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Gangs Out of Downey holds its annual fundraising luncheon at the Rio Hondo Event Center last week, raising money for youth and anti-gang programs.

The program featured the presentation of the inaugural Ricardo "Ricky" Galvez Scholarships, created in memory of fallen Downey police officer Ricky Galvez. The scholarships were presented to Jonathan Flores and Kristina Rivera.

Jonathan attends Columbus High School and will attend Los Angeles Trade Tech this fall. Born in Torrance, Jonathan's family moved often, eventually settling in Downey. His grades suffered as a result of the constant moving, but Jonathan has become a serious student determined to achieve his goal of becoming an engineer.

Kristina graduated from Warren High School in 2014 and currently attends Cerritos College, majoring in Anthropology and English. She volunteers at the Downey YMCA, Downey First Christian Church and the 10-20 Club.

L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe was the luncheon's keynote speaker. Photos by John Zander.



Jack in the Box opening restaurant at Firestone and Pangborn

By Eric Pierce
Editor

DOWNEY - Jack in the Box, which recently closed its restaurant at Firestone Boulevard and Woodruff Avenue, will open a new location just down the street at Firestone and Pangborn.

The 3,000 sq. ft. restaurant with drive-thru will be located on the northeast corner of Firestone and Pangborn -- directly across from McDonald's -- on property currently occupied by a tile store and a single-family residence.

"The applicant holds title to both parcels and proposes to raze the structures, combine the lots, and develop the fast food restaurant," city planner William Davis wrote in a report to the Planning Commission.

"Together, the two properties total 33,481 square feet."

Downey's Planning Commission approved the plans this week in a meeting that began Wednesday night and didn't end until 1 a.m. Thursday morning.

The Jack in the Box will maintain 96 feet of frontage on Firestone Boulevard and nearly 300 feet on Pangborn.

The franchise owner previously operated the Jack in the Box at Stonewood Center but declined to renew his lease there. Instead, he purchased the properties at Firestone and Pangborn.

On Facebook, not everyone was thrilled with Jack in the Box's new location.

"If that's the case they would need to put a traffic signal light there.

Not that we need another traffic light on Firestone, but for safety," wrote Angeline Deo. "As [it] is people are making wild and crazy turns and U-turns there."

"It is already crazy right there with the McDonald's," added Adelina Calleros. "Also the homeless took over the McDonald's [and] we will get double with the Jack in the Box. No thank you!"

Meanwhile, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers is taking over Jack in the Box's old location at Stonewood Center.

Founded in Louisiana, the fast food chain serves chicken fingers, crinkle cut fries and Texas toast.

It will be Raising Cane's first location in Los Angeles County.

Downey school board adds 20 new courses for next year

DOWNEY - The Downey Board of Education last week approved 20 new college prep courses for Downey middle schools and high schools beginning with the 2016-17 school year.

The new courses at the middle school level include:

- Foundations of Animation
- Introduction to Culinary Arts
- American Sign Language
- Creative Digital Technology
- Math 7 with Computing
- Introduction to Law

New high school courses include:

- Real Estate Principles
- Art: Innovation to Branding & Commercialization
- Civil Engineering & Architecture
- Computer Science Application
- Digital Electronics
- Introduction to Computer Science
- Professional Development through SkillsUSA
- Integrated Math with

Computing & Robotics

- AP Physics
- Honors Engineering Physics
- Foundations of Law
- American Sign Language III
- Advanced Sports Medicine
- Video Production III

The addition of these classes follows the 2015-16 addition of 20 new "a-g" courses, as well as official UC approval of 20 already existing course offerings.

Students are considered for admission to the California State University and University of California based on three main criteria: completion of college prep classes (known as a-g classes), the grades earned in these classes, and test scores on college entrance tests.

There are seven subjects, organized from 'a-g' that have to be passed in high school (earning a 'C' or better) to be considered for a UC or CSU campus.

The subject requirements are: History/social science ("a") two years; English ("b") four years;

Mathematics ("c") three years; Laboratory science ("d") two years; Language other than English ("e") two years; Visual and performing arts ("f") one year; and College-preparatory elective ("g") one year, chosen from the "a-f" courses.

"By approving these courses that provide a better understanding of current career fields, our students will be even better prepared to enter into their respective careers or continue on with their education," said DUSD superintendent Dr. John Garcia.

"More than being required to meet eligibility for a UC/CSU, completing these requirements prepare students for college-level work, regardless of which college they decide to attend or what field of work they choose," added board president D. Mark Morris. "The more classes a student takes, the better prepared he/she will be, and the more globally competitive he/she will be."

Stauffer Middle School students chosen to present at national summit

DOWNEY - Stauffer Middle School teacher Tri Tansopalucks and a handful of students will travel to Indianapolis Sunday after being invited to present at the Project Lead the Way National Summit.

Project Lead the Way is a national engineering program that provides a comprehensive approach to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education.

On Tuesday Tansopalucks and his students will highlight their work, including mobile apps the students have built.

Tansopalucks and his students will also attend workshop sessions, special events, and participate in a video interview highlighting the Project Lead the Way program at Stauffer Middle School.

Project Lead the Way is covering the cost of the trip.

In December, Project Lead the Way and Verizon chose Stauffer Middle School to pilot and integrate Introduction to Computer Science, a program that provided tools and technology to help middle school students learn computer science.

"We are proud and honored that Project Lead the Way has elected to recognize Stauffer Middle School's outstanding Project Lead the Way program," said DUSD board president D. Mark Morris. "Being the only middle school taking the stage and presenting at this national summit, this experience will be one our students will never forget."

More than 1,500 people are expected to attend Project Lead the Way's national summit, including students, educators, and those in the government and business sectors.

The following was sent to the Patriot by reader Sandra Enriquez:

"I don't know where to start...

"My life's mission has been and is to bring my son, Angel Enriquez, all the happiness I can in the world. But it's been the other way around for the 16 years God's given him to me. He brings me more joy than I could ever imagine one can feel.

"He attended his first high school dance this past Saturday at the Aquarium of the Pacific. Here is a picture of him and his beautiful date Vanessa Lopez (a Downey High School student). They're the same age (16 years old). She didn't go as a favor to him or us -- she went as his date because she's known Angel all her life and wanted to go. I wish more parents of "Special Ed" students would encourage their children to attend and participate in as many school activities as possible. I hope this is the first of many more dances to come.

"World Down Syndrome day is March 21, let's celebrate our Down syndrome community with #respect, #acceptance, #inclusion."



Weekend at a Glance

Friday 74°

Saturday 75°

Sunday 74°

THINGS TO DO



Artistic

Friday - Norwalk Cultural Arts Center, 6-9 p.m.

Art walk, chalk art competition, book fair, ceramics, ferris wheel, music and dance performances, and more.



JR Castro

Friday - Club DB Lounge, 9 p.m.

The R&B singer, who gained attention last year for his hit "Get Home," performs live.



Bunny Breakfast

Saturday - Golden Park, 9 a.m.

Pancake breakfast, carnival games, portable skate park, information booths, face painting, and more.

FROM OUR FACEBOOK

Downey Walmart now hiring

Jesse Mauricio: Wow, I was enjoying the Promenade until I saw this. What are we, some backwater ghetto town?

Andi Land: How about we bring businesses to Downey that support the community and not bring in businesses that use our community for disgusting profits while they ignore the rights of their workers.

Dianne Guerra: Somehow the word Promenade and Walmart doesn't sound appealing.

James Melton: Walmart is a terrible company, and I'm pleased many in Downey realize it.

Rck Dfrst: People in Downey acting like they reside in Orange County. Oh wait, there's a Walmart in Huntington Beach, Irvine, Orange, Anaheim, and Westminster.

Reach us on Facebook at: Facebook.com/DowneyPatriot

TWEET OF THE WEEK

@yungtapat: isn't it law that when trees are taken out the city has a duty to replant them? Any progress known on Pangborn and Muller St?

Follow us! @DowneyPatriot

Whittier school district names stadium after superintendent

WHITTIER – The Whittier Union High School District will name a new 7,000-seat District football stadium under construction at California High School the “Sandra Sanchez Thorstenson Stadium” in honor of Superintendent Thorstenson, who is retiring in June after 39 years with the district.

August, the district stadium will serve as the home field for Cal, Whittier and La Serna high schools’ football teams.

The complex will span 22 acres and include separate baseball and softball fields, soccer practice areas and refurbished outdoor basketball and volleyball courts. Its scoreboard will bear the name “Sandy Thorstenson Stadium.”

The District Board of Trustees made the decision March 8.

“I cannot think of anyone else more deserving of this honor than Sandy. She has been a tremendous educator, administrator and transformational leader who reminds us all that demographics do not determine destiny,” Board of Trustees President Leighton Anderson said. “This stadium will remind us all of her beautiful legacy and all she has done for our students and this District.”

Thorstenson, a Whittier High School graduate, has spent her entire career at Whittier Union, serving in the District since 1977 and making her personal mark on all five comprehensive high schools. Thorstenson began her career as a teacher at Pioneer High School, before becoming an assistant principal at Cal High. She was then assistant principal and principal at Santa Fe High School. She is also the parent of a La Serna High School graduate.

“Her strong connection to all five comprehensive high schools epitomizes the sense of family we all feel as part of the Whittier Union High School District,” the principals of California, Whittier and La Serna high schools wrote in a joint letter supporting naming the stadium for Thorstenson. “Sandy Thorstenson has enjoyed tremendous success at every level of leadership and has enabled the District to experience unparalleled success these past 15 years.”

district officials said.

“Students also showed their encouragement and excitement through a flood of letters sent to the schools,” district officials said in a statement. “Some also expressed the importance of naming the stadium in Thorstenson’s honor as a message to past, present and future Whittier Union students about all she has accomplished.”

The new stadium at Cal High is similar to a stadium complex completed at Pioneer High School in May 2015. The 7,000-seat stadium was named after Richard “Dick” Torres, a pioneering educator who benefited students and schools across the district, including the two that share the field, Pioneer and Santa Fe high schools.

In Memory of Geneva Lily Smith

April 22, 1928 - March 8, 2016



Geneva Lily Smith, 87, was born on April 22, 1928 in South Gate, CA. She entered into eternal rest on March 8, 2016 in Downey, CA.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at Risher Montebello Mortuary with a Funeral Service on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 10:00AM at the First Baptist Church of Downey.

Interment followed at Rose Hills Memorial Park.

Geneva is survived by her loving husband, Joseph Edward Smith, her daughter, Diana (Peter) Blidy of Fullerton, and her son Steven (Kimberly) Woolf of Orange. She leaves behind her grandson, Kenneth Blidy, her four granddaughters: Kristine Peters, Karrie Castles, Rayann and Samantha Woolf and four great grandchildren, with one on the way.

