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Warren High wins second straight eSports championship

Students put their gaming skills to the test in the second annual tournament.

DOWNEY - Downey Unified, in partnership with the Carrot Group, announced Warren High School as the winners of the second annual Overwatch Downey Unified High School eSports Championship.

This is the second year in a row Warren High School has won this tournament which is the only intra-district high school level eSports tournament that integrates workforce development and career exploration into the program.

The winning team was announced after the final match on Dec. 9 at the Downey Civic Theatre where the top teams from Downey and Warren high schools faced off for the grand prize.

The final match was the culmination of a six-week program, managed by HighSchool.GG, where students formed seven-member teams and competed against the other teams within each school.

There were 10 from Downey High School and nine teams from Warren High School competing in the newly formed Downey Unified eSports League. Students from Columbus High School were also part of the competing teams at each school.

The Downey Unified eSports League (DUEL) is part of Downey Unified's MADE Initiative, a College and Career Readiness program headed by Director, John Harris. The goal of MADE is to ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve their post-secondary educational and career goals, all while being supported with the learning environment to do so.

"We are thrilled for Warren High School and I am proud of how our students worked together over the course of this six-week tournament to ultimately triumph during the championship match," stated Harris.

"This tournament embodies everything we are trying to do with our students to align with our district's vision to ensure they are college and career



PHOTOS COURTESY DOWNEY UNIFIED

Warren High School students celebrate their second consecutive eSports tournament championship on Dec. 9 at the Downey Theatre.

ready, globally competitive, and citizens of strong character. As this is still the first and only high school eSports program in the region with an integrated career exploration and workforce development component, we are proud to provide this innovative program to help our students learn and grow."

The objective of DUEL is to demonstrate to students how their interest in video gaming could turn into prospective career opportunities, all while addressing a positive approach to healthy competition including teamwork, leadership, resilience and problem solving.

All participating students have taken part in an off-campus Workforce Development session from educational partners such as Survios, Positive Coaching Alliance, West Hills College Coalinga as well as leading game designers.

Also, all students who participated in DUEL are eligible to enroll in two free online Game Design courses, each worth three transferable graded college credits, offered by West Hills College Coalinga.

"We are very pleased with



the outcome of this impactful eSports Tournament and are excited for Warren High School," said Alan Zack, president of Carrot Group.

"We applaud all the competing teams from the three schools. Through this Tournament, the students learned how to collaborate, problem-solve, critically think, and most importantly, turn their passion into a career."

Each member of the winning team received a grand prize package which included a trophy,

a video gaming accessories package from industry leading SteelSeries and a championship ring from Jostens.

These students will also be meeting with top game designers as well as receiving an all-expense-paid trip to a one-week Game Design Bootcamp.

Additionally, Warren High School received a trophy that will be showcased in the main office and a \$1,000 gift certificate towards computer supplies.

L.A. County thinks it can predict homelessness

A new predictive model is helping to identify people at risk of sleeping on the streets.

LOS ANGELES - Los Angeles County has developed a homelessness prevention action plan based on predictive modeling research that can identify residents at high risk of

becoming homeless.

The new predictive model, developed by the California Policy Lab and the University of Chicago Poverty Lab, uses Los Angeles County data to predict those most likely to become homeless soon.

Continued on page 10



Downey leaders meet with Army secretary

Ryan McCarthy and Downey leaders discussed education and Army recruitment.

DOWNEY - Last week, Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Ryan McCarthy visited Los Angeles where he met with community leaders, educators, and our local Army Battalion.

He met with a select group of elected officials and educators from Downey, including then-Mayor Rick Rodriguez, Councilman Alex Saab, St. Pius Matthias Academy President Erick Rubalcava, Government Affairs Director for Financial Partners Credit Union David Kantar and Judge Dennis Saab.

The meeting was hosted by former Downey Mayor and



Mario Guerra, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army, greets Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy.

current Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Mario A. Guerra and CASA Janet Chin.

Continued on page 11

Downey restaurant grades

The Mission Cafe
12820 Woodruff Ave.
Date Inspected: 12/16/19
Grade: **A**

Kaiser Cafe
12254 Bellflower Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/16/19
Grade: **A**

Albertson's (Bakery)
7676 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/16/19
Grade: **A**

Albertson's
7676 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/16/19
Grade: **A**

Southern California Gas Co.
9240 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/16/19
Grade: **A**

Little Caesar's
7369 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 12/13/19
Grade: **A**

K-Inn Donuts
7613 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/13/19
Grade: **A**

The Marketplace Grill
7877 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 12/13/19
Grade: **C**

Jersey Mike's Subs
8855 Apollo Way
Date Inspected: 12/13/19
Grade: **A**

Myra's Salvadorean Cuisine
7324 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 12/13/19
Grade: **A**

Mr. Pete's Patio
7811 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/12/19
Grade: **A**

McDonald's
9475 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/12/19
Grade: **A**

Party City
12076 Lakewood Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/12/19
Grade: **A**

Norm's
7955 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/12/19
Grade: **A**

Narai Thai Cuisine
7611 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/12/19
Grade: **A**

El Pescador
12002 Lakewood Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/12/19
Grade: **A**

Pizza Time
8310 Stewart & Gray Rd.
Date Inspected: 12/12/19
Grade: **A**

Starbuck's
12016 Lakewood Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/12/19
Grade: **A**

3rd Street Coffee
8221 3rd St.
Date Inspected: 12/11/19
Grade: **A**

Papa Johns
7840 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/11/19
Grade: **A**

Bionicos Pura Vida
8133 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 12/11/19
Grade: **A**

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 75°

Saturday 72°

Sunday 65°

THINGS TO DO



Hargitt House Tour

Saturday - Hargitt House Museum in Norwalk, 5-8 pm

Tour the historic DD Johnston-Hargitt House Museum in Norwalk, which has been specially decorated for the holidays.



Too Many Tamales

All Weekend - Plaza de la Raza in Los Angeles

Christmas Eve starts out perfectly for Maria, until she loses her mother's wedding ring in a pile of tamales. Presented by the Bilingual Foundation for the Arts. \$20



A Little Tokyo Christmas

Saturday - Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 3 pm

A one-of-a-kind show with music, dancing, unique performances, and celebrity guests. Plus a holiday boutique for shopping. \$22-\$25



The Nutcracker

All Weekend - Downey Theatre

SoCal Dance Theatre presents this classic tale of a young girl's adventure into the fantasy of the holiday. \$28



Red Not Chili Peppers

Sunday - Slidebar Rock & Roll Kitchen in Fullerton, 5 pm

Live tribute to the Red Hot Chili Peppers. \$15, standing room only.



Battle of the Rising Stars

Sunday - Quiet Canyon Country Club, 7 pm

Watch up and coming stars in the boxing world fight live. General admission tickets are \$55.

Kids go shopping with Downey police officers

The generosity of Downey police officers and local businesses ensures a happy Christmas for struggling families.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY - In a joint-showing of holiday cheer, Downey Police officers and several other businesses and organizations came together to help put presents under some less-fortunate Christmas Trees.

Around 20 in-need students and their families were paired with officers of the Downey Police Department to go on a holiday shopping spree last week.

Detective Timothy McCarthy, secretary for Downey Police Officer's Association, described the event as a "community effort."

"It was our effort as an organization to show the community that there's more to just public safety, we're also here

to try to improve quality of life," said McCarthy. "We had amazing support from the community."

Students were selected with the assistance of Downey Unified School District, ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade.

The day started with breakfast sponsored by and held at the Elks Lodge, including donations from Chick-fil-A, Tropicana, and Coke.

Once finished with breakfast, each child was encouraged to speak with officers and check out some of their equipment and vehicles. Santa and Mrs. Clause were also on hand with sleigh in tow to take pictures and visit with families.

Children and their families were then piled into a bus and were escorted to Walmart by a substantially sized police motorcade, complete with sirens and lights blazing.

"We had about 15 cars including the school and Santa Clause," said McCarthy. "That's a highlight for these kids; to come to Walmart in style..."

Upon arrival, each family received a warm welcome as they headed off in search of holiday gifts, courtesy of the Police Officer's Association.

"We provided \$150 per kid to go inside and shop and get their gifts," said McCarthy.

However, many of the kids walked out of Walmart with more than \$150 worth of gifts and goodies.

"The officers were entitled to come out of pocket if they wanted to," said McCarthy. "Every officer has come out of pocket so far to make sure that [the kids] got all the gifts that they wanted."

Gift wrapping help was also made available once purchases were made. It wasn't just the kids, however, who walked out with a bag of holiday cheer.

"The parents that are accompanying them are going to walk away with a gift bag," said McCarthy. "That gift bag will have a \$100 grocery card to Ralph's to go do some holiday shopping for the groceries. They're also going to have some coupons from Boy's Burgers here in town, Chick-fil-A donated a ton of gift cards,



PHOTO BY ALEX DOMINGUEZ

In-n-Out donated gift cards, and Del Rio Lanes provided a family four pack for all the families to go bowling for free. So, every family will walk away with something as well."

Along with the happy parents and kids, the officers also reaped a fair share of positive morale from the experience.

"The officers all had a smile on their face when they were

turning their lights on and knowing we were doing it for a good cause," said McCarthy. "It was a big production, but fortunately everybody was a big participant in this and it made it go smooth."

