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Where Your Community News Comes First

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre — Arcadia — Pasadena — Altadena — Monrovia

SATURDAY JANUARY 30, 2010

VOLUME 4 NO. 4

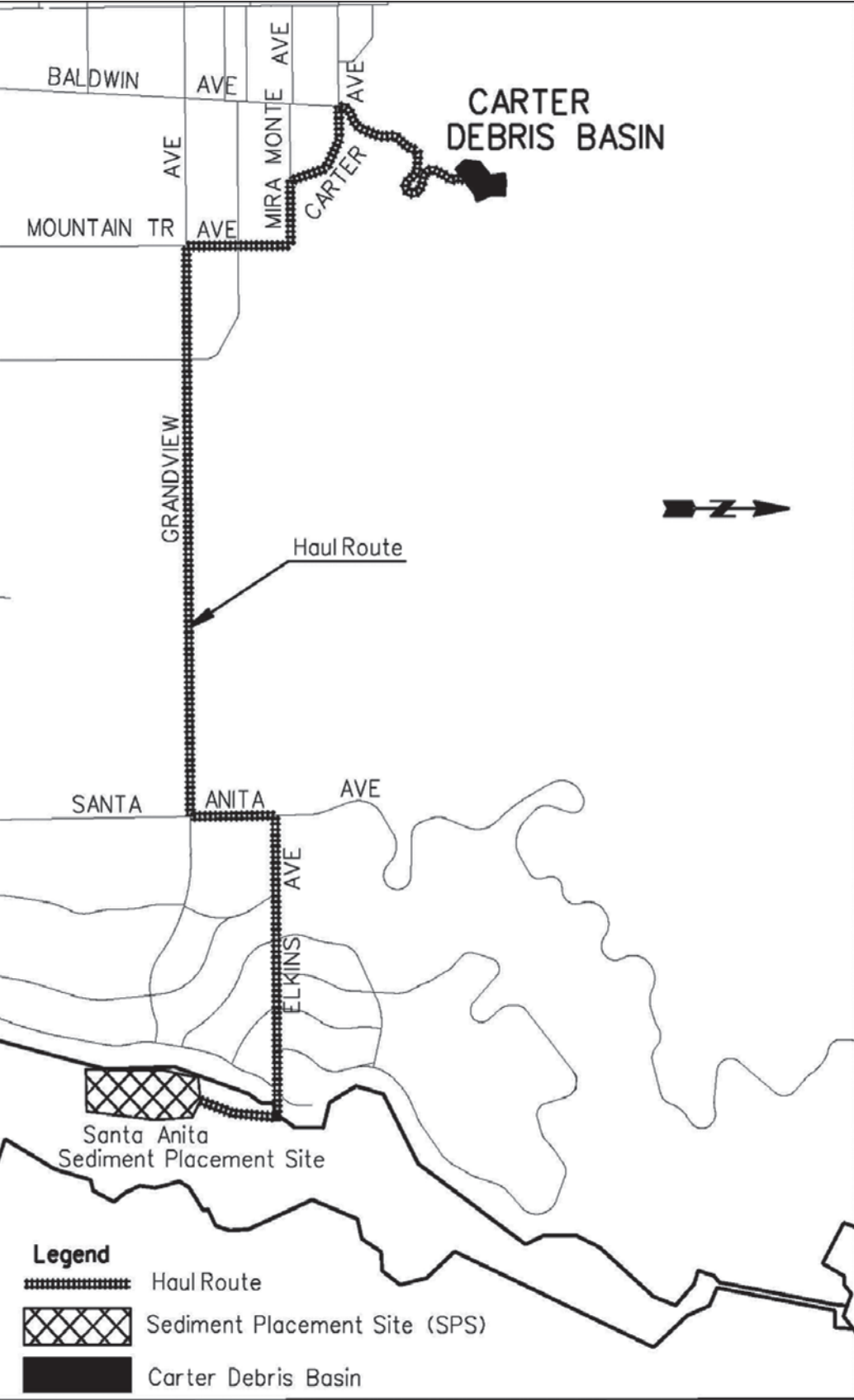
SIERRA MADRE MUD REMOVAL: AFTER THE STORM

After surviving the Santa Anita Fire in 2008, the City of Sierra Madre has been fortunate thus far to have withstood subsequent rain storms without personal injury or major property damage. However, with the thousands of cubic yards of mud and debris already coming down the hillsides, and thousands of cubic yards still expected in future storms, one of the main challenges for City staff is the “clean-up” after the storm.

The following is a review of the post-storm assistance provided by the City of Sierra Madre:

- o City streets will be cleared as quickly as possible when it is safe to do so. Public Works crews are not allowed to put themselves or the safety of others in jeopardy to clear a street during a storm.
- o Neither hand crews nor medium to heavy machinery or vehicles are effective during heavy rains. Shoveling or scooping muddy water is an inefficient use of the City’s resources.
- o The clearing of streets will be prioritized by considering access for public safety vehicles and number of affected trapped residents.
- o Mud and debris deposited on private property is the responsibility of the property owner. City staff cannot enter private property to remove mud and debris after the storm.
- o Private property owners are allowed to deposit mud and debris from their property onto the public street, within seven days following the storm, for collection by City crews. (For the most recent, January 18th to 22nd storm; by Friday, February 5, 2010.)
- o Please contact the Sierra Madre Public Works Department at (626) 355-7135 with as much advance information as possible including the location and timing of when the mud and debris will be placed on the street.
- o Under no circumstances can mud or debris be deposited in the streets in such a way as to create a hazard to vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- o Please be advised that street-sweepers are not designed to eliminate dust or compacted mud remaining after a major storm.

It may take time and patience to return the street to pre-storm condition. The City of Sierra Madre thanks its residents for their understanding and all their efforts to assist with the post-storm clean up.



Carter DB Cleanout-Haul Route Map

The County of Los Angeles will be cleaning out the Carter Debris Basin tentatively starting on Wednesday February 3, 2010 for about 7 days between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. The materials will be hauled to Santa Anita Sediment Placement Site in the City of Arcadia. The haul route is attached and the County will be distributing notice flyers to the residents along the haul route on Monday February 1, 2010.

Dr. C. Paul Neiby and Wife Louise Honored as 2009 Citizens of the Year by Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce

Photo and Story By Bill Coburn



Councilmen Joe Mosca and John Buchanan present Louise Neiby with Proclamations from the City of Sierra Madre

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce honored, for the first time, two people as its annual Citizen of the Year/Board Installation dinner on Friday. The late Dr. C. Paul Neiby and his wife Louise were chosen to receive the Chamber’s 2009 Citizen(s) of the Year award. On Dec. 22nd, Chamber president Matt Krantz presented the couple with a bouquet of flowers as the announcement was made by Susan Henderson, a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and President of the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club.

The dinner was held in the Chandelier Room at Santa Anita Park. About one hundred guests turned out to remember Paul, who passed away Jan. 7th, and to honor Louise, who described the evening as “bittersweet.”

The evening began with a cocktail hour featuring entertainment by the Mercy Powell (jazz) Quartet. After a brief welcome by 2007 Citizen of the Year Pete Siberell, in his 17th year at Santa Anita and Director

of Community Service & Special Projects for the L. A. Turf Club, Chamber President Krantz handed the evening’s emceeing duties over to Susan Henderson. It was the Kiwanis Club which nominated the Neibys for Citizen of the Year. Henderson introduced Vince Johnson, who had been requested by the Neibys to perform at the event. Johnson performed several tunes on piano while guests had the opportunity to peruse half a dozen items available at the silent auction table. This was the first time the Chamber has employed a silent auction at the Citizen of the Year dinner, and based on the success of this first one, it likely will become a new annual activity.

Reverend Dick Anderson gave the invocation, and the guests sat down to a delicious three-course dinner: Mediterranean Salad, Smoked Mozzarella Capicola Chicken with basil mashed potatoes and chef’s vegetable trio caper beurre blanc; and Northwestern Seasonal Fruit Tart, featuring

Bosc pears, plums, tart cherries and raspberries over brandy pastry cream in a fig shortbread crust with balsamic syrup. Following dinner, Henderson introduced a long list of honored guests, including nearly a dozen former Citizens of the Year. Chamber President Matt Krantz then presented Certificates of Appreciation to outgoing Board members Elizabeth Booth, Halcyon Koerber, Linda Thunes and Enid Joffe. He also introduced the new Board of Directors for 2010, which consists of Elaine Aguilar, Allyn Colbert, Henderson, Laura Hirsh, Sue Lamb, Janette Ledea, Krantz, Robin Salzer and Neil Vance.

A video prepared for the event by friends of the Neibys discussed their contributions at length. The video began with a congratulatory message from fellow Kiwanian and 1998 Citizen of the Year, Judy Webb-Martin. The bulk of the video consisted of members of a group that called themselves “The Bean Town Coffee Club.” The “club” met (continued on page 3)

Gold Line Train, Car Collide

An unidentified man was taken to the hospital in Pasadena with moderate injuries Friday after his car stuck a Gold Line train leaving him trapped until firefighters could get him out.

Pasadena Police say the accident was reported shortly after 4 p.m. near Raymond Ave. and Glenarm Street.

Pasadena Fire Department Public Information Officer Lisa Derderian said when the PFD arrived firefighters found a silver compact Mitsubishi on its side with a 40-year-old man trapped inside. Rescuers had to cut power to the train for his and their safety. It took about 20 minutes to get free him



The intersection where the accident occurred.

from the vehicle.

Witnesses told police the car went under the arms that were coming down to prevent vehicles from crossing the tracks. Some said the arms actually struck the car which stopped on the tracks. Reports said the train was traveling about 35 mph and suffered little damage.

Two people out of about 100 passengers on the northbound train complained of pain although neither were taken to a hospital. Buses were used to transport passengers around the crash site.

Photos By D. Lee/MVNews Staff



Just hours after the incident, another motorist races to cross the tracks as the barriers come down.

Planning Commission To Discuss 1 Carter Design Specifications

The Sierra Madre Planning Commission will hold public discussions on the proposed Design Specifications for the 1 Carter project. The discussions will take place at the Commission’s regularly scheduled meeting, Thursday, February 4, 2010 in the City Council Chambers. The meeting was originally to take place this week, however, due to the extreme weather conditions, it was cancelled.

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Deli

& more!

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626-510-6151 M-F: 7-6, S: 8:30-1:30, Closed Sunday

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon: Sunny Hi 60s Lows 50s
Tues: Partly Cldy H 60s Lows 50s
Wed: Rain Hi 60s Lows 50s
Thur: Rain Hi 60s Lows 50s
Fri: Rain Hi 60s Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



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!"

Friends February Best Used Book Sale February 5 & 6

"Are we not like two volumes of one book?" Our Valentine's themed quote from French Poet Marceline Desbordes-Valmore reminds us that it's time once again to play Cupid. Valentine's Day is just around the corner and our Best Used Book Sale offers the perfect place to select that special book for your Valentine...at the right price!

Mark your calendars for Friday, February 5th from 3:00 to 7:00 pm and Saturday, February 6th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm: The sale will be located at the Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre in the lower parking lot and the adjacent basement.

If your Valentine is a man, we have included a manly collection of coffee table books on History, Civil War,

American Indians, and War. For the women Valentines, we offer more sensible and civilized selections including Cookbooks, Beauty and Fashion, Love Stories, and Feng Shui.

Other books of interest for sale are - Time Life Books - The Seafarers, Time Life Books - Human Behavior, History of Films and Film Making. Inside will be a new selection of DVD's, Videos and Books on Tape. New collection of Collectibles. Outside tables will be filled with a new selection of children's books, paperbacks (25 cents each or 5 for \$1.00.) Hard back fiction and non fiction will be available at \$1.00 each.

The Friends operate the Best Used Book Store. Reasonable prices and all proceeds support the library programs. Have a wonderful Valentine's Day. Call (626) 355-7186 for information. Come and shop early for the best finds.

Travelers and Collectors 2010 Season Premier

On Friday, February 12, Kathy and Gary Symons will open Sierra Madre Public Library's 2010 Travelers and Collectors season with their "armchair travelogue," "Ethiopia: Tribes, Religion, and Wildlife." The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers. Accompanied by six other travelers, the Symons visited Ethiopia in January of 2009, where they joined thousands of local pilgrims on January 7 in the Holy City of Lalibela, also known as "The New Jerusalem," for Christmas services. Their subsequent itinerary included stops at many monasteries where they viewed exquisite decorative murals, and excursions through the countryside where they captured exotic wildlife on film. In southern Ethiopia they met tribal peoples with elaborate face and body scarifications, lip plugs, and red clay-dyed hair. The Symons have traveled to more than 70 countries worldwide in their quest to learn about unique cultures.

Travelers and Collectors is held the second Friday of the month, February through May, at 7:30 p.m., in the Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. All programs are free and open to the public. A schedule is available for takeaway at the Library Service Desk, and can also be found on the Library website, www.sierramadrelib.ca.us. Travelers and Collectors is sponsored by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library. For more information please call Catriona Shafer at (626) 355-7186.

"Zorro" Book Discussion at Sierra Madre Library Celebrating Sierra Madre's 2010 "One Book One City"

"Zorro," by Isabel Allende, will be the topic of Sierra Madre Public Library's Third Thursday Book Club meeting on Thursday, February 18 at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to join in this informal discussion of the adventure novel selected as Sierra Madre's "One Book One City" for 2010. This event is free and will take place in the Library's Reference Room.

First published in 2005, "Zorro" tells the story of the youthful Diego de la Vega and the political and personal conflicts, world travels, and affairs of the heart that lead him to become the swashbuckling champion of the oppressed in 19th century California.

