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Thursday, December 6, 2012

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## Hospital, PIH talk merger

**DOWNEY** – Citing the need for stronger strategic partnerships, Downey Regional Medical Center (DRMC) entered exclusive negotiations with PIH Health of Whittier last week that could create a potential affiliation between the two not-for-profit hospitals.

While negotiations are still underway, hospital executives say an agreement may lead to the possible acquisition of DRMC by PIH Health.

“If an agreement is reached, this affiliation would create an integrated regional healthcare system with many benefits for residents of the greater Southeast Los Angeles County area serviced by the two hospitals,” said James R. West, President and Chief Executive Officer of PIH Health.

“By working with the management and physicians at DRMC, the two entities should be able to create a comprehensive network of healthcare services that will be unsurpassed in the area.”

According to Rob Fuller, executive vice president at DRMC, it may be several more weeks before any agreement is finalized between the two parties.

“In 2013, we’ll take a look at what kind of transaction takes place. As far as whose name is on the building, all we know is there’ll be a hospital in Downey and a hospital in Whittier,” said Fuller. “It may take a third party name, but those are minor details...it will be the same entity.”

However, Fuller stressed that the 90-year-old hospital’s main priority was joining a health care system that allows DRMC to become a strong viable hospital with a strong emergency room.

“I don’t know how much the average person knows about hospital economics, but stand alone hospitals are a rare entity,” he said. “With recent health care reforms, hospitals are under tremendous pressure.”

Founded in 1959, PIH Health is a healthcare delivery network comprised of primary and specialty care, urgent care, home health, hospice and in-patient hospital services at 400-plus bed Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital in Whittier.

This isn’t the first time DRMC entered negotiations with PIH Health. During the height of the hospital’s bankruptcy in 2010, PIH considered acquiring Downey Regional, but negotiations yielded no agreement.

“We are hopeful that we can quickly come to terms with PIH Health and allow for nonprofit Downey Regional Medical Center to continue operations as an affiliate of PIH Health,” stated Kenneth Strople, President & CEO of DRMC.

“While this letter of intent is nonbinding and preliminary in nature, there is a natural geographic and operational affinity between the two organizations that should allow for the Downey-based nonprofit hospital to enjoy continued successful hospital operations.”

—Christian Brown, staff writer



Carl Charles, left, is administered the oath of office by his father during a ceremony Wednesday at City Hall.

## Carl Charles is Downey’s 10th police chief

• New police chief promises to lead the department with “honesty, integrity and enthusiasm.”

By Christian Brown  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – In an emotional ceremony filled with hugs, laughs and photographs, Downey Police Capt. Carl Charles became Downey’s 10th chief of police, sworn-in on Wednesday before an audience of family, friends, colleagues, and city officials.

“I’m very humbled by this moment,” said Charles shortly after taking the oath of office. “I want to thank the mayor, the city council, and Mr. Gilbert Livas for allowing me to lead one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the country.”

“For that I’m eternally grateful,” he said.

Charles, a 22-year veteran of the Downey Police Department, replaces Rick Esteves, who announced his retirement last month after three years on the job. He becomes the first African-American to ever serve as Downey’s chief of police.

Esteves, who promoted Charles to captain, praised him for his exemplary character and thanked him for being his counselor during difficult seasons of his tenure.

“Carl is one of the best friends I have in the world. He’s a good man, a good person,” said Esteves. “To the men and women of the Downey Police Department, know you have a man who cares about people. His decisions aren’t based on numbers, but he thinks about the impact on lives.”

Hired as a Downey police officer in 1990, Charles quickly moved



Photo by Eric Pierce

up the ranks, earning promotions to sergeant, lieutenant, and eventually captain. During that time, he worked in all three police department divisions, which include administration, field operations and the detective bureau.

“Mr. Charles’ exemplary commitment and dedication to the Downey community is reflected in his many years of service to our city,” said Mayor Roger Brossmer in a statement. “We are confident that Captain Charles will continue to lead our fine police department with the highest regard and integ-

riety.”

During the swearing-in ceremony, Charles elected his father, Carl Charles Sr., to issue the oath of office.

“In this moment, I’m reminded of the dreams your dad had for you – law school,” quipped Charles Sr., drawing laughs from the audience. “But it wasn’t about me, it was about you. I’m more proud of the son you are, the kind of person you are.”

Born and raised in Inglewood, Charles, a married father of two children, holds a bachelor’s degree

in sociology from Cal State Northridge and a master’s in public administration from USC.

Standing before the crowd, Charles promised to never ask anything of his Downey officers that he wouldn’t do himself.

“This has been a touching experience for me, you’ve touched my heart,” he said. “I’m honored to be the 10th chief of police – I don’t take it lightly. I commit today to walk in honesty, integrity, enthusiasm, and commitment to make this place the best place to live, work, and play.”

## Man arrested after allegedly shooting brother

**DOWNEY** – A Downey man is in custody and facing attempted murder charges after allegedly shooting his brother multiple times Wednesday for reasons that remain unclear.

Police have not identified the suspect, who was arrested in an apartment on the 12400 block of Rose Avenue.

Police responded at 6:54 a.m. to a shots fired call and found the victim laying in the front of the apartment complex with several gunshot wounds. The suspect was found inside the apartment and taken into custody without incident.

Police found a gun inside the apartment.

The victim was taken to a local hospital where he is listed in critical condition.

Anyone with information on the shooting is asked to call Detective Steve Aubuchon at (562) 904-2361 or Sgt. Dwayne Cooper at (562) 904-2340.

Tips can also be left anonymously by calling (800) 222-8477 or at lacrimestoppers.org.

## Gallery hosting toy drive next Friday

**DOWNEY** – The new Stay Gallery in Downtown Downey is hosting a toy drive next Friday, Dec. 14, to benefit local children in need.

All toys collected will be delivered to the Downey Unified School District’s True Lasting Connection Family Resource Center on Dec. 17 for distribution.

Toys that do not find a home during the holiday season will be stored and given to children during their birthdays and other times of need, officials said.

“Come enjoy a night of music, food, drinks and a fun holiday spirit,” said Valentin Flores, director of Stay Gallery. “To make things fun, we encourage all that attend to wear their ugliest holiday sweaters to the event.”

The gallery will be accepting new, unwrapped toys with a minimum value of \$10. Donations towards program development at Stay Gallery will also be accepted.

Toys can be dropped off all day Friday. Stay Gallery is at 11140 Downey Ave.

For more information, go online to stay-gallery.com.

## Open house at historical society

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Historical Society is hosting an open house Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be offering tours of its museum and the historical Dismukes House.

There will also be “special historic Christmas exhibits” and refreshments.

The historical society is located at Apollo Park, 12540 Rives Ave.

**MAYOR'S CORNER**

## Reflecting on an eventful 2012

Dear Downey Family,

My term as Mayor will officially end next Tuesday and I'm sad to say this will be my last Mayor's Corner. This past year has truly been an unforgettable experience for me personally and I feel honored to have the opportunity to serve this community.

As I reflect back on the past year, there were so many significant events that I felt fortunate to be a part of. First, although a difficult challenge, we were able to close an \$11 million gap and approve a balanced City budget for the first time in three years. Like more local cities, Downey was no exception in facing tough economic hardships, but with the help of my fellow Council colleagues and City staff, we were able to make the best sound decisions that would have the most positive impact on our community. Our top priorities were to preserve our City's excellent quality of life through top notch public safety services and by maintaining premier City services and programs.

The relocation of our very own Space Shuttle Mock-up, now officially named Inspiration, was another highlight this past year. After many years in storage, Inspiration was relocated to the Downey Studios parking lot where it is being housed under a temporary tent for public viewing. Built in 1972 by Rockwell International, the 122-foot-by-78-foot Shuttle has the distinction of not only being the first full-size Space Shuttle ever built, but it was used for two decades for detailed engineering fittings and testing. I cannot express to you enough how proud I am of our City's rich aerospace history and we continue to inspire our next generation of explorers through our Columbia Memorial Space Center.

The Endeavour flyover was truly a breathtaking experience. Downey was fortunate to be included in Endeavour's final flight route and I re-



member the excitement of the crowd as the Shuttle approached the Space Center at a short distance away. A truly historic day for our City and one I will never forget.

A significant development that we approved this year was the Tierra Luna Marketplace. This development will definitely be one you will want to stay tuned for. Not only will Tierra Luna help produce more than \$4.2 million dollars in revenue to the City, but it will help create 3,000 permanent jobs, 1,200 of which will be high paying medical jobs. The magnitude of this development will truly be a giant economic leap for Downey. This 1.5 million square foot development will replace Downey Studios and construction is expected to begin next year.

As many of you know, I am a big supporter of our Veterans and have strived to find ways to recognize them for their service to our country. I was proud to welcome home close to twenty service men and women

and hold special presentations to honor them at several of our City Council meetings this past year. They each came with their families and for me to be able to recognize them and present them with their own military banner, was probably one of the most meaningful things I did as Mayor. This was just a small token of my appreciation for all they have done to preserve our freedom and serve our country.

They truly are our hometown heroes.

Just last month, we had the honor of unveiling our very own Veterans Memorial right outside City Hall. This was a project that meant a great deal to me and I am glad that we were able to finally have a monument to honor those Veterans who have sacrificed their life. Joshua Whittle – this was especially dedicated to you.

To the Citizens of Downey, I would like to thank every single one of you for allowing me to serve as the 45th Mayor of this City. I have

met many of you throughout this past year and I am proud to live in a community with so many dedicated folks. To my fellow Council colleagues, City Staff and community groups, thank you for all of your support and for helping make Downey the City that it is today.

To Superintendent Dr. Wendy Doty and the Downey Unified School District Board Members – thank you for supporting me in my term as Mayor and for being understanding of my hectic schedule.

Last but definitely certainly not least, I would like to acknowledge and thank my parents for all of their love and encouragement. My beautiful wife Esther and my two sons, Blake and Cole, thank you for putting up with me over this past year! Without your support, none of this would have been possible for me.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Roger C. Brossmer

## Downey sixth grader stars in 'Nutcracker' ballet

• Angeline Bourgeault, 9, is in "The Nutcracker," opening Dec. 22 at the Downey Theatre.

That year, artistic director Paula Vreulink featured Angeline as Clara's pesky brother Fritz and lead Snow Angel.

"You did a great job as Fritz and have exceeded my expectations, Angeline," Vreulink recalls telling her after Angeline advanced to the highest level dance class in January of this year. "However, at nine years old, you will be too young to dance the role of Clara and besides, you will need to learn to dance on pointe shoes first."

One look at Angeline's face and one could tell her disappointment. However, this news made Angeline even more determined and eventually she began attending ballet classes five days a week.

During the summer, Angeline received her first pair of pointe shoes and proved that there was no turning back; today, Angeline turns triple pirouettes and her beautiful arabesques are even more elongated. In September, three judges awarded Angeline the lead role of Clara, making Vreulink happily eat her own words.

On Saturday, Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m., Angeline will grace the Downey Civic Theatre stage as the elegant and brave Clara and perform her role with expertise and execution far beyond her young age. The performance will be repeated Dec. 23 at 2:30 p.m.

If you would like to see this Southern California Dance Theatre's pint-sized dancer battle the fierce Mouse King and visit the richly sugar-coated candy palace, you can purchase tickets at the box office at (562) 861-8211 or online at downey-theatre.com

**DOWNEY** – While most other children her age romp around the park or attend birthday parties, Angeline Bourgeault, of Downey, dances her heart out every Saturday, rehearsing as Clara for the Southern California Dance Theatre's production of "The Nutcracker" ballet to be performed at the Downey Civic Theatre the weekend before Christmas.

