

<b>SPECIAL REPORT:</b>	<b>AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY</b>	<b>Education &amp; Youth:</b>	<b>THE WORLD AND MORE</b>	<b>ONE OF A KIND</b>	
<b>TAKING TIME TO SEE THE WORLD</b>	<b>Around Monrovia</b> <i>Page 3</i>	<b>Alverno CIF Champs New Start</b> <i>Page 6</i>	<b>Peter Dills: Table For Two</b> <i>Page 7</i>	<b>Tuscan Villa Overlooks The LA Basin From Atop Whispering Pines Estates</b> <i>Page 15</i>	
<b>ANTARTICA</b> <i>Page 13</i>	<b>PASADENA</b>	<b>OPINION:</b>	<b>BOB EKLUND: Looking Up</b>		
	<b>Rising From The Ashes</b> <i>Page 4</i>	<b>LEFT TURN/RIGHT TURN HAYES/WELBORN</b> <i>Page 8</i>	<b>ONLINE: Something That Works</b> <i>Page 12</i>		
	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>RICH JOHNSON HAIL HAMILTON STUART TOLCHIN</b> <i>Page 9</i>	<b>The Good Life</b> <i>Page 14</i>		
	<b>Police Blotters</b> <i>Page 5</i>				

Where Your Community News Comes First

# Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre — Arcadia — Pasadena — Altadena — Monrovia

JANUARY 9 - 16, 2010

VOLUME 4 NO. 2

*The National Weather Service is forecasting rain as likely for Monday, with a slight chance of starting as early as Sunday.*

*Residents are encouraged to be prepared for Yellow and possibly Red Flag Alerts. The item below is taken directly from today's NWS forecast Special Weather Statement:*

“CONFIDENCE IS GROWING THAT SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL WILL OCCUR OVER SOUTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA FROM SUNDAY THROUGH MOST OF NEXT WEEK... BUT THE EXACT DETAILS ARE STILL UNCLEAR. AT THIS TIME... IT APPEARS THERE WILL BE THREE OR FOUR SEPARATE IMPULSES MOVING INTO THE AREA BETWEEN LATE SUNDAY AND FRIDAY. FOR THE ENTIRE WEEK...THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR RAINFALL TOTALS OF AT LEAST 3 TO 6 INCHES IN COASTAL AND VALLEY AREAS...AND 6 TO 12 INCHES IN THE FOOTHILLS AND MOUNTAINS. WITH SUCH RAINFALL AMOUNTS...THERE WILL BE THE POTENTIAL FOR FLASH FLOODING AND MUD AND DEBRIS FLOWS... ESPECIALLY IN AND BELOW RECENTLY BURNED AREAS. RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO TAKE ANY ADDITIONAL STEPS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEIR PROPERTY IN ADVANCE OF THE UPCOMING RAINS.”

*As a reminder, City offices are closed for their regular Friday off on Friday, January 15, 2010 and closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, January 18, 2010.*

## “State of the City” Address at Kiwanis Meeting

At the January 19 meeting of the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club, Mayor MaryAnn MacGillivray will present the 2010 “State of the City” address. Her presentation will detail the City’s issues, projects, finances, and other relevant items that will be of interest to Sierra Madre residents.

The meeting will be Tuesday, January 19 at noon at the Masonic Temple, 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. The public is invited. Lunch will be served. The cost is \$11 per person; reservations and exact change are required. For reservations, please contact Susan Henderson at 355-0728 no later than noon the preceding Monday.

The following Tuesday, January 26, 2010, Sierra Madre resident Jeff Throop, of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, who will be sworn in as President next week, will be the guest speaker. He will speak about 2011 event the association’s vision for the future. Lunch will also be served at that meeting at a cost of \$11 per person. Reservations are also required.

## Dr. C. Paul Neiby, The Lion Of Sierra Madre, Passes Away



Sierra Madre lost one of its most vocal activists on Thursday, when Dr. C. Paul Neiby passed away at age 74. His death was the result of complications from two strokes he suffered in 2008/2009.

Paul was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on April 16, 1935 to Josephine and Charles Neiby. Reared in Atlantic, Iowa, he graduated from the University of Iowa Medical School. He interned at Philadelphia General Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and did his surgical residency at the Hospital of University of Pennsylvania (HUP) where he met his wife, Louise.

Paul was drafted into the Navy and joined the Medical Corp where he served in the Pacific most notably Korea and Thailand as physician. After he was honorably discharged from the Navy, he returned to Philadelphia and did his residency at HUP.

After completing his residency he moved to California in the early 70’s where he opened a private general surgery practice in Arcadia. He was on the staff of Arcadia Methodist Hospital for many years. He maintained that practice until he retired in 2000.

In 1974 he moved to Sierra Madre, a city that he truly loved. Although his voice was often ‘booming’ with passion, he was kind and generous to a fault. A man of deep convictions, he believed in the power of ‘the people’.

Gardening was one of Paul’s favorite pastimes. He maintained an organic paradise on the Neiby’s 1.5 acre estate in Sierra Madre. He enriched the soil of the land by mulching and spreading the fallen leaves on the property. He created his own ‘mini’ arboretum.

However, The Village of Sierra Madre itself was probably his greatest passion. One of the first ‘movements’ that he became involved with was preventing the removal of 84 trees as a result of the county’s proposal to widen Orange Grove Avenue . “After all, this is a Tree City USA”, said Paul.

While living in Sierra Madre, Paul was involved in many other civic activities including, *(partial listing):* President Sierra Madre Kiwanis Commissioner – Sierra Madre Senior Commission Trustee

Sierra Madre Library Board Member  
Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society Organizer  
Sierra Madre Pioneer Days and much more.

At one time, efforts were made to capture the history of Sierra Madre through an Oral History Project. Over the years, 110 biographies were collected but the project had little activity until Paul resurrected it about 8 years ago. He interviewed 40 additional citizens and spoke of plans to do more.

Paul and John Grijalva also worked on Sierra Madre Pioneer Day’s – an annual event that showcased a pictorial history of Sierra Madre.

Paul’s latest contribution to Sierra Madre’s history was his participation as a Board Member of the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society. There he was instrumental in getting the publication of “*A Southern California Story: Seeking the Better Life In Sierra Madre*”, authored by Michele Zack, published. With the help of Bob Mitchell, silent movie organist, and friend Jay Whitcraft, six silent film events were held to support the book. He also assisted with the research and sales of the book.

Just prior to his death, Paul and his wife Louise were chosen as Sierra Madre’s Citizens of the Year. Louise will be awarded the honor on January 29th in Santa Anita’s Crystal Ballroom. Paul’s award will be presented posthumously at that time.

Paul leaves to mourn his passing, his wife and life long friend, Louise; sister Margaret (Bill) Lippincott of Atlantic, Iowa; host of other relatives and friends, and the City of Sierra Madre.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to:

Sierra Madre Emergency Radio Station  
c/o Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council  
PO Box 940  
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025-0940  
501 (c) (3) Tax ID #20-5458739

***How important it is to revere the memory.***

For additional information on the Citizen Of The Year ceremony, please go to [www.SMCitizenoftheYear.info](http://www.SMCitizenoftheYear.info) or call the SM Chamber of Commerce office at 626-355-5111.

*S. Henderson/MVNews*

## Local Support for Haiti Comes Pouring In

By Dean Lee



A steady stream of cars flowed through the Rose Bowl parking lot on Friday each one there to give donations to the local chapter of the American Red Cross for relief in Haiti. Haiti was struck by a devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake Tuesday which all but leveled the capital of Port-au-Prince.

“There has been a car every 30 to 35 seconds,” said Red Cross Spokesperson Charlie Sardou. “The American public has been very generous overall.”

More people were expected Saturday after extending the drive a day.

Sardou said the Red Cross had two supply planes land in Haiti Friday full of medical supplies and food. He added that most of the money they collect will go to long term recovery.

“There really is a short term need for disaster relief, making sure people are safe and well,” he said. “Then the operation will turn towards long term relief for Haiti.”

He said although no volunteers from the San Gabriel Valley had been sent to Haiti they were on call.

## Alverno California Girl Floats in the Rose Parade

Submitted by Candace Siegle



*Bassant (dark hair) takes her once-in-a-lifetime Rose Parade ride as a Sierra Madre Princess.*

Alverno High School senior Bassant Ibrahim took her place on the Sierra Madre Rose Parade float as a Sierra Madre Princess. The float’s theme: California Girls.

A tribute to Southern California and built by the city of Sierra Madre with the help of many volunteers, the float featured strawflower windsurfers, leaping silver-leaf dolphins, a crushed-marigold sailboat and a purple-iris ocean. It won the Governor’s Trophy for best depiction of life in California. We took this opportunity to talk with Bassant about her experience.

*What did you like best about representing Sierra Madre in the Rose Parade?*

My favorite part about representing Sierra Madre in the Rose Parade was actually getting the honor to represent not just my city, but my school,Alverno -community, and family. I loved going to city gatherings and talking about the float and meeting various club members. When we went to the Rotary Club, I saw Ms. Gillick there which was extremely cool!

*It looked pretty cold out there on New*

*Year’s Day.*  
It wasn’t just cold, it was freezing! We were required to wear shorts and light-weight blouses and had to leave our jackets on the bus, so it was really a difficult situation. By the time the parade actually started, my toes and fingers were numb, swollen, and light bluish-purple.

*What time did you have to be on the float?*  
We had to be at the Sierra Madre Rose Float at 4 am which meant I had to wake up at 3 am to have enough time to get dressed and eat breakfast. I went to bed at 2:15 am because of a New Year’s family celebration so I was extremely tired by the time we finished everything. When I got home I knocked out from 1 pm to 7:30.

*Is being on a float as much fun as it seems?*  
It was so exciting! Probably even more exciting than it seems! The coolest part was being in the parade and recognizing someone in the audience.

*You had to get up at 3 am, and shiver on a float for hours—was it worth it?*  
It was definitely worth it; a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will positively never forget.





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**& more!**

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Closed Sunday

Read The Paper Online At: [www.mtnviewsnews.com](http://www.mtnviewsnews.com)



## Weather Wise

### 5-Day Forecast

#### Sierra Madre, Ca.

**Mon:** Rain Hi 50s Lows 40s  
**Tues:** Rain H 50s Lows 40s  
**Wed:** Rain Hi 50s Lows 40s  
**Thur:** Rain Hi 50s Lows 40s  
**Fri:** Rain Hi 50s Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



## ONE NIGHT ONLY! “FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY” AT SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE ON JANUARY 17

“Fibber McGee and Molly” was one of the most popular comedies of the Golden Days of Radio, enduring from 1935-1959. The fun is being re-created by actors of Sierra Madre Playhouse in a mock radio broadcast on Sunday, January 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Fibber McGee was a likable fellow frequently getting himself into some sort of trouble, patiently endured and soothed by his loving wife Molly. Their home at 79 Wistful Vista was frequently visited by a comical assortment of characters (in every sense of that word).

The Playhouse actors will re-create the original broadcasts complete with commercials and sound effects. (The show’s most famous running gag was the overstuffed hallway closet, which would burst with a cacophonous downpour of stuff when anyone opened it.)

The radio episodes being re-created include “Molly Wants A Budget,” “Fibber Gets His Hand Caught in a Bottle,” “Fibber Meets a Racketeer,” and “Fibber Tries to Learn Piano.”

The Playhouse actors include Nancy Solomons, Ed Thomas, Brad Stephenson, Linda DeMetrick, Richard Large and John Barker.

They play roles originally made famous by Marian and Jim Jordan, Harlow Wilcox, Harold Peary, Gale Gordon, Bea Benedaret, Arthur Q. Brian, Bill Thompson and Cliff Arquette. The series’ head writer and co-creator was Donald Quinn. “Fibber McGee and Molly” would have endured into the 60s, but for Marian Jordan’s failing health. Now, for one more night, you can see what all the fun was about.

At Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Free parking behind theatre. Sunday, January 17, 2010 at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20. Seniors (65+) and students (13-17), \$17. Children 12 and under, \$12. Reservations: (626) 355-4318 or [www.sierramadreplayhouse.org](http://www.sierramadreplayhouse.org)

## Sierra Madre Playhouse - Neighbors Star in Wizard of Oz Benefit

Local resident actors help celebrate the Sierra Madre Playhouse’s 30th Anniversary by staging four benefit performances of "Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz." Show times are 11 am and 2 pm, Saturday, January 30th and again on February 6th.

"We wouldn't be acting if it weren't for the Playhouse," says our cowardly lion, local attorney Bruce Neilson. He added, "I'm a lawyer by chance and an actor by passion."

Donna Ieraci, a hostess at the Old Spaghetti Factory plays Dorothy; our Scarecrow is portrayed by Dan Ellis, a school administrator at the LAUSD Santee Education Complex.

In between swinging an axe, Tin Man Ron Johnston is a computer programmer for General Electric, and Toto, played by Steve Cipriani, owns the Chips Painting Company when not on all fours. Our Wizard, Guy Crawford is, naturally, a salesman, and Lynda Rohrbacher, playing against type as the Wicked Witch of the West, is a compassionate neonatal nurse. June Chandler, teacher of the Playhouse's Adult "For the Love of Acting Classes" tells us, "Because of the Sierra Madre Playhouse 'real' people can be stars in their own hometown."

Rounding out our cast as Glinda, the Good Witch, is the beautiful and talented octogenarian Shirley McConnell. Retired from a career in employment development for the State of California, Shirley told us, "Finally, I'm getting to act in my life. And we're all excited about giving back to the Playhouse!"

## SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES 2010 SEASON

For its 2010 season, the Sierra Madre Playhouse is assembling a mix of plays ranging from midcentury classics to more recent fare, some comforting and others challenging, from the silly to the more serious. Here’s the production calendar as it stands so far:

Jan. 15- Feb. 27: “The Sensuous Senator” by Michael Parker. Directed by Ken Salzman. Senator Harry Douglas’ re-election campaign centers on morality and family values. With wife Lois away for the weekend, he calls his voluptuous secretary, Veronica, to spend the night. She is busy so he calls an agency for an “escort” for the evening. Before she arrives, elderly Congressman Clyde Salt has locked himself out of his own house and asks to spend the night. Then nephew Jack comes to discuss the campaign. As Harry is juggling Clyde, Jack, and the escort, Veronica pops in; Lois’ flight is canceled; and a reporter for the National Intruder comes snooping for evidences of immorality. Oh, my! A hilarious bedroom farce to start the new season.

March 12- April 17: “Da” by Hugh Leonard. Directed by Bill Mesnick. Winner of the Tony and New York Drama Critics’ Circle Award in 1978. Living now in London, Charlie has returned to his childhood home in Dublin to see to his deceased father’s effects. Da was Charlie’s last link to the auld sod, and the council house is filled with memories, sweet, bitter and funny. Charlie and Da relive some hilarious and touching times.

April 30- June 5: “The Rainmaker” by N. Richard Nash. Directed by Bob Hakman. Lizzie Curry is best described as “plain,” and her marriage prospects are as dry as the drought-ridden Curry farm. Her dad and brothers’ clumsy efforts to marry her off are laughable. Enter the fast-thinking, smooth-talking “rainmaker,” Starbuck, who just might be a solution to both problems. Starbuck convinces the men that he can make it rain and persuades Lizzie that she has a beauty of her own

June 18- July 31: “Anna in the Tropics” by Nilo Cruz. Winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize. In 1929 Florida, the cigar factory has a “lector” to educate and entertain the Cuban ladies who roll handmade cigars all day. When the handsome new lector reads from Tolstoy’s “Anna Karenina,” he stirs dreams and emotions that might better be left undisturbed.

Aug. 13- Sept. 25: To Be Announced. We’re looking for just the right light comedy, or maybe even a musical, for the end of summer.

Oct. 8- Nov. 13. “Arcadia” by Tom Stoppard. Winner, 1994 Olivier Award and 1995 New York Drama Critics’ Circle Award for Best Play. An intriguing mystery set in Derbyshire on the elegant Coverly estate. The focus alternates between young Lady Thomasina in 1809 and present day descendants who are researching a possible 1809 scandal on the estate involving Lord Byron.

