



## WHO HAS THE BEST HOLIDAY DECORATIONS? IS IT YOU? OR YOUR NEIGHBOR?

Submit your entries for our 3rd annual Holiday Decorating Contest! Enter the address of homes we should consider for our 3rd annual contest. We'll drive and evaluate the entries in our service area from Pasadena, Altadena, Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia and Duarte on Monday and/or Tuesday, December 12th and 13th between 5-9 p.m. So.... If you're entered, make sure your lights are on for us to take photos and make the awards! Send your submission addresses with street address, cross street and town name to C.Bertrand@MtnViewsNews.com

Where Your  
Community News Comes First

# Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2011

VOLUME 5 NO. 50

## "SIERRA MADRE CERT CONTINUES TO URGE RESIDENTS TO PREPARE

In light of the recent wind storm, many of us now realize how very vulnerable we all are in our usually calm Sierra Madre. Trees came down causing structural damage and a full electrical outage for up to 5 days in some areas. Residents were diligent about taking their kids and elderly parents to family or friends' houses. The City of Sierra Madre, the Sierra Madre Police Department and the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department did an extraordinary job ensuring all residents were safe, the streets cleared as soon as possible and provided continual updates and information to residents. Southern California Edison crews worked around the clock to restore service within an incredibly short amount of time given amount of damage.

Luckily, it wasn't "The Big One" where we could lose water, gas, electricity, telephones (including cell phones) and could be weeks without help!

With that being said, the Sierra Madre Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) would like to continue to encourage residents to prepare for a large-scale natural disaster. The level of personal preparedness will determine the quality of life for families in the event of an emergency. Just a few simple steps can dramatically reduce the dependence on emergency services in the event of a disaster:

- Water: one gallon per person per day for three weeks
- Food: at least a three week supply of non-perishable food, plus a can opener
- Extra water and food for pets
- Prescription medications

## SIERRA MADRE EMERGENCY RADIO KEEPS RESIDENTS INFORMED

During the difficult days following the recent windstorm, Sierra Madre City Hall kept residents informed with official "Windstorm Updates" that were broadcast over AM radio. Sierra Madre's "Emergency Radio Station", at 1630 on the AM dial, was broadcasting (almost) 24/7 keeping residents abreast of power repair schedules, debris removal, and other essential information.

The radio station, which is licensed by the FCC, has been on the air since the summer of 2010. The call letters are WQKW561, and it covers all of Sierra Madre, plus many areas of Arcadia, Monrovia, and Hastings Ranch. The radio station operates every day, normally broadcasting information about community events. But when there's an emergency, the station immediately goes into "Emergency Mode" allowing the City to instantly broadcast essential public safety information to its residents.

In any disaster or emergency, it's very important that the public stay informed. But disasters tend to disrupt our usual means of communication. When electrical power fails, nearly all communications is impacted. This is especially true in Sierra Madre, because we depend upon cable TV service for nearly all TV reception. During the recent power failure, Sierra Madre residents had no cable TV, no internet, and in some cases, no telephone service. Even cell phones were

- Blankets, clothing and sturdy shoes for each family member
- Baby items, such as extra formula and diapers
- Special items for seniors or people with disabilities (generators with enough fuel to run heat and medical equipment for at least one week. 5 gallons per day for 7 days = 35 gallons of fuel)
- Small hygiene kits, including toothbrush and toothpaste
- List of allergies to any drug or food (especially antibiotics)
- Battery powered or hand-crank radio
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Pocket knife
- Emergency cash in small denominations; quarters for public pay phones
- Paper cups, paper plates, plastic utensils and paper towels
- Copies of important documents such as birth certificates, insurance policies, passports, etc.
- Photos of family members and pets for identification purposes
- List of emergency point-of-contact phone numbers (out of state preferable)
- Extra keys to your house
- Extra toilet paper, shovel for digging a latrine

Sierra Madre is also equipped with its own radio station at 1630 am to provide continual updates in the event of an emergency. Remember: Don't become a victim! Be empowered! Be prepared!"

of little use, because their batteries couldn't be recharged.

There was one source of information that ALL Sierra Madrans could hear: our Emergency Radio Station, broadcasting at 1630-AM.

The obvious advantage of AM radio is that it can be heard by anyone with a common, battery-operated AM radio. We all have them in our homes, cars, and businesses. Anyone can use an AM radio. It takes no special skill or experience, and AM radio doesn't rely on cell towers, internet, cable TV, or phone lines. It always works, even when most everything else has failed.

Sierra Madre's Emergency Radio Station was built to provide our residents with essential information when it's needed most. To this end, the station was designed to be fail-safe: ultra-reliable even in a disaster, and this disaster proved that it worked. The station's reliability is the result of "system redundancy": there are two studios at two different locations where information can be played on the air. There are three power sources (SCE, batteries, and a generator) so the station will stay on the air during a prolonged power outage, such as what we experienced this past week. And during an emergency, the station can operate in a special "hi coverage" mode whereby it serves our residents with a robust signal that can be easily heard on any indoor or car radio.

## MOVING ON AFTER THE STORM

### *The City and Residents Tackle The Devastation Left Behind*



The photo above shows the property on the corner of Auburn and Highland a week ago Friday. The property was red tagged and deemed uninhabitable. One week later, crews were still working on cutting away the toppled tree and removing it from the structure.

The City is now in recovery mode as it works to clear all streets, identify and remove potential hazards, and inventory losses. This is the final anticipated update that includes general information for the upcoming recovery efforts. We will continue to provide any specific and important information to our residents, businesses, and visitors as necessary.

During the restoration of power at City Hall on Tuesday, the telephone main line (626-355-7135) was taken out of service for a day. It is now op-

erational and will be answered during City Hall business hours.

At press time, Southern California Edison has informed staff that there are still 43 locations in Sierra Madre without power. These are primarily single properties that have experienced

specific damages or situations that Edison will need to address individually. Please report existing or new outages to Edison directly at 800-611-1911.

Photos and caption by S. Henderson

## CANDLELIGHT WALK SET OF DECEMBER 18th

by Craig Hakola

As the sun surrenders us to winter, and the weather further dashes us toward that icy chill, the season of Christmas stands ready to remind us of the glorious birth of Christ. On the night of December 18, the City of Sierra Madre will lift its voice in celebration with Christmas song and filling the evening with heavenly stars of candlelight.

Every generation has symbols, seasons and occurrences that must be cultivated - immortal windows of time that are deserving of reverence. It is during those starry moments of inspiration that the world becomes enchanted. The "Candlelight Walk" in Sierra Madre is a holiday island within a Season of Celebration. Whether one is in the spring of life, or in the winter of reflection, every year, this special candlelight procession awakens a wondrous spirit of heart-changing emotion, uniting the beautiful community of Sierra Madre.

We salute the heavenly duo Pastor Bob VanderZaag and Pastor Richard Anderson as the founders of this iconic tradition. Each of these men helped to bring a community together, enlightening it with small-town sensibility, and highlighting the deeper meaning of the Christmas Season.

The Candlelight Walk is held each Christmas season to celebrate the journey Joseph and Mary made to Bethlehem where Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago. With "Mary and Joseph" leading the way, the procession will begin at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Sierra Madre, accompanied by participants holding candles and singing traditional Christmas carols. The procession will end at Kersting Court in the center of town where the Christmas story will be read from the Scriptures. The event begins at St. Rita traveling down Baldwin to Kersting Court. It is recommended to arrive at 6:45p.m., as the walk will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Staff/MVNews

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE FORUM

On Tuesday, Dec. 13, The Kiwanis Club of Sierra Madre will host a public forum to discuss the emergency response to the recent windstorm. The forum will concentrate on ways to improve emergency procedures and be better prepared for the next disaster. The event will include a panel of representatives from City departments, including the Police and Fire Departments. Representatives from Southern California Gas Co. and SCE have also been invited. The public is invited to ask questions and learn how we all can be better prepared for emergencies.

The forum will be from noon until 2pm and is free, Lunch (optional - \$7) will be served, but reservations are required; please call 355-0728. The location is The Lodge, 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Parking is available in the back of the building.

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New Japanese erasers have arrived!

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## Weather Wise

## 5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

<b>Mon:</b>	Showers	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
<b>Tues:</b>	Showers	Hi 50s	Lows 30s
<b>Wed:</b>	Sunny	Hi 50s	Lows 30s
<b>Thur:</b>	Ptly Cldy	Hi 60s	Lows 30s
<b>Fri:</b>	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 30s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

CITY OF SIERRA MADRE  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

## City Hall Hours:

Monday - Thursday 7:30 am to 5:30 pm

Tue Dec 13 @ 6:00PM

City Council Meeting

Wed Dec 14 @ 3-7:00 PM

Farmer's Market

Wed Dec 14 @ 4-5:00PM

Teen Book Club (Library)

Fri Dec 16 City Hall - Alternate Fridays CLOSED

Fri Dec 23 City Hall - Holidays CLOSED HALF DAY

Sat Dec 24 Library Closed

## 1630 AM

## Free on-air publicity for local events

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

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

## In a nutshell, your event must:

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

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

Sierra Madre's  
Farmer's Market Is Back!

The Sierra Madre Farmer's Market new location is in Downtown Sierra Madre on Hermosa Avenue, south of Sierra Madre Boulevard to Mariposa Avenue. The hours will be from 3:00-8:00 p.m. during the summer with the exception of major holidays. During the winter/Pacific Standard time the market could possibly end at 7:00 p.m.



## JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

The Sierra Kiwanis Club meeting begins at noon at The Lodge (formerly the Masonic Lodge) and the program begins at approximately 12:30.

The program presentation is free. Lunch is \$10.00.

If you would like to meet unlesg call 355-0728 to reserve your space. We look forward to seeing you there.



## Sierra Madre Rotary Club

Meets Tuesdays 7-8:30 a.m.

631 E. Sierra Madre Boulevard  
Sierra Room of the Youth Activity Center

As part of our club's lively weekly meetings, dynamic speakers are scheduled on Rotary's service interests, local community topics and general appeal subjects.

Sierra Madre Rotary operates an active high school service group, the Interact Club, participates in Rotary scholarship, music and essay competitions, raises funds for local and Rotary Foundation causes, recognizes exemplary teachers, offers mini grants for worthy projects, hosts the yearly Elvis in the Park concert and donates hundreds of service hours to community events like the Wistaria Festival, Dickens Village and July 4th Parade.

While all Rotary Club memberships are by invitation, visitors are heartily welcomed to meetings. For more information, please visit our website or contact our membership chairperson at [RudyHayek@Gmail.com](mailto:RudyHayek@Gmail.com).

[www.SierraMadreRotary.com](http://www.SierraMadreRotary.com)


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## 10% OFF WITH THIS AD

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COMMUNITY SERVICES COM-  
MISSION IS SEEKING TO FILL  
TWO VACANCIES ON THE  
SMTV3 COMMUNITY CABLE  
TELEVISION PROGRAMMING  
COMMITTEE

The City of Sierra Madre's Community Services Commission is looking for two motivated, enthusiastic, creative, and a friendly volunteer to serve on the City's the SMTV3 Community Cable Television Programming Committee. The City welcomes any interested residents to apply. SMTV3 Community Cable Television Programming Committee - 2 Vacancies for Community Members At Large.

The SMTV3 Community Cable Television Programming Committee is an eight (8) member committee comprised of a member from the Community Services Commission, Senior Community Commission and six community members at large. The committee is subject to the Brown Act and therefore must meet in a public place with posted agendas. A member of the Community & Personnel Services Department staff will be the liaison to the committee.

The Committee meets regularly at 7:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of every other month. The Committee has the option of not meeting in January and September of each year. The primary purpose of the committee is to

gather information, weigh public opinion and examine issues in depth in order to render a recommendation to the Community Services Commission regarding the programming on the City's government-education cable access channels. Most often the committee reviews matters such as equipment, productions and events to be covered by Community Mountains of the Foothills.

The Community Services Commission plans to appoint the community members at large at their regularly scheduled Community Services Commission Meeting on December 19, 2011.

Applications for the December appointments are due by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2011. Applications received after this date will be kept on file until there is another appointment date. Submit applications to the Community & Personnel Service Department at the Community Recreation Center, 611 E. Sierra Madre Boulevard.

For an application, please visit [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com) look for commission/committee applications. For more information please call (626) 355-5278.

COME SAY GOODBYE TO THE  
CHIEF - MARILYN DIAZ

All are welcome to this community-wide event.

Thursday,  
December 29, 2011

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sierra Madre Room at  
the Community Services  
Center  
611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre, CA 91025

For more information  
please call the Sierra  
Madre Police Department at (626) 355-1414 or to RSVP  
(626) 355-2585

Sierra Madre Citizen of the  
Year Nominations Sought

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the 2011 Citizen of the Year. To be eligible, a person must be a resident of Sierra Madre. The accomplishment(s) or project(s) for which they are being nominated must have been of benefit to the community of Sierra Madre and its citizens during 2011. They must have served without remuneration on the project for which they are being nominated, and members of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors are not eligible.

If you would like to nominate someone, nomination forms are available at [www.SMCitizenoftheYear.info](http://www.SMCitizenoftheYear.info). You can also pick up nomination forms at the Chamber office, City Hall, the Library, and the Recreation Center. Completed forms should be mailed to Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, 20 W. Montecito Ave., Ste. C, Sierra Madre, 91024 by Dec. 20th. The winner will be selected by members of the Chamber Board of Directors, and will be honored at the annual Citizen of the Year/Board of Directors Installation Dinner to be held in January, 2012.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY  
BOOK SALES

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library are having another Bargain Book Table Sale, right on the heels of December's Best Used Book Sale, which was moved, due to the weather emergency, to Friday, December 9th (3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.) and Saturday, December 10th (10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.).

The Bargain Book Table Sale will take place inside the Library during open hours Monday, December 12th, through Saturday, December 17th. The featured

topics will include Fiction, Thrillers, Sports, Parenting, and books for Children and Teens. Stop by often, as books are replenished daily, and are only \$1.00 each.

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



## Holiday Specials



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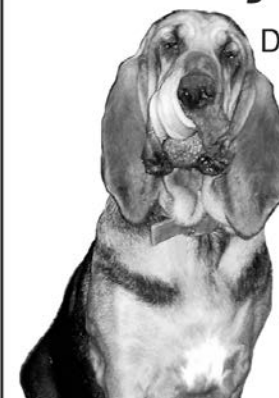
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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT REPAIR OF STRUCTURES RELATED TO WINDSTORM DAMAGE ROOFS

from the City of Sierra Madre

**Q:** My home has minor roof damage that needs to be repaired. Do I need a permit for this repair work?

**A:** For minor roof repair (such as roof patching), meaning 25 percent or less of the roof needing work, a building permit is not required. To verify that the proposed work is a minor repair only, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7138 so that an inspection can be scheduled. The Development Services Department staff may require drawings showing the extent of the roof repair and photos to document the roof damage (cell phone photos are acceptable).

**Q:** My home has moderate to extensive roof damage. Do I need a permit for the repairs?

**A:** For more extensive roof repairs, meaning more than 25 percent of the roof, a building permit will be required. Please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7138. Staff will be able to guide you through the permitting process.

### Structural Damage

**Q:** My property sustained damage from the recent wind storm. Do I need a building permit for the repair work?

**A:** If there is an issue of immediate danger please call 911. For non-emergency inquiries regarding structural damage on private property contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7138 so that an inspection can be scheduled to determine if a permit will be required. There is no cost for the initial inspection.

**Q:** A city-owned tree or power line damaged my property. What do I do?

**A:** Contact your insurance company. In general, the city is not liable for damages to private property even if caused by city trees or power lines in the course of a storm. However, you can call City Hall at (626) 355-7135 to request a claim form.

### Fences

**Q:** I have a fence that has blown down or has been damaged by the windstorm, do I need a permit to rebuild the fence?

**A:** For repair or replacement of fences (in-kind repair or replacement), provided the new fence matches what was there before, a permit will not be required. Please contact Development Services staff at (626) 355-7138 so that a determination can be made that no permit is required. If you would like to construct a new fence that is different (i.e. change of material, location, height) from what existed prior to the storm, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7138 and staff can verify what standards apply and if a permit is needed.

### Electrical Permits

**Q:** My electrical meter is damaged. Do I need a permit for the repairs?

**A:** For all inquiries related to electrical permits please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7138.

### Building & Safety Public Counter Hours

Monday – Thursday, and alternate Fridays: 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Planning Public Counter Hours

Monday – Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Alternate Fridays: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sierra Madre City Hall

Development Services Department (Building & Safety and Planning)

232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Sierra Madre, CA 91024

(626) 355-7138

## OFFICIALS GET A FIRST HAND LOOK AT WINDSTORM DAMAGE



Assemblyman Anthony Portantino and Cal-EMA acting Secretary Mike Dayton were in Sierra Madre Friday afternoon to take a look around at the damage we suffered during the windstorm on Nov. 30th and Dec. 1st.

The purpose of the Cal-EMA visit was to assess the damage and assist the city in seeking State funds to help defray the costs the city and residents will incur recovering from the storm. There will also be efforts to ascertain federal emergency assistance, however, the state's certification is the first step in the process,

according to City Manager Elaine Aguilar.

On Tuesday, the city council will also discuss reduction in Building Permit Fees related to Windstorm Damage and possibly amending the fee schedule for Plan Check and Permit Fees.

It should be noted that Assemblyman Portantino does not currently represent Sierra Madre, however there is widespread speculation that he may run for an elective office in one of the newly created districts that does include the

city.

Sierra Madre's current Assembly Representative is Tim Donnelly.

*Pictured above awaiting the arrival of Secretary Dayton are, left to right, Management Analyst James Carlson, Public Works Director Bruce Inman, Councilwoman Nancy Walsh, Assemblyman Portantino, Fire Chief Steve Heydorff and City Manager Elaine Aguilar.*

Photo by Bill Coburn.

## CITY ISSUES CRIME PREVENTION WARNING

The Police Department reminds residents to be cautious about door to door solicitors, some of whom may be burglars using solicitation as a ruse. The night following the wind-driven power outage, police responded to nighttime solicitor calls when the City was pitch black. No legitimate solicitor would seek business from residents at nighttime in a city experiencing a complete power outage and wind devastation.

Two days later an alert resident on Carter called police after seeing two possible solicitors putting flyers on neighbors' property. Police stopped the two men, both of whom were on parole---one for carjacking, and the other for residential burglary. Officers arrested one of the men for a L.A. Sheriff's Department's

no-bail residential burglary warrant. Last week another resident used his home video surveillance system to capture images of a probable burglar on his property and shared it with police and the public.