Risher Mortuary & Cremation Service are Funeral Directors. For more obituary information and to leave the family condolences, please go to www.rishermortuary.com. (562) 699-0916.

In Memory of Gloria Davila

July 14, 1929 - March 11, 2016



On March 11, 2016, the former First Lady of Downey (1985-1986), Gloria Davila passed away peacefully to be with our Lord. Gloria was born on July 14, 1929 in the greater Los Angeles area and resided in the City of Downey for the past 51 years. Gloria was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, and aunt. She is survived by her husband of 67

½ years, former Mayor Bob Davila, daughter, Cynthia Alexander, two granddaughters, Shanna Alexander Campbell and Lauren Alexander and long awaited great grandson, James Michael Campbell. Gloria lived a full life along side her husband and will be missed by all her surviving family members and friends.

A Rosary will be held at Miller Mies Downey Mortuary at 7 p.m. on March 28, 2016. The Funeral Services will be held on March 29, 2016 at Saint Raymond Catholic Church in Downey at 11:30 a.m.



The new sports complex nearing completion at California High School will be named the “Sandra Sanchez Thorstenson Stadium” in honor of Superintendent Thorstenson, who is retiring in June.

Spring Worship Directory

Celebrate Easter

at Downey United Methodist Church
10801 Downey Avenue
Pancake Breakfast 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.
Children's Easter Egg Hunt following Worship Service



Making a difference for Christ in Downey and beyond

Holy Week
Messiah Lutheran Church
10711 Paramount Boulevard • Downey • CA
Palm Sunday - March 20 - 9:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday - March 24 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday - March 25 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday - March 27 9:00 a.m. - Easter Service
10:30 a.m. - Breakfast
11:00 a.m. Egg Hunt for children 12 & younger
For more information call (562) 923-1215

Come Celebrate Easter Morning at
HOLY REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
Festive Worship Music & Holy Communion
10:00 am
Family Continental Breakfast
11:00 am
14515 Blaine Avenue (Blaine and Maplewood) Bellflower, CA 90706 562-867-0714

HOLY WEEK
March 20 — Palm Sunday at 10:00 am
Bishop Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin presiding and preaching
March 24 — Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm
March 25 — Good Friday at 6:30 pm
Easter Sunday
The Resurrection of Our Lord!
March 27, 2016
10:00 Worship Service
Pastor Nancy Hamm
Christ Lutheran Church
7707 Florence Ave • Downey 90240
562.927.4421

Maundy Thursday
March 24, 7:00 pm
Good Friday
March 25, 7:00 pm
Celebrate Easter With Us
7:00 am Sunrise Service
8:00 am Easter Breakfast
9:00 am Easter Egg Hunts
10:00 am Festival Worship
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
13200 Clark/Columbia Way, Downey
(562) 803-4459

He is Risen!
He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. Luke 24:6-7

Good Friday - Communion
Friday, March 25th at 12:00pm (Noon)
"Christ in the Passover" by Jews for Jesus
Music by CCD Worship Band
No Child Care Available - Habra traducción en Español

Servicio de Viernes Santo
Viernes, 26 de Marzo a las 7:00pm - Servicio en Español en el Santuario del Sur de Calvary Chapel Downey
Musica, & Mensaje Especial por el Pastor Jesse Colon

He's Alive Jubilation for Kids
Saturday, March 26th at 10:00am at Calvary Chapel Downey, Main Sanctuary - A Celebration Just For Kids! (3yrs - 6th grade)
With Bear Hug Band, Glad Scientist, & Straight-Up Puppet Team

He Is Risen - Easter "Sonrise" Service
Sunday, March 27th at 8:30 & 10:30am at Calvary Chapel Downey
Message by Pastor Jeff Johnson - Music by CCD Worship Band
(If it rains, meet at the church) Habra traducción en Español. Solo traiga radio portátil 88.9 FM.

Sunday Services
Sunday, March 27th at 8:30 & 10:30am at Calvary Chapel Downey
Message by Pastor Jeff Johnson - Music by CCD Worship Band
Habrá traducción en Español - Children's and Youth Ministries available, Nursery through 12th Grade
Spanish Service at 1:30pm - Servicio En Español en el Santuario Principal de Calvary Chapel Downey

calvarychapel downey
12608 Woodruff Ave., Downey, CA 90242 (562) 803-5638
www.calvarydowney.org

St. Raymond Catholic Church
12348 Paramount Blvd., Downey CA 90242
Phone: 562-923-4509 • Fax: 562-869-3359
Website: www.saintraymond.org • E-mail: info@saintraymond.org

Holy Thursday - The Evening Mass of Our Lord's Supper
March 24th - 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, March 25th
12 noon 7 Last Words (Spanish)
3:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Passion (English)
6:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Passion (English)
8:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Passion (Spanish)

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil Mass
March 26th - 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Mass Times
March 27th - 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. (English)
1:00 p.m. (Spanish) (No 5:30 p.m. Life Teen Mass)

DOWNEY MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AT 10:30AM
Servicio de palmas

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 25 AT 7PM
Servicio de las 7 palabras

SONRISE SUNDAY, MARCH 27 AT 7AM
Servicio de Resurrección Matutino

EASTER WORSHIP AT 10:30AM
FAMILY EASTER CELEBRATION FOLLOWING THE SERVICE
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SPORTS BRIEFS: Downey swimmers off to fast start

By Mark Fetter
Contributor

DOWNEY – The Downey High School boys' swim team has picked up from where they left off last year.

The Vikings are currently 4-0 in dual meet competition. Downey defeated Whittier at Downey 124-42 on 3/1, defeated Whitney at Downey 134-34 on 3/3, defeated Cal at Cal 125-44 on 3/8 and defeated Kennedy at Kennedy 115-55 on 3/10.

Downey defeated Santa Fe at Downey on Tuesday and swam against La Mirada at La Mirada yesterday (score unavailable at press time). Downey will swim against El Rancho at Downey next Thursday. The Vikings will begin S.G.V.L. competition against Gahr at Downey on 4/14.

Downey is led by senior swimmers Tim Nilan, Daxton Penn, Gerardo Flores and Christian Kim. Underclassman swimmers include: juniors Marcus Powell and Thomas Erling sophomore Angel Lira and freshmen Nathan Lopez, Francisco Osuna and Jesus Marguia.

Several swimmers have already qualified for C.I.F. with their times. Tim Nilan qualified in the 100 yard freestyle and the 50 yard freestyle. Marcus Powell and Nathan Lopez have qualified in the 200 yard individual medley and Angel Lira has qualified in the 500 yard freestyle.

Uriel Angeles has qualified in the 100 yard butterfly and Thomas

Erling has qualified in the 200 yard freestyle. The Vikings also qualified in all three relay events. The entire team has started to drop time and is beginning to qualify for postseason competition.

Coach Delhousay, his staff and swimmers are looking forward to the start of S.G.V.L. competition.

The Downey High School baseball team currently has an overall record of 2-5 and will begin S.G.V.L. play on 4/12 when they travel to Dominguez to face the Dons.

Downey was defeated by Edison at Edison 4-2 on 3/2, defeated Sonora at Downey in the Loara Tournament 9-0 on 3/5, was defeated by Santa Margarita at Santa Margarita in the Loara Tournament 6-0 on 3/8 and defeated Loara at Downey in the Loara Tournament 3-2 on 3/10.

The Vikings were defeated by La Mirada at La Mirada in the Loara Tournament 3-2 on 3/12 and were defeated by Long Beach Poly in a doubleheader at Blair Field 4-3 and 2-1 on Monday. Downey played Mayfair at Downey yesterday in the St. Paul Tournament (score unavailable at press time).

The Vikings are scheduled to play Narbonne on 3/26, Salesian on 3/28 and two other games on 3/29 and 3/30 depending on the results of the first two games.

Downey finished last season with an overall record of 15-15 and were 6-4 in S.G.V.L. play. Coach

Gonzalez, his staff and players are looking forward to the start of S.G.V.L. play.

The Downey High School softball team currently has an overall record of 2-6 and will begin S.G.V.L. play on 4/7 when they travel to Dominguez to face the Lady Dons.

Downey was defeated by Granada Hills in the Cypress Tournament 9-1 on 2/27, was defeated by Peninsula in the Cypress Tournament 7-6 on 2/27 and were defeated by Lakewood at Lakewood 6-0 and 10-5 in a doubleheader on 3/3.

Downey defeated Mira Costa in the Cypress Tournament 10-1 on 3/5, defeated Valley Christian in the Cypress Tournament 9-2 on 3/5 and were defeated by Santa Fe 4-3 and 7-3 in a doubleheader on 3/12. The Lady Vikings started the Torrance National Tournament against Redondo Union Wednesday (score unavailable at press time) and are scheduled to play games for five days in a row.

Downey finished last season with an overall record of 13-14 and were 5-4 in S.G.V.L. play. Coach Karzen, his staff and players are looking forward to the start of S.G.V.L. play.

The Warren High School softball team currently has an overall record of 4-2 and will begin S.G.V.L. play when they host Paramount on 4/7.

The Bears are now on a three-

game win streak after losing two of their first three games.

Warren defeated Jurupa Hills in the Redondo Union Tournament 6-2 on 3/3, defeated La Serna at Warren 8-3 on 3/9 and defeated Santa Fe at Warren 6-2 on 3/15. The Bears appear to be catching their stride as league play approaches.

Warren will play Kennedy in a doubleheader at Warren next Tuesday and will begin the Diamond Bar Spring Tournament against Montebello on 3/31 at 3:15 p.m. and follow that with a game against Diamond Bar at 5:15 p.m. The Diamond Bar Spring Tournament will run through 4/2 and Warren will play at least four games.

The Bears have been led this season on offense by sophomore Brooklyn Araujo (.400), senior Crystal Carrillo (.385) and junior Jocelyn Hernandez (.357). Jocelyn Hernandez has also led the Bears in the circle with a 2-1 record and 1.35 E.R.A. The Bears finished last season with an overall record of 24-5 and were 9-1 in S.G.V.L. play. Warren was defeated by San Clemente 10-3 in the second round of the C.I.F. Division 3 playoffs.

Coach Starksen, her staff and players are looking forward to the start of the 2016 league season.

The Warren High School boys' volleyball team currently has an overall record of 6-3 and will begin S.G.V.L. play on 3/24 when they host Paramount.



Jocelyn Hernandez and Nina Garcia combined for a seven-hitter as Warren High girls softball beat Santa Fe, 6-2, on Tuesday. Ashley Machado led the Bears offense, going 4 for 4 with a homerun, two doubles and two RBIs. Jocelyn Hernandez went 3 for 3 with a single and two doubles. Photo courtesy Warren High

The Bears defeated Bellflower at Bellflower 3-1 on 3/1 and were defeated by Burroughs at Burroughs 2-0 on 3/4.

