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PUSD Seat 6 Run Off

# Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011

VOLUME 5 NO. 16

## A New Beginning....Gas Sold Here

Courageous businessman buys gas station and makes a fresh start.



In February of this year, just a few months after the discovery of a criminal operation at the location, businessman Bishara Kiwar saw an opportunity to do things the right way. Although by his own admission he has never before owned a gas station, he knew the property owner, George Attar and thought that the acquisition of the station was a sound business decision.

The station, where the EVG station once stood, is now an Alliance Gas Station, independent of both Valero and the EVG operations.

Kiwar is as of yet undecided as to whether he will have a retail operation in the area where mechanical work was once done. He is certain however, that he will operate the station with integrity and become an asset to the community. He does not know the persons involved with the previous station. Photo and caption by S. Henderson/MVNews



## SIERRA MADRE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT RESTRUCTURES



The Sierra Madre City Council voted Tuesday night to approve a re-structuring of the Sierra Madre Fire Department that would eliminate the Paramedics Coordinator position and the Fire Marshal position, and add three paid Captain positions. The current Paramedic Coordinator and Fire Marshal would remain as Captains, and their duties would be incorporated into the duties of the new Captains position.

### Reason for Restructuring

The restructuring was described by Chief Steve Heydorff in the Staff report as "The next step in the continuous improvement of the Sierra Madre Fire Department." According to Heydorff, the intent of the restructuring is to "improve response times, enhance supervision and bring the department closer to the goal of automatic aid."

According to Heydorff, staffing a fire engine requires one captain, one engineer (driver and pump operator) and two firefighters. The least expensive schedule for 24/7 on-site staffing requires three captains, three engineers and six firefighters. Currently, the firefighter positions are adequately filled by volunteers, with the availability of captains and engineers varying daily. Heydorff stated that the proposal he was presenting seeks to ensure the constant staffing of the fire engine by a qualified captain.

Currently, the "firefighter" portion of the staffing has 2 to 4 volunteer firefighters in the station 24/7. Over time, this has evolved from these positions mostly filled by local residents to the current status, in which most of the firefighters are recent academy graduates who are not residents of the City, who volunteer to complete an apprenticeship that will result in state firefighter certification.

The captains staffing is, however, a "combination" model, which consists of paid and volunteer participants filling the role of captain. Weekdays, the captain role is taken by the fire marshal and the paramedic coordinator. However, weeknights and weekends, the captain role is filled by volunteers who respond from home to the fire station. This slows down response times, because the engine can not leave the station until the captain arrives. According to Heydorff, the possibility that the volunteer may not receive the call or may be unable to respond is the main reason that Sierra Madre is not included in the 12-city Unified Response automatic aid agreement. Under Unified Response, when 11 of the 12 participating cities experience a structure fire, additional resources are automatically dispatched from neighboring cities at the same time that the engine from the city in which the structure is located is dispatched. In Sierra Madre, part of the time, our engine must wait for the captain to arrive at

the structure, then verbally request mutual aid from other agencies. Sierra Madre's inability to guarantee immediate dispatch by having an on-site captain has prevented its inclusion in the reciprocity agreement.

Chief Heydorff also stated that analysis of recent data indicates that response times could be cut by two minutes if captains were in place at the station full time. According to the Chief, in the initial stage of a fire, it doubles in size every two minutes, so cutting the response time by two minutes could mean the difference between confining the fire to the room in which it started or allowing it to spread to other parts of the structure. He also noted that while paramedics generally arrive on the scene two minutes earlier than the engine when the captains are not at the station, they are unable to begin advance life support until the engines arrive on the scene because they are busy with basic life support issues. That two minutes could prove critical to some patients, particularly those in need of resuscitation due to cardiac arrest. Chief Heydorff also stated that the addition of round the clock captain staffing at the station would improve supervision, training, teamwork, maintenance, and performance. Cost of Adding Full-time Captain Position

Cost to add a full-time paid captain to the department (two of the three captain positions are already funded as fire marshal and paramedic coordinator) is estimated at approximately \$130,000/yr. Salary would be somewhere between \$66,357 and \$84,690 a year, with the balance up to \$130,000 made up by benefits and retirement. CalPERS designates the position as "public safety personnel" which means a higher percentage of employer and employee retirement costs compared to non-public safety personnel. A survey of salaries for captains at fire departments of five local communities (Arcadia, Monrovia, Pasadena, San Marino and South Pasadena) showed that on average captains are paid \$80,637 to \$101,400, with South Pasadena the lowest at \$74,340 to \$90,360.

Chief Heydorff and four battalion chiefs made a presentation to the Kiwanis Club on March 15th that discussed the proposed (now approved) restructuring of the Department. To view that video, go to: [www.sierramadrenews.net](http://www.sierramadrenews.net)

Story courtesy of B. Coburn

Photo courtesy SMVFD

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## CRIME ALERT

### SIERRA MADRE POLICE DEPARTMENT

242 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, CA. 91024  
(626) 355-1414, FAX (626) 355-5468

Marilyn Diaz - Chief of Police

### Distraction Burglary 459 P.C.

On April 6, 2011 at approximately 5:15 PM, two women, one which was pushing a baby in a stroller, entered a business/residential unit in downtown Sierra Madre. The woman with the baby distracted the owner by placing items on the counter as if preparing to make a purchase. At the same time, the other woman stepped out of view and entered the door leading the residence portion of the unit. She returned moments later and exited the business. The woman with the baby stated she needed to get money from her husband to make the purchase and also exited the business. The owner later determined that a jewelry box containing her personal jewelry had been taken from the residence.

The suspect with the baby is described as a female of Gypsy, 30 years old, 5'6" 140-160 pounds wearing a blue robe like dress. The other suspect is a female Gypsy, 50 years old, 5'6" 180-200 pounds wearing a beige robe, beige pants.

Anyone with information regarding this incident or other similar incidents, please call the Sierra Madre Police Department at (626) 355-1414. SMPD Case #11-0797



## DON'T FORGET TO VOTE THIS TUESDAY

Election Day in PUSD and the City of Pasadena. A consolidated General Election will be held in the City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Unified School District on Tuesday, April 19, 2011, for the following officers: for one Member of the Pasadena City Council, District 4 (for a full term of four years) and for one Member of the Pasadena Board of Education, Seat 6 (for a full term of four years). Polls will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. For polling locations, go to [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net)

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## Weather Wise

### 5-Day Forecast

#### Sierra Madre, Ca.

<b>Mon:</b>	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
<b>Tues:</b>	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
<b>Wed:</b>	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
<b>Thur:</b>	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
<b>Fri:</b>	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

### CITY OF SIERRA MADRE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings listed below are held at City Hall 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 626-355-7135

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING:  
April 26, 2011 6:30 pm

April 7 @ 3pm - Senior Commission

April 18 @ 6pm - Community Services Commission

April 19 @ 6:30pm - UUT Oversight Committee

April 20 @ 7pm - Tree Advisory Committee

April 21 @ 7pm - Planning Commission

April 26 @ 6:30pm - City Council

April 27 @ 7pm - Library Board of Trustees

April 28 @ 7pm - Green Advisory Committee

### 1630 AM

#### Free on-air publicity for local events

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

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

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

Just write a Public Service Announcement that describes your event and e-mail it to [radio@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:radio@cityofsierramadre.com).

## BARGAIN BOOK SALE AT SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library invite you to drop by the Library between Monday, April 11, and Saturday, April 19, and take advantage of our Spring deals. On the Bargain Table this month we'll be featuring Fiction, Biographies, Cartoons, Time Life Books, War, U.S. History, and a set of volumes on World War II. All books are in good condition and are \$1.00 each. The sale is on during the Library's open hours, so stop by often—there will plenty of new titles to choose from, as books are replenished daily.

The Sierra Madre Public Library, located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, is open Monday through Wednesday from Noon to 9 p.m., Thursday and Friday from Noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (626) 355-7186. [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us).

Live from Burger Continental, Pasadena

### The

## Harvey Hyde Show

535 So. Lake Ave. Pasadena (626) 792-6634

Every Thursday 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Hard-hitting, High impact Sports  
Talk Radio

KSHP Las Vegas - 1400 AM

### What Do YOU Think?



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or

[www.facebook.com/mountainviewsnews](http://www.facebook.com/mountainviewsnews)

### Holy Week at San Marino Community Church

PALM SUNDAY, April 17, 2011

The Rev. Jeffrey O'Grady, Pastor preaching

9:15 am Traditional Worship

Sunday school (K-5) and childcare provided

10:30 am Adult Spiritual Formation

11:15 am "The Gathering" worship service

Casual worship, multi-voice ensemble, childcare provided

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 21, 2011

7:00 pm Service of Communion and Tenebrae

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES, April 24, 2011

7:00 am Community Sunrise Service at Lacy Park

The Rev. Jeffrey O'Grady, Pastor preaching

9:15 & 11:15 Traditional Worship Services

Featuring Choirs, Brass, Organ,

Childcare and Sunday School at both services

San Marino Community Church

1750 Virginia Road, San Marino, CA 91108

For more information call: (626) 282-4181

Connect with us online: [www.smccpy.com](http://www.smccpy.com)

## Free Electronic Waste Recycling Event

Drop off your E-waste at:

Santa Anita Race Track  
285 W. Huntington Dr.  
Arcadia, CA 91007

Gate 6 - on Colorado Place

April 30 & May 1, 2011  
Saturday & Sunday  
9am - 3pm



Hosted by:  
Santa Anita Park  
&  
Arcadia  
Chamber of Commerce  
(626) 447-2159



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For more info call 1-877-866-0128 or visit [www.ewaste4u.com](http://www.ewaste4u.com)

### "DOROTHY AND THE WIZARD OF OZ" AT SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE OPENS APRIL 30

Join Dorothy, Toto and all of their new found friends in this lively, colorful, magical musical adventure based on L. Frank Baum's much loved story. The interactive show permits the kids in the audience to be Munchkins, stuff the scarecrow, oil the tin woodman, play poppies in the field and hide Dorothy from the wicked witch.

Written by Steve and Kathy Hotchner. Presented by June Chandler's Fairy Tale Theatre. Produced by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Company.

"Dorothy and The Wizard of Oz." At Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. April 30-June 4, 2011. Saturdays at 11 a.m., except April 30, when the show will begin at 2:30 p.m. Adults, \$18. Children 12 and under, \$12. Group rates and subscriptions available. (626) 355-4318. Online ticketing: [www.sierramadreplayhouse.org](http://www.sierramadreplayhouse.org)

### NEW

#### Sierra Madre Dolphins Spring Swim Team

The Sierra Madre Dolphins are starting a brand new spring swim team! This is a great opportunity to start swim team training before the summer and be in the best possible swim shape. The spring swim team will begin on Monday, May 2, 2011 and run through Friday, June 3, 2011. Practices are held Monday through Friday from 5:30pm-7:00pm. The cost of the program is \$100 per swimmers between the ages of 5-17 years who can swim the length of the pool. The spring swim team will focus on building endurance and refining swim skills and techniques. There are no scheduled swim meets against other swim teams for the spring season, but inter-squad meets will be held. Please note a minimum of 25 swimmers must enroll in the spring swim team for the program to run. Please register at the Community Services Office, located at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., next to the Aquatic Center. Registration will be available online at <http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/onlineregistration> For more information call 626-355-5278.

## AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFEGUARD TRAINING UPDATE!

The course dates for the Lifeguard Training have changed. The course will now meet in April 16, 23, 30 and May 1 from 9:00am-5:00pm. It is not too late to register for this training course. Participants that successfully complete the course will become Red Cross certified Lifeguards and will also have their First Aid, CPR and AED certifications. Participants must be at least 15 years of age and be able to complete the swimming pre-requisites. Course fees are \$177 per participant. Registration can be done at the Community Services Office, located at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. For more information contact the Community and Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278.

## Singer-Musician Mike Tims To Perform at Kiwani's Boot Skootin' ChiliCook-off

On May 7th, Sierra Madre's Own Mike Tims will headline the program at the Kiwanis Club's Boot Skootin' Chili Cook-off. Tims, a professional performer who plays the guitar, bass and piano was a member of the famous New Christy Minstrels.



and a no host bar.

The entry fee for the competition is also \$25 and includes one admission to the event.

Dancing for the evening will include line dancing, the electric slide and more. A professional dance instructor will be on hand to get the boots skootin'!

There will also be lots of other surprises, including the opportunity to lock up your favorite hometown celebrity!

The chili will be judged by Celebrity Food Critic Peter Dills will choose his favorite dish. The public will also have the chance to vote for the *People's Choice*.

The evening starts at 6 pm at the newly renovated Sierra Madre Room in the recreation center on Sierra Madre Blvd.

The cost of the event is \$25 and includes chili tasting

Tickets and entry forms are available at the Bottle Shop or by calling 626-355-2335 or 626-355-8333.



## Garden Tour

April 17, 2011  
10:30 am - 4:30 pm

Showcasing exquisite gardens in Pasadena and San Marino

Tickets can be purchased at

## Creative Arts Group

108 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
In person, by mail, or phone 626-355-8350  
\$25 pre-sale • \$30 day of tour

Creative Arts Group  
Presents

## Art of the Garden



Sierra Madre Public Library  
Homebound Program

[www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com)  
626.355.7186

The Sierra Madre Library is offering a new program to homebound persons who live in Sierra Madre called "Titles To Go" - Bringing the library to you! The program is free and enrollment is very simple. For more information, please call Anna Valencia at (626) 355-7186

**Your Ad Could Be Here!**  
Call Patricia at 626-818-2698 Today!



# SIERRA MADRE

Sierra Madre

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## Sierra Madre's Mater Dolorosa & Its Meditation Gardens Open to the Public on Good Friday, April 22

Photos and story by Chris Bertrاند

The magnificent grounds of Sierra Madre's Mater Dolorosa Catholic Retreat Center will be open to the public at two times on Good Friday, April 22. From 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. the gardens and grounds will be available for private reflection and prayer. At noon the gates will be closed. Later, at 4:30 until dusk, Passionist clergy, staff, board members, and volunteers will direct public devotions and prayer of the Stations of the Cross, according to Fr. Patrick J. Brennan, C.P., Retreat Director, and Elizabeth Velarde, Administrator.



Fr. Pat Brennan, at Mater Dolorosa gardens' Stations of the Cross, built over 50 years ago by a former Sierra Madre mayor.

Over the years, this once a year, public event has grown to draw up to 2,500 visitors of all ages to this, one of the largest privately held parcels of property in the community. Many say that just driving through the Mater Dolorosa gates, one can feel that the space here is sacred ground and the perfect place for quiet reflection. The gates at the northern end of Sunnyside Avenue open wide to reveal a long avenue of overarching trees flanked by extensive open meadows.

When I visited again this year, the meadows glowed with an almost iridescent shade of spring green, benefiting from the much needed rains of the past months. Slowly one ascends to the collection of buildings tucked up against the mountain. It really becomes a journey each time I have entered these gates. I cannot but be taken aback by this place, causing me to pause, if only a moment, to take it all in, even when it's for a secular event.

Set in the beautiful foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, the many acres of Mater Dolorosa definitely give one a feeling of stepping away from every day life. Located adjacent to Bailey Canyon Park and trails, the vistas, the mountains, the natural vegetation and the extensive cultivated gardens are breathtaking, causing one to revel in the beauty that abounds here.

The outdoor Stations of the Cross were constructed over 50 years ago by a former Sierra Madre mayor, Bill Schiltz, whose son was a member of the Passionist religious order here. The Catholic tradition calls out fourteen different points in this journey to Christ's crucifixion, naming it the "Stations of the Cross". These stations are set into the densely treed hillside, and one travels approximately the same distance walked by Jesus on the road to Calvary.

Several other garden areas will also be open to the public that day. The recently completed gardens surrounding a statue of St. Paul of the Cross, founder of the Passionist religious order are located at the northwest corner of the property. Here, a shaded perch allows one to sit, reflect and view nearly the entire LA basin far below. The succulent gardens include many varieties of plants with low water requirements, yet lots of texture and color.

The garden of Mary's Seven Sorrows is the only area separately gated from the abundant wildlife that shares Mater Dolorosa with its human occupants. Inside the beautiful wrought iron gates, the trumpet vine is brilliant with its huge yellow bugle-like flowers, and four of the nine water features peacefully gurgle. A magnificent, life size bronze statue of Christ and his mother is not to be missed. A wistaria pergola encircles the garden, and the heat followed by rain of the last weeks has quickly brought the purple flowering vines to eye-popping flower.

If you plan to visit Mater Dolorosa on Good Friday, April 22, Velarde calls attention to a few points. The terrain is moderately steep, so wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring a jacket against the evening chill, a flashlight, as there is minimal night lighting, and an umbrella. Plan to begin your visit in the chapel where a short history and reflection will be offered to each group of about 40.

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center 700 N. Sunnyside Avenue  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024 626-355-7188 [www.MaterDolorosa.org](http://www.MaterDolorosa.org)

## PIRATES WITH A HEART OF GOLD HELPING TO LAUNCH THE PIRATE SHIP AT REESE'S RETREAT.



All the actors at the Sierra Madre Playhouse's Fairy Tale Theatre are residents from Sierra Madre and outlying communities and they love kids. That's why they spend their Saturday mornings performing six different interactive productions for kids of all ages. It is a real high to see all the kids in the audience thrill when they hide Dorothy from the wicked witch, dance with Prince Charming in Cinderella, hop on the lily pads with the Frog Prince and become pirates on Long John Silver's crew. It's even more fun for the actors and the kids when they get to meet up close after the show for autographs. It's magical.

Knowing that, it is easy to understand why the cast in Treasure Island jumped at the chance to be part of the opening ceremonies for Reese's Retreat. It was meant to be. The playground is, after all, a pirate ship. An amazing place where kids of all ages and abilities can live out their pirate fantasies together, and go on imaginary adventures just as actors do.

On April 30th, opening day, all the children who come will not only meet Pasadena's Mayor and play in the amazing new playground but they will also see Treasure Island. They will become part of Long John Silver's crew without leaving their seats. After the show they'll meet the characters and get autographs on souvenir programs. Long John Silver himself will share his treasure by giving a gold coin to each child on his crew.

ing a gold coin to each child on his crew.

Make sure to mark your calendars and come out to this certain to be *funtastic* event:  
Reese's Retreat Grand Opening  
Saturday, April 30 9:00am to 1:00pm  
Treasure Island performance at 11:30am - free admission  
Southeast corner of Brookside, east of Rose Bowl Aquatics Center

## Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, to Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 376 calls for service. See [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com) for updated information.

### Tuesday, April 5th:

**11:37 PM- Possession of Marijuana/Hashish for sale, 100 blk. S. Baldwin Ave.**

An officer stopped a 24 year old Temple City motorist for a Vehicle Code violation and found him to be in possession of 66.6 grams of marijuana, \$1,224.00 U.S. currency and an electronic digital scale. The officer arrested the driver and took him to the Pasadena jail for booking.

### Wednesday, April 6th:

**7:16 AM- Residential Burglary, 100 blk. W. Sierra Madre Blvd.** Two women, dressed in Indian attire, entered the Eastwicke Village store with a baby in a stroller. One suspect distracted the owner by placing items on the counter while the second suspect went inside the owner's attached home via a connecting door. The second suspect stole a wooden jewelry box containing a gold necklace with 8 sapphires, a pearl necklace, a 24 k gold and coral silhouette necklace, a hand painted pin in a gold setting, a jade necklace, and other women's rings. The loss is valued at \$18,600.