Burglars often knock on front doors to see if someone is home. If you are home and choose not to answer your door, be aware of the person(s) and their subsequent actions. Call the Police Department whenever you see a person or car you do not recognize involved in suspicious activity. Your Neighborhood Watch is an excellent crime prevention resource. Call 355-1414 for more information.

### Home Repair Scams

The Police Department also cautions residents to be careful in dealing with the many home repair services in abundance after the windstorm. Unlicensed contractors solicit work door to door. There are multiple ways for home repair

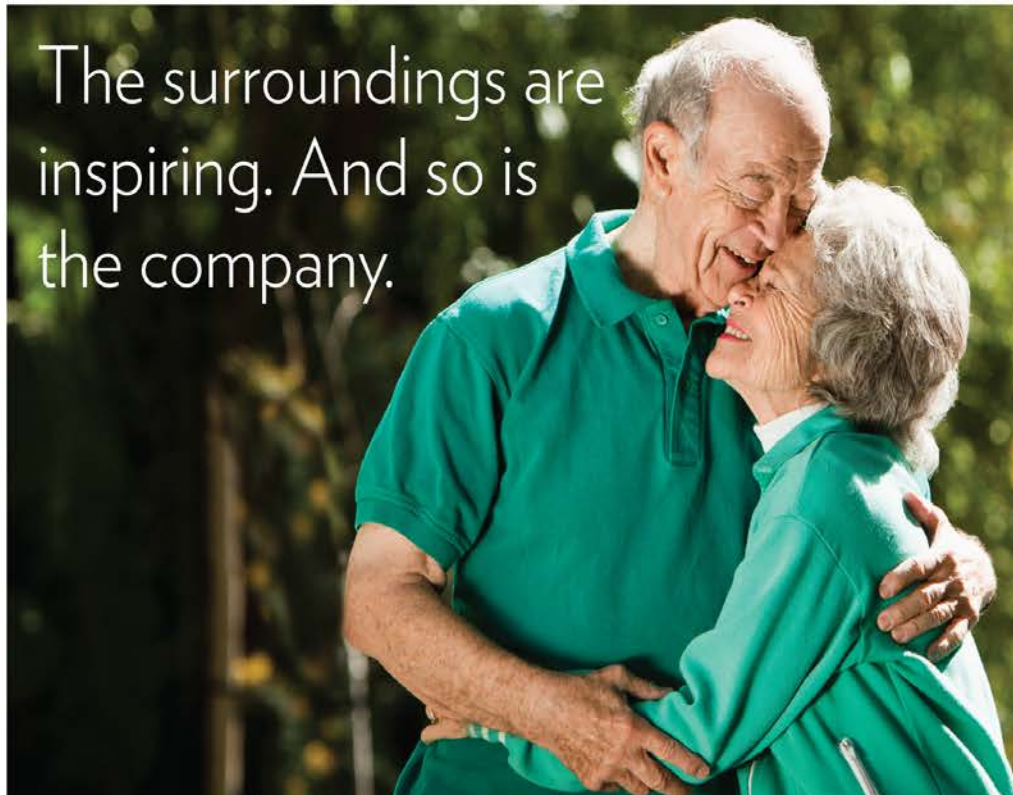
fraud to occur.

Some of them include:

- o The suspect may take a large deposit and never return to do the work.
- o The suspect may actually do the work but the victim finds out later that it is so shoddy and inferior that it must be torn out and replaced at the victim's expense.
- o The suspect may also change the agreed upon price after the work is performed and intimidate a vulnerable victim into paying the higher price.
- o Some suspects target victims who have impair vision, mental states, or physical abilities, and charge repeatedly for work that has already been performed or is never actually performed.

Residents should review the State of California's Department of Consumer Affairs' Contractors State Licensing Board website before hiring contractors: <http://www.cslb.ca.gov/>

The surroundings are inspiring. And so is the company.



Robert and Mary Lou Jacoby—Residents since 1999

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now open: the hacienda

Make great strides. The Hacienda, the new memory center at Westminster Gardens, is here to address the needs of your loved one who might be living with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. We're here to help them feel at home and loved—with peace of mind.

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or to learn more about our community: (888) 523-9163

or visit [beWestminsterGardens.org](http://beWestminsterGardens.org)





MountainViews-Observer

PasadenaAltadena

News From Your CommunityFor Your Community

## CPUC LAUNCHES PROBE INTO EDISON OUTAGES

The California Public Utilities Commission said Wednesday they are conducting an investigation into prolonged power outages in Pasadena and other service area of Southern California Edison (SCE) following last week's windstorm.

"Our enforcement staff is looking into why the outages occurred and why it is taking so long for power to be restored," CPUC Executive Director Paul Clanon said in a statement. "SCE has a duty to provide safe and reliable service to its customers and we have a duty to make sure SCE is doing all it can to fulfill that mandate."

SCE officials said they are fully aware that many of its customers have been frustrated by the length of outages in their neighborhoods. They added that the company has been working around the clock with crews from across its service territory to restore service as quickly and safely as possible. They said the company would cooperate fully with an investigation by the California Public Utilities Commission

"Some of our customers are upset, and we aren't happy either. I'm committed to thoroughly examining what happened every step of the way and creating ways to improve our response in the future," SCE President Ron Litzinger said.

The extremely high winds caused considerable damage to the distribution power grid, including power lines, poles and associated equipment. Trees and other large pieces of debris hampered repair crew access to equipment Litzinger added.

The CPUC investigation will look into the cause of the outages, including pole failures and any other potential safety factors that contributed to the outages or their duration, as well as staffing levels and the length of time it is taking SCE to respond to safety related calls from its customers and the accuracy of information being conveyed Clanon said.

"We will determine whether SCE met all safety requirements and did all it could to prevent outages, and that it is now doing all it can to restore power and communicate with its customers," he said. "If we determine that SCE has violated safety rules, it may face fines and penalties."

The agency is expected to issue a preliminary report in January.

## Pet of the Week



Fred is a is a three-year-old Maltese. He has a lot of energy and is very friendly. He does well with kids and loves to go for walks.

Fred's adoption fee is \$120. Her fee includes spay surgery, a microchip, the first set of vaccinations, as well as a free follow-up health check at a participating vet. Also, new adopters will receive complimentary health and wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals.

Call the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA at 626.792.7151 to ask about A298688, or visit at 361 S. Raymond Ave. in Pasadena. Adoption hours are 11-4 Sunday, 9-5 Tuesday -Friday, 9-4 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets can be found at [www.pasadenahumane.org](http://www.pasadenahumane.org).



## City Tallies Storm Cost; Cleanup Continues

By Dean Lee

Although city manager Michael Beck told council members Monday night that the financial cost related to last week's wind storm could be in the tens of millions, Pasadena Director of Finance, Andrew Green later said he thought the number would be much less.

Green said most of the cost was in employee overtime and cleanup of downed trees. He estimated that number to be less than \$10 million. Fire Department Spokeswoman Lisa Derderian was earlier quoted as saying the damage would be closer to \$20 million.

Public Information Officer, Ann Erdman, said Thursday it was too early to give the exact amount.

"It depends on you ask in the city," she said. "Departments have their numbers and are funneling that information into the city manager's office. So they're being compiled as best they can but it's not a perfect science especially when most of the city officials and city crews are out there doing the work."

Erdman said acting Secretary Mike Dayton from the California Emergency Management Agency would likely tour the area Friday. With him will also be State Sen. Carol Liu according to reports.

Erdman said CalEMA, along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be critical in getting state and federal reimbursement. She said the city's first step was declaring a declaration of local emergency, "the city manager declared it before the crack of dawn Thursday morning." The declaration was later ratified by the city council Monday night.

In a statement, officials said they are also asking that homeowners and business owners report all their storm-related costs to the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) so local governments can more accurately demonstrate the need for state and federal disaster aid. "We need any damage and costs that residents and businesses incurred to be reported to the county, which will forward them to the state," Beck said. "It's crucial that the state and federal governments have an accurate sense of the true costs of this emergency to local governments

## Man Arrested after Making Terrorist Threats Against City Workers

By Dean Lee

Pasadena Police say they took a man into custody Tuesday for repeatedly threatening employees at city hall after becoming frustrated over delays in restoring power to his home almost a week after hurricane like winds devastated the city. According to police Geoffrey Commons, 73, now faces felony charges for alleged threats to kill all Pasadena Water and Power employees.

Pasadena Police Chief Phillip Sanchez said Commons made direct treats to the Pasadena Water and Power city hall office. "He made threats starting early in the morning and continuing those threats throughout the afternoon," Sanchez said. Commons later told ABC 7 News the allegations were



and private property owners and businesses to follow up with disaster-relief funding."

Beck also gave detailed information Monday night about the cleanup efforts saying Pasadena Water and Power crews were canvassing of neighborhoods and had identified many properties that need replacement of wires from nearby power poles. As of Wednesday night Beck said that about 75 PWP customers were without power, Thursday night reports suggested that number dropped to 60.

"It's important to keep this in perspective. We're dealing with the equivalent of a hurricane-force event that impacted most of Pasadena's 23 square miles with 325 miles of streets," he said adding that city crews that have been working in 32-hour shifts with six-hour rest periods since the disaster began. He urged customers without power to call (626) 744-4673.

Beck also said a systematic east-to-west green debris removal process was now underway. The deadline for getting rid of green recyclable waste by taking it to the curb will be on residents' normal trash pickup this Monday he said.

Green storm debris drop-off locations are available to residents at Eaton Blanche Park, 3100 E. Del Mar Blvd., Robinson Park, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave. Only Pasadena residents may use these drop-off locations. The sites will be open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., from Dec. 7 through 16. Green debris cannot be dumped on the ground and must be placed inside the large bins on site.

Proof of residency such as a utility bill or identification card will be required to drop off material. No private contractors will be allowed to dispose of green materials at the park locations.

No dumping is allowed at the Rose Bowl Stadium or other parking lots he said.

To report storm-related damage dial 2-1-1, damage can also be reported online at [www.211la.org](http://www.211la.org).

All photos by D. Lee/MVNews



## Department Encourages Donations to Toy Drive

To help bring smiles to thousands of children who otherwise would find no presents on Christmas morning, the Pasadena Fire Department, ABC7 and Southland Firefighters are partnering for their 19th year on the Spark of Love Toy Drive.

New, unwrapped toys, sports equipment and gift cards for infants, children and teenagers may be dropped off at the following Pasadena fire stations through Dec. 24:

Station 31, 135 S. Fair Oaks Ave  
Station 32, 2424 E. Villa St.  
Station 33, 515 N. Lake Ave  
Station 34, 1360 E. Del Mar Blvd.  
Station 36, 1140 N. Fair Oaks Ave.  
Station 37, 3430 E. Foothill Blvd.  
Station 38, 1150 Linda Vista Ave.

Fire Department administrative offices, 199 S. Los Robles Ave., Suite 550

Community partners with Spark of Love Toy Drive boxes in Pasadena can accept donations as well, including Paseo Colorado, Western Asset, Plaza Las Fuentes, Pasadena Federal Credit Union, Gold's Gym, Honda of Pasadena, Victory Park Pasadena, First Tee Pasadena (Brookside Golf Course), Pasadena Central Library, Bob's Big Boy and Pasadena Water and Power.

The program is also supported by Ruth Management, Operating Engineers, Frostig Center, Bolton and Company, Pro Biz Bank, Optical Research, Rotary Club and Chancellor Place.

For more information contact A.C. Brown, administrative captain and community liaison for the Pasadena Fire Department, at (626) 744-7201.

## MASKED MEN ROB LOCAL MARKET AT GUNPOINT

Police say four suspects entered a market in the 2800 block of East Colorado Blvd Wednesday night and robbed the clerk at gunpoint. One suspect was later arrested.

The robbery took place shortly before 7 p.m. detectives said. As the suspects ran from the store, a witness said they observed the men enter a black Honda. All the suspects were described as male blacks in their late teens or early 20's, wearing dark clothing.

Police said an officer later observed the suspect vehicle traveling northbound, while patrolling the 1400 block of North Marengo Avenue. When the officer attempted to stop the vehicle, the passengers fled on foot.

The driver, Dontrell

Thomas, male Black-20 of Pasadena, was taken into custody without incident. The store loss, suspect masks and firearms were located inside the vehicle. Police and a bloodhound dog searched the area but were unable to locate the additional three suspects.

Police said the investigation is on-going.

Detectives are seeking information from two potential witnesses; an adult female inside the store that left prior to officer's arrival and also a witness who observed the suspect vehicle flee the scene. Anyone with information regarding this crime should contact the Pasadena Police Department at (626) 744-4241 and ask for the Robbery Detective Unit.

## Tree Lighting Ceremony Goes as Scheduled

Things started to return to normal Thursday as wind debris cleanup continued, with Mayor Bill Bogaard kicking off the Christmas Season by flipping the switch that turned on the lights of a 20-foot Washington Noble Fir in the city hall rotunda.

Public information Officer, Ann Erdman, made note of the colored lights donated by Pasadena Water and Power. She said the lights are energy-saving, light-emitting diodes (LED) that use almost 90 percent less energy than incandescent tree lights and produce almost no heat. The tree was also decorated with large, colorful ornaments.

A children's chorus, wearing Santa hats, from the citywide after-school recreation program also performed music of the season.

Everyone was encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys, sporting equipment or gift cards to place in the Spark of Love Toy Drive box. At the end of the ceremony, guests and firefighters loaded the gifts into a waiting Pasadena Fire Department ambulance, which transported the gifts so they can be wrapped and then opened on Christmas morning by needy children and teens.

For more information or to give call (626) 744-4755.



Mayor Bill Bogaard flipped the switch of a 20-foot Washington Noble Fir

## 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

## Christmas Tree Lane Ceremony All Set

Christmas Tree Lane in Altadena, the oldest large-scale Christmas lighting spectacle in the country, is set to flip the switch Saturday on a mile of trees strung with 10,000 lights.

The Winter Arts and Crafts Festival (15 vendors selling handmade items) begins the event at 2:00 pm in the Altadena Library parking lot, 600 E. Mariposa St., Altadena on the corner of Santa Rosa Avenue and Mariposa St. At this same time, the library will be selling used books plus the Christmas Tree Lane booth will have CTLA memorabilia for sale.



The Lighting Ceremony begins at 6:00 pm, but due to limited parking, and that Santa Rosa Avenue will be closed to traffic after 4:00 pm, people arrive early and visit the Festival!

There will also be two food trucks and 2-3 food vendors beginning at 2:00 and into the evening so folks can come for a meal, and then see the lights on the Lane.

For more information call (626) 403-1123.



## HOLIDAY FOOD PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR HELP



With ten days to go, Foothill Unity Center short 500 turkeys, 1,100 pies for Holiday Distribution

December 9, 2011 — With its two-day Holiday Food and Toy Distribution just over a week away, Foothill Unity Center is scrambling to secure the centerpieces of its food boxes: turkeys and pies.

“We’re used to dealing with cliffhangers when it comes to large-scale events like this one, but the level of this year’s shortfall is unprecedented,” said Joan Whitenack, the Center’s Executive Director. “Cutting back has become the norm for just about everyone, and unfortunately, our turkey and pie numbers reflect that.”

Nonetheless, Whitenack says, she’s confident that the community will come through with enough turkeys and pies (or funds to purchase them) in time for the two-day event, to be presented on Sunday and Monday, December 18 and 19, in Ayres Hall at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia.

Well over 1,500 families are expected to par-

ticipate in the distribution, including 3,000 children. On the 18th, reserved for families with children, each family will not only receive a food box, but take home an opaque bag pre-packed with new toys and clothing for each child. Since the gifts are not visible, parents can wrap and give them as part of their own holiday traditions. Children will also enjoy fun activities, special drawings and a chance to share their wishes with Santa. The event on the 19th is reserved for adult-only families, including many seniors.

One easy way to donate pies is to dine at Coco’s and take advantage of the restaurant’s Pies for a Purpose. At many local Coco’s, diners are invited to buy an extra pie for the restaurant to give to Foothill Unity Center.

Those short on shopping time are invited to donate funds to help the Center fill in the gaps. They can contribute securely online by clicking the Donate Now button on either the Center’s website, [www.foothillunitycenter.org](http://www.foothillunitycenter.org), or its Facebook page. Checks may be mailed to or dropped off at Foothill Unity Center, 415 West Chestnut Avenue, Monrovia CA, 91016.

## PET OF THE WEEK

## ELIZA



## Eliza: Animal ID #A4367586

Meet the sweetest furry friend you could ever have, Eliza (A4367586). Eliza is a phenomenal ten-month-old black and fawn spayed female German Shepherd mix puppy that was found as a stray on November 21<sup>st</sup> and brought to the Baldwin Park shelter. Weighting sixty pounds, this well behaved goofy girl walks well on the leash but does not seem to have had any formal training. Super playful and equally affectionate, Eliza simply adores children and hasn’t yet met a face she didn’t want to lick. Great with other dogs and non-reactive so far to the cats she has met, Eliza is a solid citizen! Eliza will make a tremendous running buddy and indoor pet for an active family living in a private home. To watch a video of Eliza interacting with a volunteer, please visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nulb4IDZy8k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nulb4IDZy8k)

To meet Eliza in person, please see her at

the Baldwin Park Shelter, located at 4275 N. Elton, Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (Phone: 626-430-2378). She is currently available now. For any inquiries about Eliza, please reference her animal ID number: A4367586. The shelter is open seven days a week, 12 pm-7 pm Monday-Thursday and 10am-5pm Friday-Sunday. This is a high-intake shelter with a great need for adoptions. For more information about Eliza or the adoption process, contact United Hope for Animals Volunteer Adoption Coordinator Samantha at [samanthasayon@gmail.com](mailto:samanthasayon@gmail.com) or 661-309-2674. To learn more about United Hope for Animals’ partnership with the Baldwin Park Shelter through its Shelter Support Program, as well as the many dogs of all breeds, ages, and sizes available for adoption in local shelters, visit <http://www.unitedhope4animals.org/about-us/shelter-support-program/>.

## THERE’S STILL TIME TO GET A LAST-MINUTE TAX DEDUCTION FOR 2011

Dec., 2011 – Donate your unwanted car by December 31st to Cars4Charities and you will get a year-end tax deduction of at least \$500 on your itemized federal taxes. You’ll also help one of hundreds of respected charities at the same time. Cars4Charities will handle the entire donation process, from start to finish. They’ll turn your unwanted vehicle into cash and send the entire net proceeds to the charity you select from their impressive list. The process is effortless. You can even donate your car online at [www.cars4charities.org](http://www.cars4charities.org).