Warren defeated Calabasas 2-0 in the Redondo Union Tournament on 3/4, were defeated by Palisades 2-0 in the Redondo Union Tournament on 3/4, defeated Millikan at Millikan 2-0 in the Redondo Union Tournament on 3/5, defeated Granada Hills 2-1 in the Redondo Tournament on 3/5 and defeated Santa Monica at Santa Monica 2-1 in the Silver Championship game on 3/5. Warren finished the Redondo Union Tournament with a record of 4-1.

Warren defeated Santa Fe at Warren 3-0 on 3/8 and were

defeated by El Segundo at Warren 3-2 on Wednesday. The Bears played Valley Christian at Warren yesterday (score unavailable at press time) and will travel to Bell Gardens to face the Lancers next Tuesday before they begin league play.

Warren finished last season with an overall record of 21-8 and were 7-1 in S.G.V.L. play. The Bears were co-champions with Gahr (21-8, 7-1) last season. Warren was defeated by Paloma Valley at Paloma Valley 3-2 in the quarterfinal round of the C.I.F. Division 3 playoffs.

Coach Lane, his staff and players are looking forward to the start of S.G.V.L. play.

Santa Fe grad wins fourth consecutive wrestling title

SANTA FE SPRINGS – Santa Fe High School graduate Joey Davis won his fourth consecutive NCAA wrestling title to finish his Notre Dame College career undefeated, finishing a perfect 131-0. He becomes the first wrestler in NCAA Division II history to win four NCAA championships while going undefeated.

The 2012 Santa Fe grad defeated Pitt-Johnstown's Travis McKillop with a 3-1 decision in the 184-pound finals at the NCAA Division II championships on March 13 at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The match between Davis and McKillop – a four-time All American and NCAA finalist in 2014 – was the

most anticipated of the night's 10 final bouts.

"I'm really at a loss for words," Davis said. "I worked tremendously hard and the coaches worked me hard, but it has all been worth it."

Davis is one of just three wrestlers in NCAA history to finish his college career undefeated as a four-time national champion, joining Iowa State's Cael Sanderson (159-0) and Ausburg-Minnesota's Marcus LeVesseur (155-0).

"To be able to have my name mentioned with some of the greats is

really an amazing accomplishment," said Davis, as he looks toward his future as a communications major. "I have some options, but for me it's about graduating first."

At Santa Fe, Davis was a two-time national champion and All American when he wrestled for the Chiefs. He was the California state champion at 160 pounds his senior year and the 152 champion as a junior.

"The Whittier Union High School District extends its congratulations to Joey Davis, a proud Chief who has achieved record-setting

accomplishments as a collegiate student athlete," Superintendent Sandra Thorntson said. "It is always great to hear about the continued success our students have when they go on to college or professional careers."

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3/28 Monday - Independence Park
3:00-3:30 Check-in/ Warm-Up
3:30-4:00 Capture the Cone
4:00-4:30 Family Fitness Instructor
4:30-5:00 Craft/Cool Down
5:00-5:30 Roll the Fitness
5:30-6:00 Fitness Bingo

3/29 Tuesday - Discovery Sports Complex
3:00-3:30 Check-in/ Warm-Up
3:30-4:00 Turtle Tag
4:00-4:30 Family Fitness Instructor
4:30-5:00 Craft/Cool Down
5:00-5:30 Roll the Fitness
5:30-6:00 Obstacle Course

3/30 Wednesday - Temple Park
3:00-3:30 Check-in/ Warm-Up
3:30-4:00 Turtle Tag
4:00-4:30 Family Fitness Instructor
4:30-5:00 Craft/Cool Down
5:00-5:30 Get Cookin'
5:30-6:00 Fitness Bingo

3/31 Thursday - Independence Park
3:00-3:30 Check-in/ Warm-Up
3:30-4:00 Capture the Cone
4:00-4:30 Family Fitness Instructor
4:30-5:00 Craft/Cool Down
5:00-5:30 Get Cookin'
5:30-6:00 Obstacle Course

4/1 Friday - Discovery Sports Complex
3:00-3:30 Check-in/ Warm-Up
3:30-4:00 Capture the Cone
4:00-4:30 Family Fitness Instructor
4:30-5:00 Craft/Cool Down
5:00-5:30 Get Cookin'
5:30-6:00 Fitness Bingo

* Activities and schedule are subject to change.

ATTORNEY . ABOGADA

Eva Juárez -Attorney
Malhotra & Malhotra

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Downey robotics team impresses at Long Beach, now heads to Las Vegas

By Alex Dominguez
Contributor

DOWNEY – Fresh off their phenomenal performance at the Los Angeles Regional FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), the Downey High School “Striking Vikings” Robotics team are now setting their sights towards Las Vegas and beyond.

The Vikings competed over the weekend, pitting their robot “Fear the Beard” against rookie and experienced teams alike, hailing from various schools across Southern California. They walked into the Long Beach Convention Center as rookies, however the Vikings quickly began turning heads.

“When I watched the whole team come together that weekend it was pretty amazing,” said Glenn Yamasaki, the DHS robotics teacher behind the team. “I mean we wanted to have a good competition; we wanted to be at least in the mid-range, because we

knew we were going against so many pretty advanced teams. But there were some points we were ranked number one in the tournament on Friday...we were always in that top ten so that was above our expectations.”

The Vikings’ strong performance carried them into the quarterfinals. Though this is where the Vikings were eventually eliminated, their hard work and dedication earned them the Rookie All Star Award; a prestigious, “optional” award that is only given out if FIRST judges deem a team deserving of the honor.

“The Rookie All Star Award is given a team that is competing in the regional competition or any competition at FIRST that best exemplifies the mission of FIRST Robotics, which is to inspire the community through STEM education and STEM programs,” said senior team member Paul Shin.

“The judges can decide, if they see that no rookie team deserves this award, they don’t have to give it out,” added senior Spencer Farina. “So they saw that we had deserved the award.”

The Rookie All Star Award also acts as Downey’s “golden ticket” to FRC World Championships, which are being held in St. Louis Missouri in just over a month.

Before heading to the World Championships though, the Striking Vikings are turning their heads towards Las Vegas, where they will compete on an even more international scale. However the team agrees that winning the Rookie All Star Award takes a gigantic load off their shoulders. Originally, the Vikings’ Las Vegas bid was a “last shot” at qualifying for a World Championship opportunity.

“Now that we know that we’re a really competitive team – and that we’re a winning team – we’re going to go into Vegas more confident and more ready to win, and more prepared in our world championship in St. Louis,” said senior Adriana Cardenas.

The next hurdle for the Vikings is funding the eventual trip to St. Louis. Yamasaki estimates that it will cost roughly \$1000 per student. Currently the team has 33 students.

The Striking Vikings already has some support from Downey Unified School District and their multiple sponsors, however they are currently looking for more help from other sponsorships and donations to help cover the expenses that a trip to the World Championships would cost. Currently the Striking Vikings are sponsored by South Pacific Steel and Tubing, Gaucho

Grill, Cartozian Associates, Preferred Impressions, Kiwanis Foundation, BAD Enterprises, RPM 12, Stauffer Foundation, Downey Federal credit Union, NASA, Stay Gallery, and YamoNautics. Yamasaki has already had to make a \$5000 dollar deposit just to register for the event. In total, the team needs to raise around \$35,000 in under a month in order for the entire team to go to St. Louis.

“If we’re not able to raise all that money, unfortunately not all of our team members can go and experience that international competition that we all worked so hard to compete with,” said Shin “...we want to reach out to all the local sponsors, or local community organizations or businesses or whatever in the community, and if they feel like they want an avenue or a channel where they can donate their money to a positive cause, especially through inspiring students, through education, through science, technology, engineering and mathematics, that want to put in investments for the future, through the future generations through STEM education, we’re literally reaching out our arms right now and asking for any donation possible that can possibly help our team move on to the World Championships.”

For more information on the Striking Vikings and how to support their program visit their website at team5851.com, or follow their social media outlets on Twitter and Instagram at @team5851 and @strikingvikings respectively.

Downey contingent traveling to Ireland

DOWNEY – A delegation from Downey Sister Cities Association will travel to Roscommon, Ireland for an official visitation March 21-31.

The delegation will include artist Maureen Gaffney-Wolfson, who created 18 portraits for the Easter Uprising Centennial. The portraits were done in 24 karat gold and oil paints.

Stauffer Middle School student Alexandra Juarez also is part of the trip.

“She is one of the many students we hope to have participate in future student exchanges,” said Denise Juarez, president of Downey Sister Cities.

Church hosting Easter egg hunt

DOWNEY – First Baptist Church of Downey is hosting its second annual Easter Eggstravaganza March 26 from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

The event features a pancake breakfast, crafts, story-time and an Easter Egg hunt with 5,000 candy-filled eggs.

“Last year we saw families of all ages making memories while learning about the hope and love of Jesus Christ, our risen savior and knew we needed to make this an annual event not just for our church family, but for families in the community too,” said Stacey Rhodes, pastor of family life and children’s ministries at FBCE.

Historical Society meeting Thursday

DOWNEY – Deborah Arroyo, executive director of the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation, will be guest speaker at the Downey Historical Society’s meeting Thursday, March 24, at the Barbara J. Riley Center.

The program begins at 7:30 p.m. in the John Downey Room.

Arroyo has spent her 26-year career in non-profit development with Whittier College, PIH Health, Anaheim Memorial Medical Center, the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier, and Rancho.

Among her accomplishments include funding a free-standing hospice house, an adult daycare health center, and half a dozen digital mammography machines.

She is a graduate of Whittier College and currently resides in La Habra.

Zumbathon at Downey High

DOWNEY – Downey High School’s PTA will host a “zumbathon” fundraiser Friday, March 19, from 9-11 a.m.

Participating zumba instructors include Chicas Sun Fronteras and Team Gladys Fitness, with a special presentation from Mariana Martinez.

Admission is \$10.

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Before you reject the system, understand it

By Lee Hamilton

If there's a theme that sets this political season apart, it's the voters' utter disdain for most of the people who practice politics. They're fed up with politicians, they've lost faith and confidence in the political elite, and they don't believe that the realm where politicians ply their craft — government — works.

The two presidential contenders who have most channeled this frustration, Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders, have electrified many voters who want to get this message across. They've mobilized new voters, people more mainstream politicians haven't reached. The involvement of more Americans in the political system, though it unsettles the old order, is bracing.

There are many legitimate reasons for these people to be turned off by the political system today. But I'd argue that if you're hell-bent on shaking up the system, you also need to understand it — and understand that certain features are likely to persist no matter how hard you try to change them.

The first is that it is very hard to make our representative democracy work. We make progress incrementally, over years if not generations. The first president to press hard for affordable, accessible health care was Harry Truman. It's taken us that long even to get close — and no one would argue that the work is done.