Isabel Allende, the most widely read Latin American author in the world, has written novels that have been translated into 27 languages, including the acclaimed "Portrait in Sepia", "Ines of My Soul", "Daughter of Fortune," "House of the Spirits," and the 2009 "La Isla Bajo el Mar," to be released in English later this year. Her work has won countless international literary awards and she has been honored by numerous universities and arts, literature, and feminist organizations around the world. Allende was born in Chile, traveled extensively with her family as a child, and then established a career as a journalist in her home country before fleeing the military coup in 1973. She now lives in northern California.

One Book One City hopes to inspire members of our community to share in reading the same good book at the same time and to participate in events honoring the work. A docent-guided tour of the San Gabriel Mission, a prominent location in "Zorro," is currently scheduled for Saturday, February 27, at 1:00 p.m. Limited free transportation will be available (first call, first reserved); reservations will need to be made by February 22. Contact the Library at 626-255-7186. Cost for the tour is \$5 per person.

The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre. For more information on this, and all other Library activities and services, please call (626) 355-7186, or visit our website at www.sierramadrelib.ca.us.

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.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Happy New Year!				Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 PM City Hall Senior Community Commission, 8:00 PM City Hall		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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
		Library Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 PM City Hall				
31						
Sierra Madre						

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.)

• **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, 3½ 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

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/>



Friendships & Memories".

Design Guidelines:

1. Designs must be received no later than Saturday, February 6th, by 6PM at P.O. Box 603, Sierra Madre, CA 91025.
2. Design submissions need to take into consideration the Tournament of Roses 2011 theme. ("Building Dreams, Friendships & Memories").
3. Designers should consider the appropriate use of float riders, Sierra Madre Rose Princesses/Escorts (2-4) and animation. Float designs should represent a float no longer than 55 feet and 18 feet wide.
4. The design contest is open to all ages (need not be a Sierra Madre resident nor a Sierra Madre Rose Float Association member). Designs developed by Groups, Art Classes or other organizations are gladly accepted. Designers are encouraged also to submit more than one design.
5. Please provide a title to the float design. Submission may include a written description (no more than 100 words) of the concept and possible animations.
6. While only a very simple sketch is required to illustrate the concept, more detail can help in the selection process.

Design Rules:

1. Designs must be submitted on an 8 ½ X 11 "Theme Draft Form" in black & white pencil. No color drawings or oversized drawings will be accepted.
2. Designs submitted to the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association will become the property of the Association and may be modified by the Association to achieve construction and floral requirements.
3. Designers will be required to sign a Design Release form certifying the originality of their design and assigning those design rights to the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association.
4. The designer(s) may be asked for consultation.
5. The designer understands that he/she will receive no compensation, monetary or otherwise, for the use of the design and that the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association, City of Sierra Madre and/or the Pasadena Tournament of Roses have no obligation of any kind towards designer(s).
6. Submitted designs are not returnable.
7. Mail all designs to:

Sierra Madre Rose Float Association
P.O. Box 603
Sierra Madre, California 91025

For further information, please call the Sierra Madre Rose Float Barn at 626-355-7005, leaving a message on the answering machine. We will return your call as soon as possible.

Submission forms available at www.sierramadrerosefloat.com

www.mtnviewsnews.com

Older "Sierra Madre" American of the Year

The Senior Community Commission is now accepting nominations for the Older "Sierra Madre" American of the Year. If you know someone living in Sierra Madre who has demonstrated outstanding community service and is 60 years of age or older, please contact the Senior Services Desk at (626) 355-7394 for a nomination form.

Nominations are due to the Community & Personnel Services Department, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., by Monday, March 1, 2010. The Senior Community Commission will discuss nominees at its Study Session on March 4, 2010 and announce the honoree at their regular scheduled meeting also on March 4 at 3 pm in the City Council Chambers. The honoree will also be recognized at a reception held in their honor at the Sierra Madre Hart Park House in May.

Affordable Housing Forum

The housing meltdown didn't affect just homeowners. It also hit rental, multi-family affordable housing. What's a person to do? Perspectives will be provided at a free public forum Feb. 4, sponsored by the League of Women Voters Pasadena Area. William Huang, Pasadena Housing Department director, will provide the status of the subsidized affordable housing and inclusionary projects -- including those that were in the pipeline -- and discuss Pasadena's short and long-term plans to meet its housing needs.

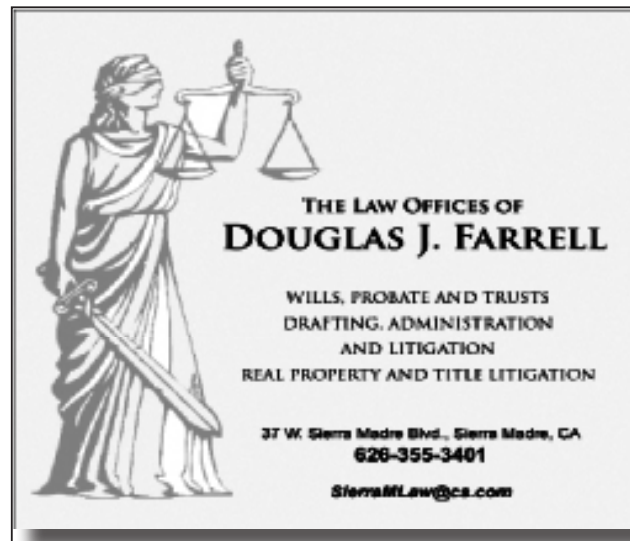
Remy De La Peza of Pasadena Affordable Housing Group Coordinating Council will discuss the effects of recent litigation on local efforts to provide affordable housing. Completing a regional picture will be a needs assessment by Joseph Carreras of the Southern California Association of Governments.

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BE A FLOAT DESIGNER WINNER . . .CONTRIBUTE A DESIGN FOR THE 2011 SIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT

Sierra Madre Rose Float Association 2011 Float Design Contest:

This year's design contest will be held from Monday, January 4th, 2010 till Saturday, February 6th, 2010. This year's theme will be: "Building Dreams,

REMEMBRANCE

Jacki Rubin

Sierra Madre resident Jacki Rubin departed this life suddenly on January 25, 2010 at the age of 73. Born in London, England on June 29, 1936, she came to the United States as a post World War II bride. She married Howard Rubin, her husband of 54 years on August 21, 1955. The Rubins moved to Southern California in 1957, and Sierra Madre in 1999.

Jacki worked for the City of Los Angeles for many years and was a member of the Friday Breakfast Club at Fresco's Restaurant in Pasadena.

A wonderfully cheerful woman, she leaves to mourn her death, husband Howard; daughter Beverly Goldrup (Chris) and dear friend Felicia Romero of Rancho Cucamonga.

A graveside service will be held on Monday, February 1, 2010 at the Sierra Madre Pioneer Cemetery at 11:00 am.



“Defining Moments”



In life we have moments that define who we are. Some are expected and some come unexpectedly. In both we can hear God speaking to us. Join us Sunday as Pastor Rev. Jeffrey O'Grady explores “Defining Moments” drawn from Jeremiah 1:4-10.

9:15 am Traditional Worship

Sunday school (K-5) and childcare provided

10:30 am Adult Spiritual Formation with Rev. Baird

11:15 am “The Gathering” worship service

Casual worship, multi-voice ensemble, childcare provided

San Marino Community Church

1750 Virginia Road, San Marino, CA 91108

For more information call: (626) 282-4181

Connect with us online: www.smccpbj.com

Duarte

Duarte Relay for Life Pancake Breakfast Celebrates Cancer Survivors

Duarte City Councilwoman, Lois Gaston watches as Joe Magno of Joe's Place in Duarte flips a pancake at an American Cancer Society Relay for Life pancake breakfast hosted by the restaurant. Lisa Magno, (center) co-owner of Joe's Place is chair of the Duarte Relay for Life event set for Saturday, May 15 at City of Hope. The breakfast also celebrated cancer survivors.

Funds raised by Relay For Life have played a role in nearly every major cancer research breakthrough in the last 25 years, leading to groundbreaking discoveries into cancer's causes and cures. Relay has also contributed substantially to the American Cancer Society's funding of crucial prevention and early detection services; numerous, life-enhancing patient support programs; and advocacy initiatives that encourage lawmakers to do their part to defeat cancer, while rallying communities to join the fight. For pre-registration, to become a committee member, join or start a team to raise money, or donate to the cause, contact Lisa Magno at (626) 437-7993 or visit www.relayforlife.org/duarteca.



Among those in attendance, from left: Mary Barrow Somerlott, Joaquin Gonzales, Vee Clark of SCE Federal Credit Union, and Jenny Pappano.

CITIZENS (continued from page 1)

regularly to discuss local happenings, and in the video they were, fittingly, having coffee and reminiscing about their old friend. Newcomer to the club Jesse Campo said “I think Sierra Madre is gonna miss him a lot. He was a real good man.” Gordon Caldwell noted that “He always had a great big smile, you couldn't miss that smile.” Paul Duncan spoke of meeting Dr. Neiby after an accident which had fractured five of his ribs, and drew laughs when remembering the time he went to visit Paul in the hospital and, hearing that he couldn't visit unless he was a relative, informed the staff that Paul, who was about the same age if not younger, was his grandfather. Gary Hood discussed the Neibys contributions to the town's CERT program and their latest cause, the Sierra Madre AM radio station for emergencies. George Maurer recalled that Neiby “...fought a gallant battle to keep Orange Grove the way it is today. He was very passionate with every project he undertook, he followed it to completion.” Maurer also recalled one of his last conversations with the doctor, in which he was told “It's important that you not rest on your laurels...” Joe Pergola, echoing Maurer's comments stated that “One of the things I've learned from Paul is - you start a job, you finish a job,” adding that the honor being given to Louise and Paul is “most deserved.” Bud Switzer reminisced about Neiby's contributions to Pioneer Days and the Veterans Photo Wall, and an obviously emotional Jay Whitcraft talked about working with Dr. Neiby on the Library Board of Trustees, the Oral History Project, and the town archives. He added that “I loved him a lot, it's very hard to talk about, he was a very good guy...He was always there for me...and Joy (Phillips, Whitcraft's partner for many years) all during the time I was taking care of her... very supportive and a very determined man.”

Following the video, guest speakers Pat Birdsall (who met the Neibys through Kiwanis), and author Michelle Zack spoke. Birdsall drew some laughs when she recounted a story in which a staff member at a hospital asked how it worked having a doctor and a nurse in the same household, to which retired Nurse Practitioner Louise responded that it worked much the same as in the hospital, with the doctor giving the orders, and the nurse carrying them out. Zack, whose book “Southern California



Story: Seeking the Better Life in Sierra Madre” was recently published by the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society and was a pet project of the Neibys, lauded the Neibys for their focus and drive in making the book a reality.

Then the couple received proclamations/certificates from the Chamber, the City of Sierra Madre, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors (Michael Antonovich), a joint proclamation by Assemblyman Anthony Adams and State Senator Bob Huff (who was on hand to make the presentation personally), and Congressman David Dreier. The City presentations were made by Council members John Buchanan and Joe Mosca. Congressman Dreier's representative Mark Harmsen was there early in the evening, but had several other events to attend and so Krantz presented Mrs. Neiby with Congressman Dreier's proclamation, as well as Supervisor Antonovich's and the Chamber's.

A very moved Louise Neiby then spoke very briefly thanking everyone for coming and for the honor, and the evening drew to a close. More extensive coverage, including nearly three dozen photos and the Coffee Club video can be viewed by visiting SMCitizenoftheYear.info.

PUSD BOARD VOTES TO PLACE PARCEL TAX ON MAY 4 BALLOT

Measure Would Protect Schools, Libraries, Arts & Music In Pasadena, Sierra Madre and Altadena

Pasadena, CA – Facing the most severe reduction in funding from the State of California in its history, the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education voted unanimously to place a local parcel tax on the May 4, 2010 election ballot. Because of an 18 percent overall cut in funding to public schools in California, PUSD faces up to \$23 million in cuts to its schools and programs.

“When Sacramento fails to fund our schools by more than \$20 million, we must take steps to ensure that every student continues to have access to a great education,” said Board President Tom Selinske. “The successes and milestones we've seen in our schools deserve stable, local funding so that we can attract and retain qualified teachers, protect college preparatory programs, keep libraries open and continue offering arts and music.”

The Quality Public Education Preservation Act of 2010 would levy a \$120 tax per residential and commercial parcel each year for five years, with exemptions for low-income seniors, and raise an estimated \$7.1 million annually beginning in the 2010-2011 year. All funds would benefit PUSD schools and students. The parcel tax requires approval by two-thirds of Altadena, Pasadena and Sierra Madre voters.

Monies raised would be used to preserve educational opportunities that prepare local students to succeed in college and careers; continue funding academic programs in advanced math, science, technology, music and art; keep school libraries open, and lessen the impact of state budget cuts.

The measure includes two accountability provisions: an independent community oversight committee; and an annual independent audit that reports the monies collected and expended each year.

The parcel tax was one of the recommendations of PUSD's 2008-2009 Budget Advisory Committee, which helped set the District's funding priorities as the budget situation in Sacramento became increasingly uncertain.

“More of our schools have scored above 800 points on the Academic Performance Index than ever before, and our focus must remain on preserving those gains,” said Superintendent Edwin Diaz. “A parcel tax would lessen the impact of severe budget cuts from Sacramento.”

Voters in the neighboring school districts of La Cañada, San Marino and South Pasadena have recently approved parcel taxes to protect local educational programs.