Nov. 26- Dec. 23: The Christmas Show, To Be Announced.

Tickets for most shows are \$20; For seniors (65+) and students (13-17), \$17; For children 12 and under, \$12. Reservations can be made by phone at (626) 355-4318, or online at [www.sierramadreplayhouse.org](http://www.sierramadreplayhouse.org). For subscription information, also contact the online address.

Sierra Madre Playhouse is located at 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. There is ample free parking behind the theatre. Sierra Madre is adjacent to and just east of Pasadena.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>January</b>						1
						2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Happy New Year!				Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 PM City Hall Senior Community Commission 3:00 PM City Hall		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			Arts Commission Meeting 6:30 PM City Hall			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Community Services Commission Meeting 6:00 PM City Hall			Tree Advisory Commission 7:00 PM City Hall	Third Thursday Book Club Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 PM City Hall		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Literary Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 PM City Hall				
31	<b>Sierra Madre</b>					

### Winter at Descanso Gardens Means Camellias

Descanso Garden’s signature flower begins to bloom in profusion in January and continues well into spring. The Gardens celebrates its arrival with flower shows and a new festival “The Golden Age of the Camellia” in February when you can enjoy shows, tours and workshops. Here’s a recap of upcoming Camellia-themed events:

#### Camellia Shows at Descanso Gardens

Bring a camellia from your garden for identification and learn more about it from friendly experts; arrive early on Saturday to enter your blooms in novice and intermediate categories, or just come by to admire the flower that is called the “Empress of Winter.” (Entrance to Camellia Shows is free with Gardens admission.)

- Pacific Camellia Show, Saturday, Jan. 16, 1 to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 17, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Southern California Camellia Society Show, Saturday, Jan. 30, 1 to 4 p.m. and Sunday Jan. 31, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Southern California Camellia Council Show, Saturday, Feb. 27, 1 to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### Golden Age of the Camellia Festival – Feb. 20-27

In the 1950s and 60s, Descanso celebrated its extensive camellia collection with elaborate pageantry, society shows, a “Queen of Camellialand” contest and walks through the famed winter-blooming flower forests.

- Faery Tours of the Camellia Forest, Sat., Feb. 20, tours depart at 9:30, 10:15 and 11 a.m. Follow the forest faeries as they guide children and families through Descanso’s Camellia Forest. Learn flower facts, hear faery stories of enchantment and frolic, and be prepared for surprises along the way. Free with Gardens admission but space is limited. Call (818) 949-7980 to reserve your spot.

THE ROSE LEAF RAGTIME CLUB, now in its 15th year, meets on the last Sunday of every month, and will convene on Sunday, January 31, 2010 at the Aztec Hotel’s Mayan Restaurant from 2:00 to 5:00 PM.

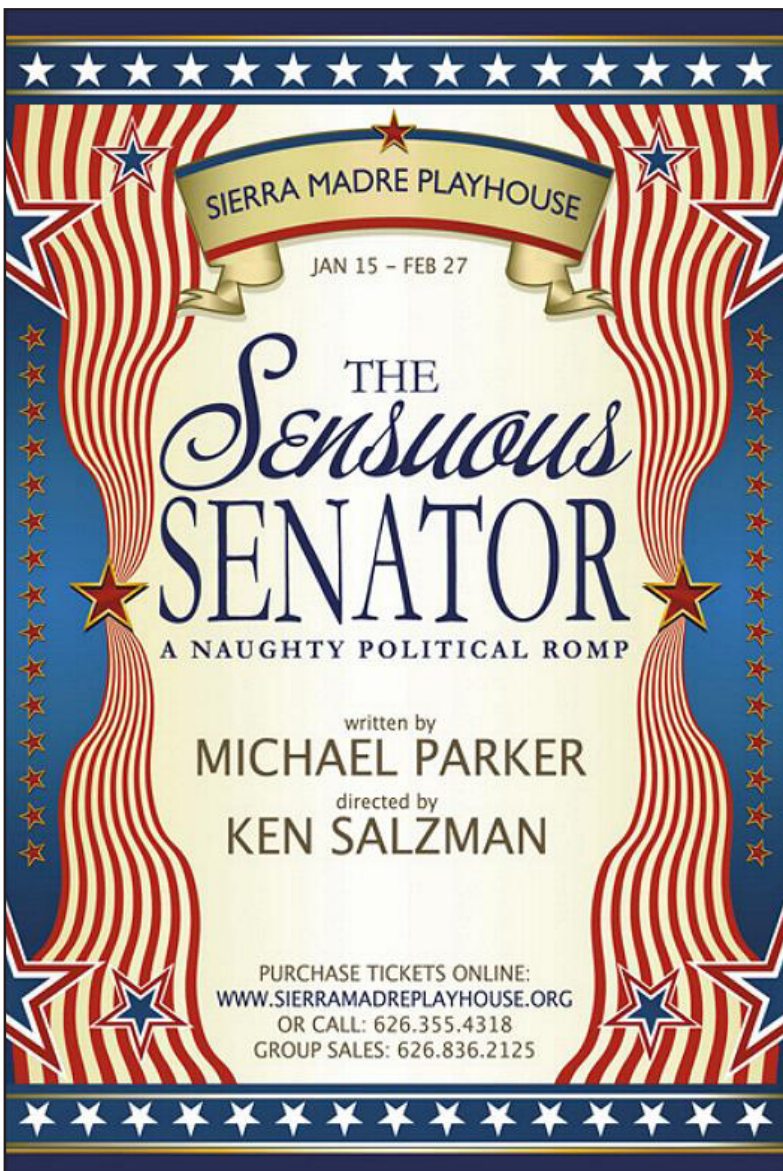
The Aztec Hotel, a marvelous historic building built in 1925, is located at 311 W. Foothill Boulevard in Monrovia, ¾ blocks west of Myrtle. Plenty of free parking at the west side of the hotel. Suggested donation -- \$2.00 (performers are not asked to donate). Ragtime and related types of music, classic 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.

For further information call Hal Leavens (626) 359-8648 or Ron Ross (818) 766-2384 or send e-mail to [ragtимерon@earthlink.net](mailto:ragtимерon@earthlink.net)

From: Ron Ross, Publicity Director

The Rose Leaf Ragtime Club is on the Web at <http://roseleafclub.com>  
 Videos of recent meetings can be viewed at <http://valleyragtimestomp.com/>



### The Case of Sherlock Holmes and... Panel Discussion at Sierra Madre Public Library on January 19th

On Tuesday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sierra Madre Public Library, “Sisters in Crime,” an association of mystery and crime novelists, will present a panel discussion, “From Baker Street to the Big Screen: Sherlock Holmes in Pop Culture. One of the most notable and beloved sleuths in the mystery genre, Sherlock Holmes has been the subject of countless books, movies, and plays. Scores of actors have been cast in the role, with the character receiving a creative new “action hero” interpretation by Robert Downey, Jr., in the recently released Sherlock Holmes film. Authors and Holmes scholars Mike Mallory, Les Klinger, and Amnon Kabatchnik will discuss the many conceptions and misconceptions surrounding Holmes, and why he has been such an enduring cultural presence and popular character in literature and film. Did you know, for example, that the iconic drop stem pipe and deer stalker cap never appeared in any of Sir Arthur Conan’s Doyle’s stories?

This program is free and open to the public. The Sierra Madre Public Library, located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, is open Monday through Wednesday from Noon to 9 p.m., Thursday and Friday from Noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed on all major holidays. For information on all our Library activities and services, please call (626) 355-7186, or visit our website at [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us).

### Sierra Madre’s 2010 “One Book One City” Gets Underway “Zorro” Kick-Off Fiesta, Saturday, January 30

A “fiesta” at the Sierra Madre Public Library on January 30 will kick off this year’s “One Book One City” program. This free event takes place from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. and is open to the public of all ages.

Honoring Isabel Allende’s novel “Zorro,” a story of the legendary 19th century Spanish California hero, the party will feature Mariachi musicians and Flamenco dancers. At 2:00 p.m. Tigertainment Studios will present “Swordplay!” – a demonstration of face-to-face fencing. Mask making will be available for children.

In addition to giving Sierra Madreans an excuse to read an important work of fiction—with particular local appeal—the Library is organizing events to celebrate as well as explore “Zorro” in depth, with special guests and literary discussions planned for February along with a tour of the San Gabriel Mission, which features prominently in the novel.

The Library would like to thank the Sierra Madre Civic Club and the Casa del Rey Mexican Restaurant for sponsoring the kick-off “fiesta.”

Copies of “Zorro” in English and Spanish and on CD, as well as Allende’s other works, are available for checkout at the Sierra Madre Public Library and for purchase at Sierra Madre Books in Sierra Madre. All One Book One City events are free and open to the public. The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre 91024. For more information, please call Catriona Shafer at 626-355-7186.

### Chinese New Year at the Library

Join us at the Sierra Madre Public Library on Tuesday, January 26 at 3:30 p.m. for a special children’s Storytime celebrating Chinese New Year. The Storytime will feature stories about Chinese New Year, followed by a “good luck” paper lantern craft. Chinese New Year, which in 2010 celebrates The Year of the Tiger, begins February 14.

### Sierra Madre Youth Basketball League

Due to the success of the Sierra Madre youth Flag Football League, the City of Sierra Madre will be offering a Youth Basketball League this coming February.

The league will be co-ed and broken into two divisions: 7th and 8th graders will play in Division A, while 5th and 6th graders will play in Division B.

The league will consist of Sierra Madre teams and all games and practices will occur at Sierra Madre Upper School Campus basketball courts. Games and practices will occur Monday through Thursday after-school between the hours of 2:45 and 4:45 pm (the exact date and time is dependent on your child’s coach).

All games will follow the rules set out by the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF).

For more information on how to register, please contact the Community and Personnel Services Office at 626-355-5278.

### Live from Burger Continental The Harvey Hyde Show

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 Hard-hitting, High impact sports talk radio  
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## Sierra Madre

### The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine and Gourmet Tasting Fundraiser

Well, the 2009 holidays are behind us. We welcome the exciting New Year. May 2010 bring hope, peace, and prosperity.

The festive atmosphere of the holiday season will be recreated at our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine and Cuisine Tasting Gala. Again being held at Alverno's extraordinary Villa in Sierra Madre, the evening will feature wines from dozens of vintners and delectable cuisine from more than 20 local restaurants.

Mark Friday evening, February 19<sup>th</sup>, on your calendars. The affair will take place from 7:00 – 9:30pm. Our new early bird premier will be from 6:00 – 7:00pm. Special food, premium wines, door prizes, live music, a distinctive badge and early access to our main event will highlight this new addition to our celebration. A wine expert will also be on hand to transform us into bon vivant connoisseurs of fine wines.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library tickets are available at: Sierra Madre Public Library, The Bottle Shop, Arnold's Frontier Hardware, Iris Intrigue, Charcuterie, Savor the Flavor and Sierra Madre Books.

## Education Awards Offered By Sierra Madre Civic Club

The Sierra Madre Civic Club announces sponsorship of its Education Awards 2010. Eligible to apply are seniors in high school who are residents of Sierra Madre or a relative of a Civic Club member.

Application are available from counselors at local high schools, on line, or by contacting Awards Committee Chair, Marcia Bent at 626-355-5372. To qualify for the award, applicants must have the applications postmarked no later than March 1, 2010.

Key points about each student to be considered by the Awards Committee include: volunteer activities for the last two years, talents, interests and hobbies, educational plans and career interest.

They will also be available on line at [www.SierraMadreLibraryFriends.org](http://www.SierraMadreLibraryFriends.org). Tickets are \$60 each for the main event. And \$80 gets you into the main event AND the early bird premier. Tickets are limited so purchase your tickets early.

All funds raised enable the library to add new acquisitions and additions to collections, support library services and programs, and make improvements to the building and grounds.

Our featured artist for this year's event is Gail Holl. Gail received her early training at the Philadelphia College of Art. She was a teacher for many years before marrying and raising a family. When her own children reached school age, Gail got involved with the Art Docent Program at Highland Oaks School. She eventually became chairwoman, a position she held for 4 years. Gail then took a year at LACMA to study to become an art docent. When she decided she would rather paint than talk about art, she started taking classes from various masters of the medium, including Heinz Rosein, Feeling Lyn, Jim Burns, Margot Lennartz, and others. Gail is pleased to be able to offer her talent to the Sierra Madre Library for their wine tasting fundraiser.

Also, applicants should tell about a person, place, event or combination of these which impacted the applicant's life or which contributed to making him or her a special or unique person. Attached to the application must be two letters of reference.

The monetary awards will be presented to the honorees at Civic Club's general meeting on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Memorial Park Hart Senior Center. Civic Club has had a long standing tradition of giving support to young people.

Phyllis Chapman, Publicity	626-355-3928
Marcia Bent, Chairperson	626-355-5372
Amy Putnam, President	626-355-4198



### Happy 86th Birthday Pat!

What a beautiful issue of Monrovia Today, published quarterly by the City and School District, featuring the new fountain in Library Park on the front page! Along with the announcement of the "State of the City" Annual Report presented by Mayor Mary Ann Lutz, on Tuesday January 12th, the announcement on the back page that the Winter Farmers Market is taking place every Friday from 4-8 pm on Myrtle and Olive Aves., is really great. Then on March 5th, back to the regular Friday Night Family Festival, always bringing out huge crowds of families, with something for everyone.

Starting at the beginning of the issue, Monrovia's Youth Commission is receiving the 2010's Iris Award, the equivalent to the Citizen of the Year. This is a group of teens from the 6th through 12th grades who contribute to the development of programs and services, while volunteering their assistance in carrying out the programs. The program was begun in 1995.

Also catching one's eye is the reminder that the 2010 Census begins in February, to be completed by December 2010.

The Mayor's Annual Report "will focus on five "pillars" of city governance, which the City's elected officials and professional staff must do to bring the community successfully through the current financial crisis: Respect and preserve Monrovia's quality of life, Keep Monrovia safe, Keep Monrovia's infrastructure strong, Maintain Monrovia's financial footing and stability and Do the job efficiently and effectively."

In this very comprehensive Annual Report, there are several pages of detailed ways and means to accomplish these lofty goals through active participation from every department in the city. One quote on the Bringing in of New Dollars is worth noting: "Simply cutting budgets and waiting for things to get better is not how Monrovia weathers a crisis. Throughout the recession, even before, the City of Monrovia has been aggressively recruiting new businesses to bring in jobs for our residents and bolster both sales and property tax revenues. Our successes in 2009 included Kohl's Department Store, Henry's Market, Paul's TV and Cafe Merengue. In 2010, watch for the opening of TPhillips pub, Walgreen's, London gastropub, Sarku Japanese Grill and Jersey Mike's Subs. . ."

I think that it is safe to say that the "State of the City" looks very good and extremely promising! postrye@netzero.com.

## Duarte

### Duarte Mayor Issues "Biggest Loser" Weight Loss Challenge

It's worked for her and her family, so Duarte Mayor Margaret Finlay decided why not issue a challenge to others in the community to set a healthy new year agenda to lose weight, get in shape and win the title of Duarte's "biggest loser".

The eight-week contest will begin Feb. 1, with the final weigh-in on March 29. The individual who loses the highest percentage of body weight, not necessarily number of pounds, will be crowned the winner.

"This is not just about dieting but about making positive changes to live healthier for the rest of our lives. Duarte's motto is 'The City of Health'. As mayor, I'd like to help translate that motto into action and motivate our community to begin living a healthier lifestyle," said Finlay.

The contest is open to all Duarte residents and students 16 years of age and older. There is no entry fee to participate. The winner will receive his or her choice of either a one-year total facility individual membership to the Duarte Fitness Center, or \$100 in cash, provided by Mayor Finlay.

Private and confidential weigh-ins will take place every Monday at the Duarte Fitness Center. Only percentages of weight lost or gained will be shared.

The Duarte Fitness Center, located adjacent to City Hall at 1600 Huntington Dr., is offering a membership Fitness Sale from Feb. 14-17.

