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January at the Columbia Memorial Space Center

DOWNEY – The Columbia Memorial Space Center has several public events scheduled this month.

Saturday, Jan. 7, 11 a.m., Young Explorers Program - Comets, Meteors, and Asteroids: Have you ever wondered what physically separates the terrestrial planets and the gas giants? Where do comets come from? The space center has all the answers. Join them to learn the difference between comets and their cousins, meteors and asteroids.

Saturday, Jan. 21, 11 a.m., Junior Explorers Program - Robots: Bring out your Junior Explorer to learn all about robots, their many different uses, and what robots do in space.

Saturday, Jan. 21, 10 a.m., Teacher Workshop - Utilizing Renewable Energy: This workshop allows teachers to help students break a complex issue down into more manageable pieces and to explore solar energy. Teachers will learn how to demonstrate to students how to model solar energy inputs at different locations, analyze the cost effectiveness of installation and determine the appropriate locations for solar panels.

Presented by a JPL instructor. This workshop geared for teachers in grades 9-12.

This workshop is free for all credentialed and pre-service teachers. Pre-registration is required.

Jan. 28, Commemoration Day: Join us on this very special day as we remember the Columbia shuttle and her crew, the Challenger shuttle (and crew) and the Apollo 1 astronauts who also lost their lives, all around this time of year. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 1 tragedy.

Hear from members of the community who were affected by these events, and pay homage to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line to extend our reach up into the cosmos.

Admission into the space center is free this day as it also lines up with Free Museum Weekend here in Los Angeles.

State sales tax decreases but...

SACRAMENTO – On January 1, the statewide sales and use tax rate decreased one quarter of one percent (0.25%) from 7.50 percent to 7.25 percent.

The decrease in the statewide rate is effective for all cities and counties in California; however, in many jurisdictions in California the actual sales and use tax rate may still be higher than the statewide rate due to the addition of district taxes.

Why is the sales and use tax rate decreasing? Proposition 30, The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012 that was approved by California voters in November 2012 to temporarily increase the sales and use tax by 0.25 percent expired Dec. 31, 2016.

A retailer who continues to charge and collect the higher statewide sales and use tax rate after Jan. 1, 2017, must either refund the excess tax collected to their customer or pay the excess tax to the Board of Equalization.

For merchandise delivered after Jan. 1, 2017, the applicable sales and use tax rate is the rate that is in effect at the time the sale occurs. Generally, the sale occurs when the merchandise is delivered to the customer, unless the sales contract specifically states that title to the merchandise passes to the customer prior to delivery.



AWARD WINNER!

Downey's float earns two trophies in Tournament of Roses Parade, including Governor's Award

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – Downey's 2017 entry into the Tournament of Roses wowed spectators and judges alike, bringing home the Governor's Award for Best Depiction of Life in California.

This year's float was called "The Gold Rush," and featured a working roller coaster as its centerpiece. It was the first float to be judged and the second to be featured on camera.

According to Director and Construction Chair Kelley Roberts, the float was well received by parade viewers despite a few initial "glitches."

"We had some glitches along the way to get there, some glitches on the way to get home," said Roberts. "[We] had a little glitch in the parade with an external shut off wire for the [coaster] lift that was resolved – unfortunately – right after camera..."

Viewers at home were not able to see Downey's coaster float in action, however Roberts and his crew quickly fixed the issue so that those in attendance

could still witness the float's main attraction.

"...As soon as the car went back the crowd went absolutely nuts," said Roberts.

Downey's float is one of only six entirely volunteer built and funded floats to travel down Colorado Boulevard.

Downey Rose Float President Sue England described this year's float as "a labor of love."

"It gives the community that sense of pride," said England. "It's not just something that you throw money at; it's something that everybody has a hand in."

Quoting a tournament judge, England called the community-built floats the "soul of the parade."

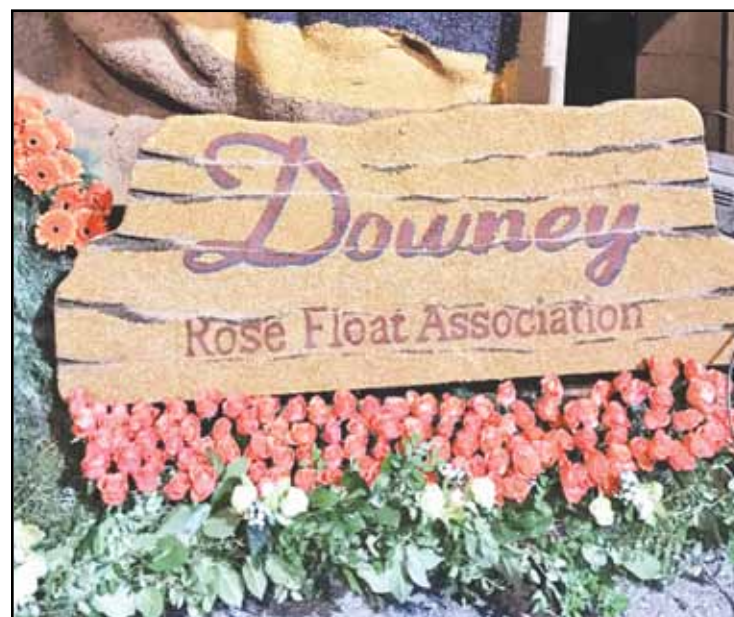
"You see the same people every year – you know they don't

get paid," said England. "It just makes you proud of what you can accomplish with just a small group of people."

Downey was represented on its float in part by former LA County Supervisor Don Knabe, his wife Julie, as well as Miss Downey Emely Lopez and her court.

"The adrenaline rush of that first turn onto Colorado Boulevard to the grandstands is something I will never forget," said Lopez. "...I am thankful for our whole community that helped make our 2017 Downey Rose Float a success."

The float returned to Downey late Tuesday night. It will be displayed in front of the Embassy Suites for the next few days, weather permitting.



Downey welcomed its first baby of the New Year at 12:30 a.m. Sunday.

Baby girl Coraline Luna, weighed in at 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 19 and 1/2 inches long. She was born at PIH Health Hospital - Downey.

Labor and Delivery staff from PIH Health presented parents Connie and Luis Castorena with a PIH Health blanket.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 62°

Saturday 64°

Sunday 73°

THINGS TO DO



Bob's Big Boy Party

Sunday - Bob's Big Boy, 2 pm

Commemoration of 10 years since Johnnie's Broiler was illegally destroyed.



Film Night

Friday - Stay Gallery, 7 pm

Screening of the 1996 film "Basquiat" followed by a discussion with artist Roy Anthony Shabla.



'Breaking News'

Saturday - The Getty, 10 am

A group exhibition that examines how artists look to the news media for inspiration.

FROM OUR FACEBOOK

Tournament of Roses Parade

Janet Meier: I was so happy that it won a trophy and it was the first float! Then the roller coaster didn't work and KTLA had almost nothing to say about the float. So disappointing.

Patii Flowers: Don't worry if the roller coaster doesn't work! We are proud of you!

Anabel Meza: So beautiful!!! Congratulations

Ann Osoba: Always proud when I see the Downey Float! Congrats on a job well done. Way to represent!

Reach us on Facebook at: [Facebook.com/DowneyPatriot](https://www.facebook.com/DowneyPatriot)

TWEETS OF THE WEEK

@AADwrites: Did you watch the parade today?
@DowneyRoseFloat won the Governor's Trophy at #tournamentofroses #parade for Best depiction of Life in CA!

@ItsEmely: Representing our city at the Pasadena Rose Parade was an experience of a lifetime! Thank you to the volunteers who helped make this a success!

Follow us! @DowneyPatriot

Shared Stories: Gilmore City, Part 2

Because of damage to his bones from tuberculosis, Mervin Chantland spent nearly eight years of his childhood in a full-body cast. Mervin's father, a farmer, arranged for a couple in Gilmore City to take care of the young patient as long as he was in the cast. This is the second part of Chapter 2 in Mervin's book. Shared Stories is a weekly column featuring articles by participants in a writing class at the Norwalk Senior Center. Bonnie Mansell is the instructor for this free class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. Curated by Carol Kearns

By Mervin Chantland

When I was young, I had a great friend named Tom. He worked for a grocery store and used their van to deliver orders. Tom was only fourteen years old at that time, but they let him drive because they knew his family needed the money.

When he was delivering

groceries to farmers, he would come to get me and help me up into his delivery van. I think he may have gotten into trouble from his boss for doing that, but it gave me a wonderful chance to get out of the house and make his rounds with him. Tom would also pick me up and take me to his house, where his mom would play canasta with us. We did that a lot.

My friends and I would go to all of Tom's basketball games. When he was practicing, we would keep bugging him to throw us the ball so we could shoot, too. Tom says he didn't get in much warm-up time that way. One time Tom was playing baseball, and he hit a home run. He says he could see me going on my crutches as fast as I could to his house across the street from the baseball field to tell his mom the good news.

Well, after Tom graduated he got a 1938 Chevy; and there were times on Saturday nights that he would stop up town before

picking up someone special for a movie. Many times, upon returning to his car, he would find me waiting there. And he generally took me along for the night's fun. The only thing Tom worried about was whether I had told the Knolls that I was going.