So you have to approach politics with great patience. Our system discourages the rush to judgment — it puts a premium on including as many voices as possible, which takes time in a complicated country. The process is inevitably slow, noisy and messy, the results fully satisfy no one, and more often than not the best we can do is to muddle through.

Which is why in our system, there's rarely a sense of completion. The work — on health care, taxes, the environment, you name it — is never done. Nothing is ever finally settled. There is no ultimate solution.

Many people are also turned off by what lies at the center of our system: deal-making. This involves a clash of ideas in the public arena, compromise, and negotiation, which make a lot of Americans uneasy. Yet it's how we resolve our differences — and has been since the first day of the United States' existence.

So politicians who insist on purity impede solutions. There ought to be a

healthy tension between idealism and realism, but we have to find a pragmatic way to combine them. We have to consider different points of view, the intense involvement of special interest groups, and in many cases the robust interest shown by ordinary citizens. This makes it challenging to come to an agreement on complicated issues, but it's necessary to keep the country from coming apart.

Congress in recent years has reached new levels of polarization and failure to address the major issues of the day. In public meetings, I often encounter a yearning for leadership to solve all our problems, usually along the lines of, "Where are the Abe Lincolns of our day?" Sadly, it's a false hope. Our problems are made by us and have to be resolved by us. Abraham Lincoln's not around any more.

We cannot look to government to solve all our problems. Indeed, we live in an era in which government faces more and more problems it cannot effectively deal with. Increasingly, citizens have to step forward and fill the void that government leaves. The relevance of the citizen increases every day as power is more diffuse, technology empowers individuals, and social media allows more citizens to express their views, vent their frustrations, and to mobilize organizations.

We may well be moving into the century of the citizen. I think of the woman who got rail-crossing signals fitted out at dangerous intersections in Indiana, after her daughter was killed at a rail crossing with no signals. Or of my neighbor, who helped build a movement to press for accurate labeling of food ingredients, because he was diabetic and had no way to know the sugar content of goods. Our communities and lives are better because of citizen action. Indeed, unless citizens boost their involvement and contributions, many of our problems will not be solved.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

This maneuver effectively endorsed the new right-wing government that would go on to crack down on Cáceres and other activists.

In the original version of her memoir *Hard Choices*, Clinton disclosed she had no intention of restoring the rightfully elected Zelaya to power.

"In the subsequent days [after the coup], I spoke with my counterparts around the hemisphere, including Secretary Espinosa in Mexico. We strategized on a plan to restore order in Honduras," Clinton wrote, "and ensure that free and fair elections could be held quickly and legitimately, which would render the question of Zelaya moot."

This is why State Department officials blocked the OAS from adopting a resolution that would have refused to recognize Honduran elections carried out under the dictatorship.

Interestingly, the paperback edition of her memoir released last year left out what happened in Honduras altogether.

Likewise, outlets like *The Washington Post*, NBC, CNN, and NPR treated the coup — and its subsequent purging of environmental, LGBT, and indigenous activists — as an entirely local matter, leaving out Clinton's role and our government's involvement. The *New York Times* briefly mentioned what happened in Honduras seven years ago and the subsequent increase in oppression. But it left out any mention of U.S. responsibility.

Cáceres wasn't killed in a vacuum. Her death is in part the result of a deliberate strategy by the United States to prop up a regressive government. The mainstream media should have mentioned our own government's role — and the role of the Democratic Party's leading presidential candidate — when it reported on her death.

Adam Johnson is a freelance writer and contributing analyst to Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting.

Hillary Clinton's grim legacy in Honduras

By Adam Johnson

Who murdered Honduran environmental activist Berta Cáceres?

While the identities of the killers remain unknown, activists, media observers, and members of the Cáceres family are blaming the increasingly reactionary and violent Honduran government.

The authorities had frequently clashed with Cáceres over her high-profile campaign to stop land grabbing and mining while defending the rights of indigenous peoples.

While Cáceres' death and the outcry of grief over it did draw some mainstream U.S. media coverage, there was a glaring problem with it: Hardly any of the articles mentioned that the brutal regime that probably killed Cáceres came to power in a U.S.-backed coup.

Here's a quick recap.

In June 2009, the Honduran military abducted the democratically elected President Manuel Zelaya at gunpoint and flew him out of the country. The United Nations, European Union, and Organization of American States (OAS) rushed to condemn his ouster.

Fifteen House Democrats joined in, sending a letter to the Obama White House insisting that the State Department "fully acknowledge that a military coup has taken place" and "follow through with the total suspension of non-humanitarian aid, as required by law."

But under Hillary Clinton's leadership, the State Department staunchly refused to do so. Emails revealed last year show that Clinton knew very well there was a military coup, but declined to add her voice to the loud objections coming from the international community.

As *The Intercept's* Lee Fang reported, Clinton attempted to use her lobbyist friend Lanny Davis to open up back channels with Roberto Micheletti, the illegitimate interim ruler military strongmen installed after the coup.

The Humpty Dumpty Party

By Emily Schwartz Greco

Is Donald Trump's presidential bid terrifying you?

Try to relax. The bullying billionaire probably can't make it to the White House.

He needs to win a majority of all voters, not just Republicans. That will be tough when nearly two out of three of Americans already abhor him. And his bid could fracture or destroy the GOP.

Barring credible reports that he's an al-Qaeda operative or widely streamed footage of the guy having sex with multiple members of the Clinton family, Trump's bound to keep winning primaries.

He might even arrive at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland with 1,237 delegates, the usual threshold for automatically becoming the party's nominee.

Thanks to number-crunching by services like PredictWise, we know that people who bet on these things were giving Trump an 80 percent chance of winning the nomination following the high-stakes Florida and Ohio primaries.

The website, which calculates political odds, was only giving him a 20 percent shot at winning the whole presidential race at that point.

That's less than the 28 percent chance the same website says the Republican Party has of claiming victory in November. In other words — if you ask pollsters and bookies — far more voters would support a Republican who isn't Trump than would support Trump in all his publicity-mongering glory.

Which is why this year's Republican National Convention promises to be the most unruly gathering of its kind in decades. Someone may become the party's nominee without winning the most delegates.

John Kasich, Marco Rubio, and Ted Cruz are eager to volunteer. When right-wing radio host Hugh Hewitt asked about this prospect in a recent debate, they all said "coronate me" in the most selfless tone they could muster.

"If we nominate Donald Trump, Hillary wins," Cruz predicted.

"Math doesn't tell the whole story in politics," Kasich said.

"I believe that at the end of this process this nation will make the right choice," Rubio declared.

Since GOP voters aren't coalescing around any of those three "anybody but Trump" stooges, and Rubio has exited the race, who else is there?

The leading "white horse" candidates are 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney and House Speaker Paul Ryan, his running mate. But Romney's ill-suited for this electoral cycle's anti-establishment vibe. And Ryan says he doesn't want the job, without ruling it out.

"I haven't given any thought to this stuff," Ryan told CNBC's John Harwood. "We'll see. Who knows."

PredictWise gives Ryan a 1 percent chance at this point of becoming the 2016 GOP nominee. That's versus 11 percent for Cruz, 8 percent for Kasich, and zip for Romney or Rubio. The website — which mashes together polling data, primary results, and online betting trends — also sees Trump as likely to run as an independent as not if someone else gets the nod.

Denying the real estate developer the nomination despite an outright win or a clear first-place finish would make his raucous base rebel. The Republican party can't count on Trump's supporters, even if he refrains from entering the race under his own brand.

And with prominent GOP leaders still rejecting their front-runner, it's looking like this no-win situation won't just leave Trump what he'd call a huge loser. It could ultimately shatter the party.

Will the Republican Party become the Humpty Dumpty of political institutions? If it has a great fall, all its operatives and all its handlers may not be able to put the GOP together again.

Columnist Emily Schwartz Greco is the managing editor of OtherWords, a non-profit national editorial service run by the Institute for Policy Studies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Street condition

Dear Editor:

I was driving home Friday during the rain storm. When I arrived on Clancey Avenue and Muller Street, the skies had opened up, and as I arrived on the stretch between Gotham and Irwingrove, I was appalled to see the street deteriorating before my very eyes.

Rock aggregate from the the busted up asphalt and road base were being bounced around in the street and sand was washing along the surface.

I have written about the poor roads in our city, and in particular this road for years. I have often wondered and written so in this paper, who is responsible for mowing the grass along the road pot holes!

The city has allowed the road to become completely pock marked with pot holes with asphalt patches substituting for the proper rehabilitation and maintenance of the road surface.

You would think that Mayor Pro Tem Vasquez, the council member for District 4, would take better pride in the streets of the district, and the city as a whole. The city wastes copious amounts of money to hire consultants to come up with a stupid D as a city logo, and to ascertain if the voters would support a raise in sales tax.

Why should we pay more taxes to have crappy roads littered with rocks and sand? If I wanted to drive on a gravel road I'd move out to the Mojave Desert.

Thomas Smith Downey

Military funding

Dear Editor:

OK! For those who like short letters and love the U.S., here it is.

I heard on Fox News (March 7) that according to Duncan Hunter (Congressman from San Diego who has served in the U.S. military) that the Navy Seals do not have enough combat rifles and have to share them. This makes me angry and should make any patriotic American angry.

In a country where free phones and free iPads and everything from eye teeth is being subsidized by our government, we can't afford or care enough to arm the Navy Seals.

If anyone reading this doesn't call (800) 220-0044 -- Senators Feinstein and Boxer, and Congresswoman Roybal-Allard) and tell them to correct this situation immediately, I'll assume you don't care about your country and those serving in the military, and don't care if we're protected.

Also, one might ask about North Korea launching missiles and what happened to the U.S. missile defense system that was developed under President Reagan's term in office.

Elsa Van Leuven Downey

Movie omits apology

Dear Editor:

In the movie "Bridge of Spies", a fact-based story by Steven Spielberg, he omitted that Nikita Krushchev demanded an apology to Russia publicly or Francis Gary Powers would stay in prison for life.

President Eisenhower did apologize on television, on a Sunday because less people watch television on Sunday.

He later stated he did not want Powers to stay in prison for not apologizing.

On the DVD which shows extras, it is stated he had to admit it happened. But he had to apologize before he could be released. The word apology is never mentioned.

Mike Sandoval Downey

What would Nancy say?

By Donald Kaul

I was late to the Nancy Reagan Admirer Society. She had arrived on the political scene, after all, on the arm of Ronald Reagan, a man I neither liked nor admired.

I thought he was a phony — a B-movie star who seemed either unwilling or unable to differentiate between movies and real life. He was fond of telling stories like that one about the wounded airman and his fatherly senior officer who, as their disabled bomber rocketed toward the earth, comforted the boy by saying, "Don't worry, son. We'll ride this down together."

I wondered how "Dutch" could have known the final words of the officer, who presumably died in the subsequent crash. Years later I found the answer. The scene was in a World War II movie.

