

The Downey Patriot



Brossmer's star is on the rise
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Downey claims SGVL title
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Arizona law draws reaction
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Friday, May 7, 2010

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

Rose Float unveils newest design

■ Downey Rose Float Assoc. working hard to raise about \$60,000.

By HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Believe it or not, work on the 2011 Downey Rose Float entry has already begun.

Titled "A Stroll Down Memory Lane," the float evokes a colonnaded Victorian park complete with a gazebo (with a band playing), fountain, bridge, tall trees and splendidly-attired gentlemen and ladies promenading amidst bursts of flowers.

The winning entry was designed by the trio of Jason Redfox, Tom Neighbors and Kelley Roberts, all old hands at this sort of thing, all design contest winners, singly or collaboratively, at one time or another, and year in and year out all deeply involved in the construction of Downey's floats.

Redfox teaches architectural and mechanical drafting at Downey High, Neighbors is an artist and designer, while Roberts works as supervisor for ride maintenance at Knott's Berry Farm.

Redfox and Neighbors designed last year's Downey Rose float entry, "Jewels of the Pacific," which won for the association, for the umpteenth time, the coveted Founder's Trophy. Roberts has



IMAGE COURTESY DOWNEY ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION

Downey's 2011 entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade will be titled "A Stroll Down Memory Lane." Preliminary work on the float has already begun.

been construction crew chair for the past several years.

They based their design on the Tournament of Roses' 2011 theme, "Building Dreams, Friendships & Memories."

According to Roberts, he, Redfox, and a couple of others, are spending a couple of hours on Monday and Wednesday in the early evening working on the base outline of the float, preparatory to

handshaping a 'bed' to approximate a park setting. Bending ¼-inch wires to build the trees, the wooden gazebo, etc., is next, as well as the third major stage of construction, which is setting up any type of animation and/or the mechanics of hydraulically lowering float elements where applicable.

The grand finale, of course, comes in December, when they

seal the float with foam, paint it, cover it with dry materials, and, finally, just before judging by tournament officials, smothering it with fresh flowers.

But this is still far off. In the meantime, a total of \$55,000-\$60,000 has to be raised to cover costs.

Current Downey Rose Float Association president is Susan Domen.

Population almost hits 114,000

■ Statewide, California added 393,000 new residents last year.

DOWNEY – The city of Downey's population increased 0.6% to 113,715, up from 113,053 last year, according to a report released last week by the California Department of Finance.

The population estimates are produced annually by the department for use by local agencies to calculate their annual appropriations limit.

The State Controller's Office also uses the estimates to update their payment population figures for distribution of state subventions to cities and counties.

California added 393,000 new residents in 2009, putting the state's Jan. 1 population total at 38.648 million, according to the report.

The city of Fresno topped 500,000 in population during 2009. More than 7,000 new residents were added in the calendar year, putting the city's population at 502,303, which ranks the Central Valley city as California's fifth largest.

Fresno's growth during the year was driven by the addition of 1,319 housing units.

California's statewide housing growth last year reflects the downturn in the housing industry by only adding 62,385 housing units.

In fact, the report shows a steady reduction in residential construction since the peak year of 2005, when the state added 197,477 new units.

The decline in single-family detached homes continued in the current year as well, decreasing by 40 percent from last year. In 2008 the state added 39,596 single-family homes, but only 23,637 were built in 2009.

Los Angeles has reached a population of 4,094,764, growing by more than 44,000 persons last year, a rate more than twice the growth of California's second largest city, San Diego. San Diego now has a population of 1,376,173, adding more than 17,000 persons during the year.

The city of Colfax in Placer County ranked as the fastest growing city in California, increasing by 5.7 percent. The next four fastest growing cities were Beaumont, Sand City, Coachella and Oakley.

Of the 480 California cities listed in the report, 445 showed gains in population, five experienced no change and 30 lost population.

Oxnard also reached a landmark in the report: with 200,004 residents, Oxnard became the 21st California city to exceed 200,000 in population.

Locally, the cities of Huntington Park (-0.2), Irwindale (-0.2) and South Gate (-0.5) saw decreases in population.

The problem with the Downey Theatre

■ Lack of vision and cultural knowledge leaves future of the Downey Theatre in doubt.

By LAWRENCE CHRISTON,
SPECIAL TO THE DOWNEY PATRIOT

DOWNEY – Early in a meeting to determine the fate of the Downey Theater, Laura Zucker asked, "What's the sub-committee's vision for the theater?"

Ah, the vision thing.

The long answer, offered by Community Services Director Thad Phillips, was this: "We want to bring in entertainment programs for the community that we can sell tickets to. The current rentals aren't attracting growing audiences. Someone would have to understand the community, its income and education level and, uh, its language needs. The city council recognizes the importance of the Downey Theater to economic recovery and downtown revitalization."

The short answer was this: There is no vision.

The occasion for the meeting, which took place Monday morning in the theater's green room, was to invite booking, marketing, promotional people and producing organizations to put in a bid to program the theater and, if not move it into the black, at least keep it from losing money (Councilman David Gafin recently stated that the theater is losing \$1 million a year, but later said he misspoke and changed the figure to \$1 million over a three-year period).

Some background is in order here. The city owns the theater,

which was built in 1970, and its balance sheet. It needs to find ways to stop leaking money. For years it's been trying reverse the creeping malaise of abandonment that's followed the collapse of the local aerospace industry. It's been a long process, with the Downey Landing, Porto's Bakery, the anticipated acquisition of Tesla Motors, new residential housing downtown and gateway design, among its hoped-for solutions.

At the edge of downtown, next to the Embassy Suites and strategically located near City Hall, sits the tall, rectilinear, imposing structure that is the Downey Theater, its electronic billboard flashing out over Firestone Blvd., with little else of broad public appeal beside the Downey Civic Light Opera and the Downey Symphony to flash about.

The city has asked, in effect, Can something be done about this?

In September, the council appointed a subcommittee of two of its own, Gafin and Roger Brossmer, to bring the Downey Theater up to speed. As Henry Veneracion reported in last week's Downey Patriot, "The subcommittee...recommends contracting with a qualified firm to handle the overall management and operation of the civic theater, including its scheduling, booking, marketing and ticket sales." And they have to do it quick: final proposal has to be made by mid-June, after three weeks of deliberation.

Gafin and Brossmer are good men and true, but they don't know anything about arts programming.

See THEATRE, page 10



Downey is looking at ways to make the city-owned Downey Theatre a viable operation. City officials say it is losing \$1 million every three years.

Alternatives to the Downey Theatre

By CHRISTIAN BROWN,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – As city officials continue courting reputable firms to handle the overall management and operation of the Downey Theatre, community groups looking for other options are fortunate as several establishments within the city offer large meeting spaces for more affordable rates.

Although the Downey Theatre has several regular users throughout the year, including the Downey Civic Light Opera, the Downey Symphony, the Downey Rose Float Association, and Downey United School District, the 738 seat-venue

is unprofitable and loses about \$1 million in city funds every three years.

Some suspect that the facility's rental rates, which are set by the City Council, are the reason for its lack of use.

Renting the theatre for any six-hour period, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 12 a.m., is nearly \$650. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday the rate jumps to \$750.

Groups using the theatre are also required to pay personnel charges for staff needed to supervise the stage and operate the sound equipment during

See ALTERNATIVES, page 10

Bayer criticizes colleagues for travel

By HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Questions have been raised recently by Mayor Anne Bayer on the value of trips by City Council members, especially to Sacramento and Washington, D.C., when the city is operating on a deficit.

Bayer, for example, has spent less than \$100 of her "allocation" of \$2,400 a year, while Councilman Mario Guerra is \$351.63 "over his budget allocation," Councilman Roger Brossmer is "slightly under" \$2,400, Mayor Pro Tem Luis Marquez "slightly over" his so-called allocation, while Councilman Dave Gafin has used up only less than \$500.

The *Herald-American* first published a story on council members' travel budgets last week.

"There is no set allocation for each council member," City Manager Gerald Caton told the *Downey Patriot*. "This year the Council budgeted \$8,000 for trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C., and \$12,000 divvied up among the five council members, or \$2,400 per, to spend as they see fit on travel and other purposes when there is a substantial benefit to the city."

Note, too, that there are other purposes on which the \$12,000 may be "appropriately" spent: a council member, especially a newly elected one, may justifiably attend seminars on local govern-

"Traditionally you would not go over our budget, but these people are not traditionalists."

—Mayer Anne Bayer, speaking of her colleagues, to the *Herald-American*

nance, or one may officially represent the city as a member of various regional or state organizations. There are other purposes, all legitimate ones, for spending what are generally called travel and meeting expenses.

"As city manager, I'm concerned about the total expenditure," said Caton. "In 2008-09, the city spent \$35,000. This fiscal year, as of April 30, out of a total budget of \$20,000, only \$16,736 has so far been spent. Even if the total of \$20,000 is spent by June 30, we will have cut down on last year's spending by 40 percent."

"Guerra, as we know, is a very gregarious and aggressive individual. He serves on the executive boards of both the Contract Cities Association and the Independent Cities Association, and is therefore a very active representative for the city. He may exceed his so-called 'allocation'. The fact is there is no such allocation. Like I said, I look at the total expense. As long as one can justify his expenses within the total budget, I see no reason for people to get excited. In my long tenure with the city, I have

See TRAVEL, page 4

Bayer says Downey will tough it out

■ Mayor gives State of the City-style address to Coordinating Council.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The city budget for this fiscal year totals \$148.7 million with \$68.8 million allocated to the General Fund, \$42,203,606 to Special Revenue Funds, and \$37,730,946 to Enterprise Funds.

“These are tough economic times,” said Mayor Anne Bayer, “but despite a massive deficit facing the state, Downey overall is financially stable because of its \$38.5 million rainy day fund.”

Speaking at Wednesday’s Downey Coordinating Council

meeting, Bayer said police and fire are still the most substantial elements of the budget, accounting for a combined 69 percent.

Community services take up 11 percent, while spending on general government and public works amounts to 8 percent each. Development services brings up the rear with 4 percent.

Sales tax revenues are down, she said, while unemployment figures remain high. A hiring freeze (on non-safety personnel) has been operative at City Hall and equipment replacement has been deferred.

“There are tough decisions to be made on the horizon,” she said.

“We have a new police chief, Rick Esteves,” she said, as she rattled off a few highlights: crimes against persons (homicide, rape and robbery) are down 12.7 per-

cent; property crimes (burglary, theft, vehicle theft) are up 2.7 percent; gang detail has increased from two to four officers; and new technology equipment now enables police to scan license plates to determine if vehicle is stolen.

The fire department, she said, continues to serve residents with its Community Emergency Response Team and emergency preparedness programs. Public works is doing landscaping and street widening at various sectors, while supporting Keep Downey Beautiful and recycling efforts. Community services began automating programs and projects, while its ASPIRE, Concerts in the Park, craft fair, and Discovery Sports Complex programs continue to serve the youth.