Tom says I was the most courageous person that he ever knew. As he put it, my handicap should have left me with a bad attitude but it built inner strength and determination instead. Tom says there wasn't anything I wouldn't try to do. Later in life, Tom became a farmers' mailman. Tom, you were a great friend when I needed one the most. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

After some time had passed, my left shoulder started hurting; and I was diagnosed with TB in the bone there, too. That resulted in my having to have that arm in a cast for about a year. Perhaps because of the medication I was taking, my shoulder turned out all right. My left arm just ended up being a little shorter than the other one.

While I was having the cast taken off my arm in the hospital, all the hospital staff suddenly started dancing around. Shouts could be heard from out in the hall. No, it was not in my honor. It was 1945, and news had just come in that "World War II has ended!" Wow, that made a great impression on me!

Now that I was able to walk, I would sometimes help Prof while he was custodian at the Gilmore City School. I really enjoyed that. On one occasion, I ended up with a life-long souvenir of those times we spent together.

I was helping as Prof assembled lockers in the hall way. He would pry up the lockers and I would put pads under the legs. On one locker, the pry bar slipped and the leg came down

on my finger, cutting out a good-sized flap of skin. Just by having a bandage tied tightly around my finger, the wound healed up just fine, but that horseshoe-shaped scar is still visible today. Prof felt awfully bad, but I told him it was okay. It was the kind of accident that could happen to anyone.

Eventually, I was able to get around well enough that I could go to school full time. But it wasn't "all fun and games." One day, it was raining and we had to stay in for recess. I remember taking a ruler to hit a ball, but I missed and hit the teacher right on her backside. Wow! There I was, having just started attending school and already in trouble!

It was also this first year in a real school that something very unexpected happened. On December 14, 1943, I stayed home because I wasn't feeling very good; and Gilmore City High School burned down! A teacher who went back in to make sure all the children had gotten out perished in fire. What a loss for us all!

Well, now that I was walking and making friends, I was ready to do some of the crazy things young kids do. One day two friends were talking about hunting "snipes" in the cemetery and I asked what they were.

My friends laughed as they told me how they would hide behind tombstones and have another friend go and get some kids to help hunt the snipes, hairy little creatures that lived in the cemetery. My friends took me along with them, and soon the other kids arrived with flashlights and gunny sacks.

Of course, there were no such thing as snipes, so we would just wait until the others got close to us before we started making all kinds of weird noises. Those kids ran like heck to get out of there, and we had a good laugh.

Once, as I was walking up a street in town, the wind started blowing really hard and I heard this loud banging sound coming

toward me. I turned to look and there came what had been a round grain bin, about thirty feet in diameter. Having been torn up off its foundation, it seemed to be trying to roll but was so out of shape that it just bounced along. I ducked behind a tree as it went crashing by. That was really scary!

Mostly, with my new freedom came a lot of fun. Gilmore City doesn't have a theater now, but back then we kids would go to the movies up town. Horror movies were our favorite. One movie I remember watching was Frankenstein, with Boris Karloff. After a movie, we would walk home in the dark. More than once, one of the kids would run up ahead of us and hide in the trees so he could jump out and make weird noises to scare us.

Another source of fun came from a car Prof had that was high off the ground. My friend and I took it to a field one night to chase jackrabbits. While we were flipping the headlights from low to high, the rabbits would run under the car and out the back. It never hurt them, and it provided us with a lot of fun.

Since I would get so lonesome for my family, my Dad would sometimes send my brother Bill to stay with me at the Knolls' house. In the summers Bill would come up and spend a whole two weeks with me. That was so important to me. It was great to be able to maintain the family connection.

After the war, I was sometimes given toy cars that had been made in Japan. When I looked inside the toys I could see words like Coke, 7 Up, and other names of soft drinks. The people in Japan didn't have a lot of metal after the war, but our troops had left plenty of soda cans behind, and they made good use of them.

(This excerpt is from Chapter 2 in the book, "Can't: No Such Word," by Mervin Chantland, available on Amazon.com.)

HUMANS OF DOWNEY: MIKE

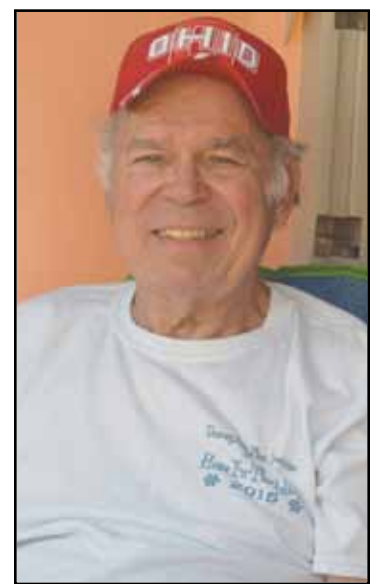


Photo and interview by Steve Mansell, DowneyDailyPhotos.com

"Let me tell you the story of the 'Midnight Rescue.' One year, when they built the model, it wasn't to scale so when they built the actual float it was too large. Then, we didn't have enough help for the size of the float. The fire department was here and Channel 9 came around to tell our story. In response, over 400 community residents showed up to volunteer. Now we had too many.

"They still didn't finish in time and they finally pulled out of here around 9 pm. We usually pull out around 5 to get to Pasadena in time for any last minute fixes and then the judging around 3 am. My wife was on the float and a bedpost fell off and nearly hit her.

"Kelley is our head builder and he worked at Knott's Berry Farm on the roller coasters. This year is the second time we've had a roller coaster on the float. During the construction of the float that had our first roller coaster, I got a call from my son asking me to bring a voltage regulator for a 1948 Ford engine. Now, where are you going to find something like that? Instead I rigged it so they had some extra fuel to run the generator for the length of the parade.

"But then the transmission was overheating in the parade. So they took water from the waterfall that was on the float to cool the transmission. But they made it to the end of the route and didn't need to be towed. That would have cost us extra money."

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With the new year, new laws take effect in California



Lane splitting by motorcycles was never illegal, but a new law allows the CHP to create rules to regulate the practice.

Human trafficking: People under 18 years old cannot be charged with prostitution, under SB 1322. Instead, they will be treated as victims. This is one of several human-trafficking bills that include raising the age children can testify outside a courtroom from 13 to 15, protecting the victims' names from disclosure and mandating that they have access to county services.

Bus transportation: Charter bus drivers must provide written or video instructions to passengers on how to use the vehicle's safety equipment and emergency exits.

School districts must improve bus driver training to avoid students being left alone on buses.

Homeless students at community college: Any community college campus with shower facilities on campus must allow homeless students who are enrolled, paid and in good standing to use the facilities,

under AB 1995. Another law, AB 1747, requires public and private institutions that offer food services to apply for a state-funded program that provides food for homeless students.

Youth sports health protocol: Just like a previous law aimed at protecting high school student-athletes who may have suffered head injuries, youth sports organizations will be required to notify the parents or guardians of athletes younger than 17 years old who have been removed from activity because of a suspected concussion. It also requires athletic organizations to offer concussion and head injury education to coaches and administrators on a yearly basis. The organizations would also have to comply with athlete removal provisions and return-to-play protocol.

Powdered alcohol: Booze in a powdered form (yep, that's a real thing) will be illegal to possess, sell, make or use, per SB 819. Powdered alcohol includes spirits, liquor, wine, beer and every other liquid that can be combined with water or any other liquid, but it does not include vaporized alcohol.

Drinking at salons: Beginning Jan. 1, beauty salons and barber shops will be allowed to serve free wine or beer to their clients until 10 p.m.

Businesses and EpiPens: Under AB 1386, businesses can stock EpiPens in case there is a need to treat people suffering from life-threatening allergic reactions. The law allows pharmacies to give the devices to colleges, private businesses and other venues that have a plan in

place for using them. Gov. Jerry Brown signed the bill because he said it has the potential to save lives, but he called out EpiPen manufacturer Mylan for "rapacious corporate behavior" by raising prices.

Right-to-die: Terminally ill patients in California will be allowed to use experimental drugs, which do not have full regulatory approval, to decide when they want to end their lives. It authorizes, but does not require, health plans to cover investigational drugs and protects physicians from disciplinary actions if they recommend them once other treatment options have been exhausted.

Gender-neutral bathrooms: Beginning March 1, AB 1732 requires that all single-user toilet facilities in any business or public place to be all-gender facilities.

School mascots: Beginning Jan. 1, California public schools will be banned from using the name "Redskins" for sports teams and mascots under AB 30.

Vehicle registration fee: SB 838 increases the vehicle registration fee on every vehicle or trailer coach from \$43 to \$53 beginning April 1.

Minimum wage: California's minimum wage will increase from \$10 an hour to \$10.50 an hour for businesses with 26 or more employees under SB 3. It will gradually increase to \$15 an hour in 2022. The law delays increases by one year for smaller employers.

Assault weapons: Voters passed a law that requires

Californians who own gun magazines with more than 10 rounds to give them up starting Jan. 1. Buyers must undergo a background check before buying ammunition and will be barred from buying new weapons that have a bullet button, which were developed by gun manufacturers to get around the state's assault weapons ban. A bullet button allows a shooter to quickly dislodge the magazine using the tip of a bullet.

