

Mountain Views News

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Sierra Madre — Arcadia — Pasadena — Altadena — Monrovia

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011

VOLUME 5 NO. 17

“To Do Good.....”

John Buchanan Becomes Sierra Madre Mayor, Again



Left to Right: Sierra Madre Vice Mayor Josh Moran, Former Mayor Joe Mosca and Mayor John Buchanan

By Susan Henderson

John Buchanan became Mayor of Sierra Madre for the second time on Tuesday evening at the council's reorganization meeting. In a rather brief and yet compelling statement, he articulated words that all candidates for public office and the communities they serve should embrace.

"There is but one reason anyone should seek and hold elected office, to do good! Being a council member and Mayor is not a prize to be won, a title to hold. It is a chance to do good. To do good we must and will confront challenges head on, although the public good is not always the most popular thing."

He went on to remind the audience that Sierra Madre is a full service city and given the looming economic problems of the county, state and federal governments, we will be challenged to

continue to *"provide a sustainable bundle of community services."*

During Buchanan's previous tenure as Mayor in 2006/2007, the tumultuous campaign over Measure V which restricts downtown development without voter approval was passed. And yet, despite the divisiveness, he managed to stay positive. As his term ended he left office with these words, *"We have to decide to come together...Measure V has passed... it's our obligation to do our darndest and make it work."*

Despite the acrimony of the Measure, Buchanan had an impressive list of accomplishments including the passing of the Hillside Management Ordinance, the establishment of paramedic services, and the hiring of Police Chief Marilyn Diaz (partial listing).

He will begin this term, however, with the task of finding replacements for two

key members of the city staff, Police Chief Diaz and and Library Director, Toni Buckner. (See related stories on this page.)

Of their departure Buchanan said, *"The pending departure of Toni and Marilyn will be a big loss for the city, but thanks to their dedication and hard work, we are prepared for the future. Both not only did their job with professionalism, but with great passion for the public services they performed."*

In addition to Buchanan's election by the council as Mayor, Josh Moran was elected as Mayor Pro-Tem. Both votes were unanimous.

Former Mayor Joe Mosca who can also proudly boast an impressive list of accomplishments, made history during his term by being the first openly gay Mayor in Sierra Madre and the San Gabriel Valley.

SMPD CHIEF MARILYN DIAZ TO RETIRE

On Thursday, when news of Sierra Madre Police Chief Marilyn Diaz became public, many Sierra Madreans immediately began expressing their disappointment. *"It's not that she doesn't have the right to retire, but she was doing so good"*, said one longtime resident.

When Diaz became Chief of the SMPD in 2006, she also became the first female Police Chief in Los Angeles County and made national news. Prior to coming to Sierra Madre, she served for 32 years in the Pasadena Police Department.

Diaz, a Sierra Madre resident, recognized immediately that the SMPD had a unique mission as Sierra Madre is a city that *"provides their own services catered to the needs of the community."* She also recognized that there had been an accumulated degradation of service to residents and that changes need to be made. She quickly began



amount and nature was comparable to the same kinds of actions that other police departments face.

Despite those issues, Diaz has been a true community minded law enforcement leader. She was always accessible and was willing to talk to any resident any time, any where. She was also very visible at most Sierra Madre community events.

In the press release from the city, *"During her tenure, Chief Diaz was instrumental in transforming the Police Department into the exemplary department that it is today. She focused on enhancing staff professionalism through extensive training in ethics, use of force, civil liability and safe field tactics; and she spearheaded the complete renovation of the*



Chief Diaz pictured above talking with resident Paul Neiby in 2008. Below, Diaz helped the All American City Team lobby for Sierra Madre in 2006. She set to retire at the end of this year.

making certain that the department could provide quick, attentive responses as well as preserve the welfare and safety of residents her first priority. In order to accomplish that, she embarked upon an ambitious plan that included bringing out the best qualities and best services of the members of the SMPD. She focused on minimizing costs and becoming more creative in bringing resources into the department.

Of course, that did not come without controversy and challenge. As Chief, the decision had to be made to dismiss several officers. There were also lawsuits, however, the



Police Department's evidence and property rooms. She also enhanced the Department's ability to be proactive by innovatively using *(cont. pg. 3)*

REMEMBERING THE SIERRA MADRE (SANTA ANITA) FIRE

Photos and Story by Bill Coburn

Three years ago at about 3pm on Saturday, April 26th, 2008, a fire broke out in the mountains above Sierra Madre. The fire burned for several days, ultimately burning 584 acres at the time of its containment on May 1st. Two hundred thirty eight acres were in the Angeles National Forest, and three hundred forty six acres were within the corporate boundaries of Sierra Madre. Five minor injuries were reported, at one point more than 1,000 firefighters were assigned to the fire. Just after midnight Sunday morning, the City Council under the leadership of Mayor Kurt Zimmerman had an emergency meeting to declare the City to be in a state of emergency, freeing up resources from outside agencies to assist in fighting the fire.

Two Red Cross shelters were set up. Approximately 1000 people were evacuated from Oak Crest Drive across Carter Avenue to East Mira Monte Avenue, continuing down Mountain Trail Avenue, across Grandview Avenue to Santa Anita Avenue. A wedding party of 45 people and four pets were helicoptered out from Sturtevant Camp, it took five helicopter trips to move them all. The people of Sierra Madre banded together as a community to help each other and the emergency personnel fighting the fire, controlling traffic, and keeping out looters (there was a false report that houses in the evacuation area were robbed).

In the end, only one small non-residential structure was destroyed, and the people of Sierra Madre had a new sense of community and appreciation for one another and emergency personnel.

The Mt. Wilson Trail Race of 2008 (the 100 year anniversary of the first running of the race) was postponed until June 7th, from its scheduled May 24th date, so that the trail could be prepared. Kudos to Charlie Bell, Pete Siberell, Gary Hilliard, John Grace, Pete McNulty, Mark Gage, and Mark Hacker and a crew of volunteers that helped get the trail in shape to be run just over a month after such a major fire. The entire Sierra Madre Fire Department was named Grand Marshal of the 2008 4th of July Parade.



Picture taken just east of Canon on Montecito, Saturday evening

On May 6th, 16th and 31st, I was able to take photos on the Mt. Wilson Trail, even though for some of that time the trail was closed. The trail had burned most of the way to First Water, but there was very little damage along the trail from that point up to Orchard Camp. But up to first water, there was almost complete devastation, with much of the hillside looking more like a moonscape than a hillside on planet Earth. The other day, April 17th, 2011, I took my camera up on the trail with me, with printouts of some of the pictures I had taken in May of 2008, so that I could try to recreate as closely as possible the photos from 2008, giving us a side by side comparison of what the trail looked like then and now. All but one or two of the photos on the left below were taken on May 6th. The right side photos are what the area looks like today. Click on the thumbnail to enlarge it. Most browsers will then shrink the image to fit your screen size again, so if you want to see it larger, click on it again, but you will have to scroll to see the full image.

As you can see, there has been significant re-growth along the trail, and I think we can largely credit that growth for how little mudflow problems we had despite some very heavy rains this past winter.



A customer said:

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon:	Ptly Cldy	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

CITY TO HOST GENERAL PLAN UPDATE TOWN HALL FORUM MAY 7TH

The City of Sierra Madre and the General Plan Update Steering Committee (GPSC) is seeking input from the public at a Town Hall Forum to be held at the Sierra Madre Fire Station from 1 pm to 4 pm on Saturday, May 7th. The Fire Station is located at 242 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., right next to Memorial Park, which will be the site of the annual Friends of the Library Art Fair that day (and all weekend). Make a day of it, start with the Firefighter's Pancake Breakfast at the Station in the morning, visit the Art Fair, and return in the afternoon to the Fire Station for the Forum!

This forum is a community wide brain storming session to help determine the vision to carry Sierra Madre into the next 20-30 years. The focus of this forum is Families, Youth, Businesses, Services, and Institutions. This is the second in a series of forums in which the public is being asked to give the GPSC guidance as they work to update the City's General Plan. Every city and county in California is required to have a General Plan. A General Plan can and should be used to provide a long-term perspective that provides a basis for decision-making by City Council and appointed Commissions. It informs community members, developers, and City staff of the ground rules that guide development within the community. General Plans are updated about every twenty years and are regulated by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. Sierra Madre adopted its first General Plan in 1996.

One does not need to be a resident of Sierra Madre to participate in the forum, people who work, shop, or are otherwise involved are invited to provide input as well. Kids will enjoy the onsite "bouncy house" and free popcorn and cotton candy.

In addition to the forum, the GPSC is asking the public to visit the City's website to fill out an online survey of Sierra Madre stakeholders which can be found at www.cityofsierramadre.com just click on "General Plan" on the homepage. For more information regarding the Town Hall Forum, please contact Mr. De Alcorn, Secretary of Service and Volunteering at 626-355-4793, or Mr. Colin Braudrick at Braudrick@mac.com. Information is also available on the City's website or you can send an email to GeneralPlan@cityofsierramadre.com.

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE GRAND MARSHAL SOUGHT

The Sierra Madre Fourth of July Committee is looking for candidates for the 2011 Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshal. The Parade will be held Monday, July 4, 2011.

Parade Grand Marshal Candidates should echo the spirit of Sierra Madre, be an active volunteer in any of the local nonprofit organizations, or in some way contributed to the betterment of Sierra Madre.

Nominations must be submitted by Tuesday, May 17th and should be sent to the Fourth of July Committee, P.O. Box 1073, Sierra Madre, CA 91025 or via e-mail to matthewbosse@hotmail.com

The Parade begins at 10 a.m. at Sunnyside and Sierra Madre Blvd., following complimentary breakfast at the Woman's Club Essick House. The Parade ends at about 11:30 a.m. with activities following in Memorial Park until 4 pm.

ANNUAL SIERRA MADRE COMMUNITY NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OBSERVANCE

Thursday May 5 2011
Noon-12:30
Memorial Park Flag Pole (near the cannon)
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd

This is the 60th observance. Theme: A mighty fortress is our God
www.nationaldayofprayer.org

What Do YOU Think?

We'd like to hear from you! Contact us at:

editor@mtnviewsnews.com or

www.facebook.com/mountainviewsnews



LIBRARY BARGAIN BOOK TABLE SALE

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will be having a Bargain Table Book Sale at the Library, Monday, May 9 through Saturday, May 14, during the Library's open hours. Featured topics will include: Fiction, Sports, Animals, Time-Life's Old West series, Children's and Specialty books. All books are in good condition and are \$1.00 each. It pays to stop by often—books are replenished daily, and there are always plenty of new titles to choose from.

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.

TRAVELERS AND COLLECTORS SPEAKERS SERIES Season Finale

On Friday, May 13, at 7:30 p.m., in Sierra Madre's City Hall Chambers, Jay Whitcraft will present the final armchair excursion of the year in "Portugal by Car." Join Jay on his tour of this culturally rich, romantic country on the beautiful Iberian Peninsula, often referred to as "Europe's West Coast." In addition to background on Portugal's discovery, exploration and marine history, trip highlights will include palaces and castles, port wine country, the Douro River Valley, and Fado, Portugal's traditional music.

This program is free and open to the public. Sierra Madre City Hall is located at 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., in Sierra Madre. This is the final program of the season; the series will resume in February 2012. For more information, please call Catriona Shafer at (626) 355-7186.

SUMMER AQUATIC POSITIONS

Don't miss out on your opportunity to work at the Sierra Madre Aquatic Center this summer! The City of Sierra Madre is continuing to accepting applications for the summer aquatic season through Monday, May 2, 2011. Perspective candidates may apply for the positions of: Cashier, Lifeguard, Water Safety Instructor or Shift Lead. For more information on each position and the application process, please visit www.cityofsierramadre.com. Applications may be submitted electronically at the same website. For more information please contact the Community and Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278.

FRIDAY FAMILY MOVIE SERIES

The 2011 Friday movies series is beginning on Friday, May 6, 2011. Movies are shown free to the public every other Friday beginning on May 6, 2011 and running through June 3, 2011. Movies are shown in Kersting Court, at the corner of Sierra Madre Blvd. and Baldwin Ave. The movie line-up is: May 6 – Toy Story 3, May 20 – Despicable Me, and June 3 – How to Train your Dragon. For more information call 626-355-5278.

Titles To Go
Bringing the library to you!

**Sierra Madre Public Library
Homebound Program**

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

YOUTH SUNDAY



San Marino Community Church welcomes middle and high school students as well as Director of Student Ministries Paul Blakesley in leading all aspects of the worship services this week. Students Jane Davidson and Morgan Daley will preach.

Community Church also invites middle and high school students to attend its regular experiential student worship service, ELEMENT, held Sundays at 9:15 am.

9:15 am Traditional & Student Worship Services
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

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

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
Call Patricia at 626-818-2698 Today!

Pat Alcorn Chosen as Older 'Sierra Madre' American of the Year

The City of Sierra Madre Senior Community Commission is happy to announce that Pat Alcorn has been selected as the Older American of the Year for Sierra Madre. Pat has actively contributed to the Sierra Madre Community since 1964 when she and her husband moved from Pasadena. Her recent activities have included the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library Wine Tasting where she served as the co-chair for the past two years, she is currently co-chairing the City of Sierra Madre Community Services Commission but her community involvement has also included being past President of the Sierra Madre Civic Club, a graduate of the first Sierra Madre Citizen's Emergency Response Team training and three time Creative Arts Group Garden Tour Docent.



Each year the President of the United States, the Governor of California and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors designate the month of May as Older American Month. In recognition of Pat Alcorn's dedicated volunteer service to the community, Sierra Madre will be honoring her at a local reception held at the Hart Park House Senior Center on Friday, May 13, 2011 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more information on the Older American Reception or on how you can assist with honoring Mrs. Alcorn, please contact the Senior Services Desk at (626) 355-7394.

Singer-Musician Mike Tims To Perform at Kiwanis 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.

The event, a fundraiser to support the club's charitable programs for youth, will include a dance (Boot Skootin) and Chili Cook Off (competition). Cooks from all over the San Gabriel Valley can compete in two categories, professional and amateur. Local organizations are encouraged to submit entries and compete too! Let's just see who can really 'throw down'!

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 cost of the event is \$25 and includes chile tasting 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 evening starts at 6 pm at the newly renovated Sierra Madre Room in the recreation center on Sierra Madre Blvd.

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

SIX FAITHS TO UNITE FOR ARCADIA NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE MAY 5

Members of six major San Gabriel Valley faith traditions will join in a public evening service celebrating the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, at 7 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Cross, 66 West Duarte Road in Arcadia.

The event is being presented by the Arcadia Interfaith Action Group, a consortium of leaders from faith organizations in the area.

This year's service, themed "One Nation – Many Faiths in Prayer," will be the only San Gabriel Valley interfaith observance at which Baha'is, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews and Muslims join in celebrating the shared beliefs and values that unite them as Americans. During the evening, each faith will share a small part of its practices to help attendees realize that there are more similarities than differences among them.

The National Day of Prayer was established in 1952, when the US Congress designated the first Thursday in May as a time for all Americans, regardless of their faiths, to come together and pray in their own ways.

All monies contributed to the evening's offering will go to local assistance agencies in the area.

For further information on the Arcadia National Day of Prayer, call Lutheran Church of the Cross, (626) 447-7232.

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KSHP Las Vegas - 1400 AM

SIERRA MADRE

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Monrovia

What's Going On In Sierra Madre? Part 2 of 2

by Chris Bertrand, On Special Assignment



ASSISTED LIVING DEVELOPER UNDER CONTRACT TO PURCHASE FORMER SKILLED NURSING FACILITY, 225-45 W. SIERRA MADRE BLVD.

With the weeds growing through the cracks in the pavement at the former skilled nursing facility across from City Hall, the site has become more of an eyesore each year that it stands empty and dilapidated. Fountain Square Development West LLC partner, Billy Shields, confirmed April 20th, that they have entered into a contract to purchase the site, but have not closed on a purchase.

“Three of us are involved, and I will be leading the development out here in the West,” noted Shields. “We plan to build, then become owner operators of this residential community.”

In March, Shields appeared before the City Council, not with a formal plan or formal application, but to open an exploratory dialogue with the community. The organization's idea is to develop a fully licensed, assisted living community housing about ninety, with a staff of approximately 25, including 24/7 nursing. A part of the facility would accommodate Alzheimer's or dementia residents.

Shields explained further, “We’ve made preliminary application to the city, which allows them to respond to some of the basic parameters we are proposing. We’re anxious to get their comments and key questions answered, and to have the different departments look at the plans. Within a month of that meeting, we plan to meet requirements for the formal application.”

Shields, a resident of Poway, played for the San Diego Chargers, the New York Jets and 1984 Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers, before moving to senior living community development at Virginia-based, Sunrise Senior Living, where he spent 17 years.

“I’ve enjoyed the senior living business, particularly when we open new communities... when we see the families and the residents move in a frail elderly resident. It’s so much more rewarding than building apartments and commercial real estate,” reflected Shields.

The Fountain Square team all came with experience from Sunrise, before creating their own senior development organization. Sierra Madre will be their third project, after

their first in suburban D.C., and a second in White Plains, New York.

Shields invites Sierra Madreans to view the website for their New York assisted living residence at www.TheKensingtonAL.com, with the sidebar note that each development is customized to the style of the community.

Shields and his partners welcome input on Fountain Square's development ideas from neighbors and the community at 858-748-0201. The group also plans forums, perhaps on the site grounds, as the process evolves.