He was always doing things like that, copping a scene here or a line there from an old movie and making it his own.

And Nancy Reagan was part and parcel of that act — a clotheshorse whose main job was to sit slightly behind her husband at speeches, gazing at him admiringly while nodding at appropriate moments.

In the years since those early days, my opinion of both Reagans has changed.

He never shed his willful ignorance of most matters, but he had a certain charm. And he excelled in his greatest role, that of the grievously wounded president wisecracking with emergency room doctors as they fought to save his life after he was shot.

And I realize now that Nancy was far more than an adoring spouse. She was a silent partner who was always there to give him support and advice.

And after his presidency, when he was being assailed with Alzheimer's, she became his rock.

Anyone who's had the experience of caring for a loved one suffering from the disease knows what an all-consuming, pitiless task it is. She endured it bravely and uncomplainingly for 10 years.

I don't buy the notion that Reagan was a great president. Yes, he made some positive contributions. But he also convinced Republicans that the way to prosperity was to allow the government to spend lavishly on things like the military so long as it didn't tax. We live with the burden of that malign idea even now.

Nancy Reagan, however, was one of the great first ladies. All in all, she was a noble, even heroic figure, and she deserves all the accolades now coming to her as the nation mourns her passing.

And she must have been appalled by the floating food fight at most of this year's Republican presidential debates.

Her beloved husband was the author of what he called the Eleventh Commandment: Thou shalt not speak ill of another Republican.

But the Republicans have opened up their big guns on the Donald Trump bandwagon, hoping to derail his glide to the nomination. And he's returned fire.

Establishment Republicans seem to think they can deny Trump the number of delegates needed for an automatic, first-ballot victory and to take him to a floor fight at the GOP convention.

It's a hair-brained scheme.

Do they really think that if Trump is denied a victory he won at the ballot box by a parliamentary trick, his supporters will just acquiesce and support the hand-picked Republican nominee?

The Reagan era is officially over, usurped by the age of Trump.

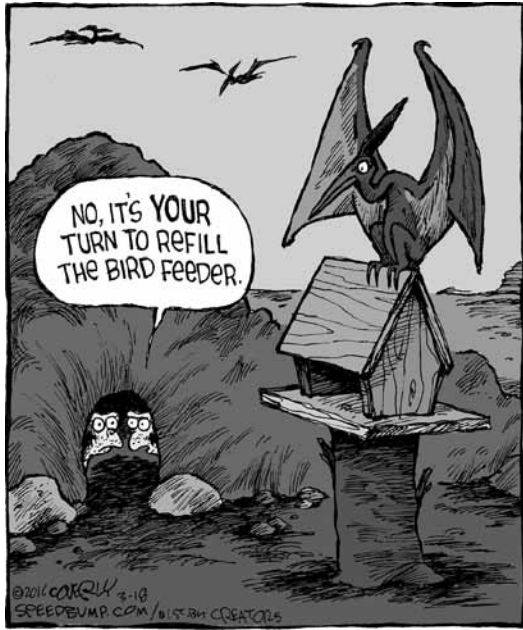
OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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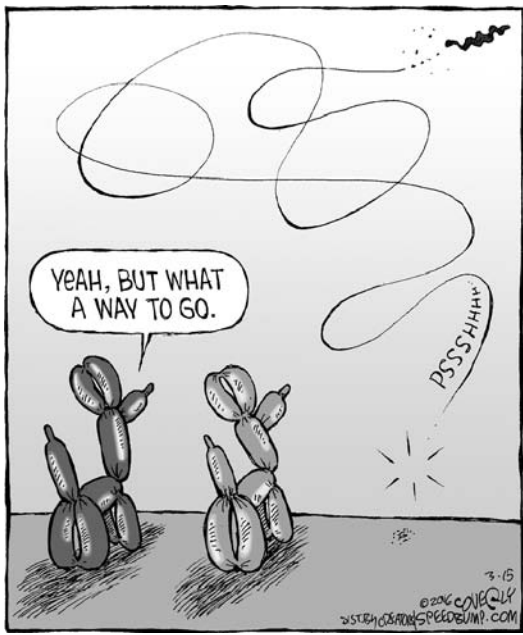
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

EVENTS FOR MARCH

Saturday, March 19: Bunny Breakfast, Golden Park, 9 a.m.

CITY MEETINGS

- 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm: Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall.
- 1st Tue., 4:00pm.: Recreation and Community Services Commission, Council Chamber, City Hall.
- 1st Tue., 6:00pm: Emergency Preparedness Committee, at Fire Station No. 1, 12222 Paramount Blvd.
- 2nd & 4th Tue., 6:30pm: City Council, Council Chamber.
- 3rd Tue., 6:30pm: Library Advisory Board, at Downey City Library.
- 4th Mon., 5 pm: Green Task Force, at City Hall.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

MONDAYS

- 7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 2, at Downey United Methodist Church, call 869-6478.
- 2nd Mon., 11 am: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, call 304-3439
- 4th Mon., 7:30 pm: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

TUESDAYS

- 9:30 am: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, call Paul Sheets at 714-618-1142.
- 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.
- 12 pm: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call William Medina 413-3477.
- 6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, call Karika Austin 260-3856.
- 7 pm: Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo, at 11231 Rives Ave., call 923-1932.
- 7 pm: Healing Room and Prayer, at Desert Reign Church 11610 Lakewood Blvd, call 861-6011.
- 1st Tues., 7:30 am: Gangs Out of Downey, at City Hall training room.
- 2nd Tues., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 905-7103.
- 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 pm: Sertoma Club, at Cafe 'N Stuff, call 927-6438.
- 2nd Tues., 6 pm: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, call 425-7936.
- 3rd Tues., 6:30 pm: Community Emergency Response Team meeting, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
- 3rd Tues., 6 pm: American Legion #270, at Sizzler Restaurant, call 544-0372.
- Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza 652-4399

WEDNESDAYS

- 7 am: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
- 1 pm: Women's Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call Marie Puch at 869-4366.
- 7 pm: Out Post 132 Royal Rangers, at Desert Reign Church, call 928-8000.
- 1st Wed., 11 am: Woman's Club of Downey, call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.
- 1st Wed., 11:30 am: Downey Coordinating Council, Community Center, call Cindy 803-4048.
- 1st Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, call 928-3028.
- 2nd Wed., 11:30 am: Christian Women's Club, at Los Amigos Country Club, call Helen 864-7319.
- 2nd Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, call 928-4132.
- 3rd Wed.,: Downey Dog Obedience Club, at Apollo Park, call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
- 3rd Wed., 10 am: Los Angeles County Quilters Guild, at Women's Club, call (310) 604-0725.
- 3rd Wed., 10 am: OLPH Women's Guild, at OLPH School Auditorium, contact Armida Lugo, (562) 715-6142.
- 3rd Wed., 6 pm: American Business Women's Association, Rio Hondo Country Club, call Barbara 863-2192.
- 4th Wed., 12:00 pm: Retired Federal Employees, at Barbara J Riley Center, call 943-5513.
- 4th Wed., 7:30 pm: US Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 5-10, First Presbyterian Church, call Brian 419-5420.
- Wed.& Fri., 10:15 am: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, call 904-7223

THURSDAYS

- 7:30 am: Connections Networking, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.
- 7:30 am.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.
- 9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.
- 12 pm: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
- 12 pm: Optimist Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center.
- 6:30 pm: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., call 862-4176.
- 7 pm: Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America, at First Baptist Church, call 776-3388.
- 1st Thurs., 12:00 pm: Downey Christian & Professional Luncheon, Sizzler's Restaurant, call James 310-1335.
- 1st Thurs., 7:30 pm.: The Downey Amateur Radio Club, at First Baptist Church room 120.
- 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.
- 2nd & 4th Thurs., 6 pm: Lions Club, at Coco's, call Lenora (310) 283-9825.
- 3rd Thurs., 4 pm: Public Works Committee, at City Hall Training Room.
- 3rd Thurs., 6 pm: Downey CIPAC, at Sizzler's Restaurant, call Rich Tuttle 413-6045.
- 4th Thurs., 10 am: Assistance League, at Casa De Parley Johnson, call 869-0232.
- 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center, call 862-2777.

FRIDAYS

- 7:30 am: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618.
- 3rd Fri., 8:30 am: Women's "In His Glory" Ministry at Los Amigos C. C. 622-3785.

SATURDAYS

- 9 am: Farmers Market, Downey Avenue at 3rd Street, call 904-7246.
- 4th Sat., 12:00 pm: Downey Arts Coalition, email contact@downeyarts.org.

On This Day...

March 17, 1905: Franklin D. Roosevelt married his distant cousin, Eleanor Roosevelt, in New York City. President Theodore Roosevelt, FDR's fifth cousin, gave his niece away.

1959: The Dalai Lama fled Tibet for India in the wake of a failed uprising by Tibetans against Chinese rule.

2005: Baseball players Rafael Palmeiro and Sammy Sosa testified before Congress that they hadn't used steroids; Mark McGwire refused to say whether he had.

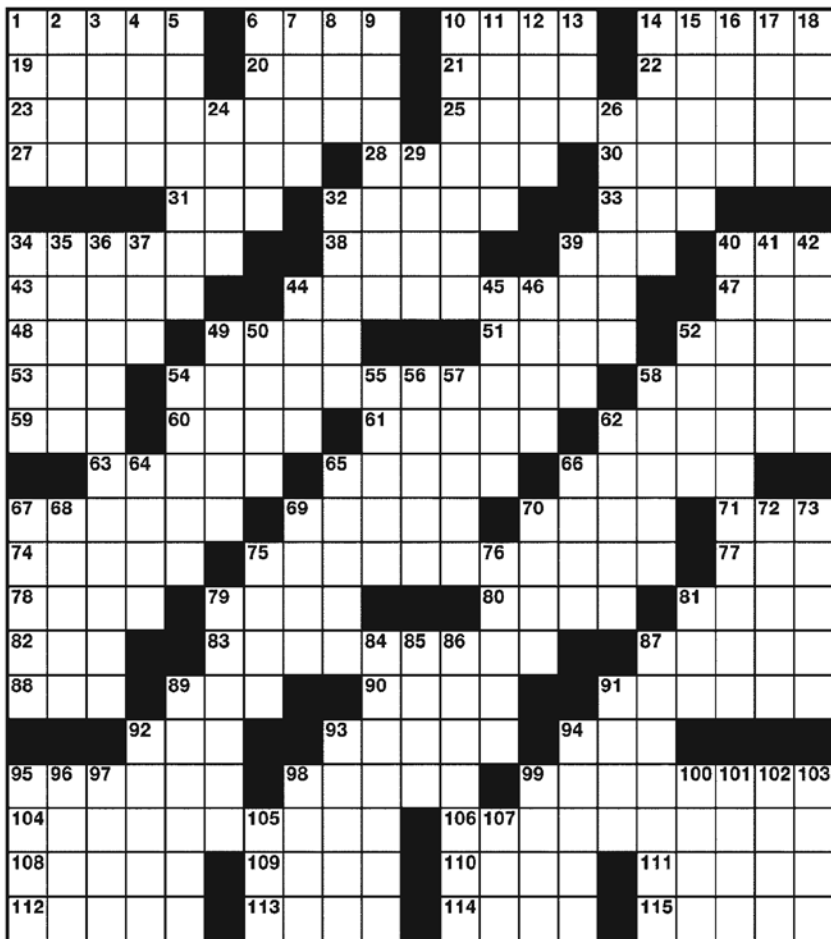
BIRTHDAYS: Actor Kurt Russell (65), actor Gary Sinise (61), actor Rob Lowe (52), singer Billy Corgan (49), R&B singer Tamar Braxton (39), wrestler Samoa Joe (37), reality star Rob Kardashian (29) and musician Hozier (26).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
CAPITAL MENU: With an ingredient in common
by Fred Piscop