Bayer said there has been positive response to the Columbia Memorial Space Center, farmers market, and its neighborhood/business watch programs. Community development has opened its new city website and went all out in support of the U.S. Census 2010, while it works on a specific plan to attract and keep businesses in downtown Downey.

Among the new promising ventures are the Kaiser hospital, BJ’s Restaurant, Kohl’s and the Nissan dealership.

Fresh N Easy had its opening on April 7, while Stonewood Center will welcome G by Guess and Buffalo Wild Wings soon, and everybody is awaiting the opening of Porto’s Bakery in the fall.

Tesla Motors? Bayer said hope is high some positive development is forthcoming soon.

Inductees named for Hall of Fame

DOWNEY – Downey High School has announced its latest round of inductees for its Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony will take place May 28 in the Downey High School theater.

This year’s inductees include Suzanne Marques (1995), a field reporter on KTTV’s Good Day L.A.; Lash Stevenson (1957), member of Downey’s 1956 “Dream Team” that advanced to the CIF football championship; Allen Layne (honoree), former principal at Downey High and whom the football stadium is named after; Dr. Kennard McNichols (1966), a physician practicing family medicine in Washington state; and Dr. Daved van Stralen (1971), a pediatrician at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Downey High’s Hall of Fame is now in its 17th year.



Robert and Lorna Majors have announced the engagement of their daughter, Melody Majors, to Christian Aguilar, son of Miguel Aguilar and Aura Ibañez. The wedding will take place May 29 at a private garden in La Habra Heights. Pastor Steven Tassi from Grace Bible Fellowship in Norwalk will officiate. Best man will be Javier Vargas, and Hilary Lopez, sister of the bride, will serve as matron of honor.

Chalk artists to show off skills

DOWNEY – Warren High School will host its first annual Chalk and Arts festival May 29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Artists of all ages will compete against each other as they draw sidewalk murals using chalk pastels. There will also be musical performances.

Artists can participate by paying a \$5 entry fee. Pastels will be provided for artists.

Admission is free for spectators.

For more information, visit www.warren.dusd.net. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Warren Art Club.

History buffs invited to meeting

DOWNEY – Rise ‘N Shine Networking will learn about Downey’s expansive history when it meets Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at Bob’s Big Boy.

Jerry Blackburn of the Aerospace Legacy Foundation and John Vincent, president of the Downey Historical Society, are both scheduled to speak.

The event is open to the public. Cost is an order from the menu.

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

Businesses to be honored

DOWNEY – Nominations are now being accepted for the Downey Chamber of Commerce’s Businesses of the Year awards.

Outstanding businesses will be recognized at a lunch event July 30 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Deadline for nominations is July 2. For more information, call the Chamber at (562) 923-2191.



Melanie E. Befancourt will be receiving her degree of Master of Social Work from Azusa Pacific University on Saturday, May 8, 2010. Melanie attended OLPH Elementary School and is a graduate of Downey High School. Congratulations, Melanie

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A Newborn's Conversation with God



Linda Fernandez
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A baby asked God, "They tell me you are sending me to earth tomorrow, but how am I going to live there being so small and helpless?"
 God said, "Your angel will be waiting for you and will take care of you."
 The child further inquired, "But tell me, here in heaven I don't have to do anything but sing and smile to be happy..."
 God said, "Your angel will sing for you and will also smile for you. And you will feel your angel's love and be very happy."
 Again the small child asked, "And how am I going to be able to understand when people talk to me if I don't know the language?"
 God said, "Your angel will tell you the most beautiful sweet words you will ever hear, and with much patience and care, your angel will teach you how to speak."
 "And what am I going to do when I want to talk to you?"
 God said, "Your angel will place your hands together and will teach you how to pray."
 "Who will protect me?"
 God said, "You angel will defend you even if it means risking its life."
 "But I will always be sad because I will not see you anymore."
 God said, "Your angel will always talk to you about Me and will teach you the way to come back to Me, even though I will always be next to you."
 At that moment there was much peace in Heaven, but voices from Earth could be heard and the child hurriedly asked, "God, if I am to leave now, please tell me my angel's name."
 God said, "You will simply call her **Mom**."



Maria Chacon
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Travel: City manager says there is 'no abuse.'

Continued from page 1

encountered no abuse of the system. If there seems to be unreasonable expenses incurred, we require the council members to pay them out of their pocket."

Bayer said she cannot understand why lobbying trips to Washington, D.C. have to be made when "we already have a lobbyist working for us over there. How can your voice be heard when there are

500 other people vying for attention?"

Individual council members have discretion over what they deem to be necessary trips.

"Traditionally you would not go over our budget, but these people are not traditionalists," Bayer, speaking of her colleagues, told the Herald-American.

Guerra defended his travels.

"We travel when asked by staff.

I am very proud of the fact that as mayor last year I, along with three of my colleagues on the city council, were successful in bringing to Downey over \$16 million in federal stimulus money," he said. "And we did this being under 20 percent under our travel and meeting budget. We as a council have never been over budget and we are not over today. We are concentrating on the bigger issues for our city and work-

ing together for the best interest of our community. We are doing some great things and petty political non-issues like this only distracts from the business of Downey."

Caton pointed out that the funds under discussion are never taken from the General Fund. He said he is thinking of proposing to cut out the budget for travel and meeting purposes altogether next fiscal year.

Carmen Bollong was 'Island' resident

DOWNEY – Carmen Edna Bollong, born in Long Beach on Sept. 6, 1926, passed away on April 23 after a long battle with acute myeloid leukemia.

She was a resident of "The Island" neighborhood in Downey for more than 57 years.

She was a member of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, the Daughters of the Nile, the Social Order of the Beauceant and the Order of the Amaranth.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Bollong; son, Bruce, and his wife, May; daughter, Pam Chiapparine, and her husband, Don; granddaughter, Sherry Enos; grandson, Donald Chiapparine, and his wife, Joanna; great-granddaughters, Kayla and Rylee Enos, and Sophia Chiapparine; brothers, Les and Ed Huckins; and many nieces and nephews.



Warren bands in concert Tuesday

DOWNEY – The Warren High School band will present their annual Spring Concert at the Downey Theatre on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The concert will feature the Warren High concert band, wind ensemble, percussion ensemble and solo performances by the 30-member senior class.

Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the box office starting at 6:30 p.m.

Concertgoers who eat at Mimi's Café before the show and present a flier will have 15 percent of their check donated to Warren Band Boosters. The flier is available at www.warrenband.org.

For more information, call band director David Niemeyer at (562) 869-7306, ext. 5616.



Softball event raises \$2,500 for TLC

DOWNEY – More than \$2,500 was raised at the second annual Downey TLC Softball Tournament held April 24 on the fields at Downey Adult School.

Proceeds from the event were donated to the TLC Family Resource Center, which provides needy Downey children with reading glasses, food, school supplies, counseling and more.

More than 100 people attended the tournament, said Fernando Vasquez, a Kiwanis club member and organizer of the event. Warren High School won this year's tournament.

Nick Adams, owner of the local Philly's Best, donated food while Ed Vasquez, of the Central Basin Municipal Water District, provided water. Roger Brossmer, councilmember and director of Downey Adult School, offered use of the softball fields.

"In a perfect world, our students would never experience crisis, grief, poverty, illness, hunger or pain, but with over 22,000 students attending Downey Unified School District, unfortunately it is evident to TLC every day that sometimes our students experience hard times, especially nowadays," said Luz Perez, program coordinator at TLC.

The TLC Center, a not-for-profit organization, relies on donations, grants and fundraisers to continue operations.

"Despite the challenging economic times, our community continues to demonstrate its commitment to help children in need," Vasquez said.

Clarence Henderson mourned by family

DOWNEY – Longtime Downey resident Clarence E. Henderson passed away on April 19.

He was born April 26, 1929 on his grandparents' farm in Nebraska. He settled in Downey in the early 1960s and raised a family of four children.

Henderson worked for the Lynwood Police Department and later became a detective and sergeant for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. He had a long and successful career in law enforcement for 32 years.

While living in Downey, Henderson attended and served at the Downey United Methodist Church. He enjoyed the outdoors, camping, motorcycle riding, boating and fishing.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah Henderson; sons, Keith Henderson of Downey and Curtis Henderson of Colorado; daughter-in-law, Barbara Henderson of Colorado; daughter, Marni Davis of Anaheim; son-in-law, Jeremy Davis of Anaheim; and grandchildren, Christina Maki, Kimberly Henderson, Jared Davis and Rebecca Davis.



Rancho patients to show talents

DOWNEY – The public is invited to the 11th annual performing arts show "Spring Inspirations," to be held tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

The performance will showcase the talents of more than 20 alumni patients from Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey.

They will be singing, acting, dancing and playing music to lift the spirits of other patients, staff, family and friends.

Admission to the event is free.



Clifford Stampfli was postal carrier

DOWNEY – Clifford B. Stampfli, 92, passed away on April 26. He was born in Los Angeles on Jan. 24, 1918 to August and Ruby Stampfli.

He graduated from Bell High School in 1937 and worked as a postal carrier in Bell for 35 years.

He is survived by a sister, Lorraine Loudon; and nephews and nieces David Stampfli, Linda Sanger and Diane Smith.

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Charles Goldsmith, 1907

we're still growing stronger

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Wachovia is now Wells Fargo in California

Together we'll go far



Letters to the Editor:

Hats off to Arizona

Dear Editor:

While many complain how Arizona passed its new immigration laws, it should also be pointed out they are the only ones that has had the guts to stand up to a problem that has been escalating in the last several years.

Almost every politician talks about the problem but none have the guts to stand up and do something about it. Our founding fathers would be disgusted with the majority of those in office today.

I don't agree that police officers should have the power to stop and question anyone about their citizenship status. That is the responsibility of the INS and why it was created. To date it appears that although INS tries, its system isn't working. If so many illegals enter this country every year, how long will it take for those from other countries with a plan of attacking Americans to arrive if many aren't here already?

Having recently retired as a police officer, I can say with some authority that illegals do cost the citizens a considerable amount of money every year. Many drive with no insurance, drivers license and the registration has changed hands so many times it is almost impossible to determine who the legal owner is. Many arrested for DUI or other more serious crimes go south of the border. Officers handle calls for service and once they arrive, it is not unusual for the officer to request a Spanish speaking officer for translation. Now this call takes at least two officers out of service.

How many governmental publications are published in English as well in many cases Spanish and other languages? There is a cost for this duplication of printing. Is it really that difficult to say English is the national language accepted for common use? If a person speaks more than one language, I give them credit for being smarter than I am in that category. I only speak English, am a proud American and a vet.

There are many nagging questions that I would love to have an answer to. Where is it defined that an illegal alien is automatically presumed to be from South America? Although I would guess the majority are from South America, we also have illegals here from probably every country in this world. Yet when the term of illegal comes up, it usually focuses on South Americans.