RESIDENTIAL NEW CONSTRUCTION AT STONEGATE



On the residential front, the Stonegate development at North Baldwin and Carter, has been lender-owned by Capital Source for some time. New agency representation was assigned to Century 21 Village recently for the 29 lot subdivision. Listing agent Mike Lepore commented, “Eight home sites have closed and two additional lots are in escrow, one being the 1940's era, Willis house. The barn is still available and continues to be a unique opportunity for the right buyer. There has been strong interest in the properties and

the sales trailer is open Saturday and Sunday from 1- 5 and the Century 21 Village office, 38 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. has a Stonegate sales person available daily from 9- 6.”

Aguilar indicates that, of the closed Stonegate sales, one lot has applied to build, and a second is close to applying.

Interest in another Capital Source owned property, the Stonehouse parcel, located in northeast Sierra Madre, has been “Very quiet lately,” according to Aguilar, “with only occasional inquiries asking what can be done with the land and periodic inquiries from individuals interested in buying the entire property.” Elsewhere in town, two new homes are under construction, one on N. Sunnyside and another on N. Grove.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS AT ALVERNO

Officials at the private Catholic girls’ school, Alverno High School, are moving forward with their master plan. As part of that evolving plan, the school agreed to cap its student population at a lower number than currently allowed.

Alverno has published an environmental review and circulated it for public comment, before a hearing tentatively scheduled for June. . According to Castro, the city has received 22 comment letters on the project as of April 20, and will respond to those letters.

Plans include a 12,000 square foot

Sierra Madre Police Officers Arrest An Alleged “Peeping Tom”

In the early morning hours of April 25, 2011, a male was looking into a residence window in the 400 Block of Sierra Madre Boulevard. The startled female resident immediately called the police. Police units arrived in the area within a minute and began checking the area.

A plain-clothes officer located the male in the driveway of an apartment complex a few doors down from the original call. The victim positively identified Roger Wright, a 37-year-old resident of Sierra Madre, as the person looking in her window. Wright was arrested for 647 (i) P.C. – Prowling, and booked at the Sierra Madre Jail.

The Sierra Madre Police Department is currently investigating a number of prowler complaints in this area since December 2010. Investigators are still reviewing these cases however; they believe that Wright may be involved. The Sierra Madre Police Department is encouraging any one that may have encountered a person looking in their windows late at night to call Sergeant Joe Ortiz at 626-355-1414.

Sierra Madre Library Director Announces Retirement after 34 Years

Sierra Madre Public Library Director Toni Buckner has announced her retirement after 34 years with the City of Sierra Madre. Toni shepherded the library from the era of the card catalog to online databases and brought web access and computer literacy to library services for use as a regular service to library patrons.

Toni’s has worked continuously to find much needed funding for the library resulting in several grant awards that included building improvements, the establishment of the jointly owned archives collection and the library technology grant which created the City’s web services and allowed the library to offer more online access to the library’s collection and major online databases. When asked which project she was most proud of she promptly replied, “The Friends’ Garden. It’s where design, function and beauty came together through the joint efforts of volunteers, community organizations and hardworking city employees. Before the Library opens and throughout the day there are people reading books, using the Library’s Wi-Fi or taking in the view of the mountains.”

While working as a Library Assistant, Toni attended USC and graduated in 1980 with a Masters in Library Science. She then became the children’s librarian until moving to the directorship in 1985. She remarked, “I often say, I have the best job in town. I get to work with people who use and work in libraries, who are motivated and believe they have something positive



to contribute. Learning for librarians and library users is a lifelong endeavor.” She credits her success during her career to the many talented people she has worked with over the years, particularly the Library staff, the Board of Trustees, and the many volunteers of the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library. She also is grateful for the support of her husband Bob and daughter Lily.

City Manager Elaine Aguilar stated, “Sierra Madre’s Library has benefited greatly with Toni’s leadership. When one stops to think about the technological changes alone -- Library Director Toni Buckner oversaw a significant number of changes during her 30 years with Sierra Madre. Toni was responsible for getting the City on the World Wide Web, she brought computers into the library, she created new programs to keep people coming to the library during a time when most other libraries were experiencing decreasing visits. Toni’s dedication to the library and the Sierra Madre community has been truly astonishing, and I hope that she continues to share her talents with us.”

September 26, 2011 is Toni’s tentative retirement date, giving her time to troubleshoot problems after launching the new City website, finish raising money for the Children’s Library remodel, and to support the transition to the next director.

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, April 17TH, to Saturday April 23RD, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 372 calls for service. See crimereports.com for updated information.

Sunday, April 17Th:

2:40 AM- Possession of Marijuana in Vehicle, 300 blk. N. Lima St. An officer noticed a suspicious vehicle with two males. Further investigation revealed 0.7 grams of Marijuana and a metal canister for Marijuana inside the vehicle. Both subjects were released with a citation and the Marijuana was taken into evidence.

3:23 AM- DUI Alcohol/Drugs, Baldwin Ave and Grandview Ave. An officer stopped a 21 year old Sierra Madre motorist for a Vehicle Code and determined that the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to Pasadena Police Department for booking.

2:42 PM- Attempted Residential Burglary, 1200 blk. Arno Dr. Unknown suspects tried to open a garage door but were unable due to a shelving unit blocking the garage door from opening all the way. Nothing was taken from the residence. The suspect(s) fled in an unknown direction.

Monday, April 18TH:

5:18 AM- Danger to Self/Others/Gravely Disabled, 100 blk. Auburn Ave. Officers responded to a call regarding a male juvenile that was yelling in front of a residence. The minor was mentally ill and was taken into protective custody on a 72 hour hold for a psychiatric evaluation and treatment. The minor was armed with a knife at the time, and officers were able to take him into custody peacefully. Officers later collected numerous knives and swords from his home. his mother of the circumstances. She said that he had heard him mention that he had weapons.

12:46 PM- Petty Theft, 160 blk. N. Canon Ave. Unknown suspect(s) stole a chain, lock and sign from Sierra Madre School-Upper Campus.

1:31 PM- Residential Burglary, 150 N. Mountain Trail Ave. The victim went on a business trip from March 27, 2011 through April 1, 2011 and he noticed that his Minolta camera and bird were missing, and his computer was vandalized. Total loss value is \$2250. He suspects his former girlfriend may have taken the loss.

Tuesday, April 19Th:

2:05 PM- Suspicious Circumstances, 242 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. This incident involves the possible theft of gasoline from a vehicle parked in the public parking lot, behind the police department. The victim mentioned that she had put \$5 of gasoline in her vehicle and when she went back 2-3 hours later she noticed that the gasoline was at 1/16 instead of 1/8 of gasoline filled up.

6:51 PM- Use Another's Personal Identification to Obtain Credit/Etc, 600 blk. Woodland Dr. This incident involves unknown suspect(s) making fraudulent charges to the victim's debit card.

Thursday, April 21St :

8:20 AM- Hit and Run/Death or Injury, East Highland Ave and Merrill Ave. A hit and run occurred between a SUV and a skateboard. The victim, a juvenile, received minor injuries and said that the driver drove away.

Saturday, April 23ND:

9:09 AM- Petty Theft, 180 blk. Santa Anita Ct. Unknown suspect(s) entered an unlocked vehicle parked in the driveway and stole his wallet with a Capital One credit card, AAA membership card, Staples rewards card, Ralph's card and a Costco membership card, his California driver's license, Maui Jim sunglasses, Ray Ban sunglasses, a black canvas CD case, and a USB cord. Total loss value \$530.00.

9:55 AM-Petty Theft, 300 blk. San Gabriel Ct. Unknown suspect(s) entered an unlocked vehicle on a driveway and stole a coin purse embroidered with an Indian elephant print, a daily planner, manila envelope, wallet animal print, cellular phone charger, assorted cds, prescription glasses, and an expired California driver's license. Total loss value \$175.00.

6:35 PM- Petty Theft, 150 blk. Esperanza Ave. Unknown suspect(s) entered a vehicle parked on the street and stole a vintage Coca Cola cooler.

7:12 PM- Vandalism/Under \$400, 70 blk. Esperanza Ave. Unknown suspect(s) cut the cord to the cover of a motorcycle on the victim's carport.

DIAZ (cont. from pg. 1)

part-time sworn and non-sworn staff to provide better patrol coverage throughout the City and aid in follow-up investigations.”

Diaz also increased the number of volunteers that assist the department and expanded community outreach by meeting with local businesses, creating the Chief's Community Advisory Board and revitalizing Sierra Madre's Neighborhood Watch Program. There are now 46 NW block captains.

But she is quick not to take credit for the progress of the department by herself. “*The credit for the transformation of the police department is due to the work of the extraordinary men and women who work there. Sierra Madre is fortunate to have exceptionally committed police employees who regularly sacrifice time with their families and loved ones to ensure that our community is well served. I am proud of the members of the police department beyond words, and as a resident, I am grateful for their presence.*”

Diaz plans to retire at the end of the year and after five years of service to Sierra Madre, she will receive a vested pension of approximately \$16,000 per year.

During the transition, Captain Larry Giannone will serve as Interim Chief. Giannone, before coming to SMPD four years ago, served the Monterey Park Police Department for 23 years.

S. Henderson/MVNews

49TH ANNUAL SIERRA MADRE ART FAIR



Wood-turner Ivy Schuman

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library are putting the final touches on the 49th Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair on Saturday May 7, 9:30am to 6pm and Sunday 9:30am to 5pm. Expect to find 100 artists displaying their fine art and demonstrating their individual techniques. You'll enjoy various mediums, including oil paintings, jewelry, watercolors, glass art, wood and metal art, drawings, pottery, ceramics, mixed media, hand-woven baskets, rugs and photography. The Fair continues to draw highly talented and skilled artists from all over the country, including the Featured Artist and wood-turner Ivy Schuman of Chatsworth.

Live music will be featured throughout the weekend at Sierra Madre Memorial Park, located at 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Local bands scheduled to perform at the band shell are: The String Planet (Saturday and Sunday 11:00a to 1:00p); The Eclectic Connection (Saturday 2:00p to 4:00p); and Cowbop (Sunday 2:00p – 4:00p). Also, scheduled at

the southeast section of the park, you can hear: Sister Ann and Her Wayward Boys (Saturday 10a to 12 noon); Mike Tims (Saturday 1 p-2 p) Jane Fuller (Saturday 3p to 5p); Banna Beg Mall (Sunday 10a to 12 noon) and The Joel Penner Jazz Trio (Sunday 2p to 4p). A full food court is expected to include offerings from: Ruby's Diner, BF Factory French Crepe and Mediterranean; Taquito Lover, Korean BBQ, Kealey's Poppin Kettle-corn, Hawaiian Shaved Ice and the Friends' quick and sweet breads (always a sell-out). Finish it off with Rangpur Lime Juice from the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society. For the kids, you'll find the Sierra Madre Creative Art's Group craft activity called “Insects in the Garden”).

The young ones will enjoy drawing their favorite insect, then create their own garden of plants and flowers, using a variety of different materials.

In addition to satisfying every one of your senses, you'll help to Friends of the Sierra Madre Library to support programs and services. This past year, the Friends donated over \$58,000 for library equipment and upgrades. For additional event information, contact Art Fair Chairperson Sharon Murphy at (626) 355-3977, or sierramadrelibraryfriends.org.



Week-long Crime Spree Halted by Pasadena Police

Two men were taken into custody by police Monday after allegedly committing a series of robberies from Beverly Hills to Arcadia to Pasadena.

Juan Navarro, 24, and Gregorio Villalobos, 28, both from San Fernando Valley were arrested without incident police said.

Between 11:30 a.m. and 12:39 p.m. Monday, three armed robberies and one attempted robbery occurred in Pasadena. Police said the crimes were thought to be committed by Navarro and Villalobos armed with a handgun and driving a gray GMC Yukon.

Police said approximately five minutes after the last robbery, officers and the police helicopter searched the area and located the two suspects driving southbound in the 600 block of Lincoln Avenue. The vehicle was stopped and inside the Yukon was property taken from the victims, along with a loaded .45 caliber handgun.

Following the arrest, Pasadena Robbery Detectives Carlos Sainz and Carolyn Gordon researched similar robbery cases reported in Los Angeles County. Detectives identified Navarro and Villalobos as likely suspects who committed multiple armed robberies in the cities of Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Glendale, and Burbank. The spree appears to have begun on April 19, 2011 and targeted male adults they said.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's office filed six counts of armed robbery; three counts of attempted robbery; and personal use of a firearm. The suspects were arraigned Wednesday and remain in-custody with a bail set at \$900,000.00.

Persons with information regarding these crimes are asked to contact detectives at (626) 744-4512 or Pasadena Police Department dispatch at (626) 744-4241.

Pet of the Week



Quicksilver, a gorgeous, three year old, longhair cat is friendly and playful. She is also quite the talker and wants to be with you as much as possible. She will be a great pet for someone in need of a loyal companion. Come visit with Quicksilver 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 A283538 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



Seismic Stability Closes Fire Station

By Dean Lee

City officials were forced Wednesday to close and vacate a fire station along Avenue 64 after it was learned that there could be a structural failure in the event of a large earthquake. The city held a press conference making the announcement at Station #39, located at 50 Avenue 64, just one day before the closer.

"Firefighter safety is of utmost concern and this closure is of a critical, time sensitive nature so as to not jeopardize the crew and apparatus," Fire Chief Dennis Downs said. "A large seismic event is imminent, even though we can't predict when it will occur. As first responders, our Firefighters need to get to an emergency in a timely manner. According to this report, in the case of a significant earthquake the crew members assigned to Station #39 could very well need rescue themselves. We recognize

that we cannot afford to wait to take action."

Downs referred to the department's 2005-2010 Strategic Plan, an analysis of the city's eight fire stations. The report looked everything from structural integrity to aesthetic conditions he said.

Station #39, consisting of masonry bearing walls, wood frame floor and a wood framed roof was identified for potential structural failure if subjected to significant seismic loads.

The report states, in part, "There is significant risk of structural failure of the 2.5 inch steel columns supporting the lintel in masonry opening. This portion of the second floor is in danger of collapse when subjected to seismic loading. Safety of the fire crew and protection of equipment is paramount and should be addressed without delay." In addition, the study found that

there is no practical manner in which to resolve Station #39's structural deficiencies officials said.

United States Geological Survey (USGS) data was utilized to determine design standards to withstand seismic loads, as outlined in the California Building Code as "Essential Service Facilities." All new Fire Stations built in California are required to be built to this Essential Service Facility standard they said.

Downs said "Pasadena Fire Stations #31 and #38 in combination with Aid Agreements with adjacent agencies, which include the City and County of Los Angeles, will help in maintaining response times in the area served by Station #39."

He went on to state, "The City Manager has recommended allocating a \$400,000 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) request to initiate design and entitlements on the replacement facility."

Author of Helen of Pasadena to Speak

Lian Dolan, bestselling author of Helen of Pasadena, will discuss and sign her book on Thursday, May 12 at 7 p.m. at Pasadena Central Library's Donald Wright Auditorium, 285 E. Walnut St. Books will be available for purchase at the event. Doors open at 6 p.m. Dolan is a writer, producer, talk show host, podcast pioneer and social media consultant. She writes the blog and produces the weekly podcast The Chaos Chronicles a humorous look at modern motherhood that gets 50,000 downloads a month. She writes weekly for Oprah.com as a parenting expert. A decade ago, Dolan created Satellite Sisters, a talk show, blog and website with her four real sisters. From 2000 to 2009, Satellite Sisters won eight Gracie Allen Awards and had a million listeners a week. Dolan is also the co-author of Satellite Sisters Uncommon Senses, published by Riverhead. She is a popular speaker for groups and corporations, always using humor as a hook.

Green Day: Southern California Landscaping

Linda Vista Branch Library will host Green Day on Saturday, May 14 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Presented by the Theodore Payne Foundation, Los Angeles County Arboretum and other gardening experts. Learn about sustainable planting, gardening and landscaping design for the Southern California climate. Plants will be available for sale too! Linda Vista Branch Library is located at 1281 Bryant St. For more information, call (626) 744-7278.

NASA Technology Looks Inside Japan's Nuclear Reactor



Image shows Urbie, one of PackBot's "ancestors." This light-weight structure, which included some NASA technology, had rugged features that were useful in emergency response situations. age credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

A new rover named PackBot, designed by JPL and created by iRobot, is being used to take radioactive readings in Japan's Fukushima nuclear reactors the agency announced Thursday.

The iRobot PackBot employs technologies used previously in the design of "Rocky-7," which served as a terrestrial test bed at JPL for the current twin Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity. PackBot's structural features are modeled after Rocky-7, including the lightweight, high-torque actuators that control the rover; and its strong, lightweight frame structure and sheet-metal chassis.

PackBot's other "ancestor," called Urbie, was an urban reconnaissance robot with military and disaster response applications. Urbie's lightweight structure and rugged features also made it useful in emergency response situations; for example, at sites contaminated with radiation and chemical spills, and at buildings damaged by earthquakes. Urbie's physical structure was designed by iRobot Corp., Bedford, Mass., while JPL was responsible for the intelligent robot's

onboard sensors and vision algorithms, which helped the robot factor in obstacles and determine an appropriate driving path. Following the success of Urbie's milestones, the team at iRobot created its successor: PackBot.

Since 2002, iRobot has delivered variations of the PackBot model to the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy. The tactical robot's first military deployment was to Afghanistan in July 2002, to assist soldiers by providing "eyes and ears" in the most dangerous or inaccessible areas. It was also used to search through debris at Ground Zero after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York.

Recently, iRobot provided two PackBots to help after the devastating March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The PackBot models, currently taking radioactivity readings in the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant buildings, are equipped with multiple cameras and hazard material sensors. The images and readings provided by the PackBots indicated radiation levels are still too high to allow human repair crews to safely enter the buildings.

