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Thursday, October 21, 2010

Vol. 9 No. 27

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

## Officers cleared in fatal shooting

■ District Attorney finds officers feared for their lives when they shot and killed Stephen Bours last March.

BY ERIC PIERCE,  
CITY EDITOR

**DOWNEY** – Downey police officers were acting in lawful self-defense when they shot and killed 30-year-old Stephen Bours earlier this year as he walked in the middle of Paramount Boulevard brandishing an axe, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office concluded after its investigation into the shooting.

The DA released its findings on Tuesday.

Two detectives in an unmarked patrol car, responding to several 911 calls, confronted Bours on March 20 as he walked in the No. 2 lane of traffic on Paramount Boulevard, south of Imperial Highway, the report states.

Witnesses described Bours as brandishing a hatchet, which investigators described as a 14-inch True Temper single-edged axe.

The detectives ordered Bours to drop his weapon, but "instead he ignored their repeated commands and advanced toward them."

One of the detectives attempted to retrieve a non-lethal shotgun from the trunk of his car, but was unable to open the trunk because he had left the keys in the ignition, the report says.

A surveillance system recorded Bours taking 25 steps toward the detectives after he was given his first order to drop his weapon, officials said. Bours then walked out of video range but the audio recorded a detective ordering Bours to drop his weapon an additional four times before the detectives opened fire.

The DA report lists three witnesses who saw Bours raise his hand up just prior to the detectives firing their weapons.

Bours was shot 10 times, according to an autopsy report.

An analysis of Bours' blood showed the presence of amphetamine and methamphetamine at the time of his death, DA investigators said.

Downey police had an altercation with Bours about a month before the fatal shooting. On Feb. 22, officers responded to a call of a pedestrian in the roadway on Paramount Boulevard.

Officers reportedly found Bours, unarmed, kneeling in the street yelling "Please God forgive me!" Officers used a taser on Bours after he allegedly struggled and resisted arrest.

The DA report also quotes a family member as saying Bours was scheduled to be admitted into VA mental facility before he was fatally shot.

As is standard in all officer-involved shootings, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's handled the investigation.

## Downey High speaks out against bullying

■ Administrators hope anti-bullying week will highlight sensitive issue.

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN,  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – When Tom Houts, principal of Downey High School, saw it popping up in the news, he knew it was something he'd have to address directly at his own school.

After a case of it emerged on the school's water polo team and Houts discovered that another student was seeking psychiatric therapy as a result of an entirely separate occurrence, he introduced a week-long program with the purpose of tackling the controversial issue of teenage bullying.

A common occurrence in schools all across the country, the issue of bullying among students has been in the forefront of American minds in recent weeks after a devastating rash of teenage suicides claimed the lives of several young students, all victims of either verbal, physical or cyber bullying.

By establishing Anti-Bullying Week, which took place this week at Downey High School, Houts hopes to bring awareness to the issue of bullying, while giving students who are dealing with it the strength to step forward and report it.

"Bullying is an unequal balance of power between students," said Houts. "It's like the big guy picking on the little guy, but it could be someone spreading rumors, sending text messages...it's not cool. It's something we need to address and we are."

With the help of ASB members, Houts has used the week to both inform and challenge students when it comes to bullying and harassment.

Houts said that along with daily announcements defining what bullying is, he utilized clips from YouTube.com that also explain bullying and its negative effects. Downey High School teachers in every discipline were also required to set aside one lesson this week to



PHOTO COURTESY FLICKR USER LITANDMORE/CREATIVE COMMONS

**Downey High School established Anti-Bullying Week in an effort to encourage students dealing with bullying to report the problem.**

talk about the subject.

"Everyday during the announcements we do a different topic," Houts said on Wednesday. "The statistics about bullying, the forms of bullying...we also talk about what the students can do if they or someone else is being bullied."

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, between 15-25 percent of U.S. students are bullied with some frequency while 15-20 percent report that they bully others with some frequency.

Studies show that when youth are bullied they're more likely than other children to be depressed, lonely, and anxious; have low self-esteem, feel unwell, and think about suicide.

Houts encourages anyone

struggling with bullying to confide in a friend, teacher or parent.

"It tough, but you have to deal with it – come forward," he said.

Houts plans to make coming forward much easier by utilizing technology. By using Facebook and cell phones, Houts hopes to make school administrators even more accessible to students who could simply text the principal to report an occurrence of bullying on campus.

"It's a big message, it's our message. It's just not cool to be a bully," said Houts. "The kids understand the forms of bullying, but we want to promote the awareness of it – if you see a kid sitting alone, go up and talk to him. That is the first way to deal with it."

## Cyberbullying hits close to home

BY JENNIFER CHO

**DOWNEY** – It was an early Sunday morning on June 13, 2010, when I received an e-mail notification in my inbox saying that an anonymous user had posted a comment on my Formspring page. I decided to check it out and this was what I got: "I wish you were depressed again so you'd shut the [expletive] up."

I remember being so frustrated, for a couple different reasons. First, someone had the gall to say something degrading and condescending to me (with an expletive included, at that). Second, someone did not have the nerve to say this to my face and third, someone had used a personal struggle against me and wished that I would break down again.

I wasn't sure what to do, so I immediately brought this to the attention of a couple adults I trusted at school. The first person I notified was my then-history teacher and

she told me to come early before school to discuss what had happened. Before I permanently shut down my account on Formspring, a "social networking" site where users can ask questions anonymously or with an account, I took a screenshot of the anonymous person's comment and showed it to my teacher, who then advised me to approach it calmly and not play the blame game on anyone. I told her I suspected at least two people were behind it, and she said if I wasn't sure whom it was it was best that I back off and forget that it had ever happened.

To this day, I still can't forget what the anonymous person said on my page. What if someone else had seen that and realized something about me that they hadn't known before? Because of one stupid person's comment, another person in my scenario could have attempted or even committed suicide because of the embarrassment and grief. Thankfully I knew better than to let

my emotions overwhelm me and decided it was in my best interest to delete the Formspring page to prevent any future nasty comments directed to me.

One lesson I have learned from this experience is that people will always try to bring others down and will resort to malicious means to achieve this. Unfortunately, some teenagers have taken their lives to get away from the pain and suffering, from the cruelty others inflict on them because they're an "easy target."

Luckily, after I deleted my Formspring and avoided other social networking sites, I didn't receive any more degrading or insulting comments. Still, I'm grateful to the anonymous person for targeting me instead of someone else, because I have him or her to thank for making me the strong person I am today.

Jennifer Cho is a senior at Downey High School and interns with The Downey Patriot.



PHOTO BY DIEGO RODRIGUEZ

**Jovany Juan Munoz, left, and Obed Silva share a laugh at the Third Annual Las Floristas Scholarship Dinner for patients of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.**

## Rancho scholars make most of their opportunities

■ Rancho's outstanding scholars are honored at scholarship dinner.

BY GREG WASKUL,  
RANCHO LOS AMIGOS FOUNDATION

**DOWNEY** – Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center's Café Amigos was filled with people, pride and promise for the future as 59 Rancho scholars were honored and provided with scholarships to further their educational goals at the Third Annual Las Floristas Scholarship Dinner on Sept. 24.

The scholars are Rancho patients who range from secondary school students to college students pursuing advanced degrees. Rancho, Las Floristas and the Norris Foundation (the sponsor of the Scholarship Dinner) work together to encourage Rancho's patients to not only stay in school but to excel in their studies.

The scholars have achieved impressive results.

"In the general population in America, 24 percent of students achieve Bachelors degrees, compared with only seven percent of persons with disabilities," said Lisa Hilborn, the director of Rancho's renowned Wheelchair Sports Program. "But our Rancho scholars are achieving the same rate of college graduation as the general population, which is three and one-half times higher than the rate of other persons with disabilities throughout the nation. And ours have even higher rates of students earning Masters degrees than the general population."

"Their achievements are simply amazing, and we are so proud of these outstanding young men and women," said Lisa Hansen, President of Las Floristas and Chair of the Kneeth T. & Eileen L. Norris Foundation Board of Trustees. "It is rewarding to see the progress the patients make thanks to the world-class programs at Rancho and the special Las Floristas-funded programs such as Wheelchair Sports, the Adolescent Support Group, and the scholarship program."

"This is my favorite event of the year," said Susan Dilday, who spearheads the scholarship event for Las Floristas. "I'm so happy we created an occasion to honor our scholars and also honor our athletes." Susan also thanked the Norris Foundation, not only for its underwriting, but for its encouragement and its many creative ideas that have helped make the scholarship program so successful.

"Hearing the stories of how these dedicated young people overcame their disabling conditions and excelled in their studies is truly inspirational," said Jackie Jervis Funk, a member of the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation Board of directors. "It is absolutely incredible to see the self-confidence and determination these outstanding scholars bring to their everyday lives. It makes me proud to be associated with an institution such as Rancho that makes the critical difference in so many lives."

There were many highlights during the evening as the scholars and their families celebrated their accomplishments, but perhaps the most magical moments came when Joyce Ko and Daniel Bennett were presented with the evening's highest honor, the "Spirit of Life Award". The award is presented to scholars who exemplify the Spirit of Rancho in their everyday lives, as well as for the impact they make on many lives they touch as they make meaningful contributions to society.

Rancho speech therapist B.J. Sena choked back tears as he described how Joyce Ko overcame a life-threatening injury to become an exceptional student and highly valued Rancho volunteer. Joyce has contributed more than 600 volunteer hours to the hospital over the last few years.

"Joyce inspires us all, not only with her beautiful smile, but with her determination to give back to Rancho, which helped her build a personal bridge to an independent and fulfilling life, said B.J. "She is kind and caring with our patients, and she is always so much fun to work with. Her eagerness to learn

## DUSD's annual report details cost-saving measures



HENRY VENERACION

**DOWNEY** – The 2009-10 DUSD school year was marked by early retirements of many veteran teachers, key staff, and key administrators, a realignment of positions and functions prompted primarily by a shrunken budget, and a strong resolve by the district to further tighten its belt.

This is all reflected in the DUSD's 2009-10 annual report, which was released Tuesday and praised by the board members as "particularly good and informative."

It will be recalled, for instance, that Stan Hanstad opted for early retirement as asst. superintendent-personnel services, as well as director of secondary education Sara Cairns, director of special education Kent

Halbmaier, and personnel commission director Pat Heineke.

As one cost-saving measure, the asst. superintendent-personnel services position became senior director of certificated personnel; for another, the director of elementary education and director of secondary education positions have been combined into one position, that of director of curriculum, instruction & assessment; the director of support programs and Career-Technical Education has also taken over supervision of the Downey Adult School as well.

And on it goes, as titles have been changed to better reflect administrative/staff roles and functions, while school principals and other personnel have been switched around for greater effectiveness of human and educational resources.

The district handed out 1,706 diplomas to graduating seniors, even as staff bore down on its training, curriculum, assessment, and enrichment programs. As technology has sped up various information (including transactions) and other important communication aspects of the education process, the district has increased its emphasis on IT tech-

nology training and practice in schools and at the district, without prejudice to its commitment to its other departments and auxiliary activities.

But without doubt the major area of concern is the district budget. The unforgivable delay in the passage of the state budget didn't allay the district's fears that, in the words of asst. superintendent-business services Kevin Condon, "the prospects continue to look bleak for the next few years."

Recapping the budget developments in the past school year, he says the K-12 education cuts for 2009-10 alone resulted in a 12.1 percent loss of funding for DUSD of \$683 per pupil, which translated to a loss of almost \$14.9 million in General Fund revenue for the year just ended. Never mind the revenue loss of 2.61 percent in the prior fiscal year (2008-09) and a projected cut of an additional .25 percent for the 2010-11 fiscal year, Condon said, adding: "In the current climate of stagnant growth and high unemployment at the state level, in conjunction with a continuing dysfunctional state budget process, it appears that the district's struggle through austerity will continue for at least three more years, 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13."

