

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Mountain Views News

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 25, 2010

VOLUME 4 NO. 50

Imagine If It Snowed In Sierra Madre For Christmas!



Artist Sonny Salsbury created this painting depicting snow in Sierra Madre at Christmas. His caption, "Wouldn't It Be Nice?" reflects the sentiments of many a child and adult alike. Salsbury is also a Grammy nominated musician who was born in Pasadena. He is the brother of local businesswoman Judith Brandley, owner of Leonora Moss in Sierra Madre.

Sierra Madre Resident Jacob Maarse Passes Away



Jacob Maarse and his wife Clara.

Photo courtesy of Pasadena Now

The Rose King - Jacob Maarse, as he was affectionately known, passed away on Wednesday at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena. He was 82.

Known as a "world class florist", he lived in Sierra Madre on a three acre 'Rose Ranch' that had more than 3,000 rose bushes. His company, Jacob Maarse Florists, not only provided the flowers for the Rose Court each year but "has even provided flowers for special occasions that belong in the history books, including arrangements for a momentous visit by Soviet premier Leonid Brezhnev to President Richard M. Nixon's "Western White House" in San Clemente". Maarse started the business in 1966 in Pasadena with his son Hank and his wife Clara. He was also a well known philanthropist.

Maarse is survived by his wife Clara, children Glen, Hank, Karen and Mona, and grandchildren. At press time, few details were available regarding services.

GLENN AND AMY PUTNAM NAMED CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Story on Page 3



Amy and Glenn Putnam and Chamber President Matt Krantz



New Japanese erasers have arrived!



Drop off a "toys for tots" donation!



I'm getting my latte at Niko's!



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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

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Tues:	Rain	Hi 50s	Lows 50s
Wed:	Rain	Hi 50s	Lows 50s
Thur:	Prtly Cldy	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
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Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



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Music News

By Sierra Madre Sue Behrens

Gobble Gobble Hey!"

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 de-
scriptions, folks can visit: www.kcsn.orgA note: due to the fact that KCSN shares a frequency with Saddle-
back 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.comSIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT
ASSOCIATIONPARADE TICKET
RAFFLE

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PARKING INCLUDEDRAFFLE TICKETS: \$ 1.00 each 6 for \$ 5.00
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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
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are available at various prices. Call Ann at 626-574-1331SELF
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Methodist Church , De-
cember 24, 7:30 p.m. The
service will feature scrip-
ture lessons, familiar car-
ols, 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 north-
east 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
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SIERRA MADRE

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THE PUTNAMs ARE THE CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

By Bill Coburn

Glenn and Amy Putnam have been named Sierra Madre's 2010 Citizens of the Year by the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce. This marks the second year in a row that a couple has been named the town's Citizen(s) of the Year, with Louise and the late Dr. Paul Neiby having received the honor in 2009.

Glenn Putnam has been a member and Board member of the SM Historical Preservation Society for more than five years, and is currently the marketing director for the organization. For more than ten years, he has been a vine docent at the Wistaria Festival, and is the bus coordinator at the Wistaria Festival. He was named a Library Trustee in 2010. He is past president of the Sierra Madre Garden Club, served as a Committee Member on the Friends of the Library Wine Tasting, and has been active with Creative Arts Group. In addition to all of these Sierra Madre volunteer efforts, he also has been a member of the Tournament of Roses Foundation for more than ten years.

His wife Amy is also active with the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society. She has been a member and Board member for more than five years, and is currently serving as treasurer, and according to her nomination, is working hard to upgrade the financial records for the Society "into

the computer age." She was in charge of the Society's booths at the Wistaria Festival, the Art Fair, and the Fourth of July festivities in 2010. She was appointed to the Senior Community Commission in 2010, and has also served as a Wistaria Vine docent for more than 10 years. She was president of the Civic Club in 2009/2010. She is also active with the L.A. County Arboretum, and has in the past served as a docent on the Garden Tour for Creative Arts and filled a variety of leadership roles with the Friends of the Library, as president and as Chairperson for its annual Wine Tasting. She has also volunteered at the Chamber, and in 2005 even won the Chamber's Chili Cook-off.

Friends of the Putnams who were viewing a movie at the home of Jay Whitcraft broke into applause when the announcement was made. Said Amy "I do...feel...awful because there are so many more qualified and dedicated and competent volunteers than we are. It's rather embarrassing because we just do what we do..."

The Putnams will be honored at a dinner to be held in the Chandelier Room at Santa Anita Park on Saturday, Jan. 22nd at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$60, \$55 for seniors, and can be purchased at the Chamber, 20 W. Montecito Ave, Ste. C in Sierra Madre, or by phone (with credit card) at (626) 355-5111. The Mercy Powell Jazz Trio will perform during cocktail hour and dinner. For more info, visit www.SMCitizenoftheYear.info.

Photo by S. Henderson/MVNews

Recycling Pays

Councilwoman Walsh Brings In The 'Green'



Sierra Madre City Councilwoman Nancy Walsh, presented a check to Elaine Aguilar, SM City Manager in the amount of The \$17,974.64 that was earned as the result of a special recycling program. This check is just one of several totaling over \$56,000 that have been donated to the Senior Community Commission to help support senior programs and services to the residents of Sierra Madre. Thanks to the efforts of Walsh who, at the time was the Chair of the Senior Community Commission, in 2007 Sierra Madre was approved to be a part of a special program through the County of Los Angeles. The program recycles electronic equipment, like old computers & printers no longer used by the County and then donates the money from those recycling efforts to local qualified organizations. The majority of the monies have been earmarked for the Hart Park House / Senior

Center renovation project scheduled to begin spring 2011. Some of the dollars have been "undesignated" by the Senior Community Commission to be used towards new programs or activities for the senior center.

Most recently the Senior Commission helped sponsor the special senior holiday lunch held on December 10th and in September the commission sponsored the production of 200 *File of Life* medical information packets available to residents of Sierra Madre. Packets were distributed at the Preparedness Festival on September 11th and now are available at the Hart Park House/Senior Center or by visiting the Sierra Madre Fire Department.

At their regular meeting on January 6, 2011 the Senior Community Commission will explore some ideas for new programs & activities that could be funded by this recent donation.

Rose Float's "Granny Crew" – and More

by La Quetta M. Shamblee

When Sierra Madre's "Sueños de California" ("Dreams of California") float starts the 5.5 mile trek for the 2011 Tournament of Roses Parade, it will be driven by a long-time volunteer and member of the self-described "Granny Crew," a close-knit group of women who have played key roles in preparing this year's float. These grandmothers have been on the frontlines for everything needed, whether it was using a hammer or drill for construction, painting backdrops or using glue to attach 350 pounds of rolled oats to create the adobe exterior on the façade of the mission structure. Along with a core group of dedicated men and women, the "grannies" have again contributed to this annual event that will be enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of spectators along the parade route and millions more via television and the internet.

For the first time ever, a woman, Hawthorne resident LaDonna Gaydosh, will take charge of the steering wheel as this year's Driver, guiding the longest and tallest float ever built to represent Sierra Madre city. Her husband, the driver for the past three years, will serve as the co-driver. They started working on floats in Sierra Madre about ten years ago after LaDonna called an 800 number to find volunteer opportunities. Her daughter, now 20, had expressed an interest in learning to weld when she was fifteen so this opportunity was an ideal situation for the entire family. LaDonna looks forward to this year-round process, with most weekends spent assisting with light construction, accompanied by her husband who during this time of year also takes his vacation so he can be available for the



final touches that require an around-the-clock commitment. She says, "It's gratifying to know that you're doing a good job," in reference to the year she was told to work on the side of the float that would be facing the TV cameras during the parade.

In her role as Director of Decorations, Kay Sappington has an unquestionable talent as an artist, using the entire backdrop of the float as a palette to create a visual masterpiece using brilliant blooms, stems, seeds and leaves. With approximately 16 years as a volunteer, she has developed a keen eye for the selection of botanical materials that transform the intended design into a giant work of art. She gets more energized as she shares the details about the range of "deco" materials, flowers and dry goods, which this year cost approximately \$35,000. For her task of "deco", extensive knowledge and skill are required, including color balance, mathematics to calculate square footage on flat surfaces as well as conical and irregular shapes to determine the

quantity of deco items needed. She has also developed expertise on the environmental temperaments for flowers - how to store them and when and how to force them open. This year, she will need 600 birds of paradise to open at just the right time to ensure that they are in full bloom when the float is seen by the world. Along with many other materials, "a mixture of onion seeds and rice mixture will be used to coat rocks and stones; crushed sycamore leaves will be used to cover the hanging vines; the exterior of the mission bells will be covered with silverleaf and the inside with lettuce seeds," said Kay. With her husband Dick, serving as Head of Construction, it is clear that the float-making business is truly a family affair.

Don Mills, Vice President of the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association invites you to get involved. Volunteers and donations are needed year-round. Call (626) 355-7005 or go to www.smrosefloat.org.



Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, December 12th, to Saturday December 18th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 320 calls for service. See crimereports.com for updated information.

Monday, December 13th:

10:49 AM- Petty Theft, 40 N. Baldwin Ave and Sierra Madre Blvd. A white male suspect took an unattended Verizon Voyager Cell Phone worth \$150.00 while the victim used the restroom.

3:22 PM- Grand Theft Exceeding \$400, 600 blk. W. Alegria Ave. Unknown suspect entered a residential garage and stole a MAC laptop computer worth \$700.00, an appointment book worth \$20.00, and a briefcase worth \$100.00. The suspect is believed to be the victim's ex-husband.

Wednesday, December 15th:

1:09 AM- Unlawful Transport, Sale, Gift of Marijuana, Foothill Blvd. and Michillinda. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. The driver was unlicensed, under the influence, and in possession of marijuana and evidence of transportation for purpose of sales. The officer took the Pasadena resident to the Pasadena Police Department Jail for booking.

Thursday, December 16th:

1:24 PM- Lost/Stolen License Plate, 100 blk. Esperanza Ave. This case involves license plates stolen through the mail. A Sierra Madre resident received the registration but not the license plates for his vehicle. **2:55 PM- Use Another's Personal Identification to Obtain Credit/etc, 600 blk. Oak Crest Dr.** A Sierra Madre resident reported that his identity was compromised and money was taken from his bank without permission.

3:33 PM- Under the Influence of Controlled Substance, Sierra Madre Blvd. and Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre police responded to an unconscious man in Kersting Court. The 39 year old Los Angeles man was combative and under the influence of drugs. He was taken to Arcadia Methodist Hospital for treatment.

Friday, December 17th:

10:23 AM- Vandalism/Graffiti, Mountain Trail Ave and Alegria Ave. A suspect left graffiti on the City of Sierra Madre radar trailer.

1:03 PM- Use Another's Personal Identification to Obtain Credit/Etc, 700 blk. Canyon Crest Dr. This case involves an unknown subject opening a bank account under someone else name without permission.

9:17 PM- Driving While License Restricted for DUI, Sierra Madre Blvd. and Lima St. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. The driver's registration was expired and restricted him from driving without alcohol in his system. The driver was cited and released in the field.

Saturday, December 18th:

3:27 AM- DUI Alcohol/Drugs, Hermosa Ave and Sierra Madre Blvd. An officer stopped a motorist for speeding. The 18 year old Los Angeles resident was arrested for driving under the influence. The officer took the suspect to Pasadena Police Department Jail for booking.

12:12 PM- False ID to Peace Officer, Highland Ave and Baldwin Ave. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. The motorist gave a false name to the officer, who determined the suspect's true identity. The suspect had a warrant for his arrest from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. The officer arrested him and turned the Midway resident over to the LASD.

"Into Egypt



San Marino Community Church welcomes you to Sunday worship on the first Sunday after Christmas. Director of Christian Education preaches on Isaiah 63: 7-9, Matthew 2: 13-23 at the 9:15 traditional service. Sunday School and childcare are provided.

There will be no worship service at 11:15 this week.

Make a new year's resolution to be more involved, to learn, to serve, to grow spiritually, or to pray. Find out how San Marino Community Church can help at www.smccpbj.com.

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



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Grand Marshall Paula Deen Deals with Trouble at Home



By Dean Lee

A former housekeeper of celebrity chef and this year's Rose Parade Grand Marshall Paula Deen was sentenced to 18 months in prison last week after confessing she repeatedly stole jewelry from Deen's Georgia home. Deen had reported \$100,000 worth of jewelry missing.

According to the Savannah Morning News Deen, during sentencing, told the judge that Mary Alice White was the most feared and destroying kind of thief having treated her like family.

"She used our love and kindness against us," the paper reported Deen saying.

White was arrested twice in May for trying to pawn items owned by Deen. She was first arrested after trying to pawn a pair of \$18,000 earrings and then again a week later trying to pawn a \$7,000 watch and a bracelet valued at \$2,500 according to reports.

Deen's husband, Michael Groover, had reported jewelry missing from the couple's home between August 2009 and May 1.

