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#### Don't Forget: SANTA'S COMING!

"I'll be here on Christmas Eve to see the boys & girls in Sierra Madre. See you at the Fire Station at 5 pm"

# Mountain Views News

Where Your Community News Comes First

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2009

SPECIAL EDITION VOLUME 3 NO. 51

## A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



"Sierra Madre is my favorite town anywhere", said artist Sonny Salsbury several years ago when asked about the village depicted above. Every year, a different photo has been selected to adorn the Christmas Edition by Publisher Susan Henderson with the permission of the artist. This scene, which first appeared in 2006, captures the activities in Kersting Court and the spirit of the Season. "Wouldn't It Be Nice?" Merry Christmas To All from the Publisher and Staff of the Mountain Views News.

### An Award Winning House - Fire Sprinkler Saves Home

See story on page 14



By SM Fire Marshal Rich Snyder

Last week the Sierra Madre Fire Department responded to a reported house fire in the canyon. The accidental fire started in the corner of a bedroom and involved clothing and miscellaneous papers and boxes. The fire spread rapidly up the wall while the occupant was in the next room. As quickly as the fire started, it was extinguished before the homeowner even knew it was happening. The home was equipped with a residential fire sprinkler system that was installed over 15 years ago. According to Fire Marshal Rich Snyder, the damage from the fire was estimated at around \$150 to the contents and \$0 fire damage to the building. "It's not uncommon to see losses in excess of \$100,000 for house fires under the same circumstances without fire sprinklers." What about the water

damage? According to Snyder the fire sprinkler discharged approximately 10- 12 gallons of water per minute, "This is far less than the 150 gallons per minute that come from our fire hoses. Plus you also have to take into account that the fire would have burned for an extra 5 to 10 minutes." The Sierra Madre Fire Department has been requiring the installation of fire sprinklers as part of new and remodeled home projects for the last 25 years. There are currently over 400 homes in Sierra Madre that are protected by fire sprinklers. Fire Chief Steve Heydorff put it this way, "It's like having a firefighter in your home 24 hours a day but you don't have to feed him and trust me that's not cheap." When asked if Rich has fire sprinklers in his own home he proudly stated "Absolutely, I wouldn't live in a house without them."

### Sad Story Sends Message To All Teens

By Dean Lee

An investigation into the alcohol related death of South Pasadena High School honor student Aydin Salek on December 13th, was still ongoing Friday night as students, friends and family held a second memorial in his honor at the school. Police now say those involved may face criminal charges.

Selek was found unresponsive after visiting a party in Altadena last Saturday advertised on Facebook. He was taken to Huntington Hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

Day One Executive Director Christy Zamani said they used the tragic story to get the message out to teens about drinking. Day One is an advocacy and community mobilization group for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention "Nothing hits home like a real

story, something they can relate to," she said. "It shakes them. We asked the kids, what can we do?"

The students came up with answers like, a reality check, know the consequences, parent awareness, unsupervised hours and to change the norm about alcohol being cool.

Zamani said the talk was given during their regular Wednesday meeting to about 25 kids the same day hundreds of students and teachers and friends held a vigil for Selek. Zamani said Day One was working to get more activities in the city for teens.

"When teens have nothing to do that's when they get into trouble," she said. "They have their own parties."

Zamani explained alcohol commonly kills two different ways, asphyxiation or poisoning. She explained the (continued pg. 13)



New Japanese erasers have arrived!



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## Weather Wise



### 5-Day Forecast

#### Sierra Madre, Ca.

**Mon:** Sunny Hi 60s Lows 40s  
**Tues:** Sunny H 60s Lows 40s  
**Wed:** Sunny Hi 60s Lows 40s  
**Thur:** Sunny Hi 60s Lows 40s  
**Fri:** Sunny Hi 60s Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

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**Grand Opening December 1st until the trees run out!**

Sierra Madre Christmas Tree Company is locally owned and operated by the Moran, Alden and Heydorff families.

### Door Of Hope Hosts 4th Family Reunion

The Door of Hope hosted its 4th annual Family Reunion Christmas Party on Thursday, December 17th at Sierra Madre Congregational Church in Sierra Madre. It was the largest reunion to date with over 100 children and close to 40 families in attendance.

It was a wonderful and festive time where current residents at Door of Hope connected with families that have graduated from the program as well as volunteers and staff. Santa Claus made an appearance bringing candy canes and allowed all the children to take pictures with him. There were hundreds of presents including a personalized toy, book and stuffed animal for each child. Sierra Madre Congregational Church's Pastor Beck shared a story with the children and everyone joined in the singing of Christmas Carols.

Robin Cragoe and the Covenant Keepers Sunday School Class at Sierra Madre Congregational Church prepared the delicious home cooked dinner where every bite was savored and appreciated! Many generous donors made it possible for every Door of Hope

Family to receive \$35 worth of food to help them through the holidays.

It is with the partnership of so many in our community that make the good work at Door of Hope possible in such tough economic times. To offer hope and the love of Christ during this Christmas season is vital to our ministry and shows the families that we celebrate a Big God who loves them and has plans for them.

The Door of Hope is a transitional housing program in Pasadena and Glendale offering shelter and hope for families that have found themselves without a place to live. Equipping families to rebuild their lives is the mission at Door of Hope where families with children can begin a program of restoration and healing that will end the cycle of homelessness permanently.

Many families may enter our doors with doubts and concerns but with love, education and a commitment to hard work, they will leave with a strong foundation for a future filled with hope. For more information please contact Tim Peters (626) 533-1153 or email at [tim@doorofhope.us](mailto:tim@doorofhope.us)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>December</b>					4	5
			<b>Sierra Madre</b>			Sierra Madre Little League Registration
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	City Council Meeting	Arts Commission Meeting	Barks and Books		Arts Commission Excursion
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				Third Thursday Book Club		First day of Hanukkah
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Community Services Commission Meeting	City Council Meeting	Library Board of Trustees Meeting	Planning Commission Meeting		Last day of Hanukkah
27	28	29	30	31		
	Winter Solstice		Tree Advisory Commission Meeting	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	First day of Kwanzaa
				New Year's Eve		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>December</b>					4	5
						Breakfast with Santa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Holiday Decoration Award Judging	Holiday Decoration Award Judging	Holiday Decoration Award Judging	Recreation Commission Meeting			Holiday Decoration Award Judging
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Senior's Holiday Breakfast	Foreign Film Evenings			Broag About Your Bag
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Special Teen Program	City Council Meeting	Santa Squad Visits Tonight	Teen Movie Matinees		First day of Hanukkah
27	28	29	30	31		
	Winter Solstice	Modification Committee Meeting		Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	First day of Kwanzaa
		Teen Zone		New Year's Eve		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>December</b>					4	5
					Holidays in Old Town Starts	How to Thrive (Not Just Survive) During Changing Times
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Golden Age Club	Time for Two's Santa Visit	Munchkin Visit Santa			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Community Services Commission	Planning Commission	Blue Star Families	Family Festival	First day of Hanukkah
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Santa Tours Monrovia Starts	Teen Gift Workshop	Youth Commission	Monrovia Historic Preservation Group	Family Festival	Last day of Hanukkah
27	28	29	30	31		
	Golden Age Club		Historic Preservation Commission	Blue Star Families	Santa Tours Monrovia Ends	First day of Kwanzaa
				Library Board	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
				Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	New Year's Eve

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>December</b>					4	5
						Moonlight Basketball
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Mayer's Youth Council Meeting	City Council Meeting	CDBG Advisory Committee Meeting			Moonlight Basketball
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Greeting Card Workshop	Santa Visits Beardslee Park			First day of Hanukkah
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting	Public Safety Commission Meeting				Moonlight Basketball
27	28	29	30	31		
	Planning Commission Meeting	City Council Meeting				Last day of Hanukkah
	Youth and Family Master Plan Advisory Committee					Moonlight Basketball
	Winter Solstice			Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	First day of Kwanzaa
				New Year's Eve		

**MONROVIA'S ROSE LEAF RAGTIME CLUB,** will convene on Sunday, December 27, 2009 at the Aztec Hotel's Mayan Restaurant from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. The Aztec Hotel, a marvelous historic building built in 1925, is located at 311 W. Foothill Boulevard in Monrovia, 3 1/2 blocks west of Myrtle. Plenty of free parking at the west side of the hotel. Suggested donation -- \$2.00 (performers are not asked to donate). Ragtime and related types of music, classic and contemporary, played on one or two upright pianos, as well as on other instruments. Attendees are encouraged to support the hotel (which does not charge the club) by partaking of the reasonable all-you-can-eat buffet. Beverages including beer and wine are available for purchase. Performers, listeners and dancers (there's a small dance floor) are always welcome. **Call Hal Leavens (626) 359-8648 or Ron Ross (818) 766-2384**

**MT. WILSON TRAIL CLOSED**  
Due to a large rock slide, Mt. Wilson Trail will be closed until further notice. The heavy rains have caused a large amount of large rocks & debris to block the trail making it very unstable and unsafe for hikers. The damage will take some time to clear and at this time it is unknown when the trail will re-open. Residents and visitors are not permitted on the trail. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your cooperation. Violators will be cited SMMC 9.24.090.  
*For updated information, please look on the City's website [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com) or contact the Community & Personnel Services Department at (626) 355-5278.*

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## PUSD Board President Sends A Letter To The Community: Residents Concerned Over Measure TT Funds



PUSD Board President Tom Selinski sent the following letter (unedited) to households within the district:

Recently a document was distributed in the community that cast numerous inaccurate allegations regarding the Measure TT School Bond program which was approved by voters in November 2008. The document was filled with incorrect and untrue statements. It is important for the community to understand the facts in regards to the Pasadena Unified School Districts facilities bond and to clear up unsubstantiated rumors and inaccuracies. Below are statements in the letter and the actual facts about the statements made.

*"So far the PUSD has expended \$16 Millions of dollars and no one in the public knows what the money has been spent on."*

FACT: The Measure TT web site <http://measurett.org/> linked to the home page of the PUSD web site [www.pusd.us](http://www.pusd.us) contains a tremendous amount of detailed information, including data on the projects, costs, expenditures and future plans. In addition a Citizens Oversight Committee has been in place since March 2009 chaired by former Pasadena City Council Member Sid Tyler. The Citizens Oversight Committee received its first Facilities Master Plan quarterly update with detailed information on projects and expenditures, on September 17, 2009, and the Board of Education received a quarterly update on September 22, 2009. These meetings are public, as are the meetings of the PUSD Board Facilities Committee.

*"No one in the public knows if any local or minority service providers, materials suppliers or labor have been hired."*

FACT: The School Board adopted Resolution 2021 setting goals for local hiring on June 9, 2009. The district is currently reviewing requests for proposals for a consultant to help run the local hiring program to ensure that the bond funds help stimulate jobs in the local economy. Construction contracts

now being let require local hiring to meet the Board goals.

*"The PUSD project manager, in spite of the brilliant talent pool in Southern California was found in Gilroy, of all the stunning and illogical places to find such a person. This person seems to have worked for Edmund(Edwin) Diaz in the direct past. A reasonable person may infer a "buddy" hire from that."*

FACT: Steve Brinkman is the only PUSD staff person from Gilroy where Edwin Diaz was Superintendent from 2001 to 2007. During his tenure, Superintendent Diaz has personally interviewed and hired more than 20 leadership team members. Other former Gilroy employees who applied were not hired. Mr. Brinkman brings an extensive background in school facilities management, construction and school finance. Mr. Brinkman was originally hired as Chief of Staff, but assumed responsibility for the development of the Facilities Master Plan.

*"The PUSD Board has adopted resolution 2021 for local hiring. This resolution sets a goal of 25% for local and minority participation from Pasadena, excluding Altadena and Sierra Madre by not including those communities in the resolution."*

FACT: Resolution 2021 includes the entire Pasadena Unified District which includes the communities of Pasadena, Altadena, Sierra Madre and also parts of unincorporated LA County.

*"Twenty Five percent local and minority hires is a very small goal when one considers that the Los Angeles Unified School District is presently achieving over a Fifty percentage rate for local and minority sourcing of material, labor and services."*

FACT: PUSD intends to meet and exceed our goals. LA Unified has a population area of over 3 million people just in the city of Los Angeles and has (*cont. on pg. 6*)



I have a few rather new tidbits from Mayor Lutz's recent visit to the New Horizon's Club. First off, there has been a decision from the MTA that the new Maintenance Yard for the extension of the Gold Line will be in Monrovia at Myrtle Ave. and Duarte Rd. Only four parcels do not belong to Monrovia but seem to be easily available. What a plus for our fair city! Then, many of you may have attended the unveiling of the Station For the Gold Line sign, groundbreaking to be June, 2010,

Regarding the controversial apartment complex on Myrtle Ave, in spite of being close to the street, there are several attractive courtyards positioned on the entrance side of the edifice and developers of any new business in Monrovia are required to contribute a certain percent of their financing to the "Art in Public Places" project, an obligation begun in 2000. The percentage may be used only for art as the program states. The contribution from this new building will be an arch across Myrtle Ave. at Chestnut Ave.: "Welcome to Monrovia".

Mayor Lutz also mentioned that Kohls, Living Spaces and Henry's are all alive and doing well. The T.Phillips super sports pub, located at Colorado and Myrtle, will be opened for Super Bowl Sunday and, 'what d'ya know', Monrovia is acquiring an In 'N Out, located in the Home Depot spot between Mountain and Shamrock. Arcadians may not be as gleeful as are Monroviaans!

Yesterday, December 15th, the New Horizon Seniors celebrated the holiday season with an annual "luncheon bash", pork roast with all the trimmings, including apple pie, one of the very special desserts provided by our long-time favorite caterer, Sally. Music was provided by Jay Munns, very popular keyboard master, who played just about everything, from popular favorites dating back to the 20s and 30s, to every Christmas song you've ever heard, with the history of many of the compositions, how and why. The group demanded three encores. 66 members of the club attended.