Your vehicle does not have to run or be in good condition and it will be picked up in a matter of days, free of charge. Cars4Charities will provide you with all the paperwork you’ll need. To claim your 2011 deduction, your title must be signed and postmarked by December 31, 2011. For details, please visit [www.cars4charities.org](http://www.cars4charities.org) or call 1-866-448-3487 (GIVE-4-US)

We’d like to hear from you!  
What’s on YOUR Mind?

Contact us at:

[editor@mtnewsnews.com](mailto:editor@mtnewsnews.com) or

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



## “What’s Going On?”

News and Views from Joan Schmidt



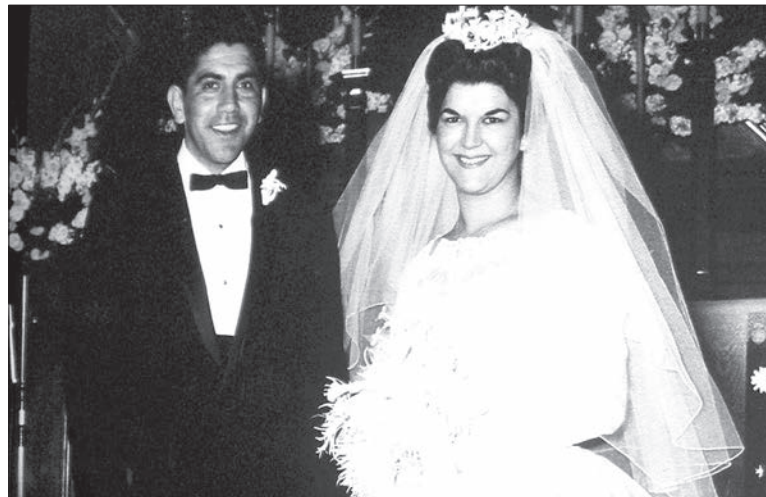
May 31, 1959... the beginning of a beautiful love story—the day Margaret Lopez met Bob Castro. Margaret grew up in the San Gabriel Valley, a local girl who had attended Holy Angels School in Arcadia and whose family belonged to the Parish. Bob Castro, on the other hand, was from Fresno. What could bring these two remarkable people together who would marry and have four children who were great achievers and, most importantly, good people? Margaret told me her cousin had celebrated her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and a group of friends headed over to the Hollywood Palladium. Bob Castro had driven his Mom down from Fresno so she could visit her friend in the area. When friends invited Bob to the Palladium, he at first said, “no” as he had no suit with him. His friends were persistent and said “a sports jacket and tie would be fine”, so he relented. Margaret and Bob met; true love set in and they married on September 2, 1961 at her parish, Holy Angels, Arcadia.

Margaret and Bob first lived in the Monrovia county area and became acquainted with Annunciation Parish after attending the annual fiestas a few times. Since the people were so friendly and the Church was so close to their home, the Castros became members of Annunciation Parish. As time went on and their family grew, they relocated to the City of Monrovia but remained an integral part of the Annunciation Community. Their four children went through Annunciation school. Bob has been a Eucharistic Minister for years and Margaret served on the Parish Guild for several years.

They celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on September 2, 2011. All

four children, their spouses, Officer in 1991 and worked

## IT’S ALL IN THE FAMILY



grandchildren, many family members and friends celebrated the special occasion. Mass was followed by a sumptuous reception planned by their children. Veronica, their daughter took their wedding photos, had them enlarged, framed and on display around the reception hall. (At the end of the article, I will post the beautiful poem Veronica had written for their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary—it is framed and on display in the Castros’ living room.

Margaret told me how blessed they were with their four children. Veronica, their eldest child, works in Marketing. Her husband, Craig Clark is the Superintendent of Public Works and Utilities for Arcadia. Their children are Erin and Michael. Erin already has received her Master’s Degree and is working, while Michael still attends college.

Their second-born is Rob Castro, current Chief of Police of Glendora. His tenure began in January, 2011 and he was a very popular choice. Rob joined Glendora P.D. in 1985 as a Police Cadet, rising through the ranks as a Patrol Officer, Narcotics Investigator, Sergeant, Lieutenant and later Captain in 2004. Rob’s wife Cynthia teaches in Glendora, their sons graduated from St Dorothy’s School, and the family belongs to St. Dorothy’s Parish.

The Castro’s second son, Michael, recently was promoted to Lieutenant at Arcadia P.D. Michael began his career as a Police Cadet at Arcadia P.D. in 1988. He became a Police

assignments as a Field Training Officer, Fraud Detective, and Community Services. He promoted to Sergeant in 2008. Lieutenant Castro is currently a Patrol Watch Commander. His wife Stephanie is in Real Estate, and they are proud parents of Michaela, Isabella, and Christopher.

The youngest Castro is Ralph, Assistant Dean of Student Services at Stanford. A few months ago, I saw Ralph on TV at their football game standing near the band! Ralph met his wife Angela while they were students at Wyoming University. She is an attorney and their children are Andrew and Evan.

Lieutenant Mike Castro said he and his siblings are all the products of a good education at Annunciation School, Arcadia. He felt their education helped shape them into being the people they are. I believe that, but also the wonderful loving home environment Margaret and Bob provided while they were growing up. Religion, education and the great love and upbringing by their devoted parents molded their four children into the exceptional adults they have become.

And there actually is another Castro in Law Enforcement. Bob’s brother had lived a while with Margaret and Bob in the early years of marriage. Margaret has a niece, Virginia who is only 8 ½ years younger than she. Fate set in and Virginia married Bob’s brother. Their son Richard is a Sergeant with Anaheim Police Department, so one could say, “It’s all in the Family”.

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“Where there is no struggle, there is no merit.”

## AMERICA’S GOT TALENT. DO YOU?

NBC’s talent contest TV show “America’s Got Talent” is holding auditions in Anaheim Dec. 10 & 11 for the upcoming Season 7 of the program.

A spokesman said the show is open to acts of any sort, from musicians and singers to comedians, acrobats, etc., and not just professionals.

Contact Casting Associate Stuart Inman at [stuart.agtcasting@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.agtcasting@gmail.com) or cell: 209.747.0688 (9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Mon-Sat), or check out the America’s Got Talent web site here: <http://www.americasgottalentauditions.com>

Who knows? The next winner could be you!



## CHRISTMAS TREES AT SANTA ANITA

*From Arcadia's Best*

Most people think of horse racing when Santa Anita Park is mentioned. But for the holidays, Santa Anita will be home to a circus starting on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas tree sales beginning Friday.

For the very first time, Christmas Trees will be available for purchase at Santa Anita Park. Although initiall planned to begin on November 25th, the tent for the tree sales was not set up until the week of Nov. 28, and no trees were in place when the tent and facility was blown down on Thursday, Dec. 1. However, by Monday, December 5th, the tent had been re-set and loaded with trees.

Tahoe Christmas Tree Company will set up in the track's southwest parking lot, Gate 1, and more than 1,000 trees will be displayed through Dec. 23.

"The majority of our trees come from Oregon direct from the growers," said Julian Blandino of Tahoe Christmas Trees. "Our trees are hand-picked from the fields and not bought from distributors and wholesalers who buy them in bulk form for chain stores, so Tahoe trees are always fresh. That's why our trees come with a 100 percent satisfaction guarantee."

Tahoe Trees is family-owned and was started in the 1940s. They have five other locations, in City of Industry, Eagle Rock, Highland Park, Pasadena and Upland.

Snowflocking, fireproofing and delivery service are all available. Tahoe Christmas Trees also provides free assistance in securing trees to cars or trucks after purchase.

The lot, which will adjoin the Westfield Santa Anita mall, will operate daily from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

## Arcadia Police Blotter

*For the period of Sunday, November 27, through Saturday, December 3, the Police Department responded to 1,701 calls for service of which 125 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.*

**Sunday, November 27:**

At about 10:15 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on Santa Anita Avenue at Live Oak Avenue on a vehicle with an expired year registration sticker. Through investigation, the officer determined the driver was never issued a license and had two misdemeanor warrants. The 47-year-old Hispanic female was arrested and transported the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

At approximately 7:10 p.m., an officer responded to JCPenney at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in reference to a male adult in custody for Petty Theft. After removing the sales tags from a sweater, jacket, and shorts, the suspect put them on and left the store without making payment. The 20-year-old Hispanic male was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail without incident.

**Monday, November 28:**

Around 12:53 a.m., an officer was patrolling the residential area of Golden West Avenue and Victoria Drive when he noticed a Chevrolet parked in front of a residence with multiple subjects waiting inside. The officer observed a male adult suspect exit from the backyard and noticed he was concealing something underneath his clothing. After the suspect saw the officer, he ran to get inside the front passenger seat, and a pursuit ensued northbound on Golden West Avenue. The suspect vehicle ran a stop sign at Hart Avenue and Steele Avenue in the City of Temple City and collided with another vehicle. A records check revealed an outstanding felony warrant for the 23-year-old Hispanic male front passenger and an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for the 26-year-old Hispanic female driver. These two suspects and the 42-year-old Hispanic rear passenger were arrested for Residential Burglary. The driver was also charged with Evading a Police Officer.

A short time after 4:40 p.m., an officer responded to the 200 block of West Foothill Boulevard, in reference to a residential burglary report. The victim returned home and noticed his master bathroom window had been shattered. Unknown suspects ransacked the master bedroom, removed numerous items including a safe, and fled undetected. The victim recently remodeled his house and believes a construction worker burglarized his home.

**Tuesday, November 29:**

At approximately 10:35 a.m., an officer responded to All Pro Supply, 157 North Santa Anita Avenue, in reference to a possible vandalism report. The store owner noticed two rear windows of the building were broken. Through investigation, the officer determined unknown suspects attempted to force entry until they encountered wood paneling and dry wall behind the windows.

Shortly after 8:00 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Wen Floral, 30 Las Tunas Drive, in regards to a vehicle burglary. The victim parked directly in front of the store and locked her vehicle before going inside. Upon returning, the victim discovered her passenger side window was smashed and her purse was missing. The suspect, caught on video surveillance, was seen driving a dark colored quad-cab truck. He is described as a Hispanic male, 30 to 35-years-old, 5'6", medium build, short dark hair, dark mustache, wearing a white t-shirt, dark pants, and white shoes.

**Wednesday, November 30:**

At about 9:21 a.m., a two-party traffic collision occurred in the area of Las Tunas Drive and South Baldwin Avenue. The victim was rear-ended as she slowed down for oncoming traffic.

Through investigation, the officer determined the other party struck the car at about 30 miles per hour as a result of taking her eyes off the road to reach for her purse. No major injuries were reported.

Around 5:13 p.m., an officer responded to the US Post Office, 41 Wheeler Avenue, in regards to an attempted theft report. Shortly after delivering two packages to the front porch of a residence in the 800 block of Fairview Avenue, the post office carrier observed a female adult remove the packages from the porch. As the suspect walked away from the residence, the post office carrier confronted her and took the packages from her hands. The suspect, described as White, approximately 30-years-old, 5'8", 180 lbs., with blond hair, was observed entering a maroon Buick driven by a White male adult. The mail carrier recorded the license plate as it fled eastbound on Fairview Avenue.

**Thursday, December 1:**

At about 5:56 a.m., an officer responded to Santa Anita Avenue and Longden Avenue in reference to a traffic accident. The officer learned that a tree branch fell off a tree in the median and fell on the victim's car as she drove by. The tree branch caused the left rear passenger door and roof area to collapse. The victim was not injured in the incident.

Shortly after 3:45 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Monte Verde Drive at Michillinda Avenue in regards to a male adult suspect taking an Arcadia street sign, which had fallen down due to the windstorm. A witness observed the suspect place the sign in the back of a black full size pickup truck and recorded the license plate number. An area check for the suspect vehicle met with negative results.

**Friday, December 2:**

11. Some time between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., unknown suspects burglarized Shree's Drive Thru Dairy, 1437 South Baldwin Avenue. The store owner noticed a hole in the wall and discovered that numerous items were missing from the store. The building was left unsecured due to a power outage.

12. At about 11:17 a.m., an officer responded to the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in regards to a juvenile drinking alcohol in the parking lot. A Westfield Security Officer observed the juvenile drinking a can of beer while sitting in his car. Through investigation, the APD officer learned the 16-year-old Hispanic male was also in possession of a bottle of Vodka. He was cited and released to his father.

**Saturday, December 3:**

13. Around 4:48 p.m., an officer responded to Nordstrom at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in regards to a grand theft report. While watching live video surveillance, a loss prevention officer observed a Black male adult enter a fitting room with a suit and other clothing items, and exit carrying only a Nordstrom shopping bag. The loss prevention officer proceeded to check the fitting room and located all of the merchandise except for the suit. An investigation revealed the suspect concealed the suit inside the Nordstrom shopping bag and left the store without making payment. The suspect's vehicle was recorded on video and further investigation is being conducted by the Detective Bureau.

14. At approximately 3:17 a.m., an officer observed a vehicle driving eastbound on westbound Huntington Drive at Baldwin Avenue, and conducted an enforcement stop for driving on the wrong side of the road. Through investigation, the officer determined the 36-year-old White male was driving under the influence and was never issued a license. He was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

## WINDSTORM CLOSES ARBORETUM GROUNDS



*Windstorm damage has devastated the grounds of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, causing a complete closure of the grounds. Indoor classes will continue however, but attendees are urged to call the Education Office 626-821-4623 to confirm. The Gift Shop is open its normal hours, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the Arboretum Library is also open its normal hours, Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Photo courtesy Arcadia's Best*

## EDISON SHOULD DISCLOSE MORE

by Scott Hettrick from Arcadia's Best

Of course, there are always misunderstandings and media misinformation in these situations, such as KABC channel 7's broadcast Sunday of one or two Arcadia residents complaining that the Santa Anita golf course was being cleaned up before power was restored to residential areas where elderly had been living in without heat in their homes for four or five days. The easy answer to that is that the golf course and crews working there have nothing to do with and are not controlled by the City of Arcadia since that is County property.

But there are real issues to be discussed.

Arcadians were remarkably patient with Southern California Edison following the Great Wind Storm of 2011, but the utility company should answer to their customers for a concerning lack of communication regarding timely estimates of restoration of power. Arcadia residents and officials were largely left in the dark for days (pun intended).

Also a little surprising, the Arcadia Chapter of the American Red Cross did not provide any shelter or supplies at the Arcadia office or anywhere in town. Callers were referred to a shelter set up for a couple days in Pasadena.

In the aftermath of the storm, we can look back and realize that despite the hundreds of downed trees and damage to some buildings, sidewalks, and vehicles, and the inconveniences of power outages, we must be grateful that it wasn't much worse.

It could have been devastating if all those trees didn't remarkably fall on streets and sidewalks for the most part, instead of homes, buildings, and cars so close by, or if the wind storm had happened during the day instead of in the wee hours of the morning when people and cars were mostly at rest.

And unlike ice storms in the East and Midwest that cause similar tree damage and power outages, we did not have to suffer sub-freezing temperatures, ice and snow in the hours and days of recovery.

But there are many lessons we should learn and we should use this opportunity to find ways to

improve on our response to disasters like this.

For instance, why couldn't SCE provide daily and more frequent updates to City officials and on its web site about the status of the power outages – how many customers affected in Arcadia (as opposed to the entire San Gabriel Valley), how many lines were down, and estimates of when power would be restored in specific areas.

There was also little explanation or signs provided by anyone about why a handful of streets remained blocked for days by trees that had fallen days earlier.

In the scheme of things, a wind storm is not the biggest of disasters we face compared to fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, or terrorist attacks.

But we found out that our new technology has its downfalls when the power goes out. Cordless phones don't work; tank-less hot water heaters don't work; Internet and e-mail access is limited to smart phones, and many smart phones didn't work as well during the hours and days after the storm – perhaps slowed by a sudden increase in usage. In some cases the back-up power supplies of cell towers went dead.

Even those with cell phones to receive e-mails and texts were challenged to keep their phones charged.

For those who could access e-mail, the Internet, and receive text messages and phone calls, the City of Arcadia and the police department provided twice-daily comprehensive updates and intermittent bulletins that were extremely valuable and helpful, and the school district delivered multiple automated phone blast calls.

But I didn't see SCE providing any of that kind of communication. And City updates consistently had the same message about SCE – that the utility had provided no information to them either.

That's worth discussing — bring your comments to City Hall tonight, and/or type them here below so Councilmen know how you feel.

*(Hettrick's opinions and comments on ArcadiasBest.com are not intended to reflect any official of the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce, where Hettrick is Executive Director.)*

## Coldwell Banker's Arcadia Office to Make Their 24th Annual Trip to The Union Rescue Mission

On Monday December 19th, Dean Griffith and a group of real estate agents from Coldwell Banker's Arcadia Regional Office will make their annual holiday trip to the Los Angeles Union Rescue Mission. Dean and his fellow agents are collecting clothes, blankets, toys, and any cash or checks that you would like to donate to the Mission. Last year they collected 5 truckloads of clothing & blankets and approximately \$2000 in donations for the mission.

The annual "Trip to the Mission" was started 24 years ago by Bruce Pfeiffer, an agent in Coldwell Banker's Arcadia Regional Office. After 20 years of leading the trip to the mission,

Bruce handed over his duties to Dean. The Union Rescue Mission's efforts are focused on reducing homelessness throughout LA County and specifically Skid Row. Currently, Los Angeles County has 3% of the nation's total population, but 10% of its homeless population.

*Coldwell Banker's Arcadia Regional Office is located at 15 E Foothill Blvd in Arcadia and you can bring your donations into the office until Monday December 19th at 9:00am. If you need assistance or would like your donations to be picked up you can contact Dean Griffith at (626) 664-9163.*

## The Peacock Buzz - Winter 2011/12 Registration!

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 ci.arcadia.ca.us under the Recreation and Community Services Department.

Registration for classes and activities is now underway! Registration can be done on-line at ci.arcadia.ca.us , by walk-in, mail-in or fax-

in. Winter 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.

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# MONROVIA - DUARTE

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

## MONROVIA SIX DAYS LATER... RESIDENTS WITHOUT POWER AND MAJOR CLEANUP NEEDED

By Joan Schmidt

Last Thursday, we woke up to no electricity or heat. One of my friends said she could do without the lights, but not the heat! Our in-house temperature went down to 56 for a few days, and boy is that cold! No one wanted to get out from under the warm covers.

By Saturday, I ventured out and could hardly believe all the damage. I live in the County area of Monrovia and tried to drive West on Camino Real, but the road was blocked. A tree had fallen, landed on a truck and went all the way across the road blocking traffic. Neighbors came out with saws and began working on the tree. Eventually they cut enough that cars could proceed through. At the same time, the owner of the truck was sawing away. (The next day, he had cleared off his truck, but had lost the windshield, a window and a bumper!