Downey Library volunteers find plenty of reasons to celebrate

By Lorine Parks
Society Columnist

DOWNEY - Red-clad tables banked with silver lanterns and red poinsettia wrapped in green foil greeted the Friends of the Library meeting in the lobby of Downey City Hall. Presents for everyone, as Myra and her associates handed out the green-tinsel-tied red mini-boxes of See's Candy.

Claudia Daily was throwing

one of her annual parties to celebrate the Friends and volunteers who make the Downey City Library's outreach programs work. Even though the bricks and mortar building is closed until next June, the library's cadre of active and committed volunteers is busier than ever while they are waiting.

In her welcoming remarks, Claudia thanked the Friends of the Library and the volunteers. Friends Treasurer Susan Bouris added to that a list of specifics the Friends have made possible with the remarkable \$32,000 they donate yearly: expenses for the children's summer reading program, Story Times,

Downey library volunteer Colleen Edmondson



teen programming, a new laptop kiosk in the library, and two recent children's author events held at the Columbia Memorial Space Center and the Downey Theater.

There are a lot of gently used 50 cent books sold in the Friends' Bookstore Around the Corner.

Continued on page 8

A Recycling Reminder...

The more Used Motor Oil and Filters you recycle, the Cleaner Downey is!

"It takes everyone in Downey to make a difference by recycling motor oil and filters!"
Dana Mendoza Gallatin Elementary School Ms. Bliss' Class

fun fact It's easy to recycle used motor oil and filters in the City of Downey. Just take them to any one of nearly 20 Certified Collection Centers — for free! Help keep Downey clean!

The student artwork above was selected from among 388 environmental artwork entries submitted to the City by local 5th grade students. A new student artwork winner will be featured each month.

The City of Downey and local 5th grade students remind you to Do Your Part to Prevent Oil Pollution: Recycle Used Motor Oil & Filters

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Dr. Sasha Maher is board certified in Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery. She completed her ENT residency at Loma Linda University. Dr. Maher has relocated her practice to AppleCare and continues to serve the Downey community. Dr. Maher loves to travel and spend time with her family.



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Viking wrestling hosts tournament, Bears take third

By Mark Fetter Contributor

DOWNEY - The Downey High School wrestling team hosted the Viking 32-Way Individual Wrestling Tournament last Saturday at Downey High School. Downey finished in seventh place overall with 132.5 points. Ventura was the tournament champion with 226.5 points, respectively. Cross-town rival Warren finished third overall with 170 points.

The Vikings had five wrestlers place in the top eight of their respective weight classes to help secure seventh place. Downey's Rafael Guerra (160) finished in Ffirst place after he defeated Levi Heron of Bloomington 9-0. For his efforts, Guerra earned tournament champion honors.

Daniel Elnabout (132) finished in eighth place overall after he was pinned by Ethan Grubach of Birmingham at the :22 mark of the first period. Josh Burtle (138) finished in sixth place overall after he was pinned by Duy Nguyen of Arroyo at the 2:36 mark of the second period.

Downey's Jordan Vega (145) finished in sixth place overall after he was defeated by Isaiah Cabtree of Monache 5-3 and Josh Jaimes (171) finished in sixth place overall after he was pinned by Brandon Pena of Schurr at the 3:26 mark of the second period.

Coach Acevedo, his staff and wrestlers are all looking forward to San Gabriel Valley League dual meet competition. Paramount and cross-town rival Warren will once again be the teams to beat.

The Bears finished in third place overall with a total score of 170 points. The Bears had eight wrestlers place in the top eight of their respective weight classes to help finish third.

Ventura finished first with 226.5 points, Monache finished second with 220.5 points, Arroyo finished fourth with 164.5 points and Chino finished fifth to round out the top five finishers, respectively. Cross

town rival Downey finished seventh overall with 132.5 points.

Andrew Lopez (106) was a tournament champion after he finished with four pins and one bye. Lopez defeated Ryan Catbagan of Long Beach Wilson by pin at the :30 mark of the first period. For his efforts, Lopez was voted TMI Lower Weight MVP of the tournament.

Warren's Jafet Herrera (113) finished sixth overall after he was defeated by Joseph Lopez of Ventura 6-2. Andrew Iniguez (120) finished seventh overall after he defeated Andres Sanchez of Saugus by default. Joel Gutierrez (145) finished seventh overall after he defeated Andrew Sanchez of Bloomington by default.

Warren's Troy Garza (152) finished fourth overall after he was defeated by Sebastian Tapia of Bell 12-9. Andrew Martinez (171) finished seventh overall after he defeated Ash Gomez of Millikan by pin at the 1:28 mark of the first period. Isaac Gonzalez (182) finished fourth overall after he was defeated by Joshua Newsom of Monache 5-3. Kaleb McIntyre (195) finished seventh overall after he pinned George Osuna (school unidentified) at the :16 mark of the first period.

DOWNEY GIRLS' BASKETBALL: The Downey High School girls' basketball team currently has an overall record of 3-7 and will begin San Gabriel Valley League play when they travel to Gahr to face the Lady Gladiators on Jan. 8. The Lady Vikings defeated La Serna at Downey 55-46 on Dec. 2 and competed in the Orangewood Academy Tournament Dec. 10-13 where they finished with a record of 0-4.

The Lady Vikings were defeated by Esperanza 48-40 in their first game on Dec. 10, were defeated by Long Beach Wilson 52-50 in their second game on December 11th, were defeated by Orangewood Academy 70-38 in their third game on December 12th and were defeated by Serra 54-52 in their fourth and final game on

Dec. 13. Downey traveled to North Torrance on Tuesday (score unavailable at press time) and will host San Clemente at Downey tomorrow at 2 p.m. The Lady Vikings will be competing in the Seaside Sweet 16 Tournament Dec. 26-30. Downey is scheduled to play Salinas on Dec. 26, Seaside on Dec. 28 and Palo Alto on Dec. 30.

The Lady Vikings will also compete in the Northview Showcase on Jan. 4 before they travel to Gahr on Jan. 8 and before they host Paramount at Downey on Jan. 10.

WARREN GIRLS' BASKETBALL: The Warren High School girls' basketball team currently has an overall record of 3-8 and will begin San Gabriel Valley League play when they travel to Dominguez to face the Lady Dons on Jan. 8. The Lady Bears recently competed in the Ocean View Tournament Dec. 3-7, where they finished with a record of 1-3.

Warren was defeated by Tustin 56-32 in their first game on Dec. 3, defeated El Toro 54-43 in their second game on Dec. 4, was defeated by Villa Park 54-36 in their third game on Dec. 5 and was defeated by Woodbridge 51-40 in their fourth and final game on Dec. 7.

The Lady Bears were defeated by Orange Lutheran 51-39 on Dec. 10, were defeated by La Serna 51-50 on Dec. 12, defeated Whittier 55-33 on Dec. 13 and defeated Marcos de Niza of Tempe, Arizona in their first game of the Nike Tournament of Champions on Wednesday.

The Lady Bears will be competing in the Nike TOC this week and had games scheduled for Thursday and today (scores unavailable at press time). Warren has two games scheduled for today against undetermined opponents. Results of other tournament games will determine who Warren plays next.

Warren has a preseason game scheduled against Santa Fe on Jan. 3 and will begin league play on Jan. 8 when they travel to Dominguez. The Lady Bears will then host Lynwood at Warren on Jan. 10.

Holiday Home Decorating Contest participants and winners

DOWNEY - Here is a list of this year's Holiday Home Decorating Contest participants and winners.

District 1

Kniep Family, 8602 Nada St., **Downey Award**
Bobbie Barraza & Ray Madrid, 9603 Borson St.
Mario Morales, 9031 Iowa St., **Most Original**

District 2

Emmet & Stephanie, 12210 Caladre Ave.
Alba Family, 7821 Brookmill Rd.
Carol Gilbert, 7614 Yankey St., **Downey Award**
Jayden Gonzales, 8134 Cheyenne Ave.
Julie Bliss, 7520 Yankey St., **Most Original**
Bill Vallefuoco, 8224 Arnett St., **Best Religious**
Villegas Family, 8230 Puritan St.
Larry Osterhoudt, 7920 Melva St., **Best Window**

District 3

Mike Boyd, 10945 Hasty Ave, **Most Original**
Zenaida Castaneda, 9202 Buhman Ave, **Most Original**
Matt Chavez, 9210 Stamps Ave, **Mayor's Award**
Alicia Valencia, 9135 Buhman Ave., **Downey Award**

District 4

Jennifer Fierros, 9218 Paramount Blvd., **Downey Award**
Dan & Mary Lorenzetti, 9922 Norlain Ave., **Most Original**
Cornelia Monzon, 9935 Tecum Rd.
Serna Family, 7721 Botany St.



