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LAPD officer dies after surgery

DOWNEY - Los Angeles Police Department officer Esmeralda Ramirez, who began her career with LAPD back in 2008, died June 9 following complications related to a surgery.

She was 49.

Ramirez was an alumnus of Downey's St. Matthias High School, where she graduated in 1988.

The school is now called St. Pius X - St. Matthias Academy.

"Our most deepest sympathy and prayers go out to the friends and family of LAPD Officer Esmeralda Ruiz," the school said in a statement. "May her soul rest in the eternal peace of Christ."

Ramirez was undergoing medical care for injuries she suffered during a traffic collision while serving with the department's Pacific Division.

She is the 210th LAPD officer to die in the line of duty and is survived by three children.

"Officer Esmeralda Ramirez served the city of Los Angeles with honor, integrity, and pride," LAPD Chief Michel Moore said in a tweet.

LAPD did not immediately provide information about the on-duty crash that resulted in Ramirez's death.

Norwalk extends LASD contract

By Eric Pierce Editor

NORWALK - Norwalk has extended its contract with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services an additional five years.

Norwalk's current deal with the Sheriff's Department is due to expire June 30. The new contract, unanimously approved by the City Council at its meeting Tuesday, begins July 1 and runs through June 30, 2024.

Under terms of the new deal, the cost for law enforcement services are budgeted at \$12.6 million for fiscal year 2019-20, a 5% increase over the current year. Officials attributed the increased rates to rising wages and benefit costs.

Sheriff's Department rates are set annually by the County of Los Angeles Auditor-Controller.

The new contract also includes language that requires the Sheriff's Department to consult Norwalk's city manager if deployment levels fall below 50 percent due to mutual aid purposes.

There is also language clarifying that, in the event of a dispute, Norwalk officials would first consult with the Norwalk Sheriff's Station captain, division commander or division chief before going to the sheriff.

Norwalk also agreed to pay \$48,685 to cover leasing and maintenance costs for Sheriff's equipment in Public Safety vehicles. This will be financed by several Justice Assistance grants.

City approves plans for 12 new townhomes

The three-story townhomes each include two-car garages. The rental community will be wired for electric vehicle charging.

By Alex Dominguez Staff Writer

DOWNEY - Downey's Planning Commission approved plans on Wednesday to construct a 12-unit multifamily development at 7224 Florence Ave.

Currently, the site consists of six separate housing units, varying in size with the smallest being 776 square feet and the largest at 956 square feet. The development currently calls for the demolition of these buildings.

The new rental units will be located within six separate three-story buildings, each with two side-by-side 1,701 sq. ft. housing units. Each unit includes a 400-sq. ft. two-car garage, 110-sq. ft. of storage, and a 67-sq. ft. balcony.

The project will also include 6,094 square feet of landscape area, two separate recreational areas with amenities, and six guest parking spaces (30 parking spaces overall).

The commission approved the plans unanimously. An added requirement that the project include conduits within garages and throughout the project site for future installation of electric vehicle charging stations was also approved, albeit on a 3-2 vote, with commissioners Jimmy Spathopoulos and Nolveris Frometa in opposition.

7-ELEVEN: Plans for a new 7-Eleven convenience store were



A rendering of the new townhomes that will be built at 7224 Florence Ave.

also approved at Wednesday's meeting.

The site - formerly a used car lot - sits on an 18,879 sq. ft. corner parcel at 13034 Downey Ave., on the corner of Downey Avenue and Gardendale Street.

Current plans call for the deconstruction of an existing building on the property, with a new 2,800 square foot building taking its place.

The store will operate 24 hours a day, with beer and wine sales taking place between 6 am and 2 am daily, as is consistent with state law.

DAYCARE: An appeal to overturn an administrative decision to deny the operation of a large family daycare within a single-family residential property was postponed to a later date.

On April 16, Sandra P Castro Magallon submitted an application for a permit to operate a daycare

for up to 14 children at 7542 Suva St.

The property is 6,022 sq. ft. in area and is located on the south side of Suva, between Guatemala and Wiley Burke avenues.

The home itself is 1,759 square feet, however, activities are expected to expand to outdoor play areas to accommodate for both indoor and outdoor activities for children of varying ages.

Magallon is requesting that the daycare be able to operate from 5 am to 9 pm, seven days per week.

Several neighborhood residents opposed the request, citing concerns over traffic and noise.

Staff was unable to disprove any potential negative effects to the surrounding area, therefore denying the proposal.

Motels are latest tool in fight against homelessness

L.A. County is moving forward with a plan to begin renting motel rooms to temporarily house the chronically homeless.

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a proposal Tuesday by Board Chair Janice Hahn to explore master leasing agreements with motels across the county in order to use rooms as interim housing for chronically homeless individuals.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Patriotic concert is next up at Furman Park

The Downey Symphony will perform a Fourth of July concert one week early.

By Mark Keller Contributor

DOWNEY - The Downey Symphony will pay homage to songwriting legend Irving Berlin when it performs next Wednesday, June 26, at Furman Park in its annual "Pops in the Park" presentation.

The free concert begins at 7 p.m.

"It is fortunate for the Downey Symphony Orchestra that we are early in the schedule for the free summer concerts in the park this year," said Sharon Lavery, music director and conductor of the

The county will also evaluate whether the same motel parking lots could be sites for Safe Parking programs.

Chronically homeless people living in encampments would be offered interim housing in motel rooms that the county leases. Once in a motel room, caseworkers would be able to offer wraparound services while they work closely with the client to find them permanent housing.

"It is hard to find affordable long-term housing for chronically

homeless individuals but we cannot let that stand in the way of helping the people who need us," said Hahn.

"Using motel rooms as interim housing allows us to help people off of the streets quickly and buys us time while we work to find them a long-term home."

Hahn has already used this model effectively. In late April, CalTrans ordered

Continued on page 10

Downey Symphony Orchestra. "We get to have one more concert in our celebratory 60th anniversary year.

"We are featuring the music of one of the greatest songwriters in American history," Lavery continued. "I am thrilled to have our orchestra perform 'A Symphonic Portrait of Irving Berlin' and it includes some of his greatest compositions."

Irving Berlin - born Israel Beilin - was born in the Russian Empire on May 11, 1888 and was an American composer and lyricist. His music forms a large part of the Great American Songbook.

He arrived in the United States at age 5. His first major international hit song was "Alexander's Ragtime Band" in 1911 and sparked an international dance craze all over the world,



Sharon Lavery

PHOTO BY JOAN ANDERSON

including such faraway places as Berlin's native Russia.

He wrote hundreds of songs, many becoming major hits, which

Continued on page 8

Downey restaurant grades

Lazy Dog
8800 Apollo Way
Date Inspected: 6/18/19
Grade: **A**

Los Sombreros
8019 E Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 6/18/19
Grade: **A**

California Fish Grill
8990 Apollo Way
Date Inspected: 6/18/19
Grade: **A**

Las Palmitas Fruit
8027 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 6/18/19
Grade: **A**

Chipotle
8890 Apollo Way.
Date Inspected: 6/18/19
Grade: **A**

Panera Bread
8900 Apollo Way
Date Inspected: 6/17/19
Grade: **A**

Tacos El Raul
8740 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 6/17/19
Grade: **A**

Ralph's (Meat Dept.)
8626 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 6/17/19
Grade: **A**

Ralph's (Deli Dept.)
8626 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 6/17/19
Grade: **A**

The Olive Restobar
8830 Apollo Way
Date Inspected: 6/17/19
Grade: **A**

Noodles and Company
8908 Apollo Way.
Date Inspected: 6/17/19
Grade: **A**

Downey Donuts
8011 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 6/14/19
Grade: **A**

Black Bear Diner
7900 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 6/13/19
Grade: **A**

China Wok Express
7932 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 6/13/19
Grade: **A**

Samurai Japanese Restaurant
7934 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 6/13/19
Grade: **A**

In N Out
8767 E Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 6/13/19
Grade: **A**

The Habit
8619 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 6/11/19
Grade: **A**

Chick-fil-A
8613 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 6/11/19
Grade: **A**

Subway
8843 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 6/11/19
Grade: **A**

Los Amigos Golf Course
7295 Quill Dr.
Date Inspected: 6/11/19
Grade: **A**

Crimson Coward
10405 Lakewood Blvd.
Date Inspected: 6/11/19
Grade: **A**

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 71°

Saturday 74°

Sunday 79°

THINGS TO DO



Oldies Car Show

Saturday - The Crossing Foursquare Church in Whittier, 8 am to 4 pm

13th annual car show with classic vehicles, lowriders, live entertainment, vendors, and other family fun. Free to spectators.



Catrina the Event

Saturday - The Vortex in Los Angeles, 4-11 pm

A Day of the Dead celebration with 50-plus vendors, live music, themed art exhibit, live body painting, and more. \$5 admission



Seal Day Festival

Saturday - Marine Mammal Care Center in San Pedro, 10 am to 4 pm

Seal viewing, touch tanks, food trucks, face painters, live music, lectures, arts, plus a Halloween twist with trick-or-treating and costume prizes. Free.

FROM OUR FACEBOOK

L.A. COUNTY LOOKS TO MOTELS TO HOUSE HOMELESS

JOHN ZANDER: I think it's a good idea. People who are against this should go spend a week on the streets.

ROSANNA LORBERTER: I have been saying this for years. Let's hope it works!

TONY SANCHEZ: Those motels have enough problems without adding more to them.

BARTOLO JOSEPH: I think taxpayers wouldn't be too happy once they see an increase in crime in their neighborhoods, and an increase of the number of calls police have to respond to in those motels.

GUILLERMO VAZQUEZ: I always find it interesting when people say "we need to do something to help the homeless," but when something like this comes along in their city, all of a sudden they don't want to help them. Bunch of hypocrites

Reach us on Facebook at: Facebook.com/DowneyPatriot

TWEET OF THE WEEK

@DowneyTLC: This afternoon the Downey Rotary Club presented TLC with a donation. Thank you for your fantastic support and partnership!

Follow us on Twitter at: Twitter.com/DowneyPatriot

How Downey responded during World War I

Things You Didn't Know About Downey

By Bobbi Bruce
Downey Historical Society

The Downey community went about its day to day activity with an appearance of business as usual just before World War I.

Will Price and family motored to Long Beach and San Pedro. Mrs. E. P. Dismukes entertained her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dismukes of Santa Ana. Mrs. J. W. McKellar and Mrs. A.L. Ball, and son Louie, went to Lake Elsinore to enjoy the mineral baths. Mrs. C.E. Standlee went to Imperial to visit her parents. Misses Ruth and Ethel Ardis came to visit their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Ardis. Mrs. Jas Brookshire went to Los Angeles.

The war reached into the discussions of the Saturday Afternoon Club. Some of the women were members of a peace movement, but now that the war had come they warned against "commercial patriotism."

A recurring theme in all war talk was how the American melting pot would react to the European involvement. Great waves of immigration had barely subsided, with the homeland ties still not completely severed.

A speaker before the Women's Club noted that one out of every 14

Americans had a foreign born parent. The possibility that a son might have to fight against relatives in his parents' homeland was real.

It was more of a national concern than a local one. There were no large pockets of "foreign born" in Downey. The lively discussion of the issue brought the war closer to the community. The outlook took on a national concern.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) had strong support in Downey which continued to be a church centered town. The temperance forces were reaching the crest in their drive for national prohibition and they were also very busy in the state legislatures.