### Friday, April 8th:

**1:18 AM- DUI Alcohol/Drugs, Michillinda Ave and Orange Grove Ave.**

An officer stopped a 19 year old Pasadena driver for a Vehicle Code violation and determined that the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The officer arrested the suspect and took him to the Pasadena jail for booking.

**9:17 PM- Disorderly Conduct/Drunk in Public, 70 blk. W. Sierra Madre Blvd.** An intoxicated 48 year old Pasadena man was running through the parking lot of the Buccaneer Bar. Officers arrested the man and took him to the Pasadena jail for booking.

### Saturday, April 9th:

**11:46 AM- Battery Against Current/Ex Spouse/Cohab-Non Cohab, Camillo St.** Officer were dispatched to a disturbance between a woman and her ex-boyfriend. The woman and man were arguing at her house when the man threw a phone at her and left. The victim called the police who responded and arrested the 28 year old Pasadena man for battery. The suspect was booked at the Pasadena jail.

## CIVIC CLUB AUCTION HELPS FUND CLUB PHILANTHROPIES...AND IT'S FUN! By Bill Coburn



### Auctioneer Anita Thompson

Last Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, I had the rare privilege of attending the annual Civic Club Auction Luncheon. I say rare, because I was one of only three people of the male persuasion in a room of nearly three hundred people, and the other two were working the event as bartenders. While women have the opportunity to attend this event every year, it is a rare occasion when a man attends, and I thank Phyllis Chapman who invited me to attend as her guest. I walked away from this auction very impressed by the Club and its members, and the fun, efficient method in which they raised money to help fund their philanthropic endeavors.

I arrived at La Salle High School a little before noon, and was greeted at the door by Civic Club members who somehow figured out that I was a guest of someone before I even told them. The walls of the cafeteria had been decorated beach style, reflecting the theme for this year's event.

Just past the entry tables were a couple tables with half a dozen packages that made up the "opportunity" drawing entries. Each item had a container in front of it into which those who purchased tickets could place their tickets to enter the drawing for that particular item. I bought a dozen tickets for \$5, and entered three in the drawing for a Tommy Bahama beach package, featuring beach chairs, beach towels and more. I put another three into the running for a visit to Disneyland's legendary Club 33, and the remainder went into the container that ultimately had the most participation, a free Kindle, which was eventually won by this year's Older American of the Year, Pat Alcorn.

the wine bar and coffee/punch table. There were all types of salads, including Caesar, green, fruit, several types of pasta salad, ambrosia, shrimp salad and several others. I did not walk away hungry!

The buffet was handled in a very orderly fashion, with tables from each side of the room being dismissed to the buffet a few at a time to reduce time spent standing in line. But it was after lunch that the real fun began.

Auctioneer Anita Thompson, who has performed that duty since "sometime in the 80s, I think," explained the procedure for the "Chinese Auction" to the women (and me). At each seat was a ping pong ball and a brightly colored tropical fish "bidding paddle." Both items had the same number written on them. Bidders were to bring their ping pong ball to the auction table and place it in the spinning drum, and retain their paddles. On each table were two plastic buckets. When Ms. Thompson had described for the ladies what an auction item consisted of and what the approximate value of the item was, she would then designate a bid price. Anyone who wanted to bid on that item was then to place the bid amount in the plastic jar, and hold up their paddle to signify their participation in the bidding for that particular item.

Once all the bids were placed, a ball was pulled from the drum, and the number was called out to the crowd. If the person with the paddle that matched the ball number was participating in that item's bidding, they won the item. If not, they let the auctioneer know that the number was a "no-bid" number, and another ball was pulled and

everyone had a stake in every auction, the room was buzzing with excitement. But they could do so without having to spend a lot of money, even if they won. Because most of the people participated in the bidding for each auction item, the Civic Club still reaped a generous financial reward – if 2/3 of the 300 people bid on a \$.75 cent item, the Civic Club made \$150 on that item – because all of the auction items are donated.

All Civic Club members are responsible for finding auction items, and this year, there were 27 Sierra Madre businesses and 22 out of town businesses that contributed items. The committee that puts on the auction decides what goes where – if it's an opportunity item, a silent auction item, or a Chinese auction item. This year, Halcyon Koerber and Taylor Nestlerode were in charge of the auction items. It takes weeks and weeks to assemble, and sometimes re-assemble, all the donations into the pretty baskets auctioned off at the luncheon.

Jean Coleman and Karma Bell were co-chairs of the event, with twenty-three women volunteering (of the nearly 100 active Civic Club members) to take on a given part of the luncheon, from taking charge in the kitchen, to creating centerpieces, and blowing up balloons. Each Club member is responsible for working a shift the day of the luncheon, as well. Students from LaSalle and Alverno assist to keep the event moving along, earning service hours for school. All this is done to help keep expenses down so the Club can raise as much money for its philanthropies as possible. Last year the Club gave away nearly \$20,000, funding educational awards,



Across the way on the same side of the room was another table filled with silent auction items, many of them works of art. And throughout the luncheon/auction, several members of the Club walked around the hall selling tickets for a drawing to win a money hat, with \$250 cash!

On the opposite wall at two identical stations were tables filled with numerous salads, honey baked ham, and poached salmon. Next to these tables were other tables stacked with homemade cupcakes for dessert. Each member signed up to bring one food item, either salads, breads, meats, or dessert. Lunch is included in the \$25 ticket price, as are

that number was then called out to the crowd, the process repeating until a winner was found for each item. After each item, the balls were returned to the drum for the remaining items.

The part that was amazing to me was that the bid amount for most of the items was either fifty or seventy-five cents! There were a couple that were a dollar, and even one item that was \$1.50, but the majority of the items could be had for a bid of less than a dollar, even though the values were generally in excess of one hundred dollars each! The beauty of it is, that because the bids were so low, nearly everyone could participate in nearly every auction, and because nearly

helping to fund the Senior Lunch Program, Concerts in the Park, Huck Finn Day, Halloween Window Painting, the Library, Little League, Girls Softball and much more.

But my favorite part of the auction was when auctioneer Thompson announced the second (of two) auction items that were "freebies" no bid required. After waiting nearly an hour, I finally heard her call number 204! So if you see me getting a lube, oil and filter at Moe's Automotive, or a car wash at Faschings Car Wash, or attending an event at the John Anson Ford Theater, you'll know that I have the Civic Club to thank for it.





## 'Open Carry' of Handguns Bill Passes Committee

A bill to repeal an "open carry" loophole in state law moved a step closer to approval Tuesday as the state Assembly Public Safety Committee voted in favor of Assemblymember Anthony Portantino's AB 144.

The bill would make it illegal to carry an unloaded handgun in any public place or street. Law enforcement personnel are exempt as are hunters and others carrying unloaded weapons under specified licensed circumstances Portantino said in a press release.

"This is a sensible gun ban that law enforcement asked me to carry to make our streets and communities safer," explained Portantino. "I think most Californians would agree that they don't want people walking around in parks or in coffee shops with a gun strapped to their hip. Whether it's loaded or not, it creates some very real public safety issues."

Despite being passed by both houses in the legislature, similar legislation failed to reach the Governor's desk last year due to a large number of controversial bills on file at the end of session. This means that Californians may walk into a grocery store carrying an unloaded weapon on one hip and the bullets on the other. After seeing a rise in these types of needless public displays, law enforcement officials sought the ban on this open display of firearms. Portantino took up the cause and has worked with law enforcement to re-introduce the "open carry" ban. The measure is supported by the California Police Chiefs Association and PORAC – rank and file police officers. Representatives from both groups testified at today's hearing.

The Los Angeles city council recently voted to support AB 144 and asked the L.A. City Attorney to look into writing a similar law banning open carry handguns in Los Angeles.

California is one of many states that allow so-called "open carry" which gives gun owners the right to display weapons, though in California those guns must be unloaded. Carrying loaded firearms in public is already against the law in California.

## Pet of the Week



King, a gorgeous, year old, longhair cat is outgoing and loves to play. He is looking for a home where he will receive plenty of attention. He may be a little shy at first but once he gets to know you he is a fun and charming guy. Come visit with King 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 A285561 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-4 Sunday, 9-5 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-4 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at [www.pasadenahumane.org](http://www.pasadenahumane.org)



## College to Demolish Science Building

By Dean Lee

Schools official's made the first move, earlier this month, towards the monumental task of vacating and demolition of the Armen Sarafian Hall at Pasadena City College after an engineering study had shown the building—which houses the health and sciences programs—is seismically unfit.

PCC's Board of Trustees voted unanimously April 6 in favor of spending \$6.2 million to setup temporary bungalows for science classes in the student parking lot at the corner of Bonnie Ave and Del Mar Blvd. The school's Health Sciences would move off campus to the Community Education Center said Richard van Pelt, PCC Director of Facilities Services. He added that, in the parking lot, they would need at least 37 portable buildings.

The news came to no surprise to some longtime employees in Armen Sarafian Hall, better

known as the U building. "We've known about this for some time," said Glenna Watterson, secretary for the Natural Science Department which includes geology. "We thought we were going to be moved out last semester. They held off on making an announcement to avoid panic over the safety concerns."

Watterson said she was told the building could withstand a magnitude 8 earthquake although added she was glad they were moving. An engineering study done four years ago showed the building did not meet earthquake codes. van Pelt said dealing with moving the science labs would be tricky.

"Every time we move a chemical we would have to notify the fire department, if we did it on campus we wouldn't" he said about the possibility of having an off-site location. "Some of the architecture we are looking at is

working with the Pasadena Fire Marshal and, very importantly, Division of the State Architect." He added, "We had to inventory all chemicals in the building. We were discovering vials from 1937. They wanted to know everything, what the proximity was of one chemical to another." He explained the process took months also working with Dave Douglas, the Natural Sciences Division Dean. Douglas is also a geology instructor at the school. The Student Health Center is also located in the U Building, and at the time, van Pelt said he was not sure where they would move it to.

Trustee Berlinda Brown asked whether it made sense to lease the temporary bungalows or buy them outright. Both Douglas and van Pelt said they were exploring options that included looking to other colleges that might have extra bungalows. van Pelt said if that were the case they could get them for \$1.

## Pacific Asia Museum Announces Appraisal Day



Celebrating of the museum's 40 years of collecting, Pacific Asia Museum will be hosting an Appraisal Day on Saturday, April 16 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm to help the community with their own collections. A variety of appraisers and conservation experts will be available to help visitors identify, appraise, and better preserve their own Asian and Pacific Island artifacts. To ensure all participants enjoy sufficient time with the visiting experts, attendance is limited.

The event is \$15 for museum members, \$30 for non-members. Pre-registration is highly recommended; call (626) 449-2742 ext. 31. Admission includes three consultations, Additional consultations \$10 each.

## Supervisor Announces Summer Arts Internships

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission will be offering 74 paid summer internships to college undergraduates this summer, announced County Supervisor Mayor Michael Antonovich.

To develop business skills that can be put to use in their future careers, interns are paid \$350 per week for a ten-week program participating in educational and arts networking activities learning about nonprofit arts administration and the role of the arts in the community.

General information on the program is available on the Arts Commission's web site at [www.lacountyarts.org/internship.html](http://www.lacountyarts.org/internship.html).

## Feds Bar Local Man from Issuing Pension Plans

*Two Local Companies Allegedly Promoted Tax Schemes that Cost the Government at Least \$30 Million*

A federal court in Los Angeles has permanently barred a Pasadena business owner, and his two companies, from selling or administering pension plans or employee welfare-benefit plans, the Justice Department announced Thursday.

The court's order, to which Alexander and his companies Retirement Plan Services Inc. and Lyons Pensions Inc. consented, also prohibits them from preparing federal tax returns for others for a fee or representing others before the Internal Revenue Service.

In August 2010, the Justice Department sued Alexander, alleging that he promoted tax fraud schemes involving sham pension plans and welfare-benefit plans. According to the government complaint, Alexander helped small business owners create

bogus pension plans so they could re-characterize their salaries as pension-plan contributions.

Alexander then allegedly caused the sham contributions to be refunded to his customers through fake loans from the plans. According to the complaint, Alexander advised his customers that they could deduct the purported contributions in order to reduce or eliminate their federal income taxes. The complaint also alleged that Alexander fraudulently misrepresented his customers' non-deductible personal expenses as deductible pension-plan contributions. The government alleged that Alexander's promotion of these schemes cost the government at least \$30 million.

The civil injunction order also requires Alexander to provide copies of the court's order to anyone to whom he provided tax advice since Jan. 1, 2005, and for whom he has or can readily obtain a mail or e-mail address.

## Supervisor Calls on Stadium to Stop Half-Price Beer Sales

In wake of the severe beating at Dodger Stadium last week and subsequent calls for increased security, Los Angeles County Mayor Michael Antonovich expressed concern over Dodger plans to provide half-price alcoholic beverages on upcoming "throwback" days on April 21, May 4, June 15, June 22, August 10 and August 31.

"To restore the public trust, tighter controls -- not half-price sales on alcohol -- need to be implemented," Antonovich said. "After the tragic beating of Bryan Stow, the Dodgers need

to have a zero-tolerance policy on those under the influence in and outside the stadium.

Monday, at a press conference at Dodger Stadium, Antonovich said the Dodgers were a day-late and a dollar-short in promising to adopt new security measures and called for: employing additional security personnel; enhancing lighting in the parking lot; reducing the size of alcohol containers; removing intoxicated and bullying fans; providing hand stamps for those who have already purchased alcohol.

## Citizen Journalism Meet-up

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



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

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

We will put the news in your hands. Learn how to find the story, the tools needed to capture the story and the

## Citizen Journalism Speakers Series: Former Maxim Sports Reporter Diane Hill



for "The Bower Show". Diane has spent many days in the City of Pasadena as a regular guest host on the live internet show, "The Regular Joes". In Diane's bold and sassy broadcast career, she became the first woman sports columnist for an international publication, Maxim magazine.

Diane known for her go-getter attitude was best remembered for saying, "Deep down every athlete is just a teenage boy trying to impress the hot chick who just happens to be writing it all down for the sake of posterity. Who better than me to make them talk?"

In 1998, Diane received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcasting from California State University and in 2008 received her Juris Doctorate from Southwestern Law School. Today, Diane works as an Attorney in the Los Angeles area, under her surname, Diane Hlywiak. The speaker series will be held at: Donald R. Wright Auditorium 285 E. Walnut St., Pasadena, CA 91101 (located in the Pasadena Central Library) All Events Door Open at 6:00 p.m.



# ARCADIA

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

From Arcadia's Best

## GOLD LINE CLEARS RAIL HURDLE

The Gold Line Foothill Extension light rail line took a big step towards becoming reality today with BNSF Railway abandoning rights to use the corridor between (roughly) the future Arcadia and Irwindale Stations along the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa.

The agreement announced by the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority between the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and BNSF (Burlington Northern / San Francisco) comes slightly more than a year after approval of full

funding for the project in March 2010.

"This is a truly historic day," said Doug Tessitor, Board Chairman for the Construction Authority. "This agreement, which has been in the works for many years, will allow a significant portion of the Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa to be built as a stand-alone corridor – reducing cost for the project's construction and future impacts to the community."

It was one of a number of conditions required of the Construction Authority in the Funding Agreement with Metro that needed to be satisfied before significant funds would be released for the project.

The original shared-use agreement was executed in the early 1990s, when the then-Los Angeles County Transportation Commission

(now Metro) purchased the right-of-way between Pasadena and Claremont from Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway (ATSF) as part of a multi-billion dollar county-wide right-of-way purchase. The initial agreement allowed ATSF right to continue use of the rail right-of-way with the understanding that sometime in the future it would be needed for a planned rail line. BNSF Railway inherited the agreement, after ATSF merged with the Burlington Northern Railroad to form BNSF Railway in 1996. "This has taken a significant effort," said Construction Authority CEO, Habib F. Balian. "Metro staff made this agreed a priority for the agency and committed themselves to seeing it completed in time for the Construction Authority to award a design-build contract this summer for the approximately \$450 million Pasadena to Azusa Alignment work."

ment work."

The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority is an independent transportation planning and construction agency created in 1999 by the California state legislature. Its purpose is to extend the Metro Gold Line light rail line from Union Station to Montclair. The first phase completed by the Construction Authority opened in 2003, connecting downtown Los Angeles and Pasadena. Los Angeles County's Measure R half-cent sales tax increase will fully fund the segment between Pasadena and Azusa. Additional funding is needed to complete the line further east, to Montclair. A proposed final extension to the LA/Ontario International Airport is also under study.

## ROOM TO RUN™ Dog Park Appreciation Project

**WHAT:**  
The Nutro Company's ROOM TO RUN™ Dog Park Appreciation Project



To support community dog parks and off-leash areas, The Nutro Company has teamed up with the City of Arcadia to host the ROOM TO RUN™ Dog Park Appreciation Project on May 7, 2011. Led by associates from The Nutro Company in partnership with City of Arcadia and members of the community, the ROOM TO RUN™ Project is a nationwide effort to enhance and revitalize dog parks in 30 cities across the U.S. and Canada. This year the dog park in Arcadia has been chosen to be a part of the program. Last year, volunteers spent more than 1,500 man hours improving parks in their communities. So, roll up your sleeves and come join us this year!

ROOM TO RUN™ projects will vary by location, but park projects may include painting fences, providing benches, picking up trash and landscaping. In an effort to focus on enhancements and for the safety of the dogs, pet owners may want to consider leaving their four-legged pals at home during the enhancements and bring them to the park following the event.

**WHERE:** Arcadia Dog Park (Eisenhower Park) located on the corner of Colorado Boulevard and Second Avenue

**WHO:** Local community of dog owners (and lovers!) and The Nutro Company & the City of Arcadia's Recreation and Community Services Department

**WHEN:** May 7, 2011  
Check in begins at 8am, event is from 9am to 12pm

## Looking for a job? Want a better job? Want to relocate?

Arcadia Public Library is offering three career webinars by Tutor.com © that may help you in your quest.

**Thursday, May 5 (1pm-2pm) - Your Toughest Job Search Questions Answered**

Are you concerned about your ability to land job interviews due to employment gaps or excessive job changes? Do you expect to have a hard time explaining to a prospective employer that you were fired from your last job? Learn how to field these and other tough career questions.

**Thursday, May 12 (1pm-2pm) - Write a Resume that Gets the Job**

Participants will learn how to write a resume that hiring managers will notice.

**Thursday, May 19 (1pm-2pm) - Learn How to Interview like a Pro**

A great interview is the last step in securing the job you want. Participants will learn how to feel comfortable during an interview – no more stumbling or freezing up. Learn interview styles, techniques and how to answer the top two interview questions everyone gets asked.

These webinars will be led by Barbara Safani, career expert, author and owner of Career Solvers. Each webinar will be one hour and held in the Arcadia Public Library's Conference Room. No reservations are necessary.

The Arcadia Public Library is located at 20 W. Duarte Rd. Arcadia. For more information, please call (626) 821-5565.

## PROBLEM SOLVING

April 20th  
7:30 p.m.

