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Thursday, July 12, 2012

Vol. 11 No. 13

8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240

Furman Park landscaping is upgraded

DOWNEY – The entry area at Furman Park sports a new and exciting look today, with eye-catching drought-tolerant landscaping installed this week just in time for this summer's first event in the city's Twilight Summer Concert series.

The project was initiated as a collaborative effort between Keep Downey Beautiful and the Downey Green Task Force, in cooperation with Lowe's in Pico Rivera.

Along with Lowe's employees, who delivered new plants to the Furman Park site and assisted in the first day of installation, Parks Maintenance staff and some 20 students from the Kiwanis Green Team contributed the greater part of two days of labor to the effort.

Funding for the project was provided by the Lowe's Charitable & Educational Foundation and was awarded as the result of a competitive merit-based grant process, completed by city staff on behalf of the two committees. This cooperation is significant, as it emphasizes a fundamental connection between the aesthetics of urban landscaping, as represented by Keep Downey Beautiful, and environmental sustainability, as embodied in the goals of the Green Task Force, along with the assistance of local business, with resources furnished by Lowe's Pico Rivera.

Moreover, this particular site was desperately in need of a facelift. In the words of the grant application, "the partnership will restore a blighted portion of a 55-year-old park in Downey that will serve as a demonstration garden for low-water landscaping." As city landscaping code evolves to encourage low-water landscaping for both residences and businesses, the application also lists a half dozen goals of the project, which include not only its aesthetic benefits, but also its intention to demonstrate the water and cost savings of low-water plantings, as well as reduction of sprinkler and stormwater runoff - in summary, to "create a clear pathway for residents to implement low-water landscaping at their own homes."

Along with citizen members of Keep Downey Beautiful, the Kiwanis Green Team was also integrally involved in the project, pitching in as many as 200 person-hours of volunteer assistance during its initial installation on Monday and Tuesday. The Green Team, led by Downey Unified School District teacher and local Kiwanian Alex Gaytan, is a student organization that has demonstrated activism, volunteer commitment and leadership in the Downey community over the past two years.

Low-water plants for the project were selected from a plant palette provided to the Green Task Force by Downey naturalist Catherine Pannell Waters. They consisted of Dwarf Kangaroo Paw, Little John Dwarf Bottlebrush, Blue Fescue, Juncus Effuses, Hybrid Echeveria, Victoria's Agave, and Yankee Point-all drought-tolerant plants suitable for Downey's semi-arid climate, attractively assembled in the new landscape.

The grant amount for the landscaping renovation was officially set at \$5,000, but the total effort and overall benefit to the community – not only as it adds to the beauty of Furman Park, but also as an illustration of the advantages of low-water landscaping – cannot be calculated in dollars and cents.

–Lars Clutterham, contributor

County fire service in Downey?

• Downey firefighters propose a study to analyze the effects of contracting with the L.A. County Fire Department for fire protection services.

By Christian Brown
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – The union representing Downey's 58 firefighters and paramedics petitioned the City Council on Tuesday to consider disbanding the city's fire department in order to contract with the county for emergency services.

While the city has yet to formally address the request, several council members are sounding off on the debate, which comes just 13 days after the city took a fire engine out of service in order to save an estimated \$1.8 million this fiscal year.

During Tuesday night's council meeting, Steve Davis, president of the Downey Firefighters Association, asked the council to consider requesting a feasibility study on county fire services.

"It would state what services they can provide for what money," Davis said. "We just want the council to explore all options and make an educated decision by getting a free study done."

While Downey firefighters agreed to reduced medical and retirement benefits for the 2012-13 fiscal year, Davis believes removing fire engine 61 from Station 1 on Paramount Boulevard places an additional strain on the department.

"Our programs and services have been cut and depleted," he said. "We don't have a fire marshal, public education, fire preparedness, and there's a fire prevention bureau spot open."

Already short three firefighters last year, Fire Chief Lonnie Croom said the department just lost two more due to retirement and as a result of the city's new budget, four more positions must be eliminated.

With 10 personnel qualifying for retirement this year, Croom is hopeful the losses will occur naturally through attrition.

"I now have 18 firefighters on duty, down from 21," he said.

By the end of the year, the city's total fire personnel will be 54, a decline from 63 workers last year.

While Croom is confident Station 1 can absorb the work load in southwest Downey, he maintains that the loss of the large fire engine will most likely have a direct im-



Photo by Pam Lane/DowneyDailyPhotos.com

pact on the quality of service.

"Response times will increase," said Croom. "It's rare we have two fires at the same time, but it's a calculated risk."

Since fire engine 61 was taken out of service on July 1, the fire department has closely reviewed its response times each week.

"This is financially-driven, a sign of the economy," said Croom. "Hopefully, this doesn't adversely affect firefighters or the community."

Mayor Roger Brossmer acknowledged removing one of the city's four fire engines as an unfortunate cut, but a necessary one to close a nearly \$11 million budget deficit.

"It's a difficult situation," said Brossmer. "Based upon the opinion of the fire chief we saved \$1.8 million with limited risk. We did what we thought was best for the entire city."

Although hesitant to the idea of disbanding the fire department, Brossmer said the city should at least request a feasibility study from the county in order to make an educated decision.

"We pride ourselves on having our own fire department. Losing that is not something I take lightly," Brossmer said. "But I'm not afraid of data. I'd hate not to look at an option. During these tough fiscal times, we need to look at all options."

However, Councilman Mario Guerra is adamant in his opposition to a feasibility study, which he believes undermines Downey residents who passed a ballot measure in 1998 by a percentage of 85-15 mandating that any change in fire or police services must be approved by voters.

"I am vehemently opposed to disbanding our fire department. We have no evidence that it's going to be better," said Guerra. "If it's put on the ballot, I will vote against it as a citizen."

Guerra, who lives two blocks away from Station 1, thanked the Downey Fire Department for its service and the voluntary benefit reductions the firefighters union accepted, but he rejected the premise that contracting with the county would be safer and cheaper for the city and its residents.

"If response times go up dramatically, I'm open to do what's best for our citizens," he said. "Last year, there were 60 structural fires in District 2. That's 2.6 percent of our calls. 82 percent of the calls are medical. What we need are more paramedics, and we're looking at expanding our paramedics."

Councilman Luis Marquez said he is willing to explore county fire services as city officials attempt to reinstate the fire engine back into service.

"I'm very open to the study," Marquez said. "Our number one

priority is to provide the best possible safety and response times. I absolutely love the idea of having our own fire department; I never said I wanted to go county.

"None of us can make that decision, it's a decision that has to be made by the voters, but doesn't it make sense for us to look into it? I agree with the mayor, we have to look at all our options," he said.

The Downey Fire Department partners with the fire departments of Santa Fe Springs, Compton, Montebello, and Vernon for mutual aid, but with recent and forthcoming cuts to services in each city, Davis maintains the county may be able to better serve Downey.

Currently, the L.A. County Fire Department has 16 fire stations within a five-mile radius of Downey that already respond to emergency calls in the city every year.

While opponents believe a contract with the county would mean the closure of a Downey fire station, Davis called the notion a "myth" and a "misconception."

"Citizens need to know, whether it says L.A. County on our patch or Downey, we're still going to come," said Davis, a Downey native. "My loyalty is to Downey, to my friends and the citizens there. It has to work for the city and its citizens, we can't support it."

Alex Saab to run for City Council

• Saab is expected to challenge incumbent Luis Marquez for citywide seat.

By Eric Pierce
City Editor

DOWNEY – Local attorney Alex Saab has announced his candidacy for City Council, where he is expected to challenge incumbent Luis Marquez for the council's citywide District 5 seat.

A lifelong Downey resident, Saab, 36, is president of Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis and is active with other Downey organizations, including the Downey Museum of Art.

His wife, Giggy Perez-Saab, is president of Soroptimist International of Downey.

Saab ran for City Council two years ago but was narrowly defeated by Fernando Vasquez.

In a statement announcing his candidacy, Saab said his campaign will focus on four platforms: jobs, public safety, fiscal responsibility and an accessible City Hall.

He said he would work to "ensure that the public safety of our residents is always our foremost concern and that our city always maintains our own police and fire departments."

"Our essential public services should not be compromised even during challenging economic times," Saab said, adding that he is "committed to cutting the fat out of government and to disbursing city expenditures responsibly and appropriately."

If elected, Saab said he would host regular town hall meetings and hold regular office hours at City Hall. He also pledged to hold community meetings at local businesses throughout his campaign to gather input from residents.

Saab cited a need to "constantly increase the voice of all Downey residents and to open the channels of communication from City Hall to all residents."

Saab is president-elect of the Downey Chamber of Commerce and vice president of the Southeast District Bar Association.

An alumnus of local schools, he graduated from UC Irvine and received a Juris Doctorate degree from Loyola Law School.

Upon graduation he opened his law firm on Paramount Boulevard in Downey. Saab has received several accolades and awards – including from Congress and L.A. County – for his volunteerism and community service.

Councilman Luis Marquez, who lost in his bid for state Assembly last month, has not announced if he will seek re-election to City Council. On Wednesday, he told this newspaper he was still discussing the issue with his family.

Marquez has the option of seeking reelection in the citywide District 5 seat or he can try to replace term-out Councilman David Gafin in District 1 (south Downey).

Planning commissioner Michael Murray previously announced he would run for District 1, while former baseball player Gabriel Orozco is campaigning for District 5.

Boxcar 7 set to bring classic R&B sounds

DOWNEY – Boxcar 7, a seven-piece show band from Southern California, will perform Wednesday at Furman Park as part of the city's summer concert series.

Boxcar 7 plays a blend of blues, soul, old school R&B, classic rock and swing, with a bit of funk.

Their set list includes music by B.B. King, Otis Redding, Ray Charles, the Blues Brothers, Wilson Pickett, Sam and Dave, and more.

"Whether you choose to dance or listen to them, you're sure to have a great night out," city officials said in a press release.

The band includes Scott Griffith on lead vocals, Gerry Tschetter on keyboards, Johnny V on trumpet and flugelhorn, and Mark Sample on saxophone.

Together, the band has decades of experience playing clubs and concert halls throughout Southern California and the Midwest.

The concert starts at 7 p.m. Admission is free.





Photo courtesy Alex Gaytan

Patriotism reigns at inaugural July 4 bike parade

• Jazmin Alejos won a bicycle for winning "best decorated bike."

By Lars Clutterham
Contributor

DOWNEY – Independence Day festivities in Downey this year included the traditional 4th of July fireworks, provided by Calvary Chapel at a combination religious/patriotic themed event at Downey High School, which the church had previously offered at Cerritos College for nine years.

Event officials reported attendance at about 12,000, free of any untoward incidents, thanks in part to generous security assistance on the part of volunteers, as well as

the Downey Police. Fundraising activities for a number of local causes also recorded a fruitful evening.

Another nationwide tradition celebrated for the first time in Downey at the event was a 4th of July Bike Parade, spearheaded by local environmentalist Steve Perez. With more than 60 riders, bicycles of every size and style were decorated in the spirit of the national holiday. (A wheelchair and a scooter were also among the participating two-wheelers.)

A diverse group of riders of all ages sashayed twice around the track, including children and youth, families, a few veteran cyclists, and a large contingent from the Kiwanis Green Team. The Green Team, consisting mostly of students from Downey elementary, middle, and

high schools, has shown a significant presence at many environmentally friendly events over the course of the last two years.

Prizes were awarded to the youngest and oldest riders: 3-year-old Wendy Landeros, and 86-year-old Millie Skredsvigs. Also awarded was a prize for the most patriotic bike, to Thomas Jaramillo.

A new bicycle, provided by the two Downey Kiwanis clubs, was the prize for best decorated bike. Appropriately, it was won by Green Team participant Jazmin Alejos, who festooned a borrowed bicycle for the event, since she did not own her own. Ms. Alejos will be happily promenading her own new bicycle, thanks to her participation in the debut of this great American July 4 tradition.



