



Where Your Community News Comes First

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre — Arcadia — Pasadena — Altadena — Monrovia

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2009

VOLUME 3 NO. 20

BREAKING NEWS

Attack in Memorial Park Suspect Attacks Day Laborer

Sierra Madre's Memorial Park was the scene of what has been reported as an unprovoked attack by a homeless man on an unsuspecting day laborer. Police were summoned to the park shortly after 10 a.m. where the badly beaten victim was found. The man sustained extensive damage to his left eye and was taken to the hospital by Sierra Madre paramedics. His condition was unknown at press time.

According to Sierra Madre police chief Marilyn Diaz, the suspect is Raymond Sanchez, a transient who has been in the area for more than three years.

After the attack Sanchez fled the scene but was soon apprehended by Captain Larry Giannoni. He was booked and charged with assault with a deadly weapon and transported to Los Angeles by the LA County Sheriffs Department.

Staff/mvnews

Alverno Students will Give their Locks for Love, Invite Community to Join

On Tuesday, May 27 from 11:30 to 1pm on the terrace at Alverno High School, girls will donate their ponytails to Locks of Love. This non-profit organization uses donated hair to provide hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children with medical hair loss.

"Nearly a dozen professional hairstylists from across the San Gabriel Valley will set up on the school terrace on May 27," says Campus Minister Chris McGuiness, adding that he is impressed with the number of stylists who offered to donate their expertise for the event, which is sponsored by the school's active Campus Ministry. The last Locks of Love held at Alverno yielded 65 feet of 11 inch ponytails. "We've got a record to beat," notes McGuiness.

"This year, we are inviting members of the community in Sierra Madre to join us," says Ann Gillick, Alverno's Head of School, who donated 11 inches of her long hair the last time Alverno hosted Locks of Love. "Everyone cheers the donors, the girls encourage each other, and everyone has a good time for a good cause. It's such a positive experience that we want to open it up to members of the community outside the school."

Sierra Madre residents who wish to donate their locks should come to the school terrace at 200 N. Michillinda Ave. They should be sure to check in at the office first.

Nestled on a 13 acre campus in the foothills of Sierra Madre, Alverno High School is a highly regarded independent, Catholic high school for girls. Its college-prep curriculum attracts students from public and private schools throughout the San Gabriel Valley. The school will celebrate the 50th anniversary of preparing young women for the future with a series of events during the 2010-2011 school year.

City of Sierra Madre Public Hearing Notice

From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: FY 2009/2011 Proposed Budget
Applicant: City of Sierra Madre

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the City Council will conduct a public hearing to consider FY 2009/2011 Budget and GANN Limits

PLACE OF HEARING

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre
City of Sierra Madre
Special City Council meeting
City Council Chambers
Thursday, May 28, 2009

232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
(Hearing begins at 6:30 p.m.)
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the City Council will hear them with respect thereto.
For further information on this subject, please contact the Administrative Services Department at (626) 355-7135.
By Order of the City Council
Karin Schnaider,
Director of Administrative Services

A Gift From The Heart: 16th Century Painting Donated By Local Art Restorer



Story and Photo by Chris Bertrand

Frank and Ilona Van Dongen, owner of Harlequin Art Gallery at 14 N. Baldwin in Sierra Madre, is known nationally as an exceptional restorer of historic paintings. Last year, after a lengthy restoration of a religious painting known as "The Holy Face", he arranged to allow the public to view the painting at St. Rita's Church here in Sierra Madre, before the owner took delivery of the restored historic painting.

A few years ago, the Van Dongens invited Fr. Richard Krekelberg, St. Rita pastor, to view another painting in their private collection. Estimated to be of 16th century Peruvian origin, the fragile artwork known as "The Heavenly Coronation" had been willed to Frank Van Dongen eighteen years ago by a local art collector and dear friend, "because Frank showed so much love and appreciation for this time-honored work of art."

The work was unsigned, but few religious works of that era bear the artist's signature. It was a show of respect and piety for the religious nature of the art. The depiction in the painting is of the Holy Trinity at the top of the painting, Jesus on the left with wounds on hands, the Holy Spirit in the middle, and God the Father. They appear together, placing a crown on Mary's head.

Over the years, Fr. Krekelberg asked that the painting be donated to the parish here for all to appreciate. Van Dongen agreed, and then proceeded with the daunting task of restoration. Frank and his associates painstakingly prepared the painting for permanent display. They decided to leave the tattered edges in place, then applied a new backing, bonding it with wax. In the process, they had to "plug" the open holes in the painting with special tape, so the bonding wax would not bleed through to the front of the painting. The new backing retains the original quality of the burlap-like fabric used by the Peruvians to carry their harvested vegetables.

Fr. Richard Krekelberg, pastor of St. Rita, "deliberately chose Mother's Day and First

Communion weekend to unveil, bless and dedicate this most wonderful gift bestowed upon our St. Rita Parish. No better month could have been chosen since May is Mary's month, celebrating the gift of her as Mother to us all. It is also our patronal feast day month, celebrating our namesake, St. Rita's saintly motherhood. May it truly be a special occasion and grace for all our Mothers living and deceased this day! All of us here at St. Rita are deeply grateful to the Van Dongens for their priceless donation, and pledge our prayerful gratitude."

Display of the painting was not a simple matter of hammering a nail in place and popping it onto the wall. The parish contracted Le Veque Construction, parishioners, and Post Alarm of Arcadia to devise a safe and secure method to exhibit the painting. There was no electrical or lighting in that corner area of the church, and since it's of cast concrete construction, it entailed quite a feat to light and secure the piece. "We had to go up and around a very circuitous route through the church's construction to discreetly bring power to the location," commented Tony Le Veque.

In order to further validate the painting's origins and age, a microscopic piece of the painting will be sent to the Mc Crone Research Institute of Chicago. Dr. Walter C. Mc Crone, 1916-2002, founded the institute in 1960, was world renowned for his materials analysis, and scientifically analyzed the "Shroud of Turin." His non-profit institute continues his work today.

"The Heavenly Coronation" is available for viewing at St. Rita Church, Baldwin at Grandview in Sierra Madre, during open church hours from 8 a.m. through sundown daily. For more information, please contact the church office at 626-355-1292.

Editor's Note: As this edition went to press, we were informed of the passing of Fran Van Dongen early Thursday morning. Our prayers are with Ilona and the Van Dongen family.

MOUNTAIN STORM!!

Mountain Rescue Team Members Leave Denali Mountain at 17,200' PART 3

By Bruce Lamarche

DENALI (Mt. McKinley), Alaska

Members of the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team began climbing the world-class mountain on Monday, April 27th. The six member team includes Sierra Madre Search and Rescue members, Susan McCreary, Jon Pedder, and Roger Gray. The other three members, Fran and Jeff Sharp and Berndt Bittlingmaier are members of Tacoma Mountain Rescue Team. The team called themselves "Team Shake & Bake".

As of Wednesday, the Team arrived at the 14,000 foot level for two days of needed rest. Each member carried a 90 pound backpack and was hauling a sled carrying about 100 pounds of food and shelter. This is necessary as the group must be self contained. There are no resources on the mountain to draw on.

Note: Expeditions like this are important to hone the serious skills needed for mountain rescue activities. As teams responding to rescues in all environments and in all seasons, trips like this are imperative to create the skills necessary to handle the varied terrain and weather encountered in rescue responses. Art Fortini, president of Sierra Madre Rescue Team, said, "The Team is supported entirely by community donations, but trips of this expense and duration are funded entirely by the members participating. No donated funds are used for these types of trips." (continued page 5)

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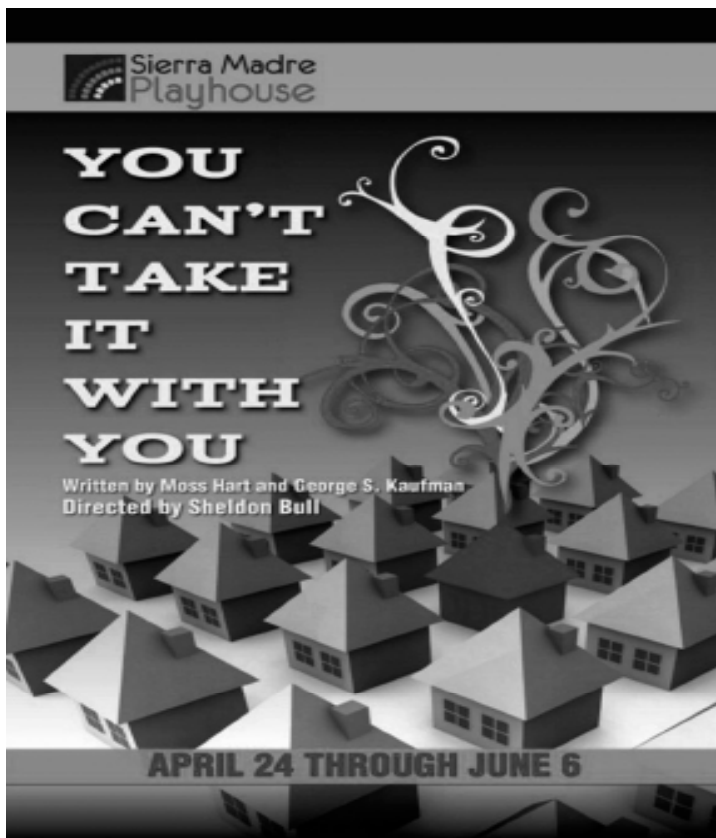
Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.



Mon: Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Tues: Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Wed: Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s
Thur: Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Fri: Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



SM PLAYHOUSE Performances:

Fridays: 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 6/5

Saturdays: 5/16, 5/23, 5/30, 6/6

Sundays: 5/17, 5/24, 5/31

Regular Admission: \$20 Adult \$17 Seniors 65+ \$17

Students under 18 \$12 Children 12 and under

For reservations, call anytime at 626-355-4318

Casting Call! Multiple Roles Available in Contemporary New Musical

Looking for college age through 20's (but will talk to mature high school students) singer/actors to play numerous parts in an original, contemporary musical. Three performances in October with possibly more to be scheduled. Six female roles, 9 male roles. Short rehearsal schedule, flexible audition times to work with your schedule.

E-mail: freshwater@prodigy.net

BARGAIN BOOK TABLE SALE AT SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will have a Bargain Book Table Sale inside the Library, Monday, May 11 through Saturday, May 16, during the Library's public open hours. Featured subjects will include Fiction, Health, Children's, Specialty, and Collectible books, all in good condition. All books will be sold at the bargain price of \$1.00 each. These every-other-month book sales provide funding for Library resources and programs. The Sierra Madre Public Library, located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, is open Monday through Wednesday from Noon to 9 p.m., Thursday & Friday from Noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (626) 355-7186, www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Happy Mother's Day					Travelers & Collectors Season Finale Friday, May 8th Council Chambers 7:30 pm	Mother's Day Tea With Louisa May Alcott Saturday, May 9th 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Sierra Madre Women's Club 550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd \$20 for Adults \$8 Children under 17
			Senior Commission Meeting 3:00 pm, Council Chambers			
Mother's Day Sunday May 10th					May 16 & 17 Sierra Madre Art Fair Memorial Park, 9:30 am	
				Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm Council Chambers	Mt. Wilson Trail Race	
May 2009						

SIERRA MADRE CHAMBER INVITES LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS FOR COFFEE

Beginning May 28th, the Sierra Madre Chamber invites local business owners, both members and prospective members, to stop by the Chamber office each Thursday morning between 7am and 9am to share a cup of coffee, and to discuss how the Chamber can assist local businesses. Chamber President Matt Krantz and Executive Director Bill Coburn will be on hand to receive feedback from local businesses about what the Chamber currently does to promote and serve local businesses, and how it can better serve the needs of Sierra Madre's business community. Beantown Coffee Bar will donate the fresh brewed coffee. The Chamber office is located at 37 N. Auburn Ave., Ste. 1 in Sierra Madre. Call for more info at (626) 355-5111, or visit the Chamber's regularly updated website at www.SierraMadreChamber.com.

Fiction and Creative Non-Fiction Workshop

Tuesdays, May 26 - June 30,
6:30 - 8:30pm
\$350.00 per student (plus tax)

Our class will be a workshop, with students reading aloud their own work, and with our classmates and myself offering gentle, supportive suggestions. A selection of modern essays and stories will be discussed. The emphasis is on writing that reflects on the nature of life and tries to make some sense of it. ("A writer is one on whom nothing is lost," said Henry James. "Fiction is news from existence," said Saul Bellow.) Personal memoir and humor, explorations of family dynamics, and love stories (both romantic and familial) are welcome. The deepest experiences of life will be the subjects you explore.

We will discuss in class, in addition to the art and craft of writing well, "the writing life," aspects of publishing and marketing, the benefits of having an agent, the nature of the publishing industry today, and related matters. We will begin class by sharing some exercises

addressing "hot spots" in your lives and eventually you will complete one essay, memoir or story.

Instructor: Merrill Joan Gerber
Vroman's Bookstore, 695 E. Colorado Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91101. www.vromansbookstore.com, 626 449 5320.

Merrill Joan Gerber is a prize-winning writer whose stories have appeared in The New Yorker, The Atlantic, Mademoiselle, The Southwest Review, The Sewanee Review, Commentary, and many other literary journals. Among her awards are a Wallace Stegner Fiction Fellowship, an O.Henry Prize, a Pushcart Editor's Book Award, and the Ribalow Prize from Hadassah Magazine. Her newest novel is The Victory Gardens of Brooklyn. She teaches fiction writing at the California Institute of Technology. Merrill Joan Gerber's website including prizes and publications: www.cco.caltech.edu/~mjgerber

HOT TIME, SUMMER IN THE CITY

Creative Arts Group kicks off the summer with a sizzling reception featuring the work of our "oh-so-cool" faculty Sunday, June 7th, from 12-5 pm at the Jameson Gallery located at 108 N. Baldwin Avenue in Sierra Madre. Our talented instructors will be on hand to answer questions and watercolors, oils, ceramics, enameling, mosaics, puppetry and more will be on display representing summer classes available for children and adults. Light refreshments will be served and the public is invited.

Creative Arts Group is proud to be a participant in the Open Studio Artists' Tour which takes place the same day. Visit working artist studios in the canyon and village in this self-guided tour of Sierra Madre. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of the tour and can be purchased at the gallery.

Creative Arts Group is the place to indulge (or maybe just become acquainted with) your artistic muse; and it all starts June 7th. For more information or questions, call (626) 355-8350.

Breeders' Cup Volunteers Wanted November 6 & 7, Santa Anita Park

Volunteer for the 2009 Breeders' Cup World Championships at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, November 6 & 7 during the Oak Tree Racing meet.

It's a chance to be a part of the action, welcome thousands of visiting guests to Arcadia and see the world's greatest races.

Jobs include showing trainers and families to their seats and the paddock area, providing information, helping in the parking lot, working tables and booths, and other assignments.

To sign up or for more information contact Connie Russell at 562-699-7737 / connier80@msn.com or Pete Siberell, at 626-574-6373 / psiberell@santaanita.com

Where To Find The Mountain Views News (partial listing)

Sierra Madre
Post Office
Starbucks
Beantown
SM Library
Happy's Liquors
Bottle Shop
Webb Martin Realtors
SM City Hall
Senior Center

Altadena
Library
Sheriff's Department
Webster's
The Coffee Gallery

Arcadia
Fasching's Car Wash
Ralphs on Huntington
Rod's Cafe
Post Office
Fresh N Easy
Monrovia
Trader Joe's
Dollmakers
Community Center
The Monrovia

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REMEMBRANCE



HOFFMAN, Rosita Delores (Watt)

Rosita Hoffman, a longtime Sierra Madre resident passed away peacefully on April 6, 2009. Born in Pasadena, California, she is survived by her husband of 62 years John Henry Hoffman. In addition, she is survived by her daughter, Marcia, son, John Peter and grandchildren, Ian, Olivia and Ellie.

A well known local potter and artist, Rosita often exhibited her work at the Sierra Madre Art Fair. She loved children and among her many lifetime accomplishments, she was proud to have taught at Sierra Madre Community Nursery School. She was also a member of the Sierra Madre Women's Club.

A celebration of Rosita's life will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2009 at 4:00 pm in the home of John and Marty Hoffman, 815 S. Woodward Blvd., Pasadena, Ca.



Rich Johnson

Time Traveling the Art Fair

I hope you managed to make it to the Friends of the Sierra Madre's 47th Art Fair! I always feel a little more cultured and refined when I walk around the park looking at something other than a computer screen.

Of course, the culture and refinement boost lasts but a few nanoseconds and then it's back to the same old Rich. I did purchase, at last year's fair, one of Djibril N'Dove works of art which now hangs on my living room wall. I get a slight boost of classiness (or at least the feeling of it) when I walk in the door. His work can be viewed at www.djibrilndoye.com.