For more information about the Biggest Loser contest or Fitness Center membership, contact the Duarte Fitness Center at (626) 357-6118, ext. 243.

## Arcadia

### Police Launch Community Information Service

The Arcadia Police Department is utilizing a new Community Information Service, known as Nixle, in order to deliver important and timely information to residents in the area. Nixle is a free service provided to local governments nationwide. Nixle is operated in conjunction with NLETS, an international public safety information network.

The information distributed through Nixle is controlled by personnel at the Arcadia Police Department. Notifications or alerts of an emergent nature, community information, traffic or road closures, crime information, are just some of the examples of what can be communicated to the residents who subscribe to Nixle. The information is disseminated via email or by text message to the resident's cellular phone. The information can be sent to the entire user group or a specified target area based on locations related to the information. For example, a crime bulletin may be sent to a particular neighborhood or a specified radius, such as within a ¼ mile of the target address or area.

Anyone can subscribe to the Nixle service for free. Simply access the Nixle website at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com), or through the link provided on our website, and then enter the locations of your choice. You will be notified via email or text whenever an alert is sent in your selected area. The Arcadia Police Department is one of the first Law Enforcement agencies in Southern California to use this service.

By using Nixle, the Arcadia Police Department adds another valuable tool that allows us to better communicate and share information with our community. Use of Nixle is in addition to conventional notifications, meetings, bulletins, press releases, and other forms of communication. The Arcadia Police Department Nixle page can be found at <http://local.nixle.com/arcadia-police-department/>.

Refer any questions to Lieutenant Paul Foley at (626) 574-5160.

## Pasadena

### The 2010 Census Is Here

*The 2010 Census Portrait of America Road Tour* stopped at the Rose Bowl Flea Market in Pasadena California on Friday. The stop is part of a 100-day cross-country Road Tour in which participants learn about the 2010 Census and the positive impact their participation can have on their own local community.

Census data are used to apportion seats in Congress, and directly affect how more than \$400 billion federal funding is distributed to state, local and tribal governments each year for the next decade.

One visitor to the exhibit arrived on an old fashioned bicycle. And he knew a lot about the census.

Here's what Dennis Forell had to say: "The Census is extremely important. We need a count of everyone in America. It's important that we know where people are so we know what kind of aid and need they can have, what kind of services can be provided by the federal government, and what kind of needs our children have THAT'S why we do the Census."

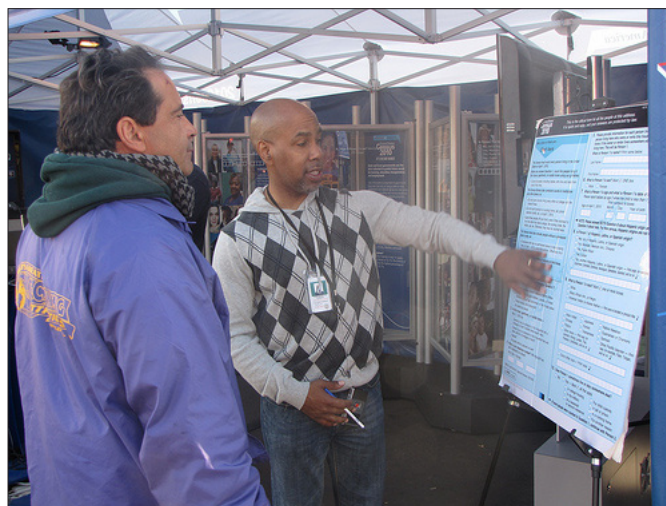
The event used the power of storytelling to move its participants. Attendees told their own stories in video and audio recordings and gave short testimonials about how Census data affects the lives of the people they love most. The short podcasts will appear in the road tour exhibit at another stop in a few days, as well as on the Census website, 2010.Census.com.

Flea-market shopper Michael Parto said, "Hi my name is Mike and I'm from South Pasadena.

The Census is really important this year. A lot rides on it, so do your part!"

"Doing your part" means filling out the form and sending it back when you get it in the mail in March, says Pendergrass's colleague Jennifer Giles. "If you are multi-racial you can check off as many boxes as you feel is appropriate. It's all about self-identification.

The Census form is only one page long – it will take you just ten minutes to fill out, but it will affect your community for the next ten years."



answers with anyone, including other federal agencies or law enforcement entities.

Personal information on the Census form includes your name, address and phone number. It does not include your social security number, immigration status or reference to any form of personal identification. Information collected is confidential by law (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9). All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.




**The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce**  
Presents The Annual  
Citizen of the Year / Board of Directors  
Installation Dinner

We are pleased to honor  
**the 2009 Citizens of the Year**  
**Dr. Paul and Louise Neiby**

**Friday, January 29, 2010**  
**Santa Anita Park, Chandelier Room**  
**No Host Bar, Silent Auction, Dinner**  
**Entertainment provided by Mercy Powell Quartet, Vincent Johnson**

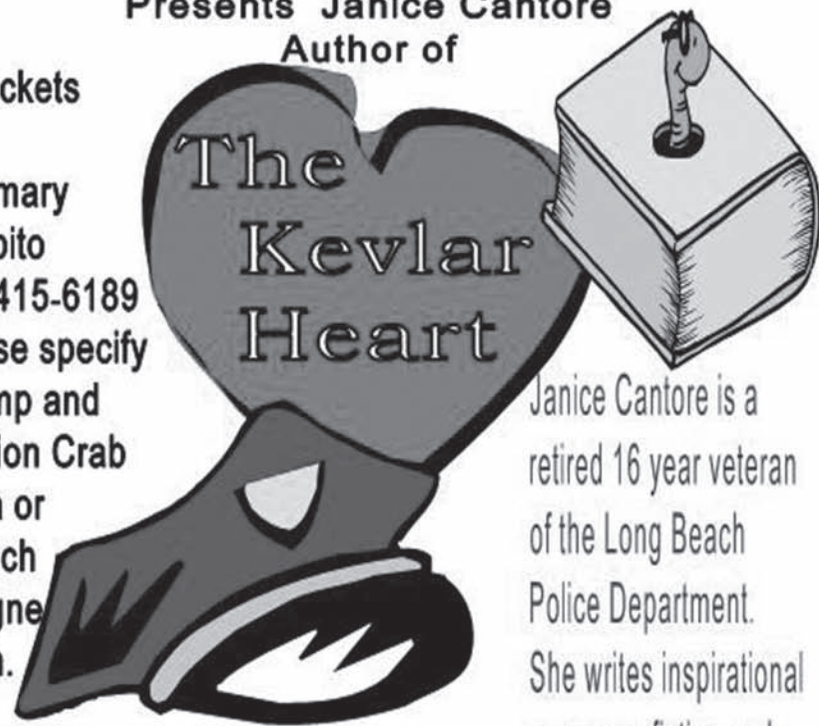
\$60 per person includes parking  
Table of ten: \$550  
Limited seating by reservation only  
Dinner reservations must be paid in advance  
Credit cards accepted  
Dress: Business attire  
Reserve your seat/table by January 27th  
(626) 355-5111  
For more info visit **SMCitizenoftheYear.info**



**Celebrity Luncheon**  
**January 30, 2010**  
**11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
**Tickets: \$27.50 per person**

**The Sierra Madre Woman's Club**  
**550 West Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA**  
**Presents Janice Cantore**  
**Author of**

**For Tickets**  
**call:**  
**Rosemary**  
**Morabito**  
**(818)415-6189**  
**Please specify**  
**Shrimp and**  
**Imitation Crab**  
**Strata or**  
**Spinach**  
**Lasagne**  
**Lunch.**



Janice Cantore is a  
retired 16 year veteran  
of the Long Beach  
Police Department.  
She writes inspirational  
suspense fiction and  
her second book is at  
the publisher's now.  
[www.janicecantore.com](http://www.janicecantore.com)

Menu: Choice of Shrimp and  
Imitation Crab Strata or Spinach  
Lasagne. Each accompanied by Berry,  
pecan, bleu cheese, with leafy green  
salad, roll, carrot cake, and coffee, tea  
or water.

**Proceeds benefit Sierra Madre Woman's Club Charities.**



# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## Million Dollar Prostitution “In Call” ring Dismantled

Last month members of the Pasadena Police Department's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) completed a two year investigation culminating in the arrest of six people involved in elaborate prostitution ring.

Police say an anonymous lead left on a tip line at the police department led to the discovery of a multi million dollar “In Call” prostitution ring that was using several high end apartment units in Pasadena and Irvine with multiple female prostitutes.

They further said, Li Chen, female 32 from Temple City, and Thanh Ly, male 35 from Temple City, who lead this illicit enterprise were both arrested for Pimping and Pandering. Bail was set at 2 million dollars for each suspect and both are still in custody pending a preliminary hearing.

“Prostitution is not a victimless crime as some would argue,” says Interim Chief of Police Christopher Vicino. “It negatively impacts the quality of life and the very fabric of the community. The neighborhoods and apartments where these crimes were committed will ultimately be safer for the families that live in them.”

Pasadena Police and Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigators seized cash, automobiles, and jewelry and other property, all profits of the ongoing enterprise. “We thank our Federal partners. An operation of this size and magnitude would have not have been easy for a department our size to undertake,” says Chief Vicino. And, most importantly, we have to give credit to the community members who called in. Without their eyes, ears, and reports we can't get the information we need to pursue criminals. The community is truly the front line of law enforcement.”

## Pet of the Week



Adorable Lilo is even cuter in person! She's only two years old and has a beautiful, fluffy gray coat. Lilo may seem shy at first but she loves attention and warms up quickly. She would be great in an apartment or condo that allows pets. Come visit with this lovely cat today!

The regular cat adoption fee is \$70 which includes the spay or neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations, and a free follow-up health check at a participating vet. Currently, you can adopt two cats or kittens for just \$85.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask about A262435 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)

## Floating Up from the Ashes

By Dean Lee

Left with only a single screwdriver and the half melted chassis of a float — after a devastating fire in April— some say it was amazing that the city of South Pasadena's entry into the 121<sup>st</sup> Rose Parade themed, “Our Kids,” rolled down Colorado Blvd Jan. 1 at all.

“They came to the self built [Rose Parade float] picnic and said do you have anything you can do to help us,” said Janet Diel a longtime Burbank float volunteer “they lost everything down to one screwdriver, and they only had that because it was in one guy's pocket as he ran out from the fire.”

Diel went on to say, “It's a tribute to them that they had a float down the parade, we have to honor that.”

James Jontz Chair of the South Pasadena Tournament of Roses Committee said they got help from, in addition to Burbank, a number of float builders including the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association.

“They [Sierra Madre] lent



us some tools,” he said. “They were always on call if we needed anything.”

Jontz said they lost hand tools, power tools, hoses, extension cords, and lights, among other things during a three alarm fire April 15 that destroyed half of the city's maintenance yard where, at the time, the float was parked.

He also said, during the fire, the float was out in an area away from the flames.

“It's really good that we were,” he said. “Because that float has two 55 gallon tanks of propane on it to power us.”

He added, “Since we were far enough out of the garage those tanks didn't vent. The fire department, knowing the tanks were there, kept water on them.”

Although the float was away



Fire swept through South Pasadena public works building, April 15.

## Burglar Poses As City Employee

There have been two recent incidents of a man claiming to be a Pasadena Water and Power employee, entering homes under the guise of checking water pressure, and ransacking and burglarizing the premises.

In both incidents the victims were elderly Pasadena residents.

The suspect, described as a Hispanic male approximately 30 to 40 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches tall with black hair, a thin build and wearing blue jeans, was allowed into the homes and escorted by the elderly victims to various locations where he checked the flow of water.

When he was finished, he told the victims everything was fine and then left. It was reported that he got into the

back seat of a pinkish beige compact, four-door car that drove away southbound. A second unknown person drove the car away.

Anyone who has had similar experiences or with information that may help solve these cases is asked to call the Pasadena Police Department.

Pasadena Water and Power personnel always wear a visible photo ID with the city seal and an employee number, and always have their supervisors' phone numbers on hand.

Anyone with questions about PWP personnel may call (626) 744-4409 during normal business hours, or 744-4472 or 744-4673 after hours or on weekends.

If you suspect that someone is posing as a city official, please call the Pasadena Police Department immediately at (626) 744-4241 and be prepared to provide an accurate description of the suspect, the vehicle and direction of travel if known.

## A Message from Interim Chief of Police Chris Vicino



Dear Community Members,

I wanted to provide an update on the Rose Parade and Game as it relates to the police department.

With help from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's

Department, California Highway Patrol, and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, the police department provided a safe environment for the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl game. I was very proud of the way our police department engaged community members and visitors, providing the right type of security for a “family atmosphere” to be enjoyed by all. During the parade, we arrested 41 people. Most of these arrests involved public intoxication, and a handful for assault. At the game, we totaled 13 arrests, most for public intoxication. The crowds at the parade and game were well behaved.

## New Channel Line-up for Community Access TV



After over 25 year of being at the same place on the dial, the non-profit Community Television Network, PCN (Pasadena Community Network) is, starting Tuesday, changing their Local Community, Government and Education channels, as well as adding a remarketed PCCtv channel dedicated to Pasadena Community College.

Don Repella, the Executive Director of PCN said KPAS 55, the Pasadena Local Government Channel is moving to Channel 3, KLRN 64 (run by the Pasadena Unified School District) is moving to 95, and the new PCCtv will be 96.

He also said the Community Access, Pasadena Channel 56 has a new name: The Arroyo Channel, and is moving to 32.

“The changes all have to do with Charter Communications keeping Local Government Channels the same,” Repella said. “Everywhere else they provide cable television local government is on 3.”

Aaron Wheeler the Marketing and Communication Manager for PCN said the name and channel changes will not disrupt the normal programming schedule, nor will it change the live channel web streaming at: [www.PasadenaCommunityNetwork.com](http://www.PasadenaCommunityNetwork.com).

For more information call 626-795-8585.

## Keeping the Flow

By Dean Lee

As tour busses whizzed down Colorado Blvd Thursday afternoon, one after the other, shuttling eager BCS football fans, little did they know that it was someone's job deep within the city's Department of Transportation to get them there just a little faster.

“See all these busses,” Pasadena Traffic engineer David Phan said looking over a bank of computer screens in the city's Traffic Management Center (TMC). “When there are six or seven of them what I do is

has to go through this manual,” he said. “Everybody has a job to do.”

He said during the Rose Parade all the lights on Colorado are set to flash yellow, just a small part of what they do. He said they work closely with police to get the 800,000 plus visitors out of the city. They have the ability to change any light to green or red depending he said.

Phan said the fairly new computerized traffic signal network and fiber optics closed circuit television network allows them control from within the center under city hall. The



go down here [clicking on the computer screen] and extend the green time. The bus drivers just think it's a long green light.”

Phan explained that there are about 30 cameras strategically located throughout the city allowing them to see where traffic may be a problem. His department oversees the city's 350 traffic signals and message signs within the city.

“The main areas are like, Lake Ave, Fair Oaks, Colorado Blvd.” Phan said. “This is where the heavy traffic is going into the Rose Bowl.”

New Year's Day is the busiest for them he said taking out a thick planning manual, “Everybody

system he said was put in as part of the City Hall Seismic Upgrade and Rehabilitation Project completed in July 2007.

“Before you had to have a lot of people go out and change the signals by hand,” he said. “Now it's all done from here.”

He said his department also takes down and puts back up all the overhanging traffic signals along Colorado Blvd. so the floats can make it through.

He said most of the year what the Traffic Management Center does is take complaints.

“I can see any problem so when people call about a traffic problem I usually already have it fixed,” he said.

## Police Seek Public's Help in Finding Missing Man

The Pasadena Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in finding a man that went missing on December 30th from a residential board and care facility in the 1700 block of North Fair Oaks Avenue.

George Clay is African American, 48 years old, 6'4" and weighs about 300 pounds. He has black hair, brown eyes and is missing several teeth. On December 30th at about 8:00 p.m. Clay was discovered missing. He is described as having a mild mental disability and is said to be on several medications.