Watch out for the pink flamingos

DOWNEY – Soroptimist International of Downey is conducting a Flamingo Flocking fundraiser, in which residents pay money to have a friend's lawn "held hostage" by pink flamingos.

Soroptimist members go to the "victim's" house unnoticed and stick the flamingos in the yard, leaving behind a note on the front porch on how to have the flamingos removed.

The removal fee is \$50.

So far, Soroptimist has flocked the homes of former mayor Meredith Perkins, Bob Ciatti, Alex Saab and Councilman Mario Guerra.

All money raised supports Soroptimist's charitable projects.

To request a flocking, call Saywell Florist at (562) 806-3217.

Rocket day at space center

DOWNEY – Whether you are new to the hobby or a veteran rocketeer, the Columbia Memorial Space Center invites you to its "Rocket Fever" event July 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission is \$5 or free for space center members.

Visitors can enjoy interactive exhibits, observe rockets accelerated towards the clouds or build their own model rocket and watch it fly.

There will be a free launch-viewing outdoors. All rocket launchers are subject to a safety inspection and launches are weather-permitting. Rocket-building classes are available for \$10.

Astro Pak to host open house

DOWNEY – Astro Pak, a precision cleaning facility located in Downey for more than 50 years, will host an open house July 25 to celebrate the recent expansion of its operations.

The open house is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Astro Pak is located at 12201 Pangborn Ave. (near SEEA-CA).

According to its website, Astro Pak's history dates to 1959, when it was founded by Carl Verheyen and Jim St. Clair during the accelerating space race between the U.S. and the USSR.

"Astro Pak bore its roots amid great space technological rivalry that created vast opportunity for the small precision cleaning contractor," the company's website says. "Securing various approvals to service all major missile manufacturers as well as other aerospace clients fueled the firm's desire to take their success from that industry into others."

Diaz elected president of Toastmasters

DOWNEY – Ralph Diaz was sworn-in as president of Toastmasters Club 597 during an installation dinner June 26 at the Embassy Suites.

In addition to Diaz, incoming officers include Sal Cervantes, vice president of education; Raul Castillo, vice president of membership; Alaina Niemann, vice president of public relations; Rebecca Banuelos, secretary; Rene Estrada, treasurer; and Augustin Duran, sergeant-at-arms.

Toastmasters International is an organization where people can enhance their public speaking and leadership skills in a non-threatening environment.

The club meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. in Room 116 at First Baptist Church of Downey.

For more information, call Raul Castillo at (562) 400-2561.

Food trucks to stop at church

DOWNEY – At least four gourmet food trucks will be at the La Vina Christian Center in Downey this Saturday from 5-9 p.m.

Confirmed food trucks include the California Grill Truck, Lomo Arigato, the Ragin' Cajun and Hale'iwa.

A portion of the night's proceeds will benefit the church's summer arts program for kids.

The church is at 9626 Lakewood Blvd. (just south of Gallatin Road).

Charm camp for young girls

DOWNEY – The Job's Daughters of Downey, a service organization for young girls, is hosting a Charm Camp this weekend for girls ages 8-14.

The group will enjoy baking, crafting, games and a trip to Boomers.

Cost is \$35 for three days of camp, Friday through Sunday. The camp meets daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Downey Masonic Lodge.

For more information, call Nicole Ramirez at (562) 858-7948.

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Poet to read from new book

DOWNEY – Brigit Truex will read from her new book of poems, "Smooth as Silk," during a poetry reading July 19 at Mari's Wine Bar.

Subtitled "The Gold Hill Wakamatsu Silk and Tea Company," the book tells the true story of an exiled group of Samurai families from Japan and their efforts to start a tea and silk plantation near Sacramento in the foothills of the Sierra.

The poetry reading, sponsored monthly by the Downey Arts Coalition, also hosts an open mike, a half-hour set where local poets are invited to read their own poems at the open microphone.

Often their first experience before the public, this time is meant to encourage poets to participate in the celebration of poetry.

The event begins at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

Bible school at Messiah Lutheran

DOWNEY – Messiah Lutheran Church will host a vacation Bible school, "Amazing Desert Journey – Where Jesus Leads Us Home," from July 23-27.

The program will offer music, Bible stories, crafts, games and more daily from 6-8 p.m.

A sponsorship from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has made the program free to children entering grades 1-6.

For more information, call the church office at (562) 923-1215 or Beth at (562) 862-2158.

Trombone, organ concert Monday

DOWNEY – The Moravian Trombone Choir will present a concert, "Music for Brass and Organ," on Monday at the Moravian Church of Downey starting at 7:30 p.m.

The concert will feature the Moravian Trombone Choir Chamber Ensemble and organist Christopher Martin.

Admission is free but a goodwill offering will be taken.

The church is at 10337 Old River School Rd.

Financial firm to host mixer

DOWNEY – LPL Financial Services, at 10359 Lakewood Blvd., will host a business mixer July 19 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Admission is free.

Agajanian named DRMC chief of staff

DOWNEY – Dr. Richey Agajanian has been named chief of staff at Downey Regional Medical Center, the hospital announced Monday.

Agajanian, who spent the last two years as secretary and treasurer at Downey Regional, founded the Oncology Institute of Hope and Innovation, a cancer treatment center with nine locations and 12 physicians on staff throughout Southern California.

He is also chairman of the tumor board of Beverly Hospital.

Club to honor Volunteer of the Year

DOWNEY – The Downey Newcomers Club will honor Mary Truelove as its Volunteer of the Year at a luncheon Monday at Frantone's in Downey.

Truelove has been an active club member for about 10 years and has helped with the monthly 50-50 drawing as well as the fashion show and other functions.

She has lived in Downey since 1951.

The ceremony begins at 11:30 a.m.

Kiwanis golf tournament Sept. 24

DOWNEY – Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis will hold its 15th annual golf tournament Sept. 24 at the Candlewood County Club in Whittier.

Entry fee is \$175 and includes green fees, carts, driving range, barbecue lunch and dinner.

Sponsorships are also available ranging from \$125 to \$1,000.

For details, call Ryan Fitzl at (562) 445-9909.

Rosie Grier to give keynote speech

DOWNEY – Retired NFL great Rosie Grier, a member of the L.A. Rams' "Fearsome Foursome," will give the keynote address when the Downey Chamber of Commerce hosts its Businesses of the Year luncheon July 27 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

The Chamber will also honor its volunteers of the year.

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by calling the Chamber at (562) 923-2191.

Rancho hospital will hold first-ever Summer Festival on July 20

• Free community event will showcase the talents of more than 30 Rancho patients.

By Greg Waskul
Rancho Los Amigos Foundation

DOWNEY – Combining its hugely popular Performing Arts of Rancho and Arts and Crafts of Rancho events into a single celebration, world-renowned Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center will hold its inaugural Summer Festival on Friday, July 20 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the hospital's Jacquelin Perry Institute back lot.

The festival, entitled "Believe!," is sponsored by the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation. It will feature the talents of more than 30 Rancho patients who have overcome their disabling illnesses and injuries to create beautiful arts and crafts and inspiring live performances. Dinner will also be served for Rancho patients, families and staff and members of the community. Admission, including dinner, will be provided free of charge.

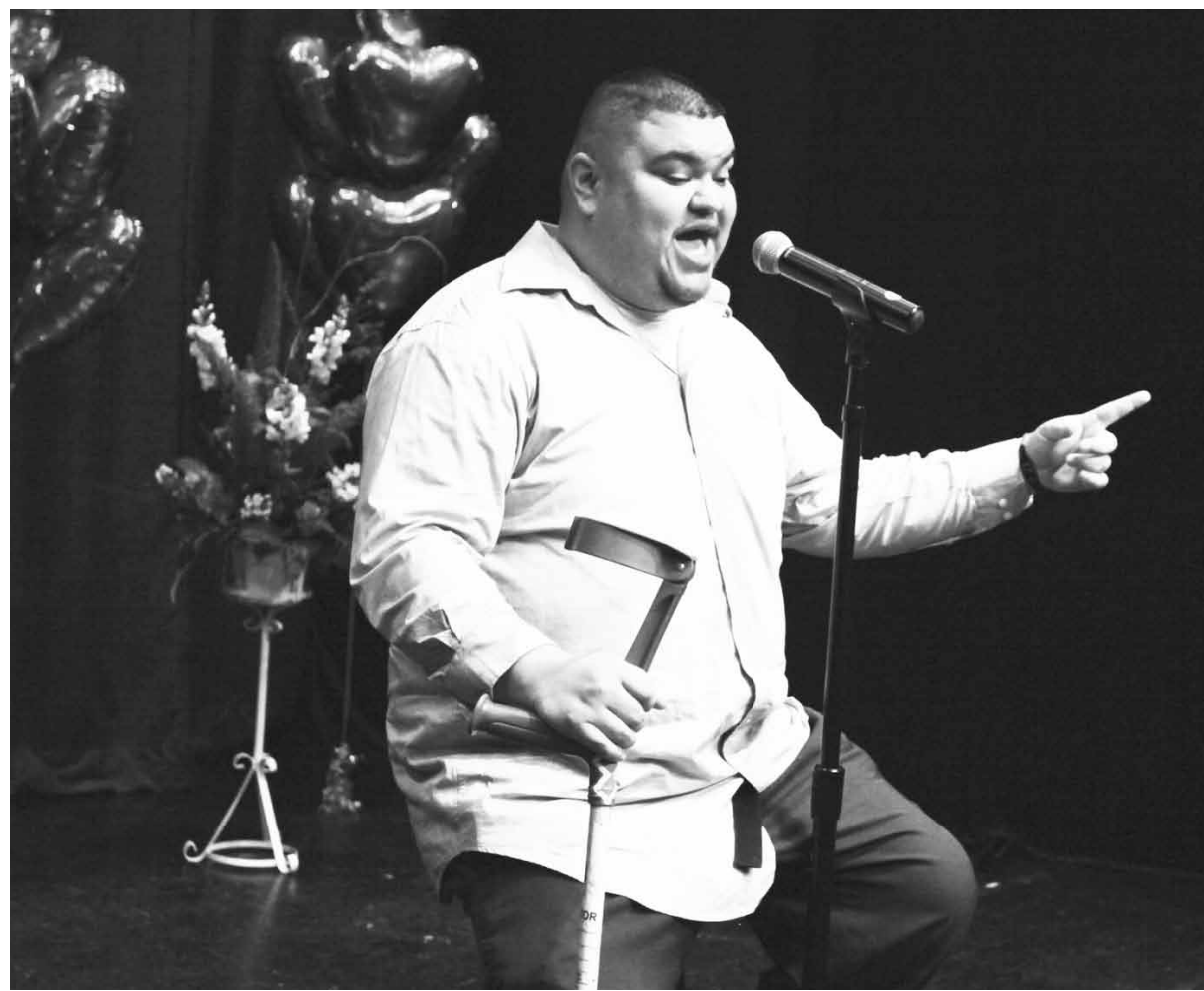
The event will also include a booth from Rancho's Restorative Garden where potted plants and other beautiful items created by Rancho patients will be available for purchase. In addition, a Rancho dance group which blends individuals who dance in their wheelchairs with able-bodied dancers, will also perform.

"We wanted to make this show our biggest and best ever," said Performing Arts of Rancho Director Jay Cramer. "We are very excited to combine so many elements of Rancho together for the first time into what is sure to be a very happy and healthy day for the Rancho family and the community to enjoy."

The event begins with the Arts and Crafts of Rancho, which will be on display from 2 p.m. throughout the afternoon and evening.

"The breadth of what our crafters have created for this show is simply amazing," said Rancho Director of Volunteer Services and Art of Rancho coordinator Debbie Tomlinson. "We will have exquisite jewelry, scarves, purses, pins and hats as well as items ranging from T-shirts with patient artworks to greeting cards."