I proceeded on side streets and ended up on Camino Real again. The park at the corner of Camino Real and 2nd Avenue was a disaster. Trees PULLED out of the ground-not just knocked over! There were fallen trees also on the tennis court and picnic area!

Live Oak Cemetery looked like a set for a horror film. Behind the Mausoleum was a tree pulled out of the ground with its roots attached! Driving through the cemetery I saw many fallen trees! I got out of my car to take closer-up photos of some trees, but quickly ran back to the car. Quite frankly, many were leaning sideways and I didn't want to stay under them long.

I then ventured up Myrtle Avenue and found the City of Monrovia's Christmas tree had toppled over, so there was no tree lighting ceremony or parade last week. We originally planned to go, but forgot about it Thursday evening, because we were gathering candles, buying ice and getting our two coolers out. My husband has a "B.C." cooler-from the old days-very heavy, but perishables lasted in it with a huge block of ice! We also found the freezer kept everything cold-for 4 days, ice cubes lasted in a small baggie!

After seeing the downed Christmas tree in Monrovia, I drove west to California Ave and proceeded south. Again, so many knocked-down trees and from their roots! Before electricity was resumed, my husband had ventured to the \$.99 Store for bread

and lamented that a power line on Camino Real was split in two. I had been told that electricity would be resumed Monday A.M. but was doubtful.

Sunday, I woke up at 4 A.M. and was thrilled and totally surprised to see we had electricity. I turned on the kitchen and dining room lights and said, "Yay I can see. No more lighting the stove with a match." Throughout the whole ordeal of 56 degrees in the house, I still was grateful we could at least heat up water for tea or perk coffee! (Thank God we have an old Corning ware percolator.) And hot soup always hit the spot those days! During the time, we listened to music, read, and played scrabble, checkers and cards, if we weren't out back raking up leaves and cutting fallen branches. (My daughter said we were living in "The Little House on the Prairie" days!) Most of the time I thought of the horror stories of people with medical needs, but no electricity, with trees fallen into their homes - unlivable houses, and vehicles totaled - no transportation. We were REALLY LUCKY that conditions were not worse. When I drove on the different days and saw all the downed trees, I kept thinking, "Thank God this occurred during the night when most people were home safe in their beds."

Tuesday, I read on Facebook, one of my former students, who's married with three children FINALLY got electricity! She is only a few blocks from us, but near Fairgreen Ave., where the electric wire was split in half. I guess it was finally repaired.

Today is Wednesday as I write this but MANY still don't have electricity. Rep. Adam Schiff from the Pasadena area and our Supervisor Mike Antonovich are NOT happy with the situation. Many residents have called in, but no one even came to their homes to check out the situation. The Supervisor feels it's almost a week later and he CANNOT believe why ALL power isn't restored. It's obvious there is NO PLAN for action in a catastrophic situation. What about a major earthquake? I just pray that power will be resumed VERY SOON for those still suffering. Thank God for all the neighbors and friends who have reached out and continue to reach out and help those in need.



### Duarte Responds to Wind Damage

The City of Duarte suffered significant damages from last week's Santa Ana wind storm, which city officials are projecting initial clean-up costs to be approximately \$100,000. In addition, costs associated with tree replacement are anticipated to be in the neighborhood of an additional \$200,000. Here's a look at some of the damage impacts throughout the City and team response efforts:

- Approximately 200 trees destroyed;
- Approximately 400 trees sustained damage;
- Five employees from the Field Services Division and other employees put in approximately 156 hours during the first 48 hours starting at 1:00 am on 12/1;
- ValleyCrest landscaping contract services have provided 7 employees a day to continually trim damaged trees and clear debris, and will continue as long as needed;
- 24 employees from the Parks and Recreation Department kept the Senior/Fitness Centers opened daily on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and

- Sunday from 7:00 am - 11:00 pm for residents affected by ongoing power outages;
- 12 extra employees from the LA County Brush Clearance Crew responded in the first 12 hours;
- Three additional Special Assignment Deputies from Los Angeles County Sheriff supplemented patrol;
- Over 40 lineal feet of sidewalks will require repair;
- 4 roll-off dumpsters of debris cleared in first four days.

The funds for these services are coming from the City's General Fund with plans to hopefully recoup expenditures from both FEMA and Cal EMA. In preparation for this process, the Duarte City Council unanimously passed a resolution declaring the existence of a local emergency due to wind storms of extraordinary magnitude Monday night, December 5th during an adjourned regular meeting. For additional information contact the City of Duarte at (626) 357-7931, ext. 221.

## THE CLEAN-UP EFFORT & WINDSTORM DEBRIS REMOVAL

Athens Services will continue to collect trash, recyclables and green waste barrels on your normal trash collection day. Athens will be collecting additional loads of green waste if barrels are refilled and placed curbside as needed through the end of the week (Dec. 9). Refrigerator Food Waste: Please place expired food waste in your black trash barrel. Pour empty containers of liquid down the drain (milk, juices, etc.) and placed rinsed plastic and glass containers in your recycling barrel.

Bulky Item Pick-Ups: Residents receive 2 FREE bulky item pick-ups per year. Stack your bulky items (those that do not fit in your regular trash or green waste bins) at your curb and they will be collected throughout the week. Call Athens Services to schedule a pickup at (626) 336-3636. Bulky items can include: Leaves or organic waste in 32 gallon trash bags; Bundles of wood/limbs/branches cut to 3' length and weigh no more than 50lbs. each; Palm Fronds; Limbs or branches greater than 3" in diameter that do not fit in trash or green waste barrels.

One Bulky item is considered an area 4'x6' in size. If you require additional bulky item disposal, please consider taking palm fronds and green waste ONLY (no trash or household items) to 1600 S. California (large vacant lot south of 210 freeway between Evergreen and Duarte Rd) until December 9th or contact Athens services for additional collection at a nominal fee. Green Waste Bins Located Throughout the City: Residents wanting to dispose of GREEN WASTE - including trees, branches, shrubs and other green waste - can use the bins listed below. Please note that these are for GREEN WASTE ONLY\*, except for palm fronds (see note below). Trash, food, and recyclables are not permitted:

- 800 E. Foothill on the south side
- 204 W. Foothill on the east side
- 100 N. Shamrock Blvd. at Foothill on the east side
- 1600 S. California, at the east side, just south of freeway
- 1800 block of Peck Road, on the west side of Santa Fe Middle School
- Recreation Park, 600 Block S Shamrock Ave.
- Grand Avenue Park, Grand Ave.
- Rotary Park, Lemon Ave @ Canyon Blvd
- Library Park, Primrose Ave between Palm & Lime Aves.
- Olive Avenue Park, South side of Olive Ave @ Mayflower
- Julian Fisher Park, Almond Ave between Canyon Blvd & California Ave.

\*PALM FRONDS: DO NOT dump Palm Fronds in these bins. These six-foot long, prickly leaves from palm trees will not be processed through a wood chipper. Instead, stack these at the curb, and call Athens for a "Bulky Item Pick-Up" at (626) 336-3636.

Click here to watch Monrovia Mayor Mary Ann Lutz's Friday press conference on the cleanup efforts and power outages.

#### REMINDERS FOR RESIDENTS

Please be aware that the City of Monrovia is not endorsing or authorizing any independent contractors during the clean up effort. If representatives from a company offering services say that the City has sent them as an authorized representative of the City, this is not the case. If your power is still out, log on to the Edison website, [www.sce.com](http://www.sce.com) for customer support, or call Edison at (800) 611-1911. For emergencies, please call 911.

## DUARTE RESIDENTS URGED TO CALL 211 AND REPORT PRIVATE STORM DAMAGE

DUARTE, CA, December 9, 2011 -- As City and private crews continue working on the long task of clearing debris from City streets, medians and parks, Duarte also embarks on the detailed process of collecting accurate damage assessment information resulting from last week's hurricane-force windstorm. "Duarte has suffered an unknown economic hit as a result of last week's record breaking windstorm," noted Duarte Mayor, John Fasana. "We need our residents and businesses help in documenting the devastation by calling 211 and reporting their damage," he said.

To ensure that Duarte gets its fair share of financial relief, City officials are encouraging residents to report their storm-related costs to the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, which is tallying estimates countywide. The estimates tallied by the county

may be used if funding for disaster relief becomes available. To report damage, call 2-1-1 or visit [www.211la.org](http://www.211la.org). The City is also encouraging residents to contact the Office of Governor Jerry Brown at Phone: (916) 445-2841 or by email by pasting this address into your browser: [http://gov.ca.gov/m\\_contact.php](http://gov.ca.gov/m_contact.php) and request that the Governor declare a State of Emergency based on the devastation to the San Gabriel Valley.

The City of Duarte's costs alone will certainly run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars but that doesn't take into consideration the losses suffered by local residents and businesses. State and federal emergency agencies could help with those costs but only if they have accurate damage totals and a state of emergency is declared. For additional information, please contact the City of Duarte at (626) 357-7931.

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## FIAT STUDIO DEALERSHIP TO RING IN NEW YEAR IN DUARTE'S 210 FREEWAY AUTOWAY 99¢ ONLY STORE ALSO PLANNING A JANUARY OPENING IN DUARTE

DECEMBER 7, 2011 – Christmas has come early to the City of Duarte and 2012 suddenly looks brighter with the news that two major retailers and sales tax generators are about to arrive in town.

The Duarte City Council has approved a financial services agreement with the Chrysler Group Realty Company paving the way for a new FIAT Studio automotive dealership to open by late December or early January along its 210 freeway corridor.

After lengthy negotiations, Duarte becomes one of only 130 locations nationwide to carry the sought after vehicle. The new Studio will enhance a prime spot along the City's auto row left vacant since 2008 with the closing of the Mitsubishi dealership. The prime 2.1 acre site at 1125 Central Ave. will undergo a \$750,000 façade renovation and upgraded freeway signage within the first 18 months of operation. This Duarte location places the City among an elite group of communities throughout the country with a FIAT Studio

"This addition to our business community meets all the positive economic indicators that the city strives to accomplish, local jobs, sales tax revenue, a positive retail image and a valued community partnership," said City Manager, Darrell George.

The City will receive 1% of all retail sales revenues from the dealership and the agreement calls for the City to reimburse Chrysler an amount equal to 50% of the annual sales tax for the first 12 years, not to exceed \$1,250,000. In terms of actual dollars to the City, the financial agreement will generate upwards of \$120,000 a year over the

next 12 years that can be used for City expenses. Additionally, FIAT has agreed to provide Duarte with prominent name recognition by including the City's name in advertising, freeway signage and in the dealership's name.

A 99¢ Only store is slated for a late January grand opening in Duarte at 1329 Huntington Dr. The deep-discount retailer of primarily name-brand consumable general merchandise is moving into a 12,650 square foot space in the shopping center, located on the northeast corner of Huntington Dr. and Buena Vista that also houses a Big Lots and a Rite-Aid store. The space has been vacant for nearly a year following the closure of the Foothill Unity Center Thrift Store. In preparation for the grand opening, 99¢ Only is undertaking a major façade upgrade to their storefront. The company has 281 stores with 75% located in California and the rest in Texas, Arizona, and Nevada. According to the company website, stores open at least a year generated average net sales per estimated sellable square foot of \$289 and average net sales per store of \$4.8 million which the company believes to be the highest in the dollar store industry.

"We're excited to get two new high-profile businesses in our community in locations that have been vacant for some time," said Community Development Director, Craig Hensley. "They will be strong community partners. It's good to see this kind of progress occur in these challenging economic times," he said.

For more information, call the City of Duarte Community Development Department at (626) 357-7931.

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## COMMUNITY INVITED TO ATTEND ALVERNO'S CANDLELIGHT CELEBRATION

The Christmas season brings wonderful traditions to Alverno High School including the annual Candlelight Celebration. This year, Alverno will host this special tradition on Wednesday, December 14th at 7pm. The entire Alverno community will gather near the Villa Del Sol d' Oro and take part in the story of Christmas from the birth of Jesus to the Annunciation. Student and alumnae actors will re-create the story and the crowd will join the choirs for traditional Christmas music. Each person carries a candle and walks in a procession around the Villa to watch the scenes. All community members are welcome to attend the event and experience the warmth of the holiday season through one of the most cherished Alverno traditions.

Alumnae who are in attendance are given a special red candle to signify their status as alumnae. "The Candlelight Celebration is a beautiful event that definitely puts each person in the Christmas spirit," says Sue Behrens '78. "It brings together alumnae, current families and many other members of the community in a beautiful celebration of the season."

Following the procession that takes place outside the Villa, the Alverno student choirs and the alumnae gather inside and sing



Evie Gallardo '90 and her sons Dylan and Adam enjoy the Candlelight Celebration in 2010

more Christmas carols. Warm refreshments are served at the end of the program. For more information and to RSVP, please contact the front office at Alverno High School at (626) 355-3463.

## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

**Alverno High School**

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

**Arcadia High School**

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

**Arroyo Pacific Academy**

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

**Barnhart School**

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

**Bethany Christian School**

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

**Carden of the Foothills School**

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

**The Gooden School**

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

**High Point Academy**

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

**LaSalle High School**

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

**Mama Pete's Nursery School**

71 Suffolk Avenue, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-9567

website: [www.mamapete.org](http://www.mamapete.org)

**Monrovia High School**

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

**Norma Coombs Alternative School**

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

**Odyssey Charter School**

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

**Pasadena High School**

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

**Pasadena Unified School District**

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

**St. Rita Catholic School**

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

**Sierra Madre Elementary School**

141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
Phone: (626) 396-5890 - Fax: (626) 355-0388  
Principal: Esther Salinas

**Sierra Madre Middle School**

160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
Phone: (626) 396-5910 - Fax: (626) 836-2964  
Principal: Garrett Newsom

**Walden School**

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

**Weizmann Day School**

1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
(626) 797-0204  
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

**Wilson Middle School**

300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln  
E-mail address: [resseln@pusd.us](mailto:resseln@pusd.us)

## Hall Pass

*Looking Into The Life Of A Teenager*  
By Meaghan Allen

## HOFFMAN MADE

My friend's mother made this. This recipe is absolutely divine and must be tried for the holidays! It is low in calories but high in the taste spectrum - so great for in between heavy holiday meals!

## Ingredients

2 eggplants  
Fresh basil leaves (any amount, around 15 leaves)  
Trader Joe's vodka sauce - fast, easy, tasty, great  
Grated Parmesan Cheese

## Grilled Eggplant Parmesan

1. Slice eggplant into half inch slices. No need to salt!

2. Grill eggplant slices on barbeque or George Forman grill (works best) for around ten minutes, until they get the barbeque lines.

3. Olive oil spray on bottom of baking pan, layer in slices of eggplant mixed with Trader Joe's vodka sauce, fresh basil leaves stacked on eggplant with Mozzarella cheese.

4. Bake at 350 for 30-45 minute, depending on how large the slices are.

5. Add as much parmesan as you like, as well as anything else like pepper flakes or tomato slices to zest up your meal.

6. Enjoy!

## PUSD NEWSFLASH

Pasadena Unified Schools District (PUSD) campuses closed for two days last week because of the severe wind storm that swept through the city and adjacent areas. Downed trees, broken windows and other wind-related damage were reported at all schools, with the worst damage sustained at Willard Elementary School where a tree branch broke through the ceiling of a classroom. PUSD facilities maintenance crews worked over the weekend to clear debris and repair damage, and engineers inspected classrooms to prepare schools for the return of students on Monday, December 5. Early childhood and childcare programs at the Burbank Elementary site have been cancelled until power is restored to the campus, which serves 60 children.

Shaofang Qiu, the Consul General of the People's Republic of China, visited Field Elementary School to see PUSD's Mandarin Dual Language Immersion Program. The delegation toured classrooms, observed student performances, and attended a reception.

Students from Altadena Elementary, Jefferson Elementary and Norma Coombs LEARNs afterschool programs participated in the "Girls on the Run of Los Angeles" 5K at Universal

Studios on Sunday. The event culminated a LEARNs program for girls in 3rd through 8th grades to discover their power and celebrate their bodies and strength through a curriculum of games and activities. For 12 weeks, girls met twice each week after school to train with volunteer coaches. Nearly 300 girls from all over the country came together for this non-competitive race.

Two aquatics student-athletes at Pasadena High School have signed college national letters of intent for their sports, the first time that any PHS female athletes have signed the letter for water polo and swimming. Alegria Hueso, a goalie, signed with USC in women's water polo. She hopes to pursue a major in the Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism. Caroline Lepesant signed with the prestigious Savannah College of Art and Design and will be heading off to Georgia. She's a swimmer and has built an impressive record of accomplishments in various meets. She was the first PHS student to swim in the all division Masters meet in 2010, and went on to place in CIF and the Masters meets in 2011. She plans to pursue a major in design. Both girls are also CIF Athletic Academic Team award winners



**WEDNESDAY**  
December 14, 2011

**5:00PM**  
**RECEPTION**

**5:30PM**  
**NAMING**  
**CEREMONY**

**6:00PM**  
**HOLIDAY**  
**SPOTLIGHT SHOW**  
STARRING  
4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Song & Dance Maniacs  
AND  
6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Performing Arts Kids

**Gayle L. Bluemel**

**AUDITORIUM NAMING CELEBRATION**

At the request of the Sierra Madre PTA and by unanimous support and endorsement of the School Board of the Pasadena Unified School District, the auditorium at Sierra Madre School has officially been named the Gayle L. Bluemel Auditorium. Gayle's extensive tenure of 38 years as an educator with PUSD, 21 of which were in direct service to Sierra Madre School, makes this naming a fitting tribute to her extraordinary leadership in education and passionate advocacy for the arts in education. *Please join us in celebration of this joyous and momentous occasion.*

**SIERRA MADRE SCHOOL**

For More Information  
Contact Melissa Castillo at  
626-355-2610 or [tierramadre@me.com](mailto:tierramadre@me.com)

141 W. Highland Ave  
Sierra Madre, CA  
626-396-5890

DayOne *presents*  
**Cherishing Children**  
Join us as we celebrate and embrace the children in our community by providing FREE GIFTS to youth ages 3-17.

Where: 175 N. Euclid Ave.  
When: December 14, 2011  
Time: 5:00-8:00pm

**\*\*Gifts provided until we run out!**

Gift donations are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at:  
Day One Office  
175 N. Euclid Ave. Pasadena, 91101  
Please call (626)229-9750 for additional information.

