

The Downey Patriot



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

Police increase patrols for drunk drivers

DOWNEY – The Downey Police Department will conduct a DUI checkpoint at an undisclosed location within city limits on Dec. 17 as part of its beefed-up enforcement against drunk driving this holiday season.

The checkpoint will run from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m.

“After hearing about the dangers of drinking and driving time after time, most people have gotten the message that if they’re planning on drinking, they should always plan a safe way home,” said Police Chief Rick Esteves. “But sadly, millions of Americans still think they are invincible and regularly choose to get behind the wheel after having too much to drink.”

Downey Police officials said young males are particularly at-risk of drunk driving. According to a survey, ¼ of young males admitted to riding in a car with someone who should not have been driving.

Last year, 36 people were killed statewide in alcohol-involved wrecks during the last 2 ½ weeks of December, including three people in Los Angeles County.

“We know that the holiday season can be one of the deadliest and most dangerous times on America’s roadways due to an increase in drunk driving,” Esteves said. “Don’t let your 2010 end in an arrest or worse, injury or death. Remember, whether you’ve had way too many or just one too many, it’s not worth the risk.”

Police officials urged residents to report suspected drunk drivers by calling 911.

Funding for the checkpoint and increased patrol comes from a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Church giving away toys

DOWNEY – The Love, Peace and Happiness Family Christian Fellowship will host a Christmas celebration and toy giveaway for needy families this Sunday.

The Christmas celebration begins at 8:30 and 10 a.m., followed by the toy giveaway at 4 p.m.

Children of all ages are invited to attend with their parents. There is no charge to attend.

The church is at 11022 Old River School Rd., north of Firestone Boulevard.

The Love, Peace and Happiness Family Christian Fellowship has a second church in Los Angeles that will also be distributing toys to needy families.

For more information, call (800) 757-6552.



PHOTO COURTESY OSCAR RIVERA

Oscar and Carmen Rivera, owners of the Rives Mansion, are searching for tenants who can put the historic structure to good use.

Rives Mansion in need of a tenant

■ Owners hope to reinvent the mansion by expanding its uses, possibly as a wedding chapel or banquet hall.

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – After more than five years of ownership, Oscar and Carmen Rivera are ready to champion the next chapter in the history of the Rives Mansion.

“We really want it to be a part of the community,” said Carmen while walking along the home’s front porch. “It should be a hall for special occasions, a place where people in the community can come and make memories...maybe a wedding chapel.”

But with local investors wary of new redevelopment projects, city officials hesitant to invest in the structure and residents divided on how the home should be used, reinventing the mansion may be harder than the Rivera family thinks.

The husband and wife real estate team, who purchased the historic home in 2005 for \$1.7 million, is now hoping to turn the nearly 100-year-old residence into a commercial property that can be utilized for a variety of events both artistic and cultural.

Kirk Cartozian, real estate broker, land use consultant and former Downey councilman, is currently listing the home, promoting it as a great opportunity to solidify the Rives Mansion as an intricate part of Downey’s history and future.

“Long story short, everyone would love to see it go back to its grandeur,” said Cartozian. “It’s the most famous house in Downey – but it’s my number one priority to make sure we get a long-term sustainable plan from someone who will use the property...as a steakhouse, wedding chapel, assembly or banquet hall. That would be complimentary and I think residents would get around that.”

Since placing his ‘for lease’ sign in the mansion’s front yard several weeks ago, Cartozian says he’s received dozens of calls, but



PHOTO BY PAM LANE/WWW.DOWNEYDAILYPHOTOS.COM

has yet to hear any serious offers from investors or businesses looking to lease the home and convert it into a profitable establishment.

“There’s no asking price, no number,” Cartozian said. “The Riveras will entertain anything as long as they’re not in the red...it depends, they might agree to a lower amount if it includes a long-term contract.”

Though it may take possibly hundreds of thousands of dollars to prep the residence to accommodate specific ventures, Cartozian insists that investing in the Rives Mansion, located at the corner of Third Street and Paramount Boulevard, is still a worthwhile venue.

“There are many overarching challenges...the city is going to look at it pretty seriously and they should,” he said. “The Rives Mansion is at a crossroads, it requires a plan, and it’s my job to make sure it’s not set up to fail. There should be a creative spirit there – something that inspires people, and makes people want to experience it. That’ll determine the overall success.”

In September, the Rives Mansion, along with several key redevelopment sites, became a part of the downtown district, which was extended by the City Council under the Downtown Specific Plan.

The new zoning code allows the mansion, built in 1911 for Downey pioneer James Rives, to expand its range of uses. Under the amended code, the residential property can now also be used as a cultural center, office facility or banquet hall.

Before acquiring the property, Oscar and Carmen Rivera, natives of Obregon City, Sonora, Mexico and owners of Casa Blanca Realty, originally hoped to open a real estate center inside home.

“Then the housing market collapsed – so it made no sense to get into that,” Rivera said. “We hoped the city would buy it, but they’re very conservative when it comes to spending. Now, we just want to help everyone by offering the home back to the community.”

Similarly, Cartozian remains positive that the Riveras, who reside in La Habra Heights, will find a reliable tenant in the next three to six months.

“Name me a better place in Southern California where you can bring that creative spirit of possibilities,” Cartozian said. “The Rives Mansion is a gateway to the downtown – anyone and everyone will want to give it a chance. There’s a willingness to support it. People want to see it succeed, it’s something everyone can be proud of.”



PHOTO BY DEANNA KIM

Volunteers Ellie Loven, 11, Eric Soza, 13, and Aleah Loven, 12, help refill the PTA HELPS food bank.

Food drive is competitive fun at Warren

■ Students hope to collect 15,000 cans for a local food bank. The top three classes will be rewarded with a pizza party.

BY DEANNA KIM,
INTERN

DOWNEY – Bringing in about 13,800 students, Warren High School is looking to beat that amount by collecting 15,000 cans for a local food bank.

The collection period began Dec. 7 and ends Friday.

“If every student (brings) in four cans, we can help almost 700 families in Downey,” said activities director Erin Hanohano-Lira. “Four cans is not a lot, but the fact it can help so many families motivates students.”

With 150 teachers and roughly 3,860 students, Warren can meet its 15,000 can goal if every student on campus brought in four cans. To promote this, ASB member are communicating with four to five teachers each. Every teacher participating has a sign with dates and a box for drop-offs.

“So far the can food drive is looking fantastic,” said Lorus Hendricks, commissioner of community relations for ASB. “Teachers are motivated and students are giving, so we’re bound to reach our goal.”

The friendly competition is between all second period classes. There is one rule for teachers this year and it is that there are no rules. This means teachers can use any

legal means to motivate students such as extra credit, personal stories or any other ways of encouragement.

An additional incentive for students is that the top three classes will receive a pizza party.

“Giving to the less fortunate gives me a great sense of both personal fulfillment and satisfaction,” said senior Alex Gross.

Although a competition, this canned food drive is about bringing the community together and helping those that are in need as well, organizers said. This especially helps local families as the food bank is receiving lighter amounts of cans than normal due to the economic downturn.

“We are able to give back to those that have been able to help families previous years,” said Beth Gendrea, director of PTA HELPS, which stands for Health Education Local Pantry Service. “We are glad to help the families we can.”

Both Warren and Downey High School help bring in the most cans for the Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions. Church groups, boy scouts and girl scouts, and even real estate agents also help bring in cans to the food bank.

“I’m excited to see the activities room full of cans,” said Hanohano-Lira. “It makes me really, really proud of the students at Warren High School.”

Deanna Kim is a senior at Warren High School and interns for The Downey Patriot.

Pet adoption event Saturday

DOWNEY – Local animal shelters will have discounted fees Saturday as they attempt to place animals in homes before the holidays.

The county animal shelter at 11258 Garfield Ave. and the Southeast Area Animal Control Agency will hold an adoption event Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. as they attempt to adopt animals.

Last year, a similar holiday-themed adoption event helped place 445 animals into new homes before the holidays, county officials said.

“Each year, the (Department of Animal Control) takes in more than 90,000 animals,” said Michelle Roache, deputy director of outreach and special enforcement. “There are not enough homes for all of them. Supporting adoption rather than irresponsible breeding is one way to significantly help reduce the pet overpopulation problem.”

To view animals available for adoption, go to <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov> or www.seaaca.org.

Senior program releases '11 schedule

DOWNEY – The city of Downey has released its schedule of entertainment for First Mondays, the monthly city-sponsored program that replaces the school district's OASIS curriculum.

First Mondays begins Jan. 10 and will be held the first Monday of every month at Downey Adult School.

Admission is \$5 and includes dinner. Doors open at 2:45 p.m. with piano music by Dr. Robert Flynn, followed by the featured program at 3:45 and dinner at 5.

The programming schedule for First Mondays is listed below:

Jan. 10 – Penniless Immigrant to American Icon: Irving Berlin – The Golden Age of American Music Series. Robert Lipson, a master pianist of the Great American Songbook and an instructor with the USC Emeriti Center College, will be joined by writer and director Sault Jacobs as they discuss their fascination with history and trivial tidbits from the golden age of Broadway and Hollywood.

Feb. 7 – Jim J's Jukebox: Discovering America's Music. American Songbook buff Jim Jimirro shares facts, behind-the-scenes anecdotes and music from his collection. He will also offer his perspective on the music of Berlin, Porter, Ellington and Gershwin, the lyrics of Mercer and Hammerstein, and style of Sinatra and Fitzgerald.