Two flag football teams from Downey won their regional championships this past weekend and advanced to the state championship qualifiers in the SCMAF flag football tournament. Both teams are composed of players from the DJAA. The sixth grade team includes (back row, from left): Elojious Holder, Shane Costello, Coach Dominic Gamboa, Matthew Gamboa, Coach Juan Medina, Aiden Wall, Coach Ramiro Garcia and Coach Frank Costello. Front row: Marc Urrutia, Ethan Velazquez, Joshua Sosa, Christopher Garcia, Azen Bojorquez, and David Llamas. Not shown: Matthew Topete. The eighth grade team includes (back row, from left): Billy Arriola, Andrew Cerros, Lucas Sosa, Yahir Martinez, Josh Rodriguez, Luis Campoy, Nicolas Guerrero, Coach Hector Sosa, Noah Rodriguez, Coach Jose Rodriguez and Coach Jesse Urrutia. Front row: Joaquin Rodriguez, Michael Urrutia, Erick Garcia and Oscar Robles.

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Politics may not build character but it reveals it

BY MARK SHIELDS

First, an anecdote circulating about the most courageously candid staff person in the White House allegedly speaking to President Donald J Trump: “Mr. President, you’re coming across as mean-spirited, abusive and so unlikable that people frankly do not want to work for you. Sir, in all due respect, you have to make some immediate changes.” President Trump to courageously candid staffer: “I agree. You’re fired.”

This story, for some reason, reminds me of the late U.S. Rep. Jack Kemp, the conservative Republican whose contagious optimism went a long way putting a smiling face on what had previously been dour and dyspeptic American conservatism. When Kemp ran, unsuccessfully, for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination, that year’s GOP campaign featured much rhetoric about the candidates’ devotion to pro-family issues from men whose private conduct very often did not match their pious, public posturing.

But not Kemp who, let it be noted, was a more devoted father than he was a determined office seeker. On virtually every fall weekend, before the crucial Iowa and New Hampshire contests, Kemp, much to the frustration of his campaign strategists, left the campaign trail to come home to suburban Maryland in order to see his son play

football for Winston Churchill High School. What is true of sports is also true of political campaigns: Neither really builds character, but both reveal character.

Four years earlier at the Republican National Convention, a GOP delegate sought unanimous consent to change the party platform language to read the “Democrat Party” instead of the “Democratic Party.”

One party leader rose to object, pointing out that such language would be “an insult to our Democratic friends.” You guessed it; that Republican leader was Jack Kemp.

A couple of decades later, in 2007, then-Republican President George W. Bush surprisingly visited the annual retreat of House Democrats, who had a new majority, in Williamsburg, Virginia. Acknowledging his tendency to mispronounce the name of his hosts’ party as “Democrat,” a term many Democrats saw as an intended slur, Bush said, “I appreciate your inviting the head of the Republic Party.” He then went on to ask the “Democratic Party” to help him meet the mounting challenges of funding Social Security and Medicare.

Make no mistake; the “ic” factor — that is, dropping the last

syllable of the adjective “Democratic” and substituting instead the noun “Democrat” ungrammatically before party or candidate or convention name, is intended by partisans to show contempt or hostility. It is roughly the political equivalent of referring to someone who is Catholic as a member of “the Church of Rome” or someone who is Jewish as being of “the Hebraic persuasion.” Supporting the use of “Democratic” and not “Democrat” in the 2008 party platform, then-GOP Chairman Haley Barbour asserted simply, “we probably should use what the actual name is.”

But, as you have probably noticed, one leading Republican, President Donald Trump, repeatedly disdains the opposition by invariably tweeting — and needling — the “Democrat Party.” Since 1988, exactly one Republican presidential nominee — George W. Bush (who openly asked for the help of the “Democratic Party”) — has once won a majority of the nation’s popular vote.

Trump would do well to take heed.

Mark Shields is a political columnist and provides commentary for PBS NewsHouse.

Are you listening?

BY GORDON MARINO

Ernest Hemingway put it bluntly: “Most people never listen.”

Given that meaningful relationships are crucial to human thriving, it is unfortunate that the ability to listen should be so underestimated, and so rare.

The importance of listening was apparently a concern in the earliest days of Western philosophy. Zeno of Citium (334-262 B.C.), the founder of Stoicism, proclaimed, “We have two ears and one mouth, so we should listen more than we say.” A few centuries later, his philosophical descendant Epictetus taught, “Whoever is going to listen to the philosophers needs considerable practice in listening.”

But listening has gotten short shrift in philosophy over the years. While attempts to break down moral character into a list of virtues — like courage, honesty, self-control and so on — go back at least to Aristotle, the ability to listen never made the list. Philosophy is mostly silent on the moral importance of being a good listener.

Good listening is not a matter of technique but of having the willingness to enter into another person’s life. Many bad listeners can’t be there for someone else because they are too locked into themselves. For them, everything has to be filtered through their own experience and concerns.

Psychoanalysts train for years to master the art of listening carefully. Most importantly, they labor at learning to decipher their “countertransference,” that is, at detecting experiences and desires that might filter and so distort the revelations of their clients. For example, an analyst who understands that she harbors red-hot anger toward her father would need to be careful of unconsciously and mistakenly hearing resonances of her dad in words coming from the person on the couch.

“How do you listen?” the Indian philosopher Jiddu Krishnamurti asked his audience in a 1953 talk. “Do you listen with your projections, through your projection, through your ambitions, desires, fears, anxieties, through hearing only what you want to hear, only what will be satisfactory, what will gratify, what will give comfort, what will for the moment alleviate your suffering? If you listen through the screen of your desires, then you obviously listen to your own voice; you are listening to your own desires.” Which is of course to say, you aren’t listening at all.

When my philosophy students put together their own table of virtues, they invariably include empathy. But empathy requires a willingness to listen, and listening demands wiping the slate of your mind clean. Tell someone you are battling through a marital breakup and in a few ticks most folks will quickly relate it to themselves, perhaps saying, “I went through the same thing a few years back.”

Raw-edged awkwardness, the feeling of not knowing what to say, is one of the most daunting impediments to being present for someone else — but that very feeling is the result of mistakenly thinking that the person reaching out to you is asking for something akin to an explanation. Once, a teenage neighbor confided to me that her best friend had recently hanged himself. Weeping she said, “Maybe this sounds selfish, but I feel like he was the only person who ever really listened to me, who ever understood me.”

In those few moments together, this distraught 18-year-old was not expecting me to explain the place of her friend’s untimely death in the grand scheme of the universe. She just wanted me to be there with her in her howling pain. She was yearning for the comfort of feeling that she was not alone, that at least someone grasped what she was feeling.

But I’m not just trying to describe the virtue of being a good listener. I also want to suggest that people who have not been listened to often find it hard to listen to themselves.

A few years ago, I had a student come to me in dire academic straits. This was a shock since this 20-year old had always been a brilliant and impassioned learner. I knew his family background: a single mother working two low wage jobs to support him and his siblings. For all

his mom’s grit and loving resolve to nurture her children, growing up there was not much space for him to complain to his exhausted mom about slurs in school or being cut from the soccer team.

As he was perched on a chair in my office, slumped shoulders and head hanging low, I kept trying different tacks to get a sense of what was going on behind his furrowed brows. He couldn’t cough it up. He was a mystery to himself. A week before our conversation, he made the leap of talking with a counselor. In those sessions, he had heard some clinical terms tossed about, and during our meeting he obsessively circled around the question of whether or not he was suffering from anxiety or depression. “It is not an either/or; anxiety and depression are common partners,” I assured him, insisting that what we needed to do was concentrate on how he was feeling now and more urgently, on getting him to pull out of his academic crash pattern.

Ironically enough, this student is a highly valued volunteer mentor and tutor in the local public schools. There is no doubt that he can take heed of the travails of struggling kids, but when it came to listening to himself, he had a hearing problem. He could not make sense of his inner world. I could not help but think that his inner confusion owed much to the absence in his life of caring and attentive listeners.

There are hordes of people who have never had anyone to listen to them. Sometimes the isolation is the debris of external conditions: poverty, family illness, unemployment, war. Still, just as often, the inability to listen has nothing to do with socio-economic or political circumstances.

Many young people keep troubling thoughts inside because their

Men call their own research ‘excellent’

BY ANUPAM B. JENA, MARC LERCHENMUELLER AND OLAV SORENSON

Women are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the highest levels. Only one out of four full professors at American research institutions is a woman, despite the fact that equal numbers of men and women earn doctoral degrees in science each year. In the life sciences, women are less likely either to receive major grant funding or to be promoted to full professor — and they are paid less even when they produce the same amount of scholarly output as men.

We’ve identified another, much less discussed component of gender disparity in science: Men are much more likely than women to heap praise on their own research and emphasize its importance.

In a study published in The British Medical Journal, we analyzed the titles and abstracts of more than six million life science articles. We suspected that scientific teams led by men might frame their research findings in more flattering light, by using terms like “novel,” “excellent” and “unique” to describe their results.

Indeed, they do. In the most highly cited scientific journals, male-led scientific teams were up to 21 percent more likely than women-led teams publishing comparable studies to use positive adjectives to frame their research findings.

That matters. Scientists use titles and abstracts to screen articles, to decide what to read. Positive presentation of research findings by male scientists may then draw more attention from others in the scientific community. Sure enough, we found that the greater use of positive spin by male-led teams was linked to more citations.

Since citations to scientific research often serve as a key metric in hiring, promotion, pay and funding decisions, these differences in self-promotion may also translate into gender disparities on many levels.