“This gentleman recently relocated here from New York and is not familiar with the area,” says Interim Chief of Police Christopher Vicino. “While we have ascertained that he has a long history of leaving board and care facilities without permission,



our concern is that given his unfamiliarity with our community, someone may take advantage of him or worse yet, harm him in some way. We need extra eyes looking for him so that we can get him safely back to where he can be cared for.”

Anyone who has seen Charles Clay should call 626.744.7099 or if after business hours 626.744.4241.

## Winner of the Viewers' Choice Award: Cal Poly Universities



Cal Poly Universities was the winner of the second annual Viewers' Choice Award KTLA and the Tournament of Roses together announced Saturday. The float, themed “Jungle Cuts,” received 20,788 votes out of a total of 50,535 votes submitted. The RFD- TV float, themed “FFA Today” came in second and the Boy Scouts of America float, themed “Celebrating the Adventure, Continuing the Journey,” followed in third.

“Given the success of the inaugural Viewers' Choice Award in 2009, the Tournament of Roses and KTLA made the decision to bring the award back for a second year,” said Laura Farber, chairperson of the Tournament of Roses

Judging Committee. “We'd like to congratulate Cal Poly Universities for the wonderful float that not only lived up to this year's Parade theme, 2010: A Cut Above The Rest, but was once again declared the fan favorite. We'd also like to thank all the fans who participated in the award with their votes.”

The Cal Poly float featured wild animals receiving haircuts and makeovers from monkey barbers performing high above the tree tops. Volunteer decorators from both universities placed more than 15,000 roses on the float. The float is the 62nd consecutive entry from Cal Poly and the second Viewers' Choice Award winner.



## Sierra Madre Police Blotter

*During the week of Sunday, December 27th, 2009 to Saturday, January 2nd, 2010 the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 296 calls for service.*

**Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

9:39 PM - Narcotics Arrest, Baldwin Ave/ Hampton Rd. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. The officer developed a reason to search the vehicle and found over 3.5 ounces of methamphetamine and cocaine. The driver was arrested for possession of a controlled substance for sales and transported to the Sierra Madre Police Department. The vehicle was impounded for evidence. The driver was taken to the Pasadena Police Department Jail for booking.

**Tuesday, December 29th**

12:55 PM - Vandalism, Bailey Canyon Park. Between 12/26/2009 and 12/29/2009, unknown suspect(s) vandalized the restroom using a pen and etching tools. No suspect information is available at this time.

6:19 PM - DUI Arrest, Sunnyside Ave/Mariposa Ave. Officers responded to a non-injury traffic collision involving a possible DUI driver. Upon arrival the officers met with the driver of the vehicle and determined he was under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested for DUI and transported to the Pasadena Police Department Jail for booking and remand.

**Wednesday, December 30th**

8:01 AM - Grand Theft, 200 Block Santa Anita Court. Between 12-29-2009 and 12-30-2009, suspect(s) stole a Garmin GPS and perfume from the victim's unlocked vehicle that was parked in the driveway. No suspect information is available at this time. Total loss is estimated at \$530.00

**Friday, January 1st**

5:20 PM - Vandalism, 100 Block Rancho Rd, Unknown suspect(s) threw an egg at the victim's car between 2:00 pm on 12-30-09 to 4:40 pm on 01-01-10. The suspect(s) then left the area in an unknown direction.

During the week of Sunday, January 3rd, 2010 to Saturday, January 9th, 2010 the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 323 calls for service.

**Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**

12:36 PM - Petty Theft, 50 Block W. Alegria Ave. Between 1:00 AM and 12:00 PM on 01-05-2010 suspect(s) stole a Pioneer in-dash car stereo from the victim's unlocked vehicle. No suspect information is available at this time. Total loss is estimated at \$150.00.

11:20 PM - Narcotics Arrest, Michillinda Ave/Foothill Blvd. An officer stopped a bicyclist for an equipment violation. The bicyclist, a parolee, was found to be in possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. The subject was arrested for the felony violation and transported to the Pasadena Jail for booking.

## Arcadia Police Blotter

*For the period of Sunday, January 3, through Saturday, January 9, the Police Department responded to 1,116 calls for service of which 156 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.*

**Sunday, January 3:**

1. An auto burglary occurred at an AMH parking structure between 7:00 p.m. on January 2 and 7:52 a.m. on January 3. Unknown suspect(s) broke a car window and took a handbag for a reported loss of over \$3,500. The victim also advised that she was notified by her bank that unknown suspect(s) had attempted to withdraw money from ATM machines in Arcadia and Fontana.

2. Three auto burglaries occurred between 5:00 p.m. on January 2 and 11:00 a.m. on January 3 at 450 East Live Oak. Unknown suspect(s) broke windows to gain entry into the vehicles and stole GPS units and a car stereo.

**Monday, January 4:**

3. Around 3:30 p.m., an automated license plate reader system alerted officers to a stolen vehicle and a felony traffic stop was made in the 5100 block of Tyler. A 39-year-old male Hispanic driver and a 47-year-old male Asian passenger were contacted. The driver claimed that he had recently purchased the vehicle but did not have any paperwork, and the passenger indicated that he did not know the car was stolen. Both men were taken into custody without incident.

4. Between 5:00 p.m. on January 3 and 8:00 a.m. on January 4, a residential burglary occurred in the 1200 block of South Golden West. Unknown suspect(s) gained access into the victim's locked garage, ransacked two vehicles, and stole a set of golf clubs worth over \$4,100 and a spare car key.

**Tuesday, January 5:**

5. Shortly after 12:30 p.m., units responded to the 300 block of East La Sierra regarding a suicide. A 58-year-old woman, despondent over her failing health, hanged herself and a suicide note was found.

6. Around 2:18 p.m., a traffic stop was conducted at Foothill and Primrose for a code violation. Two occupants were contacted and record checks revealed that the 23-year-old male Hispanic driver has never been issued a driver's license and he also had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant; a 30-year-old female Hispanic passenger also had outstanding warrants totaling \$56,000. Both subjects were arrested at the scene and a search of the vehicle revealed a large quantity of pills that are used as precursors to the manufacture of methamphetamine. When the female subject was being transported to the City jail, she attempted to discard a large amount of a white crystalline substance in the patrol unit and the substance was also falling to the ground from her pant leg, leaving a trail from the car into the police building. She was also charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of precursors of methamphetamine.

**Wednesday, January 6:**

7. Around 4:27 p.m., units responded to the 1100 block of Arcadia regarding a fraud investigation. The victim received a message from her credit card company regarding suspicious activities on her account. She checked her account and discovered over \$3,210 in unauthorized purchases from December 24 to December 26.

8. Units responded to Phoenix Spa, 37 East Duarte, around 7:43 p.m. in reference to a grand theft that just occurred. Two female Hispanic suspects entered the business with two small children. While one suspect distracted the victim, the other suspect grabbed a bank bag and a young girl took the victim's purse from behind the counter. The theft was caught on surveillance video.

**Thursday, January 7:**

9. Shortly after 4:00 p.m., loss prevention personnel from Burlington Coat Factory advised that they had detained a woman for theft. A 21-year-old African-American suspect entered a fitting room with numerous clothing items, concealed the merchandise, and left the store without making payment. A private person's arrest was made, and the woman was taken into custody for grand theft.

10. Shortly after 5:00 p.m., a male victim came to the station with his one-year old son to report a domestic violence incident. He advised that during an argument, his girlfriend struck him numerous times in the back, shoulder, and legs with a wooden dowel. She then retrieved a knife and pointed it at him in a threatening manner. Fearing for their son's safety, he fled the residence and came to the police station. The victim also had numerous scars from previous assaults and fresh bruises. Officers went to the 1200 block of South Golden West and arrested a 25-year-old female Hispanic for inflicting corporal injury to cohabitant and assault with a deadly weapon.

**Friday, January 8:**

11. Two victims came to the station around 10:05 a.m. to file a forgery report. Unknown suspect(s) obtained a copy of their check by unknown means, created fake checks, and cashed them for \$9,977.

12. Units were dispatched to Nordstrom around 7:57 p.m. regarding a woman detained for theft. She selected numerous items and concealed them in a shopping bag and in her pockets. A private person's arrest was made, and a 28-year-old Asian was taken into custody for grand theft and over \$1,740 in property was recovered.

**Saturday, January 9:**

13. Around 1:21 p.m., a victim came to the station to file a fraud report. She advised that she discovered that her wallet was missing on January 8 and remembered last using it on January 7 at 99 Ranch Market located at 1300 South Golden West. At 11:00 a.m. on January 9, she contacted her credit card company and learned that over \$2,700 have been charged to her credit cards without her authorization.

14. Shortly after 10:00 p.m., a female victim came to the station to report a robbery that occurred on Tenth Avenue, between Camino Real and Longden, at 9:00 p.m. She was walking home from the bus stop and talking on her cell phone when a male African-American suspect approached and demanded her purse. Fearing for her safety, she did not resist when he grabbed her purse and cell phone. The suspect was seen entering a waiting vehicle driven by another male African-American suspect.



## THE GAS COMPANY OFFERS HELP WITH POST-HOLIDAY UTILITY BILLS

*Customers Urged to Enroll in Assistance, Energy-efficiency Programs*

As post-holiday bills arrive in mailboxes this month, some families will be faced with tough financial decisions, struggling to make payments in a difficult economy. [Southern California Gas Co.](#) (The Gas Company) urges customers to take advantage of the [utility's assistance programs](#) -- programs that can help reduce winter heating bills and increase energy efficiency.

"We are trying to help our customers in need, including those who are unemployed and those having difficulty paying their bills," said Hal D. Snyder, vice president of customer solutions for The Gas Company.

Customers are encouraged to call The Gas Company before their account is overdue and learn about the available assistance programs. A Gas Company representative will work with customers to set up a payment plan that meets their needs.

The Gas Company offers a wide range of assistance programs for qualifying customers on a limited income or with special medical needs.

- The California Alternate Rate for Energy (CARE) program provides a 20-percent rate discount on the monthly natural gas bill. Customers may be eligible automatically if they currently receive benefits from the Women, Infants and Children, Healthy Families, Medi-Cal/Medicaid, Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or LIHEAP programs.
- The Direct Assistance Program (DAP) provides energy-saving home improvements to income-qualified renters and homeowners. Free services include: door weather-stripping and caulking to keep out drafts; ceiling insulation to keep the home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter; low-flow showerheads that can save energy used to heat water; furnace replacement (owner-occupied homes only) and other minor home repairs.
- People who require additional heating for health reasons may qualify for additional natural gas service at the lowest rate through the Medical Baseline Allowance program. There are no income requirements for the Medical Baseline program; however, doctor certification is required.
- The Gas Assistance Fund provides a one-time grant to customers during the winter who are income-qualified and unable to pay their bill. The program, which is available until funds are

depleted, is administered by the United Way of Greater Los Angeles and is funded by donations from customers and employees of The Gas Company, as well as shareholders of Semptra Energy, The Gas Company's parent company. For all customers, The Gas Company also offers hundreds of dollars in rebates for the purchase of energy-efficient appliances and can provide customers with a free energy- and water-saving kit. The kit includes three faucet aerators and a low-flow showerhead to help customers save energy and water. These devices allow air to enter into the water stream, maintaining a high-pressure flow while reducing water usage -- ultimately saving money.

Customers can enroll in the assistance programs or request payment arrangements by visiting The Gas Company's Web site, [www.socalgas.com/extrahelp](#), or calling The Gas Company toll-free at (800) 427-2200 or (800) 342-4545 in Spanish. To learn how to conserve energy at home, customers can visit [www.socalgas.com/energyefficiency](#).

Southern California Gas Co. is the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, providing safe and reliable energy to 20.5 million consumers through 5.7 million meters in more than 500 communities. Southern California Gas Company ranked "Highest in Customer Satisfaction with Residential Natural Gas Service in the Western United States," according to the 2009 study by J.D. Power and Associates\*. The company's service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles in diverse terrain throughout Central and Southern California, from Visalia to the Mexican border. The Gas Company is a regulated subsidiary of [Semptra Energy](#) (NYSE: SRE). Semptra Energy, based in San Diego, is a Fortune 500 energy services holding company. To learn more, go to [www.socalgas.com](#).

\*About the J.D. Power and Associates study: Southern California Gas Company received the highest numerical score among gas utilities in the Western U.S. in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 Gas Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study<sup>SM</sup>. Study based on 54,405 total interviews with U.S. residential gas customers measuring 15 utilities in the West (AZ, CA, ID, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY). Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in September 2008-July 2009. Your experiences may vary.



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## Alverno CIF Soccer Champs Off To Strong Season Start

By Candace Siegle - Photo Collage By Belle n' Beau



### Dreier Names Service Academy Nominees

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman David Dreier (R-26th) has announced the names of his nominees to the United States Air Force, Military, Naval and Merchant Marine Academies. Each student went through a rigorous nomination process for the honor of competing for a spot at one of the service academies. They will now compete with other nominees from around the nation for the available positions in the class that will enter the academies in July of 2010.

"I am pleased to nominate these young people for our service academies," said Dreier. "They are an incredibly talented and dedicated group. Each would give outstanding service to our nation as a military

officer."

Nominated to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado are: Rex Anderson-San Dimas, *Michael Edwards-Monrovia*, Jordan Finn-Rancho Cucamonga, Krystal Jimenez-Claremont, Nelson Kim-Upland, Derrick McCanless-La Verne, *Frances McCloskey-Sierra Madre*, Spencer McLay-Rancho Cucamonga, Alec Trilles-San Dimas and *Keenan Welsh-Altadena*.

Nominated to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York are: Jeremy Chen-Rancho Cucamonga, *Michael Edwards-Monrovia*, Benjamin Joseph-Arcadia, *James Krasner-Altadena*,

Joshua Lizama-Upland, *Frances McCloskey-Sierra Madre*, Jaykob Miller-Rancho Cucamonga, Jacob Rangel-Claremont, *Gillian Rankin-Sierra Madre* and Alec Trilles-San Dimas.

Nominated to attend the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland are: Maxwell Carroll-Upland, Darian Durden-Monrovia, Michael Gallagher-Upland, *Frances McCloskey-Sierra Madre*, Jaykob Miller-Rancho Cucamonga, *Scott Snowden-Altadena*, Alec Trilles-San Dimas, *Keenan Welsh-Altadena*, *Cheyenne Wingate-Sierra Madre* and Matthew Zecchini-Rancho Cucamonga.

Nominated to attend the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York are: Maxwell Carroll-Upland, Jeremy Chen-Rancho Cucamonga, Shaun Copenhaver-Upland, Aaron Evenson-Wrightwood, Krystal Jimenez-Claremont, Derrick McCanless-La Verne, Spencer McLay-Rancho Cucamonga, Jaykob Miller-Rancho Cucamonga, *Keenan Welsh-Altadena* and *Cheyenne Wingate-Sierra Madre*.

Alverno's CIF Championship soccer team began the Horizon League season with a 17-0 win over Bishop Conaty, followed up by a 14-0 victory over Holy Family. "Our challenge is to achieve our 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive Horizon league Championship and to repeat our CIF Championship," says coach Ken Berry.

After being named number one in the Pasadena Star-News soccer preview, the Jaguars went on to a great pre-season. The Alverno Jaguar Soccer Team played in the championship game and finished in second place at the Ontario Christian Soccer Tournament with 16 teams competing. Maha Abdallah and Celina Minissian were give special recognition medals. Coach Berry says, "The team looked fantastic last week. We are looking forward to our league games!"

On this year's team are co-captains Jessica Capra and Maha Abdallah, Briana Alvarado, Regina Cabrera, Courtney Conte, Stephanie Hardin, Becca Iraheta, Liz Kinney, Sammi Lorey, Celina Minissian, Karineh Minissian, Devny Osuna, Chellee Parker, Sarah Purnell, Cassie Saavedra, Lauren Sanchez, Gabby Vasquez, and Mackenzie Winslow.

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 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of preparing young women for the future with a series of events during the 2010-2011 school year.