Sierra Madre

Wine and Cuisine Tasting

The Sierra Madre Library's 40th Annual Wine and Cuisine Tasting Gala will take place 7:00 - 9:30, Friday evening, February 19th. The festive atmosphere will be held at Alverno's extraordinary Villa in Sierra Madre, and will feature wines from dozens of vintners and delectable cuisine from more than 20 local restaurants. And don't forget our silent auction offering gourmet dinners, play tickets, wine tours, amusement park tickets, art work and much more.

A 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. They will also be available on line at 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.

Open Studio Tour

Through an Open Studio Tour on June 6, 2010, the Friends of the Sierra Madre Arts in partnership with the Community Arts Commission will spotlight local artists to provide citizens an opportunity to enjoy the remarkable creativity found within our village. To be considered for this juried event, complete the application attached. Return applications to Open Studio Tour – Sierra Madre, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024, **no later than Monday, March 1, 2010**. Please see the attached application. The City will be selling tickets for the tour in advance for \$15 and \$20 at the door. Proceeds from ticket sales will go towards Sierra Madre public arts programs

Arcadia

Arcadia Fire Chief, Tony Trabbie and Battalion Chief, Barry Spriggs will present “The History of the Arcadia Fire Department” at the next Brown Bag Lunch Talk on February 18 at noon.

The Museum will continue presenting our popular Brown Bag Lunch Talks which take place the third Thursday of every month on the Museum's outdoor patio. Please dress appropriately according to weather conditions. Bring your lunch and listen to our guest speakers who will present snippets about Arcadia history, people, places and events. This short program runs from noon until 12:30 p.m. For more information on each talk, please call the Museum in advance at (626) 574-5440 or consult our website at <http://museum.ci.arcadia.ca.us>.

The Arcadia Historical Museum is located at 380 W. Huntington Drive, immediately behind the Community Center. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is always free.

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News From Your Community For Your Community

Police Find Two Missing Men Safe

The Pasadena Police Department has reported that two men whom they were seeking earlier this month have been found and safely returned to their residences. George Clay went missing on December 30th from a residential board and care facility in the 1700 block of North Fair Oaks Avenue. He was found on January 11 wandering the streets of Glendale where he was picked up and medically evaluated. He has been returned to his board and care facility.

Kenneth Donaldson ran away from his caretaker on January 4th, but returned home on January 11th. Police responded to insure of his well and he appeared to be fine. "We are relieved that in both cases, these gentlemen were returned to their residences with no physical harm," says Interim Chief of Police Christopher Vicino.

"This is the outcome we always hope for, but is a significant reminder to all of us that we need to watch for and keep an eye out for others. We want to take this opportunity to remind our citizens that the Pasadena Police Department is sensitive to the needs of the mentally ill and homeless in our City. Our HOPE (Homeless Outreach Psychiatric and Evaluation) Team is a crucial component to our ability to effectively respond to calls involving the homeless and mentally ill in Pasadena and a contributing factor in successfully solving problems related to mental illness and homelessness."

The Pasadena Police Department urges residents to call the police when encountering homeless individuals that are acting strangely or are in any kind of apparent distress. "Our effort is to get them connected to the services they need," says the Chief.

For more information about the Pasadena Police Department's HOPE team, please contact Lt. Alex Uribe at 626.744.7008.

Playhouse To Close

In a statement released Friday Playhouse administrators said the historic landmark was on the verge of bankruptcy although executive director Stephen Eich made clear on KPCC that the theater was not, "in bankruptcy." He said they were exploring reorganization including laying off 37 staff members and closing completely Feb. 7.

Pet of the Week



What a great dog! Blitz, a gorgeous, year old Siberian Husky knows the "sit" command and is very friendly with people and other dogs. She will need plenty of exercise and attention. Come visit with this beautiful dog today!

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

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A264412 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

Marathon Will Not Include Wheelchair Class

Wheelchair Racers Angered With Marathon Decision

By Dean Lee

With less than a month to the Pasadena Marathon, world class champion wheelchair racer Martian Vogel said Wednesday that the exclusion of a wheelchair class does not surprise him. And, although it may not be this year, he has vowed to fight until they let him race. "You could push to have a class for baby strollers, a class for bicycles; they have a woman's class, men's class, they have age groups all the way up to 100 but no wheelchair class? Vogel said. "What if they said woman can't compete, would that be ok? This is my home town and I can't even race here?"

Vogel is a seven time world champion racer winning multiple international wheelchair marathons as well as representing the U.S. during two different Olympics. He is currently ranked 5th in the world in all wheelchair sports.

Money and time, he said, was the reason given by race officials for the omission of the class. "I offered my services to them, I told them I would do it, free," he said. "Organize it, put it together for them, invite the athletes, sponsors, and handle it." Vogel stated that he could easily have a pack of 100 racers from all over the world sign up.

Pasadena Forward Executive Director, Israel Estrada, said the issue goes beyond just money.

"It really sounds simple to say, let's just get out there and race," he said. "But when you look at the hundreds of details that need to take place, it's not that



simple." Pasadena Forward is the nonprofit organization that oversees the Marathon.

Estrada made clear that they want wheelchair racing. After the details are worked out he said there was no reason the class will not be added next year. "We have been approached by a group that is willing to help us understand and educate us about wheelchair racing," adding that he did not know if the group included Vogel.

According to a number of online sources, classification systems for wheelchair racing can be complex to insure that the competition is fair and that all of the competitors have an equal opportunity based, not only on their talent, but the disability. Categories include spinal cord injuries, amputees, and cerebral palsy. There is also an official class for athletes that can stand.

Estrada said because the

Pasadena Marathon is only in its second year, the route is still being modified. "The city asked us to change part of the route again this year," he said. "Every time we do that, it has to be recertified by USA Track and Field. Right now we don't know how wheelchair racing fits into this."

Parking was another issue. For bicyclists the city has to provide an area to unload their equipment which Vogel said would be similar to wheelchairs.

Safety was another concern again using bicycles as an example.

"If a cyclist crashes we have to have two vehicles to transport them, one for the riders and one for the bicycle. This would be the same for wheelchairs and we need to make sure we can cover that."

Vogel said the Boston Marathon, which was the first, has included wheelchairs since 1972. Most of the major races have them including the L.A. Marathon which runs in March.

The Pasadena Marathon, Feb 21, starts with a 26.2 mile bike tour at 6:15 a.m., then the 26.2 marathon along with a 13.1 half marathon at 7 a.m. and then 5K, Fun Run/Walk at 7:30 a.m. Wheelchairs would most likely be added between the cyclists and runners Estrada said.

Approximately 14,000 people have registered to race this year, he said, and they expect about 10,000 spectators, which is about the same as last year. There will also be about 2,000 volunteers working at the event.

\$25 million headquarters on Raymond Avenue.

Bogaard also made note of the re-opening of Robinson Park, the first phase of the \$22 million renovation project.

Then the bad news, he said the city's sales tax last year fell as much as 15 percent prompting City Manger Michael Beck to implement more than \$19 million in cuts.

"The council is preparing to make \$5 million of additional reductions for the fiscal year ending June 30," he said in addition to cutting working hours for about 250 city employees to further bridge the city's \$11 million budget shortfall.

The entire speech was taped will be rebroadcast on KPAS channel 3 and on the city's website.

The innermost portion of the loop is a dedicated walkway currently outlined with a painted buffer zone separating foot traffic from the adjacent bicycle and vehicular traffic.

The final draft report describing the improvements is available at reference desks at all Pasadena public libraries and at www.cityofpasadena.net/rosebowlloop. For more information call 744-4610.

- Visit www.cityofpasadena.net/disaster for more emergency preparation information.

- Allow extra time and caution for travel on wet roads.

- For the latest weather updates, visit <http://bit.ly/8c8eFP>, or watch or listen to Los Angeles-area television and radio news.

The Pasadena Fire Department, Public Works Department, Police Department, and Pasadena Water and Power are standing by with personnel and equipment to respond to any flooding or mudslides that may occur in Pasadena.

Residents who have non-emergency issues related to the storm may call the Pasadena Police Department at (626) 744-4241; or, during regular business hours, the Pasadena Fire Department at (626) 744-4675. In case of emergency call 9-1-1.

Filming Closes Colorado Street Bridge Access



Filming Closes Colorado Street Bridge Access

By Dean Lee

The Colorado Street Bridge was again set to close both Saturday and Sunday for the filming of a commercial by Duo Films, and with another shoot scheduled Feb. 24, this would shut the bridge down four times, within a 60 day period, an unusually high number for the location according to the city's film calendar.

This has prompt concerns about access for cyclists and people walking in the wake of the city's recent decision to cut local ARTS bus 70 services across the bridge. The route, which ran east on Colorado Blvd to Avenue 64, ended Dec. 14.

Rain earlier this month pushed off the first filming on the bridge of the year for a new Jack in the Box commercial by Radical Media. The bridge was closed, unscheduled all day Jan. 14, the city's film office confirmed but refused any further comment. The bridge had been scheduled to be used by Radical Media the day before from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Other inquiries about filming were also directed to the city's website filmpasadena.com in which all the links on a prominent filming calendar are broken giving an error message, "we're sorry, the page you're looking for can't be located." The site is also littered with other broken links, ironically, including ones on the complaints page. No answer was given as to why?

Airborne Radar to Study Quake Faults In Haiti

In response to the disaster in Haiti on Jan. 12, NASA has added a series of science overflights of earthquake faults in Haiti and the Dominican Republic on the island of Hispaniola to a previously scheduled three-week airborne radar campaign to Central America.

NASA's Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle Synthetic Aperture Radar, or UAVSAR, left NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center in Edwards, California Monday aboard a modified NASA Gulfstream III aircraft.

During its trek to Central America, which will run through mid-February, the repeat-pass L-band wavelength radar, developed by JPL, will study the structure of tropical forests; monitor volcanic deformation and volcano processes; and examine Mayan archeology sites. After the Haitian earthquake, NASA managers added additional science objectives that will allow UAVSAR's unique observational capabilities to study geologic processes in Hispaniola following the earthquake. UAVSAR's ability to provide rapid access to regions of interest, short repeat flight intervals, high resolution and its variable viewing geometry make it a powerful tool for studying ongoing Earth processes.

"UAVSAR will allow us to image deformations of Earth's surface and other changes associated with post-Haiti earthquake geologic processes, such as aftershocks, earthquakes that might be triggered by the main earthquake farther down the fault line, and the potential for landslides," said JPL's Paul Lundgren, the principal investigator for the Hispaniola overflights. "Because of Hispaniola's complex tectonic setting, there is an interest in determining if the earthquake

City staff in the film office did said they have been instructed, in general, not to speak with reporters.

The website also gives no information about street closers or specific filming times. Rescheduling is also not mentioned on the site.

The website does say that, "The city requires that film companies provide a written notice on their company stationery to all property owners/tenants within 300 feet of the filming location on each side of the street."

It makes no mention of notice for filming in parks, or other public areas such as city owned public parking lots or open space areas. It also says nothing about filming at historic landmarks or alternative routes for pedestrians during any closures.

A request for an update to a 2001 payroll audit by the Motion Picture Association of America, posted on the site, boasting "\$333 million dollars in production payroll is paid to Pasadenians employed in film production each year," also went unanswered.

The site states that Pasadena allows filming, as a benefit to the local economy, funding community services such as police and fire. It also says that filming in non-residentially zoned areas is limited to 15 days per quarter, 60 days.

A number of legendary movies and TV shows have been filmed on the bridge including, the show Alias and the movie Yes Man in which funny man Jim Carrey bungee jump off the landmark.

For more information contact the film office at (626) 744-3964.



in Haiti might trigger other earthquakes at some unknown point in the future, either along adjacent sections of the Enriquillo-Plantain Garden fault that was responsible for the main earthquake, or on other faults in northern Hispaniola, such as the Septentrional fault."

Lundgren says these upcoming flights, and others NASA will conduct in the coming weeks, months and years, will help scientists better assess the geophysical processes associated with earthquakes along large faults and better understand the risks.

UAVSAR uses a technique called interferometric synthetic aperture radar, or InSAR, that sends pulses of microwave energy from the aircraft to the ground to detect and measure very subtle deformations in Earth's surface, such as those caused by earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides and glacier movements.

Flight plans call for multiple observations of the Hispaniola faults this week and in early to mid-February. After processing, NASA will make the UAVSAR imagery available to the public through the JPL UAVSAR website and the Alaska Satellite Facility Distributed Active Archive Center.

For more on UAVSAR, visit: <http://uavsar.jpl.nasa.gov>. For more on how UAVSAR is being used to study earthquake faults and landslide processes, visit: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/features.cfm?feature=2190>.

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, January 17th, 2010 to Saturday, January 23rd, 2010 the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 359 calls for service.

Monday, January 18th

5:17 PM – Possible Explosive Device, 100 block Santa Anita Ct. A resident called the Police Department regarding a suspicious package resembling an explosive device that she found in her mail box on the parkway. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad responded, and with the use of a remote control robot, detonated the device. Further inspection of the device revealed it was not a real explosive device, though it appeared to look real. The Los Angeles County Bomb Squad took the device for further investigation.

6:52 PM – Residential Burglary, 500 Block Sierra Meadow. On Monday, January 18th between 6:45 A.M., and 6:15 P.M., unknown suspect(s) walked through an unlocked side gate and entered the home through an unlocked bedroom window. The suspect(s) stole an IMAC computer, an Olympus E-500 camera, 2 Skagen white titanium men's watches, \$400.00 in coins, and a Bank of America checkbook in the victim's name. Total loss is estimated at \$1,620.00.

7:00 PM – Theft from Vehicle, 500 block Sierra Meadow. Suspect(s) took a soccer bag from an

unlocked van parked in the driveway and a green Razor scooter from the carport. The officer investigating the residential burglary down the street (6:52 PM) on Sierra Meadow found the soccer bag from the living room floor and returned it to the owner. The value of the scooter is \$80.00.