California had a curious proposal before the lawmakers in Sacramento. On a 5 to 1 vote, the State Senate Committee on Public Morals passed with favorable recommendation the Rominger Bill which would outlaw the sale of hard liquor but permit the sale of wine and beer. The bill also provided that the state buy the fixtures and fancy do-dads of the salon keeper who would be forced out of business.

Downey's local newspaper allowed the WCTU two full columns to comment on this issue of temperance which was an indication of its strength in the community. Here again the war became a factor in influencing the community's concern. Parents, worried about their sons leaving the discipline of the family for Army life, had sobering thoughts about them associating with boozing buddies. They knew that, at best, Army life was no Sunday school picnic. No doubt this helped the Prohibition movement.

Aside from the minimal disturbance of the domestic scene caused by America's entrance into the war such as the high cost of living, the few minority groups' reactions, and the concern over the young men in the community who would have to shoulder a rifle, the citizens of Downey accepted the war with high idealism and a sense of mission, as did the rest of the country.

Within five months the influence of the war dominated the local scene.

Downey, as the center of a farming community, took serious note of Herbert Hoover's "Food Will Win the War" campaign. His proposals and suggestions were covered in full in the local newspapers.

Five months before the war ended, Hoover called upon the American people to eliminate wheat from their diet until the next harvest. The food situation in Europe was desperate.

"Europe's entire population of 400 million human beings are short of food -- millions are starving," the government reported. "Our allies and the neutrals are living on the barest margins that will support human life. The 10 million people in occupied Belgium and northern France would have died of starvation had it not been for us."

"Every grain of wheat our ports can handle is the reply we have given to the allies, in threshing, in the careless war free days a fraction of edible wheat escaped. Today a special department of the Food Administration is devoted to seeing that this once trifling portion is preserved for human consumption."

J.M. Reeves, food administrator for Downey, carried the campaign in the local community. Hoarding of food carried a fine of \$5,000 and/or five years in prison. It was unlawful for one person to consume more than six pounds of wheat products per month. No family could have in its possession more than 25 pounds of wheat products in any one month. Anyone having more than this amount was to notify Mr. Reeves and agree to place it at the disposal of the Food Administration.

The community responded. The war had come. The canning of fruits was stepped up with the slogan, "Can the Kaiser."

Local committees were formed to encourage the purchase of war saving stamps. Mrs. C.E. Standlee headed a group called the Patriots.

Mrs. Anderson captained a group called Pershing, Mrs. James Robertson was her first lieutenant and Ms. Burnice Mayes was secretary. Mrs. Winnie Mansfield had a group called The Live Wire. Mrs. Yale's group called itself the Triple Three. They were all doing their bit to back the boys over there.

As in all communities across the nation, the people of Downey were drawn together in a common cause. Idealism motivated the common effort as the home fires were kept burning in the pristine belief that the world was being saved for democracy. Much of it was. But the road proved to be longer and the task much more difficult than it appeared to be half a century ago in the light-hearted exuberance with which America began the task.

The war ended in victory but there was a rocky road ahead.

The Champion newspaper put the community's feelings into words: "The end of the war will see the beginning of a worldwide democracy."

Downey's authentic Civil War hero, James Stewart, still peppery with patriotism, responded to his nation's call and only his age found him wanting for service in the ranks. He recalled his experiences as a gunner on the frigate USS Congress when she was fired and sunk by the Merrimac on the Chesapeake Bay. He was the only gunner to survive death and when he was taken prison by the Merrimac, jumped over the side in darkness and escaped to fight another day.

The red blood was still in his veins. His story was an example to young men of combat age which they took note.

For five months the influence of war dominated the local scene. Day to day routine went on much as before but action was colored by the European conflict. The Saturday Afternoon Club now had a Red Cross Committee which got the women to knit socks and red bandages. With suggestion of Herbert Hoover, the national food administrator, the women canned and pickled the fruits of the field from morning till night. "Food will win the war."

Mrs. T.O. Rinker was president of the Saturday Afternoon Club for the 1917-18 and she reminded the women that while they would do anything the government asked of them to help win the war, they had to continue their cultural activities within the Downey community.

"If there was a time when we needed to express joy and gladness and show influence of poetry, music, art and literature, it is now," she said.

The women did just that. They organized a class for the study of Shakespeare. They were not about to let civilization go down the drain.

In nearby Rivera (now Pico Rivera), the Women's Improvement Club, meeting in the home of Mrs. S.W. Burke, organized a study group to learn more of southeastern Europe. Their interest was in the



Herbert Hoover

Continued on page 10



SENIOR MINISTRY
Older Adults Steadfast in Service

Senior adults make up the fastest growing segment of our society. Their numbers are growing three times faster than the national population rate. Around the year 1900, life expectancy was 37 years and there were only three million people age 65 years and older. Today, life expectancy has more than doubled to over 75 years and there are more than 35 million who are age 65 years and older. As a result, we are becoming more aware of the need to provide informed, intentional and innovative ministries and ministry opportunities to those who are celebrating the second half of life.

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POT LUCK LUNCH

Purpose
We provide fellowship and spiritual encouragement to our seniors, who are a vital part of the Church. Our seniors strive to be role models, as we pass the torch and teach the next generation of believers.

WE MEET
In the Living Room @ DRC on the 1st. Saturday of every month, unless it falls on a holiday. We have a pot luck lunch that starts at 12:00 noon.

Join Leonard and I, for a time of food, fellowship, and a study in the Word.



Leonard & Carol Beltz



<p>New 2019 Audi A4 2.0T</p> <p>Lease for \$369 per month, plus tax for 39 months</p>  <p>\$3,868 Customer Cash due at lease signing. 10K mi/yr. MSRP \$40,150*</p>	<p>New 2019 Audi Q5 2.5T</p> <p>Lease for \$419 per month, plus tax for 39 months</p>  <p>\$3,918 Customer Cash due at lease signing. 10K mi/yr. MSRP \$46,060.*</p>	<p>New 2019 Audi Q7 2.0T</p> <p>Lease for \$499 per month, plus tax for 39 months</p>  <p>\$6,499 Customer Cash due at lease signing. 10K mi/yr. MSRP \$56,440.*¹</p>
<p>New 2019 Audi A6 Quattro</p> <p>Lease for \$599 per month, plus tax for 39 months</p>  <p>\$6,599 Customer Cash due at lease signing. 10K mi/yr. MSRP \$61,830.*¹</p>	<p>New 2018 Audi A6 2.0T</p> <p>Buy For Only \$41,215</p>  <p><small>Excludes tax, title, license, options, and dealer fees. Must qualify for Audi Loyalty*. See dealer for full details. Offer expires 7/2/19. 1 at this offer, VIN# JN106451. Photo for illustration only.* Limit two incentives per eligible VIN. No trade-in required. May not be combined with Conquest, Dealer Small Fleet Incentive, or Courtesy Vehicle Lease Programs.</small></p>	

*Includes Audi Loyalty Must currently own or lease a MY2009 or newer Audi model.
¹Includes Audi Acquisition Program is extended to customers that currently own or lease a model year 2009 or newer BMW, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz or Tesla. Ask dealer for details.

A summertime message from the Mayor



PHOTO BY CLAUDIA GOMEZ

Mayor Rick Rodriguez, left, and Jeremy Clifton, president of the Downey Rose Float Association.

Watch Program, merchants learn crime prevention techniques and strategies that help reduce business-related crime. The program also helps business owners become familiar with resources available from the Downey Police Department.

The Business Watch Program focuses on teaching employees how to be observant and aware. Trained employees are a business' front line and a great resource to deter crime.

The Business Watch Program offers free quarterly training seminars for businesses in the City of Downey. Quarterly seminar topics will be offered in areas including, but not limited to:

- Active Shooter Training
- Fraud
- False Identification
- Identity theft
- Credit Card Fraud
- Building Security
- Burglary Prevention
- Robbery Prevention
- Shoplifting Prevention
- Merchandise Display and Layout

Imagine Nation is a children's musical group which writes and performs their own music and theatrical live shows. They're a fun bunch to watch and great for kids of all ages.

On July 22, Anthony the Magic is set to visit the Downey Theatre. They are a magic and illusion team that will bring wonder to children's eyes and spark their imagination.

Both shows are free to the public and are guaranteed to be a great time for the family.

With students out of school for the summer you will see many of them walking our streets to spend time with their friends at local restaurants and shops. Mothers are also walking with their little ones to local parks or to the Columbia Memorial Space Center for summer playdates and summer camps. Please remember to be mindful of your speed and drive carefully. Our police officers are patrolling our city and keeping our city safe but we also need you to do your part and abide by the law.

I wish you all a safe and wonderful summer with your families. Please email me or call the council office with any questions or ideas you may have.

God Bless,

Rick Rodriguez
Mayor

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instagram.com/mayorrickrodriguez
twitter.com/MayorRRodriguez

Mayor's Corner

By Rick Rodriguez
Mayor of Downey

Hello Downey! I hope you are all enjoying our great Southern California weather!

With summer here, it is time for BBQ's and 4th of July parties. We hope that you have a wonderful time with your friends and family as we celebrate our nation's freedom.

As a reminder, the city has a zero tolerance for illegal fireworks. The Downey Police Department will be out in full force this 4th of July on the lookout for the use or possession of illegal fireworks. Fines begin at \$2,000 for a first offense and increase up to \$3,000.

Safe and sane fireworks will be available for sale at fireworks stands throughout the city from July 1-4. You must be 18 years old or older to purchase.

Minors cannot possess or discharge fireworks unless in the presence of a responsible adult. The discharge hours for legal fireworks are on July 4 between the hours of 3-10 p.m. only. The city's goal is to make 4th of July a safe and enjoyable holiday for all.

The third meeting for the Downey Business Watch Program is scheduled for July 11 at 9 a.m. inside the City Council Chambers. This program is a joint effort between the Downey Police Department and the Downey Chamber of Commerce to help prevent and reduce crime.

The City of Downey's Business Watch Program was developed to serve as a tool for businesses who seek information on reducing the chances of becoming a victim of a crime. Through the Business

The Twilight Summer Concert series continues in July with the Marine Division Band on July 10 and the The Wiseguys Swing Band July 17. Concerts are held at Furman Park every Wednesday at 7 pm through July 17.

Come and enjoy music outdoors and make sure to bring your picnic blankets, lawn chairs and dancing shoes. Food, beverages and snacks will be available for sale. Pets are welcome as long as they are kept on a leash.

Please do not forget to submit your choice for the Downey Finest Award. Our city is filled with unsung heroes that do great deeds and never ask or receive recognition. They are a large reason of what makes our city great.

I would like to hear your story of how someone helped you. Your experience may have been with city staff, police officers, firemen, or just someone you may know who lives or works in Downey.

Unsung heroes are extraordinary everyday people who do the right thing and are committed to excellence in their work, all while being humble of their everyday contributions. It's time we give our Downey's Finest the recognition they deserve.

Please email me at rrodriguez@downeyca.org with your story so that we can recognize the individual at a city council meeting with a city certificate and city coin. I am very much looking forward to reading these stories and meeting our Downey's Finest.

The library continues to bring summer programs and events for our children to enjoy. On July 15, the summer library show "Kids Imagine Nation" will be held at the Downey Theatre at 4 p.m. Kids



Members of the Downey Patriot staff attended a Circus Vargas performance at Stonewood Center last month.