As Grand Marshal, Paula Deen will ride in the 122nd Rose Parade presented by Honda and toss the coin before the 97th Rose Bowl Game presented by VIZIO.

"In my house, the Rose Parade and the Rose Bowl Game have always been a grand tradition for ringing in the New Year," Deen said after being chosen. "To serve as Grand Marshal is a dream come true and I look forward to sharing the celebration with all of the fans and viewers worldwide."

Pet of the Week



Cricket, a beautiful year and a half old patch tabby is looking for a new home. She is very friendly and loves attention. Cricket appeared on a local TV show and was a star! Cricket was found as a stray and would love to be adopted today!

The regular cat adoption fee is \$70 which includes the spay or neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations, and a free follow-up health check at a participating vet. Please call 626-792-7151 and ask about A278955 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at www.pasadenahumane.org

Police Take on Santa's Roll

In spite of heavy rain, the police department in cooperation with The Salvation Army, delivered complete Christmas dinners and toys to almost 100 families in Pasadena and Altadena Monday night.

Santa's sacks of goodies was delivered by officers, including Police Chief Phillip Sanchez, to families that have been identified in their patrol areas. Families were identified a number of ways, many of which were identified by the officers themselves who, in the course of their regular duties noted a need for assistance police Public Information Officer Janet Pope Givens said.



Lt. Phlunte Riddle (left) is joined by Chief Phil Sanchez (right).

"The need is always greater than the supply," Sanchez said. "Without this effort in conjunction with so many others, many of these families would have no Christmas at all. It is our pleasure and in many ways our honor to be able to make these deliveries before Christmas."

Police held a briefing before leaving which included well wishes from old Saint Nick himself. Pope Givens said each family was given one or two full sized grocery bags

full of food.

"As you heard one or two bags depends on the size of the family," she said.

She also said that most of the food and toys were donated by employees. "Some of it's also from the Salvation Army, they help us coordinate it, this is a partnership with them."

Pope Givens said the annual event has a long tradition in the department although this was Sanchez first year. He was named as Chief of Pasadena July 11.

Ladder Truck Back In Service



Pasadena Fire Chief Dennis Downs announced last week a four-person ladder truck company that was taken out of service at Fire Station 32, 2424 E. Villa St., was reinstated Dec 14.

It was taken out of service for the first part of fiscal year 2011 to save \$725,000 as a result of citywide budget challenges. Truck 32 is one of two truck companies staffed full-time in the city.

"After discussing several alternatives and scenarios with city management, fire administrative staff and labor groups, it was mutually agreed that the temporary closure of a truck company, also known as a 'brown-out,' would be the least detrimental to the public and firefighters," Downs said.

"Fortunately, there was minimal service impact to the community. We thank our residents, businesses and fire personnel for being so supportive and patient during this process."

Vacant management positions in the Fire Department remain unfilled to achieve an additional \$200,000 in savings in FY 2011.

City Gives Safety Tips Along Parade Route

As the 122nd Rose Parade approaches, the Pasadena Fire Department and Pasadena Police Department are issuing safety tips for the thousands of overnight campers who line the route on New Year's Eve.

The parade route will be a safer place if everyone follows the rules and regulations intended for the safety of all parade-goers.

What You Can Do:

- Overnight camping is permitted only on the night of Dec. 31.
- A permanent position on the sidewalk may be maintained along the parade route beginning at noon on Dec. 31. The "Blue Line" is the honor line. All persons and property such as blankets, chairs, etc., must remain on the curb until 11 p.m. on Dec. 31. At that time spectators may move out to the honor line.
- Small, professionally manufactured barbecues elevated at least one foot off the ground are allowed on the parade route. 25' from building or other combustibles. A fire extinguisher must be readily available.
- Minors under the age of 18 may be on the parade route from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. only if they are under the supervision of adults.
- Dress for cold weather. Children and seniors may need extra layers of clothing to avoid

More information about the Pasadena city budget please visit www.cityofpasadena.net/finance/budget.

In Related News.

Firefighters were extra busy this week starting early Friday morning when they found a home shortly after 6 a.m. engulfed in smoke. The small fire in the 80 block of N. Chester was caused by clothing on top of a floor heater. There was \$5000 in damage firefighters said. Also Friday, fire units responded at 10:23 a.m. to a reported house fire at on E. California after a neighbor called reporting flames from a chimney.

Late Tuesday, 28 firefighters struggled with a stubborn carport fire in the 400 block of Mooresque Drive. The fire caused an estimated \$115,000 in damages according to Pasadena Fire Public Information Officer Lisa Derderian. Firefighters were again called out Tuesday night after an electrical fire on a power pole knocked out the power for two hours along Orange Grove Boulevard and Hill Avenue. The fire was reported at 11:30 p.m.

hypothermia.

—Stay hydrated and consume nourishing meals to avoid dehydration.

—Report any suspicious activities and packages to emergency authorities along the parade route.

—In case of emergency call (626) 744-4241 from a cellular phone or 9-1-1 from a landline phone and know the cross streets from which you are calling.

What You Can't Do

- Tents, sofas and boxes of any type that can be used as stools or seats are prohibited are not permitted along the route.
- Unoccupied chairs are not allowed.
- Bonfires are strictly prohibited and considered "illegal burns."
- Fireworks are prohibited except as part of scheduled official events.
- No items may be sold along the parade route without a permit.
- No public areas (sidewalks, curbs, gutters, streets) may be cordoned or roped off.
- No ladders or scaffolding may be used as elevation for viewing the activities.
- It is illegal to buy, sell or give away horns on the parade route.
- Pets are not recommended along the parade route because they are easily frightened with sudden, loud noises.
- Selling space along the parade

Librarian Named as Library Association Emerging Leader



The Pasadena Public Library announced last week that Martha Camacho, Municipal Information Service librarian, has been named one of the American Library Association's (ALA) emerging leaders for 2010. She will receive a scholarship to attend the midwinter ALA meeting in San Diego and the summer conference in New Orleans.

The ALA Emerging Leaders Program enables more than 100 new librarians and library staff from across the country to participate in project planning workgroups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity early in their careers.

"We are very proud of Martha and her accomplishments. She is an outstanding librarian whose insight and initiative have contributed significantly to the Pasadena Public Library" said Jan Sanders, library director.

Parade Route

route, other than grandstand seating, is illegal.

—Throwing any projectile into the parade, including seemingly harmless items such as tortillas, marshmallows, flowers, etc., is prohibited.

—Vehicles obstructing emergency lanes will be towed.

—Walking in the street is not permitted during the parade.

—Open containers of alcohol are illegal on public streets, sidewalks and all other public areas.

—Sale, possession and use of illegal drugs will not be tolerated.

Enhanced security measures will be in effect on the parade route and very evident. Because of large crowds, Pasadena police officers will resolve problems quickly and remove from the scene anyone who violates the law or disturbs the peace.

On New Year's Eve and New Year's Day 2007 the Pasadena Fire Department responded to more than twice the number of calls than on average days. These calls included reports of hypothermia, illegal burning, miscellaneous medical issues, assaults and alcohol-related incidents.

For more information about safety along the Rose Parade route visit www.visitpasadena.com and click on Visitor Hotline or call Pasadena Fire Department at (626) 744-7276.

Pasadena's Audit Firm Criticized: Failed to Catch Alleged Corruption in Bell

By Dean Lee

State Controller John Chiang published the results Tuesday of a quality-control review of the City of Bell audits something the audit firm, Mayer Hoffman McCann (MHM), told the Pasadena city council Dec. 13 should show they met most of the state auditing standards.

Chiang's 153-page report states otherwise.

Pasadena has used the audit firm MHM since 2001 according to city records. Mayor Bill Bogaard told Michael Harrison a Certified Public Account of MHM that the city would be interested in the findings.

"We do expect in the months ahead to be in, I would describe as closer touch with our outside auditing firm in light of the inquiries that are underway and will be finished in the foreseeable future," Bogaard said. "We will be interested in what those reports show and how they relate to the firm and the relationship to the city of Pasadena."

Bogaard made the comments Dec. 13 after the council approved receiving and filing the city's six annual financial statements, five compliance-related reports, and one actuarial study for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. All the audit reports were done by MHM.

In a statement Tuesday, Chiang said after a review of the City of Bell, MHM failed to follow the majority of applicable generally accepted fieldwork audit standards.

"MHM appears to have been a rubberstamp rather than a responsible auditor committed to providing the public with the transparency and accountability that could have prevented the mismanagement of the City's finances by Bell officials," Chiang said.

Among other things, Chiang also said "the firm's review of Bell's payroll was limited to comparisons against prior

years, and only looked at the City's General Fund, although salaries were charged to other funds." He said "had the firm reviewed the records for key employees, it should have noted that the Chief Administrative Officer had salary agreements with five other City funds. It should also have noted that the CAO's basic salary would increase if the General Fund maintained a positive balance, providing an incentive and risk for misappropriation of public dollars."

The review also found problems in the firm's audit of federal program compliance. "The firm's auditors used outdated compliance guidelines and failed to adequately evaluate the City's controls over major federal programs or test all applicable requirements for those federal programs."

"The firm also failed to determine whether expenditures made from the agency's Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund were related to the production, improvement or preservation of low and moderate income housing. An audit that fully followed the Redevelopment Agency audit guidelines should have questioned the validity of these expenses."

Harrison told the Pasadena city council that in anticipation of Chiang's report they have initiated their own peer review. Harrison said the Florida audit team of Carl Riggs and Ingram were doing that review.

"He's [a former chairman of the Audits Standards Committee of the American Institute of CPAs] is going to be conducting a quality control review of our entire municipal practice here in California," Harrison said "We have accelerated the review in light of the state controller's review in the city of Bell."

He added that they have about 125 clients in the state.

Harrison said their peer review would have normally come out in summer.

Altadena Bulldog to Skimboard Down Colorado Blvd Jan. 1



By LaKeidra Tookes

Luigi Navarro is not your average French bulldog. This 4 year old pup, from Altadena, was chosen out of 180 dogs to ride along with a few other all star doggies on the Natural Balance float in the upcoming Rose Parade. His owner Robyn Navarro said when he first took him to the casting call to ride the float, he had no idea he'd steal the show.

"So we're there in line, waiting and waiting and it's in water and he had never been in water before, so I'm thinking, what am i doing? Navarro said. "He's never gonna get this, what's happening, so he gets up there and he aced it! It was like he was this little magical athlete, we had no idea."

Their third year in the parade, the float from Natural Balance Pet Foods will feature 4000 gallons of water weighing over 35 tons. The skimboarding dogs, including Luigi, will be featured near the front of the bi-level float with 6 dock diving dogs behind them. Ron Davis is a trainer for Natural Balance and helping Altadena's dog star

get ready for his skimboarding debut.

"Luigi being a French bulldog is an amazing little guy he's just got this charisma, I mean he comes in like the godfather and just runs the show," Davis said.

Davis has three bulldogs himself, Sully, Rose, and Tillman, the world's fastest skateboarding dog.

"When I look at Luigi I think he's like 6'6" 290, he could play for the NFL, but he's just this lovable little dog. He runs the show, he's got this amazing drive and he's talented," Davis said.

Navarro explained that when he's not practicing for the parade, Luigi loves to play with his doggie siblings, Simone and Carlo, along with his human sister Ava and her friend, Natalie.

"I'm looking forward to seeing my mom on the float with Luigi," Navarro said.

Luigi's new found fame is making him a pretty busy little guy, he's made lots of new bulldog friends and he's even gotten himself a Facebook page Navarro said, but somehow he still finds the time to do the occasional interview.

Overnight Parking Ordinance Exempted Dec. 23rd to Jan. 3rd

The holiday overnight parking citation moratorium is from 2 am to 6 am, December 23rd through January 3rd. Vehicles legally parked on the street during these dates and times will not be ticketed. All other parking restrictions apply, however, and any illegally parked vehicles, RV's or trailers will be cited and possibly towed.

Issuance of overnight parking citations will resume the morning of January 4, at 2 am. For more information of the City's Overnight Parking Ordinance and Restrictions, please visit the City of Pasadena Department of Transportation's website at: <http://ww2.cityofpasadena.net/trans>.

ARCADIA

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Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

From Arcadia's Best:

Santa Anita Opening As Planned



Despite the biggest rains in decades and more to come over the next couple days, Santa Anita Park president George Haines says the horse race facility expects to have great racing on opening day Sunday, as scheduled.

Before the rains, officials were expecting crowds of more than 40,000 for the 2010-2011 meet. That's still a possibility if forecasts for a let-up in the rain by Thursday, or at least by the weekend, hold true.

UPDATE 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22: After more than 12-inches of rain on the Santa Anita track since the rains began in the past week, Track Superintendent Richard Tedesco was walking the track at the quarter pole and reported "it's pretty firm. We plan to open most of the track for training Thursday and all of the track Friday, if things go as expected. The forecast calls for clearing soon, but there could be another system in Saturday that could bring another quarter inch of rain. We'll see."