Tuesday, January 19th

7:07 AM – Burglary/Vandalism – 100 Block W. Highland Ave. Unknown suspects broke a window to enter a classroom at the Sierra Madre Elementary School. Suspect(s) poured paint on the classroom floor, ransacked a desk and took \$90.00 and permission slips. Suspect(s) also threw a rock through a second classroom window. Total damage and loss are yet to be determined.

1:14 PM – Vehicle Burglary, 300 Block E. Grandview Ave. Between January 18th and 19th, suspect(s) stole a Garmin GPS from the victim's vehicle by smashing out the front passenger window. Total loss is estimated at \$100.00.

Saturday, January 23rd

2:44 PM – Vehicle Burglary, 400 Block Manzanita Ave. Between 3:00 AM and 3:30 AM on 01-23-2010, suspect(s) stole a Garmin GPS, I-Pod, and misc. paperwork from the victim's vehicle by smashing out the front passenger window. Total loss is estimated at \$800.00.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, January 17, through Saturday, January 23, the Police Department responded to 832 calls for service of which 132 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, January 17:

Loss prevention personnel from JC Penney advised that they had detained four male Hispanic juveniles for theft around 4:10 p.m. The juveniles selected merchandise, went into the fitting rooms, cut tags off with razor blades that they each had in their possession, and concealed the stolen goods on their persons. Private persons' arrests were made, and three 14-year-olds and one 12-year-old were taken into custody for commercial burglary and possession of dirk/dagger.

2. Shortly after 7:30 p.m., units responded to El Monte and Duarte in reference to a traffic collision. A 31-year-old male Hispanic driver lost control of his vehicle and struck a parked car. It was determined during a field sobriety test that he was operating the vehicle while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, and record checks indicated that he was an unlicensed driver with outstanding warrants totaling over \$45,500. The driver was arrested for DUI, unlicensed driver, and outstanding warrants.

Monday, January 18:

3. A victim came to the station around 2:00 p.m. to file a fraud report. He noticed a discrepancy in his checking account and contacted his bank. He was then informed that his new checks were mistakenly mailed to a location in Inglewood, and on January 13 unknown suspect(s) fraudulently cashed checks totaling \$9,600.

4. Officers were patrolling the Extended Stay parking lot, 401 East Santa Clara, around 4:10 p.m. and noticed a vehicle with a forged registration sticker. Investigation led officers to a motel room and a 64-year-old male Caucasian was contacted. The man admitted to making the sticker and bragged about the high quality of the forgery, and a record check also revealed that he had several outstanding warrants totaling \$40,396. He was arrested at the scene without incident.

Tuesday, January 19:

5. A traffic stop was initiated around 2:00 p.m. for a moving violation at Colorado and Second, and a 22-year-old female Caucasian driver was contacted. A record check revealed that she had a suspended license and a consensual search was conducted. Marijuana was found in her car and a baggie of methamphetamine was found hidden on her person. The woman was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana, and unlicensed driver.

6. Between 12:45 p.m. and 1:56 p.m., a residential burglary occurred in the 2400 block of Lenta. Unknown suspect(s) entered the home by prying open a sliding glass door. Once inside, the suspect(s) ransacked rooms and stole jewelry and cash.

Wednesday, January 20:

7. A residential burglary occurred between 12:15

p.m. and 2:29 p.m. in the 600 block of West Lemon. Unknown suspects pried open a door to gain entrance into the home. The suspects then took a safe containing jewelry, cash, and multiple rifles and handguns.

8. Around 3:30 p.m., a strong-arm robbery occurred at the 99 Ranch Market parking lot located at 1300 South Golden West. A female victim was walking to her car when she was grabbed from behind and thrown to the ground by a male suspect. Once she was on the ground, a second male suspect kicked her in the face and took her purse. The purse was later recovered in the 300 block of Fairview with cash and cell phone missing.

Thursday, January 21:

9. A private person's arrest was made at 7-Eleven, 1003 South Baldwin, and a 20-year-old male employee was taken into custody for sexual battery around 12:40 a.m. A female victim claimed that the suspect grabbed and touched her inappropriately.

10. Between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., an auto burglary occurred at 171 East Live Oak. Unknown suspect(s) smashed a car window and stole a purse.

Friday, January 22:

11. Shortly after midnight, a traffic stop was conducted for an equipment violation at Arcadia and Golden West. A 25-year-old male Caucasian driver was contacted and a record check revealed that he had a no bail warrant for a parole violation. When officers confronted the suspect, he sped away from the scene and a pursuit ensued. The suspect subsequently crashed into a tree at La Cadena and Arcadia and fled on foot. A perimeter was established and the suspect was later found hiding in a dumpster in the 400 block of Fairview and was arrested.

12. Units responded to 99 Ranch Market, 1300 South Golden West, regarding a strong-arm robbery that occurred around 6:19 p.m. The victim was walking in the parking lot when a male Hispanic passenger, in a burgundy four-door sedan, reached out the car window and pulled her purse from her arm.

Saturday, January 23:

13. Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle going eastbound on westbound Huntington around 2:00 a.m. Two 16-year-old Hispanic juveniles were contacted and investigation revealed that the driver did not have permission to drive the vehicle and did not have a license. The driver was taken into custody for vehicle theft, unlicensed driver, and curfew violation, and the passenger was charged with curfew violation. The juveniles were later cited and released to a parent and a guardian.

14. Around 6:30 p.m., JC Penney loss prevention personnel detained three male Hispanic juveniles for theft. The juveniles hid stolen merchandise on their persons and left the store without making payment. Private persons' arrests were made, and the juveniles, ages 14, 13, and 10, were taken into custody for commercial burglary. The 13-year-old also had wire cutters/pliers and a smoking-pipe in his possession.

A Weekly Spotlight on Sierra Madre Volunteers

Fran Garbaccio- Ubiquitous Gem and Constant Worker

Ubiquitous. Look it up in the dictionary. Fran Garbaccio is everywhere, doing a variety of volunteer jobs and for every reason. She's the epitome of "ubiquitous" with a passion for libraries.

"A city without a library is not a city... I'm committed to making sure that our library remains vital to the community," Fran said.

She's been recording secretary for the Friends of the Library, was part of the committee that reorganized books into categories for the book sales. She is in charge of the Friends' membership and hospitality, helps with the Art Fair, Wine and Cuisine Tasting, and was co-chair with Sandra Penrod of the committee that published the Friends' cookbook "What's Cooking, Friends?" She's been a trustee for the Friends and that's mainly just in association with our local library.

Fran helped found a reading group at Sierra Madre United Methodist called "Sarah Circle," an entity that has been in existence for 43 years. She worked with Relay for Life (Cancer Society) and was a Cub Scout/Girl Scout leader when her children were young.

Fran is recording secretary for the Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council. She was one of those local residents who researched, with Rob Stockly, the town's having a Community Foundation.

This extremely busy woman extends her enthusiasm to the Culinary Historians of Southern Californis, a group of enthusiasts who meet monthly at the LA Library, exploring and learning the history of foods. She was co-chair of hospitality, with Ricki d eKramer, for 10 years. With her interest in cooking and food, in general, it's not surprising that she has a collection of over 1,000 cookbooks.

This Sierra Madrean also helps shop and cook for the Bad Weather Shelter in Pasadena, a concerned group of people who assist in the care of the area homeless.



Fran was registrar at Pasadena High School for 15 years. During that time she also volunteered, helping to plan floral decorations for dances and graduation along with another local, Karen Matter.

This Sierra Madrean was born in Paterson, N.J., and graduated from Katherine Gibbs School in New York City. She was married to Donald Garbaccio in 1952 and moved to Palo Alto, Calif., the day after their wedding. After her husband received his Ph.D. from Stanford, they moved to Southern California and ultimately to Sierra Madre in 1960. Her husband passed away in 1978.

Fran has children living in Florida, Washington, D.C., Highland Park and Santa Clarita. She grins when she talks about her three grandsons and two granddaughters.

Her great passion is nurturing people and encouraging them to use the library. "Grammar and English have always fascinated me, and I feel it's especially important today when these subjects are often neglected. I do things because I want to do them, not because I want bouquets or recognition."

That's Fran Garbaccio. One of Sierra Madre's ubiquitous workers. (A singular gem in society.)

Monrovia Police Blotter

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 551 service events, resulting in 101 investigations. Following are the last week's highlighted issues and events:

Parole Search / Robbery Suspect Arrested

On January 14, Monrovia Police Department Special Enforcement Team officers, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department deputies and Parole went to a residence in the 2000 block of Ivory in the City of Duarte to conduct a parole search. A search of the residence discovered the suspect hidden in a back room closet. He was arrested and booked for conspiracy, robbery and the parole violation. This suspect was wanted for a robbery that occurred on December 10, 2009, at a gas station located at Huntington and Mountain. The Special Enforcement Team officers conducted an investigation and identified the suspect as a known gang member and parolee. Two other suspects in this case have already been arrested.

Vehicle Tampering / Attempt Theft / Suspect Arrested

On January 15 at 5:04 p.m., police received a call of a vehicle burglary in progress in the 1600 block of South Mayflower. Officers arrived and detained the suspect, who had attempted to flee by running into an apartment complex area. The reporting party positively identified the suspect and he was arrested for the above listed charges.

Grand Theft Warrant / Suspect Arrested

On January 16 at 12:47 p.m., a caller reported that his stepdaughter, who had a warrant for theft out for her arrest, was running on the west side of the wash from Duarte toward Huntington. The stepfather is the victim of the theft. Officers responded to the area. The female kept running, but was eventually detained. She was arrested for the warrant and brought to the station.

Lewd and Lascivious Act with a Child Between the Age of 14 to 15 / Suspect Arrested

On January 16 at 1:17 p.m., the parents of a 14 year old female brought their daughter into the police station. They reported that their daughter spent the night at a friend's house the night before and the friend's father got them drunk and did inappropriate things with their daughter. The victim called her parents to pick her up and told them the story. An officer contacted the suspect, who later reported to the station and was arrested.

Receiving Stolen Property


On January 17 at 10:17 p.m., officers responded to the report of a suspicious vehicle circling a parking lot in the 1600 block of South Mountain for approximately one hour. Officers arrived and found the vehicle unoccupied. They waited and several minutes later, the vehicle went mobile. The vehicle entered the 210 Freeway and then the 605 Freeway, southbound. An officer stopped the vehicle at Arrow Highway. The driver was found to be on parole for burglary and had a suspended license. During the inventory search of the vehicle, officers found numerous GPS systems, car stereos, iPods, cell phones, tools, medical and emergency bags, and other items the suspect could not explain. The suspect was arrested and his vehicle was impounded. The vehicle he was driving matches the description of the vehicles used in other crimes at the same business area. Investigation continuing.

Pursuit / Felony Evading / Assault with a Deadly Weapon / Suspect Arrested

On January 19 at 12:36 a.m., an officer observed a vehicle run a red light at Huntington and Mountain at a high rate of speed. When the officer attempted to initiate a traffic stop, the driver immediately began to evade by blacking out his vehicle and driving on the wrong side of Huntington Drive. The suspect drove south on Irwindale, where he entered the 210 Freeway. He then drove south on the 605 Freeway. During the pursuit, the suspect deliberately swerved into another vehicle, striking it twice. He exited the freeway in the City of El Monte. He drove into a dead-end street and was forced to stop. A high-risk stop was conducted, and the suspect was arrested without incident. He was identified as a 29-year-old gang member from Highland Park. He was booked for two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, felony evading, driving under the influence of drugs, and parole violation.

Critical Missing Person Located

On January 19 at 4:38 p.m., the parents of an 11-year-old girl called to report that their daughter did not return home after school. She had told others she was thinking about running away. Officers conducted an area search and followed all other critical missing person protocols. Night watch relieved day watch officers to continue the search. At approximately 7 p.m., the child returned home.




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Gooden School Celebrates *International Day*



The Gooden School held a special event on Friday January 15, 2010 called "International Day," which is an annual event that celebrates multi-culturalism. In addition to an all school potluck featuring ethnic dishes and a parade of countries by our students (k-8), live entertainment by a group called "Sing Brazil" was also featured. Swing Brazil performs dances from the Northeast of Brazil (folkloric), songs and Capoeira (martial arts in dance form).

The group has been a featured artist in the Summer Sounds program at the Hollywood Bowl. Last summer the group performed twenty shows for children from the greater Los Angeles communities.

- Featured in PBS Special "Song for the City of Angels"
- Performances include World Festival of Sacred Music /Hollywood Bowl w Los Angeles Phil/MOCA/ Fowler Musium/ UCLA

Photos Courtesy Gooden School



Pennies for Peace – A Win/Win for Everyone!



The students of Carden of the Foothills School in Monrovia were excited to learn that their three "penny drops" during November and December netted \$972.00 for "Pennies for Peace". Some parents reported placing a collection jar in their workplace. Other children had grandparents saving their daily pocket change. Contained in two five gallon water bottles, the change was taken by dolly to Focus One Community Credit Union, who had graciously agreed to help and convert it without the usual fee.

Upon resuming school on January 4th, the school was presented with a check, which was forwarded on to "Pennies for Peace". It takes a village to educate children, and now the children at Carden of the Foothills are part of the village that will build a school and educate children in Pakistan or Afghanistan.

Nestled in the scenic foothills of Monrovia, Carden of the Foothills School has provided a quality education to families for nearly 40 years.