This means, he said, among other cost-saving measures, continued re-validation of projections in pupil enrollments and state and federal cost-of-living adjustments; continued tight control of staffing at both the site level and in central district support positions, looking for reductions by attrition when feasible; and continuing collaboration with employee groups to develop cost control strategies in health benefits.

In short, the district, while healthier than most at present, should nevertheless be prepared to confront both peril and promise in the immediate years ahead.



Griffiths Middle School students have fun at an assembly, where administrators pass out medals, homework passes and early lunch passes to students who earn good grades.

## Being a good student has added benefits at Griffiths

■ Griffiths Middle School takes active role in creating school leaders.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – To encourage and reward student achievement in as many areas as possible, Griffiths Middle School has been handing out awards on a regular basis under its so-called Renaissance program.

The program, in operation now for a dozen years, has two facets: one is the monthly recognition of students who demonstrate outstanding or otherwise praiseworthy effort not only in academics but for such things as being helpful to others or otherwise exhibiting meaningful, purposeful activity in any area of student life.

Thus at the appropriate morning assemblies, the awards for 'student of the month', the student who's made the (most) outstanding effort at something, and the student who's modeled the six pillars of character, each determined by their classroom teachers, are handed out to the winners to much cheering and hoopla.

The buzz and excitement generated in these monthly assemblies, however, is nothing compared to the level of exhilaration accompanying its twice yearly big award ceremonies. These honor the top

academic achievers and occur in May and October.

The 8th and 7th grade students with 3.5-4.0 GPAs are rewarded with gold cards, those with 3.0-3.49 GPAs get silver cards, and those with 2.5-2.9 GPAs get blue cards.

As far as the hard-working kids are concerned, the real fun part lies in the gold card holders receiving four homework passes and four passes to early lunch; silver holders getting two homework passes and two early lunch passes; with the blue card holders receiving one homework pass and one pass to early lunch.

The 4.0 GPAs are also awarded Griffiths T-shirts.

Last Oct. 13, 133 8th graders (or 28 percent of total) won golds, 88 (or 18 percent of total) got silvers, and 85 (17 percent of total) got blue cards. Forty-one (8 percent of total with 4.0 GPAs) won Griffiths T-shirts.

The numbers among 7th graders were even more telling: 165 kids (or 35 percent of total) earned gold cards, 97 (or 20 percent of total) got silvers, and 83 (or 17 percent of total) got blue ones. Students getting 4.0 GPAs numbered 52 (11 percent of total), also earning T-shirts.

These raucous celebrations feature a Walk of Fame, where the teachers line up on opposite sides

and cheer the announced student winners as they walk through.

Sally English, one of three counselors (the other two: head counselor Julie Main and Alan Toledo) on campus, says: "It's a great celebration. We have a chance to cheer the students' accomplishments, and they love it. They're so happy to be recognized."

"If we could motivate students to practice their math and English skills as eagerly as they practice shooting baskets or skateboarding tricks, we would have 100 percent of students receiving Renaissance cards," she added.

Coordinator of the program is art teacher Ed Plant, who has taught the subject for 15 years, has been an ASB advisor for six years, and an after-school sports coach of volleyball, football, baseball, basketball, and track and field for the last 12 years--all at Griffiths.

Plant, who is married with three kids, says: "I believe that students succeed when they are involved and engaged in their education, whether it's through relevant classroom instruction or fun activities that focus on school spirit and community pride. My emphasis has always included raising student leaders to be a positive force or example on campus and in the community."

GMS principal is Gregg Stapp.

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## Vons admits store is closing

**DOWNEY** – After years of speculation regarding the sustainability of Downey's Vons Market near the corner of Florence Avenue and Paramount Boulevard, corporate representatives are now confirming that the nearly 50-year-old store will close its doors on Oct. 30.

According to a statement released this week by Vons spokesman Carlos Illingworth, the closure comes as a result of the location's failure to meet corporate performance standards.

"We have performance standards established for all our stores, and as it relates specifically to our Downey Vons, this is a location that simply did not meet expectations," said Illingworth, Vons' manager for public affairs and government relations. "We have notified all involved, including our landlord and employees that we intend to cease operations on October 30."

Illingworth said immediately following the closure all employees will be transferred to nearby Vons locations.

For weeks, city officials and community leaders have reported that the aging grocery store, which is located at 10001 Paramount Blvd., would close down and be replaced with a Mexican market; however, these reports were denied earlier this month by a Vons store manager.

According to Illingworth's statement, all items, with the exception of tobacco, liquid milk, lottery tickets, postage stamps, and customer service merchandise, will be discounted by 50 percent starting on Oct. 27.

— Christian Brown, staff writer

## Launch party at space center

**DOWNEY** – The Columbia Memorial Space Center will host a party Nov. 1 to celebrate the final launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery.

The launch will be broadcast live on the space center's new media wall.

The party is from noon to 5 p.m. The actual launch is scheduled for 1:40 p.m.

Tickets to the event are \$10. Members of the space center are admitted free.

For more information, call (562) 231-1200.

## Free mulch for gardening

**DOWNEY** – Residents can receive up to 32 gallons of mulch for fall gardening at a giveaway Saturday in the City Hall west parking lot.

The mulch, courtesy of CalMet Services, will be given away from 9 a.m. to noon. Residents should bring their own containers.

For more information, call CalMet at (562) 259-1239.



PHOTO BY ERIC PIERCE

Downey efforts to bolster positive ethics in schools and the community has earned it the Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association.

## Downey wins award for being a model character city

■ Golden Bell Award presented to DUSD and city of Downey for work with Character Counts.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Unified School District, in collaboration with the city of Downey, received the Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association, an award presented every year to recognize "sustainable, innovative or exemplary programs which have been developed and successfully implemented by California teachers and administrators."

Downey won the honor for its work in Character Counts, a program instituted locally in 2006 by DUSD superintendent Dr. Wendy Doty.

Character Counts sets out to improve students' character by focusing on the "Six Pillars of Character," trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

A Character Counts coalition encouraged all citizens – corporate and individual – to model these

traits in an ongoing commitment to promote character development and ethical behavior in the children of Downey.

The results include a 5.1% improvement in the school district's API scores, dramatic decreases in suspensions and expulsions, and crime has decreased each year since Character Counts was initiated, city officials said.

"Although we know many factors impact the crime statistics of Downey, I believe the implementation of the Character Counts throughout our city has had a direct impact on the quality of life in Downey," Councilman Mario Guerra said in a statement.

The six pillars of character are displayed inside city council chambers, and a proposal is expected soon to name city roadways after the six pillars, city officials said.

At a press conference Wednesday to announce the award, Michael Josephson of the Josephson Institute of Ethics praised Downey as an example for other cities in the southeast area.

"What makes Downey unusual is the cooperation between the city, school board and superintendent," Josephson said.

## Former Vernon city manager indicted

**VERNON** – The former city manager of Vernon was arraigned Tuesday on a three-count jury indictment charging him with conflict of interest and public officer crime.

Daniel Vincent O'Callaghan, 54, pleaded not guilty.

The indictment, which was unsealed by Judge Peter Espinoza on Tuesday, includes an excessive taking allegation that the loss exceeded \$65,000.

According to prosecutors, O'Callaghan allegedly helped secure a contract between the city

of Vernon and his wife, Kimberly O'Callaghan. The amount of the loss to the city was more than \$140,000, prosecutors said.

Bail for O'Callaghan was set at \$50,000. He is due in court Dec. 3.

O'Callaghan faces more than four years in prison if convicted.

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## Physician groups announce merger

■ AppleCare and Alliance Physicians become one.

**DOWNEY** – AppleCare Medical Group and Alliance Physicians Medical Group have merged into a single health care system, officials from the health groups announced last week.

Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Patients should not notice any changes in their care or appointments, officials said. The new company will operate as AppleCare Medical Group.

"This is a win-win for all parties, especially our patients," said Vinod Jivrajka, MD, president of AppleCare. "By combining the resources of both physician groups, we will be positioned as the leading medical care organization in the community."

Physicians from both groups have served the Downey and Whittier area for several years. All area hospital affiliations of the two physician groups, including Downey Regional Medical Center, St. Francis Medical Center, Lakewood Regional Medical Center and others will remain unchanged.

Officials said the merger was spurred in part by federal health care reform that went into effect this year.

"Ensuring the best medical care for Downey area residents as health reform legislation becomes more mature in our area was our goal with the merger," said Dr. Gil Bender, chairman of the Board of Alliance Physicians Medical Group, based in Downey. "Integrated and accounted care organizations are the cornerstone of the future model of care, whereby physicians, hospitals and health plans work in concert to improve access and efficiencies. In reality, we are there now."

Ken Strople, chief executive officer of Downey Regional Medical Center, said he "welcomed the new alignment as supporting many fine physicians in the community and believe that this new direction will only improve access to great care in our community."

Officials from both groups reiterated there will be no disruption in medical care for patients.

"We designed this merger so that it is seamless in nature and will not disrupt the exceptional and compassionate care our physicians provide to their patients," Vinod said.

Patients with questions regarding the merger can call (800) 460-5051 to speak to an AppleCare representative.

## Doctor accused of selling painkillers

■ Dr. Nazar Al Bussam allegedly sold painkillers without examining patients.

**DOWNEY** – A physician who practiced out of medical offices in Downey and Los Angeles was arrested Wednesday for allegedly prescribing painkillers to patients he had not examined and who had no medical need for them.

Dr. Nazar Al Bussam, 71, and two of his employees were charged with conspiracy to illegally dispense prescription narcotics.

Bussam allegedly earned more than \$1 million a year by selling prescriptions for \$100 each, officials with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said.

Since 2007, Bussam is

accused of prescribing more than 60,000 painkillers such as OxyContin, Vicodin and Promethazine with codeine, according to a criminal complaint.

Authorities said that some of the people Bussam sold painkillers to resold the pills in California and Texas.

Federal authorities first became aware of Bussam in 2007 when he was listed as among the top 10 prescribers of painkillers in the Los Angeles area.

In addition to Bussam, also arrested Wednesday were Rosemary Mendoza, 75, and James Park, 72. All three face up to 20 years in prison.

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## Residents want AYSO out of Griffiths

■ Residents voice complaints to school board, allege trash, noise and traffic.

By HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – The portion allowing the public to speak on items not appearing on the agenda of the Downey Unified School District board of education on Tuesday became a lively and often contentious one as a bunch of speakers spoke pro and con on the subject of AYSO soccer games held at Griffiths Middle School.

A number of neighbors in the area complained bitterly about the “noise, the traffic, the trash, and the vandalism” that they say have characterized AYSO activities on Griffith’s grounds.

Cooler heads agreed to solve the problem through compromise, even laying out a program to transfer some of the soccer games to different district and city venues, but that this can be accomplished only at a later date.

This did not pacify the vocal neighbors.

Superintendent Wendy Doty assured everyone that she was aware of the problems at Griffiths and had met with several concerned groups to craft a workable solution, and pointed out that the

only practicable solution would be to wait out AYSO’s presence until early December. After that, she said, the complaints raised by the complainants should be resolved.

Meanwhile, the school board heard Vision Award presentations honoring three teachers in the area of student achievement, as well as the selection of Caryn Fetzer as Masonic Teacher of the Year.

West Middle School math teacher Robert Kaplinsky was extolled by principal Craig Bertsch as a “fantastic educator” whose creative contributions and engaging personality have “forever left a mark on the culture of West.” The UCLA math and computer science major was especially cited for his contributions to the district’s Professional Learning Communities (PLC) and Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) programs.