Citizen Journalism Meet-up

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



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

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

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

means to tell the story using the power of video, audio and print along with online social media. The next meeting is April 26 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This week at the Donald R. Wright Auditorium (see below). For more info call 626.794.8585 or visit pasadenan.com.

City to Celebrate Free Comic Book Day May 7

Pasadena Public Library will join with other libraries and comic book stores all over the United States in celebrating Free Comic Book Day on Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. While supplies last, kids and teens can each get a free comic book at any of the following Pasadena Public Library locations; Allendale Branch Library - 1130 S. Marengo Ave., Hastings Branch Library - 3325 E. Orange Grove Blvd., Hill Avenue Branch Library - 55 S. Hill Ave., Lamanda Park Branch Library - 140 S. Altadena Dr., La Pintoresca Branch Library, 1355 N. Raymond Ave., Linda Vista Branch Library - 1281 Bryant St., Santa Catalina Branch Library - 999 E. Washington Blvd. and Central Library in the Children's Room, 285 E. Walnut St.

This year is the 10th annual celebration of this event, which is timed to coincide with the May release of superhero-themed movies. Central Library will also have video programs, a visit by popular artist Kazu Kibuishi,

and more, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Children's Story Room. Hastings Branch Library will be showing superhero videos including the very early Superman cartoons at 1 p.m.

Why Free Comic Book Day? Aren't things always free at the library? Yes, but this is a comic book that is free to keep, with no due date.

Why comics in the library? The traditional form of the comic book is a thin, monthly magazine, not very durable. Then, in the 1970s, the idea of book-length comics became more popular, reprinting older works or printing new works for the first time as books filled with comic book content. These books were called "graphic novels," but in essence they were long comic books in better bindings, a better fit for libraries. La Pintoresca Branch Library was an early experimenter with circulating comics and graphic novels in a library setting. Local writers and artists have made appearances at the library and this has helped the collection and the readership to grow.

DISARM Searches Net 166 Arrests, 27 Handguns, Cash

During the month of March, D.I.S.A.R.M. Officers confiscated 27 guns and six rifles, over \$525,000 in illegal drugs and drug money, and arrested 166 probationers during 1259 unannounced searches of residences, persons, vehicles, and businesses, announced Los Angeles County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich. The searches were conducted through the Probation Department's D.I.S.A.R.M. (Developing Increased Safety through Arms Reduction Management) program, initiated by Supervisor

Antonovich following the tragic August 1999 shootings at the North Valley Jewish Community Center and the murder of a postal worker by Buford Furrow, an armed felon on probation from Washington State.

The D.I.S.A.R.M. program entails pairing Deputy Probation Officers with local law enforcement personnel to perform unannounced searches of probationers and their homes, as a condition of probation, and targets the confiscation of guns, drugs, and other contraband.

John Singleton Named Honorary Chair of The PCC Foundation For The Center For The Arts

John Singleton, acclaimed film director and Pasadena City College alumnus, has been named the honorary chair of the Center for the Arts capital campaign. He joins the campaign as PCC looks to augment and complete the state-of-the-art building as a student and community resource with community support.

"PCC is very important to me because without PCC I never would have gone onto film school and eventually become a filmmaker and realize my dream," Singleton said. "The arts are the savior of any society and to have a great new facility where resource access is available for students would just be phenomenal for the community."

Singleton, who is best known for his 1991 Oscar-nominated film "Boyz in the Hood," studied film at PCC in the mid-1980s. He took his first cinematography class under PCC instructor Jack Akien and later transferred to the University of Southern California to earn a bachelor's degree in Film Writing. His body of work includes such movies as "Poetic Justice," "Higher Learning," and "Shaft." In 1992, the then 24-year-old Singleton became the youngest person, and the first African American, ever to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Director.

"When I attended PCC and took a cinematography class there, I learned the foundation of camera work,



editing, and how to make a film work," Singleton said. "That class really got me thinking about what was possible for me in film."

"We are very humbled and honored to have someone of John's stature as honorary chair of the Capital Campaign for the PCC Center for the Arts," said Dr. Lisa Sugimoto, vice president of College Advancement. "We at PCC are very proud of his accomplishments and his willingness to be involved with the institution he credits for his start in filmmaking."

Singleton will be working with Preston Howard, the general campaign chair, for the PCC Foundation's \$3.5 million Center for the Arts capital campaign. The unnamed, 69,000-square-foot building will encompass studios, classrooms, laboratories, auditoriums, rehearsal halls among other things.

"There is still time to be involved with the campaign and make a positive difference in the lives of our students," Sugimoto added.

ARCADIA

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

From Arcadia's Best:

City seeks commissioners

– By Scott Hettrick

If you've ever wanted to serve on one of the Arcadia city commissions that help guide the direction of everything from city planning, landscaping, and senior services to library and museum operations, now is the time to apply for the volunteer positions.

Arcadia is inviting citizens to get involved and help make decisions on critical issues affecting the City by applying to join a board or commission. To participate, applicants wishing to serve must be 18 years or older, a registered voter and a resident of the City of Arcadia. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 27, 2011. Appointments are expected to be made at the June 21 City Council meeting and terms vary in length from two to four years.

"Residents should get involved and serve because it's an opportunity to make a difference in the community, provide leadership as to the future direction of our City, said Recreation and Community Services Commissioner Steven Phillipi, "and make Arcadia a better place to live."

More than 40 residents currently serve as Boards and Commission members as volunteer advisors and provide critical input. According to former Historical Museum Commissioner Margaret Barrows, "Each of us has a little different perspective on things. In this very diverse community it is important to understand others and to bridge and embrace this diversity."

Vacancies currently exist in the following

Boards/Commissions:

Arcadia Beautiful (3)
Human Resources (1)
Library Board (1)
Planning (1)
Recreation and Parks (2)
Senior Citizens' Commission (1)

"One of the benefits of being a commission member is how informed you become about the City," stated Patti Anderson, Recreation & Parks Commission member. "It has been a very interesting learning experience!"

Applications can be obtained at the City Clerk's Office at Arcadia City Hall, 240 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007 or downloaded from the City's website at www.ci.arcadia.ca.us.

A strong advocate of participation is elected City Clerk Jim Barrows, who previously served on two commissions said: "With pride, you look back and know that you were a part of the solution. Many things in the City (dog park, bridges, Dana Gym, soccer field, library improvements and historical items) all had their beginnings with a Board or Commission. Walt Disney once said that Disneyland would never be complete as long as there was imagination. I feel the same about Arcadia. I strongly urge everyone to consider joining the City family and bring your ideas and strengths."

Please contact the City Clerk's office at (626) 574-5455 or visit the City Clerk's page on the City's website for more information about Board and Commission service in the City of Arcadia.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, April 17, through Saturday, April 23, the Police Department responded to 857 calls for service of which 98 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, April 17:

1. About 2:23 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Santa Anita Inn, 130 West Huntington Drive, regarding the theft of two flat screen televisions. The investigation revealed the 42-year-old female white suspect was an occupant in the room earlier that day. When housekeeping went to check the room at about 1:30 p.m., the televisions were missing. A follow-up investigation is being conducted by the detective bureau.

2. Shortly before 3:00 p.m., units responded to the 800 block of West Foothill Boulevard regarding a restraining order violation. The restrained person, a 44-year-old white female, was found approximately 15 yards in front of the property. A records check revealed a valid restraining order and she was placed under arrest for disobeying a court order.

Monday, April 18:

3. About 11:15 a.m., officers were dispatched to Motel 6, 225 Colorado Place regarding a suicide. Officers found a 59-year-old white female hanging by her neck from a clothes rack. She was pronounced dead by Paramedics and her family was notified. There were no signs of foul play.

4. Between 6:40 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., a residential burglary occurred in the 300 block of Monte Vista Road. Unknown suspect(s) cut the power to the house as well as the telephone lines. The suspect(s) then attempted to pry open the glass door, but were unsuccessful and entered the home by shattering a window. Once inside, the suspect(s) ransacked the master bedroom and stole cash and jewelry for an approximate loss of \$8,725.

Tuesday, April 19:

5. Between 12:30 p.m. and 1:10 p.m., a residential burglary occurred in the 2500 block of Lee Avenue. The suspect (described as a Male Asian, 5'06", thin build, 40-42 years of age, dark brown hair, brown eyes and wearing green hospital scrubs) entered through an unlocked side gate. He turned off the main power to the house at the circuit breaker, before prying the screen to the master bedroom. The suspect entered the home through the unlocked window, ransacked the house, and stole a watch and checks for an approximate loss of \$3,300. He was seen leaving in a newer model Black Nissan Altima.

6. Between 12:45 p.m. and 5:45 p.m., an auto burglary occurred in the 100 block of Campus Drive. Unknown suspect(s) tampered with the car door lock and stole the stereo, a black wallet and a California Driver's License.

Wednesday, April 20:

7. Shortly after 10:00 a.m., a traffic stop was initiated on Orange Grove at Baldwin Avenue for a lighting violation. When the officer activated his emergency lights, the car rapidly accelerated away. A pursuit was initiated and ended up on the westbound 210 freeway. The occupants, two male Hispanic juveniles ages 14 and 17, two male Hispanic adults age 18, and one male Black juvenile age 16, exited the moving vehicle. The car

continued across all four lanes of traffic and came to a stop when it collided with the center medium. A passing LAPD motor officer stopped and assisted the APD officer while additional units arrived. The suspects were arrested for felony evasion, burglary, receiving stolen property and possession of burglary tools. Only one suspect sustained minor injuries and no officers or passing motorists were hurt.

8. Around 6:25 p.m., officers responded to the Westfield Shopping Center, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in reference to a vehicle being vandalized. An investigation revealed a verbal dispute over a parking stall between a 31-year-old female of unknown race and an unknown white female 20-24 years of age, resulted in a broken driver's side mirror. The 20-24 year old suspect was seen breaking the mirror with her hands and leaving the scene in an early model silver Toyota sedan.

Thursday, April 21:

9. A traffic stop conducted around 4:30 p.m., on Colorado east of First Avenue, led to the arrest of the backseat passenger. A 42-year-old Hispanic male was taken into custody for possession of methamphetamine and a hypodermic needle/syringe.

10. Between 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 20th and 8:00 a.m. Thursday, April 21st, a residential burglary occurred in the 1000 block of west Duarte Road. Unknown suspect(s) forced open a locked laundry room door and stole a bicycle. The approximate loss is \$400.00.

Friday, April 22:

11. Around 6:45 p.m., loss prevention personnel from JC Penney advised they had detained a juvenile for theft. The suspect took merchandise into a fitting room, concealed the property, and left the store without making payment. A private person's arrest was made, and the 17-year old Hispanic female was taken into custody for petty theft.

12. Between 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 21st and 8:00 a.m. Friday, April 22nd, unknown suspect(s) collided with the light pole on the northwest corner of Santa Anita Avenue and Sycamore Drive. There were no witnesses to the incident at the time of the report.

Saturday, April 23:

13. A traffic stop was conducted shortly before 1:00 p.m. on Mountain View east of Michillinda for no license plates. A records check of the driver revealed he was on parole for identity theft. A parole search of the vehicle revealed a hidden compartment containing marijuana, a digital scale, empty Ziploc baggies and a fake "Arizona Tea" drink container designed to conceal paraphernalia. The 30-year-old Hispanic male was placed under arrest for possession of marijuana with intent to sell and a felony parole violation.

14. About 10:25 a.m., officers were dispatched to Salon Ibarra, 159 east Huntington Drive, in reference to a vandalism report. An investigation revealed that sometime between 7:30 p.m. on Friday April 22nd and 7:30 a.m. Saturday, April 23rd unknown suspect(s) vandalized a glass window of the business by carving undistinguishable letters or symbols into it.

DEALING WITH TWO KINDS OF PINK

A final reason why a Camino Grove teacher got involved with Arcadia ACS Mini-Relay for Life coming June 3

By Helen Simmons Conroy

Okay, by now you're probably sick of reading about my various reasons for becoming involved with the upcoming American Cancer Society's Mini-Relay for Life, hosted by Camino Grove Elementary School on June 3. You might think I am just trying to be some sort of noble "goodie two shoes" who has nothing better to do than inundate you with my stories.

However, I beg of you to follow me this one last time, as I share the biggest reason why I got involved. I guarantee my honesty in unveiling this largest motivation will dispel any myths of me being a "goodie-two shoes" that might have started to formulate in your minds. The biggest (not so noble) reason why I got involved with the ACS Mini-Relay was to distract myself from focusing too much on the possibility of losing my job. I am one of the 65.57 teachers throughout Arcadia School District who have been "pink slipped" due to budget cuts. I felt that if I became a part of this cause I would not be tempted to bathe in the depression that threatened to engulf me the last time I was given a lay-off notice by the district, two years ago. Luckily, that year, I was able to save my job by the skin of my teeth due to caring parents who contributed to AEF and caring teachers who voted for a slight pay reduction. Our district was also not as bad off financially then as it is now.

There you have it. I needed something to take my mind off of being pink slipped. Go ahead and make your judgments about this selfish motivation. But also know that I really do care about the

cause. As a breast cancer survivor, I wear my pink ribbon proudly (pink represents breast cancer/ brown represents lung cancer, Kelly green represents kidney cancer, etc.). I have committed to promoting cancer awareness and education at my elementary school, have dispelled cancer myths and rumors (having cancer is not an automatic death sentence and no, I am not dead, Dana Middle School), and am living proof that you can go on to lead a happy, healthy life as a cancer survivor.

Lastly, I offer this perspective as a cancer survivor, in my final plea for your involvement. Getting cancer stops you from taking life for granted and forces you to look at the "big picture" – that without life, you have nothing – no children to hug, no husband to kiss, no corgi to walk,

no sister to call, no students to love and teach. Arcadia elementary school parents and students, remember the "big picture." Our district needs your help to fight pink slips, but our world also needs your help to fight cancer. Support the upcoming American Cancer Society's Mini-Relay for Life. Get involved because you care about fighting cancer and stopping it before it touches you or someone you love, if it hasn't already. The event will take place on Camino Grove Elementary School's field, June 3, from 3 – 6 p.m. For more information, check out our website at <http://arcadiamini-relay.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 or me at hconroy@ausd.net.



Helen Conroy with photos of her children

The City of Arcadia Recreation and Community Services Department Summer 2011 Registration Begins in May!

Pick up the latest copy of "The Peacock Buzz" to find out what is going on in the City of Arcadia! Copies are available at the City of Arcadia Recreation Office, Library and City Hall or by going to the city website at www.ci.arcadia.ca.us under the Recreation and Community Services Department.

On-line registration for classes and activities begins May 2nd for Arcadia residents ONLY at www.ci.arcadia.ca.us! May 9th open registration begins which includes on-line non-resident registration along with ALL walk-in, mail-in and fax-in registration. Summer activities fill up quickly so get your registration requests in to assure your spot! For new registrants, please remember to include your proof of residency/child's birth with your forms and on-line submittals. This information is required and will delay the process if not provided.

For questions and on-line Log-in ID information for active accounts, please contact the Recreation Department at 626.574.5113.



**Arcadia / 210
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50% off 2 months rent
324 N. Second Ave
Arcadia, CA 91006
arcadia210@sbcglobal.net
PH 626-574-2020
FX 626-574-0023

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



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.

A HISTORY OF PHARMACY IN ARCADIA

On May 19 at noon, Stuart Henderson, former owner and pharmacist of King Pharmacy in Arcadia, 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 Pharmacy in Arcadia!

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.

MONROVIA - DUARTE

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

LISA MAGNO - BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

On April 16th, Kiwanis Member, Lisa Magno was recognized as the Business Woman of Achievement for the 24th California State Senate District. Lisa is the proud owner of Joe's Place in Duarte, and also owns the Leven Oaks Assisted Living Residential Care Facility, which gives older adults the ability to age with dignity. Lisa is a passionate and dedicated volunteer in her community where she has coordinated programs like the Relay for Life in Duarte to benefit the American Cancer Society and has been an outspoken advocate on the prevention of Elder Abuse. Lisa is also a Duarte Kiwanian. She was joined at Senator Hernandez' event by fellow Kiwanians Stafford Barker, Sandi Mejia and Tina Carey.

Another Duarte Kiwanian Sandi Mejia, is a finalist for Pasadena's 2011 Women of Distinction Award. Sandi's investments in Pasadena, through business and community, is something has been passed on through generations. She is the third of six generations in her family in the city. She holds high position in four companies, including her own M&R Professional Services. She serves on various boards and committees including the Pasadena Mexican-American History Association, Pasadena City College Community Foundation and Latino Business Exchange – and, of course, she is a member of the Duarte Kiwanis Club.



Lisa Magno (l) and State Senator Ed Hernandez (r)

Monrovia Police Blotter

Outside Assist / Felony Burglary Warrant Arrest - Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department - Suspect Arrested

On April 14 at 2:47 p.m., a California state corrections officer called requesting assistance in conducting a traffic stop of a vehicle which they believed was being driven by a prison escapee. Officers arrived at Magnolia and Huntington and made a high-risk traffic stop on the vehicle. The escapee was not in the vehicle, but the driver was wanted for burglary and had a no-bail felony warrant for his arrest. The driver was arrested and later transferred to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Residential Burglary / Vehicle Burglary

On April 14 at 2:09 p.m., an officer was dispatched to a residence in the 300 block of East Palm regarding the report of a burglary. The victim reported that someone had come into her house through a downstairs window and took her laptop from her second story bedroom. This happened two days prior, but the victim did not report it until convinced by co-workers. While the officer was taking this report, the victim reported that her vehicle was also broken into three weeks prior. The front passenger window was broken out and items were taken.