Our analysis accounted for several factors that might reasonably justify the positive framing of research findings by male scientists. For example, if male scientists disproportionately did research in newer scientific areas, the greater use of positive terms to describe their research might make sense.

But we found no evidence that male scientists’ more frequent

use of spin stemmed from their science being more novel or innovative.

It’s well recognized that men and women use language differently. Some studies in the general population suggest that men use more assertive language and women more tentative language when communicating.

Studies in the sciences have reached similar conclusions. A textual analysis of approximately 7,000 research grant proposals to the Gates Foundation found that despite grant reviewers not knowing the identity of the applicant, women received lower application scores. The gap could be explained entirely by the gender differences in how applicants framed their research.

There are still unanswered questions: Do women choose to refrain from presenting their research more positively, or are they held to different standards by reviewers and editors who govern the scientific peer review process? Our research, of course, cannot determine the best amount of positive framing for research. But it does raise questions the scientific community — both men and women — may need to reflect on.

Across most occupations, the way in which individuals “sell” themselves to others is one factor in advancement. Although we focused on scientists, our findings shed new light on how men and women stake claims about accomplishments, scientific or otherwise, and how those differences might combine with other forms of gender inequality to influence career outcomes.

Anupam B. Jena is a professor of health care policy and medicine at Harvard University. Marc Lerchenmueller is a professor of technological innovation and management at the University of Mannheim. Olav Sorenson is a professor of management and sociology at Yale University.

Bait and switch

Dear Editor:

Congresswoman Roybal-Allard is co-sponsoring the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763). The bill puts a tax on coal, oil and gas.

How is this bill going to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? It will bankrupt the companies and there will be a loss of millions of jobs. Is that the real plan? The companies and employees pay taxes. How will the government make up the loss of taxes? Of course your taxes will go up.

The bill states that the taxes levied on the companies will be distributed to the people as a dividend. Do you honestly think you will get a dividend check from the government? The bill states that every adult with a SSN will receive one share and under the age of nineteen will receive a half share. I thought that you were an adult at 18. I can see fraud already. You will also be taxed as receiving an income. Nothing is free. If the money is banked, the government will borrow from it.

A tax was levied on property owners to save the rain water from flowing from the riverbed and into the ocean. Has anyone heard on the progress of this boondoggle?

SB 1 (gas tax) was passed to improve our highways and bridges. The taxes were to be used only for this purpose! Our governor now wants to divert billions of tax dollars for his pet climate change projects! When will the bait and switch stop?

Bob Rodriguez Downey

Poverty in California

Dear Editor:

There is a lack of news coverage here in California, and I’m sure across the country, of the level of poverty we are experiencing, Please include this coverage in your newspaper, The Patriot, ongoing.

I do receive the Patriot weekly and I do read it, so I am a supporter of the paper. We need to address this situation and also offer solutions, one of which would be supporting the public forum the Poor People’s Campaign, which held a march this week in San Francisco.

Some statistics in California include: 55% of Californians, or 21 million residents, are poor or low income. Of these, 65% are children, 57% are women, 66% people are color (black and brown), and 39% are white.

This crisis is everyone’s problem and we need to focus the public attention on it. One thing everyone can do is to vote, if eligible.

Sharon Byers Downey

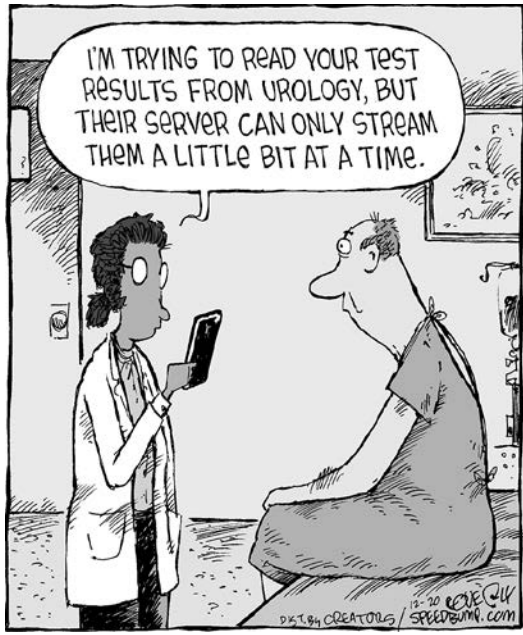
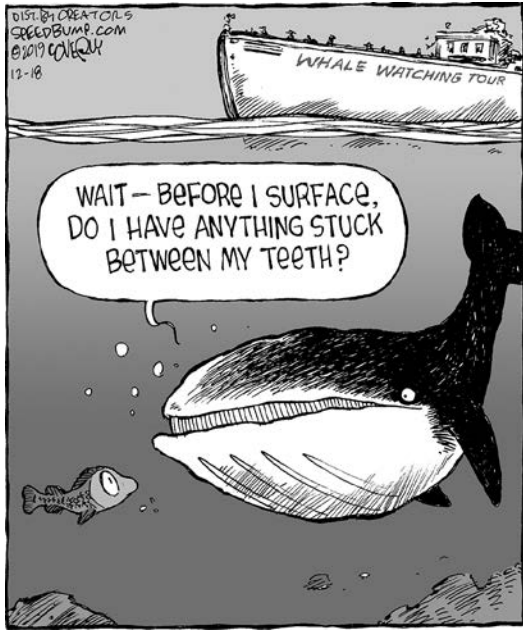
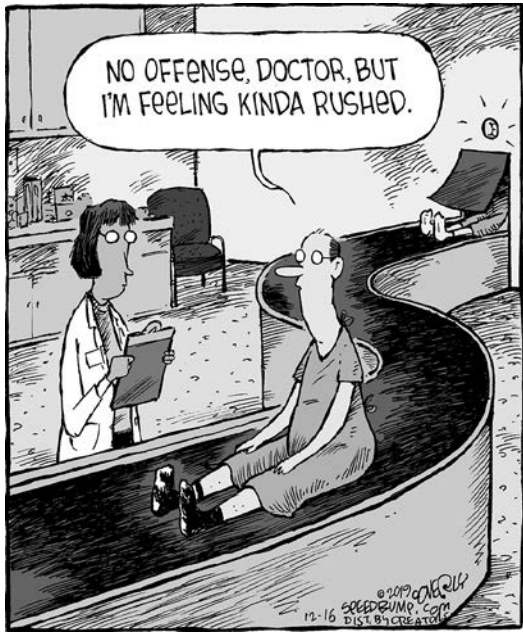
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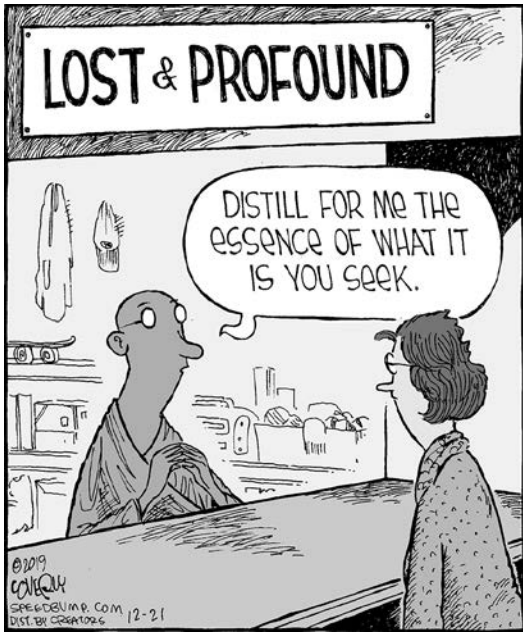
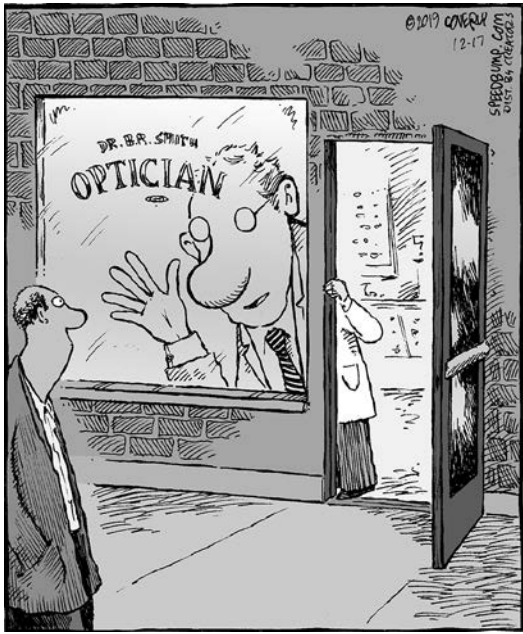
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THE DOWNEY PATRIOT.COM | ADJUDICATION #BS124251

The Downey Patriot is published weekly by The Downey Patriot, Inc.
Controlled Distribution, 25,000 copies are printed.
Distributed by CIPS Marketing Group, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

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.
 2nd & 4th Tue., 6:30pm: City Council, Council Chamber.
 3rd Tue., 6:30pm: Library Advisory Board, at Downey City Library.
 3rd Thurs., 6:30pm: CERT, at Downey City Council Chamber at City Hall, for more info call 299-5462.
 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.
 4:30 pm: Courage Forward Meeting, at 10829 New St, 2nd Floor, call 213-545-6810.
 2nd Mon., 11 am: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, call 304-3439.
 3rd Mon., 11:30 am: Downey Newcomers Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.
 4th Mon., 7:30 pm: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

TUESDAYS

9 am: Quilters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.
 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 Nate Mahoney 416-1826.
 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., 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, call Marilyn 928-2623.
 2nd Wed., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 904-7102.
 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 860-8821 or 927-3635.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: OLPH Women's Guild, at OLPH School Auditorium, contact Melodie Santana, (562) 806-3102.
 3rd Wed., 6:30 pm: Sister Cities of Downey, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call Gloria Nezahualcoyotl (562) 776-6136.
 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 am: Crafters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.
 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.
 7:30 pm: Downey Elks Lodge #2020, call 803-3557.
 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., 6:30 pm: Downey Lions Club, at Mimi'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...