Staff members pictured include Jazmin Gomez, Alexis Givens (holding the Patriot), Julie Ledesma, Jennifer DeKay and Evie Dickenson.

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Downey Ponytail's 14u All-Star team took first place at the Laguna Niguel Sea Country Classic tournament this past weekend.

The All-Stars also captured first place by going undefeated in the Glendora Pride of the Foothills Tournament June 7-9.



Gerald Daniels, director of the member contact center at Financial Partners Credit Union, received the Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR), a Department of Defense program.

Daniels was nominated for this award by his employee, Sergeant Mayra Ortega, who wanted her supervisor to be recognized for his continued support of her service in the Army.

Captain Bell, representing the ESGR, presented Daniels with the Patriot Award certificate and lapel pin from the Department of Defense.

In addition, Scott Collins, direct representative to State Senator Bob Archuleta, presented Daniels with a certificate of recognition. Councilmember Alex Saab presented both Daniels and Ortega certificates on behalf of the City of Downey.

Former mayor, FPCU board member, and Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Mario Guerra presented both Daniels and Ortega with certificates from the Secretary of the Army and a special collector coin in recognition for their support and service.

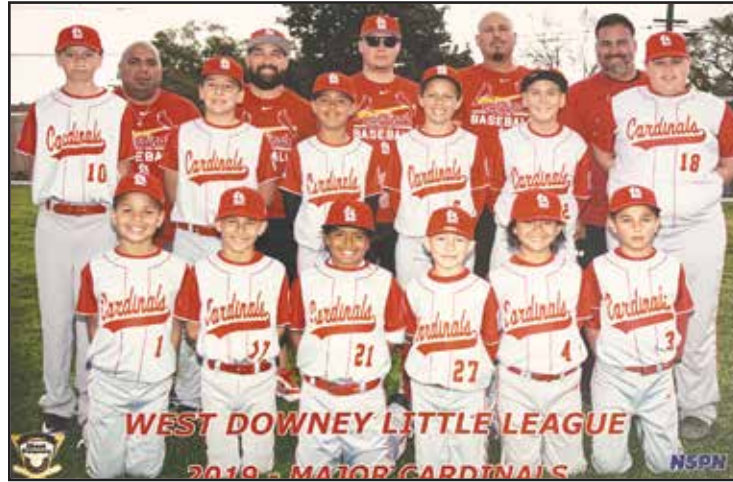


West Downey Little League announced Wednesday that it received a \$5,000 Community Impact Grant from New York Life in support of their Little League program which supports over 400 players throughout the 2019 seasons within the City of Downey.

"West Downey Little League is grateful for the support of New York Life and specifically Hector Sosa, an agent at the New York Life Fullerton General Office, who has donated time and effort at the league over the last year," said WDLL. "Hector was instrumental in helping the league receive this grant as it will help them keep operating the league while keeping registration costs low for the participants."

The Community Impact Grant program awards grants of up to \$25,000 to local nonprofit organizations, which are championed by New York Life agents and employees. Since the program's inception in 2008, nearly 600 grants totaling more than \$7 million have been awarded to nonprofits across the country.

Pictured from left: West Downey Little League (WDLL) Treasurer Gabby Adrian, WDLL President Eddie Vasquez, WDLL Safety Officer and Agent of New York Life's Fullerton General Office Hector Sosa, WDLL Vice President Sam Ferreira and WDLL Player Agent Jennifer Antunes.



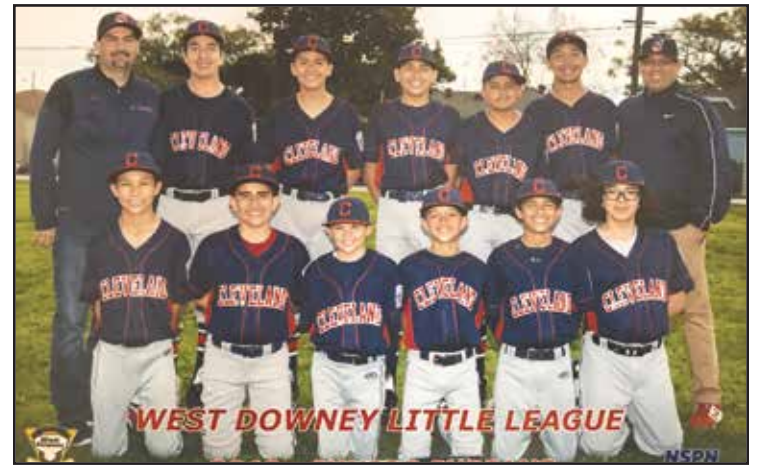
The Cardinals won the West Downey Little League Majors division championship and qualified for the District 29 Tournament of Champions, where they also reached the championship game and took 2nd place.

The team is coached by Coach Kal, Coach Mike, Coach Jorge, Coach Rob, and Coach Roy

Back row from left: Coach Mike, Coach Kal, Coach Jorge, Coach Rob, and Coach Roy

Middle row from left: Mario Madrigal, Adrian Estrada, Jeremy Gamez, Lucky Guillen, Michael Moreno and Jovany Cabrera

Front row from left: DJ Tubbs, Josue Donato, Marcus Alvarez, Micah Sigler, David Llamas and Nathan Estrada



The Indians won the West Downey Little League Juniors division championship and qualified for the District 29 Tournament of Champions, where they reached the championship game and took 2nd place.

The team is coached by Fish Figueroa and Javier Ducreux.

Back row from left: Coach Javier Ducreux, Ben Vieyra, Benny Flores, Joseph Jasso, Jonathan Rodriguez, Carl Vaca, Coach Fish Figueroa

Front row from left: Lucas Sosa, Alejandro Ducreux, Elijah Garcia, Jonathan Martinez, Josiah Figueroa, Michael Ramirez

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MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 8 - 12, 2019
1:00pm - 4:00pm
Fun Activities for kids 3-12!
Snacks will be provided

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Opinion

Jamal Khashoggi was my fiancé. His killers are roaming free.

BY HATICE CENGIZ

In May, I was invited to travel to Washington, D.C., to attend some hearings at Congress. I had imagined the city in the words of my fiancé, Jamal Khashoggi. My visit left me with the troubling feeling that his memory was fading in the city he evoked so lovingly.

When I met Jamal in Istanbul, he had been living and working in Washington for more than a year, having left his home in Saudi Arabia amid a crackdown on intellectuals and activists.

As we got engaged and planned for our new life together in Washington, Jamal would speak with great warmth about the city, its museums and marketplaces. “Trust me, you will love it here,” he would say. He would talk about his friends in the United States and speak about how he wanted me to meet them after our marriage.

Our dreams of a new life together brought him to Istanbul to get the required documents for our marriage from the Saudi consulate. He never walked out of that building, never returned to me and to the life we dreamed of.

Only eight months have passed. In the days before that fateful October afternoon, I was doing my bridal shopping. Jamal was curious. I would send him photos of everything I got and he would text back his comments. I look back at what happened. I realize how ordinary it was.

And then suddenly, Jamal was taken from us, in an unthinkable manner, something that could only happen in a horror movie. Yet that is the life I now live.

In Washington, I had the opportunity to talk with members of Congress. Every meeting made me understand how deep our loss was, how Jamal had commanded the love and respect of so many as a writer.

I was very moved when a congressman from Virginia, where Jamal lived, gave me a picture of them both. “We were together a month before it all happened,” he said. “I still cannot believe it.” He was as confused and sad as I am. I also met with some State Department officials, who told me that they had a productive meeting with Jamal a short while ago.

As I sat through these encounters, I began to feel that Jamal had not only died in Istanbul but also in Washington. A wave of rough emotions returned, as if I had lost him yesterday. We dreamed of living together in this town.

As I walked its streets alone and visited the museums and landmarks Jamal had told me about, I kept seeing his smiling face. I could hear the excitement in his voice as I walked across Washington without him.

But Washington hasn’t done enough to bring Jamal’s killers to justice. His loss was still fresh in the minds of the Democrats and

Republicans I met. Individually, they all expressed their sympathies, spoke to me about how perhaps some progress might be made in the days ahead.

Yet I sensed that they also felt embarrassed: No solid action has been taken yet.

Washington has chosen not to use its strong ties and leverage with Riyadh to get the Saudis to reveal the truth about Jamal’s murder and to ensure those responsible are held accountable. It made me sad to be there, to seek justice for Jamal in a place where he was so loved and respected.

My heart was doubly heavy because even after Jamal’s murder and the global condemnation it inspired, Saudi Arabia has continued to commit atrocities. Saudi Arabia reportedly plans to execute three imprisoned reformist scholars — Salman al-Awda, Awad al-Qarni and Ali al-Omari.

Jamal will never come back but something could be done to save these people, for whom he fought. President Trump has tried to look the other way. But he has the power to save the lives of the three men. Jamal always said they were reformists, contrary to allegations made against them by Saudi Arabia.

And Riyadh’s lax attitude to the legal proceedings of Jamal’s case cannot be accepted. I wonder what would he say to America about its silence and ambivalence toward his death? I still don’t have the answers about the day he was taken from us.

On Wednesday, Agnes Callamard, a United Nations special rapporteur, released a meticulously detailed report about Jamal’s murder. She held Saudi Arabia responsible and called for an investigation into the role of the Saudi crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman. “There is credible evidence warranting further investigation of high-level Saudi officials’ individual liability, including the crown prince’s,” she wrote.

Ms. Callamard also suggested the United Nations secretary general should establish an international criminal investigation to ensure accountability for the crime. I urge the United Nations to heed Ms. Callamard’s call.

If Jamal and his principles have any humanitarian and moral worth, this is the time to speak up. To support the struggle for democracy in the Arab world, isn’t it crucial to speak up against his violent death? If people of virtue don’t stand up today for a man who defended such values and fought to advance them in his country, then who else is going to do it.

Hatice Cengiz is a doctoral student working on the Gulf region. This essay was translated from Turkish by Afsin Yurdakul.

Launching a global currency is a bad move for Facebook

BY MATT STOLLER

On Tuesday, Facebook, in partnership with a surfeit of other large and powerful corporations, including Uber, Spotify, PayPal and VISA, announced that it would lead the effort to create a new global currency called Libra. “We believe,” says the organization that will govern the currency, “that the world needs a global, digitally native currency that brings together the attributes of the world’s best currencies: stability, low inflation, wide global acceptance and fungibility.”

As far as I can tell, Facebook aims to build a new payments and currency system using blockchain technology. Facebook is starting a subsidiary, Calibra, to “provide financial services” to individuals and businesses, including saving, spending and sending money. The actual standards for the currency will be managed by a nonprofit in Switzerland called the Libra Association. The currency will have its own central bank known as the Libra Reserve, and the board will be the committee of corporations that helped set it up.

There are already such alternative currencies — known as cryptocurrencies — in existence, such as Bitcoin and Ripple, but this one will be different. Today, cryptocurrencies are backed solely by the willingness of users to accept them, not because they have any intrinsic value or are backed by any government. This makes such currencies unstable. Libra, however, will be backed by reserves: If a user buys a dollar of Libra, that dollar will presumably be held in reserve somewhere, ready to be honored when someone sells that Libra. Moreover, while most cryptocurrencies are hard to use, Libra promises to be user-friendly and embedded into Facebook and WhatsApp.