While Angeline's feat is pretty remarkable for a dancer who is set to turn 10 years old on Dec. 10, it is not surprising. Currently a sixth grade GATE student at Connections Academy, Angeline has consistently made the school's honor roll, has won several awards and scored top marks in the STAR testing for the past three years.

"We are very lucky that she catches on so quickly," said Angeline's father, a quiet man who works as the fire boat mechanic for the Los Angeles City Fire Department, Battalion No. 6.

Angeline demonstrated her dance talents early on as her preschool teacher, Mrs. Ruhlen, encouraged Angeline's mom Lafleche to enroll her daughter in an activity that she could excel in as an individual. Ballet was the first choice and "it was a perfect fit" said Lafleche.

As Angeline continued to advance in her dancing, her mom brought her to the Southern California Dance Academy in 2010. Her first year, Angeline performed as a Snow Angel and by 2011, Angeline had progressed remarkably.

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## 'Civil War Christmas' to be performed at First Baptist Church

• Production features a live band, 80 characters and a cast of 25 actors.

By Marisa Urrutia Gedney  
Contributor

**DOWNEY** – Lana Joy Wahlquist of Downey Arts Coalition directs "A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration" written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Paula Vogel as the annual Downey First Baptist Church Christmas Show. This play is neither a depiction of the actual war, there are no battle scenes, nor is it an overtly religious production, it wasn't written to be. It is a human drama that intercuts like a movie with historically accurate stories and characters, with many similarities to Spielberg's Lincoln.

Lana fell in love with the manuscript immediately and shared it with the church and David Stanton, musical director and Pastor of Worship and Arts, because of its strong themes of forgiveness, loving one's enemies, and unity, all tied by racial and social inequities that span historical periods. By sharing human stories from all sides of the war-people's daily and lifelong struggles and triumphs-Lana sees the message of unity as a perfect Christmas story.

In partnership with True Vine Missionary Baptist Church of Lynwood, the cast has members from both churches working together on stage. With 80 characters and a cast of 25, you will see quick costume changes, cross-cultural casting, and other deliberate choices that Lana made to highlight current themes of racial strife and need for equity



and peace. With David Stanton's direction, the music is like another character. A live band will perform Christmas carols, hymns, and spirituals with Civil War era instruments.

Vogel's writing honors under-represented African-American heroes of the Civil War by emphasizing stories of great achievements. One of the main characters is Elizabeth Keckley, a strong and determined former slave who bought her own freedom from the money she earned as a seamstress and carries a heavy burden—her only son from a rape by a white man was killed in battle and she feels his death is her punishment for teaching him the hate she harbored in her heart.

A founding member of Downey Arts Coalition, Lana Joy grew up

in Norwalk, attended Downey First Baptist Church, earned her M.A. in Theatre from California State University, Northridge, and has dedicated her career to bring theatre to Downey. She says, "There is a big hole of culture in South East Los Angeles, but there is a legacy of the arts here. We have everything it takes to be a cultural center, but so much more dialogue has to happen. There is a craving for theatre in Downey and I want to be a part of bringing it here."

After working as an actor and then becoming a mother, directing became a better opportunity to pursue her love of theatre and community: "I love Downey and art, we have to make it happen ourselves."

"A Civil War Christmas" is part of the vision for theatre in Downey

and Lana is happy that the church wanted to be a part of it. Lana and the Downey Arts Coalition have plans for more plays in 2013 and is working toward opening a theatre company in Downey.

A Civil War Christmas opens at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14, continues Saturday the 15th and Sunday the 16th at 7 p.m. All performances are held in the worship center of First Baptist Church of Downey at 8348 Third Street, behind the Embassy Suites and across from the Downey City Library.

Tickets are free, and are available at the church office. Call (562) 923-1261 to reserve your tickets. Visit [Downeyarts.org](http://Downeyarts.org) for more information.

## Boutique sale, auction at Woman's Club

**DOWNEY** – The Woman's Club of Downey is hosting a holiday boutique and "quartermania" on Dec. 22, where guests can bid on hundreds of items for only 25 cents.

Local vendors will also be selling jewelry, candles, home decor, cookware, knitted hats and scarves, beauty and skincare products, scrapbooking materials, handbags and more.

Pre-sale tickets are \$10 and include continental breakfast, one raffle ticket and an auction paddle. Tickets will be \$14 at the door.

To purchase a pre-sale ticket, or for more information, call Marcella at (562) 261-5978 or (310) 951-1216.

The event is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Christian men's club to hear rocker

**DOWNEY** – Former rocker Erick Perez will be guest speaker when the Christian Business Men's club meets for lunch Jan. 3 at Sizzler.

Perez and his brother were in a rock band 13 years ago and doing "what rock bands often do," they said.

Then they "turned to the Lord", and Perez and his wife began work with a South Gate youth group.

The meeting starts at noon.

For more information, call James Vanlengan at (562) 310-1335.



Six children from the parish at St. Raymond's Catholic Church received the "I Love My Faith Medal" at a special liturgy at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels on Nov. 3. The children who received the medal were Michael Ismael Chavez, Rachel Mary Manapat Javier, Ashely Nicole Ovalle, Michael Rideout, Serena Juanita Urzua and Vincent Eduardo Urzua. The medal is a National Catholic Award for children ages 9-11 and was presented by Rev. Paul Henson, principal of Crespi Carmelite High School. The children are students at St. Raymond's School.

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## Santa and Assisteens spread holiday cheer at Rancho Los Amigos

• True spirit of Christmas comes to life at Rancho Los Amigos hospital.

By Greg Waskul  
Rancho Los Amigos Foundation

**DOWNEY** — When Santa Claus made his first appearance of the year at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Monday night he had no idea he was about to witness a young Rancho patient bring the meaning of the holiday season to life with a simple Christmas wish.

Santa's Rancho visit was accompanied by more than 25 members of the Assisteens, the teenage auxiliary of the Assistance League of Downey, who serenaded inpatients at the world-renowned hospital with holiday carols for nearly two hours.

The patients were thrilled to catch a glimpse of Santa so early in the holiday season, to say nothing of the spirited efforts of his elves for the night, the Assisteens carolers.

"The Assisteens have been joining Santa to carol at Rancho for about 35 years," said Assistance League Member Beverly Mathis and "Mrs. Claus" for Monday's festivities. She also mentioned that this year, Santa grew his snowy white beard for several months so that it would be more full than in previous holiday seasons.

The Assisteens also had a slightly different look this year, because for the first time in chapter history, boys were involved in the caroling effort. "For as long as there have been Assisteens, our chapter members were all girls. But tonight we had our first two male carolers, which brought a new dimension to the Assisteens experience," Assisten co-coordinator Kathy Ledesma said.

Her co-coordinator Patty Rohrer



Photo by Greg Waskul

said, "we are really proud of all our Assisteens, who finished off a very long day by caroling for Rancho's patients." The Assisteens started their school day early in the morning and finished at Rancho at about 9 p.m. "It was amazing to see how energized these young people were after making so many Rancho patients happy," she added.

As Santa popped around the corner of one hospital hallway, a three-year old girl who was visiting her father in the hospital was so surprised she couldn't speak. She stood with her mouth wide open and eyes sparkling as the jolly old elf approached. Then she ran to get her sisters. "It's Santa! It's Santa!" she squealed with joy. Moments later, she and her sisters were hugging the man in the red suit and telling him all about their holiday wishes.

The most powerful wish of the evening was made by 22-year-old Laura Bonsell, an inpatient on the Pediatrics service. After Santa visited

her room, Laura came rolling out into the hallway. "Wait, Santa, wait!" she exclaimed. Santa turned back and met Laura in front of the Pediatrics nursing station.

"I can't sit on your lap, because I am in my wheelchair, but can I still make a Christmas wish?" Laura asked.

"Yes, you can, because Santa knows you've been a very good girl this year," St. Nicholas replied. But instead of wishing for a something sparkling and new, Laura had a much more meaningful wish for Santa.

She took a deep breath, looked Santa right in the eye and told him her simple holiday wish in a loud and clear voice. "Santa...all I want this year is to go home for Christmas."

Suddenly there wasn't a dry eye in the room as the Assisteens, their advisors and even the nursing staff were all choked up by Laura's Christmas wish. As a tear formed in the corner of one eye, Santa told Laura, "I will do my very best for you," and

continued to talk with her until she knew that Santa was on her side.

Later, Rancho's Pediatrics Department chief Dr. Luis Montes said that Santa had already spoken to him about Laura, and that a Rancho holiday miracle would happen later this month. "I promised Santa that we would have Laura home for Christmas, and we can't let her down," the renowned Rancho Pediatrician said. Somewhere, Santa was surely smiling.

And so the holiday season began in earnest for the Assisteens, a group of dedicated high school students who came to Rancho to help Santa spread cheer to the hospital's patients.

Although they succeeded in their mission, each of the Assisteens also learned a valuable lesson about the blessings of serving others from a wonderful young woman named Laura Bonsell, who brought the true Spirit of Christmas to life at Rancho with her heartfelt hope for the holidays.

## After stroke, John Zander working to get back on his feet

**DOWNEY** — As a sought-after producer in the fast-paced world of reality television, John Zander was never unacquainted with stress and anxiety. Since starting his own production company Reel Reel Entertainment, working 16–20 hours a day was always the norm for Zander, who devoted the last three years to producing reality TV shows.

"There were a couple of pilots that stayed with the networks for several weeks," said Zander. "There was one about a family-run water park in New Jersey. Another about a driving instructor teaching people with anxiety."

"I really loved doing it, but it was hectic and stressful," Zander said with a sigh.

Two months ago, the immense workload caught up with Zander ultimately leading to a sudden, life-altering stroke, leaving the former film producer unable to work.

"It was the biggest surprise. I had a headache that I thought I was going to die from," he said. "I could tell from the look in the eyes of the paramedics that I was in trouble."

There was no waiting. The married father of one 15-year-old son was taken to the hospital immediately.

After some CT scans and MRI, doctors determined that Zander in fact suffered a major stroke due to a blood clot.

"The pain was so bad, morphine didn't do anything," said Zander who now walks with a cane. "I lost one-third of my vision — my depth perception is off. I'm still a little wobbly, but I hope to get rid of that."

Although grieved, Zander understands he cannot return to a career in the entertainment industry.

"I wouldn't be able to do what I did — paperwork, phone calls, shooting, filming — 16 to 20 hours a day, but I need to take care of my family so I'm going to lean on my photography work," he said.

Zander plans to use his longtime passion of professional photography to support his wife and son.

"I've taken landscape pictures, shots of people on the boardwalk...you know, things that are cool and people were asking to buy them," he said. "I want to offer my services to families in town during the holidays."

Over the next several weeks, Zander will shoot holiday portraits for local residents in the hope of earning some Christmas money for his family.

"You just don't want to be broke in December," said Zander with a laugh. "That's why I'm trying to do portraits. It's less stress and I can still be my own boss."

A Downey resident since 1966, Zander is confident the community will support him as he makes the transition from Hollywood producer to family photographer.

"I'm looking forward to my new career," said a smiling Zander. "If I could do this, I'll be able to take care of my family."

To see John's photo work or schedule a portrait, visit his website [johnzander.wix.com/johnzanderphoto](http://johnzander.wix.com/johnzanderphoto) or contact Zander at [johnzander@mac.com](mailto:johnzander@mac.com).

—Christian Brown, staff writer



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## Letters to the Editor:

### Thankful for support

Dear Editor:

Senior Pastor Garnett Simpson-Grier, Breath of God Christian Fellowship Church and the Aggressive Community and Training Services (ACTS) hosted their annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 10 and distributed food baskets for needy families through the Downey Unified high schools and middle schools on Nov. 16.