One last note: Father Jack Foley, former pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Monrovia, now retired in Montrose, made a surprise visit to his old haunts in Monrovia last week. A group of us who have called ourselves the X-Group for lack of anything inspirational, since 1947, meet for lunch monthly, although only two of us, (now six, originally eight), are originals: Kay Day, Alicia Pogue, Jo Ochoa, Barbara McCarville, Peggy Connor and me. This month was Capistrano's, where Father joined us, revelling in all of the old-times' events and, believe me, we'd better always be careful because he hasn't forgotten one thing from those eventful days! Great Fun!!

*postrye@netzero*

## The Holiday By Craig Hakola

Just as children eagerly scurry to open their presents on Christmas morning, the rush is also visibly witnessed in adults after Thanksgiving Day, as the jubilation of Christmas casts its spell in the season of enchantment. The music prances and ceremoniously chaperons us in those reflective melodies of Christmas, while millions of artists proudly adorn America's landscape with an array of earth bound stars that challenge the colors of a forgotten spring, and noticeably, people become different in the Season of Christmas.

What would occur if Christmas was to vanish and we replaced it with a neutral celebration that we called, "The Holiday?"

In our age of wisdom is it possible for us to discover the timeless magic that stimulates the spirit of Christmas, or is Christmas nothing more than the best marketing scheme in the history of the world?

Recently, Newsweek magazine placed on its cover, a cross and the words, "THE DECLINE AND FALL OF CHRISTIAN AMERICA."

It is a provocative pronouncement which some people believe is America's destiny. For each year it becomes less fashionable and a little more controversial to proudly display a religious depiction of Jesus and a manger. For most Americans, Christmas still revolves around the miracle of a child born two centuries ago, but, images of Christ are being pushed aside incrementally. "Merry Christmas" is being replaced by the sanitized greeting of "Happy Holidays." Sure it may not knowingly rob the spirit of the season but the fact we have made this modification signals an important and critical step in our thinking, one that will change the way in which our children view Christmas.

By the appearance of things it seems that we are no longer need Christmas. Certainly we should take away the religious parts of that season and develop an acceptable season for everyone, a glorious season, "The Holiday."

So, what do you think we should replace the nativity with for our new season, "The Holiday?" There are many intriguing possibilities to select from; a snowman, a holiday wreath, mistletoe, a giant gingerbread figure, an overgrown Nutcracker, maybe a cleverly composed arrangement of holiday lights, or maybe, just maybe, nothing at all is best suited for our Holiday scene, but that of course presents a rather hollow expression to inspire good will in our fellow neighbor.

It would appear that Santa Claus should be considered the most practical choice to surrender our holiday to. He is historic, universally loved, and an ambassador of benevolence. Here too a most intriguing problem arises. For Santa Claus is created in the image of a historic person, Saint Nicholas of Myra. A Saint, whose acts of charity were so remarkable that they inspired the mythical figure of Santa Claus. Saint Nicholas was a religious man and his faith contained an honesty of strength that he was willing to suffer imprisonment for and did. After carefully weighing the exceptional character of Saint Nicholas, it is obvious that it would represent an enormous fraud to pretend that the inspired figure of Santa Claus and his simple instruments of flight, reindeer, could soar without the faith of Christmas lifting them. If we were able to somehow separate Santa Claus from the historic figure, it is unrealistic to imagine that he could supply the heightened level of Holiday cheer that we have grown to know. For his magical attraction is bound to our youth and is destined to flee us for the mature country of dreamy fairytales.

All is not to be lost on our new season though. For a final but most compelling symbol remains, "The Holiday Tree." The lights adorn it; the decorations surround it, beautiful presents rest under it and the star perches atop it. It is absolutely perfect for "The Holiday," but for a single item. The star of course, it is another religious reminder, and an offensive one. It carries the belief that three Magi were miraculously guided by the star's light to the baby Jesus. Now, what logical soul could allow that star to nestle upon "The Holiday Tree?" To commence with the cleansing and removal of the nativity and Jesus, and not extinguish the star as well, reason alone appears to demand its removal, for it would be a job half complete.

We will compromise on this item though, for the sake of charity and place a small globe of the world on top of our tree.

Rather worldly, and inclusive of us. "The Holiday Tree" is now complete.

The lights are the beacons of our own infinite genius and they dance around our Holiday Tree. The tinsel glimmers and invites us in the glowing heartbeat of firelights. The architect of our ornaments is a master artisan and we have filled our tree with the benign images of "The Holiday," but something appears to be missing? For in all of our calculations we have judiciously left ourselves with a common tree, no meaning attached to any supernatural act, nor any charitable inspiration to encourage us. By our own cunning wisdom we have stripped away all possibility of those acts. Do we now possess a faith of this immensity to believe that a common tree, even one that was rich in beauty, could inspire and promote an emotion similar to that of the Christmas Season, one of hope and humble love for our fellow human being?

It is unlikely that the significance of a date can be affixed to when our thinking changed on this. The feeling that religious symbols are not viewed as positive expressions of belief, or at least neutral ones but rather threaten society in a nefarious manner and are a thing to vanquish and hide. We have become a generation of individuals that are eagerly encouraged to embrace the spirit of offense. It is not an inclusive trait that we have cultivated but one that openly rejects the honorable rights of the majority's wellbeing and happiness. We have watered this attitude daily with our own inadequate responses. For even the most ludicrous perception of an offense causes our own quivering surrender as we grovel to avoid the possibility of someone else feeling offended. So we vacate common sense; discard rather carelessly the important symbols and beliefs that our Parents, Grandparents and Founders reflected upon. Next we fail to recall the ideas that instructed them in reshaping the world and championing a thought called Liberty, and delivering a mortal blow to Slavery. Far too often we have relinquished these scared and meaningful symbols of our ancestors to appease and appear reasonable people. What are we to leave our children, what are the images that are to bind their hearts, galvanize their actions, and nourish their Christmas Seasons? Is it to be MTV, The Hills, American Idol, and a common Holiday Tree?

If we were to strip away every religious expression and image of Christmas, would our life be better or worse for it? What about our neighbor's life? The removal of these religious expressions would be a thoughtless act of destruction. For the images of the baby Jesus bridge a sacred gulf for the greater majority of our country. The nativity scene reaches back to touch an important place in time and it contributes to an unbridled love that is poured out in great acts of charity and deep affection for our fellow man. An emotion that bursts with a love of such depth that the individual is compelled to celebrate it, display it and act upon it. We must all search for those important treasures to venerate in the chambers of our heart; our family, friends, country and for most, God, and yes, for the overwhelming majority of Americans, Christmas!

I am certain that every generation from mankind's beginning and every ethnic group have found pools of hope and love in some ceremony, very many of them religious. It is one of the most natural and acceptable expressions of human beings.

It is unlikely that the image of Jesus and the nativity have changed that much in the last fifty years but it appears that others have. Have we chosen to discourage those that wish to seek God? There is no secret to Christmas; no mixture that we can blend together that will invent the Christmas spirit. We could not capture it if we were to gather our greatest minds. The spirit of Christmas is to be found in the belief of a miracle. So if we persist in stealing the miracle that birthed the season, then we have condemned ourselves to memorialize the emptiness of "The Holiday Tree" and just another insignificant day off.

Let those that wish to openly honor the spirit of Christmas and Jesus, be welcomed and encouraged by others. For they carry the greatest gifts to give to the world; those of faith, hope and love.

Merry Christmas!

*CraigHakola@aol.com*

## Christmas Eve at San Marino Community Church



**Christmas Nativity Pageant**  
**5:00 pm, Sanctuary**  
Delight in the wonder of story as the night of Jesus' birth is enacted by children and told with Scripture readings and Christmas carols.

**Communion & Carols - 8:00 pm, Sanctuary**

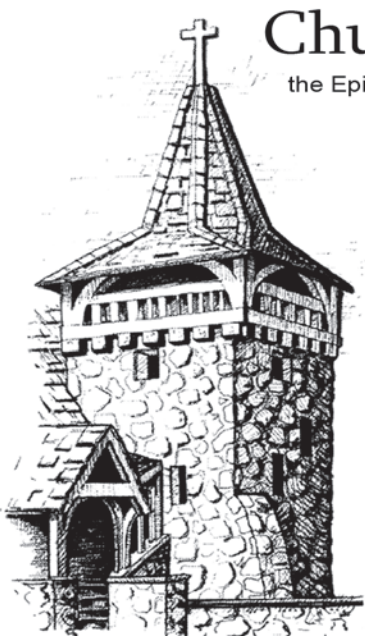
Celebrate the birth of Jesus with a meditative service highlighting the Christmas story in Scripture, song, and sacrament.

**Traditional Candlelight Service**

**10:30 pm, Musical Prelude; 11:00 pm, Worship Service, Sanctuary**

The glory of Christmas joy expressed by choir, carols, and the spoken Word of God brings the season of Advent preparation to a fitting close as we welcome Christ, the "Light to the Nations".

**San Marino Community Church**  
1750 Virginia Road, San Marino, CA 91108  
For more information call: (626) 282-4181  
Connect with us online: [www.smccpb.com](http://www.smccpb.com)



## Church of the Ascension

the Episcopal church in Sierra Madre--Your Village Church.

*A place to meet God and your neighbors*

### Schedule for the Season

Opportunities for Confession: By appointment.  
**The Third Sunday of Advent, December 13th:**  
Eucharist 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20th:**  
Eucharist 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.  
Candlelight Walk 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th:**  
Family Service (with a Pageant!) 5:00 p.m.  
Hymns and Carols 10:30 p.m.  
Solemn Christ Mass (Rite I) 11:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day, Friday, December 25th:**  
Eucharist 11:00 a.m.

**First Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 27th:**  
Eucharist 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Corner of Baldwin and Laurel  
**(626) 355-1133 \* [ascension-sierramadre.com](http://ascension-sierramadre.com)**



# Mountain Views News

# Pasadena Altadena

News Form Your Community For Your Community

## Crimestoppers Program Launched in L.A. County



Supervisor Michael Antonovich joined Sheriff Lee Baca, LAPD Chief Charlie Beck and police chiefs from over 20 cities to launch a new public-private partnership that will offer rewards to anonymous tipsters who provide information leading to the apprehension and prosecution of criminals.

Anyone with information on an unsolved crime is encouraged to contact Crimestoppers by, calling 800-222-TIPS (8477) or texting the letters TIPLA plus the tip to 274637 or CRIMES. A website has also been setup at [lacrimestoppers.org](http://lacrimestoppers.org)

The Crimestoppers program was started in 1976 by a detective in Albuquerque, New Mexico, who was frustrated by the number of unsolved cases in his jurisdiction. The detective reached out to the community, media and law enforcement agencies for help. This new partnership helped him solve a murder he was investigating within 72 hours.

There are currently over 300 Crimestopper programs worldwide.

## Public Art Mural, Director Vacancies Discussed on 'City Beat'

Pending vacancies of director positions in the Pasadena Planning and Development Department and Pasadena Public Health Department, along with the public art mural that was painted over on Fair Oaks Avenue, are the topics of the current edition of "City Beat" airing on 55 KPAS and the Internet.

Moderator Ann Erdman is joined by Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, Pasadena Independent editor John Stephens and Mountain Views News reporter Dean Lee.

"City Beat" replays Mondays at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. and throughout the week. Streaming video at [www.cityofpasadena.net/publicaffairs](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/publicaffairs) For more information call (626) 795-5556.

## Pet of the Week



Stanley, an adorable, black and white, Chihuahua mix is just five months old and needs a loving home. He needs to be adopted by someone who has had shy dogs in the past and can help build his confidence. A quiet home with someone who can devote a lot of time and attention would be best for this puppy. Come visit with Stanley today!

The regular dog adoption fee is \$120, which includes medical care prior to adoption, spaying or neutering, vaccinations, and a follow-up visit with a participating vet.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A261627 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.pasadenahumane.org](http://www.pasadenahumane.org)



## Santa Drops By Local Hospital

Santa arrived Thursday morning by helicopter on the roof of Huntington Memorial Hospital, and with a, "ho, ho, ho," he handed out toys to Pediatric Patients. Those well enough were taken to the roof to witness Santa's arrival and escort him to the Pediatric Unit where approximately 18-20 patients ranging in age from 2-18 years old received gifts.

Later that day, Santa also made a stop delivering toys to Hathaway-Sycamores (Roland Cottage/Hunter Cottage) where he and his elves greeted 35 boys and young men. This time, he disguised his sled as a truck from the Pasadena Police Department.

Both events were put together by the Pasadena Police Air Operations Section and the Foothill Air Support Team (FAST). About \$3,000 dollars was raised from contributions made by employees and employee associations of the participating FAST agencies. "While the staff

of the Pasadena Police Air Operations coordinates this annual event, many other employees from the agencies we work with help make it a reality," Interim Chief of Police Christopher Vicino said. "Most importantly, it is our pleasure to bring some joy into the lives of these children who, for a variety of reasons, won't be with their families at Christmas."

### *In Related News: Police to Delivers Meals and Toys In Cooperation With The Salvation Army*

The Pasadena Police Department, in cooperation with The Salvation Army and Santa, will deliver complete Christmas Dinners and toys to almost 100 families in Pasadena.

Police cars will begin lining the front of the Pasadena Police Station Monday between 8:30 and 8:45 where they will be loaded by uniformed police employees and volunteers. They will disperse to various locations in the City.

## Holiday Tips: Dry Christmas Tree Danger

By Dean Lee

The message was clear Monday morning as Pasadena fire lit a dry Christmas tree on fire to show the danger and how quickly they can burn. Within minutes an eight foot tree was nothing more than a blackened mess.