**4 TONS OF SNOW ON THE LAWN!!!!**

DayOne *presents*  
**Cherishing Children**  
During these difficult economic times some families are struggling more than others. In DOing our part to help local youth and families who have the greatest need, Day One Youth Advocates have organized a very special toy drive to ensure that the holidays are special for everyone. Toys for youth ages 3-17 will be provided on a first come first serve basis (one toy per youth limit-until we run out).

•music•toys•photos•snow•storytelling

**4 TONS OF SNOW ON THE LAWN!!!!**

Gift donations for the event are greatly appreciated & can be dropped off to  
Day One @ 175 N. Euclid Ave. Pasadena, CA 91101  
For more information contact us at: (626) 229-9750 [staff@dayonepasadena.com](mailto:staff@dayonepasadena.com)

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### Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre Arcadia Pasadena Altadena Monrovia

**\$19 Million Dollar Budget Approved**  
Mayor Directs Staff To Investigate Costs of Contracting Out Police, Fire and Paramedic Services

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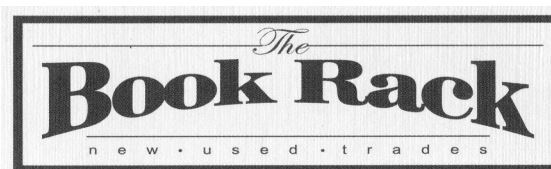
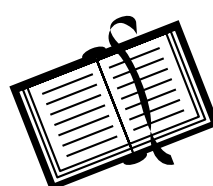
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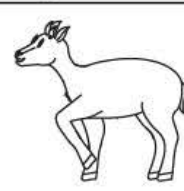
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We're going to bake holiday treats...

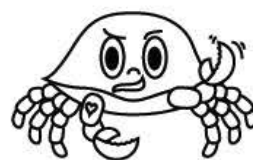


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December is here!

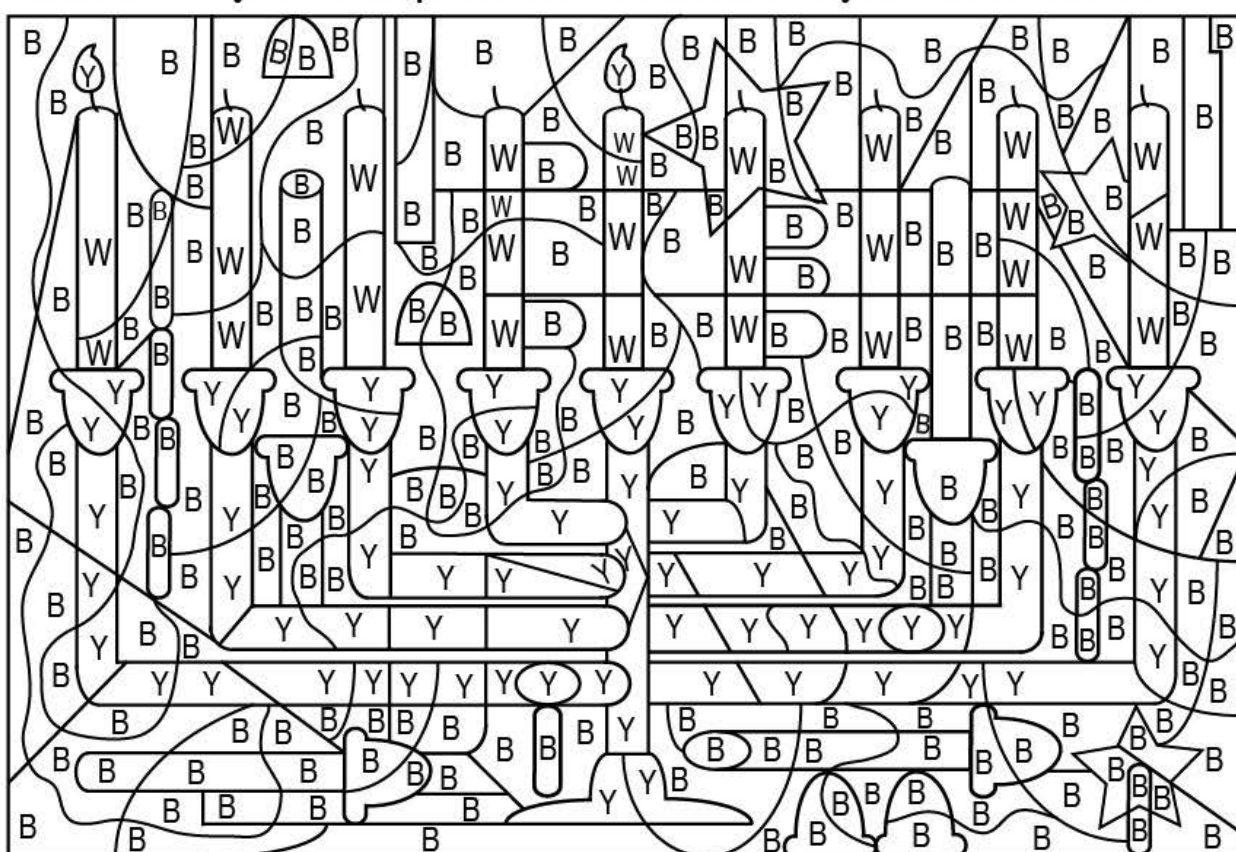
Okay, okay the word is out. I love the holidays! I love the hustle and bustle. I'm only half crabby at this time of year.

Everyone is busy, busy, busy! They are getting ready for the holidays. Each family has its own customs and traditions. What is your family doing? **Finish the puzzles on this page to find out what people are doing at this time of year.**

### Festival of Lights

Color Key: Y = yellow B = blue W = white

This family is taking out a family heirloom. It will help them remember the miracle of Hanukkah. Find your colored pencils and follow the color key to find out what it is.



## Gift Giving and Holiday Fun!

Singing and Ringing Out

A group is singing and ringing in the neighborhood. Later they will bring some holiday cheer to a Senior Citizens' Center when they sing and ring their bells there. Study the clues to fill in the words missing from the songs they are singing:

1. Jingle



2. It Came Upon a



Clear

3.

Let it  
Let it  
Let it



4. O

O



5. The (12)



of Christmas



# THE HABIT

## A good habit or ??????

As I rolled through the doors of The Habit a U2 song appeared in my mind with iPod like perfection, I still haven't found what I am looking for.

Not that The Habit isn't worthy of some praise; it has resoundingly displaced the memory of the old Boston Market in the shared plaza of Whole Foods in Eastern Pasadena. It is clean, good-looking, and straightforward, the sort of qualities I would encourage my daughter to date. Those were the first impressions but my mind again wondered, maybe it is the holiday season, remember the movie with Eddie Murphy, Coming to America? His soon to be father in-law ran a restaurant with Golden Arches called McMannus, and a blatant swindle of the McDonald's branding. The Habit entertains the same suggestive thought of Islands Restaurant with the posters of fall-ing waves and a menu that feels like your feet should be in the sand. Not that Island's owns the exclusive rights to using surfing as an overall theme. The Habit caught its first wave in Santa Barbara some forty years ago so they are entitled to that laid back California lifestyle. Why did my mind key up a U2 song? I was out looking for a lasting habit to fill my need for a Pasadena Restaurant that makes Fries and Burgers Fresh. While burgers are good, not great (\$3 to \$6) and the Shakes are made with real Ice Cream, my longing for fresh cut fries and onion rings did not catch a wave here.

Once you arrive at the Habit you wait in line and are given a buzzer (just like Islands). The Pastrami (\$5.75) was on my radar so I ordered the Pastrami and a Root Beer. The menu described the sandwich as a lean grilled pastrami. Not to the level of The Hat but very well



TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills  
thechefknows@yahoo.com

executed! If they didn't grill the bread I believe it would have been better.

Will I return? Should you go? Yes, if you are in the neighborhood and want a family friendly meal that is a significant step above Carl's Jr. than by all means.

**The Habit 3.0 stars out of 5.**  
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### INGREDIENTS

2 tbsp. butter  
1 c. onions  
3/4 c. celery, chopped  
3 tbsp. flour  
3/4 c. beef broth  
1 tsp. dried leaf Thyme  
1 bay leaf  
1/4 tsp. Tabasco sauce  
1 sm. head cabbage, cut in chunks (about 1 c.)  
3 med. carrots, cut in chunks (about 1 c.)  
3 med. potatoes, cut in chunks (about 2 c.)  
1 lb. kielbasa, cut in 1" pieces

### DIRECTIONS

Melt butter in medium skillet. Saute onion and celery until crisp-tender. Stir in flour; cook 1 minute. Gradually stir in broth until smooth. Add thyme and Tabasco sauce; mix well.  
In a 3 quart casserole, arrange cabbage, carrots, potatoes and kielbasa. Pour broth mixture over all. Add bay leaf. Cover. Bake in a 350 degree oven 45 minutes, uncover. Bake 20 minutes longer or until vegetables are tender.

## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN, TO STOP BY BEAN TOWN FOR THOSE MOUTH WATERING HOLIDAY PIES!

We traverse this time of year "over the river and thru the woods" on our annual road trip to Riley's Los Rios Rancho Apple Orchard in Oak Glen to gather our favorite seasonal harvest - apples. We, like always, take tender care in picking out the most flavorful of three varieties of apples for our pies that are grown in the Orchard and are fresh picked to make our famous "Three Apple Pie".

One of the most important reasons we pick Riley's is because they are locally grown, hand picked and use no pesticides. The combination of three apples gives a balance of sweetness and tartness that delights the taste buds, and the topping of the pie is a crumble topping which adds to the lightness of the pie.

But, we do not only offer our famous apple pie. Our kitchen is a flurry of baking, adding our delicious pumpkin and three berry peach pies to our delectable pie selection.

This year we also are offering a Holiday Brunch Menu you can order that can be picked up at Bean Town for your at-home-brunching pleasure. Brunch includes 2 Blueberry, 1 Apple Bran, 1 Banana Nut Muffin, 2 Butter Croissants, 1 Blueberry, 1 Raspberry Scone, 1x 9 inch Quiche and ½ gallon of Orange Juice.

As always, you can stop on by to satisfy that hunger for a sandwich, soup or salad, follow



it up with a fresh pastry, pumpkin, brownie or lemon square, or cookie that has just been popped out of the oven, and bring along your friends to share in the food, conversation and atmosphere of the friendliest spot in downtown Sierra Madre.

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The future will present many choices for A B & The Sea. To overcome the shadows of other acts with a similar sound, I think A B & The Sea will have their work cut out for them. However, that's a good thing. This will hopefully be a welcoming challenge for a band that's encountered some good fortune already with their musical talents. Personally, I think A B & The Sea is on the cusp of being the breakout kings of 2012. Of course that's if they can play their cards right. If the band can somehow release a full-length album by springtime and get on the bills for the plethora of summer music festivals, the results may be deadly. Deadly in the best kind of way that is.

JUDY COLLINS

SWEET JUDY DON'T SMILE AT ME

by Judy Collins

**THE TIME OF  
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A CONVERSATION ABOUT MUSIC  
**TOM BROKAW**  
*New York Times bestselling author of The Good News*



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Gary R. White, DVM

A detailed illustration of a pink flower with multiple layers of petals, surrounded by several dark green, glossy leaves. The flower is the central focus, with its petals showing a gradient of pink colors. The leaves are broad and have a prominent central vein.

*On rainy days we normally close early, so please call first.*



HOWARD Hays

As I See It

GREG Welborn



“The banks may think they are too big to fail or too big to care about the impact of their actions, but we believe they are not too big to have to obey the law.”

- Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley

The Occupy Wall Street movement has faded from headlines, yielding to efforts by local officials to circumvent that pesky “right of the people to peaceably assemble”. Effects of the movement, though, are lasting.

A few months ago, national debate centered on the deficit, but has shifted to income inequality. Now, the focus is on Republicans who’d impose a thousand-dollar tax hike on working families through increased payroll taxes, but refuse to consider a 2% surtax on income exceeding a million dollars a year.

Attention has been drawn to those who profited from the recession, while most continue to suffer. A study for the N.Y. Times showed 2010 median pay for top executives at 200 large companies at \$10.8 million a year (\$208,000 a week) - a 23% increase over 2009. U.S. Dept. of Labor reports the average worker took in \$752 a week - a 0.5% increase. (Adjusted for inflation, that average worker lost ground.)

A major objective of OWS is gaining traction and spreading - that of accountability. While politicians of both parties are increasingly beholden to those who bought them their seats, and the U.S. Supreme Court has granted corporations dominance over We the People, accountability is being pursued in lower courts and statehouses throughout the country.

In New York last month, Judge Jed Rakoff rejected a \$285 million settlement worked out between the Securities and Exchange Commission and Citibank, describing it as “neither fair, nor reasonable, nor adequate, nor in the public interest”. The charges against Citibank were in common with those levied against others behind the meltdown; that it bundled junk mortgages into collateralized securities, pawned them off on investors, then placed side bets that the underlying mortgages would fail.

Judge Rakoff complained he was denied sufficient information to determine whether the settlement was fair or not. The public had a right to know what really happened, he argued, a right to a “transparency of financial markets whose gyrations have so depressed our economy and debilitated our lives.”

Citigroup took in \$160 million from a 2007 deal where investors lost hundreds of millions. As part of the settlement, as is customary, the SEC allowed Citigroup to get off without having to admit it did anything wrong - a policy Judge Rakoff described as “hallowed by history, but not by reason”. He asked whether Citigroup’s not having to admit guilt would undermine claims of investors who stand to recoup only about \$95 million of the \$700 million lost.

“Even in our nation, apologists for suppressing or obscuring the truth may always be found”, wrote the judge, “But the SEC, of all agencies, has a duty, inherent in its statutory mission, to see that the truth emerges”.

Similar charges were brought against Goldman Sachs, which settled for \$550 million last year, and J.P. Morgan Chase, settling for \$153.6 million in June. Judge Rakoff rejected a \$33 million offer from Bank of America to settle charges that it failed to disclose to investors that during its acquisition of Merrill Lynch, the company was doling out \$5.8 billion in bonuses while reporting a \$27.6 billion yearly loss. As for Citigroup, Judge Rakoff characterized the \$285 million offer as “pocket change”, and set trial for July 16.

Where Congress and federal agencies have been unwilling to act, state governments have themselves pursued accountability. Late last month, Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley filed suit against B of A, JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup, Wells Fargo and GMAC Mortgage for “unfair and deceptive” business practices.

Atty. Gen. Coakley zeroed in on foreclosure practices which included fraudulent documents, phony promises to modify loans, improper registration of land transfers, and foreclosure by institutions lacking any proof they had claim to the property.

As Ms. Coakley explained, “There is no question that the deceptive and unlawful conduct by Wall Street and the large banks played a central role in this crisis through predatory lending and securitization of those loans.” In the last two years, she has extracted more than \$600 million in restitution and penalties.

“The mortgage crisis is a law enforcement matter, and we will prosecute to hold accountable those who are responsible and also protect the homeowners who are targeted for fraud”, promises California Attorney General Kamala Harris, who last week announced the formation with Nevada Attorney General Catharine Mastro of a Mortgage Investigation Alliance

“This strong partnership will allow our states to make an even more concerted effort to hold fraud perpetrators accountable and ensure law-abiding homeowners receive justice”, according to Atty. Gen. Mastro.

The attorneys general of Nevada and California, states which rank first and second, respectively, in mortgage foreclosure rates, have joined others in expressing frustration with talks that have been going on for over a year with federal officials to come up with a blanket nation-wide settlement. Of particular concern is that such a settlement would shield banks from further civil liability, in effect letting them off the hook before an adequate investigation has been conducted to find out what they did.

The banks, as well as the SEC, are anxious to reach a settlement and put it all behind them. Attorneys general from Massachusetts, California, Nevada, New York, Delaware, Kentucky and Minnesota, however, are determined to protect constituents and see that crooks are brought to justice - regardless of cronies in Washington.

Republicans in Congress are trying to gut the Dodd-Frank financial reform bill, a provision of which allows state officials to pursue prosecutions more freely without being hamstrung by federal agencies like the SEC. Those Republicans will have accountability issues of their own to deal with come November.

TYRADES!

By Danny Tyree

POSTAL SERVICE CUTS: RETURN TO SENDER?

After the news of December 5, the future of the U.S. Postal Service seems nothing to write home about.

With bankruptcy looming (and Congress dragging its feet about providing the agency more flexibility for dealing with financial woes), the Postal Service announced plans to close nearly half of its processing plants -- eliminating 28,000 jobs and essentially giving up on the chance of next-day delivery of first-class mail.

This follows rumblings about the desire to close 3700 local post offices, settle for five-day-a-week delivery and raise rates even faster. Not to mention, unsubstantiated reports that the vaunted Forever Stamps will be renamed the “I’m Just Going Down To The Corner Store For A Pack of Cigarettes, Baby” stamps.

One wonders what Benjamin Franklin, the first postmaster general, would think of this retrenchment. (“Early to bed and early to rise...is all you can do when you can’t depend on timely delivery of your thrice-cursed Netflix DVD!”)

The plan will certainly provide short-term relief to the USPS, but will probably prove counterproductive long-term, driving even more business online. (Traditional first-class volume was already predicted to drop in half by 2020.) Maybe the Powers That Be will acknowledge this by issuing a series of Vietnam War commemorative stamps, culminating with one that announces “In order to save the village, we had to hand-cancel it.”

I’ve been researching what OTHER tactics the USPS has for ticking off its remaining customers. For one thing, there are contingency plans for eliminating the 9-digit ZIP Code and instead making you solve a Sudoku puzzle when addressing each piece of mail. And animal rights activists are sure to appreciate the Pony Express commemorative stamps using glue made from...well...you know...

So far most of the concern has been about first-class mail (letters, bill payments, mail-order prescription drugs), newspapers and magazines – but there could be a real crisis if this snowballs and slows down our so-called “junk mail.” We need a dependable supply of advertising circulars, L.L. Bean catalogs and the like. It may take so long to receive your Victoria’s Secret catalog that Victoria’s only secret is that she’s wearing fishnet Depends.

It’s hard to single out the Postal Service in the “facing harsh economic realities” area. It’s like everything in America peaked at some point and we’re going downhill. TV networks cram more and more commercials into each hour. Airlines charge extra for almost everything. Snacks once prepared with top-quality milk, chocolate and sugar are now made with the cheapest substitutes within grabbing distance. (Even so, I refuse to believe the report that the #1 notation on inspectors’ reports is “I did! I did taw a puddy tat!”)

Many commentators have been wholly unsympathetic to the Postal Service and its employees. But the alleged “dinosaur” is so entwined with our culture – in song (“The Letter Edged In Black” “Please, Mr. Postman”), in phrases (“The check is in the mail,” “plain brown wrapper,” “Dear John”), in the comics (Dagwood Bumstead crashing into Mr. Beasley the mail carrier) and in facilitating the melting pot that brings together Americans from far-flung geographic locations.