We would like to thank the Downey residents that volunteered and gave in support of the projects. Pastor Grier would also like to acknowledge the following businesses for their support: Embassy Suites, *The Downey Patriot*, BJ's Brewery, Coca-Cola, Olive Garden, Mimi's Cafe, Pieloon, Hometown Buffet, Norms and many others.

Your donations and support allowed us to feed almost 500 people for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Breath of God Christian Fellowship Church  
Downey**

### Police judgment

Dear Editor:

Around 7 p.m. this past Sunday, I entered Pete's Patio on Firestone Boulevard and Rives Avenue. Upon parking in a posted disabled parking place, it was apparent that the vehicle parked in the adjoining disabled space was illegally parked.

I politely informed the driver. He responded, "So what." I suggested that he park his vehicle legally or I would report the situation to the police department. The driver defiantly told me to call the police.

I entered Pete's Patio and requested a person behind the counter to call 911 and request police assistance concerning an illegally parked vehicle. When the police unit finally arrived 10-15 minutes later, the squad car literally prevented the driver of the illegally parked vehicle from leaving the parking location.

The driver of the parked vehicle was warned by the officer and not issued a citation for being blatantly illegally parked.

Police officers are sworn to enforce the law. Do they also have limited, judgmental interpretation of those laws? Courts and judges exist for that reason. When there are infractions and/or violations to existing laws, which are not enforced firmly, those laws should be eradicated.

Laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. are only as effective as the strength of their enforcement. Civil order is based on civil law. If laws that affect the public are violated, we the public are also violated and put at risk.

As a senior citizen and longtime resident of Downey, I expect and demand the enforcement of all existing municipal, county, state and federal laws. Question: why did a Downey police officer, who personally witnessed a violation of a law, not enforce the law?

Support your local police. Local police protect and serve the public.

But as a citizen I felt personally violated. The officer failed to enforce a law he was sworn to enforce.

**Art Contessotto  
Downey**

### Doty's retirement

Dear Editor:

Superintendent of schools Dr. Wendy Doty is retiring. She will be missed by all of us.

Dr. Doty has always maintained and stressed high academic stands and integrity of Downey Unified School District. One of her priorities has been to provide the highest quality education in a safe, trusting environment; to utilize the resources of the home, school and community.

She has demonstrated high work ethics. Dr. Doty is a great public speaker with an amazing sense of humor. She has been an outstanding superintendent. Dr. Doty has a compassionate and genuine interest for all employees.

I wish and I'm certain we all wish her the very best of luck in the next chapter of her life.

**Nancy Barras  
Teacher, Spencer Williams Elementary**

### Stauffer scholars

Dear Editor:

The ScholarShare Report for November 2012, where I have opened 529 college savings accounts for my children, arrived in my mailbox coincidentally at the same time that the Nov. 29 edition of *The Downey Patriot's* article about the Stauffer Scholars was published.

The ScholarShare report speaks eloquently about Dr. Stauffer contributions to this community.

"She (Dr. Stauffer) spends her later years impacting the lives of youth living in the Los Angeles suburb (Downey)," the report states. "The reason Dr. Stauffer has a special place in ScholarShare's heart is the work she does for local students in getting them prepared to handle the burden of paying for college. She remains committed to leaving a lasting legacy behind. In all, the Stauffer Foundation has given \$4 million over the past 20 years to grantees in Downey, but her impact will stretch far beyond city borders."

I am glad to see this kind of recognition given to Dr. Stauffer and it is my hope that the Downey Unified School District also recognizes Dr. Stauffer's contributions to the students, teachers and schools of Downey by naming a school after her.

**Jorge Montero  
Downey**

## Kill the censorship proposal

By Corydon B. Dunham

The FCC has on the table a policy that would resurrect broad censorship rules – very similar to those that were revoked in 1987 because of their chilling effect on free speech and the television press.

The proposed new Localism, Balance and Diversity Doctrine could eventually also affect news on the Internet. The FCC has already begun transferring the broadcast spectrum used by local television to the Internet to make it the nation's primary communications platform, and the agency has already started to regulate the Internet.

I served as NBC's executive legal counsel from 1965 to 1990, so I was in the trenches in dealing with the Fairness Doctrine. I share the history of that policy, which dates back to 1934, its goals and consequences, in my book, "Government Control of News: A Constitutional Challenge" -- the result of a study initiated at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars at the Smithsonian Institute.

When the rules governing radio news were applied to TV in 1949, it was because government officials recognized they were dealing with a powerful new medium. There were only a few broadcast stations, so they feared the stations and network owners had too much power. The government instituted the Fairness Doctrine as a way to ensure stations aired opposing viewpoints on issues.

But what was touted as an attempt to encourage robust discourse became a tool for censoring the news. If a complaint was made about a view that had been broadcast, the FCC investigated. If it concluded that a view should be changed, it ordered that. If it concluded other views should be presented, or even related issues, it ordered that.

Failure to comply could result in no license renewal, renewal for a shorter period of time, or a "negative record" applied at renewal time.

In 1987, the FCC unanimously revoked the Fairness Doctrine, with court approval, after finding it had deterred news reporting on controversial issues, and had repeatedly been used to suppress viewpoints and help some officials pursue their own political objectives.

For two decades, Congress tried to revive the Fairness Doctrine, and in 2008, the FCC released a new proposed body of rules for TV news – the Localism, Balance and Diversity Doctrine.

## Help for returning soldiers

No matter how well-adjusted returning or returned veterans appear, they are likely carrying wounds that cut deep, and that pain sticks with them for the rest of their lives, says Vietnam veteran Ord Elliott.

"When I came back from the war, I filed all that pain away as 'personal,' but it invariably came out in my creative writing, and I think that kept me much more sane," says Elliott, a former platoon commander with the Marines and author of *The Warrior's Silence* (ordelliott.com).

"I still feel a sense that something was lost within me from that war, and it kills me to think that our country's most recent wars have done the same to the latest generation of military personnel. When I hear reports of alarming suicide rates among soldiers and problems with drugs and homelessness, it reminds me of friends I've lost, and the lives they weren't able to have."

While intending to write books about business, Elliott found himself writing poems about his war experience. Through the years, writing became an extremely helpful, therapeutic activity, he says.

"It just came out of me about five years after coming home," he says. "Unfortunately, for many of today's younger veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, they are expressing their pain through alcoholism, drugs, crime, depression and violence."

There are many avenues available to vets if they're having a hard time adjusting to civilian life after combat, he says.

"In some ways I was lucky; I had a good education from Princeton, a sense of purpose and I never had a full-blown case of post-traumatic stress disorder,"

It has many of the same characteristics of the old Fairness Doctrine and we can expect it will have similar results. News broadcast by television stations would have to meet government criteria for local news production and coverage (localism) as well as a regulatory balance and diversity of viewpoints. A three-vote majority of five FCC commissioners at a central government agency would make local news judgments and override those of thousands of independent, local TV reporters and editors.

It would also be enforced by having a local board at each station monitor programming, including news, and recommend against license renewal if the station did not comply with FCC policy.

In 2011, the FCC-sponsored Future of Media Study recommended the localism doctrine proceeding be ended, but that hasn't happened. The present chief of the White House regulatory office has long recommended that the government regulate news to advance its political and social objectives.

And TV is not the only medium potentially affected.

At the end of 2010, the FCC decided to take over regulation of the Internet in this country. It will regulate its traffic and gain some power to review content. The president, Congress and the FCC have also agreed to transfer the entire broadcast spectrum (currently used by TV stations) to the Internet over the next 10 years. If the localism doctrine is adopted, it could apply to the Internet and its participants as users of the FCC-controlled spectrum.

Requiring journalists to comply with a central government agency's policy on how to report the news means those journalists will no longer be free and independent. The threat of loss of license will deter station news coverage, particularly of controversy, and the public will lose news and information.

If the broadcast press is not free and independent of government, it cannot act as a watchdog for the public, which is its constitutional role.

I urge all Americans to contact their federal legislators and ask them to take steps to kill the Localism, Balance and Diversity Doctrine – before blogs like this disappear.

*Corydon B. Dunham is a Harvard Law School graduate. His "Government Control of News" study was expanded and developed for the Corydon B. Dunham Fellowship for the First Amendment at Harvard Law School and the Dunham Open Forum for First Amendment Values at Bowdoin College.*

Elliott says. "But I think it's safe to say all vets who have seen combat are haunted by what they've endured."

Although most civilians can never understand the horrors of war – of perpetually wondering what that last moment of life might be like – there are ways in which the families of veterans, and others, can help ...

- Make creative expression available: Elliott has heard story after story involving vets who simply do not want to talk about their combat stress. Many simply do not know how to find catharsis in constructive ways. Thoughts and emotions, however, can also be expressed – released – in creative pursuits such as writing, art, music, even cooking.

- Patience and understanding: "You won't go wrong with loving tolerance while seeking the help of a trained professional to help your veteran work through problems like depression and anxiety," Elliott says.

- Thoroughly consider your vote: In 2001, when the Iraq War was gearing up, that same feeling of anticipation – excitement – washed over Elliott that he experienced before entering Vietnam. "I was surprised that I could feel that way, but then I quickly remembered all that I've been through with the reality of war," he says. "If families and citizens really want to help the men and women of the U.S. military, they will be wary of politicians who haven't been in combat and who are all too quick to the war trigger."

*As a Princeton graduate; a Marine Rifle Platoon commander in Vietnam; and Purdue Ph.D. in Management, Ord Elliott writes from an unusual perspective. Elliott is also the author of several books.*

### Downward spiral

Dear Editor:

In response to Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard: I believe in legal immigration and citizenship for those who come to the USA legally.

I have great compassion for those who were brought here illegally while a young minor child. However, I do not believe that all of those who are currently in the USA illegally should be given "fast track" to legalization, not to mention citizenship. Ms. Roybal-Allard states that the voters said "yes" to keeping the door open to illegals pouring into our nation. I see nothing to indicate that this is a fact.

President Reagan was gracious and kind to illegals and allowed them to become legal. That was approximately 3 million illegal aliens. The Democratic party and Congress agreed to tighten security at our border and to enact legislation to tighten work visas for those who wanted to come to the USA to work for a period of time and to return to their native land. Sadly, this was not carried out as promised and we now have between 11-12 million illegal aliens in our nation.

They have been given free education, health care and, in many cases, driver's licenses and freedom to work. Many cities have gone so far as to declare themselves "sanctuary cities" for illegals, and some cities and states that have tried to uphold the laws of our land have been sued by our own federal government. This does not apply only to those of Hispanic or Latin heritage but to all those who have come to our nation illegally.

Whatever happened to our government upholding the laws of our land? How can we expect anyone residing here to be a law-abiding citizen when the government itself allows lawlessness?

I am very sad to see our nation spiraling downward into anarchy.

**Maggie Allen  
Downey**

### Surgery center

Dear Editor:

My medical transfer business handles many of the patients needing transport to/from Physicians Surgery Center on Firestone Boulevard in Downey.

I do quite a few patient transfers to various medical facilities in and around Downey but I have to give a loud shout out to this particular center. Physicians Surgery Center's professional approach and very friendly attitude to their patients is something to be envied by other medical centers.

The patients I carry love the nurses and are always very happy on our drive home. What do they put in those IV's!

We are so fortunate to have this type of business in Downey; they could be considered a poster company in their field, an example for others to follow.

**Shirley Johnson  
Downey**

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## True holiday spirit

By Bryan Golden

Among other things, the holidays are a time of giving and receiving gifts. The question most often asked of people is, "what did you get?" Much less frequently asked is, "what did you give?" Invariably, the inquiries concern material gifts. Purchasing a gift can certainly be thoughtful and a wonderful gesture, especially when it's backed up by your actions.

