



Who Has The Best Decorations? Is It You? Or Your Neighbor?

Submit your entries for our 2nd annual Holiday Decorating Contest! Enter the address of homes we should consider for our 2nd annual contest. We'll drive and evaluate the entries in our service area from Pasadena, Altadena, Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia and Duarte on Monday and/or Tuesday, December 13-14 between 5-9 p.m. So.... If you're entered, make sure your lights are on for us to take photos and make the awards! Send your submission addresses with street address, cross street and town name to C.Bertrand@MtnViewsNews.com

Where Your
Community News Comes First

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11, 2010

VOLUME 4 NO. 49

In The Spirit Of The Season - Three Young Ladies 'Pay It Forward'

Photos & Story by Lina Johnson



Annalie Longhurst, Maggie Newhart and Malia Teran
"Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something"

While some third graders are writing out their Christmas wish list these third graders are deciding how to raise money for charitable causes. Three third grade girls from Sierra Madre Elementary School decided to learn how to make jewelry this past summer. They made so much jewelry they decided to have a sale to help their school. Initially, they raised seventy two dollars selling to family. Annalie, one of the third graders told me that it worried her that they want to close the school library and that although they are supposed to have music class there is an uncertainty that they will have music next year. "Right now we have a lady that teaches us music and she is not getting paid." The girls are raising money because they want to help the school and they don't want to see programs get eliminated from their education.

Annalie Longhurst, Maggie Newhart and Malia Teran planned a jewelry sale with the help of their mothers at Annalie's home on Sunday, December 5 from 3 to 5 pm. They invited about thirty friends and family to the event and successfully raised about \$237.00. They are donating \$200.00 to Sierra Madre Elementary School and will keep the remainder to purchase more supplies



Sierra Madre School Principal Gayle Blumel accepts the generous donation from Annalie, Maggie and Malia.

and continue their charitable endeavors. They still have some jewelry available and plan to have a Facebook page to display their creations and continue their charitable work. They plan to raise money for other causes, as well. This is just the beginning of these girls' charitable activities and this holiday season the girls, who have named themselves "The Giving Girls" are learning that in life it is better to give than to receive.

SIERRA MADRE POLICE ARREST TWO BURGLARY SUSPECTS

On Monday December 6, 2010, about 8:00 a.m. an alert resident called the Sierra Madre Police Department to report a burglary in progress in the 1900 - 2000 block of Vista St. Officers responding to the call stopped and detained two suspects as they were leaving the area in a silver Honda CRV. David Wells, age 20, and Jason Mora, age 21, both of Pasadena, were taken into custody without incident. Officers recovered what they believed to be stolen property from the suspects' vehicle. Further investigation revealed that the two suspects may be responsible for several daytime residential burglaries in Sierra Madre and the Hastings Ranch area of Pasadena. Sierra Madre and Pasadena detectives are working together in this on-going investigation. Wells and Mora are each being held on \$50,000.00 bail. Anyone with additional information in this case should contact Sergeant Joe Ortiz at (626) 355-1414.

Turkeys, Hams and Toys - Foothill Unity Center Short on Children's Gifts and Meats for Holiday Event

Just ten days away from its biggest Holiday Distribution ever, volunteers and staff at Foothill Unity Center are wondering if they'll have a gift for every child who attends. The annual event for pre-registered client families will be held on Sunday, December 19, in Ayres Hall at the Los Angeles County Arboretum.

The Center has been collecting new children's toys and clothing since well before its Thanksgiving event. Some items are donated directly, while others come through the organization's Holiday Angels program. In this program, people are invited to adopt one or more hand-decorated paper angels with a child's name and interests, purchase a gift, and return the gifts to the Center to be given to the child.

To fulfill as many angel wishes as possible, the deadline for dropping off gifts has been extended. The Center is now emailing angels to those wishing to adopt them. To request angels, email angela@foothillunitycenter.org.

Turkeys and hams are also in short supply. Donations may be dropped off any weekday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at either Center location: 415 W. Chestnut Ave. in Monrovia or 191 N. Oak Ave. in Pasadena.

Because of the economic downturn, the Center has seen a huge increase in local people turning to the organization for help. Many new clients are seeking assistance for the first time. "We're currently serving more than twice the number of families we were just two years ago," says Center Executive Director Joan Whitenack. "We're expecting over 3,000 children, and we'd love to have a new toy and a new set of clothing for each one."

For those short on shopping time, donated funds help the Center fill in the gaps for this large event. Supporters can contribute securely online by clicking the Donate Now button on either the Center's website, www.foothillunitycenter.org, or its Facebook page. Checks may be mailed to Foothill Unity Center, 415 West Chestnut Avenue, Monrovia CA, 91016.

About Foothill Unity Center

Now in its thirtieth year, Foothill Unity Center provides a range of services unparalleled not only in the San Gabriel Valley, but across Los Angeles County. Operating with a small staff and a corps of dedicated volunteers, the nonprofit, nondenominational organization distributed over four million pounds of food to 3,974 unduplicated very low-income families last year. It also provides some health services, limited motel vouchers, and referrals to the homeless and people in crisis. Clients meet stringent income guidelines and are recertified annually. Over 93% of every dollar goes to programs. For more information, call the Center at (626) 358-3486.

Good Friends, Good Food, Great Fun

The Sierra Madre Senior Commission sponsored the A Commission Chair Ann Luke, below, standing, received a round of applause from the appreciative audience. City Council Woman Nancy Walsh, (bottom picture), the former chair of the Senior Commission was also in attendance.



The event was held at the Hart Park House, aka the Senior Center, which has pending plans for renovation - hopefully in 2011.



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The Holidays Are
Almost Here!
Advertise in the
Mountain Views News!
626-818-2698 or
626-355-2737

Sierra Madre's

BEAN TOWN AN OFFICIAL TOYS FOR TOTS DROP OFF POINT

Joanna and Matthew Krantz of Bean Town Coffee House and Bakery announced this week that the eatery is an official drop off point for U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program

In an effort to help children and families facing difficulties this holiday season, Bean Town has agreed to become a collection point for the well known Toys for Tots Program. The toys donated will be distributed as Christmas gifts to needy children.

Bean Town supports the program because Toys For Tot's primary goal is to deliver a message of hope to needy youngsters that will motivate them to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and community leaders.

Once the toys are collected, the local Marine Corps Reserve Unit will pick them up and distribute them. Cash donations are also accepted, so make certain you stop by Bean Town, located at 45 N. Baldwin, Sierra Madre - 626-355-1596.



New
Japanese
erasers
have
arrived!



Drop off a
"toys for
tots"
donation!



I'm
getting
my
latte at
Niko's!

Niko & friends
Coffee

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Read The Paper Online At: www.mtnviewsnews.com

Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 40s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 40s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 40s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 40s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



DECO BLITZ!!

**Saturday, December 18
and
Sunday, December 19
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

Free lunch will be provided!

“Suenos de California” has the potential to be one of Sierra Madre’s most beautiful floats ever. Because this year’s entry is so large, we are hoping to complete **at least 35%** of the decoration **before Christmas**. To reach this target we need your help!

We’d love to have you join us any time during the month of December to help decorate, but December 18 and 19 are days when we especially need all hands on deck.

Join us for a Deco Blitz! Help decorate the spires of the mission in oatmeal, cinnamon and sesame seed. Create bark for palm trees and bougainvillea vines. Experienced decorators might detail monarch butterfly wings with intricate patterns of orange lentil, rice and strawflower.

Work is available for all experience levels, however we mainly need volunteers aged 14 and up. All minors must have a release form signed by a parent prior to working. Release forms are available at the Float Barn. There’s no need to call ahead of time unless you are bringing a large group (more than 6 people).

Float decorating is a lot of fun, but it can be messy so wear your grubby clothes. Free lunch will be provided.

See you at the Blitz! Float Barn 587 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024 355-7005



SIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION

PARADE TICKET RAFFLE

SEE THE 2011 ROSE PARADE IN PERSON

**TWO FRONT ROW GRANDSTAND TICKETS ON
ORANGE GROVE BLVD.
PARKING INCLUDED**

RAFFLE TICKETS: \$ 1.00 each 6 for \$ 5.00
(Retail Value of \$90.00 Per Ticket)

Available at the Sierra Madre Rose Float Barn

**DRAWING TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER
29TH at 7:00PM at the Sierra Madre Rose Float Barn**
(Winner need not be present) Donated by Sharp Seating

2011 Entertainment Books Are Here!

Please help the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association raise funds for the 2011 Entry “Suenos De California” buy buying an Entertainment Coupon Book today. You’ll not only be helping a wonderful cause, you will save \$\$\$ when you redeem the coupons.

The book starts at \$25.00 for the San Gabriel Valley. Others are available at various prices. Call Ann at 626-574-1331

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MIXER

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce invites you to join them for their December Mixer, at the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association Barn, located at 587 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. on Thursday, December 16th, from 5:30 – 7pm.

Cost to attend Chamber Mixers is \$7/members, \$15/non-members, (NOTE: this is the standard mixer admission fee for you to use as a guide, however, for this mixer only, ANY amount you wish to donate will be gratefully accepted). ALL Admission fees collected will be donated to SMRFA.

Get a preview of this year’s float, “Suenos de California.” At 33 ft. high and 55 ft. long, it is one of the most ambitious floats ever attempted by SMRFA. Will Suenos be the Association’s sixth consecutive award-winning float? Stop by for a pre-parade preview. Meet members of the Association when they are not working on the float and have time to answer any questions you may have. Enjoy refreshments and show your support for the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST TO PERFORM HANDEL’S MESSIAH

The holiday season is upon us. Join us on December 19th when the Chancel Choir, Sanctuary Quartet and Chamber Orchestra will present the Christmas portion of Handel’s “Messiah” during the Sunday Service. Sunday worship begins at 10 AM. Join Us. First United Methodist Church 500 East Colorado Blvd, Pasadena CA 91101

For more information contact the church at First United Methodist 626.796.0157

Holiday Decorating Contest



Submit your entries for our 2nd annual Holiday Decorating Contest! Enter the address of homes we should consider for our 2nd annual contest. We’ll drive and evaluate the entries in our service area from Pasadena, Altadena, Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia and Duarte on Monday and/or Tuesday, December 13-14 between 5-9 p.m. So.... If you’re entered, make sure your lights are on for us to take photos and make the awards! Send your submission addresses with street address, cross street and town name to C.Bertrand@MtnViewsNews.com

All Aboard Enchanted Railroad Storytime!

Actor-storyteller Bill Ratner spins family-friendly tales Dec. 18

All aboard for some family fun! Voice-over artist and storyteller



Bill Ratner will tell imaginative, railroad-themed tales at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, in Descanso Gardens.

Families are invited to gather for stories, then purchase a ticket for a ride on Descanso’s very own Enchanted Railroad. Hot cocoa will be served from 10:30 a.m. to noon (free while supplies last).

Ratner is one of Southern California’s leading storytellers. He performed at this year’s National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tenn. He has told stories from coast-to-coast and across the Atlantic.

His voice is instantly recognizable: He is heard on movie trailers (“Megamind,” “Yoga Bear” and “Blades of Glory”), on animated series (“Family Guy” and “Robot Chicken”) and as an announcer (Discovery, A&E and as the voice of Channel 7).

Enchanted Railroad Storytime will meet, weather permitting, at the Center Circle in Descanso Gardens. Storytime is free with Gardens admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors/students; \$3 children 5-12; free for children 4 and younger. Railroad tickets are priced separately at \$3 each.

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By Charles Dickens



Adapted & Directed by Christina Harris
Music Direction by Rich Dewbowski

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91024**

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www.sierramadrepplayhouse.org



Gobble Gobble Hey!!

Yeah, yeah, I know - I used that title a couple years ago. But you SAT. 12/11 - SURFIN' WITH ELVIS @ OCEAN VIEW BISTRO IN MONTROSE, 9pm. (sort of the pared-down version of Longboard Ranch) 3826 Ocean View Blvd. (818) 248-2722. Full bar and kitchen. www.ovbistro.com

also.... CHECK OUT THESE live-hosted weekend shows at KCSN:

especially PAT BAKER'S TANGLED ROOTS program, which airs on KCSN 88.5 FM every Sunday from 3-5pm, just before The Dylan Hours, hosted by the lovely and talented Lisa Finnie, 5-7pm.

Pat's show is the longest running and most influential of all the Americana/Roots programs at KCSN. He has an astounding personal library of music and plays everyone from Robert Johnson to Kate Wolf to Frank Zappa to Hank Williams to Nina Simone to Allen Ginsberg to The Grateful Dead to Townes Van Zandt to Steve Earle, etc., etc., etc.

For a complete listing of the live weekend shows and their descriptions, folks can visit: www.kcsn.org

A note: due to the fact that KCSN shares a frequency with Saddleback College, folks on the east side are better off tuning in at kcsn.org, where the stream is crystal clear!

Please remember to call and verify all info. before making plans. Everything is subject to change. This is show biz, after all...

Hope to see you out & about, SierraMadreSue
sierramadresue@yahoo.com

PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND PLANNING SESSION

On Monday, December 13, 2010 at 6:00 pm the Community & Personnel Services Department will be inviting the Continual User Groups, Contract Instructors, and members of the Coordinating Council to meet with staff to discuss the current procedures when utilizing City facilities. This meeting will take place in the City Council Chambers at 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Per the Brown Act, staff will be posting the meeting for both the Community Services Commission and Parks & Facilities Master Plan Committee and invite members of both bodies to participate at this informational session.

Background

As the City gets closer to opening the renovated Sierra Madre and Fire-side Room and beginning construction on the Hart Park House Senior Center, staff has reviewed the City's current procedures for utilizing the City's facilities.

Currently, the City charges \$23 per hour for a Facility Attendant when the Sierra Madre Room is rented out for a private event. However, the City does not charge, nor does the City provide, a Facility Attendant when rooms in either the Community Recreation Center or Hart Park House are utilized for meetings, contract classes, and some not-for-profit events. Instead, a practice of checking out a key has been put into place. At the Hart Park House, the key is checked out and returned to the Police Department after the meeting/class. But in the case of the Community Recreation Center, each organization/contract teacher has been given their own key, which in theory, is returned after the event; however, as some organizations and all contract classes meet more than once, the key is generally held on to and often not returned.

Over the years, PA systems, tables, chairs and other items have “disappeared” from these locations. We have experienced increased levels of vandalism and many tables have been broken. We have also had user groups violate policy, including drinking alcoholic beverages in the Youth Activity Center. Additionally, with the addition of Personnel and Risk Management to the Department, the offices now contain confidential information and documentation.

We have taken steps to strengthen security including creating a more rigid “key check-out” process with the Police Department, replacing the doors from the back patio during the renovation, and installing security cameras in the Sierra Madre Room. However, when a facility is in use, staff feels that having a Facility Attendant on-site to be responsible for ensuring that the facilities are being used appropriately, to make sure users remain in the areas they are permitted, and to close the buildings securely is the best business practice and in the best interest of both the organization and the community.

Financial Implications

Scheduling a Facility Attendant to be on-site when a regular staff person is not available will come as an increased cost. Currently, the City's salary matrix has a part-time Facility Rental Supervisor (Facility Attendant) utilized for private rentals, generally on the weekends.

According to the recent fee study adopted by the City Council, the fully burdened cost to the City for a part-time Community & Personnel Services staff member is \$49/hour. This rate includes the hourly rate, the cost of taxes, insurances, and all other administrative overheads. If the City requires a Facility Attendant to be on-site whenever a building is being utilized the cost impact will not exceed \$2,500 per week. This is a high estimate based on the \$49/hr rate, times 4 hours a day, multiplied by 6 days a week for two positions (one for the Hart Park House, the other for the Community Recreation Center).

A cost of \$2,500 per week equates to an additional \$130,000 a year that is not currently within the City's budget. Staff is concerned that passing this cost on to the user groups, especially in its entirety, would make utilizing the City's facilities far too expensive, especially for the Continual User Groups.