Whether you attended the fair or not, I thought I would offer you a chance to revisit it via the world wide web. A few of the artists have their own websites. So, just maybe if I list them you'll visit them. They would love to sell you a masterpiece of one form or another. If you visit and buy, be sure to let them know the Art Fair was responsible for your patronage. I believe in libraries and we have a good one worthy of support. Here they are:

Oil painters: www.prefineart.com, www.carolyngravatte.com, www.arthyora.com, www.carolynjean.com, www.laurawambsgans.com, www.lindadupus.com.

Ceramics: www.anniesgardenceramics.com, www.beyondbluceramics.com, www.villageclayworks.com, www.gailsplayer.com, www.maryswann.com, www.venierceramics.com.

Watercolors: www.myraepsteinart.com, www.belindadelpeco.com.

Photography:

www.twoguysartfulimages.com, www.sjohnstonephoto.com, www.kemmytong.com, www.mountainsandmeadows.com, www.worthamphotography.com.

Jewelry: www.trudyjames.com, www.beverlyjones.com, www.dorotheenaumburg.com, www.karmakulture.com, www.roberttuleydesigns.com.

Miscellaneous: www.capturedcactus.com, www.robertmarble.com, www.storiedwoods.com, www.albertmukasawilson.com, www.lucasiaglassart.com,

www.ayershandwoven.com, www.leafmotif.com, www.cramerclay.com, www.michaelrcrook.com, www.jennifur-e-studios.com, www.sassafrasspottery.com.

Even the musicians have their own websites: www.janefuller.com,

www.stringplanet.com, www.cowbop.com, www.tomcorbett.net, www.myspace.com/vinfizflyerband, www.joelpemmer.com,

Coincidental to our latest peek at how municipal government work, I often flip a coin when I don't know what to write about in this column or even whether to write one or not. Like Mr. Watts I typically use a nickel. Bill Cosby once did a comedy routine about the flipping of a coin before major events in history. He insisted there was a coin toss between General Custer and Sitting Bull immediately preceding the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Custer lost the toss (probably called out tails.) Losing meant he was required to assemble a small band of soldiers down in the middle of a valley and wait until every native American in the world attacked him and his men. According to Mr. Cosby there was also a coin toss between General Washington and General Cornwallis just before the start of the Revolutionary War. Cornwallis and the British lost the toss which meant his army had to wear bright red uniforms and march in a straight line across open fields. For winning the toss General Washington's men could wear camouflage, hide behind trees and shoot at the colorfully dressed British targets, uh, soldiers. Apparently councilman D.W. is a student of this brand of decision making. Maybe, if he runs for re-election his official photo can be that of him flipping a coin. Hmmm, and maybe every city decision should be decided by a coin toss. What do you think? I know: I call tails!

ROB STOCKLY TO START 2009 MT. WILSON TRAIL RACE

Former mayor and Sierra Madre Citizen of the Year Rob Stockly has been named as official starter for this year's Mt. Wilson Trail Race, to take place on the morning of Saturday, May 23. The 8.6-mile race will start promptly at 7:30A from Kersting Court.

This year will mark the 101st anniversary of California's second oldest trail race. From the original eight participants who ran up to the top of Mt. Wilson in 1908, the 2009 race has registered over 300 runners who will run 4.3 miles up to Orchard Camp (a vertical climb of 2,100 feet) and back.

While the event was sold out six weeks before race day, everyone is encourage to come to Kersting Court not only to cheer runners on, but to also "celebrate the trail," the single-track path that ascends to Mt. Wilson.

Like the Wisteria Festival and July 4th Parade, the Mt. Wilson Trail race is truly one of those events which make Sierra Madre unique. It is a team effort between the City of Sierra Madre, Sierra Madre Police Department, Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department, Sierra Madre Civic Club, Sierra Madre Woman's Club, Sierra Madre Search & Rescue, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts troops of Sierra Madre and the Mt. Wilson Trail Race committee. It seems the entire town comes out to cheer its fellow residents to the finish line from their long, arduous trek up the mountain.

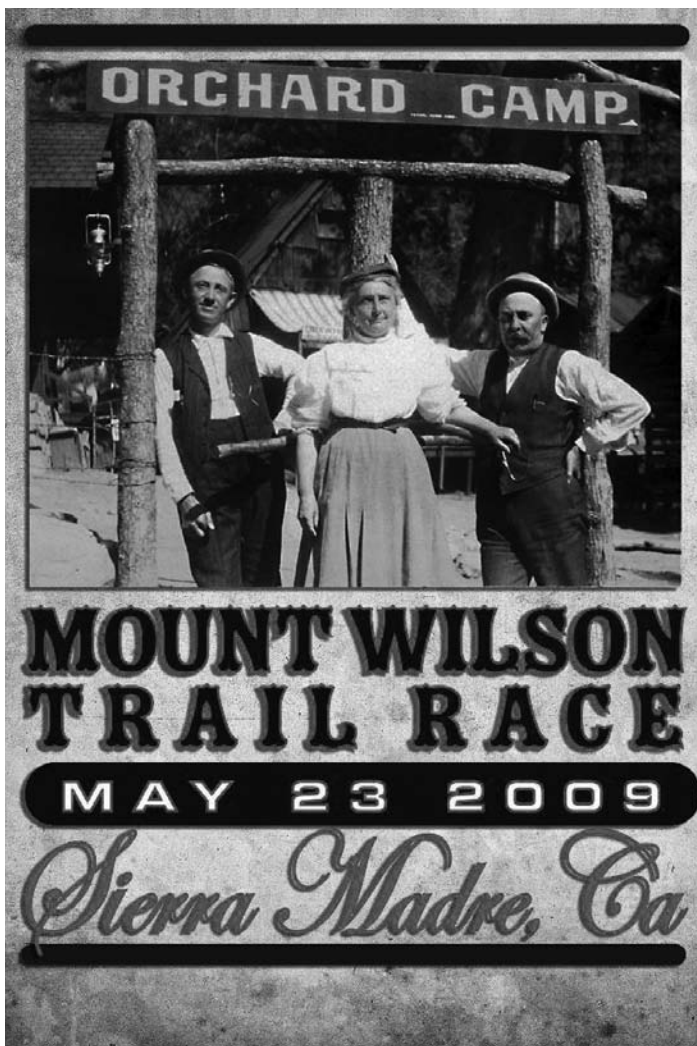
Defending men's champion J.J. Timphony will be back to defend his title, while the third place 2008 women's finisher, Jill Liston of Sierra Madre looks like the one to beat, with past champion Sharon Pevsner in close pursuit. Both Ms. Liston and Ms. Pevsner will have their husbands Jim and Bill in the race, this being the second year the MWTR will have a couples and family competition, with prizes presented to the top finishing family members.

Race weekend starts with a pre-race pasta dinner in Kersting Court on Friday, May 22 from 6:00P to 8:00P. Here runners can pick up their race numbers and t-shirts and enjoy a great meal from Café 322 for just \$6.75. Proceeds benefit Sierra Madre Search & Rescue.

Race number pick-up starts at 6:00A on Saturday, with the race starting at 7:30A. Spectators can walk among the various trail-related booths, enjoy the Kids' Art Show and music in Kersting Court and buy a variety of breakfast food from local eateries. The MWTR Kids' Race, a 1-mile run up Baldwin Avenue and back goes off at 7:45A while the older kids and adults are heading up the mountain. The Kids' Race is free; all finishers receive a t-shirt and ribbon. There is also a beer garden sponsored by Silver Star Imports and Lucky Baldwin's, with the proceeds benefitting Sierra Madre Search & Rescue. Finally the awards ceremony will be held at 10:30A, with top finishers receiving replicas of the medals given out at the first MWTR in 1908. Sierra Madre City Councilman – and MWTR runner – John Buchanan will be on hand to hand out trophies, awards and other recognition.

Sponsors of the race include Run With Us/Pasadena, Salomon, ASICS, Citizens Business Bank, CATZ Sports, TEAM Crossfit/Elite Fitness Academy, Mountain Khakis, Nathan, Café 322, Hammer Nutrition, Power Bar, Lucky Baldwin's Delirium Pub and Santa Anita Park.

For more information on the race and related activities, please call the Community Services Department at the City of Sierra Madre at 626-355-5278 or go to www.cityofsierramadre.com.



Social Events, Continued

The social event of the season for the Monrovia New Horizons Senior Club took place on May 5th as a "full house" of seniors celebrated member Marion Melon's 100th birthday. Let me say right here Marion is not one's typical 100-year-old. She attends all of the meetings and looks like a China doll just stepping out of Vogue Magazine. You may have seen her photo in the Monrovia Weekly, taken by Terry Miller at the celebration. One would never target her as even 90. Her cousin, Paul Stone, visiting from the Midwest, gave us a run-down on her interesting 100 years. One fascinating thing was she has spent only one overnight stay in a hospital in all of those years. She outlived two husbands, both dying of cancer, and came to this area to be near her long-time friend Betty Stiles, also a member of the club. Besides Paul and his wife, Jane, attending, was Father Charles Ramirez, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Monrovia, who presented Marion with a birthday greeting from Cardinal Mahony, and outgoing Mayor Rob Hammond who presented her with a plaque from the City. May 20th will be Marion Melon Day in Monrovia.

Today, May 16th is the long-awaited official opening of the new Monrovia Public Library. It will be a spectacular affair. Director of Community Services, April Soash, and Library Division Manager, Monica Greening, have been working for years to bring this magnificent achievement to fruition. I've known both of them along the way and never cease to be amazed at their combined accomplishment for the people of Monrovia. Monica has held her current position for 27 years, and April has been active

in Community Services forever, even before she was made Director.

Now, how about that recent election of City Council members in Monrovia!! Joe Garcia held onto his seat and Bernard Shaw made it by only 25 votes separating him from Becky Shevlin, who was then appointed to fill the vacancy left by Mary Ann Lutz who was elected as the new Mayor of Monrovia. It was SRO last Tuesday as the new council was installed in their new positions. City Clerk Linda Proctor and Steve Baker, City Treasurer had no problems, having run unopposed.

Next on the social calendar, is the "Celebrate Louise" gathering on June 4th, to be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Monrovia. Dr. Louise Taylor is stepping down as Superintendent of Schools, after 29 years of service with the Monrovia Unified School District. Looking forward to that. Net proceeds go to the Monrovia Schools Foundation. Joanne Spring will answer any questions, 626-358-1952.

On the heels of that celebration is the 11th Golden Plate Awards Gala, sponsored by the Foothill Unity Center, Inc., on Saturday, June 6th, also at the Doubletree Hotel in Monrovia. Honored as 2009 Heart and Hand Humanitarians will be Dr. Sandra Thomas, Chief Bernard Melekian and Betty Sandford. Having known Betty Sandford for umpteen years, I can vouch for her superb qualifications for this award. Betty and her late husband Jules worked tirelessly on every humanitarian project that came down the pike over the last several decades. Congratulations to all three worthy recipients! For information, call Gerald, 626-358-3486. postrye@netzero.com

Duarte California America Water to Hold Public Meeting on Water Rates, Conservation

DUARTE, CA, – Representatives from California American Water Co. will be in Duarte on Thursday, May 21, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. to discuss water rates, water conservation, and planned infrastructure improvements. Residents are urged to attend the meeting to ask questions and share their thoughts with company representatives at the Duarte Community Center, 1600 Huntington Dr.

Duarte residents could see their water rates increase by 56% in 2010 under a proposed rate increase request currently under review by the California Public Utilities Commission. Another 4% increase is proposed to go into effect in 2011 for Duarte residents.

"We realize that rate increases are a sensitive issue, particularly in this economy," said Todd Brown, California American Water general manager

for Southern California. "That is why we feel it is important to reach out to the community and explain exactly why a rate increase is needed, and how the additional investments in infrastructure will benefit our customers. Once customers learn about the investments we are making to their water system and the strict regulatory process we adhere to, it will provide a better understanding of the value of the service we provide."

Information on conservation rebates for toilets and washing machines, free conservation kits with water saving devices including low flow showerheads and garden hose nozzles will also be available at the meeting.

For more information, call California America Water, (888) 237-1333, or visit the company's website at www.californiaamwater.com.

Arcadia Whiskers 'n Tails Pet Fair & Parade

This pet event is FREE and open to all four-legged family members and their owners! The event includes vendors, pet care tips and adoption opportunities as well as craft area for the kids. Pets will also get a chance to strut their stuff by joining our Wacky Pet Parade. The parade begins at 11am and will feature pets both big and small who dare to venture out in the wackiest pet attire. Awards

will be given for best dressed pet & best dressed pet/owner combo. Parade & contest registration begins at 10am. All animals must be secured on a leash. This is a family friendly event, no aggressive animals please.

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, May 30
City Hall Lawn

Sierra Madre Doubletree Hotel Donates To SMSR

Luis Plascencia, (center) General Manager of the Doubletree Hotel, Monrovia is flanked by Bruce Lamarche of Sierra Madre Search and Rescue (L) and Matt Krantz, President of the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, and employees of the Doubletree Hotel as he presents a donation to Lamarche for the world famous Search and Rescue team. Doubletree employees worked a booth at the Wisteria Festival put on by the Sierra Madre Chamber, with the proceeds from the sales of the Hotel's signature cookies being given to Search and Rescue.



47th Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair

Saturday, May 16, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday, May 17, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free Admission

About 100 Artists,
Children's Activities,
Live Entertainment and Food Court



"Warm Light at Dawn" by Featured Artist photographer Kenny Tong.

222 West Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA
For event information: Call 626.355.7186 or visit
www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org
Benefits Sierra Madre Public Library

Mountain Views News Pasadena Altadena

News Form Your Community For Your Community

County To Create 'Green Initiatives' Service Centers

The Board of Supervisors approved Tuesday a motion by Supervisors Michael Antonovich and Mark Ridley-Thomas to provide County residents, businesses and contractors one-stop Environmental Service Centers to access technical resources and financial incentives related to the County's "green" initiatives.

Funded through the Energy Efficiency and Conversation Block Grant Program, the program provides funds to improve energy efficiency reduce energy use and spur economic growth and job creation.

The proposal also provides funding for a website linking all County resources and services at www.lacounty.green.gov. The Chief Executive Officer will report back to the Board with an update on the plan on June 23.

Area Stimulus Collaboration Summit Coming

The Pasadena City College Community Education Center is hosting a "Stimulus Collaboration Summit" Thursday, May 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the CEC's Jack Scott Multipurpose Room. The event is free to the public, but on a RSVP basis due to limited seating. Lunch will be provided to those who attend.

The summit features discussion and distribution of information on federal Recovery Act funding, as well as developing ideas on how to best spend stimulus dollars to effectively assist unemployed Californians in job training and finding new jobs, according to CEC Dean Rick Hodge. The summit includes four breakout groups involving City of Pasadena economic development, local public colleges, the Foothill workforce investment board, and local non-profit organizations. Prior to the panels, an economic forecast for the Southern California region will be presented along with a half-hour presentation on Recovery Act access.

Geoffrey L. Baum, Pasadena Area Community College District Board of Trustee, is expected to moderate the summit. Baum is also a member of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.

To reserve a seat for the summit, e-mail Hodge at rlhodge@pasadena.edu or call for a reservation at 626-585-3010.

The CEC is located at 3035 E. Foothill Blvd. in Pasadena.

Gold Line Foothill Extension Denied Stimulus Funding



By Dean Lee

The United States Transportation Department last week did not include the Gold Line Foothill Extension in the federal stimulus package which some officials said could have moved the completion date up from the now estimated 2017.

The project will have to rely on Measure R funding to move forward. The extension would connect the line from

Pasadena to Montclair.

Michael Cano, transportation deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich said, "What this stimulus money was to inject \$750 million nationally for the projects that are competing for those dollars."

He added, "So the Gold Line was put forth by the MTA along with another two projects and when the federal government made



the decision what project got money, the foothill extension didn't get any money."

He said they requested \$250 million. If the money had become available he said the project could have been started as early as next year.

Cano also said the project needed to be on the MTAA list of long range plans which it is not. He said the MTA had done everything possible to try killing the project. He said most of

what had already been done used money left over from the first phase completed in 2003 connecting Pasadena to Downtown L.A.

Measure R, passed by voters in Nov. 2008, he said had \$738 million earmarked for the extension although that would only take the project out to Azusa he said.

He said the next step was to get the MTA board in June to vote to put the project on tier list of long range plans.

Fire Department Warning of Unofficial Inspectors

By Dean Lee

Pasadena Fire Marshall Mark Fasick is warning local business owners to be leery of a possible fire inspector scam after a local Playhouse District business owner Saturday reported suspicious men claiming to be official inspectors.

Fasick said although unofficial fire inspectors are not illegal they most likely end up costing a property owner money for nothing. "You're just basically giving your money away," he cautioned.

He also said the law was unclear in this area.

"The fire department is required to do inspections," he said. "But there is nothing that says a company can't do this type of work, it's kind of a



gray area, to go in and advise people and charge them."

He said types of fire inspections vary, with most being done annually, but stressed they must be done by them to be legitimate. He advised to call the fire department if in doubt.