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Phone: 626.358.9414 • Fax: 626.358.5164 • info@cardenofthefoothills.com

www.CARDENOFTHETOOTHILLS.com

JOB OPENING: Senior Recreation Leader

The City of Sierra Madre is now accepting applications for the Senior Recreation Leader position. The Senior Recreation Leader is a front line position that implements recreation programs and leisure services for middle and high school students at the Youth Activity Center.

For more information contact Rosemary Garcia at 626-355-5278 or via email at: r.garcia@cityofsierramadre.com.

You may also get additional information by going to the city's website at: www.cityofsierramadre.com.

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 Assisteens Book 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.

COMMUNITY FORUMS

Wednesday, February 3, 2010
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Lake Avenue Church
393 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena,

Saturday, February 6, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena
3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena, CA

Wednesday, February 10, 2010
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Loma Alta Park
3330 N. Lincoln Ave., Altadena, CA

Thursday, February 11, 2010
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Villa-Parke Community Center
363 E. Villa St., Pasadena, CA

PUSD SEEKS COMMUNITY VOICES ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Forums Scheduled to Help Shape the Future of Public Schools

Pasadena, CA – The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) invites youth, families, residents and businesses of Altadena, Pasadena and Sierra Madre to join the ongoing conversation about the direction, goals and priorities of public schools. PUSD is updating its long-term strategic plan and is actively seeking community input in four community forums at locations throughout the district's boundaries.

The community-wide forums follow more than 25 small group and house meetings held over the past three weeks to ensure that the voices of individuals from all parts of Altadena, Pasadena and Sierra Madre are counted. A Strategic Plan Steering Committee,

composed of parents, civic leaders, business, faith and community organization representatives, has worked aggressively to ensure that community input is diverse and representative of our student population.

The Steering Committee will develop community feedback into recommendations for the Board of Education to incorporate into its strategic plan framework, establish an implementation plan, and measure the District's progress toward its goals.

Spanish translation, child care and snacks will be provided at each meeting.

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: pcclarke@arroyopacific.org

Barnhart School

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

Bethany Christian School

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

High Point Academy

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

website: www.highpointacademy.org

LaSalle High School

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

Monrovia High School

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

Norma Coombs Alternative School

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

Odyssey Charter School

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

Pasadena High School

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

Pasadena Unified School District

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

St. Rita Catholic School

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

Sierra Madre Elementary School

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

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

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PUSD 2010 - 2011 OPEN ENROLLMENT APPLICATION PERIOD

Applications Accepted Through February 4

The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) announced today that applications for the annual open enrollment period will be accepted starting January 11 for the 2010-2011 academic year. Open Enrollment is PUSD's voluntary school of choice program that provides resident students with an opportunity to attend schools outside of their immediate neighborhoods.

Information and applications are available online at www.openenrollment.info and at District's offices at 351 S. Hudson Avenue, or at libraries and community centers in PUSD. Applications are due February 4, 2010. Notification letters will be mailed in early March.

"Pasadena Unified schools offer excellent academics, great teachers and a vibrant music and arts program that prepares students to succeed on a global scale," said Superintendent Edwin Diaz.

Campus tours are available by calling PUSD schools directly. For more information, contact the PUSD Office of Student Support Programs, Enrollment and Permits at (626) 396-3600, extension 88470.



TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

Surf and Turf in Encino!!!

Steak and Lobster! Can you imagine being at the table the first time that these two were married? The wonderful pairing of this edible king and queen is truly genius. As kingly as this dish may appear, it is actually one of those dishes that can easily be done at home. I have cooked countless steaks in my backyard and boiled many memorable lobsters. But for this article, we are going on a road trip. I had a meeting this week and needed to pick a restaurant that was at a halfway point. Encino was the center of the universe for this trip. I was destined for **Delmonico's Steak and Lobster House**, where they pride themselves on their exceptional Steak and Lobster. I wore my good tie for this wedding.

Delmonico's is a staple in Encino; you may remember they opened and closed very quickly at The Paseo mall in Pasadena a while ago. They were unable to develop a loyal customer base at that location, but I fondly remembered a business lunch at the Encino location many years ago. With umbrella in hand and rain in the clouds, I was off to Encino.

Surprisingly, I was on time. For some reason I felt compelled to ask the valet, "How is the food?" His reply? A thumbs up and a gleeful smile. The restaurant was half-full at best. Hmm..... Delmonico's not crowded? Well, I guess the tough economic times and a rainy night had left an impact on this evening's crowd. The restaurant has a bar in front with open seating and closed booths running along each side. My choice was the booth. My initial sense was that this was going to be a great meal. The hostess greeted us, and the next person to meet us was a man dressed more in the armament of a manager than a waiter; no matter, we were not attending a fashion show.

When I asked, "How are the crab cakes?", he responded with an enthusiastic, "Great, and they would go great with our famous garlic bread." The classic up-sell, very well done and I went for it. Crabcakes are two medium cakes surrounded by what I could only guess were onion rings (\$12.95). I'll give them a passing grade, but the trip was not worth these items. The Garlic Bread includes four large slices of sourdough bread with garlic shallots sprinkled on the surface, nice touch; usually when it looks good, it tastes good. That held true to form. Okay, appetizer was not so hot, but I'm here for Steak and Lobster, Surf and Turf (\$40.95). The restaurant strongly boasts of the Lobster, even calling itself a Lobster House. The plate I ordered included vegetables, and a choice of a potato. The lobster comes detached from the shell, which is helpful, and the last delectable item is a 6 oz filet. The meal is plenty large enough for this hungry reviewer. The steak is topped with a sauce that I cannot identify, something between a BBQ sauce and a béarnaise. My suggestion, order the filet dry with the sauce on the side. **Anytime you are ordering an expensive piece of meat there shouldn't be a need for a pool of sauce or A-1.**

Plenty of seafood items to choose from, priced in the upper (\$20) range. My dinner companion ordered the Grilled Sea Bass at (\$27.95). I tried a few bites of this and thought I should have gone fish. All and all, it was a decent experience with mediocre food. The to-go menu that I used for my notes mentions an award-winning Sunday Brunch. The pictures look right for that deal.

Delmonico's Steak and Lobster House, 16358 Ventura Blvd, Encino (818) 986-0777.

Join me every Sunday Night at 9 pm for more honest reviews like this one. KJLA TV.

E-mail me your thoughts: thechefknows@yahoo.com.



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Friday 8th - The Jack Sheldon Quartet
Saturday 9th - Cheryl Barnes and
Phillip Cabbasso
Wednesday 13th - LA Song Sirens
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
Happy Hour all Night
Thursday 21st - Roots Rock & Blues
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Friday 22nd - Julie Esposito Cabaret
Saturday 23rd - Evening of Jazz and Comedy
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Thursday 28th - Dave Pell
Friday 29th - Swing Dance to Fiat Top Tom
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HOWARD Hays As I See It

I've read the accompanying column wherein Greg Welborn offers his views on marriage. Whether I agree with him or not, I won't question his sincerity. Understanding his feelings as I do now, I think Greg made the right decision in choosing to marry a woman rather than another man. I'm sure there are many who share Greg's views on the subject. I'm equally certain there are many others who don't - but would never question his right to have made that decision for himself.

Greg says he wants to be "clear" in his defense of "thousands of years of tradition". I recently re-read a book which reaches pretty far back in exploring the roots of that tradition. It's called the Book of Genesis (recent edition illustrated by R. Crumb). Marriage is seen primarily as a means of "spreading one's seed", of begetting a tribe's-worth of sons (daughters don't count). If the wife was unable to produce, the husband turned to an available concubine. Patriarchs seldom slowed down until reaching the age of 130-or-so; if the wife couldn't keep up, she'd be traded in for a younger model so the begetting could continue uninterrupted.

Throughout the millennia, traditions were strengthened in which wives were regarded as property; expected to tend to the farm and the kids while being unable to make contracts, buy property, participate in community affairs or pursue an individual life outside that of her husband's. Some of those long-standing traditions have only recently been broken, such as by the acceptance of two-career marriages (and of those choosing not to have children), treating domestic violence as a crime and the recognition of interracial marriage. None of this happened without warnings of the destruction of the institution of marriage itself.

Barely forty years ago, my own marriage would not have been permitted in many parts of the country. Arguments used then were similar to those heard today; marrying between races deviated from accepted norms, violated religious doctrine and devalued "traditional" marriage. But most of all - What about the children? (Our son is doing quite well, thank you.) If Greg had been writing back then, he could have suggested we consider why the Founding Fathers chose not to guarantee a right to interracial marriage in the Constitution.

That Greg's definition of the "ideal" marriage may differ from mine is okay; it's a personal matter, after all. That his church might frown on marriages others would lovingly accept is called religious freedom. That he can so easily pass judgment on forms of marriage different from his own might raise questions of a different sort, but he's entitled to his opinion. Where he and others cross the line, though, is in their insistence that not only is their concept of marriage superior, but that others must be suppressed under the law.

Equally disturbing is their view that such

personal matters be subject to majority rule. There's a reason our Constitution includes a Bill of Rights with an additional Fourteenth Amendment guaranteeing equal protection, and establishes a judicial branch to assure that laws do not violate Constitutional principles - regardless of popular support they may enjoy. Segregation laws were eliminated not by popular referendum or ballot proposition, but by "activist" judges. Interracial marriage became legal throughout the land not through the ballot box, but through a 1967 decision by a federal court. A suitor going to a parent to request the hand of a son or daughter in marriage is a quaint tradition not without its charm. Consenting adults forced to go to the electorate to argue the legitimacy of their relationship is nuts.

It's confusing trying to follow the logic of politicians and pundits on the right. If the issue is degradation of our air and water, consumer protection, employment and housing discrimination or the education of our children, then the concern is with the intrusiveness of "big government". If, however, it's a matter as personal as the choice of a life partner, then it's entirely appropriate for government to step in and dictate our options. It often seems that issues related to sodomy laws, access to contraceptives and books available at the school library will bring out the activists more surely than concerns over poverty, unemployment, public corruption or the lack of affordable healthcare.

Several weeks ago I wrote of the cynical political strategy which Karl Rove famously characterized as a focus on "God, Guns and Gays". When trying to bolster popular support for politicians clearly not working in the popular interest, the strategy calls for diverting attention by claiming the opponent threatens to remove God from the classroom, confiscate guns and support "the gay agenda". It works (almost) every time.

I don't think that's what's happening here, though - which makes it all the more puzzling. As Keith Olbermann observed in an MSNBC commentary not long ago, here we are living in a world of wars, poverty, natural and man-made disasters, and we have something which could bring happiness to people's lives, perhaps the happiness of a lifetime - yet there are people fighting vociferously against it. Or, as former Texas Governor Ann Richards answered when asked her views on the controversy over gay marriage, "I don't see why anyone would give a damn."

Gay marriage will become legal throughout the country. It may not happen right away, or as a direct result of the current matter destined for Supreme Court review, but it will happen. And when it does, it will not pose the threat to "the future success of our democratic republic" that Greg is concerned about. I'm happy for Greg and for what I'm sure is a wonderful marriage and family. As I see it, the more people who are able to experience for themselves even a fraction of the happiness and joy I've found in my own marriage, the better world this will be.

Why Gays And Straights Misunderstand Marriage

This week a new battle has begun in an old war. It's not the Afghanistan war or the Iraq war I'm referring to, it's the culture war here in the U.S., and the current battle is being waged before a California court over the issue of gay marriage. California voters overwhelmingly passed proposition 8 which simply sought to affirm thousands of years of tradition and moral teaching that marriage is limited to the union of one man and one woman, but advocates of gay marriage are hoping the court will overturn this, just as a Massachusetts court did not too long ago. I want to be clear in my defense of traditional marriage, but I also want to help bring some clarity to the issue of why we should restrict marriage to one man and one woman.

The primary argument used by gay marriage advocates rests on the strength of the love two gays typically have for one another. Let me be clear at the outset that I don't doubt for a moment the depth of the love gays can feel for one another. I say that because there are several men in my life whom I love deeply. They've been through a lot with me, both profound sadness and great joy. So even as a heterosexual, happily married to my wife for 21 years, I would be dishonest to claim that gays can't have an abiding love for one another.

But, and this is important, even granting the depth of these feelings, love shouldn't be the sole basis for marriage. If it is, then how do we prevent one man and several women from marrying if they claim to all share a common love? How do we prevent a brother and sister from marrying if they are in love? If love is the only criteria, then of course we should allow gays to marry, but we should also allow any combination of people to marry.

Allowing love solely to define the appropriateness of marriage actually weakens marriage. For several millennia, marriage has been more important than simply an expression of the love between two people. Marriage between one man and one woman has been, and should continue to be, society's ideal for raising a family and for fully maturing as a person.

Traditional marriage is better for children. A mother and a father each give something different to a child. There's simply no way for either to be an equal substitute for the other. Numerous studies have confirmed what common sense tells us all is true: that children are healthier and better able to maintain intimate relationships when they have had a mother and a father in a stable marriage.

Traditional marriage is also better for men and women because each compliments the other, making them whole, in a way that a relationship with the same sex cannot. As much as I've grown through the support, encouragement and accountability of several men, I am an even better person because of my relationship with my wife. Something about coping with our differences forced me to deal with issues which didn't arise in my relationship with other guys.

In order to best preserve itself and provide for the best possible nurturing of its future members, society has an overwhelming right and even more substantial obligation to uphold the institution of marriage and to give it privileges other unions don't have. That isn't discrimination. It is acknowledging a higher good.

Of course discrimination is exactly the accusation that gay marriage advocates fall back on to argue against proposition 8. They claim that society cannot deny the protections, benefits and obligations of marriage to same-sex

GREG Welborn Marriage Is Not Just About Love



unions. Thus, they say it is a form of discrimination, which should be forbidden by the constitution.