Firefighters said decorations add to the danger.

"With plastic decorations it's going to give off a lot more heat," They cautioned. "It's a danger in general to have a Christmas tree on fire. A Christmas tree with decorations won't make that much of a difference... it will burn a lot faster. But, then again, that's what we are there for."

City Fire Chief Dennis Downs said to make sure Christmas lights are turned off when leaving home. He also said to give Christmas trees plenty of water, check



lights for frayed cords or missing lights. He said, "Never put a tree near a fireplace or heater."

Firefighters also explained how fire, from an ignited tree, could progress through a home.

"It's going to go through

the roof," they said. "It will start at your ceiling, then go through an attic, if you have one, in general it's going to be bad."

Downs also cautioned when using candles saying to keep them away from children and pets.

## City Moves Forward on World Cup Soccer Bid

By Dean Lee

The City Council pulled an item Monday night off their agenda related to the bidding process for the Rose Bowl to host the 2018 and/or 2022 World Cup soccer matches saying it was not needed.

The council concluded that a Host City Agreement between Federation Internationale De Football Association (FIFA) the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), and the City of Pasadena was not required to move the bid forward.

Councilmember Victor

Gordo said the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC) had voted to stay in the bidding process after the arena was selected among 32 stadiums to advance to the next round. The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum was also selected.

Rose Bowl Stadium General Manager Darryl Dunn said the bid is a multiple step process with the first step being a Stadium Cover Agreement between FIFA and the RBOC.

"If the U.S. is awarded the bid then we will be back," he said.

According to city staff, FIFA will award the Host Nation for each of the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups in December, 2010. Once the Host Nation status is determined, FIFA and the USA Bid Committee will conduct a further selection

process to determine the final list of Host Cities for the Event. "The final decision on the Host Cities will take place approximately five years prior to the Event."

Gordo said if the city is selected, parts of the Host City Agreement may come back before the council but only if the United States is to receive the Host Nation designation.

Staff also said, "Representatives from the USA Bid Committee conducted a stadium tour of the Rose Bowl and were extremely impressed with the facility and its capability to host a world class soccer match that meets FIFA's expectations, especially with the proposed renovations, which would include new hospitality lounges and a renovated press box and suites."

## Queens of the Century



Rose Queen Natalie Innocenzi (third from right) spent Tuesday afternoon with more than 30 Rose Queens from the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and today to celebrate the upcoming parade and share memories of past Rose Parades.

The event was private

although before having lunch, the Rose Queens took time for a media photo opportunity that included, 1940 Rose Queen Margeret Main, (second from right). At age 88, Main is the oldest living queen and proud of it. 1941 Rose Queen Sally Rabsaman (front right) also made the luncheon.

## Rose Parade Live Stream Colorado/Orange Grove

See the Rose Parade streaming live as if you were there at [roseparadelive.com](http://roseparadelive.com). All the excitement without the hassles, pre parade coverage starts at 6:30 a.m. Parade officially begins 8:00 a.m.



## NASA Data Reveal Major Groundwater Loss In Central Valley

New space observations reveal that since October 2003, the aquifers for California's primary agricultural region —the Central Valley— and its major mountain water source —the Sierra Nevada Mountains— have lost nearly enough water combined to fill Lake Mead, America's largest reservoir.

The findings, based on data from the NASA/German Aerospace Center Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (Grace), reflect California's extended drought and increased rates of groundwater being pumped for human uses, such as irrigation.

In research being presented this week at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco, scientists from NASA and the University of California, Irvine, detailed California's groundwater changes and outlined Grace-based research on other global aquifers. The twin Grace satellites monitor tiny month-to-month changes in Earth's gravity field primarily caused by the movement of water in Earth's land, ocean, ice and atmosphere reservoirs. Grace's ability to directly 'weigh' changes in water content provides new insights into how Earth's water cycle may be changing.

Combined, California's Sacramento and San Joaquin drainage basins have shed more than 30 cubic kilometers of water since late 2003, said professor Jay Famiglietti of the University of California, Irvine. A cubic kilometer is about 264.2

billion gallons, enough to fill 400,000 Olympic-size pools. The bulk of the loss occurred in California's agricultural Central Valley. The Central Valley receives its irrigation from a combination of groundwater pumped from wells and surface water diverted from elsewhere.

"Grace data reveal groundwater in these basins is being pumped for irrigation at rates that are not sustainable if current trends continue," Famiglietti said. "This is leading to declining water tables, water shortages, decreasing crop sizes and continued land subsidence. The findings have major implications for the U.S. economy, as California's Central Valley is home to one sixth of all U.S. irrigated land, and the state leads the nation in agricultural production and exports."

Preliminary studies show most of the water loss is coming from the more southerly located San Joaquin basin, which gets less precipitation than the Sacramento River basin farther north. Initial results suggest the Sacramento River basin is losing about 2 cubic kilometers of water a year. Surface water losses account for half of this, while groundwater losses in the northern Central Valley add another 0.6 cubic kilometers annually. The San Joaquin Basin is losing 3.5 cubic kilometers a year. Of this, more than 75 percent is the result of groundwater pumping in the southern Central Valley, primarily to irrigate crops.

## Pasadena Area Armenian Groups Collaborate To Make Christmas Merry

The Pasadena Armenian Police Advisory Council (PAPAC) delivered thousands of toys Wednesday to the Pasadena Police Department to be distributed to various non-profit agencies. This is PAPAC's fourteenth consecutive toy drive.

"In order for community policing to be successful," Interim Chief of Police Christopher Vicino, said, "every member of the community must feel they have a vested interest in their police department. People coming from a new country need to know that

we are here for them and they and their families can make a significant contribution to the good of their community."

The collected toys and gifts are earmarked for several Pasadena community agencies, including the Pasadena Salvation Army, Huntington Hospital Pediatrics Unit, and the Harambee Center. "This is a way, that as a group, we can do something for a lot of children from all over our community," PAPAC President, Hovannes Sarkissian said.

For more information call 626-792-9597.



## Sierra Madre Police Blotter

*During the week of Sunday, December 6, 2009 to Saturday, December 12, 2009 the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to about 339 calls for service.*

### Monday, December 7th

7:20 AM – Vandalism, 611 East Sierra Madre Blvd. Between 2:00 PM on 12-06-2009 and 6:45 AM on 12-07-2009 unknown suspects vandalized the restrooms by breaking tiles and damaging the metal privacy partitions. Estimated repair cost is about \$475.00.

6:52 PM – Battery Report – 200 Block Olivera Lane. Officers were dispatched to multiple 911 calls regarding a man calling for help. Officers arrived on scene and detained two men who admitted to fighting with each other. Neither desired prosecution.

### Tuesday, December 8th

12:08 PM – Grand Theft, 200 Block West Sierra Madre Blvd. The victim left his bike unsecured at the bike rack on the north end of Memorial Park on Saturday, December 5th. When he returned on Tuesday, December 8th, his bike was missing. Estimated loss is \$750.00.

3:14 PM – Theft from Vehicle, 1 Kersting Court. The victim left a digital camera in his unlocked vehicle while he went into a store. When the victim returned to the vehicle, the digital camera was missing. The camera is valued at approximately \$129.00. No suspect description is available at this time.

9:51 PM – Public Intoxication Arrest, 400 Block West Sierra Madre Blvd. Officers responded to the location regarding a loud disturbance in one of the apartments. When the officers arrived they saw an intoxicated woman outside who was involved in the disturbance. Officers arrested her for being drunk in public and took her to the Pasadena Police Department for remand.

### Saturday, December 12th

12:59 AM - Public Intoxication Arrest, Kersting Court. Officers did a bar check at Lucky Baldwin' and arrested an intoxicated woman who was causing a disturbance. Officers took her to the Pasadena Police Department for remand.

9:00 AM – Vandalism Report, 200 Block West Sierra Madre Blvd. Sometime between 4:00 PM Friday, 12-11-2009, and 9:00 AM Saturday, 12-12-2009, unknown suspects broke the hand soap dispenser and urinal dividers off the wall. The repair cost is unknown.

6:01 PM – Theft from Vehicle, 100 Block North Sunnyside Ave. Between 5:30 PM on Friday, December 11th and Saturday, December 12th about 3:00 PM, suspect(s) entered an unlocked vehicle on the street, ransacked the interior and stole cds. Total loss is estimated at \$20.00.

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## A Weekly Spotlight on Sierra Madre Volunteers

### Bob Burnett - High Energy Volunteer

Bob Burnett's healthy high energy has made it possible for him to multi-task into working on a great number of Sierra Madre volunteer avenues. His primary philanthropy is the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department of which he's been a member for almost 29 years.

Bob has made life-long friends from within the department. Before Bob became a member, he met John Knowles one day in Pasadena. John said, "I live in Sierra Madre, too, and have just joined the Fire Department. Why don't you follow?"

Bob took him up on his offer, and he and John have been department companions and close friends ever since.

"I've worked for five fire chiefs," Bob noted. He has been elevated to Battalion Chief, responsible for the crew on duty days and in charge on each of those days. Often, he works "one or two nights a week and every fourth weekend from Friday night to Monday morning."

He added, "Other guys are doing just as much."

Bob graduated from the Fire Academy in 1982 and has been an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for 28 years. He lauds the paramedics in Sierra Madre for their advanced training and for how much more they are able to do for patients than EMTs.

Why does Bob favor the SMVFD so much? "It provides the most amazing way to give back to the community, to neighbors and family, friends who depend on you...I get a personal satisfaction...There's a camaraderie...Some of my closest relationships have resulted from my work in the department."

Bob continued, "I really believe it's a unique breed of person who does what firefighters do...The Fire Department enjoys an exalted position that is enviable."

Sierra Madre supports the only all-volunteer Fire Department in Los Angeles County.

As time-consuming as it is, the Fire Department is only a part of Bob's volunteerism. Add to that list: Sierra Madre School PTA Board of Directors and Board president; State of California PTA Lifetime Achievement Award (2004); Sierra Madre Trail Race Committee; S.M. Volunteer Firefighters Association Board (and treasurer of that group); S.M. School PTA Auditorium Restoration Committee; chairman of



the S.M. School PTA Carnival.

Even though that list is long, it is incomplete. Bob and Rosemary participate in nearly every Sierra Madre activity throughout the year, and there are many.

Why does Bob volunteer? "It's really a personal thing. It's so important to keep the town going and there's such a satisfaction in helping to save a life, for instance...Volunteering spreads...It's what makes the town such a special place."

Bob's parents, Dotty and Jerry Burnett, have been active volunteers ever since the family moved to Sierra Madre in 1967. They say, "Sierra Madre is also a great place to raise kids."

Bob graduated from Arcadia High School and from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a major in political science. He's been employed by Citizens' Bank in Arcadia ever since.

He and Rosemary have two daughters, Paige and Amanda, both attending Blair High School in Pasadena.

Rosemary is employed at AT&T.

They love to take the boat out and waterski or just tinker around the house. They are enthusiastic travelers when they can fit it into their busy schedules.

Bob remembers watching the Fire Department roar up to Chantry Flat to put out a fire when he was in grade school. That clinched it for him. He was determined to be a firefighter, and has answered that calling. He morphs his natural high energy into major positive results, into volunteering in his favorite town, Sierra Madre.

## Arcadia Police Blotter

*For the period of Sunday, December 6, through Saturday, December 12, the Police Department responded to 987 calls for service of which 108 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.*

### Sunday, December 6:

1. Units responded to the Peacock parking structure at Westfield mall around 12:56 a.m. in reference to an explosion. Investigation revealed that unknown suspect(s) intentionally set off a military grade explosive device next to a parked vehicle. The explosion damaged the vehicle's brake light.

2. Around 2:18 a.m., officers were dispatched to the rear parking lot of Drinkers Hall of Fame regarding the vandalism of five parked cars. Side mirrors to four vehicles were torn off and one vehicle's windshield was broken. It is believed that a 30-year-old male Hispanic suspect may have vandalized the cars because he was asked to leave the premises.

### Monday, December 7:

3. Shortly after 2:00 a.m., units were called to Morlan and Huntington in regards to a vehicle blocking the roadway. A 42-year-old male driver was contacted and it was determined that he was intoxicated and was arrested for DUI.

4. An armed robbery occurred at Campus and Santa Anita around 6:40 p.m. A male Hispanic suspect grabbed a cell phone from the victim's hand. He then brandished a firearm in his waistband and demanded additional property. The victim and his friends ran to an El Pollo Loco located at 1 West Duarte, and the suspect fled in an unknown direction. An area check was made, but the suspect was not found.

### Tuesday, December 8:

5. A grand theft was reported at 1148 West Huntington around 9:07 a.m. A 48-year-old male suspect was an apartment manager at the location and he received money from the property management company for repairs. He purchased materials, later returned them, and then kept the cash refund without reporting it to the management company. The case has been referred to the detectives for further investigation.

6. A victim came to the station around 9:49 a.m. to file a grand theft report that occurred on December 7 at 1:02 p.m. The victim advised that while she was at the checkout line at Gap Kids, a heavyset female Asian kept bumping her and she later discovered that \$2,000 was missing from her purse.

### Wednesday, December 9:

7. Between 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., a residential burglary occurred in the 2500 block of Greenfield. Unknown suspect(s) made forced entry into the house via a rear sliding glass door. The suspect(s) stole a television and two laptop computers.

8. An auto burglary occurred between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. in the 400 block of Fairview. Unknown suspect(s) pried open and pulled back the glass on the driver's side window, manually unlocked the doors, and removed property.