The rains resumed in force a short while later Wednesday afternoon. Haines told ArcadiasBest.com that the track, which was just re-installed again earlier this month, has been "sealed," meaning the newly laid dirt has been compacted so that heavy rain will run off the surface and flow to the inside drains so and not get into the base.

That's the theory, anyway. That was also the plan with the previous two synthetic surfaces installed over the last couple years, but it didn't work even as well as the dirt tracks of the previous 70-plus years, causing a record number of racing days to be canceled the past couple of seasons.

The return to a dirt track is getting an immediate trial by fire this week — well, by rain — with many inches of precipitation that isn't supposed to let up until Thursday, just three days before opening day. Forecasts call for partly cloudy weather and temperatures in the mid-60s Thursday – Sunday.

"With a break in the weather and a little luck the track will be in good shape for opening day," Haines said today as it continued to pour.

Since there are no guarantees with weather, Haines said if it is raining on opening day, will prepare the track with floats, a trailer pulled by a tractor that flattens the surface to a smooth finish (see photo, above left). Because the water will drain off the top, Haines said the track may be muddy on top but the base will still be in good enough condition to race, rain or shine.

-Scott Hedrick, Arcadia's Best

Huntington Drive Lanes Closings

In addition to all the Gold Line bridge expansion projects set to start soon and continue for a couple years, now comes word that L.A. County is about to undertake a major seismic retrofit project on the railroad bridge over Huntington Drive at Second Avenue that will require lane closures on Huntington starting Jan. 3 for more than three months (14 weeks).

That project, which will reinforce the bridge connections to the abutments, needs to be completed before the Gold Line Foothill Extension begins its own work in May 2012 on building a second bridge side-by-side with the current bridge.

Seven weeks of work will be required on each support leg, so contractors will work on one leg at a time and close the outside lane (#2 lane) under the bridge for eastbound traffic for nearly two months, and then close the outside lane of westbound traffic on the opposite side of the street for the next seven weeks, according to city engineer Phil Wray.

Meanwhile, another significant road nearby will be closed sporadically during business hours over the next several months in a completely unrelated project by the MTA to build sound walls along the 210 freeway. The project to build sound walls at various locations between Santa Anita Avenue and California Avenue in Monrovia, began in October 2009 and has caused delays at on-ramps at exit-ramps and lane closures and detours on First Avenue under the freeway bridge ever since. It is already well past its scheduled completion date.

First Avenue under the freeway bridge will be closed the rest of this week and for a short while after the first of the year to build the barrier. Contractors will continue to work on the block wall, which will take a few months to complete, according to Wray.

Work on the ramps and shoulders won't get cleaned up until the wall is completely constructed.

- By Scott Hettrick

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, December 12, through Saturday, December 18, the Police Department responded to 987 calls for service of which 176 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, December 12:

1. Around 3:51 p.m., units were dispatched to Claire's located at Westfield Mall in reference to a female juvenile detained for theft. She hid merchandise in a shopping bag and left the store without making payment. Additional stolen property from Abercrombie & Fitch, Spencers, Forever 21, Jalous, Classic for Ladies, Sephora, and Wet Seals were recovered. A private person's arrest was made, and a 16-year-old Hispanic was taken into custody for commercial burglary.

2. Officers responded to the 00 block of Alta around 10:22 p.m. in regards to an attempted suicide. A 58-year-old male Caucasian shot himself through the back of his neck. The man was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment, and he is expected to recover from the incident.

Monday, December 13:

3. Between 11:15 a.m. and 12:50 p.m., an auto burglary occurred at the Promenade parking structure located at Westfield Mall. Unknown suspect(s) tampered with a door lock and stole a leather rear bench seat for a total reported loss of \$1500.

4. Loss prevention personnel from Macy's advised that they had detained an employee for theft around 2:00 p.m. A new employee sold three watches, valued collectively at \$520, for \$11 to friends. A private person's arrest was made, and a 20-year-old male Hispanic was taken into custody for grand theft. The buyers later voluntarily returned the watches.

Tuesday, December 14:

5. A forgery report was filed at the police station around 10:48 a.m. The victim advised that his mother passed away at the end of November and left the funds in her bank account to him. He checked the account and learned that unknown suspect(s) had forged his mother's signature on 13 checks for over \$14,112, and some of the checks were cashed and dated after his mother's passing.

6. Around 3:42 p.m., a victim came to the station to file a fraud report. Unknown suspect(s) obtained the victim's credit card account information by unknown means and made two purchases worth between \$2500 to \$3000. The suspect(s) also changed the victim's address to a location in Redding.

Wednesday, December 15:

7. A residential burglary occurred in the 1200 block of South Ninth between 1:00 p.m. and 2:10 p.m. Unknown suspect(s) gained entry

into the house by unknown means. Once inside, the suspect(s) ransacked rooms and stole cash.

8. A male Hispanic suspect stole a watch from a display at Nordstrom around 7:15 p.m. Apparently, the same suspect had stolen several watches from the store on three other occasions.

Thursday, December 16:

9. Shortly before 2:00 a.m., a car was found stopped in the middle of the roadway at Oakhaven Road and Oakhaven Lane. A 25-year-old male Asian driver was arrested at the scene for DUI and for a \$40,000 outstanding warrant. Two male Asian passengers, ages 21 and 22, were also arrested for drunk in public/disorderly conduct.

10. Around 11:28 a.m., a victim came to the station to file an identity theft report. Unknown suspect(s) used the victim's personal information to open a health finance account and charged \$9800 to the fraudulent account.

Friday, December 17:

11. Units responded to CVS, 1401 South Baldwin, around 11:46 a.m. in reference to an attempted commercial burglary. A female Caucasian, 50-55 years of age, placed about \$900 in electronic merchandise in a cart and tried to exit the store without paying for the items. When the suspect was confronted, she fled in a waiting white Buick Regal. An area check was conducted but the suspect was not found.

12. Between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., a residential burglary occurred in the 400 block of Drake. Unknown suspect(s) entered the home by unknown means and stole cash and a large amount of jewelry.

Saturday, December 18:

13. Officers were dispatched to Ralphs, 211 East Foothill, in reference to a man and a woman detained for theft. Loss prevention personnel stopped the couple outside the store when they tried to steal 13 bottles of alcohol and 2 cases of beer. The woman admitted to taking the alcohol so she could sell them at a later date. A 70-year-old female Hispanic was taken into custody for commercial burglary, conspiracy, and a \$30,000 outstanding warrant; a 58-year-old male African-American was arrested for a \$30,000 outstanding warrant.

14. Shortly after 10:30 p.m., units responded to the 700 block of Arcadia regarding a domestic violence incident. During an altercation, the suspect punched his wife several times in the face with a closed fist, leaving visible injuries. A 58-year-old Asian was taken into custody for inflicting corporal injury to spouse.

Arcadia's Choice



Also the Mountain Views News favorite - 182 W. Camino Real Avenue
Photo by Chris Bertrand. See Full Story on page 13.

Parole / Probation Compliance Checks

On Thursday, December 16, 2010, Detectives from the Arcadia Police Department were joined by personnel from State Parole, the Alhambra, Monterey Park, and San Gabriel Police Departments, for the purpose of conducting parole / probation compliance checks at 22 locations: Arcadia (7), Rosemead (7), San Gabriel (3), Temple City (1), and Alhambra (4). These checks targeted 23 subjects who are on active parole or probation, or who had outstanding arrest warrants. The majority of these subjects are either Asian gang associates or sex registrants.

Results of the compliance checks resulted in:

- 1 arrest for violation of parole
- 1 arrest for a felony warrant and probation hold
- 2 arrests for misdemeanor warrants
- Documentation for 1 violation of parole and

2 probation violations
-18 of the 23 subjects were contacted during the compliance checks
Detectives from each of the law enforcement agencies involved came together after several incidents involving Asian gang members that occurred in Arcadia and Alhambra in late November. Arrests were made in those cases. Local investigators will continue to work together and this event is an excellent example of information sharing and the ongoing collective effort to combat gang activity in our communities.

Refer questions to Sergeant Jeremy Lachenmyer, Arcadia Police Department Special Enforcement Team, (626) 574-5183.

Monthly Family Fun Nights

Join in for an evening of stories, crafts, games and surprises just right for the whole family. Thursdays, January 6, February 10, and March 3; 6:30 p.m. No registration necessary. The Arcadia Public Library is located at 20 W. Duarte Rd. Arcadia. For more information, please call (626) 821-5566.

Book to Movie: Take 3!

Exclusively for sixth through eighth grade students featuring The Lightning Thief January 7 at 3:30 p.m. Enjoy a snack and a themed craft too at the Arcadia Public Library. No registration necessary. For more information, please call (626) 821-5566.

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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 on-line, 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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SAFYMCA’s Youth Alliance Program Honors Community Members



MONROVIA, CA, December 20, 2010 – and spiritual support. Kiwanis Club member, Julie Community recognition awards were presented at the Santa Anita Family YMCA’s 6th annual Youth Alliance Christmas Celebration held Dec. 18 at the Monrovia Community Center.

Guadalupe Garcia-Lugo, named Parent of the Year, was recognized for her “strength and skills to lead her family in the midst of crisis”. Alfredo “Freddy” Aguilar received the Teen of the Year Youth Development Award. Longtime Youth Alliance program volunteer Cristina Lopez, was honored as Volunteer of the Year for her service as a leader in social responsibility. The Kiwanis Club of Monrovia was recognized for outstanding support of the Youth Alliance program, a comprehensive personal development program that provides at-risk middle school and high school students with educational guidance, homework help, counseling, leadership training,

and spiritual support. Kiwanis Club member, Julie Gentile Soldo accepted the award on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Monrovia.

Also honored at the dinner, held at the Monrovia Community Center, were more than 20 parents, who received their graduation “diplomas” from the Y’s La Academia program. The program launched in December 2009, is geared to educate and connect the Spanish speaker parent to their child and the community through the development of communication skills and self confidence.

At the end of the evening, children and their families were presented with Christmas gifts. Sponsors for the event were the Santa Anita Family YMCA, City of Monrovia, Tzeitel Paras-caracci, Donna and Dave Baker, Joann and Jim Spring, Rudy’s Mexican Restaurant, Larry Spicer, Kiwanis Club of Monrovia, and Jesus is Lord Christian Center.

Monrovia Police Blotter

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 490 service events, resulting in 104 investigations. Following are the last week’s highlighted issues and events:

Vehicle Burglary

On December 9 at 7:50 a.m., an officer was dispatched to a residence in the 300 block of West Lime regarding a vehicle burglary. The victim reported his vehicle had been broken into during the night and his GPS was taken. The suspect broke the front passenger window to gain entry. Investigation continuing.

Commercial Burglary

On December 9 at 9:47 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 800 block of South Myrtle regarding a burglary. The victim reported his locked trailer had been broken into during the night. Investigation continuing.

Vandalism

On December 9 at 11:51 a.m., an officer went to Myrtle and Atara regarding two city signs having been tagged with graffiti. A stop sign and a neighborhood watch sign had graffiti written on them with a black marker. Investigation continuing.

Residential Burglary

On December 9 at 4:27 p.m., officers responded to a residence in the 300 block of North Alta Vista. The resident had returned and saw that someone had broken into the home. She did not enter the house and called the police. Officers arrived and made entry, but no suspects were located. A rear window that is not visible from the street was pried open. Investigation continuing.

Robbery

On December 10 at 9:50 a.m., a victim called on his cell phone to report he was robbed at knife point. He described the suspect as an adult male, mid-20s, with dark curly hair and a blue shirt with a hood. The suspect walked up behind him, threatened him with a knife and took his wallet. He was not hurt, but he was confused as to his exact location. The dispatcher was able to establish the victim’s location. Officers arrived and conducted an area search with the assistance of the Foothill Air Support helicopter, but did not locate the suspect. However, based on the suspect’s description, officers thought they possibly knew the suspect from previous contact. An officer put together a photo line-up and the victim positively identified the suspect. A “wanted person” was entered into the computer system for the suspect.

Investigation continuing.

Vandalism / Throwing an Object at a Moving Vehicle / Nighttime Curfew / Suspects Arrested

On December 10 at 10:13 p.m., a subject was traveling east on Huntington, approaching Primrose, when he saw five male juveniles standing in front of a fast food restaurant. As the victim drove by, he saw one of the juveniles throw an object at his vehicle, which shattered the rear window. The juveniles ran into the restaurant, where they were detained by officers. The juvenile who threw the object was identified and arrested. The other four juveniles were brought to the station and cited for curfew violations.

Driving Under the Influence - Suspect Arrested

On December 11 at 2:04 a.m., a subject was riding as a passenger in a vehicle when he saw an officer in a parking lot in the 100 block of West Foothill. The passenger exited the vehicle and approached the officer. He reported to the officer that the driver was drunk and refused to let him drive. He cautioned the officer that the driver had said he had a firearm in the vehicle. The driver was stopped, and determined to be under the influence. During a search of the vehicle, officers located an unloaded firearm under the rear seat and two loaded magazines in the glove box. The driver was arrested and taken into custody.