However, the most valuable presents are those that aren't sold in stores. When you give your love, your time, help someone in need, aid another in solving a problem or overcoming an obstacle, you give something priceless.

The true spirit of the holidays is giving. When you give, you receive. You can get anything in life you want by helping enough others get what they want. But only if you give without expecting anything in return. The impact of giving isn't limited to just the holiday season, it's something that has value all year.

The power of giving is often underestimated. When you give unconditionally, you don't just impact the recipient; you start a chain reaction. By brightening the life of one person you also affect all those who they then touch.

No gesture of giving or kindness is too small. Holding the door open at a store, helping someone carry groceries to their car, letting another car in front of you, saying please and thank you, and saying hello to a stranger you pass on the sidewalk, are some of the many things you can do daily.

Too often, people get caught up in their own desires, thus losing sight of the needs of others. A person who tries to get through life by looking out for himself or herself first is invariably frustrated. Often this person views life as a competition to determine who can accumulate more.

On the other hand, those who are concerned for the well being of others are happier, more content, and more satisfied. By giving without expecting, they in turn receive the things they need.

Giving is a simple concept that works every time it is applied. There will be people who don't appreciate what you do, but it doesn't matter. You are giving without anticipating anything in return. Besides, there will be many more who are thankful for your efforts.

If you don't treat others well, buying a gift won't compensate for your behavior. You can't bribe someone to forgive the way you treat them with a present.

*Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Visit DareToLive-WithoutLimits.com or your bookstore.*

### Correction

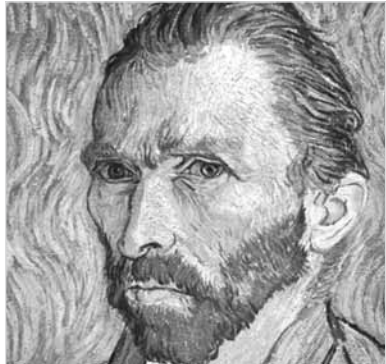
Last week's issue incorrectly spelled the name of a Downey High School football player. The player's name is Therren Moore, not "Thernen" as listed in the newspaper. Therren was a running back on the CIF championship team. We apologize for the typo.



**THINGS TO DO THIS WEEKEND:**



**What:** L.A. Auto Show  
**When:** Dec. 8-9  
**Where:** Los Angeles Convention Center  
**How much:** \$12 (kids 12 & younger free)



**What:** Van Gogh's "Self Portrait"  
**When:** Dec. 8-9  
**Where:** Norton Simon Museum  
**How much:** \$10 (\$7 seniors, free for children and active military personnel)



**What:** Mariachi USA Christmas  
**When:** Dec. 9, 6 p.m.  
**Where:** Nokia Theater  
**How much:** \$20 - \$79.50



**What:** Rob Schneider  
**When:** Dec. 9, 7 p.m.  
**Where:** Ice House  
**How much:** \$30

**Astronomy club to meet**

**DOWNEY** – The Columbia Astronomers Club is meeting Dec. 15 from 7-9 p.m. at the Columbia Memorial Space Center and the public is invited. Admission is free although space center exhibits will be closed. The club will gather outside for night sky viewing (weather permitting). For more information, e-mail [columbiaastronomers@gmail.com](mailto:columbiaastronomers@gmail.com).

**Girl Scouts recruiting troops**

**DOWNEY** – Downey Girl Scout Troop 8745 is recruiting girls in grades 5-7 to join its troop. For details, e-mail [downeygs\\_troop8745@yahoo.com](mailto:downeygs_troop8745@yahoo.com).

**Santa Claus at Del Taco**

**DOWNEY** – Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will be at Del Taco this Saturday from 12-3 p.m. for free pictures. There is no cost but visitors are invited to bring canned food items to benefit [imhope.org](http://imhope.org), a Christian outreach ministry. Del Taco is at 8028 Firestone Blvd. For more information, call (562) 861-0889.

**Space workshops for kids at space center**

**DOWNEY** – The Columbia Memorial Space Center is hosting a pair of educational workshops for kids this month: "I Need some Help" on Dec. 27 and "Living and Working in Space" on Dec. 28. Both classes are taught by Pam Leestma, a 2010 NASA Excellence in Teaching award recipient. Each class is \$11 and is open to students in grades 3-6. Sessions are from 10-11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is available by calling the space center at (562) 231-1200. Meanwhile, the space center is inviting residents to do their holiday shopping online at [columbiaspacescience.org](http://columbiaspacescience.org).

**Rose Float holding elections**

**DOWNEY** – On Jan. 23, the Downey Rose Float Association will hold their election of officers and directors for their 2013 board. The election will be held at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center at 7 p.m. All members are welcome to vote. These are the nominees for officers and their proposed positions: Gary DeRemer (president), Susan Domen (vice president), Sarah Kendall (2nd vice president), Judy Artherton (3rd vice president), Pam Chambers (secretary), Sue England (treasurer). Proposed directors include Reggie Donahue, Jennifer DeKay, Mike Negrete, Carl Johnson and Misty Hausmann.

**CSULB ranked 7th most secure university in the nation**

• Security Magazine tabs Cal State Long Beach among nation's safest universities.

**LONG BEACH** – Cal State Long Beach (CSULB) has been recognized as the seventh "most secure" university/college in the nation by Security Magazine in its 2012 "Security 500" rankings, which were released in the publication's November issue.

Only 22 universities and colleges from across the country were recognized in this year's rankings in the category of Education (University), and CSULB was the only four-year California institution to be recognized.

The top three ranking schools included the University of Pennsylvania, University of Florida and Drexel University. Meanwhile, CSULB ranked ahead the likes of Ohio State, University of South Carolina and Duke University. At No. 10, the Yosemite Community College District was the other California school ranked.

"That Security Magazine has once again recognized Cal State Long Beach as one of the nation's safest large university campuses points to how this campus has focused on the security of our students and other campus members as a top priority," said CSULB President F. King Alexander. "Students and their parents, as well as our faculty, staff and community visitors, can be assured that no measure that secures this campus has been overlooked. The commitment of our excellent University Police Department and the

ongoing awareness of our entire campus community is obvious as we continue to be recognized for the safety of our university."

Security Magazine's rankings are broken down into "18 vertical markets" or business sectors, enabling similar organizations to compare programs. Among the metrics collected this year in producing the rankings were security spending per person (those the organization protects), the number of security officers/employees, and the facilities used by the security officers.

The purpose of the "Security 500," according to magazine's officials, is to create a reliable database to measure an organization compared to others and create a benchmarking program among security organizations. The results enable these groups to know where they stand as a basis of an on-going peer review process.

"The safety of our students, faculty and staff will continue to be of paramount importance and a priority for the Cal State Long Beach Police Department," said CSULB Police Chief Fernando Solorzano. "This institution of higher learning represents some of the brightest and academically talented students in our state, and we are proud to provide the high-

est levels of service and safety for our campus community."

Among the more recent enhancements that have added to the CSULB Police Department's ability to keep the campus safe include a camera system that gives the department the ability to monitor activities across the campus grounds and facilities and assists in its crime prevention efforts. The department also oversees an emergency communications system that can alert the entire campus community in the event of an emergency.

"Our police department will continue to provide a safe, secure and meaningful learning environment. We will accomplish this by partnering with our community, using advanced technologies and investing in our highly skilled personnel," Solorzano added. "We are proud that CSULB has received this recognition as being one of the safest universities in the nation, and we will strive to improve and build on our successes to provide the safe environment that we have come to expect on this campus."

Security Magazine is the premier security and safety resource for a wide variety of industries and environments.

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# Author and motivational speaker gives talk on joyful volunteering

• You're never too old or too young to volunteer, says author Gail Small.

By Henry Veneracion  
Staff writer

**DOWNEY** – It was the right topic for the right audience at the right time.

Educator, world traveler, motivational speaker, and author Gail Small offered observations and insights on joyful volunteering Saturday to appreciative members of the all-volunteer Friends of the Downey City Library and some of its literacy and training volunteers, even as she pointed to her latest book, "Joyful Volunteering," for further illustrations of the serendipitous nature of volunteering.

"You're never too old or too young to volunteer," she said. And: "When you volunteer, one thing leads to another," citing for example the seemingly unconnected, roundabout way she initially met the man who, with time's passage and the conspiracy of events and circumstances eventually became her husband. She said the narrative of volunteering is replete with such happy coincidences.

"Volunteering pays big dividends" was another of her messages, in terms of building a resume, enriched work experience, networking opportunities, and invariably getting so much more than one gives.

"It's amazing what you can accomplish as a volunteer with a good attitude," she said. "Volunteering my services while giving 'enrichment' lectures have enabled me to travel the world, and indeed visit

the seven continents and even explore Antarctica."

She was giving a lecture one time aboard a cruise ship in South America when an opportunity to fly to Antarctica opened up. She said she didn't hesitate one bit. Soon, she found herself with seven layers of borrowed clothes "to keep me warm as I waddled among thousands of chattering penguins. It was truly a life experience!"

Small, who has a BA in sociology and a master's in education, also talked about her penchant during her speaking tours for two favorite subjects, "self-esteem" and "creative writing." She is a holder of a California Life Credential as well as a certification with the William Glasser Institute in choice theory, reality therapy, and lead-management. Her co-author of "Joyful Volunteering" is close friend Ninon de Vere De Rosa, founder and executive director of KidsTalk Foundation and KidsTalk Productions.

"Joyful Volunteering" contains quotes, stories by different people, and uplifting comments. Here's a quote from Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give." From Edmund Burke: "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little." From Mother Teresa: "I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy, I work and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy." And, from an unknown author: "Volunteers aren't paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

Volunteering can be equated to giving of one's time, and therefore of oneself, the author said, and no gift can be too small. There's a fun-



draiser story in the book contributed by a Simi Valley volunteer about a little girl, age 12, who had "spent much of her life seriously ill with an unusual fatal heart problem. She was introduced at the event as a 'poster child' for the cause. During the ceremony, I presented her with her first jump rope. Her doctor had just cleared her to start playing with a jump rope and I wanted to be the first one to give a rope to her. She immediately started jumping rope – right in front of the audience. The smile on her face was priceless and there were tears on more than one face in the crowd."

In talking about 'relationships', Small quoted Ann Larris' little essay about what "The old wise man said about Lollipops," titled "People are like Lollipops." This is the essay in its entirety: "Lollipops come in all different sizes and people come in all different sizes...tall, medium, short...; Lollipops come in all different shapes and people come in all different shapes too...; Lollipops come in many colors and people come in many different colors, too...; Lollipops come from different places and people come from

different places, too...; Lollipops come in different wrappers - plain and fancy -...and people come in different wrappers - clothes-, too. So in spite of all the different sizes, shapes, colors, places, wrappers... all Lollipops are just Lollipops. And all people are just people."

Small then used square demo boards to suggest how possible, and how desirable, it is to turn negatives into positives, simply by turning the boards over one by one, on one side of which are written 'seven deadly habits', and on the other the countervailing 'seven caring habits', courtesy of Dr. William Glasser:

Instead of criticizing, how about supporting [someone]?

Instead of blaming, how about encouraging...?

Instead of complaining, how about 'listening'...?

Instead of nagging, how about accepting...?

Instead of threatening, how about trusting...?

Instead of punishing, how about respecting...?

Instead of rewarding to control, how about negotiating differences?

At talk's conclusion, library literacy and training coordinator Claudia Dailey thanked the volunteers "for your time and for all the things you do for the library," and especially the Friends for picking up the tab for "this feast of pastries and sandwiches"—a harbinger of Christmas. "Enjoy the holidays," she said, "and keep volunteering."