- Dec. 19, 1777:** General George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, PA, to camp for the winter
- 1843:** Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was first published in England.
- 1959:** Walter Williams died in Houston, TX, at the age of 117. He was said to be the last surviving veteran of the U.S. Civil War.
- 1998:** U.S. President Bill Clinton was impeached on two charges of perjury and obstruction of justice by the U.S. House of Representatives.

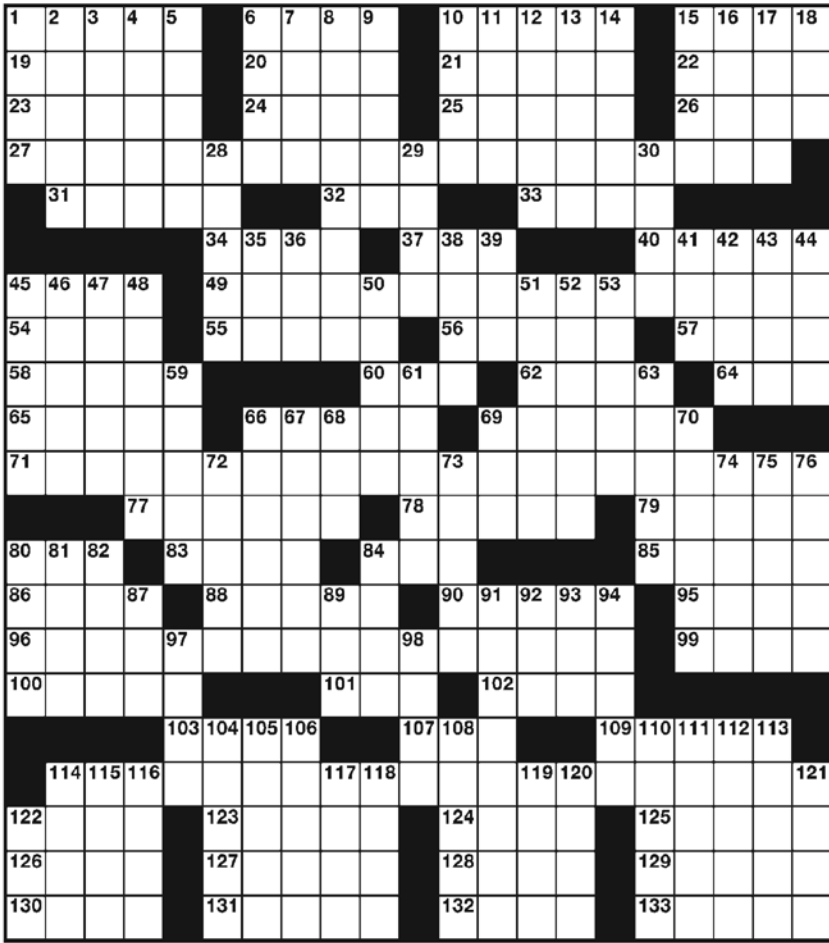
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
FOREIGNERS: Sounds about right
 by Mark McClain

- ACROSS**
- 1 Exploited ones
 - 6 Site for crafters
 - 10 Groups together
 - 15 Draw on glass
 - 19 Skulk around
 - 20 Lowland
 - 21 Interstate no-no
 - 22 Function
 - 23 Match up
 - 24 Smallest of the Olympians
 - 25 Molokai neighbor
 - 26 Nutritionist's measure
 - 27 Women's suffrage icon
 - 31 Simmons alternative
 - 32 "UR so funny!"
 - 33 Looking up
 - 34 Tomato type
 - 37 Weed whacker
 - 40 Athletic award
 - 45 "Meh!"
 - 49 Pulp Fiction director
 - 54 Mimed
 - 55 Muscle power
 - 56 Molokai and 25 Across
 - 57 Spumante source
 - 58 Take pleasure (in)
 - 60 Refuel oneself
 - 62 Sibilant hail
 - 64 Barnyard mom
 - 65 "Am not!" retort
 - 66 Sharon of Israel
 - 69 "Word has it..."
 - 71 "The Little Mermaid" author
 - 77 Hands-on-hips
 - 78 Criticize harshly
 - 79 Leaf-eating critter
 - 80 Poorly lit
 - 83 Syrian ___ Republic
 - 84 Sunflower product
 - 85 Bowler's bane
 - 86 "Great Scott!"
 - 88 Mighty as ___
 - 90 Invite for
 - 95 Apple desktop
 - 96 C-note portrait
 - 99 Talcum/walcum rhymers
 - 100 Secret meeting
 - 101 London washroom
 - 102 How ___ Your Mother
 - 103 Clumsy boats
 - 107 Knighted McKellen
 - 109 Pizazz
 - 114 Airship inventor
 - 122 Part below mezzo
 - 123 Bayou beast
 - 124 Explosion, as of color
 - 125 Not give ___ (be disinterested)
 - 126 Pop singer Del Rey
 - 127 Egg-shaped
 - 128 Old circus venue
 - 129 Dish towel fabric
 - 130 Semester conclusion
 - 131 Go for another year
 - 132 Real estate measurement
 - 133 Disdain
- DOWN**
- 1 Ad Council ads, briefly
 - 2 Scottish beef breed
 - 3 Declining
 - 4 Musical shortcoming
 - 5 Laid out
 - 6 Even a single time
 - 7 Source of poi
 - 8 Far-right freeway path
 - 9 Limited-option question
 - 10 Ponder (over)
 - 11 Bibliography abbr.
 - 12 Part of LEM
 - 13 Liquid-Plum rival
 - 14 Foul moods
 - 15 Thus
 - 16 Unable to decide
 - 17 Modeling material
 - 18 Cuff feature
 - 28 Big name in root beer
 - 29 K-12
 - 30 Sacred song
 - 35 Le contraire de "non"
 - 36 Uncles and dads
 - 38 "You have my word"
 - 39 Independence Day foes: Abbr.
 - 41 GPS numerical display
 - 42 Menu selection
 - 43 Pot starter
 - 44 Cut of pork
 - 45 Biblical patriarch
 - 46 "Grand" work
 - 47 Water polo team
 - 48 Ukrainian port
 - 50 Social media snippet
 - 51 Lead dogs
 - 52 Don't take kindly to
 - 53 Syrian leader
 - 59 Opa___ Florida
 - 61 Story in a crime story
 - 63 Major hikes
 - 66 Milan fashion house
 - 67 Fair award
 - 68 It means "equal"
 - 69 Once ___ blue moon
 - 70 Make a casual visit
 - 72 Distiller Walker
 - 73 Historian Nevins
 - 74 Hayek in movies
 - 75 Disney's middle name
 - 76 "No prob!"
 - 80 Financial liability
 - 81 Disney CEO
 - 82 Abundant
 - 84 Southern fried fare
 - 87 FM personalities
 - 89 CIO merger partner
 - 91 Comparatively lanky
 - 92 Flier to Rotterdam
 - 93 Yogi Bear wear
 - 94 Leading the league
 - 97 Minimally
 - 98 Tel ___ Israel
 - 104 Inflexible accuracy
 - 105 Rogue
 - 106 Symbol of evil
 - 108 Heart outlet
 - 110 Brooch gems
 - 111 Battlefield physician
 - 112 Dallas suburb
 - 113 Résumé reader
 - 114 Source of
 - 129 Across
 - 115 European erupter
 - 116 Wander about
 - 117 Call attention to a well
 - 118 Got water, as from a well
 - 119 Vicinity
 - 120 Jazz singer James
 - 121 What the five longest answers have in common
 - 122 Brewpub serving

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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 HAPPENINGS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Winter Wonderland, 10 am to 3 pm. A free family event with music, games face painting, arts and crafts, raffles, and photos with Santa Claus. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 13200 Columbia Way

KidsCreate: Family Paint Day, 10:30 am to noon. Enjoy a fun-filled day of painting and creativity with your little one(s). Make lasting memories & take home your works of art. One ticket includes: Child-friendly paint theme, guided workshop, two take-home canvases (for you and your child), paint brushes & paint supplies, snacks & refreshments. Each additional child or parent is \$15. Stay Gallery, 11140 Downey Ave.