March 7 – Jazz from A to Z: What is it? USC Emeriti Center College Series, Dr. Thom Mason, Professor of Jazz Studies, USC Thornton School of Music. Back by popular request, Mason will present another of his multimedia presentations from his series titled "Jazz from A to Z." A nationally-recognized educator and jazz performer, he will include recordings, rare photos, film clips, anecdotal stories and, of course, his live clarinet jazz demonstrations.

April 4 – Bellflower Civic Chorus. The Chorus is a popular mixed voice of singers who love to sing and entertain. Their show is known for an enthusiastic chorus with special show stoppers and outstanding soloists. Their programs include show tunes, light classical and popular favorites.

May 2 – New Century Singers. The New Century Singers are a 35-member professional women's chorus known for their beautiful harmony and exceptional performances. Their programs include numerous Broadway show tunes, light classical, Americana and seasonal favorites.

June 6 – Peter M. Small, Historical Impressionist: Harry S. Truman. In his blunt, plain-speaking style, Mr. Truman tells how he met the challenges of his presidency, from dropping the atomic bomb to the dismissal of Gen. MacArthur. Small's personal touch and humor make all of his performances contemporary and memorable.

Eastwood addresses makeup grads

DOWNEY – Actress and makeup artist Kimber Eastwood, daughter of Hollywood legend Clint Eastwood, was guest speaker at the graduation ceremonies Wednesday of the Downey Makeup Academy.

The Downey Makeup Academy is a 15-week program at Downey Adult School that prepares students to work as makeup artists in film, TV, photography, advertising and retail cosmetics.

The course touches on every form of makeup work, from casual makeup, airbrush, body art, historical and character makeup, prosthetic application and theater.

Students are also instructed on business formalities, the development module of set etiquette and working on professional photo shoots.

On Wednesday, graduates were presented with a diploma and a portfolio of their work, created with the help of professional celebrity photographers.

Kimber Eastwood addressed the graduates during commencement ceremonies, which took place in the school's Harriet Paine Event Center. Eastwood has worked as a makeup artist and department head on TV shows such as "Wheel of Fortune" and "Dog the Bounty Hunter," as well as "Letters from Iwo Jima" and "Million Dollar Baby" with her father.

Christmas play at church

DOWNEY – Just in time for Christmas, Action Faith Ministries will present "Mr. Wilson Finds CHRISTmas" this Sunday.

The event begins with a red carpet gala at 5 p.m., followed by the performance at 6. A second show will be performed Dec. 19.

Tickets are \$5 presale or \$6 at the door, with proceeds benefiting the church's Key Ministries for youth.

Visitors are asked to dress in formal attire. A photographer will be available for families wishing to take and purchase family photos.

Weeties Cakes will provide cupcakes before and after the show.

For tickets and information, call (562) 862-7720. Action Faith Ministries is at 10839 La Reina Ave. in Downey.

No street sweeping tickets Dec. 23-26

DOWNEY – In an effort to accommodate the extra visitors expected in Downey during the holiday season, citations will not be issued for street sweeping parking violations Dec. 23-26.

Other types of parking tickets may still be issued.

Enforcement will start again on Dec. 27.

Basketball camp for kids

DOWNEY – The Los Angeles Clippers, in association with the National Basketball Academy, will hold two youth basketball clinics in Downey.

The first session, Dec. 20-23, meets 9 a.m. to noon in the gym at Apollo Park. It will feature instruction and training from professional coaches and possible appearances by Clippers players.

A second session will be held Dec. 27-30.

Cost is \$150 for both sessions and includes a ticket to a Clippers game.

For more information, including details on available extended care, call Kevin Ellis at (562) 904-7128 or Monica Ortiz at (562) 904-7223.

Blessing of the animals at church

DOWNEY – St. George Greek Orthodox Church will hold a blessing of the animals Saturday at 11 a.m.

Residents are invited to bring their pets and livestock. Anyone without a pet is invited to bring their favorite stuffed animal.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church is at 10830 Downey Ave.

Church spoofs TV talent shows

DOWNEY – First Baptist Church of Downey will host "So You Think You Can Christmas" this weekend, a spoof of TV talent shows with a Christmas twist.

The dinner show will be presented Dec. 17-19 at 7 p.m. Admission is \$4.

Registration is required by calling (562) 923-1261, ext. 232.

Park programs for kids start Monday

DOWNEY – Children ages 6-12 are invited to participate in a free drop-in program at Downey parks Dec. 20-31.

City staff members will lead the children in activities, group games, sports, and arts and crafts.

The program will be held weekdays from 12-5 p.m. at Apollo, Dennis the Mennace, Furman, Golden and Rio San Gabriel parks. Brookshire Park will host the program from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

The program will operate until 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Participation in the program is free but registration is required by signing-up at the park on Monday.

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

Alumni to battle on the gridiron

DOWNEY – Alumni from Downey and Warren high schools will take part in the first annual Alumni Football Game on Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Vikings' stadium.

Tickets are \$10 at the gate. The public is invited.

Christmas concert at Messiah

DOWNEY – Messiah Lutheran Church will hold its second annual Christmas concert Saturday featuring church organist Kyle Black.

A spaghetti dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed by the concert at 7 p.m.

For tickets, call the church office at (562) 923-1215.

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Caton relinquishes fringe benefits

DOWNEY – Downey city manager Gerald Caton asked the City Council to take away his fringe benefits Tuesday as he prepares for retirement next December.

By eliminating the benefits – including retirement contributions, 20 vacation days, 11 holidays, nine days of executive leave, a city-owned vehicle and membership fees for civic organizations – Caton said the city will save more than \$100,000 next year.

Under the agreement ratified by the City Council, Caton will be paid an hourly rate of \$121 and work a maximum 1,920 hours in 2011, or about \$232,000.

At that rate, the city would realize about \$5,800 in salary savings.

The bulk of the city's savings will come from it no longer paying Caton's portion of CalPERS, the state's pension system. Downey would have paid nearly \$49,000 next year.

Other savings will come from the elimination of a car allowance (\$16,050), civic organization membership fees (\$600), and holiday, executive and vacation leave (about \$26,000).

"A great deal has already been accomplished...but the coming year will also be critical as we face the ongoing economic challenges and transition to a largely new management team," Caton said in an agenda memo to the council.

Caton, who has served as Downey's city manager for 21 years, is scheduled to retire Dec. 30, 2011.

Saab named to green committee

DOWNEY – Alex Saab, the local attorney who ran unsuccessfully for the City Council's District 4 seat in last month's election, has been appointed to the city's Green Task Force in charge of finding ways to reduce city waste.

Saab was appointed by Councilman David Gafin and received approval from the City Council on Tuesday.

The Green Task Force was started by Councilman Mario Guerra two years ago and recommends way the city can reduce its carbon footprint.

The committee is comprised of residents and members of the business community.

Looking back on... Stox Restaurant

■ Stox restaurant on Imperial Highway began as a pie shop on Firestone Boulevard.

By **CHRISTIAN BROWN,**
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – "Maurine – we're going into the restaurant business," shouted Harry, turning towards his wife. "I bought a dishwasher!"

With these words, Harry Fahnstock was finally on the verge of achieving his lifelong goal of opening up his own hamburger and pie shop.

It was the early fifties when Fahnstock, an employee of a local, food service supply company, attended a regional convention for restaurateurs. Seeing a dishwasher on sale, Fahnstock bought it without hesitation.

Though just a small feat, the purchase became the first of many for the aspiring entrepreneur who would soon transform a small, 20-stool hamburger stand in Huntington Park into two successful Stox restaurant locations, including one in Downey that continues to serve the same Fahnstock family recipes Harry introduced decades ago.

Virtually unchanged since the days of Fahnstock, Stox Restaurant, Bakery and Bar, located at 9518 E. Imperial Hwy, is now the oldest eating establishment in Downey. However, the 172-seat restaurant did not start in its current 8,500-square-foot building, but rather emerged after a series of pie shops opened by Fahnstock, a Los Angeles County transplant from Chadron, Nebraska.

After his high school graduation, Fahnstock was hired as a salesman by Axelson Manufacturing Co. where he met his wife, Maurine, then executive secretary for the company president. Together, the couple went to work, making Fahnstock's vision a reality.

On May 7, 1954, after nearly four months of hard labor each night by Fahnstock and his father, Ben, a skilled craftsman, a quaint, hamburger stand, located at 3053 Florence Ave. in Huntington Park, was ready for business. Fahnstock decided to call the new eatery, Stox, short for the German family name.

"Delightful Eating in a Pleasant

Atmosphere" was Fahnstock's motto and in addition to the choice ground beef burgers, served for 50 cents, Stox offered locals potato salad, coleslaw, malts, shakes, and fresh homemade pies, which would become Stox's most popular menu item.

After just five years in Huntington Park, Fahnstock grew interested in the newly incorporated city of Downey. Harry Fahnstock Jr., 66, believes his father, hoping to expand the family business, wanted to bring his popular food items to a new, and larger, audience of customers.

"He wanted to get out of Huntington Park – it was getting older. He wanted to move Stox's where there was growth," said Fahnstock Jr., who graduated from Warren High School in 1962. "He found a place in Downey in 1959, a little strip shop on Firestone Boulevard. He rented two of the spaces there and opened Stox Pie Shop."

Fahnstock Sr. also moved his family into the area, purchasing and remodeling a home in south Downey, just west of Paramount Boulevard. However, once the new location, at 11215 Downey Ave., opened its doors, every Fahnstock family member was drafted to help.

"My father and mother were very hard working people. We really built that business up," said Fahnstock Jr. over the phone. "After school, my sister, Judy, would be a waitress and I would bus tables for three hours. At night, I'd go down there and be the janitor."