### The Assisteens Book Buddy Program at the Arcadia Public Library!

Thursday, January 14 and 28, February 4 and 18, March 4 at 4 or 4:30pm and March 11 and 18 at 6:30 and 7pm  
Registration begins January 4 for January 14 and 28; January 25 for February 4 and 18; February 22 for March 4, 11 and 18.

The Assisten Buddy program is a special one on one program designed to promote the love of books through reading aloud to children ages 4 – 8 years. Space is limited, so be sure to register early. This special program is made possible by the generous volunteer time provided by the Assisteens, an auxiliary of the Assistance League of Arcadia.

### Skippy Jon Jones Fiesta and Storytime

**Saturday, January 30 2:30 p.m.**  
**Arcadia Public Library in the Cay Mortensen Auditorium**

Join in the celebration with stories about your favorite cat and Chihuahua, Skippy Jon Jones. It will be a real fiesta with food, a film, and tons of fun! Children through age 14.



**Pasadena Christian School** has scheduled a Campus Tour on Thursday, January 28, from 9:00-10:30 a.m. for prospective parents interested in preschool (2-5 years old) through eighth grade. Those who attend will have an opportunity to meet the school administrators and to learn about the curriculum and programs offered. Guests may briefly observe in the classrooms and will be taken on a special tour of the campus. For reservations, please call (626) 791-1214. Applications are now being accepted for the Fall of 2010.

## 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 Lugenbuehl  
E-mail address: jml@bcslions.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. Derrick 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**  
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## Trish's Truth

By Trisha Collins

many social networks rising, it's easy to lose track of your own importance. Reading people's twitter updates day in and day out can cause you to question your own updates, your own current status. With blogging, it's all about you.

Tumblr.com. It's a website that thousand upon thousands of teenagers are using to blog. It's free, it's fun, and it's really for everyone. Have you ever had something philosophical or mind-boggling or just random on your mind and you wanted to share it with someone but couldn't? Maybe because no one was there, or no one returned your text, who knows. But you had to just had to tell someone? This is where tumblr comes in. All you do is - drum roll please - type it out. And click, post. That's it. No one comments, no one clicks a "like" button, or anything. People read, and enjoy, and post their own stories.

Not much of a writer? You can post pictures. Not much of a photographer? You can post videos. And if you just like to talk, you can even upload audio of yourself doing what you do best. Tumblr, I feel, is a stress reliever and a communicator all in one. You can get your message across and learn things about even your closest friends you didn't know before. It's oddly not an addicting network (like Twitter, or Facebook) because it's really almost all literature, art. Your voice is important; share it on tumblr.com

## TEENS OFFERED \$36,000 "REPAIR THE WORLD" AWARD

Young Californians in your community have an opportunity to be recognized for the good works they're doing and be rewarded with \$36,000—especially in today's challenging economy, that's quite a prospect. We'd like your help in getting the word out about this prestigious and very substantial award so that nominations can be received by the February 19th deadline.

The Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards recognize young Californians who have distinguished themselves as leaders and have initiated community service projects that impact their communities in meaningful ways. This is the fourth year for the statewide philanthropic endeavor. Any teacher, civic leader, or non family member may nominate a young California resident who is between 13 and 19 years old for the award. We can provide photos and details of past recipients, and your readers can learn more and watch a video here: <http://www.sfjcf.org/diller/>

[teenawards/](http://www.sfjcf.org/teenawards/). Nomination forms are available via the link, or by contacting (415) 512-6432, or by emailing: [dillerteens@sfjcf.org](mailto:dillerteens@sfjcf.org).

Nominations must be received by the application deadline of February 19th

The \$36,000 award can be used however the recipient wishes—most have used the funds for furthering their educations, developing their projects, or starting new endeavors

Teens must self-identify as Jewish, though their community service projects can benefit the general community

Teens can nominate themselves, or be nominated by teachers, rabbis, community leaders, or anyone who knows the value of the their volunteer service and commitment—family members excluded

Teens must be residents of California, age 13-19 years old at the time of nomination  
Tikkun olam is the Hebrew phrase that literally means "repair the world." The Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Award

was established by Bay Area philanthropist Helen Diller, to help identify, reward and encourage our next generation of leaders to follow their visions for improving the world around them and giving back to their communities. The awards are funded by the Helen Diller Family Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties. Past recipients have come from Los Angeles, La Jolla/Santa Barbara, San Diego, Marin County, Encino, Carlsbad, Beverly Hills and Los Altos – maybe this year will open the door for a young person in your area.

Thanks so much for your help in spreading the news about this opportunity. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to interview a representative from the Helen Diller Family Foundation, or one of our past recipients.

### Time To Go Blogging!

Blogging is for everyone. At least, that's what I have come to find. You don't have to be a great writer, or a celebrity, or celebrity-commenter, or anything. All you have to be is an ordinary person with something to say. And a person with a computer, of course. With so





## TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills  
BORN TO DRIVE IN EAST LA

I begin another year with this great newspaper, and I believe that I know how Jay Leno feels in the television sector as well. I think I have been in more time slots than 'I Love Lucy'. Check the batteries in your remote: coming to a couch or comfortable chair near you, The Chef Knows, airing Sunday Nights at 9PM, on channels 57 & 26.

You may call me the Gringo of East LA, if you wish. I still say, I look good in a sombrero.

I have logged more miles, consulted more maps and acquired more frequent flier miles painstakingly tracking down a multitude of over the counter food establishments. Rummaging through an amalgamation of hole-in-the-walls, I have tested a thousand and one so-called ethnic places; scurrying forth with nothing more than a scant word merely referencing good Mexican restaurants. I love them and they stretch forth as far as the eye can see. We may have more Mexican restaurants in Southern California than American restaurants! It is Heaven on earth for this Restaurant Reporter. With so many restaurants, the options are limitless. Too many have above average food but with drinks that remind me of cough medicine!!! Or the drinks are good, but the food is uninspiring!!!

Well, my friends, since I am observing temperance with liquor beginning this New Year, the food part of this story will be central. This past week, with my friend Janice, (who claims she is a soon-to-be-discovered a restaurant critic), I trekked down to the Original El Tepeyac Café on Evergreen, in the heart of East LA.

The restaurant has a modest space twelve to fifteen tables, plus a counter and ample parking. The atmosphere is lively and the patrons, like Los Angeles itself, come from a cross-section of our colorful city. What brings patrons from all parts of the city to this Café? It's the food, and it's muy excelente. Portions are large and you always seem to leave with half of your food in a to-go bag. I'm telling you, I unwisely tried to order the whole menu so I could give a full report on this restaurant, but I failed. The portions are too big. I asked the server for a few suggestions and I went with the Taquitos with Guacamole (\$7), as soon as saw this plate arrive, I realized that I ordered for a whole team and not just for the two of us. Next was the Manuel tacos, my friend Janice wouldn't share, but by the look in her eyes, I can tell she was pleased (or was it that I am handsome)? Why does it always have to be one or the other? Okay, it was the food!!

Next, I tried El Tepeyac's signature dish, the burrito. My selection was #2 A chile Colorado at (\$10). This is a great dish: the pork is slowly simmered in a red chili sauce. Mexican Heaven! You know it's good when the men in blue (cops) are dining there on a regular basis. The Hollenbeck Burrito (\$8.25) is a police favorite and comes with chips and guacamole. Next time I'm going to order the Okie de Pollo...shredded chicken breast at (\$8.50) It is a curious name, what does El Tepeyac mean? It is the hill that the Virgin Mary was sighted on!!! This place is a shrine as well!

No beer or wine.

My only complaint is the to-go menu. I guess I'm just getting old, the print is too small. I will have to head home and get out the magnify glass!

812 N. Evergreen Ave, Boyle Hts. (323) 268-1961

Hey! Love to hear from you. Follow me on twitter or facebook, or the old fashioned way... email me ... [thechefknows@yahoo.com](mailto:thechefknows@yahoo.com)

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Thursday 14th - Jazz, Funk, Blues from Steve Creson  
Friday 15th - Mercy and the Merketts  
Saturday 16th - Skivaly & Sills quartet  
Wednesday 20th - The Max Buda Band  
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Thursday 21st - Roots Rock & Blues from Bankshot  
Friday 22nd - Julie Esposito Cabaret  
Saturday 23rd - Evening of Jazz and Comedy  
Wednesday 27th - Big Band Night with John Fick  
Thursday 28th - Dave Pell  
Friday 29th - Swing Dance to Flat Top Tom  
Saturday 30th - Party all night with TEAM COCKTAIL BAND



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## HOWARD Hays As I See It

I'm not one to easily buy into conspiracy theories, but sometimes I find them hard to resist. A prevalent one over the past several years involves suspicions that the Bush administration could not really have been so incompetent; that there were in fact ulterior motives beneath an intentional public veneer of ineptitude. One of the more ominous suspicions arose from the administration's adamant refusal to act on increasingly urgent warnings of an impending terrorist attack prior to 9/11. (Vice President Cheney found ample time to meet with oil industry buddies in his Energy Task Force, but not to convene even a single meeting of the Homeland Security Task Force he chaired.) There's also the dubious claim their abandoning Afghanistan and the hunt for Osama bin Laden in order to plunge into Iraq was simply a consequence of having naively fallen for iffy intelligence. Could they honestly have thought that industry lobbyists would develop better environmental policy than the scientists they replaced, or that tax cuts for billionaires would have a different effect on the deficit than they did under Reagan?

Another area rife with supposedly inadvertent slip-ups was the Justice Department. Of course, one can't expect a high level of competency when applicants are judged more on being a "loyal Bushie" than on respect for the law, but slip-ups which inevitably favor one political interest over the other can't help but draw attention. One such result took place early in the Obama administration, when Attorney General Holder was forced to throw out corruption charges against former Alaska Senator Ted Stevens. Maybe the egregious mishandling of evidence against the senior Republican by Bush administration prosecutors was simply the result of sloppy work - or maybe not.

That case came to mind when I read of the dismissal last week by a New York federal judge of charges against five employees of the mercenary outfit known as "Xe" (pronounced "Blackwater"), which included 14 counts of manslaughter and 20 counts of attempted manslaughter, related to the September 2007 massacre of Iraqi civilians as the private "security" contractors attempted to barrel through Nusour Square in Baghdad. The company claimed its employees came under attack, but later investigations found the shootings to have been "unprovoked and indiscriminate".

Soon after the incident, the contractors were compelled to give statements under threat of losing their jobs, with a grant of immunity. In his ruling, Judge Ricardo Urbina stated that federal prosecutors "repeatedly disregarded the warnings of experienced, senior prosecutors assigned to the case", and that their explanations were "all too often contradictory, unbelievable and lacking in credibility." Maybe another example of incompetence, but perhaps a deliberate effort to maintain the Bush administration's perfect record of never having a successful prosecution brought against a mercenary.

The dismissal of the charges, although thwarting justice, did advance the Bush administration goal of being able to fight wars with secretive, private

forces unaccountable to U.S. civil, military, or international law - and of its vision of war as but another means to make a buck. As the formal occupation of Iraq ended in 2004, the new Iraqi government was forced to grant legal immunity to private contractors. As a result, although more than a third of the infamous abuses at Abu Ghraib prison were committed by contractors, lawsuits filed by Iraqi victims were dismissed by a federal appeals court.

Although we've had a change in administrations, it doesn't look like prosecutions will get much easier - or the trail of accountability less complicated. Two contractors charged with the May 2009 murder of two Afghan nationals and the wounding of a third in Kabul were employees of Paravant LLC, a subsidiary of Xe (nee Blackwater), as a subcontractor for Raytheon Technical Services, under a Defense Department Warfighter contract, etc. Prosecutions of contractors working for coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan have three levels of law to sift through; international law and U.N. Security Council Resolutions, U.S. law, and the laws of the host countries. In the case of Afghanistan, there's the additional complication of a 2002 agreement imposed on the "transitional" government that contractors be given the same immunity as U.S. Embassy personnel.

Despite this, the fact that the two contractors accused of the Kabul murders are under indictment (as well as having been fired) is in itself a sign of progress. It's unclear, though, whether any progress towards justice will be seen by the victims of Nusour Square. As reported by the L.A. Times, they were pressured into accepting settlements by being told that Xe was filing for bankruptcy, its chairman was about to be arrested and the U.S. government would be confiscating all its assets. In short, they'd have to accept what was offered - because there'd be nothing later. Upon learning of Judge Urbina's dismissal of the charges, and that all they'd been told was a lie, they've now come forward and asked the Iraqi government to intervene.

As the Bush administration shamelessly scrimped on properly equipping, training and taking care of our troops, while dismissing the needs of our veterans, unaccountable billions were lavished on contractors who seemed bent on destroying whatever "hearts and minds" strategy our military sought to employ. Off-budget emergency appropriations became another means of looting our treasury for the benefit of corporate interests. Currently, Xe is under consideration for a new billion-dollar contract for the training of Afghan National Security forces (the same job held by the two under indictment for the murders in Kabul). As I see it, granting such a contract would be a sign of either stupidity or of hidden ulterior motives. I would like to think such conspiratorial questions had been left behind with the Bush years.

One more thing on the Nusour Square incident: A sixth contractor pled guilty as part of a plea agreement under which he testified against the other five. It now looks like he may be the only one to face charges.

Back in March of 2009, I wrote somewhat humorously about the lack of traditional liberal outcry as many of our civil rights were being sacrificed by Congress and the Obama administration. Today I write a heartfelt plea for those who claim to be liberal to stand up and denounce what's happening in D.C. Never has there been a clearer and more pronounced threat to our democratic traditions and our coveted civil rights than what is being orchestrated in the halls of power right now.

Back in March, I was concerned about legislation that targeted certain individuals for punitive taxation and that unilaterally invalidated standing contracts. Today, we all - conservatives and especially liberals - need to stand in unity against the massive healthcare bill being rammed through Congress and the additional powers being usurped by the IRS.

As all readers know, the healthcare reform bills that passed the House and the Senate are substantially different. This in itself is no surprise; many bills have different language and provisions in their respective House and Senate versions. Traditionally, these differences are hammered out in a conference committee that is open to the public, either directly or through the presence of journalistic observers like C-Span. In all honesty, there are exceptions to this process, but typically only when the legislation is tightly focused, relatively limited in its scope and insignificant to the vast majority of Americans.

Healthcare reform is hardly insignificant or limited in scope. President Obama called it the "most important piece of social legislation since the social Security Act passed in the 1930s and the most important reform of our healthcare system since Medicare passed in the 1960s." In further recognition of that fact, President Obama promised no fewer than 8 times to allow the American public to see the healthcare debate on television.

As of this writing, however, there will be no conference committee, there will be no public airing of the various proposals to reconcile the two versions, there will be no disclosure of the specifics on which Congress will be asked to vote. In point of fact, C-Span has been banned from filming and broadcasting any of the debates and negotiations. Simply put, to draft the "final" version of this bill without complete transparency, full debate and adequate disclosure is about as un-American as it gets.

Beyond this slap to our traditional American democratic principles, this bill will strip Americans of their power to make their own healthcare decisions, to choose their doctors, their procedures and the timing of their care, and it will inevitably strip all Americans of a significant portion of their earnings to pay for the monstrous bureaucracy needed to oversee the new plan. I suppose I could muster some sympathy for all this if I knew that Americans had truly been able to see what their representatives were going to vote on. But this is not going to happen unless we all stand up and insist on a transparent, democratic process.

Please hear me loud and clear! This is not a call for defeating healthcare reform. This is not a call to support conservative legislative options or to oppose liberal legislative options for healthcare reform. Whatever the outcome of the vote after a fair and open hearing, I will accept it as being the will of the people, fully informed and acting through their

## GREG Welborn Still Waiting For Liberals



representatives.

No, this is a call to oppose a corrupt process that will corrode our democratic values and sow dissension between Americans of every stripe, color and belief. I ask my liberal friends: in all honesty how would you react if right now a Republican Congress and administration were threatening to radically restructure 1/6th of the economy and take away basic rights and privileges you hold dear by secretly negotiating behind locked doors and then forcing a party-line vote without giving anyone the opportunity to read, let alone analyze, the bill?