Alameda principal Lisa Rawlings introduced Vision Awardee in the area of student achievement Maureen Sary as one of Alameda’s “exemplary 3rd grade teachers,” who has contributed greatly to Alameda’s recent API score of 835, the school’s citation as a California Distinguished School, as well as the school winning a 2010 Title I Academic Achievement Award. Maureen, she said, not only has

been an effective classroom teacher but has also served as team leader, Mentor Teacher, Master Teacher, meanwhile contributing her many talents and her time by serving on several district-level committees.

The third Vision Awardee was fourth grade Gaudin teacher Jennifer Toledo who, according to Gaudin principal Dolores Goble, has been a team leader, the ELD teacher, the site SIOP coach and a member of the district’s curriculum committee, among other activities, and epitomizes what an outstanding teacher should be as well as an exemplar of the 6 pillars of character. What she says she heard about Jennifer prior to joining Gaudin as “excellent, driven, dedicated, professional, a leader, and so on,” has all been proven to be true. Jennifer has been honored as Masonic Teacher of the Year, as well as being given the Honorary Continuing Service Award by the Gaudin PTA.

In other action, the Board: \*Gratefully acknowledged cash and in-kind donations from various parties, including \$5,000 from Kaiser Permanente, \$2,000 from Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis Foundation, \$1,000 from anonymous donors—all in honor of Kent Halbmaier’s retirement, as well as a number of varying amounts, to be used in support of TLC Family Resource Center; and another \$1,000 from Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis Foundation to support DUSD’s Character Counts

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Participants in the second annual Chili Cook-Off helped to raise more than \$7,000 for Soroptimist International of Downey.

## Chili Cook-Off raises \$7K for Soroptimist

**DOWNEY** – More than \$7,000 was raised by Soroptimist International of Downey when it hosted its second annual Chili Cook-Off and Car Show on Oct. 3 at the Downey Elks Lodge.

The money will be used to support local community organizations and scholarships.

Bob and Michele Winningham won first place in the Best Place category, followed by Bob Ciatti (second place) and Rick Haines (third place).

The award for Hottest Chili went to Gary De Remer. Second place was awarded to Johnny Venegas and third place went to the Shaun Foundation and Gourmet Café.

Most Unique Chili was awarded to Dee Bacus, followed by

Johnny Venegas in second place and Danny Potter in third place.

The People’s Choice Award went to Lorraine De Remer, and Dee Bacus won Best Decorated Booth.

Honorable Mentions went to the remaining contestants, which included Meredith Perkins, Sam Mathis, Susan Domen, Sharon Olivito, Michael Heineke, Kevin Kendall and the Downey Police Department, Dominic DiMario, Mike Duron and RMI International.

The judges, who each tasted 54 cups of chili, included Michael Murray, president of the Downey Chamber of Commerce; Beth Trombley, director of public affairs for Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center; and Michele

Memmott, governor of the Camino Real region of Soroptimist International of Americas.

The car show was an added feature to this year’s chili cook-off. Best in show went to a 1956 Ford F100, while a 1930 Ford Model A won the Pre-1973 category. Ladies Choice went to a 1935 Ford coupe, and Presidents Choice was won by a 1963 Ford Galaxy.

The car show was sponsored by Downey Nissan and McKenna Audi, while Jim Louder of Bob’s Big Boy and Rick Rodriguez of the Downey Street Fair committee served as judges.

Soroptimist has scheduled another fundraiser, their annual Casino Night, for April 1, 2011 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

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## Letters to the Editor:

### Independent restaurants

Dear Editor,

As an independent restaurateur that has been serving Downey for over 50 years it is really sad to see a venue like Sambi of Tokyo getting ready to close. It really hits home.

I dined there this week (as have so many I've been told) and remembered special evenings. Sitting at a Tappan table with strangers that ended up knowing someone that I knew etc...laughing and enjoying and feeling comfortable.

I have memories of Sambi's as do so many of my friends and loyal patrons.

In a fragile economy it gets more difficult to stay profitable as an independent business that has to compete with all the national chain restaurants that we have seen opening in the past few years. You know the ones that have deep pockets and identical floor plans, the ones that line you up at the door then herd you through. The ones that seem to challenge you to have a conversation because it is so loud. Those restaurants survive these times because of national marketing and strategic location planning. They are designed and created to a standard that works. The food is good, the service good and you can be in one and have been in them all.

They lack the character that independent restaurants offer. The comfort, the smell, the staff that recognizes you and asks how you are, but really means it! It's fun when I can tell someone that their favorite table is ready for them and lead them to it and see the smile on their faces. Or know a certain party is coming in Friday night and have ready what they like to eat and drink.

I have many customers that stay at the Embassy Suites from out of town that have given me a great deal of insight. They eat out a lot! It makes me so happy when they tell me that they love my restaurant because it's not a chain. It reminds them of a place back home. It doesn't have to be an Italian restaurant either. It just makes them feel special and good and think of being home. That is when I know all the work and sacrifices my family and myself have made are worth it.

I want to thank everyone that has supported us and independent businesses like Sambi's for so long. I know my family cherishes each and everyone of you.

I can only imagine how difficult it would be to lock up for the last time.

-- Paul Granata,  
Owner, Granata's Italian Villa

### City salaries

Dear Editor:

I have attempted to read through the budget as shown on the city's website, but it is too confusing and too time consuming to look up all the information I was searching for in regards to city administrations annual salaries.

Why doesn't the city of Downey, like other cities, post the position, person and annual salary of the top-salaried employees (including city council and mayor) on the front page of its website like some cities have done to avoid the "city of Bell" stigma?

-- David Abney,  
Downey

### Vote for governor

Dear Editor:

My vote for governor is based on this philosophy: whoever champions letting me keep more of the money that I earn to spend, donate and save, gets my vote. Based on that, my vote is for Meg Whitman.

Career politician Atty. Gen. Jerry Brown has a history of spending and raising taxes. I do not need a politician to do what I can do for myself.

-- Jeffrey East,  
Downey

### Voice for voters

Dear Editor:

I finally received the sample ballot voting booklet on Oct. 16, more than two weeks later, long after mail-in ballots were sent out and probably voted on, starting on Oct. 4. ("Missing Booklets," Letters to the Editor, 10/14/10)

People can and probably did mail in their votes without having full knowledge of Measure A in Bellflower, for or against it. That's election fraud against the people.

In the same booklet, there is a supposedly impartial analysis of Measure A, written by the author of the measure. That's impartial? Looks more like a doom and gloom shill job by a lawyer whose pay comes from the city, through you, the taxpaying paymaster. I think it is a blatant misuse of taxpayers' monies and a conflict of interest by the city and hired attorney. More election fraud against the people. Using the people's money to tax themselves in order for them to benefit. People's taxes pay all bills and wages.

The Press-Telegram aids and abets this election fraud against Bellflower residents by not printing vital information relating to this election, my letter to their editors last week. Of course they get revenue from the city too. They don't want the voters to be too smart, so they decide for us what's right and wrong.

The Downey Patriot is the only paper in Southern California that gives a full page of opinions only, while the big guys wonder why their readership and revenue from subscribers is declining. They have to look no further than their own mirror.

-- Joe Cvetko,  
Downey

### Theater's purpose & power

Dear Editor:

During the intermission of "No, No, Nanette's" Sunday closing performance at the Downey Civic Light Opera, Marsha Moode did her usual charming turn in announcing the Be A Star raffle, whose winner plays a bit role in the DCLO's next production (former Downey Mayor Diane Boggs was Sunday's recipient). There was a second raffle this time, for a gift basket in the lobby. The winner this time stood up to say that she was "in escrow."

The normally unflappable Moode, who has a comebacker for every occasion, was not only stopped this time, but took a half step back. Escrow, of course, is linked to real estate, whose overall condition represents an even greater tale of American woe than news of another soldier's death or brain-damaged veteran coming home from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Oh well, who's keeping their house these days," Moode said. "It's terrible."

Chances are that most in the DCLO's audience have been able to hold on to their homes—Downey remains "the step-up city" for the surrounding communities. But a murmur went through the crowd just the same. It's no secret that we're in bad times.

When rumors of an impending financial collapse began circulating in 2008, pundits were saying that the economy could survive anything so long as there was consumer confidence. That confidence is gone. This is a unique unemployment cycle inasmuch as lost jobs are not coming back—they've been either outsourced or computerized. The economy is stuck because the federal bailout didn't translate into liquidity—the big Wall Street banks have held on to the money. Our political apparatus is stuck because too many politicians have, in the name of gaining or keeping power, lost sight of the greater good—other robust countries like Brazil are bypassing the U.S. because, in the words of Brazilian industrial tycoon Eike Batista, "American is in political gridlock."

American culture is collapsing too. Pop music is less musical and more punishing and incoherent, movies resemble more and more a studio factory product of dumb action blockbusters and triple sequels, and television becomes more and more stupefying as it shows us how low people are willing to go to gain "reality" ratings. Socially, computer network "friending" replaces actual socializing as it too confuses virtual reality with the real thing.

Except for the relatively few sequestered multibillionaires who control the bulk of the economy, people in general are anxious, confused, and faced with the specter of out-of-control breakdown on nearly every front. Tempers, as a result, grow short.

What's this got to do with the DCLO's "No, No, Nanette," a dated, silly, inconsequential '20s musical that has only two decent songs? Because it had bright music, comedy and dancing, and attractive period costumes draped over attractive young bodies gathered onstage for a lively grand finale. At the end, when the ensemble reached out to sing "I Want To Be Happy," most of the audience kept their seats rather than bolt for the parking lot. They wanted to hear it—even if it was just to share a song with a cheery ensemble that seemed far away from serious problems.

That's the power of the theater. It's all of us alone in the dark looking around to see that we're not alone, and that we can share feelings instead of emoticons. Whatever we're suffering, we're in it together. We can even dare to be happy for a few moments. It seems there's very little of that these days.

-- Lawrence Christon,  
Downey

### Disagrees with review

Dear Editor:

The review of "No, No Nanette" in The Downey Patriot's Oct. 14 edition was undeserved. The article's title, "There Aren't Many Vibrating Tunes in 'No, No Nanette,'" forewarned us that a disappointing commentary would follow.

Our girls' night out group of 26 has been attending the preview performance of the Downey Civic Light Opera series plays for a number of years. When we left the theater on Sept. 30, several of us commented that "No, No Nanette" was one of the best productions presented in every way. The acting and singing by the cast, the music, and the phenomenal endurance of the dancers were all enjoyable. Some of us made a point to make favorable comments to [executive producer] Marsha Moode as we exited the theater, and some even attended a second performance of the play.

We concede that the writer did a good job describing the story line and being complimentary as to the overall productions that have been presented. However, the writer's negative introductory title and final comment, "No, No Nanette" just isn't my cup of tea," certainly do not encourage attendance at the Downey Civic Light Opera productions or support the community in which The Downey Patriot is published.

-- Charlene Farnsworth and friends,  
Downey

### Remember to scoop

Dear Editor:

Many people have pets, especially dogs and cats, and with ownership comes responsibilities. If your dog poops, please scoop, place it in a plastic bag and then into a trash can – the sooner the better.

There are many reasons for quick removal. Scientists have discovered that dog waste is one of the many causes of water pollution, and this pollution poses a great hazard to human health. The rainy season has arrived so this material will quickly liquefy and flow directly into the ocean.

Flies and insects will follow each other to the location of food. We often see them in our homes, in our kitchens and they also love to join us at barbecues. They watch each other constantly so when one finds food, all of the others gather to eat.