Driving Under the Influence - Suspect Arrested

On December 11 at 3:43 a.m., officers observed a driver northbound on Myrtle from Huntington, driving at a high rate of speed. Officers stopped the driver and during the investigation, determined the driver was under the influence. He was arrested and taken into custody.

Drug Activity

On December 12 at 1:59 a.m., officers responded to the area of Central and Magnolia regarding possible shots heard. When they arrived in the area, they saw a group of three male subjects. As they approached, one of the subjects threw an object on the ground, which turned out to be a toy replica of a firearm. The officers detained the subject who threw the item and discovered he was in possession of methamphetamine. The subject detained was arrested, and the other two subjects were identified and released. The shot heard turned out to be a tire blowout on the freeway.

Dog Bite

On December 13 at 2:45 p.m., a six-month-old female was taken from the arms of her mother by a three-year old Great Dane. The mother and baby both sustained bite injuries. The infant was transported via helicopter to Los Angeles County USC Medical Center. The baby is in stable condition in the neonatal unit. The investigation is continuing.

Attempt Vehicle Burglary

On December 14 at 3:01 a.m., an officer saw a male and female walking in the area of Grand and Aspen. As the officer approached, the female threw something on the ground and quickly walked away from it. The object was found to be methamphetamine. The female subject was arrested.

Drenched But Determined

Huge Turnout for Foothill Unity Center Holiday Food and Toy Distribution

December 23, 2010 — It took 26 pop-up canopies, a 30”x50” shelter, heaps of disposable rain ponchos and a sea of umbrellas, but Foothill Unity Center staff and volunteers held the largest holiday food and toy distribution in the organization’s history on Sunday and Monday at the LA County Arboretum in Arcadia. A total of 1,852 families were registered for the two-day event.

On Sunday, 1,052 (over 90%) of 1,161 local, low-income families with 2,988 children made it to the Arboretum, defying the torrential rains. “This is the first time it’s ever rained on our event,” said Executive Director Joan Whitenack. “We really weren’t sure how it would affect our attendance — but we quickly learned that when the need is great, not even record rains will deter people.”

The turnout reflected the extent of need in the local community. In the last two and a half years, Foothill Unity Center’s client base has doubled. Many of the newer clients are seeking help for the first time, pushed to the limit by a job loss, medical crisis, or other economic catastrophe.

The Holiday Distribution is very organized. All 1,852 food boxes were prepacked by family size, and new toys and clothing for each child (Angel gifts from caring donors) were gathered into family bags. But the weather threw volunteers and



staff some unpredictable challenges.

The canopies sheltering clients tended to collect water and dump it in sudden deluges. Regular broomstick-poking triggered the waterfalls before they could ambush unsuspecting victims. Uneven sidewalks created 2”-3” puddles — the kind kids can’t resist stomping through. A pushbroom brigade conducted regular sweeps to move the water away. By the time some clients made it to the check-in table, they were dripping wet. Volunteers helped them to their cars. Shopping carts circling from the parking lot into Ayres Hall and back out again traced a wide, wet circle of tracks around the hall’s cement floor.

If anything, the soggy day made spirits even merrier and brighter. “People were dripping,” noted Whitenack, “but they were smiling.”

Hundreds of volunteers took part in the event, reflecting the level of community involvement it always inspires. They ranged from businesses, organizations and churches to schools, Scout troops and entire families. Although both children and adults volunteered on the sorting/packing days and the Monday distribution for adults, only grownups were allowed to serve at the Sunday family distribution. This policy ensures that client children aren’t embarrassed by seeing someone they know at the Center’s charity event.

Children created a holiday art project with Paint ‘n Play, received goody bags from SimplyHelp, and were entered in a drawing for special gifts like bicycles. The highlight of the day was a chance to hobnob with the Guest of Honor, Santa himself, and get a toy and candy cane. Each family took



home a holiday food box with a meat and the makings for a festive holiday dinner. Every family also received a bag packed with new toys and clothing for each child. Toy bags for this event are opaque, so kids can’t see the contents. This allows parents to wrap the gifts and give them to their children as a part of their own holiday traditions, under the tree on Christmas day. “Parents really appreciate that we do it this way,” notes Whitenack.

Key sponsors of the event included 3M Unitek, A Foundation For Kids, Alverno High School, Arcadia Real Estate Professionals, Arcadia Police Department, AT&T, Bank of America, Cal Tech, Candy Cane String Lights, Century 21 Ludecke, Church of the Good Shepherd, City of Monrovia, Clairbourne School, Corporate Center Pasadena, Creative Woman, Inc., Curves, Domenico’s Monrovia, Donna Baker, Duarte Promise, ELS - The Outlet, First Presbyterian Church, Foothill Federal Credit Union, Foothill Gym, Foothill Unity Center Auxiliary and George Cassat.

Also Georgina-Fredrick Childrens Foundation, Girl Scouts of the San Gabriel Valley, Gold Wing Road Riders Assn., Green Dot, Henry’s, Huntington Middle School, Immaculate Conception, Jakks Pacific, Kaiser Permanente, Major Cart Service, Margaret Page, Marshalls, Minuteman Transport, Model A Club, Monrovia Chamber of Commerce, Monrovia Unified School District, Monrovia Restaurant, Monrovia Police and Fire Departments, PCL Construction Services Inc., Peach Café, Peter and Lathrop Hoffman, Pink Transfer,



Santa Anita Church, Spark of Love - ABC7, Stor-Box - Pasadena, Street Rods Forever, The Gas Co., Verizon, Vons Employees and Wells Fargo Bank.

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, non-denominational organization distributed over four million pounds of food to 3,974 unduplicated very low-income families last year. It also provides limited health services, 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.

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WHEN SANTA CALLS....The SMPD Answers!



Even though it wasn't his normal delivery schedule, when Santa Claus received letters from the students in Ms. Melanie Kobayashi's 6-8th grade class at Sierra Madre Middle School, he dispatched some of his local elves to handle the job.

Members of the Sierra Madre Police Officers Association, along with Chief Marilyn Diaz, helped Santa and delivered

the specific requests in each child's letter. Diaz and Officers Hosmic Hartunian, Jen Dabney, Paul Monforte, and Kyle Baas also did not let the rain hamper them for their 'job' on Monday. In addition to the SMPD, Ms. Kobayashi, Corey Hackman, Janet Gonzalez, Victor Moreno and Jose Rivas helped the SMPD elves distribute the toys to the children.

Photo by S. Henderson/MVNews

While School Is Out.....

Happy, healthy New Year to everyone! It's a great time for new beginnings!

Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com Animillics LLC © 2010 V7-N52

Happy New Year, Everyone!

A happy, healthy New Year to you and your family.

I love celebrating on New Year's Eve and Day! I decorate, bake and make little snacks for my family's party. I write a short list of my resolutions - promises and ideas for little changes that I can work on - and then welcome in the New Year at midnight.

What do you like best about the New Year? Read my clues to fill in my puzzle:

- falling, shining globe
- its hands tell us the time
- what we do when we gather at parties
- the new year can give us a clean slate
- last month of the old year
- the world's most famous New Year's party is held here
- the Rose Bowl is always played on New Year's Day
- when you see this infant, it means new beginnings
- explosions in the sky
- a march through the center of town
- 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
- old man, stands for the past year, history
- the exact moment that the old year becomes new
- a promise to yourself to change
- first month of the new year
- tool to help keep track of dates in the new year
- these 'ring in' the new year
- group of people playing instruments
- Auld Lang Syne is a very popular one of these
- great time had by friends, family with music and food

We celebrated our 5th anniversary by giving out tons of fun, free puzzles all year long...our gift to our readers! Print out more puzzles at: www.readingclubfun.com

A Party All Over the World!

New Year's Day is celebrated all over the world. In most places, people join in the fun by having parties, feasting, visiting, and greeting each other with good wishes. Read the "party" words. Then, find and circle them in the puzzles.

Things we use to decorate or set up:

- balloons
- lights
- centerpiece
- banner
- garland
- twirly whirlys
- sparkles
- party poppers
- star cut outs
- tablecloth
- plates
- napkins
- glasses
- forks
- knives

board games
noise makers
finger foods
movies
friends
stay awake
dancing
streamers
hats
a toast
drinks
shakers
family
music
horns

The Magical Stroke of...

At what time does the old year end and the new year begin? When does the host give a toast and everyone cheer? Why, at the magical stroke of...

Y = Yellow
B = Blue

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Arcadia High School
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Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: David L. Vannasdal

Arroyo Pacific Academy
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(626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org

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Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.com

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website: www.lasallehs.org

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(626) 471-2000,
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Norma Coombs Alternative School
2600 Paloma St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 798-0759 Principal: Dr. Vanessa Watkins
E-mail address: watkins12@pusd.us

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

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

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

St. Rita Catholic School
322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-9028 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
74 S San Gabriel Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166
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

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

What Do YOU Think?

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Eat Well!

Deadlines and Dogs

Super Editor and my friend Susan put us all on a tight deadline this week. So, I hurried over to the new kid on the block, Dog Haus Hot Dog Stand, on N. Hill to scarf down two hot dogs before the press started. What is the fascination with our love of the hot dog? I know that food trends are cyclical but hot dogs, I found, have been a staple of our diets since the first Ferris wheel went up in Coney Island years ago. The setting at Dog Haus is industrial, with picnic tables and self-service fountain drinks. The menu boasts a lengthy list of selections, including the Haus Dog (\$5.95) their signature ¼ lb. all beef skinless hot dog on a grilled King's Hawaiian Bread bun. Let me tell you I love the bread, it is a great touch. I suggest you get the bread untoasted so that you may savor the true taste of the bread. The manager told me that the customers like the grill mark on the

TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills

bread, but trust me fellow foodies, do it my way.

The manager could sense my frantic devotion to downing enough dogs to make this story credible; I mean what kind of critic would I be if I just had one dog?! So here comes the B.L.A.S.T. (\$5.95) smoked bacon, lettuce, avocado, Serrano chili, sliced tomato and I opted for the deli mustard instead of the mayo.

So, I know if you are on the same page as I am for all these years of writing here in The Mountain Views News, you ask, ok... Peter... what's the hook, there are several Hot Dog spots around, heck even Sam's Club has a Hot Dog. Well, my answer is that any true foodie has to stay clear of being a creature of habit, The Dog Haus delivers some great Dogs and they make their own French Fries; that alone makes me a fan. I have been very critical of certain "Gastropubs" shelling out frozen fries and rings and wings. They "get it" here at the Dog Haus. I haven't had one

yet, but the manager tells me that their burgers are good as well! All 100% Angus beef.

Tip: Get there at 11 AM and have them put a fried egg on your dog, it's only a \$1 extra.

Now here are some fun Hot Dog Facts from my (limited) research on the Hot Dog.

Chicago's O'Hare International Airport travelers consumes six times more hot dogs – that's 725,000 more - than Los Angeles International Airport and LaGuardia Airport combined.

In 2007, consumers spent more than \$4.1 billion on hot dogs and sausages. That's the equivalent of more than 1.5 billion pounds – from United States grocery stores.

Americans will eat enough hot dogs at major league ballparks this year to stretch from RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C. to San Francisco's AT&T Park. That's more than 22 million hot dogs. You will need a big bun for that one.

New Yorkers consume more hot dogs than any other city, beating out both Chicago and Los Angeles.

On Independence Day, Americans will enjoy 150 million hot dogs, enough to stretch from D.C. to L.A. over five times.

Merry Christmas

Dog Haus, Open 11 AM to 10 PM, 105 N. Hill Ave. Pasadena. (626) 577-4287

Email me at thechefknows@yahoo.com .

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FRIENDS
of the Sierra Madre
Library

Aficionado

by Dave Hart

As promised at last article, 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 practice, LOTS of wine. The more you taste, the better you'll become at the process.

Over the next month, you'll see a new wine-related article, each building upon the last, starting with the stages of sampling your wine. If you were paying attention at all, you began with examining the wine in the glass, smelling the wine, and now finally, we're tasting the wine.

As you've become more adept at recognizing the nose of your wine, you'll probably have a good idea of what to expect with the taste. Some may surprise you. Some, frankly I'd have preferred to just smell, as the taste was a disappointment. But then, wine was meant to be drunk. We're not tasting after-shave.

Take a sip, just enough to coat your tongue. Make certain to roll the wine over your tongue before swallowing. If you were awake during anatomy class, you'll remember that the tongue is where all your taste buds are located, and different taste distinctions are actually located at different places on your tongue. Did you know that acidity is tasted on the sides of the tongue, or sweet is detected at the tip? Some (like my wife) even "chew" the wine. Try to exhale through your nose, as your taste and smell will now be operating harmoniously. Slowly swallow, as a quick gulp defeats the purpose. If you're THAT thirsty, ask for a glass of water.

