society."

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing at the event, which is co-sponsored by Friends of the Downey City Library.

DUSD looks to fill budget gap

■ School district looking to make cuts wherever possible to balance the budget.

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Let's look at the sunny side first: Superintendent Wendy Doty says that, among other bright spots, the Downey Unified School District has a 92 percent graduation rate, which is "one of the highest rates in the surrounding districts"; has experienced continuous yearly growth in its state API and federal AYP test scores; enjoys continued reduction in suspensions and expulsions; boasts upgraded facilities at Warren and Downey High; has realized energy savings of over \$9 million since 2002; has acquired a lead role in the advocacy of Character Counts ("no mean thing"); and thus remains strongly committed to its philosophy of "strong minds, strong bodies, and strong spirit."

On the other side, however, is the prospect of more district budget cuts, resulting directly from failed state budget priorities. This means, among other things, dipping into its reserves ("which, as everyone knows, can go rather quickly"), as well as increased

class sizes—from a ratio of 20:1 to 22:1—in grades 1-3, the details of which are yet to be threshed out with the teachers' union); cutting a few programs, including suspending some middle school sports programs; cutting three teachers at the Downey Adult School as well as classified positions that have been purposely left vacant (some \$760,000 saved this way)—all aimed at an overall savings of \$5.5 million, to fill a hole in its budget.

Savings from the 42 teachers opting for midyear retirement some of whom have returned as substitute teachers are estimated at \$820,000.

The state has cut \$250 per student for two consecutive years now and has not provided for a cost-of-living allowance increase, and this situation is likely to get worse instead of better, according to asst. superintendent/business services Kevin Condon.

Tied in with all this is an ongoing realignment of administrative positions, again aimed at saving money. Assistant superintendent of personnel services Stan Hanstad has announced his retirement; he is part of the large group of veteran teachers, administrative staff, and classified personnel who either have or are opting for early retirement, which will effectively save

the district some change. For instance, Roger Brossmer, heretofore Adult School principal and concurrent City Councilmember, will assume part of Hanstad's regular functions at the district office upon the latter's exit on June 30, but at the degraded title of senior director/personnel services at a corresponding salary scale, which again translates to some savings for the district; and so on.

Computations on final savings figures will have to wait till June 30, Condon said, but he reckons the savings from the retirement of said classified personnel and five management staff (including, we understand, Sarah Cairns, who has been serving as director of secondary education) will be considerable. It is believed that these positions will henceforth remain unfilled, the duties to be spread around among existing staff. Translation: still more additional savings.

Doty reiterated in her state of the schools address to the Downey Coordinating Council Wednesday that "We plan on doing everything we can to save money."

Contrary to what one might hope, the realization that the Downey Unified School District is not immune from the blows inflicted by budget cuts is hitting home.

Jack Kennedy was WWII pilot

DOWNEY – Jack Kennedy, an Air Force pilot during World War II who lived in Downey since 1964, died Feb. 24.

He was born in Oneida, N.Y., on Sept. 5, 1920, the only surviving child of John and Lauretta Kennedy. He moved with his parents to California in 1935 and, after two years of community college, joined the Army-Air Corp (now the U.S. Air Force).

After excelling in flight school (which he attended with Chuck Yeager), Kennedy was made a flight instructor and based in Panama. He served three years and was honorably discharged in December of 1946. He then joined the Air Force reserves and was discharged in 1955.

After the war, he joined the art department of a sign company where he worked with his father. In 1947, on the weekend of his 27th birthday, he met his wife of 61 years, Bess (Sullivan) Kennedy.

They were married in 1948 on Thanksgiving at St. Emydius in Lynwood. They honeymooned in Las Vegas over the four-day weekend.

Bess gave birth to their first child, Lorry, in the summer of



1949. Mike was born in 1952 (and died in 1979), Pat was born in 1953 and Joan in 1959. The family moved to Downey in the summer of 1964 and still reside in the same home.

Kennedy began working at Health and Company in the early 50's. He worked on many recognizable signs, including the KFC bucket and the Hollywood sign restoration.