A common scenario: a fly lands on doggy doo, walks around then heads for our kitchen or BBQ. Their feet, loaded with bad bacteria, then walk on our food or food preparation surface, thus spreading infected material.

To keep Downey beautiful remember these words of wisdom: when your pet poops, you scoop, and also keep a supply of inexpensive fly swatters within easy reach.

-- Byron Dillon,  
Committee member, Keep Downey Beautiful

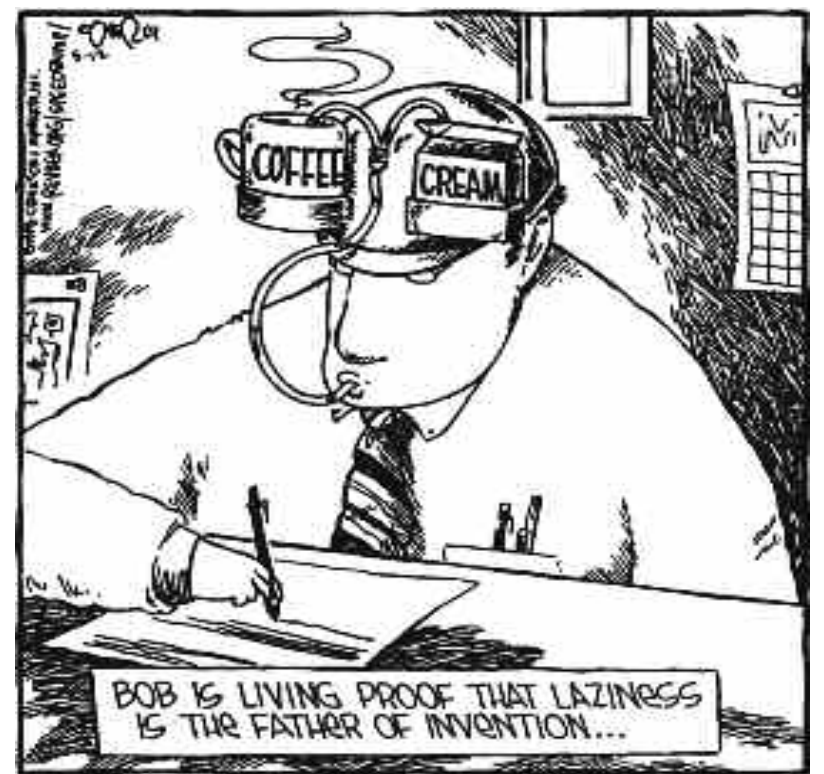
### Saving water

Dear Editor:

This is probably a good time for people to reset their automatic sprinklers and greatly reduce their water usage.

Last year I kept mine completely off for the winter months and my lawn was fine.

-- Gary E. Myers,  
Downey



### How we arrived here

Dear Editor:

This in response to the Letter to the Editor last week titled "Third World Country," in which the author blames our country's downfall on the Obama administration and turns a blind eye to what really began our descent into third-world status: the Bush administration made up "facts" to involve us in two wars costing over a trillion dollars and then borrowed all of the money (mostly from Communist China), which we now have to pay back; it sent airplanes stacked high with bundles of U.S. currency in large denominations to pass out in Iraq and then it couldn't account for \$6 billion which it "lost" there.

It gave overpriced, no-bid contracts to Vice President Dick Cheney's old company Halliburton to do all kinds of services for our military in Iraq. Then Halliburton, after being overpaid by U.S. taxpayers, decided it was not financially advantageous to be a U.S. company anymore and moved its headquarters to Dubai.

The facts are that our country's descent into third-world status didn't start with President Obama, but much earlier, as seen in the near economic collapse of our financial system which happened months before Obama took office.

According to Sen. Bernie Sanders, middle class family income in the U.S. declined \$2,200 a year over the eight years of President George W. Bush; now the top 1% of richest Americans hold approximately 43% of the money in the U.S., and the top 1/10th of 1% earn 11% of all income. The richest 1% earn more than the bottom 50%. This kind of income disparity is seen in third-world countries.

In eight years under President Bush, the Republicans ran the U.S. economy into the ground. They took a \$270 billion operating surplus inherited from the Clinton administration and left us with a \$1.3 trillion deficit and in the process quadrupled the national debt, all before the Democrats turned on the lights in the West Wing.

Ms. Leuven complains about President Obama giving jobs away: Senate candidate Carly Fiorina should know about that. As head of Hewlett Packard, she sent 35,000 American jobs overseas and then bragged about sending them to India, China, etc. When Meg Whitman was head of eBay, she paid herself \$120 million right before she laid off 10% of the workers there.

It is easy to blame all our problems on those who are currently in office, but it is important to have a perspective on what has really been happening to our country and how we got where we are.

-- Anita Rivero,  
Downey

### Local candidate

Dear Editor:

It is truly a fresh breath of air when a voter can support a longtime neighbor who wants and deserves the opportunity to give back to his community. In this case, I am referring to Alex Saab, running for Downey's 4th City Council district.

In short, Alex was raised, attended schools and lived in the 4th district, even while attending law school. He then decided to raise his family and ultimately open a law office in the same district.

By the way, if you have not met Alex, I feel confident that when you do, you would find that he is authentic, honest, compassionate, approachable, accountable and a highly-respected business and community leader.

I feel Alex is not only a product of the 4th district, but a humble role model from our district. This explains why I proudly support Alex, who is also endorsed by many community leaders, business owners, educators and, most of all, fellow neighbors.

A vote for Alex Saab is the beginning of a better quality of life and stronger community.

-- Leonard Zuniga,  
Downey

### Help for stuttering

Dear Editor:

If speech therapy was good enough for King George VI, it's good enough for us!

With the release of the new movie, "The King's Speech," it's a great time to highlight International Stuttering Awareness Day, Oct. 22, and let readers know that there are speech-language pathologists in your area who specialize in helping people who stutter.

The nonprofit Stuttering Foundation provides a free list of local therapists for your readers at our website, www.stutteringhelp.org, or they may call (800) 992-9392.

The same dread King George VI felt about speaking in public was also felt by our founder Malcolm Fraser and many others in the 1930s and 40s. However, today's research shows that stuttering does indeed have a biological cause and can be effectively treated.

Thank you for helping us reach those who stutter in your community.

-- Jane Fraser,  
President, Stuttering Foundation

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

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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



## Downey Community Calendar

### Events For October

- Sat. Oct. 23: **Mulch giveaway**, City Hall, 9 a.m.
- Sat. Oct. 23: **Downey Symphony concert**, Downey Theatre, 8 p.m.
- Sun. Oct. 24: **Parade of Winners**, Rio Hondo Event Center, 1 p.m.
- Mon. Oct. 25: **Halloween party for kids**, YMCA, 5:30 p.m.
- Wed. Oct. 27: **Discussion on back pain**, community center, 1 p.m.

### City Meetings

- 1st Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.: **Redevelopment Project Area Committee**, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
- 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.: **Planning Commission**, Council Chamber at City Hall.
- 1st Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.: **Recreation and Community Services Commission**, Council Chamber, City Hall.
- 1st Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.: **Emergency Preparedness Committee**, at Fire Station No. 1, 12222 Paramount Blvd.
- 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.

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

#### Mondays

- 2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: **American Legion Auxiliary #270**, at United Methodist Church.
- 3rd Mon., 7 p.m.: **American Legion Post#270**, at Los Amigos C. C., for more info. call (626) 445-2582.
- 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 Ingrid Martin at 413-4001.
- 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 Tues., 3 p.m.: **Keep Downey Beautiful**, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7159.
- 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., 11:30 a.m.: **Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos Country Club, call Sonja 862-4347.
- 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 p.m.: **Lions Club**, at The Palms, 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 Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.
- 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...

- Oct. 21, 1879:** Thomas Edison invented a workable electric light at his laboratory.
- 1917:** American soldiers first saw action in World War I on the front lines in France.
- 1967:** Tens of thousands of Vietnam War protesters marched in Washington, D.C.
- 2003:** Florida Gov. Jeb Bush ordered a feeding tube reinserted into Terry Schiavo, a brain-damaged woman at the center of a right-to-die battle.
- Birthdays:** Baseball hall of famer Whitey Ford (83), TV judge Judy Scheindlin (68), actress Carrie Fisher (54), "Growing Pains" actor Jeremy Miller (34), reality TV star Kim Kardashian (30) and football player Willis McGahee (30).

### THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

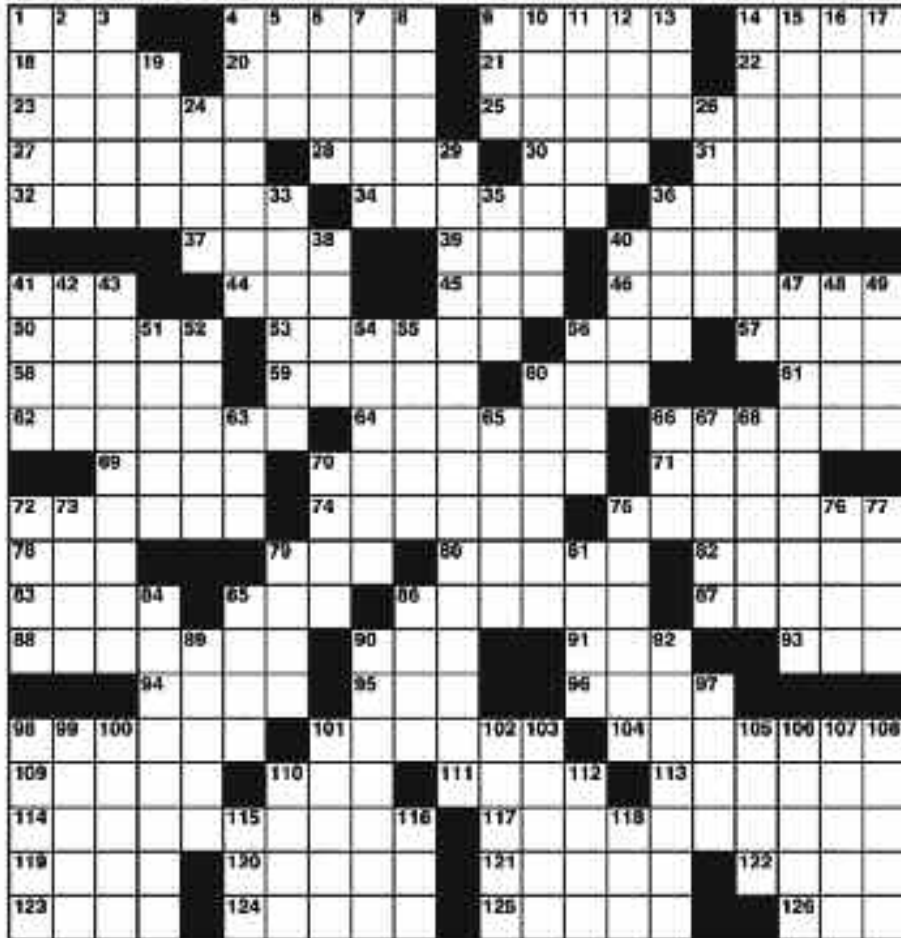
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

#### MALE CALL: It's a guy thing

by Norma Steinberg

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





## Things to do this weekend:



**Nickelback**  
**When:** Friday, Oct. 22  
**Where:** Hoday Center  
**How much:** Starting at \$42

•Opening for Nickelback is Three Days Grace and Buckcherry.



**The Nightmare Before Christmas -- in 4D**

**When:** Oct. 22-24  
**Where:** El Capitan Theatre  
**How much:** \$11 - \$23

•Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas" will be presented in digital 3D, plus sensory effects to make it a 4D experience.