Fasick explained, without giving the name of the business, that Saturday's incident led to the owner calling the

police after a person claiming to do an inspection wanted to go into the attic. He said before police arrived, the person got scared and left.

He added that the person had left an invoice, "We are doing some follow up on that," he said adding that police were also investigating.

It was unclear if a crime had occurred or if anything was stolen he said. "They can come in dressed just like us and people trust them, they think they are the fire department, and allow them in places in the buildings unsupervised."

Fasick added that official fire inspectors will be dressed in uniform, "he'll have the city Id and will have a badge from the city," he explained saying that if you don't see a badge ask for one.

Community Meeting Will Highlight Bike Plan Goals

Increasing opportunities for bicycle recreation, commuting and running errands are a few of the goals to be presented at the next meeting to update Pasadena's Bicycle Master Plan to improve conditions and encourage bicycling.

Other goals include improved bicycle safety and parking, and creating a network of bikeways so every neighborhood has an effective route in north-south and east-west directions.

Hosted by the city's Department

of Transportation and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee, the meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Pasadena High School, 2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Ryan Snyder Associates consultant, will provide a progress report to the Bicycle Master Plan study, and breakout sessions will be held for the public to comment on the action items for each goal and objective.

For more information call (626) 744-7254.



NASA Wins Two Webby Awards For Internet Excellence

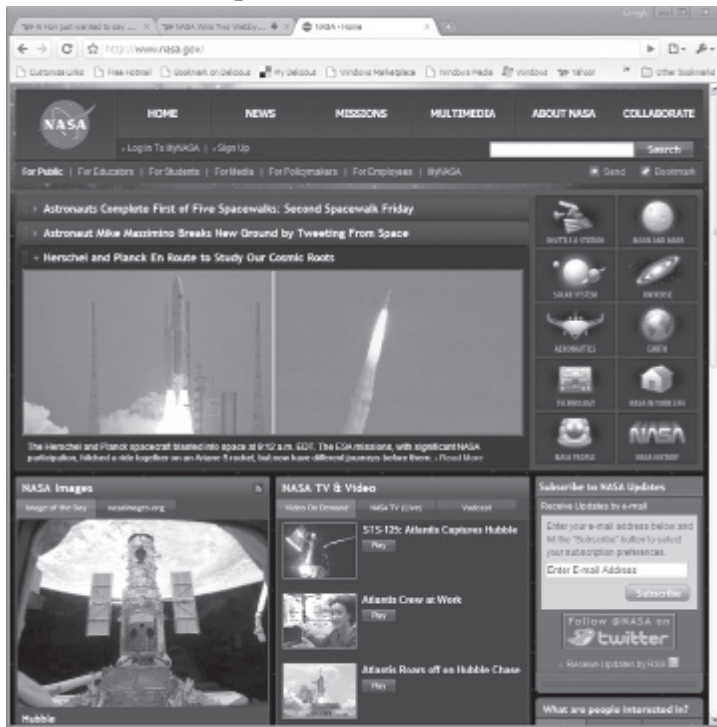
PASADENA, Calif. –

NASA has received two Webby awards for excellence on the Internet. NASA's main Web site, <http://www.nasa.gov>, won the People's Voice award for best government Web site. The Cassini mission Web site, <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov>, received a Webby award for best science site.

The People's Voice award is the second for NASA's Web site, which also won in 2003. More than 500,000 people cast votes this year.

"We're extremely happy to be honored by the Internet community this way," said Brian Dunbar, the content manager for <http://www.nasa.gov> at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "We've always tried to focus the site on giving the public what they're looking for in an engaging and compelling way. Combined with some of the highest customer-satisfaction ratings in the government, this award tells us we're on the right track."

Judges from the



International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, which sponsors the Webbys, selected the Cassini site for the top honor in the science category.

"The Cassini Web site is the door to the science and technology of the mission to Saturn, contained in hundreds of thousands of pages," said Alice Wessen, manager of Cassini public engagement at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory,

Pasadena, Calif. "The site houses all the latest news, science findings and images Cassini returns as it orbits Saturn. The public can see every picture within eight hours after it's beamed down from the spacecraft."

NASA's Web site, which received 120 million visits in 2008, offers the public the latest news, mission coverage and multimedia from the agency's scientific research,

technology development and exploration efforts. Visitors can surf thousands of images from throughout the universe, watch live video from the International Space Station or read more than a dozen blogs written by agency employees.

In the last year, the NASA Web team has expanded its presence into social media, creating an official NASA channel on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/nasatelevision>, multiple Twitter feeds led by @NASA, and mission pages on Facebook and MySpace. Since NASA astronaut Mike Massimino began twittering via @Astro_Mike on April 3, he has gained more than 175,000 followers. NASA was recognized in February with a Shorty award for its @marsphoenix Twitter presence, which was written in the "voice" of the spacecraft.

For a list of NASA missions providing updates on social media Web sites, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/collaborate>.

City Takes Lead in PUSD Emergency Preparedness

By Dean Lee

The city council agreed Monday night to take an active roll in evaluating the city's and Pasadena Unified School District's emergency preparedness programs after School Superintendent Edwin Diaz said they did not have the staff to do so.

"We are ready to move forward on this in an aggressive way," he said, "however, we don't have the existing capacity on staff to be able to lead this effort from the district side."

Diaz said through one of their safety grants they were able to commit funds to bring in someone on a 50 percent basis to work on developing a preparedness plan. "To be able to get all of our emergency procedures in place and work with the city," He explained.

City Manager Michael Beck said this was a top priority for the city.

"The schools clearly house some of our most sensitive residents," he said, "And we want to make sure that those perimeters, programs and plans are all in place in an effort to ensure their safety in the times of a disaster."

Councilmember Steve Haderlein asked that the report be brought back to both boards in 120 days which Fire Chief Dennis Downs said could be done.

Downs explained that along with a preparedness program, the city and PUSD need a local Hazard Mitigation Plan required by the federal government, a disaster response plan, the National Incident Management System and a trained custodial staff which he said would be the first responders.

He also said they were looking into grant money to pay for some of the cost.

Pet of the Week



Lizzy, a wonderful, year old calico will surely make a wonderful companion for any household. She is affectionate, playful and so adorable! Come visit with this lovely little cat today!

The regular cat adoption fee is \$70 which includes the spay or neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations, and a free follow-up health check at a participating vet.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask about A249442 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at www.phsspcapet.com



Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know?

Bailey Canyon Nature Awareness Program to Continue

SMEAC Member Nan Kaeser

“Who wants to be a detective? Can you find out how this plant is able to climb a fence?” “Describe the leaf on this plant. Yes, it’s shiny, has bumpy edges and it grows in threes. Get a good look at it so when you see it again you won’t touch it! That’s right, it’s poison oak.” Sierra Madre third graders are having an all day natural science field trip in Bailey Canyon.

Each third grade in each Sierra Madre school gets to spend all morning one day this spring, as in many years past, with a docent giving them an intense natural science class in Bailey Canyon Wilderness Park. The children learn about the water cycle, about some of the animals that live in the canyon and foothills, about the oaks their acorns and galls. They do experiments to learn that plants transpire water much as we perspire. They learn to identify some of the birds in the canyon and they even learn about the fried egg flower!

The docents and the program are courtesy of Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council

or SMEAC for short. The docents are Wendy Thermos, Marge Koch, Judy Webb-Martin, Karen Brumer and Nan Kaeser.

This outdoor class was begun by Midge Morash, she saw that each docent was trained; she spent hours on the telephone calling each teacher and docent to arrange mutually agreeable dates, no small feat in itself. As you learned in this column in the May 2, 2009 issue of the paper, Midge recently broke her pelvis, was hospitalized and is now living in a nearby retirement community. This has put a slight crimp in her long association with Bailey Canyon.

Alison Snow Wesley, the current president of SMEAC and a third grade teacher, did not want to see the Nature Awareness Program die, she felt the class was too valuable. She started calling the docents and getting them to commit to dates. She then contacted each third grade teacher in a Sierra Madre school and they each chose one of the available dates. So Midge’s Nature Awareness Classes are continuing!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

Brought to you by:
Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council (SMEAC)
P.O. Box 85
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025-0085
Your thoughts and comments are welcome...

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, May 3rd, to Saturday May 9th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 212 calls for service.

Monday, May 4th:

7:13 AM – Hit and Run Traffic Collision, 300 block Sturtevant Drive. A hit and run driver sideswiped the left front door of a beige 1992 Plymouth Sundance sedan. The incident occurred between 3:00 pm on Saturday, 5/2/09, and 7:10 am on Monday, 5/4/09. There was no suspect vehicle information. The damage is estimated at about \$500.00.

10:21 PM – Arrest, Driving Under the Influence, Foothill Blvd and Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. The officer saw a motorist drive through an intersection controlled by a four-way stop signs in Sierra Madre, at a high rate of speed. The motorist was stopped at Foothill Blvd and Baldwin Ave. During the investigation the driver was determined to be under the influence of alcohol. Officers arrested the man and took him to the Pasadena

Police Jail for remand.

Tuesday, May 5th:

7:05 AM – Residential House Fire, 400 block East Laurel Ave. Police and fire responded to a call of a house fire and found the home fully engulfed in flames. The resident, an 89 year old man, suffered minor injuries to his forehead and arms. He was treated and later released from Arcadia Methodist Hospital. The home sustained significant damages and cause of fire is under investigation. No other structures were damaged and there were no other reported injuries.

Saturday, May 9th:

1:31 AM – Arrest, Driving Under the Influence, 200 block of West Sierra Mare Blvd. Two women reported being followed by a stranger driving a red 2002 Dodge pickup truck. Police stopped the motorist driving the red truck. The officer determined that the driver was under the influence of methamphetamine. The officer arrested the man and took him to the Pasadena Police jail for remand.

DENALI (continued from page 1)

Thursday, May 7, 2009
CLIMBER FROM ANOTHER CLIMBING TEAM DIES
(National Park Service Notification) *Note: This is not our Team*

A mountaineer on a different climbing team collapsed and died while ascending the West Buttress of Mt. McKinley near Windy Corner. He collapsed shortly before 4:00 p.m. after his team had hauled gear from their camp at 11,200 feet to a cache site at 13,500 feet just above the location known as Windy Corner. CPR was performed for over 30 minutes, but he never regained a pulse. Rangers secured the deceased in place at 13,500 feet for later helicopter evacuation. This is the same route that our Team is on. **Note:** The Park’s 2009 mountaineering season only recently got underway. A total of 1,052 climbers are registered to attempt Mt. McKinley this season. A total 167 of are currently on the mountain. Only eight reached the summit thus far.

Sunday, May 10, 2009 (Satellite Phone Call)

“DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR”

After a tough decision, the Team is back down to the 14,000 after pushing up to just above 17,000 ft. Conditions were deteriorating and the park rangers radioed them and told them that the forecast called for 80 mph winds for the next three days and 60 mph winds after that. Therefore, the team saw that there was no choice since during their entire summit attempt window, conditions would not allow it.

With a knowledge that comes with years of mountain rescue service, “Team Shake and Bake” headed back down the mountain. Fran said that heading down was very difficult mountaineering, involving difficult technical climbing combined with heavy packs and high winds. While it can seem to be a disappointment not to summit, the entire effort represents an amazing accomplishment that few even come close to. Safety of the Team always comes first.

They are at the camp at 14,000’ and hope to get out tomorrow. However, they must pass through a known windy area, known as “Windy Corner”, so they will be staying at 14,000 feet until the weather improves.

All team members are doing very well. They need of rest but all are feeling good. They are pleased that the plans they had worked out before starting had worked well and realize that part of mountaineering is knowing that sometimes the mountain makes the decisions for you. Discretion is the better part of valor.

Tuesday, May 12, 2009 (Jon Pedder-Satellite Phone Call)-17,200 Feet-“High Camp”

PINNED DOWN IN THE STORM !!

Note: “High Camp” at 17,200 feet is Denali’s highest, coldest, and windiest camp. Many climbers have been caught up here for days, battling the weather, waiting to get up or down the mountain. “Fourteen Medical Camp” can be seen 3,000 feet below, but is well beyond the reach of rescuers when the weather is bad.

Jon Pedder said that going back down from High Camp to the main camp at 14,000 ft. was quite difficult with the strong winds, their goggles fogging up and heavy packs. He said when they got to camp they were exhausted. With the forecast for severe conditions for several days they have decided to go down the mountain and come home. They decided not to push their luck.

Tuesday, May 12, 2009 (Satellite phone call from Fran Sharp)

The Team is still at 14,000’. The storm continues to rage. All on the team are doing well. They built an igloo and it is working very well for them. There was some sun today, but the winds are blowing about 70 MPH. The temperature is -5 degrees and many tents of other climbers are not holding up. Fabric is tearing and tent poles are breaking in the wind.

Team “Shake & Bake” is there with about 45 other climbers and 7 rangers in the camp area. Team “Shake & Bake” is the most prepared. Originally they were being made fun of by the other teams for having so much food. Since then, though, they have taken in two Austrian climbers whose tent blew apart and were without enough food. The team is now helping out some other climbers too who did not bring enough food.

The storm is expected to last for two more days. They will stay in position until the storm is over. Even if they got down to 7,500 feet for the plane pickup now, it could not land since the winds there are above 50 mph.

Thursday, May 14, 2009 (From Susan McCreary e-mail)
BACK TO CIVILIZATION

“We are off the mountain and in Talkeetna (small town near the mountain). I had my first shower in 18 days!!! A little frost nip on my face and a couple of fingers and Fran has a finger with mild frostbite, otherwise we are all in good shape. Rodger, Jon and I made it to high camp at 17,200’ on Friday night, with the hope of summiting Sunday. Berndt, Fran, and Jeff bivied (camped) about an hour and a half from high camp at 16,800 on the ridge that night. We didn’t get to sleep until about 1 A.M. and got a radio call from NPS (National Park Service) directing us to get back down to 14,200 due to expected sustained high winds at 80 mph in the high elevations. We hurried back to 14,200 arriving at about 7 P.M. Sat. Winds started that night, gusting to 50 mph at 14,000’ and the Sharps tent had pole breakage, so they slept in a snow cave that night. The next night we joined them, after Rodger and Jon helped dig it out to fit 6 people. It was very claustrophobic that night but by the next night was ok. We were joined by two Austrian’s who’s tent failed in the high winds. Three nights in a snow cave with high winds to 50-60 MPH and yesterday we ran from 14,200’ to 11,000 to get our cache and then all the way to Base Camp at 7,200’. It was a very long day. The (pick-up) plane was a beautiful thing to see. The whole experience was incredible and so very hard to describe. What a great group of people to climb with, and we met some amazing folks up there.”

Thursday, May 14, 2009 (Fran Sharp-Phone call)

Fran said several times during the call, “It’s so green here!” (town of Talkeetna) “We all are tired and need showers and real food.” They are glad to be off of the mountain and safe. When they climbed down to 7,200, the rangers at the 14,000 base camp radioed to them to thank them again for sharing the team’s food. “We made some good friends while up there too” said Fran.

TEAM “SHAKE & BAKE” IS OFF THE MOUNTAIN & SAFE!

(It is rumored that the name of the team comes from Susan McCreary who has a reputation of showing up at mountain rescue meetings with fresh made cookies and brownies.)

A Weekly Spotlight on Sierra Madre Volunteers

Hank Landsberg

Hank Landsberg -- Radio Man



Since Hank and Bonnie Landsberg came to Sierra Madre in 1986, Hank has moved within most nonprofit organizations, helping whenever and wherever he was needed.

His work started with the Rose Float Association where he

continued helping the group in many types of volunteer activities for about nine years. Then his ham radio talents came in handy for keeping track of the progression of the Fourth of July Parade route. Before he knew it, Doug Hayes, who was chairman of the Fourth of July Committee, asked him to join the group as Doug’s right-hand man. For years Hank had covered the famous parade on his radio station, KCHZ. “And that was the impetus for adding live music to the Fourth of July celebration. We soon hired a Dixieland band to play after the parade.” The Night Blooming Jazzmen still entertain in Memorial Park after the parade.

Back to the Fourth of July Committee, Hank became Chairman Doug Hayes’ co-chairman, and they led all activities, with seven other members, for about 10 years, until Doug became a City Councilman in 1996. Hank took over as chairman and continued in that post until about two years ago when he retired from the position and Matt Bosse became the present Fourth of July Committee chairman.

For years Hank offered free Sunday night movies in Memorial Park during the summer. He would set up early evening and invite the

community to “tune in” to the sound track

with their FM radios. It was a popular family event in which people brought their dinners and the kids played until the movie started. Then, in the late ‘80s, Hank joined Kiwanis Club. He has served as president five terms and is still a member of the service group. Recently, Hank was approached by the Fire Safe Council to research the feasibility of establishing a low power, AM radio station to be used for information services and public safety.

“We can use the same info for public events and for emergencies such as possible fire or mud problems, evacuation, that sort of thing,” Hank explained.