Unlike the Huntington Park location, Stox Pie Shop in Downey only served lunch items, specializing in sandwiches, coleslaw and potato salad. Soon Fahnstock began experimenting with his original pie recipes, adding different flavors and interesting combinations.

"We had our standard pies – fresh pumpkin pies, pecan, cream, strawberry – the recipes for the fillings were all of my mom and dad's," said Fahnstock Jr. "They were exquisite, made fresh daily...no fillers, no preservatives, no artificial whip cream.

"My dad was a perfectionist. The pie crust has to be just so, we had to use a certain glaze," he said. "If they weren't up to code, some-



PHOTO COURTESY DOWNEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Harry and Maurine Fahnstock, pictured here in this 1962 photograph, transformed a small Huntington Park hamburger stand into two Stox restaurant locations.

times he'd dump them."

Hoping to create his own collection of specialty pies, Fahnstock Sr. crafted and introduced the Strawberry Hawaiian Cream pie, which included vanilla cream, strawberries, macadamia nuts, coconut and pineapple. The gourmet pie quickly became one of Stox's trademark desserts and remains a bestseller at Stox Restaurant today.

By the early 1960s, the small pie shop was exploding, gaining popularity and many positive reviews in the community, as a result Fahnstock and his wife decided to invest in a larger facility to house the growing restaurant.

Soon after, property owner Ben Mooshegian offered Fahnstock a generous lease in a new building on the corner of Imperial Highway and Bellflower Boulevard, and the family business moved, opening Stox Restaurant in 1962.

"It was an immediate success," said Fahnstock who believes the restaurant benefited from its close proximity to North American

Aviation. "We had the astronauts in quite frequently. When NASA was working on the Apollo Space Mission here, we'd get a pretty good size order of pies – they'd take them back to the Houston space center."

In December of 1967, the Fahnstocks opened a second establishment in Anaheim, called Mr. Stox Restaurant, requiring several employees, including Fahnstock Jr., to travel between the two locations. After many years operating both sites, Fahnstock Sr. decided to sell both locations and retired from the restaurant business.

"He knew I wasn't keen about staying in the business. He knew sooner or later I would move on. It wasn't my passion," said Fahnstock, who now lives in Reno, Nevada. "It was time to sell."

In 1974, the Fahnstocks sold the Downey location to Ken Babajian, and three years later Mr. Stox Restaurant in Anaheim was sold to brothers Ron and Chick Marshall, who still own and manage the restaurant. Today, Stox

Restaurant in Downey is owned by Jack Wannebo, who acquired the eatery from Babajian more than 20 years ago.

He admits that the aging restaurant is struggling like other dining establishments, but he remains hopeful that the landmark will withstand the sluggish economy.

"You don't want to go into the restaurant business right now," he said. "This summer, we had the worst 20 weeks we've ever had. It's tough, the demographics are changing, but we've got three and four generations coming in now. We know the name or face of 80 percent of the people that come in here – it really is a second home to our patrons.

"There's not a place like this anymore...where you can have a good breakfast, a quiet lunch or an afternoon drink," said Wannebo. "We've survived when others haven't; it's a good format. People want good quality food at the best price. That's what Mr. Fahnstock did, that's what we'll continue to do."

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Last entry at 5:00pm on the day of the contest. Must be present at EVENT LOCATION at 11pm on the day of the contest to win.

Play It Safe Around Holiday Lights

As you begin preparing for the holiday season, we remind you to follow these important safety tips:

- Do not use decorative lighting with frayed cords and wires, broken fuses or broken light bulbs.
- Do not use staples, nails or tacks to hang electrical cords. These can pierce the protective insulation.
- Use only Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved lighting and extension cords.
- Plug no more than three strands of lights into each electrical cord/outlet.
- Ensure live trees are well watered, and keep electric cords away from tree stands with water pans.
- Never use lighted candles on or near holiday trees or decorations.
- Remember to unplug decorative lights when you leave home and before going to bed.

We wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season. For more safety tips, please visit www.sce.com/holidaysafety

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For Croom, dedication to service more than just a job

■ Lonnie Croom is set to take over as fire chief on Monday. Only 46, Croom calls the promotion "a dream come true."

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER



DOWNEY – Donald "Lonnie" Dean Croom, 26-year veteran Downey firefighter and deputy fire marshal for only a handful of days more, was one of three selected candidates who tested for the position of fire chief in late October last year.

He was informed of the decision in his favor on Nov. 18, but it was not until Nov. 23 that the City Council formally voted its approval.

Upon learning the good news, he was quoted as saying, "This is a dream come true."

Croom takes over as fire chief on Monday from erstwhile chief Jeff Turner, who was coaxed from a golf-studded retirement and has been serving on an interim basis for two years.

Born and raised in Downey, young (he is only 46) and exuding an aura of sculptured strength, Croom is a graduate of Downey High and holds a BS in occupational studies/vocational arts from Cal State Long Beach.

He says he wanted from the beginning nothing else but to become a firefighter, but getting appointed as fire chief was totally unexpected.

Croom started as a fire explorer, then early on showed his mettle, becoming a firefighter in 1984, and rising through the ranks of the Downey Fire Department, as a firefighter paramedic from 1988-1994, fire engineer/prevention inspector in 1994, and attaining the rank of fire captain in 1996. He has been

serving as deputy fire marshal since 2008.

His most memorable and proudest moments in his rise to top dog in the Downey Fire Department definitely include, he says, his leading a group of about 400 FEMA employees deployed to Mississippi in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, in which he led in establishing an Incident Command System in the affected region.

But he is especially proud of his roles over the years as fire prevention bureau inspector and investigator, emergency medical technician (EMT) program director for 10 years, fire explorer program coordinator for 16 years (during which he oversaw the 1997 California Fire Exploring Academy held in the city of Downey) and as training officer, instituting curriculum and training methods to provide better live fire and fire behavior instruction to recruits and veteran firefighters alike.

Because of these, it wasn't hard for him to identify his forte as belonging to the training area. He points to his days in the Training Tower, teaching and training firefighters in the art and science of fire suppression, etc. He says training is indeed a hallowed daily rou-

tine at the department, where responses to emergencies and quick thinking are honed.

The source of his strength, he says, in the training and leadership areas is his passion for helping people. This passion is difficult to conceal, he says, and expresses itself in various ways including daily exercise and otherwise maintaining physical fitness and mental alertness in order to be prepared for emergencies and making the right decisions.

Moreover, he says, "Most in the profession were chosen for their character. It's a lifestyle for us, a commitment, not just a job."

He has plans to attend the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, will attend the occasional fire chiefs' courses, and maybe go for his master's in public administration.

Croom's family roots go back to the County of Limerick in Ireland, where one can find a Croom Castle. He says he doesn't know if a family connection exists.

Croom thinks he is the first fire explorer to make it as fire chief in the 53-year history of the DFD. He also broke tradition as the first non-battalion chief to become fire chief. He resides in Huntington Beach.



Downey Federal Credit Union distributed \$7,500 in grants to local teachers last week. From left: DFCU board member Stan Hanstad, Downey Unified School District superintendent Wendy Doty and credit union president and CEO Barbara Lamberth.

Downey teachers receive grants from credit union



HENRY VENERACION

DOWNEY – Downey Federal Credit Union on Dec. 9 handed out \$300 student enrichment grants to 25 selected Downey educators, continuing an 8-year ritual of providing funds as a means of further enhancing the "learning experience" of their students.

Eligibility rules were revised this year to include grant applicants from private schools. Past practice saw 35 recipients receiving \$200 each; this year the number of grant winners totaled 25, but each received \$300.

Winning applications were judged by a panel from DFCU, based on possible impacts of the

proposals to enrich students' learning processes and benefit the classrooms.

Winning projects included several in the science and technology area, including: the purchase of monarch butterflies for life cycle lessons to Ward Elementary's second graders (Adriana Perez) and field trips to the Columbia Memorial Space Center (Jennifer Hartl of Kirkwood Christian Schools and West Middle School's Michelle Derkum); Warren High's purchase of a mini metal lathe to "learn machinery" for its Project Lead the Way engineering program (Glenn Yamasaki); the purchase of a digital microscope for science projects under Gallatin Elementary's David Tanaka and the purchase of a picture communication software to assist students with developmental delays (Maude Price's Shelly Keele); the purchase of school supplies to send to the school's Native American friends at the Mission School in Red Cloud, South Dakota (Our Lady of Perpetual Help's Irene Segura); AVID field trip under West Middle School's Deborah Eduad to univer-

sity campuses; a field trip to Biola University for educational and leadership purposes (Sussman Middle School's Jennifer Angulo); the formation of a chess club at Gallatin Elementary (Regina Donahue); and the installation of a huge mural outside Robert Petersen's room (Warren music department).

Downey superintendent Wendy Doty commended and thanked DFCU for its continued involvement with the education of students in the district and now citywide.

In welcoming the grant recipients, DFCU president and CEO Barbara Lamberth briefly traced the credit union's humble beginnings and its dynamic growth today as it enjoys healthy loan (\$75 million) and earnings numbers resulting from membership fees (2 percent of total), earnings from outside investments (27 percent of total), and interest on its loans (71 percent of total).

Program emcee was community education and development representative Kari Johnson.

Sodetani takes over as DUSD president

■ Sodetani elected to one-year term as head of Downey school board.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Martha Sodetani, who first won a seat on the Downey Unified School District board in 2005 replacing the departing Cheryl Andresen, was elected board president Tuesday.

She will serve in that capacity for one year.

Former incumbent Barbara Samperi thanked her colleagues on the board and the DUSD management team for "making my job in the past year easy."