**Nightmare: A Haunted Attraction**

**When:** Oct. 22-24  
**Where:** Pomona Fairplex  
**How much:** \$15

•Knott's and Universal Studios are sold out, you say? Check out the mazes at the Pomona Fairplex, which feature all the frights minus the crowds.



**Shakira**  
**When:** Saturday, Oct. 23  
**Where:** Staples Center  
**How much:** Starting at \$39.50

**2010-2011 Interns for The Downey Patriot**

**Joseph Apodaca**  
**Jennifer Cho**  
**Nichole Hamilton**  
**Rebekah Jin**  
**Deanna Kim**  
**Joanna Quintana**  
**Deborah Won**

•

**Photographers**  
**Paul Heidecker**

## Warren High adds new clubs & diversity

BY DEANNA KIM, INTERNS

**DOWNEY** – Looking for ways to be more involved with the school and community, students at Warren High School have started new clubs.

Of the 40 or so clubs on campus, there are four new additions: Flourish and Blott's, FIDM Fashion Club, Helping Hands, and Gay-Straight Alliance; Asian Appreciation Club is in the process of becoming finalized. Ranging from clubs established for over two decades and clubs that started merely last year, Warren clubs are helping to increase student involvement and sense of acceptance.

Flourish and Blott's is named after the bookstore in the Harry Potter series in which Harry Potter, the protagonist, attains school books. Vice president Priscilla SanJuan said, "This club raises money for Advanced Placement classes that are needed... we are small but growing."

FIDM Fashion Club especially has shown to be popular among the

students at Warren. With over 100 students showing up to the meetings, FIDM Fashion Club plans to hold fashion shows where members will participate in the productions of make-up, clothes, jewelry, interior design, and modeling. Guest speakers have taught students cosmetology and more speakers are scheduled to come. President Alexis Hernandez said, "Well I thought since we never had a fashion club in our school why not make one? A lot of students at Warren High are interested in becoming designers or are just interested in fashion."

Helping Hands, founded by Gihad Abdelhady is a club dedicated to helping out other clubs. Whether clubs need help making signs, fundraisers, or just extra hands for an event, this club's main objective is to make things easier. "I just wanted to start a club where we could get easy hours, help others, and? wouldn't have much of a hassle," said Abdelhady.

Gay-Straight Alliance is a club previously on campus two years ago but restarted by senior Jaime Flores. Flores said, "I started this club because I wanted gays to have

a place to hangout and relax." This club also tries to promote tolerance and unity at school through social events and community services such as the Day of Silence, where members and others will stay mute a whole day in remembrance of those beaten and killed for being gay.

Asian Appreciation Club is in the process of becoming an official club by co-president Kenitza Carrillo. "I pretty much wanted to

start it because my best friends are Asian and I love them and their culture. They are so smart, funny, and they have this crazy work ethic I envy them for. I want to spread that appreciation throughout the Warren Campus... we still have many more things to plan out." Among these plans, this club intends to have events where ethnic Asian foods are tasted, the process of making those foods shared, Asian holidays celebrated, and

have trips to areas like Little Tokyo. Asian Appreciation Club especially plans on fund-raising money to donate to charities committed to helping Asia.

With many diverse clubs on campus at Warren High School, students may gain a sense of commitment, belonging, and involvement when part of a club.

## Where can Downey Link take you?

BY DEBORAH WON, INTERN

**DOWNEY** – Exasperated with sitting in Saturday traffic, I set out with a to-do list and a friend, Julie Ledesma, and hopped on the Downey Link to get a taste of Downey's public transportation.

The afternoon began as we walked to the Downey Link bus stop on Suva right near Maude Price Elementary School. Being the first time since we obtained our driver's licenses that we attempted a different method of transportation other than our cars, we were both pretty excited. However, my complete lack of direction and knowledge of the bus system worried us both. Regardless, we confidently approached the challenge, and equipped with a full print out of all the routes and times of the Downey Link, we mapped out our next location.

First, the Northwest Route carried us into Pico Rivera territory, until we got off the bus at the bus stop off of Gallatin. The help of the kind bus driver ensured that we did not get completely lost on our first bus ride. Then, after arguing over what color route we were supposed to take, we got back onto the bus, this time on the Northeast Route, which happily transferred us to the Stonewood Center on Firestone. Luckily, we had extra time on our hands, for the bus took the scenic route, giving us a tour of Downey's notable landmarks, including the Civic Center, the Downey City Library and Theatre, and even Downey High School before dropping us off at the Stonewood Mall.

With Halloween just around the corner, we both searched the mall thoroughly for possible costumes, although we did not find much. As we were about to leave, we encountered our first problem. Waiting at the bus stop at 2:15 p.m., we realized that the next bus was not to arrive until 2:45. Fidgeting in front of the bus stop for half an hour, which seemed an eternity for two extremely impatient girls, our energy returned with the sight of the timely bus, which arrived exactly at 2:45.

Our growling stomachs acted as a magnet towards the Downey Landing, as we hurriedly jumped off the bus towards food central. Elephant Bar was the lucky winner of the afternoon, as we spent two hours munching away, completely forgetting about the adventures on the bus. After the complaining of our stomachs subsided, we ran over to Michael's and bought five cases of heavy duty paint. Lugging the paint, we hurried back to the bus stop in time for our next destination.

Unfortunately, the Southwest route stopped at Stewart and Grey, a ways away from our destination, Warren High School, but the walking exercise was welcomed since we had gorged ourselves on Elephant Bar cuisine. The paint cans clattered heavily till we arrived at Warren's parking lot, as we plopped down on the asphalt. Opening the paint cans, we set to work to paint our parking spots, which are a senior privilege to have. Ironically, we had taken the bus around Downey in order to paint an area for our cars.

From Warren, and I must admit we cheated a bit, we were able to hitch a ride to Wilderness Park, a lovely locale with a convenient bus stop. After a brief rest as we laughed at the frantic ducks escaping the grasps of eager children, we decided to call it a day. The bus return home looped around Gallatin, around Unsworth Elementary School, straight down

Telegraph then Paramount, till the comforting sights of Suva returned to our view.

Quite frankly, the day had exhausted both of us, and we parted ways and walked back to our own homes just a block away from each other.

With bus rates at 50 cents a ride, with free transfers to other Downey Link routes when transfers are sequential, we collectively spent \$4 for our transportation. Calculating the amount of gas we would have used, the Downey Link was definitely a money saver, although the scenic routes of the bus took longer than if we were driving from location to location.

On the Downey Link, we discovered niches in the city that are generally overlooked when driving in our personal cars, as the bus turned out to be an interesting addition in running our weekend errands.

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*This information is provided by: DHS College Career Ctr. Mrs. Campos*

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- No application essay.

**Cal State University**

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- SAT Reasoning or ACT required
- No application essay.
- [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)

**University of California**

- Apply November 1<sup>st</sup> - November 30<sup>th</sup>
- More comprehensive application - need to list classes taken, activities, and awards
- SAT Reasoning or ACT with Writing required.
- Two SAT Subject tests required. (Must be from different disciplines)
- Application has short answer essays.
- [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/)

**Private and Out of State Universities**

- Deadlines vary (most are due by mid January).
- Comprehensive applications - need to list classes taken, activities, and awards
- Usually official transcripts need to be sent, as well as letter of recommendation.
- SAT Reasoning or ACT with Writing & SAT Subject tests required.
- Applications usually have several essays.
- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

*Fee waivers for application costs are available to students who qualify!*

## Girls put aside rivalry for common cause

BY REBEKAH JIN, INTERN

**DOWNEY** – Setting aside their tradition of rivalry, the girls' volleyball teams of Downey and Warren met on Monday for a cause more important than victory.

One in every eight women develops breast cancer in her lifetime, but the remedy still remains undiscovered. In an effort to solve this problem, both Downey and Warren girls' volleyball teams spread awareness about breast cancer throughout the month of October. All proceeds from the "Dig Pink" volleyball game were dedicated to the Side-Out Foundation to help find a cure for breast cancer.

"We participated in the Susan G. Komen Walk for a Cure, sold close to 500 pink shirts and 350 pink ribbons, had baskets donated to raffle off at the game, and much more," said Andrea Sims, the girls' volleyball coach at Downey. "The 'Dig Pink' event was the first Downey/Warren volleyball match in which the community came together to support both teams in an effort to raise funds for this great cause. The gym was packed with the crowd wearing pink to show their support."

Even teachers participated in

the goal to raise \$5,000 for the Side-Out Foundation. Many of them encouraged their students to attend the game, while others went above and beyond by fundraising on their own time.

"Everyone has something that they are good at, and making caramel apples was my way of contributing to the fundraising," said Linda Hanson, an English teacher who has taught at Downey for over 20 years. "Students understand that every dollar can make a difference. I spent my birthday dipping apples into caramel and chocolate chips. To my way of thinking, it was a great way to help a worthy cause."

Instead of focusing on defeating the rival team, both Downey and Warren's volleyball players competed against each other with a cheerful attitude.

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- > The future direction of the projects will be decided at the October Metro Board of Directors meeting.

**Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2**

- > Metro is studying two light rail transit alternatives to extend the Metro Gold Line farther east from the Atlantic Station in East LA.
- > Two routes being explored are from Atlantic Boulevard east along either the Pomona Freeway or Washington Boulevard.

**West Santa Ana Transit Corridor**

- > The project utilizes a portion of an abandoned 20-mile rail right-of-way between Paramount and Santa Ana.
- > Alternatives to be evaluated include bus rapid transit, light rail, commuter rail and high-speed rail.

For more information, visit [metro.net/3010](http://metro.net/3010).

**Metro**

## 'Hair' returns to Pantages

**HOLLYWOOD** – The Tony Award-winning musical revival of "Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical," will begin performances at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood on Jan. 5, playing a three-week engagement through Jan. 23, 2011.

"Hair" won the 2009 Tony Award for Best Musical Revival as well as the Drama Desk, Drama League and Outer Critics Circle award for Outstanding Revival of a Musical.

The "Hair" cast recording was also nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album.

In 2009, the Public Theater production of "Hair" transferred to Broadway at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre, beginning previews on March 9, 2009. The production was greeted with almost uniformly positive critical response.

With a score including such musical numbers as "Let the Sun Shine In," "Aquarius," "Hair" and "Good Morning Starshine," "Hair" depicts the birth of a cultural movement in the 60's and 70's that changed America forever. The musical follows a group of hopeful, free-spirited young people who advocate a lifestyle of pacifism and free-love in a society riddled with intolerance and brutality during the Vietnam War.

As they explore sexual identity, challenge racism, experiment with drugs and burn draft cards, the show resonates with a message of

hope more than 40 years after it first opened on Broadway.

Originally produced off-Broadway at Joseph Papp's Public Theater in October 1967, "Hair" became an almost immediate sensation, a lightning rod for New York's hippie subculture, who embraced the show's progressive themes. It was also the target of significant controversy because of its depiction of sexuality and drug use, and the presence of explicit nudity and profanity.

The show moved uptown, and in April 1968, opened on Broadway, where it went on to run for 1,750 performances, spawning numerous productions throughout the U.S. and Europe.

"Hair" has roots to Hollywood dating back to 1968, where the West Coast premiere production opened on Sunset Boulevard, just two blocks from the Pantages, about six months following the production's Broadway opening. The newly-christened Aquarius Theatre, renamed in honor of one of the show's hit songs, would be "Hair's" home for two years.

More than a decade after the show became an international sensation, United Artists released a screen adaptation of the story that featured John Savage, Treat Williams and Beverly D'Angelo.

Directed by Milos Forman, who had won an Academy Award for his direction of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," the big

screen adaptation of "Hair" substantially changed the plot of the stage version. And while "Hair" creators were credited on the film, they were vocal in their displeasure with the changes implemented to their story.

