



The Downey Patriot

Special council meeting
See Page 2

Merry Christmas!
See Page 5

Christmas lights
See Page 4

Friday, December 22, 2006

Vol. 5 No. 35

11525 Downey Ave., Suite A, Downey, CA 90241



Winners of the City of Downey decorating contest have been announced (see page 4). The home above, at 8401 Dalen Street, features a working ferris wheel and won the Mayor's Award for Area 1. Photo by Art Montoya

City of Downey: A year in review

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – The year 2006 was eventful and historic for the city of Downey. Not only did the city celebrate its 50th year as an incorporated city, it also saw significant progress in the future construction of the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center, the successful defense of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center from cost-cutting politicians, and the departures of prominent community members, either through death or retirement.

The following is a partial list of events from the past year.

January

Art Morris donates \$1 million to Downey Regional Medical Center to go towards the purchase of new CAT scanners. It was the largest single donation to the hospital in three years.

Financial firm JPMorgan Chase & Co. acquires Downey-based CareMore Medical Enterprises.

City Planner/Assistant Director of Community Development Ron Yoshiki retires after more than 28 years in the planning field. He was originally hired by the city in 1977.

January 2: Downey Rose Float Association's entry, "Polar Wonderland" braves a cold rain to participate in the 117th Annual Tournament of Roses Parade. The float was entirely self-built, from design to construction.

Jan. 8: Downey resident Gene Burger allegedly lights two fire bombs outside the porches of his neighbors' homes on Bergman Lane. He retreated inside when confronted by Downey police and died inside his home, which was consumed in flames.

A neighboring strip mall was also damaged by the fire.

Jan. 17: Warren High School is awarded more than \$12 million in modernization and expansion work.

February

A court settlement is reached promising to keep Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center open at least three more years. The county had sought to shut down Rancho, claiming the closure would save Los Angeles \$58.6 million annually.

See YEAR, page 11

Help needed in finding missing Downey man

DOWNEY – The Downey Police Department is asking for the public's assistance in locating a missing Downey man in need of his medication.

Three weeks ago, on December 1, at about 12:30 p.m., Arthur Jenkins, age 49, was discovered missing from his adult day care facility, located in the 900 block of S. Greenwood Avenue in the city of Montebello. Jenkins suffers from a mild case of retardation and has the mental capacity of a 12-year-old, police said. He also has a history of schizophrenia.

Jenkins is described as an African-American male, 5'-8", 170 pounds, short black hair, and brown eyes, last seen dressed in a blue sweatshirt and blue jeans. He resides in the 13000 block of Faust Avenue in the city of Downey.

Anyone with information as to the whereabouts of Jenkins is encouraged to call the Downey Police Department at (562) 904-2308 or Detective S. Aubuchon at (562) 904-2361.



JENKINS

John Lacey's divine sense of humor

BY HENRY VENERACION
STAFF WRITER

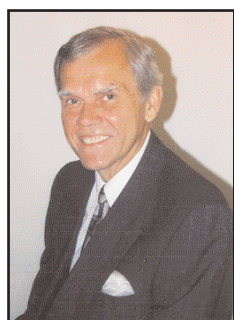
In a city richly endowed with a diversity of talent, John Lacey is a perfect fit.

He is a successful realtor, the owner of Downey-based Crystal Properties since 1987, and the proud recipient of a 40-year pin from the National Association of Realtors. In the 70s and all of the 80s, he once owned and ran an Italian restaurant, Dominix, located at the southwest corner of Bellflower and Imperial Highway; it became famous for its "excellent sauce, pizza, veal parmigiana and lasagna, and fried cheese." Armed with bachelor's (Villanova University) and master's (UCLA) degrees in physics, he did work on the re-entry phase of the Apollo program at North American Rockwell for some five-odd years in the early to mid-60s.

He was the natural choice to play center for his high school varsity team because he was the tallest (6'1") in school, although of course on the state level, he was one of the smallest. He lays claim to being the only 4-time winner of the Jim Lange-hosted "The Dating Game," a memorable highlight of which was when he won for the fourth time—over a fellow named Mort Sahl.

He has served as president of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, the Downey Rotary Club, and Gangs Out of Downey; other activities or causes he is certain to have been involved in over the years in varying degrees of usefulness one can only guess at, because his submitted bio is so brief. The reason he gave was "I'm a simple, unassuming, humble man," and as far as I know, there is no reason to suspect otherwise.

Inheriting a comic streak from his dad ("He was the jokester in the



LACEY

family"), John's predilection for funny jokes/insights is evident at sundry events, and finds full expression at Rotary and City Council meetings, one providing a stage for camaraderie and badinage, the other licensed for levity.

I already knew he liked to watch David Letterman, so I was not in the least surprised when, even before we sat down for this interview, he whipped out a sheet of paper that, in full, read:

"TOP 5 REASONS HENRY WANTS TO WRITE FOR (THE) DOWNEY PATRIOT"

1. Wants to brag he works for the *Patriot* when the City Council meetings are 30 minutes or less
2. Thinks he knows what he is writing about
3. Loves to brag he works for the *Patriot* when the City Council meetings are 30 minutes or less
4. Doesn't write for the *Herald American* nor the *Los Angeles Times*
5. Wants public to learn to say V-E-N-E-R-A-C-I-O-N correctly

1. Wants to be around long enough to achieve Editor Emeritus like John Adams"

It set the tone for what followed.

About his wife, Suzie, a former nurse whom he otherwise regards as "an angel," John, who was born in Reading, PA of Czechoslovak parents, said:

- "I think I'm God, and she doesn't."
- "When we go out, we always hold hands; because if I let go, she goes shopping."
- "I haven't talked to my wife in a year; I hate to interrupt."
- "She asked me what was on TV. I said, "Dust."

When their "beautiful daughter," Crystal, was 3 years old, John talked to her in the crib and wanted her input on naming his real estate firm. "She just spit and looked at me," he says. "So I decided never to include her again in my decision-making process." (He did however name his fledgling firm after her).

Always an altar boy, and always at the ready to sub for an absent acolyte, he says he was reared by nuns who "spanked me across the knuckles" when he would go astray occasionally.

See LACEY, page 10

Time Traveler Rancho Los Amigos wasn't always a hospital

By John Adams

Downey can pride itself on being the location of one of the most singular institutions of recovery and healing in the world—Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center.

But Rancho didn't begin as a hospital at all. It was the county poor farm when it was first founded in 1887. And not a very successful poor farm either until the arrival of William Harriman in 1915.

Harriman succeeded a long line of directors who had achieved little or no success in either making the poor farm self-sufficient or improving the lot of its hapless residents.

Harriman, who ran Rancho until 1952, changed all that. He drove his Model-T Ford every Monday to the County Board of Supervisors meeting in Los Angeles and presented them with a basket of flowers raised on the farm. He thus defeated the "out of sight, out of mind," syndrome that had been the undoing of many of his predecessors.

His philosophy was simple, "Tax funds provide the necessity of life for the dependent poor. The Spirit of Rancho Los Amigos provides the necessities of happiness without which life would be unbearable."

Harriman improved the lot of the farm's residents. He offered the more ambitious among them plots of land on which to do horticultural research. He improved the dairy herd to the point it began to win prizes at the state

See TRAVELER, page 10

Car club flexes its muscle for charity

DOWNEY — Members of the L.A. Classic Chevy Club hosted a Christmas party last week to help collect toys and money for the Exchange Club Support Center in Downey. The party was a success, as the club raised more than \$2500.

Donors to the collection included: Jay Leno, Larry Wood (chief designer for Mattel Hot Wheels), Don Dixon & Assoc., St. George DDS, Hair Essentials, Muller King and Arlene Lopez, All American Home Center, Downey Savings, Marco Cubillas, Maguiar's Car Care Products, Saywell Florist, Christian's Flowers, Zinnia Flowers, Del Rio Lanes, Krikorian Premiere Theatres, Alin's Paper Party, Marsha Moode (Downey Civic Light Opera), Ed's Automotive, Hagen Plumbing, Helen Grace Chocolates, Stater Bros., Art & Frames, 99 Cent Stores, Randy's Mexican & Seafood Restaurant, Real Mex Restaurants, Norms Restaurants, Denny's Restaurants, Sambi of Tokyo, Taro's Tapas, Johnny Carino's, Chili's, Elephant Bar, Olive Garden, Uncle Henry's Deli, In-N-Out Burgers, Mimi's Café, Sizzler, Mambo Grill, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Pageantry Awards, Philly's Best, Downey YMCA, Jiffy Lube, AAA of Downey, Pep Boys of Downey, Relini Hair Salon, Downey Hair Studio, Best Buy Stores and See's Candies.



Toys sit atop an original 1955 Chevy BelAir Nomad before being presented to the Exchange Club Support Center. Members of the L.A. Classic Chevy Club collected toys and money for the non-profit organization. From left is Peggy Fox, Megan Donahue, Demi Contreras, Ray Luna and Jerry Mull.

Christian church holding all-night prayer Dec. 29

Local pastors will lead night watches at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship.

DOWNEY – Pastor Garnett Simpson-Grier and the International Network of Warriors (INOW) Prayer Team and other local pastors will meet for an evening of all-night prayer on Dec. 29 at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship in Downey.

The group will observe the four night watches observed by Jews. The night watches are said to be very strategic times that God meets His people.

The four watches begin with the first watch from 6 to 9 p.m.; second watch 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.; third watch 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. and fourth watch 3 to 6 a.m.

Those unable to attend are invited to mail in their prayer request to Breath of God/INOW, P.O. Box 39903, Downey, CA 90239 or call (562) 862-4669.

Doors will only be open the first hour of each watch and there will not be any admittance once prayer begins until the next watch starts.

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship is at 9001 S. Paramount Blvd.

Salvation Army still in need of support

CONTRIBUTED BY THE SALVATION ARMY

As we take down our Christmas decorations and look forward to New Year's celebrations, many Southeast communities low-income families and individuals are contemplating much more difficult issues like choosing between food or making utility payments. The Salvation Army is more determined than ever to help them bridge the gap between their resources and the cost of acquiring basic human needs. And they're asking friends and neighbors for help, in the form of cash donations.

The Salvation Army foresees a critical situation in the coming year. Economic factors such as the volatility in rents and gasoline prices have also adversely affected local giving, as people find themselves with less discretionary income. And the increased costs of utilities affect not only those who are already economically depressed, but also those who would usually feel compelled to offer their financial support.