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | |
| 1 Legal proceeding | 1 Quick haircut | 6 Lifts with difficulty |
| 6 Be optimistic | 2 Many an Olympics event | 7 Buffoons |
| 10 Hoof sound | 3 Midmonth time | 8 ___-K school |
| 14 Captures | 4 Gives a boost to | 9 Ballot caster |
| 19 Shower accessory | 5 Gym array | 10 Habitual |
| 20 Spouse of a countess | | 11 Faithful follower |
| 21 Lie low | | 12 Bettors' figures |
| 22 Put up with | | 13 Chest muscle, for short |
| 23 Summer beverage | | 14 No-nos |
| 25 Side dish with sauerbraten | | 15 Monastery head |
| 27 Campers' dinnerware | | 16 Cars from Korea |
| 28 Drain delays | | 17 Brink |
| 30 Ease up on | | 18 In public view |
| 31 Right-angle shapes | | 24 Some portrait paints |
| 32 Cherry center | | 26 Brass and bronze |
| 33 Plethora | | 29 Tennyson title |
| 34 Highland Games poles | | 32 Wood finish |
| 38 Actress Spelling | | 34 Chew noisily |
| 39 Brillo alternative | | 35 Half of A/V |
| 40 Truck compartment | | 36 Stuffing ingredient |
| 43 Hampers the value of | | 37 UFO crew |
| 44 Lollipops, e.g. | | 39 Neighbor of Neb. |
| 47 Feel badly about | | 40 Summer side dish |
| 48 Wordsworth works | | 41 Some babysitters |
| 49 Spiced tea | | 42 "Heavens to" woman |
| 51 Predisposition | | 44 Take by truck |
| 52 County bordering London | | 45 Treat poorly |
| 53 Farrow of film | | 46 "Well done!" |
| 54 Burger meat | | 49 Symbol of sovereignty |
| 58 Campus clubs | | 50 Sanctified |
| 59 110 Across piece | | 52 Mr. Kringle |
| 60 Somersault | | 54 Five-star |
| 61 Wipe clean | | 55 Red Halloween costume |
| 62 Not very sturdy | | 56 Whodunit deed |
| 63 Taffylike | | 57 Couldn't stand |
| 65 Online party notice | | 58 Risky venture |
| 66 Poker play | | 62 Stood up to |
| 67 Mrs. Rocky Balboa | | 64 Empege |
| 69 Thin mud | | 65 Pompeo of Grey's Anatomy |

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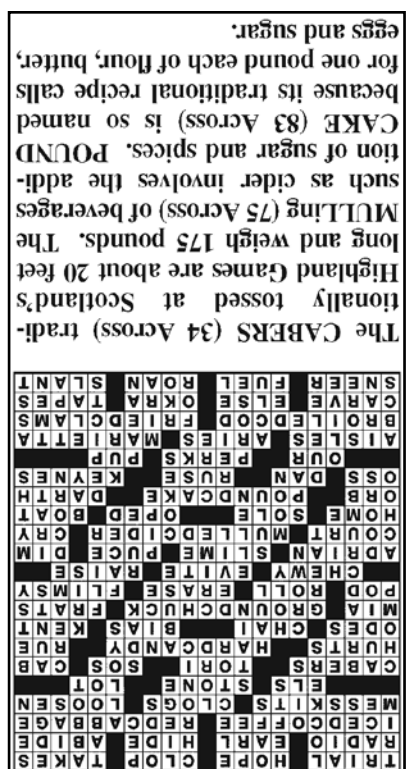
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.



Downey Library's March auction items

DOWNEY – The Friends of the Downey City Library holds monthly silent auctions to raise money for library programs. This month's items include:

“Books of Crochet Patterns” (7 books – Big Book of Animals, Animals Amigurumi, A-Zoo-For-You, Huggable Crochet, Zoomigurumi, Edwards Menagerie, Huge & Huggable Mochimochi);

“Three CD Sets” (music from The Very Best Musicals, The Very Best Opera, Spanish guitar music);

“The Ship-Retracing Captain Cook's Endeavour Voyage” (the story of a 2001 crew sailing a reproduction

of Cook's ship, retracing his famous voyage);

“Vintage Style” (tells you and shows you how to get into buying, wearing and maintaining a vintage wardrobe);

“The Poems of Marianne Moore” (here are the poems of a woman thought by some to be America's greatest poet, including more than 100 previously uncollected);

“Party Cakes for Kids” (fun and colorful birthday cakes with step-by-step instructions and lots of pictures);

“The Bible as History” (archaeology and science delve 4000

years into the past to document the Bible as history; a revised edition of a book that sold more than 10 million copies);

“Dr. Seuss (28 books)” (28 of the many loveable and funny books of Dr. Seuss-used but in good condition);

“Springsteen” (two books capture Springsteen in all stages of his long career; lot of photos from his performances and candid shots from throughout his life);

“The Holy Bible-With Illustrations from the Vatican Library” (the overall design of this Bible is based on the masterpiece

of fifteenth-century Italian bookmaking, the Vatican Library's incomparable two-volume Urbino Bible, completed in 1478);

“South by Southeast” (this trip from Chesapeake Bay to Key West is narrated by Walter Cronkite and painted by Ray Ellis; lots of history and plenty of local color’)

Books have opening bids from \$5-\$15 and are on display in the library lobby. Bids can be made through noon, Saturday, March 26th, on cards in the Friend's Bookstore located in the young adult section of the library.

Students make APU dean's list

DOWNEY – Six Downey residents attending Azusa Pacific University have made the Dean's List.

The students include Amanda Avila (psychology), Nicole Dobson (nursing), Maisie Madrid (psychology), Anais Makasjian (global studies), Elvis Santillan (allied health) and Osvaldo Zarate (commercial music).

Is your tax preparer qualified?

If you're hiring a tax preparer this year, how do you know that person is qualified to do your taxes?

You can talk to the person, ask questions, learn about their approach, review their experience, and check references.

But one of the key factors to consider is their credentials – independent verification of their ability that can give you confidence that they will do a good job.

Unlike other industries, there is no national licensing requirement to become a paid tax preparer. Anyone can claim to be a tax preparer and charge taxpayers for completing and filing tax returns. That's why it's so important to find preparers with credentials.

Here's a guide to common credentials that demonstrate a high level of competency in tax preparation:

Certified Public Accountant (CPA): This is a widely recognized credential for tax preparers and accountants. Each state has its own Board of Accountancy responsible for licensing CPAs who practice in that state, and each board issues

rules that govern what a person must do to become a licensed CPA. CPAs are authorized to represent taxpayers before the IRS.

Enrolled Agent (EA): An enrolled agent is a person who has earned the privilege of representing taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service by passing a three-part comprehensive IRS test covering individual and business tax returns. Enrolled agent status is the highest credential the IRS awards.

Tax Attorneys: Tax attorneys are lawyers who specialize in tax law. They can handle complex, technical, and legal issues. Tax attorneys are authorized to represent taxpayers before the IRS.

ACAT Credentials: Tax return preparers and accountants can voluntarily earn credentials from the Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation (ACAT), a National Society of Accountants affiliated organization, to demonstrate their expertise in taxation, accounting and business matters. Preparers must pass rigorous exams, adhere to a code of ethics, and meet experience and continuing education requirements to earn these

credentials. They include:

Accredited Tax Preparer (ATP): These practitioners have a thorough knowledge of the existing tax code and the preparation of individual tax returns. Their expertise covers comprehensive 1040 issues, including supporting schedules and self-employed returns, and ethics.

Accredited Business Accountant/Advisor (ABA): ACAT's designation for Accreditation in Accountancy, the ABA is a prestigious professional accounting credential that demonstrates to clients, potential clients and employers that the credential holder has a thorough knowledge and proficiency in financial accounting, financial reporting, financial statement preparation, taxation, managerial accounting, business law, and ethics for small- to medium-sized businesses.

Accredited Tax Advisor (ATA): These practitioners can handle sophisticated tax-planning issues, including planning for owners of closely held businesses, planning for

the highly compensated, choosing qualified retirement plans, and performing estate tax planning. Their expertise covers tax returns for individuals, business entities, fiduciaries, trusts and estates, as well as tax planning, tax consulting and ethics.

The IRS has an Annual Filing Season Program (AFSP) which recognizes and encourages the voluntary efforts of unenrolled tax return preparers to increase their knowledge and improve their filing season competency through continuing education. AFSP Record of Completion Holders must meet annual educational requirements set by the IRS and either take and pass an annual tax refresher course or have passed other IRS recognized state or national competency tests such as the ACAT Accredited Business Accountant and Accredited Tax Preparer exams.

5 tips to tackle your taxes

1. Know your tax bracket: Each bracket of your income is taxed at a different rate. As you make more money, a higher percentage may be owed in taxes. Check out this infographic on decoding your tax bracket to see how it works.

2. Know your timeline: The regular tax return filing deadline is April 15. In general, experts recommend filing tax returns earlier rather than later. The earlier you file, the better your chances of avoiding tax-related identity theft, a crime that's on the rise. Plus, if you're owed a refund, you will get it sooner.

Additional tip: If you think you need extra time, you can file an extension giving you until October 15. But, if you owe the government money, you still need to pay your estimated taxes in full by April 15 to avoid penalties and interest.

3. Get familiar with the terms and paperwork: Sometime in January or February, you should have received a W-2 form from your employer(s). With information on your wages, tips and tax withholdings, this form may contain much of what you need to complete the bulk of your tax return.

If you earned interest on a savings account or you have income from an investment account, you should also have received a 1099 form from your bank or your broker showing just how much interest, dividends, or capital gains or losses your account has accrued over the past year.

The three main personal income tax forms are the 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ. The simplest of these and a good option if you have a fairly simple financial picture is the 1040EZ. The 1040 and 1040A forms are a bit more complex but offer additional tax credit options if you qualify.