Tickets to see "Hair" at the Pantages Theatre start at \$25 and may be purchased at [www.BroadwayLA.org](http://www.BroadwayLA.org) or by calling (800) 982-2787.

The performance schedule for "Hair" is Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. There will be a special weekday matinee Jan. 6 at 2 p.m.

While many find the show suitable for young adults (13 and older), parental discretion is advised. There is a dimly-lit 20-second scene with nudity that is non-sexual in nature. Children under the age of 5 will not be admitted.

## Pre-Halloween party at YMCA

**DOWNEY** – The Downey YMCA will host a pre-Halloween bash Monday at 5:30 p.m.

Makeup artists will help transform young children into fairies or goblins before leading the kids in a parade to show off their transformations.

Admission to the party is \$5, and \$2 for each additional sibling. Proceeds will benefit the YMCA.

## Tickets still available for symphony concert

**DOWNEY** – Consider the range of these adjectives, all describing music that will be performed by the Downey Symphony this Saturday evening, Oct. 23: fiery, lyrical, spirited and Hungarian-flavored in Johannes Brahms' Concerto for Violin and Orchestra; then dreamy and sensuous in Frederick Delius's Walk to the Paradise Garden; and finally, for Igor Stravinsky's Firebird Suite, well, for this listener words can't do it, because with every hearing I am left gulping at the wonder of it, busily picking up my jaw from the floor.

For this first concert of the orchestra's 53rd year, Music Director Sharon Lavery has invited a splendid young talent to play the Brahms, "one of the largest and most challenging works in the solo violin repertoire." That feat will spin from the incredible hands of Michelle Tseng, 19, winner of a host of awards and honors, with more to come, assuredly.

Saturday night's 8 p.m. performance will be preceded by a discussion of the works to be heard at 7:15. The theater is at 8435 Firestone Blvd., and parking is free. Reserved seat tickets are \$30, \$25 and \$20 and may be purchased at the theater box office before concert time. And come prepared for a rush of adjectives.

For more information on this local treasure, go to the website, [www.downey\\_symphony.org](http://www.downey_symphony.org). Future concerts will be on Jan. 29 and April 2, 2011.

—Joyce Sherwin, Downey Symphony

## Christmas brunch fundraiser

**DOWNEY** – The Assistance League of Downey will hold its annual Christmas Tree Brunch on Nov. 21 at the Long Beach Hilton.

Proceeds from the event will support the organization's philanthropic programs, including Operation School Bell, Kids on the Block, SAT preparation, Books on Wheels, H.O.M.E., high school scholarships and a Christmas distribution.

For more information on tickets to the brunch, or details on becoming an Assistance League member, call the Second Tyme Around thrift store at (562) 869-0232.

## Veterans can golf half-price on Nov. 11

**DOWNEY** – In honor of Veterans Day, all veterans with proper military identification will receive a 50% discount on green fees at county golf courses all day on Nov. 11.

The discount is not applicable for tournament play.

"As Veterans Day approaches, it is important that we recognize the many contributions that veterans have made for our great country over the years," L.A. County supervisor Don Knabe said. "This is a small way that we can honor our veterans on this special day and thank them for the many freedoms we enjoy today."

Los Amigos Country Club in Downey is a county golf course. Other county golf courses near Downey are located in La Mirada, Lakewood and Whittier.

Several other county courses are located throughout the Southern California area.

## Dia de los Muertos festival at cemetery

**WHITTIER** – In an event honoring loved ones who have passed away, Rose Hills Memorial Park will host the Dia de los Muertos Cultural Festival on Saturday from 12-5 p.m. at the SkyRose Chapel.

Organizers hope the festival becomes an annual event to share the culture and traditions of Dia de los Muertos.

The festival will feature an art exhibit, including featured artist Lalo Alcaraz, a nationally syndicated cartoonist who will be sharing some of his Dia de los Muertos-inspired artwork.

There will be an arts and crafts area for children, with mini workshops and interactive activities with local artists; a food court with selections from local vendors, including some food trucks; a vendor area for arts and crafts; and a full program of performances and entertainment, including local folklorico dance groups and a performance by La Santa Cecilia.

In addition, families will be creating their own altars for a community altar contest.

For more information on the festival, call (562) 696-8196 or go to [www.diadelosmuertos-rosehills.com](http://www.diadelosmuertos-rosehills.com).

## Rose Parade tickets on sale

**PASADENA** – Tickets are now on sale for grandstand seating at the 122nd Tournament of Roses Parade, taking place New Year's Day in Pasadena.

Every year, thousands of spectators camp out along Colorado Boulevard for a view of the parade. Purchasing a ticket – which start at \$42 plus \$30 for parking – guarantees a spot in grandstand seating.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.sharpseating.com](http://www.sharpseating.com) or by calling (626) 795-4171.

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## Seven is lucky number for tired Vikings

■ **WATER POLO:** Downey has seven games in one week, wins six.

By **JOSEPH APODACA,**  
INTERN

**DOWNEY** – Slaughtering the competition continues to be a weekly occurrence for the Downey water polo team, who beat six of seven of opponents last week, including weekend victories at the Nogales Tournament.

Two of the week's greatest victories came out of defeating Paramount 13-7 and Bell Gardens 22-14.

The Vikings continued blowing the competition out of the water over the weekend at the Nogales Tournament, defeating the likes of Summit High School 21-8, Fontana High 14-12 and JW North High 7-5. The only game the team slipped up on was early in the tournament Friday against Hoover High, losing 16-6.

With seven additional games under their belt after last week, the Vikings are now 17-4 for their overall season record and 2-0 as they continue on in the San Gabriel Valley league games.

The typical water polo week usually contains only two games, so when the Vikings had to play seven in one week, one would think nervousness and anxiety would set in rather quickly. For the Vikings, however, they welcomed the challenge and fought it all the way no matter how tired they were.

"I think the turning point was pulling together to win our last few games [of the tournament] even though we were tired from a full week of polo. Our conditioning really came through for us," said captain Derek Dodson.

As the Vikings continue on with their league games against the likes of Cerritos and Warren, chances are they will encounter several instances where their team will be put into a 6-on-5. When a team member is ejected from the game for a foul or penalty, the game must go on and the Vikings have no choice but to continue with one man down for as little as 30 seconds.

"When we're on 6-on-5 defense, we automatically just shift to our 6-on-5 defense and are ready to move a lot because we have to cover two guys. When we're on 6-on-5 offense we set it up and just make sure the ball flows fast and look for our best shot and we make sure we take advantage of that," said Dodson.

Every now and then at water polo games, especially when one team is ahead in the score, players will show off some interesting techniques to get the ball in the goal cage. Tossing from the half point, spinning and skip shots are among the most common attempts, none of which impress coaches. For the Vikings, they know that a trick shot is a lot to gamble during the game and do test their theories too often.

"Fortunately our team plays smart so we don't do outrageous shots to often, just at the end of quarters when we're trying to get a shot off," said Dodson.



PHOTO BY PAUL HEIDECKER

Kyle Lewis rushed for 240 yards and four touchdowns in Downey's 42-23 win over Gahr last week.

## Downey opens league with win

■ **FOOTBALL:** Kyle Lewis leads offensive surge for Vikings in league-opener.

By **JENNIFER CHO,**  
INTERN

**DOWNEY** – A struggling Gahr offense was not match for a strong Downey defense in the last three quarters last Friday night at Allen Layne Stadium with the Vikings starting official league play with a 42-23 victory.

Although the defense stumbled in the first quarter and sacrificed two long receptions in the first half, the Vikings completed successful plays throughout the rest of the game.

Kyle Lewis scored four touchdowns with two in the fourth quarter alone and had 27 carries for 240 yards. Isaac Dan had two catches for 59 yards and scored two touchdowns by completing two passes from Dallas Lopez.

"[Lopez] did a great job of leading on the field and making the right decisions," head coach Jack Williams said. "We played great for

the last three quarters and our goal for next week is to play great for all quarters."

A nail-biting fourth quarter left Downey's future hanging uncertain and a fear of a Gladiators backlash arose with 5:16 remaining when Gahr scored a touchdown, making the score 28-23.

Lewis's third touchdown of the night with 2:48 remaining in the game widened the margin to 35-23, but he wasn't finished yet. Lewis completed his fourth and final touchdown and secured the Vikings their eagerly awaited win, an improvement from their previous loss against Santa Fe.

Williams said he is proud of the defense and how well they played on Friday.

"The defense really came to play this week as they had a chip on their shoulder from the previous week," he said. "It was good to see them running to the ball and being physical."

Williams said the offense also did a great job of ball control.

"Our offensive line of Bryce Bennett, Robert Chism, Donald

Newbold, Jonathan Nava, Rory Gilmartin, Jeremy Harvey, Marlon Duenas and Mark Kozhaya opened up holes for Kyle Lewis and company that kept the chains moving along with the markers," he said.

Downey's defense made big plays later in the game to shut down the Gahr offense to zero points in just under 150 total yards and came up with 4 interceptions and 7 sacks.

"I am proud of all our guys this week," Williams said. "We had a tough week of practice losing Jabari Ruffin on Wednesday night and had four other players out because of their breaking team rules. The guys that sat out did a great job of encouraging their teammates and helping them with adjustments. I believe the guys that sat out learned a lot from this game."

The Vikings will travel to Paramount next. Game time is 7 p.m. Friday.

## Warren coughs up early lead to Dominguez

■ **FOOTBALL:** Bears led 14-0 after first quarter, but still lost.

By **SCOTT COBOS,**  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – For a quarter, Warren forgot they were playing everyone's pick to win the San Gabriel Valley League, then Dominguez reminded them in a 21-16 loss.

Up 14-0 after a quarter, the Bears had upset on their mind. But after a few first half adjustments, Dominguez's stifling defense came to life and Warren's offense stalled, giving the Dons the chance to score 21 consecutive points in their win over the defending league champions.

Warren quickly got on the scoreboard in the first quarter on one of quarterback Sam Bettencourt's two scores on the night.

Bettencourt on a keeper found a gap in the middle of the Dons' defense and rushed 39 yards to the end zone to put the Bears up by a touchdown.

Later in the quarter, Bettencourt found receiver Ryan McFadden on a quick slant route that resulted in a 65-yard touchdown. Bettencourt dropped back one step after the snap and fired a pass just out of the reach of a Dons defender and right into the finger tips of McFadden.

But Warren's offense wasn't heard from the rest of the night with their only other two points coming on a safety late in the second half. Without a doubt though, it was their game to win but they let it slip away.

"I don't know if we shocked ourselves or we got complacent," said Bears' head coach Gil Jimenez. "But whatever it was, it wasn't good. We had it, we had it."

The task at hand wasn't an easy one but it was especially difficult with one of their best offensive threats and best defensive threats out of the game.

Running back Jamil Magee didn't suit up for the game because of an injury, and linebacker Josh Callier went down early in the game with a hyper-extended knee.

### A Message from DIANE BOGGS

I am proud to endorse **LEE ANN SEARS** for Downey City Council District 4.

**LEE ANN** is much more than "a nice lady."

I have known her 30 years, worked with her 11 years at a Medical Group, watched her volunteer over 20 years in our city and observed her as Chairperson and member of Downey Community Services Commission, etc.

**LEE ANN SEARS** will bring balance to our City Council and she is ready to represent you.

(Diane Boggs is former Downey Mayor and Past President Chamber of Commerce)

## Downey rides hot serves to win over Warren

■ **VOLLEYBALL:** Vikings sweep Bears in three sets.