Adoption Event, 10 am to 3 pm. Join the Sunny Saints volunteers and alumni and honorary Sunny Saints for a lot of Saintry love. PetSmart, 12126 Lakewood Blvd.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

\$5 Movie Tickets at Cinemark, 9am-10 pm. TGather your friends and family and enjoy \$5 movie tickets at Cinemark all day Tuesday!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Tribute Night, 8 pm to 2 am. Food, DJs, vendors, ugly Christmas sweater party, and tributes to Interpol, The Strokes and The Cure. \$15 to get in. Epic Lounge, 8239 2nd St.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve Soiree, 8 pm to 12 am. A 1920's themed party with live music by Synthesi. \$125 admission includes appetizers, open bar, and dinner. St. George's Greek Church, 10830 Downey Ave.

Shake, Rattle & Rock, 9 pm to 12 am. Ring in the New Year with entertainer Dean Z and music from Elvis Presley, The Beatles, Buddy Holly, Michael Jackson, and others. Downey Civic Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

Louie's Roaring 20's NYE Party, 8 pm to 2 am. Join us at Bar Louie Downey as we say au revoir to 2019 in style Get ready to ring in the new decade with our champagne

toast and great friends. Admission to Event is free or you can grab our upgrade to our elite package for \$50. Entrance Includes champagne toast. Elite Package Includes (per ticket) champagne toast, 4 drink tickets (Call drinks and Draft beer), and 1 appetizer (your choice of any Flatbread, Sliders or Nachos). Formal attire not required. 1920's attire encouraged but not required.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

Brunch with Latina Golfers, 11 am. Meet and mingle over a glass of bubbly with members of the Latina Golfers and learn what the group is all about. There will be a golf outing immediately following the brunch with tee times starting at 1 pm. \$25 (brunch only), \$55 (brunch and golf). Los Amigos Golf Course, 7295 Quill Dr.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

Coffee Connections, 8:30 am. A business networking event hosted by the Bell Gardens Chamber of Commerce and Latino Chamber of Commerce of Compton. Attendees will have 30 seconds to speak about their business. Los Amigos Country Club, 7295 Quill Dr.

State of the City, 12 pm. Listen as Councilman Rick Rodriguez presents Downey's State of the City address. RSVP with the Downey Chamber of Commerce. Rio Hondo Event Center, 10627 Old River School Rd.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

Book Lovers Club, 12 pm. Join other book lovers in discussing "The Last Man" by Jane Harper. Call (562) 904-7363 for location.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

Human Trafficking Conference, 10 am to 1 pm. Learn about human trafficking, which has become one of the most common and lucrative forms of sexual exploitation. This conference features a panel of speakers, vendors, resource tables, and food provided by Luis' Butcher Shop. Downey Adult School, 12340 Woodruff Ave.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

Downey Sister Cities Winter Party, 6-9 pm. Join us for our Winter Party and Fundraiser. Held at Pina Pizza House, 11102 Paramount Blvd.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

Keep Downey Beautiful Clean-Up, 9 am. Join other volunteers in helping clean up the neighborhood. Meet in the Downtown Downey parking structure at 2nd Street and La Reina.

Downey Symphony Concert, 8 pm. Titled "Happy 250th, Beethoven," this concert features a solo by pianist Sung Chang. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Bridal Expo, 12-4 pm. Meet vendors in the wedding industry and tour the ballrooms and reception halls available at Los Amigos Golf Course, 7295 Quill Dr.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Gallatin Dental Grand Re-Opening, 5-7 pm. Gallatin Dental celebrates its grand re-opening with a ribbon-cutting celebration. Plus raffles, beverages and appetizers. Gallatin Dental, 10805 Paramount Blvd.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Sue Phillips Memorial Fundraiser, 1-4 pm. Quartermania, luncheon and boutique fundraiser to benefit Relay for Life. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Downey Masonic Lodge, 8244 3rd St.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Benefit Concert, 7 pm. Join the Downey High School dance team as they perform a benefit concert for the TLC Family Resource Center. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Keep Downey Beautiful Clean-Up, 9 am. Join other volunteers in helping clean up the neighborhood. Meet in front of Western Pacific Pulp Paper,

9400 Hall Rd.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Jungle Jive Boogie, 9 pm to 1:30 am. Live music by Bebo and the Good Time Boys, plus bands, DJs, cars, and more. Stardust Club, 7643 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Downey TLC 5K, 9 am. A 5K run/walk to benefit the TLC Family Resource Center. Apollo Park, 12544 Rives Ave.

OuteRimCon, 10 am. A oneday mini con presented by the Aerospace Legacy Foundation's speakers bureau. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

The Buddy Holly Story, 8 pm. This production features the classic songs, "That'll Be the Day," "Not Fade Away," "Oh Boy," along with Ritchie Valens' "La Bamba" and The Big Bopper's "Chantilly Lace," plus more. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Walk for Water, 9 am to 1 pm. Join Downey High School's Thirst Project Club as they raise money and awareness regarding the global water crisis. Downey High football stadium, 11040 Brookshire Ave.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Carpenters Tribute Concert, 8 pm. Sally Olson as Karen Carpenter and pianist Ned Mills as Richard Carpenter, backed up by some of Las Vegas' top musicians, celebrate the musical legacy of the Carpenters. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Beauty & the Beast Sing-Along, 2 pm. An interactive presentation of the Disney classic, with on-screen lyrics so the audience can sing along. Buy your tickets at the Downey Theatre box office. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Willy Chirino in Concert, 8 pm. Cuban-born vocalist and bandleader Willy Chirino helped create the "Miami sound" of salsa music. He's performing live in Downey. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Willy Chirino in Concert, 7 pm. Cuban-born vocalist and bandleader Willy Chirino helped create the "Miami sound" of salsa music. He's performing live in Downey. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

One Day of Service, 9 am. Join other volunteers in a day dedicated to community service in Downey. Kick-off celebration at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, 7601 Imperial Hwy.

Downey Symphony Concert, 8 pm. Titled "Sounds of America," this concert features a solo by percussionist Eric Guinivan. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Downey Theatre 50th Anniversary Party, 3 pm. A celebratory event and grand re-opening to mark the theater's 50th anniversary. Downey Civic Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Relay for Life, 10 am. Downey Relay for Life celebrates the 20th anniversary of its fight against cancer. This 24-hour event raises money for the American Cancer Society. Warren High School, 8141 De Palma St.

Touch a Truck, 10 am. Downey fire engines, ladder trucks and ambulance vehicles will be on display for kids to jump on, ride on and honk horns. Independence Park, 12334 Bellflower Blvd.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

Mariachi Los Camperos, 3 pm. The two-time Grammy Award winning mariachi performs a special Mother's Day concert. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

'Grease' Sing-Along, 7 pm. Fall in love with Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta all over again while singing along to all of the film's big hits. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

Compiled by Eric Pierce. Some events may charge admission fees. Email calendar listings to eric@thedowneypatriot.com



Recent newborns at PIH Health are sporting festive sweaters and fuzzy hats in honor of National Ugly Sweater Day on Dec. 20.

The babies pictured above were delivered at PIH's Whittier campus.

The holiday sweaters were crafted and donated by PIH Health volunteers. There are 463 active volunteers at the PIH Health - Hospital Whittier campus and 103 at PIH - Health Hospital Downey.

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Friends of the Downey Library hold their annual holiday party



Ethyl Kendrick

volunteer, the more they have taken on. And they aren't just confining their interests to the library. They are involved in so many Downey doings. What a delightful and inspiring group.

"She's a jewel," said Colleen Edmonson, of hostess Claudia. Colleen, who used to be a primary grade teacher, now enjoys tutoring adults in learning the English language. Students want to be able to use English to pass the DMV written test, get their high school GED, or talk by phone with representatives of the phone company when they are not getting satisfactory service. Teach that last one to all of us, Colleen.

Colleen has become good friends with so many of her students, ranging from Spanish speaking Guatemalans to transplanted residents of South Korea, Cambodia and the Ukraine.

"Tonight I'm invited to a Christmas dinner by my Spanish speaking student," said Colleen, "and last week I went to eat with my Ukrainian student's family. We had special seasonal delicacies. I am so lucky."

Colleen also coordinates a Bible study group. Who do you suppose is the lucky one?

If one quality could be said to be common to the volunteers, it might be the desire to pass on the treasures of the civilized mind that libraries have traditionally preserved.

"I love to teach and to learn," said Colleen, who also keeps fit taking line dancing, with co-volunteer Virginia Yoshiyama. "And I teach Sunday School to third to fifth graders. They're 8 to 10 years old, and they are so eager to learn. They're smart and responsive at that age."

Colleen is also planning to learn conversational Spanish from Duolingo online.

Colleen taught, then retired to raise a family, taught again, retired, and now is back at teaching at the library's literacy program. She also takes on a few children for piano lessons, for those who can't afford it.

"One student is 12 years old," Colleen said, "and he was teaching himself to play by watching YouTube. His parents had gotten him a keyboard from the thrift shop, and he was learning to read notes. He is so motivated, he learns quickly."

Seen in the festively decorated lobby (such a good use of public space by the City of Downey): Vicki Spearman and Beverly Mathis, both library board members and both long time Soroptimists, that group that works tirelessly to secure "the best for women and girls."

Other volunteers: Sue Klein, Virginia Yoshiyama, who always wears a beautiful flower in her upswept hair; Mary Stevens, who doubles as an active member of the Downey Symphonic Society board; and Elsa Frasier, who coordinated



Susan Bouris, pen in hand, ready to enroll new members.

work schedules for the Around the Corner Used Book Store.