Honest liberals wouldn't stand for it. Honest conservatives wouldn't stand for it. Defending a transparent democratic process is a principle which should unite all of us. Before we are anything else - democrat, republican, conservative, liberal, union, management, black, white, multiethnic, young or old - we are Americans, and what makes us Americans is our common belief in a fair democratic system which is the last best hope for mankind.

Add to the chicanery and slight of hand in this nightmare process the sweeping powers the IRS is now claiming to prevent Americans from having their tax forms prepared by anyone other than an IRS licensed and authorized representative and you have the most sweeping encroachment on our liberties in a lifetime. Again without disclosure, debate or vote, the IRS has said that in three year's time there will be no independent tax preparers allowed - no one fully committed to our interests to represent us before the IRS.

I want to ask my liberal readers and friends alike some serious questions: Where is the line in the sand that you will defend? How many of our freedoms will you let vanish while still claiming to believe in liberalism? Aren't you all the great defenders of civil liberties? Do you believe that any administration - Republican or Democratic - should be allowed to invalidate private contracts, target an unpopular group of people for punitive tax rates, restrict our ability to hire our own representative to defend us against the IRS, or decide at what point our quality of life falls short of the cost to maintain it?

These are extremely important issues - ones that speak to the core of what it has meant to be an American. They are all at risk of being decided without disclosure, debate, or honest deliberation. We all want to believe that we live in a free society, but there is a tipping point when we become more unfree than free. I fear we are near that tipping point, and plead with those who love liberty and this country to demand that this legislative process be opened up to the public.

*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 [gwelborn@mvobserver.com](mailto:gwelborn@mvobserver.com).*



## New Redistricting Act Allows Citizens To "Draw the Lines"

By Lori Abbott

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - Civic-minded Californians now have a chance to help "draw the lines" of the state's political landscape. The Voters FIRST Act takes the power from the lawmakers and gives it to citizens. The Citizens Redistricting Commission will decide the state's legislative and Board of Equalization districts based on the new census numbers. The deadline to apply for a seat on the commission is Feb. 12.

David Pacheco, a member of the executive council of AARP California, says despite best intentions, the districts drawn by lawmakers tended to favor incumbents.

"Previous drawing was designed for the politicians to be able to pick their own voters, instead of voters picking politicians."

The new redistricting process is open, transparent and fair, he adds. Voters approved Proposition 11 in 2008, just in time for the 2010 census.

Pacheco says only about a dozen other states have this type of commission, which is made up of everyday people.

"That's the beauty of the commission. Generally, we want people who are civic-minded, community oriented, able to work well with others, be representative of the diversity of California - that's written into the Act."

Fourteen commission members will be chosen for the task. Applications are available at [www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov](http://www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov).

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## Assemblyman Anthony Adams Won't Run Again

*Assemblyman Anthony Adams (R-Hesperia) issued the following statement last week after announcing to the Assembly Republican Caucus that he would not be seeking re-election.*

"The decision to leave the legislature was a difficult one as I have enjoyed and been honored to represent the people of San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties.

But, I'm at a time in my life where I'd like to move on to new challenges and new opportunities.

Announcing my decision not to run for re-election at this time will give ample notice to potential candidates in AD 59 and it will give voters plenty of time to sort out who will best represent them in 2011 and beyond.

In making this announcement, I want to thank all who stood beside me during the failed effort to recall me. I appreciate the words of encouragement, endorsement and financial support and wish I had time to thank everyone in person who voiced support.

Given the outpouring of support during the recall, I feel confident that I would have won re-election in 2010, however, I'd rather spend all my time focusing on jumpstarting a sluggish economy and dealing with the state's budget problems than deal with another campaign."

*Assemblyman Adams represents the 59th Assembly District, which includes the San Bernardino County communities of Apple Valley, Hesperia, Lake Arrowhead, Crestline, San Bernardino, Highland and Mentone. He also represents the Los Angeles County communities of Claremont, La Verne, Glendora, San Dimas, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Bradbury, Arcadia and La Crescenta.*



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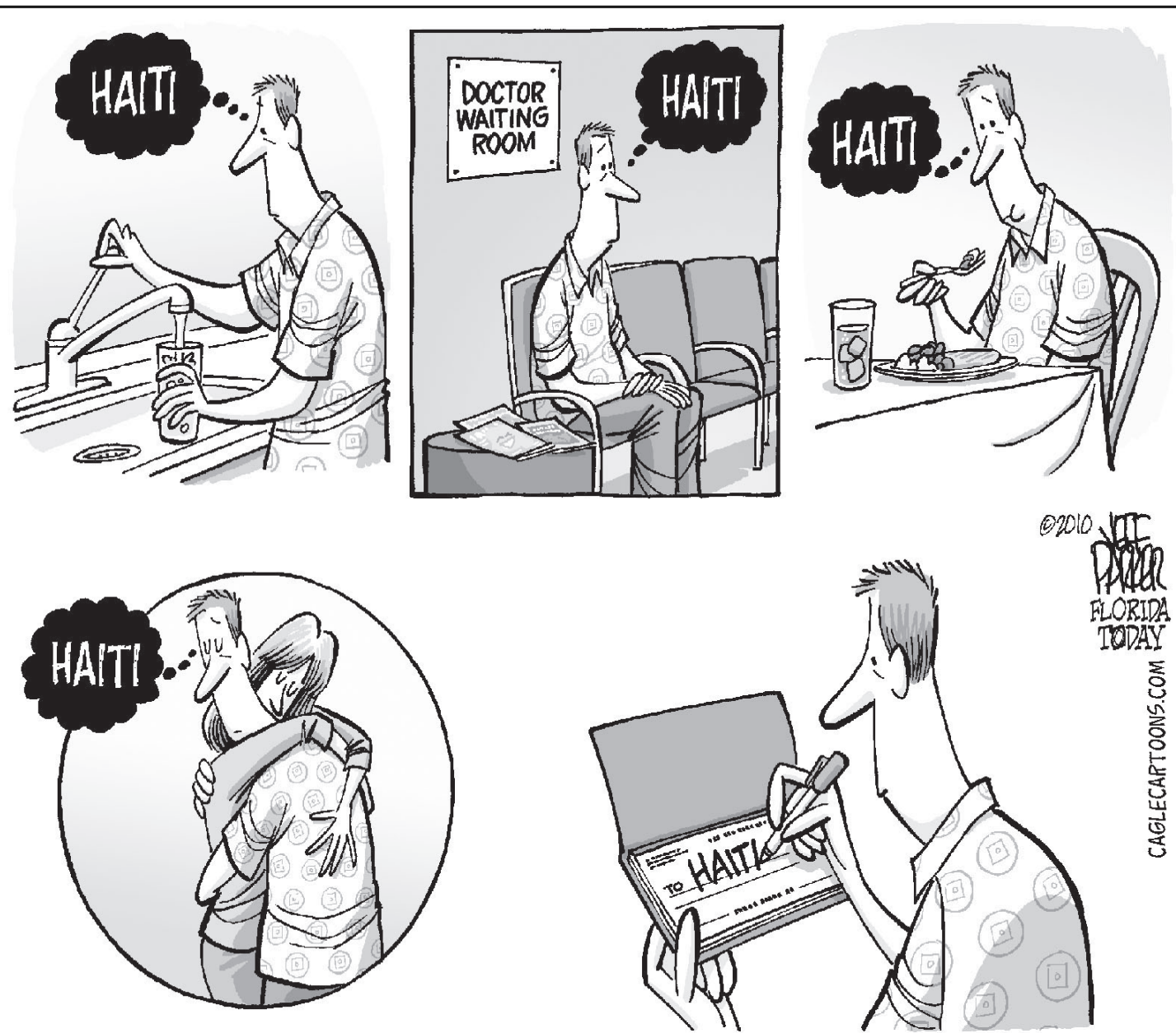
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**Mountain Views News Mission Statement**  
The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values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



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## STUART Tolchin On...LIFE



### NOMINAL APHASIA - WHY WORRY?

What's in a name? I don't know. I can't remember the name and it's driving me crazy. All my life I was sure that I had at least one thing going for me. I remembered things that most people didn't. At my thirty-year high school reunion I remembered papers that other people had written. Embarrassingly, I remembered the color ink that people used when the people didn't even remember me. That's just the way it was. I could forget where I put my notebook or my keys and was generally uncertain about the location of anything that was not presently in my hands, but I invariably remembered what people said and where they were when they said it.

I don't mean to imply that I had a photographic memory or that I was some sort of genius - I wasn't. I have occasionally encountered people with amazing, unique abilities. One time in the library at Law School or at Berkeley I saw this guy drawing lines on sheet after sheet of blank paper. I asked the man what he was doing and he kindly explained that he had read the material one time and underlined it and now he was picturing the pages with the underlines and marking blank paper with the underlining to demonstrate to himself that he had the pages completely memorized. Pretty amazing. This guy became one of the most famous attorneys in America but suffered a nervous breakdown and still was described as one of America's best attorneys. Really! I wouldn't want to be

him.

Another friend in Law School could participate in a conversation and at some point stop and spell the entire conversation backwards and inform the rest of us how many total letters there were in the conversation. This guy also turned out to be pretty weird and the last time I saw him he was driving his-ex wife's mother around to various faith healers and sending a great deal of his money to Pat Buchanan as campaign contributions. Enough said

All I'm trying to point out is that having a good memory is a really helpful trait but it in no way guarantees that you will remain sane or possess any common sense. Still, I always relied on my memory and now I can't remember names. A great part of my day now is typically spent experiencing a name on the tip of my tongue and being completely unable to retrieve it. There probably is a name for this condition but I can't remember ever coming across it. I've created the term "nominal aphasia" which I guess technically would mean an inability to speak the name. The more serious problem is that this inability is causing me to kind of lose touch with who I am.

Outwardly I've gone through many changes. As a young college student I was very thin and smoked about three packs of cigarettes a day. Later I was quite fat and didn't smoke at all. For about thirty five years I had a full beard and mustache and pretty long hair. After that I was clean shaven with just a mustache. After this I

shaved my head for about a year. During these outward changes the me inside always felt the same. There have been a couple of changes to which I never really adapted. I was a single parent for about twenty years, worrying constantly about the welfare of my kids. Then one day the kids grew up, more or less, and went out to live their lives. I still worried, but it was not the same living in an empty nest. Soon after they left I met a girl and began our ongoing marvelous relationship which after fifteen years is still going strong. Every day I wake up in my wonderful house in wonderful Sierra Madre with my wonderful wife and wonder how this can be me living this happy life. Still I remember, or used to remember, how it all happened and feel, or felt, pretty much in touch with myself.

Now I have a new worry. I am forgetting things - especially names, but incidents as well. Am I losing - or about to lose - myself?. I guess the truth is that if I live long enough I will have the opportunity to forget just about everything. My mom is now almost ninety-five and manages to forget a great deal. Nevertheless, she is capable of lucidly talking about her memory loss in the present. Often she forgets where she is or where she lives but is always aware that she is worried about something. She explains that being worried is at her core and she feels like that as long as she is worried about something she is still in touch with her basic self. This makes me feel better, and perhaps I have nothing to worry about.

OOPS.

## HAIL Hamilton



A new Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) report has found that the antigovernment militia movement is surging across the country as fears of a black man in the White House, changing demographics and conspiracy theories spread mainstream figures have helped revive a movement that has been dormant for almost a decade.

"The militia movement is clearly growing again," said Mark Potok, director of the SPLC Intelligence Project. "At the height of the movement on the 1990s, 168 people were murdered in the bombing of Oklahoma City's federal building. We may not be at that point yet, but as one law enforcement official told us, the only thing missing is a spark."

The SPLC report, *The Second Wave: Return of the Militias*, cites the following evidence:

- One law enforcement agency has found 50 new militia training groups—including one composed of current and former police officers and soldiers.
- The convening of so-called citizens' "courts" and "grand juries"—a popular method of harassing enemies of the movement—is on the rise. Several citizens' grand juries have

## Domestic Terrorism: Return Of The Militias

issued indictments against President Obama for treason and fraud.

- "Sovereign citizens" are reappearing in large numbers. Most "sovereigns" subscribe to the ideology that claims whites—especially "Christian" whites—have a higher citizenship status than others and do not have to pay taxes or obey other laws they find objectionable.
- The introduction of states' rights resolutions in legislatures of three dozen states reflects growing antigovernment sentiment.

A key difference between today and the 1990s is that the federal government is now headed by a black man. That fact, coupled with high levels of non-white immigration, has helped infuse the militia movement the militia movement with a strong element of racial animus, which was not the primary motivation in the past.

Another factor in the rise is the proliferation of cable TV hosts willing to use their platforms to spread and legitimize antigovernment propaganda, such as the conspiracy theory of the socialist take over the federal government, and the unsubstantiated claim that Obama was actually born in Kenya, not Hawaii, and that his presidency is therefore not legitimate.

Accompanying the SPLC report is a list of 75 plots, conspiracies and racist rampages since the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma—a key moment for the

movement.

Fifteen years ago, SPLC founder Morris Dees wrote then-Attorney General Janet Reno to warn about extremists in the militia movement, saying that the "mixture of armed groups and those who hate is a recipe for disaster." Six months later, Oklahoma City's federal building was bombed. It was the deadliest attack ever by domestic terrorists, carried out by men steeped in the rhetoric and conspiracy theories of the militias.

According to the SPLC report, militia-related violence committed against individuals and organizations is on the increase and have included vandalism, arson, bombing, stalking, kidnapping, assault, and murder. For example, the assassination of Dr. George Tiller last May by someone associated with the Army of God, an underground network of activists who believe that the use of violence is an appropriate tool for fighting against abortion.

"We're again entering some dangerous territory, where violence is a real concern," said Potok, who briefed Senate staffers on the issue in September. "But this is not just a law enforcement issue. Americans need to reject the politicians and pundits who aid and abet this movement by pandering to its paranoia and conspiratorial worldview."

## RICH Johnson



### Political Correctness: Nanner-Nanner

Describing myself as the Court Jester of Sierra Madre, my columns are typically dedicated to helping lighten the daily load. This is attempted by sending up pleasant bits of trivia or humor one can enjoy and even pass along.

I don't much relish veering from that calling. However, the Harry Reid event of the last few days caught my attention and I want to comment.

Should Harry Reid step down because of his racially insensitive comments? No, I don't think so. Then again, Trent Lott shouldn't have had to step down either for his racially insensitive words at an event honoring Senator Strom Thurmond. Senator Lott said, "When Strom Thurmond ran for president, we voted for him. We're proud of it. And if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we wouldn't have had all these problems over the years, either." By the way, Mr. Lott was 7 years old when Thurmond ran for president.

Here is what Senator Reid had to say about Senator Lott's famous faux pas:

"As closely as I've worked with him, I don't know how in the world I could condone, support or understand his statements. I think what he said is not good for America; it's repugnant what he said. If Republicans think it's best for Democrats to keep him there, maybe they'll get rid of him."

Comparing Senator Reid's comments to Senator Lott's is not apples to apples. You want apples to apples? Let's see if any current Senator has complimented a former racist like Strom Thurmond. Senator Robert Byrd, for example. Yeah, that makes sense. After all Strom Thurmond was not the only terrible racist who voted against the Civil Rights Act of 1964. So did Robert Byrd. And just maybe Robert Byrd was a more terrible racist, being a former Grand Cyclops of the KKK. Let's see if anyone complimented Senator Byrd:

"...I have had the privilege of serving beside Senator Byrd for 34 years and am proud to call him a very good friend...I look forward to serving with him for years to come..." Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT)

"...If these new Senators are looking for an inspiration, a guiding light, or a model, the way that I did some years ago, they need look no further than the seat directly behind our distinguished majority leader..." (Byrd) Senator John Rockefeller (D-WV)

"...There has been no one who has been more faithful to the Constitution, to the goals of the Senate or who has served this Senate more honorably. I wish to say congratulations, Mr. Chairman. May you have many more years..." Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

This call for Reid's removal is really a reaction by conservatives who are voicing anger at the hypocrisy and double standard that exists. Crucify Lott and let Reid, Leahy, Rockefeller and Feinstein slide. No big deal.