Challenge Congress to see that the Postal Service not only survives but thrives.

Don’t let SWAK (Sealed With A Kiss) be replaced with SWAVO (Sealed With A Vital Organ).

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WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND?

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THE GHOST OF THE ECONOMY FUTURE

With apologies to Charles Dickens, watching our neighbor across the pond, the European Union, whither on the economic vine seems to serve the same purpose that the Ghost of Christmas Future served for Ebenezer Scrooge: to waive us off the path on which we are traveling. Whether our economy resorts to its normal robust self or becomes a shadow of anemic Europe is yet to be decided.

For several decades now Europe has embraced the economic theories of Lord John Maynard Keynes. The Keynesian economic model, as it is called, has indeed been tried off and on here in the states, but it is in Europe where it has been fully and heartily embraced. The results are not pretty.

The basic premise of Keynesian economics is that one dollar spent by the government is somehow worth more than one dollar in economic output. It’s called a “multiplier”, and it’s been a gift from the heavens for politicians on both sides of the Atlantic. Rather than apologize for profligate spending, according to Keynes’ theory, politicians could crow about their valiant efforts to stimulate the economy. By taking \$1 from Peter to pay it to Paul for some service or product, somehow the economy was supposed to grow by more than \$1.

Now common sense would tell you that if you take \$1 from Peter and give the \$1 to Paul, the economy hasn’t gained anything. Paul’s gain is offset by Peter’s loss. That’s how things work in the real world. In the political world, they’re different.

Here in the states, we have supposedly serious economists who argue about whether the multiplier is 1.25, 1.59 or 1.63. It’s laughable, but it’s not funny. It’s caused the near ruin of Europe, and it’s certainly hampered the United States during those administrations where Keynesian economics has been pursued.

Europe’s ruination can no longer be written off to a bad run of luck or a statistical aberration. Europe’s Keynesian practices are now closing in on 60 years. In effect, they’ve served as the world’s lab rat, and the results aren’t pretty.

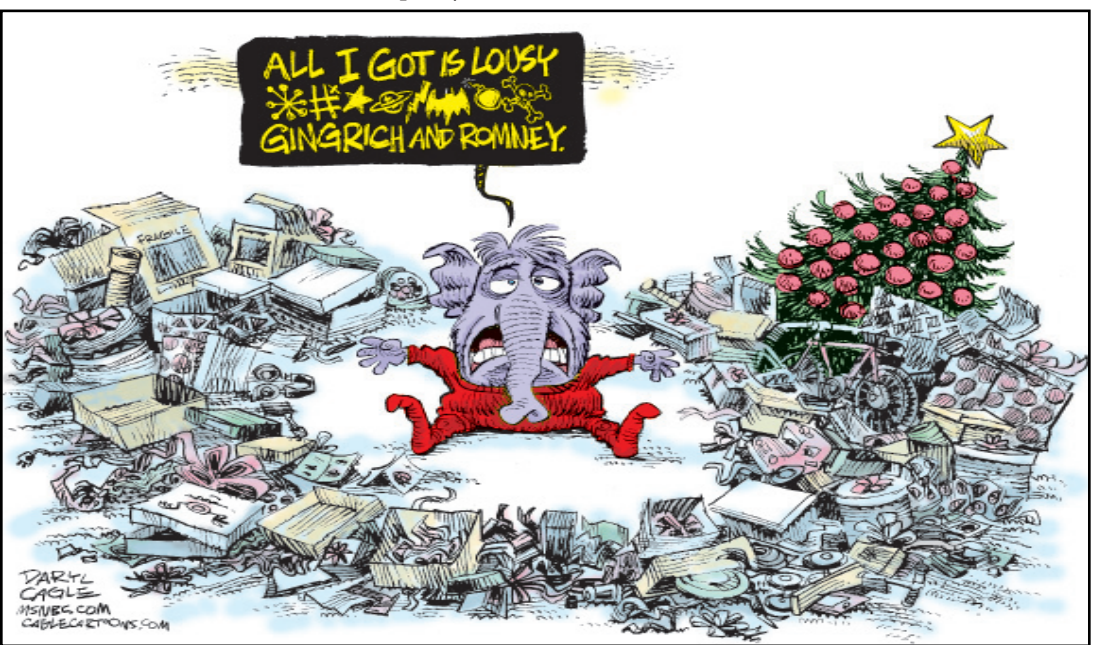
Despite government spending equal to roughly 50% of the total GDP, the European economy is in a shambles. Whether you measure growth, output, living standards or unemployment, the results are indisputably terrible. Greece is essentially in default, Italy has outstanding debt equal to about 100% of the size of its economy, and there are serious questions about the stability of Spain, Portugal, Ireland and even the European Union.

One might ask why it’s taken so long to realize the consequences of utter stupidity. It’s a fair question. Were Europe a typical household, bankruptcy would have been declared long ago. Countries, as opposed to individual, can utilize their political clout to convince bankers to loan them money (buy their bonds) much longer than the typical consumer can. Countries can also print money, which puts the average Joe in jail. But the game can only be played for so long. At some point – that is today! – banks can’t extend any more money without going bust, and money becomes worthless when too much is printed.

So today, Europe must implement a very painful austerity, unleash inflation, or declare bankruptcy. The only real solution is austerity: an ugly word which simply means living within your means.

The good news is that America is behind Europe. We’re not there yet. The Ghost of Economy Future is giving us our chance to make amends and enjoy a bountiful future. Let’s hope we’re as smart as Ebenezer Scrooge.

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



BUSINESS TODAY

The latest on Business News, Trends and Techniques

By La Quetta M. Shamblee,

START WITH THE SWOT - SMALL BUSINESS SELF-ASSESSMENT – ANNUAL CHECK-UP

It is a well known fact that it is to everyone’s advantage to have routine medical check-ups at least once a year for basic health, dental and vision. Whether it’s the more widely-accepted practices of Western Medicine practices that are sanctioned by the American Medical Association, or the growing sector of holistic and alternative medical practices, each discipline has established a set of basic screening tools. These annual check-ups are considered an important part of preventative care as the interim monitoring system to determine if key health indicators are within ranges that are considered healthy. More importantly, it is the most constructive way to identify problems or potential problems in their earliest stages. By the same token, every business should undergo a basic check-up at least once a year.

For a business, the annual check-up may be referred to as an organizational assessment and is often performed by a professional business consultant. A SWOT analysis is a tool commonly used as part of this process. The good news is that small business owners willing to invest a few hours can learn how to use this tool to conduct a “quick” analysis to determine the most feasible goals to pursue. The SWOT is a strategic planning tool designed to guide the timely selection of the overall objective for a business. The objective will be determined as to its appropriateness AFTER the SWOT analysis has been completed. Especially since the SWOT will help highlight the extent to which internal and external factors are favorable or unfavorable for the objective to be accomplished. This will allow the business owner to adjust the objective appropriately so a solid plan can be developed for it to be achieved.

A SWOT analysis can be used to evaluate the Strengths, Weaknesses/Limitations, Opportunities, and Threats of a business, but it can be used for many different situations. Albert Humphrey (1926-2005) was an American business and management consultant who is credited with creating the SWOT technique, which was evolved as a standard business tool in the 1960’s and 1970’s as it was used in conferences at Stanford University to analyze data from Fortune 500 companies. The genius of the SWOT Analysis is its simplicity. It can be used by owners of Mom and Pop businesses to gather basic information, as well as by professional consultants trained to conduct more indepth analysis of departments, processes and other operational components. Each of the letter in SWOT is used to prepare a list of responses in each quadrant as described below:

Strengths – will include a list a characteristics of the business, department or team that will give it an advantage over competitors

Weaknesses – will include a list of characteristics that have the business, department or team positioned at a disadvantage when compared to other competitors

Opportunities – will include a list of factors in the environment external to the business that provide a chance to strengthen or improve performance

Threats – will include a list of elements in the environment external to the business that may likely result in trouble or challenges to the progress of the business or project

The tool is designed with four quadrants as noted in the example below. It includes a partial list of items that might be listed in each quadrant of the SWOT analysis for a landscaping business operated by a sole proprietor:

Having and knowing how to use the right set of business tools often means the difference between progress and stagnation, net profits or net loss, success or failure. Every business should undergo a basic check-up at least once a year, and for those with limited resources to engage in a comprehensive planning process, the SWOT is a great place to start. It is one of the most user-friendly business tools that can provide information that is relevant and timely for small businesses.

SWOT Analysis		
	Favorable	Unfavorable
Internal	<b>STRENGTHS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>12 years experience</li><li>Good reputation</li><li>Specialize in rare tropical plants</li></ul>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Weak marketing; little to no money for advertising</li><li>One-person staff limits the jobs I can take</li></ul>
External	<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Market services as a landscape "designer"</li><li>Create a "design" for a high-profile location or client</li></ul>	<b>THREATS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Low-priced competition from "blow and go" gardeners</li><li>Lower cost of do-it-yourself options</li></ul>



## Mountain Views News

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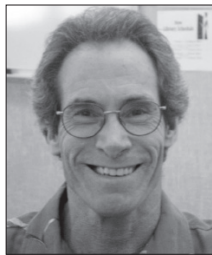
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### Mountain Views News Mission Statement

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

## HAIL Hamilton My Turn



### Electricity or No Electricity Things Could Be a Lot Worse!

Monday evening I noticed a homeless man emerge from the shadows as I was exiting the Madre Metro station parking structure. It reminded me of how lucky I was to have a roof over my head, even with the recent four day loss of electricity. It also made me ask: How bad has the plight of the homeless become since the current recession began?

According to the State of Homelessness in America (2011), the nation's homeless population increased by approximately 20,000 people from 2008 to 2009 (the most recent data available), or a 3 percent increase.

A majority – 31 of 50 states and the District of Columbia - had increases in their homeless counts. The largest increase was in Louisiana, where the homeless population doubled. The largest percentage increase was in the number of family households, which increased by over 3,200 households (4 percent increase). Also, the number of persons in families increased by more than 6,000 people (3 percent increase). In Mississippi, the number of people in homeless families increased by 260 percent.

After population reductions from 2005 to 2008, the number of chronically homeless people in the country remained stagnant from 2008 to 2009, despite an 11 percent increase in the number of permanent supportive housing units. While most people experiencing homelessness are sheltered, nearly 4 in 10 were living on the street, in a car, or in another place not intended for human habitation.

The reality is that homelessness is most often caused by job loss and other economic factors, and people at risk of homelessness is worsening across the nation in all states due to housing affordability for poor people, unemployment, poor workers' income, and foreclosure status.

From 2008 to 2009, the number of unemployed people in America increased by 60 percent from 8.9 to 14.3 million. Every state and the District of Columbia had an increase in the number of unemployed people. The number of unemployed people in Wyoming doubled.

Nearly three-quarters of all U.S. households with incomes below the federal poverty line

spend over 50 percent of monthly household income on rent. Over 80 percent of households below the federal poverty line in Florida, Nevada, and California spend more than 50 percent of income on rent. Forty states saw an increase in the number of poor households experiencing severe housing cost burden from 2008 to 2009.

While real income among all U.S. workers decreased by 1 percent in 2009, poor workers' income decreased even more, dropping by 2 percent to \$9,151. Poor workers in Alaska, the District of Columbia, Maine, and Rhode Island saw their incomes decrease by more than 10 percent.

Foreclosure affected nearly half a million more households in 2009 than in 2008, a 21 percent increase for a total of 2.8 million foreclosed units in 2009. The number of foreclosed units more than doubled in Alabama, Hawaii, Idaho, Mississippi, and West Virginia.

While homelessness affects people of all ages, races, ethnicities, and geographies, there are groups of people at increased risk of homelessness. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, four populations are at increased risk of homelessness: people living in doubled up situations, people discharged from prison, young adults aged out of foster care, and uninsured people.

Finally, half of all states have multiple risk factors for increased homelessness; that is, they have rates worse than the national average on at least two of five indicators (unemployment, foreclosure, doubled up, housing cost burden, lack of health insurance).

States with high rates of cost burden among poor households exhibit higher rates of homelessness. Ten of the fourteen states with rates of homelessness greater than the national rate also have levels of cost burden greater than the national average. California, Florida, and Nevada – states known to have been disproportionately impacted by the recent housing crisis – have both high rates of homelessness and high levels of unemployment, foreclosure, housing cost burden, lack of insurance, and doubling up.

As I told my wife when I got home: "Electricity or no electricity things could be a lot worse!"

## OUT TO PASTOR A Weekly Religion Column

### WHATEVER HAPPENED TO CUTE?



**By Rev. James L. Snyder**

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had commandeered the Christmas decorating operation for yet another year. I am not quite sure how she remembers when to start all of this, because the thought had not yet

entered my mind.

Here it is Christmas and I am about as prepared for Christmas this year as I was last year. One of the great things about my wife is that she keeps all of these holidays in order and on time. I am still reeling from my Thanksgiving Day turkey indulgence.

Once again, our home is in decorating mode. My great contribution to the Christmas holiday decorating plan is to keep out of my wife's way. One year I tried to help her and let's just say we will not repeat that again. I just have no decorating expertise at all. I cannot tell the difference between a wrapping bow and a Christmas tree bulb.

Before I could get out of the way of the decorating frenzy in our home, I ran across something in the back of a box. How it got there, I have no way of knowing. How I got up this morning, I have no way of knowing either. However, there was a photo album from when I was a young person.

I want to stress the fact that there was a time when I was a young person. We will not discuss how long ago that was, but just know that there was a time in my illustrious career when I was a young person.

I opened up the album and saw all of those photographs from when I was a young person. The photograph that really caught my attention was one taken before I was one year old. I had forgotten this photo. Of course, I have no recollection of when that photo was taken. I was about nine months old and I was mostly occupied with the rascal who confiscated my bottle.

I had simple concerns at that time. I was not worried for example about world affairs, politics or the economy. As long as I knew where my next bottle was coming from, I was a happy little camper in a diaper. I miss those days of naivety. I am looking forward someday returning to that state of mind.

I delighted looking at all of those pictures of what's was supposed to be me when I was very young. Then I found a picture I had completely forgotten about.

It is valuable at times to go back and relive the past. I know you cannot really relive the past, but you can look at the past and see how far you have come. Photographs are a marvelous way of reliving the past. These were the old black and

white photographs, so you know how long ago that was.

The photo that really caught my attention was when I was very young. I believe this is the first photo ever taken of me. It was in the year of our Lord 1951 and I was nine months old. Looking at that picture I had to admit to myself that I really was a cute little guy.

It was a black-and-white photo but my mother had carefully colored it with crayons. She did a marvelous job but then she had a great piece of work to begin with, if I say so myself.

The important thing about this photo was it was a picture of me, but it was also a picture of the winner of the cutest baby award in our community in 1951. I had won a beauty award when barely 9 months old. How many people can boast about that?

I really do not know any of the details of that beauty contest. After all, every nine-month-old baby is cute. I really do not think I was the cutest baby but then again I won the title and I have the picture in my hand.

Unfortunately my beauty career peak then and it has been on a downward slide ever since. I have the skid marks to prove it.

After looking at that picture for a while, went into the bathroom and looked into the mirror. What a shock. I could not see any resemblance in the mirror to anything in the picture. It would be a stretch for anybody to say that the two pictures were of the same person.

When anybody says that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder I would like to correct them and say that beauty is in the hands of the holder of a picture of the baby who won the cutest baby award in 1951.

In the years since that picture was taken, I have lived quite a bit and Father Time has carved his initials on my face. I can honestly say I am not the same person in that photo. What innocence then. What naivety. There in that photo was a person who had not yet experienced the lumps of life yet.

The verse of Scripture that has encouraged me throughout my life has been Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV), "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Life is full of ups and downs, gains and losses but in the end, those who trust Christ are marvelously guided throughout life and enjoy life of blessing to the Lord.

*The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail [jamesnsnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnsnyder2@att.net). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com).*

## RICH Johnson

### Plane Facts



They tell me, worldwide, there are more than four million people who fly on commercial airlines every day. Talk about faith! We all exhibit faith as we pile into those narrow, cylindrical metal tubes. We fully believe that those buckets of bolts will transport us safely from one destination to another...at

550-600 miles per hour. And they do. Furthermore statistics tell us we're more likely to be attacked by a shark in Kansas City, Kansas than be involved in an air disaster. Thankfully our faith is well earned by the airlines.

I've been told the airline sporting the safest record is UPS, which, as luck would have it, doesn't transport people. One of the reasons for the record is the gripe sheet: After every flight the pilots fill one out, which tells the mechanics about the problems with the aircraft. The mechanics address the problems and fix them. They then document and comment on their repairs on the gripe form. The pilots, in turn, review the now completed "gripe sheets" before their next flight. Ground crews tend to have a sense of humor as evidenced by the solutions to the below problems addressed by the pilots. (P = is the problem submitted by the pilot) (S = is the solutions recorded by the maintenance crew)

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement  
S: Almost replaced left inside main tire

P: Test flight okay, except auto-land very rough  
S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft

P: Something loose in cockpit  
S: Something tightened in cockpit

P: Dead bugs on the windshield  
S: Live bugs on back-order

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per minute descent  
S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear  
S: Evidence removed

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick  
S: That's what friction locks are for

P: Number 3 engine missing  
S: Engine found on right wing after brief search

P: Aircraft handles funny  
S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right and be serious

P: Target radar hums  
S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics

So, in conclusion, you are in more danger driving to and from the airport than you are once you get into the air.

#### Top ten best international airlines

10. Cathay Pacific – Hong Kong 09. TAP Portugal 08. Aerolineas Argentinas 07. Air New Zealand 06. Aer Lingus (Ireland) 05. Finnair (Finland) 04. Qantas (Australia) 03. All Nippon Airways (Japan) 02. Air Canada 01. British Airways

#### Ten worst airlines in the world

I would print those but I and the paper would probably be sued. If you want to know just google worst airlines in the world. That will make it Google's problem. This Wednesday, the band I have the pleasure to perform with, JJJukebox, will be performing at Mary's Market for their once a month BBQ dinner. The dinner and performance (60s & 70s music) starts at 6:00pm and ends at 9:00pm. Mary's Market is in the Sierra Madre canyon area at 561 Woodland Drive. Phone is (626) 355-4534.

## STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE



### STOP THE MARCH TO REDUNDANCY

Well, we managed to survive a few days without electricity and it got me to thinking about some changes I'd like to see in this society. I kind of liked the opportunity and realized that part of our problem is that people have lost touch with one another. As a way of conserving power I would like to see regularly scheduled power off days. In fact, I would like to see governmental policy aimed at keeping families together. In order to effectuate this policy I make the following recommendations without considering whether they are practical or likely:

#### 1) Make it Possible to Support a Family on One Income

I assert that the huge unemployment problems and the huge traffic problems result from the fact that it now generally takes the income of both parents to support a family. Old folk like me remember this was not the case in our youth. I believe that the break-up of families largely result from the fact that the role of homemaker has disappeared. Everyone is busy and wearing too many hats and the "family meal" is a thing of the past. I think modifications within the tax code could encourage the maintenance of two parent families. I know there is a problem of generating sufficient earnings from one income to actually support a family but that is a different problem to be discussed at a different time as part of the issue of more equitable income distribution.

#### 2) Abolish the Institution of Fast Food Restaurants

As an integral part of the program to maintain the existence of family, it is absolutely necessary to abolish fast food restaurants. Young-folk do not need to go home anymore for meals. Instead they eat most of their meals at fast-food restaurants where the food is invariably unhealthy and where their meals are completely unsupervised. Snoopy parents can almost be completely avoided. I think the civility of the society can best be protected by keeping the kids at home at meal-times. Tax and licensing policies can make the continued existence of fast-food restaurants a very expensive proposition which would lead to their disappearance.

#### 3) Creation of Semi-Obligatory Programs for Senior Citizens

From my point of view this is an extremely important problem. In my youth all males were told they had a six-year obligation for service to their country. It's hard to believe, but there was this thing called the draft that was simply accepted as part of the responsibility of being an American. I think the establishment of such a program for seniors as part and parcel of their receipt of medical and other old age benefits makes a lot of sense. The programs should not be mandatory but the refusal to participate in the programs should impact upon the entitlement to receive other benefits. If Seniors are capable of continuing to work on their own and to generate an income then certainly they should be allowed to so continue. If not, there are many things that seniors are capable of doing like tutoring, monitoring street conditions, assisting others in application, and providing assistance to housebound individuals. Many seniors have wonderful construction and supervisory skills. It helps all of us to make use of these skills rather than to allow our Seniors to feel redundant and unnecessary.

#### 4) Provide Mandatory Education Program For Seniors

Increasingly Seniors are marginalized by their inability to keep up with technological innovation. Often Seniors, even ex-Presidents, are reluctant to learn new skills. (I understand Bill Clinton handwrote most of his last book.) This is not an insurmountable problem. Many if not most Seniors now use cell phones and the computer, notwithstanding how initially resistant they first appeared. Keeping up with the technology will allow Seniors to feel much more a part of life and will further allow them to be of greater assistance to others.

#### 5) Creation of Programs to Prepare Individuals For Inevitable, but Still Unexpected, Crises

I have experienced many periods of crises for which I was completely unprepared. Some of these periods can be labeled as unemployment; divorce; dealing with a wife's post-natal depression syndrome (who knew there was such a thing?); divorce; single-parenting; raising a disabled child; empty-nest syndrome; dealing with the declining faculties of an ageing parent; making the life or death decisions relating to the last days of a parent; and there's more. These are the ones that just happened this year. No, I'm exaggerating, but you know what I mean. I'm sure many of you went through the same crises and felt pretty much overwhelmed. We all need help and I believe that help can be provided. All that need be done is to focus on the problem.

Well, that's enough for now. I would love to see some changes made along the lines I have described. At least I would like to see more attention devoted to these problems, along with other problems like war, overpopulation, climate change, water shortages, drug and alcohol usage, education, and college costs. A new year approaches together with an election. Perhaps some of these problems will be discussed along with the usual who cheated on who or changed their mind about some previous position. Things are just warming up!













## Looking Up

with Bob Eklund



## Near-Earth-Size Planet Found in Habitable Zone of Sun-Like Star

NASA's Kepler mission has confirmed its first planet in the "habitable zone," the region where liquid water could exist on a planet's surface. Kepler also has discovered more than 1,000 new planet candidates, nearly doubling its previously known count. Ten of these candidates are near-Earth-size and orbit in the habitable zone of their host star. Candidates require follow-up observations to verify they are actual planets.

The newly confirmed planet, Kepler-22b, is the smallest yet found to orbit in the middle of the habitable zone of a star similar to our Sun. The planet is about 2.4 times the radius of Earth. Scientists don't yet know if Kepler-22b has a predominantly rocky, gaseous or liquid composition, but its discovery is a step closer to finding Earth-like planets.

Previous research hinted at the existence of near-Earth-size planets in habitable zones, but clear confirmation proved elusive. Two other small planets orbiting stars smaller and cooler than our Sun recently were confirmed on the very edges of the habitable zone, with orbits more closely resembling those of Venus and Mars.

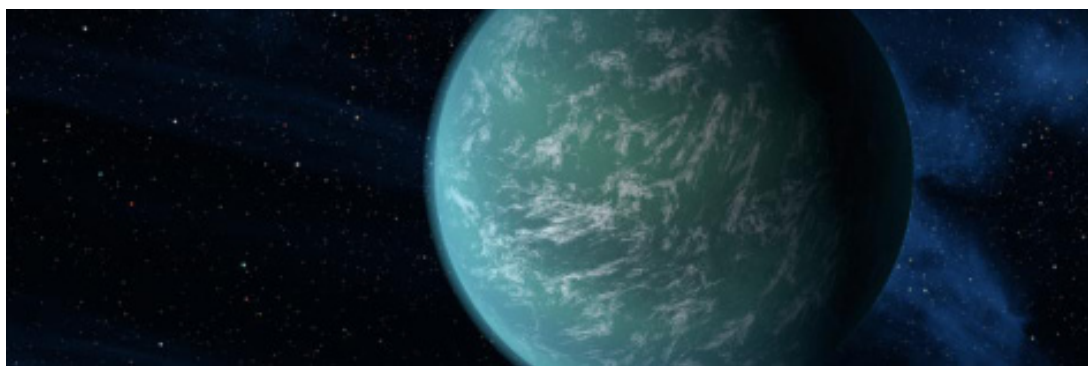
"This is a major milestone on the road to finding Earth's twin," said Douglas Hudgins,

Kepler program scientist at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "Kepler's results continue to demonstrate the importance of NASA's science missions, which aim to answer some of the biggest questions about our place in the universe."

Kepler discovers planets and planet candidates by measuring dips in the brightness of more than 150,000 stars to search for planets that cross in front, or "transit," the stars. Kepler requires at least three transits to verify a signal as a planet.

"Fortune smiled upon us with the detection of this planet," said William Borucki, Kepler principal investigator at NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, Calif., who led the team that discovered Kepler-22b. "The first transit was captured just three days after we declared the spacecraft operationally ready. We witnessed the defining third transit over the 2010 holiday season."

The Kepler science team uses ground-based telescopes and the Spitzer Space Telescope to review observations on planet candidates the spacecraft finds. The star field that Kepler observes in the constellations Cygnus and Lyra can only be seen from ground-based observatories in spring through early fall. The data from these other



observations help determine which candidates can be validated as planets.

Kepler-22b is located 600 light-years away. While the planet is larger than Earth, its orbit of 290 days around a Sun-like star resembles that of our world. The planet's host star belongs to the same class as our Sun, called G-type, although it is slightly smaller and cooler.

Of the 54 habitable zone planet candidates reported in February 2011, Kepler-22b is the first to be confirmed. This milestone will be published in The Astrophysical Journal.

The Kepler team is hosting its inaugural science conference at Ames Dec. 5-9, announcing 1,094 new planet candidate discoveries. Since the last catalog was released in February, the number of planet candidates identified by Kepler has increased by 89 percent and now totals 2,326. Of these, 207 are approximately Earth-size, 680 are super Earth-size, 1,181 are Neptune-size, 203 are Jupiter-size and 55 are larger than Jupiter.

You can contact Bob Eklund at: [b eklund@MtnViewsNews.com](mailto:b eklund@MtnViewsNews.com).



## Ask jai.....

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

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

Dear Zoe

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

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

Everything you ever wanted to know about how to find a job...but didn't know who to ask. ASK jai. Send your questions to: [jai@resumeandcareerservices.com](mailto:jai@resumeandcareerservices.com)



This week's subject book review is "The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains" by Nicholas Carr (June 2010, W.W. Norton and Company, 276 pgs). In this book the author broadly touches upon the topic of Neuroplasticity or how new experiences literally reshape the physical structures of our brain. In a more direct sense the author details with solid research, anecdotal information, and most importantly, his own personal experiences and perspective as to how the most important media tool in our modern lives changes not only how we think but quite literally who we are. Never before has a technological invention come to exert such an influence over our being as the Internet does today. The Internet itself has come to eclipse all other previous forms of media and, as a result of this ingestion process, remade old media in its image.

As a result of this state of affairs, slowly and almost imperceptibly, we have become remade ourselves in respect to how we now view and process information. It now seems that our collective minds now expect to take in information the way the Internet presents it. Where we once nurtured the capacity for deep reading we now value quick skimming over deep immersion or as the author puts it, "Once I was a scuba diver in the sea of words. Now I zip along the surface like a guy on a Jet Ski." This quote puts into a nutshell the net effect of our new culture of distraction and ever-connectedness.

It's probably a safe bet to make that this particular bell can't be un-rung, so the next logical step is to evaluate how these changes affect the way we think and our ability to deal with the world in which we find ourselves. Studies elaborated on in this book show that increased Net usage has the effect of decreasing the quality and depth of attention due to the rapid-fire nature of the content delivered by the Net. Any desired data delivered to our desktops comes surrounded by other data and the text itself is usually sprinkled with links to other relevant data. All of this extraneous material serves to tempt the users' attention away from the initial search and, unlike footnotes found in traditional print media, these links don't just point the way to other relevant information, they propel us there.

And the effects of the Net don't just magically stop at the edge of our computer screens, either. Other once-dominant media forms have also been affected by the Net. A cursory glance at any of the network and cable news broadcast will give the user the impression that they, too, are extensions of the web. Heavy graphics, multiple text crawls and the emphasis on story brevity make it all too plain that broadcast news has changed profoundly. Print media hasn't escaped the transformation, as attested to by the changes instituted by newspapers and magazines to shorten articles and encapsulate news stories in order to cater to the shortened attention span of the audience-at-large. Old Media seems to have little choice than to play by the New Media rules.

All of this net-centric activity is changing the way we think and these changes may very well leave us unable to efficiently cope with the world in which we find ourselves. Regardless of the source of news information consulted, it is plain to see that we are living in an age where the problems we face require solutions that reflect a talent and proclivity for deep, contemplative thought coupled with the attentive resolve necessary to carry those solutions to a successful conclusion. It is also plain to see that this is not the type of mental activity excessive Internet exposure intends to foster.

## KATIE Tse.....This and That



## BIG WIND

Well, here's a topic we can all relate to! Thank God, as far as I know, there were no fatalities. The incident wasn't quite dramatic enough (compared to, say, Kennedy's assassination) for people to ask, "Where were you during the windstorm of 2011?" With the exception of some fearless, thrill-seeking folks, I think we were all asleep or awake under the blankets.

Like most people, I haven't ventured too far from home unless it was necessary. So I can't comment on the damage in Temple City

and most of Arcadia. But, as you know, Sierra Madre took a big beating! I even had some people from work say (after they removed the limbs blocking their driveway) that they made a special trip to Sierra Madre to see the fallen trees, broken telephone poles, and dangling wires. "Gee, Honey, we can see the lights in Hastings Ranch and the carnage in Sierra Madre in one trip!" Yes, I believe some of the trees in Sierra Madre may have actually been photographed more than all the Kardashians put together this last week! I'm not exaggerating when I say that, every time I passed a certain tree, there were people snapping photographs. The last photographer I saw had a tripod and model for size comparison.

I am grateful to God that the only inconvenience we had to deal with was power outage. At my parents, the wind knocked down a couple bushels of avocados and oranges, some broken bamboo (very dramatic), and innumerable branches and leaves. I don't know if avocados and oranges are measured by the "bushel," but we sure had a lot of them. My parents, my husband and myself, my coworkers, and my husband's coworkers will be making a lot of guacamole for a while!

After clearing the debris from my parents', there was little to distract me from the cold and darkness of these early December days. I complain about the cold and dark on a good winter day, let alone several without heat and light. I layered on sweaters, a robe, and a beanie, trying not to succumb to the unconsciousness that precedes hyperthermia. Since the sun travels a short, low circuit this time of year, I sat in a small patch of sunlight in our apartment, moving with it until it was no more. Not wanting to shower by candlelight or a fluorescent lantern, I scheduled my daily activities to correspond with the last available rays of sunlight. I didn't realize there was such a difference between decent candles and cheap ones until I tried using some of the "bargain" candles I had stuffed away around the apartment. I learned that you can burn both ends of a match in order to light multiple candles! This is another example of the saying, "You know you're cheap when ..."

The loss of power made me keenly appreciative of electricity -- and plumbing! We were never without water, and I relished hot showers as a respite from the cold. However, the experience made me extra thankful for all the things still working for us (plumbing, cellular service, blankets, etc.). I wish I could say that the loss of electricity prompted me to learn games (I have a great respect for cribbage, and hope to learn it someday). But I've never had a mathematical mind, and the simplest problems take me a bit longer than my opponents. So, aside from my heightened appreciation of the conveniences of modern living, I can't say I was personally improved much by the storm. But at least I was able to get this article out to you, which was much more than I would have hoped for a few days ago!

## Happy Tails

by Chris Leclerc.

Canyon Canine Dog Walking &amp; Pet Sitting Services



## THE 'OLE-MAN' AVOCADO TREE WITH A STRONG BACK-BONE AND A BIG HEART

Although I recognize the obvious difference between various life forms, such as that of humans, animals and plants, I also recognize that all living things play a very important part in the survival of all beings who live on this planet. Among the many living organisms that we share this beautiful planet earth with, trees have always held a very special place in my heart. I am sure that most people would agree that with the absence of trees in our local landscape, life might be quite grim.

The windstorms that brought such huge havoc into our community this past week brought to me a renewed appreciation for the gorgeous trees that make Sierra Madre such a uniquely beautiful town to live in. Like most other home owners in our small burg, I have grown very fond of the trees that surround my home in my own yard. They give so much, and ask for so little. They provide shade, comfort and privacy, and some of them even give us delicious fruit and nuts to eat. How much more could you ask from a living being that requires little more than water and soil to survive?

When my husband and I bought our home nearly 20 years ago, we were delighted to have two elderly, large, fruit-bearing avocado trees in our yard. We have two varieties of avocado trees, one of which provides us with numerous delicious Haas avocados each year, and the other bears Fuerte avocados throughout the year. Not only do both trees feed us their delicious fruit, they have also given us plenty of shade to help keep our home cool in the summer, and the beauty that only a tree can add to an otherwise balled and relatively boring looking yard. Over the years, we have added several specimens of plant life and trees to our landscape, but the two avocado trees are what we consider to be the icons of our yard. They are the heart of our exterior home, and ever since we bought this house, we have done our best to keep them healthy and happy.

Last week, we experienced the third major windstorm that whipped through our community since we bought our home, and as all Sierra Madre residents now know, it proved to be the most devastating of all three. At 1 o'clock am last Thursday morning, I was lying wide awake because I simply could not fall asleep with the loud whistling of the wind coming through the window sills and door jams of my house. My bloodhound, Tater and I were snuggled up on the living room couch. She was snoring away (big surprise), and I was praying to God that we would be OK through the storm. At about 1:10 am, I heard a very loud booming sound that might be interpreted as a freight train running through the house. The moment I heard that roaring sound, I knew exactly what had caused it and without even thinking I suddenly yelled out, "there it goes!" You see, I knew that the noise had been caused by the falling of an enormous eucalyptus tree that had been growing taller and taller over the years, on the property just across the wash from our yard. For several years now, my husband and I have speculated about the possibility of that tree falling, and if and when it did fall, we wondered what, if any damage it might cause. Well, now we know!

Fortunately, we were very lucky in terms of damage to

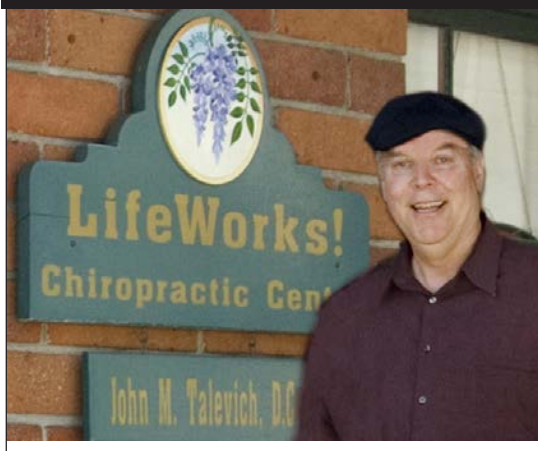
our house due to the fallen tree, however it did take quite a toll on our side yard. The outdoor shower that we used to enjoy so much was completely wiped out, and our front fence was flattened by the fall, but most disheartening of all was to discover that the monster eucalyptus had landed right on top of one of our beloved elderly avocado trees. The tree that had given us so much joy over all these years, with its sprawling shade-providing canopy and nurturing nestles that were ideal for the several stag-horns and other semi-exotic shade-loving plants that thrived beneath, had apparently been annihilated. At first it was hard to tell how much damage had occurred, since the electricity was out, leaving us with no light other than a couple of hand torches to see by. It wasn't until the next morning that we could assess the damage, and even then it was difficult to tell what was or was not left alive under the rubble of the pungent eucalyptus tree top. Little by little, we were able to determine that two major branches of our tree had been broken away from the trunk. The good news that could only be discovered days later, after the chain saw crew had come and cleaned up the mess, was that there were two healthy branches still safely attached to the trunk of the tree, and the trunk itself apparently sustained its position without giving way. I am so thankful that it had not fully succumbed to the hard blow it took and that there is a chance it might survive.

The most emotional aspect of the sudden landscape changes in our yard caused by the winds this past week was the fact the hard blow taken by our avocado tree played such a major part in protecting our home! Those who know me well enough probably think my 'flare for the dramatic' gets in the way of my ability to recount experiences in an accurate manner. In other words, on more than one occasion I have been told that I am a bit of a drama queen, but that's OK, I can handle that type of "constructive" criticism from a good friend! Notwithstanding my reputation to dramatize things a bit, I still stick by my theory that this beloved side-yard elderly avocado tree was willing to give up its life to protect our house.