After all of that Hank is buying a second business analogous to his Henry Engineering business. For Henry Engineering, Hank designs, produces, markets and sells equipment for the broadcasting industry. He has shipped over 100,000 products from his “world headquarters” in Sierra Madre.

His new business is a power conditioner product “that gets rid of noise and power surges,” he explained. It protects equipment from being damaged, he said.

Hank was born and raised next door in Upper Hastings and graduated from Pasadena High School in 1970. He and Bonnie were married in 1985 and moved to Sierra Madre soon after. Three weeks later his employer moved to Albuquerque, so Hank opened his own equipment production service for the broadcasting industry. That was the beginning of Henry Engineering.

Bonnie is an enthusiastic quilter. The Landsbergs have a cat named Mocha, a very loved cat.

“Volunteerism,” he said, “is the glue that holds the community together, and with all of the budget problems, free help is nothing to sneeze at.”

Get Ready for Fire Season — Fire Safe Your Home

We at the California Fire Safe Council hope you'll agree your future happiness is worth this effort. We encourage you to make your home fire safe, inside and out—it could be a life-saver.

Fire Safe Outside: You Can Do It

- ☐ Clean dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters.
- ☐ If you're remodeling, follow your fire department's current fire safety roofing standards.
- ☐ Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with non-flammable 1/2" mesh screen.
- ☐ Enclose the underside of eaves, balconies and decks with fire resistant materials to keep out flying embers.
- ☐ Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures.
- ☐ Locate LPG tanks at least 30 feet from any structure; maintain 10 feet of clear space around the tanks.
- ☐ If you're replacing windows, install only dual- or triple-paned windows.
- ☐ Establish defensible space.

Fire Safe Inside: You Can Do It

- ☐ Install smoke detectors between living and sleeping areas.
- ☐ Install smoke detectors in bedrooms if you sleep with the door closed.
- ☐ Change smoke detector batteries when changing to daylight savings and standard times.
- ☐ Keep a charged, ABC-type fire extinguisher in the kitchen and garage; make sure family members know how to use it.

Need help? Contact your local Fire Safe Council to learn about their chipping, home consultations and other programs that can help you become fire safe. Find a Council near you by going to www.firesafecouncil.org.



Looking For A Loving Home



“Eliot”

Hi! My name is Eliot. I was rescued from the Pasadena Humane Society 3-4 years ago and I’ve been a real pal to have around. I am an indoor cat, probably weigh 12-15 pounds, have never been outside, loves affection and I’m npt moody. I’ve been left alone for brief periods without an attitude. My owner’s job has transferred her out of the area and she can’t take me with her. Interested? I’m a cutie!
Call 949-357-7798.

TURTLE FOUND

Found on E. Grandview near Sycamore Pl.: Turtle, red-ear slider, 9” long. Call 355-6176.



Rotary Recognizes Outstanding Local Educators

Photo by Chris Bertrand

On Tuesday, May 12, Sierra Madre Rotary presented awards, plaques and \$150 checks to outstanding teachers from six local schools. Administrators of each school introduced each winning teacher, and told a bit about what distinguished them during the breakfast reception and ceremony.

L to R: David Desmond of La Salle High School, Harriet Hoy of Alverno High School, Ellen Hoffman of St. Rita School, Robin Patterson of Bethany Christian and Nadya Ewen of Gooden School. Behind the honorees stand administrators from their school. Not pictured: Marianna Rivinus of Sierra Madre Elementary.

2009 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

David M. Goldstein has won the San Gabriel Valley Junior All-American Football Conference scholarship of \$1,000.00. Goldstein lives in Arcadia and attends high school in La Canada.

Mr. Gordon Stuart the founder of SGV Jr. All-American Football Conference started the scholarship program in 1972. Since its meager start in 1972 the SGVJAA scholarship program has awarded \$272,750.00 to 307 deserving college bound students. To be considered for one of our scholarships the student must have played or cheered in our program for at least two years. While in high school the student must have achieved at least a 3.5 GPA and SAT scores of at least 1550.

The SGVJAA football and cheer program was founded in 1968 for boys and girls ages 6-14. Our Conference is composed of 28 city organizations from though out San Gabriel Valley. Last year we

had 59 flag football teams, 121 tackle football teams and 114 cheer squads. Total involvement, 7000 boys and girls and 2650 volunteer adults. For additional information about our program visit www.sgvjaafc.org/

Cities covered by San Gabriel Valley Jr. All-American Football Conference, Inc.: ALHAMBRA, ARCADIA, AZUSA, BALDWIN PARK, BELL GARDENS, BOYLE HEIGHTS, CHARTER OAK, CLAREMONT, COVINA, DUARTE, EAST LA., EL MONTE, EL SERENO, GLENDALE, GLENDORA, HACIENDA HEIGHTS, HUNTINGTON PARK, LA CANADA, LA PUENTE, LINCOLN HEIGHTS, MONTEBELLO, PASADENA, PICO RIVERA, ROSEMEAD, TEMPLE CITY, WALNUT / DIAMOND BAR, WEST COVINA, WHITTIER.

Steve Goldstein Basketball Camps

La Salle High School will be hosting a series of youth basketball camps this summer. The Steve Goldstein Basketball Camps are going into their 20th year and were formally titled La Salle Basketball Camps. Steve Goldstein has been La Salle's Boys Basketball Coach since 1989.

The camps are designed to teach the fundamentals of basketball through individual as well as team concepts. The camps are for boys and girls ages 8-14. SGBC will offer three camps: I-June 22-26th, II-June 29th-July 3rd and III: July 27- July 31st. Each session will be Monday-Friday from 9:00am-1:00pm. The cost for each session is \$150.

Congratulations!



Saint Rita's 2009 Graduating Class



Arcadia Golf Team Wins Pacific League

Arcadia High School Varsity Golf Coach Robert Greep reports that the boys Varsity Golf Team, which recently won the Pacific League with a league record 19-0 and an overall record of 24-2, was one of only three teams that qualified Tuesday, May 12, for the CIF Finals in Ojai at Soule Park.

AHS finished only 1 stroke behind Valencia and shot a team total 378 "which is outstanding," according to Greep. This year's boys have averaged as a team the lowest numbers in more than seven years and they're probably the best team at AHS in the past 15 years. The team pictured above right (photo submitted by Coach Greep) travels to Rancho San Marcos Thursday, May 14, to play against some of the most elite programs in the Southern Section.

Yoga Madre
Yoga Studio
and Wellness Center
Classes for all levels
626.303.1004
www.yogamadre.com
300 E. Foothill Blvd. * Arcadia, CA 91006

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

**Wednesdays
3-7pm**

Fresh vegetables and seasonal fruits from California family farms.

Specialty foods, vegetarian and vegan dishes, ethnic foods and hot food - Everything you'll find at the farmers market has been made or picked fresh, is pesticide-free and preservative-free. Free public parking on Mariposa.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3463 Head of School: Ann M. Gillick
E-mail address: agillick@alverno-hs.org

Arcadia High School

180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: David L. Vannasdal

Arroyo Pacific Academy

41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca,
(626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org

Barnhart School

240 W. Colorado Blvd. Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 446-5588 Head of School: Joanne Testa Cross
Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.com

Bethany Christian School

93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527 Principal: James Lugenbuehl
E-mail address: jml@bcschools.org

Carden of the Foothills School

429 Wildrose Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016 626/358-9414
626/358-5164 fax office@cardenofthefoothills.com

The Gooden School

192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-2410 Head of School: Patty Patano
website: www.goodenschool.org

LaSalle High School

3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 351-8951 Principal: Patrick Bonacci
website: www.lasallehs.org

Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 471-2000, email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

Norma Coombs Alternative School

2600 Paloma St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 798-0759 Principal: Dr. Vanessa Watkins
E-mail address: watkins12@pusd.us

Odyssey Charter School

725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001
(626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neill
website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School

2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 798-8901 Principal: Dr. Derrick Evans
website: www.pasadenahigh.org

Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981 website: www.pusd@pusd.us

St. Rita Catholic School

322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-9028 Principal: Joanne Harabedian
website: www.st-rita.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School

141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428 Principal: Gayle Bluemel
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Sierra Madre Middle School

160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Gayle Bluemel
Contact person: Garrett Newsom, Asst. Principal
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Weizmann Day School

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(626) 797-0204
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

Wilson Middle School

300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
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Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109
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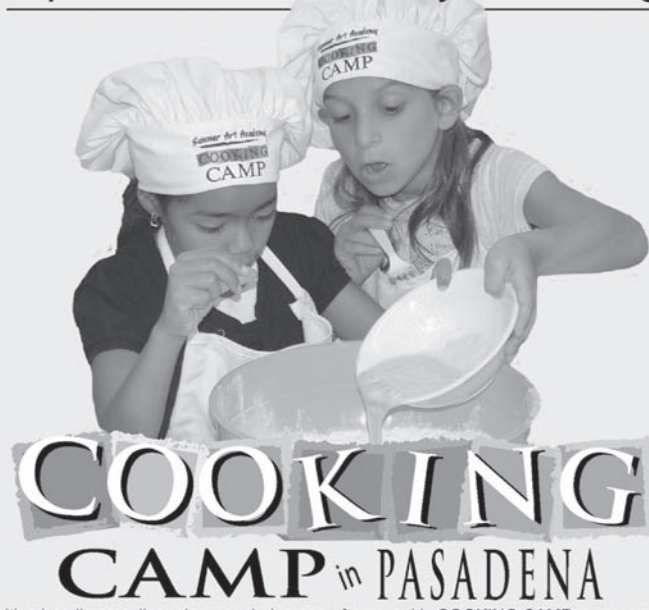
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Mountain Views News Mission Statement

The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.



As I See It

By Howard Hays

I often connect brand names with things I grew up with. The family watched TV on our Zenith (with "Space Command" remote control), Dad took pictures with his Polaroid, I played with my A.C. Gilbert American Flyer trains (and still do). When the family went out, we went out in our Pontiac (a Star Chief, two Tempests, and two Bonneville over the years). Friends rhapsodized over Camaros and Corvettes, but I dreamt of Firebirds (for long-term investment potential, it should've been that souped-up Tempest called the GTO)

Now Pontiac will be joining the growing list of brands consigned to nostalgia and E-Bay listings. Like the made-in-USA televisions, cameras and toys mentioned above, it also implies plant closings and lost jobs - jobs that played a major role in sustaining the large middle-class that prospered back when we sat around our Zenith.

Pontiac goes the way of Oldsmobile, and it looks like parent General Motors will be joining Chrysler LLC in filing for bankruptcy protection. Whether avoidable or inevitable, factors have been at work over the past thirty years that seem to have all come together in the past few months.

Along with consumers, the auto industry

was hit hard by the credit freeze brought on by the subprime mortgage crisis and collapse of Lehman Brothers last fall. The New York Times reported that difficulty in getting affordable loans in itself cost the industry 100,000 sales in the last week of September, 2008. The numbers just got worse: an 11% drop in sales compared to the first eight months of 2007, a 19% drop in September, 26% in October and 40% in November. It was the first time in fifteen years the industry was unable to sell a million cars in a month. Sales went down, fixed costs didn't.

Another factor became apparent to me a few years ago when we bought a Chevy Blazer for our son, and I was surprised to learn the model had been discontinued after decades of popularity. The dealer confided it had nothing to do with sales, but rather with the assumption that with Blazers no longer on the lot, customers could be steered to the larger, more expensive, more gas-guzzling Trailblazer. It apparently didn't occur to them that customers might instead steer themselves right off the lot to a Toyota RAV4.

Testifying before the Senate Energy Committee in January 2007, Walter McManus of the University of Michigan described the industry's response to the effect high gas prices had on demand. When gas prices rose after the attacks of 9/11, rather than focus on fuel-efficiency, the industry responded by lowering the price of gas-guzzlers to offset the fall

in demand. The bigger the gas hog, the bigger the discount. Then, after gas spiked again after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the industry found itself with no room left to discount. Sales of large trucks and SUVs plummeted, and haven't recovered.

On FACE THE NATION last December, columnist Thomas Friedman ridiculed a GM sales promotion that ran during a period of skyrocketing gas prices in which they offered a year's worth of \$1.99 a gallon gas to purchasers of a new Hummer, Yukon or Suburban "... like a crack dealer saying ... 'I'm going to give you ... reduced crack for a year.' It wasn't I'm going to get you off your addiction."

As an example of the industry taking positions against its own best interest, Friedman cited their failure to support national health care reform. Much has been made of labor costs, though it accounts for only 10% of the cost of a vehicle, and a large component of the approximate \$10.00 an hour difference between union and non-union labor is the cost of health benefits. In December 2005, Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Wash.) introduced into the record a letter sent by the Big Three automakers to the Canadian government praising their national health care system as a major draw in locating factories (and jobs) north of the border - and imploring the Canadians not to make any changes in it.

One of the saddest descriptions of the state of the industry came in a radio interview I



The writer, his sister, Dad, and their 1956 Star Chief

heard some time ago with a former mid-level executive from Ford. He described his former colleagues as focused primarily on just putting in the time while awaiting their secure retirement, careful not to make any waves with upper management, and aware that if you never try anything new, you'll never have to answer for a disappointing outcome. Another trait he said most shared was that they didn't have any particular interest in, let alone passion for, making cars.

It'll be interesting to see how Fiat Chairman Sergio Marchionne might handle Chrysler - with his reputation for treating his union workforce as partners, rather than adversaries, and making clear to senior executives they'll either perform or find themselves out of a job. For the time being, I'll be thinking of a hood ornament depicting an Ottawa Indian chief named Pontiac that illuminates when you switch on the headlights. How cool is that?

Stuart Tolchin On..LIFE

Togetherness



Well, my knees are still aching, but really the pain is just a pleasant reminder of how much I enjoyed climbing up the

Mt. Wilson trail to First Water on Mother's Day. I don't know how long the hike is, but for sure it's a lot longer and the hills are a lot steeper than the same hike was the last time I made the trek. First of all, it was beautiful, the colors of the flowers deepened as my daughter, our dogs, and I trudged up the hill. The perspective of seeing our house from an elevated perspective across the canyon rewarded us with an appreciation of the unique spot that has housed us for the last thirty years. Being able to call my son on the cell phone as I viewed the house and to see him come out on to the deck and wave and to hear him acknowledge our distant presence by asking one and only one question, "What time does the Laker Game start?" gave me a sense that all was right with the world. Against all odds my little family has survived and we have maintained our affection for one another and manage to carry on conversations sometimes without watching Sports on TV.

Really, I am a great fan of family-togetherness. On this particular Mother's Day, the hike required sharing the trail with countless multi-generational groups of hikers enjoying each other and the holiday. There is something beautiful about the sight of grandparents, parents, and children resembling one another and sweating together as they trudged up the steep hills. My daughter and I had (at least for us) the exotic and somewhat frightening experience of observing a large moving rattlesnake at the edge of the trail. We had been alerted to the presence of the snake by a helpful hiker going up as we climbed down and were similarly able to alert other ascending hikers as we descended.

We were able to share the experience of seeing the snake and its highly observable rattle and were now in the privileged position of being of service to other hikers. Really being helpful, especially to strangers, is an uncommonly gratifying experience.

When my daughter and I arrived home, intent on describing our adventures while inadvertently tracking dirt through the house, my wife initially became quite upset. She had spent much of Saturday cleaning the house and now dust covered dogs and unconscious me were making a big mess. Wonderfully, without being asked, my son and his girl friend and my conscientious daughter immediately bathed the dogs. After I mustered the energy to take off my shoes and deposit them outside, peace was restored. My sister-in-law eased the burden upon my wife and acted as chief barbecuer, and we honored my mother-in-law and enjoyed a lovely feast together.

It's that simple. Families are kept together by doing things together—sharing experiences and helping each other out. We learn to love one another not by performing huge heroic tasks or by exchanging expensive presents or making extreme sacrifices. Sure there will be missteps, but if we pull our noses from the computers, cell phones, and burdens of life and jobs and just spend some time together, things will work out. Believe it or not, it's good to suffer together and work hard together and assist one another and actually get to know one another. This is the backbone of our country and our civilization—not riches, fame, or fancy vacations. Just a little togetherness; And maybe it will help if I learn to barbecue and dog bathe and leave my shoes outside when they are filthy. Luckily, there's always more to do, more to learn, and more to share and maybe hard times make it even easier.

Arguments for Universal Single-payer Health Care



By Hail Hamilton

The following arguments for universal single-payer health care are cited by Wikipedia on the Internet. They make sense to me. How about you?

"Health care is a basic human right or entitlement. Like the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, health care is an in-alienable, fundamental

right that should be guaranteed to all Americans.

"Ensuring the health of all citizens benefits a nation economically. By spreading the risk to all individuals, the risk pool would be vastly increased. In other words, if everyone paid into the same insurance pot the cost of health care would be reduced because the risk of illness would be born equally by the whole population.

"About 60% of the U.S. health care system is already publicly financed with federal and state taxes, property taxes, and tax subsidies - a universal health care system would merely replace private/employer spending with taxes. Total spending would go down for individuals and employers.