The advent of cable news has exacerbated (for those with my IQ, exacerbate means "make worse") public discourse creating the media frenzy and polarization of left from right and in between. Both sides lie in wait for media gaffes that can be exploited purely for political advantage.

Politicians on both sides should be ordered to utter a "nanner-nanner" every 50 words during their diatribes. Let's make them get out of the sandbox if they won't behave. When will these "children politicians" realize we see this for what it really is?







## Even “Enquiring Minds” Want to Know About the New Shabby Dog Store!

By Chris Bertrand



Photo By Chris Bertrand

The Today Show, the Early Show and yes, even “the National Enquirer” have all featured Shabby Dog’s product line in the past few weeks. With the burgeoning craze for canine-related accoutrements across the country, Sierra Madre’s new retail outlet, The Shabby Dog, now offers what the Shabby Dog website has offered for the past year.

At the E. Montecito shop in Sierra Madre, you’ll find handcrafted, high fashion dog collars, leashes, beds, doggie outfits, fun accessories and matching “bling” for pooch and owner. The greatest media buzz has surrounded the wristband and leash, which allows hands free pet control in range of color coordinated, high end, patent leathers. Another unusual item Lewis Duvall also created was the travel dish purse.

Store manager, Ronnie Grinie brings Disney design experience to her new venture, and designed the shop with such creativity, it’s a great stop on an amble through Sierra Madre. Even if you don’t own a dog, take a peek at the Swarovski crystal bracelets... for humans, that is!

Founder and chief entrepreneur, Sandy Lewis Duvall is no newcomer to Sierra Madre. In the 1990’s, she opened Sierra Fitness to fill what she saw as a void in the 40+ fitness market, then Sierra Juice (which she sold in 2006).. At each new business venture and expansion, naysayers often shake their heads and suggest she’s nuts, but time and again, she has wrought success where others saw pitfalls.

Lewis Duvall grew up across the border in Arcadia, but always loved Sierra Madre. She reflects, “When I started Sierra Fitness back in 1994 everyone thought I was crazy! The town was very vacant at the time. I have been in the fitness business since I was 18 years old and knew that the industry was lacking a facility that catered to the 40+ market, people looking for all around wellness programs.” The rest is successful history, with several expansions at Sierra Fitness on both N. Baldwin and Sierra Madre Blvd. over the years.

With Lewis Duvall’s great track record, The Shabby Dog’s entre into the retail market seems in good hands. Visit The Shabby Dog Monday to Saturday from 10-6 at 31 E. Montecito. You can also view the Today and Early Show segments linked on their website at [TheShabbyDog.com](http://TheShabbyDog.com) or call them at 626-836-5452.



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## THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW CONTEST WINNER: There Ought to be Transparency By James M. Dorn

From Senator Bob Huff:

Once again, the contest for “There Ought to Be a Law” has been a success. Submissions came in from across the district and touched on a wide array of issues, and it is a great way to hear directly from constituents about what matters to them most. This contest truly gives me a better understanding of how the people in the 29<sup>th</sup> Senate District are affected everyday by the decisions in Sacramento.

After reviewing over 40 submissions, I have chosen James M. Dorn, from Chino Hills as this year’s “There Ought To Be A Law” contest winner. If adopted, the winning bill idea will ensure potential legislation is available to the public and to legislators for at least three full business days prior to a vote in any committee in either house after it has been amended.

Although the California Constitution currently provides for a 30 day review period after each bill is introduced, there is neither a mechanism in place to ensure it is actually reviewed, nor is there any time set aside for review once the bill has been revised. This 72 hour period will help break down this structural barrier between public involvement and legislative responsibility.

The contest entries this year confirmed what I and my fellow Republicans have known to be the case for some time: people are tired of government waste, inefficiency and lack of transparency. Constituents are looking for real reform. So am I.

As 30% of the submissions received call for government reform, it is clear that the Democrat-Controlled legislature has lost the trust of the people. Representatives ought to represent what the people want, and what the people want is an accountable, transparent government. That is why Mr. Dorn’s idea is such an important one.

This idea will provide adequate time for legislators and the public to review bills, particularly after last minute amendments and ultimately give Californians a way to hold government accountable. This is essential to a more transparent government and I am pleased to carry this powerful message to the halls of Sacramento.

Besides having his idea taken through the legislative process, Mr. Dorn will be invited to join me for lunch in Sacramento and will receive a California State flag that has been flown over the Capitol.

Senator Bob Huff serves as the Senate Republican Caucus Chair and represents portions of Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino counties.

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## Looking Up

with Bob Eklund

## Six Year Old Mars Rover Faces Uncertain Future



Last weekend, NASA's Mars rover Spirit completed six years of unprecedented science exploration. However, the upcoming Martian winter could end its roving career.

Spirit successfully landed on the Red Planet on Jan. 3, 2004, and its twin, Opportunity, arrived Jan. 24, 2004. The rovers began missions intended to last for three months but which have lasted six Earth years, or 3.2 Mars years. During this time, Spirit has found evidence of a steamy and violent environment on ancient Mars that was quite different from the wet and acidic past documented by Opportunity, which continues to operate successfully as it explores halfway around the planet.

A sand trap and balky wheels are challenges to Spirit's mobility that could prevent NASA's rover team from using a key survival strategy for the rover—positioning its solar panels to tilt toward the Sun to collect power for heat to survive the severe Martian winter.

Nine months ago, Spirit's wheels broke through a crusty surface layer into loose sand hidden underneath. Efforts to escape this sand trap have barely budged the rover. Its inability to use all six wheels for driving has worsened the predicament. Spirit's right-front wheel quit working in 2006, and its right-rear wheel stalled a month ago. Surprisingly, the right-front wheel resumed working, though intermittently. Drives with four or five operating wheels have produced little progress toward escaping the sand trap. The latest attempts resulted in the rover sinking deeper in the soil.

"The highest priority for this mission right now is to stay mobile, if that's possible," said Steve Squyres of Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. He is principal investigator for the rovers.

If mobility is not possible, the next priority is to improve the rover's tilt, while it is still

able to generate enough electricity to turn its wheels. Spirit is in the southern hemisphere of Mars, where it is autumn, and the amount of daily sunshine available for the solar-powered rover is declining. This could result in ceasing extraction activities as early as this month, depending on the amount of remaining power. Spirit's tilt, nearly five degrees toward the south, is unfavorable because the winter sun crosses low in the northern sky.

Unless the tilt can be improved—or a lucky wind blows away some of the dust gradually building up on the solar panels—the amount of sunshine available will continue to decline until May 2010. During May, or perhaps earlier, Spirit may not have enough power to remain in operation.

"At the current rate of dust accumulation, solar arrays at zero tilt would provide barely enough energy to run the survival heaters through the Mars winter solstice," said Jennifer Herman, a rover power engineer at JPL.

The team is evaluating strategies for improving the tilt even if Spirit cannot escape the sand trap—such as trying to dig in deeper with the wheels on the north side. In February, NASA will assess Mars missions, including Spirit, for their potential science versus cost to determine how to distribute limited resources. Meanwhile, the team is planning additional research about what a stationary Spirit could accomplish.

"Spirit could continue significant research right where it is," said Ray Arvidson of Washington University in St. Louis, deputy principal investigator for the rovers. "We can study the interior of Mars, monitor the weather, and continue examining the interesting deposits uncovered by Spirit's wheels."

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



An artist's concept portrays a NASA Mars Exploration Rover on the surface of Mars. Image credit: NASA/JPL/Cornell University



All things security have dominated the headlines over the last ten years or so and even more during the last few weeks. During this most recent Christmas holiday, the American public was once again the target of an act of terrorism in the form of a secreted explosive device that was smuggled aboard a commercial airliner destined for the United States. Despite several layers of implemented security that were in place at that time and the placement of the perpetrators' name on a security watch-list, the would-be bomber still managed to make it onto the plane and was only thwarted by a private citizen who happened to witness the failed detonation attempt. In all fairness, we may never know all the details of the many times that established security practices did exactly what they were designed to do; deter those who would do evil the opportunity to do just that. In the best of circumstances the responses to situations like these would ensure that events of this type are prevented from happening again and if the designs of the countermeasures are advanced enough, other types of unimagined threats will be prevented as well. All too often, though, the response to situations like the one we collectively experienced on Christmas Day 2009

trigger all manner of over-reaction and being the technologically advanced society that we are, the over-reaction often takes the form of over-reliance on a technical solution.

The most immediate result of our new enhanced security posture is the soon-to-be national presence of full body scanners at major airports across the country and around the world. Conspiracy-minded observers might be tempted to remark that the serendipitous readiness of hundreds of these scanners at the exact time that they're being called into service smacks of some sort of master plan. It's almost as if they were a solution waiting for a problem to happen. How effective they'll be in stopping future threats remains to be seen. As with many things in our world, this technology's capacity for solving this problem, or at least making us feel as if this problem is solvable at all, lies in the fact that this technology presents itself to be something that we can control and deploy at a time and place of our choosing and that this is the answer that we need to keep us safe. That's a comforting notion when we consider all that goes on in the world over which we have no control whatsoever.

## WRITING SERVICES

Could you use help in preparing written communications for your business? I have extensive experience in writing and editing business documents including brochures, proposals, newsletters, resumes, customer success stories, press releases, and articles for newspapers and magazines.

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

## Audubon Guides Releases iPhone Wildflower App for California

Woodstock, Vt. – Nature lovers in California have a convenient new tool to help them identify species. Based on updated and expanded versions of the best-selling series of National Audubon Society field guides, Audubon Wildflower California puts the most authoritative and comprehensive information about the region's wildflowers at the fingertips of iPhone and iPod Touch users.



Now available in the reference section of the apps store in iTunes along with other apps in the Audubon Guide series, Audubon Wildflowers California provides a wealth of interactive information in a mobile package, giving the state's wildflower lovers a fun and exciting experience that makes outings richer, more informed and instantly sharable.

"I can't imagine a more genuinely fun and informative way to use technology to connect with nature," said Andrew Stewart, publisher of Green Mountain Digital, the electronic publishing company that created the Audubon Guide app series in alliance with the National Audubon Society. "Everyone from dedicated enthusiasts to casual nature lovers and families just looking for fun outdoor activities will enjoy having so much detailed plant life information at their fingertips."

From Lillies to Lupines, Audubon Wildflowers California covers more than 930 species of flowers found throughout California. Each species in the app is described with rich and detailed information updated from National Audubon Society field guide books, including details such as appearance, range, flowering, habitat, and more. All of this is accessed wirelessly and in real time through interactive and intuitive search features with parameters such as common and scientific names, family, shape, range, habitat, color, and size.

Additional features include hundreds of professional color photos, range maps for

each species, and a geo-location search function that allows users to find which wildflower species are located in any zip code in the state. Advanced technical innovations include the ability to create personalized life lists, post GPS-enabled flower sighting lists, and upload user-created photo albums.

Audubon Wildflowers California is among the latest apps in the expanding Audubon Guides series, which upon its launch last month enlisted new technologies to spread the appreciation of nature.

"This is a giant leap forward in connecting people with the nature that surrounds them," said John Flicker, president of the National Audubon Society. "And it's the first step in building a commitment to protecting the wonders these apps will help a new generation discover and savor."

Audubon Wildflowers California is available in the iTunes store for \$4.99. Other available Audubon Guide apps include North American guides to Wildflowers, Trees and Mammals for \$9.99 each and birds for \$19.99. A free sampler app that includes a selection of birds, mammals, trees and wildflowers is also available. In coming weeks, the number of Audubon Guide apps will grow from its current 13 to include new regional apps as well as field guides based on other subjects such as Insects & Spiders, Butterflies, Fish, Reptiles & Amphibians, Seashells, Seashore Creatures, Mushrooms, and Whales & Dolphins, will be available in coming months.

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Antarctica PART II of a two-part series By La Quetta M. Shamblee

What are the chances of two local business owners in adjacent buildings on the same lot, traveling to opposite poles on the earth within a few months of each other – without having planned it that way? Last week, we learned about life near at the top of the earth in the icy Arctic. This week, we'll travel to the extreme opposite, the icy Antarctic.

Why would a yoga instructor from southern California leave our calm winter weather to travel to a frozen archipelago in the Antarctica for a month? This cluster of islands near the South Pole is on the continent that is, on average, the coldest, driest and windiest on the planet. This extreme vacation included lodging on a retired navy research vessel originally built to sail the Great Lakes. Thirty-foot ocean swells, typical on days with clear skies and no storms, made it difficult



to walk onboard. Smaller rubber "Zodiac" boats maneuvered past huge glaciers for two daily excursions to reach the shores where their group joined others to, literally, mingle with penguins and sea lions.

Local entrepreneur, Rene Quenell, made the most of her skills as an amateur photographer. This was her first exposure to a 'photographic safari'. Her sister, a professional photographer, invited her to travel with a group of accomplished colleagues on a vacation to this most remote and desolate locations known to mankind. Quenell returned home after capturing more than 6,000 images of what life looks like in a region where the only permanent inhabitants are animals adapted to temperatures below freezing. She said, "It was desolate, yet full of life." The magnitude of standing in the midst of thousands of penguins with glacial mountains dotting the horizon evoked emotions that brought her to tears.

Rene shared that she had not expected to hear so much noise, so loud, all at once. The crackling, popping sound of moving glaciers constantly filled the air. Intermittent booms filled the space as large sections of glaciers fell into the ocean, creating waves that made it dangerous to stand anywhere near the shore. Thousands of fuzzy-brown, infant king penguins cried out to relocate their mothers who were emerging from the icy waters after a customary year-long absence. Adult penguins chimed in with a concert of responses that didn't end until they'd located their offspring.

Sea lions and penguins were very tolerant of the human visitors, within limits. Barking sea lions scurried to challenge each other and humans who stood between them and the spots they were trying to claim on the beach. It must have seemed comical for penguins to use their flaps as weapons, making it clear they had no intentions of sharing their little patch of territory.



Enroute to Antarctica, Rene's flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia at the tip of Argentina seems adventurous enough. Continuing with a three-week boat voyage to the Falkland Islands, then onto South Georgia on the Antarctic Peninsula where the king penguins make their nests, places her among an elite group of travelers who have experienced more of the world than the majority of humans will cover in a lifetime.

Rene is co-owner of Yoga Madre in Arcadia, along with her business partner, Mike. Years ago, when she was apparently expected to stand upside down on her hands during the very first yoga class she attended, she felt that it was an uncomfortable and unreasonable introduction. Dissatisfied, she was inspired to create a place with accessible, friendly, quality yoga – a place where people can feel comfortable coming to learn yoga, whether beginners or advanced. They offer a full schedule of classes, from beginning to advanced, daytime, nighttime and weekends.

Yoga Madre is located at 300 East Foothill Boulevard. For more information call (626) 303-1004 or logon to [www.yogamadre.com](http://www.yogamadre.com)

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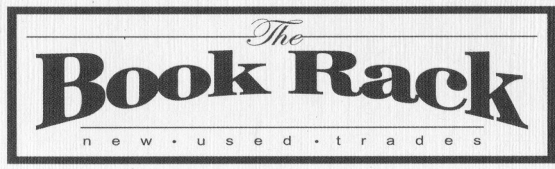
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*The Senior*  
By Bruce Lamarche  
*Spot*  
**SENIOR MOMENTS????**

*“My memory’s not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory’s not as sharp as it used to be.”*

All of us have experienced, with irritation (and sometimes humor), those famous senior moments. You know, you get up from your chair, go into the other room and can’t remember what you came to get. Personally, I then go back to the place where the thought occurred to retrieve the thought and . . . well, that doesn’t always work either.

Memory loss of this kind is a normal part of aging and surprisingly, a result of our environment. Experts say that the fast pace of today’s world with all its distractions and our bad habit of “multi-tasking” can cause a mental overload which can decrease our ability to remember. Doing more than one thing at a time can actually hurt brain function (not to mention that it’s frustrating?)