Law enforcement officers' handgun storage: Law enforcement officers will be required to follow the same rules as civilians by securely storing handguns in a lockbox out of plain view or in the trunk if weapons are left in an unattended vehicle. SB 869 closes a legal loophole and was authored after stolen guns were used in several crimes throughout California.

Stolen weapons: People who falsely report a firearm is lost or stolen would face a misdemeanor charge, and would face a 10-year ban on owning a firearm upon conviction.

Trapped animals: Bystanders can break a vehicle's window to save an animal locked in a hot car without being held liable for damage to the vehicle.

Voting: Felons serving time in county jail are now allowed to vote.

Voters are allowed to take selfies with their ballots.

Voters can hand off their sealed ballots to anyone to mail or deliver in person.

Government pay: City councils and county boards of supervisors are required to publicly announce pay and benefit increases for government executives before they are approved by a vote.

Housing: New law makes it easier for California homeowners to construct additional small units on their properties, whether in their garages or as freestanding second structures.

Sexual assault clarification: Sexually assaulting an unconscious or severely intoxicated person will become a crime ineligible for probation. SB 2888 clarifies that a victim cannot consent to sex while unconscious or incapacitated by drugs, alcohol or medication.

Motorcycle lane splitting: The law allows the California Highway Patrol to develop education guidelines in a way that ensures the safety

of motorcyclists, drivers and passengers.

Cellphones use while driving: Californians are no longer allowed to use a handheld wireless phone or wireless electronic device while driving, unless the device is mounted on the vehicle windshield or dashboard in a way that doesn't hinder the driver's view of the road. Drivers are only allowed to activate or deactivate a feature or function on the device with a single swipe or tap and cannot do that while holding the device. This expands on a law that already bans texting while driving.

Electric car rebates: A program providing electric-car rebates will now only be available to those making \$150,000 a year or less.

Asset forfeiture: A criminal conviction is now required before the police can permanently take from a suspect any assets valued under \$40,000.

Public smoking: Smoking or use of electronic cigarettes within 250 feet of any Little League baseball game or other youth sports event is now illegal.

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SPORTS: Warren, Downey share 9-5 preseason records heading into league play

By Mark Fetter
Contributor

DOWNEY – The Downey High School girls' basketball team currently has an overall record of 9-5 and will begin S.G.V.L. play when they host Dominguez at Downey next Wednesday.

The Lady Vikings competed in the Gator Classic Tournament at Green Valley High School over the Christmas Break. Downey finished the tournament with a record of 4-1 and looked impressive in defeating teams from three states. The Lady Vikings lone defeat came against Liberty of Henderson, Nevada, 60-47 in their last game.

Downey defeated Santa Margarita 62-54 in their first game on 12/27, defeated Orisi 44-13 in their second game on 12/28, defeated Foothill of Henderson, Nevada, 57-49 in their third game on 12/29, defeated Dimond of Anchorage, Alaska, 47-37 in their fourth game on 12/30 and were defeated by Liberty of Henderson, Nevada, 60-47 in their fifth and final game on the same day.

Downey played Schurr at Staples Center on Wednesday (score unavailable at press time) and will travel to Woodbridge of Irvine in their final preseason game later today. The Lady Vikings will begin San Gabriel Valley League play when they host Dominguez next Wednesday, when they travel to Lynwood next Friday and when they host cross-town rival Warren on 1/18.

The Lady Vikings have been led this season by standout sophomore point guard Surie Camacho's 4.9 assists per game and seniors Naelene Garcia's 12.7 points per game and Danise

Herrington's 10.1 points per game. Coach Harris, his staff and players are all looking forward to the start of league play. The Lynwood Lady Knights will once again be the team to beat.

■ The Warren High School girls' basketball team currently has an overall record of 9-5 and will begin S.G.V.L. play when they travel to Paramount next Wednesday.

The Lady Bears competed in the Nike Tournament of Champions in Arizona before the Christmas Break and in the Larry Doyle/Dan Wiley Tournament of Champions during Christmas Break.

Warren finished the Arizona tournament with a record of 2-2. The Lady Bears defeated Westview of Avondale, Arizona, 36-31 in their first game on 12/19, were defeated by Omaha Northwest of Omaha, Nebraska, 46-35 in their second game on 12/20, were defeated by Marlborough of Los Angeles 36-29 in their third game on 12/21 and defeated Corona del Sol of Tempe, Arizona, 39-30 in their fourth game on 12/22.

Warren finished the Larry Doyle/Dan Wiley Tournament with a record of 3-1. Warren defeated Cerritos 53-36 in their first game on 12/26, were defeated by Aliso Niguel 64-39 in their second game on 12/27, defeated Cypress 58-38 in their third game on 12/28 and defeated Roseville 68-63 in overtime in their fourth game on 12/29.

Warren played at Orange Lutheran on Wednesday (score unavailable at press time) and will host El Rancho in their final

preseason game later today. The Lady Bears will begin San Gabriel Valley League play when they travel to Paramount next Wednesday, when they host Gahr next Friday and when they travel to cross-town rival Downey on 1/18.

Coach Palmer, her staff and players are all looking forward to the start of league play. The Lynwood Lady Knights will once again be the team to beat.

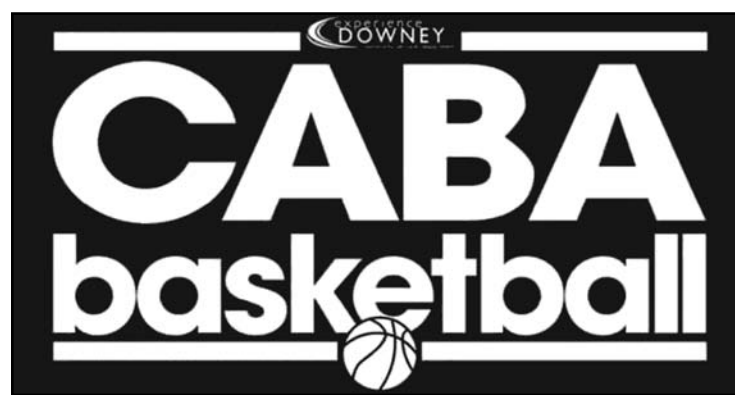
■ The Warren High School wrestling team competed at the Cerritos College Tournament of Champions last weekend and placed seventh overall in the individual tournament behind tournament champion Poway.

There were over 50 teams competing last weekend from all over California. Poway finished first with 385.5 points, Yucaipa finished second with 161 points, Paso Robles finished third with 123 points and Oak Hills and Esperanza finished tied for fourth with 119 points, respectively.

To round out the top ten, Mira Costa finished sixth with 115 points, Warren finished seventh with 110.5 points, Paramount finished eighth with 109.5 points, Poway "B" finished ninth with 106.5 points and Millikan finished tenth with 104 points.

Warren had six wrestlers place in the top eight of their respective weight classes. Carlos Vasquez placed eighth at 106 pounds, Joshua Mendoza placed eighth at 120 pounds and Matthew Lopez placed eighth at 126 pounds.

Gabriel Cabrera placed eighth at 145 pounds, Kenneth Gonzalez



CABA Adult Basketball returns for its winter season Jan. 23.

New teams now forming for players ages 25 and older. CABA celebrates its 3-year anniversary this coming April. For details, visit their Facebook page at CABA basketball league or email CABAbasketball@gmail.com

placed seventh at 195 pounds and Alexis Galvan placed seventh at 220 pounds.

Warren has looked sharp in the preseason in preparation for the start of S.G.V.L. competition. Paramount and cross-town rival Downey have looked solid in their preseason tournament competitions as well. Coach Brogden, his staff and wrestlers are all looking forward to competing for the S.G.V.L. title and making another run at a C.I.F. title.

■ The Downey High School wrestling team competed at the Golden Eagle Sports Arena last week and placed second overall in the individual tournament behind tournament champion Selma.

There were many top teams competing last week from all over California. Selma finished first with 324.5 points, Downey finished second with 176 points, Rightetti finished third with 171.5 points, Bloomington finished fourth with 149.5 points and Visalia finished fifth with 140.5 points.

To round out the top ten, Santa Maria finished sixth with 135.5 points, Rocklin finished seventh

with 133 points, Bishop Amat finished eighth with 131.5 points, Firebaugh finished ninth with 127 points and Mater Dei finished tenth with 119 points, respectively.

Downey had eight wrestlers place in the top eight of their respective weight classes, including three tournament finalists and two tournament champions. Last season's state qualifier Jonathan Prata placed first at 106 pounds. Abraham Cervantes placed eighth at 120 pounds, Roland Dominguez placed fourth at 120 pounds and Armando Padilla finished first at 138 pounds.

Adrian Segovia placed fifth at 145 pounds, Nic Arellano placed second at 170 pounds, Miguel Bravo placed sixth at 182 pounds and Adrian Guerra placed seventh at 220 pounds.

Downey has looked sharp in the preseason in preparation for the start of S.G.V.L. competition. Paramount and cross-town rival Warren have looked solid in their preseason tournament competitions as well. Coach Soto, his staff and wrestlers are looking forward to defending their league title and making another run at a C.I.F. title.