# Dennis Spencer was WWII veteran

**DOWNEY** – Dennis L. Spencer, of Bear Valley Springs, Calif., passed away on Nov. 17 at the age of 86.

He is survived by his wife, Lynette; three daughters, Marsha Allen, Sharon Heidecker and Kathryn Edmonds, all of Downey; six grandchildren, Jason and Justin Allen, Andrew and Paul Heidecker, Spencer and Kristen Edmonds; and three great-grandchildren, Macie, Mason and Maegan Allen.

Dennis served in World War II and the Korean War, had a successful career in hospital administration and was an active member of Gideon's International.

Memorial services will be held at the Light & Life Church, 9245 Florence Ave., on Dec. 8 at 11 a.m.

# Church to hold service for grieving residents

**DOWNEY** – Downey United Methodist Church is reaching out to those who are suffering with pain and loss this holiday season by offering its annual Longest Night Service on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.

The church hosts this service annually on Dec. 21 – the longest night of the year – to mark the time when light begins to shine in the darkness.

"The Longest Night Service is for anyone for whom the Christmas season may seem particularly difficult," said Pastor Jon Wesley Waterson. "Some have lost loved ones and others may be facing illness, divorce, loneliness or financial difficulties."

The service includes advent candle lighting, music, prayers, a short sermon and concludes with the sacrament of holy communion.

In addition, members of the church's Prayer Ministry will be at the service for anyone who wants to talk or have someone pray with them.

"Our desire is to help people in grief navigate one of the most emotionally difficult seasons of the year," Waterson said. "Everyone is welcome to our service, and we hope we can provide some comfort to those going through a difficult time."

If you know someone who would benefit from the Longest Night Service, contact Pastor Jon Waterson at (562) 861-9777.

Downey United Methodist Church is at 10801 Downey Ave.

# Downey residents named to Dean's List

**LA MIRADA** – Six Downey residents have been named to the Dean's List at Biola University for academic excellence.

The students – Cassie Baker, Benjamin Jones, Yesenia Porras, Allegra Taylor and Natalie Tinnerman – each had a grade point average of 3.6 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credit units.

"Inclusion on the Biola Dean's List is an indication that this student is performing exceptionally well in a rigorous academic program," said Patricia Pike, vice provost for undergraduate education. "Our Dean's List students are bright, motivated, engaged, competent and personable. They are already demonstrating the characteristics of success that results from applied intelligence and that will support future endeavors in society, community, career and family life."

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## CHAMPIONS!

• Vikings hold off La Serna, 33-25, to win first CIF football title in 55 years.

By Mark Fetter  
Contributor

**DOWNEY** – The Downey High School football team is the 2012-13 C.I.F. Southeast Division champions. The Vikings held off a stubborn La Serna squad 33-25 at a rain soaked Cal State Fullerton last Saturday night to earn their title. It was a rematch for the Vikings who avenged a week two loss to La Serna, in overtime, 28-27. It was the first C.I.F. title for Downey since the “classic game” in 1957 at Balboa Stadium in San Diego in which Downey defeated hometown favorite San Diego 24-7.

Downey kicked off to La Serna to start the game after deferring possession to the second half. La Serna scored the first touchdown early in the first quarter. The Lancers converted the extra point and took the lead 7-0. The score remained that way and the first quarter ended with La Serna leading 7-0. Downey scored their first touchdown of the evening at the 9:25 mark of the second quarter on a 35 yard strike from Jorge Reyna to Jacob Cook. The extra point was good and Downey tied the score at 7. Downey appeared to be marching for another touchdown with just over a minute to play until halftime when Jorge Reyna was intercepted by Lancer safety Giovanni Long in the endzone. Long returned Reyna’s pass to the Lancer 25 yard line. This interception set up the second Lancer touchdown at the :19 second mark. The extra point was missed wide left and the score at halftime was 13-7 La Serna.

La Serna kicked off to Downey to start the second half. Downey wasted little time and marched the ball

down the field. After a Justin Huff 64 yard run to the La Serna 11 yard line, Downey managed to get the ball down to the three yard line. On a 4th and goal from the three yard line Reyna connected with Jacob Cook on a quick pass to the outside and Jacob Cook caught the ball with a defender ready to tackle him. As he was being tackled at the goal line, Cook reached the ball out across the goal line and the ball broke the plain. The referee’s hands went straight up in the air and signaled touchdown. The effort was similar to Jeremy Villa’s several weeks ago and Justin Huff’s a few weeks ago.

As Downey kicked the ball off to La Serna on the ensuing possession, La Serna fumbled the ball at the 7:41 mark. Downey wasted little time and scored again at the 4:47 mark of the third quarter on a Jorge Reyna 10 yard keeper. The extra point was no good but Downey extended their lead to 20-13. La Serna took their next possession down to the Downey 24 yard line and attempted a 41 yard field goal. The field goal was missed at the :58 second mark of the third quarter wide left and Downey kept their 20-13 lead. The quarter ended with Downey leading 20-13.

Downey had the ball and the lead to start the fourth quarter and were a mere 12 minutes away from the C.I.F. title. Justin Huff extended the Downey lead at the 11:29 mark when he scored on a five yard run. The extra point was good and Downey took a commanding 27-13 lead. Things looked good for the Vikings. La Serna answered back, however, when standout running back Giovanni Long scored at the 9:42 mark. The extra point was no good and Downey had their lead cut to 27-19. La Serna managed to stop the Downey offense on their next possession. La Serna was able to put together another drive and score again



Photo by Monique Munoz/Downey High

at the 3:41 mark. The two point conversion attempt failed and Downey held on to their 27-25 lead. As time was running down, the Vikings needed to chew on the clock and keep the Lancer offense off the field. Downey chewed on the clock for two minutes but more importantly, scored a touchdown by Justin Huff at the 1:56 mark. The extra point would have made this a two possession game with a nine point differential. Unfortunately, the ball was wet and the extra point was no good. The Vikings held on to a one possession, eight point lead with just under two minutes to play.

Lancer quarterback Frankie Palmer proceeded to march La Serna’s offense down the field for the potential touchdown and game tying two point

conversion. The Lancers were out of timeouts and had to move quickly. La Serna managed to move the ball down the field and got to the Viking 11 yard line. With :31 seconds left in the game, Palmer tried to spike the ball to kill the clock. The ball was wet and Palmer fumbled the exchange with his center. The Vikings quickly recovered the fumble and the Lancer drive was stopped at the 11 yard line. Jorge Reyna took one snap in victory formation and Downey won the C.I.F. Southeast Division championship.

Jorge Reyna led the Viking offense by completing 15/26 passes for 272 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. The Viking ground game collected 308 yards on 31 carries. Jus-

tin Huff led the Viking rushing attack with 22 carries for 224 yards, Jorge Reyna rushed eight times for 77 yards and Justin Duran rushed one time for seven yards. The receiving corps were led by Jacob Cook’s four catches for 75 yards, Tristan Esparza’s four catches for 51 yards, Gus Caro’s two catches for 95 yards, Justin Huff’s one catch for 31 yards, Josh Moreno’s one catch for nine yards and Justin Duran’s one catch for eight yards. The Viking defense was led by Robert Salazar’s four solo and nine assisted tackles, Tristan Esparza’s three solo and seven assisted tackles and Joey Romero’s three solo tackles, all timely quarterback sacks, and six assisted tackles.

## Bears off to strong start

**DOWNEY** – The Warren High School boys’ basketball team has gotten off to a 2-0 start after defeating Downey Calvary Chapel 70-18 at Warren on Nov. 29 and Westminster 45-37 on Dec. 3 at Westminster.

Warren finished last season with an overall record of 19-10 and a league record of 4-6. The Bears were eliminated in the second round of the C.I.F. Division I-A playoffs by Crescenta Valley 67-55.

The Bears had a busy summer schedule. Warren played in a summer league that competed at Cerritos High School, Cal Poly Pomona and Azusa Pacific. Coach Ryan Hart hosted a summer basketball camp in June and July that was open to area youngsters and exposed many to what high school basketball was like.

The Bears return several key players to their varsity team from last year. Two-time All-San Gabriel Valley League point guard Joseph Campos returns as do Michael Onyebalu, Miguel Munoz, John Ohakamu, Lorel Johnson, Ife Kalejaiye and “Big Joe” Estrada. The Bears lost seniors John Elam and Alejandro Plaza to graduation. Coach Hart stated that losing those two seniors from last year’s team was a big loss because they were “both team players and solid kids.”

Hart concluded by saying that “the San Gabriel Valley League will be wide open this year. Dominguez always has talent as does Gahr.” Coach Hart also pointed out that Downey will be a team to watch because the Vikings are coached by Larry Shelton, still have co-league Most Valuable Player Dakari Archer and have a league champion junior varsity squad ready to step up from last year. Things will certainly be interesting in the S.G.V.L. this year.

–Mark Fetter, contributor

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## Warren boys' soccer team has unfinished business

• Bears hungry after quarterfinal elimination last year in CIF playoffs.

**DOWNEY** – The Warren High School boys' soccer team has gotten off to a 0-1-2 start to the 2012-13 season.

The Bears lost to Artesia 4-2 on Nov. 19, tied La Mirada 1-1 on Nov. 29 and tied Beverly Hills 1-1 on Nov. 30.

The Bears are coming off a 21-3-1 overall record and 9-0-1 league record last season. The Bears were co-San Gabriel Valley League champions with Paramount.

Warren was ranked number 1 in the C.I.F. Division III poll for three weeks and went into the C.I.F. play-

offs as the number one seed. Warren lost to Palmdale in the quarterfinal round of C.I.F. 1-0. Despite being disappointed with a quarterfinal round exit, Coach Miguel Pena had no regrets about last season. Pena was proud of his team and all they accomplished, particularly the run as Division III number one.

Coach Pena returns for his 11th season as coach of the Bears. Warren returns seven starters from last season, including senior captains Brandon Herrerias and Nathan Castillo. Other Bears expected to contribute include midfielder Ramiro Santana, center Martin Moreno and midfielder Fortino Santana. Center Brian Montano and defender Raul Estrada are two key additions from

a league champion (9-0-1) junior varsity squad from last year.

Once again, Paramount will provide tough competition for the Bears. Paramount is the three time defending C.I.F. Division III champion. Every year the Pirates seem to reload their talent and compete for a title. This year will be no different. Coach Pena maintains that "the Bears will be hunters as well as the hunted this season" due to their league title and number one ranking from last year. Pena concluded by saying that "the Bear is still hungry." Perhaps this will be Warren's year to win the S.G.V.L. outright and get that C.I.F. title that eluded them last year.

—Mark Fetter, contributor

## Travel baseball team seeks players

**DOWNEY** – The So Cal Express baseball team is hosting open tryouts for players to join its 13U team.

Coached by Grant Walling, the team plays in a competitive league and is seeking players "who have the desire to work hard, play high school baseball and are very competitive."

The Express practice from 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Discovery Sports Complex.

For more information, e-mail [socal.express@yahoo.com](mailto:socal.express@yahoo.com) or call (562) 477-9509.

## Downey wrestlers beat Norwalk

**DOWNEY** – Downey High wrestlers defeated No. 9 ranked Norwalk, 37-35, at a three-way meet Wednesday in West Covina.

Mark Lopez pinned Ryan Sainez in less than one minute in the 103 pound division to give Downey an early lead.

Downey's Johnny Robles needed only 34 seconds to pin Norwalk's Kevin Valdez at 112 pounds.

In the heavyweight division, Downey's Ben Cuellar defeated Jonathan Rourich to seal the win.