4. Decide how to file: The easiest way to prepare and file your tax return (and to process your refund) is through IRS e-file. E-filing is easily available for those who file on their own or use online programs or tax professionals to prepare their returns. If your adjusted gross income is \$60,000 or less, you may be eligible for free online tax-filing services.

5. Plan year-round: Whether you're filing independently or working with a tax professional, staying on top of related paperwork

all year long will make your life easier during tax season. If you plan to itemize deductions, you probably want to keep receipts for things like charitable donations, job expenses and medical bills.

You should keep your paperwork after you file, too. The IRS recommends keeping records for three years.

Tips provided by BetterMoneyHabits.com on behalf of Bank of America.

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Cesar Macedo is a recognized financial advisor and member of LPL Financial. His professional career has spanned over 18 years where he has helped transition hundreds of investment clients into retirement. Cesar joined LPL Financial in 2007.

Cesar is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, receiving a Bachelors degree in Economics. He received his Personal Financial Planner Certificate from U.C. Irvine and his Certified Financial Planning designation from the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards in 2004. In addition he has earned his Chartered Life Underwriter designation from The American College. He earned his MBA from Cal State Long Beach. His professional affiliations include the Financial Services Institute.

Cesar's hobbies include reading and golf. Cesar is a member of various chamber of commerce organizations.

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DOWNEY'S CONNECTION TO TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA

By Karen Mazzeo
Contributor

DOWNEY – What if I were to tell you that Downey, Calif. has a direct connection with Tombstone, Ariz.? No, I'm not speaking of the famed gunslinger Wyatt Earp but rather an ordinary gentleman named Alfred, and his daughter Emilie, who once called Downey and Tombstone Ariz., home.

Alfred A. Ashman was born in London, Middlesex, England on Oct. 30, 1842. In 1861 at

the age of 18, Alfred served in the Royal Navy; by 1867 he had immigrated to America. By the early 1870's he was living in Rancho Los Nietos known today as Downey, Calif. He married and on Dec. 6, 1875, became a father to a daughter they named Emilie.

Whom Alfred married is unknown but not long after Emilie's birth the two divorced. That same year Alfred decided to head to Tombstone, however, he needed someone to take care of his four-year-old daughter

so he left Emilie with Louisa Paulsell and her daughters. A widower, Louisa had settled in Downey around 1873. Whether the Paulsell family members were relatives or simply good friends, Alfred felt comfortable enough to leave Emilie in Louisa's custody.

Louisa cared for Emilie as if she were her own daughter. When she turned 5 she sent Emilie to one of the local schools in Downey where she made many friends including a boy named Daniel R. Hawkins who would one day marry her.

In 1885, Alfred returned home and took his 10-year-old daughter Emilie back home with him to Tombstone. A good student who was placed numerous times on the "perfect list," she made many new friends who included Lizzie Wittig, Minnie Bauer, Eddie Tarbell, Cora Goodrich, and Herbert Schoenfeld just to name a few.

Emilie settled in quite nicely; she studied, played and went to parties but regrettably her stay in Tombstone was short-lived. In 1887, she was up-rooted once again when Alfred took her back to Downey. She returned home to the Paulsells and enrolled in school while Alfred, on the other hand, headed to Los Angeles where he opened an express wagon business.

Soon after in 1888, Alfred considered making Los Angeles his permanent residence so he headed to Tombstone in hope of selling some of his property that included six houses as well

as ¼ block of land located at the corner of Third and Bruce Streets for the sum of \$1,000..

Alfred remained in Los Angeles until 1889 when he decided to return to Tombstone permanently. He ran for city council and won, opened and managed the Tombstone Gas Company and owned several mines in the area.

Emilie on the other hand remained in Downey with the Paulsell family where she finished school and graduated in June of 1890 along with her school mate Daniel Hawkins. She then worked as a part-time bookkeeper for the Keystone Milling Company while attending the Woodbury Business College majoring in telegraph skills. In June of 1892 she graduated as one of 76 students and was the only one to graduate in telegraph.

Emilie experienced heartache less than a year later when on March 23, 1893 her surrogate mother Louisa Paulsell passed away. For someone who regarded Louisa as a mother it was a very sad and lonely day for her. After her funeral Louisa's remains were escorted to the Downey District Cemetery where she was buried alongside her husband Newton who had passed away on April 4, 1876.

That fall Emilie enrolled in the Los Angeles Normal School and remained until June of 1894. She decided to move to Tombstone that summer so, grabbing the train in Los Angeles, she rode to the little "town too tough to die."

Alfred, of course, was pleased to have his only child back home with him but her stay was short-lived. Around the latter part of 1895 Emilie and Alfred headed back to Downey after Emilie had received a proposal of marriage

from Daniel. Father and daughter arrived back in Los Angeles and on Jan. 9, 1896, Emilie Ashman became Emilie Hawkins.

The newlyweds moved to Downey where Daniel worked as a salesman and around 1903 or thereabouts they moved to Redlands, Calif. and bought a home located on Fourth Street.

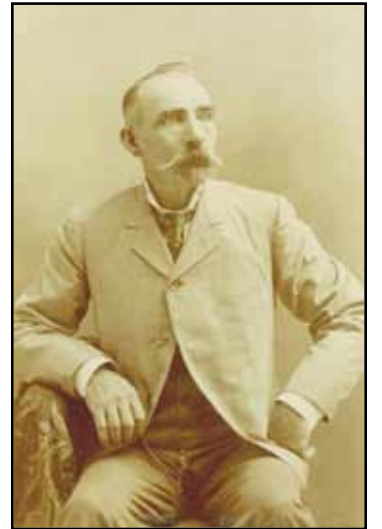
Redlands was most definitely no stranger to Emilie as she had visited the city during the winter of 1893. Redlands in many ways was similar to Tombstone when the summertime temperatures could become quite uncomfortable. Nevertheless, Emilie loved the city. Redlands was a little closer to Tombstone which allowed Alfred the chance to make many more trips to visit his daughter whom he missed very much.

His visit in July of 1906 would be his last. After spending a month with Emilie and Daniel, Alfred returned home to Tombstone in late August. It was back to work for the old timer of Tombstone who, after being away for so long, had quite a bit of work to catch up on.

Soon after his return he caught a cold and feeling poorly, he headed over to the doctor in town who told him he had pneumonia. Alfred lay sick in bed while any hope for recovery diminished with each passing day. He died on Sept. 30, 1906 at the age of 64.

Upon hearing the news of her father's death, Emilie, the devoted and loving daughter that she was, arranged to have his body sent back to Redlands where she had him buried in Hillside Memorial Park.

A resident of Redlands for approximately 55 years, Emilie lived there until her death at the



Alfred Ashman

age of 83 on Dec. 23, 1958. After her death, Daniel moved to Santa Ana where he passed away on June 12, 1962. His body was sent back to Redlands where he was buried next to his beloved Emilie.

It's nice to know that it does not take a famous person such as Wyatt Earp to make an incredible mark upon history. There have been so many people who have faced incredible odds to help shape the towns and cities that many live and take pride in. It's their lives and the history they engraved upon this land that should never be forgotten.

So the next time you're driving through Downey take a moment and remember Alfred, Emilie and Louisa – three people who have directly connected a little town in the Wild West called Tombstone to the City of Downey – the place you call home.

Karen Mazzeo has been a contributing writer to the Tombstone Times in Arizona for the past four years. She currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two children.

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**Recycle for Downey,
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The student artwork below was selected from among 250 environmental artwork entries submitted to the City by local 5th grade students. A new student artwork winner will be featured each month.

"Don't be a drip! Recycle used motor oil and filters."
Aida Zelaya Gallatin Elementary School Mrs. Ackley's Class

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The 20th annual Arc Walk for Independence took place last Saturday at Stonewood Center.

The event is the signature fundraiser of The Arc - Los Angeles & Orange Counties, which serves people with intellectual disabilities. Phillip Palmer, morning news anchor for KABC-7, was emcee.

Photos by John Zander

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- MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2 PG-13 Thu: 7:30, 10:00
- THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT PG-13 Fri & Sat: (11:00, 12:20, 1:45, 3:15, 4:35, 6:10, 7:25, 9:05, 10:15; Sun to Wed: (11:00, 12:20, 1:45, 3:15, 4:35, 6:10, 7:25, 9:05, 9:55; Thu: (11:00, 12:20, 1:45, 3:15, 4:35, 6:10, 7:25, 8:00, 9:05, 10:15
- THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT PG-13 BB Fri & Sat: 8:00, 10:50; Sun to Wed: 8:00
- THE YOUNG MESIAH PG-13 Fri to Wed: (11:05, 1:50, 7:15; Thu: (11:05, 1:50)
- MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN PG BB (11:00, 1:40, 4:25), 7:00, 9:40
- 10 CLOVERFIELD LANE PG-13 Fri: (12:00, 2:40, 5:20), 8:00, 10:45; Sat: (12:00, 2:40, 5:20), 8:00, 10:05, 10:45; Sun to Wed: (12:00, 2:40, 5:20), 8:00, 10:05; Thu: (12:00, 2:40, 5:20), 8:00, 10:45
- THE BROTHERS GRIMM PG-13 Fri & Sat: (4:35, 9:55; Sun to Wed: (4:35, 10:15; Thu: (4:35)
- LONDON HAS FALLEN PG-13 Fri to Wed: (11:50, 2:25, 4:55), 7:40, 10:15; Thu: (11:50, 2:25, 4:55)
- ZOOTOPIA PG Fri: (11:05, 1:35, 1:35, 2:10, 4:15, 4:50), 7:05, 7:30, 9:45, 10:05; Sat to Wed: (11:05, 1:35, 2:10, 4:15, 4:50), 7:05, 7:30, 9:45
- ZOOTOPIA PG BB Fri to Wed: (12:05, 2:45, 5:20); Thu: (11:05, 1:35, 1:35, 2:10, 2:45, 4:15, 4:50, 5:20), 7:30, 10:05
- DEADPOOL PG-13 Fri to Mon: (11:35, 2:05, 4:45), 7:20, 10:00; Tue: (11:35, 2:05, 4:45, 10:15; Wed: (11:35, 2:05, 4:45), 7:20, 10:00; Thu: (11:35, 2:05)

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Attorney gets 5 years in prison for defrauding clients

NEWPORT BEACH – An attorney who pleaded guilty to wire fraud and tax evasion charges – and who prosecutors say defrauded a dozen clients out of at least \$8 million in an investment fraud scheme – was sentenced recently to 63 months in federal prison.

Stephen Young Kang, 46, of Newport Beach, was sentenced by United States District Judge George H. Wu, who rejected the defendant's request for a three-year sentence.

During the Feb. 29 sentencing hearing, several of Kang's victims described in detail the devastating financial and emotional impact of the fraud scheme. Two of the victims commented that Kang's fraud led to the "darkest years" of their lives.