The Recreation and Community Service Department is offering this informational class on problem solving. Learn new tactics or just sharpen the ones you already have. Topics include understanding yourself and others, handling stress, anger management, communication skills and overall problem solving. Class begins April 20 at 7:30pm in the Community Center.

You can register now on-line, by mail or in person! For times, location, fees and to download the registration form go on-line to the City of Arcadia's website: [www.ci.arcadia.ca.us](http://www.ci.arcadia.ca.us) or stop by the office, 375 Campus Drive.

For more information please call 626.574.5113!

## Recreation and Community Services Department Youth Afterschool Tennis Camp!

Come join us afterschool for our Youth Tennis Camp. The next session begins on May 3 from 2:45pm – 3:45pm. Lessons are four weeks long two days a week and are held at Holly Ave Elementary School. All participants must also be registered with the Arcadia Recreation Department supervised Playground Program.

You can register now on-line, by mail or in person! For times, location, fees and to download the registration forms go on-line to the City of Arcadia's website: [www.ci.arcadia.ca.us](http://www.ci.arcadia.ca.us) or stop by the office, 375 Campus Drive.

For more information please call 626.574.5113!

## YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS SPRING 2011

A picture is worth a thousand words! Young photographers bring your digital cameras to learn how to capture those special moments, enhance school projects or just start a new hobby. The instructor is friendly, inspirational and makes technical terms easy to understand. Classes begin Tuesday April 21 for ages 7-17 years and April 23 for ages 10 and up. Parents are welcome to sign up and learn along with their youth.

You can register now on-line, by mail or in person! For times, location, fees and to download the registration form go on-line to the City of Arcadia's website: [www.ci.arcadia.ca.us](http://www.ci.arcadia.ca.us) or stop by the office, 375 Campus Drive.

For more information please call 626.574.5113!

## Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, April 3, through Saturday, April 9, the Police Department responded to 797 calls for service of which 109 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, April 3:

- At 1:14 p.m., a traffic stop at Colorado and Baldwin for an expired registration, led to the arrest of a 33 year old, black female driver for a \$30,000 outstanding warrant.
- At 8:20 p.m., officers responded to assist Monrovia PD in regards to a barricaded suspect call in the 600 block of Shady Oaks Dr. Our officers were relieved by additional Monrovia PD units on Monday morning.

Monday, April 4:

- At 2:58 a.m., officers responded to a medical assist call in the 600 block of Sunset where an elderly male was hanging on from a third story balcony. The subject was pulled up to safety and transported to AMH for treatment of some lacerations to the knees and elbows, as well as a psychiatric evaluation.
- Around 10:20 a.m., three power handsaws were taken from the back of a pick-up truck at a construction site in the 00 block of Las Flores. A male Hispanic was reported being seen taking the tools and leaving in a white Ford Ranger.

Tuesday, April 5:

- A traffic stop was conducted around 2:18 a.m. at Christina St. and Santa Anita Ave. where a 22 year old male (unknown race) was reported as leaving the track intoxicated, was placed under arrest for DUI.
- About 7:47 a.m., officers responded to a possible burglary in progress at the Metro PCS store, 411 E. Huntington, where a young black male was seen smashing the window of the business. The 15 year old male juvenile was detained and arrested for commercial burglary, eight mobile phones were recovered.

Wednesday, April 6:

- Between 2:00 p.m. April 5<sup>th</sup> and 8:00 a.m. April 6<sup>th</sup>, a residential burglary occurred in the 1100 block of Altern Ave. Unknown suspect(s) entered the location while it was tented for fumigation. The victim reported a digital camera and miscellaneous currency missing from the location.
- Around 4:15 p.m. three black females, ages 20-25, fled the Victoria's Secret store, 400 S. Baldwin, with stolen merchandise. They left behind a fourth black female age 27, who was arrested for Commercial burglary. The total loss was approximately \$597.
- Shortly after 7:00 p.m. an unknown female Hispanic was seen taking a package from the porch of a residence in the 00 block of Golden West Ave. She then entered an awaiting, 'El Camino' type, black vehicle with an unknown Hispanic male driver and fled southbound on Golden West Ave.

Thursday, April 7:

- Between 6:40 p.m. on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 6:20 a.m. on April 7<sup>th</sup>, an auto burglary occurred in the 300 block of Huntington. Unknown suspect(s) entered a vehicle (no signs of forced entry) and stole a laptop computer and an Ipod Touch for a reported loss of about \$1,000.
- A traffic stop conducted at Colorado Blvd. and Second Ave., for failure to display a valid year tag, led to the arrest of a 50 year old white male for a warrant, possession of illegal fireworks and marijuana. The passenger, a 42 year old Hispanic male was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

Friday, April 8:

- Just after 4:20 a.m., an unknown male kicked in several secured doors at the Arcadia Center Pharmacy, 631 W. Duarte Rd., where he stole several bottles of Hydrocodone.
- Shortly after 5:00 p.m., officers responded to Tuesday Morning located at 1227 S. Baldwin Ave. regarding a theft in progress. A 44 year old, black male wearing a white button down shirt had taken approximately \$1,000 worth of property and was driving a gray Honda eastbound on Naomi. A traffic stop was conducted at the promenade parking structure where the suspect was placed under arrest. The property was recovered as well as a pair of wire cutters.

Saturday, April 9:

- Shortly after 2:30 p.m., a traffic stop conducted at the intersection of Baldwin and Arcadia on a vehicle where a 25 year old, male driver was talking on his cell phone while driving, led to his arrest for DUI.

- At approximately 7:30 p.m., a non-injury traffic accident was reported in the 100 block of Huntington Dr., where one driver had fled the scene. The 43 year old female was located two blocks away and the investigation revealed the driver was DUI and placed under arrest.



## Recreation and Community Services Department Community Bike Ride

Saturday May 7, 2011 7:30am

The Arcadia Recreation & Community Services Department and Children's Hospital of Los Angeles' new Ambulatory Care Center in Arcadia present the Annual Community Bike Ride on May 7, 2011 at 7:30am.

Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, founded in 1901, is one of the nation's top children's hospitals and is acknowledged worldwide for its leadership in pediatric and adolescent health. The new center, Children's Hospital Los Angeles – Arcadia, is proud to be a part of our local community and is sponsoring this family event. The center is excited to have this opportunity to provide quality care for our children as well as promote good health and fitness.

Please join us for a leisurely ride through some of Arcadia's most beautiful neighborhoods. This slow paced, seven mile excursion, is geared toward families and organized in an effort to create a positive tradition and promote healthy living. Meet in the Community center parking lot at 7:30am for check in, bike ride begins at 8am. Helmets are required and there will be NO bicycles with training wheels permitted. Children under thirteen must be accompanied by an adult. Bike ride takes place rain or shine.

The first 100 people to check in will receive a ticket to the Arcadia Firefighters Association Pancake Breakfast also being held on that same day at Station 106. Tickets for the breakfast can also be purchased at the station for \$5.

No registration necessary. For more information please call 626.574.5113 or go on-line to the City of Arcadia's website: [www.ci.arcadia.ca.us](http://www.ci.arcadia.ca.us).

## The Great Egg Race!

The race is on!. Hey all you Middle and High School students bring your flashlights and baskets to Eisenhower Park on Friday April 22 at 8 pm. Come search for eggs in the park in the dark. Prizes range from restaurant gift certificates to amusement park tickets. Parents in attendance will have the opportunity to compete with other parents to win prizes for their teens. So mark your calendars and don't be late for your egg hunt date.

For more information please call 626.574.5113! Or go on-line to the City of Arcadia's website: [www.ci.arcadia.ca.us](http://www.ci.arcadia.ca.us).

## A Short History of the Southwest Museum

On April 21 at noon, Former Director of the Southwest Museum Jerry Selmer will be the guest speaker at this Brown Bag Lunch Talk at the Arcadia Historical Museum. Bring your lunch and dress appropriately according to weather conditions, as the talks are held outside on the Museum patio. You won't want to miss this talk about the history of the Southwest Museum!

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

## Arcadia / 210 SELF STORAGE

50% off 2 months rent



324 N. Second Ave  
Arcadia, CA 91006  
[arcadia210@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arcadia210@sbcglobal.net)  
PH 626-574-2020  
FX 626-574-0023



## “A TASTE OF HOPE”

- Event Raises More Than \$260,000 For World Renowned Hospital



Guests raised their glasses - and raised funds - to support City of Hope at the fifth annual Taste for Hope event, hosted by the Music and Entertainment Industry. More than 350 guests attended the event, including industry executives Steve Bartels, Tom Corson, Peter Gray, Richard Palmese, Tom Poleman, “L.A.” Reid and Barry Weiss, and celebrities including Carrie Underwood. Taste for Hope raised more than \$260,000 for City of Hope, one of the nation’s leading research, treatment and education centers for cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

The event was held at Three Sixty° and was sponsored by Mediabase. “The evening showcased the tremendous support for City

of Hope and its dedication to finding a cure and prevention for cancer and other devastating diseases,” said Alissa Pollack, Taste of Hope event Chair, Executive Vice President Integrated Music Marketing for Mediabase Worldwide. “I’m personally moved by the way the industry comes together to help quickly accelerate advanced research to improve the quality of life for patients and their families.”

Inspired by the guiding humanitarian principles of City of Hope and motivated by the institution’s commitment to innovative medical research and compassionate patient care, a group of key industry executives founded the Music and Entertainment Industry Group in 1973. In its 37-year history,

the group has raised over \$89 million for City of Hope and has honored some of the most important figures in the music and entertainment industry. This year, Shelli and Irving Azoff, Executive Chairman of Live Nation Entertainment and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Frontline Management Group, will be honored with The Spirit of Life® Award. Recent past honorees include Tim Leiweke, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), AEG, Doug Morris, Chairman and CEO of UMG, and Bob Cavallo, Chairman, Disney Music Group.

### About City of Hope

City of Hope is a leading research and treatment center for cancer, diabetes and other life-threatening diseases. Designated as a Compre-

hensive Cancer Center, the highest honor bestowed by the National Cancer Institute, and a founding member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, City of Hope’s research and treatment protocols advance care throughout the nation. City of Hope is located in Duarte, Calif., just northeast of Los Angeles, and is ranked as one of “America’s Best Hospitals” in cancer and urology by U.S. News & World Report. Founded in 1913, City of Hope is a pioneer in the fields of bone marrow transplantation and genetics.

### FREE KALEIDOSCOPE CONCERT TO FEATURE WEST AFRICAN DRUMMING GROUP

Steve Biondo will perform with his West African Drumming group, Sökö Ensemble on Wednesday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. In the last of this season’s Kaleidoscope Concert series, enjoy an evening of exciting and exotic rhythms and learn about the wondrous sounds from the instruments of the Malinke: the djembe, the dununs, and various shakers and bells.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and seating is limited so please come early. You are also cordially invited to meet and speak with the musicians. Coffee, provided courtesy of Starbucks, and light refreshments will be served. Funded by the Arcadia Public Library Foundation, the concert is free and no reservations are necessary.

### MonroviaYouth Sports Program

The first league soccer games for the Youth Sports program took place on April 6 in the Middle Field area of Recreation Park. In the match between the Bradoaks Bobcats and the Monroe Lions, Bradoaks took an early lead and never looked back, cruising to a 7-1 win. The second match featured the Wild Rose Bears and the Mayflower Mariners. Mayflower displayed their offensive skills throughout the entire game and won 12-1. Registration is currently being accepted at the Monrovia Community Center for Spring Soccer. For additional information regarding the Youth Sports Program please contact the Department of Community Services at (626) 256-8246.

### Zumbattorney

**Wanna Zumba?** It’s the newest fitness craze, mixing cardio and resistance training. The fun, easy to follow dance steps, maximizes caloric output and burns fat. Instructor, Darrell Brooke is not only a Zumba certified instructor, he is also a certified specialist in Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Law. This free program will update you on the benefits of estate planning and preservation, in addition to the health benefits of Zumba! This fun activity will take place on Thursday, May 26, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Call (626) 256-8246 to make your reservations and come dressed to workout!

### Friends of the Monrovia Public Library Monday Night Movie

The next Friends of the Monrovia Public Library “Monday Night Movie for families” will be held on Monday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library’s Community Room. The movie is free and appropriate for all ages. Please call the Library at (626) 256-8274 for this month’s title.

### New Music Collection at the Library

The Library has a new instructional music collection. The collection of DVDs and books was made possible by a grant from the Berklee School of Music, submitted by Monrovia resident and local businessman Michael Cusick. The items are located in the Audiovisual section, next to the music CDs. The collection includes topics ranging from voice and songwriting, to drumming and keyboarding. The loan period for the books and DVDs is three weeks. Stop by the Library and check out the new collection!

## Monrovia Police Blotter

### Formative Years Project

*The Monrovia Police Department's classes for the Formative Years Project are scheduled to begin May 5. The Formative Years Project is a program aimed at parents and their children, grades 1 through 3, that introduces important life values and skills to children at an early age. Providing this training when children are young begins the process of building healthy and safe practices that can set the stage for a lifetime of success and healthy living. Topics include bullying, media influence on children, internet safety, child personal safety and gang and drug awareness. For information and class reservations, call (626) 256-8098.*

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 540 service events, resulting in 97 investigations. Following are the last week’s highlighted issues and events:

### Burglary - Suspect Arrested

On April 1 at 1:55 p.m., an officer responded to a business in the 500 block of West Huntington regarding a subject being detained for theft. The officer determined the subject had used a receipt from a previous purchase and returned to the business, where he selected the same items again. He also put on two shirts and went to the counter to get a refund using his receipt. His account was credited and he exited the doors. He was detained by store loss prevention. He was arrested and charged with burglary.

### Possession of a Controlled Substance / Warrants - Suspect Arrested

On April 1 at 2:19 p.m., an officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in the 600 block of West Huntington. The driver exited the vehicle quickly, but the officer took control without any incident. The subject was found to have a warrant out for his arrest. A search of the vehicle revealed he had some crystal methamphetamine and several different pills. The driver was arrested.

### Felony Driving Under the Influence / Hit & Run Traffic Collision - Suspect Arrested

On April 2 at 3:26 a.m., officers were dispatched to Shamrock and Huntington regarding a vehicle that collided into and destroyed the light signal box, shutting off the light signals in that intersection. The driver attempted to disassociate himself from the accident and refused to take responsibility; however, officers were eventually able to place him behind the wheel. The driver was determined to be under the influence, but refused to take any tests. His passengers were injured and were taken to a hospital for treatment. The driver was arrested.

### Burglary

On April 2 at 10:49 a.m., an officer was dispatched to a residence in the 1000 block of East Lemon. The residence was being fumigated and workers noticed some of the tent pins holding the tent shut had been removed. They peeked in and saw the doggie door had been kicked in and they called police. The residents are in the process of moving and many of their belongings had already been packed. A responsible party eventually responded to the location. Investigation continuing.

### Barricaded Suspect / 72-Hour Mental Evaluation

On April 3 at 7:55 p.m., officers were dispatched to a call reporting that a male subject had threatened his girlfriend with a sword and had then retrieved ammunition for his firearms. His girlfriend and her sister feared for their safety and ran out of the location and called the police. When officers arrived, the male suspect refused to cooperate and made suicidal comments. He barricaded himself inside the residence. Officers contained the location and the Foothill Special Enforcement Team (FSET) was activated. An arrest warrant was obtained for the male suspect regarding the incident with his girlfriend. After several hours of negotiations, FSET personnel deployed chemical agents into the residence. The suspect then surrendered without further incident. He was taken to a hospital and held for a 72-hour mental evaluation, pending criminal charges.

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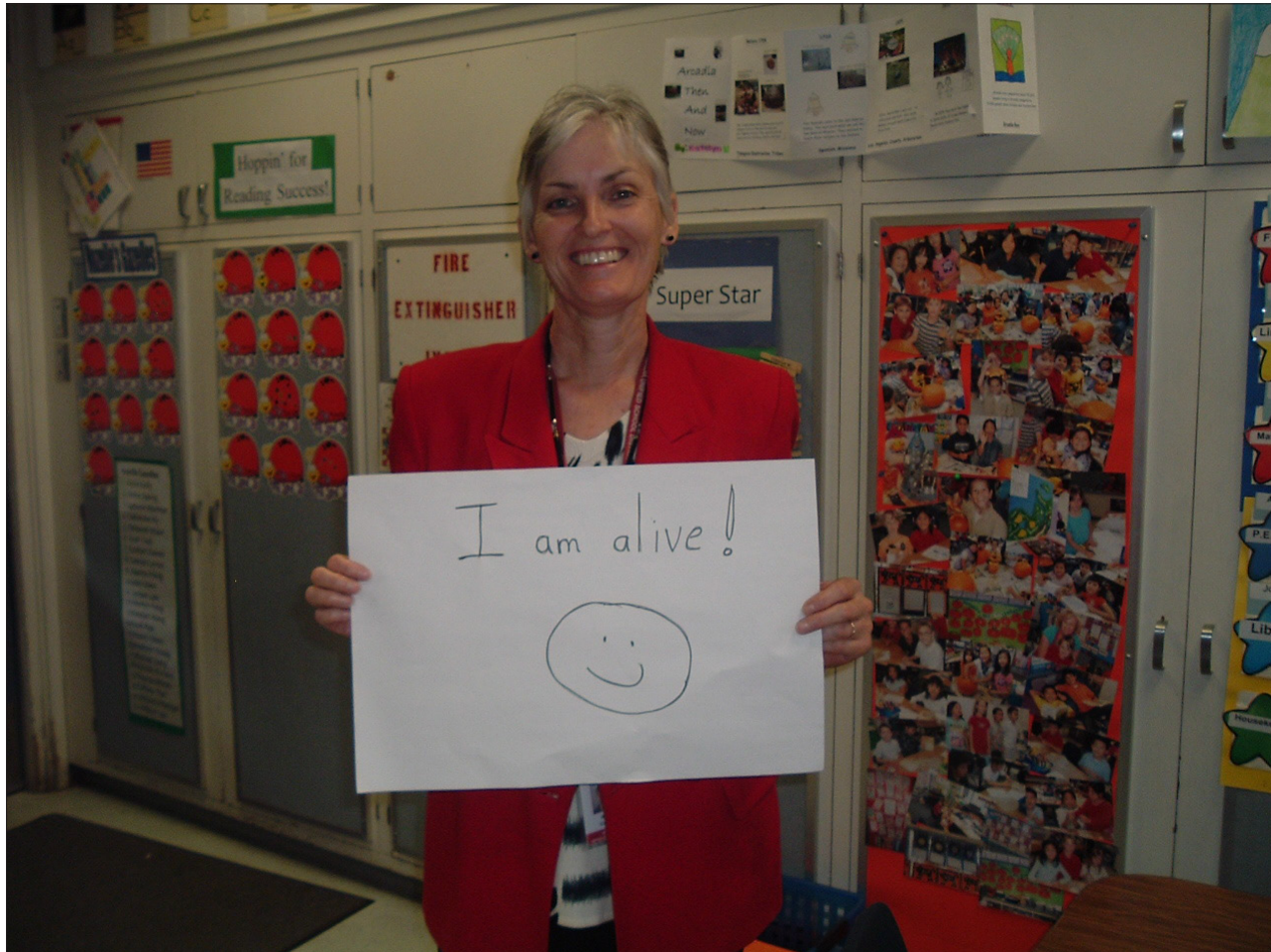
## I'M ALIVE!