"A single payer system could save \$286 billion a year in overhead and paperwork. Administrative costs in the U.S. health care system are substantially higher than those in other countries and than in the public sector in the US: one estimate put the total administrative costs at 24 percent of U.S. health care spending.

"Several studies have shown a majority of taxpayers and citizens across the political divide would prefer a universal health care system over the current U.S. system.

"Universal health care would provide for uninsured adults who may forgo treatment needed for chronic health conditions.

"Wastefulness and inefficiency in the delivery of health care would be reduced.

"America spends a far higher percentage of GDP on health care than any other country but has worse ratings on such criteria as quality of care, efficiency of care, access to care, safe care, equity, and wait times, according to the Commonwealth Fund.

"A universal system would align incentives for investment in long term health-care productivity, preventive care, and better management of chronic conditions.

"Universal health care could act as a subsidy to business, at no cost thereto. (Indeed, the Big Three of U.S. car manufacturers cite health-care provision as a reason for their ongoing financial travails. The cost of health insurance to U.S. car manufacturers adds between USD 900 and USD 1,400 to each car made in the U.S.A.)

"The profit motive adversely affects the cost and quality of health care. If managed care programs and their concomitant provider networks are abolished, then doctors would no longer be guaranteed patients solely on the basis of their membership in a provider group and regardless of the quality of care they provide. Theoretically, quality of care would increase as true competition for patients is restored.

"A 2008 opinion poll of 2,000 US doctors found support for a universal health care plan at 59%-32%, which is up from the 49%-40% opinion of physicians in 2002. These numbers include 83% of psychiatrists, 69% of emergency medicine specialists, 65% of pediatricians, 64% of internists, 60% of family physicians and 55% of general surgeons. The reasons given are an inability of doctors to decide patient care and patients who are unable to afford care.

"According to some estimates roughly 50% of health care dollars are spent on health care, the rest go to various middlepersons and intermediaries. A streamlined, non-profit, universal system would increase the efficiency with which money is spent on health care.

"In countries in Western Europe with public universal health care, private health care is also available, and one may choose to use it if desired.

"Universal health care and public doctors would protect the right to privacy between insurance companies and patients.

"Finally, in Western Europe governments spend less tax money per person on health care than the U.S. For example, in France, the government spends \$569 less per person on health care than in the United States. This saving would allow the U.S. to adopt universal health care, while simultaneously cutting government spending and cutting taxes."

Going Green AND Lean



By Greg Wellborn

The question before us today is how green do we want to become and how much are we willing to pay for environmental moral purity. It may surprise us all as we find out just how green President Obama wants us to be and how much he is willing to see us pay for that. If he gets his way, our current recession and unemployment levels will inevitably worsen, and American economic competitiveness will be damaged for years - perhaps decades - to come.

Because of its excessive scope and cost, President Obama's global warming agenda had been losing support in Congress, especially among those Democrats who hailed from industrial states which would be particularly hard hit by his proposed green taxes. Therein lay some hope that our new environmental policy would reflect the economic reality these states, and the rest of our nation, face in the ever-increasing globally competitive economy. That hope was short-lived. President Obama is a very persistent fellow and very willing to use all of the vast powers that modern day Washington makes available.

Rather than fight the battle in the democratic arena by listening to and negotiating with the voters' representatives, President Obama simply picked up the closest loaded pistol he could find and pointed it at Congress' head. He did this in the form of the Environmental Protection Agency's "finding" that carbon dioxide is a dangerous pollutant that threatens the public. You see, in legalese a "finding" is a significant event which obligates various government agencies to do things. When President Obama instructed his EPA to make this finding under the 1970 Clean Air Act, he forced Congress to either accept the actions which the EPA would be required to take under the law or to accept his terms without much debate. Unless rescinded or amended, this finding obligates the EPA to impose regulations and taxes to limit the amount of carbon dioxide without regard to the costs such regulations will impose. I do not exaggerate on this last point. The law is very clear that when an air pollutant is found to be unhealthy and exceeds a certain quantity as established by government standards, the EPA cannot consider costs in its efforts, directives, rules and regulations to reduce that pollutant.

This decision will affect the daily lives of every American and will impose significant costs on every American. Carbon dioxide, for those of us who have forgotten our high school chemistry, is produced by every living organism, by plants during their respiration process, by the excrement of cows (yes, cow dung), by geysers and volcanoes and by the burning of fossil fuels. Carbon dioxide mixes in the atmosphere with other gases and is purported to contribute to global warming. Under The Clean Air Act, once the EPA "finds" that carbon dioxide is a dangerous pollutant it must regulate all major sources of emissions. This will include "any building, structure, facility or installation". Thousands of currently unregulated businesses will now be subject to oversight and control of the federal government. We all tend to assume that this list would be limited to large factories belching forth huge quantities of smoke from their chimneys, but the list is much broader and invasive than this. The list will inevitably include local schools, malls, hospitals, restaurants, farms and any other location where human or animal interactions produce carbon dioxide at a level the EPA considers significant.

This potentially represents the largest consolidation of power in federal hands that we have witnessed in almost a century. Our much vaunted press - the supposed watch dogs of our civil liberties - has said nary a word on this. When they have written on the topic, it has usually been to applaud. The founders of our country revolted against taxation without representation and all manner of arbitrary extensions of government power. Our Congress is being forced to either go along with President Obama's global warming agenda or let the country deal with the EPA's global warming agenda, which is actually the same as President Obama's agenda. Heads he wins, tails he wins. Is this a great system, or what?

And what exactly will be the costs of this global warming agenda? President Obama's proposed cap and trade system will require businesses to buy carbon dioxide emission permits. Those firms which don't need all the permits they are forced to buy, can trade (which means sell) their extra permits to firms which can't get enough from the government. The net effect will be a transfer of money from manufacturing businesses to non-manufacturing businesses.

Let's assume for a moment that all the manufacturing firms decide to stay in the United States and conduct business under these new rules. Remember, when businesses incur extra costs, they pass them along to the consumers of their products. These new rules will affect every business that either produces power or is a heavy user of power. That's the vast majority of the businesses and will therefore affect almost every person in this country. If you use electricity, if you use a car, if you buy a product which has to be manufactured using electricity, you will face higher prices. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that if cap and trade permits were set at just the level necessary to achieve a paltry 15% reduction in carbon dioxide, the average household will see their costs increase \$1,600 per year. I don't think we even want to know what it would cost us if the EPA decides - again without a vote being cast by our elected representatives in Congress - that 25% or 50% of carbon dioxide emissions need to be reduced in order to achieve a clean green state.

But let's revisit my assumption that manufacturers will stay in this country and willingly operate under these new rules. We are kidding ourselves if we believe that every country on earth will impose the same costs on their economies. All it takes is one country which refuses or "neglects" to enforce these rules, even if they agree to them, and we will witness the largest outflow of manufacturing jobs and economic activity we have ever seen. President Obama has railed against the unfair exporting of jobs from America to overseas locations, and yet he is forcing Congress to enact legislation which will make the old outflow of jobs look like a trickle.

The more we learn about how our new President wants to govern the more concerned we should be. It may have started with the high-handedness with which he forced our banks and auto companies to violate contracts they signed and withhold vital information from their own shareholders. But it quickly progressed to undermining our democratic process, shifting power from the people to the arbitrary rule of the unelected bureaucrats at the EPA, and imposing massive taxes on the very economic base which has made us the envy of the world. There is resident in this young President both an arrogance of will and a naivety of outlook that pose serious challenges to our future as a free and prosperous people.

Gregory J. Wellborn is an independent opinion columnist. He writes and speaks frequently on political, economic and social issues. His columns have appeared in publications such as The Los Angeles Daily News, The Orange County Register, The Wall Street Journal and USA Today. He can be reached at g.wellborn@mtnviewsnews.com.

ORDINANCE NO. 1290

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE AMENDING TITLE 1 OF THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH AN ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT PROCESS
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE, CALIFORNIA DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Title 1 of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code is hereby amended to add a new Chapter 1.18 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 1.18. ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT

1.18.010. Purpose and intent.

The City Council has determined that the enforcement of this Code, any uniform or other code it adopts by reference, and any other ordinance of the City is an important public service and is vital to the protection of the public’s health, safety, and quality of life. The City Council has determined that there is a need for alternative methods of code enforcement and that a comprehensive code enforcement system includes criminal, civil, and administrative remedies.

1.18.020. Definitions.

Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this chapter shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this chapter it’s most reasonable application.

- A. “Administrative citation” is a notice issued pursuant to Section 1.18.080 of this chapter.
- B. “Appellant” is a person who seeks an administrative hearing on an administrative citation in the manner required by this chapter.

- C. “Business day” means a day when Sierra Madre City Hall is open for business.
- D. “Code violation” is any violation of this Code or any other ordinance of the City, including any codes adopted by reference as permitted by law and any violation of any condition imposed upon the issuance of any permit, license, or other approval (e.g., subdivision map, use permit, variance) pursuant to this Code or any other ordinance of the City.
- E. “City Manager” is the City Manager or his or her designee.
- F. “Day” means calendar day unless other expressly stated.
- G. “Enforcement officer” is an individual designated by the City Manager to act under this chapter.
- H. “Hearing authority” is the City Manager or his or her designee.
- I. “Issue” means to provide a notice of violation, an administrative citation, a notice of hearing, a notice of the continuance of a hearing, or a notice of decision by (i) personally serving it on a responsible person, (ii) mailing it to a responsible person by first-class mail, or (iii) posting it in a conspicuous place on the property to which it relates and mailing a copy of it to a responsible person at the address where the violation occurred.
- J. “Notice of decision” is defined in section 1.18.150(H) of this chapter.
- K. “Notice of violation” is any notice that informs a person that a code violation has occurred whether or not given in compliance with section 1.18.040 of this chapter.
- L. “Preliminary reviewing authority” is the Chief of Police.
- M. “Responsible person” is any of the following:

- 1. A person who, by action or inaction, causes, maintains, permits or allows a code violation.
- 2. A person whose agent, employee, or independent contractor, by action or inaction, causes, maintains, permits or allows a code violation.
- 3. An owner of real property on which a code violation occurs.
- 4. A lessee or sublessee with the current right of possession of real property on which a code violation occurs.
- 5. A person that uses real property on which a code violation occurs.
- 6. An on-site manager who regularly works on real property on which a violation occurs and who is responsible for the business or other activities on that real property.
- 7. The owners, majority stockholders, corporate officers, trustees, general partners and any other person with the authority to act for a legal entity that is a responsible person under subsections 1 through 6 above.
- 8. If any of the above persons are minors or incompetent, the parents or guardians of such persons shall be deemed responsible persons.

1.18.030. General enforcement authority.

Enforcement officers may issue notices of violation and administrative citations, inspect public and private property, and use whatever judicial and administrative remedies are available under this Code and other law to enforce the ordinances of the City. More specific provisions regarding administrative or other enforcement authority and procedures for particular violations may exist in this Code and shall to fullest extent permissible, be construed to complement rather than contradict this chapter.

1.18.040. Notice of violation.

When the violation pertains to building, plumbing, electrical or other similar structural or zoning issues which create an immediate danger to health or safety, an enforcement officer may immediately issue an administrative citation without a notice of violation. In the absence of an emergency, whenever an enforcement officer determines that a violation exists, the enforcement officer may issue a notice of violation to any responsible persons. The notice of violation must include the following information:

- A. The ordinance violated or condition violated which is imposed by any permit, license, or other approval.
- B. A description of the condition creating or constituting the violation(s).
- C. The address where the violation(s) occurs.
- D. The name of the responsible person and any other involved persons known to the enforcement officer.
- E. The date and, if relevant, time at which the violation was observed.
- F. If applicable, a list of any corrections necessary to bring the property into compliance.
- G. A deadline by which to correct the violation(s).
- H. The signature of the enforcement officer issuing the notice of violation.
- I. The date the notice of violation is issued.

1.18.050. Authority to inspect.

Enforcement officers are authorized to enter upon any property or premises within the City to ascertain whether code violations exist, and to make any examination and surveys as may be necessary in the performance of their enforcement duties, in accordance with Fourth Amendment of United States Constitution and the related protections of the California Constitution. These inspections may include the taking of photographs, samples, or other physical evidence. All inspection, entries, examinations and surveys shall be performed reasonably and in accordance with law. If an owner or occupant or property or his or her agent refuses to consent to entry and inspection, an enforcement officer may seek an administrative inspection warrant pursuant to law.

1.18.060. Notice of pending administrative enforcement.

An enforcement officer may record with the Los Angeles County Assessor a notice against a property which is the subject of an administrative enforcement action to give notice to potential transferees of the property of code violations thereon. A notice of pending administration action shall be on a form approved by the City Manager and shall describe the nature of the administrative action and refer to the Code provision governing the pending administrative action.

1.18.070. Administrative fines and penalties.

- A. Any responsible person may be subject to an administrative fine pursuant to this chapter for any code violation.
- B. Each and every responsible person is joint and severally liable, in accordance with notice and procedures of this chapter, for all fines, penalties and interest imposed for the code violation(s) as to which he she or it is a responsible person.
- C. Each day a code violation is committed, continued or permitted, shall be a separate violation for which a citation may be issued. An enforcement officer may charge several violations of the code on a citation.
- D. The administrative fines delineated in this chapter are in addition to, and do not preclude imposition of, any other remedies, criminal, civil, or administrative, available to the City. Imposition of administrative fines shall be at the sole discretion of the City.

1.18.080. Administrative citations. If a responsible person(s) fails to correct a code violation within the time prescribed in a notice of violation, an enforcement officer may issue an administrative citation to each and every responsible party who knew or reasonably should have known of that notice of violation of whom the enforcement officer has knowledge.

1.18.090. Contents of administrative citation.

An administrative citation shall include the following:

- A. The ordinance violated or condition violated which is imposed by any permit, license, or other approval.
- B. A description of the condition creating or constituting the violation(s).
- C. The address where the violation(s) occurs.
- D. The name of the responsible person(s) and any other involved persons known to the enforcement officer.
- E. The date and, if relevant, time at which the violation was observed.
- F. If applicable, a list of any corrections necessary to correct the code violations.
- G. The signature of the enforcement officer issuing the administrative citation.
- H. The date the administrative citation is issued.
- I. The amount and due date of the fine.
- J. A description of the procedure to pay the fine.
- K. A description of the procedure for requesting a preliminary review, waiver of fine deposit, and hearing to contest the administrative citation.
- L. A statement that a lien may be imposed against the property on which a violation occurs in the amount of any unpaid fines and any penalties and interest thereon.
- M. Any other information deemed necessary for enforcement or collection of the administrative fines.

1.18.100. Consideration in other proceedings.

The City Council, Planning Commission, any other board or commission of the City, and City staff may consider the fact that a person has been issued an administrative citation when determining whether to grant, suspend, revoke, or deny any permit, license, or other approval, regarding a matter related to the condition causing a code violation, and may consider such administrative citation to be evidence that the person has committed acts that threaten the health, safety, and welfare of the general public.

1.18.110. Amount of administrative fines and penalties.

- A. The fines for a code violation shall be established from time to time by resolution of the City Council. The schedule of fines may include escalating fine amounts for repeated code violations within specific periods of time.
- B. If a responsible person does not pay an administrative fine on or before the due date, he or she shall also incur a penalty and interest for every day of delinquency, as the City Council shall establish from time to time by resolution.

1.18.120. Payment of fines.

- A. All fines are due on the day specified in the administrative citation.
- B. Fines shall be paid to the City of Sierra Madre. Payment may be made by mailing the fine amount paid by check or money order. Cash payments may be made only at City Hall.
- C. Payment of a fine pursuant to this chapter shall not excuse or discharge any continued or repeated violation of this Code.
- D. Pending a hearing by the hearing authority, payment of a fine may be stayed if the preliminary reviewing authority determines, pursuant to Section 1.18.130 that a responsible person is unable to pay the fine.