This country has a legal system in place to allow immigrants from other countries to enter this county legally and thousands do every year. What makes an illegal alien special by avoiding this process? Each one knew or should have known when they entered this country illegally they were taking a chance of being caught. Now suddenly they have rights. I agree they do have human rights but that is it. I've had relatives and friends enter this country legally and subsequently became citizens.

Anyone that thinks the illegals standing at various constructing outlets, mowing yards, painting, house cleaning etc is reporting their income to the federal government every year would be a very naive person.

I am not prejudice against any race but if you want to play in our yard, you must obey the rules that governs the grounds and pay your fair share just like the rest of. It was just a few years ago that Downey was tearing down schools and selling the property and homes were built on this property. Now the schools have to expand. Are all these students from Downey? When my two kids went to school, we had to show a utility bill or some sort of documentation we lived here. Is this no longer applicable?

Also, I have never figured out why we have buses taking kids to and from school. Most the schools in this town are centrally located in neighborhoods. Why do they need a ride to school on a bus? For field trips, games and etc, I do understand, but for everyday needs of going to and from school, why a bus?

— **David Abney,**
Downey

Dear Editor:

I have a few words to share regarding the column "Arizona's Racist Law" (4/30/10). The ridiculous argument that securing our borders, and hence our nation, amounts to "hatred" and "racism" is a tactic used by people who are losing the debate and so they lash out like bullies on a playground. Honestly, the racism card is so 50 years ago!

The Latino Policy Coalition claims that our economy "has thrived because of immigrant communities." Absolutely true. But the Arizona law was written to curtail illegal immigration, which does nothing but drain our public services, close down our hospitals and bankrupt states like the very one we all live in.

Illegal immigration hurts everyone in this nation, including legal immigrants who jumped through all the bureaucratic hoops to become a U.S. citizen. Legal immigrants have been a blessing to this great nation.

Illegal immigrants come here to escape the corruption and lack of opportunity in their home countries, which I completely understand, and I admire their courage. However, we are sinking under their weight.

Arizonans are taking responsibility for their personal security and their property because the federal government, paralyzed by politically correct thinking, cannot or will not control the Arizona border.

Finally someone has a spine.

— **Alaina Niemann,**
Downey

Dear Editor:

Last Friday, a column titled "Reverend Calls for Calm Among Protests," when in reality Rev. Luis Cortes Jr., president of Esperanza, is doing the opposite.

Cortes is lying and making people angry. He says "driving while Hispanic [in Arizona] is now a stoppable offense." It's the opposite. The legislation says a person can not be stopped for being a certain race.

When a reverend lies, people lose trust in his leadership. Faith is based on truth.

— **El Bee,**
Downey

Moving the farmers market

Dear Editor:

I personally contacted 16 merchants on Downey Avenue that were open for business and the results were as follows:

12 were opposed to the farmers market on Downey Avenue every Saturday and also on any Saturday;

3 were in favor and one was ambivalent or on the fence.

My results were exactly opposite of the city's report. I had 75 percent opposed and 25 percent in favor, with one ambivalent. I wonder why there would be such a great difference between my results and the city's. I presented this report to the City Council along with the addresses of the merchants against the market and also those that were for. I suspect the report given by the city was a quick telephone poll with very little personal contact with these merchants.

These Downey Avenue merchants are hard workers, some arriving as early as 6 a.m. and some not leaving until 8 p.m. These merchants pay sales taxes, Chamber of Commerce dues and have a business license. I'm not sure but I don't believe any of the market people pay sales taxes, Chamber dues or have a business license.

Why are some of the council members so eager to cut off the Downey Avenue merchants on their busiest day? Why are some of the council members so willing and eager to inconvenience 4,000 cars each Saturday? Obviously they don't care about the economic effect this destructive plan will have on the Downey Avenue merchants.

I believe the Council has a duty and responsibility to hear from the merchants and citizens of this city. I urge the Council to rethink their plans. Call a special meeting and let the merchants express their opinions and I hope you would keep an open mind to their problems and concerns.

— **Bob Udoff,**
Building Manager, 11015 Downey Ave.

Dear Editor:

So happy to hear that the City Council, in another brilliant decision, has decided to move the farmers market to Downey Avenue for the obvious benefit of the new Porto's Bakery.

Now hopefully the other restaurants on Downey Avenue that will be blocked by the move will now decide to open early and take advantage of the foot traffic. I have been wondering where I can park a block away and get a lasagna dinner or Chinese food at 9 in the morning.

Thank you, Council, for another well thought-out decision.

— **Ed Romero,**
Downey

Antioxidants and cancer

Dear Editor:

They say we may send people to Mexico for treatment when hospitals and doctors offices here become overcrowded as a result of Obamacare.

In 1979 our son, Mike, was dying of cancer. Having heard of a Tijuana hospital's alleged success with laetrile, I spoke to five or six people sitting in cars, and in the lobby, and each told of a miracle they had experienced. Several said their doctors had given them less than a month to live some 15 years ago. Each said they had been given a strict diet to adhere to, and it was the strict diet more than the laetrile they believed was responsible.

The strict laetrile diet was largely made up of antioxidants. Some believe foods called oxidants that deprive cells of oxygen are more apt to cause cancer than those that do not, and recommend foods that are antioxidants, like asparagus, raw honey, broccoli and cinnamon. Since consuming mostly antioxidants I have had had no recurrence of cancer, and I feel good.

More information on antioxidants is available on the Internet.

Our son died the second day we arrived. We were too late.

— **James Hawkins,**
Downey

Comments on the Street Faire

Dear Editor:

I have lived in Downey for quite sometime. The Street Faire used to have a lot of vendors and you could always find a gift for someone special.

Now vendors who are selling their goods have to pay \$120. This stops a lot of vendors from coming.

Most places charge much less. Why is the Downey Chamber of Commerce discouraging vendors from coming to sell their goods?

— **Betty Payne,**
Downey

Terrorists want revenge

Dear Editor:

After the recent bomb scare in New York, I was dismayed by Mayor Bloomberg's remarks that "these people" are out to "destroy our freedoms."

On the contrary, Osama Bin Laden and his Muslim friends want revenge for the many wrongs we have perpetrated against his people, and are not concerned about our "freedoms."

Two glaring examples: the Iraq War where thousands of innocent people have died, and need I mention the Palestinians who die every day, fighting for this land.

The U.S. and NATO interfere in that part of the world.

— **Florence M. Peterson,**
Downey

Meeting times

Dear Editor:

Would you please relay my message to the City Council? Please tell them to consider adjusting their meeting time to 6 or 6:30 p.m. [Currently] meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and this is much too late for some people who are genuinely interested in what is going on in their city, like myself.

At the least, the city should consider airing their meetings live on the Internet. It would also be nice if the Patriot published the meeting agenda on Friday before the Tuesday council meeting, so we know what will be discussed.

— **Mary Knowles,**
Downey

Editor's note: The City Council agenda is not publicly available until Friday afternoon, after this newspaper has already gone to press.



Pathfinders' success

Dear Editor:

We just wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude to the Downey Kiwanis, Los Amigos Kiwanis, and the Downey Soroptimists for sponsoring the annual Pathfinders youth leadership program every year. A lot of hard work goes into organizing this program and it is greatly appreciated.

Both of our sons, Shawn, a third year college student at UCLA, and Connor, graduating from high school this year and heading off to UCR, were privileged to have attended Pathfinders during their junior year at St. John Bosco High School. It was a wonderful experience for them. Pathfinders gave them a level of confidence that they did not have before and this confidence has continued to grow resulting in both of our sons seeking out leadership roles in their daily lives.

Connor has been very active in student government among other things at St. John Bosco and is graduating as ASB Vice-President. Shawn's leadership roles started in high school as well and he has continued to have many leadership roles during his first three years at UCLA, primarily in the fraternity that he is associated with and with the alumni association.

As parents to two sons, our desire is to know that they are growing into good, solid, and honorable men. Men who get involved, volunteer, and are leaders in whatever venue they participate in. We believe that Pathfinders provided a footprint for them to follow and we are all so thankful for this wonderful gift.

— **Diana and Patrick Hansen,**
Downey

Keeping Downey beautiful

Dear Editor:

Calvary Chapel contacted Keep Downey Beautiful coordinator Carol Rowland to make arrangements for a group of 55 of their young members to pick up trash in Downey on April 29. Carol arranged for 30 to be bussed to Paramount and Firestone boulevards, and another group of 25 were bussed to Woodruff Avenue and Firestone.

These groups began work at 8:30 a.m., finishing at 10:30 a.m. It was a hard job but now the area is clean and neat thanks to the Calvary Chapel hardworking young people.

The group concentrated on the wide area on both sides of the railroad tracks. The day was cold with winds blowing from the west gusting to 35 mph. Carol was dressed in a warm garment with a hood. As she stood there with the wind blowing it reminded me of an officer directing troops on a mission.

I was a captain in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War (1950-55). The wide expanse of this area, coupled with a howling wind and Carol standing there, reminded me of an officer directing troops in this cold wind. It brought back memories of cold days many years ago in another location.

Keep Downey Beautiful schedules clean-ups around town on a regular basis. All supplies are provided for these clean-ups. Come and join us at our next scheduled clean-up on May 15 at 9 a.m. It is safe, fun and you will enjoy this pleasant hour.

Call Carol Rowland for further details: (562) 904-7159.

— **Byron Dillon,**
Committee Member, Keep Downey Beautiful

Project delays

Dear Editor:

How long should it take to get a building permit from the city of Downey for a simple structure (such as a garage with a kitchen and bath above) when the concept is approved? A month or two would seem ideal. How does 54 months sound?

To put this into perspective, George W. Bush was in the first year of his second term as president when my neighbor wrote the first check and submitted his plans. Now, after 54 months, the city of Downey Building Department has handed my neighbor his set of plans back for corrections (the fourth time). What is the correction? Get a 50-year history on the property from the County Hall of Records.

The Building Department has all of the construction records for every piece of property in the city of Downey. Why are they sending this man away again? What will they find to hold up his project this time?

— **Kenneth Stallcup,**
Downey

Fireworks show

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed your article on the 4th of July fireworks show and I am hopeful that there will be another one this year. ("July 4 Fireworks Show Nears Reality," 4/30/10)

On one minor point the article stated that the fireworks show was the first ever last year. You are correct if that is a city-run show, however, the Downey Jaycees for more than 20 years had a fireworks show and carnival at Warren High School. This was their main fundraiser until the DUSD had some issues with the carnival people staying on school property.

Unfortunately, the Downey Junior Chamber of Commerce is no longer active in the city. They do have a rich history in Downey, including the building of Dennis the Menace Park. The fireworks show, in conjunction with a week-long carnival, was their main fundraiser. The carnival provided most of the cost associated with the fireworks show along with a small fee for grandstand seating.

I am hopeful that the city as a whole can continue to find some way to celebrate the 4th of July with fireworks.