Petty Theft with Priors / Receiving Stolen Property - Two Suspects Arrested

On April 14 at 7:07 p.m., an officer responded to a business in the 3300 block of South Peck Road on the report of two male suspects receiving property over the fence from someone inside the business. The officer arrived at the location and observed the two suspects on the outside of the business and detained them without incident. Assisting officers set up a perimeter and a thorough search of the business was conducted. A canine unit and the Foothill Air Support Team helicopter were utilized in an attempt to locate the suspect, but he was not found. Officers did locate a vehicle filled with used radiators and other copper and aluminum parts. The two suspects were arrested and booked for receiving stolen property, and one of the suspects had approximately 10 prior theft convictions.

False Information to a Peace Officer / Misappropriation of Found Property / Drunk in Public - Suspect Arrested

On April 15 at 2:58 a.m., officers on patrol in the area of Magnolia and Huntington observed a disturbance between a male and female subject. They approached the subjects and determined both had been drinking. The officers obtained identification from the subjects. The female presented a driver's license that did not belong to her and claimed to be that person. Her true identity was discovered when her male companion called her by her true name, she then admitted to giving officers a false name. She was arrested for providing false information to a peace officer. Further investigation will be conducted to confirm if the identification was lost or stolen. The suspect claimed to have found the driver's license.

Commercial Burglary

On April 15 at 4:03 a.m., police received a burglary alarm indicating windows had been broken at a business in the 900 block of West Huntington. A broken window was visible to the first officer on scene. An extensive search was conducted; however, the suspect(s) were

gone on police arrival. The suspect(s) used a claw hammer to break the store window and took merchandise, dropping one item as they fled.

Robbery - Suspect Arrested

On April 15 at 3:10 p.m., a business in the 500 block of West Huntington called to report their loss prevention officers were detaining a subject for shoplifting. The subject was uncooperative and had struggled with the loss prevention officers. The subject was arrested and taken into custody for robbery.

Attempted Suicide / Mental Evaluation. On April 15 at 8:39 p.m. a male subject who was distraught after his fiancé called off their engagement, attempted to commit suicide by slitting his wrists. An officer responded and detained him for his own safety. The wounds were not severe. He was treated by Monrovia Fire Department Paramedics and taken to a hospital, where he will be held for mental evaluation.

Grand Theft Auto / Vehicle Recovered

On April 16 at 5:00 p.m., an officer responded to the report of a suspicious vehicle in an alley in the 400 block of East Olive. It was determined to have been taken from behind a nearby restaurant. The steering column was damaged and the pink slip and registration were taken, as well as the stereo. The victim did not yet know his car had been stolen.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon - Suspect Arrested

On April 19 at 6:48 p.m., two male subjects were arguing, when a third subject walked up and struck one of the subjects on the head with a shovel. The victim managed to run away and called police. Officers responded and located the suspect and he was arrested. Monrovia Fire Department paramedics responded and treated the victim, who was taken to a hospital by ambulance. Two other subjects were present, but stated they did not see anything. The investigation is continuing.

Shoplifting / Possession of a Controlled Substance - Suspect Arrested

On April 20 at 7:47 p.m., officers responded to a business in the 700 block of East Huntington regarding two subjects being detained for shoplifting. While investigating, officers learned that one of the subjects being detained had methamphetamine in her vehicle. Officers retrieved the substance and arrested her for shoplifting and for possession of a controlled substance.

Battery

On April 20 at 8:54 p.m., officers were dispatched to a residence in the 100 block of North Primrose regarding a fight in progress. The suspect had fled the location in a red truck. The Foothill Air Support Team helicopter was in the area and located the vehicle on Huntington, heading toward the city of Duarte. The driver was detained by officers in front of his home and a field show up was conducted. The suspect was identified and arrested. Apparently the suspect was leaving his parents' home when the victim called the suspect a thief. The suspect approached the victim and threw him on the ground.

DUARTE COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP AND E WASTE ROUND-UP

In the spirit of keeping Duarte beautiful, the City of Duarte is inviting all residents to roll up their sleeves and participate on Saturday, May 7th in the bi-annual "Duarte Community Clean-up Day" and E-Waste Round-Up.

Residents are encouraged to use the day to spruce up their own personal property by taking advantage of the various free services provided that day. From 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Duarte's licensed trash hauler, Burrtec Waste Industries will provide two convenient drop-off locations in the City where residents can dispose of large refuse items and e-waste. The locations are Duarte City Hall at 1600 Huntington Drive and Beardslee Elementary School at 1212 Kelwill Way in Duarte. Southern California Edison is also sponsoring a refrigerator/freezer collection on the same day. Residents can schedule their pick-up by calling (800) 234-9722. Appointments are made on a first come, first serve basis.



For more information about how to participate in the Duarte Community Clean-Up day and E-Waste Round-Up, call Duarte City Hall at (626) 357-7931, ext. 221 or visit the City's website at www.accessduarte.com.



Monrovia Day Celebrations!

Saturday, May 14th, 2011



Cupcake Contest

Monrovia residency not required.

Special Celebrity Judge Peter Dills!

Entry deadline 2 PM. Judging 2:30 PM at Paint N Play - 400 Blk. S. Myrtle Ave.

Download entry form at: www.OldTownMonroviaCA.com

Enter as many times as you like!

Please provide 6 cupcakes for each entry.

Rules: Be creative, make 'em home made and have fun!

Two great categories: Filled & Unfilled

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In each category: Taste & Originality

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Stan's Monrovia Bicycles Diabetes is His Reason to Ride

Groups of riders in brightly colored outfits are a common sight at Stan's Monrovia Bikes at the corner of Myrtle and Chestnut. Located just two blocks north of Huntington Drive, proprietor Stan Pitts has created quite the gathering place for Southern Californians simply interested in staying fit while having fun. "We're a social group of riders who simply want to get better, we're not trying to see how fast we can ride," says Stan. As a result, a portion of the parking lot is transformed into a regional hub of friendly exchanges and excitement as groups of customers convene to ride five to six days a week.

Stan's Monrovia Bikes has been in business for ten years, moving to the current location six years ago. Like millions of Americans, he says that he was once obese, but decided to lose weight. His business provides him with the added bonus of keeping fit while being attentive to two of his passions, bike riding and social activism. His store's riding group formed the "Monrovia Cyclists Against Diabetes," which had already raised \$52,000 for this year's "Tour deCure - Ship to Shore" fundraiser sponsored by the American Diabetes Association. By the end of April, his group had raised more money than any other participating riding group, exceeding the amounts raised by any single corporate riding team. They raised \$15,000 for their 100-mile ride in this annual fundraiser in 2010.

Diabetes is a very personal matter for Stan, as he stated, "Everyone in my family, except me, has diabetes." He's lost loved ones as a result of the disease, including one of his nephews who died two years ago. His store also participates in other fundraisers. Last year, they sponsored four riders for *AIDS Life Cycle*, a week-long ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. It is the biggest annual fundraiser for the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Headed by customer, Lutz Kunze, they have also been involved in raising funds for multiple sclerosis, raising \$18,000 with 33 riders in 2010. Stan credits his inspiration for community activism to his meager beginnings as the youngest in a household headed by a single mother who worked hard. He recalls the kindness, caring and generosity of neighbors

and others in the community who provided additional assistance to this family when it was needed. If he had his way, there would be no need for the government to provide the basics of shelter, food, clothing or medical care. "I know it's not going to happen, but it would be ideal if people would be willing to extend themselves to take care of others,"



Customers just returning from a midday ride on Friday, April 29th.

said Stan, "I feel blessed with what I have and I want to do my part to give back and help others in some way."

Before retiring to a life of biking, Stan Pitts made a living in the dairy business. He was given the moniker of "Milkman to the Stars," making weekly rounds to the homes of Hollywood's A-List - Hugh Hefner, Barbara Streisand, Priscilla Presley, Aaron Spelling and other famous celebrities. Born and raised in Los Angeles, he grew up in the Cypress Park and Lincoln Park areas, went to college and later entered the ministry for a number of years. He cites the two most memorable honors in his life. Belgium cyclist, Eddy Merckx came to his Monrovia bicycle shop and rode with the group. While lying frail in her bed as a double amputee suffering from diabetes, she sang "Happy Birthday" to him during one of his weekly Friday deliveries to home. It's obvious that this man has plenty of reasons to keep on riding. He invites you to call or just drop to experience this family-owned business that's "more than just a store, a community of cyclists who want you to discover the joy of riding."

Stan's Monrovia Bikes is located at 880 S. Myrtle in Monrovia 91016. Open 7 days a week - (626) 357-0020. Learn more at stansmonroviabikes.com

SIERRA MADRE RESTAURATEURS OPEN TWO NEW BURGER PLACES... OUT OF TOWN, BUT NOT FAR

THE BURGER SHACK



By Chris Bertrand

It's another family affair. Expanding their eatery empire, the Kefalas brothers, owners of Sierra Madre's Only Place in Town and Barney's in Old Town Pasadena, have joined their Podley Realtor cousin, Luther Tsinoglou and his brother, Akis, to open Monrovia and Pasadena burger and fast food restaurants.

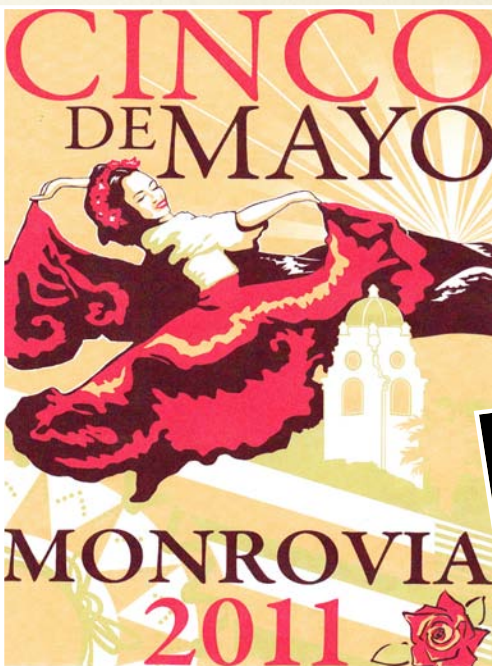
Though Luther Tsinoglou is well known as a Podley Realtor in town, he and his brother aren't new to the restaurant business. Since the 1990's, they've been rehabbing and bringing new life to tired restaurants. Between the four of them, the two sets of brothers bring a wide array and decades of experience.

"We're serving quality food fast, says Luther. "We make almost everything fresh in-house. It's food we would serve our own families, including some of the family's own recipes." Even Tsinoglou's father gets into the act, preparing the restaurant's chili from his recipe. "We are doing things slowly, so we haven't done our grand opening yet. Breakfast was big, with lots of families on our first Sunday opening last weekend. We completed the kitchen work first. Now we'll work on the exterior and signage while the restaurant is open," reflected Luther.

The Burger Shack menu is a wide combination of Burgers, American, Greek and Mexican fare, which should satisfy just about every appetite. Monrovia's Burger Shack (Formerly Tom's Drive-In) is at 880 West Foothill Blvd. (626) 303-0533. In Pasadena, they're located at 1130 E. Walnut. (626) 568-3277 or find them on the web at www.TheBurgerShack.net.

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THE EXCITEMENT OF EXPLORATION



Saturday, May 14th and Sunday, May 15th
9:00am - 5:00pm
Admission and parking are free

The future is now at JPL's annual Open House, where the Laboratory is welcoming its neighbors Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event offers special videos and shows to see, children's activities for the younger members of your family, mission personnel to chat with, numerous exhibits and much more.

This is an exciting year for JPL's robotic explorers. In the past twelve months, two spacecraft made close encounters of comets. This summer, the Dawn spacecraft will arrive at the giant asteroid Vesta. In 2011, JPL will launch the Aquarius satellite studying Earth's ocean, the Juno mission to Jupiter, the Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory's twin spacecraft to Earth's moon, and JPL's next-generation rover - Mars Science Laboratory's Curiosity. Learn all about these and other projects as you tour the Laboratory.

For more information:
www.jpl.nasa.gov/openhouse

NOTE - Wheelchair-accessible van service is available at Entrance #1. No backpacks or ice chests are allowed, with the exception of small purses and diaper bags. Visitors, vehicles and personal belongings are subject to inspection. Smoking is permitted only outdoors. Please observe all NO SMOKING signs.

A division of the California Institute of Technology, JPL is a leading research and development center conducting work for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. JPL is dedicated to the scientific exploration of space and Earth with robotic spacecraft.

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Synergy and Funding From Public & Private Groups Makes Water Wise Demonstration Garden a Success

Sierra Madre School's Native and Water Wise Garden Dedicated by Chris Bertrand

An enthusiastic group attended the dedication of the Demonstration Garden at Sierra Madre School on Tuesday, April 26th. The front lawn of the school at 141 W. Highland was chosen because of its high visibility within the community, including the families of the 700 students in attendance at the school. Nearly a year in the making, the expansive grassy area has been transformed into a water-thrifty landscape, using mostly California native plantings.

The project's theme, "Conserve, Preserve and Restore" is manifested in a new, water efficient irrigation system, redirected rainwater runoff from the huge roof, a smaller, water thrifty lawn area planted with low water usage grass that stays green more months of the year, decomposed granite pathways for walking and water runoff, designated space for a future "edible garden" and, of course, the installation of a varied and beautiful palette of California native vegetation.

The intention is that a "picture is worth a thousand words" by showing the school community and the public at large that a landscape using local native plants can be beautiful and colorful, beneficial to the ecosystem and extremely water thrifty.

A \$75,000 grant from the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD) started the ball rolling in 2010. Plans were drawn, and significant contributions came from The Theodore Payne Foundation, Pasadena Unified School District and the City of Sierra Madre. Skanska and Marina Landscape donated \$50,000 in decomposed granite for pedestrian walkways that double as percolation paths for rainwater runoff.

Parents, students, teachers and administrators from Sierra Madre School pitched in, too, including placing rocks and mulch. In addition to proclamations from state legislative leaders, representatives from all the groups involved spoke passionately about the benefits of the completed demonstration garden. Those who spoke even began to chuckle at the repetitive themes in their personal kudos: diverse groups working together for a common cause, finding creative ways to work with limited funds, and the delight at the project's success.

During a tour of the garden, it was explained that natives often take three years to get fully established. As part of incorporating the garden into the school's curriculum and to help the public understand, placards with the words "Sleep, Creep, Leap" have been installed throughout the plantings.

The first "sleep" year, not much is visible as the plant is busy developing a deep root system. For this reason, the natives were planted during the rainy season, in November, to ensure as much natural rainfall and cool weather to give the plants a healthy start. If it hasn't rained, newly planted natives require watering about once a week. Once established, most natives require only about 1/7th the annual watering that non-natives require, a huge saving in dollars and water.

During the second "creep" year, some top growth will be exhibited. Finally, in the third "leap" year, California natives reach

their stride.

During his address to the dedication attendees, Tom Love, a board member of the SGVMWD, rephrased the old adage, "We need to save for a rainy day" to "We need to save (water) for a sunny day." He indicated that though an official "end" to the drought was announced, we shouldn't go back to our old water usage habits.



Blossoms

April is one of my favorite months, not only because it brings spring break – that last wonderful time off before the final sprint towards home in the school year – but also because of the orange blossoms. Spring brings many beautiful flowers and refreshing fragrances, but the orange blossoms awaken something inside of me – they are the key to a door of complete euphoric serenity, causing all of my fears and anxieties to melt away like the snow on the neighboring mountains. Something about the soft, pure-sweet smell saturates my senses, filling my mind with images of sunshine, wind blowing through tall grass, and bright, cloudless blue skies. I eagerly look forward towards taking walks into town because I get to pass numerous orange trees which welcome me with their luscious aroma and smiling white petals. For not only does the orange blossom smell absolutely divine, but the flowers are beautiful and small; easy to transport home and into my room.

But the best part about orange blossoms is their ability to relax my nerves with their aromatic smell, especially during this chaotic part of the school year. With only twenty five days of school left, my teachers have entered supersonic teaching mode, cramming as much information into my already overwhelmed brain as possible. But orange blossoms are there to help me keep my sanity as the school year comes to a close, and I prepare to enter my last year of high school before the large step that is college. I look forward to spending as much time around these little friends during my spring break next week as possible, for they will be gone soon and replaced by their delicious orange fruit, helping me stay focused as I study for my upcoming AP exams in May.

What's On YOUR Mind? What Do YOU Think?

We'd like to hear from you!
Contact us at:
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AKA - AN AMERICAN BISTRO

Battled with the fervor of a Lincoln – Douglas debate. Foodies in both New York and Los Angeles sermonize with certainty that the best restaurants table up in their city. Pasadena has a collection of the world's finest illustrations of cuisine. Noir just collected the prize of finest new restaurant by the Zagat guide. Parkway Grill has been knighted as the *Spago of the East* and Pasadena finds yet another star in its orbit, AKA (An American Bistro). It's new to Pasadena, but according to owners Robert and Debra Simon, it's a transplant from St. Helena's and the Napa Valley. The restaurant is a quintessential bistro with a menu that integrates and blends a fusion of flavors. The restaurants summons Café Joucelet to mind. AKA is related to the very popular Bistro 45, they are brothers.