He is survived by his wife, Bess

Kennedy; daughters, Joan Kennedy Parks and Lorry Kennedy; son, Patrick Kennedy; grandsons, Rick Wilmot, and Ian, Mike and Andy Parks; and a great-grandson, Sully Wilmot, with a great-granddaughter, Layla Kennedy Parks, on the way.

Funeral services were held Feb. 4 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary handled services.

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Soroptimist plans casino night

DOWNEY – Soroptimist International of Downey will host a safari casino fundraiser April 16 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Cost is \$40. The event begins at 6 p.m.

For more information, including details on sponsorships, e-mail missawell@verizon.net or pkozte@drmcinc.us.

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Studies link insomnia and obesity

In a report released just in time for National Sleep Awareness Week, March 8-14, Tops Club (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), the nonprofit weight-loss support organization, explains the connection between obesity and sleep habits.

According to TOPS, studies show a link between too few hours of sleep and increased body weight in both adults and children.

"Our society is an insomniac, under-slept society, perhaps because of economic stress, chaotic lifestyles or sedentary time spent with modern media, such as the Internet or cable TV," says Dr. Nicholas Yphantides, MD, medical spokesperson for TOPS. "Sleep is an afterthought to many of us."

Yphantides points out that insomnia often leads to late-night eating binges, which are proven to be disruptive to the digestive cycle and result in weight gain.

"Falling asleep with a full stomach means you are less likely to eat breakfast, which is an essential part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle," he says. "Every study of successful long-term weight loss shows that the eating plan includes a healthy breakfast."

While it's not easy to break old habits, Yphantides notes that the more resistant people are to saying "lights out," the more they have to deal with the consequences the next day. For example, when fatigue sets in from late-night activity, there is less desire to engage in exercise the next day, an essential element of weight control.

Lack of sleep also affects the way the body processes and stores food and alters hormones which affect the appetite.

"Physiologically, when a body is not rested, it kicks into survival mode," he says. "Stress hormones are generated, resulting in less pro-

duction of appetite-suppressing leptin. Instead, more ghrelin, which stimulates appetite, is generated."

In addition, Yphantides notes, there is a suspected association with insulin, which has an impact on food going into storage in the body.

The importance of sleep cannot be overestimated. More than just resulting in fatigue and affecting daily activities, lack of sleep can impact the immune system, memory recall, hypertension and other serious problems.

"I don't believe everyone needs seven hours or another specific number, but I do believe in adequate sleep. It fits into the larger category of being responsive to what the body needs," Yphantides says. "Part of the evidence of the restorative nature of sleep points out that when we are ill, we need more of it, and not less or the same."

To improve your success for a

restful night, consider the following:

Aim to exercise at least 20 to 30 minutes each day and no later than three hours before bedtime.

When tired enough to seek coffee and energy drinks, take a short, half-hour nap instead.

Go to bed and get up at about the same time every day, even on weekends.

Keep bedrooms cool, dark, quiet and comfortable. Consider a sound machine or small fan for white noise and an eye mask to block out light.

Follow a relaxing bedtime routine, such as reading a book, engaging in light stretching or taking a bath.

Submitted to TOPS Club. Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. To find a local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call (800) 932-8677.

DVD RELEASES FOR MARCH 9

Capitalism: A Love Story
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Old Dogs
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The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day
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Greek: Season 4
In Plain Sight: Season 2



Source: www.comingsoon.net

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Fiction

- **"Good to a Fault"** by Marina Endicott. This intelligent domestic drama alternates between sweetness and dark humor as it delves into questions of morality, class, and social responsibility.
- **"Horns"** by Joe Hill. The author of "Heart-Shaped Box" writes a new supernatural thriller. Ignatius Perrish finds himself in his own private purgatory after the death of his beloved Merrin. Then Ig awakens one day with a thunderous hangover, a raging headache and two horns growing from his temples.
- **"Midnight House"** by Alex Berenson. CIA agent John Wells returns in a cutting-edge novel of modern suspense from a best-selling writer.
- **"Secrets of Eden"** by Christopher Bohjalian. The morning after her baptism into the Rev. Stephen Drew's Vermont Baptist church, Alice Hayward and her abusive husband are found dead in their home, an apparent murder-suicide.
- **"Shadow Tag"** by Louise Erdrich. In this novel about marriage, family and individual identity, a beautiful woman of Native American ancestry struggles to finish her dissertation while raising three children.