1.18.130. Preliminary review.

- A. A person to whom an administrative citation is issued may request a preliminary review within ten (10) days of the date the administrative citation is issued. Failure to request a preliminary review within that time waives any preliminary review.
- B. A request for a preliminary review shall be made in writing and filed with the City and shall include all information that the person requesting the review desires the preliminary reviewing authority to consider. A request for preliminary review may include a request for waiver of the fine deposit. A person requesting a waiver of fine deposit bears the burden to establish by substantial evidence, including a sworn affidavit, that he or she is unable to pay the fine imposed by the administrative citation. With this sworn affidavit, the person shall submit documents that enable the City to reasonably determine his or her present inability to deposit the fine. Documents suitable for consideration, may include, without limitation, the following: (i) accurate, complete and legible copies of state and federal income tax returns and all schedules for the preceding tax year; (ii) financial statements, (iii) loan applications, (iv) bank account records, (v) income and expense records for twelve (12) months preceding the submittal for a request for waiver, and (vi) other documentation demonstrating the citee’s financial hardship. The City may, at a time chosen in its sole discretion and after a citation is final or confirmed, destroy the documents submitted for a hardship waiver without prior notice.
- C. The preliminary review authority shall review the administrative citation, the written request for a preliminary review, and any evidence the person requesting the review may submit and make the determination required by subsection F of this section.
- D. The cited person shall be notified of the results of the preliminary review within ten (10) business days of the filing of a request for preliminary review. The decision on a preliminary review is not a final disposition of an administrative citation and therefore is not, in and of itself, subject to judicial review.
- E. A request for preliminary review shall not extend any time period for correction of a code violation, the date that any fine is due, or the time in which to request an administrative hearing.
- F. If the preliminary reviewing authority concludes that the code violation(s) stated in the administrative citation did not occur or that the person to whom the administrative citation issued is not a responsible person with respect to the code violation(s), then he or she shall dismiss the administrative citation in its entirety, if all cited violations are disproved, or as to the cited violations which are disproved, without prejudice to the issuance of a further administrative citation should additional evidence be developed. Otherwise, the preliminary reviewing authority shall confirm the administrative citation. The preliminary reviewing authority shall also determine whether the responsible person qualifies for waiver of the fine deposit, if a waiver is requested.

1.18.140. Administrative hearing.

- A. A person to whom an administrative citation is issued may request an administrative hearing within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the administrative citation whether or not he or she requested a preliminary review of that citation and whether or not a preliminary review occurred. Failure to timely request an administrative hearing in the manner required by this chapter constitutes a waiver of the hearing and a failure to exhaust administrative remedies.
- B. A request for an administrative hearing shall be made in writing and filed with the City, and shall state any grounds which the appellant wishes the City to consider. Unless waived upon preliminary review, the request shall be accompanied by a deposit of the fine imposed by the administrative citation, in the event the fine has not yet been paid.
- C. An appellant may request one continuance of a hearing provided he or she does so in writing before the date of the hearing and states a reasonable basis for the request. Unless the City issues a written notice of continuance, the hearing shall take place on the date, time and location specified in a notice of hearing issued to the appellant. An appellant’s failure to attend a hearing shall constitute an abandonment of the request for the hearing and a failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

1.18.150. Hearing procedures.

- A. The hearing shall be conducted by the hearing authority on the date, time, and location specified in a notice of hearing issued to the appellant.
- B. An administrative citation and other reports prepared by an enforcement officer concerning a code violation shall be accepted by the hearing authority as prima facie evidence of the facts stated in such documents.
- C. The hearing authority shall allow the appellant an opportunity to testify at the hearing and to present evidence about any code violation(s) specified in the administrative citation.
- D. The enforcement officer and other representatives of the City may, but need not, attend the hearing.
- E. The hearing authority may continue a hearing from time to time and allow an appellant or other responsible person additional time to remedy a violation. In addition, the hearing authority may request additional information or evidence from the appellant.
- F. All hearings shall be recorded on a video or audio device, unless the City elects to use a court reporter. If a court reporter is not used, the City need not provide transcriptions of any hearings, but, within fifteen (15) calendar days after payment of reasonable duplication fee, shall make a copy of the video and audio recordings available to any responsible person with respect to the code violations which were the subject of the hearing. If a court reporter is used, such a responsible person may obtain a copy of the transcript upon payment of any fees or costs incurred by the City in providing the transcript.
- G. A hearing need not be conducted in accordance with the technical rules of evidence. Any relevant evidence may be admitted if it is evidence on which reasonable persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs, regardless of the existence of any common law or statutory rule which might consider such admission improper in a civil action. The hearing authority may exclude irrelevant or unduly repetitious evidence. The appellant, and enforcement officer, if present, shall have an opportunity to present evidence and witnesses and to cross-examine witnesses. An appellate may bring an interpreter to the hearing provided there is no expense to the city therefore. The hearing authority may question any person who presents evidence or who testifies at any hearing.
- H. After considering all testimony and evidence submitted at the hearing, the hearing authority shall issue a written decision to affirm, modify or dismiss the administrative citation in all or part. The decision shall include the hearing authority’s findings, as well as information regarding the cited person’s right to seek judicial review of the decision and the time in which to do so. The City shall issue the hearing authority’s written decision (the “notice of decision”) to the appellant. The decision of the hearing authority shall be final.
- I. If the hearing authority determines that the administrative citation should be affirmed in all or part, the City shall retain any funds on deposit as payment of the fine for any code violation affirmed and any penalty or interest whether or not with respect to an affirmed code violation. The City shall refund to the person who paid them the fine for any code violation which is not affirmed and, if an administrative citation is overturned in its entirety, any penalties and interest imposed on account of that administrative citation, as well.

1.18.160. Judicial review. An appellant may seek judicial review of the hearing authority’s decision by filing a petition for review with the Superior Court, pursuant to Government Code section 53069.4, within twenty (20) days after the notice of decision is issued to him or her.

1.18.170. Collection of delinquent fines and penalties and other remedies.

- A. The City may pursue any and all legal and equitable remedies for the collection of fines, interest and penalties; resort to any one remedy shall not foreclose subsequent or simultaneous resort to any other.
 - B. Delinquent fines, interest, and penalties may be recorded as a lien or special assessment against a property on which a code violation occurred. Prior to recording a lien or special assessment, the City shall prepare a cost report itemizing the amount owed by the responsible persons and give known responsible parties reasonable opportunity to be heard with respect to that cost report. The City shall comply with any other law applicable to the recording of any delinquent fines, interest, and penalties as a lien on the property, or as a special assessment.
 - C. The administrative citation process described in this chapter does not preclude the City from recovering any code violation abatement costs incurred by the City in performing its code enforcement efforts.
- SECTION 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases of this Ordinance or the rules adopted hereby. The City Council of the City of Sierra Madre hereby declares that it would have adopted each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more other sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases hereof be declared invalid or unenforceable.
- SECTION 3. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty days after its passage and adoption pursuant to California Government Code section 36937.

SECTION 4. Certification. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause the same to be published according to law. PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 28th day of April, 2009.

City of Sierra Madre PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

To: Citywide From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: Reconsideration and Ratification of Ordinance 1256, an amendment to Chapter 17.52 H-Hillside Management Zone (HMZ) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code.
Applicant: City of Sierra Madre, 232 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, CA

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that on May 21, 2009 the Planning Commission will reconsider Ordinance 1256, an amendment to Chapter 17.52 H-Hillside Management Zone of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code. Further, on May 26, 2009, and June 9, 2009, the City Council will also reconsider Ordinance 1256, an amendment to Chapter 17.52 H-Hillside Management Zone of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code. Ordinance 1256 altered standards in the Hillside Management Zone for new and existing lots, including design and development standards. The Ordinance also addressed construction, grading, drainage, architecture, landscaping, fire prevention, fuel management and biotic resources standards for hillside development. In addition, Ordinance 1256 specified permit requirements, filing and review procedures, and application contents. Finally, the Ordinance amended the City’s zoning map to expand the boundaries of the HMZ to better reflect the shape and topography of land in the northern areas of the City. As a result of this change, additional residentially zoned properties, not previously in the HMZ were included within the new HMZ boundaries. Ordinance 1256 was originally adopted on October 6, 2006; subsequently, the City Council directed staff to conduct further environmental analysis of the Ordinance. This analysis has been completed and the Planning Commission and City Council are now being asked to reconsider and ratify Ordinance 1256. A full and complete copy of the text of Ordinance 1256 is available at Sierra Madre City Hall, Development Services Department at the address noted below.

DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS

City of Sierra Madre
Planning Commission meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2009
(meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.)
City of Sierra Madre
City Council meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2009 &
Tuesday, June 9, 2009
(meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.)

PLACE OF MEETINGS

City of Sierra Madre
City Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA
City of Sierra Madre
City Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA

All interested persons may attend these meetings and the Planning Commission and City Council will hear them with respect thereto. PROJECT LOCATION: Citywide, in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California. By Order of the Planning Commission and City Council

Elaine Aguilar, City Manager Danny Castro, Director of Development Services



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SATURDAY	9	Cheryl Barnes & Phillip Cabbasso	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM
SUNDAY	10	Mother Day Brunch with Jazz from the Mercy Powell Quartet	12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
		Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
TUESDAY	12	Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge	8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
WED	13	The Michael McDaniel Joint	
THURSDAY	14	The Fuzzy Logic Bopset	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM
FRIDAY	15	Jazz with the Dave Cullwell 3	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
		Mercy & the Merketts Dance party !!	9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
SATURDAY	16	THE SCIVALLY QUARTET	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM
SUNDAY	17	New Astro Turf	1:30 PM - 5:00 PM
		Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
TUESDAY	19	Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge	8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
WEDNES	20	SONG SIRENS a collective of LA's female singer songwriters	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM
THURSDAY	21	The Jon Mayer Trio	
FRIDAY	22	Errol Le Blanc	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM
SATURDAY	23	Sean McCue & Michelle Beauchesne Guitar & Cello Duet	
		Late night Rock n Roll with THE HUPCAPS	10:00 PM - 10:00 PM
SUNDAY	24	Jazz Lunch with the Mercy Powell Quartet	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
		Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
TUESDAY	26	Drink and Think Quiz nite with Quizmaster Midge	8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
WED	27	The Jennifer Leitham Trio	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM
THURSDAY	28	Jazz Guitarist Bennett Brandies & trio	
FRIDAY	29	Swing Dancing with Flat Top Tom & the Jump Cats	
SATURDAY	30	BLUES with The Superstitions	
SUNDAY	31	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Opera to Broadway with Danny Guererro	



TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

Chicken Wars

You may get the feeling that this is a Middle East conflict before it is over. I find myself picking a side as well and defending it against its every accuser. I believe it started off friendly enough, simply a competitive disagreement over the theft of a concept, or deliberately enhancing of the truth or maybe just telling the truth. The Hatfield's and McCoy's continued a feud for generations with this common logic.

I have to admit that I have fallen firmly into the grasp of the Chicken Wars that are sweeping across Southern California.

Before we get all dirty up with the details of this growing feud, I did a little investigating and placed a call to El Pollo Loco headquarters to determine just how many chicken pieces they sell in a month (8 pieces per chicken). You get your calculators out and mull over the numbers and I will give you the frontline report and convey the correct answer below (one hint – it is a nice round number).

So shat started all this posturing and the drum beat of war? The Colonel, and his implied Southern politeness and expected etiquette, aka KFC, has added a grilled chicken to their menu, and a give away to promote their newest team member. What will be next, the tooth fairy is out of a job? You see El Pollo Loco very existence hinges on these grilled chickens. They consider their grilled chickens the self anointed champagne of the flame and have taken a raucous note of this injurious act. KFC must have seen the smoke and decided to get in on this chicken fight because now they are discussing these new grilled chickens with all the political craftiness that would make one assume they invented chicken grilling. Maybe a great tradition of the duel should be enforced for this battle. Instead of 10 paces, turn and shoot, how about ten chickens turned and fired, carved with a single blade of the challengers choosing. I will offer my well seasoned and ever curious palate for the challenge. Though, I could not add, that no animal was harmed in the process, it could be said, they are well taken care of and completely enjoyed. It appears that the President of El Pollo Loco "Steve" has indeed challenged KFC to a battle of the birds, "Let's see if our opponent is too chicken," to compare chickens.

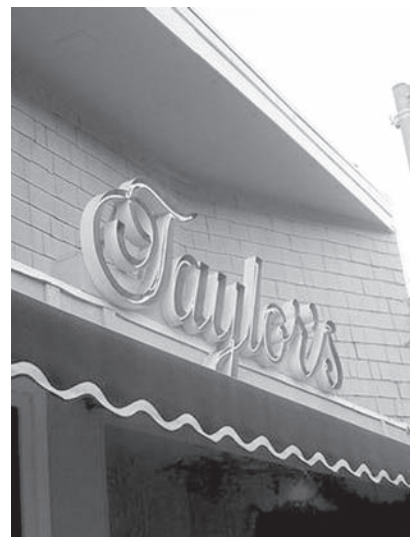
Owe, that one hits them where it counts, Steve! Not sure if Southern California's leading chicken company (KFC) will go for the bait or chicken feed as Alexander Hamilton did with Aaron Burr but I can only think of what a fine and full judge I would be. I have to say, I do like the chicken at El Polo Loco, but I swore on a stack of Bibles to my erudite Editor, that I would try to avoid chain restaurants. So, please don't mention it if you run into her and we can keep it our secret. After all, I am functioning under the guise of covert research!

So where can you get a great chicken and

not have to eat in a bunker? For me one of the best chicken entrees that I have had is in La Canada, at Taylor's Steak House. A Steak house for chicken? You bet, maybe they are trying to avoid getting caught up in inevitable war!!! What makes it so good? It is a half-deboned chicken, pressed and pan fried, and the flavor is simply sinful. The restaurant itself is a generational throwback, red leather booths and many of the servers will call you darling,

in some sweet refreshing tone. Take my word for it, they are just being nice, so don't ask them for their phone numbers. If you get it, don't write me and say. Peter, guess what? I will just have to respond, some guys get all the breaks, I tell you. Make sure you order the Molly Salad, its a quarter cut Iceberg lettuce with plenty of Blue cheese.

Now as for the tabulations of chicken pieces per month. Amazing, El Pollo Loco turns out 20 million chicken pieces. Some months I feel



Taylor's in La Canada

as though I ate them all myself!

Taylor's Steak House 901 Foothill Blvd. La Canada (818) 790-7668

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8 wine events occurring over the course of the Memorial Day Weekend. The weekend begins with two Master Sommelier's teaching guests on how to taste wine like the Masters. Then **Friday evening** attendees will celebrate the wines and traditional foods of South America.

This will be held on the lawn, under the stars, overlooking the bay with over 20 wineries, food stations and an 8-piece band. **Saturday** there will be a Winemakers Luncheon featuring Concha Y Toro Winery and afternoon wine seminars on Chardonnay's from around the globe, and Red Wine Blendings with Clos Du Bois "Marlstone". Guests will even take home their own blend! **Saturday evening** is a wine-lover's dream, with over 60 wineries and the Chef's culinary talents from around the globe will be displayed at numerous food and wine stations.

The Masters Sommelier's will also be there to share their insights. **Sunday**, guests can relax with a delicious brunch, and the weekend will conclude with Cigar Cognac and Cocktails on the Terrace with Las Vegas Master Mixologist Livio Lauro.

For all details: www.balboabayclub.com or call 949-630-4146.

When: Friday May 22nd through Sunday May 24th

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Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

Shuttle Atlantis Launches on Final Mission to Hubble Space Telescope

SPACE SHUTTLE ATLANTIS with its seven-member crew launched at 2:01 p.m. EDT May 11 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center on the final Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission. Atlantis' 11-day mission will include five spacewalks to refurbish Hubble with state-of-the-art science instruments designed to improve the telescope's discovery capabilities by up to 70 times while extending its lifetime through at least 2014.

The STS-125 mission is the 126th shuttle flight, the 30th for Atlantis and the second of five planned in 2009. The Hubble Space Telescope was initially placed in orbit on April 24, 1990.

Among Hubble's greatest discoveries is the age of the universe (13.7 billion years); the finding that virtually all major galaxies have black holes at their center; the discovery that the process of planetary formation is relatively common; the first ever organic molecule in the atmosphere of a planet orbiting another star; and evidence that the expansion of the universe is accelerating – caused by an unknown force that makes up approximately

72 percent of the matter-energy content of the universe.

MEANWHILE, ON MARS, Exploration Rover "Spirit" has a new problem. Its five wheels that still rotate have been slipping severely in soft soil during recent attempts to drive, sinking the wheels about halfway into the ground.

The rover team of engineers and scientists has suspended driving Spirit temporarily while studying the ground around the rover and planning simulation tests of driving options with a test rover at JPL.

"Spirit is in a very difficult situation," JPL's John Callas, project manager for Spirit and its twin rover, Opportunity, said. "We are proceeding methodically and cautiously. It may be weeks before we try moving Spirit again. Meanwhile, we are using Spirit's scientific instruments to learn more about the physical properties of the soil that is giving us trouble."

Both Spirit and Opportunity have operated



more than five years longer than their originally planned missions of three months on Mars, and they have driven much farther than they were designed to do. The rover team has so far developed ways to cope with various symptoms of aging on both rovers.

Spirit has been driving counterclockwise from north to south around a low plateau called "Home Plate" for two months. The rover progressed 122 meters (400 feet) on that route before reaching its current position.

In the past week, the digging-in of Spirit's wheels has raised concerns that the rover's belly pan could now be low enough to contact rocks underneath the chassis, which would make getting out of the situation more difficult. The right-front wheel on Spirit stopped working three years ago. Driving with just five powered wheels while dragging or pushing an immobile wheel adds to the challenge of the situation.

Favorably, three times in the past month, wind has removed some of the dust accumulated on

Spirit's solar panels. This increases the rover's capability for generating electricity.

"The improved power situation buys us time," Callas said. "We will use that time to plan the next steps carefully. We know that dust storms could return at any time, although the skies are currently clear."