Assembly member Cristina Garcia is hosting an open house and tampon drive Saturday, Feb. 4, at her district office in Downey.

Guests can tour the office and learn about upcoming legislation.

Visitors are invited to bring a new, sealed box of tampons or maxi pads, which will be donated to local shelters, organizations and schools.

Garcia's office is located at 8255 Firestone Blvd., Suite 203, next to Porto's Bakery. The open house is from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For more information, or to RSVP, call (562) 861-5803.

Miss Downey orientation later this month

DOWNEY – Orientation for the 2017 Miss Downey Pageant will be held at Trinity Baptist Church in Downey on Jan. 23 at 6 p.m.

Applications will be available at that time.

The pageant itself will take place April 22 at the Downey Theatre.

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Our system comes with no guarantees



By Lee H. Hamilton

There are a lot of dire predictions about our representative democracy out there. We're just past a presidential election campaign in which candidates complained about a rigged political system. Now, commentators worry about the imminent failure of the American experiment.

I don't agree with these predictions of calamity. Our representative democracy is not on the verge of collapse. But I do see stresses and tensions that should concern anyone who cares about our system of self-government. Our representative democracy has been remarkably stable and successful for over two hundred years, but that is no guarantee it will survive and prosper.

The mere fact that this nation is filled with so many citizens who have lost confidence in key institutions is worrisome. The Gallup organization's ongoing polling has found declines in public confidence over the past few decades in everything from the Supreme Court and Congress to the police and even the military. It shows a pervasive drop in public regard for the institutions that undergird American life.

The reasons stem in part from a declining willingness among the people who inhabit those institutions to observe the norms of behavior that evoke public confidence. This is notable especially on Capitol Hill and in political life, where the parties seem to have abandoned fair play and taken to using institutions to maximize partisan advantage. In the Senate, the recent refusal even to hold hearings on the President's nominee to the Supreme Court brought the lack of comity between branches to a new low.

Politicians engage in a degree of partisanship that a few decades ago would have disqualified them in the eyes of the voting public. They attack opposing

politicians' patriotism, impugn their loyalty, accuse them of criminal activity, question the fairness of the election process itself — with virtually no evidence — and seek to undermine their effectiveness in office. Small wonder that elected officials' legitimacy is increasingly called into question among the public at large.

If we had a media that prized both the vigilance and impartiality it displayed during its heyday, these tendencies might not run so rampant. Similarly, if politicians were willing to negotiate, compromise, and search for remedies to the nation's challenges, then our current dysfunctional inability to get things done would be less of a hallmark of these times.

Yet too many politicians seem fine with dysfunction. They appear more interested in holding power than in using it to solve problems. They reject the norms of behavior in a civil society — for example, the New York politician who wished President Obama dead of Mad Cow Disease. They sidestep accountability and transparency: tweeting their stances rather than facing hard questions, avoiding press conferences that would give reporters a chance to hold them to account, preferring public rallies to the give and take that allows the public to examine and scrutinize their stances.

All of this poses real challenges to the system. So what might be done to restore public faith in its fairness, justness and decency?

Paul Light, a professor of public service at New York University, recently came out with a paper, "What Americans Want from Government Reform," that reinforces the proposals many reformers have been pushing in recent years. His list of fixes that would enjoy support among ordinary Americans in both parties includes reducing the role of money in elections, boosting ethical constraints on elected officials, reducing waste and inefficiency, finding ways to increase the voices of ordinary citizens, and ensuring that civil servants and political appointees are qualified and competent.

Americans don't expect miracles. They just want the basic features of government to work. But here's the thing: making this happen is up to us. Politicians may be directly responsible for the problems above, but you and I as voters allow them to get away with it. We voted them into office, kept them there, and paid little attention to their shenanigans.

The problem is not just the politicians. It's us, too. The first words of the Constitution read, "We the People," not "We the Government." It's up to us to strive for a more perfect union, and to be vigilant about these adverse tendencies that threaten to undermine our representative democracy.

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.

Lee Hamilton and fake news

In his weekly opinion column, former Congressman Lee Hamilton draws our attention to the perils of fake news and yet throughout his article he does not mention even once the number one generator of fake news — the government itself through its various agents. ("Why fake news is dangerous", Dec. 8, 2016)

Right off the bat he starts with a quote from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who said "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely." Clearly both Hamilton and Roosevelt are promoters of democracy as are many of our present day politicians and educators, despite the fact that our Founding Fathers were highly critical of democracy and insisted that our form of government was a republic and not a democracy. But that's another story for another day, that I suspect Mr. Hamilton would also likely label as a fake story.

So let's stay for now with Roosevelt's quote above. What both Hamilton and Roosevelt fail to clarify for us is this: Who decides what is wise and unwise? You see, the problem with democracy is that everything is fine as long as the people vote with the prescribed version of accepted wisdom, that is, accepted by the political establishment. If the people vote opposite the prescribed wisdom, then they must not be very wise and democracy is said to fail. This does not sound like democracy to me, does it to you? And keep in mind I'm not even a fan of democracy.

Lee Hamilton couldn't have picked a better quote and historical person than Franklin Roosevelt to make my point. Why? Because America prior to World War II had the wisdom to keep our country and our young men out of yet another European War or any other war where our national security was not under attack. We remember this period by such patriotic movements as the America First movement of Charles Lindbergh and a whole host of patriotic Americans. President Roosevelt, however, had no respect for the wisdom of America Firsters as was itching to go to war so bad that he was willing to generate fake news when proclaiming that he will keep our sons out of war mere weeks prior to the imminent Pearl Harbor attack all the while he and key members of his administration were fully aware of the time and place of the Japanese attack on our

Pacific Fleet and yet withheld that intelligence from the commanders at Pearl Harbor leaving the 2403 American servicemen to die so that the wisdom of the establishment he was serving would prevail and not the wisdom of the American people he was supposed to serve.

Why does Lee Hamilton not remember the September 5, 1950 day when Senator William Knowland of California rose on the floor of the U.S. Senate to denounce the fake news delivered by the U.S. government to the parents of Captain John M. Birch that he was killed by stray bullets on August 25, 1945, ten days after the war ended, thus keeping classified as secret the truth of Captain Birch's ruthless murder by a band of Chinese communists, all in order to not jeopardize Mao Tse-tung advances in taking over China, for had the real truth of John Birch's murder been made public to the American people at the time, as it should have been, and certainly to his grieving family, there is no way that the systematic undermining of Chiang Kai-shek's nationalist forces by the U.S. government in the ensuing years would have been allowed by an American public sensitized to the real nature of the Chinese communists as foe rather than friend?

Yes, fake news is dangerous, so dangerous that between that 1945 day when the fake news of the cause of John Birch's death was hand delivered to his parents in rural Georgia and 1950 when Senator Knowland effectively declassified the truth in the matter, the fake news was sufficient for Mao's forces to completely drive Chiang Kai-shek's forces out of the mainland and into Formosa (Taiwan) thus clearing the way for the eventual murder of tens of millions of innocent Chinese people in one of the world's most brutal genocides known to man.

Again, how did John Birch's murder classified label amount to fake news? It was fake news because what the American people should have learned within days of that fateful 1945 day was deliberately covered up by the U. S. government for five years. The absence of true news is fake news. An event that should have been the headline in all newspapers across America was classified secret in a vault in Washington D.C. for political purposes of the worst kind.

This is exactly what Mr. Hamilton is lamenting when he says that citizens depend on "accurate information" to function well in a democracy and that they shouldn't have to vote "in a vacuum." I agree precisely. But it was the U.S. government that withheld the truth of the death of John Birch from the American people effectively leaving the American people in a vacuum for five years!

Instead Mr. Hamilton is afraid that some teenagers in the Balkans are causing our democracy's circuits to overload by using the "tools of democracy to undermine it." If his democracy is that weak maybe he should discard it and recognize that America is a Republic and not a Democracy!

Mr. Hamilton ends by making fake news the land mine that can cripple our representative democracy.

I think that the Lee Hamilton columns are a land mine in the Downey Patriot seeing that he uses the word democracy 7 times in the column and the word republic zero times when in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Pledge of Allegiance the word democracy is nowhere to be found.

Please keep our Downey Patriot land-mine free by retiring the Lee Hamilton column and replacing it with Congressman Ron Paul's weekly columns as soon as possible.

**Dan Cristea
Downey**

Good for Sean Ashton

Dear Editor:

I can't use the term "honorable" here because of possible funny business going on behind the scenes and public view in denying one of Downey's duly-elected council members -- Sean Ashton -- to be passed over for the position of mayor pro tem.

From reading the Downey Patriot, it appears that some shenanigans went on to deny Mr. Ashton a turn at the mayor pro tem spot. Meeting behind the scenes with a gang of four making such a decision could have the appearance of violating the Brown Act, as your constituents demand public input and scrutiny for honest government policy. Appearances many times turn out to be true.

While there is no iron-clad rule that seats rotate to ensure that each council member will get their turn at the top seat, fairness and common sense dictate that each member should be treated fairly and honestly by other members. Usually such a ruling group used to be called a clique, or gang of four, not following the voting public's desire from their so-called leaders.