AKA is the latest concept by renowned restaurateurs Deborah and Robert Simon, who also have operated Bistro 45 for the past 20 plus years in Pasadena, and previously launched the AKA concept in St. Helena two and a half years ago to critical acclaim. "Opening AKA back home in Pasadena is very exciting for us. We can now share for the first time with our friends in Pasadena the amazing flavors we discovered while in the California wine country." Their seasoned culinary experience includes working with Chez Panisse, the founder Alice Waters and the incomparable Narsai David. During the 1980's Robert and his father Alvin opened the affectionately remembered Café Joucelet on Raymond at a time when Old Towne Pasadena was maturing. Drawing flavors and menu focus from California wine country sensibility and from specific, sustainable, and, where ever possible, organic sources. AKA's sophisticated yet comfortable ambiance will be highlighted by gracious and abundant

TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills

hospitality and a diverse menu featuring selections for every taste. Chef Jonathan Wiener's vivid flavors pair naturally with an exceptional and well-priced wine selection and handcrafted brews from California. Speaking of wine, corkage is a meager (\$8) here. So what to order, I must admit that Robert and I go way back, amazing since both of us have a full head of hair. Anyway, I wasn't incognito, Robert insisted on picking a few of his favorites and I promise they will become yours as well. Buttermilk Onion Rings (\$6), yes, the pride of comfort food everywhere is a restaurants feature here. An unusually seasoned dish to nibble along is the Portobello mushroom fries (\$9), The truffle aioli makes them irresistible. If you have been following my columns here in the Outlook, you know that Calamari is a must for me, at (\$12) the Grilled Calamari with chipotle and arugula is one reason this restaurant competes with the best among Pasadena and the greater Los Angeles area. Entrees feature Cassoulet, Pork Chops, Pasta, and game hen but my selection was the Risotto (\$18). Simple wholesome ingredients which propel flavors to a mind tingling level with mushrooms, artichokes and sunchokes. Robert would not let me escape without a sampling of the AKA Ruben with aged and house made corn beef (\$14). I see myself having lunch on the patio with a glass of bubbly and the corn beef sandwich. On or visit the menu offered seven desserts, my choice is the Butterscotch pot au Crème (\$8.50).

So what does AKA mean? Alvin Knows Always.
41 Hugos Alley at One Colorado.

Check the web site for updates www.akabistro.com. (626) 564.8111. Watch my show on Charter Cable on Saturday and Sunday Nights at 7 PM on Charter 101. Follow me on Twitter and on Facebook.



KNOWN FACT: MOMS & KIDS LOVE PANCAKES IN RESPONSE TO THIS BELOVED BREAKFAST ITEM, RENAISSANCE HOTELS & KIDS ACROSS AMERICA WHIP UP SECOND "MOTHER'S DAY PANCAKE PLAY DATE"

Moms can sit back, relax and let the kids wear the chef's hat again this year

Whoever said food was the way to a man's heart, must have forgotten about the millions of moms who love something delicious from the kitchen on their special day. Once again Renaissance Hotels opens the kitchen to kids this Mother's Day with its second annual "Mother's Day Pancake Play Date" breakfast and brunch special <http://www.therenaissancelife.com/easy-pancake-recipe/> at participating Renaissance Hotels throughout the U.S. The "Mother's Day Pancake Play Date" is a fun, new annual tradition for Renaissance Hotels as they aim to provide families with an affordable way to say "thanks mom" while focusing on providing guests with cuisine made from indigenous ingredients. On Sunday, May 8th the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel will provide kids the opportunity to create the ultimate, custom pancake while Moms sit back and enjoy the relaxing sounds of jazz music during our Mothers Day Sunday Jazz Brunch. Every Sunday afternoon, the sounds from the KJAZZ 88.1FM Champagne Brunch Series fill the air at the hotel's Twist Restaurant from 11:00am-2:00pm. The KJAZZ brunches feature high quality jazz artists and live broadcasts from KJAZZ DJ's and include all you can eat and drink from a wide variety of stations throughout the restaurant. Choose your favorites from cooked to order omelettes, eggs benedict, fresh waffles, carved prime rib, hot entrees, salads, desserts, champagne, mimosas and much, much, more. The cost is \$39.95 for adults, \$19.95 for kids 12 and under.

It's a win-win situation for parents and kids this Mother's Day as each Renaissance Hotel will have a dedicated chef's station that includes healthy options as well as indulgent and micro-local indigenous ingredients for the kids to choose from as they make their mom a customized flap jack. Parents will have the chance to dine at their table while the kids are supervised and guided at the pancake station by a renowned Renaissance chef.

"Renaissance is dedicated to providing hotel guests and local patrons with unique culinary experiences that use the best indigenous ingredients available in each market. Our Mother's Day Pancake Playdate package not only offers families with the opportunity to help kids tap into their inner-culinary talents, but it also helps create a memorable experience that gives back to Mom," said Tina Edmundson, senior vice president lifestyle brands "The Mother's Day flap jack experience was a popular event among families last year, and as a result Renaissance Hotels is excited to bring the opportunity back for a second year."

Celebrate Mom



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A Mother's Day Tea

with

Jane Austen

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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
550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre

For information call 626-355-7186.

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

PASADENA ARTWALK CALL TO ARTISTS

The 6th Annual Pasadena ARTWalk is accepting artists submissions.

The Pasadena Playhouse District Association is inviting artists to submit artwork for the 6th Annual Pasadena ARTWalk. This year's Pasadena ARTWalk will take place on Saturday, October 15, 2011 from 11 am until 5 pm at El Molino Ave. between Colorado and Green St.

All artists are welcome to apply to exhibit in the Pasadena ARTWalk. Artists submitting work must fall in one of the following categories:

- Drawing
- Mixed media
- New media
- Painting
- Photography
- Sculpture

Application fees*:

- \$100 - early submittal fee for applications received before June 30, 2011
- \$150 - application fee submitted from July 1 - 29, 2011

*Artists work will be juried. If not selected, application fee will be returned

Deadline for submission: July 29, 2011


Notification date: August 23, 2011

The Pasadena ARTWalk is a free multi-faceted celebration of the arts in the Playhouse District. The festival offers an eclectic selection of art ranging from visual, written and spoken word, to performance, and culinary art. The Pasadena ARTWalk is presented by the Pasadena Playhouse District Association.

For more information on how to participate in this year's Pasadena ARTWalk, visit www.playhouse-district.org/artwalk or call 626.744.0340.

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- Juried Salon Exhibit

for more information:
call 626-798-0833 email: mtkoma@altadenalibrary.org
fees and comissions will benefit the Altadena Library



Sean Kayden

Back in 2008, "The Black List" declared Kyle Killen's script, THE BEAVER, the number one unproduced screenplay. In early May it will be unleashed to audiences. It stars Mel Gibson as a distressed husband who finds a beaver hand puppet, which seemingly becomes his only means of communication. Directed and co-starring Jodie Foster, "The Beaver" premiered last month at the SXSW Film Festival with mixed-to-positive reactions. Despite any notable flaws with the movie, the buzz is strong on the acting performances, especially with Mel Gibson's portrayal. It is apparent that Mel desperately needs "The Beaver" to be a moderate hit or his career as an actor may become a thing of the past. Regardless, "The Beaver" looks like a poignant family drama that will be filled with small, intimate moments about love, life, and the road to self-discovery no matter what age you are. Look for "The Beaver" in limited release on May 6th and opening wider on May 20th.

HESHER is directed and co-written by newcomer, Spencer Susser. It first was featured at Sundance in 2010. The film stars the always-superlative Joseph Gordon Levitt (500 Days Of Summer, Inception) as the titular character who's radical, an arsonist and a loner. Heshher soon becomes the mentor and tormentor of T.J. (introducing Devin Brochu), a 13 year-old boy who moves in at his grandmother's house with his despondent father after the accidental death of T.J.'s mother. Heshher ends up moving in as well to shake up the household. T.J.'s father Paul (Rainn Wilson), still grief stricken, doesn't have the verbal fight in him to kick out Heshher. However, Heshher's anarchy ironically pulls the family out of their anguish and aids them in embracing life once again. This one also co-stars Natalie Portman as a supermarket cashier that tries to protect TJ, with whom he quickly becomes smitten. "Heshher" was picked up by independent studio, Newmarket films last year and it will finally see the light of day on May 13th. From the looks it, "Heshher" has cult status written all over it and may just become a sleeper hit.

BEAUTIFUL BOY is an untraditional love story that explores the journey of a married couple on the brink of separation, who must live with inconceivable heartache after their 18 year-old son commits a mass shooting at his college, then subsequently ending his own life. Maria Bello (A History Of Violence, The Cooler) and Michael

SEAN'S SHAMELESS REVIEWS:

5 UNDER THE RADAR SUMMER MOVIES

Sheen (Frost/Nixon, The Queen) star in this sentimental drama that debuted last year at the Toronto Film Festival. Shawn Ku is making his feature directorial debut with a script he co-wrote with Michael Armbruster. From the trailer and premise, "Beautiful Boy" obviously appears to be a heavy-heart laden drama. I'm expecting a few (and for others, plenty of) tears. "Beautiful Boy" is either going to be a deeply moving, heart gripping tale or come off as pretentious, sappy, and maudlin. Whatever the case may be, I'll definitely be checking out this hopefully fulfilling drama. "Beautiful Boy" will be in select theaters on May 20th.

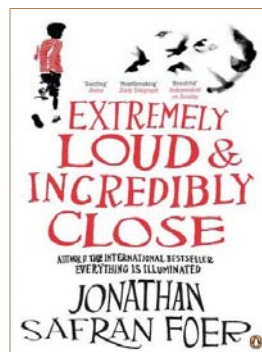
Like "Heshher", SKATELAND premiered at Sundance in 2010 and will arrive in limited theaters, also on May 13th, courtesy of Freestyle Releasing. "Skateland" is the quintessential coming-of-age tale about a 19 year-old skating ring manager (Shiloh Fernandez) living in small town Texas in the '80s and on the cusp of figuring out his future. Ashlee Greene, from "Twilight" fame also co-stars. The movie appears to dip into familiar terrain, but I've always been a sucker for these types of stories. It's about growing up, discovering who you want to become and what's exactly important to you. I remain rather optimistic that first time director, Anthony Burns, has skillfully crafted a charming and profoundly affecting film about small town adolescents with big dreams.

2010 Sundance Special Jury Prize winner, SYMPATHY FOR DELICIOUS, tells the story of a recently paralyzed DJ (Christopher Thornton) struggling with every day life. Things rapidly begin to change when he mysteriously discovers he possesses healing powers to cure the sick - although not himself. The DJ receives more than he anticipated when he sets his sights on cashing in on his mystical gift in exchange for his rock n' roll ambitions. The superbly talented actor, Mark Ruffalo, finds himself behind the camera this time around as he makes his directorial debut. "Sympathy for Delicious" is fueled with a solid group of well-known actors including Ruffalo himself, Juliette Lewis, Orlando Bloom, Laura Linney, and John Carroll Lynch. First time writer and real life paraplegic, Christopher Thornton stars as the lead character, "Delicious" Dean O'Dwyer. I've heard mixed responses toward the film, but those who enjoyed it found it to be very effective. The delicate subject matter of faith may turn off a few people, but if you're an open-minded filmgoer, "Sympathy For Delicious" might be an appropriate and hopefully rewarding substitute to seek out during a bloated summer movie season. You can find "Sympathy For Delicious" arriving in select theaters on April 29th and VOD May 5th.

Jeff's Pics The Book Report

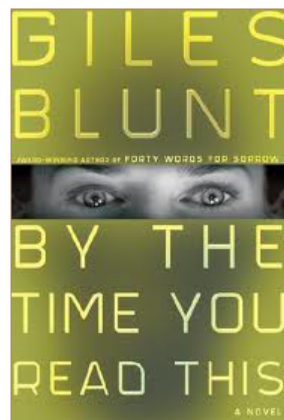
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close: A Novel by Jonathan Safran Foer

Nine year old Oskar has embarked on a secret, urgent mission that takes him through the five boroughs of New York. His goal is to find the lock that matches a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on September 11. This impossible task will bring Oskar into contact with survivors of all sorts on an exhilarating, often hilarious, and ultimately healing journey. Jonathan Safran Foer emerged as one of the most original writers of his generation with his best-selling debut novel, Everything Is Illuminated. Now, with humor, tenderness, and awe, he confronts an event of our recent history. His books have won numerous awards and have been translated into 36 languages.



By the Time You Read This: A Novel by Giles Blunt

Giles Blunt is the winner of both Britain's prestigious Silver Dagger and Canada's Arthur Ellis Award, and is a rising international star in crime fiction. Set in remote Algonquin Bay, Ontario, Blunt's compelling fourth crime novel to feature John Cardinal finds the police detective mourning the death of a friend, an apparent suicide. Then Cardinal starts receiving cold, hate filled notes gloating over his loss. Stirred and angered into believing that his friend may have been murdered, he sets about looking into who might be refusing to let the dead or, more particularly, himself rest easy. Meanwhile, his partner, Lise Delorme, is busy trying to track down the pedophile responsible for a cache of appalling photos featuring a small girl who may live in or near Algonquin Bay. An unexpected yet utterly realistic twist lifts this novel into extremely interesting and entertaining territory. The book has sharp dialogue, and is well written with complex characters and a satisfying conclusion.



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49th Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair

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HOWARD Hays As I See It



It's hard to take tea-partiers seriously. They're not helped by a YouTube video of attendees at an April 18 rally in South Carolina. With Patsy Cline's "Crazy" in the background, they denounce our non-citizen president ("once you're a Muslim, I don't think you can change"), declare Medicare and Social Security "unconstitutional", and condemn our invasion of "Lyboner" (Lebanon? Libya? Lipitor?). Preferred news source is Fox, early presidential favorite is Donald Trump. And for a punch-line, "we're spending too much money on education." 168,367 views so far - and counting.

Perhaps some on the right themselves didn't take these new activists seriously enough. Lobbyist-funded front groups mobilized crowds to disrupt town hall meetings more than a year ago, incensed by warnings of cuts to Medicare through "Obamacare". They turned out en masse to the polls last November to support Republican challengers promising to tackle unemployment and growing deficits.

Many, though, weren't interested in merely serving as surrogate warriors for the GOP. Many actually cared about jobs, red ink and the future of Medicare. They learned town hall meetings are effective venues in which to voice those concerns.

Beneficiaries of reduced upper-marginal tax rates, those pulling in twenty grand (\$20G) a month turned out to be less likely to attend town hall meetings than those who rely on Medicare. And, there was a mistaken assumption that those currently enrolled are only concerned about themselves. As a 64-year-old town hall participant told her congressman, Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA), "You seem to think that because I'm not affected, I won't care if my niece, my grandson, my child is affected. I do care." She continued, "You said nothing in the campaign about 'I'm going to change Medicare.' Now you voted for a plan that will destroy Medicare."

Rep. Robert Dold (R-Ill) got a similar reception when trying to explain the budget authored by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) to his constituents in Buffalo Grove. As reported in the local Daily Herald, "It began with audience members telling Dold they don't believe chopping 10 percentage points off the highest corporate tax rate will create jobs. A handful of people in the audience identified themselves as business owners and accountants who said their effective corporate income tax rate is already lower than the lowest rates proposed in the Ryan plan. They pointed to companies such as GE that pay almost no taxes despite billions in profits as evidence."

Turning Medicare into a taxpayer subsidy for private insurance was sold by Rep. Dold as "giving choice to individuals". In response, according to the Herald, "Audience members said buying private insurance is a shell game where no one really knows what costs a company will cover or to what degree."

Rep. Ryan got a taste of it himself at a town hall in Milton, WI. A constituent began by describing himself as a "life-long conservative", and noted that "History has shown that concentrating more wealth at the top has been the worst thing for our economy."

He continued, "The middle class is disappearing right now. During this time of prosperity, the top 1 percent was taking about 10 percent of the total annual income, but yet today we are fighting to not let the tax breaks for the wealthy expire? And we're fighting to not raise the Social Security cap from \$87,000? I think we're wrong."

Rep. Ryan responded, "I don't disagree with the premise of what you're saying. The question is what's the best way to do this. Is it to redistribute . . ."

The constituent pressed his point, "You have to lower spending. But it's a matter of there's nothing wrong with taxing the top because it does not trickle down."

Rep. Ryan's response, "We do tax the top", brought a chorus of derisive boos from the audience.

Rep. Sean Duffy, another Wisconsin Republican, didn't fare any better when a constituent pointed out the budget figures Duffy tried to pass off as having come from the Congressional Budget Office were in fact corporate-sponsored, discredited talking points straight out of The Heritage Foundation.

(Last April 1, Wisconsin Democrats held a "Food and Clothing Drive" for Rep. Duffy, after he'd complained to a constituent, an unemployed construction worker whose wife faced a cut in her teacher's salary, that he himself had to "struggle to meet my bills" on his congressman's salary of \$174,000 a year.)

The April 18 South Carolina rally featured Tea Party favorites Gov. Nikki Haley and Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN). Another speaker, Republican State Sen. Tom Davis, isn't as well known, lacking the Freedom Works, Americans for Prosperity and Koch Brothers corporate backing enjoyed by others.

In an interview after speaking, Sen. Davis explained, "We're not a big state. Our general fund is \$5.1 billion dollars. And with a \$5.1 billion dollar general fund budget, we're giving away one billion dollars in tax credits to targeted industries that have lobbyists that are going to lobby for them? Somebody pays that bill, and there's no free lunch. Who pays the bill are those folks out there that don't have the power to hire lobbyists."

Sen. Davis continued, "It's absolutely crazy. And it's not the free market and it's not what made our country great. Our country has been because we've counted on individuals taking risks, saving money, working hard. Now, it's large corporations that have access to lawmakers that get huge tax breaks and there's no way that the little guy can compete."

It was the British granting "huge tax breaks" to the East India Company, making it almost impossible for the "little guy" tea merchants in the Colonies to compete, that brought about the original "tea party" rally in Boston Harbor.