**Teacher rumored dead speaks out that life can go on after Cancer -- calls on Arcadia Elementary Schools to be involved with the American Cancer Society's Mini-Relay for Life -- coming June 3**

by Helen Simmons Conroy

The other day, I was walking my 4<sup>th</sup> grade class to lunch when a student from another 4<sup>th</sup> grade class walked up to me and exclaimed, "Mrs. Conroy, my brother at Dana told me a rumor was going around there that you were dead!" After having my breath temporarily sucked out of me by the statement, I regrouped. "Tell your brother to set them straight at Dana Middle School, would you please?" I requested. "As you can see, I am far from dead!"

A middle school rumor had declared me dead and that made me sad, as well as angry. After calming down, I realized that rumor had been created and spread by ignorance, fear, and a lack of awareness that life can go on after getting cancer. The incident was but another reason why I knew I did the right thing in getting involved with hosting the American Cancer Society's upcoming Mini-Relay for Life. I had to get the word out to young kids that just because you get cancer, it doesn't mean your life is over. Don't get me wrong. I am no Pollyanna. I saw both my mom and my sister die from cancer. However, in both cases, the cancer was not detected early. It is part of my mission as a teacher and two-year survivor of breast cancer, to show by example that life can go on after getting cancer. Early detection and treatment are key, of course, as well as a fighting attitude and healthy living habits. I also want to share that, believe or not, there are benefits gained from the horrendous experience. Those who survive take with them a unique appreciation for life, a second chance to make each moment count, not stress on the little things, and focus on soaking in the things that really have meaning -- your kids and loved ones, and reaching out to others to make a difference.



Jonie Tsuji proudly let's her students know...She's Alive!

I ask Arcadia elementary school parents and students to show your support for the importance of cancer education by being involved with the American Cancer Society's Mini-Relay for Life, hosted for the first time ever by an Arcadia School District elementary school -- at Camino Grove Elementary School, on June 3, from 3 -- 6 p.m. For more information, check out our website at <http://arcadiaminirelay.org>. If you have a question not addressed on the website, feel free to contact ACS Mini-Relay Coordinator, Jonie Tsuji, at [jonie.tsuji@verizon.net](mailto:jonie.tsuji@verizon.net) or me at [hconroy@ausd.net](mailto:hconroy@ausd.net), as I am not by any means dead! (For information on the Arcadia community Relay event, to be held at the Santa Anita Race Track on June 25-26, visit <http://relayforlife.org/arcadiaca>.)

## ANTONOVICH ANNOUNCES STATION FIRE FOREST RESTORATION



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Los Angeles County Mayor and South Coast Air Quality Management District Director Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Harris Sherman with U.S. Forest Service workers

Los Angeles County Mayor and South Coast Air Quality Management District Director Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich joined federal officials, local supporters and environmental leaders at the Wildwood Picnic Area in Tujunga to announce a major effort to restore the Angeles National Forest after the Station Fire devastation.

"It has been nearly two years since the tragic Station Fire that took the lives of two of our County's firefighters, burned 160,000 acres, destroyed over 100 structures and displaced thousands of our County's residents," said Antonovich. "The impact of the devastation required a large-scale effort to renew and revitalize our forest. To assist, the AQMD allocated \$1.4 million to support one of the largest local reforestation efforts to date with the growing and planting of nearly half a million trees in a 3,000-acre area of the forest."

"In addition to improving water quality, recreational opportunities and air quality for future generations, this reforestation project will help restore the eco-system, reduce the threat of mudslides, and remove tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere," he added.

## SBA, Inc. Magazine and AT&T Join Forces to Promote Exporting by U.S. Small Businesses

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Small businesses seeking to grow their businesses and create jobs through exporting can turn to new, free educational videos created through a partnership between the U.S. Small Business Administration, Inc. Magazine and AT&T.

Through the public-private partnership, a series of video modules has been developed to inspire and encourage American small businesses to actively pursue exporting and to educate them on how to do so.

"Winning the future means supporting small businesses that want to grow and create jobs through exporting," said SBA Administrator Karen Mills. "SBA is very pleased to have partnered with Inc. Magazine and AT&T in the production and distribution of this video series, which will help small firms that are new to exporting or looking for new markets to sell their goods and services."

The video series, Take Your Business Global, features five main topics that guide small businesses through the process of exporting: Getting Started in Exporting; Planning for Export success; Connecting with Foreign Buyers; Financing; and five Case Studies of successful

small business exporters.

The videos begin with answers to the frequently asked question, Why Export? They feature SBA Deputy Administrator Marie Johns; U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke; U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Ron Kirk, and a variety of small business exporters. Other modules feature exporting experts discussing "how-to" take your business global. The videos are posted at [www.inc.com/exporting](http://www.inc.com/exporting). "Inc. is proud to work alongside the Small Business Administration and AT&T to provide entrepreneurs with a valuable resource in their efforts to expand their businesses overseas," said Bob LaPointe, Inc. President.

"This video series will educate business owners about what to expect when they launch an international business. "We have put together experienced small business exporters as well as officials from local and national resources to provide a complete picture. Inc. is always happy to help small businesses grow."

"AT&T is excited to be part of this initiative and to collaborate with the SBA and Inc. magazine," said Cathy Martine, AT&T Executive Vice President, Small Business Solutions. "We believe

U.S. small businesses are engines of innovation, and strongly encourage them to grow by thinking globally and taking advantage of technology. With the emergence of online commerce and digital communications, the potential to export products and services around the world has never been greater."

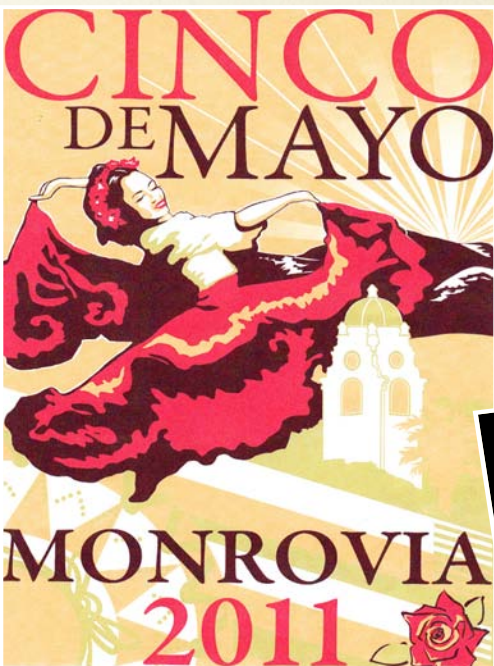
Funding for this project was jointly provided by Inc. Magazine and AT&T. Also, Inc. Magazine created the site to host the videos; both firms will distribute DVD copies of the videos and related materials approved by SBA and promote the series in online and print advertising.

The joint program will be launched April 8, at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Las Vegas, at the Inc. conference GROWCO, an event targeting growing small businesses.

The co-sponsorship agreements will remain in effect through August 31, 2012. Cosponsorship Authorization # 10-7080-165. SBA's participation in this co-sponsored activity is not an endorsement of the views, opinions, products or services of any cosponsor or other person or entity. All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

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### Le Petit Duo - Flute & Clarinet

Sponsored by the Friends of the Monrovia Public Library

Enjoy the sounds of Le Petit Duo, a flute and clarinet duo at the library! Le Petit Duo is comprised of Flutist, Cheryl Lopez (right), and Clarinetist, Dr. Wendy Mazon (left). Please join us for an evening of musical enjoyment from this fun-loving duo!

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## PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RUN OFF ELECTION - SEAT 6


**TOM SELINSKE**


Businessperson/  
Educator/School  
Board Member

The challenge for the Pasadena Unified School District is greater than ever. Education budget cuts from Sacramento create tremendous pressure. Despite the deepest cuts in a generation, PUSD continues to see success in tough economic times.

It has been my privilege to serve the District as a Board Member and President during the past 4 years, during which time our Average Performance Index (API) scores have risen consistently, outpacing the state's average growth. A majority of our elementary schools now have API scores over 800, while the District as a whole is up 51 points.

We've cut wasteful spending by streamlining the District Administration, and saved over \$700,000 by implementing energy efficient measures. I worked to secure a \$2.4 million federal grant to improve college enrollment and career preparation for our high school students.

Our middle and high school API scores are also rising. I will continue to work closely with parents, teachers, and students to increase our graduation rate, narrow the achievement gap, and prepare all students for success.

I pledge to use your vote to continue to deliver responsible and accountable PUSD leadership.  
[www.tomselinske.com](http://www.tomselinske.com)

**SEAN BAGGETT**


Teacher/School  
Administrator

I have worked with K-12 public school children for more than 10 years. I was voted Teacher Of The Year by my peers. I have taught Educational Leadership for the California State University system and have worked for Cal Tech and PCC.

I have successfully led the development of countywide educational standards and curriculum and Chair a committee for the Wester Association of School and Colleges.

Too many of our students are under performing. Eleven of our schools are under state supervision. Despite progress, the PUSD remains an under performing school district. Enrollment is dropping and schools are closing.

*With your support, I will focus on:* Better classroom management training for teachers focusing on discipline and maintaining an effective learning environment.

Holding principals accountable for the performance of their schools.

Better supervision and management of individual student progress.

Like most of you, I received an excellent public education at far lower funding levels than we have today.

Tight budgets are not a justification for failure.

Let's stop using tough times as an excuse and get to work for our kids.

[sbaggettpusd2011@yahoo.com](mailto:sbaggettpusd2011@yahoo.com).

## BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL WINS CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL HONOR *First PUSD Secondary School to Win State Award*

Pasadena, CA – The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) announced today that Blair High School has been named a 2011 California Distinguished School Award winner by the California Department of Education. Blair High School is among 97 secondary schools statewide to win the award, which honors schools that have demonstrated educational excellence for all students and progress in narrowing the achievement gap. Blair is the first secondary school in PUSD to receive this prestigious honor.

"This is a great honor for all of the staff, students, and parents who have worked, attended, or supported Blair over the past several years," said Trudell Skinner principal of Blair. "Together with recent honors for Advanced Placement Scholars, dramatic gains in our Academic Performance Index score, and increases in the number of IB Diploma candidates, this award is a testament that hard work, consistency, and team work delivers results."

Blair High School joins the ranks of Hamilton, Field and Longfellow Elementary as recent winners of the California Distinguished School Award. Hamilton Elementary School went on to win the National Blue Ribbon Award in 2009.

"Congratulations to Blair High School teachers, administrators, and parents for their dedication to ensuring the success of all students," said Superintendent Edwin Diaz. "The award demonstrates the upward momentum of student achievement at our district's secondary schools, and our community's commitment to prepare all students for success in college and careers, and to provide a rigorous and personalized learning experience for all children. Blair High School is leading the way in this regard."

The California Distinguished School Award program identifies and honors the state's most exemplary and inspiring public

schools. Although participation is voluntary, the award is highly sought after by schools in all areas of the state. Elementary and secondary schools are recognized during alternate years.

This year, the California Distinguished School Award honors progress in narrowing the achievement gap between higher-performing and lower-performing students. In order to be invited to be considered for Distinguished School honors, schools had to meet eligibility criteria including designated federal and state accountability measures based on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and the Academic Performance Index (API) requirements.

Applicants underwent a stringent selection process, which included a description of two signature practices that have led to an increase in student achievement and a narrowing of the achievement gap. Applicants were then selected to receive a thorough site visit to validate the practices. Schools earning the Distinguished School title this year agree to share their signature practices with other schools and serve as mentors to other educators who want to replicate their work. An updated searchable database of these signature practices will be available later this spring by the California Department of Education. Blair School test scores in English Language Arts rose by 15 percent over the last five years, and seven percent this year. Math scores also rose by 8 percent this year, and 12% since 2006. The school serves 410 middle school students and 758 high school students. Winners of the 2011 California Distinguished Schools Award will be honored at an awards ceremony in May.

### The Approach



### THE APPROACH

I can't believe it's almost here – senior year. On Monday I filled out my schedule for next year and it was scary. Choosing whether or not I want to be in AP Biology, AP Calculus, or both was strange and almost unreal. I can vividly remember my first day of high school; how nervous I was because I was the only girl coming from my school and entering a class four times the size of the one I had graduated from that summer. I remember the sense of anticipation and how my stomach was fluttering with butterflies the first time I walked through the front gates. And for it to be almost over! Well, not almost. I still have four more weeks of junior year left, but how these past three years have flown by! They were not exaggerating when they said that the four years you spend in high school pass you by in the blink of an eye. In a year's time, I will know where I will be going to college and be spending some of the most crucial years of my life, determining my career and life path. Hopefully I will be heading back east somewhere, to Brown maybe or Syracuse, preparing myself for the next step of my lifelong journey.

Soon I will be walking through La Salle's front gates on the first day of school for the last time – my last first day of high school. It is hard to explain this sense of fear, excitement and anticipation. I want senior year to be here, I want to graduate, but I don't want to leave my friends or have life pass me by. The impending approach is one of excitement and fear. But first, I want it to be summer!

## ANTONOVICH ANNOUNCES 74 SUMMER ARTS INTERNSHIPS

– The Los Angeles County Arts Commission will be offering 74 paid summer internships to college undergraduates this summer, announced Mayor Michael D. Antonovich.

To develop business skills that can be put to use in their future careers, interns are paid \$350 per week for a ten-week program participating in educational and arts networking activities learning about nonprofit arts administration and the role of the arts in the community.

General information on the program is available on the Arts Commission's web site at [www.lacountyarts.org/internship.html](http://www.lacountyarts.org/internship.html).

## SIERRA MADRE WOMAN'S CLUB ANNOUNCES FINE ARTS WINNERS

The Sierra Madre Woman's Club has selected the winners of its 2011 Fine Arts student competition.

The art entry students will receive certificates made by Dixie Coutant and presented by their teacher or principal this month along with gift certificates.

The ART winners are:

1st Place: Kaylin Pak

2nd Place tie:  
Colleen J McPhillips and  
Grace Williams

3rd Place tie:  
Melanie Klich  
Christopher Mavilian and  
Sarah Rosario

Honorable Mention:

Katie Stapenhorst.

Photography entries did not Place.

Academic Scholarship winners have not yet been selected. The deadline for the Academic awards were later, however we are pleased to have double the number of entries this year.

The awards committee members are Rosemary Morabito, Eleanor Hensel, Susan Henderson and Jayne Thomas, Fine Arts and Academic Chair

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## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

### Alverno High School

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

### Arcadia High School

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

### Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

### Barnhart School

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

### Bethany Christian School

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

### Carden of the Foothills School

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

### The Gooden School

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

### High Point Academy

1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road  
Pasadena, Ca. 91107 626-798-8989  
website: [www.highpointacademy.org](http://www.highpointacademy.org)

### LaSalle High School

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

### Monrovia High School

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

### Norma Coombs Alternative School

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

### Odyssey Charter School

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

### Pasadena High School

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

### Pasadena Unified School District

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

### St. Rita Catholic School

322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-9028 website: [www.st-rita.org](http://www.st-rita.org)

### Sierra Madre Elementary School

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

### Sierra Madre Middle School

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

### Walden School

74 S San Gabriel Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166  
[www.waldenschool.net](http://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](mailto:resseln@pusd.us)

### Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109  
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**WWW.CLAIRBOURN.ORG/SUMMER/**



## TIPPING 101

Our fearless leader Susan asked me for a little spring cleaning, a tour of my favorite subject. We all know them, the people that just can't bring themselves to leave a decent tip. What is the thinking behind tipping and what should be given, and when did it start in America? Tipping began to take hold in States in the late 19th Century after the Civil War. It was widely considered by many groups including the intellectuals of the day as an outright evil. Newspapers wrote vigorously against its vices. They reasoned that it established an aura of servitude, by offering a demeaning handout, or token. It implied a superiority of class and status that conferred on the lowly receiver of these offerings. There were groups such as bartenders that flatly refused tips as they considered it far below their status to receive these patronizing gifts. Now when someone says, "those were the good old days," you may know what they mean. It many ways the objections did make sense at this time in America. What about the places where you have to tip in advance. This does not insure good service, does it? Only at a place like a Starbuck's does this seem to make any sense. There are very few times that I have gone to a restaurant and actually tipped in advance.

When determining a tip at a restaurant, what are you to consider before settling your bill and factoring a tip? At the restaurant you are tipping on the speed, accuracy and usefulness of the servers, and not on the food. Is tipping at a fancy restaurant different than tipping at a coffee shop? Many people believe it is. I feel like I stepped in something when I hear that

**TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills**

said. They are to be treated as the same.

Here are my guidelines for tipping but not necessarily the way I tip. I even give 10% for atrocious service. It seems with my picture in this paper, on my TV show "The Chef Knows," that I might get a bad reputation from the Server Syndicate, and be labeled a "bad tipper," which is a stigma that I carefully avoid. You on the other hand can wield far more influence than is availed to this restaurant critic.

Here are my suggestions from the Coffee house to Spago..

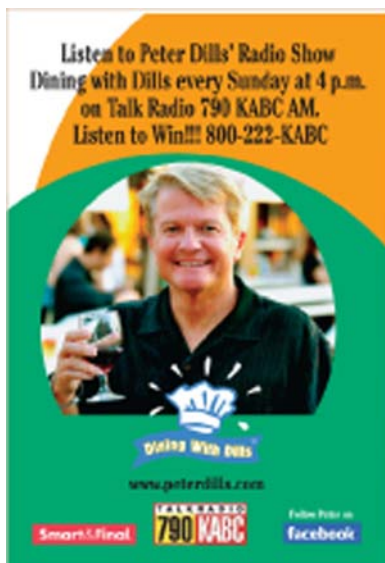
Fair to medium service 12 to 14 %

Good to Better than Average 15 to 18%

Great Service 20%

This should be applied to the food and beverage total before tax. Can't figure the whole percentage on tipping. Best way is to just double the tax. Which falls in the Good range.

Have Kids? Of course I do. Luckily mine is as clean and tidy as they make them but they are not all created like her. If your children make a mess, throw food and crayons on the floor. I always leave the busboy at least \$3. If you don't, well you could consider cleaning it yourself. Email me at thechefknows@yahoo.com with your thoughts. Join me every Saturday evening on Charter 101 at 7 PM and on KABC Talk Radio 790 AM on Sunday afternoons.





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## Love & Friendship

### A Mother's Day Tea

with

# Jane Austen

The Sierra Madre Woman's Club and Sierra Madre Public Library cordially invite you to our annual Mother's Day Tea.

This year we are pleased to present Mary Burkin performing as Jane Austen, beloved author of *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*. Austen's timeless themes, keen insight and astute social commentary have made her one of the most widely read authors in English literature.

"Miss Austen" will be reading from her own works and sharing congenial family stories and tidbits of neighborhood gossip.


Afternoon tea follows the program, complete with fruits, sweets and savorys, prepared and served by members of the Woman's Club.

**Tickets are required and may be purchased at the Library and Woman's Club**

**Adults: \$20.00 Under 17: \$8.00**

**SATURDAY, May 7**  
**11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Sierra Madre Woman's Club Clubhouse  
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For information call 626-355-7186.