Debbie said that other fun items in the craft fair portion of the festival will range from delicious hand-dipped chocolate strawberries and other treats to colorful balloon and flower arrangements to specially designed caps. "Our patients have been working hard to create their precious items, and our friends in



Hector 'Juice' Duron

Photo by Diane and Greg Waskul

the community are always amazed at what they see from our talented and highly creative group of artists," she said.

Rancho artist Magdalia Ortiz, who recently had one of her magnificent artworks auctioned off in Paris, has created a spectacular new painting that is being turned into a ceramic wall which will be on permanent display at the hospital. Festival attendees will be able to purchase tiles, T-shirts, mouse pads and even a tote that feature this beautiful new painting by Magdalia.

Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. and the Performing Arts of Rancho show begins at 6 p.m. "This show is going to be our best ever," Jay said. He will join Tom Ayers, Hector "Juice" Duron and Terrie Perker as hosts of the Performing Arts portion of the festival.

A major highlight will be performances by Jay's wife Katy Sullivan, a noted actress and singer who will be representing our country at the upcoming Paralympic Games in London as a member of the U.S. Paralympic Track and Field team.

She and Hector "Juice" Duron will kick off the Summer Festival show with a duet of "Summer Breeze" from "Grease". Katy, whose singing earned a standing ovation at Rancho's recent Amistad Gala, will also sing "My Boyfriend's Back" later in the show.

"Our show will feature a very talented blind trio known as "Out of Sight", who will be singing "In the Still of the Night," Jay said. "And of course, many of our fan favorites from previous Performing Arts of Rancho show will be performing the Summer Festival," he added.

Some of those performers will include Clara Gayle Denson singing "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" and Elisa Vasquez singing and dancing "Cancion Mexicana". Annette Revilla will sing "Reflections" and Omoze Osagede will sing "I'm Every Woman" as part of a tribute to "American Bandstand."

"We'll also have Charles Whitehead singing his own composition "The Story Goes On," Jerry Cavazos playing his saxophone,

Francisco Jimenez dancing and many other rousing performances," Jay said.

The show finale will be a rousing rendition of "I Believe I Can Fly" and "Don't Stop Believing" by "Juice" and the Company.

"The Rancho family is thrilled that our first Summer Festival is almost here," said Rancho CEO Jorge Orozco. "We are very pleased that our friends in the community will be joining as we celebrate the unlimited courage, dedication and creativity of our patients at this landmark event!"

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Local volleyball players named to Dream Team

DOWNEY – The *Long Beach Press Telegram* has selected its 2012 Dream Team for boys' volleyball, and Warren and Downey High Schools are well represented.

Warren placed three players on the first team and one player on the second team. Cross-town rival Downey didn't have a first team selection but placed one player on the second team.

Nick Alvarez, senior and outside hitter for the Bears, was selected Co-M.V.P. of the S.G.V.L., first-team All-C.I.F. Division III and the Dream Team player of the year.

Dean Kendall, senior and opposite for the Bears, stands 6 ft. 4 inches tall and played a vital role for the Bears in reaching the C.I.F. Division III championship match. Kendall was named first-team All-S.G.V.L. as well as first-team All-C.I.F. Division III.

Brian Oh, junior and libero for the Bears, is considered one of the best at his position in the area and was the S.G.V.L. M.V.P. last season. Oh was named Co-M.V.P. of the S.G.V.L. this season, along with Nick Alvarez, and was a first-team All-C.I.F. Division III selection. Oh will be back next year as Warren attempts to re-load and make another run at a league title and perhaps, another nice run in the C.I.F. playoffs.

Warren High School also placed senior and middle blocker Josh Nehls on the second team. Nehls combined with Alvarez, Kendall and Oh to present a solid core of Bear players.

Nehls certainly helped lead the Bear squad to a league title and the Division III championship match. Nehls collected eight kills in that game to keep the match close. Nehls was also named to the first-team All-S.G.V.L. team.

Downey High School's selection on the second team was standout setter Patrick Waters. Waters helped Downey to an 8-2 record in league play and a second place finish. For his efforts, Waters was named the Downey High School team M.V.P. and was a first-team All-S.G.V.L. selection.

Meanwhile, Warren boys volleyball coach Brad Simons and outside hitter Nick Alvarez have been selected as the Dream Team coach of the year and player of the year, respectively.

Coach Simons guided the Bears to a 10-0 undefeated record in league play and the S.G.V.L. championship. Simons also guided the Bears to the C.I.F. Division III Final against South Torrance. Warren finished their season with an overall record of 31-4 and were a set away from the Division III Title.

The Bears were defeated by the Spartans, three sets to one on May 19 at Cypress College.

The Bears were led by Co-S.G.V.L. M.V.P.'s Nick Alvarez and Brian Oh, Dean Kendall and Josh Nehls. Alvarez, Oh and Kendall were first team Dream Team selections and Nehls was the lone Bear second team selection.

Nick Alvarez, a senior outside hitter for the Bears, is 6 ft. 2 inches tall and can jump "through the roof." Alvarez was Co-M.V.P. of the S.G.V.L., a first team All-C.I.F. Division III selection and led the Bears to the Division III championship match. Alvarez will continue playing volleyball at Long Beach City College next season and has an excellent chance of playing Division I when he transfers to a four-year school.

–Mark Fetter, contributor

Swimmer Meghan Nevarez recognized

DOWNEY – The *Long Beach Press Telegram* has released its 2012 Dream Team for girls' aquatics and Downey High junior Meghan Nevarez has made the team as a standout swimmer in the greater Long Beach area.

In the preseason, Nevarez swam both the 50 and the 100 meter freestyle events. She clocked an impressive 25.4 seconds in the 50 freestyle and continued to improve.

Nevarez, who is also a standout driver for the Lady Viking water polo team, finished in third place at the C.I.F. Division IV Finals in the 50 freestyle with a time of 24.97. Nevarez also finished in 11th place at the C.I.F. Division IV Finals in the 100 butterfly with a time of 55.62.

Interestingly, as I attended a boy's swimming practice over Spring Break in April, Meghan Nevarez was in the Downey pool practicing her swimming strokes and competing against the boys. Nevarez was improving and getting better right there.

Coach Castro is very proud of Meghan with her determination and effort as she consistently works to improve. Coach Castro is even more pleased that Nevarez will return for her senior season and break more school, league, and perhaps, C.I.F. records.

Nevarez was the only San Gabriel Valley League swimmer to earn Dream Team honors in 2012. This year's Dream Team was dominated by Los Alamitos High School and several schools who all compete in the Moore League.

The Downey High School faculty and staff are extremely proud of Meghan's accomplishments and are excited to see what records she is going to break next year as a senior.

–Mark Fetter, contributor

Damalbhorn makes Dream Team

DOWNEY – Warren High senior standout golfer and league champion Kittichai Damalbhorn was selected to the *Long Beach Press Telegram*'s Dream Team as was second place finisher David Rho of Gahr.

Damalbhorn was the S.G.V.L. champion and tied for 74th, with league rival David Rho, at the C.I.F. Southern Individual Regional with a score of 78 at Skylinks Golf Course in Long Beach. Damalbhorn shot an 82 at the C.I.F. Central Team Divisional at Lakewood Country Club and finished in a tie for 76th place at the Knabe Cup with a round of 82.

David Rho, a senior at Gahr and the number two finisher at S.G.V.L. Finals, was also selected to the prestigious Dream Team. At the C.I.F. Southern Individual Regional at Skylinks Golf Course, Rho shot a 78 to finish in a tie, with Kittichai Damalbhorn, for 74th place. Rho tied for 21st place at the Knabe Cup in Lakewood with a round of 75, three strokes over par.

Interestingly, Damalbhorn's brother and junior at Warren, Terasak, was the third place finisher at the S.G.V.L. Finals this year and just missed out on Dream Team recognition. With both his older brother Kittichai and David Rho gone next year because they are graduating seniors, Terasak Damalbhorn has an excellent chance of becoming the 2013 S.G.V.L. champion as well as becoming a member of the Dream Team himself.

–Mark Fetter, contributor



The Downey girls Ponytail 8u all-star softball team beat Norwalk, 4-1, in an international tie-breaker to win the ASA L.A./South Bay District Championship recently. The team includes coach Noe Landeros, manager Laura Bocanegra, coach Jose Mora, coach Jose Bocanegra, team mom Monica Mora and players Isabella Trujillo, Celeste Cortez, Emma Lopez, Samantha Gonzalez, Alexia Pulido, Nadia Landeros, Malia Pieper, Taylor Stephens, Eddyanna Galvez, Soraya Santiago, Marissa Gurrola, Ileana Bocanegra and JOselyn Mora.



The Downey girls Ponytail 14u all-star softball team scored 48 runs while only allowing four to become the ASA L.A./South Bay District champions. The team qualified for the ASA "B" State Championship this past weekend in Lancaster where they finished fifth out of 32 teams. Top left: Coach Chris Hernandez, manager Tina Hernandez, Celese Hernandez, Anna Collier, Brianna Lerma, Jellisa Castanon, Samantha Alvarez, Ashley Machado, manager Veronica Medrano, Brandi Trejo, coach Chris Forseen and Sammy Roumeliotis. Bottom left: Alena De La Torre, Brandi Moeai, Jocelyn Hernandez and coach Ishmael Trejo. Not pictured: Chelsea Lopez and Sarah Brasher.

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Letters to the Editor:

Bullet train

Dear Editor:

Please publish the names of the Assemblypersons and state senators who voted for the bullet train, so we can arrange to put them on the first bus out of California.

Yes, they'll try to rationalize their vote, but they'll be using the same lies about cost and completion times that they used to get the bond authorization to begin with. Remember, it was going to cost \$33 billion and be completed by 2020. Now both the cost and the time factor have at least doubled, and that's if you believe the current figures. And why should we?

Yes, the central valley needs some economic help. But you could get faster results by driving up Highway 99 throwing \$3 billion off the back of a truck. You wouldn't have to pay some guy \$400,000 to toss it and we wouldn't be stuck with a project that will keep us broke into the next century.

Gov. Jerry Brown's father was one of California's great governors. His legacy is the California Aqueduct, a great university system and much of the freeway systems. He was indeed a visionary. But there can be a fine line between a vision and a hallucination. California's economy will recover when it can produce and move goods, not just people. Apparently Gov. Brown's desire to leave us a legacy of his own takes the form of a 200 MPH ego trip. And to do it, he'll saddle us with debt that continues to erode our ability to maintain the achievements his father left.

Every "enabler" who helps push this madness should be challenged on it at election time, and whatever excuse is offered, ask if they would repeat it under oath.

David Mathews
Downey

Dear Editor:

Congratulations are due the California legislature for its unprecedented action (only if you consider spending money we don't have on something we don't need unprecedented – actually they seem to do that all the time, which explains the mess California is in) Friday authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds (those are bonds paid for out of the General Fund – meaning your taxes and mine) to finance the construction of the initial phase of the nation's first dedicated high-speed rail system: a segment of rail infrastructure that goes from nowhere, to nowhere, through nowhere!

And we laughed at Alaska about their bridge.

Let the lawsuits begin!

Drew Kelley
Downey

Trash service

Dear Editor:

Am I the only one wondering about the separation of the water and trash bills? Was this at the behest of Calmet Services or the city of Downey?

On the surface it seems innocent enough, but it could certainly increase the amount of trash lying about the city. How so? If a family is struggling to pay their utility bills, what is the last bill they are going to pay? Obviously the trash bills, since in a pinch they could do without trash pick-up. They could dispose of their trash in other ways, such as using a commercial dumpster. Or they could bag it, and take it to their place of employment. Another tactic might be to wait until trash pick-up day and then place it in a neighbor's partially-filled container.

As for the green container, one could simply leave the grass clippings on the lawn. I don't think there is a law forcing a family to recycle, so they could just ignore the blue container.

Everyone paid their bill before because everyone needed water but now Calmet is going to have trouble dealing with scofflaws. How will they force compliance? What is the law? Is there a legal requirement that people put their trash out? If a family states that they didn't generate any trash, can the authorities prove otherwise? Perhaps Lars Clutterham has the answers.