We feasted on "country cooking," as Claudia termed all the goodies she herself had baked and brought. "They're not perfect." Well, Claudia, they are close.

Walnut brownies and tiny pecan pie bites were offered next to a perfect moist angel food cake, my favorite, which sat beside mini-muffins with cinnamon crumble crust; cookies with great lumps of macadamia nuts and cranberries; and two platters of fresh watermelon slices and other fruits.

"Claudia makes everyone so comfortable in her reading sessions," said Colleen, who has been tutoring for over 15 years. "The students are not afraid to try to speak up and write because the atmosphere is so warm."

Claudia herself oversees the Literacy endeavors, and my table mate Colleen agreed that Claudia is the heart and soul of the programs.

And then there's volunteer Ethyl Kendrick. I couldn't even get past the first days of the week on her busy calendar.

"Monday's there's the children's program," Ethyl said, "at Old River Elementary. We have a Child Evangelism Good News Club after school. A song, a prayer, a Bible story

and then review. We give them a snack on their way home at 4 pm. Then I go to the Methodist Church at 5th Street and Downey Avenue. We eat first and then have Bible study, and then I go home to my family."

"Tuesday is therapy," said Ethyl. "I go to the beautiful pool on Florence that Jack LaLanne left to the city. From 9 to 10 I'm in the water - that's for my knees. Then 10 to 12, chair exercises. Wednesdays I decide between the program at the Downey Women's Club and the Paramount Women's Club - my girlfriend gave me a membership there for my birthday."

"You are really plugged into the action," I said.

"I have nine grandchildren," Ethyl said, a bright spot on a dull overcast day in her silver spangled black filigree blouse with six-strands of pearls to fill in the neckline, over a red top and pants and shawl, with a sparkly red hairband and a black-bowed cap. Ethyl's smile is irresistible.

"Get out and meet people," said Ethyl.

"Life is overflowing," I said.

"The Bible says to enjoy," replied Ethyl. "God wants us to be happy."

Continued from page 2

Susan also made a pitch to sign up members for 2020 and she collected several \$15 payments to enroll. Only \$5 for students, \$25 for families. The Friends also raise money at the

every-other-month-dinners at participating restaurants. Next meeting: Yoli's Mexican Kitchen at 9006 Gallatin Road. Contributions can also go to the Friends if you shop at Ralph's or Amazon.

It seems that the older the

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Downey Soroptimists hold a holiday party like no one else

By **Lorine Parks**
Society Columnist

DOWNEY - Those Energizer Bunnies, otherwise known as the Downey Soroptimists, held a holiday party and as one might expect, the fun kept going and going and going.

Past President Giggy Saab opened her home and set a long table in the family room to seat 26, and that still wasn't enough. Those not at the table lounged on couches with red Christmas cushions, and that included the eight or so husbands who also came.

"We could hear you all the way out in the street," said Dr. Nina Smart to us as she came in, looking scrumptious in a purple sequin shift. Club president Judith Cisneros greeted everyone in her all-red dress with matching red suede boots.

"I've just finished exam week at school," Judith said. She's going for her bachelor's in Communications, which will help her advance professionally.

Judy McDonnell and Ellie Eck, two of the longest-serving

Soroptimists, reminisced with me about two remarkable Soroptimist sisters we now miss: Jean Brazelton and Marvel Dodson. Judy, retired city clerk for the City of Downey, remarked on the Patriot's involvement with local issues.

"I always think of your interviews with the homeless woman when I see her," Judy said. "Now she has a name."

Soroptimists' mission is to empower women and girls, and the ways and means they do it are legendary. Former District Governor Linda Haines told me about plans being hatched for a new kind of fundraiser.

"It'll be something different, and elegant, with teams and sponsorship opportunities," Linda said. "We'll have it in the spring to coincide with our big scholarship awards."

Linda's husband, Rick, was coming off shoulder surgery only a week before, a new upside-down technique that in three months will have him as good as new.

"The symptom that decided

me to have the procedure," said Rick, "was when I couldn't bring my fork up to my mouth." Good luck with that rehab, Rick. Now you can go back to archery practice at the club in El Dorado Park. Sounds phenomenal.

Soroptimists offer life-changing scholarships to women whose lives have hit bottom but who are now turning them around and need help learning new skills. Young girls who do remarkable things for the community are also rewarded at scholarship time.

January 11 is the Human Trafficking Convention, the pet project of Cecelia Goñez. The Downey chapter of Soroptimist International also supports Rosalind Russell, "The Goat Lady," in her Star Foundation's efforts to bring entrepreneurship through goat ownership to women Nepal. New schools there need computers which are turned on during the few hours a village is allocated to get government-generated electricity. Lots on the plate of Downey SI women.

You are never too old to play games, we found, as fun activities organized by Games Mistress

Carrie Rios engaged us all. With the same energy they put into their fabled casino nights, the members competed for the gold-wrapped prizes. How fast can you unwrap a bundle wrapped in Costco's biggest roll of saran wrap, to get to the embedded prize? The item went around the table several times, and your turn lasted only until the person to your left threw a double of the dice. That's called the "dog throw" and the probability of it occurring is one in six. Or so they say.

Also seen around the table, Blanca Rochin, principal of the Downey Adult School, wearing a spaghetti-strap flounced red dress. Blanca sat next to Chris Ciatti in her green woven off-the-shoulder sweater, and behind them, a collection of nutcrackers were lined up over the fireplace mantel. Chris had brought a plate of exotic cookies: chocolate stars and those thin wafer-like creations quick-fried and bearing the branding iron marks.

Also seen; realtor Dorothy Pemberton in green sweater, fringed vest and fringed suede



Blanca Rochin and Chris Ciatti. Photo by Lorine Parks

boots. And not only was Giggy Perez-Saab's husband, Alex, present, but also her vivacious mother Alodia Perez-Lam, who is visiting from Florida. Alodia arrived from another party, and went around the room with a hug for each.

For the Christmas trivia game, everyone knew how many ghosts came to visit Ebenezer Scrooge, but not everyone could name the three gifts of the Magi. Where did the McAllister family

go when they left Kevin home alone? And who kisses Lucy in "A Charlie Brown Christmas"? Trivia is the great leveler.

And so it went on, after a delicious buffet catered by Frantones, and slices of cheesecake in parfait cordial flavors. Soroptimists, a group of professional and business women, having fun while planning how to do good.

Downey Rotary purchases books for OLPH students

By **Lorine Parks**
Society Columnist

DOWNEY - A procession of the tiniest tots imaginable filed into the gym at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School and clustered about two blue-cloth clad tables where a colorful collection of children's books was displayed.

Helen Haas, vice principal of the school and the coordinator of the Dual Language Program at OLPH, welcomed members of the Rotary Club of Downey. The children serenaded us with Jingle Bells, a song that our club has been practicing to sing at our own Christmas party with Downey Unified School District children at our annual luncheon. The guitar playing helped.

The children presented President Nate Mahoney with a red yarn-tied bundle of thank-you letters, one from each child, and the word Rotary was carefully

spelled correctly throughout.

The City of Downey now boasts a Hispanic population of over 73%, and OLPH is the only school in our city that is offering a Dual Immersion Literacy program. It begins in TK kindergarten and will follow the grades as the students advance. The program teaches bi-lingual reading skills to TK through 2. That is to say, in transitional kindergarten (3-year olds); pre-kindergarten (aged 4); and then to kindergarteners, first, and second graders (we're up to age 7 now).

Money for books, lots of it, is available from Rotary District 5280, through the Simplified District Grant Program. All that a club has to do is ask for it.

"Fill out a few paper forms, but that's what we've been doing all our lives," said Rich Strayer, one of several club members on hand for the official presentation of the gift of the books. Rich wears many hats: district coordinator

for the Guatemala Literacy Program (GLP); international chair for the Downey club; record-holder for bringing in the most new members to the club.

What brings him here today, all the way from his office in Anaheim? "I'm a Rotarian," said Rich. It's as simple as that.

Nate and Rich were joined by fellow club members Jesse Vargas, Greg Welch, Ray Mesler and Barbara Lamberth. Barbara is the treasurer and one of the instigators in getting the grant. The Rotary Foundation is the source of money for all projects, and under the tutelage of District Foundation Chair Doug Baker, a Downey Rotarian, our club successfully applied before the deadline for books to aid in this pioneering project.