Or so goes the story. Many of the details of this endeavor are not public or have not been decided. But creating a global currency is a bold move on Facebook’s part, given that this announcement is happening as Facebook is being criticized or investigated for massive privacy violations, anti-competitive practices in the advertising market, eroding the free press and fomenting ethnic cleansing. However, it is consistent with Facebook’s goal of continuing to connect the world no matter the consequences, by creating a medium of exchange that can potentially bypass central banks, bank regulators and existing currency systems.

There are four core problems with Facebook’s new currency. The first, and perhaps the simplest, is that organizing a payments system is a complicated and difficult task, one that requires enormous investment in compliance systems. Banks pay attention to details, complying with regulations to prevent money-laundering, terrorist financing, tax avoidance and counterfeiting. Recreating such a complex system is not a project that an institution with the level of privacy and technical

problems like Facebook should be leading. (Or worse, failing to recreate such safeguards could facilitate money-laundering, terrorist financing, tax avoidance and counterfeiting.)

The second problem is that, since the Civil War, the United States has had a general prohibition on the intersection between banking and commerce. Such a barrier has been reinforced many times, such as in 1956 with the Bank Holding Company Act and in 1970 with an amendment to that law during the conglomerate craze. Both times, Congress blocked banks from going into nonbanking businesses through holding companies, because Americans historically didn’t want banks competing with their own customers. Banking and payments is a special business, where a bank gets access to intimate business secrets of its customers. As one travel agent told Congress in 1970 when opposing the right of banks to enter his business, “Any time I deposited checks from my customers,” he said, “I was providing the banks with the names of my best clients.”

Imagine Facebook’s subsidiary Calibra knowing your account balance and your spending, and offering to sell a retailer an algorithm that will maximize the price for what you can afford to pay for a product. Imagine this cartel having this kind of financial visibility into not only many consumers, but into businesses across the economy. Such conflicts of interest are why payments and banking are separated from the rest of the economy in the United States.

It’s also possible that insiders belonging to the Libra cartel could exploit their access to information, business relationships or technology to give themselves advantages. There are many ways a new currency system could advantage large businesses over everyone else, especially when the large ones are sitting on the board of governors for the payments system. For instance, one of the incentives being discussed to get people to use the currency is discounts on Uber rides; if this happens, Facebook would be giving an advantage to Uber instead of other ride-sharing businesses.

The third problem is that the Libra system — or really any private currency system — introduces systemic risk into our economy. The Libra currency is backed, presumably, by bonds and financial assets held in reserve at the Libra Reserve. But what happens if there is a theft or penetration of the system? What happens if all users want to sell their Libra currency at once, causing the Libra Reserve to hold a fire sale of assets? If the Libra system becomes intertwined in our global economy in the way Facebook hopes, we would need to consider a public bailout of a privately managed system.

Sorry, but no thanks: We should not be setting up a private international payments network that would need to be backed by taxpayers because it’s too big to fail.

And the fourth problem is that of national security and sovereignty. Enabling an open flow of money across all borders is a political choice best made by governments. And openness isn’t always good. For instance, most nations, especially the United States, use economic sanctions to bar individuals, countries or companies from using our financial system in ways that harm our interests. Sanctions enforcement flows through the banking system — if you can’t bank in dollars, you can’t use dollars. With the success of a private parallel currency, government sanctions could lose their bite. Should Facebook and a supermajority of venture capitalists and tech executives really be deciding whether North Korean sanctions regimes can succeed? Of course not.

A permissionless currency system based on a consensus of large private actors across open protocols sounds nice, but it’s not democracy. Today, American bank regulators and central bankers are hired and fired by publicly elected leaders. Libra payments regulators would be hired and fired by a self-selected council of corporations. There are ways to characterize such a system, but democratic is not one of them.

Years ago, Mark Zuckerberg made it clear that he doesn’t think Facebook is a business. “In a lot of ways, Facebook is more like a government than a traditional company,” said Mr. Zuckerberg. “We’re really setting policies.” He has acted consistently as a would-be sovereign power. For example, he is attempting to set up a Supreme Court-style independent tribunal to handle content moderation. And now he is setting up a global currency.

The way we structure money and payments is a question for democratic institutions. Any company big enough to start its own currency is just too big.

Matt Stoller is a fellow at the Open Markets Institute.

Fireworks are neither safe or sane

Dear Editor:

Recently in the community app Nextdoor, some of our Downey (and Bellflower) neighbors were complaining about the noise from fireworks being set off to celebrate high school graduations in the area.

Let’s evaluate the real impact of fireworks on our community.

1) Safe? Research shows that there are heavy metals and cancer-causing substances that remain in the air for minutes and up to hours from the airborne displays. Particulates fall into water sources and pollute our environment.

Sane? While those willing participants enjoy the show, many neighbors are suffering. There are people with PTSD, our veterans, that relive the life-altering trauma through the bass heavy explosions and through the smell of gunpowder. Those of us with anxiety disorders will experience the fight or flight response with trauma that unwittingly may last for many heart racing hours.

Our beloved dogs and cats will be traumatized, and as anyone who’s ever checked the lost and found ads after the Fourth of July knows, some will escape and become lost forever.

As stated in the article regarding illegal fireworks, it is hard to enforce our illegal fireworks laws when legal fireworks are going on all around us.

I feel Downey has progressed, and residents would be willing to ban all fireworks in Downey, and hopefully rethink harming ourselves and our neighbors with non-4th of July/New Year’s Eve fireworks.

Let’s take another vote regarding allowing safe and sane fireworks. Let’s discourage high schools from using fireworks for celebrations.

Tina Ige Downey

Dear Editor:

Well, it’s that time of the year that we celebrate the independence of our great country. The 4th of July is a day where families and friends gather to celebrate.

Safe and sane fireworks are allowed to be sold and used in some cities. Some cities have no tolerance of any kind. Unfortunately, we have criminals that bring in illegal fireworks to the cities. People that buy and ignite the illegal fireworks are criminals also. Depending on the amount of fireworks, it is a felony or misdemeanor.

Criminals have already begun using the fireworks without any respect for their neighbors, animals or property. They don’t know why we celebrate July 4. It’s just a day to shoot their fireworks. Our veteran neighbors suffering from PTSD are tormented. Our pets are scared and many run away.

If you see these criminals launch these illegal fireworks, turn them in. Don’t be afraid to call the police. You can do this anonymously. The police can’t find the criminals without your help.

Bob Rodriguez Downey

Politicians’ priorities

Dear Editor:

In 1789, our Founding Fathers gave us a constitution outlining a new form of government -- a democracy. To point to the values they wanted expressed in that constitution, they added a preamble that in one sentence of 52 words addressed five core values, one of which was stated to “insure domestic tranquillity.”

Our present day politicians, regardless of party affiliation, spend more time on senseless arguing than debating common sense solutions to the complexities of our modern day society.

In 2017, our nation’s people willingly gave more than \$400 billion to nonprofit organizations. That is significantly more money than our politicians have used our tax dollars to solve the issues of homelessness, seniors on fixed incomes having the means to maintain a lifestyle that ensures they will not become homeless, and providing our most deserving returning veterans with the means to adjust to a tranquil society.

Why don’t they get it?

In my humble opinion, they are more interested in protecting their own selfish desires than protecting the values of “We the People.”

A modern complex society needs politicians who understand the need and requirement of common sense in order to ensure the values of our most precious constitution and the Preamble that gave us guidance on the need for domestic tranquillity.

I’m by no means a scholar on the construction of our constitution. That clearly said, it’s time “We the People” strongly advocate the need for common sense to guide our elected officials to practice a common sense approach to our societies need and requirement to maintain a healthy and prosperous society capable of solving complex issues domestically and globally.

Who am I?

I’m a resident and homeowner in Downey. I’m a citizen of the United States born on November 12, 1941 at the Highland Park General Hospital in Highland Park, Michigan. I served in the United States Air Force and was honorably discharged in 1965.

I spent nearly a decade working for the federal government with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an air traffic controller responsible for the safety of the airspace over much of SoCal. In 1975, on my own cognition, I resigned in order to pursue a career in business. I now manage a nonprofit called Homeless & Senior Hero’s, Inc.

I have no desire to be a politician nor at my age try to manage an advocacy. I do however wish to bring attention to the need for politicians to apply common sense to our society’s needs, sooner rather than later.

As such, I remain hopeful our politicians will pay more attention to the common sense needed to promulgate meaningful solutions to a society charged with the responsibility to provide for domestic and global tranquility by our modern technological society.

Dennis Billings Downey

Camp Pendleton huts

Dear Editor:

In the Patriot of June 13, the short story, “Our Humble Home” by Yolanda Adele makes repeated references to living in a trailer while at Camp Pendleton.

The picture accompanying the story, however, shows not a trailer, but a Quonset hut.

The Quonset hut was a prefabricated shelter, named for where it was first manufactured, Quonset Point, Rhode Island.

I was stationed at Camp Pendleton for two years in 1960-61, and I can attest to the fact there were plenty of them on the base, a leftover reminder from World War II.

Jack Russell Downey

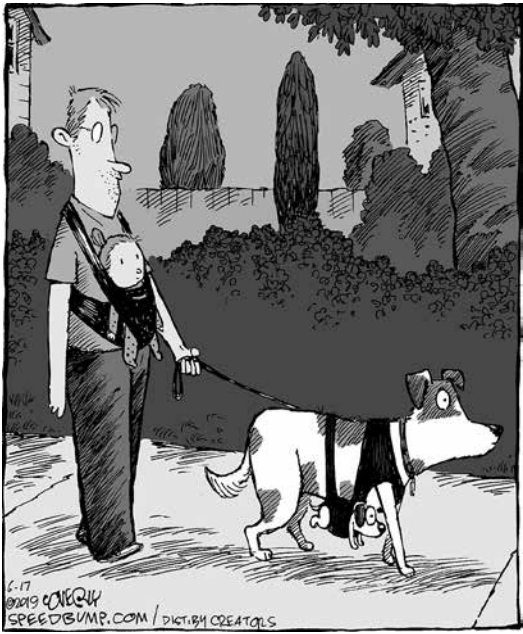
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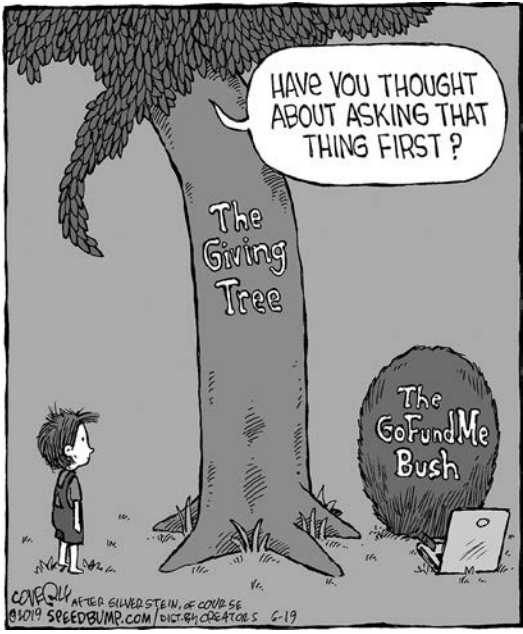
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

CITY MEETINGS

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

MONDAYS

7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 2, at Downey United Methodist Church, call 869-6478.
 4:30 pm: Courage Forward Meeting, at 10829 New St, 2nd Floor, call 213-545-6810.
 2nd Mon., 11 am: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, call 304-3439.
 3rd Mon., 11:30 am: Downey Newcomers Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.
 4th Mon., 7:30 pm: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