In any event, this would seem to have the makings of a lose-lose situation for both Calmet Services and the city of Downey.

Jack Russell
Downey

Complainers

Dear Editor:

After reading the July 5 Letters to the Editor, it occurred to me that all I really read was a few people opening a big box of "Whaaaa!" People all day long complaining about the actions of others, nobody doing anything about it and harping on the fact that people do this and people do that.

Fireworks going off before the 4th? Could you imagine such a thing? That is why there is so much discord everywhere – nobody willing to accept others and how they celebrate.

People are so worried about others infringing their space and air without consideration on this very important day of celebration and tolerance. Granted some forms might be illegal but how often do we go over the speed limit?

Instead of complaining this summer, why don't people find something to do or help others in their shortsighted way of celebrating or spending their time? There are hundreds of places here in Downey that could use your oomph for good instead of filling the complaint box.

Ernesto Flores
Downey

Romancing the garbage: taking stock and LACSD

By Lars Clutterham

It's been one year since I began writing articles on the environment for *The Downey Patriot*. Editor Eric Pierce has kindly given me carte blanche to write about whatever environmental issues cross my mind and has published almost every article verbatim. I write as a volunteer contributor, with both a sense of responsibility to my community and a constant awareness of the privilege of setting these ideas before the reading public in Downey.

Likewise, it's almost six months that this column has been graced each week by the ever-creative and whimsically humorous illustrations of Gennie Prochazka – every one designed specifically for the article it accompanies. While layout requirements have limited most of these illustrations to black-and-white in the published edition, I heartily commend to you the Features section in the online version of *The Downey Patriot*, at thedowneypatriot.com, where Gennie's illustrations sparkle in brilliant colors.

Similarly, three years have elapsed since, as a member of the City of Downey's original Green Task Force, I took advantage of an unforgettable opportunity to tour six area facilities owned and/or operated by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD), which have recently taken over the operation of our local Downey materials recovery facility (MRF), long known by the acronym, "DART."

At one time DART stood for the quaintly neighborhood-friendly expression "Downey At-home Recycling Team," in keeping with its early local-area roots in residential curbside recycling. Nowadays, reflecting its more corporate affiliation with LACSD, it stands for "Downey Area Recycling and Transfer." This distinction is significant, because it ties DART to a long-standing countywide effort in waste management that ranks among the oldest and largest in the country.

According to LACSD's published Fact Sheet, "The Sanitation Districts were formed in 1923 when the cities were beginning to materialize, and it was clear that managing wastewater on a regional scale would make sense... In the 1950's, it became apparent that solid waste management also needed a regional approach. At that time, the Districts were given responsibility to provide for the management of collected solid waste, including disposal and transfer operations, and ultimately, materials and energy recovery."

More specifically, LACSD services about 5.3 million people in 78 cities and unincorporated area in L.A. County encompassing over 800 square miles. Its 11 wastewater treatment plants handle about 480 million gallons per day, and three active landfills deal with approximately 18,000 tons of solid waste per day, of which 3,000 tons are then recycled. Further, again according to its Fact Sheet, "the agency also op-

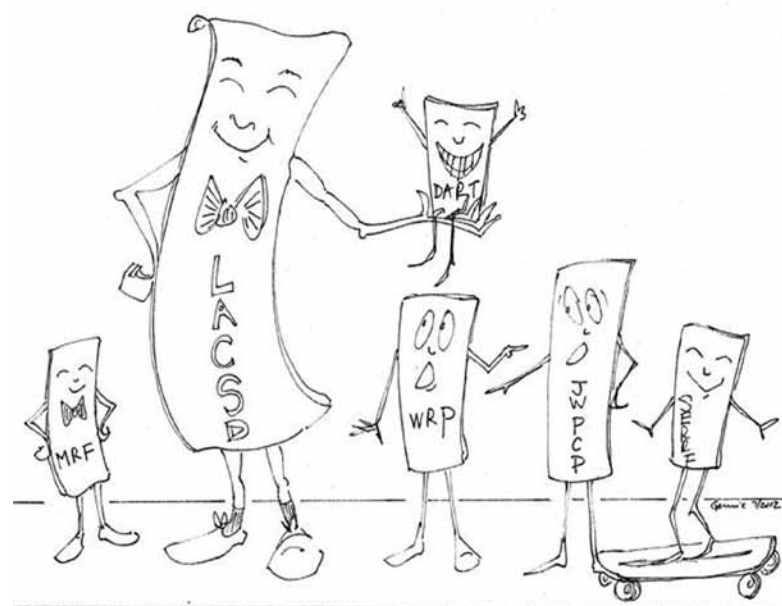


Illustration by Gennie Prochazka

erates four landfill energy recovery facilities, two recycle centers, three materials recovery/transfer facilities, and participates in the operation of two refuse-to-energy facilities."

Among this group, the six LACSD facilities I visited in 2009 were the Puente Hills Landfill, the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), the Puente Hills Intermodal Facility, the San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant (WRP), all within a stone's throw of each other near the intersection of the Pomona Freeway and the 605 in Whittier. Also on the tour were the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) and the Southeast Resource Recovery Facility (SERRF), both in Long Beach. Much more recently, thanks to the kind intervention of CalMet Services, I was able to tour our DART facility in Downey.

In a nutshell, L.A. County waste management, under the protective wing of LACSD, has MRFs and DART and WRPs and JWPCP and SERRF, trains, pumps, and protozoa, all there to help the enormous population of our huge megalopolis, including Downey, romance the garbage.

More details to come in the next column.

July 4 fireworks

Dear Editor:

On July 4 my wife and I went to Downey High School for what I thought would be a patriotic fireworks show put on by the city. Evidently I did not read between the lines of the article in the Patriot that said the show would be "...under the sponsorship of Calvary Chapel, in partnership with the City of Downey..."

What we were subjected to was instead an egregious violation of the intent of separation of church and state, as an apparent minister or preacher went on and on about being saved by his religion, including a plea to come forward to accept God. While I do go to church regularly, this made me feel very uneasy (some of the crowd around us voiced their dismay out loud) as it might have been an insult to anyone else there that was not a Christian, or even someone that did not believe in a god deity at all.

To make matters worse, the fireworks show did not start until nearly 9:20 p.m. (while waiting for people to "come forward"), and once it did start, instead of rousing patriotic music we were subjected to an overly loud presentation of religious music (it was so loud it was easily heard blocks away).

The entire meaning behind the 4th of July Independence Day celebrations is to celebrate our freedoms, and independence from England, both political, and yes, religious. As per the 1st Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, freedom of religion is guaranteed, and some may argue so is the freedom from religion.

John Powell
Downey

Editor's Note: The Downey Patriot erred in stating the fireworks show was a partnership between Calvary Chapel and the city of Downey. The event was funded, planned and produced solely by Calvary Chapel.

Career politicians

Dear Editor:

On June 14, Democratic Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard said that the Republicans had stopped a vote on women's rights to equal pay. The Democratic Congress, under Nancy Pelosi, was the majority for many years until two years ago. Why was there no vote at that time? Where was Ms. Roybal-Allard at that time?

On July 5, Ms. Roybal-Allard said that getting "people" back to work needs to be at the top of the priority list. This should be getting "American citizens" back to work. Afterwards, equal pay for women and work for immigrants with work permits could be examined.

On June 28, reader Elsa Van Leuvan submitted a letter on double standards, which were mostly facts about the Obama administration.

On July 5, reader Lois Rossi attacked Van Leuvan's letter as being a hate-filled rant against Obama and said that Democrats must support this administration. However, Rossi failed to supply any facts that would discredit Van Leuvan's letter.

On July 5, reader Gregory Barnes wrote about Gabriel Orozco's fictitious resume. First of all, I would ask editor Eric Pierce if any important information was accidentally omitted and further, what was fictitious?

I believe what Orozco meant to say that he would work to unite nationalities in Downey to live and work in harmony as American citizens and return Downey back to the high esteem of years past.

Orozco is not a career politician like councilmen Mario Guerra or Luis Marquez who care only for their own political agendas and care nothing for the welfare of the city of Downey.

Lee Woodfin
Downey

Ask the DMV

Q: My husband and I have started to take daily walks around our neighborhood for exercise. We live in an area with heavy street traffic and want to know if there are any rules we should keep in mind as pedestrians. Do you have any advice?

A: Thank you for seeking out information about how to be a safe pedestrian! One out of every six traffic fatalities is a pedestrian, so it is important for you to be informed. The California Driver Handbook offers these tips to pedestrians:

- Never "jaywalk," or cross a street between intersections. Always cross at a crosswalk.
- Do not suddenly leave a curb or other safe place and walk or run into the path of a vehicle close enough to be a danger to you.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk in the direction that faces the oncoming traffic
- When a signal first changes to green or "WALK" for you to cross, look left, right, and then left again and yield the right of way to any vehicle in the intersection before you cross the street.
- At night, make yourself more visible by wearing white clothing and retro-reflective materials or by carrying a flashlight.
- Most importantly, always be aware of what is going on around you!

Q: I have decided that I want to be an organ and tissue donor. My license doesn't expire for another three years and I want to change my organ donor status now. How can I do this?

A: You do not have to wait until your license expires to update your organ and tissue donor status! Simply visit dmv.ca.gov. From there you can become a registered donor, read answers to frequently asked questions and real life organ donor and recipient stories. Congratulations on your decision to become an organ and tissue donor!

Hometown hardware

Dear Editor:

While seeking a place to have my parents' back door re-screened I considered trying out the new hardware store in town (located at the old Von's).

As soon as I entered with screen door in hand I was immediately approached by an enthusiastic employee eager to assist me. As he led me to the back of the store I was amazed at the transformation that had taken place at what was once an aisle of fruits and vegetables now stocked with hardware and garden supplies.

As the young gentleman took my order, which I had figured to take an hour or two, I was shocked when he said it would be ready in 20-30 minutes. If that wasn't enough to impress me, what followed was.

Upon the return to my parents' home to install the sliding screen door, well let's just say the door refused to cooperate. Not knowing what direction to take I called Hometown Hardware and asked for some direction. Within a short time the employee said he would be more than happy to check out the problem. When asked if he could come out sometime this week he said, "I can be there in 10 minutes." Wow!

Thank you Hometown Hardware: Nick, Greg, Danny and all the others that assisted. So nice to have a hometown hardware store with a hometown feel.

Scott York
Downey

The Downey Patriot

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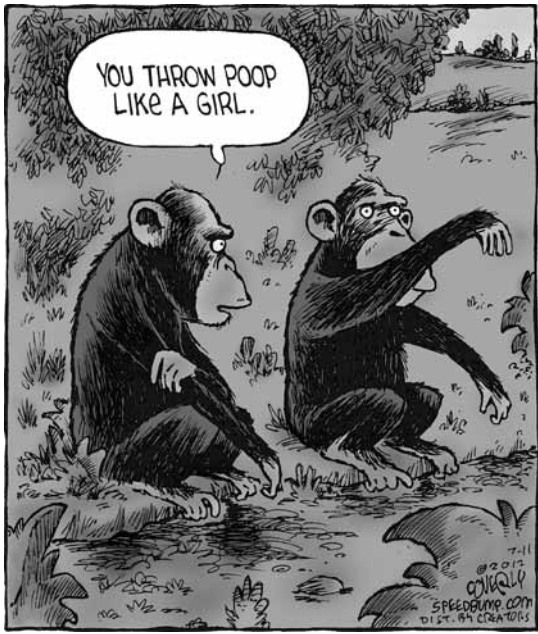
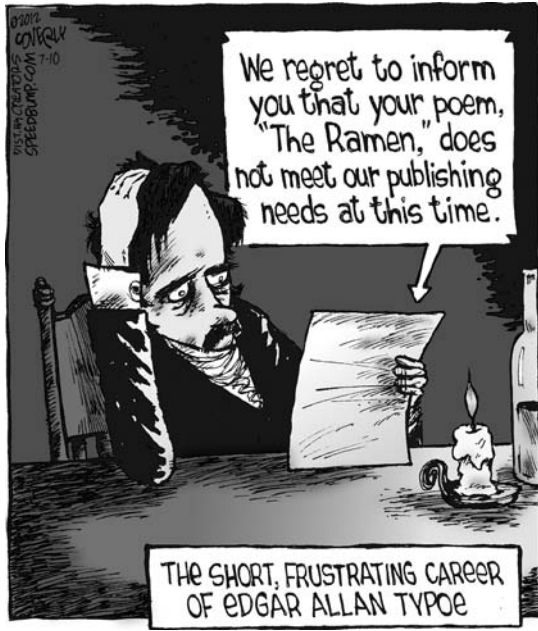
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Downey Community Calendar

Events For July

- Sat. July 14: **Gourmet food trucks**, La Vina Christian Center, 5 p.m.
- Mon. July 16: **Trombone concert**, Moravian Church of Downey, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. July 18: **Boxcar 7 concert**, Furman Park, 7 p.m.
- Thurs. July 19: **Business mixer**, LPL Financial Services, 5:30 p.m.
- Thurs. July 19: **Poetry reading**, Mari's Wine Bar, 8 p.m.