— **Edwin Huber,**
Past President, Downey Jaycees

The Downey Patriot

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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For May

- Fri. May 7: **Rancho talent show**, Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sat. May 8: **Kids Day**, Furman Park, 10 a.m.
- Sat. May 8: **LACHSA spring concert**, Downey Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
- Tues. May 11: **Rise 'N Shine networking**, Bob's Big Boy, 7:30 a.m.
- Tues. May 11: **Warren High spring concert**, Downey Theatre, 7 p.m.
- Wed. May 12: **Christian Club meeting**, Los Amigos Country Club, 11:45 a.m.
- Thurs. May 13: **Volunteer recognition**, Rio Hondo Event Center, 6 p.m.

City Meetings

- 1st Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.: **Redevelopment Project Area Committee**, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
- 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.: **Planning Commission**, Council Chamber at City Hall.
- 1st Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.: **Recreation and Community Services Commission**, Council Chamber, City Hall.
- 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.
- 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., 7:30 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 a.m.: **Lions Club**, at Cafe & Stuff, for information call 803-4048.
- 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club**, at Apollo Park, for info. call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
- 3rd Weds., 10 a.m.: **Los Angeles County Quilters Guild**, at Women's Club, for information call 426-2418.
- 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...

- May 7, 1915:** Nearly 1,200 people were killed when the British ocean liner Lusitania was sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland.
- 1945:** Germany signed an unconditional surrender, ending the European conflict of World War II.
- 1977:** Seattle Slew won the Kentucky Derby and would go on to achieve the Triple Crown.
- 1998:** Mercedes-Benz to purchase Chrysler for an estimated \$40 billion.
- Birthdays:** Baseball hall of famer Dick Williams (81), singer Jimmy Ruffin (71), musician Eagle-Eye Cherry (42), basketball player Shawn Marion (32) and Dodgers first baseman James Loney (26).

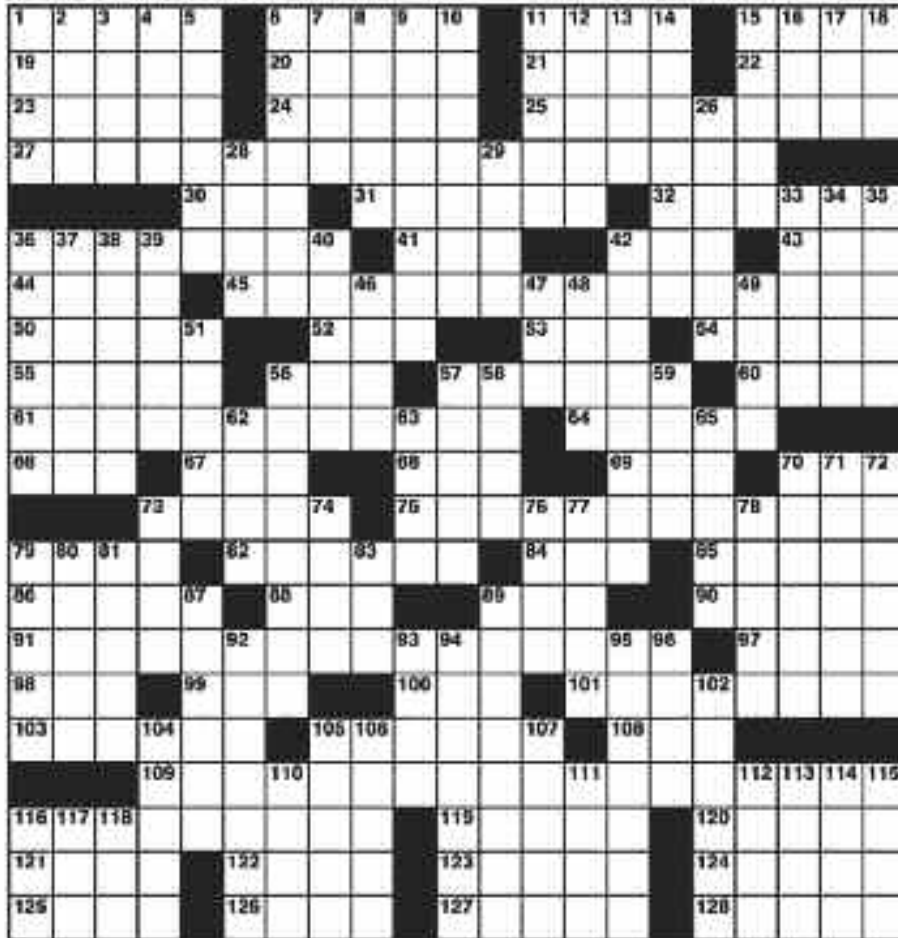
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

MAY DAY: A timely subject, sort of
by S.N.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Shine upon
 - 5 Hagar the Horrible's wife
 - 11 Congestion locale, at times
 - 15 Play's performers
 - 19 Actor Fiennes
 - 20 Have ___ (enjoy oneself)
 - 21 "I dropped it!"
 - 22 Go for
 - 23 Traffic-light color
 - 24 Of the 11 Across
 - 25 Emphatic denial
 - 27 Group of Arthur C. Clarke books
 - 30 Functioned as
 - 31 Sunday Morning host
 - 32 Meryl Streep alma mater
 - 36 Tracy/Hepburn film
 - 41 Unit of energy
 - 42 Tin Man's funnel accessory
 - 43 GPs' grp.
 - 44 Lacerated
 - 46 Film-film artist
 - 50 Marsh bird
 - 52 Nothing at all
 - 53 Emeril exclamation
 - 54 Place to perch
 - 55 Horse-and-buggy seat
 - 56 Cabernet color
 - 57 Ameia, for one
 - 60 Free ticket
 - 61 Succeed in self-preservation
 - 64 Laziness
 - 66 Language suffix
 - 67 Civil War soldier
 - 68 Nuptial statement
 - 69 Common interest
 - 70 Bub
 - 73 Moussaka ingredient
 - 75 Fragrance chemist's asset
 - 79 Something to draw
 - 82 Surprisingly
 - 84 Bad review
 - 85 Cavalry weapon
 - 86 Whirlpool alternative
 - 88 Kettle filler
 - 89 Auction ender
 - 90 Take, as advice
 - 91 Knighted member of a literary family
 - 97 Univ. marching group
 - 98 Self-esteem
 - 99 Sent down for the count
 - 100 Frequent company-name ender
 - 101 Compass reading
 - 103 Love to pieces
 - 105 Auric
 - 108 Largest US union
 - 109 Five-door wagon introduced in '85
 - 116 Crowded places around 12/15
 - 119 Emulate Mr. Chips
 - 120 Human-powered craft
 - 121 "Toreador Song," for one
 - 122 Well-planned
 - 123 Pastry filling
 - 124 Reunion group
 - 125 Declare untrue
 - 126 Matinee days: Abbr.
 - 127 Small hoppers
 - 128 Bowling-lane button
- DOWN**
- 1 Armand's arm
 - 2 Light source
 - 3 Onetime Napoleon home
 - 4 Risky business
 - 5 Mouselike mammals
 - 6 Submits
 - 7 "Buy It Now" Web site
 - 8 Ranch rope
 - 9 Young snakelike swimmer
 - 10 Brisk tempo
 - 11 Untrue
 - 12 Sounded impressed
 - 13 Bandy words
 - 14 Of summer
 - 15 Elegant quality
 - 16 Feel off
 - 17 Slide on snow
 - 18 Collarless top
 - 26 Usher, often
 - 28 Crew-team members
 - 29 Hindu mystic
 - 33 UN member since '76
 - 34 Accumulate
 - 35 Speaks bombastically
 - 36 Drilling order
 - 37 Doctrines
 - 38 Become successful
 - 39 Reagan cabinet member
 - 40 Ruinations
 - 42 Bermuda's capital
 - 46 Disney Channel target audience
 - 47 Kind of corp. takeover
 - 48 Fall guys
 - 49 New frat member, maybe
 - 51 Plant protector
 - 56 Started up the computer again
 - 57 Remains
 - 58 Close ___ (approach)
 - 59 Haldo
 - 60 Chihuahua chum
 - 61 Seer's deck
 - 63 Erode
 - 67 Attempt to date
 - 69 Plus other stuff
 - 92 Movie candies
 - 93 Fodder storage place
 - 94 Up the creek
 - 95 Datebook entries
 - 96 Emblem of Wales
 - 102 Racing circuit
 - 104 Emerson opus
 - 105 Extraordinary
 - 106 Forces to leave
 - 107 Hawk, for one
 - 110 Territory
 - 111 High point
 - 112 Lacking luster
 - 113 Heavy weight
 - 114 Pantheon's place
 - 115 Try out
 - 116 Wee bit
 - 117 Copper source
 - 118 Feminine force

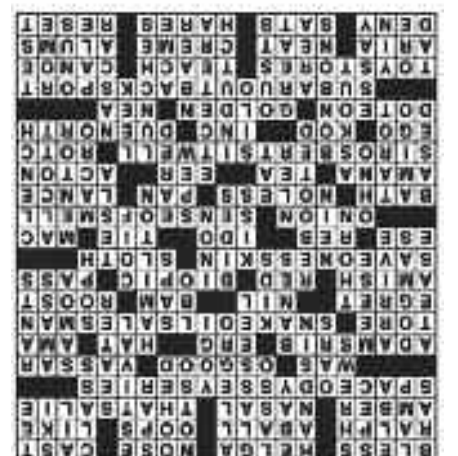
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- 62 Rhinelander's refusal
- 63 Show of affection
- 65 Electric-car company
- 70 Trusted counselor
- 71 Jo's Boys author
- 72 Grasp firmly
- 73 "Horror!"
- 74 Cardinal, for one
- 76 Eject
- 77 Like teacups
- 78 Start of something big
- 79 Headquartered

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.

Meryl Streep (32 Across) received a B.A. in Drama from Vassar College in 1971. SIR OSBERT STWELL (91 Across) was the brother of poet Dame Edith Sitwell. The first production vehicle of Silicon Valley-based TESLA Motors (65 Down) was an all-electric sports car, introduced in 2006.





Mystical prom is planned

BY JOANNA QUINTANA,
INTERN

DOWNEY -- One night of dancing under the stars, walking through an intricately decorated garden, and seeing all the seniors together wearing formal attire, is reserved for May 15 from 8 p.m. to midnight as Downey High holds its one and only 2010 prom.

With this year's event taking place at the Santa Anita Race Track located in Arcadia, the Downey prom will be both an inside and outside affair, already differentiating from most other proms. In an effort to make this night an even more once-in-a-lifetime event, Associated Student Body considered various themes, settling on one they deemed as less traditional and that would go excellently with the choice of location.

"The theme is mystic gardens," said ASB Dance Coordinator and senior Elena Ortiz. "It's more of an atmosphere than an actual cheesy high school theme. We want to make it a night where it seems like anything is possible. It's going to be something different, something that the students haven't seen before. We wanted everyone to be able to go and have fun. That's why we made it a very broad theme. You can make the night anything you want."