Try to identify the different tastes of the grapes. You might need to close your eyes to really TASTE the wine. Do you taste citrus in the whites? How about peaches, or green apples? In reds you may taste cherry, gooseberry or even vanilla. Take a second taste, which WILL be different.

Your first discernable taste will probably be the sweetness, whether the wine is dry, off-dry or sweet. Sweetness comes from the sugar in ripe grapes that remain after fermentation is finished. Tannin is tasted at the back of the tongue and tastes bitter like a strong cup of tea. Tannin, found mostly in reds, comes from the skins of the grapes or from oak-barrel aging. You'll develop your own preference.

Alcohol is sensed at the back of the throat and gives a warm sensation. Higher sugar levels in the grapes during fermentation will produce a higher alcohol level. As mentioned earlier, taste side-by-side two wines with significantly differing alcohol content, and you'll soon recognize YOUR preference.

During the tasting journey, you'll be able to determine the balance of wine, which is a good sign of the quality. A wine is balanced when all of the components (sweetness, alcohol, tannin, acidity) are blending together. A mature and drinkable wine is one that has achieved it's optimal balance. I know this is hard to fathom, but this may indeed mean treating the wine with the respect that is needed, and allow it to cellar, or be stored for years. Some wines are produced to be opened immediately and will be at their optimal level today, some you'll have to just watch and brag about until they grow up – like your teenagers.

Finally, to commemorate your newly developed sense of good taste, 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 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 talk about your educated tongue, 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.



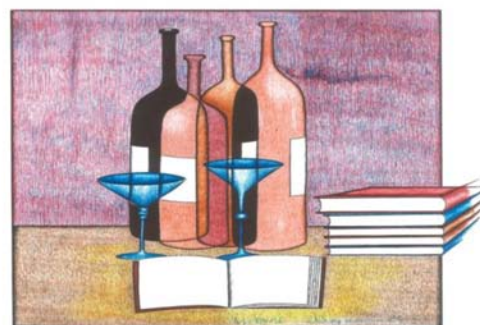
Win Two Tickets to the Friends of the Library 41st Annual Wine and Cuisine Tasting Event

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?

[] Where the wine was purchased

[] The type of grape used in producing the wine

[] That I really know very little about wine



Name: _____

Phone: _____

Drop form off at the Library at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd during regular hours

HOWARD Hays As I See It



There's usually some occurrence that signals the advent of the holiday season. For some it's "Dickens' Village" and the arrival of Santa Claus at Kersting Court. For others it's the intrusion of "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" and "Jingle Bell Rock" on our favorite "oldies" station. For me this year it was the holiday get-together at our Publisher Susan Henderson's home for family, friends and staff of the Mountain Views News. (For MVN, "family" seems more appropriate than "staff").

I met our newest columnist, Katie Tse, whose weekly "This and That" column reflects a lot of the 'these and those' we experience in our own lives. I was sorry to see Hail Hamilton leaning on a cane; he explained he'd thrown out his hip after years of jogging - and expounded on a favorite theme; the irony of a great nation with a mediocre healthcare system, where enormous sums go not for care but for corporate profit.

Rich Johnson was behind the bar when I came in; he pulled out his iPhone and (following is an impartial, unsolicited plug) I was impressed with his UpElevator app as he offered a demonstration. No matter the emotion, situation or predicament one might experience, UpElevator offers the choice words of wisdom that may not make everything better, but will at least afford the satisfaction in knowing that others understood what you're going through - and also provide a comforting alternate perspective.

Mayor Joe Mosca dropped by. In answer to complaints about the rain, he offered his own take - welcoming the downpour as a needed remedy to a situation involving aquifers, sediment accumulation at Arcadian dams, diminished well levels, etc. Whatever it was, it's something I'll console myself with when stuck in immobile traffic on a rain-drenched freeway.

This sharing of Christmas cheer led to reflection on a story heard earlier that day at the service my wife and I attended at the Pasadena Buddhist Temple. As told by our Rev. Rosenthal, it was about the head of a wealthy household who was concerned his son was living too sheltered a life; too accustomed to the privileges of their status and oblivious to the world outside their own rarefied circle. To broaden his son's experience, the father arranged for him to spend two weeks living out in the country with a poor family on their farm.

At the end of the two weeks, the father picked up his son and, on the drive home, asked him what he thought of the experience. The son said he found it enjoyable and enlightening, explaining: "We have a dog. They have four dogs. We have a swimming pool extending halfway to the garden. They have a creek behind their barn which runs endlessly in both directions. We have a large lot where you can see to the adjoining property. They have a view which reaches to the horizon. We have a store where we go to buy our food. They have it right there, where they can eat what they've grown themselves. We have servants to take care of our needs. They take care of the needs of others. We have walls to protect us. They have neighbors."

The son concluded, "Thanks, Dad, for letting me see how poor we are."

The Reverend went on to draw a distinction between two philosophical outlooks: While we all laud the Christian tradition of charitable giving to those in need, there can be a problem in looking upon others as "less fortunate", or in finding acceptable their dependence upon the generosity of others - those of a higher pedigree. (We all remember the flak Barbara Bush took when visiting refugees from Hurricane Katrina at the Astrodome, when she remarked they were "underprivileged anyway, so this is working very well for them".)

At our nation's founding, "unalienable rights" were asserted as having been "endowed by" our "Creator"; rather than as something we were asking the Lords of the British Empire to grant as an act of benevolence. Equality of opportunity and of individual worth remained the ideal, if not the reality.

Over the past thirty years this conflict has been reflected especially in economic policy. The "trickle-down" economics of focusing wealth on the upper few, hoping some might make its way down to the rest, has been tried, failed, then tried again - after sufficient time elapsed to warrant hope we'd have forgotten how it failed the first time.

Recent policies have brought the same sort of rule by an elite aristocracy our Founding Fathers fought to prevent ever taking root in our land. Educational opportunities, as well as healthcare, are restricted to those who can afford them. Unprecedented wealth is concentrated in an unprecedented few hands, as one in three working Americans are at or near the poverty level - not counting the 15 million unemployed.

It's unacceptable to rely on the "Christian charity" of the privileged to alleviate the needs of the struggling, rather than We the People ensuring equality of opportunity for all. It's unacceptable to rely on the benevolence of employers to provide decent wages and working conditions, rather than We the People protecting the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining. Both Christianity and Buddhism have traditions of pacifism; but this pacifism is not to be confused with passivity.

As suggested by the Reverend's story, we're all rich and poor in ways we aren't aware of. That's something we all have in common, as we do in being equal members of our community, our nation, and our world. Helping any member is helping that which we're all a part of, and thus is helping ourselves.

I don't like the term "less fortunate", but I don't think anyone could be more fortunate than those able to share in the spirit of a holiday gathering like Susan hosted last Sunday. It's a season that may last a few weeks, but it's a spirit I hope will last all year. Merry Christmas.

A Christmas Message GREG Welborn



This week, I am departing from politics. There are plenty of other weeks to focus on the issues being debated in D.C., in other world capitals, or even in our own town councils. This week, Christmas week, there really is only one thing truly important enough to warrant ink and paper: our relationship with God.

As I thought about this year's Christmas message, it occurred to me how special the season is and how jam packed the entertainment channels are with replays of Miracle on 34th Street, It's a Wonderful Life, A Christmas Carol, and other, newer tales. They are all great stories that tell us things can improve, lives can be redeemed, and hope is justified. But there is a problem with each and everyone of these in that they are just stories, and viewers know it. Viewers know that they are fiction - quaint, feel-good stories that don't demand much of us but still lift our spirits and brighten our day.

That's exactly what many people think the Christmas story of the bible is: a feel-good story that gently points us in a more loving direction. But fictions don't really put any claim on our lives. The biblical Christmas story does just that because it is not offered as fiction. It is offered as truth, as documentation that God entered human existence to save, but also to change the human condition and to put a claim on those redeemed lives.

Luke, the author of the gospel bearing his name, makes it absolutely clear that he is going to relate exactly what he has determined is true. He doesn't offer us the option of thinking that he is using symbolism or mere examples to teach us principles of good behavior. He tells us that he has investigated the story, interviewed the witnesses and to the best of his ability is relating truth. And the truth he relates is of the miraculous birth of a child who fulfills the prophesied lineage of the savior, is honored by angels and is the vessel that God has chosen to enter our world.

This is an extremely important claim and distinction. All other world religions have their guiding principles of philosophy, their unique world view, their specifications for how to attain and live a better life, and of course their requisite liturgies. But while Christianity has those as

well, they at best inhabit second place. First and foremost in Christianity is the historical reality of Jesus, a man whose birth, claims, ministry, miracles, death and resurrection have been documented by historians ancient and modern alike.

Without the reality of Jesus, Christianity is a sham. That cannot be said for other religions. Every other one could survive very nicely, thank you, without the reality of their founder. That is because every other one is a philosophical system which is not dependent upon its founder's existence. Christianity requires that the story of Christ be real.

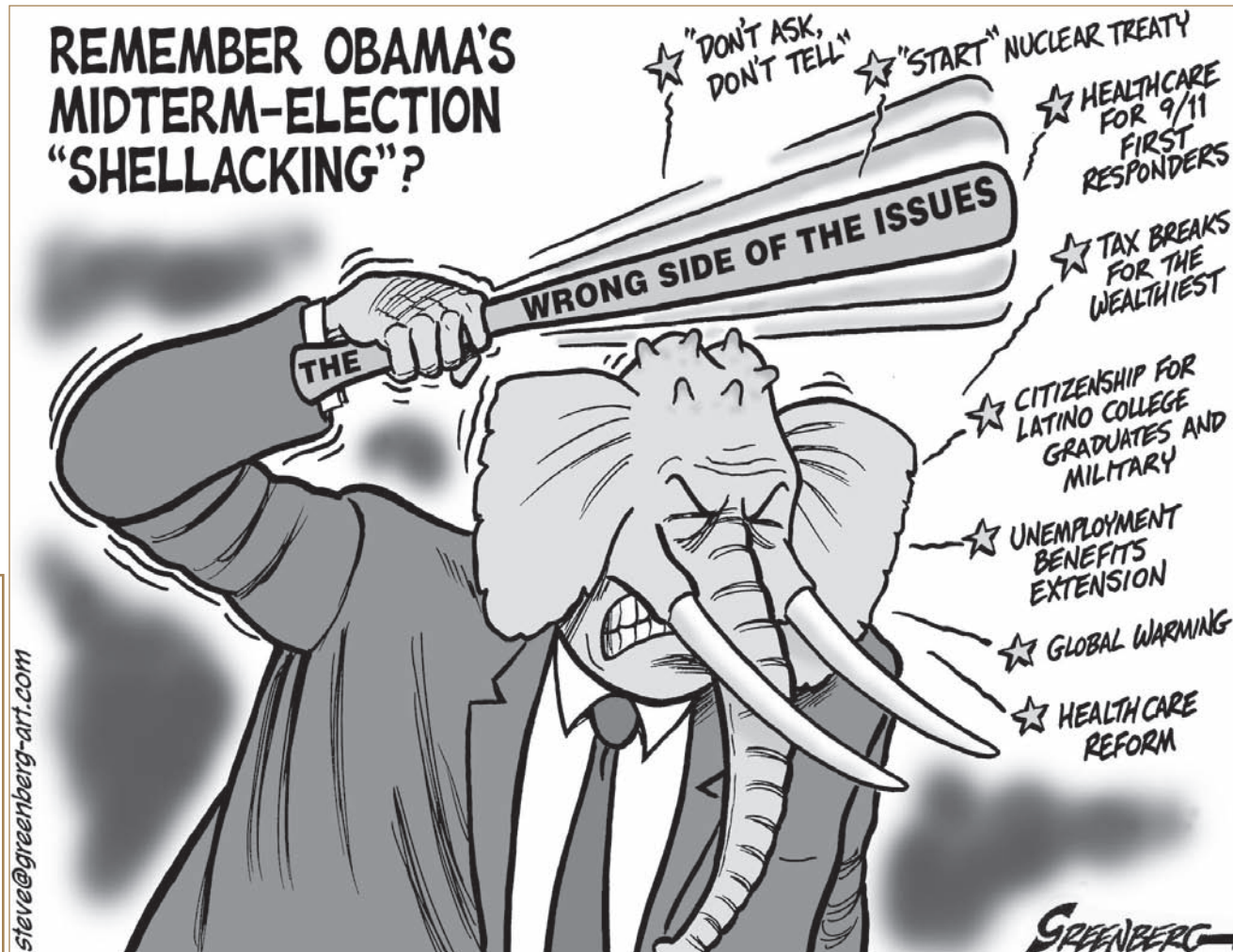
If God did not take human form, did not die on the cross, and did not rise from that death, then the rest of the story is all a sham. Without the life, death and life again of Jesus of Nazareth, then there has been no atonement for our sins and we cannot be right with God.

This may be heavy stuff for Christmas, but it is important stuff and it is great stuff. It is the true basis for hope and salvation. But it does come at a price. If we believe in this truth, then we must also believe in the claims that God makes on our redeemed lives. We are called to live a more holy life, a more sanctified life, a life in God's control not our own.