Kang pleaded guilty in November to two counts of wire fraud and one count of tax evasion. When he pleaded guilty, Kang admitted to orchestrating a three-year-long scheme that defrauded clients who had engaged the attorney to provide legal or investment services.

Prosecutors said that Kang used his position as an attorney to gain the trust of his clients, and then Kang bilked them in a Ponzi-like scheme in which none of the money designated for investments was actually invested.

Kang specifically admitted that he defrauded a food distribution company, Ottagi America, Inc., which had hired him to help the company purchase properties near its distribution center in Gardena. Ottagi wire transferred funds to a trust account in Houston, Texas, to be used for the purchase of the properties.

But Kang admitted that he did not use the money to invest in properties. Rather, Kang admitted that he caused the funds to be transferred to other bank accounts that he controlled. Prosecutors argued in court that Kang used a substantial portion of Ottagi's funds to pay for personal expenses and business ventures, as well as to make partial payment to other victims.

Kang also admitted that he defrauded a Texas victim out of \$500,000 in 2013 by falsely representing that he would invest the \$500,000 in a company called Pegasus Capital Ltd., LLC. When the victim demanded repayment, Kang agreed in September 2015 – which was after he was initially indicted in this fraud case – to provide the victim with a "first priority security interest" in a term life insurance policy.

Kang, however, failed to disclose to the victim that the life insurance was worth only \$250,000, that Kang's wife was the sole beneficiary of the policy, that the policy was first applied for and approved on August 28, 2015, and that defendant had not yet made any payments on that policy. Prosecutors said that Kang offered to sign over the exact same life insurance policy to three other victims.

"Attorneys must be held to a higher standard of conduct, because their clients heavily rely on their advice," said United States Attorney Eileen M. Decker. "This defendant chose his own personal gain over the interests of his clients, and they suffered greatly as a result. This crime and the resulting harm warranted the significant sentence imposed by the Court today."

"The defendant conned his victims, in part, by using the veneer of his legal practice to lend legitimacy to his scheme," said David Bowdich, the Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office.

In relation to the tax evasion count, Kang admitted that he received more than \$1.5 million in income in 2013, but he willfully attempted to evade the assessment of income tax by failing to file a federal income tax return for calendar year 2013 and using corporate accounts to conceal the income he received.

Kang was ordered to return to court on March 28 for a hearing to determine the amount of restitution he will be ordered to pay to his victims.

Jury convicts man of quadruple murder

VALLEY VILLAGE – A 32-year-old Los Angeles man was convicted Tuesday of killing four people at a Valley Village eatery during a memorial gathering in 2010.

A jury of nine men and three women found Nerses Arthur Galstyan guilty of two counts of first-degree murder with the special circumstance of multiple murders to be true.

Prosecutors are seeking death when the same jury returns on March 28 to begin the penalty phase of the trial.

Galstyan was convicted of sending a volley of 50 rounds into a Mediterranean restaurant on Riverside Drive on April 3, 2010, that killed Hayk Yegnanyan, 25; Vardan Tofalyan, 31; Sarkis Karadjian, 26; and Harut Baburyan, 28.

In addition to two counts of first-degree murder, Galstyan was found guilty of one count of second-degree murder, one count of voluntary manslaughter, two counts of attempted voluntary manslaughter and one count of mayhem. Jurors also found that Galstyan personally used a handgun.

Deputy District Attorneys Jonathan Chung and Thomas Trainor are prosecuting the case.

Galstyan was attending a memorial celebration for a friend who died in a traffic accident when he got into a dispute with several acquaintances inside the restaurant, prosecutors said. Galstyan left the restaurant, got the gun from his car, walked back into the restaurant and opened fire.

DA files lawsuit against local companies

LA MIRADA – A civil lawsuit has been filed jointly by several district attorney's offices in California against two companies for allegedly failing to comply with state law and permanent court injunctions.

The complaint was filed on March 7 against Corona-based TRM Manufacturing, Inc., and United Polymers, Inc., located in La Mirada, for false advertising, unfair business practices and violation of prior injunctions.

Also named in the lawsuit are Ted R. Moore, president and CEO of both corporations, and Ted R. Moore II, TRM's vice president.

The companies, which sell and distribute plastic products, were subject to a permanent injunction in 2013 after thousands of its packages were mislabeled, violating the state's Fair Packaging and Labeling Act. Additional injunctions had been filed previously against TRM for similar violations.

The complaint alleges the defendants continue to make misrepresentations with their products, do not adhere to state law and violate terms of the injunctions.

In 2014 and 2015, inspections conducted by state and county officials uncovered numerous new violations, forcing thousands of packages to be removed from store shelves.

Long Beach man accused of human trafficking

LONG BEACH – A 27-year-old man was charged last Friday with trafficking a minor for sex and sexually abusing the teenage girl for nearly a month.

Patrick Lamont Harris allegedly met a 15-year-old girl last month and committed lewd acts on the teen from Feb. 15 to March 9.

Additionally, prosecutors allege that Harris began to pimp the teenager on a website. He also allegedly rented a hotel room and drove the girl to locations so that she could perform sex acts with men, prosecutors said.

On March 9, investigators conducted a sting where they came into contact with the 15-year-old girl and learned about Harris's involvement with her. He was subsequently located and arrested in connection with the crimes.

OC man faces federal charges for pointing laser at police helicopter

SANTA ANA – A Santa Ana man faces up to five years in prison for pointing a laser at a police helicopter.

Mario Deleon Lopez, 35, was arrested by FBI agents on March 3 on federal charges of intentionally aiming a laser pointer at a law enforcement helicopter.

Lopez was named in an indictment returned on Feb. 24 by a federal grand jury. The indictment alleges one count of aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft, a felony offense that carries a penalty of up to five years in federal prison.

On the evening of Nov. 14, 2015, tactical flight deputies with the Orange County Sheriff's Department were patrolling over Santa Ana when their helicopter was struck with the beam of a laser, according to investigators. The pilots reported that their aircraft was struck multiple times with a green laser that illuminated the helicopter's cockpit.

Sheriff's deputies, along with the Santa Ana Police Department, tracked the source of the laser to a suspect located in the backyard of a residence in Santa Ana. Police on the ground responded to the residence and took Lopez into custody.

Lopez subsequently posted bail and was released from local custody while the federal investigation continued and culminated with the filing of the indictment.

"The conduct charged in this indictment placed both the Sheriff's Deputies and innocent bystanders on the ground in danger," said United States Attorney Eileen M. Decker. "Had the pilot lost control of the helicopter, lives could have been lost. Consequently, we take these cases very seriously and will continue to prosecute those who commit this crime."

Sex offender sentenced for committing rape while out on bail

TORRANCE – A Torrance man was sentenced last week to 58 years to life in state prison for raping a woman while he was out on bail on another case, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Frank Dunnick said Guy Allen Dietz, 45, was convicted on Jan. 28 of forcible rape, forcible oral copulation, sexual penetration by foreign object, rape by threat to arrest or deport, oral copulation under threat to arrest and sexual penetration under threat to intimidation.

The sentence handed down by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Steven Van Sicklen of the Torrance Branch includes enhancements for committing the offenses while being out on bail on another felony case, a prior strike conviction for rape and a prior prison commitment.

At the time of the crime, Dietz had been out on bail for failing to register as a sex offender. He also has a 1998 rape conviction and two drug-related convictions in 2005 and 2010.

On Aug. 28, 2014, the victim was raped by Dietz at his home in Torrance, the prosecutor said. Before the attack, the convicted sex offender presented a badge and handcuffs claiming to be an undercover police officer, the prosecutor added.

According to court testimony, the woman attempted to escape during the attack, but Dietz struck her to prevent her from leaving. When the victim eventually escaped from the house she called police.

Dietz fled the scene and the next day led police on a high-speed pursuit which ended with his arrest in Monterey County, according to evidence presented at the trial.



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What to know when renting property for a vacation

If you've thought about renting property on vacation, keep in mind that it's become a lot easier – and in some ways, harder.

Much of the vacation rental process has moved online, making the process simpler and more accessible. Also, the so-called "sharing economy" has allowed more people in the lodging business renting rooms and dwellings. In fact, a 2015 study by consulting firm EY notes that in one year alone, the world's dominant online room-sharing company – less than 10 years old – added more listings to its inventory than the largest global hotel companies added rooms during the same period.

So vacation rentals are easier than ever, right? Possibly, but you still need to protect your money against disappointing choices and possible fraud. Before committing to any kind of property rental or property-sharing vacation, do your homework. Here are five tips to get started:

1. Evaluate your destination fully. The busiest tourist destinations generally have the broadest range of lodging options – from luxury hotels to hostels. Vacation rentals are usually a happy medium, located in desirable neighborhoods with a homey feel and kitchen availability that can make a stay a lot cheaper. However, every destination has certain ways of handling vacation rentals. While the newer generation of property-sharing companies might be active here, evaluate traditional options like vacation property brokers and listing services to compare prices and offerings. Also, search the name and address of the vacation property you're considering with the words "vacation

rental scam" to see if any indication of fraud, crime or other trouble turns up.

2. Check local short-term rental laws. While it's generally easier to do this domestically than abroad, make sure the kind of vacation rental you're considering is legal. Check recent news clips or contact a local tourism bureau or chamber of commerce to see whether your target municipality doesn't have legal or zoning restrictions on your chosen rental.

3. Verify the renter personally and with local experts and agencies. If your renter is reputable, he or she should be more than willing to have a detailed conversation about the property, costs, financial arrangements and onsite rules – including deadbolt locks you can control if you are renting rooms

within their residence. Make time to call the local tourism bureau, chamber of commerce, or the local chapter of the Better Business Bureau.

4. Check for any details about the renter or the property. Ask the renter for referrals from previous renters, if possible, and consider the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) Scam Watch travel page.

5. Ask for all completed agreements and liability insurance documentation before paying. Before you reserve, ask to see all contract information with pricing and scheduling information filled in as well as proof of insurance on the rental property. You should understand all payment and property rules affecting your stay and what might happen if there is accidental

damage to the property while you're there. Share these documents with your home or rental insurer for input before you sign. If a renter hesitates to share this information, you might want to consider other options. Also, review your personal health, property and liability coverage to make sure you're protected during the trip.

6. Weigh all spending risks of the rental transaction. If you're planning to rent vacation property, take the extra step of calling your credit card and travel insurance companies to determine whether they offer any particular protections in case something goes wrong with the rental. It's a good way to review the full range of protection available to you on any out-of-town trip. And if a vacation

landlord asks for advance cash payment – particularly wired money – be very cautious. Many travel scams begin with wired cash.

Bottom line: Planning an upcoming vacation? Before you commit to a vacation rental, vet the owner and the property thoroughly.

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