"The majority of our locally operated programs rely directly on community support," says Lt. Gilbert Reyes. "While it is important to be aware of shortfalls elsewhere, we cannot put the needs of our less fortunate neighbors here on hold. There are those among us who struggle with obtaining life's basic necessities, a very common denominator in poverty."



Jeffrey McDaniel Leach, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Leach, and Holly Margene Glenn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Glenn, were married Dec. 16 at First Baptist Church of Downey in a ceremony officiated by Job Lara. Kristin Leach, sister of the groom, served as Maid of Honor while Luke Salyer was Best Man. The ceremony included a Candle Light in honor of Margene Glenn, the bride's grandmother.



In keeping with tradition over the past few years, the Instructional Services Department in the Downey Unified School District collected toys for needy families in the community. The donations were given to representatives from the Downey Fire Department, who helped with distribution. "I want my son to have an opportunity to learn the important of helping others," said Dr. Robert Jagielski, Director of Pupil Services, who helped collect toys with his son, Dylan.

City Council calls for special meeting regarding grant

DOWNEY – The Downey City Council called for a special meeting Thursday night where they were expected to consider a Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$1,842,869.10 and approve an agreement with Motorola for communication equipment in the amount of \$1,842,869.10.

Although the council was expected to approve the items, official results were not available as of press time.

Museum closing for winter holidays

DOWNEY – The Downey Museum of Art will be closed for winter holidays. The last day the museum will be open this year is Saturday, Dec. 23, from 1 to 5 p.m.

The museum closes each year for winter holidays and re-opens the second week in February with new exhibitions. This year the museum will re-open Thursday, Feb. 15, with regular hours of 1 to 5 p.m.

Library accepting food for fines

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library will begin accepting food donations as payment for overdue fines during the month of December. The food will then be donated to needy families.

The library will accept new canned and packaged staple goods as payment for overdue fines on library materials. People who don't owe fines are also free to donate.

The Downey Council PTA HELPS program will help distribute the food during the holidays.

Food used as payment for fines will be accepted through Dec. 31 at the library circulation desk. The donated value of each item will be 50 cents.

For questions, call (562) 904-7360 ext. 28.

Float decorators needed starting Tuesday

DOWNEY – The Downey Rose Float Association is seeking volunteers to help decorate their float beginning Dec. 26 through Dec. 30 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome but release forms, available online at www.downeyrose.org and at the float site check-in, must be submitted. Volunteers under 18 must have parental consent. Decorating is taking place on the southern grounds of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, off Erickson.

Volunteers should wear old, comfortable warm clothes. Donations of food items to be served to volunteers throughout the day are also needed.

If you are interested in donating food or have any questions, call Association President Julie Swender at (562) 927-9773.



Volunteers are needed to start decorating the Downey Rose Float starting Tuesday. As this photo above, taken this week, shows, a lot of work remains. Photo by Art Montoya

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Christmas Eve Worship Services
Sunday, December 24th
5:30 & 7:00 pm
Downey First Christian Church
Iglesia Cristiana de Downey

You are invited to come join family and friends in the local community as we remember the birth of Jesus Christ and celebrate together the real reason for the Christmas Season. This year our Christmas Eve will be filled with candlelight, communion, music and a message - followed by a time of drinks and dessert. These worship services are a great opportunity for the entire family to spend time together at church during the holiday season - and for your convenience, quality childcare will be provided for birth through preschool-aged children at the 5:30 service only.

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

Congratulations to Mayor Rick Trejo and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Gafin on their new positions.

This combination teamed with Kirk Cartozian, Anne Bayer and Mario Guerra will do an excellent job making policies for our City.

I want to thank the people who attended the Mayor's Transition and the many people, cities, county, state and organizations who donated money, gift certificates and books for our City Library.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve on the City Council for eight years. Looking back on these years have been many good memories.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Meredith Perkins

Legal firm spreading holiday spirit

DOWNEY – The Downey office of Tredway, Lumsdaine & Doyle purchased gifts for Ms. Valdez' kindergarten class in Los Angeles and donated money for the teacher to purchase necessary school supplies, part of the legal firm's attempt grant Christmas wishes to the less fortunate during the holiday season.

Meanwhile, the Irvine office joined Share Our Selves (SOS) in providing free assistance to those in need of basic living essentials. The Long Beach office joined Trinity Youth Services in their efforts to provide aid to foster children who are often forgotten.

Tredway, Lumsdaine & Doyle was founded in 1961.

Warren student cooks up success

DOWNEY – Warren High School student Christopher Neira recently won a scholarship to the California School of Culinary Arts in Pasadena after entering a baking contest.

Neira won third place in the "Tarte aux Pommes" (apple pie) baking contest, winning a \$500 scholarship to the culinary institution.

Kids invited on skating excursion

DOWNEY – The City of Downey Community Services Department is offering an excursion to Skate Zone in Huntington Beach on Dec. 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for middle-school age youth who live in Downey or attend school in the Downey Unified School District.

Skate Zone is a facility that gives participants the option of either ice or roller skating in a safe, fun environment. The fee of \$15 will include the bus transportation (leaving from the City Hall parking lot), skate admission and lunch.

For more information or to register, call the Community Services Department at (562) 904-7238.

Masonic Lodge meeting every Monday

DOWNEY – Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. at 8244 3rd St for their dinner and meeting. For more information call 869-3521.

Little League sign-ups at Furman Park

DOWNEY – Northwest Downey Little League is holding their final sign-ups for the 2007 baseball season on Jan. 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Furman Park.

All children ages 5 to 18 are eligible to play in seven different divisions.

For more information, call Lance Torgerson at (562) 806-7054 or James Veloff at (562) 861-2696.

'Christ – A Present Worth Giving'

DOWNEY – The Vineyard Family Christian Fellowship, 10355 Paramount Boulevard, invited the community hear a message based on the theme "Christ – A Present Worth Giving," delivered by senior pastor Frank Campos.

The three-part presentation is already underway but will be delivered again on Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.

Fresh insights surrounding Jesus, His mother Mary, Simeon and Anna the prophetess.



The 5th Grade Student Council of Rio San Gabriel Elementary School: from left, Gabriel Garcia, vice president; Kyle Bisson, treasurer; Jimmy Ziegenbein, president; Alexandria Vingino, secretary; and Paola Cardena, chief of safety.

Kiwanis donates books to local school library

BY GWYNN GUSTAFSON
KIWANIS CLUB OF DOWNEY

DOWNEY – Kiwanis Club of Downey has a very special program, annually donating reading books to local elementary schools. What makes the books special is that the weekly guest speaker at the Kiwanis Thursday noon meeting, held at the Rio Hondo Country Club, signs one of the books so that it can be donated in their name.

This month the Kiwanis "Learn to Read" books were accepted by the 5th Grade Student Council of Rio San Gabriel Elementary School and Mrs. Theresa Ford, principal.

Ford says the books are greatly appreciated and provide additional opportunity for another ongoing project at Rio San Gabriel.

"The fifth grade students at Rio San Gabriel 'adopt' specific library shelves. It is then their responsibility to monitor those areas to ensure that books are shelved with their labels facing out, and that the books are in alphabetical order if fiction, or in numerical order if non-fiction," Ford said. "While helping to keep our library orderly for all to use, the students learn valuable skills which will help them to access library resources throughout their years in school and later in their careers."



Rosie Gonzalives and Theresa Mastalski from the Endoscopy department are congratulated by Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Rob Fuller and Chief Nursing Officer Heather Conwell for their award-winning display of good cheer.

Hospital has holiday fun with staff and children

DOWNEY – To bring smiles to the community, patients, visitors and staff, the hospital celebrated the season as major sponsor and participant of Downey's annual Holiday Lane Parade, as host to numerous parties, and as a friend to those in need, hurting and in harm's way.

Volunteer Services collected gifts from staff for children through the Southern California Alcohol & Drug Program, which provides services and shelter to more than 500 men, women, and children daily & services to some 1500 outpatient clients, their children, and families weekly.

DRMC Home Health began gathering letters, toiletries and other items to send to soldiers in Iraq who do not get much mail, via AnySoldier.com. The Any Soldier effort includes any member of any of the Armed Forces. It is intended to make the lives of our soldiers, Marines, airmen, and sailors just a bit better in that they will know people care and appreciate their sacrifice.

Patients', visitors' and staffs' spirits were brightened by "Good Times"-themed entries to the Annual Hospital Decorating Contest. The Endoscopy department retained the Annual Decorating Contest Grand Prize trophy. In presenting the awards at the DRRMC employee luncheon on December 15, COO Rob Fuller declared all involved as winners, from the Main Lobby's "Most Festive" to the Pharmacy's "Best Use of Garland" to Dietary's "Most Appetizing," Special Care Nursery's "Most Adorable" and the Laboratory's 1st place entry for door decor.

Also at the DRMC employee luncheon, Executive Vice President/COO Rob Fuller performed holiday carols with "Rob and the Roberttes" wishing all "Good Times" throughout the New Year.