TUESDAYS

9 am: Quilters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.
 9:30 am: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, call Irene Vallini at 328-7039.
 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.
 12 pm: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Greg Welch 323-816-4532.
 6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, contact Salvador Cervantes: tmsalcpuede@gmail.com.
 7 pm: Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo, at 11231 Rives Ave., call 923-1932.
 7 pm: Healing Room and Prayer, at Desert Reign Church 11610 Lakewood Blvd, call 861-6011.
 7:30 pm: Downey Master Chorale, at Cornerstone Church, contact info@downeymasterchorale.org.
 1st Tues., 7:30 am: Gangs Out of Downey, at City Hall training room.
 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 pm: Sertoma Club, at Rio Hondo Event Center, call 927-6438.
 2nd Tues., 6 pm: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, call 425-7936.
 3rd Tues., 6:30 pm: Community Emergency Response Team meeting, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
 3rd Tues., 6 pm: American Legion #270, at Sizzler Restaurant, call 544-0372.
 Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza 652-4399

WEDNESDAYS

7 am: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
 1 pm: Women's Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call Marie Puch at 869-4366.
 7 pm: Out Post 132 Royal Rangers, at Desert Reign Church, call 928-8000.
 1st Wed., 11 am: Woman's Club of Downey, call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.
 1st Wed., 11:30 am: Downey Coordinating Council, Community Center, call Bobbi Bruce 440-5416.
 1st Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, call 928-3028.
 2nd Wed., 11:30 am: Christian Women's Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.
 2nd Wed., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 904-7102.
 2nd Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, call 928-4132.
 3rd Wed.: Downey Dog Obedience Club, for information please call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: Los Angeles County Quilters Guild, at Women's Club, call 860-8821 or 927-3635.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: OLPH Women's Guild, at OLPH School Auditorium, contact Melodie Santana, (562) 806 3102.
 3rd Wed., 6 pm: Sister Cities of Downey, at Downey City Library, call Gloria Nezahualcoyotl (562) 776-6136.
 4th Wed., 7:30 pm: US Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 5-10, First Presbyterian Church, call Brian 419-5420.
 Wed. & Fri., 10:15 am: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, call 904-7223

THURSDAYS

7:30 am: Connections Networking, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.
 7:30 am.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.
 9 am: Crafters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.
 9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barbara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.
 12 pm: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
 12 pm: Optimist Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center.
 6:30 pm: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., call 862-4176.
 7 pm: Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America, at First Baptist Church, call 776-3388.
 7:30 pm: Downey Elks Lodge #2020, call 803-3557.
 1st Thurs., 12:00 pm: Downey Christian & Professional Luncheon, Sizzler's Restaurant, call James 310-1335.
 1st Thurs., 7:30 pm.: The Downey Amateur Radio Club, at First Baptist Church room 120.
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.
 2nd & 4th Thurs., 6:30 pm: Downey Lions Club, at Mimi's, call Lenora (310) 283-9825.
 3rd Thurs., 4 pm: Public Works Committee, at City Hall Training Room.
 3rd Thurs., 6 pm: Downey CIPAC, at Sizzler's Restaurant, call Rich Tuttle 413-6045.
 4th Thurs., 10 am: Assistance League, at Casa De Parley Johnson, call 869-0232.
 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center, call 862-2777.

FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

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

On This Day...

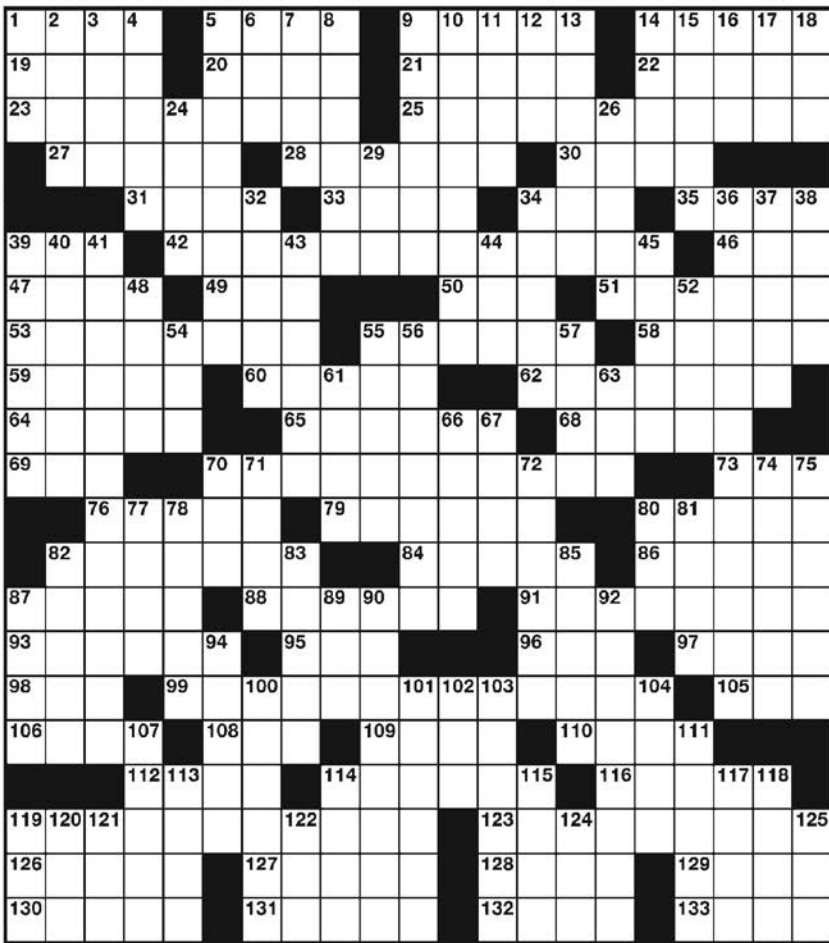
June 20, 451: Roman and Barbarian warriors brought Attila's army to a halt at the Catalaunian Plains in eastern France.
1793: Eli Whitney applied for a cotton gin patent. He received the patent on March 14. The cotton gin initiated the American mass-production concept.
1963: The United States and Soviet Union signed an agreement to set up a hot line communication link between the two countries.
1983: The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that employers must treat male and female workers equally in providing health benefits for their spouses.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
FILM FATHER'S DAY: Nine from memorable movies
 by Gail Grabowski

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Advertising Policy

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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.

The 1991 film *Father of the Bride* (25 Across) is a remake of the 1950 film of the same name, in which Spencer Tracy portrays the father. *THEIR FINEST HOUR* (27 Across) is the second of six books in Churchill's *Second World War* series. The reference at 106 Across is to the song "Together, Wherever We Go" from the musical *Gypsy*, for which Julie Styne wrote the music and Stephen Sondheim the lyrics.



Short Stories

A Family of Singers

By Helen Hampton
Contributor

My father was gifted with a beautiful singing voice. His voice was especially flexible in range, as he was able to sing as a tenor, baritone and bass.

He loved singing opera, and he used to sing arias in the grocery store that he owned. People came in off the street just to hear him sing.

It soon became apparent that an unusually beautiful singing voice ran in my family. My older brother Danny was a "boy soprano." As a child I loved to hear him sing. I was so enthralled by my brother's voice that I never even considered that I might be hiding the same musical ability.

Later, to my astonishment – and quite by accident – I learned at age 12 that I shared this same family talent. It happened like this:

At my convent boarding school, I was practicing piano in a private music room. I began to sing, thinking that nobody could hear me. All of a sudden the door flew open and in blew a nun.

I thought, "Oh, boy, am I in trouble now."

She exclaimed, "Helen, I didn't know you could sing!"

"I didn't know either!" I responded, cowering.

The nun grabbed me by the arm and dragged me down the hall to her music studio. She put the sheet music to the song "Danny Boy" on the piano and said, "Sing this!"

As I sang, she was beside herself with delight. From then on, I was in every school musical and I sang at all of the assemblies.

After high school, I studied voice at the Boston Conservatory of Music for three years. There my voice developed into a coloratura soprano. This is an operative voice with an extremely high vocal range and the ability to run quickly up and down the musical scale.

At age 19, I won an audition for a musical theater show but I lacked the confidence to accept the role. My voice professor wanted to make me his protege so I could pursue a career in singing. He was devastated when I told him that I was getting married and moving to Florida.

In Florida, I sang at banquets, hotels, garden parties, weddings and funerals. I also sang weekly solos over the radio for various churches. I loved music so much that I opened my own music store at age 22. Whenever there was a lull in business, I would play the piano and sing. This always brought customers in off the street. How I loved owning and running that store.

Then I moved to California in 1951. I continued my voice lessons and to sing at weddings and funerals. I also joined the PTA Mothersingers, a larger choral group that performed all over California. The group later became known as the California Women's Chorus.

For the next 20 years I sang in fine dining establishments during

the dinner hour. My daughters loved to have elegant dinners with me and to hear me sing. They were my greatest fans.

They persuaded me to make a record album of eight show tunes and other favorite songs, including "Bless this House." Even today, 40 years later, my girls enjoy my recording and the special memories it brings back to them.

At age 70, I joined a senior citizens' choral group and we sang solos in nursing homes. Later, I joined another choral group. I quit singing at age 90, only because my group disbanded.

Meanwhile, my brother Danny continued a lifetime of professional singing, as I had done. At the New England Conservatory of Music, his "boy soprano" voice developed into a magnificent dramatic tenor.

During his military service in World War II, he was assigned to Special Services as an entertainer. Then he sang in the famous Fred Waring Choral Group for 20 years.

His professional career as an operatic tenor in New York was unfortunately limited by his height. When he auditioned for stage parts, he was rejected only because, at 5 ft. 2. Inches tall, his leading lady would most certainly tower over him.

Singing has enriched my life and opened countless doors to wonderful opportunities and experiences for myself and my family. Music has been much more than a gift to us -- it has truly been a blessing.

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

Short Stories

A Taste of the Good Life Killed My Uncle Joe

By Anthony M. Caldwell
Contributor

Uncle Joe Holdenried was married to my aunt Clara Bell, and when she died, he retreated into the work of the Daniels Oil Valve Company.

He had helped with special valves for the first nuclear submarine "The Nautilus."

He rarely came to visit, but 20 years later he came and he told us of being kidnapped by Mr. Daniels and the company employees, and being put on a plane to Hawaii.

He was so loved and respected for working in his white dress shirt and slacks that they decided to give him a forced vacation after going so many years without one.

He didn't like it one bit! When he got to Hawaii, he was disgusted with all the commercialism and tourist

traps.

He asked a taxi driver if there was any of the "old Hawaii" left. The man told him, "Yes, but I don't think you'd like it."

Well, he found a nice fishing village and beach. He went shirtless and fished with an old man, and cooked over an open fire on the sand, and they slept on the beach.

He told us that, "He was going back the next year, and that he never felt better in his life." But he had a heart attack and died. This spared him later pain.

His only son was killed in Guatemala starting orphanages (another story) so Uncle Joe was spared the pain of another loss.

I began to believe that taking vacations had some sort of negative influence on hard working men, so I have really never had one, except for an



all expenses paid, round trip vacation by my Uncle Sam.

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

Short Stories

Observing Nature

By Yolanda Reyna
Contributor

Does anyone ever notice the mountains and how gorgeous they look from afar? Or how about the clouds? How white and puffy they look?

So huge! I wish I could be up there with them! They look like big white puffy pillows or big powder puffs.

Or most recently, did anyone notice the beautiful swarm of painted lady butterflies? I was in awe at the sight of them. They caught my attention while I was picking up my grandson from school.