City Meetings

- 1st Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: **Redevelopment Project Area Committee**, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
- 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 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 Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.: **Emergency Preparedness Committee**, at Fire Station No. 1, 12222 Paramount Blvd.
- 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: **City Council/Community Development Commission**, Council Chamber.
- 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: **Library Advisory Board**, at Downey City Library.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

- 2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: **American Legion Auxiliary #270**, at United Methodist Church.
- 3rd Mon., 7 p.m.: **American Legion Post #270**, at Rio Hondo Event Center, for more info. call (562) 400-6244.
- 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Numismatists**, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

Tuesdays

- 9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
- 10 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at 7850 Quill Drive, for information call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.
- 12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information e-mail Diane Davis at ddavis87@me.com.
- 6 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call John McAllister 869-0928.
- 6:15 p.m.: **Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo**, at 11231 Rives, for info call 923-1932.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
- 1st Tues., 7:30 a.m.: **Gangs Out of Downey**, at City Hall training room.
- 2nd Tues., 3 p.m.: **Keep Downey Beautiful**, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7117.
- 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: **Sertoma Club**, at Cafe 'N Stuff, for information call 927-6438.
- 2nd Tues., 6 p.m.: **Downey Fly Fishers**, at Apollo Park, for information call 425-7936.
- 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m.: **Community Emergency Response Team meeting**, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
- 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: **Writer's Workshop West**, at at Downey High School library, for info call 862-3106.
- Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at 7850 Quill Drive, for info. call John Fiorenza 652-4399.

Wednesdays

- 7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
- 1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, at 7850 Quill Drive, for information call Marie Puch at 869-4366.
- 7 p.m.: **Out Post 132 Royal Rangers**, at Desert Reign Church, for info call 928-8000.
- 1st Weds., 11 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.
- 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
- 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
- 2nd Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos Country Club, call Anita 861-3414.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
- 2nd & 4th Weds., 5:30 p.m.: **Lions Club**, at Sunrise Realty, for information call 577-1104.
- 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club**, at Apollo Park, for info. call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
- 3rd Weds., 10 a.m.: **Los Angeles County Quilters Guild**, at Women's Club, for information call 426-2418.
- 3rd Weds., 6 p.m.: **American Business Women's Association**, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
- 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at Barbara J Riley Center, call 943-5513.
- Wed. & Fri., 10:15 a.m.: **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

Thursdays

- 7:30 a.m.: **Connections Networking**, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.
- 7:30 a.m.: **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.
- 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
- 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.
- 1st Thurs., 12:00 noon: **Downey Christian & Professional Luncheon**, at Sizzler's Restaurant, call James Vanlengan 310-1335.
- 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.
- 3rd Thurs., 4 p.m.: **Public Works Committee**, at City Hall Training Room.
- 3rd Thurs., 6 p.m.: **Downey CIPAC**, at Sizzler's Restaurant, for information call Rich Tuttle 413-6045.
- 4th Thurs., 10 a.m.: **Assistance League**, at Casa De Parley Johnson. for information call 869-0232.
- 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.

Fridays

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

Saturdays

- 9 a.m.: **Farmers Market**, Second Street at New Avenue, for information call 904-7246.
- 2nd Sat., 12:30 p.m.: **AAUW**, Los Amigos Country Club.

On This Day...

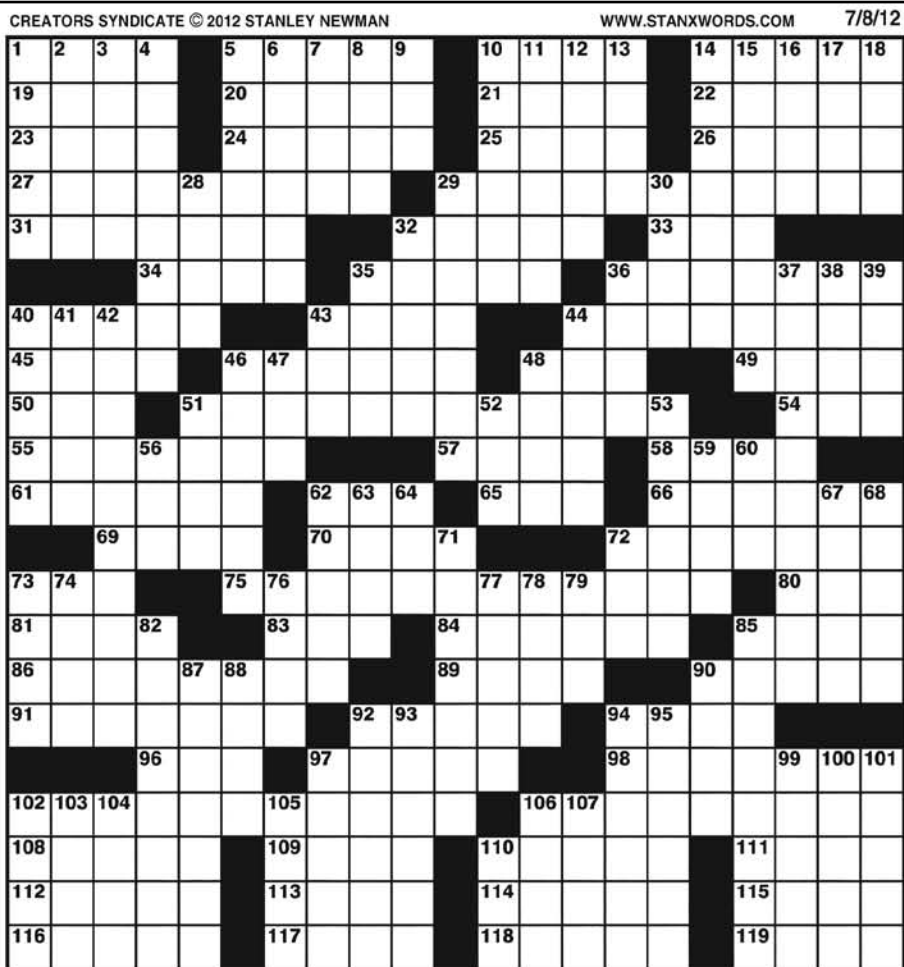
- July 12, 1862:** Congress authorized the Medal of Honor.
- 1908:** Comedian Milton Berle was born Mendel Berlinger in New York City.
- 1984:** Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale named New York Congresswoman Geraldine A. Ferraro his running mate, making her the first woman to run on a major party ticket.
- Birthdays:** Comedian Bill Cosby (75), fitness guru Richard Simmons (64), boxer Julio Cesar Chavez (50), figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi (41), wrestler Gregory Helms (38), hockey player Dan Boyle (36), wrestler Brock Lesnar (35), actor Topher Grace (34) and actress Michelle Rodriguez (34).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

WE ARE BEASTS: With artful additions
by Gail Grabowski

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Reach Stan Newman at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, or at www.StanXwords.com

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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.



Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer



What in the world is that ringing in the ears, and why doesn't anyone else hear it? It's possible that you have tinnitus; a condition, not a disease, that can result from a number of causes. 10% to 15% of us suffer from it, and that percentage rises as we age.

Tinnitus is described as a ringing noise, a high pitched whining, electric buzzing, hissing, humming, tingling, clicking, roaring, beeping, sizzling or whooshing sound. It can seem to come from one or both ears, or sound like it comes from inside the head. It may be intermittent or continuous. It can range from a quiet background sound to a noise that drowns out loud external sounds, and this intensity may change with movement of the head, shoulders, tongue, jaw or even eyes. Typically, those with tinnitus also have some degree of hearing loss.

How is tinnitus diagnosed? There are no simple tests. The diagnosis is made after ruling out other possibilities. For example, a recognized source of very high-pitched sounds is electromagnetic fields that are common in modern wiring and various signal transmissions. Some of us can hear these high-pitched transmission frequencies, and that can mimic tinnitus.

There are two types of tinnitus: objective and subjective. In objective tinnitus, a sound from the ears can actually be heard by others. This sound results from muscle spasms that cause clicks or crackling in the middle ear. It is sometimes in beat with the pulses of the heart within the ear's blood vessels.

Subjective tinnitus, by far the more common, can have many possible causes. It may not be easy to isolate the root problem, and to further complicate matters, tinnitus and sudden hearing loss may have no obvious cause whatsoever! Here are the areas that you and your doctor may consider:

- Otolgic disorders (usually the same causes as hearing loss) including ear infections, acoustic shock, ear wax, Meniere's disease, and even - but rarely - a tumor.
- Chemicals including mercury or lead poisoning.
- Medications like NSAIDs (aspirin, ibuprofen, and naproxen), some antibiotics, some diuretics, and anti-depressants.

- Chemotherapy.
- Neurologic conditions, including multiple sclerosis, head injury, skull fracture, and whiplash.
- Blood flow (vascular) problems, such as carotid atherosclerosis and high blood pressure.
- Metabolic diseases like thyroid disease, hyperlipidemia, vitamin B 12 deficiency, and iron deficiency anemia.
- Psychiatric disorders including depression and anxiety.
- A hodgepodge of other disorders such as fibromyalgia, TMJ syndrome, Lyme disease, and even simple nasal congestion.

Treatment depends on whether any underlying, treatable condition is found. For example, if the cause is simple ear wax, removing it will relieve the symptoms. If a medication is causing the problem, then you and your doctor may discuss stopping or changing that medication. If no correctable cause is found, treatments that may help include:

- Noise suppression: Masking devices, similar to hearing aids, are worn in the ear and produce a continuous, low-level white noise (such as simulated sounds like falling rain or ocean waves). This individually programmed tonal music masks the specific frequencies of the tinnitus. Over time, this can help the sufferer to become accustomed to the condition and not to focus on it.
- Hearing aids: Improving hearing has been shown to take the focus off tinnitus.
- Medications: Some antidepressant and anti-anxiety medications have been shown to lessen the severity of symptoms, probably as a result of alleviating underlying anxiety and depression.
- Lifestyle adjustments: Avoiding irritants such as loud noise by covering it up using quiet fans, soft music or low volume radio can help. Since stress is known to make tinnitus worse, some use stress management, relaxation therapy, biofeedback, or exercise.
- Nicotine may worsen the condition by reducing blood flow to the structures of the inner ear. Alcohol has been variously reported to increase, decrease or have no effect on tinnitus, depending on the source!

This condition can be miserable; perhaps even more so because its severity and suffering can't be measured objectively. Throughout history, when there are no ideal remedies for our health problems, alternative approaches inevitably appear. For tinnitus, this is no exception; there are many untested and unproven remedies advertised. Be very careful, and consult with your doctor.

Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and former chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.

Methadone leading to more overdose deaths, CDC says

• The prescription drug was linked to more than 30 percent of prescription medicine overdoses in 2009.