Non-Fiction

- **"The Language of Life: DNA and the Revolution of Personalized Medicine"** by Francis S. Collins. With increased knowledge of the genetic basis for disease, the author discusses advances in treating cancer, obesity aging and other concerns based on an individual's genetic makeup.
- **"Sixty Feet, Six Inches: a Hall of Fame Pitcher and a Hall of Fame Hitter Talk about How the Game is Played"** by Bob Gibson and Reggie Jackson. An all-star pitcher and one of baseball's greatest hitters square off in a book that will give you more understanding and appreciation for the game.
- **"Speech-less: Tales of a White House Survivor"** by Matt Latimer. A top speechwriter for George W. Bush and Donald Rumsfeld shares hilarious and insightful views of his years in Washington.
- **"What's Wrong with My Plant (and How do I Fix It?): a Visual Guide to Easy Diagnosis and Organic Remedies"** by David Dearnorff. The book's 500 color photos and 600 line drawings help identify diseases, pests and other garden problems using environmentally friendly remedies.
- **"You Say More Than You Think: the 7-Day Plan for Using the New Body Language to Get What You Want"** by Janine Driver. You can improve any relationship by becoming more aware of what your body is saying to the outside world.

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

Woman's Month celebrated

NORWALK - Cerritos College will host a number of events this month in celebration of Women's History Month and the theme "Putting Women Back into History."

This year's celebration will include events such as a fundraising mariachi concert, lectures, panel discussions and film screenings.

The Mariachi Divas, Grammy-nominated, an all-female group of mariachi musicians, will take the Student Center stage on March 11. The event includes a Mexican dinner from 5 to 6 p.m., followed by concert from 6 to 8 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Su Casa battered women's shelter.

The Annual Breast Cancer Walk will be held March 25 at 11 a.m. in the Falcon Square.

For a complete list of events, visit www.cerritos.edu/whm.

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- ★ **ALICE IN WONDERLAND** PG (11:30, 2:10, 4:50), 7:30, 10:10
- BROOKLYN'S FINEST** R (10:50, 1:40, 4:40), 7:40, 10:40
- COP OUT** R (11:05, 11:55, 1:45, 2:35, 4:25, 5:15), 7:15, 7:55, 9:55, 10:35
- THE CRAZIES** R (12:15, 2:45, 5:15), 7:45, 10:15
- SHUTTER ISLAND** R (12:20, 3:50), 7:00, 10:10
- PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF** PG (11:05, 1:55, 4:45), 7:35, 10:25
- VALENTINE'S DAY** PG-13 (10:50, 1:35, 4:20), 7:05, 9:25

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Pow Wow in Long Beach

LONG BEACH - Cal State Long Beach's annual Pow Wow, an American Indian social event, will return to the campus' Central Quad March 13-14.

The 40th annual two-day event, which will feature American Indian dancing, arts, crafts and food, begins at 11 a.m. each day and runs until 10 p.m. on Saturday and 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Admission is free and parking is \$4.

Native foods such as mutton and beef stew, Navajo tacos, fry bread and Indian burgers will be on sale at the event, and American Indian vendors will be selling both traditional and contemporary American Indian art.

For more information on the Pow Wow, e-mail powwow@csulb.edu or call (562) 985-8528.

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File Number 2010020234
 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS:
 (1) The Tire Champs, 4037 Rosemead Blvd, Pico Rivera, CA 90660, County of Los Angeles
 Name of registrant(s): Marscello Sanchez, 8404 Cherokee Dr, Downey, CA 90241
 Virginia Cervantes-Sanchez, 8404 Cherokee Dr, Downey, CA 90241
 This business is conducted by Husband and Wife
 Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name(s) listed above. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) S/Marscello Sanchez, Owner
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on February 12, 2010. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration.
 The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (see Section 14411 et. seq., Business Professions Code).