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Downey holiday decoration winners

Christmas Magic Santa's Award	13446 Barlin Ave.	Yanez Family	1st
Christmas in Motion Santa's Workshop	7504 Muller St.	Jackson Family	
	9726 Meldar Ave.	Grahame Wright	
North Pole Award	10940 Rio Hondo Dr.	Patrick & Christina	1st
Holiday Fantasy	Chung, Mary Ann Villegas & Karla A. Metzger	Jesse, Dustin Willis	
Toyland Award	12507 Bellder Dr.	Olivares Family	1st
Christmas Spirit	10337 Mattock Ave.	Mike Boyd	2nd
Holiday Splendor	10945 Hasty Ave.	Gary Stevens	
	9219 Stoakes Ave.	Orozco & Torres Family	1st
	10324 Pomeroy Rd.	Bryan, Jerry, and Inez Milligan	2nd
Fantasy of Lights	12131 Brookshire Ave.	Jessica Parra	1st
Holiday Delight	9828 Newville Ave.	Jimmy, Carey and Jeff Dufton	2nd
Winter Wonderland	10509 Clancey Ave.		
			1st
1st	Area 1 Awards:		
2nd	Total Display	Chuck Britt	2nd
3rd		Nancy Arroyo	
		David and Rina Espinoza	1st
Honorable Mention		Susan, Dennis Huber	2nd
		Emmett Fletcher and granddaughters	1st
1st	Lawn/Roof Display	Shiek-Ali, Robert, Ryan, & Dad	2nd
2nd		Marte and Fe San Diego	Area 1
			Area 2
1st	Window Display		Area 3
			Area 4
1st	Area 2 Awards:		
2nd	Total Display	Chandler Zequeira	
3rd		Carlos Soler	
		James Hammond	
1st	Honorable Mentions:	Brian Sandoval	
2nd		Raquel V. Avila	
3rd		Roger Slobe	
1st	Lawn/Roof Display	Douglas Hall	
		Ivan York	
1st	Religious Display		
		Ellen Doulos	
1st	Area 3 Awards:		
	Best Use of Lights	David Rivas	
2nd			

Animated Display	8617 Parrot Ave.	Smock, Maria & Charles
Total Display	9228 Downey Ave.	Richard, Robin Rotell
Lawn and Roof Display	9360 Samoline Ave.	Fred E. James
	7811 Harper Ave.	Rosemary Molina
Handcrafted Display	9933 Pomeroy Rd.	James, Marciela Long
	7332 Country Club Dr.	Pemberton Family
Area 4 Awards:		
Best Use of Lights	9830 Manzanar Ave.	Erasmus Rodriguez
	9800 Lesterform Ave.	Rosa Valencia
Window Display	11018 Marbel Ave.	Reno & Jeanne Earwood
		Josie Weymouth
	9545 Firestone Blvd.	Moreno Family
Religious Display	9196 Cecilia St.	Mary Melcarek
	10302 Mattock Ave.	
Lawn and Roof Display	10741 Pico Vista Rd.	Neil Poole
	9072 Chaney Ave.	Elba Lazaro
Total Display	9535 Stoakes Ave.	Pamela Potter
	10348 Newville Ave.	Alicia Ramirez
Mayor's Awards:		
	8401 Dalen St.	Robert Prestwood
	7619 Nada St.	Boyles Family
	7612 Glenclyff Dr.	Rider, Kathi, Karina, and Raul Messer, Hughes Fam.
	10257 Mattock Ave.	

The Poets' Corner

Ah Christmastime

Ah, Christmastime! It comes but once a year
But when it does, busted budgets get
And psyches, filled before with cheer,
Go nutty, equilibrium upset.

Of food and drink there's a surfeit
And revelry assumes proportions grand
At end of day, howe'er, it's all forfeit
As intake calorie gets out of hand.

Ah, Christmastime! What mem'ries you inspire
Especially when carols are, in stillness, sung.
And yet you can when sitting by the fire—
By thoughts of loved ones lost get stung!

-- Henry Veneracion



10337 Mattock Avenue, Downey.



7504 Muller Street, Downey.



9726 Meldar Avenue, Downey. Photos by R.D. Salyer

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Burbank	818.525.3760	Hacienda Heights	626.330.7411	Pasadena	626.535.4870
Camarillo	805.465.1053	Huntington Beach	714.843.5360	San Marino	626.588.3760
Cerritos	562.916.7260	Laguna Hills	949.470.8160	Torrance	310.891.6240
Chino Hills	909.631.2560	La Verne	909.593.4944	Tustin	714.368.2100
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WINTER 2007 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

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VOCATIONAL NURSE pg. 7
MEDICAL BILLER & CODER pg. 9
EXERCISE & FITNESS pg. 11
PHARMACY TECHNICIAN pg. 6
CLASSES DE INGLIS pg. 12

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Merry Christmas!

By John Adams

Vachel Lindsay with a boom-a-lay, boom a-lay boom gave new meaning to his poem "The Congo" Robert Frost found a less-traveled path more to his liking. Each would-be poet must find their own way so the progress of the poets contained in the Downey Patriot's poets' corner has been astonishing.

John Vincent's poetry can stand beside the very best of contemporary mention. Each annual Christmas poem in the Patriot traditionally roasts the cities' best-known public figures while tongue in cheek listing their merits. We begin with the school board Barbara Samperi and Martha Sodetani share a common drive for students in education Tod Corrin, Don LaPlante, Nancy Swenson and Mark Morris join the chorus of appreciation for each child's achievement. Morris in particular wants more science and math. William Gutierrez is a fan of all sports while Nancy Swenson wants to improve safety of all sorts.

On the City Council we have a new member Mario Guerra Who wants to improve safety throughout the city for junkies and criminals he has no pity Anne Bayer returns for a new term on the Council Her steady hand has proved most bountiful Meredith Perkins steps down due to term limits We're not sure we favor with the writing of dimwits. Kirk Cartozian, David Gafin, Rick Trejo continue city business and convention Our friends and community leaders should not go without mention

Dee Bacus for one requires attention. As does Dr. Mary Stauffer known for her philanthropy School superintendent Wendy Doty known for her love of children. Helen Hoag is a well-known supporter of music in the city. Steve Roberson of Century 21 My Real Estate digs deep to give to the community. As do Mel, Rita and Michael Berdelis. And City Manager Gerald Caton who steers the city through many storms too numerous to mention. As the Patriot has been left in young and capable hands We trust that they will prosper meeting all community demands Jennifer DeKay-Givens we wish all the best And the same to writers and editors who help produce this digest

Eric Pierce, Henry Veneracion, Robert Tolentino, Brooke Karli, Linda Larson, Jonathan Fox, Gibran Latif, Gwynn Gustafson We wish the finest of delights Along with the keenest of insight. Merry Christmas to all And to all a good night!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Point taken


Dear Editor:
While I enjoy getting the local news from your paper, I have to say that [the Rives Mansion story] was so unskillfully written and/or edited (or not edited?) that it was painful to read (*The Downey Patriot*, 12/15/06). The structure, grammar, punctuation – everything was so poorly done that it is an embarrassment for it to have been published.

I have noticed a marked increase in grammatical and typographical errors in your paper since the recent change of ownership. This article, however, takes the cake. I shudder to think that an aspiring young journalism student would consider an article in this condition suitable for publishing.

Oh where, oh where was your editor?
—Cathy Harman,
Downey

Letters to the editor may be submitted by writing to *The Downey Patriot*, 11525 Downey Ave., Suite A, Downey CA 90241.

The Downey Patriot

	Jennifer DeKay-Givens..... Publisher/Adv. Director John Adams..... Editor Emeritus Eric Pierce..... City Editor Henry Veneracion..... Staff Writer Robert Tolentino..... Display Advertising Brooke Karli..... Display Advertising Gwynn Gustafson..... Display Advertising Linda Larson..... Classified Advertising Jonathan Fox..... Production Gibran Latif..... Webmaster
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Objects racist charges

Dear Editor:
My name is Nachele Sodetani. I'm 14 years old and I'm writing because of reading an article in the *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, December 16. After reading "Charges of Racism in Badge Bouhaha," I feel that there was a major error. From what I've read, Assemblyman Hector De La Torre has been labeled as a racist by Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally.

Personally I believe that this is completely wrong. When my father passed away in February of 2006, Assemblyman De La Torre made special efforts to honor my father's life: my father was neither White nor Hispanic. Assemblyman De La Torre was here for our family and community. For Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally to say, "Assemblyman De La Torre is the most racist legislator I've encountered in over 40 years," is offensive to the De La Torre family, me and my family, and to the people that he represents.

I am a member of Downey United Methodist Church and Holman United Methodist Church in Los Angeles and have been taught to stand up and speak for what I know is right and fair. Mind you, Assemblyman Dymally is African-American; as am I. This deeply hurts me that Assemblyman Dymally would say this about Assemblyman De La Torre. In my past experiences with Assemblyman De La Torre, he has been everything but racist or mean in any way or form. My whole family celebrates ethnic diversity and have many races in our family. I love my family as it is!

Assemblyman De La Torre is a good man. I believe that people should be careful about what they say about the character of others. I urge all people to think before blaming another person who is innocent of the attack upon them.
— Nachele Sodetani,
Downey

The Downey Realtor?

Dear Editor:
I really like reading *The Downey Patriot* each week, and I was especially excited to receive the 50th anniversary insert with this week's paper, detailing Downey's history (12/15/06). There was some very interesting information, but the majority of items printed were from the plethora of realtors that we apparently have working in Downey. At least that was my impression.

It seems as though at least 50 percent of the weekly paper is consumed with realtor ads, and in my opinion (which I realize no one asked for) the same held true for the 50th anniversary insert. I'm sure my percentages are off, given that I didn't actually take the time to count words and figure ad space, but I have to be pretty close.

I realize that the *Patriot* is one of the real estate industry's many marketing tools and that they pay for those ads. And, no, I'm not willing or able to supplement that advertising money generated by these ads. But really, maybe we should rename the paper...something like "The Downey Realtor" or something that more accurately reflects the majority of the contents. But then, I wouldn't even pick it up let alone look at it, nor would I spend 15 minutes of my life writing about why I don't really want to read multiple realtor ads in my city paper each week.

Let's just say if I were to choose one of those realtors based on their advertising in the *Patriot*, how exactly do the ads help me to make a choice? Do I choose the one with the most ads? The biggest page of ads?

Bah, humbug!

Dear Editor:
Usually I can feel a lot of Christmas spirit in the air emanating from my neighbors, people I run into on the street, while I'm out shopping, and just bustling about town. However, this year is different. I can't seem to feel the magic.

The nail shop I go to every other week was robbed twice, by the same man mind you! What kind of person robs from tiny Asian women just trying to make a living? Those girls work hard. My Dad went to the grocery store today, parked his van, went inside, shopped, came out, loaded the groceries into his van, went around to the drivers side and low and behold someone smashed in the driver's side of the entire vehicle and just drove off. No note, no I'm sorry, nothing. Just twisted steel and broken door handles. No Christmas spirit there!

Tell me, am I just getting older or is it really happening? I'm telling you people are losing their morals, their family togetherness, the closeness that binds family, friends, neighbors, and cities. It is almost non-existent. At least I can't feel it anymore. I used to be able to feel the closeness, and the warmth, and friendliness from people, especially from my neighbors, and especially around Christmas time. It seemed people were warmer, friendlier, and just plain courteous around Christmas time and I remember telling my Mom, "I wish it could be Christmas time all the time."