The prescription drug methadone accounted for 2 percent of painkiller prescriptions in the United States in 2009, but was involved in more than 30 percent of prescription painkiller overdose deaths, according to a CDC Vital Signs report released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Researchers analyzed national data from 1999-2010, and 2009 data from 13 states (those covered by a surveillance system for drug-related deaths, the Drug Abuse Warning Network of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration).

Methadone carries more risks than other painkillers because it tends to build up in the body and can disrupt a person's breathing or heart rhythm. According to the report, 4 of every 10 overdose deaths from a single prescription painkiller involved methadone, twice as many as any other prescription painkiller.

Methadone has been used safely and effectively for decades to treat drug addiction, but in recent years it has been increasingly used as a pain reliever. As methadone prescriptions for pain have increased, so have methadone-related nonmedical use and fatal overdoses. CDC researchers found that six times as many people died of methadone overdoses in 2009 compared to methadone-related deaths in 1999.

"Deaths from opioid overdose have increased four-fold in the past decade, and methadone now accounts for nearly a third of opioid-associated deaths," said CDC Director Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. "Methadone used for heroin substitution treatment does not appear to be a major part of this problem. However, the amount of methadone prescribed to people in pain has increased dramatically. There are many safer alternatives to methadone for chronic non-cancer pain."

Despite recent federal efforts to warn health care providers that methadone prescribing is complex and that methadone should not be the first choice as a pain reliever, the number of methadone prescriptions has not declined significantly. The majority of these prescriptions are written by practitioners who typically do not have special training in pain management.

"Methadone continues to play an important role in substance abuse



treatment and should not be limited in its use for that application," said Linda C. Degutis, Dr.P.H., M.S.N., director of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. "Health care providers can take precautions to reduce the risks of methadone overdose when used for treating pain."

Health care providers can take additional measures to help prevent prescription painkiller overdoses. A key step includes following guidelines for prescribing methadone and other prescription painkillers correctly, which include:

- Screening and monitoring for substance abuse and other mental health problems.
- Prescribing only the quantity needed based on the expected length of pain,
- Using patient-provider agreements combined with urine drug tests for people taking methadone long term,
- Using prescription drug monitoring programs to identify patients who are misusing or abusing methadone or other prescription painkillers,
- Educating patients on how to safely use, store, and dispose of prescription painkillers and how to prevent and recognize overdoses.

The federal government has tak-

en steps to respond to the abuse of prescription drugs.

•In October 2010, President Obama signed important legislation that will make it easier for communities to properly dispose of prescription drugs.

•The Administration released a national framework for reducing prescription drug diversion and abuse - Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis

•Already, more than 500 tons of excess, unneeded, or expired Rx drugs have been voluntarily turned into the DEA through national take back days.

•The Department of Justice (DEA) has mounted at least 2 major operations in Florida to crack down on illegal "pill mills." (Operation Pill Nation 1 and 2)

•49 states have passed legislation to create databases to prevent doctor shopping. (Only Missouri and DC remain without database legislation)

•SAMHSA recently announced a funding opportunity to support prescription drug monitoring program interoperability to enhance States' ability to identify prescription drug abuse.

CDC develops new test for dengue

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has developed a new diagnostic test to detect the presence of dengue virus in people with symptoms of dengue fever or dengue hemorrhagic fever.

The test, called the CDC DENV-1-4 Real Time RT PCR Assay, has been authorized by the Food and Drug Administration for use in the United States and can be performed using equipment and supplies many public health laboratories already use to diagnose influenza.

The new test will help diagnose dengue within the first seven days after symptoms of the illness appear, which is when most people are likely to see a health care professional and the dengue virus is likely to be present in their blood. The test can identify all four dengue virus types.

This is the first FDA-approved molecular test for dengue that detects evidence of the virus itself. The other available FDA-approved test detects a certain type of antibody to dengue virus. Most patients begin to develop these antibodies four days after they become ill.

However, because not everyone develops these antibodies until seven days after they get sick, the antibody test might not recognize dengue early in a patient's illness.

"The need for the new dengue diagnostic test was high," said Jorge L. Munoz-Jordan, Ph.D., chief of the Molecular Diagnostics and Research at the CDC Dengue Branch. "Patients will be diagnosed sooner than before, and public health laboratories will have a clearer picture of the true number of dengue cases. Dengue is now a reportable disease in the United States, and the availability of state-of-the-art dengue diagnostics will improve patient management and the public health response to dengue."

One of the new test's most important features is that it can be performed using equipment and supplies that many public health laboratories already use to diagnose influenza. This makes it possible to begin using the test in the many laboratories in the United States and internationally that already run influenza Real-Time PCR assays, a frequently used flu test also developed by CDC.

The new test will be available to clinical and public health laboratories within the United States and internationally. Kits were made available for distribution beginning July 2.

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'Twilight Zone' TV show spoofed on stage

HOLLYWOOD – The theatrical debut of “The Twilight Zone: The 6th Dimension”, a parody/tribute to four classic “Twilight Zone” episodes, opens Friday at a studio in Hollywood.

Produced by Four Letter The-

atre, the show spoofs four episodes of the classic TV series: in “Night Call,” a series of mysterious yet enticing phone calls haunt an elderly woman; in “Nick of Time,” new-lweds are stuck in a small town where they encounter a fortune tell-

ing napkin holder and a bad serving of chicken fried steak; in “A World of His Own,” a playwright discovers his magic pen brings his writings to life, for better or for worse; and in “The Hitch-Hiker,” a young woman traveling cross country is being fol-

lowed by an ominous hitchhiker.

“I got into a conversation with a friend about six or seven years ago and we started talking about how each episode of ‘Twilight Zone’ was almost a perfectly crafted one-act play...except for the issues of loca-

tions, special effects, etc.,” said David Gallic, writer and director of the show. “Well, that idea stuck with me. Over the years I’ve heard of companies doing direct stage adaptations of [Twilight Zone] episodes, which is fantastic, but I knew there was more I could do with it. Taking inspiration from Mel Brooks and his loving homage to Frankenstein, I got to work on adapting four classic scripts into comedic parodies.”

The show will also feature a mix of real 1950s commercial breaks and original advertisements to help create the authentic feel of the presentation.

Gallic is making his Los Angeles theatre directing debut with this piece. Recently moved from Portland where he worked with the Twilight Repertory Theatre (purely coincidental), Gallic has seen a number of his original scripts produced, including “Off Book,” “Bottled Youth” and “The Meat Shall Inherit.”

His work “Meatloaf in the

Moonlight” won multiple awards at the Strawberry One-Act Festival in New York. He has also directed several shows, including a critically acclaimed production of David Auburn’s “Proof.”

“I wanted to start in L.A. with ‘Twilight Zone’ because Rod Sterling’s themes and ideas that are apparent throughout the episodes are still relevant today – tolerance, equality, freedom of ideas and expressions, etc.,” Gallic said. “But mainly, it was my undying love for all things ‘Twilight Zone.’ There’s still a huge love for it in our pop culture society – three different incarnations of the television series, books, magazines, a freaking ride at Disneyland. It has really left an impact on pop culture in a number of ways, and this is just my way of paying tribute to such a phenomenon.”

“The Twilight Zone: The 6th Dimension” plays July 13-28 at a studio located at 520 N. Western Ave. in Hollywood.

Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$15 for students and seniors. For reservations, e-mail reservations@fourlettertheatre.com.

Restaurant Spotlight:

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★ **ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT 3D** PG (11:35, 2:05, 4:35), 7:05, 9:35
★ **SAVAGES** R (10:40, 1:40, 4:40), 7:40, 10:40
★ **KATY PERRY: PART OF ME** PG Fri to Mon. (11:45, 2:15) Wed & Thu. (11:45, 2:15)
★ **KATY PERRY: PART OF ME 3D** PG (4:45), 7:15, 9:45
★ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** 3D PG-13 (12:30, 3:45), 7:00
★ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** PG-13 (9:45, 12:00, 1:00, 3:15, 4:15), 6:30, 7:30, 9:45, 10:45
★ **MAGIC MIKE** R Fri to Mon. (11:35, 2:15, 4:55), 7:40, 10:15 Tue. (4:55), 7:35, 10:15 Wed. (11:35, 2:15, 4:55), 7:40, 10:15 Thu. (11:35, 2:15) TED R (12:05, 2:40, 5:15), 7:50, 10:25
★ **TYLER PERRY'S MADEA'S WITNESS PROTECTION** PG-13 (9:50), 10:10
★ **BRAVE** PG Fri to Mon. (11:35, 2:05, 4:35), 7:05, 9:35 Tue. (4:35), 7:05, 9:35 Wed. (11:35, 2:05, 4:35), 7:05, 9:35 Thu. (11:35, 2:05, 4:35), 7:05
★ **WE BOUGHT A ZOO** PG Tue. (10:00 AM, 12:30 PM)

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COSTA MESA – The OC Fair opens its doors Friday for its month-long stay at the Orange County Fairgrounds.

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For more information, go online to ocfair.com.

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For information on this Dining Section
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CRIME REPORT

Friday, July 6

At 4:00 p.m., witnesses reported that several suspects were breaking into the coin operated machines inside a laundromat located in the 7300 block of Neo Street. Officers responded and detained three suspects inside the laundry room. Pry tools, as well as the loss from the machines were subsequently found on the suspects who were arrested and charged with burglary.

At 6:15 p.m., the victim, a 70 year-old male, was the passenger in a car being driven by his 30 year-old son in the area of Imperial and Smallwood when the two became engaged in a physical altercation. As the car approached Imperial, the son pushed the victim out of the car and drove over his leg as the vehicle accelerated away from the scene. The victim suffered moderate injuries and was transported to a local hospital for treatment. Detectives are investigating.

Saturday, July 7

At 11:30 p.m., the victims were walking in the area of Bellflower and Iowa Street when they were approached by several suspects. The suspects demanded to know what gang the two victims belonged to. When the victims stated that they were not a part of any gang, the suspects grabbed the hats the victims were wearing and fled in an awaiting vehicle.

Wednesday, July 11

At 12:37 a.m., officers responded to the 7200 block of Coolgrove Drive. They assisted Downey Fire Department with a house that was on fire. The garage and side of the residence sustained major damage. Officers provided traffic control.

Information provided by the Downey Police Department

Space shuttle replica moved out of hiding

• Shuttle mock-up will sit in a tent on the Downey Studios parking lot until a permanent structure can be built.

By Eric Pierce
City Editor

DOWNEY – A 128-ft. long replica of a NASA space shuttle belonging to the city of Downey was moved out of storage and into a temporary facility on the Downey Studios parking lot on Thursday.

Built in 1972 by Rockwell International, the space shuttle mock-up will be housed under a temporary tent for public viewing until funding for a permanent home can be secured.

City officials heralded the relocation with a daylong celebration Thursday, bringing in the Warren High School band and hosting interactive exhibits for kids.

The replica has remained in storage at Downey Studios for decades and the city hopes to eventually restore the full-size shuttle, which was used for two decades for detailed engineering fittings and testing.

First, however, the city needs to figure out how to pay for a permanent housing facility, which is expected to cost \$2 million.

Preliminary plans call for the space shuttle to be located adjacent



Photo courtesy Councilman Mario Guerra/Twitter

Mayor Roger Brossmer and Councilman Mario Guerra pose in front of the Space Shuttle mockup shortly before its relocation.

to the Columbia Memorial Space Center, the city's own hands-on learning center dedicated to teaching children about science and space exploration.

"Having this exciting shuttle mock-up attraction next to the Co-

lumbia Memorial Space Center will not only help further the space center's education programs, but it will provide visitors with a unique experience that will help engage and inspire the next generation of explorers," said Mayor Roger Brossmer.

As the engineering birthplace of both the Apollo program and the space shuttle, the former NASA site played a vital role in the evolution of space flight and exploration.

Downey Nissan to Host July Coming-Out Party for Redesigned 2013 Altima

LOS ANGELES – Downey Nissan today announced that they will be holding a coming-out party to introduce the totally redesigned 2013 Nissan Altima. The party will be held at the dealership on Tuesday, July 17th between 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM PDT.