The Vikings are ranked No. 9 in Division IV.

## Mike Tyson show comes to L.A.

**HOLLYWOOD** – Mike Tyson will bring his acclaimed one-man show, "Undisputed Truth," to the Pantages Theatre for three performances only March 8-10.

"After a successful run at the MGM in Las Vegas and on Broadway...with Spike Lee, I'm excited to take "Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth" on tour and share it with my fans across the country," Tyson said in a statement.

Tickets start at \$25 and can be purchased at [broadwayla.org](http://broadwayla.org).

## Little Vikings win tournament

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Junior Athletic Association, more commonly known as D.J.A.A., recently had their sixth grade boys' flag football team participate in a tournament at Discovery Park.

The tournament, which took place last Sunday, saw the Downey Little Vikings take first place in the Southern California Municipal Athletic Foundation (SCMAF) competition.

The Downey Little Vikings is an all-star team comprised of the best players from five D.J.A.A. teams currently in the sixth grade: the Angels, Chargers, Yankees, Bandits and Bengals. Many of these athletes have been competing with and against each other since they were five and six years old. This football league serves as a stepping stone for youth to eventually participate in tackle football. It is also a nice avenue for young athletes to participate in extra curricular activities since there are no longer competitive sports in the Downey middle schools.

The Little Vikings defeated Cerritos 20-0, Hawaiian Gardens 28-6 and Carson 26-6 en route to advancing to play this Saturday in the second round in Carson. The Downey Little Vikings may play as many as five games over this weekend. The winner of this tournament will advance to the state tournament that will be held in Oxnard on December 15th. Thirteen teams are entered to play in this weekend's tournament from Porterville (near Bakersfield) to Blythe (by the Arizona border).

Standout players for the Downey Little Vikings include running back/outside linebacker Robbie C., wide receiver/safety Gene C., and quarterback Angel O. The Downey Little Vikings are coached by Gerardo Ochoa Jr., Gerardo Ochoa Sr., and assistant coaches Robert Colenzo and Michael Alvarez Sr.

—Mark Fetter, contributor

## Extend the life of your holiday plants

By Melinda Myers

The holidays can be a wonderful, yet stressful time. Reduce stress and enhance your families' enjoyment this season by increasing the benefits of holiday décor and gifts and by taking a few shortcuts to properly care for holiday trees and plants.

1. Keep your Christmas tree looking its best by keeping the tree stand filled with water. Make this a daily chore for someone trying to stay on Santa's nice list.

Don't worry if good help is hard to find. Purchase or make your own self-watering device. Use a decorative tin or plastic bucket set in a box and wrapped to hide its presence. Fill it with water and run a piece of plastic tubing from the bucket to the tree stand. Weight each end of the

tubing, so it stays at the bottom of the reservoir. Test before leaving town to make sure it is in working order.

2. Add some holiday plants this year. Many studies have shown that indoor plants can boost mood levels, reduce fatigue and even lower stress.

Plus, it's easy to extend the life of your holiday plants. Place them in a cool bright location away from drafts of hot or cold air. Water thoroughly and often enough to keep the soil moist. Pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer, basket or foil wrap to prevent root rot.

Save time and improve your plants growing conditions by placing pebbles in the base of the saucer or foil to elevate the plants above the excess water. As the water evaporates, it increases the humidity around the plants. Or purchase one of the saucer inserts, like rubber grids, that work the same way.

3. Use nature-inspired decorations that provide enjoyment throughout the holiday season and beyond. Colorful stems, white painted allium seed heads and wooden stars can add beauty throughout the holidays and much

of the year. Red wood wreaths are festive enough for the holidays and timeless enough to leave hanging on your wall year round. Luminaries can be used to light the entrance to your home or the path to your outdoor living space during warmer months. Use a few roosting pocket bird houses to decorate trees and greenery and then move them outside for the birds. These decorations can provide beauty and enjoyment way beyond the holiday season and remove some of the pressure to take down all of the holiday decorations by a certain date.

4. Spruce up indoor plants with a few holiday flowers, spangles and lights. Place a few cut flowers in floral picks filled with water. Place these in one or more of your houseplants for some seasonal color. Or add one of the miniature poinsettias, kalanchoes or cyclamen to a large planter. Simply sink the flowering plant, pot and all, into your houseplant container. Replace the small flowering plants as they fade or the seasons change.

Melinda Myers is a gardening expert, TV and radio host, and author. For more gardening tips and information, visit [melindamyers.com](http://melindamyers.com).

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# Suspect on FBI's most wanted list captured in Mexico

**WHITTIER** – A Los Angeles man charged with multiple murders – including a killing in Whittier – and listed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list, was arrested in Mexico late last month.

Jose Luis Saenz, 37, was arrested Nov. 23 by Mexican law enforcement acting on information developed by a fugitive task force in Los Angeles.

Saenz, a U.S. citizen, is the prime suspect in the 1998 murders of two men in the Hollenbeck area of Los Angeles.

Less than two weeks later, Saenz is believed to have kidnapped, raped and murdered Sigreta Fernandez, the mother of his child.

Soon after, Saenz was charged with three counts of murder, kidnapping and rape and an arrest warrant was issued on Aug. 12, 1998.

The latest murder for which Saenz is wanted occurred in October 2008 when Oscar Torres was killed in his Whittier home. Detectives in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department believe Saenz killed Torres in connection with a drug debt.

Saenz is also wanted for shooting and wounding a second man the same night. Torres' murder was captured on his home surveillance system and Saenz was identified as the killer.

When LAPD detectives determined Saenz had fled the state, the FBI joined the investigation. The FBI obtained a federal arrest warrant in 2002.

The task force recently learned that Saenz was living in a Guadalajara neighborhood, in violation of Mexico's immigration law.

Saenz was arrested without incident on Thanksgiving Day and held overnight in a local police facility. He was flown back to Los Angeles, escorted by FBI agents, on Friday night.

After landing at LAX, he was immediately turned over to the LAPD.

"Mr. Saenz ran, but ultimately couldn't hide, from those committed to finding him so that the families of his alleged victims might find justice," said Bill Lewis, assistant director in charge of the FBI's Los Angeles field office.

L.A. County Sheriff Lee Baca called Saenz's arrest "a great example of the tenacious effort and hard work of all the detectives involved."

"We are pleased that after a decade long investigation that we are able to bring this dangerous fugitive to justice," he added.

LAPD Chief Charlie Beck also weighed in, saying "the message to violent criminals is clear: no matter how far you run, or how long it takes, we will find you and bring you to justice."

Federal charges against Saenz will likely be dropped to keep Saenz in Los Angeles County while he awaits prosecution for murder charges.

# Man admits setting fire that killed his two kids

**LOS ANGELES** – A 61-year-old man pleaded guilty last week to the arson murders of his two children six years ago and was sentenced immediately to spend the rest of his life in prison.

Deputy District Attorneys Habib Balian and Bobby Grace of the Major Crimes Division agreed not to proceed with a capital case against the defendant in exchange for guilty pleas to all charges.

Balian said Dae Kwon Yun's plea came after extensive review of all the evidence and relevant issues in the case and a discussion with the victims' mother, the defendant's estranged wife.

The defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree murder and admitted the special circumstances of arson murder and multiple murders, Balian said. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Stephen A. Marcus sentenced the defendant to two consecutive life-without-parole prison terms.

Yun, who was separated from his wife, picked up his children on Sunday, April 2, 2006, for a day-long outing. After going to lunch and a movie, Yun drove his SUV to an industrial area in Los Angeles and put rags soaked in gasoline around the vehicle. His 10-year-old son, Alexander, was inside the SUV. His daughter, 11-year-old Ashley, got out but Yun pulled her back into the vehicle before using a lighter to ignite the rags.

The defendant jumped out of the vehicle. His legs were burned and he requested medical help. He allegedly told no one the children were in the burning vehicle.

He was arrested after an intensive investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department's Robbery/Homicide Division. The case was filed against Yun on April 14, 2006. He has remained in custody without bail pending trial.

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Advertising Supplement

# Tiger Bandit sought in bank heists

**CERRITOS** – Local law enforcement are on the hunt for the so-called Tiger Bandit, who has been linked to six bank robberies in one week, including an alleged heist at a Cerritos bank.

The Tiger Bandit is suspected of robbing a Cerritos bank on Nov. 23. He is suspected of following that up by holding banks in Long Beach and Marina del Rey on Nov. 24, Santa Monica on Nov. 27, Huntington Beach on Nov. 29 and Lomita on Nov. 30.

During the robberies, the suspect wears a Detroit Tigers baseball cap (hence the Tiger Bandit nickname) and demands cash in various denominations.

Authorities believe he may be working with a second person and enter the banks separately, based on "the method of operation and similar clothing worn," authorities said.

Multiple agencies are working to identify the Tiger Bandit, including the Long Beach Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Huntington Beach Police Department, Santa Monica Police, and the LAPD and FBI.

Anyone with information on the Tiger Bandit's identity or whereabouts is urged to call (888) CANT-HIDE or dial 911



Tiger Bandit

## Firefighters offer safety tips for the holiday season

**DOWNEY** – Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire.

Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles and the ever popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy.

- Don't put your live Christmas tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.

- Place trees away from heat sources, including fireplaces or heat vents. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.

- Keep the live tree stand filled with water at all times.

- Use only nonflammable decorations.

- Don't link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it's safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.

- Avoid using lit candles; consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.

- Ensure that Christmas trees and other holiday decorations don't block an exit way.

For more tips on how to prevent a holiday fire and what to do in case a fire starts in your home, visit the U.S. Fire Administration's website at [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov).

## Short plays to be performed Saturday

• Works by playwright Daniel Houston Davila to be performed Saturday.

**By Donald Marshall Contributor**

**DOWNEY** – Downey's vibrant arts community is about to stage another coup.

On Saturday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m., two short plays by local playwright Daniel Houston Davila will be presented in a staged reading by an outstanding cast of professional actors. The performance takes place at Stay Gallery, 11140 Downey Avenue (just north of Firestone), which continues to fulfill its mission of proving that those who love the arts don't need to leave Downey to experience creative excellence.

The first play, "Penney's from Heaven", follows Nadia Valdez and her desperate hours waiting for her husband to come home from what she fears is a night out gambling away their last hope for Christmas presents for the kids.

The second play, "Price Tags", finds Sammy Gallardo, a struggling freshman at Cerritos College, caught in a dilemma—either protect his hemophiliac friend Remi from recklessly damaging his fragile body on a roller coaster at the Pike or allow him to enjoy his life, despite the risks.

Many will remember Davila from two plays of his, "La Vida Lucky" and "El Bobo Bruto", presented last May at Granata's to a large and very appreciative audience. All these works belong to a 15-play cycle that tells the story of Carmelas, an isolated Mexican-American barrio in Norwalk, over the hundred years from its inception in 1900 when eight itinerant work-



Local actors rehearse "Penney's from Heaven," one of two short plays to be presented this Saturday at Stay Gallery.

ers laid down roots through 2000, when the lines demarcating the barrio from the wider society have faded.

Each play focuses on some aspect of the wider culture—the Depression, World War II, movies, credit cards, issues of assimilation—that impact the Carmelas, where streets were unpaved until the 1960s, few graduated from high school, most married by eighteen, and houses overflowed with children. Through these plays, voiceless people find their identity and discover the value of their everyday lives.

These plays are being developed

through workshops and collaborations with companies of actors. Alastair Hunter, a Downey resident who has been a leader in Southern California theatre for 50 years, has worked closely with Davila since his first play was produced in 1999 at El Camino College. The plays grow out of the stories in Davila's collection, *Malinche's Children*, published in 2003. The presentation will include a question period between the two plays, in which the artists will share with the audience the process through a new play is developed.