Before you put this article down, before you go back to an undemanding version of the story, consider that the authors offered us no such option. They have claimed the story is true and in so doing have offered us peace and comfort in the knowledge that God so loved us as to give His only son. Yes, God asks us to follow His ways; He stakes a claim on our lives, but He also offers us His immeasurable love. That is what this true story is about. Merry Christmas.

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

Schiff Statement on Senate passage of the new START
Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) released the following statement after the Senate passed the new START:
"Today, the Senate took an important step to bolster our nation's security by passing the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and sending it to the President to be signed into law. The nuclear-arms pact between the U.S. and Russia, which builds on decades of work by Democratic and Republican presidents, limits the number of nuclear warheads to 1,550. Additionally, the treaty would allow a return of monitoring and verification, which is crucial to the continued maintenance of strategic cooperation between the two nuclear superpowers and gives a degree of assurance to our national security policymakers that no satellite can match. Finally, passage of this legislation is an acknowledgement that Congress can work together to find sensible solutions to the nation's challenges."



BE A FLOAT DESIGNER WINNER . . .CONTRIBUTE A DESIGN FOR THE 2012 SIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT

Sierra Madre Rose Float Association 2012 Float Design Contest:

The 2011 design contest will be held until Friday, January 28th, 2011. We recognize that the official Tournament of Roses Theme Announcement will occur in mid-January, but we have been given information about the concept for the 2012 Parade. Please see the Tournament of Roses concept for the parade at www.smrosefloat.org/get-involved/design-2012-float.

Design Guidelines:

1. Designs must be received no later than Friday, January 28th, by 6PM at P.O. Box 603, Sierra Madre, CA 91025.
2. Design submissions need to take into consideration the Tournament of Roses 2012 theme. (Please see the Tournament of Roses concept at www.smrosefloat.org/get-involved/design-2012-float).
3. Designers should consider the appropriate use of float riders, Sierra Madre Rose Princesses/Escorts (2-4) and animation. Float designs should represent a float no longer than 55 feet and 18 feet wide.
4. The design contest is open to all ages (need not be a Sierra Madre resident nor a Sierra Madre Rose Float Association member). Designs developed by Groups, Art Classes or other organizations are gladly received. Designers are encouraged also to submit more than one design.
5. Please provide a title to the float design. Submission should include a written description (no more than 100 words) of the concept and possible animations.
6. While only a very simple sketch is required to illustrate the concept, more detail can help in the selection process.

Design Rules:

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

Sierra Madre Rose Float Association

P.O. Box 603

Sierra Madre, California 91025

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

Submission forms available at www.smrosefloat.org

Rose Parade Concept for the 2012 Parade

The 2012 Rose Parade theme pays homage to all things possible and impossible. It is about potential and our hope, our discoveries and fascinations. It is about looking for beauty in things rare and common.

On one hand, it harkens to a Dr. Seuss-like imagining of all of the wondrous dreams of our childhood where reality playfully turns inside out or upside down. On the other, it triggers thought-provoking questions of what visionary people with a common purpose can accomplish to change and inspire us.

The Parade theme provokes images of children lying on grass seeing pictures in clouds; scientists searching the stars for new worlds to discover; far away places imagined by the poets and storytellers of the ages; determined athletes giving their all in service of the ultimate prize; musicians, dancers, painters, actors and sculptors expressing their gifts on the palettes of their vocations; and the visualization of a future in which creativity and innovation are the twin masters of our dreams.

While this theme seems to beg for the sculpture of storybook fantasies and the world of a child's imagination, it can also be expressed as a reflection of the achievable hopes and dreams of adults, the remarkable accomplishments and innovations of business, and the world vision of an optimistic future.

Heartfelt and uplifting, the Rose Parade theme explores original ideas from the very small to the phenomenal, with an emphasis on touching hearts and inspiring lives. Most of all, it is a theme full of opportunities for fun. Our goal is to leave the audience in a state of suspended disbelief whispering one word... "wow!"

Thematically, this idea is a treasure-trove of possibilities, especially as it comes at the beginning of a new year. It should celebrate a new year of opportunity, underscore the brilliant imaginings of our past, and inspire us to reach higher, try harder, and believe in our dreams.

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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.

STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE

FOURTH ANNUAL YEAR IN REVIEW



I have been having fun. Well, not exactly, really can't say that this year has been terrific. Let me start by saying that for my family there have been a few nice things and many not so nice things. Nice thing first. My wife and I combined to present ourselves with a much appreciated fourteenth anniversary gift. We purchased a leather over-sized recliner that we have placed right near the computer. This chair has the very unique ability to engender a feeling of being hugged as one lies back, pats the dog and sips tea while the other person works at the computer. Maybe this is not your idea of exciting family fun but, after all, we are an older couple.

Speaking of older, it is true that age seems to be a great part of the problem. When I started writing these articles in November of 2007 I was a mere child full of energy and hope. My first articles described my joy at being able to follow a vegan diet that contributed to my weight loss of sixty pounds.

At sunrise and sunset I walked twice around the canyon with my dog. On Wednesday nights my son, dog, and I went on Nature Walks with the neighbors and on Monday nights we, without the dog, participated in a Comedy Workshop. At work I had declared war on elevators and frequently walked the stairs to Courtrooms on the fifth floor, sometimes to the ninth floor, and occasionally to the fifteenth. After work I frequently squeezed in nine holes of golf with friends and I even managed to play a couple of sets of tennis twice a week. On weekends my son, daughter, wife, dog, and I would frequently hike the trails to waterfalls and really had a grand old time. This was not very long ago; now I get fatigued just describing these formerly typical weeks.

Hope was in the air and we all felt it. We believed that the wars would soon end and we would be spared the daily reports of suicide bombings and ongoing tragedies. We were sure that the economy would improve and that jobs would be plentiful. I was pretty certain that the costs of college admissions would be reduced and that soon people could begin their work-lives without being about a hundred thousand dollars in debt. I further believed that gun control was near and that a sane policy regarding drugs would be formulated. Additionally I was sure that in a short time the enlightened

Democratic Administration would face the problems associated with climate change, vanishing clean water, over-population, ongoing world-wide preventable diseases like malaria, reliance on fossil fuels, a vanishing middle-class in need of tax reform, and would accomplish all this together with a more transparent methodology which would allow Americans to once more feel proud of their country as we lead the way to total nuclear disarmament and world peace.

Well, to put it bluntly both the government and I seem to have lost our way. You are aware I'm sure of the inability of this Administration to accomplish much of what I so hopefully anticipated. Leaving the problems of the society and focusing on my own behavior, I have also not really done well. My vegan diet is a thing of the past; I am taking daily medication for diabetes, high blood pressure, atrial fibrillation (whatever that is), kidney problems and who knows what. My energy level is nil and walking upstairs is no longer even possible. Seven upper front teeth have been removed and nature walks, waterfalls and Comedy Classes are dim memories. I still walk my dog but the walks are more trudge than brisk exercise. My son, daughter, and mother have all undergone debilitating and prolonged medical emergencies. All right; enough of this doom and gloom, we will rise again. I'm happy to report that both of my kids seem to be in stable happy relationships. My daughter has just opened her own Law Office and, although it is very challenging, she is very confident and we have no doubt about her abilities and commitment.

True, I am not getting any younger and recent medical diagnoses have frightened me. Sometimes, (most of the time) I wish I never went to the Doctor and could throw away the medications and their annoying side effects like being tired, hungry, irregular- you know that kind of stuff. Really, though I know it's not that easy. Still, a New Year is about to begin and for the moment I'm pretty optimistic. I'm hopeful that UCLA Football will improve, that the McCourts will sell the Dodgers, that we will eventually get a Pro-Football franchise, and that we will all be around to healthily root for the Home Team, the Home Country, and the Home Planet as we address the still present needs of the New Decade.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE (even the Republicans).

A Perfect Peace

By Craig Hakola

On a brisk evening in 1816 a priest pushed through the door of his home into the snow of an Austrian night. He was troubled and his mind wandered as he began the journey to his church. His path traced along the forest and he could not help but feel his own small place as he marched among the giants that lined his route. He left not a shadow as the dark of night further coaxed his thoughts of emptiness. He was certain that he had no prospect of lavish riches to impart as gifts to the poor, and he found that even his Christmas sermon appeared uninspired. He was more certain then at any time in his life that he was not worthy of his lofty calling. As a December chill ushered the reminder of a miracle, his heart did not perceive the power of Christmas. He paused at the edge of the forest and raised his head to look across the valley to his church in the distance. He scanned the sky above with the clouds dashing as if in concert with his own thoughts. He was motionless as he began to witness the first fragments in the sky and the sudden division as if two mighty hands appeared to part the night to reveal a sphere. A swoon of light brightened as the moon now perched in a full fire over his Church as if a torch to guide a restless spirit. The innocent white of the snow exalted the peaceful landscape as a singular ribbon of light stretched across the ocean sky above his church to touch the very place he stood. His steps were measured as he started out again, and he spied the trees behind the church, which now hung, fully white upon the beacon of a heavenly candlelight.

Less than a thousand miles from where this priest stood that night and two years short of a hundred, a war raged on. It would be called, "The War to end all Wars," because of the misery it championed. In an area of The Western Front, resided the mixed soldiers of Germany, France, England, Belgium, Austria-Hungary, The United States and a host of other countries. Each would compete for a parcel of land in exchange for their lives. The battling troops stretched out in trenches facing one another. The trenches became the homes and human highways of this war. Seemingly more wretched than the bombs that fell from the sky was the ceaseless rain that made the land a fighting swamp and offered no dry places for the prisoners of this battle. Many soldiers found it more tolerable to sleeping upright than rest upon the filth which ran among their feet. For the trenches swarmed deep with rats, cats, lice, vermin, human filth, and the corpses of the fallen. One soldier called it, "The work of the devil."

The day before Christmas, a morning frost covered the ground and the earth froze to the relief of soldiers on both sides. As they now walk without descending into the Devil's bog. Still, each side huddled and hunched as snipers sent the gift of bullets to the careless that stretched their heads above the trenches. Firmly set between theses opposing forces was a ghastly island called "No man's land," an area that swirled with the fortifications of barbwire and the lifeless reminders of the vain assaults of their comrades. Many soldiers were too tired to invest much thought in the foreign comforts and cheer of Christmas, but as Christmas Eve approached a curious ceremony began to take shape. No one is certain when, or exactly where it first occurred, but a surreal singing moved over the land as the celebration of Christmas began to displace the beastly noises of war. Men would later record that they thought they were dreaming. In many places along the line, a flag was raised and officers from

each side met in No man's land to solidify a truce for Christmas Eve. Often carrying the gifts of food, alcohol and cigarettes. Further down, on another section along the Front there was no truce, but as the suggestive light of the tannenbaums (German fir trees with candles) began to emerge atop the trenches as the heart changing notes of music pierced the liquid night. Even the most cautious of men were overcome and conquered by the spirit of Christmas. Many of them, moving out from their trenches to gather in No man's land to talk with the enemy, or respond in song to the German music with their own hymn.

In a different area, a man who once knew another living, a tenor in the Paris Opera, Victor Granier, heard the chime of the church bell strike midnight, and as the tones in the spire dissolved, Victor's voice lent a stirring reverence in a Christmas carol that appeared to sail upon the wings of angels. Being so artfully delivered, that it made his enemies hope that such a man would survive this war.

On the following day, Christmas, many were surprised to wake and see men gathered between the lines. Once again a treaty had been mediated, this time, to remove the fallen victims that had languished for a ghostly interval upon the field. Their final resting place being dug by friend and foe alike.

History records that Father Joseph Mohr entered this world in poverty and died as such. He never became a Saint, and to date, there is not a single church that bears his name. But we can count our blessings that he left this world with a gift more priceless than gold and one more eternal than any church that could bear his name. For over a hundred years, it was believed that Haydn, Mozart or the great Beethoven must have authored a Christmas song because of its affecting beauty. But much like the circumstances of a humble night when Jesus was born. We now know that a meek priest reached back and touched a perfect place in time when a heralded star trumpeted to all that would listen, the coming of a King.

So, as we recall the misery of World War I, "The War to end all Wars," it must be noted that an unlikely event occurred upon those fields, and many say it was born of an enchanted song that rose like an angel, and held the astonishing strength to bind enemies together in the message of a perfect peace. It was the song that Father Joseph Mohr had penned in 1816 and was first sung at Saint Nicholas church on Christmas Eve in 1818, Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht. Forever known to the English World as "Silent Night."

Silent night, Holy night All is calm, all is bright. Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild. Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night Holy night. Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia. Christ the Savior, is born Christ the Savior, is born.