Now, I find myself flipping people off for honking at me and giving me the finger as they speed past my car (apparently I'm not driving fast enough.) I have to make absolutely sure my garage door is down before driving off in the morning, and nail everything down, or it'll be gone when I get home. What the heck is going on? I feel like I'm living around a bunch of Grinches!

What happened to neighbors exchanging fresh baked cookies? People laying back and signaling you to move ahead? People who actually left you a note with their information after they hit you in a parking lot? Or closed your garage for you, if your left it open on your way to work? What happened to all the things your parents taught you as children? Be courteous, kind, and neighborly? And my all time favorite, someone who actually holds the door open for you. What have we become? What will our children become?

I hope everyone reading this will sit back and think about their behavior and how they could change to become a more caring individual, upstanding citizen, with morals, and beliefs of honor and a caring disposition. After all, isn't that the way you would like to be treated?

Merry Christmas, let's all just get an attitude adjustment in our stockings.
— Stacey Rodgers,
Downey

The ones listed in multiple parts of the paper? The ones in color over the black & white ads? The most employees listed/pictured? What exactly is in those ads that will make me choose one instead of another to list my house?

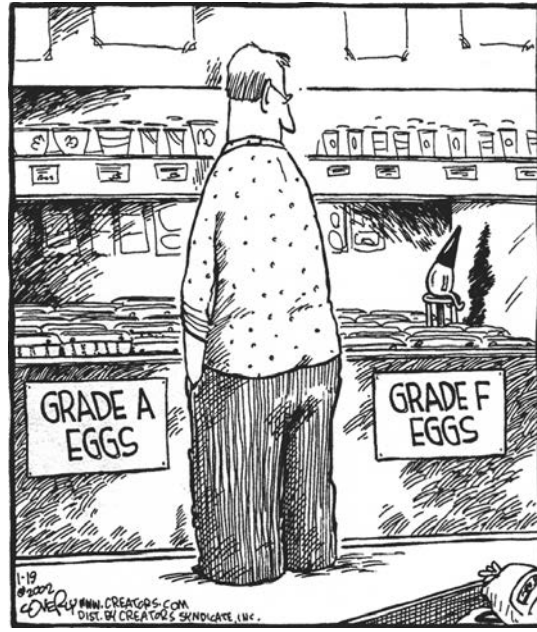
I wish I could say that if I decide to sell my house, I'll actually consult the back half of the *Patriot* for a listing agent, but the truth is I'll probably list with the person who's selling the house I want to buy.

— S. Courtney,
Downey

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For December

Sat. Dec. 23: **Downey Museum of Art** opens for the last time before its winter break, 1 p.m.
 Mon. Dec. 25: **Christmas**
 Tues. Dec. 26: **Decorating of Downey Rose Float** begins, 10 a.m.

City Meetings

1st Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m.: **Redevelopment Project Area Committee**, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.: **Planning Commission**, Council Chamber at City Hall.
 1st Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.: **Recreation and Community Services Commission**, Council Chamber, City Hall.
 1st Thursday, 9 a.m.: **Traffic Committee**, Training Room, Second Floor of City Hall.
 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: **City Council/Community Development Commission**, Council Chamber.
 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6 p.m.: **Design Review Board**, Council Chamber at City Hall.
 3rd Thursday, 3:30 p.m.: **Parking Place Commission**, Second Floor Training Room at City Hall

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

6:30 p.m.: **Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner, mtg.**, for information call 426-6786.
 6:30 p.m.: **Overeaters Anonymous**, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.
 1st Mon., 4 p.m.: **2nd Century Foundation**, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.
 1st Mon., 7 p.m.: **American Legion Post 270**, Los Amigos Country Club, call 869-1053.
 2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: **American Legion Auxiliary #270**, at United Methodist Church, for info. call 923-2481.
 2nd Mon., 3 p.m.: **Keep Downey Beautiful**, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7159.
 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Numismatists**, at Downey Retirement Center, call 861-3989.

Tuesdays

9 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Vince Zoida at (714) 761-4439.
 9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
 9:30 a.m.: **Adventure with the Bible**, at the First Baptist Church call 928-4153.
 12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information call Darren Dunaway at 806-5400.
 12 p.m.: **Exchange Club of Downey**, at Sizzler, for information call Don Hollister at 927-5871.
 6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call 928-2658.
 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 441**, at Apollo Park Activities Room, for information call 923-3659.
 7:30 p.m.: **Southland Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines**, at Downey's Woman's Club, for information call 947-6802.
 2nd and 4th Tues., 7:30 a.m.: **Chamber "Rise&Shine" Networkers**, at Nordic Fox, for info. call (562) 923-2191.
 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: **Sertoma Club**, at Bakers Square, for information call (562) 927-6438.
 2nd Tues., 7 p.m.: **Downey Fly Fishers**, at Apollo Park, for information call 943-3904.
 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: **Writer's Workshop West**, at 9968 Lakewood Blvd., for info call 862-3106.
 Last Tues., 11:00 a.m.: **Los Companeros Service Club**, at Los Amigos Country Club, for info call 863-1549.

Wednesdays

7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
 1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, for information call 869-8782.
 1st Weds., 10 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call 927-0271 or 861-3493.
 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, for information call 927-9790.
 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Emblem Club #309**, at Downey's Elks Lodge, for information call 868-4386.
 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Sister Cities Ass'n**, at Maude Price School, Call 862-7197.
 2nd Weds., 11:45 - **Downey Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos CC. Call 927-8488.
 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.
 Wed.& Fri., 10:15 a.m.: **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

Thursdays

7:30 a.m.: **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.
 7:30 a.m.: **Connections Networking**, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414.
 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
 12 p.m.: **Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee**, for information call 928-4153.
 12 p.m.: **Optimist Club of Downey**, at Sambis, for information call Steve Allen at 622-7655.
 12:30 p.m.: **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.
 6:30 p.m.: **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.
 7 p.m.: **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.
 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

Fridays

7:30 a.m.: **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Harry Sacks at 319-1063
 3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.: **Women's "In His Glory" Ministry** at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

On This Day...

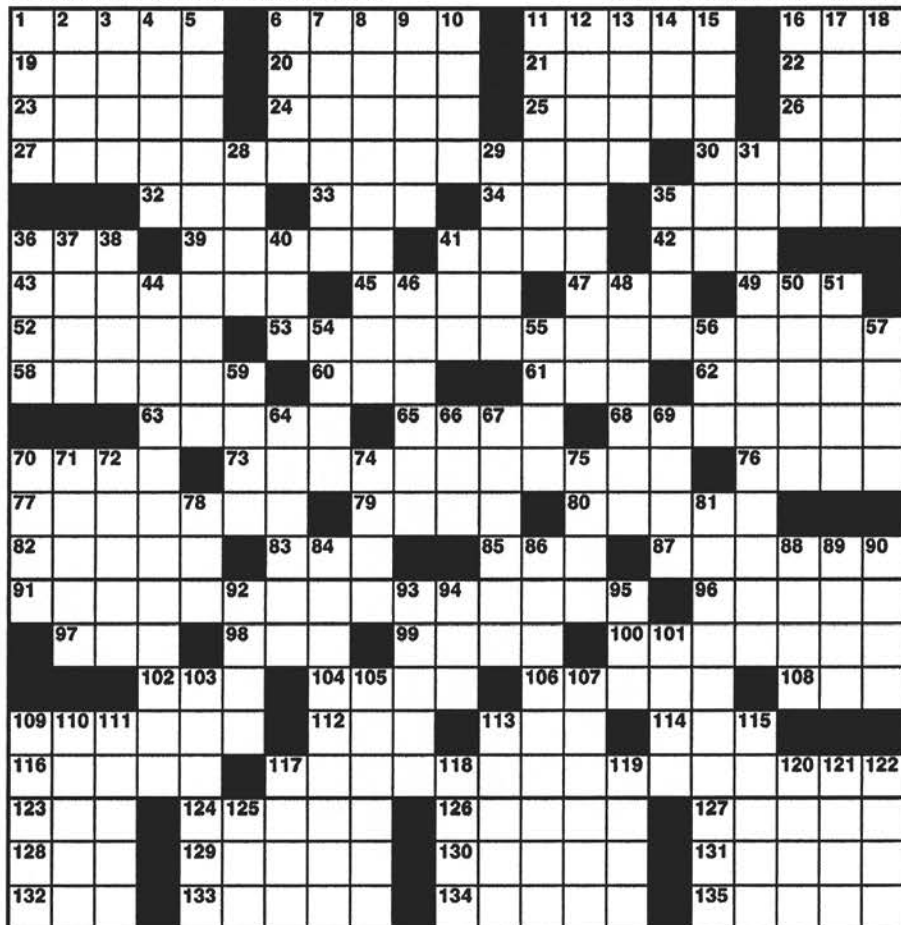
December 22, 1944: Germany demands the surrender of United States troops during the Battle of the Bulge at Bastogne, Belgium to which General Anthony McAuliffe famously replies, 'Nuts!'
 1972: The Chilean Air Force finds 14 survivors two months after their plane crashed in the Andes mountains.
 1988: Chico Mendes, a Brazilian environmentalist working to stop the logging of the Amazon Rainforest, is assassinated at his home by ranchers opposed to his activism.
 2001: CC, a brown tabby and world's first cloned pet, is born. "CC" is short for Copy Cat.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
ON THE RANCH: A puzzling bonanza
 by Doug Peterson