Then, they had pamphlets. Now, we have YouTube. Footage of Rep. Ryan's constituent giving him that needed history lesson on wealth inequality can be found there.

ATTACK OF THE OIL MEN

GREG Welborn

So what do you do if you're the most naïve guy in the room, in a job that's way over your head, all your major policies to date have proven unpopular AND unsuccessful, and yet you still want to be President of the United States for another 4 years? Simple, you blame someone else. Ignore the facts, hide the truth and pick on the most unpopular guys in the room to deflect attention away from you. In short, if you're Barack Obama, you dredge up the old myth that the oilmen are trying to ruin this country.

Last week, President Obama announced in his regular radio address that the attorney general had "launched a task force with just one job: rooting out cases of fraud or manipulation in the oil markets." This of course was the logical second step after his previous announcement that his administration was "taking various measures to deal with oil prices and was watching out for price-gouging". It is so ironic that a president who is jokingly compared to the utterly incompetent Jimmy Carter would so slavishly follow the same script that Jimmy did when oil prices skyrocketed during his term. His energy policy and political strategy both ended up being failures. Prices didn't come down, and Jimmy lost in a landslide to someone who understood how the real world works.

There is absolutely nothing nefarious, illegal, clandestine or even particularly strange about what's happening to the price of oil. Why am I so sure of that? Because over the last several decades there have been no fewer than 30 investigations into the oil industry and their pricing practices. Not one – not a single one – has found evidence of any illicit, illegal, or even marginally questionable practices on the part of oilmen, investors, traders or speculators. There has been no collusion, no gouging and no manipulations. All that has ever been proven is that the free market works pretty well to price oil and gasoline based on basic supply and demand – just like it does with every other product or service sold in the economy.

The price of oil is going up because the demand for it is going up and the potential future supply is going down. Demand going up is a good thing; it means that developing economies, like India and China, are finally beginning to grow and provide an opportunity for their people to attain middle class status. Future supply going down is a bad thing, and it's a direct result of this administration's failed energy/environmental policies. Hence, the President's need to shift the topic of conversation.

Let's explore this with a simple illustration to which we can all relate. If right before the next home game of your favorite baseball team (I'm

partial to the Angels and the Padres for the record), the city announced that 1/2 of the seats in the top section of the stadium could not be sold due to concerns about the amount of green house gases that rise from the field and the lower seats, what do you think would happen to the price of tickets to that game? This isn't rocket science! If supply is suddenly decreased, and the same number of people still want to buy seats, the price will increase. In fact, it will rise to the level where the number of people who want to buy seats equals the number of seats that are available. That's how markets work. Nothing magic, nothing sinister. The only problem is the city's action in taking away one half the seats.

Returning to the oil markets. This administration's policies have been driving drilling rigs out of the Gulf. Six deepwater rigs have already been taken out of the gulf, and many of them are heading down to Brazil where Brazilian oil companies are allowed to drill for oil. President Obama announced a six month moratorium on deepwater drilling. When he finally removed the moratorium, he slowed the pace at which new permits are issued to essentially maintain a quasi-ban without having to admit as much. One U.S. District judge has already challenged the administration on this. Last December, the President stopped a five year plan which would have opened up portions of the mid-Atlantic to offshore drilling. The affect was to lock up 7 billion barrels of oil and about 36 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The overall result has been lower domestic oil production. The Energy Information Administration forecasts that oil supplies from the Gulf will fall 13% this year and another 10% next year. Supplies go down, so prices go up.

No magic here – just simple economics and inordinately stupid policies. But we shouldn't be surprised. Candidate Obama told us that under his environmental policies energy rates would have to skyrocket to force us to conserve. If there is market manipulation here (and there is), it's being conducted by the guys in suits at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Just more of the transformational change we were promised.

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.

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As a result of this business expansion, Sally Morrison and Jeffrey Ingwalson, owners of Sierra Madre Books, will be **closing the bookstore in June 2011**. "We appreciate all the support we've received from our customers over the past few years, but are excited about our new venture. We look forward to continuing to be part of this community."

For questions about **Mindspring Education Center**, please call (626) 355-1972. For questions about **Sierra Madre Books**, please call (626) 836-3200.

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Publisher/ Editor
Susan Henderson

City Editor
Dean Lee

Sales
Patricia Colonello
626-355-2737
626-818-2698

Production
Richard Garcia

Photography
Lina Johnson
Chris Bertrand

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

Webmaster
John Avery

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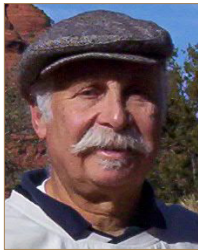
Sierra Madre, Ca.
91024

Phone: 626-355-2737
Fax: 626-609-3285
email:

mtnviewsnews@aol.com

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

STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE



NOW THEY TELL ME

My back is killing me and it's no wonder—I've been carrying the burdens of the world on my shoulders for 67 years. Yes, right now; today, April 26, 2011 is My Birthday. So what do you care? Look you're lucky that I just didn't go ahead and write HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME one hundred times and fill my allotted space with just those words. I'm going to say it again just to show you I can do it. Happy birthday to me! No capitals this time - just an exclamation point.

No, don't stop reading yet. Don't give up on me. It turns out we need each other, you and I and everyone else. You see I'm just beginning to understand something about this strange business of survival. I think I believed that the instructions for salvation were "out there" in some book - so I just kept reading as much as I could. No one ever discouraged me from reading and I skipped two half-grades before I was in the fifth grade. What did I get from all of this reading? Well, I remember that before I went to Law School there was some test that was required and one of the sections of the test was called General Information. I remember receiving a 99 plus in this section which meant that I had almost more general information than anybody. I also remember receiving a score of 58th percentile in the Writing Section which gave a clear indication that I did not have a clue how to actually punctuate a sentence or how to effectively communicate with other people. No surprise, huh?

Anyhow, somewhere along the line I think I realized that just acquiring information from books was not going to do the trick. What I needed was WISDOM not just INFORMATION. We live in what used to be called the Information Age and certainly with the aid of our electronic technological extensions we all have more information at our finger tips than people have had at any time in history. So what! We, you know we - all of us, seem to be on a kind of irreversible path to Destruction. We keep killing one another and in the process seem to be making it very tough for all life on the planet. When I talk to people there seems to be a kind of tacit agreement that Mankind has lost its way and that there's nothing that can be done about it. That's the amazing thing - there seems to be agreement about this and yet, other than recycling garbage most of us make no attempt to do anything about it. Right now the only change I'm making is to sort of drive less because gas prices have caused me to think about how much money I am wasting as I go through my day.

Maybe this increased awareness resulting from the price of fuel is a good thing. After all, energy is finite and we have just a certain amount of energy that we can spend during our lifetimes. Okay, let's think about it. What do we want to do with our lives? I'm in the midst of reading this great book that was posthumously put together from the scattered notes of a great writer who committed suicide a couple of years ago. Certainly, the suicide itself is a kind of news bulleting that informs a reader that there are no ultimate solutions to be found in the book - no Wisdom but lots of information. Yes, I am still compulsively reading books but with less hope of finding any answers. The thing that I am getting out of this book is summarized in the author's phrase "the tyranny of non-conformist conformity." Yes, that's something - we have all been deluded into feeling that we're in this alone and from this belief we ending up marching together alone to Oblivion.

Do you get my point? We are not in this alone. It is not up to me, or you alone to save the world. No wonder my back hurts from trying to carry the world alone. Really there is no need to celebrate my Birthday; instead there is a need for all of us to recognize and preserve and protect this wonderful gift of life that we have all jointly received. Who gave us this gift? For sure, we're not going to find out from reading books. As far as I can tell the answer is hidden somewhere in the way we touch one another and the way we touch the world around us. Go gently on this Good Earth and HAPPY BIRTHDAY to everybody - including those of you still to be born - really, we've got you in mind. It says so right here.

SENSE OR NONSENSE?! -

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

"Realignment is a Trojan horse that transfers the state's financial mess onto the county which is already stretched thin by unfunded state mandates," said Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich. "Similar to rearranging the chairs on the Titanic, the state is shirking its responsibility to protect the public, pushing convicted felons back into local communities and requiring local government agencies to do the state's job -- without the financial resources to do it."

Supervisor Michael Antonovich

Letter To The Editor

Editor:

May 15-21 is National Emergency Medical Services Week. I encourage everyone to do two things. First, familiarize yourself with local emergency resources and how to access them. Make certain that everyone in your household knows how to call for help, whether it's 911 for paramedics and fire, or the nearest Poison Control Center.

Second, I hope everyone will take a moment to think about, and thank, the many emergency medical responders—paramedics, physicians and nurses—who stand ready 24 hours a day to protect and help you. They are a lifesaving team, working in unison when every second counts. They work long hours, often in difficult and even dangerous circumstances, to save lives.

They deserve our gratitude and respect every day.

Sincerely, Tom Beck, Chair
Methodist Hospital Emergency Department Council

LIFESAVERS

Would you risk your own life to save another person's? Would you routinely work all night, and on weekends and holidays, to help others? Would you deliberately head toward a disaster scene from which everyone else was fleeing? There are people who do these things. They are paramedics, physicians and nurses, assisted by firefighters and police.

May 15-21 is National Emergency Medical Services Week, and it's an appropriate time to not only honor these people, but to also think about how much their presence means to your life.

In fact, their presence might one day save your life. When a phone call for help comes in, these selfless people respond. They don't ask if it's safe, or convenient (often it's neither). Whether it's a child who has been found unconscious in the family swimming pool, an adult with a heart attack or stroke, or teenagers involved in an auto accident, paramedics respond and start to forge the first link in a lifesaving chain.

These highly skilled professionals have the knowledge, skill and commitment that will make a life or death difference for millions

of people across the country this year. They serve communities large and small, in areas urban and suburban. What doesn't change is their dedication to helping others. When the sick or injured arrive at our emergency room, the second link in the chain starts to form. Physicians, nurses, technicians and others operate as a carefully choreographed team, triaging, assessing and treating.

They, in turn, are part of a still-larger team of emergency medical professionals throughout Los Angeles County, all of whom cooperate in case of a local or regional disaster, forming another link in the lifesaving chain. What this means to you, your family and your community is that in an emergency, someone will be there to help you. It won't matter if it's the middle of the day or the middle of the night, or a weekday or a weekend. Millions of people are alive today because this lifesaving chain was forged anew when their emergency struck.

National Emergency Medical Services Week is only a week in length. Our gratitude to these people should be endless.

JAIL Hamilton



My Turn A Rising Tide Lifts All Yachts

No matter how you slice it, when it comes to income and wealth in America the rich get most of the pie and the rest get the leftovers. The numbers are shocking. Today the top 1 percent of Americans control 43 percent of the financial wealth (see the pie chart below) while the bottom 80 percent control only 7 percent of the wealth. Increaseable, the wealthiest 400 Americans have the same combined wealth as the poorest half of Americans -- over 150 million people.

In 2007, the year before the current recession, the share of the after-tax income going to the top 1 percent hit its highest level (17.1 percent) since 1979, while the share going to the middle one-fifth of Americans shrank to its lowest level (14.1 percent).

During this same period, after-tax incomes for the top 1 percent rose by 281 percent after adjusting for inflation -- an increase in income of \$973,100 per household -- compared to increases of 25 percent (\$11,200 per household) for the middle fifth of households and 16 percent (\$2,400 per household) for the bottom fifth.

Put another way, income for the top 20 percent has increased since 1980 while real income for the bottom 80 percent declined. In 1980 the top 1 percent received 8 percent of the total income, while today they receive 18 percent. During the same period the income for the bottom 20 percent decreased by 30 percent.

In 1980 the top 0.1 percent of Americans received 2 percent of total income. Today they get 8 percent. In 1980 the average CEO made 50 times more money than the average worker. Today the average CEO make almost 300 times more than the average worker!

America has become a lot richer, while most Americans have seen their incomes stay the same or decline in terms of purchasing power. As Warren Buffett, the second richest man in America famously said, "There's class warfare, all right, but it's my class, the rich class, that's making war, and we're winning."

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 11-016750

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ALL CARE TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, 1414 W. FLORENCE AVE., L.A., CA 90047. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) JOCELYN HARRIS, 3766 S. LA SALLE AVE., L.A., CA 90018. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JOCELYN HARRIS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/27/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: May 02, 09, 16, 23, 2011

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 11-016385

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ALL-AMERICAN REAL ESTATE ADVISORS, 1510 S. HAYWORTH AVE., L.A., CA 90035. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) MICHAEL JOHN MURRAY, 1510 S. HAYWORTH AVE., L.A., CA 90035. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: MICHAEL JOHN MURRAY. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/26/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: May 02, 09, 16, 23, 2011

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 11-013701

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BLEU MONDAYS, 19036 S. VICKIE AVE., CERRITOS, CA 90703. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) KECIA DAVIS, 19036 S. VICKIE AVE., CERRITOS, CA 90703. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: KECIA DAVIS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/22/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: May 02, 09, 16, 23, 2011

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 11-017942

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BROTHERS TRES, 350 S. MARENGO ST., L.A., CA 90063. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) ELPIDIO VALDEZ MUÑO, 321 E. LIVE OAK ST. #5, SAN GABRIEL, CA 91776. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ELPIDIO VALDEZ MUÑO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/28/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: May 02, 09, 16, 23, 2011

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 11-017182

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CALIFORNIA ELITE BASKETBALL SKILLS ACADEMY, 5739 2nd AVE., L.A., CA 90043. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) VEIN TWIN HERRON, 5739 2nd AVE., L.A., CA 90043, CALVIN BRYANT, 17659 WEAVER LANE, CLARKSON, CA 90746, NICOLE PERKINS, 5739 2nd AVE., L.A., CA 90043. This Business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. Signed: VEIN TWIN HERRON. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/27/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: May 02, 09, 16, 23, 2011

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 11-016285

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CUSTOM WHITEWALLS TIRES ARE RUSS, 425 E. FRONT ST., COVINA, CA 91723. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) BETTY JOLGREN, 425 E. FRONT ST., COVINA, CA 91723. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: BETTY JOLGREN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/26/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/15/1966. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: May 02, 09, 16, 23, 2011

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 11-018437

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: HERE AND THERE COURIER, 1819 S. GRAMERCY PL. #303, L.A., CA 90019. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) RONALD PETERS, 315 N. IMPERIAL AVE., ONTARIO, CA 91764. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: RONALD PETERS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/28/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: May 02, 09, 16, 23, 2011

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 11-015442

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ICON DETAILING, INTEL DETAILING, 709 S. GREVILLE AVE., INGLEWOOD, CA 90301. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) JAMES A. BRITT, 709 S. GREVILLE AVE. #2, INGLEWOOD, CA 90301. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JAMES A. BRITT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/25/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: May 02, 09, 16, 23, 2011

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 11-015510

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: INSTALLATION KITCHEN CABINETS, 1437 VIRGINIA AVE., BALDWIN PARK, CA 91706. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) MARTIN DURON, ROBERTO HERNANDEZ, 1437 VIRGINIA AVE., BALDWIN PARK, CA 91706. This Business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. Signed: MARTIN DURON. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/25/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 03/01/2011. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: May 02, 09, 16, 23, 2011

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 11-003935

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: KALL COMMUNICATIONS, 2930 W. IMPERIAL HWY STE. 206, INGLEWOOD, CA 90303. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) ANA ISABEL ARAUJO ROCHIN, GEORGINA HERAS, 6101 MILES AVE. #C, HUNTINGTON PARK, CA 90255. This Business is conducted by: CO-PARTNERS. Signed: GEORGINA HERAS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/11/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: May 02, 09, 16, 23, 2011

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 11-014580

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: P AND S MAINTENANCE, 1434 W. 30th ST., L.A., CA 90007. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) RICHARD PEREZ, 1434 W. 30th ST., L.A., CA 90007. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: RICHARD PEREZ. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/22/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: May 02, 09, 16, 23, 2011

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 11-014708

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: WEST COAST AUTO BODY SHOP, 5950 LAUREL CANYON BLVD., N. HOLLYWOOD, CA 91607. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) WEST COAST AUTO BODY SHOP, INC., 5950 LAUREL CANYON BLVD., N. HOLLYWOOD, CA 91607. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed: ARI GEVISHENIAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/22/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/18/99. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code)Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: May 02, 09, 16, 23, 2011

Looking Up

with Bob Eklund



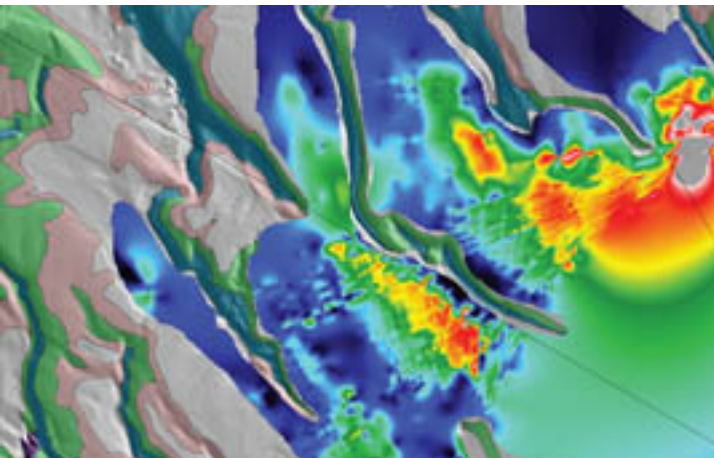
NASA Orbiter Reveals Buried Dry Ice Deposit on Mars

NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter has discovered that the total amount of atmosphere on Mars changes dramatically as the tilt of the planet's axis varies. This process can affect the stability of liquid water, if it exists on the Martian surface, and can increase the frequency and severity of Martian dust storms.