### Thursday, December 10:

9. A robbery occurred at Burlington Coat Factory, 1201 South Baldwin, around 3:47 p.m. Two African-American suspects, a man and a woman, hid store merchandise in their purse and bag. Once outside, loss prevention personnel contacted the suspects and the male suspect dropped the stolen property and fled on foot, evading capture. A male employee tried to stop the female suspect from fleeing, and she struck him on the head and attempted to bite him on the arm. After a brief struggle, she was successfully detained. A private person's arrest was made, and the 18-year-old woman was taken into custody for robbery and an outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

10. Around 5:54 p.m., loss prevention personnel from JC Penney advised that they had detained two male African-American suspects for theft. The suspects hid merchandise under their clothing and left the store without making payment. Additional stolen property from Zumiez and the NYS Collection kiosk were recovered. Private persons' arrests were made, and the suspects, ages 17 and 18, were taken into custody for commercial burglary.

### Friday, December 11:

11. Between 5:00 p.m. on December 10 and 6:30 a.m. on December 11, a 2001 white Acura Integra was stolen from the 400 block of San Miguel. Additionally, two Honda Accords were stolen from Westfield mall between 1:45 p.m. and 10:15 p.m.

12. Three 19-year-old female suspects, 2 Hispanics and 1 Filipino, were taken into custody for commercial burglary from H&M around 9:35 p.m. They hid stolen property on their persons and left the store. Additional stolen merchandise from American Apparel and Nordstrom were recovered.

### Saturday, December 12:

13. An injury traffic collision occurred at Santa Anita and Sierra Madre around 8:39 a.m. An intoxicated male driver lost control of his vehicle and struck a parked car. The 37-year-old Caucasian driver was arrested and was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment; however, due to the extent of his injuries, he was released from custody.

14. A commercial burglary occurred at StorAmerica located at 5630 Peck between July 28 and December 12. Unknown suspect(s) entered the locked storage unit by unknown means and stole almost \$4,800 in property.



## Alverno Honor Students Ring Bells for Christmas



On a blustery December Saturday, Alverno High School members of the National Honor Society rang bells, sang Christmas carols, and passed out candy canes to encourage donations to the Salvation Army's traditional red kettle at Vons in South Pasadena.

"It was really fun," says Katie Howard, a senior at the Sierra Madre high school for girls. "Once we got the carols going, some of the customers actually started dancing." Fellow senior

Gina Dance agreed. "Everybody liked the caroling. People joined in, and then they just had to donate."

"I think singing helped the donations," says Angelina Pellegrino, another senior. "We gave candy canes to little kids who put something in the kettle, and then we were all caroling and having a good time, so people got into the spirit."

Moderator Sandy Bogan commended the girls. "They wore formal uniform, and people

enjoyed asking them about the achievement pins on their blazers. The girls were having such a good time on a cold day that people were reminded of the spirit of Christmas. I was so proud of them."

National Honor Society is a national high school organization which bases membership on character as well as academic excellence. Students must be nominated by faculty, and are chosen by a faculty panel.

Alverno High School is the

independent, Catholic college-prep high school for girls in Sierra Madre. Its college-prep curriculum and emphasis on leadership 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.



## Santa Arrives Early at La Salle

Pasadena, CA - La Salle celebrated its 13th annual Adopt-a-Family Program benefiting the families of Hillside and Bienvenidos Family Services on December 12. This fun and worthwhile event was a great way for students, parents, staff, and faculty to come together and make someone's Christmas just a little bit brighter. The La Salle mentor classes sponsored a family and bought gifts from the families "wish list." The Gift Wrapping Party was held on December 5 and the Gift Giving Christmas Party on December 12. This party for 30 families and 36 children from Hillside Home for Children included, games, bingo lunch and a visit from Santa Claus and his elves. Mr. Brandon Birr '03, Service Coordinator, and history teacher, monitored the student-produced event.

## La Salle's Albert Law Selected to Play With Rose Parade Band

Pasadena, CA - La Salle Senior Albert Law has been selected to play in the snare drum line as a member of the 2010 Tournament of Roses Honor Marching Band. Albert is the Drumline Captain at La Salle and recently spent the summer marching with the Velvet Knights drum corps. Band director Megan Foley comments, "This is a great honor for Albert, but it is no surprise to me. He has worked very hard to become an excellent musician the past year and a half. He has a tremendous work ethic, a great attitude and is the best percussionist I've had in my 17 years of teaching."

Marching in every Rose Parade since 1930, the Tournament of

Roses Honor Band has a long-standing tradition of musical excellence. The band is comprised of Pasadena City College Lancer Marching Band members and exceptional high school musicians who auditioned from throughout Southern California. Over 600 high school students audition each year for the 200 plus spots in the band and pageantry. The Honor Band rehearses every Sunday in November and December and almost everyday during the winter break to prepare for the six mile trek down Colorado Boulevard. The students will have marched over 25 miles in rehearsal before they step off on the parade route on January 1.



## La Salle's Mock Trial Team Goes to Court



Pasadena, CA - Ms. Jane Osick, Mock Trial Team Mentor for La Salle High School, reports that the Lancer team lost a squeaker against Damien High School on November 23 in the 3rd round of the Mock Trial county competitions.

Losing by just a fraction of a point (49.6% to 50.4) the students were disappointed yet encouraged by their strong trial presentations. Principal Pat Bonacci said after the trial, "The team did a great job and I con-

gratulate them for all of their hard work."

Above: Lancer Mock Trial Team from left to right, front row: Alyssa Breda, Stephen Wickhem, George Pearman, Kyle Brumm. Second row: Natalie Plasencia, Nick Sonnenburg, Colleen McWilliams, Patrick Buchanan. Third row: Lauren Perez, Mechi Lakatos Grant McCracken, Kim Rolan. Fourth row: Melanie Klich, Samatha Torres and Hannah Zimmerman.

## Alverno Students Named AP Scholars; Three Earn National Merit Recognition

Fifteen students from Alverno High School in Sierra Madre have been named AP Scholars by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Examinations. Only about 18 percent of the more than 1.6 million students worldwide performed at a sufficiently high level to merit such recognition. AP Exams, which students take in May after completing challenging college-level courses at

scores noted by the Board.

Alexandra Peters has been named a Scholar with Distinction. Alex earned an average grade of 4.3 on all the AP exams she took, including the top score of 5 in AP Biology. She attended Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Tujunga before coming to Alverno, and is a current freshman at Loyola Marymount University. She was the Salutatorian for the class of 2008.

Current Alverno seniors Jordan and Morgan Turner earned AP Scholar with Honor awards, scoring a grade of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Morgan is also a National Merit Commended Scholar.



their high school, are graded on a 5-point scale, with 5 being the highest score. Most U.S. colleges and universities award credit, advanced placement, or both for grades of 3 or higher. More than 1,400 institutions award a year of credit (sophomore standing) to students presenting a sufficient number of qualifying grades.

"This is great news," says Alverno Head of School Ann Gillick. "It means that nearly 20% of the Alverno students who took AP exams last May earned this honor. And we require all students, not just the strongest in the class, to take the exam."

Nine of the 71 graduates of Alverno's Class of 2009 were recognized by the College Board for their outstanding scores on these rigorous exams. Seven current seniors also earned the impressive

Sara Pfeiffer is also a National Merit Commended Scholar. The other 12 students are AP Scholars; young women who took three or more AP exams and earned scores of 3 or higher. The following AP Scholars are current seniors at Alverno: Melody Bueno, Cheryl Iwamoto, Karen Opara, Angelina Pellegrino, and Lillya Roldan. Karen Opara is also an Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Program.

The seven members of the Class of 2009 who have been recognized as AP Scholars matriculated at such institutions as UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Irvine, Cal Poly Pomona, Fordham, and Mills College.

All of these young women are to be congratulated on their impressive achievements

## 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](http://www.barnhartschool.com)

### Bethany Christian School

93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-3527 Principal: James Lugenebuhl  
E-mail address: jml@bcsclions.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](http://www.goodenschool.org)

### High Point Academy

1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road  
Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
626-798-8989

website: [www.highpointacademy.org](http://www.highpointacademy.org)

### LaSalle High School

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

### Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016  
(626) 471-2000, email: [schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.odysseycharterschool.org)

### Pasadena High School

2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 798-8901 Principal: Dr. Derick Evans  
website: [www.pasadenahigh.org](http://www.pasadenahigh.org)

### Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109  
(626) 795-6981 website: [www.pusd@pusd.us](http://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](http://www.st-rita.org)

### Sierra Madre Elementary School

141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-1428 Principal: Gayle Bluemel  
E-mail address: [gbluemel220@pusd.us](mailto:gbluemel220@pusd.us)

### Sierra Madre Middle School

160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Gayle Bluemel  
Contact person: Garrett Newsom, Asst. Principal  
E-mail address: [gbluemel220@pusd.us](mailto:gbluemel220@pusd.us)

### Weizmann Day School

1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
(626) 797-0204  
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

### Wilson Middle School

300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln  
E-mail address: [resseln@pusd.us](mailto:resseln@pusd.us)

### Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109  
(626) 795-6981  
Website: [www.pusd@pusd.us](http://www.pusd@pusd.us)

### SELINSKI: (from pg. 3)

a greater likelihood of hiring highly specialized suppliers in that large population compared to the Pasadena area alone. However we feel confident that with the addition of a local hiring expert coming on board imminently, we will reach our goals.

"In the Architectural services contracts already let, one contract was let without competition. Of the seven remaining contracts, only one was let to an Architectural firm headquartered in Pasadena, one went to a firm that opened a small understaffed district office in order to pretend to be "local"."

FACT: Requests for Proposals were issued for all architectural services. The firms selected all have extensive public school experience. Among the seven firms hired, three architectural firms are located in the District. Flewelling Moody has been in Pasadena for over 50 years. Another firm, PBWS, is located in Northwest Pasadena and has been operating here since 1995 and a third, GKK Works, established in 1991, has offices on Fair Oaks in Pasadena.

"In the closed door rating of firms, one member of the public has been told that those with existing school contracts got an automatic 60% of points. So at a maximum those who may have just completed a, or several school projects, but had none on the present boards, got a maximum of 40% or an F, no matter how fine or spotless their operations may actually be."

FACT: Requests for Proposals were issued for all architectural services. There was no automatic 60% point allocation. This allegation is untrue.

"There is a proposal to remodel the Blair campus on a lease/lease back basis. The PUSD has not yet proven it can manage the less exotic closed bid process.... Additionally, these arrangements have double profit built into them, first the profit of doing the actual building and second the profit of leasing the buildings back."

FACT: This allegation is untrue. The lease amount in a Lease/Lease Back process is one dollar. This type of process is used across California and has been utilized since the 1960s. Both facilities staff and architects have experience with lease-leaseback processes.

I strongly encourage members of the public to attend meetings of the Board of Education, its Facilities Subcommittee, and Citizens Oversight Committee to obtain the most accurate and up-to-date information on Measure TT implementation. Additionally, the website is a reliable and frequently updated resource for staying informed about facilities improvement efforts district-wide. Going forward, I welcome an ongoing, constructive and meaningful community dialogue on bond-related issues.

Sincerely,

Tom Selinske, President

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## TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

### As the Bells of Christmas Ring Happy Holidays to you all!!

Recently, I dined at Café Mundial in Monrovia. The restaurant has been around for years, and I understand that it just went through a management change. Not sure what affect that has because this was my first experience at the restaurant. I set sail from Pasadena last Thursday night, and I wanted something different. I often fall into a repetitive routine as I have to admit that I am a creature of habit. Café Mundial did not disappoint this explorer and his journey. They offer all the ingredients that are essential for a great dining experience. They have friendly service, a reasonably priced wine list, free parking and not to be forgotten, good food. Great Food, I will not go that far? But they do offer a respectable meal.

I started off the evening at the bar as I waited for my chronically tardy date. It seems she couldn't believe the free parking signs either. The bar has around eight seats and is user friendly, and again the wine prices are below the average prices of other restaurants. The restaurant is spacious but not too crowded and I am concerned that the Monday through Thursday traffic at Café Mundial might be a sign of the times for most restaurants. But this appeared a perfect night to get in without a wait.

What to order? If you have been following my reviews you know that if there are crab cakes on the menu, I will hunt them down. Theirs are not as scrumptious as The Front Runner's, but Café Mundial's are half the price. These cakes (at \$11.95) are loaded with shredded crab compared to the lump that the Front Runner uses. But, again half the price. Moving on to our entrees. The Caesar Salad is a must, they use the right type of lettuce (romaine) and it is a winner. My date had the Roasted Red Bell Pepper Ravioli (\$17.95), I must say that I had to beg for just one bite so that I could give it my critique, now I know why she was

reluctant to give it up, it was exceptional. For me it was the Risotto with Grilled Chicken at \$16.95, again above average. The prices are right at Café Mundial. I recommend that where ever you are reading this make your way to this restaurant. It's a winner!! Next time I will order a pizza and a glass of wine.