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 79 First name in whodunits | 5 Like Aztec society |
| 1 Swell up | 80 City near Kyoto | 6 "___ does it!" |
| 6 Popular Ford, to admirers | 82 ___ Gay (WWII plane) | 7 <i>NYPD Blue</i> creator |
| 11 Not-so-popular Ford | 83 Currently in | 8 Computer-network connection |
| 16 Guitar booster | 85 Plow into | 9 Spacious |
| 19 Cary Grant's original surname | 87 Chalkiness | 10 Sixth James Bond novel |
| 20 Pay tribute to | 91 Ashton Kutcher film of 2000 | 11 Make lovable |
| 21 Futile | 96 10-point Scrabble piece | 12 Unequivocal |
| 22 Novelist Harper | 97 Lunar plain | 13 Bird-feeder filler |
| 23 Lake near Carson City | 98 Age | 14 U.S. immigrant's subj. |
| 24 Follow, as an impulse | 99 Composer Schifrin | 15 University founder Stanford |
| 25 Reside | 100 Kiddie corral | 16 Suspect's story |
| 26 They're checked at bars | 102 Unrefined | 17 French wine region |
| 27 Not premeditated | 104 Day's halfway mark | 18 Green sauce |
| 30 Cloister chief | 106 Hide-covered boat | 28 Flexible sword |
| 32 Staff sgt., for one | 108 Turf section | 29 ___ David (Israeli flag symbol) |
| 33 Shed tears | 109 Needs a bib | 31 Marketing department focus |
| 34 Dinghy blade | 112 School of whales | 35 Radio, to a CBer |
| 35 Physicist Fermi | 113 That, to Tomás | 36 Boombox button |
| 36 HQ for F-16's | 114 It bested Betamax | 37 '40s First Dog |
| 39 Done with | 116 Stout detective | 38 Thin nail |
| 41 Farming prefix | 117 Retired | 40 Dollop |
| 42 Nabokov novel | 123 Chartres chum | 41 Yellowfin tuna |
| 43 Veal style | 124 Become one | 44 Avoid |
| 45 '70s tennis star | 126 Spicy bowlful | 46 Kabob rod |
| 47 Junkyard dog's greeting | 127 In good shape | 48 Lax |
| 49 Snooze | 128 Minister, briefly | 50 Fictional bell town |
| 52 Lester of bluegrass | 129 Mongol marauder | 51 Practiced, as a trade |
| 53 At work again | 130 Train designation | 54 Proton spot |
| 58 Reached a goal | 131 Leaving dumbstruck | 55 Mexican munchie |
| 60 Buttonless shirt | 132 Nemesis | 56 Toward the stern |
| 61 Mall convenience: Abbr. | 133 Seventh-day Christmas gift | 57 Wagner heroine |
| 62 Threshing tool | 134 "Steady ___ goes" | 59 Imbibe to excess |
| 63 Money-saving, in product names | 135 Meshlike | 64 Cookie-jar raider |
| 65 Green Bay's st. | | 66 Laid up |
| 68 Chants | | 67 Musical Crow |
| 70 General Bradley | | 68 Like some tides |
| 73 Gymnastics apparatus | | 70 Page with essays |
| 76 Jedi teacher | | |
| 77 Steals, slangily | | |
| | | |

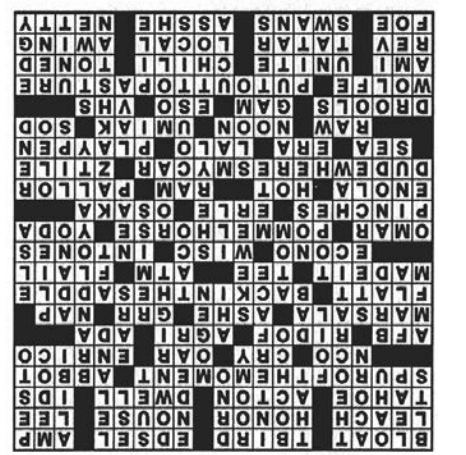
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- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 71 Calculator button | 90 Tear asunder | 111 Popeye's girl |
| 72 Battery terminal | 92 Fells | 113 Spirit of a people |
| 74 Distribute, with "out" | 93 Instant-replay effect | 115 Abolitionist author |
| 75 Actress Downey | 94 Provide staff for | 117 Gyro bread |
| 78 Hem and ___ | 95 Univ. in Troy, NY | 118 45 Across' alma mater |
| 81 Nation on two continents | 101 Molten rock | 119 Mound |
| 84 Long-armed ape | 103 Indigenous Alaskans | 120 Detachment of soldiers |
| 86 Science of sound | 105 Gene Autry pics | 121 Monopoly expense |
| 88 Mr. Potato Head piece | 107 Simoleons | 122 High-strung |
| 89 Muffin topper | 109 Sort of star | 125 Informal refusal |
| | 110 Montague teen | |

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.

The 1960 Thunderbird, or T-BIRD (6 Across), was the first American built car to offer an optional sunroof. In 1962, "DR. NO" (10 Down) became the first of Ian Fleming's 21 James Bond novels and short stories to be turned into a film. Mr. Potato Head — a collection of about 30 ears, noses, LIPS (88 Down), etc., but no body — was the first toy ever to be advertised on TV.



Bonnie Louise Bradford passes away at home

DOWNEY – Bonnie Louise Bradford, a former nurse for 30 years, died at her home in Downey on Dec. 11. She was 93.

Bradford was born in Exeter, Missouri and was a 50-year resident of Downey.

Graveside services were held Dec. 15 at Downey Cemetery with Pastor John Rose officiating.

She is survived by her daughter, Betty (Peyton) Moore; granddaughter, Patricia (Peter) Slevcove; grandson, Peyton (Lisa) Moore of Arizona; and great-grandchildren Maxwell Slevcove and Lindsay and Derek Moore.



BRADFORD

Services today for Maria Ester Ross

DOWNEY – Just two days shy of her 82nd, birthday, Maria Ester Ross has passed away.

She was born Dec. 19, 1924 in Santa Ana, San Salvador, El Salvador and died Dec. 17, following a recent hospitalization and lengthy illness, in her Downey home of 37 years as per her wishes.

Ross came to the United States at the age of 29, settling in San Francisco, where she met her future husband, Charles. They fell in love and married in March of 1956. They remained happily married for over 50 years.

Ross was a craftswoman, expert seamstress and cook; she was a Licensed Vocational Nurse and worked for 15 years in the service of Downey Regional Medical Center.

The family would like to thank her sister, Maria Emma, who was the primary caretaker of Ester during her final days. Also giving her daily care was her husband, Charles, and visiting nurse, Marina Pacheco.

A Memorial Service to celebrate her life will be held at Rose Hills Mortuary today, Dec. 22, at 3 p.m. in the Hillside Chapel. Flowers are welcome or a tree may be planted in her remembrance.

Ross is survived by her husband, Charles Ross of Downey; sister, Maria Emma Nunez of South San Francisco and Downey; daughter Connie Harrada of Mission Viejo; Mary Franta of Walnut and Anne Grace Ross of Vancouver, British Columbia.



The Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis provided their annual Thanksgiving lunch for the clients of ARC. The traditional meal of turkey, stuffing and pumpkin pie was enjoyed by all ARC clients. Kiwanis served the lunch with assistance from local Downey Boy Scouts.

St. Raymond's planning golf tournament

DOWNEY – The St. Raymond School Class of 2007 is planning a golf tournament Feb. 26 at the Rio Hondo Country Club in Downey. All golfers are welcome.

Cost is \$105 per golfer and includes golf, green fees, cart and tee prizes. The tournament is a four-person scramble format.

Registration time is 8 a.m. with a tee time of 10 a.m. Checks should be made payable to St. Raymond School Class of 2007, 12320 Paramount Blvd., Downey, CA 90242, Attention: Dianne Pacheco.

To sign up or sponsorship information, call Pacheco at (562) 889-3816 or Ramiro Leiva at (562) 904-3101.

Orchid group hearing guest speaker

LONG BEACH – Peter Lin, a student judge with the American Orchid Society, will present a PowerPoint slide show on "Miniature Cattleyas" at the next meeting of the Long Beach Amateur Orchid Society on Jan. 8 starting at 7 p.m. at American Legion Post 496 in Long Beach.

The meeting is open to the public.

For information, call (562) 861-3989.

Lorene Ruth Turgeon a 56-year Downey resident

DOWNEY – Lorene Ruth Turgeon, a 56-year resident of Downey, died Dec. 13 at home. That date marked her 62nd wedding anniversary. She was 80.

Born on March 30, 1926, in Cudahy, she was the youngest of three daughters. She attended Bell High School and graduated in 1944. She married David E. Turgeon that same year in Great Bend, Kansas, where he was stationed in the Air Force.

The couple bought a house in Downey following the war and subsequently had two daughters. Lorene always enjoyed decorating her home, gardening, and accompanying her husband on golf trips.

She is survived by her husband, David; daughters, Marilyn and Darlene; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and an older sister, Edna Clabaugh.

Services were held at Downey Zrelak Mortuary on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. followed by interment and graveside services at Rose Hills Memorial Park the following morning.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be made to the American Cancer Society.

Frances H. Cronk survived by family

DOWNEY – Frances H. Cronk, a Downey resident of over 50 years, died Dec. 14 in Camarillo from complications caused by Alzheimer's disease.

Cronk was active in several volunteer organizations, including the American Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, and Widowed Persons. She was an active member of Christ Lutheran Church until she left Downey in 2003 to be near her son.

She was preceded in death by her son, Bob, and her husband, Wayne. She is survived by her son, Jon, his wife, Sue, and two grandsons, Austin and Adam.

A memorial service was held Dec. 21 at Christ Lutheran Church in Downey with interment at Rose Hills. Viewing was held Wednesday at Downey Zrelak Mortuary.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Parents Fund at Christ Lutheran Church.

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The Salvation Army Southeast Communities Corps
 TEL: 323.587.4221

This holiday season don't forget lil' Tommy and other children who are unable to afford all the trimmings on the table, or presents to open on Christmas morning. Help make this holiday season a memorable one for Tommy and other unfortunate children.

Please don't forget... **Please send your gift to:**
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www.salvationarmysoutheast.org

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Report graffiti or persons performing the act to this number.

A Scandinavian Christmas in Downey

■ Restaurant leads celebration of Scandinavian Christmas holiday of Lucia.

BY MARY FORNEY
CONTRIBUTOR

DOWNEY – Traveling from her hometown of Encino to Downey, Megan Lee, 16, entered the Nordic Fox Restaurant wearing a long, white gown and began to sing. A candlelit wreath glowed around Megan's head as she and her attendants – three girls and one boy – led the patrons in celebrating the Scandinavian Christmas holiday Lucia.

Accordion music played by Leroy Anderson accompanied their voices, filling the restaurant with cheerful Christmas carols as Megan told a historical story shared around the world each year on Dec. 13.

On this day, homes and businesses in a multitude of countries honor St. Lucia, a woman who lived in Sicily during the late third century. Lucia became involved in charitable work after her mother was healed from a severe illness, bringing food to the poor and to Christians hiding in dark tunnels. Betrothed to a wealthy nobleman, Lucia began giving away her wedding gifts to help feed the needy.