Published in:
 The Downey Patriot #VS019238
 2/26/10, 3/5/10, 3/12/10, 3/19/10

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File Number 20100271099
 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS:
 (1) Gidget's Pets Etc., 40718 178th St E, Lancaster, CA 93535, County of Los Angeles
 Name of registrant(s): Lenelle Marie Ochsner, 40718 178th St E, Lancaster, CA 93535
 Susan Therese Ochsner, 40718 178th St E, Lancaster, CA 93535
 This business is conducted by a Limited Partnership
 Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name(s) listed above. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) S/Lenelle Ochsner, Partner
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on March 1, 2010. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration.
 The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (see Section 14411 et. seq., Business Professions Code).

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 3/5/10, 3/12/10, 3/19/10, 3/26/10

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File Number 20100285186
 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS:
 (1) Code 3 Handyman Service, 11333 Buell St., Downey, CA 90241, County of Los Angeles
 Name of registrant(s): Erubiel Herrera, 11333 Buell St, Downey, CA 90241
 Maria Herrera, 11333 Buell St., Downey, CA 90241
 This business is conducted by a Husband and Wife
 Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name(s) listed above. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) S/Erubiel Herrera, Owner
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on March 3, 2010. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration.
 The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (see Section 14411 et. seq., Business Professions Code).

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Although The Downey Patriot is adjudicated in the County of Los Angeles, it's limited on the types of legal notices it is able to publish. Our goal is to become adjudicated in the City of Downey in order to run all types of legal notices. In order to print all legal notices, The Downey Patriot must meet additional requirements set forth by the Government code. One of these additional requirements is "a bona fide subscription list of paid subscribers".


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

Animal shelter now open Sundays

DOWNEY – Effective March 1, Los Angeles County animal shelters are now open on Sundays.

“Opening on Sundays gives us an additional opportunity to showcase the many wonderful animals in our shelters,” said department director Marcia Mayeda.

“Weekends are a popular time to find a new family member at the local animal shelter, and we want to ensure we are using every opportunity to increase pet adoptions.”

Staff schedules have been realigned to accommodate the extra day of service and no additional operating cost will be incurred, county officials said.

Los Angeles County operates six animal shelters, including a Downey location.

The shelters are open Monday – Thursday, 12 to 7 p.m., and Friday – Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DRMC golf tourney May 14

DOWNEY – The 25th annual Golf Classic to benefit Downey Regional Medical Center will tee off May 14 at the Rio Hondo Golf Course.

Individual golfers can participate for \$200. Dinner-only tickets are \$50.

Sponsorship opportunities are available and range in price from \$150 for a tee sign to \$7,500 as a grand sponsor.

For more information, contact annette.dickerson@drmc.org.

Rise ‘N Shine changes locations

DOWNEY – Rise ‘N Shine Networking has changed meeting locations and now gathers at Bob’s Big Boy in Downey.

Charlene Aquino Gerinet of Hospice Care and Hiral Kapadia of Liberty Tax Service will speak at Tuesday’s meeting at 7:30 a.m.

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

Bank hosting mixer event

DOWNEY – OneWest Bank (formerly IndyMac) at Downey Landing will host a St. Patrick’s Day business mixer March 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Admission is \$3 and includes refreshments, door prizes and networking opportunities.

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

Downey hairstylist and aunt publishes how-to book

■ Maricela Scott knows the secret to being a ‘fabulous aunt.’

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

Maricela Avelar Scott began working as a hairstylist in Downey in 1999 after finishing her course in cosmetology at the Fullerton School of Cosmetology, and although she and her husband have resided in Anaheim Hills since 1987, has never thought of locating her place of business any place else.

“I like the city,” she says. “Besides, it was close to where my mother lived at the time, and it was very convenient for me to visit her. I saw her frequently.”

One of her clients, a nun who remains a friend, used to come all the way from Camarillo to have her hair done in Downey. They continue to communicate. Maricela at one time, armed with a cosmetology instructor’s license, taught at a private beauty school in South Gate. She has a prior 2-year AA (general ed) degree, also from UC-Fullerton.

Now in her forties and able to enjoy the luxury of catering to a “good-sized” clientele — “by appointment only” — Maricela has also written a 44-page book. The book’s title: “How to be a Fabulous Aunt.”