**Café Mundial 514 S Myrtle Ave Monrovia, CA 91016 (626) 303-2233** For updated pricing and hours please check out there website [www.cafemundial.org](http://www.cafemundial.org) e mail me your thoughts. [thechefknows@yahoo.com](mailto:thechefknows@yahoo.com)

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Fri 18 Nine + One Band featuring Harry Smallenburg on Vibes  
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Sun 20 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero  
Tues 22 QUIZJIDGE TRIVIA NITE WITH QUIZ MASTER MIDGE  
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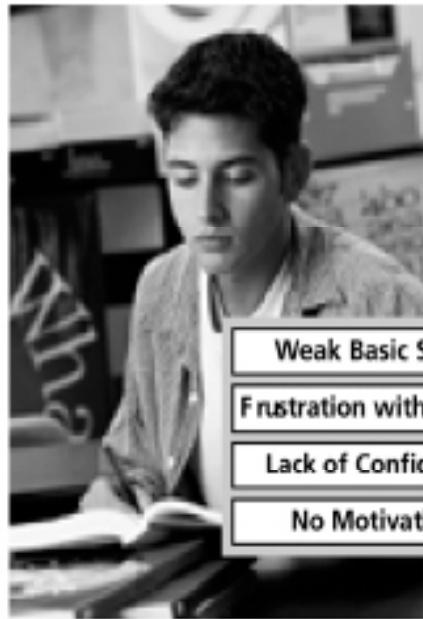


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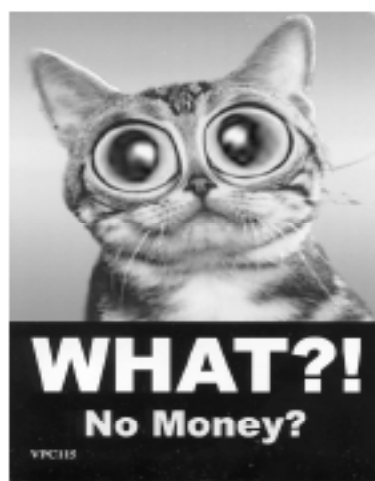
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**Mountain Views News Mission Statement**  
The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values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

## HAIL Hamilton



At the Hamilton household one of our holiday traditions is curling up in the living room and watching a Christmas movie. The Christmas movies, especially the classics, which are passed down from generation to generation are timeless, and their messages are universal regardless of age. Christmas movies have a magical way of addressing the human need for peace and hope at Christmastime. No matter what is going on out there in the real world, Christmas can be as sweet and kind and gentle as necessary when we tune out the stress and settle in for someone else's Christmas story. Of course, **"It's a Wonderful Life"** has to rank up among the best holiday movies ever created. Well ahead of its time, it

## My Favorite Christmas Movies

takes us through a personal journey and answers the age old question, "Do I really matter?" Jimmy Stewart's portrayal of George Bailey and Frank Capra's direction are perfect, as is Henry Travers as guardian angel struggling to earn his wings. In **"A Christmas Carol"** we have learned to count on Ebenezer Scrooge realizing the errors of his ways and decidedly becoming a much kinder and better human being due to his very own Christmas angels. Whether you are watching "Scrooge" in the old black and white version, or the newer color classic, **"Scrooge,"** it is truly evident that when we are shown the error of our ways, we have the power to change our perspective and present to the world our very own Christmas miracle. And of course, we all need a little **"Miracle on 34th Street."** How could anyone possibly doubt the true spirit of Santa Claus? No matter how cynical or cold the world seems out there, Santa Claus is a basic, a standard, and he is part of our everyday Christmas lives.

Knowing that Santa Claus can still be counted upon in Hollywood is forever a sound and fast holiday tradition. In our household, no Christmas is complete without the traditional viewing of **"A Christmas Story."** This movie covers Christmas in a delightful perspective of childhood struggle and joy. Everyone can relate to being the child who is forever "almost there." **"The Grinch"** of course is the lovely tale of a curmudgeon who believes his own heart made of stone. The classic cartoon version compared to the newer Jim Carrey role is a hands down no brainer when it comes to in depth story lines and thickening plots. The remaking of "The Grinch" brought new life into a character who for this day and age just wasn't quite menacing enough. Of course we can't forget the 1998 film biography of the most famous reindeer of all, **"Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer."** Who can't relate to being different, an outcast, and striving to be given just that one chance to prove that we are equal to those who mock us? We've all been there

at one time or another, and what better way to save the day than to be the one who saves Christmas? Let's not forget Charlie Brown and his Christmas story. Charlie Brown has never led us astray, always understanding exactly where we are coming from and giving us the portrayal we need to see. His unassuming character and his wide eyed innocence touches each of us. No matter what else is going on in the world, **"A Charlie Brown Christmas"** is an absolute must see for every family. Whatever your choice one thing is certain. A good, touching, Christmas movie can pull us out of ourselves, remind us of what we have and the importance of recognizing it for what it is. Even as the new classics slowly creep onto the scene to compete with the cherished originals, each story brings a message of peace and hope that is sometimes right in front of our eyes. **For all of us in the Hamilton clan we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. God bless you, every one.**

## RICH Johnson



Before you consider reading my Christmas offering, I want to make a plug for the folks who put up Christmas lights in Sierra Madre. I know this time of year we are all drawn to that radiant hot bed of environmental political incorrectness called Upper Hastings Ranch. When you inevitably get mired in traffic up there, ignore Horace Greeley and "Go East" off Michillinda instead. Of particular note is a house on the south side of Fairview between Sunnyside and Grove. It's the house where, nearby, you can catch a glimpse of a giant wooly mammoth of a dog taking a statuesque blonde with a ponytail out for a drag. Anyway, the decorations are worth the price of admission. Check it out. (Dug the following out of my comprehensive files of inane and useless information.)

**Politically Correct Santa**  
'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's wreck... How to live in a world that's politically correct. His workers no longer would answer to "Elves," Vertically challenged" they were calling

## Politically Correct Santa

themselves. And labor conditions at the north pole Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul Four reindeer had vanished without much propriety Released to the wilds by the Humane Society. And equal employment had made it quite clear That Santa had better not use just reindeer. So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid, We're replaced with 4 pigs and you know that looked stupid! The runners had been removed from his sleigh; The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A. And people had started to call for the cops When they heard sled noises on their roof-tops Second-hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened. His fur trimmed red suit was called "Unenlightened." *And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows,* Rudolph was suing over unauthorized use of his nose And had gone on Geraldo, in front of the nation, Demanding millions in overdue

compensation. So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife, Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life, Joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz, Demanding from now on her title was Ms. *And as for the gifts, why, he'd ne'er had a notion* That making a choice could cause such commotion. Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise. Nothing for just girls. Or just for the boys. Nothing that claimed to be gender specific. Nothing that's warlike or non-pacific. No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth. Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth. And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden, We're like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden. For they raised the hackles of those psychological Who claimed the only good gift was one ecological. No baseball, no football...someone could get hurt; Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt. Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passe';

And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away. So Santa just stood there, disheveled, perplexed; He just could not figure out what to do next. He tried to be merry, tried to be gay, But you've got to be careful with that word today. His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground; Nothing fully acceptable was there to be found. Something special was needed, a gift that he might Give to all without angering the left or the right. A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision, Each group of people, every religion; Every ethnicity, every hue, Everyone, everywhere...even you. So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth... *"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth."* <sup>(c)</sup>Harvey Ehrlich, 1992

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## HOWARD Hays As I See It



Of the questions surrounding the debate over the validity of global warming, the biggest has to be; why are we, alone among developed countries, still having this debate? As nations and international organizations discuss how best to address the urgency of the problem, why are we still trying to decide whether there is a problem, holding ourselves up to worldwide ridicule in the process?

In reading Greg's column last week, I can only discern he spent his childhood reading the same comic books and watching the same late-night movies I did; where the villain was some mad scientist intent on world domination or, in the scenario Greg outlines, a group of scientists with allies in government seeking to obtain "more power and more control over our lives" and to "destroy the civilization we now enjoy". What we're dealing with is, according to Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK), "the greatest hoax ever perpetrated" (or at the very least, as the similarly authoritative Sarah Palin puts it, "junk science").

This "hoax" has been a long time in the making, dating back to 1860 when British physicist John Tyndall established that carbon dioxide traps heat in the atmosphere. It soon found adherents in scientists throughout the world who accepted Tyndall's finding as an elementary principal of physics, and who today are trying to convince us it's unlikely we can dump 90 million tons of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping elements into the atmosphere every day without that principal coming into play. In order to advance their scheme, they've apparently somehow been able to make glaciers melt, sea levels rise and polar ice caps shrink in order to make us believe that glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising and polar ice caps are shrinking (the northern polar ice cap, once the size of the continental U.S., is now about 60% of the size it had been for 3 million years).

These plotters have succeeded in expanding their reach, so that now every national science academy of every major nation in the world is in on this global-warming hoax. Seventy world leaders (complicit or merely gullible?) are attending the international conference in Copenhagen to address the issue. President Obama and the Democratic Congress have already taken steps down this civilization-destroying path by mandating improved emission standards in cars, devoting stimulus money to "green" jobs, and replacing those dependable industry lobbyists and Bush supporters staffing the Environmental Protection Agency with "scientists" (who no doubt are co-conspirators themselves). There's also the proposal, likely to be enacted soon, to make public a list of the most egregious carbon polluters in the country. Such a list might encourage those included on it to spend money on pollution mitigation in order to be removed from the list, something they probably wouldn't have done otherwise - another ominous example of government asserting "more control over our lives".

Finally, it appears this 150-year-old, world-wide "global warming" conspiracy is being exposed as the hoax Sen. Inhofe claims it to be, thanks to those purloined e-mails from the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia that Greg referred to in his column. One, for instance, mentioned a "trick" used to compensate for the "decline" in reliability of tree rings in determining historical warming periods beyond the year 1960. Glenn Beck, though, saw through the coded language and announced that the e-mail exposed use of a "trick" to hide a "decline" in temperatures. Another e-mail described as a "travesty" the fact that "we can't account for the lack of warming at the moment". The writer was referring to year-to-year variations, and elsewhere stated "global warming is unequivocally happening", but Beck and others saw enough to proclaim that scientists regarded the entire endeavor as a "travesty". Other e-mails discussed a paper published in the journal Climate Research, a paper many scientists and the journal's own editors complained was marred by "deeply flawed" analysis. The Wall Street Journal, though, editorialized that this simply proved that "they" can't tolerate skeptical opinions (the fact that the paper's authors were working off a \$53,000 grant from the American Petroleum Institute didn't factor in). An e-mail expressing a scientist's desire to establish a starting point for the "medieval warming period" was interpreted by George Will on ABC's "This Week" as a desire to "get rid of" that period altogether. Andrew Revkin of the New York Times reports that "[t]he evidence pointing to a growing human contribution to global warming is so widely accepted that the hacked material is unlikely to erode the overall argument." But then there's Matt Drudge, "Junk science exposed"; Sean Hannity, "climate change is a hoax, something I've been saying for a long time"; and Rush Limbaugh, "the whole thing's made up". Aside from questioning the legitimacy of the arguments, much has been made of the cost - whether in taxes or resulting from cap-and-trade. Al Gore commented on the issue earlier this month in Slate: "If you want your energy bills to go up, you should support an ever greater dependence on foreign oil, because the rate of new discoveries is declining as demand in China and India is growing, and the price of oil and thus the price of coal will go sky high." He also mentioned how we're lagging in the development of green technology, with China due to surpass us in wind technology next year and in solar soon after. (A major stimulus project currently underway is the construction of wind farms in Texas - with most equipment coming from manufacturers in China.) As I see it, whether dealing with mad scientists or established science, for a nation willing to spend enormous amounts of blood and treasure to secure middle-east oil supplies, it should be a no-brainer to commit a small fraction of that amount to help ensure we never have to make such sacrifices again. And helping to save our planet in the process is not a bad side benefit.

## Left Turn / Right Turn



President Obama gave a gracious speech the other day when he accepted his Nobel Peace Prize. But beyond the courtesies, graciousness and eloquence of his address, it offers the promise of being one of the most important speeches and moments of his presidency if he is willing to back up the words with deeds.

For too long the Nobel committee which awards the prize has viewed peace solely as the absence of war, rather than as the presence of freedom. In one sense, of course, war is an assault on freedom since war by its very nature threatens life and property, and make no mistake about it, war is a terrible undertaking wherein innocents inevitably die. But what is missed too often is that "peace" is often the peace of the conqueror imposed by brutal intimidation on the conquered. When Rome ruled the world and the insurgencies had been put down, there was peace in the empire, but nobody much liked it or felt at peace. Too many fell to the gladiator's spear or the Centurion's sword for no other reason than that they fell out of favor with Caesar or his governors. The same held true for those under the oppressive yoke of the Nazi, Communist or even the Mayan empires. Once the battle had ended, there was peace, but there was also oppression. Focusing on the absence of hostilities has blinded the Nobel Committee to the larger meaning of true peace.

To his credit, President Obama explained to his Oslo hosts that the human condition is imperfect, evil does exist (always has and always will) and must be stopped, and that "there will be times when nations - acting individually or in concert - will find the use of force not only necessary but morally justified." In short, while accepting a prize for peace, he persuasively argued the moral justification of using warfare to bring about a just peace. "Only when Europe became free did it finally find peace" should have hit home with all Europeans and all Americans whose family members have ever fought to bring that freedom to the continent or other parts of the world.

But words are still only words. As much as I, a conservative, greatly admired the Nobel acceptance speech and agreed with its premise and basic moral argument, I yearn to believe that President Obama is committed to the ideal. You see, President Obama also spoke on this topic later in the week to CBS' 60 Minutes where he said the Bush administration had "made a mistake in speaking in a triumphant sense about war". I'm not sure what that means on a philosophical or on an academic level,

## GREG Welborn

## A Nobel Ideal

but in the real world, thugs, hooligans and assorted dictators-for-life can easily interpret that statement as the U.S. not having the stomach for the fight. Historians and military strategists alike will tell you that no culture, civilization or nation which hasn't pursued the fight with a desire to triumph has lost. When we get to the point where we have no desire to triumphantly defend our nation and its culture philosophically, verbally and militarily, then we will soon find ourselves someone else's colony or possession.

President Obama is a student of history and often cites historical figures in his gifted oratory. But would he, or we for that matter, even remember Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and its justification of war "that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God shall have a new birth of freedom" if Lincoln hadn't committed himself to triumph in that war? Consider also the other famous war presidents. Woodrow Wilson: "Right is more precious than peace and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest to our hearts." Franklin Roosevelt: "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph." John Kennedy: "Any hostile move anywhere in the world against the safety and freedom of peoples to whom we are committed will be met by whatever action is needed." And Ronald Reagan: "Tear down this wall!" Each and every one of them sought triumph in the battle that tested their presidency and our nation.