Currently, Continual User Groups pay an annual fee of \$106 for their monthly meetings. Many of these groups give back thousands of dollars to the Department and City each year both in goods and in volunteer services. Staff fears that charging \$49/hr for a Facility Attendant for each meeting would cripple these volunteer organization's budgets resulting in either the groups not utilizing the City facilities or a decrease in donations which traditionally has enabled the Department to host a number of programs and events.

Summary

We invite and encourage the Community Services Commission and Parks & Facilities Master Plan Committee to attend a meeting to gather community input on this topic on Monday, December 13, 2010 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers. This meeting is open to the public.



Free on-air publicity for local events

Sierra Madre's new community radio station is now accepting scripts for Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about community events. PSAs will be broadcast on the air at no charge. The station operates 24/7 and can be heard at 1630 on the AM dial.

Any local non-profit or non-commercial organization can have their event information broadcast to the public on **Sierra Madre Community Information Radio**. This new radio station covers the city of Sierra Madre, plus surrounding areas of Pasadena, Arcadia, and Monrovia.

In a nutshell, your event must:

- Benefit a non-commercial or non-profit entity
- Be open to the public
- Be of general interest to local citizens

Just write a Public Service Announcement that describes your event and e-mail it to radio@cityofsierramadre.com.

SIERRA MADRE

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

SIERRA MADRE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 14, 2010

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Dec. 18 & 19th, 2010

Rose Float Deco Blitz
Rose Float Barn

January 8, 2011

Parks and Facilities
Master Plan Committee
Special Joint Meeting
with Community Services
9:00 AM – Community Recreation Center

Sierra Madre Little League
On-line registration site is open
To register for the 2011 Spring Season go to <http://www.sportssignup.com/Sierra-Madre-Little-League-Online-Registration.start>

If you have any questions contact Steve Tanner at 626-355-1249

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, November 28th, to Saturday December 4th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 352 calls for service. See crimereports.com for updated information.

Sunday, November 28th:

09:31 PM- DUI Alcohol/Drugs, 200 blk. Ramona Ave. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code Violation. The officer determined that the Sierra Madre resident was under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and taken to Pasadena Police Jail for booking.

Tuesday, November 30th:

05:15 AM- Possession of Marijuana in Vehicle, Baldwin and Orange Grove. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. The officer learned that the driver's license was suspended and he was in possession of marijuana. The Sierra Madre resident was cited and released on scene.

Wednesday, December 1st:

02:39 PM- Disorderly Conduct/Drunk in public, 100 blk. W. Sierra Madre Bl. Officers were dispatched to a call regarding an unconscious woman. The woman, a Sierra Madre resident, was intoxicated. The Fire Department took her to Arcadia Methodist Hospital for treatment.

Thursday, December 2nd:

04:38 PM- Petty Theft, 160 blk. N. Canon Ave. . Unknown suspect(s) stole an unattended backpack belonging to a Sierra Madre resident that he left next to his locker while he attended class at the Sierra Madre Middle school. No suspects known.

05:02 PM- Offensive Words to Produce Violent Reaction, 240 blk. W. Sierra Madre Bl. A Sierra Madre resident reported that a man was driving by his home yelling obscenities and taking pictures of his house. The suspect was identified as an Arcadia resident.

05:11 PM- Residential Burglary, 320 blk. Santa Anita Ct. Unknown suspect(s) entered a residential home through the rear unlocked door. Items stolen included a Sony Video camera worth \$1000.00, a Rebel Canon digital camera worth \$850.00, a Powershot S90 Canon digital camera worth \$500.00, a HD video camera, a Flip Video worth \$150.00, an Apple iPod Touch worth \$250.00, costume jewelry worth \$100.00, a Century fire safe worth \$35.00, and an Apple iPad worth \$700.00.

Friday, December 3rd:

9:18AM- Disorderly Conduct/Drunk in Public, 10 blk. Kersting Ct. Officers were dispatched to Kersting court regarding a disorderly woman who they determined to be intoxicated. Officers arrested the woman, a Sierra Madre resident.

7:10 PM- Petty Theft, 540 blk. W. Orange Grove Ave. Unknown suspect(s) stole a delivery package from a front porch. The victim was notified about her package arrival through the US Postal tracking service.

Saturday, December 4th:

12:55 AM- Grand Theft Exceeding \$400, Windwood Lane. The victims took a diamond ring for cleaning and repair. When they picked up the ring they noticed that the diamond had been replaced with a non-precious stone. The investigation is continuing.
6:12 PM- Petty Theft, 350 blk. Acacia St. Unknown suspect(s) entered an unlocked truck and stole a Nuvi Garmin GPS worth \$300.00, Prada cologne worth \$100.00 and \$3.00 worth in quarters.

THE PERFECT GIFT



The Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society (SMHPS) is selling their award winning book *Southern California Story-Seeking the Better Life in Sierra Madre* during this holiday season. If you are interested in the history of Southern California or the compelling story of Sierra Madre's beginnings and growth into "Our Town", we invite you to purchase our book. The book tells a wonderful story about Sierra Madre accompanied by photographs from Sierra Madre's historical archives capturing every facet of living in Sierra Madre as told by our award winning author Michele Zack.

Southern California Story-Seeking the Better Life in Sierra Madre has won several prestigious national awards this year for content, layout and cover design. It has also received rave reviews. So if you have not purchased a book yet, please do! And if you have already bought a book, please recommend it or buy another as a gift for someone special. The book is available at Arnolds Hardware, Sierra Madre Library, Sierra Madre Books, Vroman's and the Huntington Library bookstore. It may be also purchased from our web site at www.smhps.org. The purchase price of the book is \$49.39 (including tax) at any of the locations listed. Happy Holidays from Sierra Madre's Historical Preservation Society!



Custom floral designs and fabulous gifts
for your holiday giving.

9 Kersting Court
Sierra Madre, California 91024
626 355-1180

Christmas Eve Service

Sierra Madre United Methodist Church

Celebrate the birth of Jesus at Sierra Madre United Methodist Church, December 24, 7:30 p.m. The service will feature scripture lessons, familiar carols, a brief homily and the warm glow of candlelight as "Silent Night" is sung.

The Sierra Madre UMC is located at 695 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., on the northeast corner of Michillinda and Sierra Madre Blvd. There is ample parking in the church's parking lot, accessed off Michillinda. For more information or directions, please call (626) 355-0629.



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SIERRA MADRE CHRISTMAS TREE COMPANY

283 W Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre
(next to Arnolds Hardware)

Fresh Cut Noble & Douglas Fir Trees
All sizes 2 feet and up

Stands and Delivery Available

Guaranteed to be more fun than Home Depot!

Bring this ad and get **10% off** any tree purchase.

Grand Opening December 1st
until the trees run out!

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



And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

SIERRA MADRE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

As the sun slowly disappears and the light surrenders us to winter, and the weather further dashes us toward that icy chill. The season of Christmas stands ready to remind us of that glorious place of enchantment. The Season of Cheer and The Festival of Lights join together on a very special night.

For as a trumpet readies from a heralded city on high, Sierra Madre, and they prepare to furnish the vacuum of night and the void of darkness with the ballads of Christmas and the heavenly stars of candlelight. Our friends, churches, children and a community will once again embrace the miracle of Christmas.

We salute the heavenly thinking of Pastor Bob VanderZaag and Pastor Richard Anderson as the founders of this unique tradition. Each man held a lasting hope of bringing a community together and shepherding in a small town sensibility to the deeper meanings of the Christmas Season. For the last thirty-five years, The Candlelight Walk has faithfully strengthened the Christmas Spirit and loyally seeded the imagination of our dearest children.

The Candlelight Walk is held each Christmas season to celebrate the journey Joseph and Mary made to Bethlehem where Jesus was born over 2000 years ago. The procession will begin at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Sierra Madre, with "Mary and Joseph" leading the way and other participants holding candles and singing traditional Christmas carols. The procession will end at Kersting Court in the center of town where the Christmas Story will be read from Scripture.

Begins at St. Rita traveling down Baldwin to Kersting Court. It is recommended that you arrive at 6:45pm so that the walk can begin promptly at 7:00pm

Sierra Madre Proposed Water Rate Increase

This is notice that the second reading of Ordinance No. 1312 adjusting water rates in the City of Sierra Madre is scheduled for the Regular Council meeting of January 11, 2011. The meeting begins at 6:30 PM at Sierra Madre City Hall, 232 West Sierra Madre Boulevard. The public is invited to attend and provide comment at the meeting.

Ordinance No. 1132 will implement a four-year rate increase program in which water rates will increase approximately 7.54% each fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011. The ordinance will also introduce tiered water rates, which will result in slightly higher water rates for those customers using higher amounts of water. Ordinance 1312 eliminates certain charges for multiple-unit residential customers, reduces the Utility Users Tax Rate on water, and provides for annual review of Sierra Madre Water Department maintenance, debt service, and other operational costs to ensure that rates are kept as low as possible.

For additional information regarding Sierra Madre water rates, please visit the City's website at www.cityofsierramadre.com, or contact City Hall at (626) 355-7135.

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Schiff Says WikiLeaks ‘Treasonous’

By Dean Lee

Congressman Adam Schiff condemned Wednesday the recent unauthorized disclosure of sensitive State Department documents by the website WikiLeaks after leaning the released information included a private meeting in 2008 he had in Islamabad with now President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari.

He called the website’s action, “potentially treasonous.”

“Not only could this release cause a potential issue for President Zardari, but it will certainly inhibit his willingness—and that of other foreign leaders—to be candid in their discussions with the Administration and Members of Congress,” Schiff said. “This is not in our national interest.”

WikiLeaks became front page news across the country last Sunday after publishing 251,287 leaked United States embassy cables dating back to 1966. Some documents are as recent as February of this year. The website claims this is the largest set of confidential documents ever released to the public.

The cables originate from 274 embassies, consulates and diplomatic missions according to the website’s founder Julian Assange.

Schiff urged the Department of Justice to bring criminal charges against any responsible party including Assange who is currently in hiding.

A number of reports suggest that federal authorities are investigating, possibly bringing charges under the 1917 Espionage Act passed by Congress to stop disclosure of information dealing with national defense during World War I. The law prescribes a punishment of 20 years in jail.

A number of other websites, including the Electronic Frontier Foundation, have suggested that whistleblower websites like Wikileaks are needed to maintain a free and open internet. Schiff said there needs to be balance.

“There are many legitimate reasons for keeping diplomatic conversations from leaking into the public domain,” he said. “Confidence breeds candor and compromise, and the current document ‘dump’ is particularly damaging to our diplomatic relationships and security alliances that have been critical to American foreign policy, diplomacy and counter-terrorism efforts worldwide.”

Both President Barack Obama, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have condemned the leaks. Assange told Time Magazine Thursday that he thinks Clinton should resign after being asked a question about Clinton as “the fall guy” in the controversy.



Walter, a two year old, Jack Russell mix is very friendly and well-behaved. He is calm, affectionate, and gets along with other small dogs. Walter is already neutered and can go home with you 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 A280204 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-4 Sunday, 9-5 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-4 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at www.pasadenahumane.org

Tree Lighting Ceremonies Start the Season

Pasadena City Hall
Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard will lead the city’s official Christmas tree-lighting ceremony and holiday celebration Thursday, Dec. 9, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the grand entrance of Pasadena City Hall, 100 N. Garfield Ave. The Pasadena City College Brass Quintet will perform music of the season; refreshments will be served.

Altadena 90th Annual Christmas Tree Lane
Christmas Tree Lane Lighting Ceremony will take place Saturday Dec. 11, starting at 6 p.m. with a parade from the Altadena Public Library to Santa Rosa Avenue. The Blair IB Singers will provide entertainment along with Pasadena Waldorf School 6th Grade Class Singers and the Altadena Children’s Choir. Before the event the Altadena Library, 600 E. Mariposa will hold their Christmas Tree Lane Winter Festival and Boutique,



starting at 2 p.m. in the parking lot.

Tree Lighting at the Libraries
Celebrate the holidays by joining the La Pintoresca community on Friday, December 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. Santa Claus is expected to make a surprise visit. La Pintoresca Branch Library is located at 1355 North Raymond Avenue.

The Madison Heights community will celebrate its annual tree lighting ceremony at Allendale Branch Library on Saturday, December 11 at 4:30 p.m. The festivities will include holiday music and refreshments. Allendale Branch Library is located at 1130 South Marengo Ave. For more information, call (626) 744-7260.

Plate 38 Reopens After Disastrous Fire

By Dean Lee

A local café and coffee shop, Plate 38, held a quite re-gard opening Friday after being shutdown for months after a two-alarm fire destroyed most of the building’s roof and eating area in July.

The owner and executive chief, Robert Humphreys said because the restaurant kitchen area was spared he was able to rebuild, “that was very fortunate for us.”

His plan was to open late November before the start of the holidays, “we are a week late with that but this is still the time when everyone comes to Pasadena.” The café is on the busy corner of Colorado and Sierra Madre Boulevards.

He said most of the roof, outside eating area and awning



were totally destroyed in the fire.

“We redid the whole structure, and that outside, that didn’t exist,” he explained pointing to the patio area. “Basically they salvaged the windows, the walls and kitchen.”

He said an investigation ruled the cause of the fire as a short in

electrical wiring.

Humphreys said the café was an instant success when he first opened in July serving everything fresh. Seeing the success, he said permanently closing was never an option.

“We bake all our own muffins, make our own jams, we don’t buy anything pre-made,” he said. “The fact that we are doing everything from scratch, the customer knows they’re getting something that has no preservatives and know what they are eating—real food.”

He also explained that although he took the opportunity to make some minor changes, adding a lounge and redoing the floor, the menu stayed the same. He said Plate 38 is open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Christmas Cookie Decorating

Allendale Branch Library will hold an afternoon of cookie decorating for teens on Thursday, December 9 at 3:30 p.m. Celebrate the season by joining us as we decorate (and eat!) yummy Christmas cookies.

Bring your imagination and creativity as you transform ordinary sugar cookies into works of art for the holidays! All materials will be provided.

Allendale Branch Library is located at 1130 South Marengo Ave. For more information, call (626) 744-7260.

Humane Society to Host Low Cost Vaccine Clinic

On Wednesday December 8, 2010, the Pasadena Humane Society will host a public low cost vaccination clinic from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Veterinarians from PHS will be on hand to administer rabies shots and other vaccines to both cats and dogs. Dog licenses for Arcadia, LaCañada Flintridge and San Marino will be available for purchase as well. You can have your dog or cat microchipped during the clinic for a charge of \$20, which includes registration. All dogs four months of age and older are required by state, county and city ordinances to be vaccinated against rabies. The rabies vaccine provides three years of protection for dogs 12 months and older, one year protection for dogs four to 11 months and for cats from 3 months of age. Also available are DHLPP and bordetella (kennel cough) vaccines for dogs and FVRCP vaccines for cats; these may be given to pets eight weeks and older and provide protection for one year. Protection of pets against diseases other than rabies is not required by law, but is recommended for the well being of the animal.

February Pasadena Marathon Postponed

By Dean Lee

Race Director Israel Estrada officially said Wednesday they have postponed the 2011 Pasadena Marathon after not reaching an agreed date with the city during a meeting in mid November. He said they plan to meet again December 15.

“Know that we are just as eager as you are to hear back from the city with a new date,” Estrada said in a statement. “We are ready to begin the rollover or refund process just as soon as the city approves a new date and we can announce it.”

The race was set for Sunday February 20. Estrada said those that have registered for February have two options, a refund or rollover the fees to the new date although added that they need to set up their system to handle requests. He assured those that have registered “will not be required to pay any additional fees.”

Estrada said they want the Marathon, as it was intended, to be held each November.