I don't blame Mr. Ashton for speaking up after being overlooked so plainly. It is the only honest way to get the attention of the offenders and honesty for the voting constituents of his district. (That's why I don't like districts, because at-large means the entire city had a chance to elect members to serve all the people, not just those in their neighborhoods.)

Mr. Ashton does not like suing his city, I'm sure, but what's right is right itself.

**Joe Cvetko
Bellflower
(The author of this letter is a former council member and mayor of Bellflower)**

Offshore drilling

Dear Editor:

In the December 29 opinion section are two unsigned letters, one titled "With ban on offshore drilling, Obama takes away jobs from American families," the other titled, "New anti-coal regulations [are] an insult to Americans." Quoted in the letters are Nick Loris and John Malcolm of the right-wing Heritage Foundation and Republican Congressman Steve Scalise of Louisiana. Both letters need clarification and correction.

Extracting and burning oil, gas, and coal produces carbon dioxide and methane, which increase the earth's temperature. Ninety-nine percent of climate scientists agree that this is the primary cause of global warming, the consequences of which include catastrophic drought, sea-level rise, flooding, and more.

The letters' authors seem to think that the only way to create jobs is to pretend that climate change doesn't exist and move backwards to a dirtier, more-polluted era; they fail to realize that when we talk about creating more jobs, renewable energy is the way to go.

According to the volunteer organization, Citizens' Climate Lobby, implementation of their "Carbon Fee and Dividend" proposal at the national level (and it has bipartisan support) will create jobs, grow the economy, and result in a cleaner and more livable planet. The proposal places a steadily-rising fee on the carbon content of fossil fuels, levied at the pump, mine, or port of entry. All of the revenues raised, except for small administrative costs, will be returned on an equal basis to American families: not one penny will support government operations.

This plan will encourage renewable energy, including solar and wind power, and has been subjected to professional economic scrutiny. One analysis, by the well-respected Regional Economic Models, Inc., shows that Carbon Fee and Dividend will create 2.1 million jobs 10 years after implementation and 2.8 million after 20. This is more than a 1% increase in US employment compared to the status quo.

The fossil-fuel industry has been a mainstay of our economy for more than 100 years and has brought many benefits, but by using fossil fuels we are contributing to the destruction of the planet. We must transition away from these fuels as soon as we can: this will cause both job gains and losses in different industries. Since Carbon Fee and Dividend returns all revenues raised to all American families on an equal basis, employment and the economy are supported. The economic effect of the dividend is so strong that the previously-mentioned REMI study projects that, under Carbon Fee and Dividend, employment will remain stable in the US Census region which includes Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, home of the American oil and gas industries.

We are more than 7 billion people living on this planet; if we continue to do business as usual, life as we know it will be gone. But by pricing carbon and returning the revenues to American families, we can move towards a cleaner, safer, more prosperous future.

**Anita Rivero
Downey**

Pet shootings

Dear Editor:

I get really upset when I hear that police have shot someone's pet dog. It's so anti-American to me for a police officer to come onto your property and blow your pet away.

The Justice Department has estimated that 25 pet dogs are shot every single day in the United States of America, and that is just an estimate.

They shoot them at children's birthday parties, in front yards when teens are playing football, they shot a little girl on accident when they were aiming to shoot her pet dog, and on January 2, 2017 in Durham, North Carolina they killed a pet dog that belonged to an 81-year-old woman.

She wants to know why and so do I.

**Patty Jackson
Downey**

The Downey Patriot

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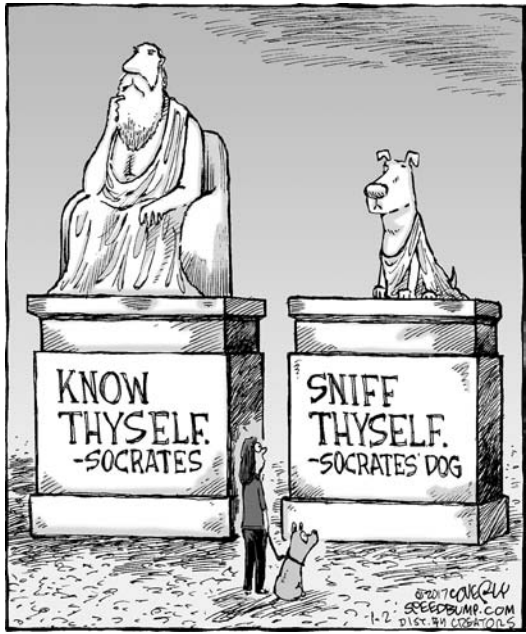
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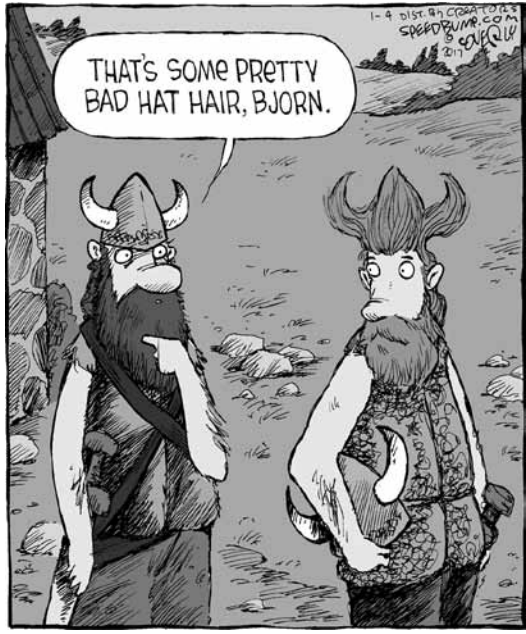
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



On This Day...

Jan. 5, 1896: The Austrian newspaper Wiener Presse reported the discovery by German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen of a type of radiation that came to be known as an X-ray.
1914: Henry Ford, head of the Ford Motor Company, introduced a minimum wage scale of \$5 per day.
1970: The soap opera "All My Children" premiered on ABC-TV.
1972: President Richard Nixon ordered development of the space shuttle.
2004: After 14 years of denials, Pete Rose publicly admitted that he'd bet on baseball while manager of the Cincinnati Reds.

Downey Community Calendar

EVENTS FOR JANUARY

Friday, Jan. 6: Movie Night, Stay Gallery, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 8: Johnie's Broiler 10-year anniversary, Bob's Big Boy, 2 p.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.
3rd Mon., 11:30 am: Downey Newcomers Club, call Nancy 806-1782.
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 Irene Vallini at 328-7039.
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 Russell Skersick 929-3710.
6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, contact Salvador Cervantes: tmsalcpuede@gmail.com.
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.
7:30 pm: Downey Master Chorale, at Cornerstone Church, contact info@downeymasterchorale.org.
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 Rio Hondo Event Center, 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 Bobbi Bruce 440-5416.
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, for information please 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 Barbara 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.