Elected vice-president was Nancy Swenson, who also won a seat on the DUSD board in the same year.

Sodetani is the current president of the Assistance League of

Downey and, among other association memberships, also serves on the board of PTA Helps and is an active member of Gangs Out of Downey. Among her awards is the mayor's Diakonia Award given to her last year by former mayor and current Councilman Mario Guerra for "outstanding service to the community."


She said her fervent wish is that even as she is often mistaken as the author of good projects or decisions in the district, others who follow in her footsteps will find themselves in the same happy situation


See DUSD, page 10

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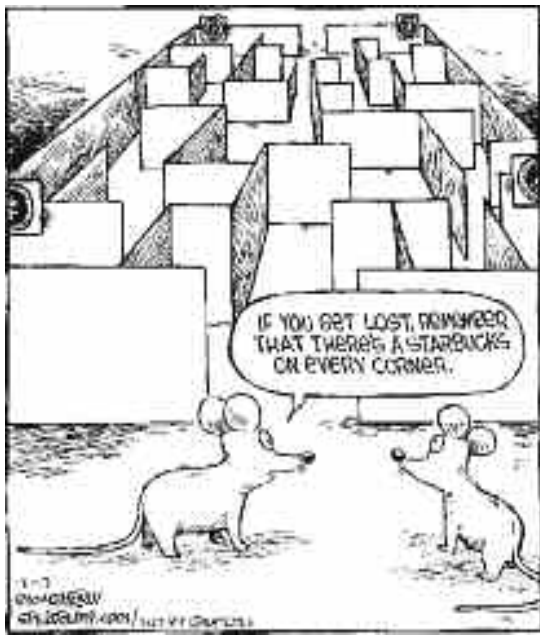
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ProNetworkers of Downey



Join us each Friday at 7:15am
Mimi's Cafe, Downey
8455 Firestone Blvd
www.ProNetworkers.com

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For December

- Sat. Dec. 18: Pet adoption event, SEAACA, 10 a.m.
- Sat. Dec. 18: Blessing of the animals, St. George Greek Church, 11 a.m.
- Sat. Dec. 18: Christmas concert, Messiah Lutheran Church, 5:30 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 18: “So You Think You Can Christmas” show, First Baptist Church of Downey, 7 p.m.
- Sun. Dec. 19: Free toys for needy children, Love, Peace & Happiness Church, 8:30 a.m.
- Sun. Dec. 19: “Mr. Wilson Finds CHRISTmas” play, Action Faith Ministries, 6 p.m.
- Sun. Dec. 19: Downey-Warren alumni football game, Downey High stadium, 6 p.m.

City Meetings

- 1st Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.: Redevelopment Project Area Committee, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
- 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.: Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall.
- 1st Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.: Recreation and Community Services Commission, Council Chamber, City Hall.
- 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 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 Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.
- 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...

Dec. 16, 1773: American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea overboard to protest tea taxes. The event became known as the Boston Tea Party.

1944: The Battle of the Bulge began when German forces launched a counterattack against Allied troops.

1990: Jean-Bertrand Aristide was elected president of Haiti in the country's first democratic elections.

1998: President Bill Clinton ordered a sustained series of airstrikes against Iraq by American and British forces.

2000: President-elect George W. Bush selected Colin Powell to become the first black secretary of state.

Birthdays: Broadcast journalist Lesley Stahl (67), Nevada governor Jim Gibbons (65), drummer Bill Bateman (58), Boyz II Men singer Michael McCary (38) and hip-hop producer Scott Storch (37).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

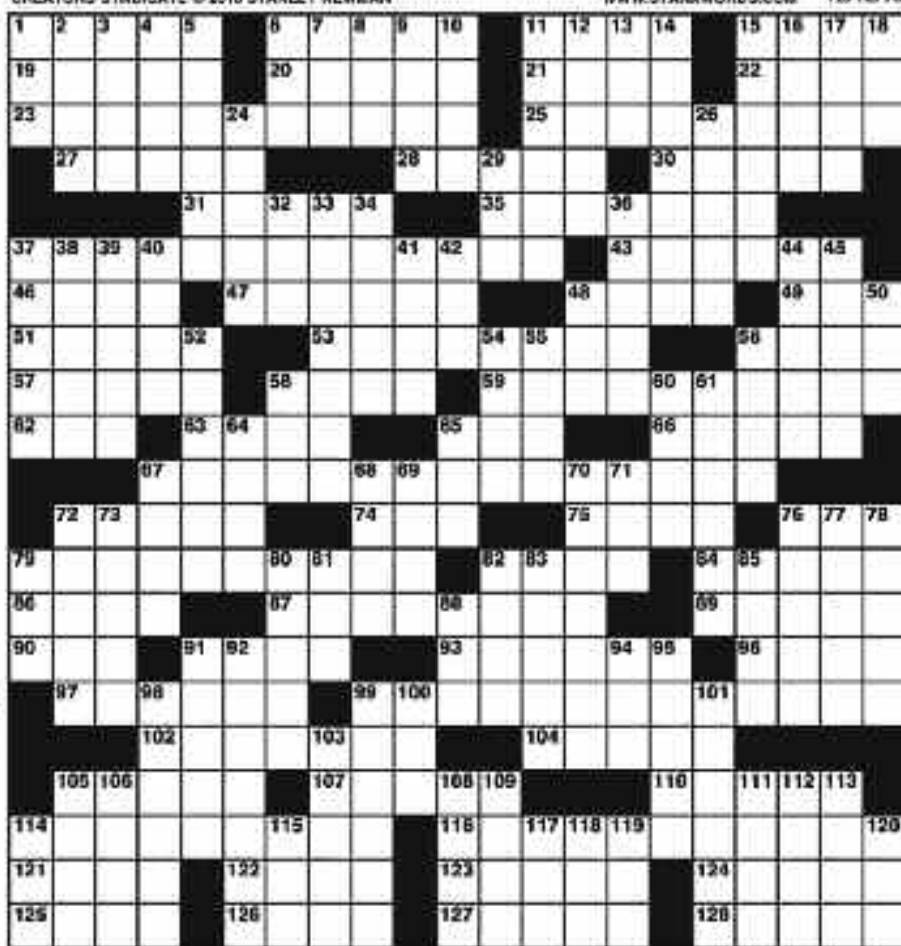
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

HOME IMPROVEMENT: Some project suggestions

by Gail Grabowski

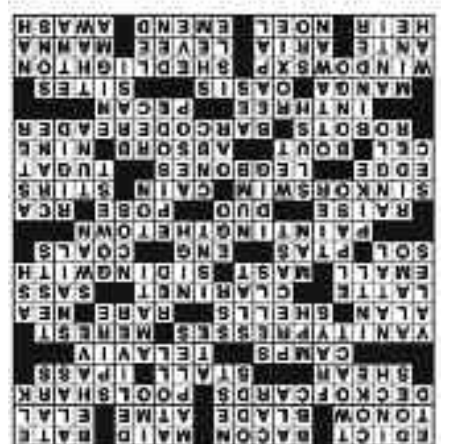
- ACROSS**
- Official proclamation
 - Crunchy salad ingredient
 - Hotel employee
 - Diminish
 - Thus far
 - Cutting edge
 - "Don't look __ like that!"
 - Ben Gurion Airport is its hub
 - Poker pack
 - Hustler with a cue
 - Clip wool from
 - Play for time
 - "No bid"
 - Roughs it
 - 22 Across destination
 - Author-paid publishers
 - Slightest
 - Shepard who walked on the moon
 - Beachcomber's finds
 - Few and far between
 - Teachers' org.
 - Coffee concoction
 - Jazz instrument
 - Impudence
 - Online shopping mecca
 - Sail support
 - Standing up for
 - Scale note
 - School-support orgs.
 - HS class
 - Barbecue briquettes
 - On a spree
 - Elevate
 - Batman and Robin, e.g.
 - Masquerade (as)
 - Color TV pioneer
- DOWN**
- LAX datum
 - Performs
 - Mark on a ruler
 - Coal product
 - With one intermission
 - UK counterpart of PBS
 - Menu phrase
 - Tourist's rental
 - Ten to one, e.g.
 - Egg holder
 - Syrup sources
 - Success-vs.-failure phrase
 - Biblical brother
 - Uses a spoon
 - Outer limit
 - Femur and tibia
 - Pull with effort
 - Toon collectible
 - Match in a ring
 - Soak up
 - Prime-time hour
 - Iron men
 - Supermarket scanner
 - Trisected
 - Mixed-nuts tidbit
 - Japanese graphic novel
 - Mirage, maybe
 - Locations
 - 2001 Microsoft debut
 - Make clearer
 - Get in on the deal
 - Tosca feature
 - River embankment
 - Heavenly fare
 - Natural successor
 - December song
 - Edit
 - Up to one's ears
 - Long-necked swimmer
 - "Oh, brother!"
 - Some PX patrons
 - Follow the sun
 - Cake cross-section
 - Sense of self
 - Toll road
 - Bestnik's "Gotcha"
 - Feeling nothing
 - Sitcom half-hour
 - Freight weight
 - Equestrian
 - __-Saxon
 - Inflexible
 - Construction site sight
 - Daisy look-alike
 - Fraction of a min.
 - Blizzard aftermath
 - Saturated
 - Mad Money network
 - "Boy Who Cried Wolf" source
 - Sushi fish
 - Sculler's item
 - Bestnik's drum
 - Certain Canadian
 - Boom-box button
 - The Godfather hoodlum Luca
 - School supply
 - "C'mon, help me out!"
 - DDE two-time opponent
 - Puzzle
 - Chicago character
 - Home for hematite
 - Kin of contra-
 - Land in the water
 - Ark passenger
 - Microwave option
 - Peak near Mossina
 - Babies in blue
 - 113 Babies in blue
 - Baby's cry
 - Sign of stage success
 - Mother of 82 Across
 - 117 Mother of 82 Across
 - Hotbed
 - Was first in line
 - 119 Was first in line
 - Informal refusal

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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.

system as of mid-2010.
most popular computer operating
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(114 Across) was still the world's
2001. Microsoft's WINDOWS XP
Apollo 14 in 1971. Introduced in
on the moon, as commander of
astronaut ALAN Shepard (46
ACROSS) was the fifth man to walk
AVI (35 Across). First American
of Israel, is located just south of TEL.
named for the first prime minister
Ben Gurion Airport (22 Across).