Researchers using the orbiter's ground-penetrating radar identified a large buried deposit of frozen carbon dioxide, or dry ice, at the Red Planet's south pole. The scientists suspect that much of this carbon dioxide enters the planet's atmosphere and swells the atmosphere's mass when Mars' tilt increases. The findings were published last week in the journal Science.

The newly found deposit has a volume similar to that of Lake Superior—nearly 3,000 cubic miles. The deposit holds up to 80 percent as much carbon dioxide as does today's Martian atmosphere. Collapse pits caused by dry ice sublimation and other clues suggest that the deposit is in a dissipating phase, adding gas to the atmosphere each year. Mars' atmosphere is about 95 percent carbon dioxide, in contrast to Earth's much thicker atmosphere, which contains mainly nitrogen and oxygen and less than 0.04 percent carbon dioxide.

"We already knew there is a small perennial cap of carbon-dioxide ice on top of the water ice there, but this buried deposit has about 30 times more dry ice than previously estimated," said Roger Phillips



of Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colo. Phillips is deputy team leader for the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter's Shallow Radar instrument and lead author of the report.

"We identified the deposit as dry ice by determining that the radar signature fitted the radio-wave transmission characteristics of frozen carbon dioxide far better than the characteristics of frozen water," said Roberto Seu of Sapienza University of Rome, team leader for the Shallow Radar and a co-author of the new report. Additional

evidence came from correlating the deposit to visible sublimation features typical of dry ice.

"When you include this buried deposit, Martian carbon dioxide right now is roughly half frozen and half in the atmosphere, but at other times it can be nearly all frozen or nearly all in the atmosphere," Phillips said.

An increase in atmospheric density would strengthen winds, lofting more dust and leading to more frequent and more intense dust storms. Another result is an expanded area on the planet's surface where liquid water could persist without boiling away. Modeling based on the known variations in the tilt of Mars' axis suggests that several-fold changes in the total mass of the planet's atmosphere can happen on time frames of 100,000 years or less.

The changes in atmospheric density caused by the carbon-dioxide increase also would amplify some effects of the changes caused by the tilt. Researchers plugged the mass of the buried carbon-dioxide deposit into climate models for the period when Mars' tilt and orbital properties would maximize the amount of summer sunshine hitting the south pole. They found that at such times, Mars' global average air pressure would be 75 percent greater than the current level.

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



Ask jai.....

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

Q: I am a bank teller, before that I was a customer service representative in the high tech industry and previous to that I was an administrative assistant. I am single, young and make a good income. I am considering making a change in the type of work I do. I have 2 dogs, a bird and 3 cats. I really love animals and obviously taking care of them. What type jobs would you see me fitting into? Person Who Loves Animals.

Dear Person Who Loves Animals:

You should look for employment in the Pet/Animal Care industry because it is the upmost booming industry next to the health-care industry that needs people to fill their numerous and various positions. That's right, the Pet Care industry is always seeking people to hire. I could write a book about the infinite number of employment opportunities in the Pet Care Industry. The employment opportunities in this industry should be so obvious to those seeking employment and loves animals, but for some reason it isn't. Therefore, a lot of positions go unfilled. According to a recent article published by Investor Place, April 25, 2011, a survey conducted by American Pets Products identified that 62% of U.S. households own a pet – 72.9 millions homes. The total price tag on all those doggie bowls and leashes and chew toys totaled a cool \$50 billion (Billion!) last year, about double what it was 10 years ago. The animal care industry is an ideal industry for those of you who are unemployed seeking an alternative industry or career change. who love animals to successful use any skill set, education and previous work history to successfully find employment. Your work history suggests that you like working with people and providing service, those are excellent transferable skills to apply for numerous positions in the pet care field. Here are some career or employment suggestions: Veterinarian, Registered Veterinary Technician, Veterinary research and development areas, Professional Dog Trainer, Dog Daycare Attendant, Vacation Pet Sitter, Kennel Attendant, Veterinarian Hospital Manager, Pet Groomer and Bather, Mobile Pet Groomer, Staff, Cashier or Management in a Pet Store or Specialty Boutique, sell Pet Insurance, design Pet Clothing, coordinate Pet events or shows. Let's not leave out entrepreneurship. This is a great industry to start your own business. The list and range of careers and job opportunities is almost endless. Animal care positions can also be found with the US Government, state and local agencies. Look into the Zoo industry and employment opportunities by visiting the following websites: www.aazk.org; www.wazo.org and www.aza.org for information. Become a Certified Pet Groomer or Pet Hygienist visit these websites www.petgroomingtraining.net/groomingcertificate for information and a training school near you. Additional websites to research the pet care industry for training and employment: www.animalbehaviorcollege.com; www.appma.com; www.becomavetassistant.com; and www.becomeagroomer.com. Let's not forget the really fun and unusual side of the animal care industry by seeking out employment with the circus, carnivals, aquariums and family resorts (i.e., Disneyland or SeaWorld), film and TV. Some animal care positions only require High School education, others college degree or special certified training. So, if you have the passion and desire to work with animals go for it!

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 or visit website www.resumeandcareerservicesc.com.



THE PLIGHT OF PROHIBITIVE PET CARE COSTS

During a recent conversation with a friend, our dialogue eventually turned to a discussion about our pets, as it typically does. My friend and his wife have two darling dogs whom they love very much and treat like family. They spend lots of time with their dogs, and enjoy their company more than the average pet owner. In the course of our conversation, my friend mentioned that he had taken one of their dogs, the older of the two, to the veterinarian a week before, and even with the senior citizen discount his vet applies, he still ended up paying just short of an arm and a leg for a few lab tests and a quick exam. He was quite surprised at how pet care costs have sky-rocketed these days and when he told me how much the bill was, it took me very much by surprise as well. Listening to his story, I thought of how many pet-owning senior citizens probably find themselves in a similar situation, met with the difficulty of covering the costs associated with caring for their pets. Most seniors are retired with a very limited income, and if that is not challenging enough, our present-day economy is making it even more difficult for them to make ends meet. Nowadays many of the seniors who were fortunate enough to have put money away for later years while working, have had to use their nest-egg savings just to keep their homes and pay off their own medical bills. Retirement is when most people finally have time to spend with a pet, and perhaps when they need that kind of companionship more than ever before, so it seems ironic and quite a shame to think that the cost of a vet bill could prohibit them from caring for their pet properly, or heaven forbid in the saddest case scenario, force them to euthanize to avoid the high cost of keeping their pet alive. Later that day, I was still thinking about the subject we had discussed and I could not seem to get that conversation out of my mind. Being a dog walker and pet sitter, I guess it struck a tender spot in my heart. I decided to look into what, if any kind of assistance might be available for senior citizens who cannot afford the high costs associated with caring for their animal companion. What I found was that there are several programs in place that offer pet vet bill and/or pet care assistance to senior citizens who qualify. Here are a few of the programs and services I found:

Actors and Others for Animals is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to the humane treatment of animals. Their main mission is to curb the pet overpopulation problem by subsidizing spay & neuter surgeries along with other vital services to help pet guardians living on a low and/or fixed income, care for their beloved

companions. One of their programs is SpayCalifornia, a state-wide referral network/database to connect people throughout the State of California with participating programs and veterinarians offering low cost spay/neuter services. For more information, you can link to their web site at: <http://www.actorsandothers.com/>.

PAWS/LA was founded in 1989 in response to the companion animal-related crises faced by residents of Los Angeles county who were financially and physically debilitated by HIV/AIDS. Since that time, the agency has expanded its scope to assist low-income seniors and any low-income individual living with a chronic or life-threatening illness. Their PACE Program (Preserving Animal Companionship for the Elderly) assists seniors by providing assistance with pet care. It has been documented through numerous scientific studies that the positive correlation between seniors and animals improves emotional outlook and health stability and PAWS/LA wants to help. Visit them at: <http://www.pawsla.org/>.

The Pet Fund is a non-profit association that offers financial assistance to owners of domestic animals who need veterinary care. Their purpose is to work towards a future where decisions about companion animal medical care, need not be made on the basis of cost. Perhaps most importantly, they provide information about preventative care, pet insurance programs and financial services to help the pet owner develop resources on their own and avoid future emergencies through proper care and planning. Such information is often hard to find and The Pet Fund provides a user-friendly, easily accessible starting place for this purpose. For more information, contact The Pet Fund through their web site at: <http://thepetfund.com/>.

It pleases me to know that there are so many people who care enough about domestic animals and their owners, to invest their time, money and energy in developing programs that can help maintain a healthy relationship between the two. It serves as a reminder to look for the proverbial "rainbow after the storm". Let's face it, if this article had ended where the conversation between me and my friend ended, it would have been quite bleak. Fortunately, however this tail has a happy ending. It serves as a reminder that where you find a friend in need, you will most likely find a friend in "deed"!



It seems like just about every week there's another breaking news story featuring a security breach that has resulting in the loss of personal user information to online thieves; this week was yet another of those weeks. The Sony Corporation reported a security breach that may affect upwards of 70 million users of the Sony PlayStation Network and could possibly go down as one of the largest customer data losses ever.

PSN allows users to interact in on-line games and also functions as an online store for the purchase of games and gaming-related merchandise and an outlet for exclusive content distribution online. The popular gaming network is one of the pioneers in the field of online gaming and services millions of users worldwide.

The details of this security breach haven't been fully released but this already appears to be a classic case of 'as-bad-as-it-gets'. Signs of trouble began to appear for users of the PSN on April 20th of this month, when Sony shut the network down to investigate evidence of an intrusion that was suspected of occurring somewhere between April 17th and April 19th of this month. Sony called the shutdown "Emergency Maintenance" at the time but later revealed that the service interruption was due an "External Intrusion". On April 26th of this month Sony finally announced that personal user data had been compromised during the breach and that users' names, full addresses, birth dates, email addresses and passwords were all part of the data stolen. Sony has yet to confirm or deny if credit card information was also taken during the breach, but the strong possibility exists that it was. As a precaution, Sony has warned users that have ever used their credit card to make purchases from and through the network to monitor their accounts for signs of suspicious activity. Sony has also warned its users to be on the alert for scams that ask them to provide personal information such as credit card numbers, Social Security numbers or any other personally identifiable information. As of this writing the Sony PSN is still down and the company has yet to provide an estimate for a return to full service. Users of the PSN have already begun to post reports of fraudulent credit card activity on various forums around the internet. Eight (8) days offline and counting, with no return to service in sight, is literally forever in online time. It will be quite a feat in terms of PR, Marketing and technical know-how to bounce back from an episode of this magnitude.

This really is 'as-bad-as-it-gets'.

KATIE TseThis and That



PEEPS SHOW!

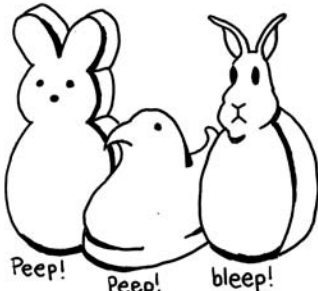
Well, it's May 1, "May Day," which I recently learned is a holiday for labor unions and other socialist groups, in addition to the spring celebrations originating from European paganism. Hmm... Communist demonstrations and May Pole dances, don't know how those two got related. Besides the day's cultic and political connotations, it's also one week after Easter. Therefore, any Easter candy remaining in your house is either a tribute to your self-restraint, or it belongs to the class of "rejected candy" (see Halloween article on Candy Corn).

Yes, Easter is a holiday with many favorite confections - chocolate bunnies, malt ball eggs, pastel M&Ms, and, everyone's downfall, Reese's peanut butter eggs. So, I'm guessing your remaining candy hostages are either jellybeans (not to be confused with the popular and expensive "Jelly Bellies"), off-brand chocolate, or Peeps.

I'm certain you know what Peeps are, but in the unlikely case you don't, they're brightly colored, sugar-encrusted marshmallows shaped like rabbits and hens. Peeps are always referred to in the plural because each one is joined at the hip with its neighbor. As glorified marshmallows, Peeps belong to the category of "rejected candy," along with the jellybeans, off-brand chocolate, etc.

I visited the Peeps site, and am now actually a Peeps member (had to join in order to send Peep e-cards). Besides Easter, the Peep horizon has broadened to include other holidays. Some of the many new marshmallow manifestations include Christmas snowman Peeps and evil-looking cat Peeps for Halloween. A couple highlights of the Peeps site are the recipe and crafts sections. Suppose a recipe is for cupcakes or lollipops; you make the cupcakes/pie according to its directions and place Peeps on top. Or for the lollipops, you skewer a Peep on a stick.

Essentially any food can become a Peeps recipe by topping it off with a Peep. There are no Peeps reduction sauces or Peeps and chicken recipes, but that's probably a good thing. Among other works of marshmallow engineering, the crafts section instructs viewers on how to make Peeps centerpieces and candle holders. Like gingerbread houses, you can't help wondering whether the structure will be infested with ants or maggots overnight. Even more frightening is the realization that the amount of chemical preservatives in this edible artwork will most likely ensure that your Peeps wreath will last for many Christmases into the future.

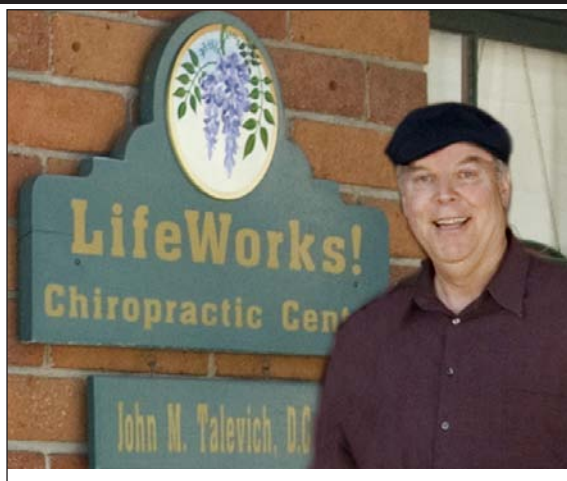


Peeps intrinsically beg creativity; the crafts section of the Peeps site itself attests to this. Perhaps you've seen the Peeps art movement publicized in recent years on the Internet. If not, let me enlighten you. A significant group of people sees these bunnies and hens as material for artistic expression and social commentary. Once a year, Peepists across the nation create detailed scenes reflecting current politics, social fads, and pop culture. This year's award went to a model of the Chilean miners' rescue. Although well constructed, I found the subject a bit insensitive. Other entries included a Lady Gaga Peep in a clear egg being carried by Peeps to the music awards. Justin "Peeper" was also a popular contestant, complete with his signature bangs. I fondly remember a diorama parodying Octo-mom, with a painfully pregnant Peep mother and a rampant host of miniature Peep offspring. That was funny! A Charlie Sheen Peep with Peep goddesses would've been good, but I didn't see one. And if the artistic potential of Peeps doesn't make you a fan, you might enjoy the new chocolate covered holiday Peeps, which might be just be enough to rescue them from the ranks of "rejected" candy.

YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Today's Subject:

PREBIOTICS AND PROBIOTICS



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.

Most of us know about the benefits of probiotics, those friendly bacteria that inhabit the digestive tract. Did you know there are also digestive support agents that are equally important, known as "prebiotics"? These are soluble plant and fruit fibers that serve as food for the acidophilus and bifidus bacteria.

Why is this so important? In the simplest of terms, there is competition in the intestine between some 400 organisms. Most of these bacteria, viruses, and fungus (yes, fungus) have learned to live together for the benefit of all and for the host (us). As a matter of course, there are times when certain types become more dominant and may cause irritation directly or through the waste that they produce. Hopefully, there will be a restoration of balance by way of a healthy immune response, and through the introduction of foods which favor healthy bacterial colonies. Over-

consumption of high fats, sugar, red meat, and other foods which can promote inflammation directly, or through fermentation and putrefaction, will contribute to an imbalance of bacteria in the colon.

Some simple solutions to balancing the digestive tract include the use of probiotics that can be helpful in inoculating the intestinal tract. These can be purchased at health food stores and pharmacies in capsules. Such supplements offer billions of organisms per serving and are specifically designed to be used in the human digestive tract. Additionally, a supplement consisting of inulin, oligosaccharides, and oligofructosaccharides can be taken along with the probiotic bacteria to support their growth. Foods that are high in prebiotics include bananas, berries, asparagus, barley, wheat, oatmeal, flax seed, tomatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, onions, legumes, and greens.

Because digestive efficiency is important for every body function, the benefits of pro and prebiotics are a given. Disorders such as allergies, candida, digestive distress and chronic inflammation can benefit from these as well. Prolonged use of antibiotics also creates a need for inoculation with pre- and probiotics.

Have a healthy week! Dr. John

John M. Talevich, D.C.
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SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVORS BENEFITS EXPLAINED

The loss of a loved one can be painful. The death of a wage-earner upon whom a family depends also can be financially devastating.

If you're like most young or middle-aged workers, you probably think of Social Security only as a retirement program. But some of the Social Security taxes you pay go toward providing survivors insurance for workers and their families. Think of it as a life insurance policy you never knew you had — paid for by the same taxes that cover you for retirement or disability.

When you die, certain members of your family may be eligible for survivors benefits. These include widows, widowers (and divorced widows and widowers), children, and

even dependent parents. In many cases, there also is a one-time lump-sum payment of \$255 that can be made to a surviving spouse or minor children who meet certain requirements.

You may not think it will happen to you, but the stunning truth is that one in eight of today's 20-year-olds will die before reaching their full retirement age of 67. In fact, 98 of every 100 children could get benefits if a working parent dies. More than 6.4 million survivors receive benefits. The average Survivors benefit is \$1,129 a month.