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\*proceeds to fund Paul Magaris mini-grant programs and other charitable activities





# Music News

By Sierra Madre Sue Behrens

CONGRATULATIONS TO MY YOUNG FRIEND "RED ROSIE" WHO BEAT OUT 20 OTHER CONTESTANTS TO WIN THE COVETED CROWN OF DOO DAH QUEEN 2011

SUN. 4/17 - BARRY "BIG B" BRENNER @ FIREFLY BISTRO IN SOUTH PASADENA, 11am - 2pm. 1009 El Centro. 626-441-2443. Sunday BLUES Brunch! <http://www.bigbbrenner.com>

SUN. 4/17 - ADAMS' PACK STATION is celebrating 75 Years with an afternoon of great live music. Chantry Flat, Angeles National Forest (From the 210 Fwy. take Santa Anita Avenue North until it dead-ends at the parking lot.) Festivities begin at noon with singer/songwriter John M. At 2pm the Arcadia Historic Society will be dedicating a new "History Lives Here" historical marker. The Cross Town Cowboys will be serenading the crowd from 2:30 - 4:30. Alex Perez and the Comets on Television at 4:30. Pulled pork sandwiches available.

SUN. 4/17 - "OPERA TO BROADWAY" VOCAL PERFORMANCES @ CAFE 322 IN SIERRA MADRE, 7-10pm. 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 626-836-5414. Full bar and great Italian food. Every Sunday evening. Get there early - they pack 'em in!

4/19 - "TUESDAY NIGHT TRIVIA" @ CAFE 322 with QUIZMASTER DEANNA, 7pm\*. \$2 per person to play, up to 4 on a team, CASH or gift certificates to the top 3 teams. Fun and educational! 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 626-836-5414. \*...with live music immediately following from COW BOP, 8:30 - 11pm. Country Swing.

TUES. 4/19 - "JC & Friends Songwriter Serenade" @ MATT DENNY'S ALEHOUSE & RESTAURANT IN ARCADIA, 7 - 9:30pm. 145 E. Huntington Dr., between 1st & 2nd Aves. 626-462-0250. Full bar & kitchen, all ages. A weekly acoustic show of songwriters playing original songs, either as a solo or duo act, outside on the covered patio. This week's artists: Andrea Marchant, Harriet Schock, Taylor Begert. <http://www.jchyke.com/>

WED. 4/20 - LISA FINNIE & JOHN PALMER @ RED CARPET WINE & SPIRITS IN GLENDALE, 7 - 8pm. 400 E. Glenoaks Blvd. Indoor musical delights and three-option tastings via the in-house Enomatics in the Red Carpet Wine Bar. [www.redcarpetwine.com](http://www.redcarpetwine.com)

WED. 4/20 - The Mellow D'z @ Oceanview Bistro in Montrose from 7:30-10pm. 3826 Ocean View Blvd. 818-248-2722. Great food and drinks to go with cool acoustic jams. [www.ovbistro.com](http://www.ovbistro.com)

"WEDNESDAY NIGHT PLATTER PARTY" @ THE BUCCANEER, 9pm. Bring your favorite vinyl records and play an entire side on the house turntable, commercial free! 70 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 626-355-9045. No cover, full bar, friendly service!

THURS. 4/21 - BARRY "BIG B" BRENNER @ FIREFLY BISTRO IN SOUTH PASADENA, 6 - 9pm. 1009 El Centro. 626-441-2443. Burgers, Brews & BLUES most Thursday nights. <http://www.bigbbrenner.com/>

FRI. 4/22 - THE MELLOW D'z (Dave Osti & Deanna Cogan) @ Cafe 322 in Sierra Madre, 5:30 - 7:30pm. 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 626-836-5414. Great happy hour discounts on food and drinks from 4:30-6:30. Acoustic Rock faves.

FRI. 4/22 - SWING DANCE PARTY with FLAT TOP TOM & HIS JUMPCATS @ CAFE 322, 8 - 11pm. 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 626-836-5414. Full bar, great Italian food, dance floor.

FRI. 4/22 - PADDY'S PIG @ T. BOYLE'S TAVERN IN PASADENA, 9pm - midnight. 37 N. Catalina (in the alley - formerly Toe's Tavern and the Handlebars) 626-578-0957. No cover, full bar. Irish Roots Music. <http://www.tbylestavern.com/>

SUN. 4/24 - BARRY "BIG B" BRENNER @ FIREFLY BISTRO IN SOUTH PASADENA, 11am - 2pm. 1009 El Centro. 626-441-2443. Sunday BLUES Brunch! <http://www.bigbbrenner.com>

SUN. 4/24 - "OPERA TO BROADWAY" VOCAL PERFORMANCES @ CAFE 322 IN SIERRA MADRE, 7-10pm. 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 626-836-5414. Full bar and great Italian food. Every Sunday evening. Get there early - they pack 'em in!

TUES. 4/26 - "JC & Friends Songwriter Serenade" @ MATT DENNY'S ALEHOUSE & RESTAURANT IN ARCADIA, 7 - 9:30pm. 145 E. Huntington Dr., between 1st & 2nd Aves. 626-462-0250. Full bar & kitchen, all ages. A weekly acoustic show of songwriters playing original songs, either as a solo or duo act, outside on the covered patio. This week's artists: Kevin Fisher, Jill Freeman, Byron Gore, Susan Reeves. <http://www.jchyke.com/>

4/26 - "TUESDAY NIGHT TRIVIA" @ CAFE 322 with QUIZMASTER DEANNA, 7pm\*. \$2 per person to play, up to 4 on a team, CASH or gift certificates to the top 3 teams. Fun and educational! 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 626-836-5414. \*...with live music immediately following from NEW ASTROTURF, Folk/Rock, Classic Country.

WED. 4/27 - LISA FINNIE & JOHN PALMER @ RED CARPET WINE & SPIRITS IN GLENDALE, 7 - 8pm. 400 E. Glenoaks Blvd. Indoor musical delights and three-option tastings via the in-house Enomatics in the Red Carpet Wine Bar. [www.redcarpetwine.com](http://www.redcarpetwine.com)

"WEDNESDAY NIGHT PLATTER PARTY" @ THE BUCCANEER, 9pm. Bring your favorite vinyl records and play an entire side on the house turntable, commercial free! 70 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. 626-355-9045. No cover, full bar, friendly service!

THURS. 4/28 - BARRY "BIG B" BRENNER @ FIREFLY BISTRO IN SOUTH PASADENA, 6 - 9pm. 1009 El Centro. 626-441-2443. Burgers, Brews & BLUES most Thursday nights. <http://www.bigbbrenner.com/>

Check out this incredible triple-bill and note early start time:

FRI. 4/29 - CAFE 322 in Sierra Madre, 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Great happy hour discounts on food and drinks from 4:30-6:30.

THE MELLOW D'z, 5 - 7pm.

and then - SNOTTY SCOTTY & THE HANKIES, 7 - 8:30pm.

but wait - there's more! LOVE (REVISTED), 8:30 - 11:30pm.

\$10 cover at some point. Call for info. & reservations: 626-836-5414.

Love Revisited consists of original Love guitarist Johnny Echols plus Baby Lemonade members Mike Randle, Dave Chapple and David Green, with occasional special guests (Forever Changes/ Da Capo era drummer), Michael Stuart and (Brian Wilson Trumpeter and Love tour member) Probyn Gregory. If you ask me, they might as well just have Snotty Scotty as their frontman since he does all their best songs and learned all his moves from Arthur Lee!

SAT. 4/30 - THE OCCASIONAL DOO DAH PARADE #34.5 - 11:00am in East Pasadena - on Colorado Blvd. between San Gabriel Blvd. & Altadena Dr. with Queen Red Rosie and Grand Marshal Ron Stivers, owner of Poo Bah Records (so why aren't we calling him the Grand Poo Bah?) Fab after-party at the American Legion at 179 N. Vinado Ave., featuring Snotty Scotty & The Hankies and Horses On Astroturf, \$5 cover - goes to the bands. It's not too late to sign up as a parade entry: [pasadenadoodahparade.info](http://pasadenadoodahparade.info) or volunteer to help: [hurleypanne@yahoo.com](mailto:hurleypanne@yahoo.com)

Please remember to call and verify all info. before making plans. Everything is subject to change. This is show biz, after all... Hope to see you out & about, SierraMadreSue [sierramadresue@yahoo.com](mailto:sierramadresue@yahoo.com)

## SEAN'S SHAMELESS REVIEWS:

### IDLE LABOR



Sean Kayden

A resurrection of '80s new wave in 2011? I'm down for another go around. *Craft Spells*' debut album, "Idle Labor", is an influential album from those who did it best - *New Order*, *The Cure* and *Tears For Fears*. "Idle Labor" is an introspective, faintly despondant, reverie record that showcases singer/songwriter Justin Paul Vallesteros' mesmerizing vocals, tenderness, and heartache. A dreamy, idealistic, straight from the bedroom produced album for the kids with the dreamer's disease and those completely clinging onto a better, yet forgotten yesterday. I'm not advocating that *Craft Spells* are reinventing the wheel with their debut effort, but there is an innate catchiness and distinctiveness to their creative endeavor.

Everything you might expect from an '80s inspired record is found here. A recognizable atmosphere is set up with drum machines, synths, maudlin vocals, and dancing-alone-in-my-bedroom sort of bass reverbs. There is an eclectic yet cluster of emerging bands these days with the same summery, dream-pop, lost-in-thought style. Even when one thinks this genre has become oversaturated, an album such as this gracefully arrives to reassure you a new component can be added into the mix. I can't even keep up with all the subgenres anymore, but "Idle Labor" falls under glo-fi, chillwave, 80s new-romantic and bedroom-pop genres. At the end of day though, it doesn't matter what category they're associated with. Simply put, this is a beautiful, sensitive, somber, yet ironically inspiring work of art. I am enamored with this type of music persuasion and *Craft Spells* have easily established themselves as a band with a promising future.

Album: Idle Labor  
Artist: Craft Spells  
Label: Captured Tracks  
Release Date: March 29, 2011

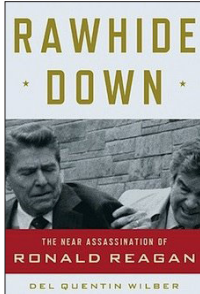
However, *Craft Spells* isn't headlining the revolution, but purely a significant player in the movement. Fans of indie darlings, *Wild Nothing* and *Beach Fossils* should find something commendable here to connect with. The party is short-lived though, as the album clocks in right under 37 minutes. I like to think of "Idle Labor" as a mixtape sort of album. You'll listen it to, embrace it for all it represents and then after awhile you'll put it to the side where it becomes lost in your drawers. Years later when you're enduring another transitional period in life, you'll come across this previously beloved mix. It'll seamlessly feel impeccably aged when you first pop into your CD player. A few moments later, you'll become hyponotized by the subtle beauty, nostalgic undertones, and perfect nuances for a second time around.

Grade: 8.8 out of 10

Key Tracks: "Scandinavian Crush", "The Fog Rose High", "From The Morning Heat", "Beauty Above All"

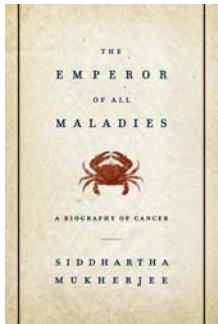
## Jeff's Pics The Book Report

### Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan by Del Quentin Wilber



This is a minute by minute account of that perilous day, a day of chaos, crisis, prayer, heroism, and hope which is brought to life as never before. How much you think you know about what happened, you don't. On March 30, 1981, President Reagan walked out of a hotel in Washington, D.C., and was shot. For years, few people knew the truth about how close the president came to dying, and no one has ever written a detailed narrative of that harrowing day. Now, drawing on exclusive new interviews, Wilber tells the electrifying story of a moment when the nation faced a crisis. With clarity, we see the Secret Service agent whose fast reflexes saved the president's life; the brilliant surgeons who operated on Reagan as he was losing half his blood; and the group of White House officials frantically trying to determine whether the country was under attack. Most especially, we encounter the man code named Rawhide, a leader of uncommon grace who inspired affection and awe in everyone who worked with him. Reagan was the only serving U.S. president to survive being shot in an assassination attempt.

### The Emperor of all Maladies: A Biography of Cancer by Siddhartha Mukherjee



This book is an excellent, profoundly humane "biography" of cancer from its first documented appearances thousands of years ago through the epic battles in the twentieth century to cure, control, and conquer it to a radical new understanding of its essence. Physician Mukherjee examines cancer with a cellular biologist's precision, a historian's perspective, and a biographer's passion. The result is an astonishingly lucid and eloquent chronicle of a disease humans have lived with and died from for ages. The story of cancer is a story of human ingenuity, resilience, and perseverance, but also misperception. He recounts centuries of discoveries, setbacks, and victories, told through the eyes of his predecessors & peers, who thought it would be easily vanquished in an all out "war against cancer." The book reads like a literary thriller with cancer as the protagonist. The book is about the people who have soldiered through demanding regimens in order to survive and to increase our understanding of this disease. Riveting, and surprising, it is an illuminating book that provides hope and clarity to those seeking to demystify cancer and a look into the future of treatments.

Both books can be ordered at Sierra Madre Books 836-3200!!

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## 49th Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair

Saturday, May 7, 2011 - 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, May 8, 2011 - 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Wood Turnings in Buckeye Burl  
by Featured Artist Ivy Shuman

100 Artists, Children's Activities,  
Live Entertainment and Food Court

Free Admission

Sierra Madre Memorial Park

222 West Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA

for event information: 626.355.7186 or [www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org](http://www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org)

Benefits Sierra Madre Public Library







## HOWARD Hays As I See It



The L.A. Times ran another story of factory off-shoring, where a hugely profitable company becomes even more so by setting up shop overseas to take advantage of low wages and lack of the worker protections expected at home. Workers have endured forced overtime, elimination of raises, and management's suppression of organizing efforts - struggles unheard of in the home country.

There have been expressions of dismay at home about how a company with an otherwise sterling reputation for decent wages, benefits and union protections could so easily exploit a desperate workforce overseas. A company spokeswoman explains that it's simply "related to the standard of living and general conditions in the different countries."

The company is IKEA, based in Sweden, and the place with cheap, exploitable labor is Danville, VA. While IKEA's profits, \$2.2 billion in 2009, have risen, hourly wages at the Danville plant have dropped from \$9.75 to \$8.00 an hour (compared to \$19.00 an hour in Sweden). Bill Street, a union organizer whose efforts were squelched by management despite a majority of workers having expressed interest, observed it's "ironic that IKEA looks on the U.S. and Danville the way that most people in the U.S. look at Mexico."

Barely a decade ago, we were looked upon as a nation of consumers, with cheap-labor factories overseas. Today, we've been supplanted as the world's largest economy by the European Union, China is becoming that nation of consumers, and we're the land of an \$8 an hour workforce. We also have a typically third-world distribution of wealth, with the top 1% controlling almost half of it.

Barely two years ago, we heard Republicans proclaim their "top three priorities" were "jobs, jobs, and jobs". When it became clear what they had in mind was the \$8 an hour variety, the focus then became the deficit.

Any pretense of concern over the deficit disappeared when the wealthiest were exempted from any responsibility to help alleviate it. Those of us in the bottom 99% were asked to sacrifice - not for the deficit - but to shift more wealth to the top.

A new focus of budget battles in Washington is the Democrats' insisting on a "clean" bill, while Republicans are holding out for an extensive list of "riders". A look at that list of riders shows the main concern of Republicans is not jobs, nor the deficit, but an agenda for which they are willing to shut down the government in order to see it enacted, an agenda which:

Targets Wall Street reform by defunding the new Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection as well as the "consumer products complaints database".

Bans funding for Dept of Education regulations concerning for-profit colleges; those which provide students with insurmountable debt rather than an education.

Bans already-approved funding for watershed and wetlands preservation, flood control, and various environmental projects in California. Stops the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gases and water quality. Prohibits funding for enforcement of the Secretary of the Interior's order protecting public natural spaces.

Defunds EPA efforts to regulate coal mining,

surface mining, air quality, offshore oil drilling and support for ethanol as an alternative to foreign oil. Stops enforcement under the Clean Water Act of efforts to protect rivers and streams from mining operations.

Prohibits funding for the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Prohibits funding for implementation of any and all parts of the healthcare reform law, with specific mention of blocking the state-regulated Health Insurance Exchanges, the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, and requirements that insurance companies spend a certain percentage of premiums on actual healthcare.

Bans any funding for Planned Parenthood, ensuring that women's healthcare needs, especially in under-served communities, will be all the harder to obtain. Rather than a woman having a "right to choose", the government will make that choice for her.

Prohibits the transferring of detainees from Guantanamo Bay.

Prohibits funding for any additional TSA employees at our airports.

Stops the ATF Bureau from collecting information on multiple firearm sales to a single individual, so as not to inconvenience those arming Mexican drug cartels.

Prohibits funding for HUD Housing for the Elderly projects.

Prohibits contributions to the UN Population Fund or any other organization that uses their own funds, or anybody else's, to provide abortion services.

Blocks funding for the FCC to institute Net Neutrality rules; thus preserving the freedom of internet providers to develop the means to decide for us which websites are appropriate for us to have access to.

The list goes on; from cutting funds to the Job Corps, school lunch programs, and bringing broadband connections to rural communities.

Not long ago, Republicans insisted that before budget talks could even begin, the Bush tax cuts had to be extended. According to a 2008 Urban Institute study, from 2009 through 2018, \$834 billion in tax cuts will go to those with incomes of over \$1 million a year. More than the total federal budget for K-12 and vocational education, more than the total amount spent on hospital and medical care for our veterans, is going to further enrich the wealthiest 0.3% of our population.

And now, Republicans threaten to shut us down over a woman having access to a mammogram or a school kid getting a decent lunch.

You don't need to be able to follow a sheet of IKEA instructions to see what this agenda is all about.

They're trumpeting a budget deal that saves \$38.5 billion over the next six months, while the tax cuts extended four months ago will cost \$150 billion over the same period.

There's another, obvious way to close the budget gap. According to the GAO, \$330 billion in unpaid tax revenue lies out there uncollected, mostly owed by those "with substantial personal assets". It's been estimated that every \$1 spent on enforcement results in \$10 of recovered taxes.

Oh, never mind: Republicans also want to ban funding for additional IRS agents.

## ARE WE SERIOUS? GREG Welborn



Punctuating history, there are often events or crises which define a generation. As House Budget Committee Chairman, Paul Ryan, stated so succinctly this week, our fiscal situation today is one of those defining moments, and how we respond will ultimately demonstrate to our children, grandchildren, and future heirs whether we should be recorded in the ledgers of history as being serious about our stewardship of this great country. The key question is who we are going to trust to lead us in this defining moment. To me, and a growing number of Americans, it is not the current resident of the White House or any other leader in the Democratic Party.

This week, we heard two responses to the fiscal crisis in this country. The President and his party ask us to trust Washington politicians with more power and money to build a dominating public sector which will lead us forward. The Conservatives put their trust in the people themselves operating in a vibrant private sector with limitations on the size and scope of the government to take our money and regulate our lives.

Consider first the severity of the situation. We have \$14 trillion in debt. According to the White House, we spend \$7 for every \$4 in tax revenue. Furthermore, the White House has also projected that the mandatory spending items are themselves greater than all tax revenues raised. In other words, we could totally eliminate all discretionary spending by the government, and the budget still wouldn't be balanced. The cumulative affect of social security, Medicare, Medicaid and all other "non-discretionary" spending items are larger than the tax revenues the government collects, and this is before the affect of full implementation of Obamacare. This is not a sustainable system, and it will eventually cripple us as a nation.