Refusing to give up her aid to the famished and renounce her Christianity, Lucia's betrothed turned her over to the Romans who tortured her and sentenced her to death.

Missionaries spread word throughout the world of Lucia's acts of kindness and strength and she is now remembered yearly in traditional fashion.

Keeping with the Swedish custom, Megan and her attendants spread Christmas cheer to the Nordic Fox Restaurant customers while serving free cookies and coffee.

"We do this to bring culture into the area," said Mary Pierson who hosted the Nordic Fox event. Pierson is the sister of Nordic Fox Restaurant owner Jane Hendricks.

Megan first dressed up as the Lucia Bride when she was 11. Wanting to surprise her Swedish grandmother Charlotte Lee from Bellflower, Megan served her cocoa and cinnamon rolls.

"It's a special Christmas celebration of my Swedish roots," Megan said. "So I was really excited and happy to be asked to do this at the Nordic Fox."

Debuting as one of St. Lucia's helpers, Michelle Delrey, 9, shared her sentiments about the evening.

"It's an interesting holiday and I wish everyone a happy St. Lucia," she said.

The other St. Lucia attendants were local students Grace Bowen, Cheyenne Pitts, and Nathaniel Walker.

'Master Class' brings fireworks...literally

East West Players continues its exciting 41st Anniversary Season with "Master Class", a Tony-Award winning production written by Terrence McNally. Generous support for this production is provided by the S. Mark Taper Foundation Endowment for East West Players.

World renowned opera diva Maria Callas is teaching a master class in front of an audience (us). She's glamorous, commanding, larger than life—and drop-dead funny. Maria coaxes, prods, and inspires students—or victims as she calls them—into giving the performances of their lives. As each student steps up to display their talents to the renowned and admired Maria, they are quickly scrutinized before a single note can be sung. When students finally get the opportunity to sing through an entire aria without being interrupted, Maria can only hear her own past rendition of the piece as she gets lost in the memories of that time of her life.

"Master Class" is pyrotechnical theater—fireworks in a contained space where Callas is brought back to life inspired by series of master classes the great diva conducted at Julliard in 1971 & 1972 near the end of her career. Emotional explosions, cutting wit and soaring music from the Tony Award-winning author of Love! Valour! Compassion!

"Master Class is a truthful look at an artist reaching the end of her prime, still clinging to her glamorous past, and all the while lashing out at her young admirers," comments East West Players' artistic director, Tim Dang. "East West Players is very excited to produce another Tony Award winning production as we continue to display the talent of the Asian-American community and the quality theatre East West Players is known for. We look forward to putting together a production that not even Maria Callas herself could find fault with," he said with a smile.

"Master Class" was first produced by the Philadelphia Theatre Company at the Plays and Players Theatre in March 1995. The play later opened on Broadway at the John Golden Theatre 8 months later where it won both Drama Desk Awards and Tony Awards for performances and overall production.

East West Players' production of "Master Class" will break down the casting barrier with an all Asian American cast, featuring Jeanne Sakata as Maria Callas with Randy Guaya, Linda Igarashi, Tess Linda, Marc Macalintal, Maegan McConnell, Timothy Ford Murphy, Alden Ray, and Isabella Way.

Recently off the set of Desperate Housewives Jeanne Sakata has appeared in a number of East West Players' productions including Equus (2005) and her Los Angeles Ovation Award winning performance in Red (2002). Additional stage credits: Mark Taper Forum's The House of Bernarda Alba, The First Picture Show, and King Richard II.

Master Class will be directed by Jules Aaron. The creative team includes scenic designer Don Llewellyn, lighting designer Jeremy Pivnick, costume designer Ivy Chou, sound designer Max Kinberg, properties master Ken Takemoto and stage manager Anna Woo.

Jules Aaron has directed over 200 productions and received numerous awards for his work including 18 Drama-Logue Awards, 12 Inland Drama Critics Awards, and 5 Dean Goodman Awards. He has directed productions at South Coast Repertory, Pasadena Playhouse, Theatreworks, Laguna Playhouse, Musical Theatre West, La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, International City Theatre, West Coast Ensemble and several other notable east and west-coast companies.

All performances will be held in the David Henry Hwang Theater at

the Union Center for the Arts, located in Little Tokyo at 120 Judge John Aiso St., Los Angeles. Master Class opens on February 7, 2007 and closes on March 4. Opening night will be accompanied by a pre-performance cocktail reception and a post show reception with the cast and creative team.

Performances are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Previews are Thursday – Saturday, February 1 – 3 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 4 at 2 p.m. An American Sign Language-interpreted performance is scheduled for Sunday, February 18 at 2 p.m.

General ticket prices are \$40 in the orchestra and \$35 in the balcony. Preview tickets are \$20 for all seats. Opening night tickets are \$65 for all seats. Tickets are currently on sale and can also be purchased with a subscription to East West Players' 41st Anniversary Season. For ticket purchases, subscription requests or more information, call East West Players at (213) 625-7000 or visit www.eastwestplayers.org. Senior, student and group discounts are available.

Most adults agree: 'Re-gifting' is OK


As the last-minute holiday crush begins to build and panic grows in the minds of those who are nursing an unfulfilled shopping list, the latest Zogby Interactive poll shows a solution may be just steps away from the easy chair. A wide majority (63%) of American adults said that re-purposing a gift received from someone else in the past is okay – as long as it hasn't been used and the recipient would be a better fit for the gift.

With the clock ticking ever closer to that annual shopping deadline that procrastinators dread, most adults now agree that a trip to the closet may be just as legitimate – and useful – as a trip to the mall. Yet, while a majority now says re-gifting is okay, not a lot of Americans partake – 9% of U.S. adults plan to "re-gift" a present they received in the past to someone else this holiday season, the Zogby online poll shows. Women are more likely to get in the "re-gifting" spirit this year – 10% say they plan to give an old gift again, compared with 7% of men.

The Zogby Interactive poll surveyed 12,806 adults Nov. 21-29 and has a margin of error of +/-0.9 percentage points. The survey, which takes a look at American's feelings on holiday shopping this season, is featured in the December issue of Zogby's American Consumer newsletter, now available at www.zogby.com.

The oldest respondents were most likely to think re-gifting is in poor taste – 40% of those older than 70 say they feel this way – but still, more than not in that age group (49%) said they were okay with re-gifting. Those 25-34 were most likely to view re-gifting positively (69%) and may also be faced with having to buy gifts for the most people – in addition to parents and other family members, many in this age group may have children as well as many friends and co-workers on their gift list. The youngest respondents were nearly as likely as older respondents to be against re-gifting, one in three (33%) of those 18-24 hope to open holiday gifts that are new and not recycled, our polling shows.

Some have found the perfect present for someone on their list collecting dust not in their closet, but in their wallet – 17% have re-gifted a gift card to a store they do not or would not shop in. The more money a person makes, the more likely they are to have parted with a gift card that's a bad fit – 20% of those who make more than \$100,000 admit to re-gifting gift cards, compared to just 15% of those who make less than \$25,000.



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Ward Elementary second grade teacher April Okimoto and Principal Roxann Davis help wrap more than 300 books donated by members and employees of Downey Federal Credit Union.

Students get early Christmas presents

DOWNEY – Downey Federal Credit Union (DFCU) awarded 300 new and used books in English and Spanish to Ward Elementary School last week, after taking donations from credit union members and DFCU employees.

Bins were placed in the credit union's main branch and in the Express Service Office at Downey Regional Medical Center in early December. People from the community responded by filling the book bins, showing a keen interest in helping students in their reading pursuits.

DFCU brought the books and wrapping papers to the school, where teachers could choose age-appropriate reading material for students whose parents may not be in a position to purchase books for them during the holiday season.

DFCU also sponsored a raffle prize for a \$100 supermarket gift certificate for people who donated books. Randy Miller, the raffle prize winner, chose to donate the \$100 to a family from Ward Elementary who needed the help.

"Downey Federal Credit Union is very supportive of the residents of Downey and wants to extend a helping hand to families in need," DFCU President and CEO Barbara Lambert said. "At the holiday season, it is important that all children receive some type of gift. A new book is an everlasting gift, and truly makes a difference in the life of a child."

A Christmas List

By Eric Pierce

I know what I want for Christmas.
Liposuction!
Not that I really need it (I think I'm fairly proportioned) but it would be nice. Just a little nip and tuck here and there, underneath my arms and on the tips of my elbows. Most people are self-conscious about their hips and thighs; I hate the tips of my elbows.

Maybe one far-off day when I'm raking in the big bucks as a writer for a famous paper like the *New York Times*, *Newsweek* or (am I worthy?) *Downey Magazine*, I could afford to get a little something done, but for now I think I have to accept me for what I am.

So what to ask for Christmas? My older brother will probably get me something like a stereo he found on clearance at Wal-Mart, and it'll be a brand I've never heard of and it will look a lot more expensive than it really was. Example: Last year he bought me a home theater surround sound system. Pretty cool, right? Well the thing was manufactured by Daewoo, the car manufacturer. Daewoo! You may have heard of Daewoo, or, more likely, you've driven past them while they burned uncontrollably on a freeway off-ramp.

What's next, a flat screen TV brought to you by the makers of Kia? My little brother will use his employee discount to get me a DVD from Target. But he'll remove the label and tell me he got it from Best Buy.

My mom will buy me underwear and my dad will give me cash. My dad doesn't mess around, he's very straightforward.

Dad: "Who are we kidding? We both know you want cash and we both know I'm not about to step inside a mall. So here's fifty bucks, just don't tell your mom."

Christmas Day we'll head over to my aunts and uncles, where we'll exchange gift cards. My aunt will cook a tasty meal of *posole* and tamales and I'll retreat home, stuffed and five pounds heavier.

Now do you see why I need that liposuction?

No baking needed - yet so traditional tasting.

Refrigerator Fruit Cake

(makes 15 thin slices)

- 1 cup non-dairy liquid creamer or ¼ cup non-dairy liquid creamer, plus ¼ cup brandy
- 1 cup miniature marshmallows
- 8 ounces graham crackers, rolled into fine crumbs
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon ground allspice
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 cup dates, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup mixed candied fruit, coarsely chopped

1. In small bowl, combine creamer and marshmallows. Soak for at least 1 hour.
2. In large bowl, combine cracker crumbs and spices.
3. Add dates, nuts and fruit: stir to coat each piece with crumb mixture.
4. Add marshmallow mixture and stir.
5. Pack mixtures into loaf pan which has been lined with waxed paper extending over edges. Cover tightly.
6. Chill in refrigerator for 1 to 14 days. Lift cake from pan with waxed paper liner. Slice to serve.