As the great Kennedy advisor, Ted Sorensen, said, "after all is said and little is done, a speech, even an elevated, eloquent speech - is still just a speech. Saying so doesn't make it so." President Obama is to be complemented on his address to the Nobel Committee, the assembled guests, and the larger world audience, but to earn the role of statesmen/leader, rather than play the role of the fool, he will have to back up his words with deeds. Hopefully these will give the committee a better sense of the Nobel ideal that they seek to honor with their award - that peace is a just and moral goal, but sometimes war is very necessary to ensure and defend that peace.

*Gregory J. Welborn 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.welborn@mtnviewsnews.com](mailto:g.welborn@mtnviewsnews.com).*



**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1793958**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CL & Z RECYCLING CENTER**, 4922 W. PICO BLVD., L.A., CA 90019. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **TADDEVOS NAZARYAN**, 8557 WOODLEY AVE., NORTH HILLS, CA 91343. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: TADDEVOS NAZARYAN**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/25/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **11/09/2009**.

**NOTICE**- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)  
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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-178344**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **A K MANAGEMENT**, 22425 VENTURA BLVD. #355. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **ERIK KHOROUSKY**, 62 LOCUST AVE., OAK PARK, CA 91377. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: ERIK KHOROUSKY**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/24/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1925582**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **AMERICAN BUSINESSES & PROPERTIES**, 1052 E. MISSION BL., POMONA, CA 91766. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **KUAN-YIH WUO**, 23 RIDGELINE DR., NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: HUAN-YIH WUO**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/17/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

**NOTICE**- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)  
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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1781488**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ATTRACTION DYNAMICS**, 21601 DEVONSHIRE ST., STE. 101, CHATSWORTH, CA 91311. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **ORLANDO MANRIQUE**, FARAH VICTORIA LINDSAY, 16809 VICTORY BLVD. #4, VAN NUYS, CA 91406. This Business is conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP**. **Signed: FARAH V. LINDSAY**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/24/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1896654**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **AVI BUFFALO**, 6120 HUNTDALE ST., LONG BEACH, CA 90808. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **AVIGDOR ZAHNER-ISENBERG**, 6120 HUNTDALE ST., LONG BEACH, CA 90808. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: AVIGDOR ZAHNER-ISENBERG**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/14/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

**NOTICE**- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)  
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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1906842**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **BAHN FINANCIAL GROUP**, 1931 AVENIDA APRENDA, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275-1215. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **RANSFORD U. MOLLISON**, 1931 AVENIDA APRENDA, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: RANSFORD U. MOLLISON**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/15/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1915511**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **DAVE'S CERTIFIED WELDERS**, 12006 LOWEMONT ST., NORWALK, CA 90650. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **MELISSA DORIS ROBERTS**, 12006 LOWEMONT ST., NORWALK, CA 90650, **DAVID ROBERTS**, 1210 CHESSHIRE

ST., NORWALK, CA 90650. This Business is conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP**. **Signed: DAVID ROBERTS**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/16/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1905953**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **INNOVATION HARDWOOD FLOORS**, 1328 S. SANTA FE AVE., L.A., CA 90021. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **CLAUDIA GUTIERREZ**, 1328 S. SANTA FE AVE., L.A., CA 90021. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: CLAUDIA GUTIERREZ**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/15/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1923934**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PLANET INSURANCE AGENCY-COMMERCE BRANCH**, 5538 E. WHITTIER BLVD., COMMERCE, CA 90022. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **RYAN BOODAGHIAN, INC.**, 7743 VIA CAPRI, BURBANK, CA 91504. This Business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION**. **Signed: NICHOLAS BOODAGHIAN**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/17/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1793360**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PRESENT DAY TRUCKING**, 1116 ELM AVE. #1, GLENDALE, CA 91201. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **FELIX CHARNY**, 1116 ELM AVE. #1, GLENDALE, CA 91201. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: FELIX CHARNY**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/25/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1746034**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **AFORDABLE PROFESSIONAL PAINTING**, 52100 ERWIN ST., #415, WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **RONALDO RAMOS**, 22100 ERWIN ST. #415, WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: RONALDO RAMOS**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/18/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1772254**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ALVARADO VENDING**, 21726 STRATHERN, CANOGA PARK, CA 91304. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **HENRY A. ALVARADO**, ANA P. ALVARADO, JOSE C. ALVARADO, 21726 STRATHERN, CANOGA PARK, CA 91304. This Business is conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP**. **Signed: HENRY A. ALVARADO**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/13/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1754286**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **B&G SECURITY**, 18001 RINALDI ST., GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **RIANALDI ST. GRANADA HILLS**, 18001 RINALDI ST., GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344, **MIGUEL A. BELLO**, 8509 DE SOTO AVE. #215, CANOGA PARK, CA 91304. This Business is conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP**. **Signed: JUAN GARCIA**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/19/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1782444**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **BORROW THE CATWALK; WARDROBE LOUNGE**, 13909 MOUNTAIN VIEW PL., SYLMAR, CA 91342. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **KRIKORIAN, SYLVA**, 13909 MOUNTAIN VIEW PL., SYLMAR, CA 91342. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: SYLVA KRIKORIAN**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/24/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1727192**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **HD VIDEOWORK**, 3663 FREDONIA DR. #5, HOLLYWOOD, CA 90068. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **DREW COBB**, 3663 FREDONIA DR. #5, HOLLYWOOD, CA 90068. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: DREW COBB**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/16/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1745804**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **LA RUSH**, 1840 FAIRBURN AVE. #411, L.A., CA 90024. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **PETER CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS**, 1840 FAIRBURN AVE. #411, L.A., CA 90025. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: PETER DOUGLAS**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/18/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1727689**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **LOCALI ARTISAN PIZZA KITCHEN**, 11672 BURBANK BLVD., N. HOLLYWOOD, CA 91601. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **BURNING BUBBLE, LLC**, 11672 BURBANK BLVD., BURBANK, CA 91505. This Business is conducted by: **A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**. **Signed: HONG ZHOU**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/16/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1840342**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **FOUR CORP BRANDING**, 8951 McCONN AVE., NORTHBRIDGE, CA 91343. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **COLLEEN STURGILL**, 8951 McLENNAN AVE., NORTHBRIDGE, CA 91343. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: COLLEEN STURGILL**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/04/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

**NOTICE**- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)  
Publish: Mountain Views News  
Pub. 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/2009, 01/02/2010

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1813094**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MY GERIATRIC SERVICES**, 18375 VENTURA BLVD. #563. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **GERIATRIC SERVICES OF AMERICA, INC**, 1472 TOPEKA DR., TARZANA, CA 91356. This Business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION**. **Signed: DONNA FARKAS**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/01/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

**NOTICE**- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)  
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Pub. 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/2009, 01/02/2010

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1840582**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **EL LABRO INTERNATIONAL**, 15138 ROSCOE BLVD. #3, VAN NUYS, CA 91402. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **FELIX FOJAS**, 6841 WOODMAN AVE. #9, VAN NUYS, CA 91405. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: FELIX FOJAS**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/04/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on JAN 15, 2010.

**NOTICE**- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)  
Publish: Mountain Views News  
Pub. 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/2009, 01/02/2010

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1686581**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **#1 ARM. MOTORS; #1 STAR MOTORS**, 6726 RESEDA UNIT #7, RESEDA, CA 91335. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **ALI REZA MOSHIRI**, 19758 SANTA ROSA DR., PORTER RANCH, CA 91326. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: ALI REZA MOSHIRI**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/09/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

**NOTICE**- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)  
Publish: Mountain Views News  
Pub. 12/05, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/2009

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1802310**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **DAVINCI AIRCRAFT**, 16231 WATERMAN DR. STE. 16, VAN NUYS, CA 91406. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **LEONARDO PARDA**, 5451 LINDLEY AVE., TARZANA, CA 91356. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: LEONARDO PARDA**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/30/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

**NOTICE**- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)  
Publish: Mountain Views News  
Pub. 12/05, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/2009

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1807693**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **EL COMAL GRILL**, 14222 IMPERIAL HWY., LA MIRADA, CA 90638. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **MELANIA GARCIA**, 14222 IMPERIAL HWY., LA MIRADA, CA 90638. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: MELANIA GARCIA**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/01/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

**NOTICE**- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)  
Publish: Mountain Views News  
Pub. 12/05, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/2009

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1807895**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **GALAXY ENTERTAINMENT**, 4951 ROSEMEAD BLVD. #K, SAN GABRIEL, CA 91791. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **BAORONG YAN**, 4951 ROSEMEAD BLVD. #K, SAN GABRIEL, CA 91791. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: BAORONG YAN**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/01/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

**NOTICE**- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)  
Publish: Mountain Views News  
Pub. 12/05, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/2009

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1692511**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **GRUVY MAN, PUBLISHING, RECORDING**, 90746. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **MARCUS EAZEL**, 19443 CLIVEDEN, CARSON, CA 90746. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**. **Signed: MARCUS EAZEL**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/10/09**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

**NOTICE**- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)  
Publish: Mountain Views News  
Pub. 12/05, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/2009

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File No. 09-1687246**

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **KINGDOM**, 16521 FERN HAVEN RD., HACIENDA HTS., CA 91745. Full name of

registrant(s) is (are) **RANI NABIL ELIAS**



## Looking Up

with Bob Eklund

### A New Star in a Familiar Constellation



Next time you look up at the Big Dipper, keep in mind that there is now another star, invisible to the unaided eye, contributing to this constellation. According to a paper soon to be published in The Astrophysical Journal, one of the stars that makes the bend in the Dipper's handle, Alcor, has a very small, previously unnoticed companion.

"We used a brand new technique for determining that an object orbits a nearby star, a technique that's a nice nod to Galileo," says Ben R. Oppenheimer, Curator and Professor in the Department of Astrophysics at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. "Galileo showed tremendous foresight. Four hundred years ago, he realized that if Copernicus was right—that the Earth orbits the Sun—they could show it by observing the "parallactic motion" of the nearest stars.

Incredibly, Galileo tried to use Alcor to demonstrate this motion, but he didn't have the necessary precision."

If Galileo had been able to see change over time in Alcor's position relative to background stars, he would have had conclusive evidence that Copernicus was right. Parallactic motion is the way nearby stars appear to move in an annual, repeatable pattern relative to much more distant stars, simply because the observer on Earth is circling the Sun and sees these stars from different places over the year.

Alcor is a relatively young star twice the mass of the Sun. Stars this massive are relatively rare, short-lived, and bright. Alcor and its cousins in the Big Dipper formed from the same cloud of matter about 500 million years ago—something unusual for a constellation since most of these patterns in the sky are composed of

unrelated stars. Alcor shares a position in the Big Dipper with another star, Mizar. In fact, the ability to see both stars was used as a common test of eyesight among ancient people.

One of Galileo's colleagues discovered that Mizar itself is actually a double—the first binary star system to be resolved by a telescope. Many years later, the two components Mizar A and B were themselves determined each to be tightly orbiting binaries, altogether forming a quadruple system.

Now, Alcor, which is near the four stars of the Mizar system, also has a companion. In March 2009, Oppenheimer's colleagues attached a coronagraph and adaptive optics to the 200-inch Hale Telescope at the Palomar Observatory and pointed to Alcor. "Right away I spotted a faint point of light next to the star," says Neil Zimmerman, a graduate student at Columbia

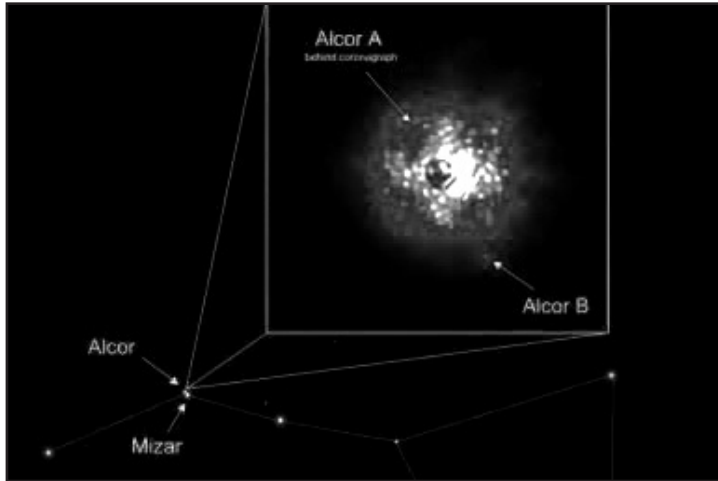
University who is doing his PhD dissertation at the Museum. "No one had reported this object before, and it was very close to Alcor, so we realized it was probably an unknown companion star."

The team retuned a few months later and re-imaged the star, hoping to prove that the two stars are companions by mapping the tiny movement of both in relation to very distant background stars, as the Earth moves around the Sun—in other words, by mapping their parallactic motion.

Alcor and its newly found, smaller companion Alcor B are both about 80 light-years away and orbit each other every 90 years or more.

"This discovery shows that even the brightest and most familiar stars in the sky hold secrets," says Oppenheimer.

STAR OF WONDER. During the holiday season, public lecturers often focus



their talks on the "Christmas Star," trying to find a logical, scientific explanation for it. Perhaps a comet, or an unusual grouping of planets, they suggest. I prefer to avoid such attempts to explain away what is, as a familiar carol says, a "star of wonder"—and let the poet in me prevail. As Rainer Maria Rilke put it in his book, Letters to a Young Poet, "Have patience with everything unresolved in

your heart, and try to love the questions themselves."

Isn't it great that there is so much yet to be discovered?