Pulling fire alarms no longer an innocent prank

Downey High is prosecuting students who set off fire alarms as pranks.

BY JENNIFER CHO, INTERN

DOWNEY – Downey High is bolstering its efforts to crack down on on-campus crime such as pulling fire alarms, a federal offense that has sent as many as five students to jail within the past two weeks.

Disciplinary problems have gotten out of control at the high school, particularly with the school's fire alarms. Administrators at Downey found an effective solution to catch perpetrators "blue-handed," by applying blue dye on alarms throughout the campus. When the alarm is pulled, administrators, teachers and staff can now easily pinpoint the culprit since the dye leaves visible stain marks on fingers.

"This has been going on within the last three weeks," said Assistant Principal John Baker. "It was the same fire alarm in the upstairs [D. Mark Morris Hall]. There is a code not only with Downey Police but with the school, and it is illegal to pull fire alarms when there is no fire."

More noticeable problems involve vandalism of school property and widespread graffiti across the campus. Graffiti in the first floor boys' restroom of the Margo Hoffer Hall, which houses Downey's math and science classes, resulted in removal of all mirrors in the restroom.

Teachers in the D. Mark Morris Hall also complained of graffiti on their classroom doors, with a similar situation occurring in the school's foreign languages building. Vandals had allegedly tagged the doors of several social sciences and foreign languages teachers. Recent tagging of the school's brand-new greenhouse, a staple for botany and other life science classes, infuriated administrators and students alike.

Principal Tom Houts said he was tired of the rampant vandalism



PHOTO BY FLICKR USER ADMIT ONE/CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSE

Students who set off fire alarms when there is no fire can face jail time.

and warned via PA system to the entire student body on Monday of the severe consequences that will arise. Houts made a public announcement to teachers, students and staff that three students from Downey High and another from Columbus High had been caught over the weekend vandalizing school property. Houts said all four students will be sent to jail for the felony.

Downey students have expressed disapproval at their peers' poor judgment for making the school atmosphere less wholesome. One student, who asked to remain anonymous, said the vandalism on campus is unacceptable.

"The tagging [at school] is completely inappropriate, especially

ly on the greenhouse," the student said. "The school would not have to enforce these measures if only people thought about the consequences that would result from such actions more carefully."

Another student said he was upset with fire alarms frequently disrupting the learning environment.

"The alarms would go off almost every day in one week," they said. "How were we supposed to know if there was no real fire or danger? My teacher would lecture our class about behavioral problems, even though they knew we were not the culprits. I do not understand how we as a school need to be blamed for other people's poor decisions."



PHOTO BY FLICKR USER ORANGEACID/CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSE

What will you do during winter break?

It's unanimous: winter break is a time to eat lots of food, shop and try to do nothing.

BY NICHOLE HAMILTON, INTERN

DOWNEY – Many students spend that long fall stretch from September to December working hard in school and minimizing their social activity, all awaiting that precious winter vacation that is looming around the corner.

High school students focus on so much throughout their school careers, be it sports, band, cheerleading, grades or complex combinations of all of the above. With all of this hard work that's nearly year-round, the much anticipated winter break is a time for students to wind down and take much-needed time for themselves.

"To be honest, I use winter break as more of a time to relax and hang out with friends, and just spend quality time with the ones that I love," said Downey High School student Riza Karnadi. "Since I am usually always studying when there is school, I find winter break to be a time to enjoy myself a little - and Downey has many places where I can do just that."

The response was unanimous among the students that were asked: winter break is a time to relax - but what is there to do?

Downey is full of activities for students looking for something social and fun to do over their break from school, and many students had similar things in mind.

"Going to the Krikorian movie theater on a rainy day with friends is always fun," said Downey High School student Jacqueline Ackerman. "I also like to go shopping at the Stonewood mall, or hang out with my friends at the Downey Landing."

Karnadi also enjoys some of these places, but also frequents some other locations that some students may overlook.

"My favorite places to go to over winter break in Downey would include: The Stonewood mall, Krikorian, Target (in Norwalk) and definitely the new Porto's Bakery & Café," said Karnadi. "Winter break would be the most convenient time to go shopping, watch movies with a couple of friends, eat great foods and go to all my favorite places."

The new Porto's has delicious

food and a wonderful atmosphere to gather with friends, and Target has many gift ideas and holiday sales that are ideal for shopping with or for your friends. While all of these activities are great ideas, some students enjoy spending their winter break doing other things.

"While winter break is definitely a time to relax, I spend every morning at Downey High School during my break practicing for track," said Downey High School student Kimberly Arias. "It's my favorite place to be."

Whether you enjoy spending your winter break socializing and going out, or staying home and relaxing, Downey has many places for students to unwind during those two celebrated weeks. Whether it's Downey Landing, Stonewood Center or trying something new like Porto's, students everywhere agree that winter break is a time for fun.

"No homework. Loads of food. I love everything about winter vacation," said Arias.

Holiday tradition helps St. Jude patients

English teacher motivates students to write letters to cancer patients.

BY REBEKAH JIN, INTERN

DOWNEY – For the past five years, Andra Macomber, an English teacher at Downey High School, has encouraged her students to write letters to children in the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital every holiday season.

Since its inception in 1962, St. Jude has significantly contributed to the astounding increase of cancer survivors. Only 4 percent of children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia survived in 1962; now

the survival rate is at 94 percent for this disease, the most common type of cancer for children.

According to Macomber, the birth of her son inspired her to contribute to St. Jude, a nonprofit organization that she firmly supports. Having a child of her own reaffirmed the fact that there are many families who are in desperate need to save lives. A blank greeting card designed by a sick child at St. Jude prompted Macomber to spread her efforts to the students in her classroom.

"I feel it is important to reach out to others during the holiday season because far too often, we make the holidays about ourselves," said Macomber. "I wanted my students to learn a lesson in altruism during the holiday season and cheer up less fortunate kids who don't have the privilege of spending the holidays with their families. Then I got the teachers and staff involved, and some of them gave me cards and money that we could donate to the hospital."

For students at Downey, these efforts are a reminder that Christmas is not just about receiving gifts - instead, it is a time to celebrate the blessings in our lives and to share joy with others.

"There is a great importance in sharing the holiday spirit with those that are unfortunately in worse conditions than we are," said Marco Rivera, a student in Macomber's English 11 class. "In a



PHOTO BY REBEKAH JIN

world filled with materialism and superficiality, it is heartwarming to know about these kids that have been through so much and are the epitome of innocence and kindness. So in our time of holiday cheer, we should extend our happiness to the children of St. Jude. In doing so, hopefully we will learn a thing or two about the importance

of hope."

All it takes is one person's motivation to bring smiles to the faces of needy children. What started as a humble project in Macomber's classroom has inspired others to follow suit, and her work will certainly leave a lasting impression at Downey High School for years to come.

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MORE RAIL IN THE WORKS

Voter-approved Measure R is funding new transportation projects and programs and accelerating those already in the pipeline.

Here are updates on a few of the projects:

Regional Connector Transit Corridor

- > A two-mile, fully underground light rail line has been approved for the route of the Regional Connector Transit Corridor connecting the Metro Gold Line, Metro Blue Line and future Expo Line through Downtown LA.
- > The route would connect with the Metro Blue and Expo lines at 7th Street/Metro Center Station and with the Metro Gold Line at Alameda Street.
- > Under the 30/10 Initiative leveraging Measure R funding with federal dollars, construction could begin in 2014 and be completed by 2019.

Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2

- > Public update meetings were held recently on the environmental study evaluating alternatives extending the Metro Gold Line farther east from East LA.
- > Two routes being explored are from Atlantic Boulevard east along either the Pomona Freeway or Washington Boulevard.

West Santa Ana Transit Corridor

- > A series of community meetings are being held over the next 20 months to explore transportation alternatives for an abandoned 20-mile rail right-of-way between the cities of 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/30ra.

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Jennifer Cho
Nichole Hamilton
Rebekah Jin
Deanna Kim
Deborah Won

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Photographers
Paul Heidecker

Too soon? Downey ranked No. 8

DOWNEY – After Downey High School's blowout win against Diamond Bar on Tuesday night, boys' head coach Larry Shelton was asked about the No. 8 ranking that his team currently has in Division IA in CIF.

"It doesn't mean much after a couple weeks into the season," he said laughing. "Come talk to me at the end of the season. I'll be happy if we're there then."

Truth be told, he should be happy right now. Granted, Shelton has been known to be very humble and Bill Belichick-esque at times, but I'm sure there is a small part of him that is pretty giddy about where his team is right now.

Yes, they've jumped out of the gates with a 5-game winning streak and the season is very young with this column being written the morning of a game against a No. 5 ranked opponent in

Canyon, but after watching only one game, you can tell that the Downey Vikings' boys basketball squad has that "it" factor.