The youngest of five children, Maricela (without a child of her own by choice) has over the years closely interacted, and bonded, with her eldest sibling’s (an only brother) two daughters, her oldest sister’s son and daughter, her middle sister’s three sons and one daughter, and her third sister’s only daughter. She devotes pages to her relationships and shared experiences with them in her book. “I am extremely close to my brothers and sister,” she says. “We are a close-knit family. We watch each others’ backs.”

Attributing the genesis of her book to a number of factors, Maricela says she’s always had a creative streak (“I love art, and like to draw, color and paint”) and has in fact kept a journal (“I love to write”). Her creative approach finds expression in her styling booth (she rents space at Beauty Bar): a head of hair to her is a blank canvas on which she could put her stamp of artistry (“I like to create with my hands”).

Besides, she says, “I’ve always had the idea that I’d publish something some day.”

Considering herself a good aunt and setting herself as a “good example to my nieces and nephews,” some of whom now have had children of their own, Maricela says her parents, her mother especially, taught her the importance of honesty and respect,

as well as to “have faith and trust myself and not to give up easily.” Her recollection of her grandmother was equally fond and inspiring: “She was endearing. She actually took care of us when we were kids.” Maricela’s parents, both of whom had quite a number of siblings between them back in Mexico, worked in a shoe factory in L.A.

Anyway, she touches on most of the above in her book. Here are a few of her “fabulous list of 100 ways to be a fabulous aunt”:

*Be proud of your title as an aunt.

*Be a good listener when your nieces or nephews are talking to you.

*Talk to them about music, the opera, fashion (and just about everything else), and exposing them to the theater, museums, attending sports activities, seeing the movies with them, taking them to a restaurant (all with their parents’ permission, of course), even talking to them about the history of illnesses in the family—“This just might save their life one day”).

*Keep in touch by calling, texting, or e-mailing. Just keep in touch.

*Always encourage them to continue their education.

*Talk to them about responsibility, the importance of family values, the value of money.

*The 100th pointer goes something like this: “Last but not least, make sure your nieces and nephews always know they have an aunt and mother in you, someone that they will feel safe and secure with.”

Maricela says in her dedication: “This book is dedicated with all my heart to my nieces and nephews and their children and to my husband and brother and sister. I wrote this book because I wanted to say what I feel as simple as that.”

What she feels is indeed in this book, sans rhetorical flourish, in plain and simple English and gives practical, common-sense advice. The whole thing is unresearched, unadulterated, original, authentic.

“I tried to come up with the best possible ideas/advice I could give to the reader,” she says.

The publication of the book of



course “shocked” her siblings. True to values she feels she has had a hand in inculcating in her nieces and nephews, they wouldn’t accept their copies free of charge when offered them; they insist on paying for them as a show of support for their “fabulous” aunt.

Maricela has finished a second book, a children’s book, she says, and it just needs some illustrations done by one of her “artistic” nephews. It should be out by summer.

“I’d like to reinvent myself, and see what other things I can do,” says the not-so-ordinary aunt.

Copies “How to be a Fabulous Aunt,” priced at about \$15, are available from Amazon.com, Barnes&Noble.com, and Xlibris.com.



Two women honored by club

DOWNEY – Soroptimist International of Downey awarded Women’s Opportunity Awards to two local residents on Feb. 4.

Chandelier Greenfield and Victoria Camacho each were recognized by Soroptimist.

Greenfield is a single parent of two daughters and is pursuing a degree at Cypress College to become a radiology technician.

Camacho also is a single parent of two daughters, and is working towards her GED at Downey Adult School.

“We are very pleased to be able to help these deserving women in their struggle to better their lives and the lives of their daughters through further education for their futures,” Soroptimist said in a statement.

Jewish author slated to speak

DOWNEY – Author Deanne Stillman will speak at the March 16 meeting of the Ezra Center for Mature Adults held at Temple Ner Tamid. Stillman’s program is titled “Secret Jews: Wild Horses and the New World.”

Stillman will explore the ancient connection between Jews and horses dating back to the exodus; how Jews and horses traveled together during the Spanish Inquisition and found freedom in the modern promised land.

The meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. and will be followed by a catered kosher 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.

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