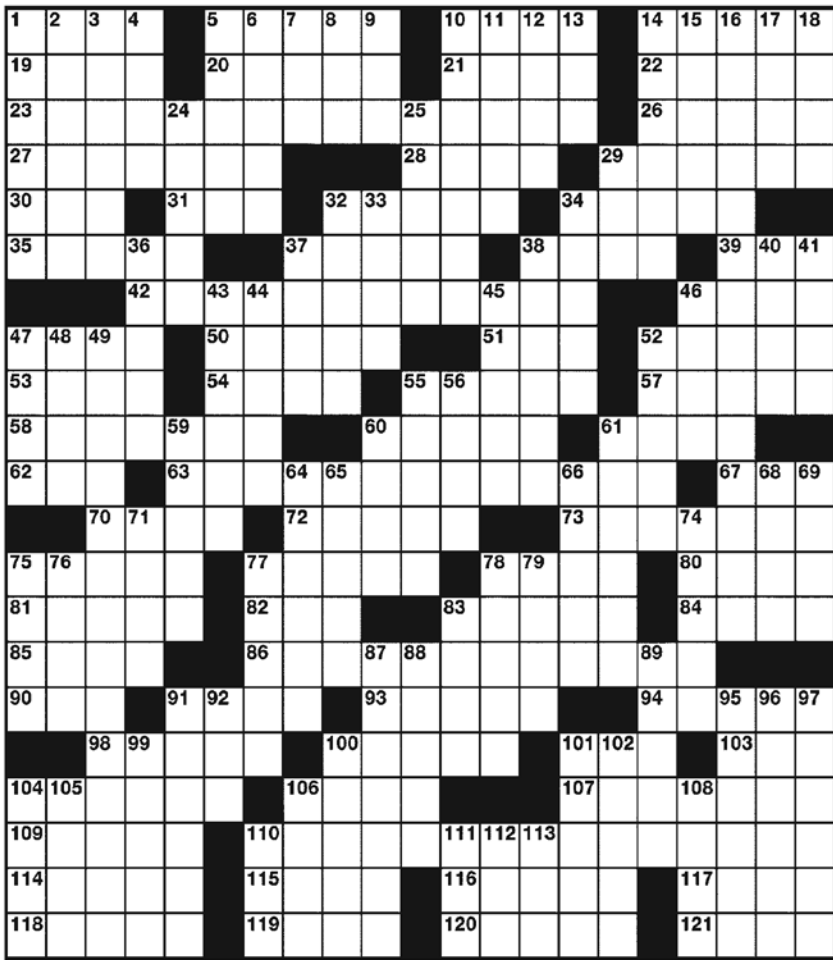
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10 Caesarean conquest
14 Curaçao neighbor
19 Composer Stravinsky
20 Put up with
21 Garage job, for short
22 Unlucky one
23 Opera habitués
26 Box-office buy, slangily
27 Natural gifts
28 Consider, as a case
29 Urban-curb fixtures
30 Numero ___ (first-rate)
31 Mud concoction
32 Ordeal
34) or (, briefly
35 Pastor's home
37 The Tempest sprite
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39 "By the way..."
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46 Hybrid equine
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53 "Nope"
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57 Repair-bill detail
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90 Go wrong
91 Sacred chests
93 Smoke detectors of a sort
94 Serengeti scavenger
98 Put on hold
100 Complains, so to speak
101 The Simpsons storekeeper
103 All Saints' Day mo.
104 How skinny jeans fit
106 "See ya!"
107 Coffeehouse worker
109 Godzilla's hangout
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117 Jared of Dallas Buyers Club
118 Takes five
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DOWN
1 Formal declaration
2 Lizard pet for many
3 Rotating-ball product
4 Art Deco artist
5 Miniseries starter
6 Santa-like
7 Actress Tyler
8 End of UNLV's URL
9 Marina ___ Rey, CA
10 Big brand in bonding
11 Hearing-related
12 Car-ride company
13 ___ Miz
14 Birch family trees
15 Pathway
16 Commerce Dept. arm
17 Put up with
18 "Graphic" group
24 Set free, in a way
25 South Vietnam's last president
29 "Your mileage ___ vary"
32 More reliable
33 Clothing mishaps
34 Unnatural, as a photo
36 Edible wrapped rolls
37 Producer Oscar film for Affleck
38 Nation near Fiji
40 Choir range
41 Wine vintage
43 Resells for too much
44 Caravan beast
45 Stops for a 44 Down
46 Protein source
47 Propane or butane
48 "This can't be!"
49 Invitation to fight
52 Stick together
55 Cavalry sword
56 Heavy load
59 Clothing mishaps
60 Big bundle
61 Presley's birthplace
64 Ringed planet
65 Composer Ned
66 Of armadas
68 Address label abbr.
69 "Hey, you!"
71 Tip off
74 "Oh, dear!"
75 Spirit of '76 instrument
76 Something in the air
77 Less than smooth
78 Vacuum hookups
79 Rainbow curves
83 SpaceX head
87 Bonding agents
88 All-stops train
89 Swahili word for "freedom"
91 Parcels out
92 Author Bradbury (poor odds)
95 Came next
96 Write down, as music
97 Arthurian paradise
99 Two-continent country
100 Part of Hawaii
101 Sits alongside
102 Window inserts
104 Mix together
105 Slim to ___
106 Prehistoric predator
108 100 Down, for one
110 Auditor designation
111 MDs' org.
112 ___ de plume
113 Crime lab evidence

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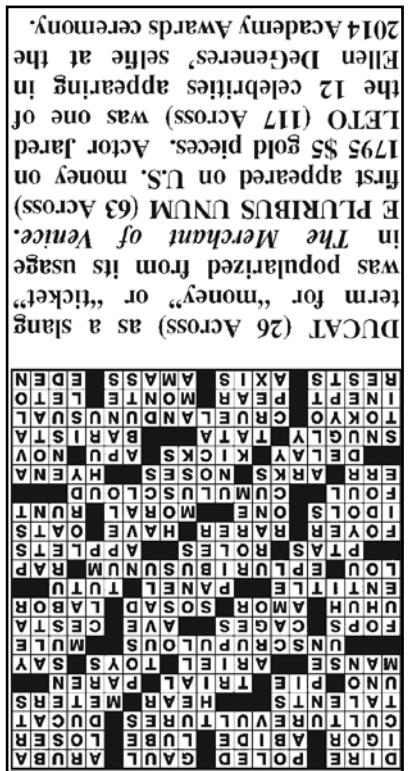
- 69 "Hey, you!"
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78 Vacuum hookups
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Reach Stan Newman at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, or at www.StanXwords.com

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Harry Wirtz Elementary first-grade teacher Amber Bronder published a book about the fictional adventures of her real-life pet, Penny.

First-graders inspire teacher to write first children's book

PARAMOUNT – Harry Wirtz Elementary first-grade teacher Amber Bronder has always dreamed of becoming a children's book author and, through the encouragement of her students and an adorable Goldendoodle, she recently published her first book, Penny the Pup's Day at the Beach.

The book details the fictional adventures of Bronder's real-life pet, Penny, as she gets separated from a wedding party at a local beach and must make it back before the ceremony begins. The story is propelled by pictures of Penny's mischievous antics on the beach.

"Being an elementary school teacher has given me a lot of inspiration and ideas both personally and professionally to finally pursue my dream," Bronder said. "What better audience does an aspiring children's book author have than her own class of bubbly and honest 6-year-olds."

Bronder regularly shared pictures of the 8-year-old Penny with her students, who delighted in seeing the pet engaging in "real-life" scenarios such as driving a car, or wearing a sign that reads "Here Comes the Bride" as she walked down the aisle at Bronder's actual wedding.

The wedding picture provided Bronder with the "aha" moment she needed to proceed with the writing of the book.

"My students seemed glued to my every word when I would talk about Penny," Bronder said. "I started using Penny as examples for things we were learning."

Bronder spent a year writing the book, taking pictures of Penny and studying up on self-publishing. The book was released Nov. 23, and is available through online book sellers Blurb.com and Amazon. There is also an Instagram page @_penny_the_pup.

Penny the Pup has proven to be useful in Bronder's classroom as well. The story's structure allows for Bronder's students to practice putting story elements in sequential order, and the descriptive narrative and generous use of adjectives help teach beginning English grammar.

Bronder's goal is to create a line of educational children's books with Penny as the star, and she will naturally look to her students for more inspiration and story ideas.

"The best gift you can give to a child is the gift of literature," PUSD Superintendent Dr. Ruth Pérez said. "I am so proud of how Ms. Bronder has managed to interweave her classroom lessons and enthusiasm for writing into the publication of this book."

Santa Fe High teacher wins national prize for influence on students

SANTA FE SPRINGS – Santa Fe High School biology teacher Alejandra Gonzalez has been selected for the University of Chicago's 2016 Outstanding Educator Award, an honor that recognizes exceptional dedication to her craft and the profound influence she's had on her students, including on the former Chieftain who nominated her.

Gonzalez, a biology and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) teacher at Santa Fe for nearly 11 years, was nominated by 2015 graduate Daisy Nahoul, who was awarded a \$70,000-a-year QuestBridge Scholarship to the University of Chicago. Formerly homeless, Nahoul is a molecular physics major and the first in her family to go to college.

"I am so humbled by this award and Daisy's nomination," Gonzalez said. "I feel privileged to have been her teacher/mentor. However, I take no credit for her success. I just contributed to making her aware of her ability, along with many other staff members at Santa Fe High School. I gave her a little guidance and, eventually, she took major strides in preparing for her future."

It was while studying biology at Cal State Long Beach that Gonzalez noticed the lack of women, particularly Latinas, in the STEM field, often feeling intimidated, but persevered nonetheless. While working for the Girl Scouts of America during her undergrad, Gonzalez was inspired to instill a passion for the sciences in students and help put them on a path toward academic achievement.

"My job was to excite girls about STEM and provide them skills on which to build," she said. "I soon realized I could do this forever, enjoy my work and, at the same time, make a change."

Gonzalez is now Santa Fe's science department co-chair and the adviser of a new STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) Club on campus.

"Ultimately, I try to motivate all my students to push through the challenges, prepare them for the demands of higher education and encourage them to go after their dreams," Gonzalez said. "I want all my students, male and female, to know things worth working for are never easy."

One such student who felt Gonzalez's impact was Nahoul, who met the inspiring teacher during her freshman year in biology class. Over



Santa Fe High School biology teacher Alejandra Gonzalez has been selected for the University of Chicago's 2016 Outstanding Educator Award, an honor that recognizes her dedication to her craft and the profound influence she's had on her students.

the next few years, Gonzalez encouraged the straight-A student to nurture her passion for the sciences and pursue academically enriching opportunities. Nahoul served as a math and science tutor in the school's after-school program and, with the recommendation of Gonzalez, was selected for the COSMOS four-week math and science camp at UC Davis.

"I hope this recognition of one of our excellent teachers serves as a humble reminder to not only Alejandra, but to all of our educators, of why we chose this profession and why we do what we do," Santa Fe High School Principal Craig Campbell said. "We may not always know the impact we have on our former students, but we are here to mentor them, inspire them and support them while they pursue their dreams. Teachers matter, and I want to congratulate Alejandra for being a life-changer."

Norwalk students raise \$2,000 for charities

NORWALK – Norwalk High School students presented \$2,000 in checks to nine charity organizations as part of the fifth annual Charity for Charities fundraiser last month.