They disposed of Diamond Bar with ease, being up 23 points by halftime, their biggest lead of the game. But it wasn't the scoreboard that was mind blowing. It was in the fashion they did it in.

In the first quarter, they were down in the opening minutes, but then went on a couple runs and also forcing a handful of turnovers that turned into easy points. Forward Dami Adefeso was unstoppable underneath the basket, point guard Dakari Archer was finding open players like a guard that hasn't been seen in Downey's program for quite some time, and they made it look easy.

But that wasn't the most impressive thing in my opinion in that first quarter. Downey took a

22-15 lead into the second quarter, but before the second quarter had started, the entire bench had been used and every player on the team had seen some playing time.

In fact, by the time the game was over, all but two players had scored, but every player either had a steal, rebound, assist or block. They all contributed some way to the game.

It's hard to think that this No. 8 ranking is any type of fluke. The poll was released on Monday, and if Downey is able to put out a good showing, if not win, against Canyon and continue their amazing pace, they'll be moving up in those polls.

I'll reiterate that it is still early, but keep this statistic in mind. Since the beginning of their play as a varsity squad during the summer, the Vikings are a combined 48-4. Can anyone say ridiculous?

The funny thing is that they're not favored to win the San Gabriel Valley League with Gahr being ranked No. 2 in their respective CIF division.

But what's not to gush about? Adefeso is a legitimate MVP candidate with the way he's able to score around the basket. Archer is a star on the rise, and in the words of Shelton, could have played at the varsity level last year, but instead dominated the freshman



SCOTT COBOS

"Come talk to me at the end of the season. I'll be happy if we're there then."

—Downey boys' basketball coach Larry Shelton, on team's No. 8 preseason ranking

level, and guard Garrett Neilan gives them a shooting guard that is clever around the basket and has the potential of defensively locking up a teams' best scorer.

Tack on the depth of the bench and their length, and the Vikings are now catching everyone's attention. The expectations just went from small chatter to reality.

Vikings 'arrogant' in win over Diamond Bar

■ **BOYS BASKETBALL:** Head coach Larry Shelton says defense needs work.

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – It's been a while since the Downey boys' basketball team has been ranked in CIF but they showed why they are No. 8, toying with Diamond Bar in pool play of the Sonora Tournament in a 79-57 win Tuesday night at Canyon High School.

Downey was able to force 17 turnovers and block 12 shots on the night, all but snuffing out any inside play for Diamond Bar, but Vikings head coach Larry Shelton was still not happy with his defense, especially in the fourth quarter where his team, although up big, was outscored by a point.

"We played a little arrogant in the fourth quarter," he said. "I wasn't happy with our defense all night long to tell you the truth. We've been playing so much harder before tonight. I was very disappointed defensively tonight."

He also said that he thought his team did a little too much gambling defensively tonight and probably was a cause to why the Vikings had so many blocked shot opportunities and not as many rebounding chances.

"We didn't seem to have our usual energy on defense tonight and that was seen early on," he said.

Although the 17 forced turnovers is down from 21 per game that they average, it didn't prove to be a factor with Downey turning the ball over only one time in the first half, and four times in the second half, albeit two of the second half turnovers were in the final minutes of a fast paced sloppy fourth quarter where the Vikings were up by 20 points.

Downey was able to run away with the game with four of their players scoring in double digits, and jumped out to a quick start with forward Dami Adefeso doing the majority of the damage in the first quarter, scoring 14 of Downey's 22 first quarter points.

Adefeso would lead all scorers on the night with 24 points, six blocked shots, and five rebounds.

"He's a year older, year stronger," said Shelton about Adefeso's torrid play. "Great kid. Works hard. One of the nicest kids I've ever coached."

But Adefeso's night was made much easier with the play of sophomore point guard Dakari Archer. Archer had 18 points of his own, but most importantly seven assists, with four of them in the first quarter to Adefeso alone.

"I was excited the day [Archer] came to our program as a freshman," Shelton said. "I probably could have played him on varsity last year. This guy, the sky is the limit for him. He's a great talent and he's just going to get better

and better as the year goes on."

While Adefeso had the early fireworks, it was Archer's steady hand throughout the night that kept Downey at a comfortable distance every time Diamond Bar would try to go on a little run.

Little runs were all that Diamond Bar were able to get with the Vikings' full court press bothering them the entire night. Not only was Downey's athleticism in kept full court press too much to overcome, the length of Downey was evident with all the blocked shots.

Defense turned to offensive more than naught for the Vikings with guard Garrett Neilan also having a good game with 15 points and four blocked shots of his own.

Guard Anthony Jack also proved to be a spark plug off the bench scoring his 10 points in the second half of the game.

Center Isaac Okebiurun led both teams with seven rebounds and scored 5 points off the bench as well.

Downey trailed only in the opening minutes of the game but then pulled ahead by 23 points come halftime, their biggest lead.

Diamond Bar shrank the deficit to 19 points in the second half, but never came any close in the run-away win for Downey.

Vikings win in double OT thriller

■ **GIRLS BASKETBALL:** Anissa Segura hits FTs for win.

DOWNEY – With three seconds left in the second overtime period, Downey's Anissa Segura hit two free throws with 1.8 seconds remaining to seal the Vikings' 36-33 win over La Serna last Tuesday night.

Kaylan Lane hit a 3-pointer with two seconds left in the first overtime to send the game into the second OT. She finished with six points on the night.

Segura had seven points and 16 rebounds, while Demetria Love led in scoring with nine points. Andrea Acosta had two points, Irma Urzua had five points, Amanda Mazon had three points and Rayana Villalpondo had four points.

Downey had difficulty last Friday against California on the road in a 41-37 loss. The Vikings had trouble slowing down California's balanced offense, which saw seven different players score.

California's Megan Palma led her team with nine points, shooting 80 percent from the field, including a 3-pointer, her only attempt of the game.

Downey isn't scheduled to play until next Tuesday at home against Central Valley. Game time is 4:15 p.m.

- Jennifer Cho, Intern

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Author shares three mindsets for success

BY SCOTT GREGORY,
SPECIAL TO THE DOWNEY PATRIOT

So you want to be the best, to be at the top of your game. Success is out there just waiting for you to achieve it. But it's not about luck. It's not about talent even though it helps. It's not even about destiny.

The first step in achieving success starts in your mind. Convincing yourself, beyond any doubt, is the most essential weapon in your motivational arsenal. Sustaining your conviction is the challenge.

Whether you're goal is to renovate your home, find your dream job or to become a world class athlete, the process is the same. The vision starts in your mind and translates itself into action, or not.

Failure to act starts in the mind as well. The tiniest doubt can worm its way into your best intentions and undermine all you hoped to achieve until the dream slips away, unfulfilled. This could be your fate if you don't master three critical mind-bending tools for success.

The mind is a peculiar thing. Your thoughts live there. So does your will, your imagination, your memory, feelings and perceptions. But you can't touch it, see it or feel it with your fingers. Even though it is intangible, the mind has the unique and unerring ability to control every aspect of your life. Positive thoughts yield positive actions; negative thoughts bring negative ones. Your job, then, is to take control of your mind and to exercise discipline and self-determination as you achieve your goals and watch your dreams become reality. To do this, you must know your thoughts, be conscious of them, take control of them and retain control so you can take your success journey to its obvious conclusion.

Know Your Thoughts – Do you know what you're thinking through the day every day? Every moment? Do you actively engage your thoughts, or do you let them wander willy-nilly taking your off point, keeping you from moving forward?

Consider the voice inside your head. You might be planning to lose weight, practice tennis, golf or music, or make phone calls for job interviews. But the conditions may not be ideal. Your favorite television program may just have started, your friends could be having a party or you decide you're too tired to exercise and will do it later.

Sadly, later may not come, opportunities might be missed simply because you listened to thoughts which led you down the path of inactivity. If that's been your experience, then it's time to make a change. It's time to engage the voice inside your head, self-talk.

Since you're aware of your thoughts, you know when they are turning you away from your goals, your dreams. This is the time for you to say, "Stop it!" You must take a proactive stance to remain positive, forward thinking and movement-oriented. Say to yourself, "I can do this!" and before your negative thoughts can respond, support your affirmation with action. Get dressed and put on your shoes for that morning run. Get up an hour early to work on your novel. Activate your strategy to move ahead in your job. You can do it. You know you can. Just do it. Just start.

Control Your Thoughts – Now that you're aware of your thoughts, you must start exercising control over them. Sir Isaac Newton's third law of physics says that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. While this is a physical law, it certainly applies to those pesky little thoughts that are determined to derail you at every possible juncture. Every time you do something to support your dream, be prepared for negative thoughts to chal-

lenge your goals. Your job is to disregard those doubts, prideful rebellions and negative affirmations that are determined to unravel your dreams and keep you stuck in the ordinary.

Everyone has a dream and you live the dream through your thought-life. What Little Leaguer doesn't dream of playing in the World Series? Who doesn't dream of being the best of the best, the Top Gun? The dream starts in your thoughts. When you body says, "no," your mind must refuse to stop. It's mind over matter. You must constantly keep your dream in front of you. For some, it's keeping a picture of your dream on the refrigerator to serve as a constant reminder. For others, it's the positive reinforcement of your peers, your mentors, your support system. For others still, it's that private notion that you haven't shared with a soul as you quietly work your way to the top.

You end up where you are because of thoughts you think. You must become an expert in controlling your thoughts so you can take your dream to the next level.