“We feel that November is the ideal month for our city’s marathon, and we have requested approval of a November date from the City of Pasadena,” he said. “However, due to other scheduling considerations, the city is unable to accommodate our request for a fall date at present.”

He said they hope to secure an annual date for the life of the event.

Postponement is nothing new to the marathon. Originally set for November 2008, the inaugural event was first canceled then later postponed until March because of unhealthy air quality due to a number of large fires burning at the time. Estrada had called the event off at 4 a.m. just hours before the marathon was to begin.



Citizen Journalism Meet-up

Learn not just how to blog but how to report the news

The Pasadena Community Network and this newspaper are holding a workshop on Citizen Journalism.

This group is the place where aspiring journalists can learn from trained professionals and support their local community by covering what’s really happening in their neighborhoods.

We will put the news in your hands. Learn how to find the story, the tools needed to capture the story and the means to tell the story using the power of



Community Access Channels Now on AT&T U-Verse

Pasadena Community Network, the city’s local community access channels are now available on AT&T U-verse in the Metro LA cable market, which includes Glendale, Montebello and Burbank. AT&T U-verse Channel 99/Pasadena will include all programming originating from Pasadena’s community access channels; KPAS, The Arroyo Channel, PCC-TV & KLRN.

To find Pasadena’s local channels, just click 99 on

your AT&T U-Verse receiver, scroll to Pasadena and you will find the entire list of your favorite local Pasadena channels. As Pasadena Community Network continues to expand its ways to reach out to all of Pasadena’s communities, the new change will NOT disturb Charter’s cable system subscribers’ local channels, nor will it change the live channel web streaming at: www.PasadenaCommunityNetwork.com

Robinson Attends Policy Academy on Foreclosures

Pasadena City Councilwoman Jacque Robinson attended a special academy this week in Baltimore, Md., to discuss solutions to the foreclosure crisis and create a plan for promoting neighborhood stabilization in Pasadena.

During the Policy Academy on Foreclosure and Neighborhood Stabilization sponsored by the Young Elected Officials Network, Robinson and others from throughout the U.S. studied the roots of the foreclosure crisis, discussing solutions and touring Baltimore neighborhoods where stabilization efforts are working.

“Despite the fact that foreclosure news has taken a back seat to other national news, they are still taking place at a disproportionate rate in communities of color, even here in Pasadena,” said Robinson. “I am attending this workshop to bring best practices back to

facilitate solutions for Pasadena homeowners. The economy itself is causing enough of a transitional housing problem in Pasadena absent foreclosures. We need to be doing everything we can to keep families in this community.”

The academy began with formal training that brought attendees together with economists, legal scholars, consumer advocates, public policy academics and leading policy professionals to learn, share and discuss ideas and strategies to address the foreclosure crisis and its effect on communities. The attendees shared strategies for effectively addressing the crisis and develop solutions to prevent foreclosures and predatory financial practices, stabilize neighborhoods and build communities.

For more information about the academy visit www.yeonetwork.org.

ARCADIA

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

From Arcadia's Best:

Arcadia's 5-year Metamorphosis

I'm really looking forward to Arcadia in 2014 and 2015.

If it feels like much of Arcadia has been under construction for a couple years now with extensive work at nearly every school in town, the expansion of three major intersections on Santa Anita Avenue, additions to the hospital, repaving major roads, etc., wait till you endure the next two or three years. Construction is set to begin early next year on the "iconic freeway structure" (aka, the native American handbasket bridge — or "grenade" bridge) to carry the Gold Line Foothill Extension from the center of the 210 freeway towards its first new station stop in Arcadia.

And that's just the beginning; a year later, in May of 2012, just as the last of all the work to modernize schools is finally winding down, construction will begin simultaneously on all other elements of the Gold Line route through Arcadia, including:

- expansion of the bridge over Colorado Blvd near Newcastle Park
- new bridge over Santa Anita Avenue just south of Colorado Blvd — a major project to tear out the existing tracks and the little hill there to make a little dip in the same spot and add a double-wide bridge for two sets of tracks.

- station and transit plaza on northwest corner of First Avenue at Santa Clara (across from 24 Hr Fitness) with two-level expandable parking garage, crossing gates, landscaping and probably some retail stores
- second bridge added to existing bridge over Huntington Drive at Second Avenue, which will also be modified

And that's all just related to the Gold Line. Although neither is approved yet, Westfield Santa Anita is requesting to build a major expansion to the mall with a new two story building (most likely a Target store) and an adjacent multi-level garage, and a new deal is expected to be announced soon between Santa Anita Park and Caruso Affiliated to take another stab at a major retail center on the

parking lot of Santa Anita. The Santa Anita project will likely take two years to build if and when it gets final approval, and both will require major environmental impact reports that could take a year.

So, if you do the math on all these projects, by 2014 all these projects could be completing construction at about the same time.

Grit your teeth and start preparing for the inconveniences for the next three years, but keep an image in your mind of an Arcadia by 2014 or 2015 featuring:

- a beautiful new high school campus and completely upgraded schools
- new joint-use community/school gymnasium at Dana Middle School
- a brand new hospital wing and emergency room
- nice wide intersections with multiple right-and-left turning lanes
- huge new upscale retail and restaurant center with beautiful fountains and walking area to complement and preserve Santa Anita Park
- two-story Target right next to the full-scale mall for one-stop shopping
- plenty of movie theaters at both retail complexes
- convenient station to jump on the Gold Line to many major areas in L.A.
- revived downtown Arcadia area from new Transit Plaza down First Avenue south of and including Huntington Drive

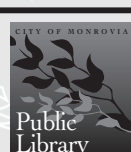
Arcadians of decades past enjoyed the pride of welcoming major additions to the community such as Santa Anita Park in the 1930s, the opening of Arcadia High School and Methodist Hospital in the 1950s, and the introduction of Santa Anita Fashion Park (the former Westfield Santa Anita) and the I-210 Foothill Freeway in the 1970s.

It's certainly time for this wave of modernization for which the current generation of Arcadians can be proud and which will ensure the vitality of the city for many more decades.

— By Scott Hettrick



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Holiday and Classical Sounds from the Filipino American Symphony Orchestra



Please join us for holiday and classical music selections from the Filipino American Symphony Orchestra (FASO). Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, December 18, 2010

Monrovia Public Library

Free of Charge

Time

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Music

Violin & Guitar Duo

Clarinet Quartet

Flute Ensemble

Locaton

Library Lobby

Library Community Room

Library Community Room

Event sponsored by the Friends of the Monrovia Public Library.

Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010

A LIVE STAGE/DINNER EVENT Arcadia Masonic Center 50 West Duarte Road.

1930s/40s movie musical song writer Harry Warren Harry Who?, the first live stage production of the 2010-2011 winter celebrity season of Theaters of Vision Productions (TOVP), features the toe-tapping, nostalgic rhythms of Harry Warren, performed by the Theaters of Vision Productions trio (Writer/Producer/Director: Lani Ridley Pedrini; Technical Director: Charles Offenhauser; Choreographer: Pamela Kay & Lani Ridley Pedrini) and a talented cast.

The program will be staged at 4 p.m., followed by a catered dinner at 6 p.m. Dinner theater

ticket prices are \$20.

Among Warren's more than 800 published songs, several of which won Academy Awards, are Home in Pasadena, At Last, 42nd Street, Shuffle Off to Buffalo, You Must Have been a Beautiful Baby, We're in the Money, Jeepers Creepers, Chattanooga Choo Choo, I only Have Eyes for You, an The Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe.

All were written for classic films produced by Paramount, MGM, Fox and Warner Bros. during the 1930s & '40s.

The dinner theater will feature an elegant Art Deco ambience, with performers clad in white gloves, top hats and tails, and musicians playing in big band style as the cast perform many of Warren's award-winning numbers to the arrangements of Glen Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, to name a few.

Dinner theater reservations are now available by sending an e-mail to: ltridl@aol.com or calling (626) 415-7390. .

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Winter Holidays Around the World at the Arcadia Historical Museum

On Saturday, December 18 at 2:30 p.m., come see how people around the world celebrate the winter holidays! Enjoy an afternoon filled with activities and crafts including a puppet show! Get a henna tattoo and make a cheeky caroler! Seating is limited and families will be accepted in the order that they are in line.

The Arcadia Historical Museum is located at 380 W. Huntington Drive, immediately behind the Community Center.

For more information, please call (626) 574-5440.

Recreation and Community Services Department New 2011 Winter Classes!

This winter the City of Arcadia Recreation and Community Services Department is offering a variety of new classes for youth, adults and adults over 50 years of age. For youth we have Parent and Me Ceramics; Introduction to Tap; and Improv and Debate for Kids. For adults and adults 50+ we have Cooking; Pajama Bottoms Sewing Class; Brazilian Self Defense; Kinetic Tai Chi; Zumba Gold and Hoopnotics. You can register now online, by mail or in person! For times, location and fees go on-line to the City of Arcadia's website: www.ci.arcadia.ca.us, to download the registration form or stop by the office, 375 Campus Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

For more information please call 626.574.5113!

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Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, November 28, through Saturday, December 4, the Police Department responded to 951 calls for service of which 137 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, November 28:

1. A victim came to the station around 12:50 p.m. to file a fraud report. The victim arrived in Los Angeles on November 25 and took a Prime Time Shuttle to Arcadia, and he gave his credit card to the driver to pay for his fare. On November 26, a bank representative advised that there were two suspicious transactions at a Best Buy for \$3000.
2. Shortly before 1:00 p.m., units responded to Westfield Mall in reference to a male suspect who had stolen merchandise from JC Penney, and security personnel were in pursuit. Security agents lost sight of the suspect, but Nordstrom security later advised that the same suspect had taken a ring from a display. Around 4:21 p.m., the 43-year-old male Caucasian suspect was found in the City Hall parking lot. He complained of stomach pains and was transported to a hospital for treatment.

At 9:53 a.m. on November 29, officers were dispatched to Westfield Mall again regarding the same suspect stealing a baseball cap from Fantasia Embroidery. The suspect was located and taken into custody for commercial burglary, receiving stolen property, and two outstanding warrants.

Monday, November 29:

3. Between 2:00 a.m. and 1:20 p.m., an auto burglary occurred in the 1100 block of West Duarte. Unknown suspect(s) smashed a car window and stole a \$300 GPS unit.
4. A victim came to the station around 4:35 p.m. to report a theft that took place at LA Fitness, 1325 South Baldwin, on November 28 between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. While the victim was working out at the location, unknown suspect(s) tampered with the combination lock to the locker and stole \$800 from the victim's wallet.

Tuesday, November 30:

5. Around 2:12 p.m., units were sent to Ralphs, 16 East Live Oak, regarding the theft of a case of beer. The suspect's vehicle information was obtained and a DMV inquiry led officers to a residence in Temple City. Four to five men were observed drinking beer at the location, and upon seeing the officers, everyone fled the scene except for one individual. A 31-year-old African-American was contacted and a search of his vehicle revealed a handgun case with two fully loaded magazines. The man was taken into custody for receiving stolen property.
6. A two vehicle non-injury traffic collision occurred at Santa Anita and Campus around 6:00 p.m. A 58-year-old male Caucasian driver was arrested at the scene for DUI.

Wednesday, December 1:

7. A residential burglary occurred in the 700 block of Fairview between 6:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. Unknown suspect(s) pried open a patio door, ransacked rooms, and stole a digital camera and iPad.
8. Units were dispatched to Baldwin and Duarte around 11:35 p.m. in reference to a robbery that just occurred. Two male Hispanic suspects, between 17 and 20 years of age, robbed a cab driver at gunpoint.

Thursday, December 2:

9. A loss prevention agent from the H&M store located at Westfield Mall advised that one of their employees had stolen merchandise on several occasions. The employee hid clothing items on his person and also used his employee discount to purchase items for friends. A private person's arrest was made, and a 22-year-old male Hispanic was taken into custody for commercial burglary.
10. Shortly before 7:00 p.m., a private person's arrest was made at JC Penney, and a 37-year-old female Caucasian was taken into custody for petty theft. The suspect stole numerous jewelry items by removing the sensor tags and concealing them in a purse.

Friday, December 3:

11. Between 9:24 a.m. on December 2 and 8:30 a.m. on December 3, a residential burglary occurred in the 300 block of West Colorado. While the house was tented for fumigation, unknown suspect(s) entered the home and stole a flat screen television, karaoke system, blu ray player, piano keyboard, and clothing items.
12. Around 4:42 p.m., a property manager came to the station to file a commercial burglary report. A previous tenant of a medical office located in the 600 block of West Duarte took six custom built-in cabinets and medical grade fixtures for a total reported loss of about \$10,000.

Saturday, December 4:

13. Units responded to the 800 block of La Cadena around 2:39 a.m. in reference to a domestic disturbance. During an argument, the suspect bit her boyfriend's wrist and scratched his chest, neck, and face. A 27-year-old female Caucasian was arrested for battery on co-habitant.

14. Shortly before 11:00 p.m., a traffic stop was made at Duarte and Baldwin for a code violation. An intoxicated 50-year-old male Hispanic driver was arrested at the scene for DUI.

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MONROVIA CITY COUNCIL DECEMBER 7 RECAP

By Vivianne Parker

Special city business news mentioned the awarding of a \$1 million grant to the City of Monrovia to be used for creating a park at Station Park area. At Monrovia's City Council meeting Tuesday night, Mayor Mary Ann Lutz explained how the city earned this honor. "About four or five weeks ago, myself, Scott Ochoa and staff met with the State of California about the Urban Green Grant. This is a grant that targets open space. We showed them a space where we would like to have a park in the new Station Park area. It's not a huge park, but we received over \$1 million of grant money so that we can have the park down in that space."

In other city news, the City Council heard the new revisions for the Park Ordinances. Whenever the Park Rangers have had to talk with guests about park violations, they have tried to educate them rather than have them cited. Now, they will soon have authority to issue citations as either an infraction, misdemeanor, or administrative charge due. This new authority is due to an Ordinance 2010-17, which is an amendment of Chapter 12.32 of the Monrovia Municipal Code relating to parks.

In the first administrative report, Michele Tompkins, Recreational Division Manager, presented the ordinance, which is expected to be adopted at the December 21 council meeting. From December 22 to January 22, the public will be given written warnings of the new authority procedure prior to it becoming effective March 4.

The ordinance has over 35 violations in the code from pouring motor oil to littering to violating park hours. Concern about the park curfews was expressed by motorcyclists who like to travel through Canyon Park on late night rides, as well as the issue of wearing helmets at the skate park. Education for parents with junior high and high school students was stressed to inform the parents of how the new procedures may

effect them.

This new procedure will give the police, fire, and rangers equal authority to issue tickets. Training will be provided to standardize the efforts.

The council also heard a report to extend the six-month contract with Athens to allow time to determine the next

Arcadia Methodist Hospital, presented a new approach for CPR techniques to the City Council that stresses a Hands Only approach where the focus is to immediately apply compressions to their chest for someone who suddenly passes out.

For Holiday news, The



street-sweeping contract, which the city has already experienced savings in their charge from Athens.

Ron Bow, Director of Public Works, presented the Water 4 Life program, which encourages user incentives for water conservation 10% below their anticipated levels. The reduction would help the City meet its overall conservation goals to reduce usage by 10% by 2015, 20% by 2020, and 35% by 2035. The program has goals to improve operating costs, reduce the demand, improve water supply level, reduce or eliminate the need for alternative water sources while educating the public about the need for conservation. Earlier at the meeting, the department honored fifth graders from Monrovia schools for their water conservation ideas submitted in an art contest.

In community news, the *Monrovia Green Team* has designed a way to help Monrovia's with their New Year's resolutions and to find way to go green at the same time. The program called "Reducing Our Waste Line" will feature a topic each week to encourage the residents to get involved with recycling efforts. From January 3 to 9, the focus will be on learning about recycling. From January 10 - 16, the topic is Yard Sales. The city will be offering free yard sale permits. From January 17 to 23, the Salvation Army will give free pickups. From January 24 to January 30, Athens has arranged to pick up Bulk Items for free.