*Billion-year mission: Descrambling the wonder Outside and inside.*

You can contact Bob Eklund at: [beklund@MtnViewsNews.com](mailto:beklund@MtnViewsNews.com)

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pretty much nailed it when he waxed philosophical about the interaction between the user and the search window. In a nutshell, he likened the search window to a sort of confessional that people told all manner of their hopes, dreams and problems to and through. On the other side of this window was the Google machine. The machine in this

case returns information related to a user-initiated query. Period. It goes through the same process whether the initial information request is for stock forecasts or for child caskets. Although the process is technical, sterile and quick, the end result can be anything but.

Even if the search requested was mundane in nature, even if we don't find what we're looking for, the process has the net effect of changing us in some way. As human beings are such knowledge-centric creatures this process in a sense feeds in us a need to know what's going on in the world around us. And the breadth of the questions we pose to this window is simply stunning. At one point in the documentary, a technician in one of Google's many datacenters was explaining how the datacenter processes the billions of queries it receives daily. In the scene, he was standing next to a monitor that was continuously scrolling queries received from the South American region. After he explained the process that was occurring next to him, he went back to describing other datacenter technical information as the scrolling on the monitor went on and on and on. For Google, the scrolling never stops. The nature of the queries is also quite revealing. People confess things to the search window that they would never ask another person. They ask about their hopes, dreams and fears and their many "what-if's". They ask about the past, the present and the future. They ask, "What will I be when I grow up?" and they ask, "What happened to me?" They confess loneliness and longing. They look to the window for real answers to their real questions. Sometimes they get them and sometimes they don't. But still they look.

I was watching a documentary on CNBC called "Inside the Mind of Google" a few nights ago and I must confess that I was more than a little impressed with the history and development of what was described as "the most successful company in the history of the world". Google's rise to prominence can only be described as meteoric and its impact on modern life can rightly be described as significant. Google's stated goal is to catalog all the world's information and to that end it appears to be doing it far better than anyone else. As far as the collection of talent that the company has at its disposal, any employer would be hard-pressed to match the levels of expertise and enthusiasm that Google has amassed on behalf of its mission. I'll take this opportunity to let you in on a little secret: yours truly has long had the fantasy \ dream of working for Google in just about any capacity. The various software development sections perfect and hone the awesomely complex search engine mechanics that process the world's cataloged information and deliver it to the user through the deceptively clean and iconic interface that its users have come to associate with the search giant. The server farms that produce and manage Google's product are loaded from top to bottom with cutting-edge Data Center technology, quite a bit of it created by an army of engineers specifically to deliver the singular search experience that is synonymous with the name Google. The company's Mountain View campus is widely thought of as being a real geek wonderland and I'll bet that even the janitor closets are awesome at Google!

The part of the documentary that really stuck out for me was the description of what the Google user experience means at its most basic level. A Marketing representative

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Current work includes writing the column, "Looking Up with Bob Eklund," in Mountain Views News, and writing newsletters for the Mount Wilson Observatory. I recently published a book, First Star I See Tonight: an Exploration of Wonder, and am finishing a second book, Winds Aloft.

For writing samples and resume, see my web site: [www.bobeklund.com](http://www.bobeklund.com).  
Bob Eklund [beklund@sprynet.com](mailto:beklund@sprynet.com) (310) 216-5947



#### STUART Tolchin On...LIFE Can't See The Forest For The WOODS

Sunday morning I awoke ready to write this week's article. I had only one thought in mind. I would not write about Tiger Woods. Stories about Tiger were everywhere and I was certain that there had to be something besides Woods to think about. Before writing, my dog and I took our customary sunrise walk around the canyon and a neighbor started a conversation by saying, "My mind keeps writing checks that my body can't cash". As he talked on about his problems with ageing and neglecting old injuries my mind started creating an article. The Divided Self as expressed unforgettably to me by my grandmother's oft-repeated statement in Yiddish roughly translated as "Your eyes are bigger than your stomach". Sixty years later my stomach has gotten much bigger but I still understand my grandmother's point.

I had my theme: Dreams versus reality. I hurried home to begin the article and suddenly remembered a story in yesterday's (December 12) edition of the LA Times. I found the article on page 34 in the far left column; a one hundred word story entitled "New Treatment for Bad Memories". The article described a new treatment by which problems such as post traumatic stress disorders could be relieved by editing out the fearful memory. Imagine the possibilities! All of our ugly self limiting memories erased. The end of self-doubt resulting from the memories of past errors, embarrassments, and failures all forgotten. Perhaps there is even the possibility of inserting new memories, things that really never happened but which could be placed into our brains thus empowering us to achieve all of our dreams. No more bounced checks—no more big eyes and little stomachs.

As I fantasized about the possibilities in this Brave New World, I noticed the rest of the page. What do you think is right next to the left column? Of course, - a five column headline proclaiming "Woods' break imperils golf ratings" and under the headline;

a huge four column picture of Tiger Woods with his head back, fists clenched, and screaming at the heavens. It is the myth of Icarus come to life. Tiger yelling at God and announcing to the world that he will not be restrained. He will have it all. Believe it or not, as I write this I hear from the other room that some doctor is admitting that he gave Tiger Woods performance-enhancing drugs. How far will Tiger fall and will he take his sport and the economy down with him?

As you probably know Tiger's real sin was that he did indeed try to have it all and I think that's what is really relevant to each of us. We all have our dreams but at some point there is a difference between fantasy and reality. For Tiger being the world's greatest golfer wasn't enough; he also tried to be the world's greatest family man in addition to being the world's greatest lover as attested to by a continually growing parade of lovers. Really, if he wasn't married would anyone care? But he tried to have everything and he may well be left with nothing.

I guess that's the lesson for today. There are some limitations that can't be escaped. As to the possibility of erasing bad memories and freeing ourselves from our own past I don't really think it will ever happen. I maintain that the best we can do is to be honest with ourselves and each other. In order to try and have it all Tiger had to maintain a secret life or lives and present himself to the world in a totally false way. I don't think that works and, frankly, I don't want it to work. We all have to make choices and I'm afraid that having it all is not one of those choices. I think my grandmother was right—our eyes remain bigger than our stomach even if we happen to earn more than a billion dollars. Another one of her Yiddish expressions loosely translated was that no matter how many bathrooms there are in the house you only have one tuchus (Yiddish for posterior). I think that means that there is little joy in excess and ultimately we are limited by our own bodies no matter how rich we are. Sorry Tiger but thank you for teaching all of us a vital lesson that we will probably try and forget.

## CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH WFS!

On Saturday, Dec. 19th from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm, join us for our annual Holiday Open House! Celebrate the season with seasonal goodies, door prizes and loads of fun while shopping our unique merchandise. The Christmas Tree Lane Association will have their Holiday Boutique set up for your shopping pleasure....be sure to pick up some of their wonderful items and support this worthy Altadena tradition!

From our family to yours, we wish you all a fabulous holiday!

Lori & Scott Webster



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*The Senior*  
By Bruce Lamarche  
**The Good Old Days ...  
Better in some ways!**

We consider our society to be very modern and cutting edge in the areas of communication. Communications happen fast today. “Connectivity” is the word of the day. We must keep in touch ... instantly. Questions must be answered right away, if not sooner! “What do you mean she doesn’t answer her cell phone? I have a question to ask, right now!” And yes, the breaking news at 11:00 P.M. keeps us informed of what we “need to know”, even if it is 7,000 miles away.

Some people walk around with Bluetooth cell phone devices (those funny plastic things that stick out of ears) and appear to talk to themselves. In years past, folks talking actively only to themselves would be considered candidates for a mental health program. Now we see it on every street. Automobile accident statistics show the danger from those drivers talking on cell phones about very “important” issues while weaving a 5,000 pound vehicle down the road at 70 miles an hour. How much of this is necessary to “keep in touch?”

I would ask what the definition of “communication” really is. The dictionary refers communication as a two-way exchange of ideas or information. So much of today’s communication is strictly one-way and superficial at that. How does being a good listener fit into this definition?

Think of the days of our parents and grandparents. Letter writing was the main way of communicating. We wrote carefully to express our thoughts and then mailed the letter. Later, we felt joy when the mailman brought a letter of

response, also carefully written. We have lost this art as we send brief e-mails over the internet. We now have devolved further with the advent of text messaging on cell-phones. “How R U? I B Fine. LOL & TTYL” (That last part refers to Laugh-out-loud and Talk-to-you-later).

What distresses me the most about this devolved form of communication is that it is done without thought and is basically a one-way expression of what one is feeling or doing at the moment. In times before now, communication was not only letter writing, but quiet evenings at home where family values and history were passed on to youth. Yes, the pace of this life was slower, but it had a certain quality and depth. Its effects lasted the lifetime of those involved and created great memories.

I think it prudent that we think on the things of that slower time that would serve us today. Spend time listening to someone you care about. Listening is not only respectful but informative. Perhaps the art of letter writing needs to be revived. It engenders careful thought and eliminates the superficial conversation that says nothing. Planned evenings with families could be arranged by the elders of the families who invite their very busy children and grandchildren over for an evening of real communicating. And yes, this does not include the TV!

*You can contact Bruce by phone-(626)335-4292 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*

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A Lesson To Be Learned From Santa’s 8 Tiny Reindeer

by Susan Schroeder

Have you ever experienced the moment, while trying to have a conversation with someone when you suddenly realized that this person was hard of hearing?

Admittedly, it takes patience to communicate with the hearing impaired. As your voice gets louder and develops that “edge of impatience”, most of us just quit trying and walk away, leaving the unintended victim isolated and alone.

For me, it brings up uncomfortable memories of my Mom as she aged. My Mom who really had an interesting life, as well as the family history to share, and about which I always had questions, died in 2000 at 92 years old.

I can remember sitting with her on the sofa and not having the patience to carry on a conversation with her. I remember turning on television, holding her hand, and watching movies.

If I had only known there were possibilities that could have drawn my Mom out of the isolation of the hearing impaired and into the light of the society in which we live. Unfortunately, it wasn’t until I met Francine Katz, a woman who has spent her entire life doing just that ... that I realized there are ways to give the hard of hearing the skills and confidence to re-enter the world of hearing and communication and leave the isolation that results from the inability to hear clearly.

I found my way to Francine’s door purely by accident. I was doing a story on a Pasadena woman who was 104 years old. She was amazing, to say the least, and I would defy anybody to guess her age. When we were discussing her weekly schedule, she mentioned that, along with her Spanish lessons and her Bridge Club, she had been attending one of Francine Katz’s classes for the last nine years. The rest is history. I called Francine and was invited to one of her therapy sessions.

Francine has spent her entire life as an advocate of keeping the aging and hard-of-hearing away from the isolation and dementia that is, to some degree, the results of hearing loss.

A graduate of Northwestern University and a licensed speech-language pathologist and lip reading specialist, Francine now conducts several workshops a week, free of charge, for people suffering from various stages of hearing loss and dementia. For 45 years, Francine taught lip reading and linguistics at PCC for 45 years, while also spending 12 years at LACC as an assistant professor. She was awarded the coveted “Teacher of the Year” award in 2005, and has the prestigious honor of being listed in the Who’s Who in America Western Division. With all of these credentials, I figured she must know what she was doing.

Francine told me to be at her class at 9:00 AM Wednesday morning because she was going to give a lecture on Clement C. Moore, who I subsequently learned was the poet who wrote “’Twas The Night Before Christmas” as a Christmas gift for his children over a century ago.

To say that I was not curious about how she was going to give a lecture to an audience of 50+ people, 50-90 years old, who were hearing impaired, would be a lie.

On Wednesday morning, when I arrived at the Arcadia Community Center and walked into the classroom, I was immediately aware of the energy vibrating throughout the room. At the head of the class was one of the most charismatic women I can ever remember experiencing in my entire life. She had just finished a story about Neil Armstrong that was apparently funny, because everybody was laughing.

When the laughter died down, Francine was ready for business. She announced to the class that she was going to talk about Clement C. Moore and asked the audience clearly, “How many of you know who Clement C. Moore was?”



She continued, “Before I tell you about Mr. Moore, I would like to ask if any of you can remember the names of Santa’s eight tiny reindeer”. There were some miscellaneous attempts, but nobody really could remember all of their names.

She requested that all of us get out a pen and paper, and meticulously listed each reindeer’s name, carefully pronouncing the name and the correct spelling. When she had come to the bottom of the list, she gave a test to see how well everybody remembered the names. She then explained to the class how the lips should look when pronouncing each reindeer name, followed by a test with no sound, just her lips mouthing the reindeer names while the class wrote down the correct name.

At the end of the class, everybody had not only learned to recognize the silent lip reading version of all of the tiny reindeer, but actually remembered each of the eight names.

I could really relate to this exercise because a year ago when I was hand-making all my own Christmas Cards and, for artistic purposes, needed to remember all of Santa’s reindeer names, I couldn’t. After thinking and agonizing over trying to remember their names, I finally looked them up on the internet.

After Francine’s class, I will never forget those names. It was amazing that it took a lip reading class, combined with a memory game, plus one who I am sure is one of the world’s greatest facilitators - Francine Katz - to put the pieces of the puzzle together.

Francine is a gift to all of those who are hard of hearing or suffering from the beginnings of dementia. Her workshops are free and listed them below. I have also listed the names and spellings of all of Santa’s eight tiny reindeer, just in case this article was making you curious.

City of Arcadia Community Center, Mon 9:30-11:30 AM, Wed 9:00-11:00 AM, (626) 574-5113

Crowell Public Library, Mon 12:45-2:45 PM, Tues 9:30-11:30 AM, (626) 360-0777  
Lamanda Park Library, Wednesday 1:00-3:00 PM, (626) 793-5672

Villa Gardens Retirement, Tues1:00-3:00 PM, (626) 796-8162  
Santa’s Reindeer Names  
“Now Dasher! Now Dancer! Now Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! On, Cupid! On Donner and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!”  
From “’Twas the Night Before Christmas” by Clement Clarke Moore

SENIOR HAPPENINGS

**FYI: KEEP THE “HAPPY”  
IN THE HOLIDAYS**

**Quick Tips to Help Reduce Holiday  
Stress & Busyness**

Are you worried about not getting everything done for the holidays?