Here again, they got it wrong. When the constitution was drafted, marriage was between one man and one woman. Unlike slavery, where there were strong dissenting voices when the constitution was written, not a single one of our founding fathers or leading jurists of the day ever argued that one-man-one-woman marriage was discriminatory.

We must understand the difference between endorsement and discrimination. Discrimination is the withholding of some right that should be enjoyed by everyone. Marriage was never understood to be a right available to any two people. The same issue is at play in voting rules, tax policy and even something as simple as driving privileges. We do not automatically grant the same "right" to all people at all times. Convicted felons aren't allowed to vote, wealthy people pay higher taxes, and responsible 15-olds can't drive. Society is full of distinctions that aren't discriminatory.

Now gay activists point to the high heterosexual divorce rates and the growing number of children raised by single parents as evidence that traditional marriage isn't all that ideal in our society. This is twisted logic at its worst. Are we supposed to abandon a goal simply because some fall short? I thought it was self evident that there would be failings in the pursuit of any goal. In fact, I would argue that the higher, the better, the more lofty the goal, the higher will be the failure rate. Failure has nothing to do with worthiness.

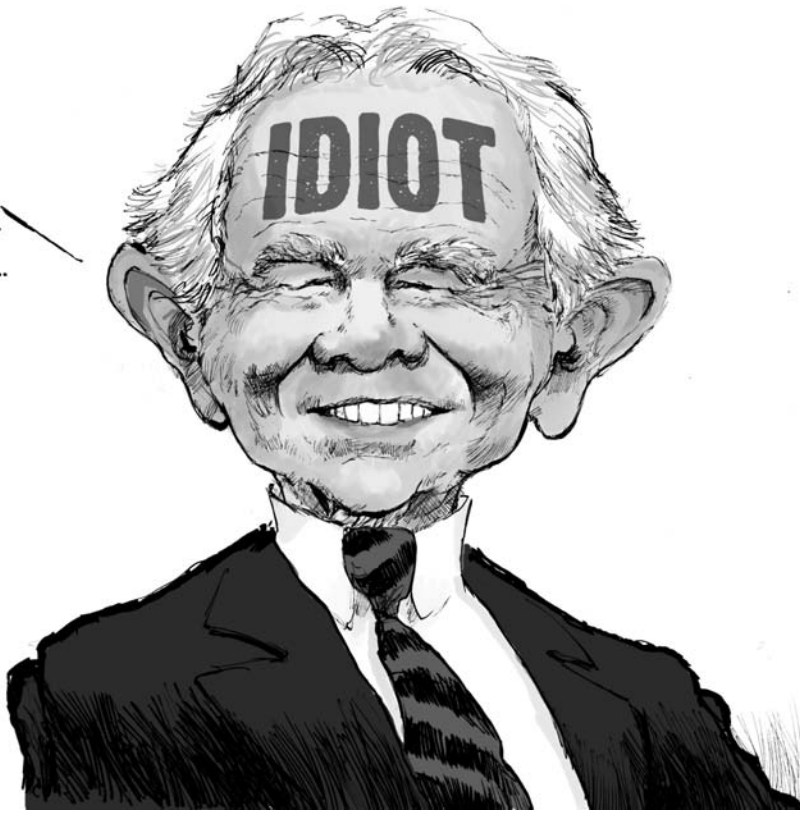
The lesson I take away from today's marriage statistics is that society isn't doing enough to support traditional marriages. Rather than throw in the towel by allowing marriage to mean anything at all, we should reinforce it, emphasize its importance to our youth and make divorces more difficult to obtain than today's "quickie" divorces. Perhaps couples should be made to think a tad longer about an action that will disrupt their children's lives well beyond childhood.

Allowing traditional marriage to further deteriorate will have far reaching consequences that few in the media have chosen to bring to our attention. Clearly Europe is "ahead" of us in this matter. They are much further along on a deteriorating course. Statistics out of Scandinavia, as chronicled by noted scholar Stanley Kurtz, indicate that increases in gay marriage have ultimately translated into the separation of child rearing from marriage - any marriage. Gay marriage in Scandinavia has led to a devaluation of all marriages to the point where the vast majority of children are now birthed and raised by unmarried individuals.

Overturning proposition 8 by a small coterie of judges runs the risk of further tearing the social fabric of our society and further polarizing Americans. As a matter of principle, a small number of judges has no right to overturn centuries of understanding and moral teaching. In the final analysis, this isn't about gays, and it's certainly not about love. It's about society's ability to form healthy norms and endorse them. It may also be about the future success of our democratic republic.

About the author: Gregory J. Welborn is a freelance writer and has spoken to several civic and religious organizations on cultural and moral issues. He lives in the Los Angeles area with his wife and 3 children and is active in the community. He can be reached at gregwelborn@earthlink.net.

SO, THAT WAS MY SERMON ON HOW HAITI SOLD ITS SOUL TO THE DEVIL AND NOW I'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE MARK OF CAIN...



CAGLE CITIZEN
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City of Sierra Madre

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

To: Citywide
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 09-05 (CUP 09-05)**
Applicant: Kim Lee (Derra Design)
Project Location: **611 East Sierra Madre Boulevard,**
in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles,
State of California

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the City Council will conduct a public hearing to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit to allow co-location of three panel antennae and three backhaul antennae on an existing monopole, and construct a new equipment cabinet in the existing wireless lease space within City-owned property located at **611 East Sierra Madre Boulevard**. Pursuant to Code Section 17.93.060(A)(2), any modification to existing wireless facilities requires approval of a Conditional Use Permit.

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre
City Council meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2010
(Hearing begins at 6:30 p.m.)

PLACE OF HEARING

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

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the City Council will hear them with respect thereto.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The project qualifies for Class 3 Categorical Exemption, pursuant to Section 15303 (New Construction of Small Facilities) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

APPEAL: If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the City Council in court, one may be limited to raising the issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or before, the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135.

By Order of the City Council

Danny Castro, Director of Development Services

ORDINANCE NO. 1304

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE,

CALIFORNIA PROHIBITING THE EXERCISE OF EMINENT DOMAIN FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE, CALIFORNIA DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:
SECTION 1: Title 3, Chapter 3.06 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Sierra Madre is hereby added as follows:
Section 3.06.010.

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE EXERCISE OF EMINENT DOMAIN FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES.
Section 3.06.020.

As used in this Chapter, "Owner" means the owner of the fee title interest in the property to be acquired.
Section 3.06.030

The City may not exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire property from any private Owner thereof, without such Owner's consent, when the purpose of the acquisition is to convey the property so acquired to any private party.
Section 3.06.040

The City may not facilitate, fund or consent to the use of City property or resources in connection with, the exercise by any other agency of the power of eminent domain to acquire property from any private Owner thereof, without such owner's consent, when the purpose of the acquisition is to convey the property so acquired to a private party.
SECTION 2: Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions of this Ordinance shall nonetheless remain in full force and effect. The City Council of the City of Sierra Madre hereby declares that they would have adopted each section, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions of this Chapter be declared invalid or unenforceable and, to that end, the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

SECTION 3: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty days after its passage and adoption pursuant to California Government Code section 36937.

SECTION 4. Certification. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause the same to be published according to law.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 26th day of January, 2010.

Ayes: MacGillivray, Watts, Buchanan, Mosca, Zimmerman No: None Abstain: None

Mountain Views News

Publisher/ Editor
Susan Henderson

City Editor
Dean Lee

Sales
Patricia Plunkett
626-325-3111
626-818-2698

Art Director
Allison Kirkham

Production Assistant
Richard Garcia

Photography
Jacqueline Truong
Lina Johnson

Contributors
Teresa Baxter
Pat Birdsall
Bob Eklund
Howard Hays
Paul Carpenter
Stuart Tolchin
Kim Clymer-Kelley
Christopher Nyerges
Peter Dills
Rich Hamilton
Rich Johnson
Chris Bertrand
Virginia Hoge
Mary Carney
La Quetta Shamblee
Glenn Lambdin
Greg Wellborn
Ralph McKnight
Trish Collins
Pat Ostrye

Editorial Cartoonist
Ann Cleaves
Webmaster
John Avery

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Mountain Views News
80 W. Sierra Madre Bl. #327
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
Phone: 626-355-2737
Fax: 626-609-3285
email:
mtnvnews@aol.com

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.

STUART Tolchin On...LIFE



All That Money Can Buy

Devil's Dictionary as "an ingenious device for obtaining individual profit without individual responsibility". Yes, this "ingenious device" was given the rights of personhood by Chief Justice John Marshall in the famous 1819 case of Dartmouth College v. Woodward. After listening tearfully to the arguments of the great orator Daniel Webster, Justice Marshall wrote an opinion extending the same rights to a limited corporation as belong to a natural person.

A half century later, after the passage of the fourteenth amendment the fifth and fourteenth amendment now combined to extend due process to all individuals, and since an incorporated business had become a single person under the law it now enjoyed all the legal protections afforded any individual by the spirit of the Constitution. Yes, the corporation has been given rights without responsibility

and without accountability. Obviously the fictitious person that is the corporation cannot be imprisoned for any legal violation. Similarly, no individual person can be held responsible for obligations and liabilities of the corporation. Furthermore, the corporation can go on forever as it is not subject to inevitable mortality that unfortunately is waiting for the rest of us.

Daniel Webster, the great advocate who prevailed before the Supreme Court and brought Justice Marshall to tears, is one of the most famous statesmen of the nineteenth century. He is immortalized in the short story by Stephen Vincent Benet entitled 'The Devil and Daniel Webster'. In this story Webster has to risk his own soul as he confronts the devil. The story was made into a 1941 fantasy film ironically entitled All That Money Can Buy. Remarkable, considering the applicability of the Dartmouth College case to the January 23, 2010 decision Citizens United v Federal Election Commission which has held that because corporations have the same rights as non-fictitious persons, the free speech of corporations cannot be limited. The decision by that great protector of human

rights, Chief Justice John Roberts, has held that the restrictions upon the right of Corporations to contribute funds to political campaigns violate the Constitutional rights of the fictitious person and therefore are illegal.

Yes, the ninety page dissent by Justice Stephens points out that it is absolutely absurd and a grave error to treat corporate speech (and political participation is a kind of speech) as being the same as the speech of an actual human being. Immediately after the publication of the decision President Obama called the decision "...a major victory for Big Oil, Wall Street, Banks, Health Insurance Companies and the other powerful interests that marshal their power every day in Washington to drown out the voice of the every day American".

During the last Presidential campaign and consistently throughout my columns I have called for transparency and honesty. Well, Justice Roberts has granted me my wish. No more hiding from the fact that we are governed by corporations and special interests which care only for their own balance sheet and are indifferent to the welfare of the nation at large. To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, is it now true that -- we have become a nation of the corporation, by the corporation, and for the corporation which (alas) shall not perish from this Earth. HELP!

Will unlimited corporate contributions destroy our country? In his 1998 novel 'Gain', Richard Powers compares the growth of the American corporation to the growth of a cancer. As it grows and grows, a cancer - much like a corporation - tends to destroy the living tissue which surrounds it. The analogy is only too apt. Will the American corporations or similarly unrestricted foreign corporations destroy America? Perhaps it is all a bad dream and the actual living persons behind the corporations will at some point wake up realizing that the destruction of American Democracy is not a good thing for anyone. Persons, real and fictitious, will be adversely effected by the instability resulting from the demise of respect for American institutions. Americans submit to the authority of government and follow its laws and rules and pay our taxes because we largely believe that these laws and rule are in our best interest. No! All that Money Can Buy thankfully does not include our ultimate sense of justice and fairness. It's just a matter of time, and I hope there is enough time, before Americans, real living Americans, awake and combat the power of the corporate myths and untruths. They can't fool us forever no matter how long they pretend to live.

HAIL Hamilton



Since taking power, the Obama Administration has nearly eliminated workplace raids authorized by the previous administration targeting illegal immigrants and the employers who have hired them. After more than 10 years of inaction, the federal government is long overdue to make employer and interior enforcement a priority. The true test for this administration, however, will be measured in the policy proposals President Obama ultimately supports. If he continues to advocate for a policy that rewards illegal behavior, then the workplace raids that are being carried out will be nothing more than window-dressing for an administration attempting to appear tough on illegal immigration.

There is a small window of opportunity for Congress and this White House to finally work together to produce legislation that can effectively and immediately impact the flow of illegal

Employer Enforcement Key to Addressing Illegal Immigration

labor coming into our country. Instead of spending time trying to broker an impossible agreement between the House and Senate, we should pass legislation to address an area where both Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate already have a consensus -- employer enforcement.

Employer verification and employer enforcement have been instrumental parts of every legislative proposal that is being considered right now by Congress. The American people will no longer tolerate a policy of inaction. There is simply no excuse for failing to take action on interior enforcement.

Ending the insane practice of rewarding illegal immigrants with jobs and giving employers the tools they need to verify employment eligibility is a responsible and common sense step Congress can immediately take to demonstrate their commitment to illegal immigration reform. Doing so will provide employers with the resources they need to identify who should be here and who should not.

Document fraud has become a widespread problem as employers are ill-equipped to detect and authenticate

workers' identification documents. Currently, there are more than 30 types of identification employers can use to verify employment eligibility. By limiting the burden of documentation to just one, uniform card, employers will finally have the tools they need to comply with the law. We need to separate those who are egregiously violating the law and those who do not have the means to enforce and comply with the law.