Into this disaster, this defining moment, President Obama gave an election speech, not a serious policy speech. He proposed a budget that would increase deficit spending by \$1.2 trillion next year and by \$9.5 trillion over the next 10 years. He would raise our national debt to \$28 trillion (it was \$9.8 trillion when he took office). More importantly, his budget offers zero reform of the entitlement spending items - the ones that are really causing our problem. This is not a serious approach to a very real and potentially devastating problem. It is not leadership.

The conservative approach, as articulated by Representative Paul Ryan, tackles the core financial issues and the very important underlying philosophical issues of who we are as a nation. On the financial side, the conservative plan seeks to bring spending back in line with revenues for both the near and long term. To put this into perspective, historically, government spending has run

about 20% of GDP. Tax revenues have also run at about 19% to 20%, so while there have been deficits in previous years, there have also been surpluses, and generally we have run at a somewhat sustainable level. The Obama budget would take spending to 24% of GDP. That seemingly small 4% difference (spending over receipts) is hugely significant when you consider the size of our GDP. Our country's economy (GDP) is about \$14 trillion. This little 4% difference, if allowed to stand, will define who we are as a people and what we become as a country.

But the fate of our nation is more than just the budget deficit. The size of this deficit is determinate of whether the public sector or the private sector is dominant. The basic assumption of the Obama/Democratic budget is that the American people can't be trusted to make basic decisions about their own well-being. It implicitly argues that only a department of centralized bureaucrats can make appropriate choices for the people. The conservatives' budget proposal argues that the people themselves can, and should, be trusted to make decisions for themselves. The conservatives' budget takes spending back to 2008 levels, improves the incentives for people who receive Medicare and Medicaid to take responsibility for their medical decisions, allows the states to experiment with cost savings solutions, and ultimately spurs the economy through a system of fair tax rates and vastly limited loopholes.

The time to solve this problem is now. We are only in the beginning stages of what could become a devastating financial catastrophe. How bad it becomes depends entirely on how seriously we address the issues, the imbalances and the roles of the public and private sectors of our economy. If we don't meet the challenge, realize that this is our defining moment and demonstrate a serious resolve, we will ultimately find that those "non-discretionary" spending items are actually pretty discretionary. The Supreme Court has already ruled that Congress can change the Social Security and Medicare formulas. There is nothing guaranteed in the promise of Social Security. The bottom line is that there may be some pain now, but there is ultimately going to be severe pain in the very near future if we don't tackle our present crisis with a seriousness of resolve and commitment to honesty.

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

## SUSAN Henderson



## NOW YOU THINK ABOUT THAT!

When I was in 8th grade, (just a few years ago in case you were wondering), my favorite teacher, Mrs. Naomi Hamilton, had an expression that used to drive some of my classmates crazy because it required

us to review, analyze and justify our statements before delivering them as fact.

Mrs. Hamilton had the challenge of teaching what would be called today an advanced placement class, and as such, she was subjected to the high minded interpretations of her class on everything. When she had enough of our pseudo intellectualizing, she would deliver to us what were the obvious facts and say, "Now You Think About That!", indicating that there was no thought whatsoever in the positions we had brought forth. I never have forgotten that expression and how she used it to compel us to look beyond knee jerk responses to situations. This week when I ran across an article written about our current income tax situation, she came to mind again, for what I found definitely warrants contemplation.

Even my 8 year old granddaughter Maila knows that April 15th (this year 18th) is the US tax filing deadline. She knows this because she listens to the adults in her life stressing over it. And while we really don't want to pay taxes, responsible citizens know that we have to. I'm pretty certain that she doesn't know, however, is that at the rate we are going, by the time she grows up, she won't be paying any taxes.

Why would I say that? Well, this week I ran across a very interesting article that reviewed what we currently pay for income taxes compared to what was paid at various times in the last 60 or so years. And, believe it or not, we pay less and receive more services.

Compare the income tax burdens\* then and now for a married couple filing jointly with a combined income of \$200,000: (the taxes have been converted to today's dollars):

2011 Tax:	\$44,070
1990 Tax:	\$52,423
1970 Tax:	\$57,139

and for a couple that earned a million dollars it is even more startling:

2011 Tax:	\$319,873
1990 Tax:	\$280,001
1970 Tax:	\$538,273

\*from the interactive tax rate historical calculator found at <http://www.remappingdebate.org/map-data-tool/new-interactive-tool-puts-tax-rates-historical-context>

That seems incredible to me, especially since our obligations to the citizenry have increased and every day we want more. We ask for lower taxes, we threaten elected officials that if they don't meet our demands we will throw them out. And, we've have been successful in lowering taxes, (arguably not low enough or at least not distributed equitably), but, the question must be asked, at what overall cost? Is our position on lower taxes similar to changing your Christmas Club contributions for \$50 a month to \$5 dollars a month and being surprised when there isn't enough money to do what you want come December?

Now, the tool is not perfect but as Craig Gurian from Remapping The Debate says, "At a time when both the President and his GOP adversaries are looking to lower income tax rates, it is helpful to get some historical perspective — a process that quickly reveals that federal income tax burdens are near post- World War II lows."

"There are a number of obvious limitations in using the tool. For example, the additions and subtractions to gross income (that yield adjusted gross income) change over time. The deductions that are available to yield taxable income from adjusted gross income also vary over time. The tool, however, only addresses taxable income, and thus doesn't account for those changes. Likewise, the difference between ordinary income and income from capital gains (the latter currently gets preferential treatment) is not accounted for. The tool only deals with income tax, not payroll tax (payroll tax as currently structured exacts a disproportionate burden on lower- and middle-income taxpayers)."

But even with all the variables that keep it from being a perfect instrument, the tool should definitely make you take another look at our current tax situation. Use the link above and try it for yourself.

Perhaps we need to consider the consequences in our demands for lower taxes, and the way the tax burden is allocated. What are we doing to ourselves? Yes, this is definitely something we need to think about!

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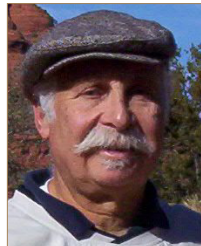
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**Mountain Views News Mission Statement**  
The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values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

## STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE SURVIVING



As I opened my car door this morning and walked out the driver's door into the street, I felt relieved that it was exactly nine o' clock and I could park for free. I was still aware of this pleasant feeling as I clutched my files and books in both hands and suddenly felt myself falling head first onto the concrete. I had no free hands to break my fall and I smashed face-first onto the street. Cars whizzed past me just barely missing my prone body and I kind of remember thinking about Johnny Wooden and Chick Hearn and my mother, all older people who had fallen and injured themselves shortly before their death.

Death has been on my mind lately as my mom only recently passed away and now one of my oldest friends, a friend of about fifty-five years, is fighting what seems to be a losing battle against brain cancer. Really, I thought of all this as I lay face down on the street. My right knee hurt and my glasses had smashed into the street and now were some distance away from me. I felt the pain in my leg and wondered if my mother would be angry at me for ripping my pants. Of course I realized all at once that my mother would not be around to and I sort of laughed to myself. Crazy as this sounds, I think this is what I experienced as I noticed people running towards me from the bus bench and then all at once a car screeched to a stop and the driver leaped out and ran towards me. All these people seemed to be talking at me in different languages but together they helped me up and someone gathered my stuff and placed it all on top of the car.

I heard myself saying gracias and I'm okay and now I recall shaking people's hands. I stated walking towards the Court and my knee hurt but my pants weren't ripped and I actually glanced up toward the sky and kind of chuckled wondering if my mom noticed. As I went through the x-ray machines at the door to the Courthouse one of the Public Defenders said hello and asked what was wrong. I guess I still looked pretty weird. I told her I had fallen on to my face and kind of cracked my glasses. She said how lucky I was not to have broken my wrists as I fell and all at once my whole attitude changed. I was in the present and feeling fortunate. I looked at her and noticed she didn't look quite right and asked, "How are you?" As we waited for the elevator she told me that she was due to have back surgery on Friday and that her discs were to be fused and she was scared.

The elevator came and we went to our respective floors. I was left with a feeling of great compassion for her and for the people who had helped me after I had fallen. All of us seemingly disconnected people are joined somewhere deep in our unconscious and jointly we take care of one another. We live our stressful overburdened lives struggling through the mazes of our responsibilities and fears. Sometimes we're in the present, sometimes we're not, but usually most of us have the feeling that we are pretty well-camouflaged and that we appear sane to the outside world. Sure it's a mask and inside we all struggle with our bills, our relationships, our health, our powerlessness and our denials. STILL LIFE IS NOT SO BAD. Believe it or not, I think the thing that keeps many of us going is the realization that we are loved.

LOVED—by whom? That's the surprise; I think we are loved by everyone. Really we all want to help one another, to show each other the way. I think this is the secret part of being human.

I don't pretend to really know what I'm talking about but I do the best I can. I think that's what we humans owe to one another and I think that is the real secret of our survival. David Brooks speculated in his New York Times column this week that the ability of man to evolve and survive is not about a competition and a battle for the fittest to survive. Instead it is about cooperation and learning together and joint efforts. Surprise - well it's something worth thinking about and more importantly, it's something to act upon. We all need all the help that we can get and probably feel best when we give all the help we can give.

## SENSE OR NONSENSE?! -

### Some Actions/Statements on County, State and Federal Issues Made Recently By Our Elected Officials:

#### From Supervisor Michael Antonovich on Federal Reimbursements To Counties:

"Shortchanging county taxpayers for the jail costs of criminal illegal aliens illustrates the federal government's 'don't-give-a-damn' attitude when it comes to reimbursing local governments for illegal immigration," said Los Angeles County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich on the passage of Continuing Resolution H.R. 1473.

"The federal government's reimbursement is critical to the county -- but \$11.8 million PALES in comparison to the \$550 million in public safety costs provided by the county taxpayer for illegal immigration," he added. "Without full reimbursement, county budgets are stretched to the breaking point."

"In addition to the \$550 million for public safety, the Los Angeles County taxpayer is responsible for another \$500 million for healthcare and \$625 million in welfare benefits and food stamps for native-born children of illegal immigrants -- totaling over \$1.6 billion dollars a year, not including the hundreds of millions of dollars for education."

### Assemblyman Tim Donnelly and California Legislators Head to Texas for Governing Tips?!

#### Portantino's Bill to Freeze Salaries of State's Highest Paid Workers Sacramento - Shelved For the seventh time

Assemblymember Anthony Portantino's measure to freeze the pay of California's highest paid employees has been put on hold in the Assembly, despite a looming state budget deficit of \$15 billion dollars.

AB 7 calls for a two-year freeze on state employees who earn over \$150,000 per year. Today in Assembly Appropriations, Portantino (D-La Cañada Flintridge) introduced amendments to reduce the salary threshold to \$100,000 -- meaning thousands more state employees would be subject to the salary and bonus freeze.

"It is unacceptable to be giving raises and bonuses when we are still struggling with a budget deficit in the billions and one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation," stated Assemblymember Portantino. "Over the past three years, my bills on this issue have been held on 'Suspense' in this committee because I was told they would not save money. Let's reduce the salary amount and see how much more we can save over the next 24 months. If President Obama can freeze the salaries of White House employees making \$100,000 or more, why can't we do the same here in California?"

According to the State Controller, some 3, 300 state employees could be

affected by the bill and more if University of California employees are included. The potential savings would be in the tens of millions. While it is not binding for the University of California, the measure urges the Regents to adopt the policy for UC employees.

In 2009, virtually all of CalPERS investment managers were awarded bonuses of more than \$10,000 each with several earning bonuses of more than \$100,000. The cash awards were distributed even as the fund lost \$59 billion.

Despite record losses in 2008, CalSTRS gave an incentive award of \$208,677 to a chief investment officer who had a base pay of \$330,000.

"If we are serious about saving money, then this legislation sends a clear message that California needs to prioritize its limited resources and rein in spending, testified Portantino. "It makes no sense for CalPERS money managers to get raises when cities and schools are looking at large cuts. It's unconscionable that this bill does not move to the floor for immediate action."

As with previous versions of this bill, public safety employees and employees covered by contracts would be exempt.

## HAIL Hamilton My Turn



### EXPORTING JOBS AND IMPORTING WORKERS IS BAD FOR AMERICA

Who's brilliant idea was it that exporting jobs and importing workers was going to go our way in the long run? Why on earth would anyone ever start this self-defeating strategy? It's a lose-lose proposition and anyone with any sense at all can see that. Making money by outsourcing is no way to build an economic base. It's a quick cheap buck; but you're selling the farm to get it. Shame on the corporations who are taking part in this. Yes, you will make more money in the short term, but you will crush your nation in the process.

#### My advice:

1. Dump the failed, utterly discredited economic policy of "globalism." It is an outright ripoff by the rich to steal from the middle class; it is a cold-hearted scam that will make workers forever indebted to the wealthy, and the poor permanent wards of the state. The World Trade Organization should be abolished and GATT and NAFTA repealed.
2. Outlaw the exporting of jobs by not allowing those companies to sell back to the U.S. citizen if they take the work overseas. Ban the importing of goods from China or elsewhere which are also made by American industry. Americans should and would pay a few dollars more now so they can have a future. The other way does not, and will never, work.
3. Also, I'm willing to pay a dollar more for my container of strawberries so that an American can have an honest job and not some exploited illegal immigrant; and the money stays in our country. I'll spend it because I know that the money is coming back around -- unlike the system we have now.
4. Want to win the war on terror? Don't buy anymore oil from the Middle East or its OPEC partners. We have plenty here -- at least for the foreseeable future, and it will force us to finally find a better way to power our society. That's the only way to win, and we don't have to buy another tank, missile or fighter jet for the cause. Again, money is going out that will not come back.

Look at how much it costs us to buy oil from OPEC, including spending more than \$1.2 trillion on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars (now estimated to ultimately cost \$4 to

\$6 trillion), and they hate us to boot.

Common sense stuff here, and it scares me that it's not getting done. We are and have been leveled as an economic power because of these selfish and misguided policies -- policies that in the long run only benefit the extremely wealthy one percent of our population.

Tell me why outsourcing our jobs is better than keeping them here? Tell me how losing 2.5 million manufacturing jobs and more than 850,000 professional service and information sector jobs since 2001 helps the middle class over the long haul?

Explain to me why my tax dollars are being spent to subsidize sending American jobs overseas and importing millions of foreigners -- particularly scientists and engineers -- to replace American workers at home?

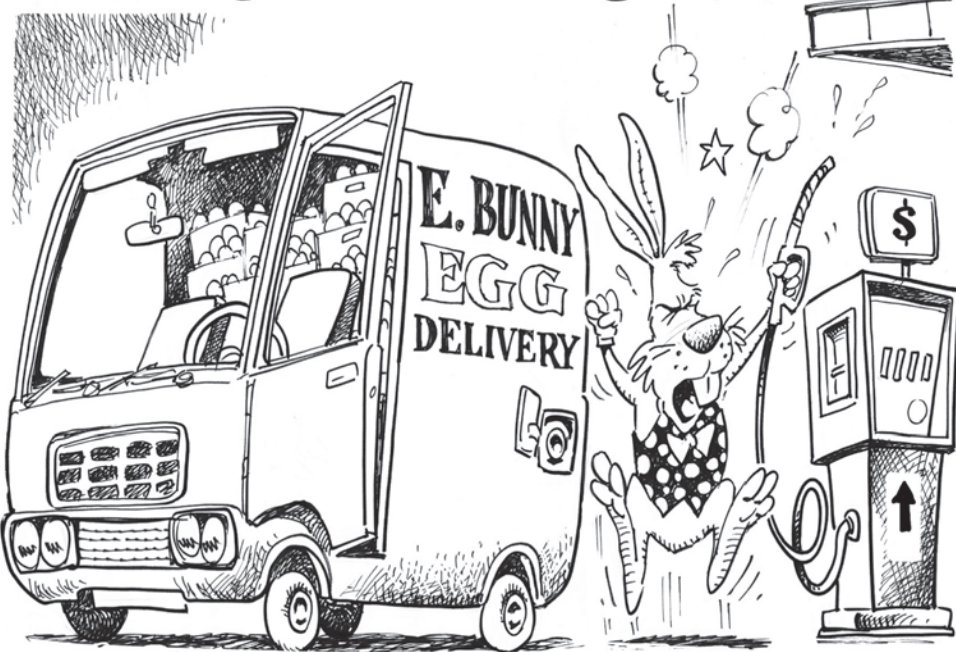
I just don't get it. I can't grasp the fact that the United States is intentionally being transformed into a third world country where a tiny minority owns everything worth owning. Currently nearly seventy percent of the nation's wealth is owned by the wealthiest one percent of the population. As a result we have become a nation of debtors. And this figure doesn't include foreign ownership of American assets.

My recollection is outsourcing was considered a good thing 30 years ago, about the same time that supply-side Reaganomics took hold on the American psyche. It is still considered a viable way to lower labor and production costs. Since then the official mantra of both Republicans and Democrats has been to deregulate financial markets, cut taxes for the wealthy, outsource high paying jobs, and import low cost labor.

The end result is the powers that be have succeeded in dismantling most of our industrial base (except, of course, the manufacture of increasingly deadly weapons of war) and creating a largely service economy. Americans are no longer producers; we are merely consumers.

As someone who will soon become a senior citizen, I have seen what has happened to America the last three decades and so I know what works and what doesn't work. Exporting jobs and importing workers simply doesn't work -- it's bad for Americans and it's bad for America.

## Hopping mad about gas prices...



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## Curbing Bad Behavior: Real Sports

by Ron Carter



"Real Sports With Bryant Gumbel" is arguably one of the best sports show on television. Bryant and his colleagues usually produce some of today's most controversial, well executed and newsworthy issues in sports. The recent episode of "Real Sports" which centered around the question, "should college athletes be paid for playing sports?" though provocative was also a cautionary debate of what's wrong with the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) policy regarding compensating college athletes. The round-table discussion with guests Billy Packer, college basketball analyst; Rich Rodriguez, former football coach of University of Michigan; Jason Whitlock, sports journalist; Jeffrey Orleans, former commissioner of the Ivy League and Gumbel was spirited and informative, but it left a few questions unanswered.

Packer and Rodriguez were against paying college athletes while Gumbel, Whitlock and Orleans were in favor of paying the athletes. College athletes are fueling a multi-BILLION DOLLARS industry, college sports, which do not compensate them fairly for the billions of dollars and notoriety they bring to their schools. Most of the athletes recruited to play college sports are from poor and middle class families. Thus, the opportunity to play college sports and eventually have a professional sports career is alluring to the recruits. The question is, "are they prepared to take advantage of the opportunity," asked Jason Whitlock. I believe that most of them are not.

I also believe that the statement made by Bernard Goldberg, a regular journalist on "Real Sports" who was assigned to conduct the interviews for the episode, was the most poignant remark. He intimated that the NCAA has a great business model as a matter of fact it's the "only one" of its kind in America. The model is "you make billions of dollars, but you don't have to pay the employees anything." The colleges make hundreds of millions of dollars, the coaches make millions and the athletes, some of them, cannot even afford food and the opportunity to visit their families at the end of the football season.