Top executives from the Susan G. Komen Foundation Los Angeles County, the Alliance for Children's Rights and St. Jude Medical Center, as well as six other local and national charities, heard personal stories from the students on how these organizations changed their lives.

Charity for Charities began in 2013 as a senior class community service project designed to donate money to charitable institutions.

Since the first service project, Norwalk High students have raised nearly \$60,000 in donations for over 50 charities.

Norwalk High seniors researched charities and made presentations to their classmates, who voted on which charities will

receive the donations. The seniors sold granola bars to friends, family and neighbors for one dollar apiece. Over 350 Norwalk High senior volunteers participated in the fundraiser.

The charities represented during the fundraiser were the

Susan G. Komen Foundation, Alliance for Children's Rights, St. Jude Medical Center, Make-A-Wish, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, American Lung Association, Breast Cancer Angels, UCLA Rape Treatment Center, and Partnership for Drug Free Kids.

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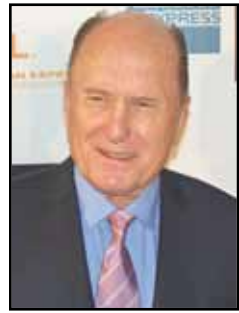
<p>Saturday, January 7 9:00 am - 3:00 pm</p> <p>Paramount Swap Meet 7900 All America City Way Paramount (off Paramount Blvd.)</p>	<p>Saturday, January 14 9:00 am - 3:00 pm</p> <p>John Anson Ford Park Swimming Pool Parking Lot 7800 block of Scout Ave. Bell Gardens</p>	<p>Saturday, January 21 9:00 am - 3:00 pm</p> <p>Rio Hondo College Fire Training Academy 11400 Greenstone Ave. Santa Fe Springs</p>
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For more information or an event schedule, contact:
1(888) CLEAN-LA, www.CleanLA.com or 1(800) 238-0172, www.lacsd.org

Home-generated sharps waste such as hypodermic needles, pen needles, syringes, lancets, and intravenous needles SHOULD NOT be placed in your trash. Bring them to the Roundups or visit www.CLEANLA.com for alternate disposal options.

JANUARY 5 BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn Manson,
the controversial
but popular rock
singer, turns 48



Robert Duvall
actor
86



Charlie Rose
TV journalist
75



Diane Keaton
actor
71



Bradley Cooper
actor
42



January Jones
actress
39



Deadmau5
DJ
36

WHAT'S NEW ON AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

January 1
Blood Diamond
13 Hours: Secret Soldiers of Benghazi
Across the Universe
Happy Feet
Rent
Hellboy
Radio
Stardust
American History X
Norm of the North
Are We There Yet
Are We Done Yet
Maid in Manhattan

January 3-13
She's All That
The Infiltrator
We're Going on a Bear Hunt, season 1
Sneaky Pete, season 1
Just Add Magic, season 1

January 17-30
Red Rock, season 2
The A-Word, season 1
Where to Invade Next
The Choice
America Divided, season 1
Z: The Beginning of Everything, season 1
Dirty Grandpa
Mercy Street, season 2
Swiss Army Man

WHAT'S NEW ON HBO NOW

January 1
Above the Law
Baby Mama
Beautiful Creatures
The Big Lebowski
The Blues Brothers
Blues Brothers 2000
Bringing out the Dead
The Cell
Cloud Atlas
Cold Mountain
Dallas Buyers Club
Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!
Evil Dead 2
Fool's Gold
Forgetting Sarah Marshall
Friday
The Happening
Innerspace
Lady in the Water
Lost & Found
Mad Max: Fury Road
My Cousin Vinny
Risky Business
The Road Warrior
The Sixth Sense
Steel (Shaq)
Unbreakable
The Village

January 6-14
Me case con un boludo (I Married a Dumbass)
Nada S.A. (Nothing Co.)
Demolition
Sesame Street, season 47 premiere
Genius
The Visit
Yo no soy guerrillero (I'm Not a Rebel)
Now You See Me 2

January 15-30
The Young Pope, series premiere
The Boss (Extended Cut)
Real Time with Bill Maher, season premiere
Beware the Slenderman
The Nice Guys
Becoming Warren Buffett



'American History X' is now available for streaming on Amazon Prime Video

WHAT'S LEAVING HBO NOW

January 28
Black Knight

January 31
Blackhat
The Bucket List
Charlie Wilson's War
Coraline
Dead Poet's Society
The Dead Pool
Dirty Harry
Enemy at the Gates
The Enforcer
Everest
Freeheld
The Great Outdoors
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
Hollywoodland
The Intern
The Iron Giant
Kung Fu Panda
Life or Something Like It
Love Potion No. 9
Magnum Force
The Martian
Maze Runner: Scorch Trials
A Perfect Murder
The Pianist
Sometimes a Great Notion
Spy
Stargate
Sudden Impact
Ted 2
National Lampoon's Van Wilder
Wall Street
What's Up, Doc?

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Beyonce, Radiohead headline Coachella festival



Beyonce headlines this year's Coachella festival and is scheduled to perform April 15 and 22.



Radiohead opens Coachella this year, performing April 14 and 21.

INDIO – Beyonce, Radiohead and Kendrick Lamar will headline this year's Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival, organizers announced Tuesday.

The full lineup of around 150 performers includes Lorde, Hans Zimmer, Justice, Gucci Mane and Future.

The festival is held at the Empire Polo Club in Indio on back-to-back weekends: April 14-16 and April 21-23.

Three-day tickets start at \$399. Below is the full lineup.

Friday, April 14 & 21:

- Radiohead
- The XX
- Travis Scott
- Father John Misty
- Empire of the Sun
- Dillon Francis
- Mac Miller
- Steve Angello
- Glass Animals
- Phantogram
- Mac DeMarco
- Little Dragon
- Banks, Bonobo
- Richie Hawtin
- DJ Shadow
- Loco Dice
- Dixon

- Capital Cities
- Big Giganti
- Crystal Castles
- Sohn
- Jagwar Ma
- Francis and the Lights
- Broods
- Guides by Voices
- Preservatoin Hall Jazz Band
- Sampha
- Bicep
- Raury
- Kungs
- Floorplan
- Denzel Curry
- The Lemon Twigs
- Nora En Pure
- Joseph
- The Interrupters
- Sam Gellaitry
- Klangstof
- Tacocat
- Alison Swing

Saturday, April 15 & 22:

- Beyonce
- Bon Iver
- Future
- DJ Snake
- Martin Garrix
- Schoolboy Q

- Gucci Mane
- The Head and the Heart
- Two Door Cinema Club
- Nicolas Jaar
- Bastille
- Tycho
- Tory Lanez
- Royksopp
- Local Natives
- Majid Jordan
- Dreamcar
- Four Tet
- Roisin Murphy
- Moderat
- The Avalanches
- Mura Masa
- Nav
- Solomun
- Warpaint
- Banks & Steelz
- Hot Since 82
- Classixx
- Kaleo
- Breakbot
- Gryffin
- Car Seat Headrest
- Daphni
- Brodinski
- Mitski
- Floating Points
- Thundercat

- Survive
- Arkells
- The Atomics
- Ben UFO
- Bishop Briggs
- Blossoms
- Chicano Batman
- Autograf
- Moss Kena
- Red Axes
- Shura
- Honey Dijon
- Declan McKenna
- Eli & Fur
- Swet Shop Boys
- Chris Cruse

Sunday, April 16 & 23:

- Kendrick Lamar
- Lorde
- Justice
- New Order
- Porter Robinson & Madeon
- Future Islands
- Hans Zimmer
- DJ Khaled
- Marshmello
- Lil Uzi Vert
- Galantis
- Kehlani
- Grouplove

- Kaytranada
- Tale of Us
- Toots and the Maytals
- Devendra Banhart
- Tove Lo
- Jai Wolf
- Jack Garratt
- Sasha
- Kiara
- Real Estate
- The Belleville Three
- Maya Jane Coles
- What So Not
- PNL
- Lee Fields & the Expressions
- NAO
- GoldLink
- Allah-Las
- King Sunny Ade
- Marcel Dettmann
- Sofi Tukker
- Whitney
- Patrick Topping
- HONNE
- Twin Peaks
- Tourist
- Preoccupations
- Hinds
- Extra Furman
- Pond
- Hannah Wants



Kendrick Lamar

- Anna Lunoe
- Grace Mitchell
- Los Blenders
- Show Me the Body
- Caveman
- Jen Ferrer.

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Zeppelin cover band playing the hits Jan. 28 in Cerritos

CERRITOS – Relive the exciting hits and electrifying allure of Led Zeppelin when Zeppelin USA comes to the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA) on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 8 p.m.

Tickets, which start at \$30, are available at the CCPA Ticket Office and cerritoscenter.com or by calling (562) 467-8818.

Grammy winner and Hall of Famer English Rock band Led Zeppelin lit up the music scene with a fireball of hits that spanned the globe, including Stairway to Heaven, Whole Lotta Love, Kashmir, and Black Dog.

Tribute band Zeppelin USA re-captures the legacy and spirit of Led Zeppelin – the music and mystique – re-creating the legend's trademark sound in this art-laser, lighting, and multimedia show.