Millions of people are looking forward to the holidays. Woven into holidays are dynamics that create busyness and add to our stress often robbing us of what really matters most to us. Quick tips from Connie Merritt, RN, PHN, author of TOO BUSY FOR YOUR OWN GOOD (McGraw-Hill) can help us to take action now to reduce stress levels and keep the “Happy” in the “Holidays.” It starts with YOU! Accept its your responsibility to help reduce stress and manage busyness and you can manage it! (Even if you are getting multiple demands from different areas.)

Make Your List and check it *at least twice!* Making a list will really help to manage your holidays!

- Be specific and list:
  - your activities,
  - commitments,
  - to-dos (now through the first of the year )
- Examples and remember specifics are key:
  - Errand list what you need to do and where you need to go including travel time especially allowing for traffic
  - Gift list shopping, wrapping, delivery
  - Grocery shopping list for all your food & beverage needs
  - Cooking List planning for yourself & others including pot lucks, guests, events where you take a little something
  - Decorating list anything thats left from candles to setting the table
  - Wardrobe list planning whats being worn and where
  - After holiday sales list - BE SPECIFIC with sizes, brands

Be sure you go through your lists taking into consideration anything between now and the first of the year for you:

- Workplace
- Home
- Family
- Community
- And at the top of the list YOU! Your personal needs.

**LET GO** In order to BE IN LOVE with your holidays, begin by trimming your to-do list.

- Do you really need to drive an hour away to that place?
- Do you need to buy a gift for that aunt you never see?
- Can you buy those cookies instead of baking them?

There are no easy answers to these questions, But to help take off the holiday stress - we need to communicate with our family, friends and ask ourselves, Whats really important?

What can we let go of ? (including GUILT!) And remember when you shed an obligation, here and there, you’re NOT ALONE others must say no.

A BIG part of letting go is saying NO. No may be the most powerful word to use during the holidays to relieve stress

- Say it pleasantly
- with a smile (at least in your heart and tone)
- No, can
  - save you time,
  - enable you to focus on whats important to you, and protect you from your own good-heartedness. No, phrases:
    - I have a prior commitment
    - I am over-extended right now
    - Sorry, cantlet me know how it goes.
    - I am tempted, but Ill have to pass
    - I am honored, but I wont be able to fit it in.
    - You know Id never refuse you if I could help it, but that wont work for me

NOW - These holidays are a present to you focus on what is important to you *And do it NOW!* NOW is a good time to trim whatever from your list -- in favor of honoring the closest relationships you have and the holidays you want most.

The gain from getting busyness and stress managed during the holidays is the fact you will be healthier, your priorities clearer, and youll have less stress and more energy Bottom-line -- youll have more fun and fulfillment and a HAPPIER holiday!

**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:**  
1:00 pm to 1:45 pm: Strength training with Lisa Brandley. FREE class of stretching with light hand weights while you sit.

**Tuesday:**  
2nd Tuesday of each month FREE blood pressure checks by Methodist Hospital; 11 am to 12 noon  
3rd Tuesday of each month FREE financial consulting; 10 -12 noon call 355-7394 for an appointment  
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm: BINGO; cards are only 25 cents each so stop by & play  
5:30 pm to 7 pm: Yoga; \$7.00 - 50 & over. Please call 355-5278 for more information

**Wednesday:**  
11 -11:45 am: Balance Class with Teryl. FREE class designed to improve balance & refresh the joints  
2nd Wednesday of the month: FREE Legal



**Senior  
Excursions**

*Thurs day,  
December*

**Sold Out!**

17th - Christmas Show - 10:30 am to 4 pm Join us at the Candlelight Pavilion Theatre in Claremont  
To register for future excursions, please call (626) 355-7394. \*Payment required to reserve space\*

**Recipe of the Week:**

**Ambrosia Pecan Pie**

**Ingredients:**

- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons orange juice
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
- 1 teaspoon grated orange peel
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups chopped pecans
- 2/3 cup flaked coconut
- 1 (9 inch) unbaked pastry shell

**Directions:**

*In a large mixing bowl, beat eggs, corn syrup, sugars, orange juice, butter, orange peel and salt until well blended. Stir in pecans and coconut. Pour into pastry shell. Bake at 350 degrees F for 50-60 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. If edges become too brown, cover with foil. Cool on a wire rack.*

**December Birthdays**  
Shirley Anholt, Mary Alice Cervera, Sylvia Curl, Rose Fafach, Lucile Flanders, Bonnie Garner, Arlie Hahn, Eleanor Hensel, Carole Horejsi, Joan Hufnagel, Elizabeth Levie, Gayle Licher, Nan Beverly Murphy, Marie Pedersen, Pat McGuire, Helen Reese, Levon Yapoujian

**Helpful Hints:  
Holiday Stains**

**COFFEE STAINS**

To remove coffee (or tea) stains, rinse area with cold water immediately. Rub in a couple of drops of a mild, white dishwashing liquid and rinse well. Then treat with a mixture of one-part white household vinegar and three-parts water. Rinse again and launder as you normally do. Note: If cream was used in the coffee, you may have to sponge the stain with dry-cleaning fluid.

**CRANBERRY STAINS**

To eliminate cranberry stains, scoop up as much of the sauce as you can—as quickly as you can—and then rinse with cold water. Pretreat the stained area and then wash—as the care label for the fabric indicates.

With all the dinner parties and family gatherings during the holidays, your tablecloth can take a beating from the drips, spills and stains. Here are removal solutions for the most common party-related stains:

• To get rid of candle wax from the tablecloth, let the wax harden—a quick way is to put it in the freezer. Then scrape it off the tablecloth with a dull knife. Place paper towels on both sides of the stain and set the iron on the warm setting, then iron (no steam) over the stained area. Change the towels often to absorb all of the wax. Launder as usual.

• To clean up gravy, spoon it up as fast as you can. Sprinkle artificial sweetener or flour over the stained area to absorb the grease. Put the tablecloth into a sink and soak in a mixture of one teaspoon of a mild, colorless detergent with each cup of lukewarm water for at least 20 minutes. Then wash as usual and let air dry—don’t put in the dryer.

• To remove red-wine stains, pour a big dose of salt on top of the stain to absorb the liquid. Put the tablecloth into cold water and try to rub out the stain. Use an enzyme detergent in the hottest water safe for the fabric, soak for 30 minutes and launder.

Consultations: 10-11:30 am. Appointments call 355-7394

Wii Wednesday - 1:00 pm or call the senior desk at 355-7394 to arrange another time & day to learn how to play. No previous **experience or skills required and it is great exercise.**

**Thursday:**  
**1:00 to 3:30 pm: Game Day. Join us for UNO and Poker with Bridge on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays; so please call for more information. 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm: Yoga; \$7.00 - 50 & over. Please call 355-5278 for more information**  
**Friday:**  
**1:00 pm: Ping Pong**  
**Saturday: 11:30 am: Senior Club brown bag lunch and BINGO at 12:30 pm**

**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 home-bound seniors by volunteer drivers through the YWCA Intervale Lunch Program M-F (with frozen meals for the weekend.) Call the YWCA at (626) 214-9460 or Darlene Traxler at (626) 355-0256 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 626.355.6220 or (626) 355-0256.**

**SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!**

**Wednesday 3-7pm**

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FREE ESTIMATES

### SAD STORY - continued from page 1

worst thing people can do is, "let someone sleep it off." She said in the case of affixation the type of alcohol does not matter. South Pasadena Police said Sele, most likely, died from an alcohol overdose.

Witnesses say Sele was found unresponsive outside a home on Diamond Avenue where his friends tried relentlessly to revive him. According to reports there was no supervision at the party held in the 500 block of Mariposa by another 18-year-old student. Police say they received a call shortly before 11:30 p.m.

Whether they were home or not, Zamani also said the problem is when parents want to be "the cool parent." "You hear them say, if they're going to do it I'd rather them do it here," she said. "This is a real problem, First you're saying its ok. And, there are laws that make it hard to access alcohol and you're giving it to them. Alcohol is a drug."

State law makes the homeowner responsible for any alcohol related incidents including getting a DUI or crashing a car. She said to make things worse - it was advertised \$5 at the door to get into the Altadena party. "I would not want to be the one that was taking the money," she said.

A statement on the schools website says Aydin served as a writer for the school's newspaper, as President of the American Cancer Society Club on campus, and as the Commissioner of Internal Affairs (CIA). As CIA, Aydin was also the student liaison to the South Pasadena School Board.

Zamani said Day One has meetings every Wednesday which are free and open to all teens 12-18. For more information call Day One at (626) 229-9750. Zamani can also be emailed directly at christy@dayonepasadena.com.

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20951 E Via Verde St.	Covina	Gary Lorenzini	\$1,000,000
363 Heather Heights	Monrovia	Gary Lorenzini	\$728,000



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Chris Bertrand

## One Of A Kind Christmas Edition

Story By Chris Bertrand  
Photos by Chris Bertrand

## Residents Amp Up the Christmas Spirit with Yuletide Decorations!



**Best Overall:** Tim Osti's Masterpiece on Auburn

decorations as well as accolades for individual home decorations. Happy neighbors were high-fiving it both nights I visited. Though all our nominees were festive, a few always stand out:

**Best overall:** (Tim Osti goes all out every year, with weeks of decorations, seasonal music, a special remembrance tree and even a personal tour.) 27 N. Auburn, Sierra Madre (Just north of Sierra Madre Blvd.)

**Children's Delight Award:** (Another Sierra Madre homeowner with the holiday spirit who expends uber-effort every year with animated decorations) 653 W. Grandview, Sierra Madre (Just east of Michillinda)

**Best Daytime Decorations:** 11 E. Bonita, Sierra Madre (NW corner of Baldwin); Sierra Madre City Hall Gingerbread House (almost life size; built and decorated by staff).

**Best Arcadia Decorations:** 2043 Canyon, Arcadia; 351 N. Old Ranch Road, Arcadia.

**Best Altadena Decorations:** 1991 New York Drive, Altadena (Enter a separated access to this section of NY Drive from Allen); Balian Mansion, 1960 Mendocino Lane, Altadena (Lighted since 1955... known as "the pioneer of holiday lighting").

**Best Pasadena Decorations:** 3860 Shadow Grove, Pasadena (Just West of Michillinda); 1450 Denair, Pasadena (Upper Hastings Ranch).

**Best Sierra Madre Decorations:** 250 S. Baldwin, Sierra Madre; 350 Acacia, Sierra Madre.

**Best Monrovia Decorations:** 139 Madison, Monrovia; 912 S. Mayflower, Monrovia.

**Best All-Neighborhood Decorations:**

We at the Mountain Views News tried something new this year, inviting nominations of the best holiday decorations from Altadena, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia and Duarte. This is the start of a new tradition, and we look forward to even more participation and nominations next year! Individual winners will be mailed a gift certificate, thanks to one of our advertisers, Red White and Bluezz, a wine bar with restaurant and live entertainment in Old Town Pasadena at 70 South Raymond Avenue. (626) 792-4441 [www.redwhitebluezz.com](http://www.redwhitebluezz.com)

After three nights of driving our area, we've awarded prizes to some beautiful decorations from our communities. From simple dwellings full of Christmas spirit to the spectacular, 21 room, Balian Mansion in Altadena, all our nominees and winners share a wish to bring delight to a child, a smile to a harried adult, and invite us to pause and admire their joyful work. The Balian Family, of ice cream fame, have been decorating the three and a half acres around their mansion for public enjoyment since 1955, and are said to be one of the pioneers of holiday lighting.

Just a short distance from the Balian is Christmas Tree Lane, with its own point of interest sign on the 210 freeway. .7 of the mile of Deodar cedars lining what was to be the grand entrance to an estate that was never built. The huge trees still shade Santa Rosa Avenue (from Altadena Dr. to Woodbury) nearly a century later, decked out with thousands of colored lights installed high in the trees by volunteers. Truly feels like a fairyland, but drivers beware of spending too much time looking up at the massive overarching trees!

Two other neighborhoods are definite stops on your holiday decorations tour: Upper Hastings Ranch in Pasadena and Madison Avenue in Monrovia. The upper Hastings association, featured previously in Sunset magazine, has a long tradition of coordinating unique street decorations for each block in addition to encouraging



Happy winners of 912 S. Mayflower

Upper Hastings Ranch Association: North of Sierra Madre Boulevard, west of Michillinda and east of Riviera; Madison between Foothill and Hillcrest in Monrovia (Received Monrovia's award for Best Neighborhood effort this year, too!); Christmas Tree Lane in Altadena on Santa Rosa between Altadena Drive and Woodbury (A holiday attraction since 1920!).



Balian Mansion in Altadena

If you still want more, take a peek at the City of Arcadia Decoration Award Winners! Two were also included in our winning list!



One of Daytime's Best - 11 E. Bonita in Sierra Madre

123 Santa Cruz Rd.,  
301 Joyce Ave.  
2043 Canyon Rd.  
1412 Orlando Dr.,  
351 N. Old Ranch Rd.,  
936 Volante Dr.,  
400 N. Altura Rd.,  
720 W. Camino Real Ave.,  
1601 S. Baldwin Ave.,  
1733 S. Santa Anita 168  
W. Wistaria Ave., 2500  
Greenfield Ave., 527 E.  
Norman Ave., 634 E.  
Norman Ave., 703 E.  
Camino Real 605-A S.  
Second Ave.

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