Our own Diane Davis, who worked at OLPH, made the recommendation. We are rich in resources, these members who remain connected even when

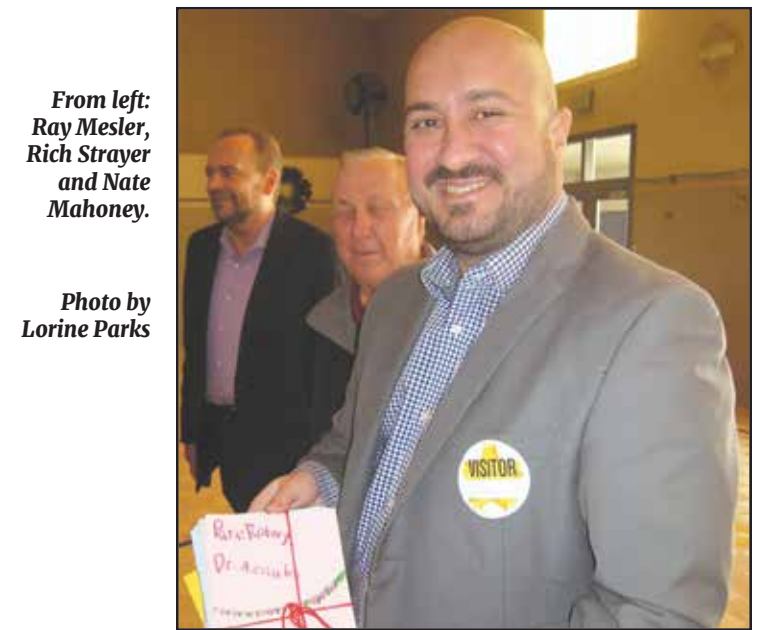
work and circumstance scatter them away.

How much did all these books cost? "\$2,000 from the district, and \$750 from our club," said Barbara. "And we will be reimbursed. So it literally costs nothing for a club to take an active part and make a difference in their community."

That makes sense, because after all, where does the District Foundation get its funds? From the dues-paying club members.

"In the next six months," said Barbara, "we will continue to support the school with reading and judging, which we can also share with the club and community and District 5280. As part of the program, parents also will benefit by reading to their children in dual languages."

Sustainability is a keyword in obtaining a grant. This program will grow with each school year: books will be purchased at the next grade level as the children



From left: Ray Mesler, Rich Strayer and Nate Mahoney.

Photo by Lorine Parks

advance insuring that their dual languages continue in all aspects of their education.

Continued on page 10

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L.A. County thinks it can predict homelessness

Continued from page 1

Of the people who were identified as at the highest risk of experiencing homelessness almost half actually became homeless and people in this group were 27 times more likely to become homeless as compared to the average person receiving services from L.A. County.

The findings are at the heart of the action plan created by a County-led Mainstream Systems Homelessness Prevention Workgroup made up of County

policy makers and expert stakeholders and submitted to the Board of Supervisors today. The recommendations in the action plan will be executed beginning next year. Funding for these innovative tactics will come from County departments and Measure H. A total of \$3 million in Measure H funding has been earmarked to support initial implementation of these strategies.

The proposed interventions are urgently needed to address the continuing surge of people

becoming homeless in Los Angeles County every day.

“Last year, despite providing housing to tens of thousands of people, we saw more and more individuals and families becoming homeless,” said Phil Ansell, the director of Los Angeles County’s Homeless Initiative. “L.A. County is focused on using strategic approaches to preventing homelessness, and these groundbreaking models will make it possible to reach those who need us the most before they reach the crisis point and fall into homelessness.”

In 2018, it is estimated that 133 people were housed each day but 150 more fell into homelessness.

The action plan includes using the following data-driven tactics:

Using the predictive model, generate a list of clients county-wide who are at highest risk of homelessness and currently receiving County services, such as CalFresh and General Relief. The predictive models show that using a data-driven approach, the County can identify individuals receiving those and other services who are almost 30 times more likely to become homeless than the average

County client.

Explore piloting a centralized, multi-disciplinary Homelessness Prevention Unit to target and package services county-wide for a generated high-risk list of County clients. This cross-agency team would help coordinate outreach and services to those at highest risk of becoming homeless.

Using the predictive model, generate a list of families receiving cash aid from the CalWORKS program who are at highest risk of homelessness to target for additional services.

The refinement of Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) intake protocols to prompt enrollment in County homelessness prevention programs as a primary response to housing instability.

Research has shown that two-thirds of families experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County had child welfare involvement prior to becoming homeless and that more than 50% of these engaged households did not end up having an open case for DCFS services, suggesting that identification and treatment for housing instability at the time of DCFS intake may have

prevented homelessness for these households and reduced trauma.

Explore using predictive model to generate a list of DCFS/ Probation- connected transition age youth at highest risk of homelessness for proactive outreach by DCFS. This would mirror the predictive model for single adults but would be refined for this specific population.

“Predictive modeling can help ensure that homelessness prevention services are getting to the right people, at the right time, before they’re in a full-blown crisis,” explains Janey Rountree, executive director of the California Policy Lab (UCLA). “We look forward to seeing its impact in connecting people to the help they need.”

“The models suggest that sharp spikes in service use, increasingly frequent service use, and the receipt of multiple services from a single agency are all warning signs that someone living in deep poverty is at high risk for homelessness,” said Harold Pollack, the Helen Ross Professor at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, a co-author of the predictive analytics study and co-director of the Chicago Health Lab. “We’re now diving

deeper into the models with our L.A. County partners to learn more and to see how these results can help focus public health and social services to this vulnerable population.”

The predictive models research used anonymized data from seven L.A. County agencies about services they provided to L.A. County residents between 2012 and 2016. Researchers developed models to predict which residents were most likely to become homeless in 2017. The research team then checked the accuracy of their model’s predictions against County records to see who actually became homeless in 2017.

Of the 3,000 people whom the model identified as at highest risk of experiencing homelessness in 2017, 46 percent actually became homeless, according to the researchers. People in this group were 27 times more likely to become homeless than the average County client.

Researchers also identified 3,000 L.A. County residents who were at the highest risk of first-time homelessness. Of this predicted group, one in three subsequently became homeless, and people in this group were 48 times more likely to become homeless for the first time than the average County client.

POETRY MATTERS

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound’s the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Robert Frost, New Hampshire, 1923

The Winter Solstice, December 20, is “the darkest evening of the year.” In pagan times this was referred to as Yule, when bells were rung to scare away the darkness. The sun stops in its decline, just as the horse arrests his journey into the woods. Next morning the sun will start to climb just a little higher, asserting its power over death and destruction. Everything looks less dark, less cold. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

Rotary purchases books for OLPH students

Continued from page 9

Implementation is something the district looks for when awarding a grant to a club. “The school has a speech contest,” said Barbara, and Rotarians will be judges and be able to see how the dual language books have improved the children’s speaking ability.”

Our Downey Club has a tradition of taking an interest in children’s literature. Each week we physically get to inspect and handle a book purchased with our

yearly donation to the Downey City Library’s Children’s Room. We see how inspiring biographies can be, about individuals who model American citizenship and ideals. And how books help build students’ social-emotional awareness and social studies skills.

The children volunteered that their homes were bi-lingual.

“My father is from Mexico, my mother is from El Salvador,” said Isabella, a first-grader. She was joined by Alesandra, Edwin,

and Alexander in professing a love of reading.

“I speak two languages too,” said Jesse Vargas, as we chatted with the little ones. Jesse and the children switched back and forth, using Spanish words here and English there.

These skills will be with the students throughout their time in school and for their lifetime after that.



Helen Haas, OLPH vice principal in charge of the school’s dual language program.

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Short Story

Holiday Cooking

By Anthony Kingsley

Growing up in Ireland, we did not celebrate Thanksgiving but of course we did celebrate Christmas. For Christmas dinner, we would have a big ham with lots of potatoes and all the trimmings.

For me, the best part of Christmas was opening my presents and bringing them down to the playground to share with my friends. Then in the late afternoon we would have dinner but it was really the desserts that I looked forward to. My mother always made a Christmas cake with marzipan and a Christmas pudding that was served with warm Bird's custard. My father was responsible for serving the food. My responsibility was to eat everything and issue a grade. (I always gave an A.)

One memorable Christmas Eve when I was 15, I went to the company Christmas party where all the food and drinks were provided. After the party, I went home and lay down to have a little nap before going out to the pub with my friends. After that we went to a friend's house whose parents had gone away for the holiday. We played cards all night. But we made sure to catch the last Christmas Day noon mass.

The next day was Boxing Day, a holiday carryover from the days of the British rule, so it was off for a day at the races.

When I came to America and celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas, I usually had a turkey for both. After Thanksgiving, I had turkey almost every day. That usually ran out just before Christmas.

It was my job to cook the turkey, so I would get up early and

prepare the bird, and then make the stuffing which included a hefty serving of wine and beer. As this process was going on, it was necessary that I sample the beer and wine to make sure they were up to standard.

Then I would peel a lot of potatoes, I mean a lot, and cook them just a little. Then the bird went into oven and it was time

to sit down with a beer and enjoy the Twilight Zone marathon.

After about four hours, the foil would be removed from the turkey for two reasons. One: to brown the turkey and, more importantly, to put the potatoes in the grease that had accumulated in the pan.

Then the same routine for the Christmas turkey minus the Twilight Zone.

My wife does not like turkey so we usually cook a chicken for her. I try to explain that a turkey is just like a big chicken or that a chicken is just like a small turkey, but to no avail.

Then we would sit down and have dinner after which we would

have dessert. But the Christmas cake with marzipan and pudding with custard were replaced with apple and pecan pies with ice cream.


After that, my job was done and it was time to take a well-earned rest and enjoy some Guinness.

Next year I plan to write to my cousin in Ireland and get her recipes for the Christmas cake and Christmas pudding.

Happy holidays to each and every one.

Anthony Kingsley is a member of the writing class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. It is held off-campus at the Norwalk Senior Center.

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