In order to implement this theme successfully, ASB plans to make use of the garden where the dance floor will be located by placing smoke machines, adding unique centerpieces on the tables, and playing with the falling of light on the trees in the garden so as to help contribute to a magical aura circling the dance floor. For a night like this where much money would have to be put into it and saved, ASB has been using different methods so as to raise money for the senior class of 2010.

"Advertising," said ASB Dance Intern Alejandra Martinez. "We do a lot of advertising—as much as we possibly can. We tried to get to the newspapers but we do posters and a lot of it is by word of mouth but we tried to get it out as much as possible. We now can have ticket sales so we just add that to the money. The better we advertise and the more we try, the more successful we are."

Though ASB is putting in the extra effort to ensure that this is a night to be remembered by the graduating seniors of 2010, dance regulations will still continue to be enforced.

"The event group is going to bring in their own security" said Downey Activities Director Gordon Weisenburger. "Boys will be patted down and the girls will have their purses opened and looked at. Kids who are bringing things that are not on the accepted list like weapons and things like that will be taken away."

For girls, prom can mean organized chaos

BY DEBORAH WON,
INTERN

Preparing for prom is no easy task for the high school girls of today, as dress couture, accessories, makeup, hair, nails, and of course the perfect date, fall on the everlasting "things I need for prom" list, leaving the girls with quite a task at hand.

Many prom attendees have been checking things off of their list weeks before the event, ensuring that procrastination will not impose any hindrance for this anticipated highlight of the year.

"That day I have so much to do!" said senior Sarah Buckley. "I have a hair appointment in the morning and a makeup appointment after. I will probably get my nails done the day before to lighten the load of things to do."

A frenzy of girls rushing around dress stores and salons at one time may be a chaotic mess, but to many the preparation for prom is all a part of the exciting process that makes the night even more worthwhile.

"As a junior going to prom for the first time this year, I'm looking forward to the excitement of finding the perfect dress, hairstyle and makeup," said Savannah Vilaubi. "I have nothing but high expectations and I look forward to a fun night with the perfect date."

Speaking of preparation, some students have already jumped ahead of the line and are ready and set for prom.

"I'm really excited for prom,

and I already bought my dress at a store in L.A.," said junior Stephanie Zmuda. "And I've made my makeup appointment at MAC." MAC Makeup is a popular cosmetics counter that provides makeup services with the purchase of at least \$50 of their products, and appointments must be made many days prior to guarantee a spot on the limited number of customers they can serve.

Although many students decide to get their hair and makeup done at professional salons, there is also a select group of students confident enough to do everything themselves the day of prom.

"I'm really excited for prom because I'm going with a super fun group, and the day of prom I'm going to do my own hair and makeup," said senior Kelsey Rysavy.

From head to toe, literally, the ladies must worry about attending to every feminine detail of the night. Now the question is, what about the gentlemen?

"We just have to jump in the shower at five, put on the tux and shoes at five-fifteen, and of course put on the deodorant, and we're ready like spaghetti!" said senior Allan Cortes.

But the prom dates must be mutual in deciding other variables of the night, such as the transportation to prom. Students usually pool together and rent a limo, or with the crazier groups, party buses are ordered to start the party on the way to the dance floor. After prom is yet another thing to plan, as after parties are abundant, while others



PHOTO COURTESY FLICKR USER MANANETWORK/CREATIVE COMMONS
Girls will seemingly have a million things to do on prom night but a little preparation can go a long way.

want to plan their own after-prom event.

Regardless of the pre-prom preparation frenzy that every prom attendee gets swept up in, the anticipation for the night makes this

event all the more a unique experience that will be a memorable feature in the catalogue of high school moments.

Creating your own dress is an option

BY ALYSSA WYNNE,
INTERN

For my senior prom I always dreamed of making my gown so that I would be unlike my fellow seniors. I know many ladies that have this dream as well, but with Downey High's prom next week and Warren High's prom on May 22, the chances of personalizing a dress now are slim to none.

In order to create a dress, the seamstress needed to have the order at least a month in advance. On April 17 my mother and I ventured through Huntington Park looking desperately for a willing seamstress. Many of the ladies were booked with quinceañera or sweet 16 gowns until June. Though there were some that offered to make my gown, they charged at least \$100 extra to make the dress on time.

The most expensive offer for my dress was \$550, the cheapest, \$305.

After coming to an agreement on the design, the color(s), and the fabric, a seamstress will schedule a series of fittings to guarantee that her customer is satisfied with how the gown fits before it is fully assembled. Thus far, I have attended two fittings, both of which leave me with rough sketches of how my gown will turn out.

However, personalizing a dress can go horribly wrong. If halfway through production the customer is unsatisfied with the item being made, they have the option of canceling the order but with a large fee of approximately \$200 to \$300. Also, the seamstress may encounter unforeseen circumstances regarding fabric or color that can severely delay the production. When either of these happens, the customer is left without their order.

If these disadvantages are far too negative there is always the alternative. Thankfully, majority of the boutiques I visited had amazing dresses on display, some personally made by the boutique to show-off their best work, and others ordered in from manufacturers. Usually, if a gown is found in a small shop, the owners will be more than happy to alter the dress to fit the buyers shape—for a fee, of course.

But for people that are pinching pennies and cannot afford to be throwing away money into prom, there is hope. On Pacific Avenue in Huntington Park, there are a handful of boutiques carrying beautiful and inexpensive prom dresses. A general rule of thumb when purchasing inexpensive gowns: make sure that the seams are intact, the zipper functions properly and the dress does not fit incredibly tight or loose.

Truthfully, prom is not about materialistic things such as personalized and expensive gowns. A girl may labor for hours over her hair and makeup only to have it ruined by midnight, and boys will more than likely misplace their tuxedo jackets by the end of the dance.

Prom night advice to listen to

■ These tips will help ensure a prom night to remember.

BY JOSEPH APODACA,
INTERN

Elegant dresses, tailored tuxes, flowers, oh my! Prom is here and with as much stress, anxiety, and hairspray that goes into making this night a night to remember, you're bound to forget something.

Fear not, here are your much needed reminders.

Ladies, we all know that it is quite the process for you in order to be prom ready and in between the madness of fake eyelashes and group pictures, it's very possible you might forget a few things. Be sure to travel light and carry a purse small enough to hold around your wrist.

Be sure to carry with cash in case a cab is your ride home and familiarize yourselves with the needle and thread in case of a wardrobe malfunction. Lastly, high



PHOTO BY J. STEPHEN CONN/CREATIVE COMMONS

Sorry fellas, but this should not be your idea of a late-night dinner on prom night.

heels are pretty but not always comfortable, so if you can get away without wearing them, you won't regret it.

Gentlemen, prom is the night where you need to make your date feel like a princess. As silly as it may sound, holding the door open for your date and pulling her chair out for her at dinner are easy things to make your date happy. To further impress your date, and her parents, be a stand up guy and pay for everything. It's expensive for girls to look as good as they do for one night and paying for dinner and limo fare is pocket change compared to a girls' expenses.

Most importantly, even though

it takes us less than 30 minutes to get ready, groom yourselves to the best of your abilities and be sure to use an appropriate amount of body spray.

For all prom attendees, this will be a night that you will forever link your senior year with, so be sure to have as much fun as you possibly can. Surround yourself with people you want to look back and smile at when you look through pictures one day. Be sure to remember to bring your tickets and student IDs; you'll be surprised how often people forget them.

Prom is not cheap so take advantage of coupons and prom specials that you come across to

save as much money as you can.

Most importantly, this is a night you want to have good memories of one day so be safe and make memories that will last you a lifetime.

2009-2010 Interns for
The Downey Patriot

Gabriela Coya

Joanna Quintana

Deborah Won

Joseph Apodaca - Sports

Alyssa Wynne - Sports

Paul Heidecker - Photographer

Carlos Ontiveros - Photographer

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Downey, Warren share golf title

■ **GOLF:** Long putt by Jon Strang gives Vikings share of league championship.

By Scott Cobos, Staff Writer

DOWNEY – Downey senior Jon Strang, playing in his final high school match for Downey, didn't realize at the time that his breaking 25-foot par putt on the final hole, that hung up on the lip for a second before dropping into the cup, turned out to be the difference between a tie for the San Gabriel Valley League title and second place.

But with the putt dropping, Downey and Warren will share the golf SGVL title going into the CIF divisionals next week.

Warren's boys' golf team was riding a 5-match winning streak against their cross-town rivals dating back to 2008, but the Vikings won the final match between the two schools of 2010 by a single stroke to earn a share of the golf league championship.

Both teams ended their seasons 7-2 overall and as a result, both teams earned a spot in the CIF team divisionals being held at Lakewood Country Club on Monday.

Gahr and Fairmont will also be joining the Bears and Vikings next week at the SGVL individual golf championship. The individual league title will have been contested these past Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at La Mirada Golf Course, Rio Hondo Country Club, and Los Amigos Golf Course. The top five golfers, including the winner of the tournament, will represent the SGVL at the CIF Southern Section individual regional tournament on May 17 at Skylinks Golf Course in Long Beach.

Downey beats Warren to claim SGVL title

■ **SWIMMING:** Several Bears set personal bests, and Ivana Castro qualified for CIF.

By Joseph Apodaca, Sports Intern

DOWNEY – The Downey-Warren rivalry was kept alive up until the final event of last week's big swim meet, where the lady Vikings came out victorious with an overall score of 87-84.

Once again, the lady Vikings have emerged from the water as San Gabriel Valley league champions, going undefeated in all league meets throughout this season. Excitement and adrenaline was felt throughout the meet and both teams walked away with several first places and personal best times.

The lady Vikings took charge of the water, winning early on in the meet with a 12-point lead well before the 200-meter freestyle relay event began. The ladies gave it their all throughout the duration of the meet, especially when it came down to taking it all in the final two events.

Near the end, the girls were losing by just two points, leaving them with task of placing first and third in the next events to win the meet. The girls did just that, to the excitement of their coach Sal Castro and fans.

Major wins in the meet went to Linsay Gonzalez, who took first place in the 100-meter butterfly event while Jessica Badalamenti sprinted to first in the 50 free and Faith Hundtoft in the 100-meter breaststroke, out touching Warren to victory.

Not all was lost for the Bears, however. The 200-meter medley relay dropped three seconds off their best time to start of the meet on a high note. Jen Tritz dropped 15 seconds in her 500-meter freestyle, a difficult task to do in Downey's pool in which the 500-free freestyle consists of 20 consecutive laps.

Ivana Castro qualified for CIF



PHOTO BY PAUL HEIDECKER

in four individual events, giving her the opportunity to choose what events she would like to compete in as a swimmer can only take part in two individual events. Jessica Hanein, Alma Najera and Andrea Briseno rounded out the meet with all three girls taking home personal best times in the backstroke event.