Members of Zeppelin USA include vocalist and harmonica guru Brody Dolyniuk, guitarist Steve Zukowsky, bassist-keyboardist-singer Jonathan Gilcrest, and drummer Pat Leon. Vegas Seven magazine hailed, "Despite the high degree of difficulty, [the Zeppelin USA] tribute proved an authentic experience."

For tickets or more information on the tribute performance, call (562) 467-8818 or go to cerritoscenter.com.



Downey United Lodge No. 220 holds its 147th installation of key officers for the 2017 masonic year on Dec. 11.

As part of the ceremony, the following officers and members were installed: Worshipful Master: Aleksey Y. Duplinsky, Senior Warden/Community Events Director: William H. Wood, Junior Warden: Ralf Lopez, Secretary: Gary Phillips, PM, Chaplain: Danilo P. Manalansan, Marshal: Ramiro J. Tellez, Jr., Senior Deacon: David A. Olmedo, Junior Deacon: Anthony Guzman, Senior Steward: Reynol Cobreiro, Junior Steward: Anthony Coronel, Tiler: David McLintock, Lodge Ambassador: Alberto Larrain, Installing Officer: Robert Udoff, PM, Master of Ceremony: David Wehmeyer, PM, Installing Chaplain: Charles Cross, AGL, Division VI

Furthermore, officers from the Downey United Lodge #220 returned recently from Cuba, visiting with the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Cuba Lazaro Faustino Cuesta Valdes and the quorum of grand officers. This will be the first time meeting with the Grand Master of Cuba since the XIV World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges in San Francisco in 2015. Cuesta Valdes was very pleased to meet with the Downey lodge in his Caribbean homeland. Events included local and global discussions on masonry, tour of the grand lodge building and masonic museum, and a special Cuban heritage night invitation.

The Masonic Lodge plans a series of open house events in 2017. "This is an effort by the lodge to strengthen our relationship with the city of Downey and the community at large."

POETRY MATTERS

THE MUSIC OF WINTER WEATHER

chill you and blast your ears I may
yet I have music in me

depending on my mood

the ping of frost on crusted ponds
a deeper pizzicato as rain thrums down from twigs

the castanet's click that snowflakes make
when their light atoms touch

arpeggios of icicles fingered by the breeze
mewling sea chords when glaciers calve

my favorite is the oboes' melody ice melting
trickling through pebbles in the stream

I have music depending on my mood

-- Lorine Parks, "Polar Flo," from "Catalina Eddy"

Every season has its song, and poetry stops the moment to listen, even to gnarly winter. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.



A comedy fundraiser to raise money for a boy with cancer will be held Friday, Jan. 13, at the Embassy Suites.

Tristan Carrion is battling cancer, and his family has recently turned to holistic treatments which are not covered by insurance.

Tickets to the comedy show are \$25. Scheduled to perform are Jay LaMont, Gilbert Esquivel (pictured), Roberto Rodriguez, Cochino Rojas and Mike Cano.

For tickets or more information, call Monica Sanchez at (562) 644-6514.



The OLPH Women's Guild is sponsoring a day trip to Harrah's Rincon Casino and Resort on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

The bus will depart at 7:30 a.m. and return by 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

For tickets, call Norma at (323) 564-4692 or Terry at (562) 862-6408.

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The Downey Patriot
Thursday, Oct. 23, 2015
Vol. 54 No. 28

NEWS: Downey Doodle-icious
HEALTH: Butter vs. margarine
OBITUARIES: Local passings
SPORTS: Darrian Franklin

3 dead in apparent murder-suicide
Downey High teacher and coach, alleged to be sexually abused by student
Senior scam workshop Oct. 23
Fresh & Easy closing all its stores
CRIME REPORT: FRIDAY, OCT. 9

Weekend at a Glance
THINGS TO DO
Don Lanxin Exhibit
Symphony Concert
Car Show

FROM OUR FACEBOOK
Former teacher sued for sexual relationship with student

With so many options, how do you choose a Realtor?

When you're shopping for a real estate agent, you obviously want the best. But with agents presenting themselves through yard signs, online ads, direct-mail postcards and even sponsored public benches, how do you cut through the hype?

With real estate agents, "we don't have the information that we have about other service professionals," says Stephen Brobeck, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America, in Washington, D.C. Still, there are methods for sizing up an agent's record -- and potential.

Whether you're a buyer or seller, here are 7 ways you can find out more about an agent before you hire.

1. Talk with recent clients

Ask agents to provide a list of what they've listed and sold in the past year, with contact information, says Ron Phipps, past president of the National Association of Realtors, or NAR. Before you start reaching out to people the agent has worked with, ask if anyone will be "particularly pleased or particularly disappointed," he says.

With past clients, "I'd like to know what the asking price was and then what the sales price was," says William Poorvu, adjunct professor emeritus at Harvard Business School and co-author of "The Real Estate Game: The Intelligent Guide to Decision-making and Investment."

If you're selling, ask if the previous properties were similar to yours in price, location and other salient features, Poorvu says. What you want is someone who specializes in exactly what you're selling.

Another good question for sellers is: How long were the homes on the market?

2. Look up the licensing

States will have boards that license and discipline real estate agents, says Phipps. Check with your state's regulatory body to find out if a prospective agent is licensed and if there have been any

disciplinary actions or complaints. The information may be posted online.

3. Pick a winner

Peer-given awards count, says Phipps. One that really means something is the "Realtor of the Year" designation awarded by the state or local branch of NAR.

"These agents are the best as judged by their peers," he says. "That's a huge endorsement."

4. Select an agent with the right credentials

Doctors have specialties, and so do real estate agents. Even generalists will get additional training in some areas. So, the alphabet soup after an agent's name can be an indication that the person has taken additional classes in a certain category of real estate sales. Here's what some of the designations mean:

CRS (Certified Residential Specialist): Completed additional training in handling residential real estate.

ABR (Accredited Buyer's Representative): Completed additional education in representing buyers in transactions.

SRES (Seniors Real Estate Specialist): Completed training aimed at helping buyers and sellers in the 50-plus age range.

If the agent calls herself a Realtor with a capital "R," that means she's a member of NAR. By hiring a Realtor, "the most important thing you get is an agent who formally pledges to support the code of ethics," says Phipps.

5. Research how long the agent has been in business

A state licensing authority will often be able to tell you how long an agent has been selling real estate. Or, you can just ask the agent

directly.

"If they haven't been in business 5 years, they're learning on you and that's not good," says Robert Irwin, author of "Tips & Traps When Buying a Home."

Ultimately, what you're looking for is someone who is actively engaged in a particular area and price range, says NAR's Phipps. You'll want an agent to demonstrate knowledge of the area and homes in your range and show "what kind of market presence they have," he says.

6. Look at current listings

Check out an agent's listings online, says Brobeck, of the Consumer Federation. Places to look include the agency's own website and sites such as Realtor.com, which offer a searchable online database of properties in the Multiple Listing Service.

Most buyers start their search on the internet, and you want an agent who uses that tool effectively. "A key thing is an attractive presentation on the web," Brobeck says.

Look at how closely the agent's listings mirror the property you want to buy or sell. Are they in the same area? Is the price range similar? And does the agent have enough listings to indicate a healthy business but not so many that you'd just be a number?

7. Ask about other houses for sale nearby

A good agent should know about other area properties that are available "off the top of his head," says Irwin. Mention a house in your area that's sold recently or is for sale. If the agent knows the property and can give you a few details, that means he or she really knows your area, he says. "You want someone like that, who's on top of the market."

Courtesy Bankrate.com

Carrie Uva of 24 Hour Real Estate recently sponsored a contest to collect Box Tops for Education. A total of 420 Box Tops were collected and donated to north Downey elementary schools.

First Place: Sandra Cervantes -- Won 2 tickets to Knotts Berry Farm
Second Place: Karen Ashley -- Won 2 movie tickets
Third Place: Mike Soto -- Won a \$20 Starbucks gift card

Carrie Uva has indicated she will continue to collect Box Tops. If anyone is interested in donating, please contact Carrie at (562) 382-1252, or drop them off at her office at 8635 Florence Ave, Suite 101, in Downey.

Box Tops for Education can be found on many food products such as soups, pastas, cereals and on other products such as Kleenex boxes and plastic bag boxes.



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"Renukaben Patel was very helpful and did way more than we expected!" - Andy Verdugo

FEATURED PROPERTY

Opportunity Knocks
This well kept Downey pool home is exceptionally maintained and landscaped. 3 bedroom 2 - 1/2 bath home sits on over 7,200 sq ft lot and is centrally located to freeways, parks, schools, restaurants and shopping. This home features new remodeled kitchen with cabinets and granite tops, master bath was remodeled, recently, new clay roof, enormous brick fireplace in the lathe and open family room. Call Today!!!

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Wonderful Downey Home!
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 This beautiful 3 bedroom, 4 bathroom home is made up of 3,324 sq.ft. of living space. It features near-new carpet, custom lighting, custom drapery throughout. Library/optional 4th bedroom has mahogany built-in bookcases with matching plantation shutters. Upstairs loft can be used as a den or 5th bedroom. **Call Today!!!**

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