Eileen Frost, nurse at

Monrovia Municipal Employees Association continues its food drive through December 17 in the city departments to benefit the efforts of Foothill Unity Center holiday distribution to the public.

The council also had a special visitor at the meeting. Santa Claus announced his upcoming visit to Monrovia homes during the week of December 13 to December 17. Each night, Santa will leave the Fire Station 101 at 5:30 as he tours designated neighborhoods. December 13, he will travel the streets south of Huntington, west of Myrtle to Fifth. December 14, he will travel east of Myrtle, north of Foothill. December 15, he will travel west of Myrtle, north of Foothill. December 16, he will travel east of Myrtle, south of Foothill, and north of Duarte Road. December 17, he travels west of Myrtle, south of Foothill to Huntington between Myrtle and Fifth.

Santa also brought the game Monroviopoly, which celebrates the 125th year anniversary of the City of Monrovia which will occur in May 2011. The game is available for \$25.00 at City Hall and the Community Center.

Other holiday events to schedule on the calendar feature: The 2nd Holiday Sing-a-long December 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the Library Park Fountain.

December 18, the Monrovia Library will feature concerts by the Filipino American Symphony Orchestra.

Duarte Documents to District Attorney Rebut Chagnon Allegations

The City of Duarte has submitted documentation to the office of the Los Angeles County District Attorney that conclusively rebuts allegations made by former Azusa Mayor Diane Chagnon that Duarte spent public funds to promote a referendum challenging the Azusa City Council's approval of the Vulcan mining expansion project.

In her complaint to the District Attorney, Chagnon, a member of the pro-Vulcan mining expansion group Canyon City Alliance, alleged Duarte hired the public relations firm, Englander Knabe & Allen, to promote a referendum. But the documents submitted by Duarte to the District Attorney confirm the work performed by the firm was not related to the referendum but rather to inform Azusa residents about the adverse environmental impacts the Vulcan mining expansion project would have and to encourage residents to attend the Azusa City Council's public hearings on the project on May 17, 2010 and July 6, 2010. Englander Knabe & Allen completed all of its work for Duarte prior to the July 6, 2010 decision by the Azusa City Council to approve the Vulcan project and therefore prior to the referendum effort undertaken by Azusa residents.

"It's unfortunate that Vulcan, through its supporters, has chosen to smear Duarte as a public relations play when the volumes of public records released to them and provided to the District Attorney confirm that Duarte has not spent public funds on the referendum," said Duarte City Manager Darrell George. "Vulcan's supporters know full well what the truth is and yet filed the complaint with the District Attorney anyway. We are fully confident the District Attorney will find Ms. Chagnon's complaint to have absolutely no merit."

The complaint also alleged that Duarte spent public funds on the referendum because Englander Knabe & Allen submitted a proposal to Duarte to work on the referendum. But that proposal was rejected by Duarte and never implemented.

"Duarte never engaged the Englander firm or anyone else to work on or affect the Azusa referendum," said George.

Chagnon also alleged that the Duarte City Council illegally met in secret to discuss



Azusa Mayor Diane Chagnon (l) alleges that the City of Duarte spent public funds to fight the Azusa's Vulcan mining expansion project. File Photo

the Vulcan mining expansion project.

"Again the allegation is false. Any discussion the Duarte City Council had in closed session concerning the Vulcan matter were proper under the Brown Act, California's open meeting law, and were listed on the City Council agenda as required by the Brown Act," said George.

"This is just one more attempt by a group of people who will benefit financially from the mining expansion to distract the public from the real issue Duarte cares about—the degrading of the environmental quality of Duarte and the San Gabriel Valley because of the adverse environmental impacts that will occur from the mining expansion, including destroying our mountains, worsening our air quality, and injuring the health of all of us especially our children," said Duarte Council member Margaret Finlay.

On July 6, 2010, the Azusa City Council voted 4 to 1 to approve a revised conditional use permit, revised reclamation plan and accompanying development agreement to allow Vulcan Materials Company to move its mining operations from a partially mined 80 acres on the east side of its 270 acre property to a pristine mountain ridge on the western portion of its property above Duarte homes and schools. The approval allows Vulcan to blast 600 feet off Van Tassel Ridge over the next 28 years to extract 105.6

million tons of aggregate from the mountain. In exchange, Azusa stands to reap in excess of \$67 million in advance mining fees, additional extraction surcharges and other financial incentives for Azusa over the life of the agreement to extend to 2038. The deal is also expected to generate hundreds of millions of dollars for the Birmingham, Alabama-based Vulcan, the nation's largest producer of aggregate.

After Azusa's decision, the Duarte City Council unanimously voted to commence litigation against the City of Azusa and Vulcan Materials Company. Duarte's lawsuit, scheduled to be heard by Los Angeles County Superior Court in mid-February, 2011, seeks to overturn the City of Azusa's certification of the Final Environment Impact Report and other approvals that allow Vulcan Materials Company to expand its mining project to Duarte's border.

In 2008, the Duarte City Council established a \$700,000 fund entitled the "Fight Against Vulcan Expansion" fund (FAVE) in response to the anticipated expansion plans by Vulcan and its potential adverse impact on Duarte residents.

For more information about the City of Duarte's Fight Against Vulcan Expansion, call Duarte Deputy City Manager, Karen Herrera at (626) 357-7931, ext. 221.

Monrovia Police Blotter

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 454 service events, resulting in 81 investigations. Following are the last week's highlighted issues and events:

Commercial Burglary

On November 26 at 8:50 a.m., an officer responded to a business in the 500 block of East Evergreen regarding a burglary. The reporting party said someone had broken into the business either the day before or overnight. The suspects cut part of a corrugated steel panel to gain entry. A loss was not established and the investigation is continuing.

Gang Graffiti

On November 26 at 12:21 p.m., an officer went to the 400 block of East Duarte on the report of graffiti in the area. The officer located the new graffiti on the southeast corner. The graffiti was gang-related writing in black paint.

Grand Theft Auto

On November 26 at 4:26 p.m., an officer was dispatched to a business in the 100 block of East Live Oak on the report of a stolen vehicle. An employee had parked the vehicle inside the fenced yard and locked it. In the afternoon, they went to use the vehicle and could not find it. All keys are accounted for and no one had permission to take the vehicle. The vehicle is a white, 2004, Ford F350 truck.

Child Endangering

On November 27 at 8:59 a.m., a subject called to report finding a two-year-old, male child in the middle of the street at Shamrock and Ocean View. Officers responded and a door-to-door canvass revealed an open front door to a two story home. The residents did not respond to officers knocking. A contact for the location was called and this person responded to the location. The father of the boy was found to be asleep in the residence. Apparently, the parents know the child can open the door, but did not take any measures to ensure he could not get out. A report will be completed and forwarded to the Department of Child and Family Services.

Grand Theft Auto - Suspect Arrested

On November 29 at 8:09 p.m., an officer on patrol received a LoJack hit on a stolen vehicle. With the assistance of the Foothill Air Support Team helicopter, officers tracked the hit to the area of Mayflower and Duarte Road. The signal was very inconsistent and officers had difficulty locating the stolen truck, but after a lengthy search, the truck was eventually located at a residence in the 500 block of Genoa inside a garage. The officer was able to see the truck through a crack in the garage door. The activity drew the resident out and she was questioned. She signed a consent to search for the garage and house. The garage was searched and the vehicle was recovered. The VIN number had been removed and was found on a workbench in the garage. The woman eventually admitted her husband had driven the truck there and put it in the garage. She claimed she did not know the vehicle was stolen. The wife called and asked the husband to come home, which he did. He was arrested and taken into custody.

Receiving Stolen Property - Suspects Arrested

On December 1 at 11:22 p.m., a resident in the 200 block of North May reported two subjects in the area looking into cars and checking car doors to see if they were unlocked. Officers arrived and detained two female juveniles, 15 and 16 years old, both where in possession of stolen property. They claimed to have received the property from another female subject. Officers were able to locate some of the victims and their property was returned; however, all of the victims could not be located. Some of the property taken included: several pairs of sunglasses, an iPod, CDs, and a resident's wallet and driver's license.

Grand Theft Auto

On December 2 at 1 a.m., a resident in the 400 block of West Maple called police to report his truck had just been stolen by unknown suspects who left in an unknown direction. The vehicle is a silver, 2007, Chevy Silverado truck. Officers responded but the suspect could not be located. Investigation continuing.

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Duarte Dedicates Encanto Nature Park, Bioswale & Outdoor Classroom Project Funded

Nature and the public got an early Christmas gift from the City of Duarte with the long awaited dedication of the Encanto Nature Park, Bioswale and Outdoor Classroom. The newest jewel in the regional Emerald Necklace Project to reinvigorate urban river corridors, it is destined to be one of the most innovative recreational opportunities for Duarte residents and all those who love the San Gabriel River. A bioswale is a constructed stream channel that conveys storm water to the ocean slowly allowing water to infiltrate locally. It also replenishes groundwater and reduces flooding along the main channels and rivers. The 1,000 foot long bioswale along the western perimeter of the 12-acre City owned Encanto Park is a "naturalized" bioswale designed to look and function as a natural stream. The bioswale treats and filtrates stormwater before it flows into the San Gabriel River. It also creates a natural habitat through the planting of native California plants. The bioswale ends in a small basin containing a thick layer of biologically active soil that further cleans and infiltrates local water. Along the path, dotted with interpretive signage and sculptures, river rock provides natural seating areas to allow visitors to the park to relax and enjoy the environment. Los Angeles based BlueGreen Consulting Open Space & Design, designed the bioswale project. A group of 5th and 6th grade students from Valley View School in Duarte were among the first to tour the bioswale and hear from experts in the Outdoor Nature Classroom. "We've seen the loss of tremendous amounts of brush land and woodlands being cleared, rivers being channelized, open country, grasslands being built on, particularly in our valleys and lowland areas. So every time we see a real effort to restore or build habitats that are good for birds and other wildlife it's really something to celebrate," said Kimball Garrett, Ornithology Collections Manager of the Natural History Museum.



Other components of the project include the previously completed Encanto Nature Walk; a 1500 foot in length multi use path with interpretive signage along the west bank of the San Gabriel River. The walk includes a river overlook that projects nearly 200 feet out into the river channel with stone benches, and attractive drought tolerant native landscaping. The area has been transformed from a previously fenced off and inaccessible space into a pleasant walk culminating at the historic Puente Largo Bridge. Total cost of the projects was \$758,000 with grant funding coming from three primary sources the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy at \$508,000, and Prop A funds of \$100,000 from Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and \$150,000 from Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina. Funds were originally allocated in 2008 but were suspended for a period of time as a result of the ongoing budget crisis in the State of California. Duarte's street maintenance staff will provide long-term maintenance of the project.

Celebration of Human Rights Day

Five PUSD students introduced by Superintendent Edwin Diaz presented their award-winning essays on the topic of human rights



Winners: Raquel Zarate –John Muir High School, Ariana Solotoff C.I.S., Jean-Pierre Papouloute –Blair High School, Dibora Haile – Marshall Fundamental, Olivia Broslawsky – Pasadena High School Photo by Dean Lee/Story on Page 4.

PUSD CUTS DROPOUT RATE BY ALMOST 5 PERCENT

Graduation Rate Rises to 79.4%

Pasadena, CA – The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) released high school graduation and dropout rates for the 2008-09 school year, reporting an increase in graduation rates and a decrease in dropout rates for all ethnic subgroups.

In 2008-09, 79.6 percent of PUSD students graduated, up from 75.2 percent in the previous year. For the same year, the four-year dropout rate was 19.9 percent, down from 24.8 percent in 2007-08. The four-year Los Angeles County dropout rate for 2008-2009 is 24.3 percent and the statewide rate is 21.7 percent.

“Although the dropout rate is still too high, I am encouraged that the state report indicates that more PUSD students are completing high school, and that we are on track to meet our goal of cutting the dropout rate in half over a three year period,” said Edwin Diaz, Superintendent. “However, this report also reinforces the need to focus on narrowing the achievement gap among groups of students, as the data continues to show higher dropout rates for African American and Hispanic students.”

In June, the Board of Education, which has designated improving graduation rates as one of its highest priorities, adopted recommendations aimed at reducing the



Edwin Diaz, PUSD Superintendent congratulates PHS graduate Treavor Robinson during ceremony in June. According to the latest figures from the district, dropout rates are on the decline. Photo by S. Henderson

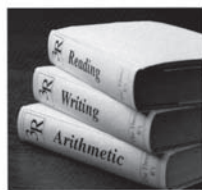
dropout rate by 50 percent and increasing graduation rates district-wide. A Dropout Task Force, composed of board members, educators, and civic and community leaders, developed recommendations to raise the graduation rate to 100 percent, and PUSD recently won a \$2.4 million federal grant to support dropout prevention activities.

PUSD’s comprehensive graduation improvement strategy includes: early warning systems designed to identify students at risk of dropping out, rigorous academic programs and support services to engage students, credit recovery programs, and targeted re-engagement programs that identify out-of-school youth and encourage them to re-enter school.

John Muir High School had the greatest improvement in

the four-year dropout rate, decreasing from 33.8 percent in 2007-08 to 22.8% in 2008-09. The four-year dropout rate at Blair decreased from 19.1% in 2007-08 to 16.7% in 2008-09 while Marshall decreased from 9.6% in 2007-08 to 5.1% in 2008-09. During the same period, Pasadena High School changed from 6.8% to 8.7% and Rose City from 96.4% to 90.6%.

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PASADENA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Patrick Conyers, presently director of development for Southern California Public Radio (KPCC), takes the helm from Joan Fauvre, who is retiring after leading the organization for 16 years.



PASADENA– The Pasadena Educational Foundation announces the appointment of Patrick Conyers as its executive director, effective January 1st. Conyers, presently director of development for Southern California Public Radio (KPCC), succeeds Joan Fauvre, who is retiring on December 31st. Serving for 16 years as its executive director and for 10 years before that as a member of its board, Fauvre has long been an integral part of the foundation’s work to support the public schools of Altadena, Pasadena and Sierra Madre.

“My 26 years with the foundation have been a wonderful journey,” Fauvre says. “Working with the PUSD students, teachers, principals, staff and administrators and, of course, my own remarkable staff and board have kept me inspired and engaged in this work all these years. I’ve witnessed remarkable improvements in the schools and a huge increase in community engagement and support that I know will continue to grow with the foundation’s new leadership.”

Founded in 1971 as the first organization of its kind in California, the foundation last year raised a record \$11 million-plus from individuals, corporations and government grants. In the past 15 years the foundation has generated more than \$90 million for PUSD students, teachers, principals and schools. These funds have provided computers, after school programs, teacher training, science and math equipment and supplies, summer enrichment courses, field trips, technology, health care, college scholarships, musical instruments, arts programs and much more.

“Joan, the board, staff and volunteers of PEF have done a remarkable job raising both an awareness of the challenges our schools face and funds to help the PUSD meet those challenges,” says Conyers. “I’m humbled to have been chosen as Joan’s successor, and I intend to do everything possible to add to the great momentum she and the dedicated staff and board have built.”

As KPCC’s director of development, Conyers managed the completion of the radio station’s \$27 million capital campaign, oversaw on-air pledge drives and membership efforts and managed all of the station’s fundraising-related events. He previously served as its major gifts officer. Before joining KPCC in early 2008, Conyers was director of development for the Pasadena Museum of History, where he helped develop curriculum for the PUSD’s My Masterpieces art program and where he serves as a trustee. Conyers also serves as chair of the City of Pasadena’s Arts & Culture Commission, which oversees the City’s public art policy and the City’s relationship with area arts organizations and artists. Conyers has a Ph.D. in European Economic History, an M.A. in European History, and a B.A. in History and Latin, all from the University of Iowa.