If you are a survivor, you should apply for survivors benefit right away. You can apply by telephone or at any Social Security office. Call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778). To help prepare you, here is the information we will need:

- Proof of death — either from a funeral home or a death certificate;

- Your Social Security number, as well as the deceased worker's;
- Your birth certificate;
- Your marriage certificate, if you are a widow or widower;
- Your divorce papers, if you are applying as a divorced widow or widower;
- Dependent children's Social Security numbers, if available, and birth certificates;
- Deceased worker's W-2 forms or Federal self-employment tax return for the most recent year; and
- The name of your bank and your account number so your benefits can be deposited directly into your account.

To learn more about survivors benefits, please read the online publication at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10084.html. Visit the Survivors page at www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/survivors.htm.

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 & 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/online/registration. 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:

SHRIMP & ASPARAGUS

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound fresh asparagus
- 1 (16 ounce) package egg noodles
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup butter
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 pound medium shrimp - peeled and deveined
- 1 pound fresh mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS:

In a small saucepan, boil or steam asparagus in enough water to cover until tender; chop and set aside.

Bring a large pot of salted water to full boil, place the pasta in the pot and return to a rolling boil; cook until al dente. Drain well.

In a large saucepan, saute garlic in the olive oil over medium-low heat until the garlic is golden brown.

Place butter and lemon juice in the saucepan. Heat until the butter has melted. Place the shrimp in the saucepan and cook until the shrimp turns pink. Place the mushrooms and asparagus into the saucepan, cook until mushrooms are tender.

Toss the shrimp and vegetable mixture with the egg noodles and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Salt and pepper to taste. Serve immediately.

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



LA WATER AUGMENTATION STUDY REVAMPS A NEIGHBORHOOD'S LANDSCAPE & STREETScape TO REDIRECT, ABSORB AND FILTER RAIN AND IRRIGATION RUNOFF -

Recharging our groundwater supply by capturing and filtering stormwater and irrigation runoff

An entire block of Elmer Avenue in Sun Valley looks very different today, than it did two years ago, due to a test project for the Los Angeles Basic Water Augmentation Study (WAS).

WAS began over a decade ago, and is directed by the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council (LASGWRC). The organization works with local, state and federal entities, and received major funding for the study from the national Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Water Resources and others.

According to Brian Sheridan, Development and Marketing Manager of LASGWRC, "In the pursuit of a healthy watershed, our council has become the region's trusted hub for essential watershed research and collaboration to influence policy and informed care and practice.

An urban, single family home neighborhood in Sun Valley was chosen a few years ago, over other blocks for this test project, based on favorable interest and willingness to participate.

At the low point and confluence of the area's natural topographical drainage, the area has been plagued with flooding during heavy rains, poor original runoff management design, and most blocks in the neighborhood do not have curbs and gutters.

In resident's front yards, new swales were created to direct runoff to underground filtering basins under the street. New sidewalks and low water landscape was installed between the sidewalks, the new curbs and the street's new drainage system.

Another key feature of the test project was increased percolation into the aquifer, the natural occurring "holding tank" for Los Angeles Water located deep underground. Various paver projects replaced parts of walkways to homes, driveways and even parts of the front yards.

Thirteen of the homeowners adopted the option of using a rain barrel catchment system tied to part of their home's gutter system. When it rains, the barrel is automatically filled now, and includes a hose and spigot for hand watering using soft rainwater, especially appreciated by plants.

Homeowners were given a choice of several street trees for installation at their locations. When the landscape was complete, written and live training was provided, to teach residents how to care for their new landscape.

According to the WAS report, the study is now processing information gathered about the "water quality implications of infiltrating urban runoff, assess the effectiveness of various techniques in removing pollutants (like fertilizers), quantify how much stormwater can realistically be captured and infiltrated, and other factors, through monitoring stations.

So far they have determined that increasing stormwater reclamation should be a necessary component



in the recharge of the aquifer using devices and

practices that remove, reduce, or prevent stormwater runoff and the pollutants carried with it.

As is a measurable pattern with other neighborhood improvement projects, one improvement encourages another. An additional benefit of the project has been ancillary improvements and cleanup in the neighborhood.

Once a graveyard for junk cars, a wide alleyway, or paseo, across the street from the test project was intended as a walkway and drain during rain. Instead, it had become an eyesore and a danger to the neighborhood. Through the organization's work on the land and streetscape, the City of Los Angeles was able to clear the alleyway, and prevent cars from entering the area.


Due to the frequent flooding, a church parking lot at the far end of the alley had permanently altered the parking space allocation due to the regular standing water.

The alley is now the focus of Phase 2 of the WAS, soon to begin. In the near future, the block long area will have a similar landscape, swale, hardscape, stormwater capture and filtration system. In addition to improving the attractiveness of the area with a park-like appearance, the project should significantly improve the flooding problem in the neighborhood.

To be renamed, the Elmer Paseo (meaning a leisurely walk), the project will continue the testing of a decentralized system to capture and filter rainwater to provide a re-fill of LA's underground water tank, our aquifer, and beautifying a tiny bit of LA, one block at a time.

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 and search **Sierra Madre California Homes Or Sierra Madre's Beautiful Homes.**



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

**HOW TO BUY LIKE
A SELLER**

If you're in the market to buy a home, take a counter-intuitive tip and imagine the day you'll be selling it. That's right - whether you're a first time buyer, or relocating, this home probably won't be your last, so look for features that will pay off when the day comes to move again.

North, south, east or west, the biggest amenity the next buyer will look for is central air conditioning. In the Deep South, over 90% of buyers rank central air as critically important, and three-quarters of buyers everywhere else put it high on the list.

Another often-overlooked feature is storage. Over half of buyers desire a two-car garage and a walk-in closet for the master bedroom. Ample closets and storage space just can't be stressed enough.

If at all possible, avoid costly upgrades and offer incentive down the road by purchasing an energy efficient home with newer windows, pervasive insulation, and Energy Star appliances. If the home is already wired for cable, satellite, and high-speed Internet, so much the better.

Finally, it's still all about location, location, location. It's the one thing you can't change about the home you buy, so look for good schools (even if you don't have children) and proximity to shopping and recreation. Just ask your agent about the most popular features in your area and take heed!

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PRESBYTERIAN HOMES BECOMES be.group

Name Change Reflects Desire to Communicate Entire Spectrum of Services Demanded and Deserved by Today's Active Senior Population

GLENDAL, Calif. (April 26, 2011) – Southern California Presbyterian Homes has changed its name to be.group (www.thebegroup.org), effective today. The nonprofit organization provides housing services to more than 5,300 older adults across California. Since it began in 1955, be.group has grown from one senior living community—White Sands La Jolla—to 34 licensed and affordable housing communities, each with its own unique personality, attributes and amenities.

"We believe our new name is more reflective of our mission and the depth and breadth of what we offer today's older generation," said John H. Cochrane, III, be.group's president and CEO. "We serve people of all faiths and beliefs, and our communities are truly places where residents can be everything they want to be. The name change reinforces both who we are and how we serve older adults."

Cochrane added that while the name is changing, much about the organization remains the same, including its nonprofit status, mission, core values and beliefs, and commitment to providing quality services for older adults. Individual communities will retain their current names and cultures, yet the be.group name will help the organization convey a more cohesive brand identity.

The name-change process took nearly a year, he said, and involved extensive research and in-depth conversations with those who have a stake in the organization, including residents, employees, donors and representatives from faith-based groups.

"What we found was that the new name really resonated across the board," Cochrane said. "Our constituent audiences agreed that be.group reflects our mission—to help residents and clients achieve the lifestyle that is best for them individually, whether it is to be active, artistic, in a home environment, happy and independent yet supported when they need support, among other things."

He added that be.group positions the organization for future growth while acknowledging its roots and traditions.

The new name takes effect today. All communities will retain their individual names (with a few minor modifications) and phone numbers. New signage will reflect the corporate be.group name and new community logos as the identity system is rolled out over the next few weeks.

For more information, visit the new website at: www.thebegroup.org.

About be.group


Glendale, Calif.-based be.group is a nonprofit organization that provides quality housing, health and support services to more than 5,300 older adults across California. Its communities are places where people of all faiths, beliefs and aspirations can truly be themselves. The be.group's goal is to meet the housing and ancillary needs of today's senior population. Since its founding in 1955 as Southern California Presbyterian Homes, what is now be.group has developed a broad range of programs and services, including home care, independent residential living, assisted living, skilled nursing, dementia care and other supportive programs. Services are provided through six continuing care retirement communities and four assisted living residences/residential care facilities for the elderly; home care and adult day care services; and 24 affordable housing communities. For more information, visit www.thebegroup.org.



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RICH Johnson ARE YOU A GENIUS OR AN IDIOT?



Many of you have seen this test before. But for those of you who haven't here it is. If you get at least 16 out of the 27 questions correct you are some kind of genius. If you get less than 5 out of the 27 it means you are not some kind of genius :)

Instructions: Each question contains the initials of the key words that make the answer correct. You simply furnish the missing words.

For example: Question: 60 = M in an H Answer: 60 = Minutes in an Hour

Here goes:

- 1. 26 = L of the A
- 2. 7 = W of the W
- 3. 1001 = A N
- 4. 12 = S of the Z
- 5. 52 = C in a D
- 6. 9 = P in the SS
- 7. 88 = P K
- 8. 13 = S of the A F
- 9. 18 = H on a G C
- 10. 32 = D F at which W F
- 11. 8 = S on a S S
- 12. 200 = D for P G in M
- 13. 3 = B M (S H T R)
- 14. 90 = D in a R A
- 15. 4 = Q in a G
- 16. 24 = H in a D
- 17. 1 = W on a U
- 18. 5 = D in a Z C
- 19. 57 = H V
- 20. 11 = P F on a F T
- 21. 1000 = W that a P is W
- 22. 29 = D in F in a L Y
- 23. 64 = S on a C
- 24. 40 = D and N of the G F
- 25. 80 = D to G A the W
- 26. 2 = # it T to T
- 27. 101 = D

Next week I will print the answers. Have a good week.

DALAI LAMA TO SPEAK IN LA AREA

The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is both the head of state and the spiritual leader of Tibet. He was born on 6 July 1935, to a farming family, in a small hamlet located in Taktser, Amdo, northeastern Tibet. At the age of two the child, who was named Lhamo Dhondup at that time was recognized as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama, Thubten Gyatso. The Dalai Lamas are believed to be manifestations of Avalokiteshvara or Chenrezig, the Bodhisattva of Compassion and patron saint of Tibet. Bodhisattvas are enlightened beings who have postponed their own nirvana and chosen to take rebirth in order to serve humanity.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama is both the temporal and the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people. He frequently states that his life is guided by three major commitments: the promotion of basic human values or secular ethics in the interest of human happiness, the fostering of inter-religious harmony and the welfare of the Tibetan people, focusing on the survival of their identity, culture and religion. He will be speaking in the LA area the week of May 1st. His schedule is below: (Please note that for many of these events, tickets are required in order to gain entrance. Contact the organizers directly or visit the websites given below for further information on tickets. In general, most of the events in India are free. For your information, as a long-standing policy His Holiness the Dalai Lama



does not accept any fees for his talks. Where tickets need to be purchased, organizers are requested by our office to charge the minimum entrance fee in order to cover their costs only.

LOS ANGELES SCHEDULE:

Teaching in Los Angeles on May 1: His Holiness will confer the Solitary Yamantaka Initiation (jigje wang) in the morning organized by Gaden Shar-tse Thubten Dhargye Ling at the Terrace Theater. Contact Website: www.tdling.org/hhdl2011

Public Talk in Los Angeles on May 1: His Holiness will give a public talk on Secular Ethics and Meditation in the afternoon organized by Gaden Shartse Thubten Dhargye Ling at the Terrace Theater. Contact Website: www.tdling.org/hhdl2011/gstdl-weekend

Public Talk in Los Angeles on May 2: His Holiness will give a public talk on What is True Wisdom? in the morning organized by the UCLA Center for

LAYING MY MOTHER'S DAY CARDS ON THE TABLE

Rev. James L. Snyder

I am not one given over to gambling unless you call life a gamble and then all bets are off. I do not even play the lottery because I would end up paying out \$1,987.14 in order to win \$10. I have a difficult time parting with my money because I am a Pennsylvania Dutchman; at least that is my excuse.

That being said, there is only one area of my life where I indulge in a certain amount of gambling. That area is Mother's Day cards. I am at a complete loss when it comes to this and knows not what I doeth.

Now part of my quandary is in the loose interpretation of Mother's Day. When we celebrate Mother's Day, who in the world are we celebrating?

I can remember when the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly were first married. It was so long ago that I do not have enough fingers or toes to count it. When we were first married, we bought two Mother's Day cards; one for her mother and one for my mother. Oh, how I long for those simple days.

A little over a year after we were married a little tyke came into our lowly domicile. Our first daughter was born in the month of August and I really did not understand the significance of it until the following Mother's Day. That year we had to buy three Mother's Day cards; one for my wife's mother, one for my mother and one for my daughter to give to her mother.

Now what I want to know is how in the world was I roped into buying a Mother's Day card for my wife? After all, she is not my mother. And I do not know how many times I have reminded her of that very fact.

I was conned into buying that Mother's Day card for my wife by thinking that I was buying it for my daughter to give to her mother. I am not sure I am buying that story. I bought the card, all right, and when I gave it to my daughter; she immediately put it in her mouth. She had no idea what in the world a Mother's Day card was. Several years later, we had a new addition to our family. Our son was born.

Now I have more Mother's Day cards to buy. One for my mother, one for my wife's mother, one for my daughter to give to her mother and one for my son to give to his mother. These Mother's Day cards are getting to be rather expensive.

You will not believe this, but a few years later, a third child became a member of our family. Our second daughter was born. And you guessed it; my Mother's Day card buying went up. Now I need to buy a Mother's Day card for my mother, one for my wife's mother, one for my first daughter to give to



her mother, one for my son to give to his mother and one for my second daughter to give to her mother.

I once suggested that I buy one Mother's Day card for my three children to give to their mother. I was quickly and soundly outvoted on that issue. And so, I begin saving up my allowance right after Christmas for my Mother's Day card extravaganza.

If this was not bad enough, each Mother's Day card has to be specifically chosen in respect to the person who is giving it. That person, not being me. How many times and how many different ways can you say "Happy Mother's Day?"

I thought I had reached the height of my Mother's Day card purchasing, but then in a few years it took on a different perspective. Not only was I to buy all of these Mother's Day cards, but I was to take the respective children along with me and allow them to personally pick out the card they wanted to give to their mother. And of course, their mother could not be along to supervise these purchases. Taking two toddlers and one semi-toddler into a store to select appropriate Mother's Day cards is as close as I have ever come to gambling away my fortune.

Between the three of them, they had each boiled down their choice to 97 cards. Of course the youngest just grabbed as many as she possibly could. The two oldest had to look at each card and discuss the contents, meaning of course, I had to read each card to them. Not once, but over and over again. Looking back on that time I realize that my children had an ingenious strategy all worked out. After four hours of going through all of these cards I would say to them, "If you pick a card right now I'll take you all to get some ice cream."

Now, those children are all grown up and married which has added to my long list of Mother's Day card purchases. Solomon had it right when he wrote, "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:29-30 KJV).

Of all the thousands of Mother's Day cards I have purchased throughout the years, I must honestly confess they have all been worth it.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail james-snyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

Buddhist Studies at UCLA Royce Hall. Contact Website: www.dalailama.ucla.edu

Public Symposium in Los Angeles on May 2: His Holiness will participate in a public symposium on Buddhism and Neuroscience: A Discussion on Attention, Mental Flexibility and Compassion in the afternoon organized by the UCLA Center for Buddhist Studies and the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA Royce Hall. Contact Website: www.dalailama.ucla.edu

Public Talk in Los Angeles on May 3: His Holiness will give a public talk on Secular Ethics, Human Values and Society in the morning organized by the University of Southern California's Student Interfaith Council at USC's Galen Center. Contact Website: http://dalailama.usc.edu

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Holiness will participate in a panel discussion titled Secular Ethics: Origins, Elements and Their Function in Society in the afternoon organized by the University of Southern California's Student Interfaith Council at USC's Bovard Auditorium. Contact Website: www.dalailama.usc.edu

Talk in Long Beach on May 4: His Holiness will be presented with "Shine A Light" Award from Amnesty International in the morning, and will give a keynote address on Human Rights at the Carpenter Performing Art Center. Contact Website: http://www.amnestyusa.org/dalailama

Public Talk in Irvine on May 4: His Holiness will participate in a dialogue with youth leaders on Compassion and Global Leadership in the afternoon organized by the University of California Irvine at the UCI Bren Events Center. Contact Website: www.livingpeace.uci.edu

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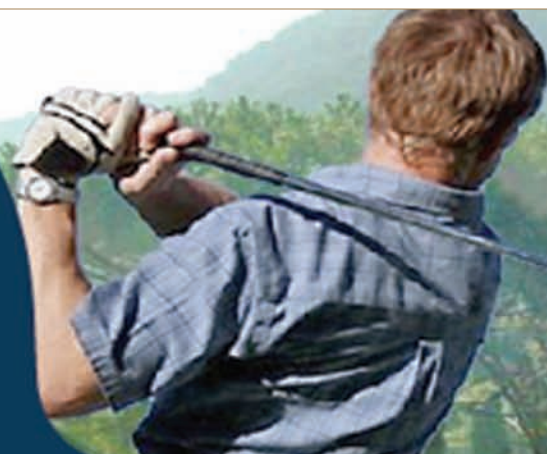
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