According to Tim Hutcherson, General Manager, "Owners of 2002-2010 Nissan Altimas; members of the Media; and anyone that drove, drives or likes the Nissan, is invited to stop by the dealership during the party hours. Once there, they can explore the many exciting design changes that are available in the all-new 2013 Altima. Complimentary food and beverages will be served to all our visitors and there will be music too".

Downey Nissan has become well known as LA's premiere Nissan dealership thanks to the 'total support' we give buyers before, during and after the sale itself. This includes our stand-out service department where factory-trained mechanics are committed to keeping every Nissan we sell in perfect operating condition over time. There are additional benefits too. For example, Downey Nissan is giving all buyers of the 2013 Altima 3 years/45,000 miles of complimentary maintenance on their vehicles just to say "Thank You" for being our valued customer".

Mr. Hutcherson continued, "All 2013 Altima buyers will receive more than they expect from this new model including no price increase in addition to greater added value. With over 20 years of success, the 2013 Altima has really been improved over previous years and Nissan fans will definitely appreciate this new model. It offers sleeker styling, more horsepower, an updated rear suspension, weight reduction, "zero gravity" seating, plenty of warning detection systems, an innovative tire pressure monitor and more, making it a serious contender for best in its class.

Nissan claims that while the upscale full-sized Maxima is about performance, this mid-sized machine is about fuel efficiency, thanks to its fuel-stretching 38 mpg fuel consumption rating.

However, it's clear that the 2013 Altima is about far more than just outstanding fuel economy."

AFFORDABILITY PLUS BEST-IN-CLASS FUEL ECONOMY

With a starting price of \$21,500 and recognized as the best-selling Nissan in the company's line-up, the Altima continues to be offered with 2.5-liter engine with 182 hp and 180 lb-ft of torque, as well as a 3.5-liter V6 with 270 hp and 258 lb-ft. While changes to the cars' engine aren't major, updates to the transmission in the 2013 Altima include 70 % of the continuously variable transmission (CVT) components being redesigned with an expanded gear ratio. At the same time, friction has been cut by 40 % to help provide additional horsepower.

The 4-cylinder Atima model has an impressive 38 mpg; better than any other non-hybrid mid-sized sedan. City mileage is also quite impressive with a 27 mpg rating. The V6 version will get an estimated 22/30 city/highway mpg.

A lighter body that's more rigid than in earlier years helps both the fuel economy and performance of the car. The use of high-strength aluminum steel cuts a total of 79 lbs from the new 2013 Altima.

IT LOOKS GOOD AND IT'S COMFORTABLE TOO

The interior of the 2013 Altima is spacious though comfortable and definitely has better-looking trim compared to many competitive cars. The standard interior trim comes with cloth seating and a 6-way driver's seat, a 4-way adjustable front passenger seat, 60/40 split folding rear bench seat with armrest and a stand-out black dash with chrome accents.

It's also well worth noting that the new NASA "zero gravity" inspired seating increases blood flow and reduces lower back fatigue, great news for long trips and bumper-to-bumper tie-ups.

Getting into the Altima will be easier than ever before too. Keyless entry and start/stop engine activation are standard on all 2013 Altimas. A remote engine starter function, which works from as far away as 195 feet, is available on SV and SL models.

These features of the new, totally-redesigned 2013 Altima are just a sampling of this exciting, fuel-efficient Nissan. At the upcoming party, you will be able to see much more, including some rather futuristic technology-based additions. Literature detailing all the car's features will be readily available as well.

Tim Hutcherson and the entire staff of Downey Nissan will be on hand during the party to greet visitors and to answer any questions about the new 2013 Altima. Downey Nissan is located at 7550 Firestone Blvd, Downey, CA 90241.



The Downey Council PTA recently installed its board of officers for the 2012-13 year. The Downey Council PTA serves as the liaison with the California State PTA and all 19 PTAs in Downey. From left: Dorothy Pemberton, Terry Shore, Lisa Chere, Aida Ramirez, Melissa Barger, Karin Kirkpatrick (outgoing president), Tammy Loven (president), Martha Sode-tani (installing officer) and Leticia Egurvide.



Downey firefighters responded to the 7200 block of Coolgrove Drive at about 12:40 a.m. Thursday after receiving a report of a residential fire. Upon arrival, Engine 63 found heavy flames and black smoke blowing through the home's roof, said public information officer Jason Patao. The home's residents had evacuated prior to the arrival of fire units and no injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Stolen car reportedly had fake cash inside

IRWINDALE – A Downey woman was a passenger in a stolen vehicle that was also found to have counterfeit money, Arcadia Patch reported Saturday.

According to Patch, police from Arcadia and Irwindale pulled over the vehicle Saturday at about 2 a.m. on Live Oak Avenue near the 605 Freeway on-ramp.

The male driver reportedly ran, leaving behind Natalie Trevino, 27, of Downey.

Police officers arrested Trevino for public intoxication and found counterfeit money inside the vehicle, Patch reported. The car was later reported stolen to the Norwalk Sheriff's Station.

The driver was never located.

Golf tourney taking sponsors

DOWNEY – Sponsorship opportunities are available for a Sept. 19 golf tournament to raise money for high school scholarships.

Sponsorships range from \$100 (tee sign) to \$2,500 (platinum).

The golf tournament is in its 16th year and helps fund scholarships for Warren and Downey high school students.

For more information, call the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191.

Chamber mixer at doctor's office

DOWNEY – The Downey Chamber of Commerce will host a networking mixer July 26 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the office of Robert Wielenga, MD., 10835 New St.

There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4:30 p.m. to mark the office's new location.

There will also be live music and door prizes.

The Downey Patriot

be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company...

The Downey Patriot 7/12/12, 7/19/12, 7/26/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Quality Loan Service Corporation TS No. CA-12-504078-LL Order No.: 120107334-CA-GTI YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/25/2008. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Quality Loan Service Corporation TS No. CA-12-489486-AB Order No.: 6361244 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/15/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

The Downey Patriot 7/12/12, 7/19/12, 7/26/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Quality Loan Service Corporation TS No. CA-11-489486-AB Order No.: 6361244 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/15/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

The Downey Patriot 7/12/12, 7/19/12, 7/26/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 431621CA Loan No. 0697258465 Title Order No. 602121507 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 01-05-2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

The Downey Patriot 7/12/12, 7/19/12, 7/26/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 431621CA Loan No. 0697258465 Title Order No. 602121507 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 01-05-2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

The Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein.

The Downey Patriot 7/12/12, 7/19/12, 7/26/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. GM-256896-C Loan No. 0601718906 Insurer No. 294260633 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 07-02-2012. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

The Downey Patriot 7/12/12, 7/19/12, 7/26/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee's Sale No. 05-FSL-117825 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/12/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

The Downey Patriot 7/12/12, 7/19/12, 7/26/12

T.S. No. 11-6538-11 Loan No. 0033355983 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 9/22/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

The Downey Patriot 7/12/12, 7/19/12, 7/26/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Quality Loan Service Corporation TS No. CA-12-493977-AL Order No.: 1079795 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 03/09/08. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property.

The Downey Patriot 6/28/12, 7/5/12, 7/12/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee's Sale No. 05-FSL-117825 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/12/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

The Downey Patriot 6/28/12, 7/5/12, 7/12/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Quality Loan Service Corporation TS No. CA-09-267280-PJ Order No.: 105922 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/22/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

The Downey Patriot 6/28/12, 7/5/12, 7/12/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Quality Loan Service Corporation TS No. CA-12-493977-AL Order No.: 1079795 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 03/09/08. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

The Downey Patriot 7/12/12, 7/19/12, 7/26/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee's Sale No. 05-FSL-117825 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/12/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

in the Vineyard Ballroom Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$371,719.50 The purported property address is: 8510 TWEEEDY LANE, DOWNEY, CA 90240 Assessor's Parcel No. 6367-008-025 NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction.

The Downey Patriot 6/28/12, 7/5/12, 7/12/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Quality Loan Service Corporation TS No. CA-09-267280-PJ Order No.: 105922 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/22/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

The Downey Patriot 6/28/12, 7/5/12, 7/12/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Quality Loan Service Corporation TS No. CA-11-422667-RM Order No.: 110054142-CA-GTO YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 4/25/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

The Downey Patriot 6/28/12, 7/5/12, 7/12/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Quality Loan Service Corporation TS No. CA-11-422667-RM Order No.: 110054142-CA-GTO YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 4/25/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

645-7711 Ext 5318 Quality Loan Service Corp. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only.

The Downey Patriot 6/28/12, 7/5/12, 7/12/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Quality Loan Service Corporation TS No. CA-12-49874-AL Order No.: 6482148 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/15/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

The Downey Patriot 6/28/12, 7/5/12, 7/12/12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Quality Loan Service Corporation TS No. CA-09-267280-PJ Order No.: 105922 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/22/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

The Downey Patriot 6/28/12, 7/5/12, 7/12/12

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EPA reaches \$14.6M settlement with toxic site

TORRANCE – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reached a \$14.6 million settlement with four companies for the construction of a groundwater treatment system at the Montrose and Del Amo Superfund sites in Torrance.

Construction of the treatment system is the first step in the cleanup of groundwater contaminated by chemicals used to manufacture DDT and synthetic rubber over three decades.

Once operational, the system will extract up to 700 gallons of water per minute, or a total of a million gallons each day, removing monochlorobenzene and benzene, and re-injecting the cleaned, treated water back into the aquifer. The treated water will not be served as drinking water, but will instead be re-injected to surround the contamination and prevent it from any further movement into unaffected groundwater areas.

Construction of the treatment system is expected to be completed in 18 months. EPA will pursue further settlements with the four companies and other parties to ensure that additional cleanup actions are taken and the groundwater treatment system is operated and maintained until cleanup levels are met.

“One of the toxic legacies of DDT and synthetic rubber manufacturing is polluted groundwater,” said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA’s Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. “The treatment plant will be a milestone for the site, protecting the groundwater resources for the thousands of people who live or work near these former facilities.”

Montrose Chemical Corporation of California manufactured the pesticide DDT from 1947 until 1982. Monochlorobenzene was a raw material used in making DDT. The Montrose site was placed on the EPA’s National Priorities List (NPL) in 1989. The Del Amo Superfund site, located adjacent to the Montrose site, was formerly a synthetic rubber manufacturing facility that used benzene, naphthalene and ethyl benzene.

The Del Amo site was placed on the NPL in September of 2002. Groundwater contamination from both sites has co-mingled and will be cleaned up by this single treatment system.

The four responsible parties for this settlement are: Montrose, Bayer CropScience Inc., News Publishing Australia Limited, and Stauffer Management Company LLC. In addition to constructing the treatment system, these parties will also pay oversight costs incurred by EPA and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

To date, extensive investigations and cleanup actions have been performed at both sites. EPA’s DDT soil removal actions in the neighborhood near the Montrose site were completed in 2002. In 1999, Shell began cleaning-up the Del Amo Superfund site, constructing a multi-layer impermeable cap over the waste pits and installation of the soil-vapor extraction and treatment system. Additional soil and soil gas cleanups at the Del Amo site are slated to begin in 2013.

The proposed consent decree for the settlement, lodged with the federal district court by the U.S. Department of Justice on July 9, 2012, is subject to a 30-day comment period and final court approval.



Capt. Michael C. Wong, formerly of Downey, has returned to the United States after a three-year assignment at Royal Air Force Base in Lakenheath, England. A 1980 graduate of Warren High School, Wong lettered in track and field as a member of the varsity team during all four years of school. After graduating with his associate degree in nursing from East L.A. College, he pursued his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing from the University of Phoenix. Wong, who was commissioned as a captain in the U.S. Air Force in February 2009, is now stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio with his wife, Bernadette, and two children, Leilani and Nahele. He is the son of Mary Wong Pompei and the late Solomon Wong, both formerly of Downey.