“We are profoundly grateful to Joan for her remarkable dedication and for her enormous success in building community support for our public schools,” says PEF Board President George Brumder. “We will miss her, we thank her and we wish her well.”

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

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

Arcadia High School

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

Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

Barnhart School

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

Bethany Christian School

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

Carden of the Foothills School

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

The Gooden School

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

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
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 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

Walden School

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www.waldenschool.net

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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Eat Well! News and Notes and Checking Back in at Zelo

Sad news my friends, one of my favorite Sushi Restaurants in Pasadena, Masa, has temporarily closed their doors. The Sushi Chef that I came to know and love 'Mr. Fuji Wara, has passed away. Owner Peter Park, tells me that Masa will re-open in a few weeks as a Korean Style BBQ restaurant. My thoughts and prayers to Fuji's family.

A few years back there was a very popular and comprehensive event in Pasadena, one where the greatest scholar and meekest shoe shiner were both able to speak with discernment, The Pasadena Pizza Cook-off. I was



TABLE FOR TWO

fortunate to be involved in the event for many years. I got a little caught up in my flourishing affection for pizza, for I dubbed my car the Pizazar. Next, I found myself subscribing to Pizza Today Magazine. The magazine is overtly obscure for the pragmatic consumer, those of you that just fancy a good pie (pizza) and don't wish to follow the outer workings of the rolling pin. So, I am a little impetuous and my passion may make me a candidate for a white suit with straps someday, but hey, we are taking about pizza here!!!

Making a pizza is the easiest and most difficult food item in the restaurant business. Wolfgang Puck took this flat circle and added some slices of salmon and a genius was born. On the other hand, I have had more than one pizza that must have had cardboard as a main ingredient. We are fortunate, we have some great Pizza places in the area: Tarnatinos, Domenicos and Avanti Café. There is this restaurant in the city of Arcadia that I believe is a contender as well. Zelo Restaurant, it is an unassuming stop on Foothill Blvd. The owner, Steve Freeman, hails from Northern California and he has brought his unique recipe to share with hungry Angelinos.

Zelo is what I would label as a classic drive-by. A place that draws your attention, but is relatively unknown to many, and offers little staging on the exterior to bring you into the restaurant. When you unearth a great drive-by, it is the closest event that an urban dweller can compare to discovering gold.

What do you get when you cross one part cornmeal and four parts flour? Zelo's pizza crust, and this is the heart and soul of their unique pizza. All their pizzas are prepared in a deep dish. On any given day, Steve will put together 12 different pizza specials. You

can get pizzas by the half (three slices) for (\$11), and (\$20) for a whole pizza, that's six slices filled with toppings. You could accurately compare that to a medium size that your kids order at the familiar Dominos for (\$20). You can't compare the texture and flavor. I love the four-cheese pizza: mozzarella, fontina, provolone and parmesan at Zelo's. On my last visit, I had the Sicilian pizza. This is a pizza brimming with fresh pepperoni, tomatoes and three different cheeses. Who goes to a pizza place for a salad? Me! They do a serviceable job on the salads here. The Beet salad at (7.50) is their top seller, probably in large part because of me. For the same price they also offer a creamy Asparagus salad, with leaf lettuce and stalks of asparagus resting on top. The lettuce gets a full emersion of balsamic vinaigrette and the asparagus receives a nice creamy dressing. The salads are good enough to make it worth the trip. This is a great place to go with the flow and order the specials. If you are in a pasta mood? They offer many pasta dishes in the (\$9) range, and Lasagna for (\$11). They have fantastic Calzones, and plenty of vegetarian dishes as well. They do offer beer and wine, and you may bring your own bottle of wine, the corkage fee is (\$8).

What you need to know: Zelo is casual. Dress comfortably, and make certain you have room to let your belt out an extra notch. They have patio seating in the front that faces Foothill Blvd. They do get busy on weekend nights, so plan accordingly. Parking can be a hassle here, because it is street parking. Remember, the pizzas are unique! If you are trying to impress a new girl, I suggest ordering the pizza half-baked, and finish cooking it at home. Our secret! They are open Tuesday through Sunday, Friday and Saturdays they are open until 10 PM. 328 E. Foothill Blvd. Arcadia (626) 358-8298

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Aficionado by Dave Hart

As promised last week, during this next couple of months, the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library want to help you to experience wine like a pro. Developing the skill of wine tasting takes practice – LOTS of wine. The more you taste, the better you'll become at the process.

Each week, you'll see a new wine-related article each building upon the last, starting with the stages of sampling – looking, smelling and tasting the wine. So, let's continue.

Wine is meant to be savored with at least three senses – sight, smell and taste. Most of my friends end up spilling their wine, so for them this means adding the sense of touch, but for most of us “sophisticated” drinkers, we're limited to just the three.

Last week you spent a good part of a day just looking at the wine, the color, the depth and clarity. This week you'll get your nose in the glass and learn a bit about what to expect.

SMELL

The “nose” or the “bouquet” of your wine should be savored as if it's the first taste from the glass. Swirl the wine in your glass by rotating your wrist. That's the reason for NOT filling the glass (dang). Really doesn't matter if you're holding the glass by the bulb or the stem, but an expert swirl will take a little practice. Like a good pitch, the key is the wrist, rotating the glass while holding your arm still, and making certain you don't hit the innocent taster to your right. Swirling of the glass releases the wine's molecules bringing the aroma to the edge of the glass. You're also aerating the wine, exposing more of the wine to the air. This allows the wine to more quickly “open” just as if you've poured the wine into a decanter. An opened wine will become more mature, and probably more quickly reflect the best intended flavor.

As quickly as possible after you've swirled, place your nose just over the edge of the glass, getting into the aromas. Take a deep sniff as the flavors should bounce off the edge and right into your nostrils. Take a moment to identify any familiar smells, the repeat the process.

Does the wine smell clean, fresh, floral or fruity, honeyed, earthy, musty? You may be able to identify hundreds of scents which will be unique to the wine – type of grape, the blend, region, the soil of the vineyard, length of aging, etc. With practice you should be able to identify different fruit – green apples, blackberries, apricots, pineapple. Many more mature wines of higher quality will have a savory and spicy smell, rather than fruity. You should also learn to smell the alcohol content of the wine. Pour a glass of wine with lower alcohol content (11% - 12%), and one with higher levels. Now smell the difference. Do you have a preference? Wines that have been aged in stainless steel will smell differently than those casked in oak barrels. You may even learn to detect the difference between wines aged in domestic oak, or more expensive French barrels. Imagine how impressive THAT could be on a first date!

By the way, according to most reputable sources, sniffing the cork just proves you're a wine novice. Unless the wine has gone bad (smell of vinegar), there is really nothing you can learn about the wine by sniffing the cork. Most of this ritual at a restaurant has more to do with tradition than helping you with your wine selection.

When developing your sense of smell, don't worry about what it's “supposed” to smell like. Everyone will have different impressions, and should be able to detect different aromas. You're not wrong if you smell dirt, when the other taster detects peaches. Both may be a part of the wine's bouquet. Now, if you can tell if the grape was grown on an east-facing, rather than west-facing slope, THAT will impress.

Finally, to commemorate your newly developed sense of smell, mark your calendar to attend The Sierra Madre Friends of the Library 41st Annual Wine and Cuisine Tasting Event. The always-popular evening will take place at the Alverno High School Villa, 200 N Michillinda Avenue, on Friday February 18 7:00p – 9:30p. General entry tickets at a cost of \$60 will allow entry at 7:00, but Premier admission at \$80 will allow 100 folk an early entry at 6:00 and include many new surprises. Current paid members of the Friends will receive a \$5 discount off general entry when purchased at the library. Tickets can be purchased at Arnold's Frontier Hardware, The Bottle Shop, Iris Intrigue, and Savor the Flavor. You can also pick up tickets at the Sierra Madre Library, or on-line at sierramadrelibraryfriends.org.

In addition to attending one of the social highlights of the year, and “educate” your sense of smell, you'll enable the Friends to support your library services and programs. This past year The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library provided over \$58,000 for equipment upgrades and improvements.



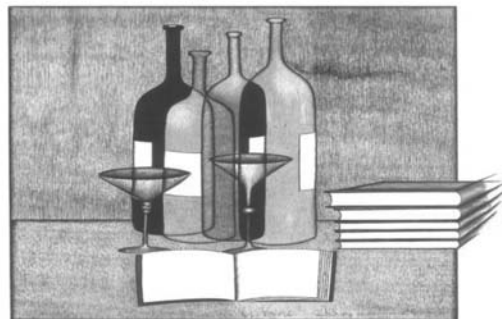
Win Two Tickets to the Friends of the Library 41st Annual Wine and Cuisine Tasting Event

February 18th at the Alverno Villa

Look for this Wine-Tasting Artwork in Mt. Views Publications now until January 31st. Answer the wine trivia question, complete the entry form and drop off at the Sierra Madre Library.

Drawing Rules – Limited to one entry per person, per Mt Views publication. Winner need not be present to win General Admission tickets. Completed entry from must be delivered to the Sierra Madre Library during hours of operation, same week of publication. Drawing tickets have no cash value and cannot be refunded. Eligible entry form does not require a correct answer to the trivia question.

Wine & Cuisine Tasting Ticket Give-away Entry Form



Wine Trivia Question:

What can you tell from smelling the wine?

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- ☐ The type of grape used in producing the wine
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HOWARD Hays As I See It



"Let us reason together." Powerful words - a slogan used by Lyndon Johnson in his 1964 presidential campaign. They provided an effective counterpoint to Barry Goldwater's "Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice."

Americans generally support the concept of reasoning together. A new Gallup poll shows two-thirds of respondents favoring President Obama's compromise with Republicans on tax cut and unemployment benefit extensions. A Bloomberg poll released the same time, though, cites a similar two-thirds as preferring that tax cuts for the wealthiest be allowed to expire, while made permanent for the middle-class.

Democrats wax nostalgic about the eloquent combativeness of Franklin Roosevelt: "These economic royalists complain that we seek to overthrow the institutions of America. What they really complain of is that we seek to take away their power. Our allegiance to American institutions requires the overthrow of this kind of power. In vain they seek to hide behind the flag and the Constitution. In their blindness they forget what the flag and the Constitution stand for."

Democrats yearn for the "plain-speaking" of Harry Truman: "The Republicans believe that the power of government should be used first of all to help the rich and the privileged in the country. With them, property, wealth, comes first. The Democrats believe that the power of government should be used to give the common man more protection and a chance to make a living. With us the people come first. 'A Government as Good As Its People'"

Echoes of that clarity and determination are heard today from Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who says it is "... beyond comprehension that the Republicans would hold hostage the entire middle class of this country so that millionaires and billionaires would receive huge tax breaks. In my view, that is not what this country is about and it is not what the American people want to see. Our job is to save the disappearing middle class, not lower taxes for people who are already extraordinarily wealthy and increase the national debt that our children and grandchildren would have to pay."

Keith Olbermann on MSNBC began his commentary by paraphrasing Winston Churchill: "We have sustained defeat without a war". In assessing support for the president, he said he told an administration official trying to sell him on the proposal, "the base has just vanished."

Republicans, too, have come out against the compromise. Continuation of the lowered tax rates, they say, is sure to bring investment and job creation, notwithstanding the fact the identical claim was made nine years ago and proved bogus. Their objection is not in assuring the top 1% (averaging \$1.4 million annual income) can save \$83,000 a year in taxes, but in sending those \$290 weekly unemployment checks offering a lifeline to 2 million Americans and their families.

Our favorite Tea Party candidate, Christine O'Donnell of Delaware, announced formation of

her new Political Action Committee by citing three "tragedies" of the day; commemoration of the Pearl Harbor attack, the death of Elizabeth Edwards, and the extension of unemployment benefits (she later explained she didn't mean what she said). Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC) says "We just can't keep paying people to stay at home." (A survey by the San Francisco Federal Reserve concludes that those who receive benefits stay unemployed an average of 1.6 weeks longer than those who don't.)

Republicans decry the "massive spending" of the proposed extension of unemployment benefits, figured at \$56 billion over two years - but not the \$140 billion over the same period for blocking a 3-point marginal tax increase for those making over \$200,000 a year (\$250,000 for families). Rep. Michelle Bachman (R-MN), Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) and Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) go on the air to describe payroll tax cuts for the middle-class as "government spending", while cutting taxes for the wealthiest is simply allowing them to "keep their own money". Bachman also complains that President Obama doesn't use the term "God" enough in his speeches. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich suggests tax rates be set by "the business leadership of the country".

A big question is how this compromise proposal will effect President Obama's re-election prospects. According to Survey USA as reported in the Washington Post, 74% of those who contributed to Obama in 2008 oppose the deal allowing for an extension of the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest. 57% of them are less likely to support Democrats in 2012 who back the compromise, and 51% are less likely to support the president's re-election.

The dilemma for President Obama is that he serves not just as party leader or campaign strategist, but as president of all Americans. In his press conference, he alluded to the dangers of refusing to compromise: "People will have the satisfaction of having a purist position and no victories for the American people. And we will be able to feel good about ourselves and sanctimonious about how pure our intentions are and how tough we are, and in the meantime the American people are still seeing themselves not able to get health insurance because of a preexisting condition. Or not being able to pay their bills because their unemployment insurance ran out."

Should this compromise pass, there will be the need to remind voters that the deficit is now unquestionably the responsibility of Congressional Republicans, not of President Obama. We'll need to make sure diminished revenue through cuts in the payroll tax is never used as an excuse to cut benefits from Social Security or Medicare, or turn such programs over to the same Wall Street players who decimated so many 401(k)'s and thousands of other retirement accounts.

There's the need to be open to compromise in order to provide those "victories for the American people." There's also the need to hear more plain-speaking from Harry Truman: "Whenever a fellow tells me he's bipartisan, I know he's going to vote against me."

Kill The Tax Deal

GREG Welborn



It might surprise you to learn that I don't like the tax deal that's being shopped around Congress. The fact that this puts me in the same camp as many of the Democrats is a little disconcerting to my conservative soul.

One thing is for sure, and that is that President Obama's willingness to accept this deal and his attempt to "sell" it marks the end of Obamanomics. He's come out and told us that unless this deal is passed, unless increases in tax rates are prevented, the economy will likely enter a double dip recession or worse. This is nothing short of a repudiation of the heart and soul of Obamanomics. The only reason he's doing it is because it gives him a shot, but only a shot, at a second term. That's how disastrous his economic policies to date have been.

The deal as laid out would maintain the current tax level for two more years and slightly reduce payroll taxes. The payroll tax reduction is relatively minor, so the reality of this deal is that it simply allows the current tax structure to continue for two more years. If no deal is reached, on the other hand, then on January 1st, 2011 President Obama will be responsible for one of the largest tax increases ever enacted in this country. Without an extension of what we have now, income tax rates increase, capital gains tax rates increase, dividend tax rates increase, the alternative minimum tax (AMT) will affect several more million middle class Americans, and estates in excess of \$1 million (almost every successful farm or small business) will be taxed at confiscatory rates. But the "rates" are only part of the ugliness. Because personal exemptions and deductions will be phased out at ridiculously low levels, the real "effective" rate that many Americans will pay will increase by more than 20%.

President Obama knows this. His acceptance of "the deal" acknowledges, not only that his tax and spend policies have failed to lift the economy, but that tax rates matter to growth, that treating business owners as criminals or pirates does real harm (who's going to invest in their business when they face that attitude from their own government), and that reducing tax rates is much more effective than increasing spending. President Obama is finally telling the nation, or at least the far lefties in his own party, that businesses actually do most of the hiring in this country, and they typically don't hire if they don't make profits after tax.