The audience response may well help the collaborators continue

to shape, revise, and improve the plays. The audience will not only experience a memorable performance but can participate in the creative process itself and interact directly with the actors, director, and playwright.

Hunter is active in the Downey Arts Coalition, which is sponsoring the performance. The Coalition also organizes a monthly exhibit of art and a poetry reading, both at Mari's Wine Bar in Downey, and a second monthly poetry reading at Number 34 Barber Shop in Downey, and has sponsored many other local arts events.

Niños Latinos Unidos is a local non-profit organization that for the better part of the past two decades dedicated itself to serving the needs of foster children, as well as to the process of facilitating their adoptions. It has always been the tradition of our founders to provide our children with a bag of toys and other gifts at Christmas time. This year however, we're simply unable to cover all of the costs associated in keeping with our tradition of toy giving. We are putting out a call to you as a member of our community to help us out by making a generous donation of any kind toward this purpose. A donation in any amount or even a single toy will be greatly appreciated. Please bring your toy or send a donation to: **9246 Alondra Blvd. Bellflower, CA 90706. Call (562) 925-7473**

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“Dare to Dream focuses on each of the princesses’ dreams,” said Moriah Tabon, who plays Mulan in the finale. “It is a very exciting and enchanting time for all. My greatest joy is to hear and see audiences, especially children, cheer, smile and laugh.”

Performances are scheduled Dec. 12-16 at Staples Center, Dec. 18-23 at Honda Center, Dec.

26-30 at Citizens Bank Arena and Jan. 3-6 at the Long Beach Arena.

Ticket prices range from \$22-\$75 and can be purchased at ticketmaster.com or by calling (800) 745-3000.



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**Restaurant Spotlight:**

**NARAI THAI**

While the ever expanding city of Downey has a growing number of dining options, for fresh and healthy Thai food, look no further – Narai Thai has it covered.

The restaurant started when two sisters who grew up in Thailand came to Los Angeles to study, and fell in love with the city, making the decision to stay. They opened their restaurant in Downey, and to their success, four years later were fortunate enough to open a second location in Hollywood.

The 7-year-old casual yet elegant restaurant is located in a small niche within a Downey shopping center on Firestone Boulevard, however this place cannot be overlooked. With perfectly placed bamboo décor, candlelit tables and a dimly lit dining room, the ambiance is perfect for a relaxing evening with family or friends. The concrete floors accented with brightly colored walls create a comfortable and home-like atmosphere that is intimate and calm.

The service is on par with that of fine-dining restaurants, with every expectation met and exceeded. The wait staff was extremely friendly, and catered to all of the guests' needs, despite being fairly busy.

One of the owners of Narai

Thai explained how their restaurant has achieved so much success.

"Many people in Downey come home from work with very little time to cook, let alone go grocery shopping and then cook for their family," she said. "We figured why not deliver Thai food? We have so many variety of dishes on our menu: soup, salad, BBQ, vegetarian dishes, seafood, noodles, rice, and our main dishes, all of which are available for delivery, take-out and catering for any occasions from 5 – 300 or more."

"It's quick, but it's not fast food," she added. "It's freshly made, I mean compared to fast food – our food is quick, but it's not fast food. It's made fresh with the freshest produce. That's what we concentrate on – a healthy environment."

In celebration of our 7th Anniversary, we will be offering a Thai Singha beer special for one week only. Make sure you check out our weekly coupon in *The Downey Patriot*.

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Advertising Supplement

**Dozens caught at DUI checkpoint**

**BELLFLOWER** – Two dozen people were arrested on an array of charges after driving through a DUI and driver's license checkpoint in Bellflower last Friday.

The checkpoint was located on Artesia Boulevard, just east of Lakewood Boulevard, and operated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Four people were arrested on DUI charges, including three drivers allegedly high on marijuana. Two were arrested felony drug possession charges.

Twelve unlicensed drivers were arrested, along with five people driving on suspended licenses. One person was charged with knowingly allowing an unlicensed driver to operate a vehicle.

Five vehicles were impounded for 30 days and eight cars were released to their registered owners.

In total, 1,055 vehicles passed through the checkpoint.

"All too often, members of our community are senselessly injured or killed on local roadways by impaired drivers," said Detective Daniel Dail. "Alcohol impaired deaths make up the largest number of vehicle fatalities, with 31 percent of all vehicle fatalities caused by a drunk driver."

Future checkpoints are planned in the local area, authorities said. Checkpoint locations are determined "based on DUI-related activity in that area," officials said.

**Santa Claus calling Downey children**

**DOWNEY** – Children ages 4-8 can have Santa Claus call them at home through a program, "North Pole is Calling You," sponsored by the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

The program is free and available to Downey residents.

To schedule a phone call from Santa, parents should fill out a registration card that asks for information such as the child's hobbies, interests, school, wish list and more.

Registration cards will be available at the new Parks and Recreation office at Apollo Park Dec. 11-18. Deadline to turn in a registration card is 5 p.m. on Dec. 18.

Santa Claus will place the phone calls Dec. 19-20 between 6-7:15 p.m. He will have a brief chat with each child and "check with Santa's Workshop to see what he can do."

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at (562) 904-7238.

**Tickets on sale for NYE bash in Long Beach**

**LONG BEACH** – Tickets are now on sale for downtown Long Beach's New Year's Eve celebration.

The party encompasses two blocks on Pine Avenue and starts at 6 p.m. on Dec. 31.

Numerous bands will be performing live including DJ Bizzy, funk band OO Soul, AC/DC cover band TNT and headliner The Spazmatics.

Seven outdoor bar areas will serve up a variety of spirits. Food will also be sold.

Advance tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at [downtown-longbeach.org](http://downtown-longbeach.org). Tickets will be sold at the event for \$20.

As part of the celebration, Long Beach Transit will be offering free transportation from 5 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.

**City hosting toy drive for local kids**

**DOWNEY** – This holiday season, Downey residents and businesses will have the opportunity to join together to donate new toys for needy children.

The toys will be distributed to children through the Downey Council PTA HELPS "holiday basket program," the fire department's "Operation Santa" and to other local children's organizations.

The toy collection runs Nov. 26 through Dec. 14 and is organized by the Public Works Department. Only new, unwrapped toys are accepted.

Drop-off bins are located at City Hall, the Downey City Library, the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center, all Downey fire stations, all Downey public schools and select Downey businesses displaying a city toy collection box.

For more information on how you or your organization can get involved in the program, call Carol Rowland at (562) 904-7103.

**Jackie Lacey takes over as DA**

**LOS ANGELES** – Jackie Lacey was sworn in as Los Angeles County's 42nd District Attorney on Monday at the Galen Center on the University of Southern California campus.

She is the first woman and first African-American to serve as Los Angeles County District Attorney

since the office was created in 1850. Outgoing District Attorney Steve Cooley administered the Oath of Office.

Former District Attorney John Van de Kamp presented Lacey with her District Attorney badge. He was joined in the presentation by three of the four other living District At-

torneys – Cooley, Gil Garcetti and Robert Philibosian.

"I am committed to making the best decisions possible, putting the best people in place to carry out our mission and never forgetting that I work for you," Lacey told the crowd of more than 1,200 guests. "Together, we will make the neigh-

borhoods of Los Angeles County safer. We will seek justice with passion and determination."

U.S. Attorney André Birotte Jr. of the Central District of California served as master of ceremonies. Lee Smalley Edmon, the first woman presiding judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, gave the commendation.

Lacey grew up in the Crenshaw District, graduated from Dorsey High School, the University of California, Irvine, and the University of Southern California Law Center. She joined in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office in 1986 and worked her way up through the ranks from front-line prosecutor to the elected District Attorney.

As District Attorney, Lacey will oversee the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation, with nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 peace officers and 800 support staff members.

She was elected to a four-year term of office.

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**Church hosting Christmas concert**

**LONG BEACH** – Los Altos United Methodist Church will hold its annual Christmas concert this Sunday at 4 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

The program will feature the church's Sanctuary Choir, Illumination Children's Choir, Adoration Youth Choir, Jubilation and Exultation Handbell Ensembles and Carillon Ringers.

The event is free and open to the public.

Los Altos United Methodist Church is at 5950 E. Willow St.

**Genealogists hosting show and tell**

**WHITTIER** – The Whittier Area Genealogical Society will host a "show and tell" meeting Dec. 15 at the Whittier Masonic Lodge.

Members will share memories, traditions and family remembrances. Visitors are welcome.

The meeting starts at 1 p.m. For more information, call D. Morton at (562) 691-5043 or go to [cagenweb.com/kr/wags](http://cagenweb.com/kr/wags).

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# Los Amigos Men's Club optimistic about future of county golf course

• Club members optimistic after new operator takes over Los Amigos Golf Course.

By Henry Veneracion  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – The 6156-yd. county-owned Los Amigos Golf Course located at 7295 Quill Drive has always been the easier, cheaper alternative to playing golf in Downey compared to the relatively longer (6360 yards), pricier city-owned Rio Hondo Golf Club just a couple of miles up north along Old River School Road. But to the avid golf enthusiast, a nice, reachable, playable par-3 is good and welcome anywhere.

Los Amigos has such a hole. If my memory serves me, it's the 12th hole, and it's only 120 yards. But it's guarded by a yawning trap. Almost always, they put the flagstick close to the edge of the trap. Almost always, golfers are tempted to play a perfect pitch shot (since it requires finessing only a pitching wedge or

at most a 9-iron). And almost always, the shot ends up in the trap.

I mentioned this to club staff when I recently revisited Los Amigos for this assignment, and she said the hole remains the most talked about.

I've also learned that, after a long period of at best indifferent management, a new management team has taken over course operations. This has provided excitement and new energy to the place, and been particularly welcomed by the Los Amigos Men's Club.

The Los Amigos Men's Club has had a long history, almost paralleling that of the golf course itself (which opened in 1966). Before the economic slowdown, its membership peaked at around 280 members. Today it's down to 111, the majority ages 55 and over.

"The composition is immaterial," says membership chair Bob Petzel. "The idea is for everybody to have fun."

The club holds a local tournament every month as well as a travel ("away") tournament ten

times a year. It also conducts a senior tournament—for those 55 years old and over ("Non-seniors are welcome")—on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. In addition, it holds a tournament just prior to the club meetings held at 6 p.m. in the club room every third Thursday of the month.

Thus the club has maintained its level of activity fairly well over the years. And with the changes the new management is making to the course, Petzel is confident its new look will attract residents (as well as out-of-towners) who have for the most part stayed away.

Among the significant changes: one or two greens are being repatched, at least one is being rebuilt, trimming and cutting down trees that have encroached on greens continue, and otherwise there are serious efforts at making the course "more open." The purchase of new golf carts means the installation of cart paths, while the lakes "are looking much-improved, etc.

Both Rick Ricketts, who is the club vice-president and who has been perennial tournament director, and Petzel agree that their input and suggestions have played a part toward these improvements resulting from their continuing meetings with county officials.

Bob Petzel (membership and handicap) can be reached at (562) 923-3490.

## Christmas show at church

**DOWNEY** – Bob Baker and his Marionettes will perform a Christmas show at Downey United Methodist Church on Dec. 7.

Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children, or \$20 for a family of four.

The event begins with a spaghetti dinner from 6-7 p.m., followed by a puppet show at 7:30.

Reservations are requested by calling (562) 861-9777.

## Christian club to hear library worker

**DOWNEY** – Nancy Munoz of the Downey City Library will be guest speaker at the Downey Christian Women's Club's Dec. 12 meeting at Los Amigos Country Club.

The meeting's theme is "Merry, Merry Christmas."