Students place near top in standardized testing

DOWNEY – Seventy students at Kirkwood Christian Schools scored in the top 15 percent nationally on the Terra Nova standardized test this year in either reading or math, school officials announced this week.

The school presented awards to the following students:

Adam Abarca, Joshua Ahn, Andres Aviles, Andrey Ayala, Ariana Bayardo, Catalina Bayardo, Amanda Blunt, Olivia Blunt, Ethan Budgett, Peter Chavez, Jacob Contreras, Isabella Cruz, Isabela Delgado, Alejandro Ducreaux, Tyler Fountain, Sebastien Francois, Zachary Gillett, Mya Gonzalez, Ryan Gov, Zidane Hamilton, Forrest Hartl, Jared Herrera, Dylan Haines, Kai Hannegan, Alexander Hernandez, Emily Hernandez, Isaac Irineo, Keiki Iuli, Kyle Kadomatsu, Bianca Lopez, Steven Lopez, Diego Marquez, Maya Marquez, Vincent Marquez, Joseph Mbugua, Brynn McGrew, Emma Melsh, Andrea Mendez, McKayla Mercado, Leonardo Miranda, Cassandra Montenegro, Katherine Norczyk, Ariana Ortega, Savannah Ortega, Tiana Patel, Francesca Perez, Isabella Ramirez, Juliette Ramirez, Oliver Ramirez, Victoria Remos, Alyssa Rivas, Janay Robertson, Isabella Robles, Katherine Robles, Ethan Rosaes, Joseph Roy, Kailey Roy, Monet Ruiz, Ashish Sandhu, Sophia Sandoval, Rachel Stender, Amanda Valle, Nandini Vanmali, Abel Vasquez, Isabella Vasquez, Luke Vasquez, Sophia Vasquez, Frank White, Jon White and Ethan Yezep.

Real estate developer faces fraud charges

LOS ANGELES – A real estate developer was indicted last week on federal fraud and money laundering charges that accuse him of bilking investors who put money into Central Coast real estate projects – money that was siphoned off for other purposes, including maintaining a lavish lifestyle, federal authorities allege.

Kelly Gearhart, 50, was named in a 16-count indictment returned July 5 by a federal grand jury. The indictment charges Gearhart with 10 counts of mail fraud, four counts of wire fraud and two counts of money laundering.

The indictment alleges that Gearhart fraudulently solicited investments in specific real estate development projects by falsely promising that he would use the funds to develop those projects. Gearhart also told investors that their investments – which he called loans and promised would be paid back with interest – were secured by specific lots.

According to the indictment, Gearhart failed to disclose a number of things to investors, specifically that he was using victims’ funds to pay for his and his wife’s lavish living expenses, that he was using their money to develop different real estate projects than those intended by the victims, and that he was using the money to make interest payments to other investors.

The indictment also alleges that Gearhart falsely promised that he would sell specific lots underlying the real estate projects and then rent them back from the purchasers. The indictment alleges that Gearhart did not tell victims that he was selling the same individual lots to multiple purchasers and that he did not intend to transfer the promised lots to them.

The indictment further alleges that Gearhart did not tell victims that he did not have a clear title to the land underlying the real estate projects.

In this multi-million dollar case, the exact loss figure is expected to be the subject of litigation. Because of this, the government is not alleging a specific loss amount at this time, authorities said.

The mail fraud and wire fraud charges each carry maximum penalties of 20 years in prison. The money laundering count carries a maximum penalty of 10 years.

Therefore, if he is convicted on all 16 counts, Gearhart could receive 300 years in prison.

Gearhart is expected to be arraigned “in the coming weeks,” FBI officials said.

The case against Gearhart is related to a case against James Hurst Miller Jr., the former president of Hurst Financial Corporation. Miller pleaded guilty in 2011 to four counts of fraud and money laundering charges. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Oct. 29.

West Nile virus confirmed in Whittier

WHITTIER – A mosquito collected in Whittier has tested positive for West Nile virus, vector control officials announced this week.

The positive test sample is the first sign of virus activity in Whittier, officials with the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District said.

West Nile virus is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. There is no cure for West Nile virus.

For more information on how to protect yourself against West Nile virus, go online to westnile.ca.gov. Residents are also encouraged to report dead birds by calling (877) WNV-BIRD.

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“Steve Roberson did a great job! It was a difficult property to sell in this market, but I was very pleased with Steve.” – Clifford Covey
“Rowena Dominguez & Mario Acevedo did an excellent job, were very professional and went above and beyond!” – Dahlia Navarette
“Jeff & Lois Worthy did a job and were very professional!” – Claude Worthy

FEATURED PROPERTY
Fantastic Opportunity
This very nice Downey home features 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. It also has an open kitchen, dining area and a two car garage. The backyard is perfect for entertaining. Don't let this one pass you by. Priced at \$160,000.

TOP PRODUCERS
TOP LISTING: Irma Salgado
TOP PRODUCTION: Tom Hutchinson
TOP SALES: Irma Salgado

Vacant Land
This large lot is located in a beautiful resort in the Silver Saddle Ranch Development. Great long term investment or build your dream home in the growing tract community. It is located in the high desert area at the foot of the majestic Sierra Nevada Mountains. Priced to sell at \$36,000!

Luxury
This is an IMMACULATE Gallery Collection Home! It features polished marble flooring, a marble fireplace, plantation shutters, granite counters throughout and crown molding. This home also has newer interior & exterior paint, an island in the kitchen, built in book case in the family room and a formal dining room. Call today for more information on this fantastic property.

Turnkey!
This is a beautifully upgraded home. The home features 3 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. The kitchen has been upgraded with new cabinets, counters, and tile floors. The house has also been painted inside and out and has new light fixtures as well as re-finished hardwood floors. Wow! Priced to sell at \$339,900.

IN ESCROW
The Sales Just Keep Coming!!
Don't miss this one! This is a charming 3 bedroom and 1 bathroom home. It features newer carpet, paint, dishwasher, stove and microwave. The kitchen also has newer cabinets and counters. The large back yard is perfect for your summer BBQ's. Priced to sell at \$284,900.

IN ESCROW
Nobody Sells Downey Better!
This excellent North Downey home features 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms with a large master bedroom with a private bath. This home also has a custom brick fireplace, 2 car garage, inside laundry and a large picture window. All of this on a 10,678 lot. Priced to sell at \$479,000.

IN ESCROW
We Don't Just List Your Downey Home, We Get It Sold!
This beautiful home located in Northeast Downey features spacious bedrooms, living room with a fireplace and a remodeled kitchen with a built in microwave and a new range. This property also has dual pane windows throughout, new granite in the kitchen and bathrooms, and a huge back yard with a swimming pool. Call today for more information on this excellent property.

Excellent West Downey Home
This is a very clean property! This cute and cozy Downey home features a formal dining room for entertaining, fresh interior paint and central air & heat. The updated bathroom has a separate shower and tub. This home also includes copper plumbing, new carpet in the bedrooms and dual pane windows. Priced to sell at \$329,000.

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<p>SOLD</p> <p>11037 BENFIELD, DOWNEY 3 BD, 2 BA in Downey, represented buyer only. SOLD FOR \$295,000 Call Carrie Uva 562-382-1252</p>	<p>DOWNNEY DEAL!</p> <p>APPROVED SHORT SALE! This starter home has hardwood floors, 3BD, 1.75 BA, 2 car garage. ONLY \$310,000 Call Marie Picarelli 562-618-0033</p>	<p>IN ESCROW</p> <p>11469 SAMOLINE, DOWNEY 4 BD, 4 BA, approx. 3200 sq. ft. 8359 sq. ft. lot great location. Standard Sale in Downey LET MARIO DO IT FOR YOU TOO! IN ESCROW! IN ESCROW! IN ESCROW!</p>
<p>SOLD</p> <p>9817 BRADWELL, SANTA FE SPRINGS 2 BD, 1 BA in Santa Fe Springs, represented buyer only. SOLD FOR \$225,000 Call Carrie Uva 562-382-1252</p>	<p>OPEN HOUSE SUN 12PM</p> <p>8331 BIRCHCREST RD., DOWNEY North Downey Home, 4 BD, 2 BA, family rm, 1801 sq. ft. Living space \$360,000 Call Felix Lopez (562) 884-0378</p>	<p>MARIO DID IT AGAIN!</p> <p>SOLD! SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!</p> <p>9232 Horley, Downey 3 BD, 2 BA, nearly 1,800 sq. ft. large den. STANDARD SALE IN DOWNEY LET MARIO DO IT FOR YOU TOO! SOLD! SOLD! SOLD! SOLD! SOLD! Call Mario today for a FREE Market Evaluation! (562) 533-7433 www.MarioPersico.com</p>
<p>SOLD</p> <p>20766 ARLINE, LAKEWOOD Cute 2 BD, 2 1/2 BA condo in Lakewood Sold For: \$220,000 Call Carrie Uva 562-382-1252</p>	<p>POOL HOME!</p> <p>JUST IN TIME FOR SUMMER! 3 BD, 1 1/2 BA, gated pool, 1,373 sq. ft., 5,998 sq. ft. lot. Priced at: \$425,000 Call Jorge Padron (310) 466-8127</p>	<p>Mario Persico "Mario DID IT Again!" (562) 533-7433 www.MarioPersico.com</p> <p>Celebrating 10 Years in Real Estate! 2002 2012 BORN • EDUCATED • LIVES • WORSHIPS IN DOWNEY MARIO PERSICO SELLS DOWNEY</p>
<p>SOLD</p> <p>6141 WENTWORTH, LONG BEACH Charming 3 BD, 2 BA home in Long Beach Represented buyer only. SOLD FOR \$390,000 Call Carrie Uva 562-382-1252</p>	<p>COMING SOON!!!</p> <p>CHEROKEE ESTATE HOME! 3 BD, 3 BA, family room, upgraded throughout on a 9,654 sq. ft. lot Call for a Private Showing! Call Pam Lee (562) 537-1134</p>	

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<p>JUST LISTED!</p> <p>Yankey Circle "Estate" 2,200 sq. ft. main house + 2 BD, 1 BA guest house with updated pool on a large 12,000 + sq. ft., lot. Priced at: \$625,000</p>	<p>MOVE RIGHT IN! 4 BD, 2 BA, 1,700 sq. ft. living space, remodeled kitchen, new exterior paint/stucco. Priced at: \$415,000</p>
<p>BACK ON THE MARKET!</p> <p>Custom Built Beauty! 5 BD, 4.5 BA, vaulted ceilings, 3 bedrooms with private bathrooms including a downstairs master suite, built in 2004 Priced at: \$710,000</p>	<p>JUST LISTED!</p> <p>For Lease 3 BD, 2 BA condo w/ 2 subterranean parking spots & an association pool. This 2-level unit has a large master bedroom & bathroom & many other amenities for immediate move-in. Lease at a rate of \$1,800/month</p>

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A group of students from Griffiths Middle School recently traveled to Washington, D.C. and took *The Downey Patriot* along with them.

The Shimada family of Downey traveled to Puerto Rico recently and took along a copy of their hometown newspaper. Daughter Elisa is pictured above in San Juan, in front of the Christopher Columbus statue and fountain. "We were proud to take our *Downey Patriot* on our Caribbean Cruise vacation," the family said.



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Why Smart Homeowners Are Moving Up at the START of a Real Estate Recovery Cycle!

INTERESTING...

- Most economic indicators show that the economy has started a recovery cycle.
- With both interest rates and real estate prices extremely low, smart homeowners are seeing the opportunity to move up and cash in!
- Foreclosure filings are down, prices have stabilized at the low end of the market and have even started to creep upwards.
- The middle and upper end markets are still soft but sales activity is increasing.

By moving up NOW, smart homeowners can make a larger jump up in the market than they will by waiting until the value of their home has fully recovered.

Historically the best time to move up or get into the market is at the start of a recovery cycle. Now is that time!

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