Behavioral problems that Spirit exhibited in early April—episodes of amnesia, computer resets, and failure to wake for communications sessions—have not recurred in the past three weeks, though investigations have yet to diagnose their root causes.

If you'd like to learn more, you can contact Bob at: b.eklund@MtnViewsNews.com



Photo by Aaron Dominguez

This and That

Survival Tips in a Busy World

By La Quetta M. Shamblee

Twists and Twitters – The New Telephone Era

Just as I thought I was dusting the cobwebs off my old school approach to communications by getting a Blackberry, I'm finding that my ignorance of how to twitter, let alone, what twittering is, has left me mired in the past.

Whatever happened to the days of rotary phones that provided real exercise for my finger that I used to turn the dial in a circular motion? Or the enhanced exercise of dangling the headset from the phone cord so that it wouldn't become raveled too tightly to use comfortably. We thought we'd arrived when the lightweight Princess phones became available – and we had a choice of pastel blue, pink or yellow, with backlit numbers to boot! With that new technology and twenty-five foot phone cords, we could talk almost anywhere in the house.

The age of Aquarius was ours to own when portable phones allowed us to cook on the patio or sit poolside while chatting away with Auntie Sally in Maine. I don't know about other baby boomers, but I need an intensive course and ongoing education on how to use the new generation of cell phones. Of course I know how to dial and number and answer calls, and I've even mastered placing contact information and appointments into my calendar. But asking me to retrieve them and move them into folders for future reference leaves me scratching my head. You mean my

phone has folders?

Every now and then, I manage to push the right buttons to get to the screens that allow me to text. This is light years away from the manual typewriter that I learned to type on, since my school didn't have any of those fancy IBM Selectrics. Oh yea, it also comes equipped with a GPS system that will give me the directions out loud. I only know this because I've actually heard directions coming out of my spouse's phone that's just like mine. The phone will also let me check my e-mail, but I'm in need of more practice to figure out how to use that feature, especially since that's one of the main reasons I needed a Blackberry?

Between my home phone, office phone and cell phone I'm about tapped out of time to check all the incoming messages. "Mailbox full" is now the most common message left to greet callers on two of those phones. I think it's time for me and my generation to figure out how to streamline and manage the increasing volume of incoming calls facilitated by this new-fangled technology. Convenience has morphed into chaos for those of us with multiple projects that involved multiple contacts. I'm ready to do something about it, but for now, I need to check my business and personal e-mail to see what I need to handle before the phone rings again.

A Special Event to Commemorate the Tiananmen Massacre and to Celebrate the Fall of the Berlin Wall

In the spring of 1989, Beijing erupted with the largest spontaneous demonstrations the Peoples' Republic of China had witnessed in its 40-year history. The pro-democracy movement quickly spread to over 30 cities around China before the world witnessed the horrors of the government's brutal crackdown. As the Chinese people fled from the tanks and guns, they asked the international press to let the world know the truth.

They asked the world not to forget.

The iron curtain divided Europe for more than 40 years and "the Berlin Wall" surrounded East Berlin for more than 28 years. In 1989, Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Romania collapsed under its own

repressive weight. The fall of the Berlin Wall became the symbol of the Miracle Year of 1989.

Sunday, May 24, 2009, 11:00 a.m. Reception and Registration. Tiananmen Story - photo essay curated by Visual Artists Guild.

The Miracle Year - photo exhibition provided by Wende Museum. Buffet Brunch 1:00 p.m. House of Blues, Los Angeles 8430 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, Ca. 90069. Cost: Include the famous House of Blues Buffet Brunch Ticket: \$35 advanced purchase, \$42.50 at the door, Supporter Ticket: \$50, Donor Ticket: \$100

For information and reservations please call 310-539-0234, 310-433-0697 or e-mail to vag@visual-artists-guild.org

On Line On-Line Safety: Botnets

with P.J. Carpenter

What is commonly referred to as a "Botnet" (or robot network) is actually a collection of computers run by remote control software and controlled by a single user. The software that allows a computer to be controlled in this fashion is typically downloaded and installed without the legitimate users' knowledge or consent. This collection of computers (sometimes numbering in the thousands) can be used for a variety of purposes, most of them bad. It's generally not a good idea to have someone or something controlling your computer without your knowing about it. The hackers that set up these networks of infected machines (called 'zombies') usually rent out the networks to the highest bidder for purposes such as large-scale spamming, phishing scams, Distributed Denial of Service attacks (DDOS) password cracking and click-fraud.

In a DDOS attack the botnet is used to overwhelm a website with so many requests for service that legitimate customers cannot get their requests handled properly. The most common result of this avalanche of traffic is the website crashing. If the site in question is an e-commerce site or a financial institution the losses from the down-time can run into the millions.

In a Click-Fraud scam the web browser on an infected machine is automatically redirected to a specific website whenever the browser is opened. Usually the hacker involved has some sort of financial arrangement with the

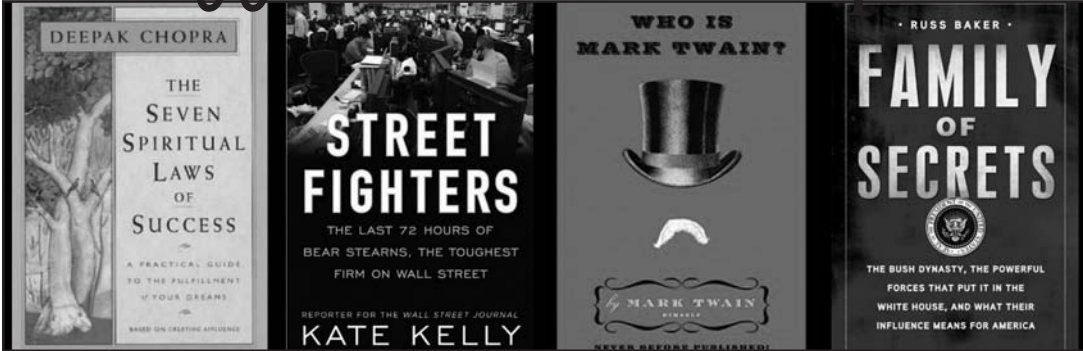
advertiser that pays for each 'click' that sends a user to the website in question. A botnet of sufficient size and quality can produce a handsome financial return for the effort involved in setting up the network in the first place.

In these and other botnet activities the hacker is indirectly given an additional layer of protection from identification as the source of all the mayhem caused as all the requests appear to be coming from separate machines with no apparent link between them. ISP's (Internet Service Providers) as a rule have policies in place that prohibit spamming and other behaviors usually engaged in by botnets but the damage has usually already been done by the time the offending entities have been blocked.

Botnets with as many as a million zombies have been recorded by computing security experts. The best way to keep from becoming a zombie is to practice the on-line safety basics: Keep your system updated with the latest service packs, use a properly configured firewall, keep your anti-spyware and anti-virus software updated and running and never click on a link that you don't know where it will take you.

The bad guys usually prey upon the unknowing and the unwary first. By keeping your system as secure as possible you will encourage them to look elsewhere for an easier target.

Jeff's Pics



The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success - A Practical Guide To The Fulfillment Of Your Dreams by Deepak Chopra

Teilhard de Chardin said, "We are spiritual beings having a human experience." Chopra builds on this powerful thought and shares his life's work in spiritual approaches to daily living. He explains the laws of giving, pure potentiality, karma, least effort, detachment, intention and desire, and dharma and includes helpful suggestions on how to apply these fundamental, natural principles if one is searching for purpose and a satisfying life!

Street Fighters: The Last 72 Hours of Bear Stearns, the Toughest Firm on Wall Street by Kate Kelly

In May, 2008, Kate Kelly attracted international attention for her three part series of articles on the investment giant Bear Stearns, which ran on the front pages of The Wall Street Journal. One of the oldest and toughest investment banks on Wall Street, Bear Stearns got thru the Great Depression and the internet bubble, but was the first to go down in America's financial meltdown. Expanding on her acclaimed series of articles she wrote this interesting and in depth look at the Bear Stearns melt down. Kate Kelly is a staff reporter at the Wall Street Journal, as well as a veteran of Time magazine and The New York Observer.

Who Is Mark Twain? By Mark Twain

"You had better shove this in the stove," said

The Book Reports

Mark Twain, joking in a 1865 letter to his brother, "for I don't want any absurd 'literary remains' and 'unpublished letters of Mark Twain' published after I am planted." When Mark Twain died in 1910, he left the largest collection of personal papers created by any nineteenth century American author.

Here for the first time is a new collection of previously unpublished writing, 24 wonderful pieces that have been handpicked by Robert Hirst, general editor of the Mark Twain Project at the University of California, Berkeley. "Happy Memories of the Dental Chair" will make you appreciate modern dentistry. "The Privilege of the Grave" offers a powerful statement about the freedom of speech. Another about Jane Austen and another about his first New York lecture. All are very funny and relevant even today as he was frequently ahead of his time.

Family of Secrets: The Bush Dynasty, The Powerful Forces that Put it in the White House, and What Their Influence Means for America by Russ Baker

Family of Secrets is a Bush family dynasty tell all. Investigative journalist Russ Baker includes previously unknown revelations about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the Watergate break in, among others. Fascinating stuff. Mr. Baker has contributed to the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, Esquire, Vanity Fair and the New Yorker, among others.

They came from two different origins, but found they shared

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The Senior
By Bruce Lamarche

REVERSE MORTGAGE - A PROBLEM SOLVER



The reverse mortgage transaction can be a solution for one of a number of issues facing seniors. Qualifying on traditional forward mortgages (the ones with payments) can be brutal in today's restrictive mortgage market. Seniors often face the problem of sufficient income to qualify for these.

The reverse mortgage is designed to create a payment-free income flow for seniors over 62 who have a desire to use a part of their equity to support a lifestyle and upcoming needs. This is done without the usual qualifications of the traditional mortgage. There is no consideration for income or credit in qualifying.

Seniors today live frugal lifestyles and are cautious with their money. This is an example for the younger generations. Yet, despite this conservative approach to living, seniors face special challenges. As investments lose their value and portfolios are reduced by the whims of the market, financial security may be in question.

Those over 60 can face increased health care costs. There is a strong desire in many to "age in place". This means the ability to cover the costs of any health care needs and possible improvements or modifications to home to facilitate staying at home. It can be the addition of walk-in bath tubs, safety rails on bathrooms, new flooring, improved beds, or virtually anything needed for comfort. Home care can involve simple housekeeping assistance or in-home care.

Often homes will need improvements. These can be related to health and mobility issues or simply that home needs a new roof, paint, carpet, or kitchen upgrades.

Deferred maintenance can cause health problems.

From a financial point of view, the reverse mortgage can provide a needed boost in income by simply paying off any existing mortgages or bills. Sometimes, producing a monthly income (tax-free) is important to supplement retirement or Social Security checks.

The senior often desires to help family with needs and to do it before they pass away. We all desire to know that our estate will help our children and grandchildren. This can be financial help for them if in distress or providing down payment money for buying a first home. Perhaps it would be a delight to see this happen in our lifetime. The reverse mortgage can raise the money to provide for the needs of our family, now.

The reverse mortgage is government insured and is heavily regulated to protect the interests of seniors. It is advisable that seniors interested in information on this consult a professional who specializes in this type of mortgage. Family members are encouraged to work with you in analyzing the facts and determining if this type of tool is appropriate and effective. Your decision is only as good as your information.

Got a question? Ask Bruce by phone- (626)335-3412 or e-mail: blamarche@verizon.net. This article is provided by Bruce Lamarche, a member of Society of Certified Senior Advisors®, www.csa.us. Bruce's company, R & B Reverse Mortgage Services (Glendora) helps seniors make an informed decision about obtaining a reverse mortgage. www.LASeniorMortgage.com

REVERSE MORTGAGE INFO

R & B Reverse Mortgage Services, Inc.

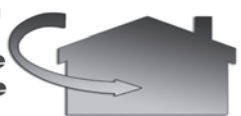
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See the "Senior Spot" column weekly!

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

FYI: Raising Canes

The latest in self-defense: Protecting yourself with a walking stick. Martial arts instructors all over the country are now teaching cane-fighting techniques, which use a simple jab and arm-hook maneuvers to keep assailants at bay. Cane fighting also is taught as a part of exercise and rehabilitation programs. Contact the Cane Masters International Association (800-422-2263; canemasters.com) for seminars and training DVDs. AARP

~Helpful Hints~

Rebuff rodents

Mice, squirrels, and bats are experts at finding every conceivable entry into a house. When you discover one of their entry points, stuff it full of steel wool. Steel wool is much more effective than foam or newspaper because even dedicated gnawers are unlikely to try to chew through such a sharp blockade.

Recipe of the Week: Lighter Chicken Salad



Ingredients:

- * Coarse salt and ground pepper
- * 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves(6 to 8 ounces each)
- * ¼ cup light mayonnaise
- * ¼ cup low-fat buttermilk
- * 1 Tbs Dijon mustard
- * 1 Tbs fresh lemon juice
- * ½ to 1 tsp hot sauce
- * 2 celery stalks, finely chopped
- * ½ small red onion, finely chopped
- * ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley

Directions: 1- Bring 1 inch salted water to a boil in a large skillet with a tight-fitting lid. Add chicken, cover, and reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer 5 minutes. Off heat, let chicken (still covered) steam until cooked through, 12 to 14 minutes. Remove from skillet; when cool enough, cut into chunks or shred with two forks.

2- In medium bowl, stir together mayonnaise, buttermilk, mustard, lemon juice, and hot sauce. Stir in chicken, celery, onion, and parsley; season with salt and pepper. Serve on bread or over greens. (To store, refrigerate up to 3 days)



Happy Birthday!

May Birthdays: 5/6 Juanita Loera, 5/17 JoAnn Serrato-Chi, and 5/20 Barbara Soulanille

For Your Funny Bone

A government employee sat in his office, and out of boredom, decided to see what was inside his old filing cabinet. He poked through the contents and came across an old brass lamp. "This will look good on my mantel," he said, and took it home with him.

While polishing the lamp, a genie appeared and, as usual, granted him three wishes. "I would like an ice-cold Coke right now." He gets his Coke and drinks it. Now that he can think more clearly, he states his second wish. "I wish to be on an island with beautiful women who find me irresistible." Suddenly, he's on an island with gorgeous women eyeing him lustfully. He tells the genie his third and last wish. "I wish I'd never have to work again." Instantly, he was back in his government office.

Quote: *Remember, upon the conduct of each depends the fate of all.*

~Alexander the Great~

Activities:

Unless listed differently, all activities are at the Hart Memorial Park (Senior Center) 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre
Lunch Program: Monday- Friday at the Intervale Café -12:00 Noon-Call (626) 355-0256 to make your daily reservation. Suggested donation \$2.00 for seniors (60+) and \$3.75 for visitors.
Monday: Free strength Training Class with volunteer Lisa Brandley 1:00-1:45
Tuesday: Bingo- 1:30PM- 3:30 PM .25c per card
Yoga- 5:30 PM- 7:00PM Instructor Andrea Walsh- \$6.50 for seniors (50 and over.)

The Santa Anita Bowling Green Club will be having beginning lawn bowling lessons each Saturday morning starting at 10 AM. Anyone interested come by the park before 10 AM. For information call Gene at 626-351-5327. FREE!

Call 355-5278 for more information.
Wednesday: 1st & 3rd Wednesday-Community Lunch & Learn Program
Thursday: Game Day- 1:00PM- 3:30PM- Poker, UNO, Scrabble, Cribbage, Chess, Checkers, Backgammon, Pinochle... you name it.
Yoga- 5:00 PM- 6:30 PM \$6.50 for seniors (50 and over) Call 355-5278 for more information
Friday: Ping-Pong 1:30 PM
Saturday: Senior Club for those 55 and older- Brown bag lunch at 11:30AM Meeting at Noon- Bingo at 12:30 PM- only .25c per card

Senior Opportunities and Excursions

Monthly Excursions: Thursday, May 28- Nethercutt Collection & Museum in Sylmar- 8:45 am to 2:30 pm \$18.00 per person (includes lunch) 5 floors of treasures that range from classic and vintage automobiles to antique furniture. For more information about the museum, please visit their website at www.nethercuttcollection.org To register, call 626.355.7394.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic- Second Tuesday of each month 11:00 AM- Noon
No appointment necessary

Financial Consulting- 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Hart Memorial Park House from 10:00AM- Noon. Please call (626) 355-7394 for an appointment.

Senior Stretch and Balance- A free class designed by volunteer instructor Teryl Willis, for seniors to refresh the joints, soothe the spine, and improve balance. Come and join in some simple and gentle exercises, a little light yoga, and a bit of easy tai chi. On Wednesdays at 11:00 am.

Free Lawn Bowling Lessons: The Santa Anita Bowling Green Club will have beginning lawn bowling lessons each Saturday morning starting at 10:00 AM. Located just north of the golf course at 405 S. Santa Anita Ave.<

free parking>
For information call Gene at 626.351-5327.