Since the United States Congress cannot agree on how to address the 12 to 22 million (estimates widely vary) illegal immigrants who are currently living in our country, why not concentrate our efforts on something we do agree on in the first place? Republicans and Democrats in both the House and the Senate agree that employment opportunities are a driving force behind illegal immigration. This unanimity can be a starting point for action that is sorely needed. Republicans lost control of the Congress because they failed to take action to address this problem when they had the opportunity to do so. Now, we have another window of opportunity to take action and to pass legislation that will do more than meet

the political needs of lawmakers who, up to this point, have yet to demonstrate the will to do what needs to be done to address illegal immigration.

Employer enforcement should be more than a benchmark; it should be the focal point of any illegal immigration plan. Some argue you have to do it all at the border, but the border is where the problem is originating, not where the effects are manifested. Border security provisions are window-dressing if you fail to adopt meaningful employer enforcement measures.

Now that Congress has returned to Washington after its holiday recess, I am hopeful that the Democrat majority and the Democratic White House will do more to reach out to House Republicans and to the Immigration Reform Caucus. We can all agree that talking about illegal immigration reform isn't enough anymore. We need to increase the penalties against employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants and prevent them from exploiting the poor that are here illegally. Cheap labor and increased profits is not an excuse for employing illegal immigrants.

RICH Johnson



relationships. So, as a public service, your intrepid columnist will give you suggestions what NOT to buy for your precious and WHAT to buy.

This is the time to go red, not green. Don't donate money in her name to save the baby seals or snail darter. And hopefully you somehow know that a six month membership to Weight Watchers will not produce the desired Valentine response. And for heaven's sake, don't purchase any

What Not To Buy Her For Valentine's Day

article of clothing intentionally too big just to make sure it fits.

I might suggest you avoid buying her the book, "Sex for Dummies." Irregardless of how much you argue it could help, if you give it to her, I guarantee you won't ever NEED it...at least not with her. Stay away from appliances. A new toaster or microwave oven is not gonna "sell the sizzle" if you know what I mean.

On the other hand, and at the risk of being risqué, let me tell you about two snappy items you might consider. I found them on an inventor's website. Both are items of clothing. One is called "fundies" and the other is called "T's For Two." "Fundies" is one pair of underwear made to house two people. And "T's for Two" is a single tee shirt for two. "T's for Two" offers

slogan, "Half the fun is getting into it. The other half is up to you." Ooh, la, la. And "Fundies" is underwear for two at the lower level. It resembles jockey underwear, if you follow my drift. I would recommend, however, that you not try wearing the "T's for Two," and the "Fundies" at the same time. You might have to call the fire department to get out of them.

Also, not sure this is a good idea, but I'll tell you I am singing backup on a song for, and with my friend, Jane Fuller (Has she lost her senses?) She will be performing at an early Valentine's Day Celebration, Saturday, February 13th at Corfu. (I may even sing a song by myself. But please don't let that stop you from coming.) Now guys listen up: By wining and dining your darling

one day early you never know what might happen, wink, wink, nudge, nudge. Showtime is from 6:30 - 9:30. So call Corfu at 355-5993 ASAP for reservations.

And don't forget this Saturday, February 6th will offer the final two showings of "Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz" benefit performances at the Sierra Madre Playhouse. The play will show once at 11:00 am and another performance at 2:00 pm. A unique twist will be that the Munchkins will be played by the children who attend the performances. Order tickets online at www.sierramadreplayhouse.org. Or reserve tickets by calling (626) 355-4318. (\$12 for children, \$18 for adults.) The Playhouse is at 87 West Sierra Madre Blvd.

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Looking Up with Bob Eklund

Latest News From Mars



After six years of unprecedented exploration of the Red Planet, the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit no longer will be a mobile robot. NASA has designated the once-roving scientific explorer a stationary science platform, after efforts during the past several months to free it from a sand trap have been unsuccessful.

The venerable robot's primary task in the next few weeks will be to position itself to combat the severe Martian winter. If Spirit survives, it will continue conducting significant new science from its final location.

Ten months ago, as Spirit was driving south beside the western edge of a low plateau called Home Plate, its wheels broke through a crusty surface and churned into soft sand hidden underneath.

The Martian winter at Spirit's location will begin in May. Solar energy is declining and expected to become insufficient to power further driving by mid-February. The rover team plans to use those remaining potential drives for improving the rover's tilt. Spirit currently tilts slightly toward the south. The winter Sun stays in the northern sky, so decreasing the southward tilt would boost the amount of sunshine on the rover's solar panels.

"We need to lift the rear of the rover, or the left side of the rover, or both," said Ashley Stroupe, a rover driver at JPL. "Lifting the rear wheels out of their ruts by driving backward and slightly uphill will help. If necessary, we can try to lower the front right of the rover by attempting to drop the right-front wheel into a rut or dig it into a hole."

At its current angle, Spirit probably would not have enough power to keep communicating with Earth through the Martian winter. Even a few degrees of improvement in tilt might make enough difference to enable communication every few days.



After six years of unprecedented exploration, Rover Spirit will no longer be a mobile robot. Photo Courtesy NASA

"Getting through the winter will all come down to temperature and how cold the rover electronics will get," said John Callas, project manager at JPL for Spirit and its twin rover, Opportunity. "Every bit of energy produced by Spirit's solar arrays will go into keeping the rover's critical electronics warm, either by having the electronics on or by

turning on essential heaters."

Even in a stationary state, Spirit will continue scientific research.

"There's a class of science we can do only with a stationary vehicle that we had put off during the

studies tiny wobbles in the rotation of Mars to gain insight about the planet's core. This requires months of radio-tracking the motion of a point on the surface of Mars to calculate long-term motion with an accuracy of a few inches.

"If the final scientific feather in Spirit's cap is determining whether the core of Mars is liquid or solid, that would be wonderful—it's so different from the other knowledge we've gained from Spirit," said Squyres.

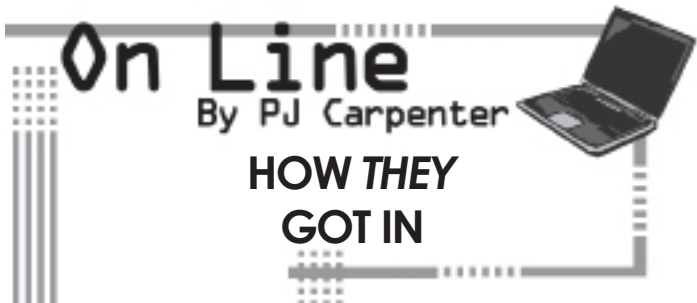
Tools on Spirit's robotic arm can study variations in the composition of nearby soil, which has been affected by water. Stationary science also includes watching how wind moves soil particles and monitoring the Martian atmosphere.

Spirit and Opportunity landed on Mars in January 2004. They have been exploring for six years, far surpassing their original 90-day mission.

For more information about Spirit and Opportunity, visit:
<http://www.nasa.gov/rovers>

You can contact Bob Eklund at: b.eklund@MtnViewsNews.com

One stationary experiment Spirit has begun



Last week Google re-evaluated its policy of cooperation with the Chinese government in compliance with China's Internet censorship policies and made public its intentions of removing its operations from the Chinese mainland over the issue of the hacking of its corporate infrastructure. Google's continued acquiescence to the demands made by the Chinese government has caused it to suffer a hit to its sterling reputation for the promotion of internet freedom around the globe.

regimes around the globe that would like the ability to surreptitiously monitor the email of sections of their populations that they consider especially troublesome is no secret.

In the above-mentioned Yahoo case it might be safely assumed that Yahoo had no idea just how just how far-reaching the consequences of their cooperation with the Chinese government would be.

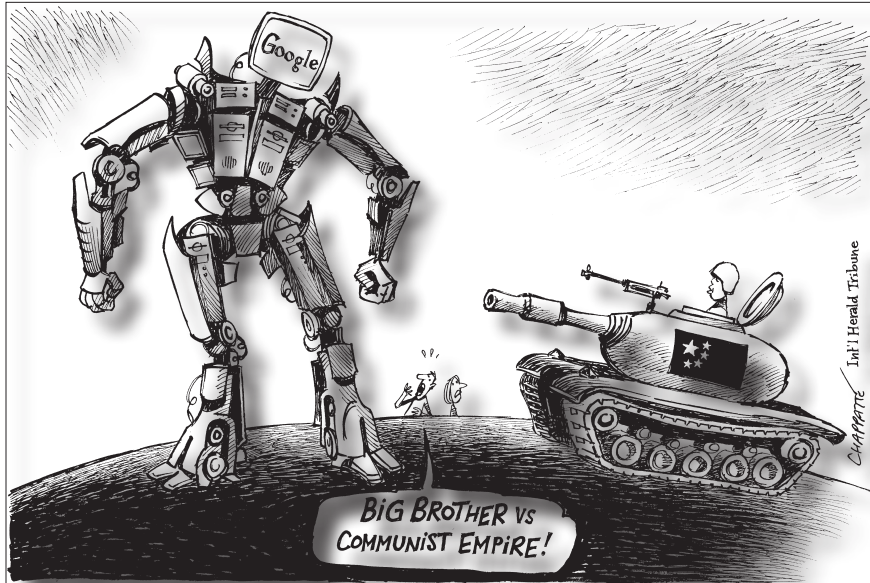
The current situation between Google and

China involved the mis-use of a system resource that was implemented by request and subsequently the subject of unauthorized access. Starting with the newly enacted Patriot Act in 2001, ISP's and network administrators were required to grant backdoor access to law enforcement agencies in order to better track possible

terrorist activities without a judge's order or customer permission. This backdoor access was also added to Google's Gmail system and this was the tool that was exploited by hackers in order to gain the unauthorized access to Google's corporate infrastructure.

The problem here is that a system resource was added due to a request from third-party government agencies under the guise of creating a more easily monitored system and the end result was a system that was made less secure than it normally would've been.

In our quest for better security we would do well to ensure that our efforts do not harm what we have in place that may already be working just fine.



The particular offense that caused Google to rethink its involvement with the Chinese internet market was the unauthorized access of the Gmail accounts of a number of Chinese human rights activists by parties yet unknown. As of this writing the Chinese government denies that it was the party responsible for the breach.

In 2003, Yahoo was accused of aiding the Chinese government in their surveillance of the internet activities of dissidents by granting access to the email accounts of a number of human rights activists. This action resulted in the jailing and torturing of Chinese citizens who believed that their activities would be kept private by the American company that they trusted with their communications. That there are a number of repressive

LEGAL NOTICES (cont.)

Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 2010

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 10-0112490

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: VALLEY AIR CONDITIONING AND HEATING, 1175 W. GREENHAVEN ST., COVINA, CA 91722. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) DONALD RAY WALKER, 1175 W. GREENHAVEN ST., COVINA, CA 91722. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: DONALD RAY WALKER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/26/10. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/25/2010. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 2010

FILE NO. 10-0074434

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE, 7336 HOWERY ST., SOUTH GATE, CA 90280. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on AUG. 18, 2005, in the county of Los Angeles. The original file number of 05-1988399. The business was conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 01/19/10. The business information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) SIGNED: JORGE PARRAL/OWNER. Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13 2010

FILE NO. 10-0059984 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: L.A. NAILS, 2300-A FOOTHILL BLVD., LA VERNE, CA 91750. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 12/04/07, in the county of Los Angeles. The original file number of 2007-2657313. The business was conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 01/14/10. The business information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) SIGNED: ROGER LIM/OWNER. Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13 2010

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

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

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The Senior Spot

By Bruce Lamarche

Multi-Tasking

Get More Done or What?

The buzz word for the last 10 years is “Multi-tasking”. This means that, being highly productive people, that we do more than one thing at a time. Women often say that they can do this better than men and to a degree, this may be true. But, and here’s the catch, none of it is true!

We all know of the problems involved with drivers who try to steer their 3,000 pounds of metal down the highway while on the phone. We’ve all seen them drift and correct suddenly and of their need to slam the brakes on because of inattention. This dramatic example of our inability to multi-task should be enough for us but as individuals, however we feel we are exempt from the problem and attempt to multi-task in many areas of our life. The end result is stress; a day which was frustrating because we didn’t accomplish what we wanted, or in which we made many mistakes.

Scientists have long known that the human brain is not wired to do parallel tasks. We can only do them sequentially. In English, it means that we can only do one thing at a time. The brain can seem to multi-task as it slows down and switches back and forth between both, but it does so with the cost of accuracy, efficiency, and resulting frustration.

We shouldn’t try and argue against this with the argument that we can walk and talk at the same time. Certain basic functions are automated. However, because the brain is wired to one thing at a time our concentration and reaction time slows way down as we attempt to do this switching. Our response time more than doubles as we drive and talk on the phone or even as we prepare food and watch TV at the same time.

The habit of attempting to multi-task can

overexcite the brain causing stress, fatigue and an inability to focus. The “flight or fight” body chemicals that protect us during emergencies are released constantly because of this stress and this weakens the immune system.

The bottom line is for us to do one thing only at a time. In conversations with others, we will then be more in the moment and not distracted. This does honor to those speaking and they know if you are listening or are distracted. If you are going to have a conversation, be there, and turn off the TV! It’s interesting that TV acts as a temporary sedative for the brain and drains your energy while you are attempting another task. So much for using it as background noise.

Our very perception of time is affected by our choice to multi-task or to focus on one thing only at a time. Those days when you try to accomplish too many things simultaneously fly by and result in frustration. Those special days when you work on only one thing at a time will go slowly and are very satisfying.

Let’s all work to get free of the rat-race that our society and media presses us to be involved in. Think of that warm lazy Saturday when you sat on the porch and read a good book. You were totally in the moment and actually remembered what you read. Never done that? Give it a try. Got a question? Ask Bruce by phone-(626)335-2564 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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Older “Sierra Madre” American of the Year

The Senior Community Commission is now accepting nominations for the Older “Sierra Madre” American of the Year. If you know someone living in Sierra Madre who has demonstrated outstanding community service and is 60 years of age or older, please contact the Senior Services Desk at (626) 355-7394 for a nomination form.