President Obama told us originally that spending more money in stimulus two, or tarp two, or whatever two that was (I've lost track) would grow the economy and keep unemployment from increasing. He never explained how spending money in one area increased employment but taking it from another area didn't just as affectively decrease employment. That's always been the reality of government spending. Whether you tax someone or borrow the money from them, when you take money away from business A to buy something from business B, you may increase the employment at B, but you most assuredly decrease it at A. The net effect of government spending has never been an increase in economic activity or employment.

Now, the president is finally acknowledging it. Obamanomics is dead. What's left to be seen is whether the remnants of the Democratic Party are going to die or evolve. Some of them actually are fighting the deal because they want to continue on with the current failed policies. As if the loss of 68 seats in the House and employment climbing to 9.8% wasn't enough to convince them that their theories don't work in the real world, they actually

want to let tax rates go up on January 1st to see how many more businesses shutter their doors and fire their employees. I've never understood liberal thought, but I really believed I understood political survival instincts.

Now with all that said, let me drop the bombshell that I don't support the deal. Of course, I don't support it for a much different reason than the typical Democrat. I don't think it goes far enough in assuring us that tax rates won't rise in the future, and passing the deal would violate the Pledge To America.

In the real world, businesses make decisions on whether to expand their plants, introduce new product lines and ultimately employ more people, or give existing ones raises, based on expected profits into the future. Given the money required to open a new plant or introduce a new product line, businesses will not simply look at the next 2 years. They look to the next 5, 10, 15 years. The same applies to hiring new workers. Most managers don't want to hire someone, only to have to fire or lay them off at the end of 2 years. The deal, as it is currently constructed, would only assure business owners that their taxes won't go up for the next 2 years. After that, there's absolutely no guarantee as to what would happen. And the louder the Democrats scream about extending the current tax rates for just 2 years, the more convinced most business owners are that Democrats would seek to increase them after 2 years. In short, the deal isn't going to prompt that many business owners to invest or hire more people. It's so temporary a "fix" as to be ineffective. Probably worse than ineffective because too many people might think that it will accomplish something.

The other major problem with the deal is that it violates the Pledge To America, which is what brought so many independents back into the mainstream and to supporting Republicans. The essential principals on which Republicans ran and the voters clearly elected their representatives included 1) PERMANENTLY stopping all tax hikes, 2) acting IMMEDIATELY to reduce spending, and 3) reading bills entirely BEFORE they are passed into law.

The deal would not permanently stop tax increases; it specifically increases government spending in the form of increased employment benefits; and because of the time that has been spent dickering around and adding amendments, there is almost no time left for Congressmen to actually read the thing.

The bottom line from my perspective is, as Obama said almost two years ago, elections have consequences. Back then he "won". Today, it's the conservatives who won, and they did so by making explicit promises to the voters. My advice to them is to walk away from the deal, let the Democrats increase taxes, and take it to the voters again. I'm sure many Democrats would hear from their constituents over the Christmas holiday, but it may take some of them another two years and another election defeat to get the message.

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.

MARY Carney



From The Inside Out New Streets – and CARE

It's so exciting – for the first time in at least 28 years, our street was repaved this week.

To drive away in the morning over bleached gray, cracked and broken asphalt and come back to smooth stretch of brown earth – what a transformation. To see the huge trucks with teeth underneath used to grind up the old stuff right down to the earth. And the next day to glimpse the whole process a few streets away as I drove to-and-fro for work. This morning to experience the big roller packing down the earth – not just with its weight, but with a deep internal hammering that reverberate through the earth up to 200 feet away, reminding me a bit of an earthquake ... awesome! When I take the time to really look such road building equipment, I'm again reminded of the immense creativity we humans have, that enables us to imagine, design, build, test and use equipment like this. Today – only the third day since work started, when I come home again our street (and others in town) will be completely repaved.

I lived and worked for CARE (www.care.org/) in Bangladesh for two years, overseeing USAID wheat being distributed as laborer wages through their government's rural civil engineering projects. These projects had three purposes: 1) Rebuilding or repairing rural roads, embankments, canals and water storage facilities for better transportation communication during the rainy / flood season, 2) creating better water storage capability for water access during the dry season, and 3) providing employment for the landless or near landless living in the rural area who had no way to grow food to feed their families. Payment for a day's work – if earth moving quota was met - was the receipt of 6 pounds of USAID donated wheat (grains, not flour). Men had to move 150 cubic feet of earth, women only had to move 100 cubic feet of earth to get paid.

I ask you - would you spend a day in backbreaking labor with pick and shovel, breaking up dried earth and piling it into woven baskets, digging it out of canals to build higher embankments in the yearly attempt to better

control the rainy season flood, or lugging filled baskets to pile the roads higher so that they were (hopefully) above flood level during the rainy season for 6# of (often buggy) wheat grains that had to be milled into flour? Would you spend every day, crouched on your haunches and holding an umbrella over between your shoulder and your neck for shelter from either rain or sun in one hand, while using one hand to grasp a clump of grass and the other hand with the scissors to cut it so your lawn looked nice?

If you had land to grow rice, when you harvested your rice, would you spend every day along the edges of the asphalt road, carefully shuffling the rice with your feet from one hot part of the edge to another so it dries properly for storage? And at the end of the day carefully sweeping every grain off the asphalt because those grains are the food that will feed your family during the rainy season?

Billions of people around the world spend their days working physically very hard simply to survive. Digging poor soil to grow crops, carrying water to wash and cook with – maybe with only the earth for a floor in your house. Because there are so many people living near you, you may need to gather and use cow dung for fuel - although, if there is some left over, mixing cow dung with various colors of earth makes both a strong, actually cleanable floor, as well as interior / exterior wall plaster for rondaavals (yes, I also worked 2.5 years in Lesotho, [Le soo too], totally surrounded by South Africa, with all the interesting political and racial undercurrents you can imagine).

Thank you, City of Sierra Madre City Council and Staff, for reminding me of the earth under my street and under our house. Thank you for reminding me that it's a whole lot easier to keep both streets and houses clean because we are "above" the earth, dust, mud, insects and bugs. Thank you for caring enough to plan ahead to ensure we have adequate and safe water in the years to come. Thank you for putting up with our individual - and not always gracefully - expressed opinions. Thank you, dear heart, for inviting me to live with you here in Sierra Madre – for being able to come up the hill to home – out and away from the frenetic energies of the big city "down below", into the quiet, with trees, clean air and the mountains. I am (we all are) are so blessed

ASSEMBLY MEMBER DONNELLY INTRODUCES SECOND PIECE OF CONTROVERSIAL LEGISLATION

By Susan Henderson

Newly elected Assembly Member Tim Donnelly, has, as promised in his campaign, gone to "Sacramento To Start The War". Since his swearing in earlier this month, he has introduced two extremely divisive and controversial bills, the latest of which is cloaked in the guise of "helping members of the armed forces and their families."

That Bill, AB63, was introduced last week and does have a provision that will assist service persons and their family members that are transferred to military installations in California with the cost of tuition while attending school here. The bill would allow those service persons and their families to waive the residency requirement and receive a reduced tuition rate. They would be eligible to pay the 'in state' rate, which is considerably lower than the rate charged to 'out of state' students, people who have been in California for less than three years.

However, the bill also will "remove people who are in the country illegally from eligibility for in-state tuition for the California State University and California Community College systems.

According to a statement from his office, "...existing law allows people who have attended a California high school for three years to pay in-state tuition fees, regardless of immigration status."

"The current situation is both costly and unfair, giving discounted tuition to illegal aliens and treating our armed forces, stationed in California,

as less deserving than people who are unlawfully present in the State," said Donnelly. "AB 63 will correct this wrong and give those who risk their lives in service to our country, and their families, a chance to receive higher education."

If passed in its present form, the bill would penalize children who have attended California Schools, but who may be in the country illegally through no fault of their own. Opponents of efforts such as Donnelly's plan in AB63, note that a minor child has no jurisdiction over his immigration status and that it is fundamentally unfair to punish a child for the actions of their parents.

"These children are being targeted for political purposes", said one angry parent. "These kids have been classmates and friends of our kids and deserve the same treatment. It is good to provide for our soldiers, but we shouldn't use it as an excuse to push the anti-immigration agenda. We will fight this!"

This is the second bill that Donnelly has introduced that has people up in arms. The first calls for California to adopt a law similar to the Arizona immigration law.

Assembly Member Donnelly represents the 59th Assembly District, which includes portions of the cities of Arcadia and Monrovia, and the entire city of Sierra Madre.

Donnelly, a Tea Party Republican, founded the largest Minuteman chapter in California

Dreier: Rules Committee Chair for 112th Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman

David Dreier (R-CA), Rules Committee Ranking Republican, issued the following statement today regarding his selection as House Rules Committee Chairman for the 112th Congress:



"Under a new Majority, the 112th Congress will be managed differently than any Congress before it and I am honored to be a part of Speaker-designate Boehner's leadership team. The Rules Committee will be responsible for implementing and maintaining a commitment to the reforms that the new Republican Majority has pledged to put in place. We need to make the House more transparent and accountable to the American people. We also need to reform the rules and operations of the House to ensure that they encourage spending reductions and economic growth. Tremendous challenges lie ahead. An impressive and dedicated group of new members will help us achieve these goals."

What DO You Think?

We'd like to hear from you!

Contact us at: editor@mntviewsnews.com or www.facebook.com/mountainviewsnews



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

HAIL Hamilton

My Turn

More Revelations from WikiLeaks



killings in Kenya, a report of toxic waste dumping on Africa's Ivory Coast, Church of Scientology manuals, Guantanamo Bay procedures, and material involving the shenanigans of large European banks such as Kaupthing and Julius Baer.

He recently received widespread public attention for his November 28 publication of classified United States diplomatic cables documenting details about the U.S. involvement in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Recent WikiLeaks revelations:

- o We've been secretly bombing Yemen. The U.S. has been bombing suspected terrorists in Yemen, but Yemen's government is taking responsibility. Last December, three separate strikes were played out, but weren't very successful-out of 55 people killed in one instance, 21 were children.

- o U.S. uses diplomats as spies. Speaking of Secretary Clinton... she ordered diplomats to spy on government officials at the UN, gathering such info as credit card and frequent flyer numbers, computer passwords...and DNA. A reporter at the press conference asked if she was embarrassed by any of the information leaked in the cables and her answer was a stern no, but I'm betting she'll have an awkward time at the next diplomatic dinner with Ban Ki-Moon.

- o U.S. uses Guantanamo Bay prisoners as bargaining chips. And human dignity takes another nice punch to the gut. In efforts to resettle Guantanamo detainees, the U.S. has been using them as trump cards when dealing with other countries, even going so far to offer cash to unload prisoners. In perhaps the most disgraceful instance, Slovenia had to take a detainee if it wanted a meeting with President Obama.

- o China's been hacking our systems since 2002. One Wikileaks cable states that the Chinese Politburo hacked into Google last year -- no huge surprise there, other than the fact that they cracked the company's sophisticated system of firewalls. But apparently China's an old pro at this -- it has allegedly been hacking into the systems of Western governments

-- and, of course, its own national human rights activists, including the Dalai Lama -- for nearly a decade.

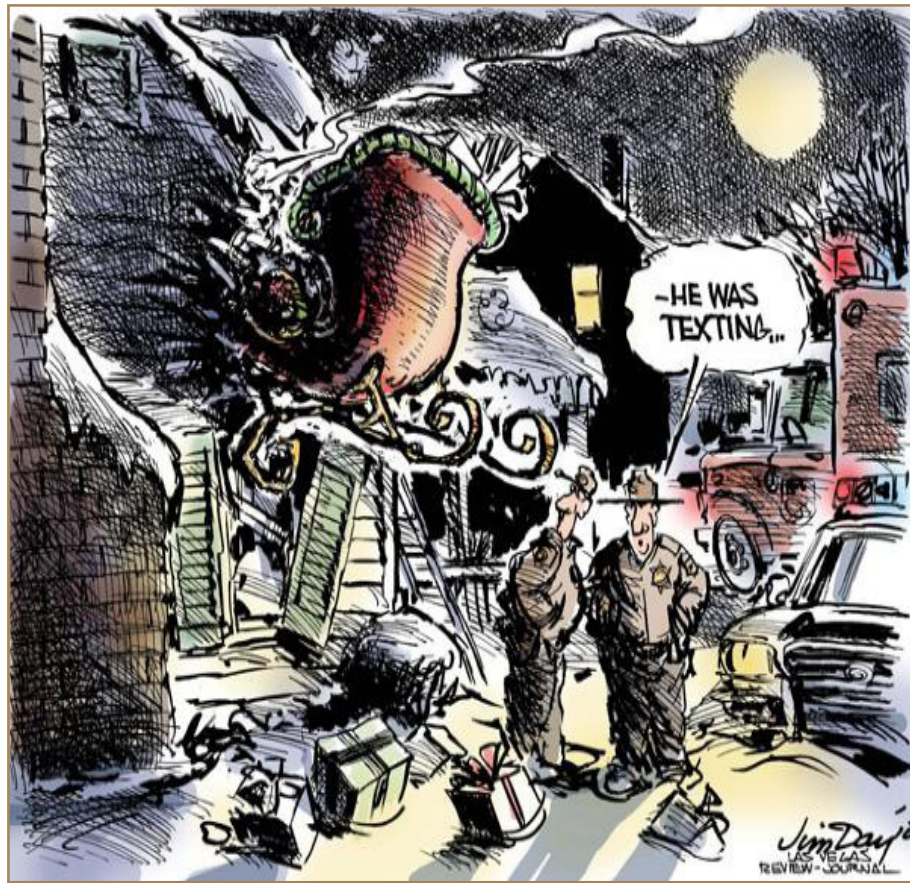
- o Afghanistan is corruption paradise. OK, no big surprise there, but it is interesting that in 2007 Afghani Vice President Ahmad Zia Massoud was caught traveling through Dubai with \$52 million in cash. After being questioned by authorities, he was "allowed to keep [the money] without revealing the money's origin or destination." Meanwhile, President Karzai's brother, Ahmed Wali Karzai, was accused of orchestrating widespread voter fraud in the 2009 election and of being a drug kingpin, claims he fiercely denies.

- o Iran might have long-range missiles. Practically the entire Middle East has urged the U.S. to act against Iran, according to the Wikileaks cables, including the kings of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Perhaps they'll reconsider if they know North Korea is said to have sold them 12 missiles with enough range to hit Russia and cities in Western Europe. As for other weapons, Iran appears to be acquiring them piecemeal from different countries -- including Turkey, China and Germany -- under the guise of front companies, and is using the Red Crescent as a front to smuggle weaponry to various terrorist organizations worldwide.

- o Putin and Berlusconi's close relationship causes alarm. "Alpha dog" Vladimir Putin and Italian partier/prime-minister Silvio Berlusconi have forged a close relationship, potentially involving shady business deals. Cables detail allegations of "lavish gifts," lucrative energy contracts and the use by Berlusconi of a "shadowy" Russian-speaking Italian go-between.

In an obvious attempt to silence WikiLeaks, the United States recently launched a criminal investigation of Assange for the publication of classified information under the Espionage Act. Swiss authorities have also weighed in against WikiLeaks. Last week they closed a Swiss bank account tied to Assange, freezing tens of thousands of dollars used to fund the Wikileaks operation.

Assange, meanwhile, is fighting extradition to Sweden to face rape charges. Apparently having consensual sex in Sweden without a condom is considered rape and is punishable by a minimum sentence of two years imprisonment.



NEWS: US LAGS FARTHEST BEHIND IN SUBJECT OF MATH



STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE

A DYSFUNCTIONAL SOCIETY



Did you see the Sunrise on Monday morning? It was glorious! As I walked around the canyon I felt myself so privileged to be free enough to experience this beauty. My only question was, and is, why are so few people out here viewing this incredible wonder? It is true that a surprising number of people awaken early to run or go to the gym or to do something else that is considered productive. This need to be productive, it seems to me, frequently overshadows the ability to appreciate the world around us. Almost the hardest part of my work is fighting the rush hour traffic. Why do I do it? Because it feels like I have to. That's just the way the world is.