Our choice of lifestyle and daily habits can either improve or hurt our ability to remember things. While our daily routine helps us organize our days and weeks, it is just that, a “routine”. It is, by definition, the same thing, over and over again. Help! Somebody get me out of this rut! This repetitious style of life hurts your memory and your intellect. I love the saying by Ray Crock, founder of McDonalds, “When you’re green you grow. When you’re ripe, you rot!” Rather blunt, but think about it.

Here are some ideas to jump out of that rut and challenge yourself. (Note: An active mind has fewer of those “senior moments”.)  
1) Quit watching unstimulating TV. Switch to PBS and study something you know nothing about.

- 2) Take a brisk walk most days and get a book on tape (or CD) to listen to. Your library has hundreds of them.
- 3) Spend an hour reading every day to stimulate your mind. Not junk fiction but on a topic that will teach you something you didn’t know.
- 4) Bust out of your comfort zone. Do something that is different. Write, use your computer mouse with your other hand, practice a musical instrument, or go somewhere you’ve never been and explore.
- 5) Go back to school. Your community college has many interesting courses for adults that cost very little money.
- 6) Memorize great sayings or poems.
- 7) Start a journal of your experiences. One day your offspring would be amazed!

Don’t be afraid to bust out of the routine of an ordinary life and be adventurous. This doesn’t mean danger or things beyond your abilities. Most of us haven’t pushed to see what our limits are. Challenge yourself with those very things that you don’t ordinarily do. “Reach, climb, try . . . never quit!”

Remember: You don’t stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing.  
You can reach Bruce by phone-(626)335-3412 or e-mail: blamarche@verizon.net

*This article is provided by Bruce Lamarche, a member of Society of Certified Senior Advisors®, www.csa.us. Bruce’s company, R & B Reverse Mortgage Services (Glendora) helps seniors make an informed decision about obtaining a reverse mortgage. www.LASeniorMortgage.com*

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See the “Senior Spot” column weekly!

**HALF OF SENIORS AT MALNUTRITION RISK**

Written by Tamara Kato, Comfort Keepers

Malnutrition is a serious and growing problem for America’s growing 65+ population. The Mayo Clinic has estimated that under- or mal-nourishment afflicts more than half of all seniors at home.

What causes malnutrition in seniors? Most of the times it is a combination of too little food, not the right kinds of food and poor absorption of nutrients. This can be compounded by physical, emotional and social problems. Poor nutrition may not be obvious initially, so caregivers and loved ones should pay special attention to the signs. Spend more time getting to know your older loved ones:

- Observe what they eat during normal meals at home, not just in restaurants or on special occasions.
- If you have an older friend or family member in a hospital or long term care facility, make a point of visiting during mealtimes and talk to the hospital or nursing home dietician.
- Look for physical problems such as weight loss, poor wound healing, easy bruising and dental difficulties. Keep in mind, not all seniors with nutrition problems are thin — in some cases, malnutrition occurs in seniors who are overweight.
- Pay attention to how medication affects appetite and digestion. Many commonly-prescribed medications can reduce hunger and prevent nutrient absorption. Is the older senior taking their medications as directed?
- Ask your loved one’s doctor to check certain protein levels, which can identify malnutrition.
- Look at the temperature of refrigerated items, and help them clean out dated foods on a regular basis. Seniors are more susceptible to food poisoning.

Seniors can improve their quality of life and preserve their independence longer by making dietary changes. About 30 million older Americans live with chronic diseases which nutrition therapies can be effective in managing and treating, according to the American Dietetic Association.

Mealtime can become more enjoyable by trying new flavors and spices, making meals a social time, getting prepared meals from an outside source, such as Meals on Wheels, or trying enriched foods for snacks in between meals.

Comfort Keepers is working to raise awareness for the need for senior nutrition through our *Serving Seniors. Nourishing Lives.* campaign that supports Sodexo’s STOP Hunger campaign and benefits hundreds of food banks nationwide. On a local level, we are working with Foothill Unity Center, the Community Action Agency for the Foothill Area and the leading community food distributor.

Drop points are at the following locations: Altadena Senior Center, Pavilions - Arcadia, Duarte Senior Center, Fresh & Easy - Duarte, Irwindale Senior Center, Pavilions - Monrovia, The Gables of Monrovia, Whole Foods Market – Pasadena, Beantown Coffee Bar in Sierra Madre and Bristol Farms – South Pasadena.

Kato is the owner and operator of the Comfort Keepers franchise in Arcadia.

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS

**FYI:**  
**Don’t Invite Pests Into Your Home**

(NAPSI)--Colder weather can inspire you to spend more time inside your cozy home, but some annoying pests may have the same idea.

*According to the National Pest Management Association (NPMA), when temperatures begin to fall, an estimated 21 million rodents head inside to escape winter’s chill and to find new sources of food. Other pests have the same idea, including spiders, ants and cockroaches.*

*More than a nuisance, these household pests can trigger allergies and asthma attacks, spread diseases, transmit bacteria and contaminate food. They can also compromise the value of a home by gnawing through electrical wires that can create fire hazards, as well as chewing through support beams and drywall, risking structural stability.*

*Pests find ways into homes by hitching rides on the items brought in, such as firewood, packages and even on Fido. They also gain entry through small cracks and crevices in the structure’s exterior. Luckily, there are many ways homeowners can prevent these unwanted guests through effective pest proofing measures.*

*NPMA and www.pestworld.org offer the following tips on pest proofing the home:*

- Install door sweeps on exterior doors and repair damaged screens.
- Screen vents and openings to chimneys.
- Seal cracks and holes on the outside of the home, including areas where utilities and pipes enter the home, using caulk, steel wool or a combination of both.
- Store food in airtight containers and dispose of garbage regularly.
- Keep attics, basements and crawl spaces well ventilated and dry.
- Replace loose mortar and weather stripping around the basement foundation and windows.
- Eliminate all moisture sites, including leaking pipes and clogged drains, that provide the perfect breeding site for pests.
- Inspect items such as boxes, grocery bags and other packages brought into the home.
- Store firewood at least 20 feet away from the house and keep shrubbery trimmed and cut back from the house.
- If you suspect a pest infestation in your home, contact a licensed pest professional to inspect and treat the pest problem.

*For more information on pest proofing and other pest-related issues, visit www.pestworld.org.*

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8 Mondays, April 12 - June 7 (no class May 31)

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\$48 members/\$52 non-members for 8 sessions

Benefits of Tai Chi exercises include increased energy, enhanced flexibility and mobility, development of self-discipline, released stress, lowering of your blood pressure, bolstering of self-confidence and control of balance.

**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

**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.

**Recipe of the Week:**

**Marinated Pork Chop with Pineapple Salsa**

**Ingredients:**

Marinade:  
1/4 teaspoon lime zest  
2 limes, juiced  
1 tablespoon honey  
1 small shallot, chopped  
1 jalapeno, chopped and seeds removed  
1 garlic clove, chopped  
1/2 cup olive oil  
Salt

Pineapple Salsa:  
1/2 pineapple, diced and cored, juices reserved  
1 tomato, diced  
1/2 red onion, minced  
1/2 small jalapeno, diced  
1 tablespoon chopped cilantro leaves  
1 lime, juiced  
Salt and pepper  
4 bone-in, center-cut pork chops

**Directions:**

*For the marinade:*  
Blend all the ingredients in a large bowl. Place in a resealable plastic bag and add the pork chops. Marinate in the refrigerator for up to 3 hours.

*For the salsa:*  
Mix all the salsa ingredients in a medium bowl. Taste for seasoning. Set aside for 10 minutes for flavors to meld.

Preheat grill to medium heat.

Remove chops from marinade. Grill for 5 minutes per side for a medium rare and 8 minutes for medium. Remove chops from grill and let rest 10 minutes before slicing. Spoon the salsa on top.

**January Birthdays**

Loyal Camacho, Mary Tassop, Molly Belenky, Leona Glowienke, Roberta Rahmanian, Louise Thistlewaite, Sue Watanabe, Ruth Wolter, Pat Ostrye

**Helpful Hints:**  
**Uses for Microfiber Cloths**

To help make cleaning easier, manufacturers have introduced wonderful new cleaning products and equipment. Try these hints for using them around the house:

*Auto:* Keep several microfiber cloths underneath the front seat of your vehicle. Use them to dust off the dashboard, radio and steering wheel.

*Bathroom, Kitchen:* Store a couple of microfiber cloths in these locations because they will clean and shine the chrome, spiff up mirrors and are great for wiping off the sink. When the cloths become dirty, toss them into the washing machine.

*Pets:* Freshen up your dog by lightly dampening a microfiber cloth with water and wiping over its fur. If your cat or dog needs to get the gunk out of its eyes, a microfiber cloth will do the job nicely. And if your pet, like Cabbie, my miniature schnauzer, gets a dirty beard after eating, the cloth will remove that food crud.

*Plants:* To take dust off live or artificial leaves, lightly dampen a microfiber cloth and wipe over the leaves. This will also add a bit of moisture to the real plants too.

*Computer:* Pet hair, dust, ashes from smoking can migrate into your computer and clog the open holes. Use the hose attachment of your vacuum to remove pet hair and dust from the back of your computer. Clean the monitor case with a slightly damp microfiber cloth. Be sure to also dust the power cords, floor and area around the computer, printer and fax machine too.

*Cell Phone:* Wipe the handset surface with a dampened microfiber cloth to eliminate fingerprints and dust. But if it’s still sticky, mix one cup of water with one drop of mild detergent to wipe off and then rinse area (not the screen) with a clean dampened cloth. Don’t spray anything into the handset or keys.

*Digital Camera:* To remove dust, grime and fingerprints, wipe the outside with a microfiber cloth and then carefully swipe over the lens. For a thorough cleaning, take to a professional or use commercial wipes.

*Music Players:* Wipe the outside with a slightly damp microfiber cloth to clean, but don’t let moisture seep into openings. Do not use alcohol or solvents on this equipment.

[http://www.helpguide.org/life/sleep\\_tips](http://www.helpguide.org/life/sleep_tips)

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.

**City of Sierra Madre’s Community Services Commission is looking for two motivated, enthusiastic, creative, and friendly volunteers** to serve on the City’s Ad Hoc Transit Committee and SMTV3 Committee. The City welcomes any interested residents to apply. Submit applications to the Community & Personnel Services Department at the Community Recreation Center, 611 E. Sierra Madre Boulevard. For an application, please visit [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com) look for commission/committee applications. For more information please call (626) 355-5278.

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Chris Bertrand

## One Of A Kind:

*Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them*

Story and Photos By Jay Calis and Chris Bertrand

As one drives eastern Arcadia, you need only look up from Santa Anita or Highland Oaks to see some of the area's choicest properties perched on a ridge some 400 feet above the San Gabriel Valley floor.

One of these 44 homes, just listed for sale at \$6,880,000, was completed in 2007 after years of meticulously honing exactly what the owners visualized from their Italian travels. They went back to

the drawing board with multiple architects. They happily and finally decided to entrust Leslie Lippich Architect & Associates to capture that vision of an Italian village with courtyard entry, a golden umber Venetian plaster exterior, cobblestone and triple deck, stacked tile roof.

With extensive, hands on involvement, both owners spent weekend after weekend researching the perfect wood molding, the right iron work, the best Venetian plasterer, the ultimate accoutrements, staying mostly local.

When an envisioned element just didn't exist, their assembled team of artisans, designers and craftsmen set about making it themselves. The lighting designer from Temple City's Modern Lighting created the foyer's barrel shaped, iron pendants by cannibalizing several different fixtures to assemble the unique series. The owners found their artisans loved working on the project becoming a quasi-family, always looking for that extra bit of inspiration to make each component even better.

Several times, two designers or contractors happened onsite simultaneously, happily collaborating to create a unique, elegant solution. A conundrum about minimizing the prominence of television location in the billiard room was solved this way, reworking both the audiovisual and cabinetry configuration in a "right place and right time" meeting of the minds. The finish carpenters mimicked the cherry cabinetry in their box beam ceilings and intricate wainscoting.

The two-story galleria foyer sets the tone for home, with magnificent precast pillars, aged with light stain and accents. Stunning custom wrought iron work catches the eye like a piece of artwork. The painters and owners worked carefully to get the right mixture of multiple colors on the ironwork, enough metallic for reflection, mixed carefully with a palette of complementary colors.

Carved detailing adds to the Tuscan personality on both staircases, the kitchen exhaust hood and the doorway to the magnificent billiard room, which uses the door framing to surround a four scene

carving of wine growing, harvesting, making and drinking. Wine storage for nearly a thousand bottles is split between the Euro Cave in the billiard room and the temperature controlled wine cellar.

The owners found choosing stone one of the most enjoyable in the process, finding all locally in Sunland. The most dramatic is likely the Rain Forest marble, with dramatic veining resembling crisscrossed branches mixed with the lush green tones of the muted understory foliage of tropical Brazil. Travertine tile continues indoors to outside, for a seamless feel. Even the thresholds are stone instead of wood.

The Italian-style vegetation of the San Gabriel mountains, visible from the north facing promontory, was carefully framed time and again through arches in the custom made mahogany windows and doors like beautiful landscape paintings. Since the doors and windows were so large, it seemed best to create them custom, with true divided panes and rollup screens so no view is every impaired by a screen not actively in use.



When the pool design was considered, it first had to be a real swimmable pool. Famous Garden of Rosemead created a playland and water park, assembled around the owner's love for lap swimming, including a beach entry, ledge with twelve foot water

## Tuscan Villa Overlooks The LA Basin From Atop Whispering Pines Estates

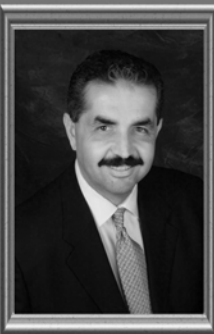


for jumping, a bridge, infinity edge and waterfall with seating underneath, all in saltwater, of course.

The many outdoor rooms are completely finished with varnished wood ceilings, intricate flooring, ceiling fans and television. The outdoor kitchen is step down, to maintain an uninterrupted view. Each room could have hours of detailed description, with computerized this and artisan-created that, restaurant quality kitchen, pebbled shower floors and ceilings, a separate laundry in the garage to wash the car detailing cloths, exquisite craftsmanship, extraordinary materials, on and on...but what is most extraordinary about this home is the love with which it was created. It pours from every faucet, wall, light fixture and floor. After years of thought, planning, angst and three years of construction, they thought they'd never leave.

Yet now a new chapter in life calls the owners to the East Coast, and this extraordinary home awaits an appreciative new owner who yearns for an Italian life high atop Arcadia.

*This home is offered at \$6,880,000 by Reni Rose of Prudential California Realty in Sierra Madre. She can be reached at 626-355-8400. View more details, photos and a virtual tour online at two website: [www.367Monterey.com](http://www.367Monterey.com) and [www.367MontereyPines.com](http://www.367MontereyPines.com).*



## Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed

by Luther Tsinoglou

### PROTECT YOUR HOME AND YOUR WALLET

In soft markets, price reductions become more common, as well as fewer offers and longer listing periods. You have to first establish your priority: is it more important for you to sell quickly or to get the most money possible? Like it or not, one option simply must be more critical than the other.

Have a third party, like your agent, help you see your home as a commodity, with positive and negative selling points. Price your home objectively and competitively, be prepared to negotiate to reach an agreement with buyers, and exercise patience as you prepare your move.

After you've taken step one to decide to sell your home, step two is usually setting your asking price, striving for a balance between generating offers and receiving top dollar.

Your chosen representative will perform a Competitive Market Analysis (CMA) to produce an estimate of your home's "fair market value," or that price that educated buyers will pay based on listings and sales of homes similar to yours. The agent will not establish the price, but only provide the information you need to make that decision yourself.

In a hot market, you have the advantage, but would still want to avoid overpricing, which is always unproductive. However, in a neutral or buyers market, you'll have to be particularly cautious in your approach to setting a price.

You have to first establish your priority: is it more important for you to sell quickly or to get the most money possible? Like it or not, one option simply must be more critical than the other.

Have a third party, like your agent, help you see your home as a commodity, with positive and negative selling points. Price your home objectively and competitively, be prepared to negotiate to reach an agreement with buyers, and exercise patience as you prepare your move.

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