Despite the Downey versus Warren rivalry being a big draw to meets like this, there is no bad blood between the two teams. In fact, the coaches encourage the competition as they feel it gives them that extra motivation to succeed.

"It's nice to have a good rivalry which sets up some very exciting

talk, the boys raced back on field ready to beat the Centaurs. Although the game was not close, Downey blew away Culver City in the final quarter with six points.

Austin Weisenburger made four goals, Marques Mustin made three goals, Joseph Silva, Leo Marquez, Ian Padilla, and Martinez each made two goals and Franky Castellanos made one goal. Goalkeeper Nathan Harker was in for majority of the game and saved 13 goals of the 21 attempted and Guillermo Benitez, in for just a moment, did not save the one shot made against him.

At the conclusion of the game, a player for the Centaurs twisted his ankle and unexpectedly collapsed on the field.

Downey entered playoffs on Tuesday against Loyola but scores were unavailable at press time.

For Downey, offense is clicking

■ **LACROSSE:** Vikings score 12 goals in win over Culver City.

By Joseph Apodaca, Sports Intern

DOWNEY – A 12-5 school record is what the boys' lacrosse team at Downey High School is boasting after defeating rival Culver City High School last Friday, 16-9.

"We got [Culver City] really fired up and it was apparent we were crushing them," said face-off and midfielder George Martinez. "We [had] never dropped below a three-point lead."

Downey dragged Culver City along after a strong first quarter of four points. By halftime, the Vikings odds were up with a three-point lead and after a quick pep

talk, the boys raced back on field ready to beat the Centaurs. Although the game was not close, Downey blew away Culver City in the final quarter with six points.

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Downey entered playoffs on Tuesday against Loyola but scores were unavailable at press time.

Still no favorite in SGVL

■ **BASEBALL:** Next week's game between Downey-Warren could prove pivotal.

By Scott Cobos, Staff Writer

DOWNEY – With just over a week left in the season, the Downey Vikings and Warren Bears continue to battle over the San Gabriel Valley League with the Bears just one game back from the Vikings going into play on Tuesday.

Last week, the Bears battled Paramount in two games that could prove to be the difference in league. In extra innings, the Bears were able to score 2 runs in the bottom of the eighth after giving up a run in the top half of the inning to steal a very important game at home against the Pirates, 8-7.

In the game, the Bears smacked around Paramount's pitching, a staple of consistency with the Pirates, for 14 hits. Warren's Daniel Catalan, Christian Rodriguez, Aaron Chavez, Hugo Rodriguez and Rey Sanchez all had multiple hits with Christian Rodriguez leading the team with three hits in the game and Chavez leading the team with 3 runs driven in. Eight of Warren's nine starters had at least one hit.

Catalan drove in a run and had two triples in the game and Michael Sanchez supplied the power with the Bears' only homerun.

In the second game of the week, the Bears dropped their final game against the Pirates on the road in a 9-2 loss.

The bats went quiet after Tuesday's offensive outburst with Warren collecting only four hits in the game. Catalan walked and hit another triple, supplying the Bears with their only runs of the game.

Downey had a bye week in league play and swept a double head-

er at home against Laguna Beach, in the first game winning 3-2, and keeping it close again in the second game 5-4.

The Vikings scored in the bottom of the seventh inning to win the first game of the night.

Alex Jimenez had three hits on the night and Robert Dawson pitched 4.2 scoreless innings for the win after picking up for Jared Gibson who struggled through 2.1 innings before being lifted.

Dawson gave up only two hits but walked four. Gibson wasn't any better as he struggled to find the strike zone, walking eight batters. But even with runners surrounding the two pitchers for what seemed to be the entire game, the Vikings were able to walk the high wire and escape jams.

Another come from behind effort was needed in Downey's 5-4 victory against Laguna Beach in their second game with the Vikings falling back 2-0 after the first inning.

Downey didn't score until the fifth inning where they scratched for a single run. Laguna Beach came back in the top half of the sixth inning with a pair of runs, but in the bottom half of the frame, the Vikings fired back with 4 runs which turned out to be the difference in the game.

Ryan Bird and Jeremy Ruiz both had a stolen base for the Vikings, and Franz Jacinto and Yamel Delgado both had a pair of base hits with one of Delgado's hits being a homerun. Josh Collazo also had a 2-run homerun in the game.

Ruiz picked up the victory, pitching all seven innings, giving up four hits and 4 runs, striking out four.

Downey and Warren will meet next week in what could possibly be a match up for the SGVL title. The first game will be at Downey on Tuesday and the season finale for both teams will be at Warren. Both games start at 3:15 p.m.



The Downey AYSO 12-U girls team placed second in the Walnut Spring Fling soccer tournament held this past weekend. Pictured back row, left to right: Coach Win Powell, Brenda Patel, Theresa Madrigal, Rebecca Powell, Giselle Hidalgo and Julie Garneff. Front row: Briana Orozco, McKenna Henao, Mary Hernandez, Eliana Garneff, Alyssa Skobis, Catherine Hamm and Coach Julio Garneff. Not pictured is Alanna Trimino.

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The Downey Lions Club was officially chartered as a service organization April 15. President of the new club is Cindy Galindo.

Lions Club chartered in Downey

DOWNEY – The new Downey Lions Club hosted its charter night April 15 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Larry Dicus, district governor for Lions Club 4L2, served as installing officer. The keynote speaker was Bob Smith, international director elect from Sacramento.

New club officers include Cindy Galindo, president; Elliott

Bradley, first vice president; Connie Coll, second vice president; Leonard Zuniga, secretary; Pam Powers, treasurer; Nancy Barrera, tail twister; Jeannie Wood, lion tamer; and Sandy Esslinger and Bill Wood, directors.

The event was themed “A Night at the Oscars” and members and guests walked down a red carpet as they entered the gala. Entertainment was provided by the

Downey High School Jazz Club and magician Brian Regalbuto, with Ernie Hernandez providing dinner music.

The Downey Lions Club will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Café N Stuff.

For more information, or to get involved with the Downey Lions Club, call Sandy Esslinger at (310) 491-8989.

Orchestra to play spring concert

DOWNEY – The Los Angeles County High School for the Arts Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Alan Mautner, will perform their annual Spring Concert at the Downey Theatre tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.

The program will include Richard Wagner’s Overture to the Opera “Tannhauser” and the Symphony No. 5 by Russian composer Dimitri Shostakovich.

The concert will also feature soloists from LACHSA’s senior class: Michelle Pan will perform a

movement of the Oboe Concerto by Richard Strauss and pianist Cooper Labinger will perform the popular first movement of Serge Rachmaninoff’s 2nd Piano Concerto.

The concert will also debut a student composition by senior Jack Lipson. He will lead the orchestra in his Overture in Bb Minor.

Mautner, a native of Downey and graduate of Warren High School, has been the orchestra’s director since 1994.

“This is our ninth year perform-

ing the spring concert at the Downey Theatre,” he said. “For me, this is like a homecoming each year.”

In 1981, as a senior in the Warren band, Mautner made his public conducting debut on the stage of the Downey Theatre.

Tickets to the concert are \$15 general admission and will be available at the Downey Theatre box office.

For more information regarding the concert, call the Music Department (323) 343-2659.

The Downey Adult School Dental Assisting Program provided free oral hygiene instruction to children on April 12 as part of the American Dental Association’s Give Kids a Smile program.

“Everyone enjoyed the experience, working and having fun at the same time,” Downey Adult School staff said in a statement.



Local leaders sound off on Arizona immigration law

■ Arizona’s newly-passed illegal immigration law can be a polarizing subject.

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – With political angst and fresh legal challenges mounting across the country, opposition to Arizona’s new immigration law has thrust the issue of illegal immigration back to the forefront of national debate.

Despite its nominal effect on public affairs in Downey, local community leaders are expressing their own frustrations with the controversial immigration reform, which grants Arizona police officers the authority to detain those suspected of being in the country illegally unless they can prove otherwise.

After being signed into law on April 23 by Gov. Jan Brewer, Senate Bill 1070 garnered both criticism and praise from politicians, law enforcement officials, church leaders and U.S. citizens around the country.

In its original language, the law made it a state misdemeanor for an illegal immigrant to be in the state of Arizona without proof of U.S. citizenship. Subsequently, the legislation obligated police to question a person if they had probable cause that the person was an unlawful citizen.

On April 30, Brewer signed a House bill, modifying the original law, which opponents believed encouraged racial profiling. Once the Arizona law takes effect police may only investigate immigration status incident to a lawful stop, detention or arrest.

Mario Trujillo, an L.A. County prosecutor and former president of both the Mexican American Bar Association (MABA) and the Kiwanis Club of Downey, believes the change helped fix a misguided piece of legislation.

“I don’t think it’s unconstitutional in its intent, but in its implementation,” said Trujillo. “Under this law, one group is treated differently...By default, officers are going to racially profile Latinos in the implementation of the law.”

If enacted with its original text, Trujillo maintains that the law would have created a secondary chilling effect, leaving undocumented immigrants afraid of law enforcement thus reluctant to come



IMAGE COURTESY FLICKR USER GLYCERINE517/CREATIVE COMMONS

forth and report crimes.

“If gangs and cartels start victimizing communities, that segment of the population is not going to call the police,” said Trujillo who believes the law may eventually be struck down in court. “How can they write laws that are unconstitutional – they should know better.”

Born in Mexico, Robert Zavala, owner of Freedom Vacations travel agency, came to the U.S. legally, something he believes should be done by every immigrant wishing to live in the country.

“I’ve had cousins and friends come to the U.S. and they waited in line and complied with the laws – they did it the correct way,” said Zavala.

However, when it comes to Arizona’s immigration law, Zavala believes the topic is presently shrouded by too much controversy and uncertainty.

“The law is still too fluid,” said Zavala. “They’ve done some adjustments to it and some articles have been written...I’ve been reading both sides of this, but we have

to learn all the facts.”

Councilman Mario Guerra understands the law’s purpose, but believes it came only as a response to much inactivity on the part of Washington D.C.

“It’s a cry for help,” said Guerra. “The immigration law came about – and I’m not saying it’s right – because of frustration and a lack of response from the federal government.”

Guerra said when the federal government fails to act, the state and city governments respond with legislation like Arizona Senate Bill 1070.

“It’s a frustrating thing, the way it was written,” said Guerra. “Racial profiling goes against everything our constitution stands for, but it’s a cry for help. Immigration reform is important and needs to be addressed.”

Several other community leaders were contacted for comment on this topic, but declined to share their opinion openly, demonstrating just how divisive and polarizing the sensitive topic can be.

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Kids Day takes place tomorrow

DOWNEY – The 23rd annual Kids Day will take place tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Furman Park.

The family-friendly event will feature penny carnival games, two stages for entertainment, food and more.

A 2K run will begin at 10:45 a.m. with the first 50 participants to finish receiving a medal and goody bag. All ages are eligible for the run.