Submitted by Harriett Paine, former cooking instructor, Downey Adult School

Newspaper accepting community recipes

DOWNEY – The Downey Patriot is now accepting recipes for inclusion in its Entertainment/Dining section. Recipes should be simple and as brief as possible. Send your recipes to: The Downey Patriot, 11525 Downey Avenue, Suite A, Downey, CA 90241, Attention: Eric

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Questing Heirs installs new officers

LONG BEACH – The Questing Heirs Genealogical Society of Long Beach installed their new officers for 2007-08 last week.

After serving for six years as president, John McCoy, of Long Beach, turned over the presidential gavel to Liz Myers of Los Alamitos. Sally Davis, Long Beach, was installed as 2nd Vice President (membership), succeeding Jeanette Jones, who served for four years. Jeri Everett follows Myers as Corresponding Secretary.

Neena R. Strichart, publisher and editor-in-chief of the Signal Tribune, was honored as the first recipient of the "Friend of Questing Heirs Genealogical Society" award for outstanding service to the Society and genealogy community.

For more information on Questing Heirs, call Myers at (562) 598-3027 or visit www.qhgs.info.

Family history research tips offered

WHITTIER – The monthly meeting of the Whittier Area Genealogical Society will be held on Jan. 20 at the Whittier Masonic Lodge in Whittier. The featured speaker will be Alan Jones, whose topic is "Evaluating Your Family History Evidence."

The presentation will go over the different types of sources or evidence available to retrieve family history information, how trustworthy each is, how to be confident it is correct, and what to record. This includes physical documentation, online data and more.

Visitors are welcome to the meetings and workshops. For information, call (562) 941-3184 or visit www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags.

LACEY

Continued from page 1

Turning more serious, he said: "I was the youngest of six, and the first one to go to college. My folks were poor, and back then we went without shoes, but my mom always made sure we put on a clean shirt, and that there was food on the table."

Today, he is as conscious of his health as ever, walking at least a mile three or four times a week ("I used to jog to my work for many years"). Also, "I read a lot," he says, "science, sports, newspapers (the *L.A. Times*, *Press-Telegram*) and periodicals (*L.A. Business Journal*, *National Geographic*), the whole gamut." He follows basketball, college football, and UCLA. Educated by Augustinians, he goes to St. Raymond's.

Of his grounding in science, John says it has helped him "think clearly, be as accurate as I can (math does this), and be exact in what I say. I try to understand the problem, and if I can do that, then there's hope I can find a way to solve it." Further, he says, "It has given me the ability to be structured in what I do. I believe the more structured you are, the more successful you can be in your career. Also, it has helped me focus on my business better."

Narrowing his take on the current real estate market to his specialty, income properties, he says there has been a slackening of sales ("It takes longer to sell") but interest rates are "still relatively stable," and that there should sooner or later be a "gradual escalation of values."

"My mom died when she was 92," John narrates. "One day she went to see a doctor, and the doctor gave her a clean bill of health. But as soon as she was out the door, she fell over, dead. When I go, I want to be like her, and not embarrass my doctor."

He says he read somewhere that, in this day and age, a man may profitably over a lifetime undergo three career changes. Well, real estate was his third, and all three careers have been marked with success, so far. The question is—By his religious attendance at City Council meetings, lacing his public comments with wit, is he, all-around man that he is, honing his skills for a fourth?

College lands \$14K auto grant for technician students

NORWALK – DaimlerChrysler presented the Cerritos College Foundation with a \$14,000 grant this fall, benefiting the campus' College Automotive Program (CAP), which provides students with technical learning and a pathway into lucrative automotive technician careers at more than 4,000 Chrysler, Dodge, and Jeep dealers. The funding will go toward the program's marketing and outreach efforts to area high school students.

"We're thrilled that these funds will go toward training and preparing our students for employment," said Richard Aragon, instructor in Cerritos College's Automotive Technology Program.

"It's through the generous support of manufacturers like DaimlerChrysler that our programs are thriving. The students are the ones who truly benefit from these gifts."

Cerritos College is the only college in California that offers CAP training. By hosting CAP courses for its students, Cerritos College and DaimlerChrysler provide students with training on current DaimlerChrysler vehicles using DaimlerChrysler-authorized tools and procedures and prepare them for entry-level technician jobs at dealerships.

Upon completion of the program, students earn an associate's degree in automotive technology (or similar study). Along with classroom instruction, CAP offers on-site training at sponsoring dealerships under the direction of technician mentors. Students rotate class time and internships until fulfilling the requirements to receive their degree.

The Cerritos College Foundation, a non-profit organization, serves as a charitable vehicle for the community, individuals and alumni, to assist with financial support of Cerritos College beyond that which state funding supports. Visit the Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/ccf.

TRAVELER

Continued from page 1

farm yearly.

But good fortune was not to shine on Harriman and his farm forever. He was forced to order the prize dairy herd destroyed in 1924 when the dread hoof and mouth disease swept the area.

But persistence was one of his stronger traits. Harriman started the herd up again from scratch and within four years was winning state prizes once again.

In 1933 Rancho was hard hit by a great earthquake. Harriman rebuilt. He saw the character of his poor farm change as the Great Depression progressed. At first there were the old people. Then younger members of the industrial and farm class began to appear. Then the service employees from hotels and restaurants appeared. And finally the CPAs, bankers, professors, the white collar class itself.

When Harriman rebuilt after the earthquake, he included hospital facilities. Rancho would no longer simply be concerned with custodial care, but would now enter the field of complete rehabilitation.

In 1944, Rancho accepted the challenge that was to make it world famous. It began a long-term rehabilitation program for the victims of polio.

Under the direction of Elberta Arnold, who had studied the techniques of Sister Kenney in Minneapolis, the local program took hold. Patients were taught how to re-educate their muscular systems. Many innovations were perfected.

When polio was finally overcome with the discovery of the Salk vaccine, Rancho celebrated. But the hospital still had hundreds of patients who had been felled by the disease before the medical breakthrough.

The success of the hospital with polio victims made it quite natural for it to turn to the treatment of other long-term rehabilitation cases, such as spinal injuries.

Today, Rancho is world famous for its work in rehabilitating a wide variety of injuries through long-term therapy and care.

Patients, their relatives, indeed, all of us, may be grateful to Harriman whose persistence ranged from constant flattery of the county supervisors with flowers to rebuilding Rancho's crumpled structures after the quake. Much of his spirit lives on in the fine therapy done at Rancho today.

Boeing donates to school scholarships

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Foundation recently received a \$4,600 donation toward student scholarships from The Boeing Company. Steven Chesser, senior manager in Boeing's Community Relations visited campus on November 28 to present the check to President Noelia Vela and Foundation Executive Director Steve Richardson.

The donation will go toward scholarships for students studying within Cerritos College's Partnership to Develop Special Education Teachers (SETuP), new K-12 special education teacher preparation offered through the Cerritos College Teacher Training Academy (TRAC) Program that gives selected students the opportunity to explore working in an inclusive classroom with special needs children.

During the 2006-07 year, 12 SETuP interns were selected to work one-on-one with master teachers from area elementary schools who have expertise in special education. The interns have the opportunity to first observe and then complete 40 hours of work helping students with special needs in the area of math and science.

"Thanks to Boeing's generous support of the teacher training program, Cerritos College is helping to provide more knowledgeable and experienced teachers in local special education classrooms," said the Honorable Peter Espinoza, chairman of the Cerritos College Foundation board.

"We are grateful for Boeing's willingness to partner with us in providing such a necessary financial gift."

As part of the financial support provided by Boeing, SETuP interns' enrollment fees and materials for a required class, "CDSE 50 – Survey of Special Education," will be paid for in the spring 2007.

Cerritos College's Teacher TRAC program offers many services, programs, and pathways for students interested in teaching K-12. For students interested in becoming an elementary school teacher, Teacher TRAC's flagship program is a partnership with California State University Long Beach. The students build professional portfolios that will help them in their university careers, and in later job interviews and lesson plans.

Teacher TRAC courses maintain impressive retention rates that range from 80 to 100 percent. Cerritos College's Teacher TRAC Program received the 2005 Exemplary Program Award from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. Since 2001, there have been more than 90 Teacher TRAC-credentialed graduates of California State University, Long Beach.

Word of Mouth
by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.

Healthy gums not only contribute to better oral health, they also can improve overall health. According to the latest research, periodontal (gum) disease may lead to the worsening of such health problems as diabetes, respiratory disease, heart disease, and even premature births. For example, preliminary studies have found that diabetics with gum disease can reduce their blood-sugar levels to normal by treating their gum problems. In addition, a large-scale study shows that pregnant women with moderate-to-serious gum disease were twice as likely to give birth to premature babies as women with healthy gums. These findings and others should lead patients with heart disease, diabetes, and respiratory disease, as well as pregnant women, to pay greater attention to the health of their gums.

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P.S. About 80 percent of Americans have some form of gum disease, which is a bacterial infection of the gums surrounding the teeth.

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YEAR

Continued from page 1

Warren High School gymnastics coach Anthony Vankirk is sentenced to 330 days in prison for secretly videotaping his students as they changed clothes at the Downey YMCA.

Jeff Welch returns as football coach at Warren High School after a four-year hiatus, during which time he operated a Christian preschool.

February 3: Gordon Sodemani, an active member of the community and husband of school board member Martha Sodemani, dies at his home. He was 59.

Feb. 4: The late Thomas Osborn leads the Downey Symphony in their first concert of the year, which featured performances by four principal soloists. "All are terrific performers in their own right," Osborn is quoted as saying. "And they deserve to have the spotlight in every way."

March

'Nonsense' opens at the Downey Theatre for a two-week run.

DUSD Superintendent Wendy Doty is chosen as "Woman of the Year" of the 27th Senate District.

Zenzi Devereux retires after 22 years with the Downey Chamber of Commerce. She had been the Chamber's office manager.

Mario Guerra announces his intention to run for the open District 2 seat in November.