I said, "Adrian, look at the butterflies!" I saw so many of them.

He said, "Grandma how come there's so many?" I had no explanation for him.

Then my daughter asked me if I had seen the butterflies. I said yes, what is going on with all the

butterflies?

The next day while I was heading out my door, I noticed them again; they were flying right above me. I saw the janitor walk by me and I said, "Look at all the butterflies!"

He said, "Yeah, there coming from Mexico heading up north."

The next couple of days I kept noticing them. As I drove west, they were heading north and as I drove north, they were heading in the same direction as I was, but as I was heading south, they were coming right at me. By then they were distracting me and my driving.

I asked a few friends of mine if they had noticed them too. It was just a lovely sight to see. I said, "I want to be up there and fly with them."

Lately I've been noticing the beautiful magnificent mountains

while I'm heading north on my daily drive. When I look at the mountains, I just cannot believe my eyes. I envy people that climb mountains. I would love to climb a mountain, or maybe shout out from a mountain top.

I've never been one to notice anything as beautiful as nature. Does this feeling come with aging? I've never had this feeling in me as much as I have. I've been noticing more and more of nature. It's a peaceful and warm-hearted feeling.

Just recently I read a story about "Roses" in the newspaper and I absolutely loved it. Whatever this feeling is, I'm enjoying it.

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

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Trio of receivers look to lead Warren Bears



Stephen Austin II has a personal goal to catch 40 passes for 800 yards and eight touchdowns this season.

Under new head coach Kevin Pearson, Warren High looks for a fresh start.

By Mark Fetter
Sportswriter

DOWNEY – The Warren High School football program is heading in an exciting direction under new head coach Kevin Pearson. Three returning wide receivers from last year's 8-4 playoff team are excited about what they are doing in football practice this summer.

Bear quarterback Chris Venegas has graduated and so has standout wide receiver Robbie Colenzo. Those will be big shoes to fill for this year's team.

Venegas completed 174/259 pass attempts for 2,776 yards with 38 touchdowns and only four interceptions last season. As a result, Venegas enjoyed a season long passer rating of 135.9. Colenzo caught 50 passes for 674

yards and five touchdowns and is currently at the University of Utah taking snaps on offense.

This summer Keison Evans, Xavier Osbey and Stephen N. Austin II are looking to lead the Bears to an even more explosive season. Last season, Evans (6'2, 175) caught 24 passes for 381 yards and four touchdowns. This season his goal is to catch 100 passes for 1,000 yards and 20 touchdowns.

Last season, Osbey (6'0, 180) caught eight passes for 187 yards and two touchdowns. This season his goal is to catch 35 passes for 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns. Last season, Austin II (5'11, 172) caught four passes for 86 yards and three touchdowns. This season his goal is to catch 40 passes for 800 yards and eight touchdowns.

All three players missed games last season due to injury. This season the three wide receivers are looking to get bigger, faster and stronger to help the Bears win games. Durability will certainly be a key element to the success each

player will have.

Coach Pearson is excited with his trio of offensive threats and will be looking to get the ball into their hands in order to put points on the board and win some games. All three players believe the Bears will be competing for the San Gabriel Valley League championship this fall.

WARREN BOYS BASKETBALL: The Warren High School boys' basketball team has been working hard this summer. The Bears began their summer basketball program on June 10 and will continue through early July.

Head coach Zaiid Leflore is pleased with his team's effort this summer and sees depth, leadership and size as potential team strengths.

Leflore also sees this year's team as fast, up-tempo and "scrappy." Returning senior players Jahveon Medearis (6'2, 16.2 points per game), Jarred Jones (6'3, 10.3 points per game) and Steven Lora (5'11, 1.8 points per game) look to lead the Bears to another S.G.V.L. title. The Bears finished last season with an overall record of 20-7 and a league record of 8-2.

The Bears started their summer league schedule with an 18-point win against Sunny Hills at John Glenn on Tuesday night in the John Glenn Summer Tournament. The Bears will play Long Beach Poly next Tuesday at Compton and will also play Dominguez at Compton the following week.

The Bears conclude their summer practice and tournament schedule in early July and will resume workouts after the fall school year begins in August.

Basketball is a winter sport and will officially begin once football season concludes this fall. Coach Leflore, his staff and players are all looking forward to the start of basketball season and defending their 2019 S.G.V.L. championship.

DOWNEY BOYS BASKETBALL: The Downey High

School boys' basketball program has been busy this summer with practices, camps, workouts and tournaments. Freshmen basketball tryouts were June 4-7 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Summer camp began June 10 and will conclude Thursday, June 27. Summer camp is running from 8-10 a.m. and registration included a Downey jersey and shorts.

Any questions regarding the Downey High School boys' basketball program may be directed to head coach Larry Shelton at lshelton@dusd.net. Coach Shelton and his staff hope to see you at the Downey High School basketball camp this summer.

DOWNEY BOYS TENNIS: The Downey High School boys' tennis program began its summer workout schedule this past Tuesday and it will conclude July 25.

The Downey boys' tennis program observed their C.I.F. mandated "dead period" the first three weeks in June.

Tennis practices are currently being held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 pm on the tennis courts at Downey High School. Any questions regarding the Downey High School boys' tennis program may be directed to head coach Byung Park at bpark@dusd.net.

Coach Park and his staff hope to see you on the tennis courts this summer at Downey High.

DOWNEY GIRLS BASKETBALL: The Downey High School girls' basketball program has been busy this summer with camps, practices and tournaments.

Incoming freshmen had tryouts May 31 and June 1 in the gym at Downey High. Summer workouts are currently being held Monday through Thursday and will run through July 21.

Girls basketball will observe the C.I.F. mandated "dead period" the last 10 days in July and the

first 11 days in August.

Basketball is a winter sport and players will begin their game schedules once the fall sports teams have concluded their respective seasons.

Any questions regarding the girls' basketball program at Downey High School may be directed to head coach Nate Harris at nharris@dusd.net.

DOWNEY GIRLS WRESTLING: The Downey High School girls' wrestling program began their summer workout schedule on Monday, June 17, and those workouts will run through Aug. 1. The cost of the summer wrestling program is \$100.

Beginning wrestlers with less than two years of wrestling experience are working out from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the wrestling room and advanced wrestlers having more than two years of wrestling experience are working out from 4-6 p.m. in the wrestling room.

Wrestlers are also in the weight room from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. each day of summer workouts getting stronger.

Wrestling is a winter sport and will begin once the fall sports seasons have concluded. Any questions regarding the girls' wrestling program at Downey High School may be directed to head coach Roger Rios at rrios@dusd.net. Coach Rios hopes to see you on the mat this summer.

Kids invited to lead orchestra

Continued from page 1

made him famous before he turned 30. During his 60-year career, he wrote an estimated 1,500 songs, including the scores for 20 original Broadway shows and 15 original Hollywood films, with his songs nominated eight times for Academy Awards.

Many of his songs became popular holiday themes or anthems such as "Easter Parade," "White Christmas," "There's No Business Like Show Business," and "God Bless America."

If there is ever a decision to change our current national anthem by popular vote, the winner – by a landslide – would be "God Bless America," a song that sums up in just a few phrases the deep love, honor and hope that we share in our great and beautiful land.

When Berlin wrote his first Army show, "Yip Yip Yaphank," in 1918, he cut out the song rather than risk being accused of "flag-waving." However, 20 years later, Kate Smith was persuaded to risk the same accusation and introduced the song on an Armistice Day radio program.

Berlin, refusing to cash in on his patriotism, assigned all royalties from the song to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America.

"The second half of the concert, we are presenting such patriotic works as 'America the Beautiful' and a work entitled 'Armed Forces Salute' which includes the theme songs of all five branches of the United States military," said Lavery. "And, continuing a longtime tradition, we will conclude the concert with the kids of Downey invited up on stage to individually conduct the orchestra in a selection of some of the finest marches ever written by John Phillip Sousa.

"We're performing for you some patriotic Fourth of July music a week early."

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DOWNEY HAPPENINGS

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

CERT en Espanol, 9 am. Community Emergency Response Team training offered in Spanish. Sign up at <https://cert-espanol.eventbrite.com/>. Location to be determined.

Go Skate Day, 12-5 pm. Kids ages 6-17 are invited to help kick off the first day of summer with a day of skating, activities, games, and music. Meredith Perkins Skate Park, 12334 Bellflower Blvd.

The Winedown Paint Night, 7 pm. Get creative – and tipsy. Join Stay Gallery for a night of painting, socializing and unwinding with your friends. Stay Gallery, 11140 Downey Ave.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

CERT en Espanol, 9 am. Community Emergency Response Team training offered in Spanish. Sign up at <https://cert-espanol.eventbrite.com/>. Location to be determined.

Lift Off to Learning, 10 am to 4 pm. Enjoy entertainment and activities, free learning resources, information about summer programs, photo opportunities with PBS KIDS characters, and access to the Columbia Memorial Space Museum. Free admission. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

KidsCreate, 10:30 am. KidsCreate is the new version of Stay Gallery's family paint day. Make lasting memories and take home your works of art. Stay Gallery, 11140 Downey Ave.

Poetry is Medicine, 2-5 pm. Explore how poetry can be used to confront trauma, promote emotional growth, and strengthen spirituality in this creative writing workshop. Stay Gallery, 11140 Downey Ave.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

CERT en Espanol, 9 am. Community Emergency Response Team training offered in Spanish. Sign up at <https://cert-espanol.eventbrite.com/>. Location to be determined.

Mega Mujeres Market, 1-5 pm. Sixty-plus vendors, photo booths, workshops, special guests, raffles, and two cash bars. \$10/ presale, \$15/at the door. Rio Hondo Event Center, 10627 Old River School Rd.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

Chamber of Commerce Installation, 12 pm. Carrie Uva is installed as president of the Downey Chamber of Commerce. Embassy Suites, 8425 Firestone Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

Concerts in the Park, 7 pm. The Downey Symphony performs under the direction of music director Sharon Lavery. Furman Park, 10419 Rives Ave.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

Hands-Only CPR, 4 pm. Learn how to perform hands-only CPR in this free class offered by the L.A. County Department of Public Health. Barbara J. Riley Center, 7810 Quill Dr.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Warrior Cup Tournament, 11 am. The second annual Warrior Cup golf tournament benefiting St. Pius-St. Matthias Academy. Rio Hondo Golf Club, 10627 Old River School Rd.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

Body Camp, 7 am and 9 am. Start your Saturday morning off right with this 60-minute circuit training bootcamp. Stay Gallery, 11140 Downey Ave.

Pound the Ground Walk for Life, 9 am. A half-mile walk to raise money for the LivingHelp Center. 8345 Firestone Blvd.

Together We Dance, 12 pm and 6 pm. A live show presented by Onstage Dance Center. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

Stay Up, 8 pm. Join us for a night of musical performances, stand-up comedy, art installations, and interactive Q&As of the artists themselves. Stay Gallery, 11140 Downey Ave.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Mercado Downey, 12-5 pm. Latinx vendors, food sales, hourly raffles, free photobooth, and a concha eating contest. Los Amigos Country Club, 7295 Quill Dr.

Summertime BBQ, 3-7 pm. Downey Symphony's 60th anniversary buffet dinner party, with live entertainment and auctions. \$60. For information and reservations, call Joyce Sherwin at (562) 928-4122. Downey Woman's Club, 9813 Paramount Blvd.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

Princess Carnival, 2-4 pm. Princess meet and greet, paint with a princess, pop-up vendors, and more. \$5-\$20. Belle's Enchantment Princess Parties, 12830 Paramount Blvd.