Silent night Holy night. Son of God, love's pure light. Radiant beams from thy Holy face. With the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

CraigHakola@aol.com
Special Source: Silent Night, Stanley Weintraub

HAIL Hamilton

My Turn



The Media Masters & The Mouse That Roared

In the United States today it is a select handful of super-rich families and tightly-knit financial interests - a plutocratic elite - who own the Big Media and who control the government through their ownership of that media and control of the news. Every single one of the major media outlets is controlled by this powerful interlocking combine. ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Time, Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune—even such "regional" giants as The New Orleans Times-Picayune, The Miami Herald, The San Diego Herald-Tribune. . . . The list goes on and on. And these Media Masters control dozens - actually thousands - of other daily and weekly newspapers, magazines, and radio and television outlets across America and around the globe.

Did you know that Fox News and the popular supermarket tabloid, National Star, are owned by the same super-rich Australian news entrepreneur Rupert Murdoch? Did you know he is now the largest and wealthiest media owner in the world? To consolidate their influence, the Media Masters and their international corporate allies reward obedient journalists with membership in the Council on Foreign Relations or the Trilateral Commission where they rub shoulders with others in the international policy-making networks. A handful get promoted to the higher ranks of the secret Bilderberg Group. The so-called "mainstream" media is very much a "closed shop" and only those willing to do the bidding of the global power elite need apply. Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather and Peter Jennings and other so-called "reliable" journalists are just the public faces that the American people see. Behind the scenes are the shadowy owners and corporate power brokers who dictate what you will or will not see in your daily newspaper or on the evening news.

The average American has no idea that super-rich predators with names like Rockefeller, Rothschild, Bronfman, Newhouse, Murdoch and Redstone are making vast profits and achieving immense power through their stranglehold on the American media and, increasingly, on media around the world.

These shadowy media controllers decide which politicians are "in" and which politicians are "out." (They made Bill Clinton overnight. They also broke Richard Nixon overnight.) The Media Masters decide which issues can—or cannot—be debated. The Media Masters decide which are the "good wars" and which are the "bad wars." The Media Masters decide who are the "good guys" and who are the "bad guys."

Look at the Media Masters incendiary reporting of the new generation of popularly elected Latin American leaders. Leaders like Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, Bolivia's Evo Morales, Ecuador's Rafael Correa, Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Paraguay's Fernando Lugo, and Argentina's Cristina Fernandez whose only offense has been the temerity to stand up to the U.S. In 1989, there were 11 major media giants emerging as the most powerful names in the global Media Monopoly. Today there are nine major corporations dominating the global media, and two of the nine are controlled by one man -- Rupert Murdoch. This is what is behind the government's attempts to suppress and discredit the 9/11 Truth Movement, WikiLeaks, and the growing number of whistleblowers. The Internet is seen as a serious threat to the hegemony of the "New World Order." Congress is already considering legislation to tax and control it. Why? Because the Internet is the one source of news and information the Media Masters can't control.

Think about it. Why is so much news - local, national and international - not reported? What happened to investigative journalism? I work for the second largest (and arguably one of the worst managed) school district in the country and, except for the incessant anti-union teacher bashing editorials in the LA Times, it has never been investigated by the local media.

The Media Masters have become a major impediment to honest news reporting; they are no longer the independent watchdog of American politics so necessary for the legitimacy and survival of open, transparent, truly democratic government.

The *Mountain Views News* makes me feel like the mouse that roared. It has afforded me an unfettered forum to speak freely on any topic I choose, so long as I do so in a fair and factual manner. The same cannot be said for most media organizations whose editorial decisions are guided more by the bottom line and political ideology than by newsworthiness. The *Mountain Views News* may be a small town newspaper with a limited readership, but it is a fiercely independent voice that proudly and loudly reports the truth.

City of Sierra Madre
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

To: Citywide
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: MUNICIPAL CODE TEXT AMENDMENT 11-01 (MCTA 11-01) REPEALING SECTION 17.68.050 (OFF-STREET PARKING DISTRICTS) OF CHAPTER 17.68 OF THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider an amendment to the Sierra Madre Municipal Code, repealing Section 17.68.050 (Off-Street Parking Districts) of Chapter 17.68. The proposed amendment would rescind Section 17.68.050 from the Code, thereby removing this provision which allows an applicant for a building or zoning permit to pay a sum of two thousand dollars per parking space, in lieu of providing any or all of the off-street parking spaces required for a project.

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING
City of Sierra Madre
Planning Commission meeting
Thursday January 6, 2011
(Hearing begins at 7:00 p.m.)

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: This Municipal Code text amendment qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as the Code text amendment is not a project and it can be seen with certainty that it will not have a significant effect on the environment.

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

By Order of the City Council
Danny Castro, Director of Development Services

What Do YOU Think?

We'd like to hear from you!
Contact us at: editor@
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or www.facebook.com/
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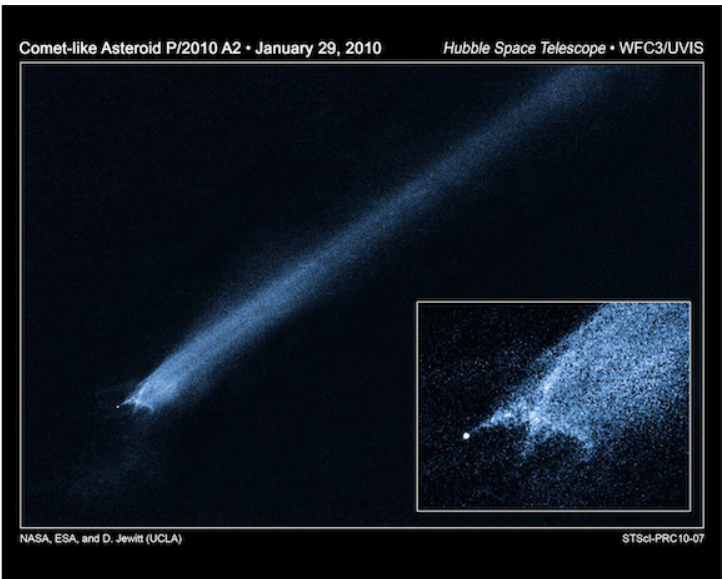


Looking Up

with Bob Eklund

Building Blocks of Life Created in “Impossible” Place

NASA-funded scientists have discovered amino acids, a fundamental building block of life, in a meteorite where none were expected. “This meteorite formed when two asteroids collided,” said Dr. Daniel Glavin of NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. “The shock of the collision heated it to more than 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough that all complex organic molecules like amino acids should have been destroyed, but we found them anyway.” Glavin is lead author of a paper on this discovery that appeared December 15 in Meteoritics and Planetary Science. “Finding them in this type of meteorite suggests that there is more than one way to make amino acids in space, which increases the chance for finding life elsewhere in the Universe.” Amino acids are used to make proteins, the workhorse molecules of life, used in everything from structures like hair to enzymes, the catalysts that speed up or regulate chemical reactions. Just as the 26 letters of the alphabet are arranged in limitless combinations to make words, life uses 20 different amino acids in a huge variety of arrangements to build millions of different proteins. The meteorite is a remnant of asteroid 2008 TC3, estimated to have measured just six to fifteen feet across—the first asteroid ever detected in space prior to impacting Earth. After it broke up on entering Earth’s atmosphere, remnants of the asteroid—now in the form of meteorites—landed in the Nubian Desert of northern Sudan on October 7, 2008. A meteorite sample was found to contain 19 different amino acids, in amounts ranging from 0.5 to 149 parts per billion. The team had to be sure that the amino acids in the meteorite didn’t come from contamination by life on Earth, and they were able to do so because of the way amino acids are made. Amino acid molecules can be built in two ways that are mirror images of each other, like your hands. Life on Earth uses left-handed amino acids, and



they are never mixed with right-handed ones—but the amino acids found in the meteorite had equal amounts of the left and right-handed varieties. The sample contained various minerals that only form under high temperatures, indicating it was forged in a violent collision. The team thinks it’s unlikely that amino acids carried by the original asteroids could have survived such temperatures—more than 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Instead, they believe there could be an alternate method for making amino acids in space. “Previously, we thought the simplest way to make amino acids in an asteroid was at cooler temperatures in the presence of liquid water. This meteorite

suggests there’s another way involving reactions in gases as a very hot asteroid cools down,” said Glavin.

FOR WATCHERS OF THE SKY, THESE ARE EXCITING DAYS. The recent discoveries pointing toward the likelihood of life beyond the Earth encourage this writer to wonder: could there indeed be a tendency, or principle, in the Universe that generates and sustains life everywhere? To me, It’s a good thought for the holidays.

A STAR BEYOND
When dry winds from the east blow down on us
And beat our ocean's breath back out to sea,
We know December's here: a sharp-edged month
Of golden afternoon and sudden dusk.

We love these desert winds that shape our sky
Into a polished lens for seeing through,
And at some midnight hour bring into view
A star beyond the stars we thought we knew.

Happy holidays, and keep looking up!

Poem is from the book, *First Star I See Tonight*, by Robert L. Eklund (www.firststarbook.com). Copyright 2007, Robert L. Eklund.

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 where the jobs are located and how to get past 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: I think I have posted my resume on every career board and job site that exists over the past year and have not received any good responses. People are telling me that the jobs listed on these sites are usually filled or non-existent. It's the end of the year and I don't know what to do to find a job. Any job! Where are the jobs and how do I get one? Peter

Dear Peter,
Only a small percentage of businesses list or advertise their positions on the internet or job boards. However, there is an alternative source for you to seek employment or a “bridge” until you find your ideal position. Register with staffing and temporary agencies. Most companies, especially small businesses do not advertise their positions, this is because they do not have the staff or budget to search, screen and review candidates. These companies totally depend on word of mouth, employee referrals, or contract with a staffing agency to find them employees. A staffing agency provides a pool of candidates and works on behalf of the employer to fill temporary and occasionally full-time positions. They will search and resource companies for positions that will never be publicly advertised. The agency will assist the company in screening, interviewing, recommending and usually placing candidates directly in their open positions. These types of positions could last 3-6 weeks or 3-6 months and sometimes longer. Employers occasionally use agencies to “test” out a candidate for their positions. I like to call this the “courtship period”. The candidate and employer have a period of time to find out if they “like” each other. During this “courtship” time the candidate can learn and decide if they like the job and the employer. The employer will also

KATIE TseThis and That



NEW YEARS

Snap-Crackle-Pop! Could be cereal, or could be New Year’s. They both start out with crispness, but soon dissipate into mushy slop. I don’t really like any of the winter holidays, but I find New Years particularly depressing. At least Christmas has some catchy tunes, but all New Years has is that funereal Auld Lang Syne. Even Times Square is somewhat melancholy; any other day of the year “dropping the ball” would have a negative connotation.

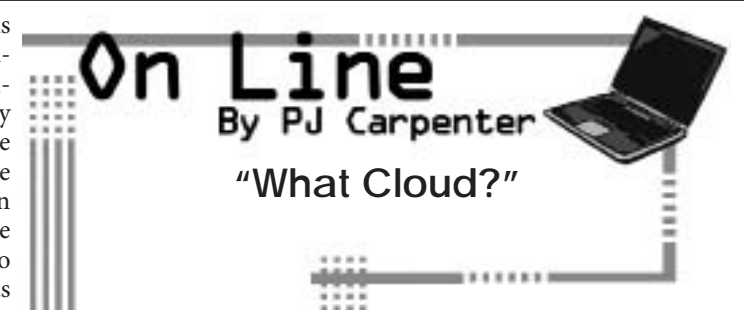
I thought of beginning this article with yet another disclaimer that I have no unique holiday traditions to regale you with, but I figured that would be redundant after my Thanksgiving and Christmas pieces. For a while I felt sorry for myself for my lack of traditions, and then I thought, “Who does have New Year’s traditions?”

To answer my question I turned where I always do –the Internet. Apparently cabbage and black eye peas are traditionally consumed for good luck. What better way to ring in the New Year than with a communal blast of flatulence? The Greeks bake a special New Year’s cake with a penny tucked away inside. The kid who gets the penny is supposed to be lucky for the rest of the year, if he doesn’t choke on the coin, that is. In the Netherlands they make bon fires out of Christmas trees. But they celebrate almost all their holidays by igniting something, so it can’t be that much of a big deal –pyros.

The Rose Bowl hosted its first New Years football game in 1902. The next year they had a Roman chariot race instead. I had to read that one twice. Apparently the ancient Romans used to celebrate the New Year in spring, since it’s the time of rebirth of crops and sunlight, etc. Over the years, several emperors meddled with the calendar until we have our current situation, beginning in January, the black dead of winter. Of course we all know one of the oldest, most universal New Year’s traditions, which explains why there are so many September birthdays.

To me, New Years seems like a sort of American Mardi Gras, one last splurge before we face our resolutions and carry on with our day-to-day lives. Solomon was right; eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we diet!





On Line

By PJ Carpenter

“What Cloud?”

One of the more obvious signs that I can sense as I get older (other than my waistline, my ever-increasing gray hair count and my increased use of the phrase, “these kids today...”) is my annoyance over the fact that many common words and phrases I’ve become accustomed to over the years no longer mean the same things as they once did. This is hardly common to just me, I’m sure, but I have noticed it.