By **JENNIFER CHO,**  
INTERN

**DOWNEY** – The Downey girls' varsity volleyball team crushed the visiting Warren Bears 3-0 this past Tuesday at the Donna Ganser Boose Gymnasium.

Clad in pink uniforms in support of an ongoing school-wide fundraiser to support breast cancer research, the Lady Vikings won the first set with 25-14, the second with 25-12 and the third with 25-14 scores.

The Vikings made some errors early in the game, but a spike by outside hitter and center Staci Rodriguez gave the team a 5-4 lead that the Bears were unable to catch up to throughout the first set.

Both teams had heated rallies in the first game and had close scores such as 8-6 and 10-7 but a strong Downey defense led by middle blocker Breana Alcantara secured the lead in the middle of the set with 16-9.

Middle blocker Heather Schnars led a fiery offense, scoring the biggest plays of the first set with fierce spikes. Outside hitter Makayla Taylor also made some important points near the end of the set by killing a long rally with a score of 22-11. Taylor again secured the Lady Vikings their first victory in the game with the final point needed to win the set.

Both sides were neck-and-neck in the next set, with continuous ties early in the set with scores of 2-2

and 3-3 but errors on the Bears' part and a consistent Viking offense kept Downey in the lead in the second set. By the time the score was 21-11, the Bears seemed as if they gave up defending their territory. An impressive block by Alcantara secured the Vikings with a 23-12 lead and an eventual 25-12 second set victory.

The Bears tried to scratch their way back to the surface by guarding their court well in the third set, but their attempts were in vain. Both teams were tied at 4-4, but Downey gradually regained the lead at 5-4 and continued to widen the margin throughout the rest of the set.

Downey made some aces towards the middle of the set at 11-7 and 16-9, and the Bears could not catch up nor return the Vikings' powerful serves.

The Bears made their most errors in the third set towards a crucial moment, the end of the game, but could not redeem themselves. A thunderous audience yelled for the game to end when the score came down to 24-13, but errors made by Downey stalled their final victory to 25-14 with a return by outsider hitter Stephanie Gonzalez.

Head coach Andrea Sims said the girls were consistent throughout the game.

"Our serves were on fire," she said.

Gonzalez said the team did their best.

"We did good, we did our best," she said. "Our best was good enough to win."

**VOTE**

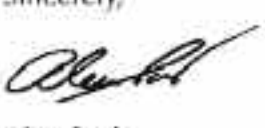
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I am running simply as a concerned citizen who wants to put Downey back on the right track, and not as a career politician using our city to boast a resume.

Sincerely,




Alex Saab



### Alex Saab's Priorities for Downey


- ✓ Public safety will always be my top concern. We must stop crime early and send a message to criminals immediately that Downey will not tolerate this.
- ✓ Create more jobs for Downey residents through better business policies, and improve the business culture in city hall.
- ✓ Fight to protect the values of Downey families, children and senior citizens.
- ✓ Restore integrity and trust in local government. I will never forget my role as a father and husband in making decisions.



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## LAPD officer charged with insurance fraud

LOS ANGELES – A police officer with the Los Angeles Police Department was charged with automobile insurance fraud on Monday after arranging for his vehicle to be set on fire and collecting the insurance money.

Anthony Robert Villanueva, 24, was charged with one count each of insurance fraud, arson of one's own property and false report of a criminal offense.

Another police officer and alleged accomplice, Ricardo Rebolledo, 27, was also charged with one count of insurance fraud.

Villanueva was arrested Monday upon reporting to work.

He was arraigned Tuesday.

Rebolledo surrendered on Tuesday.

Prosecutors allege that in April, Villanueva arranged for his 2001 Lexus sedan to be taken to the desert and set on fire, resulting in a total loss. Villanueva then purportedly filed a stolen vehicle report with the LAPD and submitted a claim for damages to his automobile insurance company.

Rebolledo allegedly provided a false statement to Villanueva's insurance company in support of the claim, vouching for his friend's whereabouts on the day of the supposed vehicle theft.

Both Villanueva and Rebolledo have been employed by the LAPD since September 2009. The recommended bail for Villanueva is \$75,000 and \$25,000 for Rebolledo.

If convicted, Villanueva faces more than six years in prison and a fine up to \$50,000. Rebolledo faces five years in prison.

## Back pain topic of meeting

DOWNEY – The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will hold their regular meeting Wednesday at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center in Downey.

Gloria Riese, M.A., from the Medicine Education Program, will be the guest speaker. Her topic will be "Dealing with Back Pain."

The meeting begins at 1 p.m. The public is invited.

For more information, call Bob Knerr at (562) 943-5513.

## Fire department urges use of smoke alarms

DOWNEY – In an effort to educate communities throughout the United States about smoke alarm recommendations, the non-profit National Fire Protection Association is promoting "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With," as the theme for this year's Fire Prevention Month in October, which the Downey Fire Department is support locally.

The NFPA has been the official sponsor of fire prevention educational programs for 88 years.

"Many homes in Downey may not have any smoke alarms, not enough smoke alarms, or smoke alarms that are not working," said Jeff Turner, fire chief at the Downey Fire Department. "We want residents to understand that working smoke alarms are needed in every home, one every level (including the basement), outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom.

"And, if a smoke alarm is 10 years old or older, it needs to be replaced."

According to Turner, smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. NFPA statistics show that functioning smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire nearly in half, but they must be working properly to do so.

The association's data shows that many homes have smoke alarms that are not working or maintained properly, usually because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries.

Roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

The Downey Fire Department will be visiting elementary schools in late October and early November to promote "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With." Information will be sent home for students to share with their families in order to help Downey resident understand NFPA's smoke alarm recommendations.

Through these educational, family-oriented activities, residents can learn more about the power of smoke alarms, newer options for installing and maintaining them properly, and ultimately, how to better protect their loved ones from fire, officials with the Downey Fire Department said.

The NFPA and Downey Fire Department both agree that interconnected smoke alarms offer the best protection: when one smoke alarm sounds, they all do. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms

may be reduced to the point that it may not be loud enough to provide proper warning, especially for sleeping people, officials said.

"Most people have a sense of complacency about smoke alarms because they already have one in their homes. This program provides an excellent opportunity to re-educate people about smoke alarms, new technologies and expanded options for installation and maintenance," said Judy Comoletti, division manager for NFPA public education. "Ultimately, we want this year's campaign to serve as a call to action for households nationwide to inspect their homes to ensure that their families have the full smoke alarm protection that's recommended."

The Downey Fire Department offered the following tips for making sure smoke alarms are maintained and working properly:

Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound;

If an alarm chirps, warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away;

Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10 years old, or sooner, if they do not respond properly when tested;

Never remove or disable a smoke alarm.

To find out more about fire prevention programs in Downey, contact the Downey Fire Department at (562) 904-7349. To learn more about "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With," go online to [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

## New Location



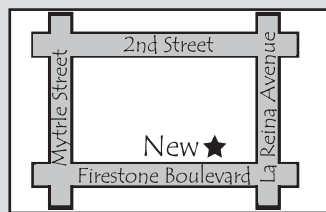
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The Amazing Day Foundation presented a \$10,000 donation to UC Santa Barbara this week. From left: Christopher Feliciano, Bob Feliciano, PHD vice chancellor Michael Young, and dean of students Yonnie Harris.

## Foundation makes \$10K donation

**DOWNEY** – The Amazing Day Foundation traveled to UC Santa Barbara on Monday where it presented a \$10,000 check to fund a Greek society intern for two years.

The intern will work directly with campus Greek organizations to train them on dealing with the stresses of college life and how to

recognize the warning signs that a peer might need help. The goal is to create a peer-to-peer relationship that will remove the stigmas that mental health comes with.

The Amazing Day Foundation, which was created two years ago after the suicide of Downey resident Sean Feliciano, raised the money with their Walk for Life

event last month.

The organization has also begun working with the UC Santa Barbara alumni association to co-sponsor a campus run on March 12, 2011. Sean's fraternity, Sigma Pi, has taken the Amazing Day Foundation as its philanthropy and will involve the Greek society with the run.

## Student wins at film festival

**NORWALK** – Cerritos College film student Peter Catania has been named the winner in the student film category of the annual SoCal Film Festival on October 3. Catania's film *Writer's Block* was selected by a professional panel of judges.

Named as one of *MovieMaker Magazine's* 20 Festivals worth the entry fee, the SoCal Film Festival celebrated its sixth anniversary in providing independent filmmakers and screenwriters an opportunity to show their work to industry professionals. "*Writer's Block*" was nominated in three different categories; Best Short Film, Best Achievement

in Student Filmmaking - Short Film, and Best Actor in a Short Film - Tony Perez.

Catania, who earned an honorable mention at 3C Media Solutions Fifth Annual Student Film & Video Festival and went through the Action On Film International Film Festival earlier this year, appears to keep adding to his list of achievements.

Catania's instructor, Professor Steven Hirohama, congratulated Catania on his award and stated "I've said this many times in my production classes - the key to making any good film is "concept, design and execution. *Writer's Block* is a simple story, carefully (production) designed and executed eloquently."

Catania's short film *Writer's Block* is a fantasy about an author who sets up his desk in the middle of a park as a last ditched effort to get inspiration for his story.

When he hits the keys to his typewriter, instead of hearing the keys slap against the paper, he hears piano notes. He continues typing and a song begins to emerge from what he is writing.

"I am very proud of the cast and crew of the film, two of which are currently students of Professor Hirohama," said Catania, of Signal

Hill. "This recognition wouldn't have been possible without them. This award belongs to all of us."

Catania is making the most of the festival experience by getting feedback on his film, networking with people and gaining knowledge on how to finance a film project.

Catania received his A.A. from Cerritos College in 2009. After graduating, he began taking the film production classes with Professor Hirohama which he completed this year. One day he hopes to become a feature film director. He is currently working on preproduction of his next short film for which the primary cast and crew of *Writer's Block* is getting together again.

"Mystery and paranoia will be the key genres explored," said Catania. "It has been a wonderful experience to write the challenging screenplay, and we are all eager to start production early next year."

Visit Cerritos College film program web site to keep posted on lectures and workshops and also student podcasts, <http://cerritosfilm.org>.

For more information about the film production program, contact Steven Hirohama at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2637.

## Homeless student takes shelter at university

**LONG BEACH** – When Cal State Long Beach student Brian K. Smith found himself homeless, he didn't give up on his dream of a university education. He found refuge in it...literally.

The senior Spanish translation and music major used the CSULB music rooms as impromptu shelters when he lost his financial aid and student loans because of the limit on unit accumulation. As a result of not having financial support, Smith became homeless and took refuge in the practice rooms, determined to be the first male in his family to get a college degree.

"I didn't know what else to do," Smith said while looking back on those days. "Education is so important to me. I knew that I would eventually get over this hurdle."

Smith's determination, perseverance and belief in himself has paid off in a big way this fall as he was named a recipient of the 2010-11 William R. Hearst/CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. The \$3,000 award will allow him to complete his degrees at CSULB this year and more.

"I was honored and grateful when I heard that I had received the award. Since I had exhausted all of financial resources including financial aid, two loans, and the Jenkins Vocal Scholarship, I was faced with possibly not being able to continue my education," Smith explained. "Now that I received the Hearst Award, I am able to finish here at CSULB with my B.A. and B.M. degrees and focus on the next step – preparing for grad school."

Each year, the California State University (CSU) selects 23 students, one from each campus in

the system, to receive the Hearst/CSU Trustees' Award, which is among the system's highest forms of recognition for student achievement.

The award is given to students who have demonstrated financial need, experienced personal hardships, and have attributes such as superior academic performance, exemplary community service and significant personal achievements.