Downey police arrest five people after protestors march through city streets on Cesar Chavez Day.

March 7: The Downey Unified School District approves a 3.5 percent across-the-board raise for teachers.

March 14: The City Council introduces an ordinance meant to curb the growing problem of "mansions" in Downey.

March 18: Kimberly Scott, a 19-year-old student at Cal State Fullerton, is crowned Miss Downey in ceremonies at the Downey Theatre. Denise Antillion, 15, is named Miss Teen Downey.

March 25: "Horns-a-Plenty," the latest production of the Downey Symphony, plays at the Downey Theatre.

March 30: Faith Temple, wife of Scott Temple, one of Downey's founding councilmen, dies of a stroke at age 92.

April

April 25: The City Council awards the Downey Police Department \$600,000 for new in-car radios and mobile data terminals.

April 29: Peter Pelayo Jr. is shot outside Downey First Baptist Church, where he fled after being chased by Downey police. Sheriff's SWAT eventually found Pelayo underneath a pulpit inside the church.

May

The Rancho Los Amigos Foundation raises over \$125,000 for patients at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center at its annual Amistad Gala.

May 10: Three men hold up Downey Federal Credit Union, fleeing with an undisclosed amount of cash. Nobody was hurt.

May 26: Mariella Alvarellos, Frederick Bode III, Ronn Couillard, Brad Elrod, Antionette San Bartolome and Pete Yoder are inducted into the Downey High School Hall of Fame.

May 29: Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard leads a Memorial Day observance at Downey Cemetery.

June

June 1: 'Hello Dolly' opens at the Downey Theatre with Ann Peck McBride in the lead role.

June 12: The City Council proposes a \$128 million budget, which

includes an increase in taxes and police officers.

June 14: Former Dodger great Maury Wills speaks to an early-morning crowd at the Rio Hondo Events Center.

June 16: Sergeant Ed Kelly of the Downey Police Department is shot at the Del Norte apartment complex by a man suspected of killing his father and brother earlier in the day. Kelly was transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening wounds.

June 24: Steve Allen is installed as the 103rd president of the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

June 27: The City Council approves the proposed \$128 million budget.

June 27: The Board of the Downey Unified School District approves a \$218 million budget. No new salary increases are included in the budget, which also calls for a reduction in class sizes for grades K - 3.

June 30: Readers protest a photograph of The Wiseguys Big Band, featuring three scantily-clad showgirls surrounded by more than a dozen band members, which appeared on the front page of this newspaper.

July

Laraine Elizabeth Turner's original song, "Long, Long Ago" is named a finalist for "Song of the Year" by VH-1's Save the Music Foundation.

July 5: The Wiseguys Big Band kick off the annual concerts in the park performances.

July 10: Downey Regional Medical Center adds a record 60 new employees, joining 1,200 others already employed at the hospital.

July 17: The legal filing period for the upcoming general election opens, with the seats of Districts 2 and 4 up for grabs.

July 21: The Downey Symphony announces its four-concert season lineup for the 2006/07 season, scheduled to open Oct. 28.

July 21: Loren Behr, director of the proposed Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center, appeals to the public for memories and artifacts of aeronautics in Downey.

July 28: Behr resigns his position as director of the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center after taking a job at a museum in Northern California.

July 28: Unusually hot temperatures prompt the city to designate the Downey City Library and Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center as official "cooling stations" to help ward off the heat.

July 28: The Downey Patriot is honored as "Small Business of the Year" by the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

July 30: Thomas Osborn, longtime Artistic Director and Conductor of the Downey Symphony, dies suddenly from a heart attack. He was 72.

August

Downey Regional Medical Center sells Golden Outlook Insurance Services to AppleCare Medical Management. Golden Outlook had operated for more than 15 years as a sales and customer service group of the hospital.

Aug. 1: A tanker hauling more than 3,000 gallons of tar overturns near the intersection of Imperial Hwy. and Lakewood Blvd., spilling its load and tying up morning traffic for hours.

Aug. 4: Dr. Floyd "Dal" Stauffer is inducted into the International Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame.

Aug. 7: A man shoots his estranged wife and then himself outside the Acapulco Restaurant in Downey.

Aug. 11: Downey Regional Medical Center announces it will attempt to build a \$60 million "Patient Care Tower," a state-of-the-art medical facility in compliance with anticipated seismic laws.

Aug. 18: Longtime Downey resident Robert Rubio announces his

intention to run for the open District 2 City Council seat. He will face off against Mario Guerra, who declared his candidacy in March.

Aug. 22: Macy's announces that Downey has been chosen as a stop for its "Parade on Parade" caravan, which will include the taping of a live segment for NBC's "The Today Show."

Aug. 25: Steve Roberson is appointed the new chairman of the Downey YMCA's Board of Managers.

September

Sept. 9: The Robinsons-May department store in Downey is officially converted into a Macy's in a red-carpet ceremony.

Sept. 12: The City Council approves funding for road work along Stewart & Gray Road.

Sept. 15: Kate Davies, director of the Downey Museum of Art, is appointed to two committees with the California Association of Museums.

Sept. 16: Captain Cardiac and the Coronaries headline an oldies concert at the Downey Theatre to benefit the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

Sept. 22: Kevin Hobbensiefken of Warren High School is named "Teacher of the Year" by the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

Sept. 22: Downey Regional Medical Center CEO Allen Korneff celebrates 35 years with the hospital.

Sept. 26: Mayor Meredith Perkins raises concern over lack of film production at Downey Studios.

Sept. 27: Jerry Brady, longtime advertising director of *The Downey Patriot* and past president of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, retires.

October

October 1: *The Downey Patriot* is sold to Jennifer DeKay-Givens.

Oct. 6: Ariel Gutran is named the new manager of Warren High School's baseball team.

Oct. 10: The City Council approves final plans for the 13-acre site to be home of the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center and public park.

Oct. 11: Downey police officer Jose Llamas dies at his home from an apparent suicide. He was 26.

Oct. 11: District 2 rivals Mario Guerra and Robert Rubio debate city issues at a candidates forum at the Rio Hondo Events Center.

Oct. 16: Macy's "Parade on Parade" caravan makes it stop in Downey, attracting thousands of visitors.

Oct. 21: Bally's Total Fitness celebrates its grand opening at Downey Landing.

Oct. 24: The City Council reconsiders a controversial amendment that would have rezoned property located directly behind Downey Calvary Chapel.

Oct. 25: The Downey Symphony presents a free concert to Downey third-graders.

Oct. 27: The Downey YMCA announces that a group of 180 volunteers will attempt to raise \$297,000 as part of its annual support campaign.

Oct. 27: Downey Unified School District's True Lasting Connections program receives a \$75,000 grant from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Oct. 27: Downey High School beats visiting Warren, 33-21, in their annual rivalry football game.

Oct. 28: The Downey Symphony opens the 2006/07 concert season. Steven Kerstein was the evening's guest conductor.

November

November 7: Mario Guerra wins the Downey City Council District 2 seat, defeating Robert Rubio with nearly 64 percent of the vote.

See YEAR, page 13

"Money isn't everything but it sure keeps you in touch with your children."
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Treasure Island area of Downey. Properties consists of
the following amenities 3 Bedrooms w/ wall to wall
closets, 2 bathrooms, inside laundry, step down den,
remodeled kitchen, new paint, carpet, & tile throughout.
Freddy Gamboa 562-244-2701



Local Commercial e Industrial - Los Angeles
Muchas posibilidades - 2,700 pies cuadrados.
1516 W. Slauson Ave., Los Angeles. Precio
\$435,000.
Dene M. Molina (562) 904-9729



3 Bedroom 2 Bath Family Room Home
Remodeled kitchen w/ granite counter tops and
island, maple cabinets and stainless steel appliances.
Gorgeous remodeled bathrooms. New central air &
heating. Master bedroom has it's own bath.
1,600sqft of living space. THIS IS A MUST SEE!
Teresa Arana 562-569-1499



Beautiful Quiet Hillside Home!
Total Remodeled, Granite Counter tops, New
stainless appliances, New Tile and choice of color
carpet to be installed. Located in one of the most
Beautiful, quiet, hillside areas of Whittier. Home
is ready for move in.
Tony Bauer 951-377-2284



Only \$444,900
Only 444,900 for this gorgeous 3 bed.2 bath. home
in La Puente bordering West Covina. Kitchen has
been remodeled with solid oak kitchen cabinets
and granite countertops. Gazebo, playground and
storage room to remain with the sale.
Armando Mendez 562-307-2852



Ready to move In!
Nice home located in Hollydale 3 bedrooms 1
bathroom good room size. New exterior, interior
paint, entry door and molding. Ceramic tile floors
in living room, kitchen and remodeled bathroom.
Attached car garage with big lot size and nicely
landscaped. For more info. Debbie Santiago.
Debbie Santiago 562-307-5429



New Downey Listing!
2 beds, 2 bath, 2car garage, Den, Fireplace Large
family kitchen, 1,594 sq ft of living space on a
7,500 sq ft lot Lots of improvements, Nicely
landscaped. This home won't last long! CALL
Wilson now
Wilson Ruiz (562) 869-4111



Best Price In The Area!
2 bedrooms 1 bath 6,200 Sq. Feet Lot New Carpet
and flooring. Immaculate condition perfect for
first time buyers. All this for just \$454,900.
Mey Alvarez 562-900-4531



Nice quiet Neighborhood
3 bedrooms, 1.75 bathrooms, den with fireplace, 1
car garage. Call Maria for more info
Maria Fernandez 562-577-1104



Exclusive area of South Gate Only \$512,000
Lowest price in the exclusive area of Hollydale.
Ray Penado (562) 569-8488



Two parcels with six houses
16,400 square feet with both parcels. Each house has
it's own yard. Great opportunity to live in one and
rent the other houses. Great area of Mount
Washington, close to the Pasadena Fwy. Please
Buyer inquire only.
Abraham Garnica 562-755-7696



Save money and build your dream home here!
Approved plans, ready to build 4,300 Sq. Ft.
home! Existing: 3 bedroom, 2 bath 1,176 Sq. Ft.
home on 5,767 Sq. Ft. lot desirable area of North
Downey. Cozy fireplace in master bedroom. Start
building your dream home today!
Luther Sanchez 562-755-9387

Happy Holidays From The Prudential 24 Hour Team!

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