Registration for the run is available at City Hall or at the event. Check-in and same-day registration begins at 10 a.m.

For more information on Kids Day, or to make a donation in support of the event, call Downey Community Services at (562) 904-7238.

Volunteers to be recognized

DOWNEY – The Downey Coordinating Council will host its 56th annual Volunteer of the Year banquet Thursday from 6-9 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

More than 25 community organizations will recognize one of their members who have made "a significant impact in their organization and to the citizens of Downey."

The Coordinating Council will also install their new officers at the dinner event.

Reservations are \$25 and may be made by sending a check to Crystal Torres, Downey Regional Medical Center, 11500 Brookshire Ave., Downey CA 90241.

For more information, call Leonard Zuniga at (562) 869-5444 or Lois Buchanan at (562) 927-9790.



Film and television veteran Ed Krieger will return to the Downey Civic Light Opera as the "Starkeeper" in "Carousel," opening May 27 at the Downey Theatre. Krieger has appeared in five DCLO productions. For tickets and information, call (562) 923-1714. The box office is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 1-5 p.m.

Golf tourney June 21

DOWNEY – Light and Life Christian Fellowship in Downey will host a fundraiser golf tournament June 21 at the Rio Hondo Golf Club.

Cost is \$125 per golfer or \$35 for dinner only. Sponsorships are available and range in price from \$100 to \$2,500.

For more information, call (562) 862-0910.

Christian club marks 42 years

DOWNEY – The Downey Christian Women's Club will celebrate its 42nd anniversary Wednesday at the Los Amigos Country Club.

Guest speakers will include Barbara Brown and Rick Marlene. The event begins at 11:45 a.m.

Cost to attend is \$13 and includes a buffet lunch. Reservations are requested by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Jean at (562) 861-1114.

Theatre: Downey's identity in flux.

Continued from page 1

They in turn enlisted Phillips to find the outfit that will answer the problem of the Downey Theater. Phillips is a new appointee to the Community Services post. Before that, he was city librarian. He doesn't appear to know much about the arts either, and even less about programming, and has an irritating habit of telling everyone in earshot how new he is to the job and how little he knows about what he's doing, as if this were laudable somehow.

In fairness, he did work hard to map the city's proposal, putting out a highly detailed document about the theater specs, staffing, and income versus expenditure, and adding a demographic breakdown (population, 113,000; white: 49.8%, Hispanic: 60.9%), including median income (\$54,984), that would clue marketers into what they like to call a target audience.

Hence the meeting. A group of 10 took a lengthy tour of the theater and its facilities under the guidance of Phillips and theater supervisor Noreen Kimura, and then returned to the green room for a question and answer period. Laura Zucker, executive director of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, had the greatest presence in the group; her small retinue included the manager of the Ford Theater. Since these people were in competition with each other, most of the questioning dealt with the theater and the nature of the city. Nothing was said about what they might propose.

Aside from theater costs (\$470,000 per year, with \$225,000 recouped in rentals) and other details, they learned that anyone who came in to program the theater would have to study and understand the community first, but that occupancy could come as early as January of 2011. They also learned that Downey's summer concert series is run out of Social Services—more on this in a moment.

Zucker and one or two others zeroed in on how much control they'd have over the theater—it appeared they were not keen on sharing.

"Are the DCLO and the Symphony bumpable?" Zucker asked.

"The council is open to change," Phillips replied. "We recognize proposals to do things differently. Yes, they're bumpable."

Solvency and civic autonomy came under question. Phillips gave Downey high marks on both, adding that Downey is not a contract city—its police and fire department are city-owned—and that the city of Pasadena, where he'd worked earlier, was much more active in community interest and involvement. He concluded that any proposals from the group would be made to him, and that his recommendation would forward on to the council.

Let's recap: A committee of two, unschooled in arts management, turns programming of the Downey Theater into the hands of a third party who knows even less. There is no arts council, no arts advisory committee, indeed no outside arts recommendation from a neutral professional, to offer guidelines on how best to operate the cornerstone of Downey's cultural life. The Avenue Theater is unsalvageable. The Downey Art Museum is shuttered over a legal dispute. That the summer concert series is run through Social Services, another city bureaucracy, shows that there is no official entity, like L.A.'s Cultural

Affairs Department, to oversee the arts in Downey.

The flip side of the city's decision to limit community engagement, made in the spirit of efficiency, as Phillips suggested, implies that it doesn't feel terribly answerable to the community either. That's why, so far, the public hasn't been invited to weigh in.

Culturally speaking, we're moving backwards in time. And if the city makes the wrong choice about the Downey Theater, we could lose more months and maybe years getting to where we are now (Brossmer has some positive suggestions about local cultural development, which I hope to report later).

The question of the arts isn't just about the arts. It's about community. Downey is in a transitional state, its identity in flux. It's the arts, not television or blockbuster movies or other flashy staples of generic entertainment, that engage us most deeply as human beings. Sharing them lends us our humanity, our self-knowledge, our consciousness of difficulty, complication and reward, our sense of place.

Beyond new restaurants and businesses and urban facelifts, that's where the vision for Downey's future needs to focus, in more than the passing glance we've seen so far.

Alternatives: Smaller, cheaper options

Continued from page 1

performances. More fees may apply depending upon the needs of the group.

Although the Downey Theatre sports one of the largest seating capacities in the city, community organizations and groups interested in hosting an event without paying quite as much can utilize several locations.

Among the locations is Desert Reign Assembly of God. Located on 11610 Lakewood Blvd., the newly-constructed church rents its sanctuary, which seats more than 500 people. Though similar in price to the Downey Theatre, the church has no fixed rates and can reduce them depending on the need of the group. The church also offers a smaller meeting room for rent that seats 50-100 people.

Next door to the Downey Theatre, groups can utilize the Embassy Suites Hotel, which also rents space for meetings and performances. Similar to Desert Reign's sanctuary, Embassy Suites, located at 8425 Firestone Blvd., bases their rates on the configuration of the room and the time of the reservation.

The hotel's largest room, the 3,842-square-foot Imperial Ballroom, seats 400 people in a theater seating style, but can also be subdivided to host a group of 40 people or less.

Across town, the city owns another venue that could be used for small productions and events. Located at 7810 Quill Dr., the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center rents the nearly 250-seat Diane Boggs Auditorium at a lower price.

After patrons pay a \$350 refundable deposit, the auditorium has an hourly commercial rate of \$140, a non-commercial rate of \$95 and a non-profit rate of \$85 per hour. Staff fees may apply if the facility is rented past normal business hours. The auditorium can be divided to accommodate 100 people on both sides.

If more space is required, space can also be reserved at one of Downey's two golf courses, which both feature large 300-seat ballrooms.

Similar to Embassy Suites, the price to hold an event at the Rio Hondo Event Center at 10627 Old River School Rd. or Los Amigos Country Club at 7295 Quill Dr. depends heavily on the set up and the time of the reservation. These facilities also offer catering services.

Moreover, once the Downey Theatre is operated by a private company, the rental rates may change, but until then community groups can take advantage of Downey's many auditoriums, sanctuaries and ballrooms that provide a suitable space for potentially less money.



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The first workshop begins Monday May 10th from 6-8 PM for 6 weeks ending June 21st. (skipping Memorial Day)

Only 12 people can register for this event. **First Come First Served. \$199** includes workbook plus 2 optional bonus opportunities. Additional workshops will be scheduled as groups fill up.

To register call Mike Davis at (562)416-5102.
Sessions will be held at 3rd and New St. in Downey.





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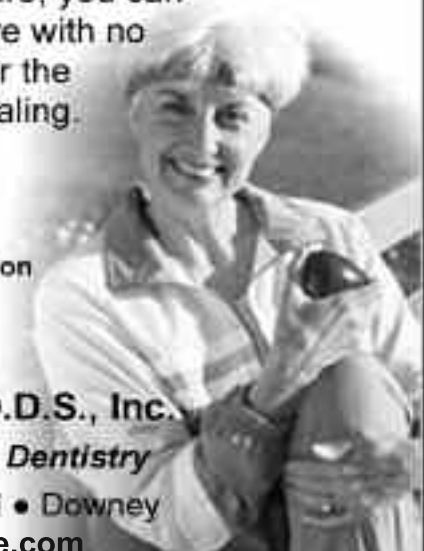
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A hula dancing class will begin next week at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center in Downey. Classes begin Wednesday for children and teens, and May 13 for children and adults. For exact times, call the center at (562) 904-7223. Pictured above, back row, are dancers Melina, Lizette, Karina, Tiffany and Maine. Front row: Ivone, Angeline and Cynthia.

'New Kid in Town' a must see for Eagles fans

■ New 'dancicle' has hits & misses, but fans of the Eagles will love it.

By JEANNE LERNER, SPECIAL TO THE DOWNEY PATRIOT

WHITTIER -- This brand new musical premiering at the Blue Moon Theatre in Whittier features songs made popular by The Eagles as performed by Hotel California, an internationally renowned tribute band. This innovative show uses dance as a form of story telling with no dialogue except for the lyrics of the songs.

Fifteen of the Eagles' most popular songs provide the unifying thread for the story line and drive the show. Hotel California faithfully and accurately reproduces the Grammy award-winning sounds of the Eagles. They recreate the magic, excitement and musical color of the originals. This is an extremely talented group of musicians and singers.

Choreographer Amy Weisenhorn plays multiple roles in this "dancical." She directed the show and is one of the featured dancers. The choreography has, of course, been limited to fit the talent of the dancers she has. Although the featured dancers are fairly tal-

ented, some members of the chorus have more limited skills. This has resulted in less complex choreography for the group numbers in some places.

Janifer Olivares shines as the Witchy Women and a featured dancer. Her professional training in jazz and ballet are aptly demonstrated in all of the numbers in which she appears.

New Kid in Town is the story of a young man in search of something better. Andrew Pearson, who plays The Kid, has a strong background in concert dance and television. This experience is evidenced in his performance, particularly in the second act when he appears in many partner dances.

One of the aspects of this show is the use of projection screens. There is one large screen behind the band and a smaller one on each side of the stage. The images projected are both pictorial scenes as well as abstract figures. Both of these enhance the music that is being performed.

The plot for the show was developed by Shawn Hillman, a producer of the show. Also producing are Andy Nagle and Dennis Haugen. My compliments to all concerned for this innovative approach to theater. Did it all work? Yes and no. However, one



Hotel California band members (from left): Phil Rowland, Steve Probst, Wade Hogue, Dickie Lee Dickinsen and Scott Fronsoe.

thing is for sure. Anyone who enjoys the music of The Eagles, will love this show!

"New Kid in Town" plays through May 16 at the Performing Arts Theater on the Campus of Southern California University

Health Sciences. This is located at 16200 E. Amber Valley Drive in Whittier. Tickets range from \$10 to \$35 and may be purchased online at www.bluemoontheatreco.com or by phoning (800) 838-3006.