Nominations are due to the Community & Personnel Services Department, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., by Monday, March 1, 2010. The Senior Community Commission will discuss nominees at its Study Session on March 4, 2010 and announce the honoree at their regular scheduled meeting also on March 4 at 3 pm in the City Council Chambers. The honoree will also be recognized at a reception held in their honor at the Sierra Madre Hart Park House in May.

AARP Safe Driving Class

Next class: February 23 & 24 - 9
am to 1 pm both days
\$12 for AARP Members & \$14 for
Non-members
Please call the Senior Desk at (626)
355-7394 to register in advance
or for more information.

FEBRUARY EXCURSION

February 26th - L.A. Subway
Art Tour - join our escort on an
adventure that will take you on
the Gold Line to Union Station
where you will meet your docent
who will take you on a 2 hour art
tour of Metro’s artwork via the
Red Line. After the tour you will
have lunch on your own and return
to Sierra Madre via the Gold Line
& Gateway Shuttle.
No money will be collected but you
will need 25 cents for the Metro
ride & extra cash for lunch.
If you are interested, please call the
Senior Desk at 355-7394 for more
information and/or to have your
name added to the list.
*Some walking & limited restrooms
are part of this trip*

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
Brandlee. 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

Recipe of the Week:

Chilean Potato Pie (Pastel de Papas)

Ingredients

5 cups potatoes, peeled and cubed
2 tablespoons butter
2 eggs, beaten
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 clove garlic, minced
1 onion, diced
2 tomatoes, diced
1 tablespoon tomato paste
1 pound ground beef
2 tablespoons shredded panquehue cheese
1/2 teaspoon chopped fresh parsley
salt and black pepper to taste
1 pinch cayenne pepper (optional)

Directions :

Preheat an oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 2-quart baking dish.

Place the potatoes into a large pot and cover with salted water. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and simmer until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain and allow to steam dry for a minute or two. Mash the hot potatoes with butter and salt. Let cool until just warm; stir in the beaten egg until smooth.

Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Stir in the garlic and onion; cook and stir until the onion has softened and turned translucent, about 5 minutes. Stir in the tomatoes and tomato paste; continue cooking until the tomatoes soften and begin to lose their shape. Add the ground beef and cook until browned, about 10 minutes. Stir in the panquehue cheese and parsley; season to taste with salt, black pepper, and cayenne pepper.

Spread half of the mashed potato mixture into the prepared baking dish. Cover with the ground beef mixture, then spread the remaining mashed potatoes over the beef to completely cover.

Bake in the preheated oven until the potatoes are hot and the top is lightly browned, about 40 minutes.

January Birthdays



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

Helpful Hints:

SUPER GLUE REMOVER

Use acetone nail polish remover on a cotton ball and let it saturate the super glue to remove it.

REVIVE OLD MARKER PENS

Acetone nail polish remover will revive an old marker pen when it gets dried up. Just dip the tip part in the acetone. Recap. Can use it again to write, draw, or color with in a couple hours.

REMOVAL OF ADHESIVE STICKERS

For stickers on glass use vegetable oil. Soak the item in oil for a couple minutes to remove the sticker easily.

For plastic use WD-40 and let it soak on the item for a couple minutes to remove easily.

For metal use nail polish remover on a cotton ball and let soak in for a couple minutes to remove sticker easily.

For wood use vegetable oil and let it soak in for thirty minutes. Scrape off sticker with a Teflon scraper.

AUTOMATIC DRIP COFFEE POT CLEANER

Add 1 cup white distilled vinegar to your automatic drip coffee pot to clean it out. Rinse well with a pot of cold, clean water.

AUTOMOBILE FRAGRANCE

Put a sheet of fabric softener underneath each seat in the car to make it smell nice.

For bad odors in cars, put some new ground up coffee beans in area where odor is. Leave for a couple days if possible and vacuum it up. Odor should be gone or at least better smelling.



Meals-On-Wheels

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

MEALS-ON-WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER MEALS TO OUR HOMEBOUND NEIGHBORS **ONCE A MONTH OR WEEKLY**

Please contact Darlene Traxler at
626.355.6220 or (626) 355-0256.

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

Wednesday 3-7pm

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



Chris Bertrand

One Of A Kind: *Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them* Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

Ravi Johar, founder of Southland Stone first decided to get into the stone business during a 1976 trip to Italy. He and his wife Gita, of Pasadena, have been building that business for over the last three decades. Johar first started his stone business in Dubai, then emigrated to the States after a visit to family enticed him here to Los Angeles.

Southland Stone, located in North Hollywood since 1999, now imports 3000 different SKU-numbered stones from thirty six countries. Container after container of slab and tile arrive by sea to our port here... granite marble limestone, travertine, slate, sandstone, basalt and porphyry. Porphyry???

I thought I was pretty literate in stone vernacular, but that one was new to my vocabulary. Porphyry is a “reddish purple rock containing large distinct feldspar crystals embedded in a fine-grained groundmass,” according to Encarta.



Crema Marfil Stone Quarry in Alicante Spain

A rainbow of colors saturates my senses as Gita Johar takes me on a tour of their acres of display. Carefully stacked slabs of granite, marble, travertine and more exotic stones carry beautiful names like Absolute Black, Crystal Gold, Dakota Mahogany, French Vanilla, Golden Fantasy, Himalayan Blue and event Morning Glory sandstone, to fit any building's color palette, both inside and outside on walls, floors, baths, kitchens, patios, walkways and more. I have been to stone yards all over the Bay Area and LA and I have never seen a place like Southland.



These enormous slices of stone, slabs polished on one side, stand like oversized decks of multicolored playing cards in vertical holding pens tracked by origin and lot numbers. Most decorators, architects and homeowners come out to pick a particular slab or two or ten, reserving it for pickup at the right moment during construction. Small vehicles with cranes tip back the selections for the buyer to view the color and “movement” of “veins” within the slab.

In some cases, like the Bellevue, Washington regional library project which Southland supplied, representatives actually travelled to the quarry in India to pick the large amount of Indian sandstone that they envisioned as a “schoolhouse red.” As is the standard and the quality that Southland delivers, the container ship arrived with the load of extremely closely color-matched (as was ordered) sandstone, similar to the original sample.

The library actually didn't expect to receive such a closely matched order, and the powers that be decided it was “too perfect” and to vary the hue with some lighter and darker pieces interspersed to give more depth to this significant, signature building that arose in downtown Bellevue, Seattle's sister city across Lake Washington. But Bellevue Library got exactly what they ordered from Southland. So did happy clients with beautiful, major buildings all over the world, from right here in Arcadia at the Vons headquarters to Cal Poly Pomona, Thousand Oaks' Civic Arts Plaza, San Diego's airport and their downtown detention building as well as far flung addresses across the US, Mexico and Japan.

Another project that now houses Universal Music's headquarters in Santa Monica also sent the architect and developer to India to see Johar's choice of Morning Glory sandstone quarries first hand. David Hibbert, AIA principal, commented in a Southland brochure that “This stone comes from the middle of nowhere. The trip was very different compared to going to Italy or France. The process in India seemed rather crude, yet everything worked like clockwork. It

SOUTHLAND STONE FEATURES 3000 TYPES OF STONE

couldn't have gone smoother. Their performance was better than or equal to anyone in Italy of France.”

Across the street from the Southland showroom, Metrolink commuters get the best overhead view of the company's hundreds of pallets of irregular flagstone come in a wide variety of earth hues and stone varieties from several countries. If you want cobblestones for your driveway or dry stacked stone for a textured wall, they have that, too.

Ravi Johar muses that “People in general do not understand stone. There are NO standards in this industry. So I decided that we will buy and sell only the best quality materials at a fair price.

“Quality and service form the core of our business at Southland, but both are very hard to quantify. For someone buying stone for the first time, there is no way to know what it really means, but it is our commitment to set and maintain a very high standard. Sometimes the clients only find out that quality difference later. People want “cheap” materials but in the end, I believe you get what you pay for.”

“It can be a very costly and painful education. When buyers are quoted a very low price elsewhere, they often get poor quality, and in the end it often costs them more to correct the problem than what they thought they were saving.”

“In today's market,” Johar comments further, “there is a trend for architects and designers to use engineered stones like CaesarStone and Silestone. Like most fashion or design-related products, the demand for color and texture is always changing. We can make any color or texture imaginable with engineered stone, giving us some flexibility in creating colors that aren't available in natural stones. But the perception, created by some expensive marketing, that engineered stone is better than natural stone is far from the truth. The fact is, one cannot use quartz or engineered stone in an exterior application as it simply will not stand up to the weathering.

Man has used stone for eons... the pyramids, the Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal, the Roman Coliseum. It's enduring, yet it can be as new and fresh as all those slabs and palettes awaiting just the right application.

Visit the showroom and display yards of Southland Stone U.S.A. Inc., at 12804 Raymer Street in North Hollywood, CA. They can be reached at (800) 778-2730 or through their website, www.SouthlandStone.com

Have an interesting home, garden, building, or person who helps create them? Send me the details at C.Bertrand@MtnViewsNews.com

Debt-Free Living: The Real American Dream


By La Quetta M. Shamblee

This year, I decided that a complete personal makeover was my utmost priority – a financial makeover, that is. My family provided me with a solid foundation and a really good start. Paternal and maternal great grandparents had set a standard of home ownership, and my aunts and uncles were living advertisements for the financial benefits of having a college education. As childhood memories of playing with my hula hoop, Slinky and Wheel-O faded in to the background, the foundation laid by my family propelled me onto pursue the American Dream. I've always been fortunate to land great jobs and made a reasonable income, but thought that my optimistic outlook and entrepreneurial leanings would override my impulsive and pervasive manner of dealing with my finances.

Why didn't I have more to show for all of the money that I've made over almost three decades? When I realized that I didn't have a reasonable response, I finally gave in to the realities of my embarrassing shortcomings and decided that it was time to do something drastic – like admitting that I would never be able to change what I was unwilling to acknowledge. Like millions of debt-ridden Americans, I needed help, and that's when I heard about Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU). A professional colleague who had enrolled in FPU hosted at her church had approached me in November of last year to ask if I knew of any grants that might be available to offer the program to clients at a local nonprofit agency. After reviewing the introductory DVD that she asked me to take a look at, I understood why she was so excited about the program. I logged onto their website and my impulsive nature took over. The \$99 for the course was less than I'd blown on many occasions, often during visits to Costco when items I really didn't need seemed to leap into my basket from shelves as I innocently strolled the aisles – or perhaps when I'd spent double that for the latest piece of new exercise equipment marketed on an infomercial. When I discovered that one of the upcoming 13-week workshops was being hosted by Pasadena Church of the Nazarene starting the first week in January, I went ahead and spent extra money on the package deal so that I could jumpstart the process with the online course immediately. Finally, an impulsive financial decision that worked in my favor, one that is walking me through a practical process of becoming 100% debt-free!

I look forward to my weekly drive with my spouse to Pasadena Church of the Nazarene on Sierra Madre Boulevard to join more than one hundred other people who've decided to turn a new financial leaf. A multicultural mix of couples, singles and families, including an impressive sprinkling of teens, are seated by 7pm each Wednesday, awaiting the evening's DVD presentation and brief follow-up activity.

Of course I expected it to be educational but didn't know it would be so entertaining and enjoyable. The embarrassment I expected to feel was quickly and completely dissipated among kindred spirits. We've all joined a movement to pursue and live the American Dream on a whole new level – 100% debt free, with money to spend and money in the bank. If you work hard for your money and you're ready to learn how to have it work harder for you, take a peek www.daveramsey.com to see what has me and my FPU family so excited.



Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed

by Luther Tsinoglou

DEVILS IN THE DETAILS

When you receive an Offer To Purchase, you are likely to focus on the price. You might be ecstatic over a full price offer, but you should be aware how “contingencies” could affect the likelihood of success.

Almost every offer has a mortgage contingency, stating that the buyer will secure financing at a certain rate and for a certain term. Make sure these factors are realistic. A buyer seeking a 30-year loan at 4% with no points may be hedging their bets if your agent advises that these loans are typically written at 7% with 1.5 points. Unrealistic terms can allow the buyer to back out if they get cold feet or find another property they prefer. Another sticky contingency

more common these days is when a buyer states that they must sell their home before they can finalize the purchase of yours. There has to be a realistic time limit, so the buyer doesn't tie up your listing.

It's wise to respond with a “kick-out” clause that allows you to keep your home on the market while the buyers promote theirs, offering them a 72-hour period to fulfill the contract if you should receive another offer in the interim.

These two examples are just the tip of the iceberg, so sit and discuss each line of the offer with your agent before making your decision.



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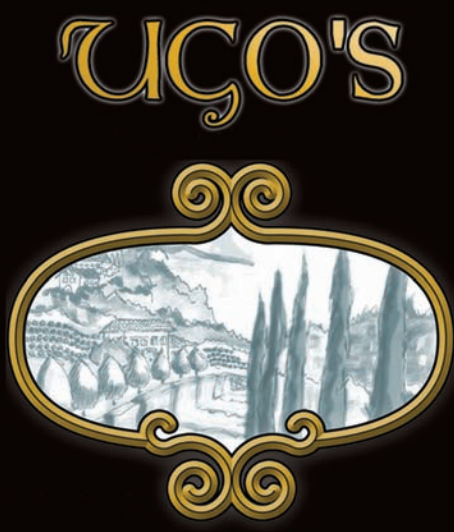
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