Let’s look at the word ‘Diva’ for instance. ‘Diva’ used to mean – an accomplished female artist with an established body of work and several memorable performances under her belt that puts her Diva-status beyond reproach. Now it means – a chick or a dude with a pop single, a pop video, a pop agent, a little bit of exposure and an attitude. Some of my opinions on the differences between the two meanings may only be generational; nothing is as good as it used to be to me. The instances of ‘used-to-mean’ that I find most baffling are when these meaning-transformations happen for words or concepts that have only been in use fairly recently.


This topic brings me to the latest round of commercials for Microsoft that features the tagline, “To The Cloud!” In this series of commercial, a group of persons finds themselves in a situation where some crucial piece of data isn’t available on their local computer or some data that is on their local computer needs to be shared with people somewhere far away “To The Cloud” the two groups magically connect and the day

is saved. “Yay, Cloud”. If you’ve ever found yourself in a situation similar to this one “The Cloud” seems like something that would make your life easier. But is this “Cloud” the same as the “Cloud” referenced in Cloud Computing? Even without referencing a technical definition of Cloud Computing I would have to bet against it in this case.

In the scenario described in the first commercial, what’s going on is exactly the opposite of the definition of Cloud Computing. There are several versions of this commercial in current rotation and, to be fair, in one of the versions (the café\ office\ home collaboration) there is actual cloud computing going on (via GoogleDocs) but the overall gist of the campaign thus far seems to be to rebrand an industry concept to make something that was already new, newer, and thus something new to sell to a public already unclear on the concept. Several friends and co-workers noticed the exact same discrepancy as I did when watching these commercials and none of us could figure why the need for this curveball. Remote Desktop Access, while useful, is not the same thing as cloud computing.....No matter what you call it for the sake of Marketing.

RICH Johnson

New Year's Resolutions



So, it’s perilously close to the time of year when we write down our New Year’s resolutions. Let’s take a look at this yearly cultural phenomenon. What exactly does that word ‘resolution’ mean?

Res-o-lu-tion: the act of resolving or determining upon an action or course of action, method, procedure, etc.

Now, let’s ask our favorite retired British physician, Dr. Peter Mark Roget, for his thoughts on the word du jour. In case you forgot, Dr. Roget wrote the Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases in the 1800’s. A book of synonyms meaning words that have the same or similar meaning as other words. Take resolution for example: aim, declaration, decision, fixed purpose, intention, willpower.

As far as I’m concerned the word ‘resolution’ at this special time of year has actually come to mean: “a detailed description of flaws and vices that have little chance of being dealt with in any meaningful or long term manner.” Maybe we should call them ‘guilt bombs’ with a timed fuse. We pull this same tired list of best intentions out of the closet after Christmas, dust them off, make internal commitments with determination, and then, over the course of January, we fail to effectively act on these resolutions. We give up and suffer the guilt of failure while quietly boxing up the resolutions with the Christmas ornaments. Maybe the purpose of this annual ritual is that it helps in the transitional period from the peaks and joys of the holidays, to the pits and doldrums of the remaining long cold winter. (Perked up yet?)

Just for yucks let’s take a look at another word: revolution. What exactly does that word mean?

Rev-o-lu-tion: a sudden, complete or marked change in something.

Synonyms for revolution include anarchy, bloodshed, convulsion, debacle, disorder, spasm, turbulence, turmoil, upheaval. (That sounds like my typical reaction to resolutions.) As hard as it is to believe, there is a serious thought buried somewhere in the midst of my column (it happens so rarely.) It seems the difference between resolution and revolution is the existence of a pain and/or conflict element that exists in revolution and is nowhere found in resolution. Methinks meaningful change comes at a price. It has to be earned, not just yearned. And it’s a combination of the “I want” with the “I will.” Success means realizing the “I will” part of the “I want, I will” component is not a single act. It is an ongoing daily effort.

Two steps forward and one step back is how change really takes place. Rarely it’s 5 steps forward and 0 steps back. And all too often its 4 steps back and 0 steps forward. The secret is, over time, add up the forward steps and deduct the backward steps. If the net balance is in the positive, that’s called forward momentum.

If you are willing to risk it, commit to a New Year’s Revolution. But please, choose only ONE. And employ the forward/ backward dynamic. Change is possible in small doses over time.

Thank you for the privilege of letting me write for you. I am honored to have those of you who actually read my column.

SHAMELESS PLUG

I love the local Laundromat called “Drop-a-Load.” In addition to a 24 hour coin laundry, Drop-a-Load has a service where you drop off your dirty laundry and that same day or the next day you pick up clean laundry, washed, folded and, where appropriate, put on hangers. The cost is as low as \$1.00 per pound. I have used this service for several months now and it is terrific. Be sure to tip a few dollars to the gals who actually do the work. Drop-a-Load is on the south side of Sierra Madre Blvd. a few doors west of Lima (right next to the Bank of America building.)



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



This week, we feature beautiful, light-hearted, kitschy and sometimes just plain fun Christmas decorations from the city of Arcadia's holiday decorating awards. Many make it an annual tradition to slowly tour by car or by foot through these areas. All our nominees and winners share a wish to bring de-

light to a child, a smile to a harried adult, and invite us to pause and admire their joyful work. Join in the festivities! Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

Arcadia's Santa Squad was out on December 16 to present awards to these Arcadia addresses:

Arcadia Decorations

1127 South Santa Anita Avenue
25 West Naomi Avenue
182 West Camino Real Avenue
602 Woodruff Avenue
2510 South Baldwin Avenue
416 West Longden Avenue
2334 Second Avenue
1228 South Fifth Street
1122 Louise Avenue
23 Cabrillo Road
820 Murietta Drive
978 Fallen Leaf Road

The Mountain Views News favorite was definitely 182 W. Camino Real Avenue. (pictured on page 5). Located on a large corner, creative professionals decorated nearly every surface with the glow from the thousands of lights that can be seen from blocks away! Beautiful runner ups were: 978 Fallen Leaf Road, 2510 S. Baldwin Avenue and 1127 S. Santa Anita Avenue.

What a fun drive after you have that yummy leftover turkey and cranberry sandwich!



182 W Camino Real Arcadia



2510 S. Baldwin - Arcadia



23 Cabrillo Arcadia



978 Fallen Leaf - Arcadia



Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed

by Luther Tsinoglou

It All Adds Up

As you search and tour homes that appeal to you, how can you be sure that the asking prices are in line with current values? Begin by asking your real estate agent to collect comparables and prepare a Comparative Market Analysis (CMA). This report indicates market trends by showing whether similar homes in the area are selling for above or below the asking price of the home(s) you've selected.

Using the comparables that your agent researched, you'll be able to figure the average cost per square foot for the area, and determine if the home you want compares favorably with those figures. Total the square footage of several homes and divide by the number of homes to get an average.

Total the "sold" prices of each home and divide by the number of homes to get an average selling price.

Now, divide that average selling price by the average square footage to produce the average price per square foot for homes in the area. When you multiply that average price per square foot by the square footage of the home you want, you'll discover how your choice compares, and then you'll know if you're looking at a fair price.

Other factors like the seller's motivation or urgency may also affect your offer, so talk to your agent about that CMA and take the next step!

Christmas Eve at San Marino Community Church



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

Communion & Carols — 8:00 pm, Sanctuary
Celebrate the birth of Jesus with a meditative service presenting the Christmas story in Scripture, song, and sacrament.

Traditional Candlelight Service
10:30 pm, Musical Prelude; 11:00 pm, Worship Service, Sanctuary
Oh, come let us adore him! The glory of Christmas joy expressed by choir, carols, and scripture brings the season of Advent to a fitting close as we welcome Christ..

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

"Into Egypt



San Marino Community Church welcomes you to Sunday worship on the first Sunday after Christmas. Director of Christian Education preaches on Isaiah 63: 7-9, Matthew 2: 13-23 at the 9:15 traditional service. Sunday School and childcare are provided.

There will be no worship service at 11:15 this week.

Make a new year's resolution to be more involved, to learn, to serve, to grow spiritually, or to pray. Find out how San Marino Community Church can help at www.smccpby.com.

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YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Today's Subject:

A Grateful Heart



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.

A study published in "The American Heart Journal" earlier this year evaluated 785 men and women between the ages of 46 and 92 years. All were free of cardiovascular disease at the start of the study. The purpose of the trial was to see how anger management influenced the development of heart disease. During the ten-year follow up study, it was determined that those who tended to blame others for their anger had a 30% increase in the development of cardiovascular disease. Those who brooded over anger-inducing events were also seen to increase their risk. The one group that fared well was able to talk about grievances with the persons involved or to talk it out with others.

A Simple Solution

This research project brings with it a great deal of promise because it serves to empower us. If we can accept that the body is a barometer for our emotional and

mental climate, then by working to balance ourselves, we can be healthier and more pain free. Let's begin anew in this coming year to practice the art of being grateful. We may not feel grateful at first, but with time we will find that we do, in fact, have a grateful heart. In the long run, it is good not only for ourselves, but for the world at large.

Try This One

Rachel Remen, M.D., in her workshops with fellow docs, asked them to pose these three questions to themselves at the end of the day: What touched you today? What inspired you? What surprised you? Initially, when the doctors reconvened, they had little to share, most feeling that the questions didn't speak to them. With practice, all were able to realize more fully that the world they lived in (even as burned out as many were) was full of surprises and inspirations. I wonder how we might view life at this time in the coming year after a daily practice of asking ourselves these three questions?

Let's take it on

Have a wonderful holiday and take on a great new year! Dr. John

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Gary R. White, DVM

SENIOR HAPPENINGS

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:

PEACHES 'N CREAM FRENCH TOAST

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup butter, cubed
2 tablespoons corn syrup
1 can (29 ounces) sliced peaches, drained
1 loaf (1 pound) day-old French bread, cubed
1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, cubed
12 eggs
1-1/2 cups half-and-half cream
1 teaspoon Spice Island® Pure Vanilla Extract

DIRECTIONS:

In a small saucepan, combine the brown sugar, butter and corn syrup. Cook and stir over medium heat until sugar is dissolved; pour into a greased 13-in. x 9-in. baking dish. Arrange peaches in dish. Place half of the bread cubes over peaches. Layer with cream cheese and remaining bread. Place the eggs, cream and vanilla in a blender; cover and process until smooth. Pour over top. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Remove from the refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 50-60 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Yield: 12 servings.



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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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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Christmas Services

Sunday, December 19: Regular services at 8 and 10:15 a.m.

Friday, December 24: Family service at 5:00 p.m., Hymns and Carols at 10:30 p.m., Solemn Christ Mass, 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 25: Eucharist at 11:00 a.m.

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Pitching - Finishing the Swing

After impact the clubhead has to continue swinging. At the moment of impact the left hip has to turn back behind you in order for the clubhead to come out of the ground. If the lower half of your body does not turn out of the way, the club head will have a tendency to get stuck in the ground.

Pitching - The Left Hip



If you turn the left hip out of the way too soon in the down-swing the clubhead will not reach the bottom of the arc, and you will either top or scull the golf ball.

Most of the times when you are faced with pitch shots around the green you won't need strength to pull the shot off. Turning the left hip out of the way does not have to be associated with strength. The left hip turning out of the way plays two roles. One making sure the leading edge does not get stuck in the ground and number two it plays a huge role in accuracy. (#27)



When you turn the left hip out of the way it allows the clubface to stay square through impact and continue on around you on the arc allowing the golf ball to start on target.

The left hip does not have to spin out of the way. It simple turns counter clock wise as the arms swing the golf club down into the turf. As the left hip is turning, the right heel begins to slowly come up off of the ground. (#28)

Pitching - Follow Through Checkpoints

When you have completed your finish from the 11 o'clock backswing, the right heel should face the sky, the shoe laces of the right foot should face the target, your belt buckle should face the target and your hands should be just above waist high. (#29)



Camp Aggie Baseball School

La Salle Varsity Baseball Coach Harry Agajanian is running a baseball camp on December 27th & 28th to prepare players for all star and high school teams. The camp runs from 10am-2pm both days and costs \$50.

Email Lasallebaseball52@yahoo.com for more information.

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Current work includes writing the column, "Looking Up with Bob Eklund," in Mountain Views News, and writing newsletters for the Mount Wilson Observatory. I recently published a book, First Star I See Tonight: an Exploration of Wonder, and am finishing a second book, Winds Aloft. For writing samples and resume, see my web site: www.bobeklund.com. OR beklund@sprynet.com (310) 216-5947

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Established more than 30 years ago, Sierra Madre Girls Softball Association (SMGSA) has become one of the best girls fast pitch softball leagues in the San Gabriel valley, with teams competing at the state and regional levels while maintaining the spirit of a recreational league. Our goal is to help our girls build strong fundamental softball skills while having fun.

E-Mail: smgsa@smgsa.org Web Site: <http://www.smgsa.org>

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!

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