Though the NCAA is a benevolent institution, it must do more financially for its college athletes. It's one of the only ways to eliminate some of the bad behavior (cheating and grafting) that is taking place in college sports. After all, college students studying other professions are allowed to make money while in college, why shouldn't college athletes have the same opportunities.

Ron Carter is the Managing Director of the Carter Agency in Pasadena. He hosts a blog called: Curbing Bad Behavior that discusses a variety of topics. Go to: [www.thecarteragency.com/blog/](http://www.thecarteragency.com/blog/)



Looking Up

with Bob Eklund



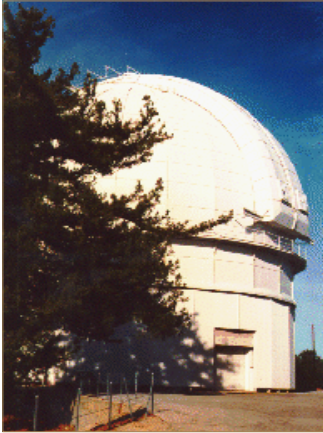
Adventures of a Mount Wilson Telescope Operator

PJ Sallave-Goldfinger tells what it's like to operate Mount Wilson Observatory's CHARA Array and the famous 100-inch Hooker Telescope.

A Research Technician for Mount Wilson Observatory's CHARA Array, PJ Sallave-Goldfinger gives an informative talk on the adventurous undertaking of running this coordinated array of six telescopes. This free lecture will be held on Saturday, April 23, at 2:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Altadena Public Library. It is being presented as a public service by the Mount Wilson Observatory, and all are welcome.

Ms. Salave-Goldfinger, who describes herself as "an amateur astronomer at heart," has worked at Mount Wilson Observatory for over 10 years, operating both the 100-inch telescope and the CHARA Array. She presents a unique and enjoyable discussion about this mountain observatory and her interesting experiences there.

The CHARA Array is an optical astronomical interferometer operated at Mount Wilson by The Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy (CHARA) of the Georgia State University. It is formed from six 1-meter (40-inch) telescopes arranged along three axes with a maximum separation length of 330 meters. The light beams travel through vacuum tubes and are combined optically, requiring a building 100 meters long with movable mirrors to keep the light in phase as the earth rotates. CHARA began scientific operation of the array in 2002.



The Altadena Public Library is at 600 E. Mariposa Street in Altadena, two stop signs west of Lake Avenue at the corner of Mariposa and Santa Rosa Avenue ("Christmas Tree Lane").

Mount Wilson Observatory Now Open to the Public

As of the beginning of this month, the Mount Wilson Observatory/Skyline Park area is open for public access daily between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The "Cosmic Café," is also open (serving sandwiches) on weekends, and guided public walking tours of the Observatory are being given each Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Tours begin at the pavilion in front of the Café (overlooking the large parking lot).

The Angeles Crest Highway has not yet re-opened from La Canada (pending completion of repairs), so you'll need to use the alternate route to Mt. Wilson, via Big Tujunga Canyon from Sunland. For directions and a map, see the Observatory website, [www.mtwilson.edu](http://www.mtwilson.edu). Allow about 1.5 hours from the Sunland Blvd. freeway offramp to the Observatory. Total distance, offramp to Observatory gate = 26.3 miles.

Enter the Observatory gate marked Skyline Park, and park in the lot below the Pavilion. To reach the Observatory, walk in on the access road (far left side of parking lot) about 1/4 mile to the Observatory area. The Museum is opposite the 150-foot solar tower.

NOTE: The U. S. Forest Service requires those parking within the Angeles National Forest to display a Forest Adventure Pass. A National Parks Senior Pass or Golden Age Passport is also acceptable. The Forest Adventure Pass can be obtained at the USFS Clear Creek Ranger Station or at Sports Chalet outlets.

For more information about the April 23 lecture, contact Bob Eklund, Mount Wilson Observatory lecture coordinator, at (310) 216-5947, or [beklund@sprynet.com](mailto:beklund@sprynet.com). For information about Mount Wilson Observatory, go to: [www.mtwilson.edu](http://www.mtwilson.edu). You can contact Bob Eklund at: [b.eklund@MtnViewsNews.com](mailto:b.eklund@MtnViewsNews.com).



Ask jai.....

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

Q: Is it important to include my computer skills on my resume? I am a computer professional and feel that employers should know that I am expert in my field? What other skills should I list on my resume? Kenny

Dear Kenny:

Yes, it is very important for you to list your computer skills on your resume. Employers do not have the time to contact you and find out if you have specific skills. Employers use keywords and criteria when searching for candidates in resume databases. 99.9% of employers will use applicant screening software to identity candidates. Having the correct skill set keywords included in your resume is mandatory in order for an employer to find you. If you do not include skill sets on your resume, an employer might assume that you do not feel that the skills are important enough to performing the position or worse yet not important to you at all.

Not including skill sets on your resume or application could result in you being screened out of consideration for a position. I know candidates who were not hired because they did not include Microsoft Word and Excel on their resume. The employer just assumed they were just not computer savvy. As a high tech or computer professional you should definitely include your technical and professional skills. These include skills performed in a job, task, or class, acquired by reading, training, or education. Create a Computer Skills section with sub-headings on your resume. I suggest that you place this section at the beginning of your resume and include any operating systems, hardware, software and programming skills that you have experience using over the past 5 years. It would be to your advantage to list all your computer skills rather than lose a job opportunity, because you were too selective. Do not just list "Microsoft Office", list each individual software program (i.e., Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, etc.). Add any proprietary software programs that you learned at a former company. Listing proprietary software programs will reveal to the employer that you can adapt to any computer system. Include any foreign languages that you may speak or write in a Language Skills section.

I know job seekers who were interviewed and hired based solely on their foreign language skills. Technical Skills and Equipment Skills are great sections to add to your resume as long as they are relevant to the position you are seeking. Any special projects that you have participated in or managed can be included in an Occupational Skills section. The Work Experience and Education Section of your resume should support your skills sections. These two sections should explain how you acquired the knowledge, where you used the skills and your accomplishments.

Everything you ever wanted to know about how to get a job ....but did not know who to ask. ASK jai. Send your questions to: [jai@resumeandcareerservices.com](mailto:jai@resumeandcareerservices.com) or visit website [www.resumeandcareerservices.com](http://www.resumeandcareerservices.com).

Happy Tails

by Chris Leclerc.

Canyon Canine Dog Walking & Pet Sitting Services

KIDS and CANINES

Maverick is an unusually sweet and friendly dog who seems to understand that infants and toddlers are to be handled with "kid gloves". He is careful not to be aggressive when he plays with the girls and I have even noticed that he lays outside the baby's bedroom door while she naps, as if he has appointed himself as guardian, there to protect her from harm's way. It warms my heart to know that the girls have learned to appreciate the company of their family dog.

Not all dogs are as friendly as Maverick, and not all are capable of interacting so gently with small children, but when the "kid and canine" relationship is safe and appropriate, I believe it can be an excellent and meaningful experience for both the child and the dog. In an article entitled "Introducing Dogs and Babies", author Ed Frawley writes that many dogs can learn to live with babies while others cannot. Frawley has been raising German Shepherds and training them for law enforcement since 1978. Although he is an expert dog trainer and handler, his basic philosophy is that "dog training is not rocket science, it is pretty much just common sense". I find that refreshing and encouraging, as I apply the same philosophy in working with the dogs I walk and sit for my clients.

On the subject of introducing dogs to newborns, Frawley provides 7 tips to help parents facilitate the process in a smooth, safe manner.

- 1 - The dog should be trained well enough that when you tell him to lay down, he will do so and stay there.
- 2 - Crate train the dog before introducing him to the baby. The crate should not be in the bedroom or next to the crib

- where the baby sleeps.
- 3 - Never allow the dog in the baby's bedroom, even when you are present.
- 4 - Do not allow the dog to be near the baby without supervision, even for a short time.
- 5 - Before the baby comes home, wrap a doll in a blanket with the child's scent on it, and lay it on the floor. Correct the dog each time he attempts to go near the doll, even if only to smell it.
- 6 - When the baby comes home from the hospital, mom should greet the dog first without the baby.
- 7 - Homecoming should be a peaceful experience with the dog in a "down-stay" position several feet from where baby and mother are sitting.

There are many other things to consider when introducing a newborn baby to the family dog, but these seven points are a good place to start. When the baby grows old enough to understand, he or she should be taught to approach other dogs with caution. They should always ask the owner before petting a dog they do not know. This is especially true when the dog is on it's own turf, whether it be in the home, in the yard or in a car.

I was raised with dogs from birth and I think that is why I love them so much as an adult. I am no expert, but I believe that small children who have close canine companions are more likely to develop healthy social skills at an early age. They also learn to respect animals and treat them with care as they grow older. These are the kinds of lessons that come with experience, not from textbooks or teachers. With proper training and careful supervision, the family dog can indeed play a very important part in the life of a small child.

On Line

By PJ Carpenter

WEB SCRAPING

Nowadays with most things that happen in the online world, especially when it comes to marketing and business matters, almost nothing happens by accident. While it is probably still difficult to predict the next big internet meme by taking a wild guess, some things just seem like the next indicated step. People and business interest have begun to look at pockets of social activity as a reliable source of new business leads. One of the newer ways of mining these new social media sites is called "Web Scraping". Also called "Web Harvesting" this procedure involves extracting specific data from targeted web sites. Typically the sought-after information is related to personal user data, personal buying preferences, web browsing history, etc. In short, marketers are looking for anything that would give them better insight into the huge pool of potential customers that the new social networking model represents.

The downside to this frenzied hunt for new customer information is that it has the very real potential for abuse. A web site where medical patients came together to exchange very personal experiences about their mental disorders and the challenges they face in working to overcome these afflictions. The administrators of the site enforced a policy of requiring all participants to sign up with unique accounts and logging on in order to post to the site or read the posts of other site participants. While these steps are meant to provide site members with some semblance of privacy, a user with less than pure motives could possibly gain access

to the site with the simple investment of going through the trouble of successfully navigating the sign up process. Just such a user gained access to the site and began copying every message posted in one of the private groups on the board. Users on the board managed to isolate the rogue user and block "him" from further participation in the discussion group. The users also managed to identify the rogue account and found out that "he" was actually a front account for an online marketing group and the account was created with the expressed purpose of collecting personal data about the users of the site. This is only one documented account of something that probably happens million of times daily on the internet. The market for personal data about internet users is booming. There are firms doing business today that offer to collect personal details and online conversations from social-networking sites, online job search sites and other forums where people may discuss their lives online. Online marketers have become so adept at collecting and using information about potential new customers that it is a certainty that you have been checking different sites online and noticed that ads for products that interest you personally (and in ways that are just to exact to be coincidence) seem to follow you as you go from page to page.

Other than absenting yourself from the online world the best way to protect yourself online is to be wary of what kind of details you post about yourself in online forums. But the real fact of the matter is that your presence online guarantees their presence online.

KATIE Tse .....This and That



DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE

I was in the Bottle Shop the other day buying my customary two packs of gum and a lotto ticket (you never know...) when Scott, behind the counter, said "Why don't you write a story about gum? You're always getting weird flavors." Well, I've been chewing on his suggestion ever since (Ha! Chewing! Get it?). At first, the topic of gum seems pretty straightforward. But when you think about it, there are layers of meaning wrapped up in that metallic paper.

First let's consider flavor. It's true, I do go in for farfetched and funky varieties like key lime pie and "React" (which is gray). Most people I know stick to minty gum, a solid, dependable choice. A few mavericks even dare to enter the realm of watermelon and passion fruit. Big Red and Juicy Fruit used to be popular, but I haven't seen folks chewing them lately. Of course, half of my judgment of gum's popularity is based on the number of advertisements I see for it. So, maybe since I never see any Big Red ads anymore, they might be selling so well there's no advertising necessary. Kind of like the DMV.

Maybe one reason I don't see many Juicy Fruit ads is because it has sugar. Sugary gum like Bubble Yum, which comes shaped like a brick and packs twice the volume as a regular stick of gum, seems popular with kids. Us older folks, however, are usually chewing sugar-free options. While sugar-free gum claims to not cause dental harm, I somehow doubt that chewing brands such as Trident actually helps your teeth. Perhaps I just feel this way because my dentist has never recommended it. But then again, I've never asked him.

Any conversation about gum has to consider motive. Most people, I believe, are casual, or "social," chewers. They'll take a stick if offered, but they don't go out seeking gum, they don't need it. These are the people whose gum encounters are typically limited to occasions when they want to mask raw onions or garlic they had with lunch. Advertising suggests that fear motivates a significant number of gum consumers. If I had a nickel for every ad suggesting that some mint or gum will

make me instantly cool, hip, and desirable, I'd have enough money to retire. I think teens and "twens" make up a large part of this constituency. They probably always have a pack or tin ready, should the opportunity to make a move on their crush arise.

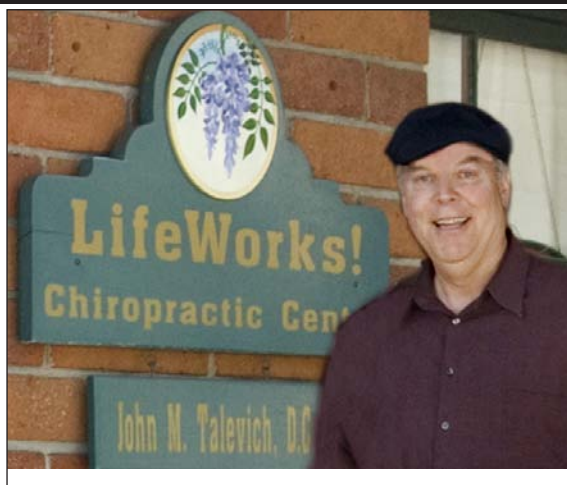
Besides teenagers and social chewers, there are the rest of us, who turn to gum as a coping devise to expend nervous energy or stay awake during long, boring tasks. I remember times during college when I'd chew while toiling over reports, only to realize that my jaw was beginning to cramp. Gum's other purpose, to keep us awake, is mentioned on several gum sites. Apparently pilots during the World Wars routinely chewed gum to keep from dozing off at the helm. I think anyone who's ever sat through a staff meeting knows this feeling.

Speaking of nostalgic gum, who doesn't remember the excitement of getting gumballs out of a dispenser as a kid? "Will it be red, blue, or white?" When I was a kid I never wondered about how long those gumballs had been in there. Now gumball machines come with fancy tracks that light up when the gumball rolls down. I haven't seen one that incorporates music, but I'm sure it's out there somewhere. Not all gums have a devoted following. I once tried a lavender one that tasted the way I'd expect soap crystals to taste. The other night my husband mistook the smell of my apple-flavored gum for nail polish remover. I think it's safe to say we've all experienced the worst kind of gum --the one you step in on the sidewalk.





## YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Today's Subject:  
The Spring Cleanse

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.

We are in the midst of planning a wonderful Life Mask Workshop at our clinic to commence on April 25th. One of the features will be the opportunity to undertake a nutritional cleansing.

The idea of cleansing is an old and effective one. Over time, we all eat too many inflammatory foods that can deplete important resources and fatigue the body. A good recourse is to take on a simple nutritional plan for a time, giving your system time to rest and rejuvenate, eliminating unwanted waste from your body.

There are many great cleansing plans, from those designed to eliminate addictions and allergens, to plans offering a sense of "spring cleaning" to the body and palate.

Here is a simple, refreshing cleanse for your spring season:

## The Spring Cleanse Program ~

Breakfast ~ Select one of the following:

Any kind of hot whole grain cereal with almond milk and fresh fruit.  
2-3 kinds of fresh fruit with a handful of raw nuts and seeds.  
A poached egg with whole grain toast.  
Any kind of melon followed 15 minutes later with 1-2 ripe bananas.  
Steamed green vegetable with baked chicken or fish.  
8-12 ounces of raw vegetable juice with 1-2 stalks of celery and a handful of raw nuts and seeds.  
Lunch ~ Select one of the following:

Large raw vegetable salad with olive oil and lemon juice as a dressing. Add low fat cottage cheese, chicken, tofu, fish OR raw nuts and seeds.  
1-3 kinds of fresh fruit with raw nuts and seeds, 1-2 celery stalks and a few leaves of romaine lettuce.  
1-2 kinds of steamed veggies with tofu, chicken OR fish.  
Dinner ~ Start with a large raw vegetable salad and add one of the following selections:

Baked chicken, fish or tofu.  
Steamed green vegetable and baked potato.  
Large avocado, steamed green beans and cauliflower.  
Brown rice and steamed green vegetables.  
Simple whole grain pasta and fresh marinara with one steamed green vegetable.  
Baked yam and one steamed green vegetable.  
Between meal snacks can include: Almond butter on celery sticks or apple/pear slices.  
Low fat cottage cheese with carrot and/or celery sticks. Rice cake with almond butter.

Use olive oil or sweet butter and simple herbs as seasonings.

That's it! This cleanse, followed for a week or more, will leave you feeling ready to take life on afresh!

Have a vital and healthy week, Dr. John

P.S. There is still time to sign up for our workshop. Stop by the office to pick up information or enroll. We look forward to seeing you.

## John M. Talevich, D.C.

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## Social Security News:

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SPEED UP YOUR DISABILITY APPLICATION

If your disabling condition is preventing you from continuing to work, you may want to apply for disability benefits through Social Security. In most cases, doing so involves a thorough process of determining your eligibility, medical condition, and ability to work. Because we look so carefully at so many cases — more than three million each year — it can take us three to five months to determine whether you are eligible.

Processing times on that initial claim can vary depending on several factors, but primarily on:  
the nature of your disability;  
how quickly we obtain medical evidence from your doctor or other medical sources; and  
whether we need to send you for a medical examination in order to obtain evidence to support your claim.

There are things you can do to help speed up the process. The more information you provide up front, the less time it will take us to obtain the evidence we need — and the faster your claim can be processed. What type of information do

we need?

Any medical records or documentation you have is helpful. We can make copies of the records you have and return your originals;  
The names, addresses, and phone numbers for any doctors, medical facilities, treatment centers, or providers related to your disabling condition;  
The names, addresses, and phone numbers for previous employers and the dates worked for each employer;  
Workers' compensation information, including the settlement agreement, date of injury, claim number, and proof of other disability benefits awarded;  
Names and dates of birth of your minor children and your spouse;  
Dates of marriages and divorces (if any);  
Checking or savings account number, and the bank's 9-digit routing number, so we can deposit your payment electronically;  
Name, address, and phone number of a person we can contact if we are unable to get in touch with you.  
If this disability application is for a child, we need the name, address, phone number of

the schools attended and any school records you can provide. We also ask you to sign release forms that give us permission to obtain the information needed from third parties to make a decision on your claim. The best place to start is online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability). Select "Disability Starter Kit" in the left column. There, you'll find more information and starter kits for both adults and children.

You can apply online for disability benefits (the easiest method), or you can make an appointment by phone or in a Social Security office. The choice is yours.

(For Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits, you cannot apply online, but you still can complete the Disability Starter Kit to prepare for the interview and speed-up the processing time.)

If you're considering an application for disability benefits, the place to go is [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability).