Keep Your Thoughts – Refuse to give up your dream, especially when you have to balance it against the demands of daily living. While others may be sleeping, resting, and recreating, you have made up your mind to take the higher road to achieving your goals and dreams, to be a champion. You've become an expert in recognizing and commanding those thoughts that would tear you down. You're combating them with self-talk to keep you moving

forward. This is a critical time for you. Should you fail to exercise thought-diligence, you could lose it all in one moment of weakness.

Though this may seem impossible, negative thoughts inhabit the dark recesses of your mind just waiting to come out when you are stunned by an unforeseen circumstance or a life-changing decision. Doubts about your ability to overcome will pour out of the floodgates if you don't stubbornly stop them with resolve, innovation, and certainty.

Find the positive in every circumstance and actively engage it as you push back thoughts of "you can't," "it's too hard," or "it's time to give up." Rehearse and release your mantra of positive self talk that's taken you up to and ultimately past the challenge in front of you. Make good use of your time. Change those negative thoughts into the positive ways you can do things. Get that bad devil out of your head.

If you want to become a champion, a dream-achiever, you have to think affirming thoughts that fuel your passion, motivate you to work hard every day, and nurture your heart and soul. Winning the battle of your mind – being aware, gaining and retaining control will give you the tactical support you need to achieve your dreams one day at a time.

Scott Gregory is the author of "Champion Mindset: Refusing to Give Up Your Dreams" (Fruitbearer Publishing). Visit him on line at www.ScottGregoryOlympian.com.



Jr. Pee Wee, a cheer squad with the Downey Razorbacks, have qualified for a national tournament next month in Las Vegas. The Midget squad also qualified.

Cheer squads qualify for nationals

DOWNEY – Two cheerleading squads from the Downey Razorbacks have qualified to compete in a national tournament next month in Las Vegas.

The Jr. Pee Wee and Midget cheer squads qualified Sunday to compete in the JAMZ Championships scheduled for Jan. 28 at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

The squads are now raising money to help offset travel costs.

"One behalf of the Jr. Pee Wee and Midget cheer squads we truly appreciate any support in getting our girls to Vegas; it is a long and difficult trip but totally worth it," said head cheer coach Alyssa Rico. "Financially it is a struggle so any help from the community to support this great organization would be greatly and deeply appreciated."

For more information on Downey Razorbacks, visit www.DowneyRazorbacks.com.

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DUSD: Nancy Swenson named vice president for 2010-11

Continued from page 4

of benefiting from and in turn making good decisions affecting the district's future.

Swenson, who works as manager III-IT asset management at Raytheon, filled the seat vacated by Betty Ferraro. She is likewise involved in community organizations, including GOOD and Gypsy Johnson/Assistance League of Downey.

Multi-term board member Donald La Plante, a history/political science teacher at another school district, takes another turn as clerk.

The board also approved the following appointments: a) audit committee -- Tod Corrin, Sodemani, Samperi; b) budget committee -- Willie Gutierrez, Corrin, Mark Morris; c) representative to the county committee on school district organization—La Plante; representative to LACSTA—LaPlante; and d) school/city coordinating committee—Corrin and Samperi.

Meanwhile, the board heard a performance by a reduced Carpenter Elementary School choir under the direction of Mark Shearer, while it recognized the members of the Downey High School volleyball team as High School CIF Southern Section Division 2A Girls Volleyball champions led by coach of the year Andrea Sims.

In other action, the Board: *Approved the certification of signatures for the period from December 2010-December 2011, or until it takes subsequent action;

*Accepted with thanks cash and in-kind donations, both large and small, from several sources, including \$8,100 from Rio San Gabriel PTA earmarked for reading materials at the school, and 3,184 books from Michael Dante valued at \$3,000 to be used in the Downey High School library;

*Ratified/approved routine district business including: the payment of convention and conference expenditures and other

fees; the general agreements with a number of organizations providing a variety of specialized services; special education placements; purchase orders by the purchasing department; the issuance of patrol orders for hourly, overtime, and Civic Center work performed by classified personnel, Adult School and Food Services; B warrants covering the month of November; 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, and vocational nursing programs; the change order to an order for frozen slush drinks for the Food Services Department; accepted as complete roofing, fencing, backhoe, concrete, and electrical work performed by various contractors; the purchase of equipment according to established purchasing policies and regulations; the abolishment of a vacant position at Gauldin Elementary School and the establishment of a few limited-term positions corresponding to the job classifications mostly that of senior instructional assistant (assigned to Warren High School, and Maude Price, Lewis, Old River and Carpenter Elementary Schools) while increasing the hours of a similar position (but for severely/multiply handicapped) at Griffiths Middle School; and rou-

tine personnel items until subsequent action is taken by the Board of Education;

*Approved the revisions to BP 1105 and AR 1105, Uniform Complaint Procedure (regarding compliance with state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs, with respect to privacy, unlawful discrimination, etc., issues, as well as to AR 1105.1, Williams Uniform Complaint Procedure) addressing administrative, textbook supplies, facilities, etc., matters;

*Approved the changes to the duties of personnel/payroll assistant-Adult School per duty statement effective Dec. 15, 2010;

*Received the proposed Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 3150, Title I programs (federal funding for improving the academic achievement of disadvantaged students), for review;

*Approved the revised 2011-12 Downey Adult School Course of Study;

*Ratified the supervised internship agreement and supervised paid fieldwork agreement, including revisions, with Chapman University; as well as the 2011-2013 educational fieldwork agreement with the University of Redlands;

*Ratified the school safety police program agreement with the city (overtime assignment of a police officer to Downey, Warren and Columbus High Schools)

through June 23, 2011;

*Ratified Amendment No. 1 extending the contract term for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Contract No. 073912:11) through June 30, 2011, and increasing the grant from \$25,000 by an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for a total contract amount of \$50,000; as well as Amendment No. 2 which further increases the grant from \$50,000 by an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for a total contract amount of \$75,000;

*Approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles County Office of Education addressing their combined efforts at running the CWD/ROP designated subjects credential program;

*Approved the adjustments in the 2010-11 budget for all funds to reflect the 2009-10 ending unaudited actuals in the 2010-11 beginning budget;

*Denied the claim submitted by Victor A. Lopez, in compliance with Government Code Section 911-15 and 945;

*Received and approved the administrative report containing the fund balance and sources and uses of developer fees collected during the 2009-10 fiscal year;

*Received the administrative report containing the 2010-11 first period interim financial report as of Oct. 31, 2010 on the financial and budgetary condition of the district, and approving the positive certification that DUSD can meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the 2010-11 fiscal year; and

*Endorsed the actions of the superintendent on student cases.

The next regular public meeting of the of the Board will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011 at the Gallegos Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave.

Christmas trees should be left curbside

DOWNEY – Downey residents can begin placing Christmas trees curbside for recycling beginning Dec. 27.

The trees will be collected by CalMet Services, the city's franchised refuse hauler, and taken to the Puente Hills Landfill where they will be composted or ground up and recycled.

Before placing trees curbside, residents should remove the stand and all decorations. Trees over four feet tall should be cut in half.

CalMet will pick-up trees until Jan. 14.

Commercial accounts, including businesses and apartments, should call CalMet at (562) 259-1239 to schedule a free pick-up.

Christmas trees can also be dropped off at the city's public works yard behind Independence Park..

Pay library fines with canned food

DOWNEY – During the month of December, the Downey City Library will accept canned and packaged staple goods as payment for overdue fines on returned library materials.

Volunteers from Downey Council PTA HELPS will distribute the goods to needy local families.

"Even if you don't owe library fines, we encourage everyone to bring in food items to the library to help local families," said circulation supervisor Josephine de la Dingo.

The donated value of each item will be 50 cents. Goods will be accepted until Dec. 31 at the Circulation desk.

For more information, call (562) 904-7366.

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- Connective tissue/ Myofascial Release
- Deep Tissue
- Sports Massage
- Acupressure

For more details and to apply, please visit our website: www.das.edu

Orientations: January 28th, March 4th, and April 8th at 1:15p.m.

Need more assistance? Please call 562-940-6200.

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DOWNEY ADULT SCHOOL
 CAREER AND EDUCATION CENTER



Hillary and Jacob Michael, brother and sister, will depart on separate humanitarian missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They plan to reunite in 2013 for their younger sister's high school graduation.

Missionaries prepare to depart

DOWNEY – Siblings Hillary and Jacob Michael are preparing to leave as missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Hillary will leave for Portugal on Tuesday where she will live for 16 months. A 2007 graduate of Downey High School, she has been studying the Portuguese language for two months in Provo, Utah.

Hillary attended Brigham Young University the past three years. Her brother, Jacob, graduated from Downey High in June and immediately left for BYU. He will serve in Tonga for 22 months following two months of training in Provo. His departure date is Jan. 5.

Their older brother, Russell, served in Germany as a missionary from 2006-08.

The family looks forward to reuniting for the high school graduation of their younger sister, Ellen, in June of 2013.

Gas Co. offers free furnace checks

DOWNEY – With cold weather forecasted this weekend, the Southern California Gas Company is offering free furnace inspections to ensure that customers' home heating equipment is operating safely.

Faulty furnaces can cause leaks of carbon monoxide, an odorless, tasteless gas that is formed when carbon-based fuels are burned with inadequate amounts of oxygen, creating a condition known as incomplete combustion.

"While carbon monoxide poisoning incidents are rare, we usually see a rise in the number of occurrences when the weather gets really cold," said Bret Lane, vice president of field services for the Gas Company. "Often, the cause of carbon monoxide in a home is due to a problem with the furnace, so we're urging customers to be safe and get their furnaces inspected by a licensed, qualified professional."