New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- **"Changes"** by Jim Butcher. Detective Harry Dresden fights to save his daughter in this new thriller.
- **"Imperfect Birds"** by Anne Lamott. Desperate parents send their teenage daughter to a wilderness rehab program.
- **"Our Lady of Immaculate Deception"** by Nancy Martin. The first in a mystery series featuring ultra-sexy Pittsburg sleuth Roxy Abruzzo, her loveable assistant, Nooch and her pit bull, Rooney.
- **"Parrot and Oliver in America"** by Peter Carey. A nobleman and his trusty sidekick flee the French Revolution and set sail for the land of possibilities.
- **"The Room and the Chair"** by Lorraine Adams. A former reporter for the Washington Post writes a political thriller about the post 9/11 war on terrorism.

Non-Fiction

- **"A Brilliant Darkness"** by Joao Magueijo. The amazing life and mysterious disappearance of nuclear physicist Ettore Majorana.
- **"Food Rules: an Eater's Manual"** by Michael Pollan. A handbook of food wisdom from the author of "The Omnivore's Dilemma."
- **"Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women's Prison"** by Piper Kerman. Accused of being an accomplice in a drug deal with her former boyfriend, a graduate of Smith College gives up her middle class life to spend time behind bars.
- **"Raquel: Beyond the Cleavage"** by Raquel Welch. The actress and sex symbol reveals her secrets for diet, beauty and a healthy lifestyle.
- **"When I Stop Talking, You'll Know I'm Dead"** by Jerry Weintraub. The memoirs of a legendary Hollywood producer.

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

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Mon to Thu 10:55, 1:20, 1:10, 1:50, 2:25, 4:05, 4:55, 6:30, 7:00, 7:45, 9:15, 9:50, 10:25
FURRY VENGEANCE (PG) (11:55, 2:35, 4:55, 7:35, 9:55)
A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET (2010) R (11:20, 12:10, 1:30, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:05, 7:55, 9:40, 10:30)
THE BACK-UP PLAN PG-13 (11:15, 2:05, 4:45, 7:10, 10:15)
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number 20100583895
 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS:
 (1) LAUNDERLAND CENTER, 8306 E. IMPERIAL HWY, DOWNEY, CA 90242, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 11600 PARAMOUNT BLVD, STE H, DOWNEY, CA 90241
 Name of registrant(s): (1) LUIS MENDOZA, 7235 DE PALMA ST, DOWNEY, CA 90241 (2) ARACELY MENDOZA, 7235 DE PALMA ST, DOWNEY, CA 90241
 This business is conducted by a Husband and Wife
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
 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/Aracely Mendoza, Owners
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on April 29, 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, # BS124251
 5/7/10, 5/14/10, 5/21/10, 5/28/10

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number 20100557555
 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS:
 (1) It's A Date Events, 10916 Larrylyn Drive, Whittier, CA 90603, County of Los Angeles, P.O. Box 1165, Brea, CA 92822
 Name of registrant(s): (1) Haydee Brinson, 10916 Larrylyn Drive, Whittier, CA 90603 (2) Natalie Rodriguez, 1913 Key Drive, Placentia, CA 92870
 This business is conducted by Copartners
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 3/01/10.
 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/Haydee Brinson/Co-Founder
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on April 23, 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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 4/30/10, 5/7/10, 5/14/10, 5/21/10

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number 20100489085
 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS:
 (1) Fiji Foods, 12155 Paramount Blvd, Downey, CA 90242, County of Los Angeles
 Name of registrant(s): (1) Kissun Lal, 11413 Horton Ave, Downey, CA 90241 (2) Salesini Devi Lal-Prasad, 11417 Horton Ave, Downey, CA 90241 (3) Dhirendra Lal, 12506 Del Rio Ct, Norwalk, CA 90650
 This business is conducted by a Joint Venture
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 4/15/10.
 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/Kissun Lal, Owner
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on April 9, 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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The Downey Patriot, # BS124251
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GOVERNMENT NOTICE

NOTICE OF BID
 Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education for the DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, Downey, CA (Los Angeles County), will receive Bid Number 09/10-05 for the procurement of the following:

Milk and Dairy Products
 Sealed bids must be delivered to the Downey Unified School District, Purchasing Department, 11627 Brookshire Avenue, Room 168, Downey, CA 90241 no later than **2:00 PM on May 10, 2010**. Companies interested in bidding should request appropriate bid documents from the Purchasing Department, (562) 469-6533. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids. No bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the date set for the opening of bids. Refer to the formal bid documents and specifications for additional information, terms, and conditions.
Darren Purselglove, C.P.M.
 Darren Purselglove
 Director of Purchasing and Warehouse

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The Downey Patriot, # BS124251
 4/30/10, 5/7/10

TRUSTEE SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/19/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.
 ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER 5607-021-006 & 5607-021-007 On MAY 25, 2010 at 4:30 P.M., MOHAMMAD TAHAMI as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust, recorded on 10/19/2006 as Document No. 06 2324441 of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California, executed by: M. Jorjezan Investments, Inc., a California corporation, as Trustor, Val-Chris Investments, Inc., a California Corporation, as Beneficiary, will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state of federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state.) **AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTHOUSE, SOUTHEAST DISTRICT, 12720 NORWALK BLVD, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA** all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as more fully described on said deed of trust. ALL CASHIERS CHECKS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO MOHAMMAD TAHAMI. All third party checks will be returned for re-issuance. The property heretofore described as being sold "As Is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be **vacant land in the city of Glendale California**. Directions may be obtained by written request. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$149,225.00 estimated. Accrued Interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default

and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. The Trustee contract information is MOHAMMAD TAHAMI, BOX 9381, BREA, CALIFORNIA, 92822 TELEPHONE 562-884-7585. Dated April 21, 2010 S/MOHAMMAD TAHAMI, TRUSTEE

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Brossmer's star is on the rise

■ Roger Brossmer readies to move into a top DUSD post this July.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

Roger Brossmer had already been teaching science for a full year at Downey High School when he got his master's in education from UC-Santa Barbara in 1995. He was to teach the subject at DHS for eight years. Then, in relatively rapid succession, he became vice principal of the Downey Adult School in 2002, principal in 2004 (when Kathy Gorman retired), and, in a title realignment, director of adult education in 2008.



This July 1, when he takes over the functions which for the last seven years have been performed by another high achiever, assistant superintendent of personnel relations Stan Hanstad, it will mean the close of another 8-year involvement in one place. Hanstad is retiring at the end of June. Brossmer's new title: senior director of personnel services.

The title downgrade is a concession to the district's belt-tightening measures. Nevertheless, it doesn't represent a diminution of duties at the position. If anything, Brossmer said, again as a cost saving measure, duties have increased.

Brossmer's record of achievement at the adult school speaks for itself: he reversed an operating loss of more than \$1 million annually and realized over \$4 million in reserve accounts for the district, despite current economic pressures and decreased state funding; increased attendance from 12,000 students per year in 2003-04 to 18,000 per year in 2008-09, in the process increasing the overall school budget from \$6.4 million to \$10.5 million, earning for the adult school recognition as "the fastest growing adult school in California" in each of the school years from 2006-07 through 2008-09, and ranking as the 15th largest adult school in the state; and, among other things, added 10 healthcare career programs, training 2,000 students to enter the healthcare workforce in the past 5 years. He has thus re-branded the school's image as a learning institution.

His promotion by any measure is a hugely significant one, and Brossmer says it calls for a grasp of board policy, the key provisions (and nuances) of the contractual agreements with the three DUSD unions, and the ramifications of the budget.

"My relationship with the unions can be critical," he said, "as well as the right staffing quality and quantity."

He was the victim of a prank after his promotion was

announced, as well as that of his replacement, Phil Davis, director of support programs and career-technical education. Coming to his office one day, Brossmer found Davis' paraphernalia everywhere where his should have been: hanging on the walls were Davis' certificates, family photos were those of Davis, the nameplates and business cards were Davis'—his staff had switched everything!

He has been spending the last several weeks poring over the paperwork, and getting his feet wet in the negotiations with the unions that culminated in the recent signing of the master agreement with the teachers' union. In this connection, he can't say enough about the help and mentoring he has got from Hanstad.

"He doesn't mind taking a backseat and letting me at times to handle the negotiations and going out of his way to make sure I get up to speed. The district staff, too, has also been very helpful," he said.

Brossmer has also had to concurrently fulfill his responsibilities as a Downey City Council member. Elected in 2008 to the City Council, he says his years on the Planning Commission (he calls it the "minor leagues" of local politics) prepared him for his City Council gig.

He says he's happy with the direction the city is taking and, despite the tough economic times, there are bright spots "we can be proud of," specifically: the opening of Kaiser Permanente, an increasingly vibrant downtown (Porto's Bakery, Verizon, and other new developments in the area) and not to mention Tesla. "I'm confident that we'll have a deal on this," he said.

Born in 1971 in Downey, Brossmer attended Grades 1-12 in

Gig Harbor, Wash., water-skiing in the summer and snow-skiing in the winter. Those were normal, happy times, he said, growing up right smack in the middle of Puget Sound, in the shadow of Mt. Rainier, and surrounded by "lakes" and enabling them to enjoy riding on powerboats. Thus his choice of a major in aquatic biology at UC-Santa Barbara for his bachelor's degree. His favorite subject was math, he said.

He said his parents, particularly his mom, exerted a heavy influence on him. Their advice: "You get out what you put in"; "There are no guarantees in life, and not all paychecks are guaranteed"; "Not all jobs are 9-5 jobs"; and "If you've got to do something, give it your all!"

"I'd already started the Relay for Life two years before my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer," Brossmer said. "This gave my efforts a whole new meaning. Running the event was a good outlet for me. She succumbed to the dreaded disease at age 58, and she never got to enjoy her longed-for retirement. I am still very active in it: I'm active for her."

"And I learned another valuable lesson from all this: because there are no guarantees, you've got to enjoy what you've got. If you've got an opportunity to do something, do it. Don't live with regrets."

His current reading focuses on management matters and leadership, he said. In fact, a small group consisting of "a few of us administrators has developed into an informal impromptu discussion group,

exchanging information and ideas whenever and wherever we meet." Books read and discussed include Daniel H. Pink's "A Whole New Mind" and "Drive" (on the true elements of motivation), Jeffrey Marx's "Season of Life" (on the journey to manhood), and Stephen M. R. Covey's "The Speed of Trust".

He says he'll suggest that they formalize the group and invite others willing to invest a little time discussing the ideas in a group setting. The writings represent new insights into behavior, etc., and are truly "eye-opening," he said. (The members of the informal group include high school principals Tom Houts and John Harris, Davis, Robert Jagielski, and himself.)

Whatever else the future holds for Brossmer, it's clear he's someone to reckon with.



Imperial Elementary is collecting gently-used children's books for a book sale at the end of May. Proceeds will be donated to the TLC Center in Downey. Books can be dropped in the school office.

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