"These extraordinary student scholars exemplify strength, perseverance through adversity, dedication to learning and commitment to others," noted Ali C. Razi, CSU trustee emeritus. "The leadership through service demonstrated by these scholars inspires deep respect on CSU campuses and within the community."

In addition to their strength and perseverance, Smith and his fellow awardees also have demonstrated academic achievement and a passion for learning.

All of the scholars are either currently completing or looking toward a graduate degree – with half of the students planning to pursue a doctorate.

"I am a McNair Scholar and I am working on my research paper with my mentor Ray Briggs on 'African Influence in the Music of Mexico's Costa Chica Region.' The paper is due to be published in spring 2011 in the CSULB McNair Journal," Smith pointed out. "The McNair Scholars Program is a federally funded program under the U.S. Department of Education. It is designed to increase the number of students from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds who have demonstrated strong, academic potential to go on to graduate study and, in particular, receive their Ph.D.s and later

become faculty."

Smith plans to attend graduate school and then pursue a Ph.D. to expand his translating abilities. Transferring from Los Angeles City College summa cum laude and from Los Angeles Valley College cum laude, Smith has maintained a 3.65 grade point average at CSULB while taking 18-20 units every semester.

And despite his financial difficulties, he finds time to volunteer at Destiny House Ministries in Long Beach as a Spanish interpreter. He also helps other students with planning for their recitals as well as tutoring in Spanish, French and Italian. (He also speaks German, Portuguese and Japanese)

Smith made special mention of Lily Salter with the CSULB McNair Program, who played a key role in finding Smith a place to live, and Erma Corona with the CSULB Educational Opportunity Program, who helped him become a candidate for the Hearst/Trustees' Award. Smith also singled out two friends – Rebecca Lynn and Raul Lopez – giving thanks for their continuous support as well as Destiny House Ministries.

Those interested can learn more about Smith on his website at [www.brianksmith.com](http://www.brianksmith.com).

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation originally established the endowed scholarship fund in 1984. In 1999, the Hearst Foundation partnered with the CSU Board of Trustees to supplement the endowment with contributions from CSU Trustees and private donors. From this endowment, the trustees award \$3,000 to students who exemplify the scholarship criteria.

## Drunk man forgets child in car

**PASADENA** – A West Covina father was charged with felony child endangerment after allegedly leaving his 3-year-old son alone in a car for hours after he was arrested for public drunkenness.

Joe Louie Kurihara, 23, had attended a wedding in Pasadena last Saturday with the boy and the boy's mother.

After leaving the wedding with the boy, named Dylan, Pasadena police arrested Kurihara on suspicion of public drunkenness. Kurihara never told police about his son, who was strapped into his car seat in a Lexus SUV parked in a nearby parking garage.

Dylan was found safe in the car Sunday night by a citizen who had joined in the search.

In addition to the child endangerment and public drunkenness charges, Kurihara was also charged with misdemeanor counts of resisting arrest and battery after he allegedly spit on a police officer.

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## High school musician in concert

**HUNTINGTON BEACH** – Fabian Chavez, a senior at Warren High School, has been selected to play with the Tom Kubis Big Band at a concert Oct. 28 at Don the Beachcomber restaurant in Huntington Beach.

Chavez will play the saxophone and drums.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis and tables cannot be reserved ahead of time.

For more information, call the restaurant at (562) 592-1321.

## Crime Report

**Friday, Oct. 15**

At around 10:30 a.m. officers responded to a residence in the 12300 block of Orizaba Ave. regarding a burglary in progress. Officers found a male suspect in the rear yard of the residence. The male was detained for investigation and officers found property from inside the house in his possession. The suspect, a 23-year-old Downey resident, was arrested and booked for residential burglary.

At around 11:30 p.m. a male resident of Downey was walking in the 11600 block of Gurley Ave. when he was confronted by two male suspects in their late teens. The suspects brandished a firearm at the victim at which time a struggle ensued. The suspects were able to maintain control of the firearm and fled the location with the victim's money. The victim was not injured.

**Saturday, Oct. 16**

At around 2:00 p.m. officers were dispatched to the Metro PCS store located at 7314 Florence Ave. in reference to a theft of cell phones that just occurred. An employee at the store provided a description of the suspect, which was broadcast to responding officers. Based on this description, a suspect was detained a few blocks away. The suspect, a 26-year-old resident of Bellflower, was arrested and booked for burglary.

## DUSD: Character Counts Week.

Continued from page 4

program;

- Ratified/approved usual district business, including: the payment of convention and conference expenses and other fees; the general agreements with a number of consultants/firms providing specialized services; special education placements; purchase orders by the purchasing department; the issuance of payroll orders for hourly, overtime, and Civic Center work performed by classified personnel, Adult School and Food Services; B warrants covering the month of September; the agreements between the Downey Adult School Career and Education Center and several clinics/medical groups to furnish practical training in the dental assistant, medical assistant, pharmacy technician, and phlebotomy technician programs; the declaration and sale and/or recycling of district surplus property and abating the income to the General Fund, and/or pick up by a local e-waste recycler for proper recycling; the change order involving the DHS modernization of buildings J/K/N & L, with P. W. Construction (deferred maintenance fund); adjustments to the General Fund unrestricted and restricted budgets; the transfers of some funds from the General Fund to the deferred maintenance fund and the restricted general fund (Special Education); routine personnel items until subsequent action is taken by the Board of

Education; the abolishment of two vacant Senior Instructional/Assistant Behaviorally Challenged positions at Rio Hondo Elementary, and the establishment of various new positions, mainly at the Senior Instructional Assistant level, at East Middle School, Griffiths Middle, Rio Hondo, Imperial, Gallatin, and Downey High (food service assistant);

- Denied the claim of Deivy Leon, in compliance with Gov't. Code Section 911-15 and 945;

- Accepted the Williams/Valenzuela/CAHSEE lawsuit settlement quarterly report on uniform complaints, 2010-11;

- Ratified the 2010-11 Community Development Block Grant subrecipient grant agreement with the city of Downey (re use of funds for 10-20 Club and True Lasting Connection), from August, 2010 through June 30, 2011;

- Ratified the contract for a southeast consortium community day school division of student programs (for grades 7-12) with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), effective July

1, 2010-June 30, 2011;

- Adopted a resolution in support of Character Counts Week (Oct. 17-23);

- Approved the Test Administration Calendar for the 2010-11 school year, including the schedules for the California High School Exit Exam, California Alternate Performance Assessment, and Standardized Testing and Reporting tests;

- Approved the (slightly revised) Downey Adult School 2011-12 course of study;

- Received the 2009-2010 annual report;

- Approved the addendum to the employment contracts for the asst. superintendent-business services and asst. superintendent-instructional services, amending the effective date of medical benefits;

- Accepted as complete work performed by various contractors; and

- Endorsed the actions of the superintendent on student cases.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Education will be at 5 p.m. on Nov. 16.

## RANCHO: Stories of inspiration.

Continued from page 1

and serve is a positive influence on everyone she comes in contact with as she helps with everything from our special events to individual and group treatment sessions. I hope she knows how much everyone at Rancho loves her and how much happiness she has created for our patients."

Joyce flashed her trademark smile as she told the audience how she felt about Rancho. "I am so thankful for everything that Rancho has done to help me be successful in life," Joyce said. "I don't just want to give back to Rancho, I have to give back to Rancho because Rancho gave me my life back."

Dan Bennett then entered the spotlight, awash in chants of "Dan the Man!" from his Rancho Wheelchair Sports teammates. Dan was born with Spina Bifida. His parents were told that his chances for a productive life were slim at best. But then he came to Rancho, a place where his treatment team believed in him and encouraged him to believe in himself. Dan overcame his extreme shyness by joining the wheelchair sports team at age 13.

"Playing wheelchair sports helped me realize what I could do, instead of what I couldn't do," Dan said. "As I gained confidence, I took on larger and larger challenges. Before I knew it, I had graduated from high school, then I earned my B.S. in Biology from UCLA. Then I earned a teaching credential at Cal State Long Beach, and I achieved my life goal of becoming a teacher!"

But Dan is no ordinary teacher. He teaches chemistry and biology at Los Alamitos High School, where his colleagues and his students consider him among the school's most effective instructors. "Science is especially challenging for today's students, and I really enjoy watching the lights turn on as they begin to understand Chemistry or Biology," Dan said.

"Now I am married, and we are starting a family. I truly have a wonderful life. But I never would have been able to envision or achieve these great things without the inspiration and unwavering support from Rancho, Lisa and my mom, who believed in me and helped me understand that nothing is impossible."

"Joyce, Dan and all our scholars are successful in part because there is a place called Rancho and a

loving, caring group of women named Las Floristas that provided them with the tools and opportunities that enabled them to achieve their dreams," said Luis Montes, MD, Chair of Rancho's Pediatrics Department. "It is a pleasure and an honor for all of us at Rancho to work with these fantastic young people and to support them as they fulfill their destiny to make the world a better place."



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 "Claudia Beas and Ruperto Munoz did a good job and are nice people. Claudia and Ruperto were a big help and I have referred a co-worker to them." – Hermilyn Ibarra  
 "Maria Zuloaga did a wonderful job for us!" – Ricardo Grajeda  
 "Lorena Amaya and Lilian Lopez did a great job and I am very pleased." – Juan Rodriguez

**FEATURED PROPERTY**

**Investor Owned**  
 Beautiful remodeled home in a quiet cul-de-sac. The house features new carpet, new paint and recessed lighting. The living room has a fireplace and leads into the family room with vaulted ceilings. The kitchen has a new stove and dishwasher. There is also a separate dining room. The master bedroom has an in-suite bathroom and French doors leading to the backyard. Don't miss this beautiful home!

**TOP PRODUCERS**

**TOP LISTING** Lilian Lopez & Lorena Amaya  
**TOP PRODUCTION** Lois & Jeff Worthy  
**TOP SALES** Rowena Dominguez

**NEW LISTING** Duplex: Nice duplex in Los Angeles with new paint, carpet, light fixtures, doors and ceiling fan. Some newer windows and new water heater in bottom unit.

**NEW LISTING** Corner Lot: Large corner lot home with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, family room and living room with fireplace. The kitchen has ceramic counters.

**NEW LISTING** Cozy: Great remodeled 3 bedroom 1 bathroom house close to USC and the Coliseum. Living room features a cozy fireplace and cored ceilings as well as beautiful wood floors. There is a new stove and dishwasher in the kitchen and a separate laundry room.

**NEW LISTING** 2 Units: Nice two unit property. The first unit has 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. The second unit has 1 bedroom and 1 bathroom.

**NEW LISTING** Remodeled: Nice, clean 3 bedroom 1 bathroom home that has been recently remodeled. Close to schools, parks, shopping and has easy access to the freeway.

**NEW LISTING** Motivated Seller: This 5 bedroom 2 bathroom home is situated on a spacious R-2 lot. The home has ceramic floors, a spacious kitchen and is in good condition.

**NEW LISTING** Los Angeles Duplex: Front unit has 1 bedroom and 1 bathroom. Back unit has 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom with laundry room area. Garage has been converted to a study. With easy access to the 110 freeway and downtown, this property is located less than 2 miles from USC, the Natural History Museum and the LA Memorial Coliseum.

**NEW LISTING** Open Sunday!: 3 Bedroom 2 bathroom home in a nice Downey neighborhood with tile flooring, newer interior paint, inside laundry, and a backyard that is perfect for entertaining. Open House Sunday from 1-4.




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12348 Paramount Blvd., Downey, CA

where: St. Raymond's  
time: 7pm - 11pm  
dates: OCT 29 - 30, 2010  
admission: \$3 SINGLE ENTRY  
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- Straight-Up Puppet Team
- Bear Hug Band
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