The utility also warns against using ovens, ranges or outdoor barbecues for home heating. These appliances are not designed for such use and pose a potentially fatal rise of carbon monoxide poisoning if used for space heating, officials said.

The early stages of carbon monoxide poisoning include unexplained flu-like symptoms, such as headaches, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, shortness of breath and mental confusion.

Signs that may indicate the presence of carbon monoxide include a large, yellow and unsteady gas appliance burner flame, and an unusual pungent odor when the appliance is operating.

If you suspect carbon monoxide is present, officials recommend evacuating the home and calling 911.

Customers of the Gas Company can schedule a free inspection by calling (800) 427-2200 or going to www.socalgas.com/service.



Russell Skersick, left, and Steve Roberson were awarded Realtor of the Year and Broker of the Year, respectively, at an installation and awards luncheon hosted by the Downey Association of Realtors. Gabriela Minjares won Affiliate of the Year.

Century 21 office wins top honors

DOWNEY – Steve Roberson and Russell Skersick, of Century 21 My Real Estate, swept top honors at the Downey Board of Realtors' annual Installation and Awards Luncheon held Dec. 8 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Roberson was awarded Broker of the Year for his "professionalism, participation with the local real estate association and community involvement."

Skersick received Realtor of the Year based on the same criteria. "This is an outstanding achievement for Century 21 My Real Estate Co. [to] be recognized for both Broker of the Year and Realtor of the Year for 2010," the real estate office said in a statement. "Steve Roberson's leadership of the office, dedication to the profession and desire to give back to the community are some of the many reasons they are a perfect fit to be honored by their peers and the Downey Association of Realtors."

Meanwhile, Gabriela Minjares of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage was awarded 2010 Affiliate of the Year, Jeanette Baumann received the President's Award and Barbara Briley-Beard went home with the Community Service Award.

Crime Report

Friday, Dec. 10

At 9:00 a.m., officers located an unoccupied LoJack stolen vehicle parked in the area of Buckles Street and Bellflower Boulevard. Detectives conducted a surveillance of the vehicle. After two suspects entered the vehicle and drove away, a short police pursuit ensued and the suspect driver was arrested without further incident.

At 8:00 p.m., a street robbery occurred at Paramount Boulevard and Fifth Street. A 23-year-old Downey resident was jogging when two males in their twenties drove up to the victim, brandished a handgun and demanded the victim's property. The victim complied and the suspects sped away. The victim was not injured.

Saturday, Dec. 11

At about 3:00 a.m., two males in their twenties robbed two Downey residents in the 12500 block of Ryerson Avenue. The two victims were both seated in their car talking when the suspects approached in a vehicle and threatened to shoot them if they did not hand over their property. The victims complied and the suspects drove away.

Monday, Dec. 13

At about 8:00 a.m., four juvenile suspects were arrested for spray painting graffiti on the Downey High School campus. All four were charged with vandalism and are awaiting their court appearance.

Information provided by Downey Police Department.

ATTORNEY

ALEXIS SAAB
ATTORNEY AT LAW

HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

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REALTOR

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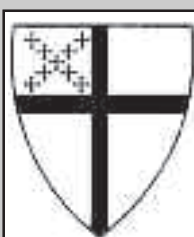
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WINTER WORSHIP



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The Episcopal Church
Welcomes You!
Sunday Worship Times
8:00 am and 10:00 am



Christmas at St. Mark's
Christmas Eve Service:
Dec. 24th at 10:30 pm
Christmas Day Service:
Dec. 25th at 10:00 am
Sing-A-Long Messiah:
Dec. 26th at 10:00 am

Email: church@stmarksdowney.org
10354 Downey Ave., Downey CA 90241
(562) 862-3268

First Presbyterian Church of Downey
A Multicultural Congregation



To Know Christ and Make Christ Known

Christmas Eve Caroling Service
5:30 p.m. Friday the 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
11:00 p.m. Friday the 24th

10544 Downey Avenue at Seventh Street

Downey Memorial Christian Church

Sunday, December 19

New Beginnings Praise Worship, 10:00 am
Christmas Traditional Worship, 10:30 am

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5:00 pm

8441 East Florence Avenue • 562.869.7291

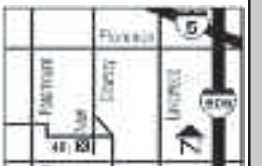
Visit us at downeymemorial.org

Christmas Eve
Worship Service

Friday, December 24th

You are invited to join with others in remembering the birth of Christ and in celebrating the real reason for the Christmas Season. At DFCC, the night before Christmas will be filled with candlelight, communion, music and message - followed by a time of drinks and dessert. Typically Christmas Eve has been a great opportunity for the family to spend time together at church during the holiday season, so make plans now to bring loved ones to an incredible December 24th service at Downey First Christian Church.

10909 S. New Street Downey, CA 90241
(one block north of the Krikorian Theater)
562-862-2438 (english)
562-862-7418 (español)



LEGAL NOTICES CONT.

12/30/2010
The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/16/10, 12/23/10, 12/30/10

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 234942CA Loan No. 0700798655 Title Order No. 602130005 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 07-11-2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDER AND OWNER OF THE NOTE. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/21/10, 12/29/10, 12/16/10

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 733144CA Loan No. 530398875 Title Order No. 3206-215213 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10-12-2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 733144CA Loan No. 530398875 Title Order No. 3206-215213 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10-12-2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/16/10, 12/23/10, 12/30/10

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. : 20100015008289 Title Order No.: 10050256 FV Order No.: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 08/29/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/21/10, 12/29/10, 12/16/10

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 10-0103518 Title Order No. 10-8-398339 Investor/Insurer No. 1701430938 APN No. 6260-003-02 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 05/03/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/16/10, 12/23/10, 12/30/10

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 09-0071482 Title Order No. 09-8-206971 Investor/Insurer No. 18180743 APN No. 7011-009-063 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/09/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust...

The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/9/10, 12/16/10, 12/23/10

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS #: CA-10-364633-CL Order #: 100331869-CA-LPI YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 6/8/2000. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/9/10, 12/16/10, 12/23/10

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. : 20100015008289 Title Order No.: 10050256 FV Order No.: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 08/29/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/9/10, 12/16/10, 12/23/10

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS #: CA-08-194640-ED Order #: F805020 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/31/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/9/10, 12/16/10, 12/23/10

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS #: CA-08-194640-ED Order #: F805020 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/31/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's Attorney, Date: Quality Loan Service Corp. 2141 5th Avenue San Diego, CA 92101 619-645-7711 FOR NON SALE information only Sale Line: 714-730-2727 or Login to: www.fidelityasap.com Reinstatement Line: 619-645-7711 x3704

The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/9/10, 12/16/10, 12/23/10

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. GM-159622-C Investor No. 10940585 Loan No. 7441959509 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 7/28/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/9/10, 12/16/10, 12/23/10

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 734391CA Loan No. 3062512979 Title Order No. 3206-225532 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 05-03-2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/21/10, 12/29/10, 12/16/10

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. GM-221977-F Investor No. 662RH0018 Loan No. 0592710602 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 04/30/09. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

0086856 Title Order No. 08-8-320423 Investor/Insurer No. 1103632083 APN No. 6260-009-061 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 11/06/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/21/10, 12/29/10, 12/16/10

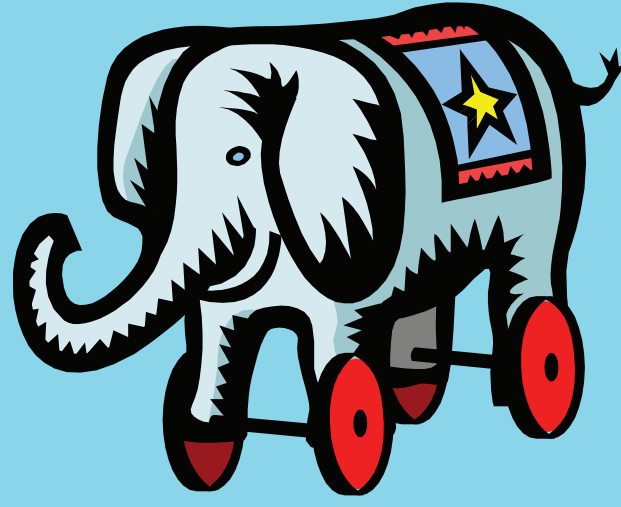
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. GM-252007-C Investor No. 93W1009528 Loan No. 0359306926 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 5/2/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

The Downey Patriot, #BS124251
12/21/10, 12/29/10, 12/16/10

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. GM-221977-F Investor No. 662RH0018 Loan No. 0592710602 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 04/30/09. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER...

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 08-

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"Mauricio Barajas did a very good job and is a nice guy!" – Carlos Ortega

"Maria Franco is the best agent I ever had to work with in the past. Maria was thorough and treated us well." – Fred Granados

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"Just What I Was Looking For..."
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TOP PRODUCTION
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NEW LISTING

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 Great curb appeal and a nice neighborhood. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace in living room, inside laundry, newer windows, close to shopping, schools and freeways.

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 Regular sale! Four units, each unit has one bedroom and one bath. New exterior paint, separate gas and electricity meters. An investment opportunity!

"I Should Have Called!"
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Picky Buyers
 Beautiful and well kept mobile home in a nice community. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, nice kitchen, laundry area, open floor plan, bright living room and dining area.

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\$319,000



3 BD, 2 BA
\$439,000



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The Downey City Council has a new look as newly-elected Fernando Vasquez was sworn into office last week. Councilman Mario Guerra was reelected and also took the oath of office, while Luis Marquez became mayor on Tuesday. Marquez's plans and goals as mayor will appear in next week's edition.





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