MONDAY, JULY 8

Kids Imagine Nation, 3:45 pm. A free children's music show courtesy of the Downey City Library. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

Concerts in the Park, 7 pm. The 1st Marine Division Band plays its annual patriotic program. Furman Park, 10419 Rives Ave.

THURSDAY, JULY 11

Identity Theft Seminar, 9 am. Downey police officers will give a 1-hour seminar on identity theft fraud. Free and open to members of the Downey business community. City Council chambers, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

Pageant of the Masters, 6:15 pm. A group excursion to the Pageant of the Masters festival in Laguna Beach. \$42 for Downey residents, \$46 non-resident. Bus departs from the Barbara J. Riley Center.

FRIDAY, JULY 12

"An Evening of Spiritual Messages," 7 pm. Psychic medium A.J. Barrera helps audience members connect spiritually with lost loved ones. This event may be filmed. Embassy Suites, 8425 Firestone Blvd.

SUNDAY, JULY 14

Mercado Downey, 12-5 pm. Latinx vendors, food sales, hourly raffles, free photobooth, and a concha eating contest. Los Amigos Country Club, 7295 Quill Dr.

MONDAY, JULY 15

Kids Imagine Nation, 4 pm. A combination of hilarious tricks and stand-up comedy by Michael Rayner. Free show presented by the Downey City Library. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

TUESDAY, JULY 16

Law & Resource Day, 1 pm. Speak to a lawyer about your personal injury legal questions. Plus live music and lunch. Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, 7601 Imperial Hwy.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

Concerts in the Park, 7 pm. The Wiseguys play their style of big band music in this special performance with the mayor. Furman Park, 10419 Rives Ave.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

Real Estate Career Night, 6 pm. An informational seminar for people considering a career in real estate. Keller Williams, 8255 Firestone Blvd., st. 100

SATURDAY, JULY 20

Apollo 11 50th Anniversary, 10 am. Join NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory as they provide Apollo themed programming throughout the day and enjoy several break-out dramatic performances sprinkled around the CMSC portraying life in Apollo Program. Watch "live" as Neil Armstrong takes his first "giant leap". Stick around at night for a special screening

of "Apollo 11" outside the Space Center. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

MONDAY, JULY 22

Anthony the Magician, 4 pm. A bilingual magic and illusion show focused on interactive stories. Free show presented by the Downey City Library. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

THURSDAY, JULY 25

Clothing & Textile Drive, 12-1 pm. Help raise money for Downey High's girls volleyball team by donating your unwanted clothing, shoes, purses, belts, towels, and stuffed animals. Downey High, 11040 Brookshire Ave.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Oxnard Salsa Festival, 12:15 pm. A group excursion to the Salsa Festival, featuring salsa music, spicy foods, homemade salsa, and more. Trip includes five salsa tastings and access to reserved seating area. \$40 for Downey residents, \$44 for non-resident. Bus departs from Barbara J. Riley Center.

MONDAY, JULY 29

Girls on Fire Workshop, 8:30 am. The first day of a 3-day workshop for girls in grades 6-12, addressing the unique set of challenges facing young girls through interactive presentations, physical fitness activities, and team-building sessions. Register at downeyca.org. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, AUG. 3

Music and a Movie, 5 pm. The Band Tease will perform everything from Top 40 and R&B to old school and 80s. At dusk will be a screening of the film "Sing." Golden Park, 8840 Golden St.

TUESDAY, AUG. 6

National Night Out, 5:30-8:30 pm. A nationwide event where the community comes together to learn about crime prevention. Community information booths, food, and children's activities. Downey Civic Center, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

SATURDAY, AUG. 10

Fitness Fair, 8 am to 12 pm. A community event to encourage healthy lifestyles, with 15-plus challenges to test your fitness, yoga sessions, dance party, food, vendors, raffles, and DJ music. Hosted by TLF Fitness Center. Warren High School

football field, 8141 De Palma St.

SATURDAY, AUG. 17

Rocket Fever, 10 am. L.A.'s first and only urban rocket festival returns. Build and fly your own rocket (\$5 for this class). Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

MONDAY, AUG. 26

Optimist Club Golf Tournament, 10 am. The largest annual fundraising event for the Cerritos Optimist Club. Rio Hondo Golf Club, 10627 Old River School Rd.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7

Senior Follies Show, 1 pm and 5 pm. Now in its 16th year, the Senior Follies is a talent show for local senior citizens. (For details on how to participate, call (562) 904-7223). Barbara J. Riley Center, 7810 Quill Dr.

MONDAY, SEPT. 9

Surviving the Holidays, 7 pm. No matter how long it's been since you loved one died, grief can make the holidays a painful time. Learn how to cope and prepare. Calvary Chapel Downey, 12808 Woodruff Ave.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21

Alpha Omega Con, 10 am to 6 pm. A Christian comic book, art and pop culture convention. First Baptist Church of Downey, 8348 3rd St.

Miss Downey Pageant, 6 pm. Young women compete to become Downey royalty. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28

Emergency Preparedness Fair, 10 am to 2 pm. Learn hands-only CPR, put out small fires, and learn how to properly prepare for an emergency. Calvary Chapel Downey, 12808 Woodruff Ave.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

State of the City, 12 pm. Mayor Rick Rodriguez delivers Downey's annual State of the City address. Rio Hondo Event Center, 10627 Old River School Rd.

THURSDAY, OCT. 10

Havana Nights, 6-9:30 pm. La Charanga performs at this rooftop concert. Food vendors, arts and crafts for kids, artist exhibits, and festival seating (bring your own chair). Downtown Parking Structure, 2nd St. and New St.

SATURDAY, OCT. 19

Downey Symphony Concert, 8 pm. Titled "Passport to Passion," this concert features a solo by violinist Strauss Shi. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SUNDAY, DEC. 1

Christmas Parade, 1 pm. Downey's annual Christmas Parade, put on by the Downey Chamber of Commerce. Downey Avenue, between Florence and 5th Street.

SATURDAY, JAN. 18

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

SATURDAY, FEB. 29

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

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

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

Homeless people at motels would have access to resources

Continued from page 1

homeless individuals to leave an encampment in the Whittier Greenbelt.

The county entered a master lease agreement with a local motel to provide dozens of individuals with rooms while caseworkers from Whittier First Day assisted them with long-term housing.

Many of the individuals have already moved into affordable or permanent supportive housing while caseworkers continue to work closely with the remaining individuals.

Los Angeles County often uses motel vouchers as a tool to assist homeless individuals and families. However, individual motel rooms are normally secured on a case-by-case basis—a process that costs time and resources.

“Helping a chronically homeless person off of the streets and into a permanent home is challenging, time-consuming work—but it is all the more difficult when caseworkers also have to secure individual motel rooms for their clients one at a time,” said Hahn.

“By leasing motel rooms in bulk across the county we can

quickly increase the number of interim housing units that we can offer to people as a comfortable, safe alternative to encampments.”

In addition, Hahn asked the CEO’s office and LAHSA to examine whether the same motels’ parking lots could be used for “Safe Parking” sites.

Safe Parking is a program that allows homeless people living in cars to park in a safe, secured parking lot overnight where they can get connected with services and caseworkers who can help them out of homelessness.

The board will receive a report in 30 days with a plan to identify at least one motel in each Service Planning Area that the county can enter master leasing agreements with.

The CEO’s office, LAHSA and the Departments of Health and Mental Health will also evaluate the feasibility of turning motel parking lots into Safe Parking sites.

The plan will include evaluation of the cost of outreach workers, security and services at each site.

California gas prices set to increase July 1

Gas prices are falling across the country, except in California, where a new gas tax is scheduled to take effect July 1.

LOS ANGELES – California has some of the highest gas prices in the country, and it’s about to get more expensive starting July 1 with each gallon of gas costing 5.6 cents more.

The current statewide tax on a gallon of gas is 41.7 cents, while the new tax will be 47.3 cents per gallon, a 5.6-cent increase.

“I’ve seen them go down a little bit, but I know its close to \$4 a gallon,” said Christine Schwark of Modesto. “I mean, it’s just absolutely ridiculous the price of gas nowadays.”

Schwark made a stop in Fresno to fill up while traveling for work. She sees the price continually change.

Drivers will see an increase due to SB-1, which was signed into law by former Governor Brown to fix aging roadways and infrastructure. The goal is to make roadways better with tax dollars.

“I would definitely say they need help,” Schwark said. “There’s a lot of areas where I drive through town where

there’s a ton of work that needs to be done , but I don’t really see anything being done.”

There was an attempt to repeal the bill in last November’s midterm elections, but it failed.

The initiative, led by former San Diego City Councilman Carl DeMaio, would have repealed the gas tax increase enacted in 2017 and require voter approval for fuel tax increases in the future.

Prices in the United States fell 6.2 cents in the last week, bringing the national average to \$2.67 per gallon, which is 19.3 cents lower than a month ago and 22.2 cents lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy.

“For the sixth straight week, gasoline prices have declined

nationally, a feat not often seen heading into the prime of summer driving season,” GasBuddy’s head of petroleum analysis, Patrick DeHaan, said in a news release.

“For some states like California, Illinois and Ohio, the party may partially end in just two weeks as those states prepare to raise gasoline taxes a noticeable amount, sending their gas prices higher just in time for July 4.”

California’s latest gas tax is projected to raise \$50 billion over the next decade for road repairs.

Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, Downey’s representative in the state Assembly, voted in favor of the gas tax.

POETRY MATTERS

Habitation

Marriage is not
a house or even a tent

it is before that, and colder:

the edge of the forest, the edge
of the desert
the unpainted stairs
at the back where we squat
outside, eating popcorn

the edge of the receding glacier

where painfully and with wonder
at having survived even
this far

we are learning to make fire

- Margaret Atwood, Selected Poems, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Atwood is better known for her dystopian novel-turned-TV series, “A Handmaid’s Tale.” Her poem presents marriage as a volatile, on-edge, process, which survives, “with pain and wonder.” Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

60 Words

to celebrate the Downey Symphony Orchestra’s 60th anniversary

“By my best estimates, the Downey Symphony Orchestra’s adult concerts have been performed for more than 150,000 people over the years, and the Music in the Schools concerts in the Theatre have reached 50,000 3rd- and 5th-grade children. Since 1995, the MIS Quintet visits have been heard by virtually all the elementary school students in Downey, a really staggering number.”

Don Marshall, Symphonic Society President, in August, 2018
Compiled by Joyce Sherwin

WWI resonated in Downey

Continued from page 2

countries of Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Turkey and Greece. The women in Rivera also did Red Cross work and canned fruits for Herbert Hoover.

So the little farming community of Downey that for the past 50 years had been preoccupied with the hard task of turning a virgin valley into fertile acres suddenly found itself concerned with national and international problems. It was a highly intelligent community which always took pride in school and college.

Editor H. Hull of the Champion newspaper addressed himself to the audience with lucid editorials on the financial and economic problems of this massive national undertaking which would do credit to any metropolitan newspaper editor and audience.

Mr. Hull, on Sept. 27, 1917, pointed out that the war was costing the nation \$25 million a day. He went on: “Our own expenses should bring home to us the financial trial which have beset the belligerents during the past four years.”