Social Security  
104 N. Mentor  
Pasadena CA 91106  
877/255-1508

## 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:

- 12 noon: Intervale Lunch Café: Come enjoy a hot meal with others. Donation for seniors (60+) of \$2.00; visitors \$3.75. Please call 355-0256 to make your daily reservation.
- 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
- 12 noon: Intervale Lunch Café; daily reservations needed 355-0256
- 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
- 12 noon: Intervale Lunch Café; daily reservations needed 355-0256
- Free Income Tax assistance - 1 pm to 2 pm. For an appointment, please call 355-7394
- 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:

- 12 noon: Intervale Lunch Café; daily reservations needed 355-0256
- 1:00 to 3:30 pm: Game Day. Join us for 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 355-52

## Friday: City Hall Closed on April 8th &amp; 22nd

12 noon: Intervale Lunch Café; daily reservations needed 355-0256

## Saturday:

11:30 am: Senior Club brown bag lunch and BINGO at 12:30 pm. The Senior Club always welcomes new members (\$5 membership dues per year) so please stop by to learn more.

## EXCURSIONS

**SATURDAY, MAY 7th**— The Ramona Pageant. Join us as we take a deluxe coach bus to Hemet to see one of the nation's longest running outdoor dramas (88 years old) - 10:30 am to 7 pm  
Cost per person is \$53 - which includes transportation, driver's tip, lower level seats, a BBQ lunch, a souvenir program and a comfy seat cushion. This is an outdoor venue so you are encouraged to dress in layers, wear comfortable walking shoes and to wear a shade hat. limited to the first 20 people so please register as soon as possible.

PLEASE NOTE: The pick-up location for this excursion will be the Sierra Madre Recreation Center, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., due to a special event at Memorial Park on this day.

To register for the excursion, please visit the Senior Center or go online to [www.cityofsierramadre.com/onlineregistration](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/onlineregistration). Save the Date: **FRIDAY, JULY 8th** —The Pageant of the Masters - Laguna Beach. Registration will open online and at the Senior Center starting May 1st



## 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:

## Classic Carrot Cake

## INGREDIENTS:

2 cups shredded carrots  
4 eggs  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
1 cup canola oil  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking soda  
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

## FROSTING

2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened  
1/4 cup butter, softened  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
1-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
3/4 cup chopped walnuts

## DIRECTIONS:

Drain pineapple, reserving 2 tablespoons juice (discard remaining juice or save for another use). In a large bowl, beat the carrots, eggs, sugars, oil, pineapple and reserved juice until In a large bowl, beat the carrots, eggs, sugars, oil, pineapple and reserved juice until well blended. In a small bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt; gradually beat into pineapple mixture until blended. Stir in walnuts. Transfer to a greased 13-in. x 9-in. baking dish. Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

**For frosting**, in a large bowl, beat cream cheese and butter until smooth. Beat in vanilla. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until smooth. Spread over cake. Yield: 12 servings.

## April Birthdays



Freda Bernard, Beth Copti, Terri Cummings, Marilyn Diaz, Virginia Elliott, Virginia Elliott, Elma Flores, Julia Gottesman, Betty Jo Gregg, Barbara Lampman, Betty Mackie, Elizabeth Rasmussen, Maria Reyes, Anne Schryver, Dorothy White, Blanca Martinez, Lillian Snyder,



## Meals-On-Wheels

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

MEALS-ON-WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS  
TO DELIVER MEALS TO OUR HOMEBOUND NEIGHBORS

## \*\*ONCE A MONTH OR WEEKLY\*\*

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

## INCOME TAX TIME

Don Brunner will be volunteering his time once again to assist seniors with filing their 2010 tax return. The service is free but appointments are necessary.

Every Wednesday - February 9th to April 6th 1 pm to 2 pm Hart Park House / Senior Center, 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre (in Memorial Park). Please call the Senior Desk at (626) 355-7394 to make an appointment.



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## LUNCH &amp; LEARN

Join the Senior Community Commission at the Sierra Madre Hart Park House / Senior Center for a FREE presentation. Lunch is available for a \$2 donation by calling (626) 355-0256 by 12 noon the day before.

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[chris@canyoncanine.com](mailto:chris@canyoncanine.com)

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



### 47th Annual Pasadena Showcase Open April 17<sup>th</sup>-May 15<sup>th</sup>

The 2011 Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts (PSHA) will open Sunday, April 17. This year's featured property is a five acre, La Canada estate, with over 9600 square feet of living space in several buildings.

Designed by critically acclaimed, African American architect, Paul R. Williams in 1927, the English Revival manse was built originally for the J.B. Greens, as a "country retreat." It was constructed for a cost of \$36,525.

This year, as is the custom, the home's owners of over 60 years, vacated the property about six months ago, in order for work to begin. After an "Empty House" event kicked off the transformation efforts, sixteen interior design firms and eleven exterior design firms coordinated work from over fifty individual designers for this year's presentation.

The magic of Showcase House is its entree into a bygone era, a glimpse into the "upper crust" life most of us will never personally experience, in what was described in a 1945 LA Times article as, "the most authentic 17th century (style) English home in this country."

The flip side of the excitement of Showcase House is the opportunity to see cutting edge design, and meet the designers. Many potential clients take this opportunity to evaluate the style, personality and the work product of several designers when in the decision process on a remodel or design update.

The presentation from the street is breathtaking, with traditional, English style, red brick exterior, the distinctive hipped and gabled rooflines and chimneys. Inside, the grand reception hall has been installed with an iron chandelier, sconces and original artwork, then softened with furnishing vignettes by George Massar Design of LA.

The Great Room, quite stunning even in its "empty room" state before the showcase project, boasts a vaulted wood ceiling, leaded windows and a hand carved fireplace. David Dalton, also of LA, created custom designed furnishings with multiple seating areas for the massive room, in a dramatic décor palette in black and gold, accented by "Geranium Red, Carnation Pink and Dahlia Orange," according to the designer.

The kitchen is unexpectedly small by today's kitchen-family room designs, but offers ample

room for gourmet meal preparation by Yorkshire Kitchens of Pasadena. Jan Legard returned the room to its original 1920's footprint and refinished vintage floors, with today's appliances, built-ins and functionality.

The dining area can't just be called a dining room. It's the banquet room. Amy DeVault Interior Design featured the eye popping, intricate ceiling in white, complemented by a custom chandelier. The guys will probably flock to Garage Envy's Carriage House, with its cool, custom lighting created from welding tanks, flat screen TV and wine chiller amid the period architecture. The 1940's pool area was updated by Pacific Outdoor Living, with pavestone decking, and what is engineered to look like a natural creek feeding the pool.

This year's home offers a particularly diverse group of designers, with a range of design interpretations that are inspired, practical, elegant, cutting edge, and sometimes even quirky, like the (Alice in) Wonderland outdoor tea room, with moss mushrooms, oversize croquet balls, decking reminiscent of a chess board and hanging windows for "room" definition.

The plethora of ideas that can be applied in bits and pieces to much smaller scale projects, so bring your notebook, and feel free to ask questions! Plan at least an hour or two for your tour, an amble through the shops and perhaps a bite to eat!

Proceeds from the 35,000 anticipated visitors to this year's Showcase and other PSHA donations help fund three annual music programs, award gifts and grants to other nonprofit organizations providing music oriented programs like music therapy, music education, scholarships and concert underwriting. Over the 47 years, over \$17 million has been raised to support the music programs, LA Philharmonic and Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Two Sierra Madre businesses will showcase their wares at the Shops at Showcase tent, where 25% of the sales price is tax deductible. Look for Kersting Court's gourmet food vendor, *Savor the Flavor*, and the town's children's store, *Once Upon a Time*. An alfresco restaurant, sited on the home's tennis court, will serve daily from 9 a.m. to close.

Showcase tickets are \$30-\$40, and can be ordered by mail, by calling (714) 442-3872 or online at [www.PasadenaShowcase.org](http://www.PasadenaShowcase.org).



*A few reminders for the day of viewing: Wear flat shoes; no photography is permitted, and no children under twelve are allowed. Check for the day's parking location (usually at the Rose Bowl with a*

*few exception dates). Unfortunately, the site is not handicapped accessible, due to its historic design and hilly terrain.*

### SIERRA MADRE'S BEAUTIFUL HOMES ...

If you would like to see an on-line video showing 78 beautiful homes in Sierra Madre go to [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search **Sierra Madre California Homes Or Sierra Madre's Beautiful Homes.**

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

**DON'T GIVE IT  
AWAY**

While indicators show that housing is making a comeback, the glut of negative reporting is still making people skittish about buying a home. This has created a hot rental market, with few places available to lease and rising rent rates. Consider some reasons why it's always better to own than to rent.

First, as owner, you are your own landlord. You won't be kicked out for any reason other than not making your mortgage payments. You control every other aspect of how you choose to live in your home.

Even more important, those monthly payments are a kind of forced savings, helping you to build equity. Although it's

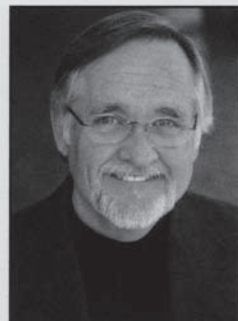
possible that home values could fall further, the same could happen to your 401(k). But over the long term, both types of investment are more likely to see gains.

Right now, interest rates are still very low, which means that if you choose a fixed-rate mortgage, that rate will never change, and you will build equity at an even quicker pace.

Another reason to opt for the ownership route is that you'll find - particularly now with so few leases available - that the nicest homes in the safest neighborhoods with the best schools will be offered for sale and not for rent. Consult with an agent and turn that rent payment into savings and security instead.

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### CENTURY 21 VILLAGE HONORED

Andy Bencosme, Managing Broker of CENTURY 21 Village in Sierra Madre recently returned from Las Vegas after attending the CENTURY 21 International convention held at the Mirage Hotel. Bencosme told the agents present at a recent office and marketing meeting that he was "very impressed with the office's success in 2010."

The office was honored with the coveted Ambassador Award which honors elite CENTURY 21 offices that have achieved the President's Award 5 times in the past 7 years. This award is achieved by offices that produce both a High Level of Sales and achieve High Levels of Customer Satisfaction. It is represented by a beautiful Crystal trophy. They also received the Quality Service Pinnacle Award for 2010 which is decided by positive customer surveys of the agents after a transaction is completed.

Agents Nazee Rix, Emily Duggan & Julie Muttavangkul were also recognized with several awards for their sales volume and quality service due to their total dedication to their clients.

Bencosme reported that keynote speakers at the convention were Aron Ralston (the man whose hand was crushed and pinned by a boulder in Utah's

canyon country and whose story is depicted in the current film '127 Hours') and Jillian Michaels, one of the leading health and wellness experts in the country, currently featured on the TV Show "The Biggest Loser."

Richard Davis, the president & CEO of Century 21 Corporate was in attendance and welcomed all of the brokers and agents to the convention. Davis told all present that "across our CENTURY 21 team, from Marketing to Operations to Field Services, we'll show you our plans to take the industry by storm as the Smarter, Bolder, Faster and more innovative brand that everyone will be talking about.

There was also an array of classes and seminars for the agents to attend during the convention and one of the favorites was the "New Technology for Real Estate." REO Speedwagon the rock group from the late sixties and early seventies were the entertainment headliners. Bencosme said that the event was very educational, motivational and informative.

All of the friendly agents at CENTURY 21 Village Realty can be reached at 38 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre or by telephone 626.355.1451 or on the internet at [www.c21village.com](http://www.c21village.com).

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RICH Johnson FIRST GRADES PROVERBS



You never know what you might come up with if you give a group of first grade students the first half of a proverb and ask them to fill in the rest. Please try to apply these timeless truths to your own life.

Better to be safe than.....punch a 5<sup>th</sup> grader!  
Strike while the.....bug is close!  
It's always darkest before.....daylight savings time!  
Never underestimate the power of.....termites!  
Don't bite the hand that.....looks dirty!  
A miss is as good as a.....mr.!  
You can't teach an old dog.....math!  
If you lie down with dogs, you.....will stink in the morning!  
Love all, but trust.....me!  
An idle mind is.....the best way to relax!  
Where there's smoke, there's.....pollution!  
A penny saved is.....no much!  
Two is company, three's.....the musketeers!  
Children should be seen and not.....spanked or grounded!  
If at first you don't succeed.....get new batteries!  
You get out of something what you.....see pictured on the box!  
When the blind lead the blind.....get out of the way!  
Laugh and the whole world laughs with you. Cry and.....  
.....you have to blow your nose!

Some deep questions worth pondering for even deeper meaning.

Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?  
Have you ever imagined a world with no hypothetical situations?  
How does the snowplow driver get to work on snowy days?  
If a cow laughed, would milk come out of her nose?  
If nothing sticks to Teflon, how do they make Teflon stick to the pan?  
Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad at the drive up ATMs?  
Why are there flotation devices under airplane seats and not parachutes?  
Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?

On a more somber note: I have lost a few friends these last couple of weeks to illness. One is a longtime Sierra Madre resident Chris Gordon. Chris was (and probably still is) a very committed Christian. He was (and probably still is) a very smart fellow who was known for perplexing questions particularly regarding faith. I suspect he now has an answer to all those perplexing questions. At least he is in the right place to be asking them. We will miss you Chris.

Dorothy Bryant: AUTHOR OF THE SOUL

"The rest of the world will not disturb you unless you invite it in." - Dorothy Bryant

By LaQuetta Shamblee

The radiating smile of Pasadena resident and author Dorothy Bryant is fitting complement to her words of inspiration in *Reflections of the Spirit*. This book is filled with 331 pages of quick-to-read reflections about life written in a creative rhythmic style. The seeds for the book were planted when she was a manager of a human resources call center with about 25 employees ranging from the 30's to the 50's. With the petty office politics at play, she felt that they were acting like three year old. She would wake up at 3 a.m. in the morning and just start writing, then she would go to work, type her thoughts on paper and pass them out – an affirmation fairy of sorts. It worked! Working relationships in the office began to improve and she stopped, feeling that she didn't need to continue to bombard them with the notes. To her amazement, "Why did you stop?" was their reaction. It was clear that they missed their regular doses of inspiration. They recommended that she write a book and as the saying goes, "The rest is history."

Life has provided twists and turns for this Louisiana native who was raised in the segregated

south during the 1950's. She was raised by her grandparents from the age of three. Her grandfather died when she was 11, then her grandmother when she was 15 and she had to return to live with her mother, which was very unpleasant experience. Fortunately the seeds for learning and the importance of education had been planted deeply throughout her formative years. School was not a priority in her mother's household, instead she was told upon moving in, "You need to go to work, so you can help me." Like many young women during that era, upon graduating from high school, she seized the opportunity to get married and move away from home – and move she did as a military wife, since she'd married a guy who was in the U.S. Airforce.

It was an adventurous culture awakening as she spent most of her married life living outside the U.S. in Germany, Japan and Labrador until returning years later to live in Oklahoma and Washington State before retiring in California. She says, "Having the experience of traveling and living in other countries was the greatest thing ever." It opened up a whole new world and challenged the rigid rules of her southern upbringing. It was shocking to learn that everyone wasn't going to church on Sunday, but they still adhered to morals



and principles of decency and respect. Everybody seemed to be able to get along with each other, without the dogma and the routine of getting a lecture every week.

She says, "*Reflections of the Spirit* is about focusing on the internal, because that's where the change needs to be." Her life's work is to inspire and uplift people. She wants to use her talents to assist people, to help them attain the ability to work on heal and strengthen themselves on the inside. She has facilitated a six-week meditation series at the Unity Church in Pasadena. Her dream is to open a center to continue and expand her practice of guided meditations for goal achievement and stress reduction. With manuscripts for two more books already completed, we're waiting to hear more. For copies of the book, local readings and book signings, contact Dorothy Bryant at [dorothybr@sbglobal.net](mailto:dorothybr@sbglobal.net) or (626) 298-1036.

MY ANNUAL LETTER TO GOOD OLE' UNCLE SAM

by Rev. James L. Snyder

April 15th is the time of the year when American citizens can communicate with their government. I cannot testify for anyone else, but I look forward to this marvelous opportunity, and I am careful not to waste it. This year, for example, so much has happened since last year it took 15 single spaced typed pages to include everything. However, to be perfectly honest (and who's perfect), I am a little disappointed. All the years I have included a personal letter including a SASE with my tax returns, I have yet to get a personal letter in return. I am beginning to think this is a one way relationship and it would not take much for me to quit this correspondence entirely. Then what would my government think? How would they know what I've been up to all year long? I am not one to complain (unless my wife is not around), but filling out my income tax return seems to be getting more complicated each year. When I familiarize myself with the rules for one year, someone changes them the next year. What could not be deducted last year can be this year; and what was deductible last year I must pay twice. Why can't someone in the government make up my mind and quit all this unnecessary fluctuation? On April 16, each year, our government immediately destroys the tax rulebooks to keep them from falling into the hands of a foreign power. By "foreign," I mean Canada. Heaven help us if our neighbor north of the border ever got their hands on this information. Canadians are not usually known for their jollity, but once they see these books, the entire country would break out into uncontrollable laughter. Who knows what this would do to the delicate relationship now existing between the two countries. Because of this important precaution, they need new tax law

books each year. Right after the Christmas & New Year's parties, someone in the Internal Revenue office asks his assistant to "bring me those tax books." When they inform him that there are no books this same person (which shall remain nameless for obvious reasons) says to his assistant, "Bob, write me a new tax law book for this year and have it on my desk by 5:00." This sets the wheels of government to whirling and by govvy, by 5:00, that new tax law book is on the desk. This is one reason the tax laws from one year are so different from the next. Then the assistant responsible for this is fired and a new one hired. The only requirement for the assistant is that his name must be "Bob." I wish one year Bob would call me. It seems he has overlooked many legitimate deductions every year. I would like to submit some recommendations for consideration. First, I am not too happy with this April 15th deadline. I feel it is much too restrictive and rigid. What is so special about April 15 that our government should have such an apprehension about me missing this deadline? What is wrong with June 15? Or, September 22, for that matter? I believe the Internal Revenue Service should be more understanding and practice a non-judgmental attitude. After all, this is a new millennium calling for a new attitude on this whole business of taxes. They ought to trust me to send in my taxes whenever I'm ready, or remember. There are some deductions I have never seen on the forms I have filled out and I have always wondered why. Let me list some: Grandchildren have never been listed as a legitimate deduction. Does the IRS know just how expensive grandchildren are? My jellybean budget alone



could finance a small third world country! Vacation is another item overlooked. Does the IRS think I am taking a vacation just for my health? Oh, yea. I guess am. Well, my health is important. Every dollar I spend on vacation should be deducted from my income, which would take a lot of stress off my next vacation, not to mention more money. Presents do not tell me Christmas and Birthday presents are not authentic tax-deductible considerations. If it were not for buying all those Christmas presents, the general economy of our country would go into a slump. Buying Christmas presents is the one thing I can do for my country and I should expect some compensation. Waiting in line at the post office after all, my time is valuable. Recently the Post Office has been complaining about the loss of business. It is not that. By the time I stand in line waiting to mail a birthday card the birthday has passed. (That reminds me. I need to post my Christmas cards next Tuesday if I want them to get there in time for Christmas.) These are just a few suggestions I would make if it were left up to me. Some people think that they can write their own ticket when it comes to God, forgetting that God has established rules and regulations that apply to everyone. The Bible clearly states this truth: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12 KJV). And, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6 KJV).



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