Really though that's not the way the world is; it's just what most of us have been deluded into believing. From the time we were very young we have been conditioned to do what society and our parents tell us we have to do. We have learned to suppress our own inclinations to become responsible citizens and have become soldiers in the service our country. We work hard to pay our bills, raise our families, and often have little time to notice very much about our own lives. Probably certain kinds of people escape this kind of cultural enslavement. I heard this morning on NPR (as I fought the traffic on the way to work) that the artist David Hockney uses his I-pad every morning to draw the sunrise. Unfortunately, the rest of us are simply not that free. In the modern world most of us do the bidding of the rulers of our respective nation-states. We struggle to get into schools that are designed to make us good citizens. By good citizens I mean becoming individuals who almost unknowingly sacrifice our individual selves to do what we are told to do. Most of us learn to be malleable, to be conformists, to sit idly by and allow ourselves to be manipulated by the very small groups that determine the policy of a country. We pay our taxes, we fight their wars and send our children to fight and die. Here in the United States is all sorts of lip service is given to our precious democracy and our sacred first amendment freedoms of speech and religion and of the press. Well folks, it has become increasingly clear that the only real freedom that exists today is the freedom of the extremely wealthy to utilize that wealth for whatever purpose they choose.

To my mind the decision of President Obama to yield to the wishes of the Rich and to preserve the tax cuts for the millionaires and billionaires is a complete betrayal of the electorate that voted for him. The President portrays himself as powerless. If he did not yield we are told it would have been impossible to extend unemployment benefits and millions of poor and middle class people would be harmed. Look, there are millions more of us than there are of them. If the rich are indifferent to the needs of the rest of us we have the numbers and the power to strike back. We can take to the streets and withdraw our moneys from their banks and utilize community banks. We can boycott the huge corporate retail outlets and utilize independent stores. We can demonstrate in front of their businesses and homes and yachts. We can even start campaigns to let their children know about the evil-doings of their parents.

Yes we can take to the streets and demonstrate—it's been done before and victories have been won. But it's true we probably won't do much of anything—we'll just go wherever we are directed. We are too benumbed to even look at sunsets or notice that both of the parties in the United States are simply instruments of the rich which contribute to both sides. Is it too late for us to notice what is happening? The United States is being held hostage by the rich who will do nothing unless they can make a profit from it and we are just pawns in their game.

It's odd, isn't it, that the unenlightened Tea Party folk seem more able to express this resentment than the rest of us? Sure their goals seem wrong and generally they don't know what they are talking about, but their resentment is real. I think the Tea Party's energy is more threatening to the entrenched powers than are the impotent Democrats on the other side of the aisle. We need not be ruled by Ivy League elitists to look at sunrises. We all need to work together to recognize that the survival of the planet and the survival of a real democracy is more important than whatever else it is that we all think we are doing.

RICH Johnson

Important Stuff



Recently I was accused of not writing about important stuff. Actually I took that as a compliment. Everyone else writes about important stuff so I think there is a niche for less than important stuff. There, have I said important stuff enough? Actually I will regale you with great truths learned at various

stages in life. Important? You decide.

Great truths little children have learned:
When your mom is mad, don't let her brush your hair.
You can't trust your dog to watch your food.
Never hold a dust-buster and a cat at the same time.
You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.

Great truths adults have learned:
Raising teens is like nailing jelly to a tree.
Wrinkles don't hurt
Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, but a few nuts.
Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
You learn to choose your cereal for the fiber and not the toy.

Great truths senior citizens have learned:
Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
You now know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions.
Time is a great healer, but a lousy beautician.

Sierra Madre Intelligence Test
What major world war followed World War I?
What month has 28 days in it?
What animal was Chief Sitting Bull named after?
In the 1830s, the Reverend Sylvester Graham invented what kind of cracker?
Who was the host of the "Ed Sullivan Show?"
What major border lies between the United States and Canada?
The last names of the two inventors of M&M's began with what letters?
What color is the White House?
What president was the city Washington D.C. named after?

Grandpa's Christmas Fruitcake Recipe
(This recipe is to be recited out loud at dinner parties. Read it exactly as it is written)

You'll need the following: a cup of water, a cup of sugar, four large brown eggs, two cups of dried fruit, a teaspoon of salt, a cup of brown sugar, lemon juice, nuts, and a bottle of whiskey.

Sample the whiskey to check for quality. Take a large bowl. Check the whiskey again. To be sure it's the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of sugar and beat again.

Make sure the whiskey is still okay. Cry another tup. Turn off the mixer. Beat two legs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the tuner. If the fired druit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it loose with a drowscriver.

Sample the whiskey to check for tonsisticity. Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Who cares? Check the whiskey. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table. Spoon. Of sugar or something. Whatever you can find.

Grease the oven. Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out the window. Check the whiskey again and go to bed.

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Looking Up

with Bob Eklund

Discovery of Arsenic-Based Life on Earth Could Widen Search for Extraterrestrials

Astrobiology research announced by NASA Dec. 2 may change our fundamental concept of what constitutes all known life on Earth—and is causing astronomers to broaden their thought of what life elsewhere may be.

Researchers conducting tests in the harsh environment of Mono Lake in California have discovered the first known microorganism on Earth able to thrive and reproduce using the toxic chemical arsenic. The microorganism appears to substitute arsenic for phosphorus in its cell components. “The definition of life has just expanded,” said Ed Weiler, NASA’s associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate at the agency’s Headquarters in Washington. “As we pursue our efforts to seek signs of life in the solar system, we have to think more broadly, more diversely and consider life as we do not know it.”

If further research confirms the NASA team’s work, this finding of an alternative biochemistry makeup could alter biology textbooks and expand the scope of the search for life beyond Earth. The research is published in last week’s edition of Science Express.

Carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and sulfur are the six basic building blocks of all known forms of life on Earth. Phosphorus is part of the chemical backbone of DNA and RNA, the structures that carry genetic instructions for life, and is considered an essential element for all living cells. Phosphorus is a central component of the energy-carrying molecule in all cells (adenosine triphosphate) and also the phospholipids that form all cell membranes. Arsenic, which is chemically similar to phosphorus, is poisonous for most life on Earth. Arsenic disrupts metabolic pathways because chemically it behaves similarly to phosphate.

“We know that some microbes can breathe arsenic, but what we’ve found is a microbe doing something new—building parts of itself out of arsenic,” said Felisa Wolfe-Simon, a NASA astrobiology research

fellow in residence at the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, Calif., and the research team’s lead scientist. “If something here on Earth



Felisa Wolfe-Simon processing mud from Mono Lake to inoculate media to grow microbes on arsenic. Image Credit: Henry Bortman

can do something so unexpected, what else can life do that we haven’t seen yet?”

“Toxicity, I think, is in the eye of the beholder,” she added.

The newly discovered microbe, strain GFAJ-1, is a member of a common group of bacteria, the Gammaproteobacteria. In the

laboratory, the researchers successfully grew microbes from the lake on a diet that was very lean on phosphorus, but included generous helpings of arsenic. When researchers removed the phosphorus and replaced it with arsenic, the microbes continued to grow. Subsequent analyses indicated that the arsenic was being used to produce the building blocks of new GFAJ-1 cells.

The key issue the researchers investigated was this: When the microbe was grown on arsenic, did the arsenic actually become incorporated into the organisms’ vital biochemical machinery, such as DNA, proteins and the cell membranes? A variety of sophisticated laboratory techniques were used to determine where the arsenic was being incorporated.

The team chose to explore Mono Lake because of its unusual chemistry, especially its high salinity, high alkalinity, and high levels of arsenic. This chemistry is in part a result of Mono Lake’s isolation from its sources of fresh water for the past 50 years.

The results of this study could inform ongoing research in many areas, including the study of Earth’s evolution, organic chemistry, biogeochemical cycles, disease mitigation and Earth system research.

What about the impact on astronomy? To date, more than 500 planets have been found orbiting stars other than the Sun, and more are being announced every week. These possible habitats are being intensely studied to find conditions hospitable to life similar to our own. “The biggest impact the Mono Lake findings may have is to remove a bit of limiting prejudice from our thinking about life in the Universe,” said Laurance Doyle, who studies potential habitats for extraterrestrial life with the SETI Institute in Mountain View, Calif.

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



Ask jai.....

Ask jai is a weekly column that will strive to honestly answer your job search questions relating to job searching techniques, networking skills, resume writing and interviewing. The employment situation is getting better, however, it is still a challenge finding were the jobs are located and how to get pass the “gate-keepers”. As an Executive Recruiter I was privy to working directly with Corporate Recruiters and understanding their process in selecting which candidates to interview and hire. I will candidly answer your questions, possibly bluntly answering you questions, but I will be totally honest. My objective is to help you achieve your employment goal.

Q: My boyfriend has been unemployed for 5 months. He is very depressed about the job market and his future at finding employment. He only finds and applies for jobs on-line. I am trying to encourage him to start networking and attending holiday parties and mixers this December. He told me that December is a very slow month for employment and employers do not hire during the holiday time. He feels attending these events is a waste of his time. We are getting invitations to a lot of holiday parties and mixers. I think he or we should attend every event. What do you think he should do? Zoe

Dear Zoe:

It is a myth that employers do not screen, interview or hire at this time of the year. Employers in fact do hire during the holiday season. Anxious employers use the last month of the year to meet their budget and head-count. Head-count is the number of employees that employers and their departments projected to have on their payroll by year-end. If they do not meet their head-count, the budgets and number of employees are usually reduced for the following year.

Sorry to say, most job seekers feel the same way your boy friend does about looking for employment during the month of December. Therefore, I encourage job seekers to become more aggressive at this time because their competition is taking a break. This is not the time for your boy friend to stop seeking employment, feel he is wasting his time or feel ashamed that he is unemployed. He is one in a million looking for a job. He should accept all invitations and attend every holiday event possible this month. December is a great month to meet and connect with new people, former co-workers, friends and family. I find that people are more open during the Holiday Season to helping others. It is appropriate and acceptable to use these events as an opportunity to let people know that you are seeking employment. Your boyfriend should take advantage of holiday parties by introducing himself and developing a network of contacts. I suggest he create a personal business card that includes his name and contact information to hand out at these events. He should initiate the conversation by introducing himself and asking the other person about their profession or line of work. This will open it up the conversation for him to discuss his employment status, describe his professional background, what type of work he is looking for, and ask them to contact him if they should hear of any positions. He should get their contact information and in return offer his assistance to them. Continue to encourage your boyfriend to socialize, attend parties and mixer, and to network for job opportunities. Your boyfriend is fortunate you are supporting and encouraging him. Family and friends are a key element to job seekers staying focus and on track. Tis the season to help one another.

Everything you ever wanted to know about how to find a job...but didn't know who to ask. ASK jai. Send your questions to: jai@resumeadcareerservices.com

KATIE TseThis and That

THE ART OF REGIFTING



Regifting --you know you're guilty of it, or you've been the victim, or probably both at different times. Somewhere in your holiday history you suspected the sweater in primary colors your cousin gave

you was originally a gift from her second graders.

Or maybe that the Chocolate Barge from your aunt was something a client gave her. Maybe you've never regifted anything, and if that's the case, I tip my hat to you. When we receive something we don't need or want, our first instinct is to toss it along like a hot potato.

Outside of the heartfelt presents exchanged among loved ones and dear friends, so much of our gift giving is merely obligatory gestures we perform like automatons to the dictates of the calendar. It is the thought that counts, and I'm honestly just as happy with a greeting card as I am with a Starbucks card. I wish we could all simply circulate sincere notes of thanks to the people we appreciate. Even when a harmonious balance like this exists, some well-intentioned person has to go and up the ante by giving something tangible. This necessitates that the recipient respond in kind, unless they want to come off as a schmo.

Although inherently tacky, regifting makes a lot of sense. Especially in this economy, if you've been dealt a regifiable present (chocolates, bath products, coffee/tea collections) it's very tempting to save a buck by utilizing this item to fulfill your gesture to someone else.

So, regifting is sometimes allowable, but there are ground rules you need to follow. First, never regift something from someone you're deeply close to

(If you need to hear this, you're beyond grasping its meaning). It's okay to pass along ceramic snowmen figurines from the coworker in another department to your neighbor down the block. It's not okay to regift anything someone made for you personally. You'd look stupid trying to pawn off a glass mug engraved with "To my friend, Wendy" or hand knit mittens bearing your initials.

Second, never regift in the same context. For example, if a coworker gives you something, don't turn around and give it to another coworker! The first thing she'll probably say is "Gee, Gloria just gave me Bath & Body Works lotion, too! I guess great minds think alike!" Instead, regift your soulless lotion to a distant relative or marginal acquaintance.

Gift cards are the ultimate regifiable gift. How much more impersonal can you get? I remember having lunch around the holidays with a girl I didn't know very well. When we opened our gift bags we realized we exchanged gift cards of the same denomination for different stores. I felt like laughing and saying, "Tell you what, you keep your 20 bucks and I'll keep mine!"

The most honorable ways of dealing with unwanted regifiable items are to donate them to a charity or leave them in the break room at work (as long as the gifts weren't from a coworker). If you do regift, it's polite to provide a disclaimer as you offer the recycled item to it's next recipient. "Someone at work gave this to me and I really have no use for it. If you don't want it I totally understand!" Of course you can always keep your regifiable gifts. But if you do this consistently, you might run into a situation I addressed in an earlier column --garage sale!

It would be really hard for anyone who even only occasionally glances at the news every now and then to not have heard about Wikileaks and its founder Julian Assange by now. Just in case you do happen to be one of the few people who haven't heard of it by now, here's the short version. Wikileaks is a website that has made its reputation by publishing information that comes to its attention by way of anonymous news sources and leaks. Although this may seem like a very peculiar way to run a so-called news organization one would have to take a good look at the types of news items that the Wikileaks website publishes. One of the sites biggest stories can be found on YouTube by searching for the video "Collateral Murder – Wikileaks – Iraq". If you do choose to watch the 17-minute video you will see US forces engaging a dozen people from an AC-130 gunship. As you might expect this type of thing happens frequently in a war zone. Wikileaks released this story in April 2010 and it proved quite tragic for the fact that a Reuters reporter friendly to US interests was killed in the attack and it proved embarrassing for the US war effort due to the accompanying soundtrack that featured the in-cockpit voice traffic as it occurred during the attack. This story would've never seen the light of day had it not been for Wikileaks. Supporters of the site and its mission argue that the mainstream media has become beholden to powerful corporate interests and that the news



as it's currently presented to the public and has become nothing more than corporate-sponsored PR and that the information needed by people in order to make sense of the world they live in is just not getting through. Opponents of Wikileaks have argued that the site and its mission pose a grave threat to national security and must be shut down at any cost and its founder severely punished for publishing sensitive information that has the potential to endanger US interests as well as those of governments around the globe. Actors on both sides of the Wikileaks argument have taken concrete steps in support of their position and are determined to either support or shut down Wikileaks. Mr. Assange is currently facing charges in Sweden that may or may not have been motivated by his activities for Wikileaks. An underground cyber-group named "Anonymous" has been staging cyber-attacks against business and government entities currently pursuing Mr. Assange. Whatever the outcome of all of this high-stakes drama the news as we now know and (dis)trust it will never be the same. So....what side are you on?



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



Chris Bertrand

Karen Crisci's Magnolia: Dressing your home, your body or your Christmas tree to fit your lifestyle

Karen Crisci, owner of Magnolia in Arcadia, left a corporate job requiring extensive business travel for what she envisioned as a store and business where she could paint murals for a living. She and her mother in law, Paula Clinnin, opened the doors of Magnolia twelve years ago.

Their Magnolia venture literally blossomed into an umbrella of several businesses keyed to fine tuning your home, your wardrobe, your big events like Methodist Hospital's Crystal Ball and Showcase homes or even your Christmas tree, indoor and outdoor decorations and lighting to fit your individual personality and lifestyle or that of your business.