Meals-on-Wheels:

Meals are delivered to homebound seniors by volunteer drivers through the YWCA Intervale Lunch Program M-F (with frozen meals for the weekend.) \$2.00 suggested donation per day. Call Susan Garcia at (626) 858-8382 for more information.



MEALS-ON-WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER MEALS TO OUR HOMEBOUND NEIGHBORS **ONCE A MONTH OR WEEKLY Please contact Darlene Traxler at 626.355.0256.**

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Chris Bertrand

Sumptuous Arcadia Estate Steeped in Tradition

An invitation to view an estate just listed took me to a lane I'd never visited before. Though it's just ½ mile or less to just about everything you might need in life, the tony Upper Rancho location is secluded, even bucolic. Overarching trees enfold the street in a leafy splendor that makes it feel miles from civilization.

The ornate driveway gate was open as I sauntered past a prolific rose garden on my way to the front door. Every inch of the home, both the new and original sections of the 7769 square foot manse, blends tradition with privacy and verdant vignette views of the

landscape.

The 1.1 acres truly fulfills the real estate term often bandied about: "Park-like." If one could think of an acre-size green cocoon, this would be it. Many walls of windows seem to glow with that lush green of the outdoors from grass to encircling mature trees.

www.Walkscore.com, 1061 Fallen Leaf in Arcadia is listed at \$3,998,000 by Jan Thornton and Sue & Maurice Orme of Coldwell Banker. For more information, contact Jan at 626-893-3303 or the Ormes at 626-826-8511.



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LAKE ARROWHEAD
Lake Arrowhead \$349,000 Fabulous recently remodeled home with "Lake Rights". Built in 1990. Huge lot. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, open bright floor plan with 2 levels, laundry room, decorative fireplace, large dining area that could be used as family room/play area. Double attached garage, room for RV & boat. Furniture is negotiable. (G171)



PASADENA
Beautiful Tree Lined Street \$568,500 Located in Upper Hastings Ranch. Spacious living room with fireplace, cozy dining area, 3 bedrooms, 1.75 baths, enclosed patio with windows overlooking the rear garden. Kitchen with counter eating area. Master bedroom with bath & large closet. Double detached garage. Brick patio, fruit trees. (T1210)



SIERRA MADRE
More Home than Townhome \$819,000 A wraparound yard and patio on two sides of this home provide privacy and lush landscaping to this unique townhome. A generous 1877 square feet with 3 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, breakfast den, formal dining area, separate laundry room, spacious living room with fireplace, ceramic tile floors, CAFA, high ceilings, two sets of sliding doors, direct access two car garage. (E103)



MONROVIA
Historic Victorian \$729,000 Located close to Old Town Monrovia this Historic two story 2428 sq.ft. character home features 4 bedrooms, dining room, family room, built-ins, central air & heat, 2 fireplaces and 2 baths. This is truly a "must see" home. (C626)



ALTADENA
Mid Century Classic \$1,395,000 This great deal has 3257 sq.ft. and features five bedrooms, dining room, family room, built-ins, central air & heat, 2 fireplaces, granite counter tops, 3 baths, beautiful pool & spa, Zen like garden plus guest quarters with bath. Situated on 15,500 sq.ft. corner lot. Detached double garage. This is truly a must see! (G2440)



PASADENA
Four on a Lot \$899,000 Four units each with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. For investment or Live in one unit and rent the other three. 3213 sq.ft. building, two levels, one building, corner lot, laundry room, carport parking. (H471)



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314 SIERRA WOODS DR. SIERRA MADRE, \$749,000



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NAZEE RIX CONGRATULATED

Andy Bencosme, Managing Broker of CENTURY 21 Village, in Sierra Madre recently congratulated Nazee Rix for her sales production through the first week of May. With home sales just under 2 million dollars, Rix leads the office in production for the month.

A Bradbury resident and mother of two, Rix has been a consistent top sales producer for the last five years. Becosme credits her success to having the utmost dedication to her clients and willing to work with them around the clock if need be.

You can reach Nazee or any of the other wonderful sales associates at 626.355.1451.



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PROP 1A STATE BUDGET. CHANGES CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROCESS. LIMITS STATE SPENDING. INCREASES “RAINY DAY” BUDGET STABILIZATION FUND.

Put on the Ballot by the Legislature

SUMMARY: Changes the budget process. Could limit future deficits and spending by increasing the size of the state “rainy day” fund and requiring above-average revenues to be deposited into it, for use during economic downturns and other purposes. Fiscal Impact: Higher state tax revenues of roughly \$16 billion from 2010–11 through 2012–13. Over time, increased amounts of money in state rainy day reserve and potentially less ups and downs in state spending.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

YES A YES vote on this measure means: Various state budgeting practices would be changed. In some cases, the state would set aside more money in one of its “rainy day” reserve funds. Higher state taxes recently passed would be extended for up to two years.

NO A NO vote on this measure means: No changes would be made to state’s current budgeting practices or its rainy day reserve funds. Higher state taxes recently passed would end by 2010–11.

ARGUMENTS

PRO Yes 1A: REFORM OUR BROKEN BUDGET SYSTEM. 1A forces budget stability and accountability. It strictly limits state spending and mandates a bigger rainy day fund—forcing politicians to save more in good years to prevent tax increases and cuts to schools, public safety and other vital services in bad years.

CON 1A is not what its supporters promise. Why? Because 1A: Treats the “Rainy Day Fund” as a slush fund for Pork Barrel spending ; Could force service cuts even in good times; Encourages unlimited tax increases—doesn’t stop them; Gives unchecked power to Governor. Vote No on 1A.

PROP 1B EDUCATION FUNDING. PAYMENT PLAN.

Put on the Ballot by the Legislature

SUMMARY: Requires supplemental payments to local school districts and community colleges to address recent budget cuts. Fiscal Impact: Potential state savings of up to several billion dollars in 2009–10 and 2010–11. Potential state costs of billions of dollars annually thereafter.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

YES A YES vote on this measure means: The state would make supplemental payments to schools and community colleges beginning in 2011–12. These payments would replace other payments the state might otherwise be required to make in earlier years.

NO A NO vote on this measure means: The state would not make supplemental payments to schools and community colleges, and instead make other payments as required under current law.

ARGUMENTS

PRO The budget crisis has cut \$12 billion from our schools. Over 5,000 teachers have been laid off, thousands more are threatened. Prop. 1B starts the process of paying our schools and community colleges back as economic conditions improve. Our future depends on the investment we make in educating our children.

CON No argument against Proposition 1B was submitted.

PROP 1C LOTTERY MODERNIZATION ACT.

Put on the Ballot by the Legislature

SUMMARY: Allows the state lottery to be modernized to improve its performance with increased payouts, improved marketing, and effective management. Requires the state to maintain ownership of the lottery and authorizes additional accountability measures. Protects funding levels for schools currently provided by lottery revenues. Increased lottery revenues will be used to address current budget deficit and reduce the need for additional tax increases and cuts to state programs. Fiscal Impact: Allows \$5 billion of borrowing from future lottery profits to help balance the 2009–10 state budget. Debt-service payments on this borrowing and higher payments to education would likely make it more difficult to balance future state budgets.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

YES A YES vote on this measure means: The state would be allowed to borrow \$5 billion from future lottery profits to help balance the 2009– 10 state budget, as well as borrow additional funds later. The California Lottery would have greater flexibility to increase its sales and profits. Lottery payments to educational institutions would end, and the state General Fund would increase its payments to education to make up for the loss of these lottery funds.

NO A NO vote on this measure means: The state would not be able to borrow from lottery profits to help balance the state budget. The lottery would continue to operate as it does today, with profits dedicated to education.

ARGUMENTS

PRO Yes on Prop. 1C MODERNIZES OUR LOTTERY and generates up to \$5 billion in new revenue—without raising taxes. Prop. 1C guarantees schools get the same level of lottery funding as they do now. Prop. 1C will help prevent more tax hikes and deeper cuts to public safety and schools.

CON A no vote on this measure will leave the state lottery as the voters intended when they voted for Proposition 37 in 1984. Funding to education by the state lottery will not decrease or change in any way.

PROP 1D PROTECTS CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUNDING. HELPS BALANCE STATE BUDGET.

Put on the Ballot by the Legislature

SUMMARY: Temporarily provides greater flexibility in funding to preserve health and human services for young children while helping balance the state budget in a difficult economy. Fiscal Impact: State General Fund savings of up to \$608 million in 2009–10 and \$268 million annually from 2010–11 through 2013–14. Corresponding reductions in funding for early childhood development programs provided by the California Children and Families Program.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

YES A YES vote on this measure means: A portion of funds previously approved by the voters to support early childhood development programs through the California Children and Families Program will be temporarily redirected over the next several years to achieve state General Fund budgetary savings.

NO A NO vote on this measure means: The California Children and Families Program will continue to receive all the funding now dedicated for the expansion of early childhood development programs. Other budget reductions or revenue increases would be needed to address the state’s fiscal problems.

PRO Proposition 1D protects vulnerable children while helping California close a \$42 billion budget gap. It temporarily shifts a portion of the unspent \$2.5 billion in First 5 Commission accounts to fund critical health and social services for children under the age of 5 and protects against future cuts.

CON Proposition 1D takes \$1.6 billion away from local health and education programs for young children and gives it to Sacramento politicians. Prop. 1D violates the will of voters who twice approved these funds for local health, education, and antismoking programs. Prop. 1D replaces voter-mandated local control with Sacramento bureaucracy.

PROP 1E MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING. TEMPORARY REALLOCATION. HELPS BALANCE STATE BUDGET.

Put on the Ballot by the Legislature

SUMMARY: Helps balance state budget by amending the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63 of 2004) to transfer funds, for two years, to pay for mental health services provided through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program for children and young adults. Fiscal Impact: State General Fund savings of about \$230 million annually for two years (2009–10 and 2010–11). Corresponding reduction in funding available for Mental Health Services Act programs.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

YES A YES vote on this measure means: A portion of funds previously approved by the voters under Proposition 63 to support the expansion of community mental health programs will be redirected over the next two years to achieve state General Fund savings.

NO A NO vote on this measure means: All Proposition 63 funds would continue to be used to support the expansion of community mental health programs. Other budget reductions or revenue increases would be needed to address the state’s fiscal problems.

ARGUMENTS

PRO This is a one-time redirection of funds to help close an unprecedented \$42 billion budget shortfall. Voting yes on Prop. 1E will ensure that we can continue to provide critical services to our most vulnerable Californians. It’s the right thing to do for those who need us most.

CON The Mental Health Services Act’s successful programs save the state and local governments money by reducing incarceration, homelessness, hospitalization, out-of-home placements, and school failure. During these difficult times, let’s keep programs that work and respect the will of the people. Vote no on Proposition 1E.

OVERVIEW OF THE STATE BUDGET - Prepared by the Legislative Analyst's Office

The General Fund is the state's core account that pays for most services. In 2007–08, the state spent \$103 billion from the General Fund, primarily on education, health and social services, and state prisons (see Figure 1). The General Fund is supported primarily from income and sales taxes paid by individuals and businesses.

Recent State Budget Problems. In recent years, state government has experienced major budgetary problems with the General Fund. The state’s budget problems have been due to a variety of factors—including large ups and downs in state revenues and the use of one–time solutions to support higher ongoing spending. In late 2008, the state’s budget problems got even worse as a result of the financial credit market crisis and the national recession. By January 2009, it was projected that the state would face a \$40 billion shortfall over 2008–09 and 2009–10 if no corrective actions were taken.

February 2009 Budget Solutions. In response, in February 2009, the Legislature and the Governor agreed on a budget package to bring the 2008–09 and 2009–10 budgets back into balance. With these changes, the state expects in 2009–10 to bring in about \$98 billion in revenues and spend about \$92 billion. (The difference of about \$6 billion between revenues and spending is being used to cover a year–end deficit in 2008–09 and build up a reserve account.) This package included more than \$40 billion in solutions.

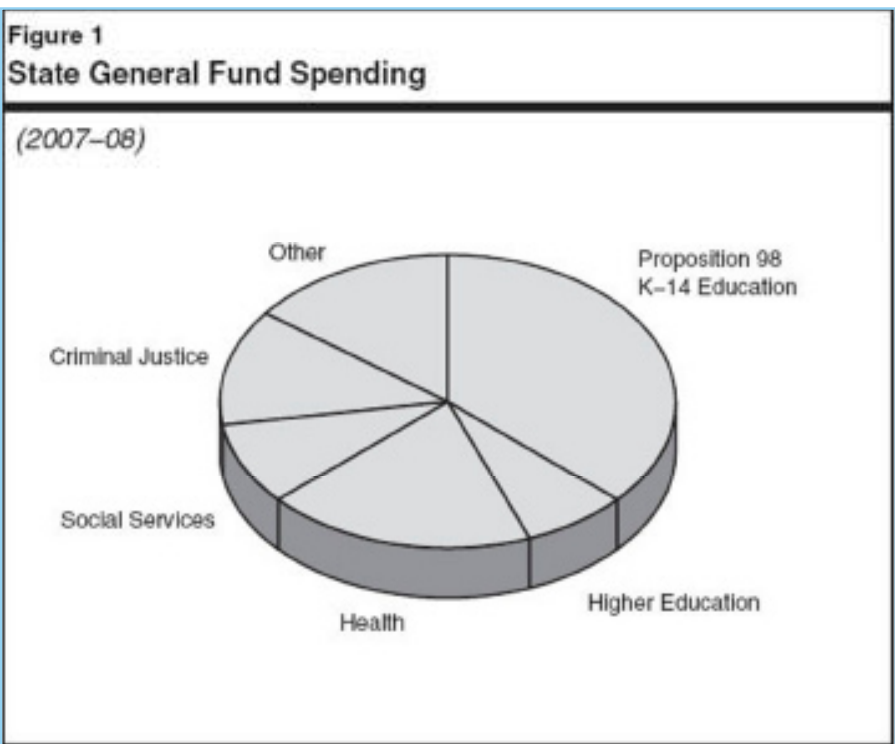
Spending Reductions. The package included about \$15 billion in spending–related reductions. The largest reductions related to kindergarten through twelfth grade schools, which experienced both reductions to core program funding, and the deferral of payments to future years.

Figure 2

Summary of Budget-Related Propositions Effect on State General Fund Budgets

Proposition Topic 2009–10 Next Few Years

1A	“Rainy day” reserve fund	Not significant	Higher tax revenues through 2012–13. Unknown net effect from other provisions.
1B	Supplemental payments for education	Potential savings in the billions of dollars	Potential savings in the billions of dollars in 2010–11, with potentially higher costs of billions of dollars annually thereafter.
1C	State Lottery	\$5 billion in benefit from borrowing from future lottery profits	Net increased costs of hundreds of millions of dollars annually.
1D	Early childhood development program funds	Up to \$608 million in savings \$268 million annually in savings from 2010–11 through 2013–14.	
1E	Mental health program funds	About \$230 million in savings About \$230 million in savings in 2010–11.	1F State elected officials’ salary increases Potential minor reduction in costs Potential minor reduction in costs in some years.



Reductions also included furloughing state workers, eliminating inflationary adjustments for many programs, and making other reductions in services.

Tax Increases. The package included about \$12.5 billion in tax increases. Most of these higher taxes are the result of increased rates for the sales and use tax, vehicle license fee, and personal income tax.

Federal Funds. The package also assumed receipt of more than \$8 billion in federal funds from the recent economic stimulus law to help balance the budget.

Borrowing. Finally, the package counted on \$5 billion from the borrowing of future lottery profits.

Budget–Related Propositions. As part of the February package, six propositions were placed on this ballot related to the budget. These propositions—numbered 1A through 1F—are summarized in Figure 2 and explained in more detail in the rest of the voter information guide.

What Would Happen if the Propositions Are Rejected? As shown in Figure 2, the 2009–10 budget depends on access to about \$6 billion related to three propositions on this ballot—\$5 billion by borrowing from future lottery profits (Proposition 1C), up to \$608 million by redirecting dedicated childhood development funds to help the General Fund (Proposition 1D), and about \$230 million by redirecting dedicated mental health funds to help the General Fund (Proposition 1E). If the voters reject these three measures, the 2009–10 budget would not be in balance under current revenue forecasts. Consequently, the Legislature and the Governor probably would need to agree to billions of dollars of additional spending cuts, tax increases, and/or other budgetary solutions to bring the budget back into balance. It is unknown what these alternative actions would be, as they would be determined after this election.

Future Budgets Will Need More Solutions. Even with the adoption of the 2009–10 budget package and assuming that all of the propositions on this ballot pass, it is expected that the state would face multibillion-dollar budget shortfalls in the coming years. This is due to a number of reasons. The state’s economic recovery from the recession is expected to be relatively slow. In addition, many of the solutions adopted as part of the 2009–10 budget are short term in nature—meaning that they will not help balance the budget in future years. Consequently, based on current projections, the state will need to adopt billions of dollars in additional spending reductions, tax increases, or other solutions in the coming years.