Also scheduled to speak is Nancy Rench, whose topic is "Do You Have a Why Me? Life?"


Admission is \$14 and includes lunch. For reservations, call Anita at (562) 861-3414.

## Insurance reps to speak

**NORWALK** – Two representatives from State Farm Insurance will speak at the Norwalk Regional Library on Jan. 10.

Amanda Hanson and Beth Betzger will speak on "Insurance 101: FAQs, Types of Insurance Available, the Pros and Cons."

The seminar starts at 6:45 p.m. and is open to the public.



## CRIME REPORT

**Friday, Nov. 30**

At 4:30 P.M., a male suspect entered the "Sunshine" liquor store at 8509 Imperial Hwy, brandished a handgun and demanded money. The store owner refused to comply and the suspect took a bottle of liquor before fleeing on foot. Detectives are investigating.

**Wednesday, Dec. 5**

At 7:00 a.m., Officers responded to the 12400 block of Rose Avenue regarding a shooting. When officers arrived they found the victim lying on the floor in the parking area of the apartment complex. The victim was suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. The victim was transported to a local hospital for treatment and is listed in critical condition. Officers arrested the victim's brother for the attempt murder and he was taken to the Downey Police station and booked. Detectives are investigating.

*Information provided by the Downey Police Department*

## Police offer holiday crime prevention tips

**DOWNEY** – With the holiday season in full swing, the Downey Police Department would like to offer a few crime prevention tips to help lessen the chances of becoming a victim during the busiest shopping season of the year.

Busy stores and crowds during the holidays can invite crime. Avoid being a victim by following these simple safety tips:

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Use credit cards or checks.
- Never leave valuables, including purses and wallets, unattended. Don't let your attention be diverted while leaving these items in shopping carts or strollers.
- If you leave store purchases in your vehicle, lock them in your trunk or keep them in a non-visible area. Criminals watch for shoppers who place purchases in their vehicles and leave them unattended.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Remain alert in parking lots. Avoid carrying so many packages that you are unaware of your surroundings and personal safety.
- Scan the area surrounding your vehicle when you park and when you return, making sure to look for suspicious persons that may be loitering in the area.
- Lock your doors immediately after entering your vehicle.
- Immediately report suspicious persons and activities to police or store security personnel.

At this time of year, many people are away from their residences during the day, shopping and running errands in preparation for their holiday celebration. To help prevent your family from becoming a victim of a theft at home, follow these safety tips:

- Packaging left at the curb of your home for trash pick-up is a clue to the criminal element of any items that may be inside your home. Break down packaging and/or wrapping and place it inside the recycle container so that it is not visible to anyone outside of your home.
- If you will be going on a holiday vacation or a trip, be sure to have your mail and/or newspaper delivery stopped. Uncollected mail or a pile of newspapers sitting at the front step are a clue that the homeowner is away. If you do go away for the holidays, ask a neighbor to watch your house for suspicious activities or persons.
- If you shop on the Internet or through the mail, and have packages shipped to your home, make arrangements to have those items delivered to a neighbor or your place of employment.

Most importantly, if you see suspicious activity, immediately call the Downey Police Department at (562) 861-0771.

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Those looking to emulate the pure-white smiles of magazine-cover models should know that "Chiclet teeth" are more a matter of photo enhancement than reality. Patients should bear this in mind when undergoing teeth-whitening and tooth-replacement procedures. In the latter case, the dentist makes aesthetic decisions based on tooth size in relation to surrounding teeth, surface texture, contour, shape, and color. As far as tooth color is concerned, teeth are not completely white, but are made up of yellows, blues, grays, greens, and oranges. Thus, unless a patient is set on a career in the movies, he or she would rather be better off with lighter teeth that mimic enamel's subtle range of hues than with pure white teeth. P.S. Teeth tend to be darker at their bases than at the edges. I invite you to ask for more details by calling (562) 923-3714.

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* Clinical Dental Assistant	25 weeks	\$2,999	\$9,000
* Pharmacy Technician Clinical	20 weeks	\$2,299	\$15,000
* Medical Biller & Coder	15 weeks	\$1,999	\$10,000
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## Rose Parade tickets still on sale

**DOWNEY** – Tickets are still available at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center for the 124th Tournament of Roses Parade taking place Jan. 1 in Pasadena.

Tickets are \$67 for residents (\$71 for non-residents) and include seats halfway down the parade route and bus transportation to and from the parade.

This year's parade is themed "Oh, the Places You'll Go" and features Dr. Jane Goodall as grand marshal.

Tickets can be purchased at the senior center.



While visiting Havana, Cuba in May for the Biennial Art Festival, Edith Stine shared *The Downey Patriot* paper with the local school children. "They were truly excited to use this it practice their English and learn about our culture," said Stine, who has lived in Downey 12 years with her two sons.

## Lifeguard training offered during winter break

**DOWNEY** – The city of Downey Community Services Department is offering lifeguard certification training during school winter break.

The course starts Dec. 22 and is conducted by the American Red Cross.

Cost is \$140 and includes training book, pocket mask and certification card.

Students who complete training will qualify to serve as a non-surf lifeguard.

Participants must be at least 15 years old on or before the start of training.

Students who finish training will receive certificates of completion in the mail within four weeks.

Registration is currently underway at City Hall and the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

For more information, call (562) 904-7223.



Red Carpet Heritage Realty raised \$1,500 for Susan G. Komen for the Cure after "turning pink" during the month of October. The contributions were made possible by the efforts of Pat Szmagalski and Durga Campos, both top producers for Red Carpet.



# Trash costs to increase?

• Closure of Puente Hills Landfill prompts questions about trash rates.

By **Lars Clutterham**  
Contributor

**DOWNEY** – Puente Hills Landfill, the country's largest, will close in eleven months, and local trash will have to find a new home. As part of that necessity, trash will be transported by train some 200 miles to the Mesquite Regional Landfill (MRL) in Imperial County. It's intuitive that costs would increase under such circumstances, and in fact the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD) which administer not only Puente Hills and MRL, but also the Downey Area Recycling and Transfer Facility (DART), have been planning for these cost increases for some time.

In fact, each Puente Hills Landfill Annual Report includes a section entitled "Cost Transition Program," which details a three-pronged program "to provide a gradual cost increase and smooth transition between the current cost of local disposal capacity and the higher cost of remote disposal. The fund will be composed of three components: 1) \$150 million set aside from gas-to-energy revenues; 2) contributions from future gas-to-energy revenues; and 3) a portion of future tipping fee increases at the Puente Hills Landfill. This program is designed to keep tipping fees as low as possible during the 20-year transition period between the implementation of the Cost Transition Program and the

operation of WBR [Waste-By-Rail] at full costs."

LACSD established this program in 2005, but the revenues expected from "tipping fees" (the cost per ton to dump) at Puente Hills did not materialize as expected because a weak economy intervened. Consequently, according to the 2012 Puente Hills Landfill Annual Report, which was graciously provided to this writer by LACSD, disposal tonnage at landfills throughout L.A. County has decreased about 42% since 2005.

In fact tonnage at the three landfills owned and operated by LACSD has dropped even more. Puente Hills, permitted for 13,200 tons per day (tpd), had dropped to a little over 6,000 tpd by the first quarter of 2012, from near capacity in 2005. That represents a 52% decrease. LACSD's other two landfills--both a small fraction of the size of Puente Hills and serving limited geographical areas in L.A. County--have decreased similarly: down 65% at Calabasas Landfill and down 52% at Scholl Canyon Landfill, which serves portions of the Glendale-Pasadena area.

The carefully planned Cost Transition Program, therefore, did not accomplish its goals, and as the Report summarizes, "it is uncertain if tonnage levels at the Puente Hills Landfill will ever return to pre-recession levels and the loss may continue until the Puente Hills Landfill closes on October 31, 2013. With a set closure date, capacity not consumed at the Puente Hills Landfill will remain unrecoverable."

The Annual Report continues,

describing an alternate approach to minimizing cost increases: "In an effort to both increase the contributions to the cost transition program and maximize the use of the remaining permitted capacity of the Puente Hills Landfill, a new, tiered volume discount program was introduced in January 2011. This program offers discounted tipping fee rates to haulers that can bring in specified volumes of waste in transfer trucks. Waste delivered in transfer trucks is processed more efficiently and increased landfill tonnage results in overall decreased operating costs per ton. All other rates remained at the 2010 cost per ton. The Sanitation Districts will continue to monitor the Cost Transition Program and its ability to provide for a cost-competitive waste-by-rail system."

The report continues to detail the authorization of negotiated rates with haulers for guaranteed quantities of waste. As of July, 2012, the Sanitation Districts had entered into agreements with six haulers. The report noted that "The additional tonnage will allow for more efficient operation and generate additional net revenue for the Cost Transition Program."

In summary, as the 2012 Annual Report indicates, the tipping fee at Puente Hills Landfill has increased from \$22.65 per ton in 2005 to \$38.41 per ton in 2012. By comparison, the cheapest tipping fees in the U.S. can be found in Idaho, at \$18.43 per ton. But don't plan on dumping your garbage in Massachusetts. There it costs \$105.40 per ton.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP FOR THE 2014-2021 GENERAL PLAN HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Downey will conduct a public workshop on Wednesday, December 19, 2012, at 6:30 PM in the City Council Chamber in the Downey City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Avenue, Downey, CA 90241 to address an update to the General Plan Housing Element.

The Housing Element is one of the seven State mandated General Plan elements. The Housing Element is subject to detailed statutory requirements regarding its content and must be updated every eight years. It is the only General Plan element subject to mandatory review by a State agency; the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The purpose of the Housing Element is to examine the housing needs of residents, create and guide housing policy in the City, and identify locations to accommodate the City's Regional Housing Need Assessment (RHNA).

This workshop will provide basic information about the Housing Element update process, legislative requirements, contents of the document, and the benefits of achieving a Housing Element that is certified by HCD.

At that time and place all persons interested in this matter may be present to comment on the proposed Housing Element. Any further information may be obtained by contacting David Blumenthal, Senior Planner at 562-904-7154.

The Downey Patriot  
12/6/12

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This is a must see in the beautiful Glendora community. This prime location features 3 Bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. Also, there is a two car attached garage with loft and cabinet storage. Laundry room and walk in pantry off the kitchen. Both upstairs bathrooms are upgraded and the lower level has upgraded windows. Priced to sell at \$390,000!

**Immaculate!**

Immaculate single story condo! This home features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a updated kitchen with granite counter tops and tile floor. It is on a corner lot with an extra private garden. Included appliances are free standing gas stove, microwave, dishwasher, refrigerator and a stackable washer and dryer. One year home warranty also included with the sale. The HOA amenities include pool, spa, tennis, gym, wooding, club house, billiards and a petting zoo. WOW!! Call today for more information

**Amazing!!**

This custom built 2 story home is located on a corner lot on a tree-lined street in a very desirable neighborhood. This beautiful property features 4 bedrooms with 2 master suites, 6 bathrooms, 4 fireplaces, 2 balconies and a gourmet kitchen. The backyard is perfect for large parties with a covered patio, pergola, built-in seating and a secluded dog run. This is a MUST SEE!!

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This is a beautiful tri-level home. It features wood 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms with each of the bedrooms having their own full bath. Also, this home has a patio, wood floors and a 2 car garage. If that's not enough, it also features a fireplace in the living room, beautiful wood shutters and a balcony off the kitchen. Call today for more information on this great opportunity!

**Turnkey**

Welcome to this beautifully updated 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom home. It features refinished wood floors, an updated kitchen with quartz counter tops and newer cabinets. Both of the bathrooms have been remodeled as well as the 2 car garage. This is a must see! Call for more information today!

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