"We handle many fashion shows each year, tied to fundraisers for organizations like ORT, Monrovia Guild of Children's Hospital, Republican Women's Club and several local women's clubs.

They've been so well received that I've made myself available as a speaker to groups and clubs discussing the choice of the right wardrobe for your body type. You can also get that information one on one, too, by making an appointment with me at the shop. Since we carry many lines you won't see at the malls, my customers appreciate that what they buy here won't likely be seen duplicated at an event."

If it's one or a hundred fresh or "faux" flower arrangements, Magnolia has the staff and studio to create original centerpieces and other arrangements, including a walk in cooler to keep the arrangements fresh until the day of the event. This time of year, Crisci and her staff are busy decorating large and small homes and businesses for the holidays. "We decorated the large Southern California Edison complex in Rosemead again this year," she says. "They like the decorations to appear as a fait accompli, so after the employees leave for the weekend, we get to work with a staff of about twenty five. When Edison reopens on Monday morning, all the decorations are in place" But big businesses or homes aren't the only customers for the Magnolia holiday decoration elves. "For years and years, we decorated a single tree for a homeowner's tiny cottage in Sierra Madre Canyon with the owner's own ornaments. She really appreciated our flair," smiles Crisci, "But each one, large or small, gives us such a real sense of fulfillment."

Whether at work at former Senator Margett's tony digs or a more modest home, she takes time to carefully analyze the homeowner's personality and lifestyle. "Even the way we apply the ribbon or garland on a tree or wreath can portray a different



style, so we really give some thought and planning to how the ribbon will move or dance on the tree down to the position of the last leaf or ornament," according to Crisci. "We want to make it work to balance the home like a piece of art."

As a business owner, Crisci is known for her infectious laugh, but even more for her absolute focus on each customer. "When you are talking to Karen, she is totally focused on what you are saying and your needs," say Bob Thibault of their long relationship with Crisci and Magnolia for home decorating to Christmas gift inspirations for his wife.

Carmen Thibault reflects, "She has a way of making her clients feel like they are the only one with whom she is working, while paying careful attention to her customer's desires and financial parameters."

Julia Brady, another longtime customer summed it up well. "Magnolia always provides that extra touch for the 'WOW' factor... no matter if it's a gift, the clothing and jewelry you're wearing or your decorated home!

And those murals Crisci intended to paint? She can arrange to paint one on your wall or a canvas, too. Just one of a dozen creative facets of Magnolia and Karen Crisci.



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Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed
by **Luther Tsinoglou**

Pricing Under Pressure

Deciding on an asking price for your home is challenging enough these days, but you need specific pricing strategies for particular scenarios, especially if you're under pressure to move quickly or your home isn't selling after being on the market for several months. Here are suggestions for both situations.

If you're facing a deadline due to job relocation or other reasons, then you need to price competitively, even more competitively than expected in today's market. You'll need to list at significantly less than your competition. Think 10% to 15% less. That may seem tough to stomach, but it's better than continuing your monthly loan payments or the hassle of trying to find tenants to rent your home.

If your home has been listed for some time, but not generating interest, you'll need to lower your price. Of the three elements that sell a home - price, location, and condition - price is the one

you'll have the most control over.

If home values have declined in your neighborhood, the price you originally listed at a few months ago may now be too high and out of line with comparable listings. Now would be the time to have your real estate agent prepare a new Comparative Market Analysis (CMA) and reevaluate your pricing strategy. If you've got to sell, and sell now, price it like you mean it.

Luther Tsinoglou has just been named the top producing sales agent in Dickson Podley Realtor's Sierra Madre office for 2009, making the top 10% at the company overall. Luther has been licensed and practicing real estate since 1992. He specializes in residential and income property in Southern California. Luther can be reached at his direct line (626) 695-8650 or at luther@tsinoglou.com.

Happy Holidays



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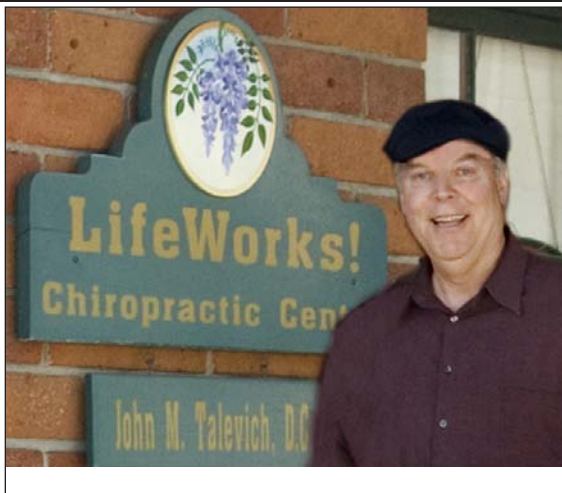
THE GOOD LIFE

SENIOR HAPPENINGS

YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Today's Subject:

A Resolution Revolution



Dr. John Talevich, D.C. has practiced in Sierra Madre for thirty years. His clinic, LifeWorks! Chiropractic, offers patient-specific approaches to the alleviation of pain and individually tailored wellness programs.

At this time of year, nature is at rest. The days are shorter, the leaves are nearly gone, the sap is running low, and our little black cat is sleeping for hours atop the great stuffed chair by the front window. Yes, winter is coming and the earth and her critters are slowing down; there is, though, one exception to this order. Starting in September, we humans have been gearing up with marathon shopping, eating and drinking contests that would rust the most sturdy cast iron stomach, and family dramas that make "Days of Our Lives" look more like "PeeWee's Playhouse." Then, as we plummet toward the year-end finish line, we somehow find it within ourselves to form a New Year's resolution which condemns all of the previous behavior. Hmm.

Blame It on Janus

So, whose idea was it to start all of this up in the middle of winter? The Romans, of course, famous for their eat, drink and be merry outlook. Easy for them to say; if they overindulged, they could always find their way to the nearest vomitorium ~ such behavior is frowned upon in

most modern circles. They also had a god, Janus, with two faces so they put him in charge of looking at the year gone by and at the one to come. Apparently, he was able to do this at the same time ~ forward and back, back and forward (and you thought patting your head and rubbing your stomach was hard.)

Toward a Better Solution

Instead of starting the new year on January first, let's start it, say, around the end of March like the Babylonians did. That way, we have nature on our side and we will have recovered from the winter debauchery. Let's get started now so we'll be ready for the new year in March.

How about a gentle stroll with a friend a few times a week?

What about that coffee, sugar, soda, sweets, you know the drill. Choose one and gentle yourself down to moving it out of your diet.

Could you make a short list of simple clean-up items that you are able to take on?

Maybe once a week you could take yourself out to do something you'd love to do?

Wouldn't be a bad idea to check in with your local health care provider for a tune-up.

As you can see, with a few simple changes, we can get ready for the beginning of the new New Year in March and head out Babylonian style!

Be well and enjoy this season ~ Dr. John

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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. MENU BELOW

Monday:

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

Tuesday:

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

Wednesday:

11 -11:45 am: Balance Class with Teryl. FREE class designed to improve balance & refresh the joints
2nd Wednesday of the month: FREE Legal Consultations: 10-11:30 am. Appointments call 355-7394
Wii Wednesday - 1:00 pm or call the senior desk at 355-7394 to arrange another time & day to learn how to play. No previous experience or skills required and it is great exercise.

Thursday:

1:00 to 3:30 pm: Game Day. Join us for UNO and Poker with Bridge on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays; so please call for more information.
5:00 pm to 6:30 pm: Yoga; \$7.00 - 50 & over. Please call 355-5278 for more information

Friday:

1:00 pm: Ping Pong

Saturday:

11:30 am: Senior Club brown bag lunch and BINGO at 12:30 pm



Sponsor Bingo Prize

Pasadena Highlands, an independent and assisted living community, is proud to provide a special gift basket on the first Tuesday of each month. Accredited In-Home nursing care will provide a special prize on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Bingo takes place every Tuesday at 1:30 pm in the Hart Park House / Senior Center in Memorial Park. The game begins at 1:30 pm but those wishing to play must arrive 10 minutes before to secure your Bingo cards. Join us on the 1st & 4th Tuesday of each month for your chance to win these special prizes.

DIAL - A - RIDE TICKETS

Tickets can now be purchased at:

Sierra Madre City Hall
Hart Park House / Senior Center
Sierra Madre Library

Recipe of the Week:

Spicy Ham and Corn Casserole

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups Smithfield ham, diced
- 1 (15.25-ounce) can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 (14.75-ounce) can cream-style corn
- 2 tablespoons diced jalapenos from a jar
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 (8-ounce) package corn muffin mix
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted
- 2 tomatoes, sliced
- 1 to 1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a large bowl stir together the ham, 2 cans of corn, corn muffin mix, sour cream, melted butter, jalapenos, and salt and pepper. Pour into a 9"x 13" casserole dish that has been prepared with a non-stick baking spray. Bake for 45 minutes, or until golden brown. Remove from oven and top with sliced tomatoes. Sprinkle cheese evenly over top and return to oven for 5 to 10 minutes, or until cheese is melted. Let stand for at least 5 minutes and then serve warm.



December Birthdays

Rose Fafach, Bonnie Garner, Pat McGuire, Helen Reese, Levon Yapoujian, Shirley Anhalt, Mary Alice Cervera, Sylvia A. Curl, Lucile Flanders, Arlie Hahn, Eleanor Hensel, Carole Horejsi, Joan Hufnagel, Elizabeth Levie, Gayle Licher, Nan Beverly Murphy, Marie Pederson,

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Sierra Madre DECEMBER EXCURSION - SOLD OUT-

Friday, December 17th - Christmas Show - 10:30 am to 4 pm at the Candlelight Pavilion Theatre in Claremont.

Cost per person is \$58.00 for lunch, show, transportation & tip. Waiting list is available for this excursion, please call 355-7394.



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.

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Breaking The Spell:**CALTECH BASKETBALL NOTCHES FIRST WIN OF SEASON**

Caltech basketball won its first game of the season on Saturday, when the men's team defeated American Sports University 74-67[1] in the Fulmer Tournament at the University of Redlands. The victory snaps a 44-game losing streak dating back to January 5, 2009. Shown above is forward Mike Edwards. Photo Courtesy CalTech

**2011 Adult Men's Winter Basketball League!**

The City of Arcadia Recreation and Community Services Department is offering an Adult Men's Basketball League in 2011. Get in shape and sharpen your skills at the same time! Teams are divided into leagues based on their skill level and play 10 games in the brand new Dana Gym, located at 1401 S. First Avenue, Arcadia. The fee for adult basketball is \$475.00 per team (due upon registration), and includes officials, scorekeepers and awards. A separate \$40 forfeit fee is also due at the time of registration. Open registration will begin December 13, 2010 and is limited. Teams will be accepted into the league on a first-come, first-serve basis. Just go on-line to the City of Arcadia's website: www.ci.arcadia.ca.us, to download the registration form or stop by the office, 375 Campus Drive in Arcadia. For more information please call 626.574.5113!

**How To Start Your Golf Downswing**

One of these days I am going to send out a survey to all golfers and it's going to ask one question, "What starts the downswing?"

You can not believe some of the answers I have heard over the past 30 years. Today I will tell you my answer and then I will tell you why I believe it to be. The first thing you have to remember is that before you finish your back swing the golf club is already beginning to swing back towards the ball. That is a fact. I have a camera that takes 1000 fps and I have seen it on new golfers and Tour Professionals. It is really cool.

Let's put that fact aside and talk about the question as it relates to our swing thoughts. No matter who you ask they will give you an answer. The answer might start with the feet, ankles, hips and work it's way up to the shoulders or chest.

You either believe that it is the upper body and arms or the lower body, the hips, knees, legs, ankles or feet. Somewhere in the back of your mind you believe one or the other. Upper body or lower body.

My take on it is a little different. It has everything to do with your own golf swing. If you are someone that hits a large number of pulls and hooks, you are going to have to move the bottom half of your body first. If you hook or pull the golf ball the golf club is arriving at the bottom of the golf ball sooner than your body. Instead of slowing down your arm swing you should speed up OR start your bottom half of your body first.

On the other hand. If you are someone that hits pushes or slices, you are someone that is getting the body to active to soon in the

downswing and the golf club is falling behind you. Instead of changing your body action, try speeding up your arms and hands OR start them first.

Lastly, if you are someone that hits most of your shots in front of you. STOP READING THIS ARTICLE. It is not for you. Seriously, if you are hitting the ball solid and you don't struggle with shots to the right or left, then your timing is great.



If you stop and think about it, if the club arrives before you, your shots will start left, most of the time. If the club arrives after you, your shots will start to the right, most of the time. The next time someone asks you what starts the downswing, you can tell them-it all depends.

Have a question for Bobby? Email him at: bobbyonegolf@gmail.com or go to: www.igolffixes.com

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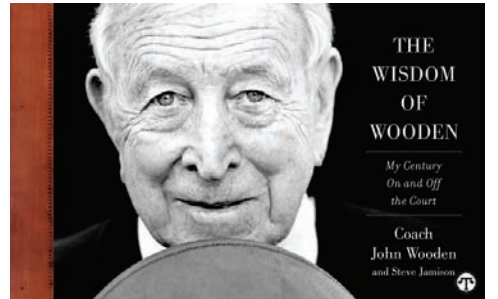
The Wisdom Of Wooden

(NAPSI)-The late John Wooden has been called America's greatest coach and he has inspired generations both on and off the basketball court, providing valuable lessons on coaching and mentoring.

The coach of 10 NCAA basketball championships in 12 years with the UCLA Bruins, Wooden was named Coach of the Century by ESPN. His achievements off the court were equally impressive, including being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor.

Now, a lifetime of Coach Wooden's ideas on how to live life without sacrificing your moral principles can be read in his final book, "The Wisdom of Wooden: My Century On and Off the Court."

About the book, Coach Wooden's long-time collaborator and friend Steve Jamison



said: "He opened up his heart and shared his soul to insure that his last book would be very useful to those who share his belief that success and good values go hand in hand."

"The Wisdom of Wooden" captures a life spent teaching, guiding and serving others. It's filled with personal memories, warm advice and beautiful color photographs from Wooden's private collection.

For more information, visit www.coach-wooden.com.



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Monday, December 13
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Eliot Middle School
2184 North Lake Avenue
Altadena, CA 91001

Wednesday, January 12
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Wilson Middle School
300 South Madre Street
Pasadena, CA 91106

Monday, January 24
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
McKinley School
325 South Oak Knoll Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

SESSION I: 6:30p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
SESSION II: 7:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Registration & Check-in

Welcome & Admissions Presentation

Pathways Tours

Application Assistance

Prospective College and Career Pathways students are eligible for early admission.

Applications will be available December 13 at www.openenrollment.info.

Questions? Please call the Welcome Center at (626) 396-3600, extension 88340.

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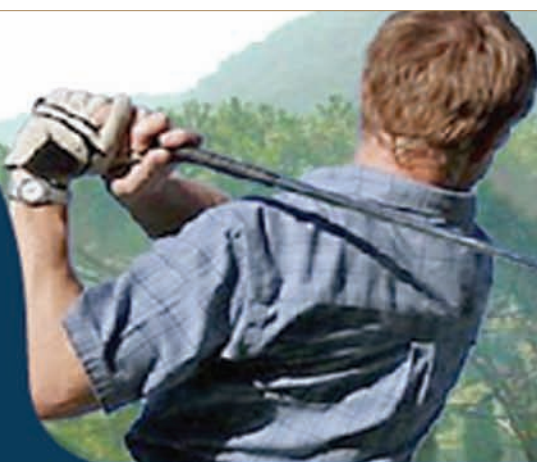
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*Saturday, December 11, 4:00 pm
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Childcare is provided and no tickets are required. This event is open seating. A free will offering and a reception will follow each presentation.

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