The nation agreed with Mr. Hull and the first Liberty Loan drive raised \$3 billion in a period of one month. Over 4 million Americans responded.

This at a time when the majority of the citizens had never seen a \$100 bill.

Bobbi Bruce is a docent with the Downey Historical Society. Information in this article was taken from “The History of Downey, California” by Charles Russell Quinn

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Calendar

- MAY 29 Memorial Day ceremony
DATE: Monday, May 29
TIME: 11 am
LOCATION: Downey Cemetery
- BBQ and live music
DATE: Monday, May 29
TIME: 1 pm
LOCATION: Bastards
- BBQ and live DJ
DATE: Monday, May 29
TIME: 2 pm
LOCATION: Hi Cielo
- MAY 31 Columbus High graduation
DATE: Monday, May 31
TIME: 6:30 pm
LOCATION: Downey Theatre
- JUNE 1 All grand opening
DATE: Thursday, June 1
TIME: 10:30 am
LOCATION: 11213 Lakewood Blvd.
- Warren High graduation
DATE: Thursday, June 1
TIME: 7 pm
LOCATION: Veterans Memorial Stadium at LACC
- JUNE 2 Downey High graduation
DATE: Friday, June 2
TIME: 7 pm
LOCATION: Veterans Memorial Stadium at LACC
- JUNE 2-4 Downey Greek Festival
DATE: June 2-4
TIME: 10 am
LOCATION: St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- JUNE 3 Downey school board member D. Mark Morris also spoke favorably of the gallery.
DATE: Saturday, June 3
TIME: 1:30 am
LOCATION: Rio Hondo Event Center
- JUNE 8 Book Club meeting
DATE: Thursday, June 8
TIME: 12 pm
LOCATION: Downey City Library
- JUNE 10 Relay for Life
DATE: Saturday, June 10
TIME: 9 am
LOCATION: Downey Adult School
- JUNE 21 Graduation
DATE: Saturday, June 21
TIME: 10 am
LOCATION: Downey Adult School

City Council agrees to continue Stay Gallery financial support

City Council members ultimately voted 3-0 to continue funding the gallery. Mayor Fernando Vazquez and Councilmember Blanca Pacheco abstained - Vazquez is part-owner of a downtown business, and Pacheco is a former Stay Gallery board member.

The agreement with Downey Art Vibe calls for the city to cover the gallery's rent through May 31, 2020, plus an additional \$48,000 for program expenses. Subsidies will be paid out of the city's Art in Public Places fund, a purse financed by developers who forego installing public art and instead pay 1% of the new building's valuation.

As of Monday, the fund contained \$319,757.76, said Aldo Schindler, Downey's director of community development.

The contract names the Downey Arts Coalition "a strategic partner" in the success of the facility, and stipulates that the facility be made available to civic and community organizations.

"There's a market for art, the gallery cannot be rented out as a nightclub, but can be used for family functions such as birthdays and weddings. Quinceaneras and baptisms, however, are prohibited.

The city of Downey retained Dixon Resources Unlimited to review the downtown parking situation in response to the area's recent growth of retail and residential projects.

The firm concluded that "a parking shortage in Downtown Downey is not identified" but still offered recommendations to ease current time limit signs with new signage that includes exceptions for weekends and holidays.

They also recommended increased handicapped parking directional signs to the city parking structure; increased enforcement officer; and a shared agreement between downtown businesses and churches.

Paid parking meters are not being considered at this time. Council members voted unanimously to accept the recommendations.

There's no shortage of

Downey Patriot wins 5 journalism awards

AWARDS: Downey Patriot picks up 5 journalism awards

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This is how the Symphony celebrates 60 years

Downey Doings

By Lorine Parks
Society Columnist

What do soft jazz, country western and "Pops in the Park" have in common?

They are all part of the Downey Symphony's doings in June.

And what does an orchestra have that a band does not? Strings, that's what.

Violins, cellos and the big bass viol bring their voices and weave melodic counterpoint to the band's brassy marches and the classy timbre of the oboe and clarinet. What do both have in common? Drums, percussion, from the big bass drums and the snare's rat-a-tat, to the cymbals clang and triangles ting-a-ling.

Save Wednesday June 26 because that's when the Downey Symphony Orchestra brings orchestrated pops to Furman Park, in the City of Downey's Summer Series of Music Concerts.

Music Director Sharon Lavery has chosen highlights from Irving Berlin and Joh Williams, to go with the best from Oklahoma by Rogers and Hammerstein. Bugler's Holiday and Fiddle Faddle, both by LeRoy Anderson, have delighted audiences from the first moment they were played.

Bring blankets and a picnic and buy a dessert to help the Downey Rose Float Association while you enjoy a new patriotic medley, the America the Beautiful Suite, and then get teary at twilight with the nostalgic Salute to the Armed Forces.

Everybody's favorite finale is the unending playing of Souza marches while Maestro Sharon invites kids, from babes in arms on up, to come on stage and find out how it feels to wave the baton and conduct the music. Applause for all.

That's Wednesday June 26's Downey Doings. And then on Sunday June 30, the board of the Downey Symphonic Society has partnered with the Guild to put on a splendiferous barbecue at the Downey Women's Club.

An all-you-can-eat buffet will start the festivities, and the

musical highlights will be not one but two remarkable home-grown groups. Three's a Crowd, a trio of Lars Clutterham on piano, Bill Hare on drums and Mark Artusio plucking the bass, will play soft jazz.

For a musical double header, Steve Roberson will perform hits from his all-time hit parade. Steve is a double threat, writing the words as well as the melodies to his country-western style songs. Ask him for "I Like Older Women, How About You."

The occasion? The end of the celebration year marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Downey Symphony. Sixty years - that's longer than Steve has been in the real estate business in Downey. How does Steve feel about that?

"I started playing around 12 or 13," said Steve, "and though I am average at best I love playing. Country songs are stories and we try to put them into 3 minutes. The ideas are from everywhere... the little town in Texas where I was born, my ranch. Darlene and I have written a song for each grandchild. We look forward to playing on the 30th."

Sixty years' endurance is an unusual accomplishment for any endeavor and especially in something as prized and fragile as a musical organization. Most prized achievement: the Music in the Schools Program that brings

musical education to the school kids in Downey, and presents two live concert, one just for third graders, the other for fifth graders, in the Downey Theatre. The Downey Kiwanis Foundation and the DUSD support those.

And it is thanks to the men and women who founded and supported the Symphonic Society and the fabled Women's Committee, like Ellie and Jordan Phillips, Art Morris, Anne Sirrene and Dick Phillipi, Dick Holmes. Caesar Mattei, Adolph Weinberger. Dorothy Levin, Harold Tsklenis, Bob Bird, Jerry Elicks.

Thanks to the five conductors, Mario Cariotti, Louis Palange, Alberto Bolet, Tom Osborn and now Sharon Lavery. And the fine musicians we recruited to come and play for us in Downey. Bob Armor and Mark Artusio contracted for many of those. We remember them all.

Thanks to the passion for classical symphonic music, that sustained the vision of having a fine Downey Symphony Orchestra we could enjoy here in Downey.

It is for love of that, that we sold the seats, spread the news, wrote for the grants. And when the evening of the concert comes around and we hear the first stirring notes, we look at each other and we think, "It was worth it all."

For tickets to the June 30 BBQ party, call Joyce Sherwin at 562 928-4122.

'You're a Grand Old Rag' celebrates work of George Cohan

LA MIRADA -- "You're a Grand Old Rag," a musical celebration of Broadway legend George Cohan, will be presented for one performance only Sunday, June 30, at 2 p.m. at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts.

Cohan became synonymous with Americanism through his rousing songs "Over There," "You're a Grand Old Flag," "Give My Regards to Broadway," and more.

The June 30 performance is also being touted as "a fascinating, stirring look at patriotism, and what it means to be an American."

"As bands all across the U.S. play his songs this 4th of July, it's timely to ask: are we in concert, or in conflict, with the brand of patriotism Cohan symbolized and wrote about?" said BT McNicholl, La Mirada Theatre's artistic director.

Using Cohan's original orchestrations, the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra will feature Colin Pritchard singing beloved and rare tunes as featured on the group's hit Cohan album.

The afternoon's celebration expands to include:

A pre-show concert and presentation on American immigration and assimilation as seen through Cohan's "flag

plays" by musicologist Elizabeth Titrington Craft, based on her Harvard dissertation.

A post-show discussion with Cohan's great-granddaughter.

Rare footage not seen in 80 years of Cohan performing his own songs.

The world premiere of new Cohan songs from his final,

unproduced musical.

A lobby display of Cohan sheet music, souvenir programs, vintage photos, and more from the collection of Cohan expert Dave Collins.

Tickets to "You're a Grand Old Rag" range from \$17-\$27 and can be purchased at the box office or online at lamiradatheatre.com.



U.S. Air Force Airman Juan J. Sahagun graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio.

Sahagun is the son of Cecilia Cervantes of Downey.

He completed eight weeks of training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

He is the husband of Jenifer Sahagun of Norwalk, and graduated from Norwalk High in 2017.

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Just In Time For Summer!
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Opportunity is knocking for this starter home. Dated home needs paint and flooring, outdated kitchen. Make this home your masterpiece or investment. Features 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom with a driveway. Close to shopping, schools, 605 freeway, and 5 freeway. Call Today!!!

Classic!
Comfortable, classic Downey home. Nice 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home. It features a large master suite, 2 car garage and is close to schools. Call Today!!!

North Downey Home!
Welcome to this charming home located in a highly desirable area of North/East Downey. Featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, indoor laundry, dining room, additional family room, and grand fireplace in main living room! This home sits on a large lot with beautiful landscaping and private back yard! Call Today!!!

Cute Home!
Cute home in Uptown Whittier. Two bedrooms, one bathroom, plus a bonus room with its own entrance. New exterior paint and new laminate flooring in the living room, kitchen, and dining area. Indoor laundry room. Front yard porch offers gorgeous sunset views of Downtown Los Angeles. Walking distance to shops, restaurants, and movie theater. Call Today!!!

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Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom property at the end of a cul de sac. The home features an open floor plan with hardwood floors. The kitchen has nice granite counters and plenty of cabinet space. The backyard has a spa and built in BBQ which is perfect for entertaining. The home also has a bonus room with its own entrance and bathroom. Call Today!!!

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<p>PENDING!</p>  <p>Remodeled! 3 BD, 1 BA Norwalk home w/ 1,368 sq. ft. of living space, central a/c plus more! Call to make an appt to see! \$499,900.</p>	<p>SOLD!</p>  <p>SOLD in 1 Day!!! Find out what your property is worth! Call your neighborhood professionals who have worked in Downey for 40+ years!</p>	<p>Want references? We have them!</p>  <p>Read our Zillow client reviews Zillow Premier Agent</p> <p>We know Downey and the surrounding areas! Call us at 562-618-0033.</p>	<p>IN ESCROW!</p>  <p>Charming Mid-Century Ranch Style! 3 bedrooms 1.75 bathrooms, 1,510 sq. ft. living space 7,591 sq. ft. lot Tons of contemporary features! Call Pam for more info! 562-537-1134. PamLeeRealtor@gmail.com</p>	<p>WORTH DOWNY!</p>  <p>North Downey - 5 Bedrooms! 5 BD (4 downstairs) & a 900 sq. ft. Master retreat. Nearly 3,100 sq. ft. of living space, central a/c, fireplace, 2 car garage. MUST SEE!</p>
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