When the huge eucalyptus branches of the fallen tree were finally cut away, it became clear that one of the main branches of our avocado tree had taken the brunt of the weight when it fell, preventing the eucalyptus tree from landing completely on top of our roof. Not only did it buffer the blow, but it also forced the weight of the eucalyptus branches to land in the center of our house, where the main girder beam could handle the weight. If the top of the fallen tree had landed on either side of that central girder beam, our entire roof top would have buckled or been crushed. Because the avocado tree branch guided the fallen eucalyptus tree to land on the strongest point of our mid-century wooden house, we were spared the drastic damage that would have otherwise been incurred. Needless to say, I love that tree now more than ever and I will do everything in my power to bring it back to perfect health again. And, I will never forget how willing it was to give up its life just to protect our home! And people say trees aren't people too. I beg to differ!



## YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Today's Subject:  
Unity

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.

From a physiological perspective, coming together to insure our survival is hardwired. From the earliest times, we have been social animals and our community structure, rituals, beliefs and interactions reflect this. At the same time, as a present-day society, we value excellence and competition and see being "number one" as a desirable objective. These two aspects of our humanness were brought into sharp

contrast recently as we found common cause in responding to challenges that nature brought us. Our biological imperative to make sure our community was safe came to the fore.

All over town, neighbor helped neighbor, businesses that were able to stay open did so in order to provide service and a gathering place, and everyone was on high alert. Stress gave way to a sense of connectedness and gratitude. The winds brought with them a feeling of aliveness. Without the usual media distractions, many were encouraged to temporarily change daily routines, finding some hidden jewels in the process. Call my family? I'll need to charge my cell. Read a good book...I'll need batteries. I'll go for a walk after the sidewalks are cleared. Perhaps I'll settle down and play a board game by candlelight with the kids.

Out of a visceral reaction to perceived danger came the gentling down and returning to normal as the stress hormones subsided, the bonding hormones decreased, and the dance of those two came into balance. Deep in the human nervous system, the essential knowledge that we all need each other to survive rests, ever ready to be awakened should the need arise.

Here's to your safe week!

Dr. John

**John M. Talevich, D.C.**  
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Assistance Dogs Can Make  
Life Easier for Seniors in Need

*Dear Savvy Senior*

*Can assistance dogs help seniors with physical limitations? My mother, who's 60, has progressive multiple sclerosis and I'm wondering if an assistance dog could help make her life a little easier.*

*Dog Loving Linda*

Dear Linda

For people with disabilities and certain medical conditions, assistant dogs can be fantastic help, not to mention they provide great companionship and an invaluable sense of security. Here's what you should know.

## Assistance Dogs

While most people are familiar with guide dogs that help people who are blind or visually impaired, there are also a variety of assistance dogs trained to help people with physical disabilities, hearing loss and various medical conditions.

Unlike most pets, assistance dogs are highly trained canine specialists – usually Golden and Labrador Retrievers, and German Shepherds – that know approximately 40 to 50 commands, and are amazingly well-behaved and calm. Here's a breakdown of the different types of assistance dogs and what they can help with.

**Service dogs:** These dogs are specially trained to help people with physical disabilities due to multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's disease, chronic arthritis and many other disabling conditions. They help by performing tasks their owner cannot do or has trouble doing, like carrying or retrieving items, picking up dropped items, opening and closing doors, turning lights on and off, assisting with dressing and undressing, helping with balance, household chores and more.

**Hearing dogs:** For those who are deaf or hearing impaired, hearing dogs can alert their owner to specific sounds such as ringing telephones, doorbells, alarm clocks, microwave or oven timers, smoke alarms, approaching sirens, crying babies or when someone calls out their name.

**Seizure alert and response dogs:** For people with epilepsy or other seizure disorders, these dogs can recognize the signs that their owner is going to have a seizure, and provide them with advance warning, so he or she can get to a safe place or take medication to prevent the seizure or

lessen its severity. They are also trained to retrieve medications and use a pre-programmed phone to call for help. These dogs can also be trained to help people with diabetes, panic attacks and various other conditions.

## Finding a Dog

If you're interested in getting your mom a service dog, contact some Assistance Dog training agencies. To find them, Assistance Dogs



International provides a listing of around 75 U.S. training agencies on their website that you can access at [assistedogsdogsinternational.org](http://assistedogsdogsinternational.org). After you locate a few, you'll need to either visit their website or call them to find out the types of training dogs they offer, the areas they serve, if they have a waiting list, and what upfront costs will be involved. Many agencies offer dogs for free, and others may charge several thousand dollars.

To get an assistance dog, your mom will need to show proof of her disability which her physician can provide, and she'll have to complete an application and go through an interview process. She will also need to go and stay at the training facility for a week or two so she can get familiar with her dog and get training on how to handle it.

It's also important to understand that assistance dogs are not for everybody. They require time, money, and care that your mom or some other friend or family member must be able and willing to provide.

*Savvy Tip: For more information on assistance dogs visit [workinglikedogs.com](http://workinglikedogs.com), an educational website for people who are interested in getting an assistance dog. They also offer "Working Like Dogs: The Service Dog Guidebook" for \$22.*

*Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.*

## SENIOR HAPPENINGS

NOVEMBER  
ACTIVITIES

Even though the Hart Park House Senior Center is under renovation, things are still "happening" at the center's temporary home in the Community Recreation Center (611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.) so please join us:

Monday: *City Hall Closed October 11th*

- 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:

- No FREE blood pressure checks by Methodist Hospital this month; join us October 11th at 11 am

- 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
- 5:15 pm to 6:45 pm: Yoga; \$6.00 - 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

- 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.

## EXCURSIONS

SAVE THE DATES  
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH - Historic Castillo Isabella Castle Tour & Lunch at the Mission Inn, Riverside. You will travel by deluxe coach to Riverside to tour the medieval-Spanish style castle and then enjoy a buffet lunch at the Riverside Inn. Cost per person is \$34 for both the tour & lunch. The bus will leave at 9 am and return at 3 pm.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH - Candlelight Pavilion Christmas Show in Claremont. Cost is \$59 per person for the lunch & the show. TICKETS ARE VERY LIMITED so register early. Departure time is 10:30 am and the bus will return around 4 pm.

Registration can be done either by coming to the Community Recreation Office, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. in person (M-TH 8:30 am to 6:30 pm) or online at [www.cityofsierramadre.com/online/registration](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/online/registration)

## SPECIAL LUNCH &amp; LEARN

## Are You Prepared?

Join us on Wednesday, November 9th 12:20 pm at the Community Recreation Center 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. The Presentation by Earthquake Solutions is FREE but if you wish to have lunch first, please call Darlene at (626) 355-0256 to make advance reservations - lunch is served at 12 noon.

## December Birthdays



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



## 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.)

Meals are delivered to the home-bound seniors by drivers through the YWCA Interval Lunch Program M-F (with frozen meals for the weekend.)

Call the YWCA at (626) 214-9460 for more information.



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## LUNCH &amp; LEARN

Join the Senior  
Community Commission  
at the

Sierra Madre Recreation Center  
for a FREE presentation. Lunch is  
available for a

\$2 donation

Call (626) 355-0256 by  
12 noon the day before.

## DIAL - A - RIDE TICKETS

*Tickets can now be purchased at:*  
Sierra Madre City Hall  
Sierra Madre Recreation Center  
Sierra Madre Library



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 at the Sierra Madre Recreation Center while the Hart Park House is under remodeling. 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

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## Christmas Choir Cantata December 11

## 9:15 am Worship Service, Sanctuary

Celebrate the sounds of Christmas joy through the blending of choirs, organ, and piano. Music Director Dr. Glenn De Lange leads the Chancel Choir accompanied by Organist Lisa Edwards, performing "The Sounding Joy".

## 10:30 am Adult Spiritual Formation, Fellowship Hall

## 11:15 am "The Gathering" Worship Service, Sanctuary

Our non-traditional worship service features the full cantata titled "The Sounding Joy" sung by "The Gathering" Ensemble with accompaniment. Childcare provided.

*Join us for Christmas Eve Services at 5, 8, and 11 pm.*



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



### STAGING YOUR HOME TO SELL

*Sierra Madre's Bella Casa Known for Creating Just the Right Mood to Show Off Homes*

Homes listed in today's challenging market often languish unsold for months, even years. Savvy sellers and agents in LA and in San Francisco have been turning to professionals Renee and Wyatt Sullivan from Bella Casa Home Staging to present their home's best face to potential buyers.

The Sullivans began Bella Casa up in San Francisco "where staging really began", according to Wyatt Sullivan. With construction, real estate and design backgrounds, the two decided to pool their expertise and market their talents, when their own staged rehab projects sold so well, and so quickly.

"Our first spec project, ten years ago, sold way over anything in the neighborhood, because all the 'right' things were done, in fact \$250k over asking," he reflected. "It shocked even us!" he chuckled.

They knew they had the right 'secret sauce' to apply to other homes for sale in the Bay Area. Even homes with all the right basic updates and upgrades still needed the Sullivan brand of pizzazz to create the emotional attachment with the buyer for a quick sale at a strong price.

"In just one year, we added warehouse space for our staging supplies of furniture and accessories six times" remembered Renee. Now in both San Francisco and LA, they warehouse over 120,000 square feet of staging supplies. With experienced crews in both places, the Sullivans go back and forth several times a month to supervise projects "One of our strengths is that we can turn around a project in a short period of time, with our great and distinctive staging supplies in traditional to contemporary styles, ready at a moments' notice," said Renee.

One of their recent jobs, a contemporary condo project, had to be turned around in just three days. "We're sure others turned it down, just on the narrow timeline alone," said Wyatt. "Bella Casa had it done on time, and it turned out so well, we use shots of the three models for our own marketing.

What also sets Bella Casa apart is that their pricing of top quality designer staging is often significantly less... sometimes by half... compared to other staggers, especially on LA's Westside.

Ernie Carswell founder of Teles Properties, who just listed a well known celebrity's home in Beverly Hills last week at \$3,475,000, has high praise for Bella Casa Home Staging. "For this property, staging was essential, in my professional opinion, due to the vacant interior. Huge open spaces needed definition with color and warmth, plus floor coverings. Most importantly the home needed a 'new attitude' toward its future incarnation. It needed youthfulness, athleticism and vibrancy. All these factors were sorely lacking until Bella Casa interpreted the space correctly and added what was needed - with flair."

Carswell continued, "If I had to estimate a price value for the impact of the finished staged interiors, it would have to have added hundreds of thousands of dollars of "marketable value". The visual appeal was so greatly increased, that we really can't know exactly the financial impact, but it was six figures for sure.

"Since the property was launched (late November), and first seen in 2 years by the brokerage community," Carswell summed up, "we now have received 4 written purchase offers and are expecting more. Is there any doubt how



valuable this staging was to the selling swiftness? I think not."

Keys to their success include long lasting fresh floral and greenery arrangements, plus original artwork, leased from the artists. "It's amazing how much depth and style these two elements add to a staged home," commented Renee.

Up in San Francisco, much of the market is in century old Victorians. One of their secrets, Renee reveals, is to add some contemporary elements to even the most staid traditional, evoking a bit of surprise and interest.

Dilbeck agent, Eileen Benson, first used Bella Casa to market a historic home on Grand View in Sierra Madre this year. "A house must look

its absolute best in order to sell right away for top dollar. The home, a Sierra Madre favorite, had so much character and charm on its own but needed a bit of something. Rene and Wyatt tailored their proposal for a moderate makeover, with tact, understanding and kindness in dealing with the sellers. Having Rene and Wyatt on my team helped sell my historic listing within 10 days with multiple offers. I consider Bella Casa Home Staging as business partners for all of my future listings. No project is too small or too large, and they're so much fun to work with!"

According to Wyatt, "Our success has come from delivering a staged home that says to a buyer, 'I can move in, just as it is, no matter whether it

still needs some updating to the bathrooms, or the living room is a bit dark. We know how to overcome these expensive fixes, with techniques that can even make that low light living room a cozy plus rather than a minus."

The Sullivans have found that sellers often wish they'd done this type of staging years before; seeing lifestyle and floorplan adjustments creating usable inviting space from underutilized square footage, in a few short days, right before their eyes.

*Bella Casa Home Staging offers full service staging, interior design and remodel services, as well as hourly advice for do-it-yourselfers. For more information, contact them at 866-678-5600 or visit their website, [www.BellaCasaLA.com](http://www.BellaCasaLA.com).*

## LEVEQUE CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN HONORED TO BE FEATURED OVER THE YEARS IN "ONE OF A KIND" AND SEVERAL OTHER LOCAL PUBLICATIONS.

*Excerpts from the archives of "One of a Kind": 2006*

Jim and Anthony LeVeque have quietly made a name for themselves in the remodel and construction business in the Sierra Madre, Arcadia and Pasadena corridor. Their meticulous work pretty much speaks for itself. Jim will proudly encourage prospective clients to see and understand the extent of their attention to detail by taking a field trip to the attic of one of their custom homes on Highland... There you'll see behind the scenes, as it were, where even the workspaces of the home's attic show careful planning and execution, neatness and cutting edge technology.

Careful attention to fitting the projects to the surrounding neighborhood is evident. (Referring to three custom homes on Highland). It blends so well, you might not even notice that it's new construction.

10 years (now 20 years) of projects dot the landscape of these communities - remodels, custom homes and home theater installations.

In that time, the two brothers have honed their specialties and expertise.... Tony shoulders the electrical and landscape areas. Jim handles the general design, carpentry and project managements. In construction, there is just no substitute for hands-on involvement. With the aid of a small trusted staff, most work is done in-house... with creativity and a major dose of "thinking outside the box."

2008

Lots of superlatives are bandied about in real estate. Occasionally homes live up to those superlatives. Luxury home builder... LeVeque Construction, just listed (this) home in charming Sierra Madre, (which) could be featured in an architectural magazine! Elegant and sophisticated, yet very comfortable and livable... LeVeque meticulously planned every detail to combine beauty, function and durability... (while) the invisible features of the home received the same attention to detail as the decor.

Thank you, Mountain Views News!

## Storm Damage?

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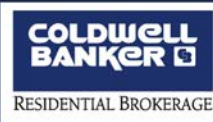


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# HUDDLE UP!



By Harvey Hyde

## The Bowl Season Is Almost Upon Us

Thirty-five bowl games. Seventy teams, or more than half of the schools that play Division I football, get to celebrate bowl activities. I can remember when college teams had to win their conference

or at least have a great record to make it to a bowl game.

Now a team with a 6-7 record can go to a bowl game. Don't get me wrong. I love the bowl season. It is still very special. But 35 games?

There are all kinds of bowl games with varying status, starting with the BCS championship game. I remember the days when the bowl season wasn't much more than the Rose Bowl, the Cotton Bowl and the Orange Bowl and the Sugar Bowl on New Year's Day. Now, the bowl season starts Dec. 17 and will end with the BCS title game between LSU and Alabama on Jan. 9.

That gives all of us college football fans a lot of time in front of the TV. We'll be switching channels, giving our remote controls lots of use, when there are three or four games on at the same time. Here's a challenge: keeping track of all the bowl games.. Adding to the confusion is the fact that most bowls are now named after their sponsors. Even the Rose Bowl has at least partially caved in. It is now officially the Rose Bowl sponsored by Vizio.

How about the GoDaddy.com bowl? Bet you can't name the city that game is in without looking it up. There's the Chick-fil-A Bowl and the TicketCity Bowl. And don't forget the Poinsetta Bowl. At least most of us know that a Poinsetta is a flower.

And then there is the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl

on Dec. 31 in San Francisco, where UCLA is playing Illinois. UCLA is 6-7, and Illinois is 6-6 -- after losing its final six games of the season. Wow! Incredible. I guess you could say both teams are hungry for a victory. By the way, this game used to be the Emerald Bowl. (How many of you know Emerald is a nut company?)

There are some peculiar things about this year's Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl. It features not one but two interim head football coaches -- offensive coordinator Mike Johnson for UCLA and defensive coordinator Vic Koenning for Illinois.

There seems to be a trend here for UCLA. Bob Toledo got fired and Ed Kazarian coached the Bruins in a bowl game. Karl Dorrell got fired, and DeWayne Walker was asked to step into the head coaching role for a bowl game before heading off to New Mexico State. Now Johnson is filling in after Rick Neuheisel got fired. Koenning has taken over for Illinois after the firing of Ron Zook on Nov. 27.

Despite the oversaturation and oddities, I must admit I am looking forward to the bowl season. At least there will be 35 bowl champions, and I think that's what I appreciate most about bowl games. At the end of the season, there are lots of winners, not just one.

Games I'm really looking forward to, in addition to the BCS championship game, are the Fiesta with Stanford and Oklahoma State and the Rose with Oregon and Wisconsin. And how about that Kansas State and that Coach Bill Snyder? The Wildcats are 10-2 and facing 10-2 Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 6.

There are other great games too, but the ones mentioned above are the ones I think will be the cream of the crop.

Happy holidays, and hope your teams win!

## L.A.'S HOT PREP BASKETBALL PROGRAM, SAL (STUDENT ATHLETE LAB) WILL HOLD THEIR FIRST ANNUAL "BALLAPALOOZA" DECEMBER 17-18 AT THE MONROVIA Y.M.C.A.

"Ballapalooza" will provide a complete basketball prep experience, encompassing a skill clinic for ages 5-17, a 3-on-3 tournament for divisions 13-17 and 18-and over, Free Throw, 3-Point and Lab Skills challenges as well as guest speakers, vendors, booths and additional activities for all kids of all ages.

SAL was created when Coach Stover's search for a program to provide that extra special push for his own talented sons proved futile. In just a few years, the program devised by Craig Stover and Darrel Reece at this specialized college-prep basketball clinic, is quietly turning out potential college stars including Kenyatta Smith at Harvard, Nick Holden at Puget Sound and Coach's own sons, Anthony Stover who plays center at UCLA and Nick Stover, a small forward, who was just recruited by Loyola Marymount University.

### ABOUT STUDENT ATHLETE LAB:

While most programs tend to emphasize and expend the majority of their resources and personnel on either an educational component OR the athletic component, they rarely devote time to a combination of the two. SAL's emphasis is on the individuality of the complete Student; both at home, at school and on the life skills necessary to navigate the world outside of both environments.

Coaches Stover and Reece at SAL have devised programs in multiple levels of instruction which includes college-prep workshops, shooting and defense clinics, seminars, strength and quickness

programs, all the while spending quality time with athletes to optimize their personal development. Students learn about academic requirements, available financial aid, and all aspects of athletic recruitment on all levels.

They have over twenty-five years of experience between them, coaching Southern California student athletes from age 12 through high school. Coach Stover has coached both Varsity and J.V. teams to CIF and State Champion Finals, and as a volunteer for the Brotherhood Crusade, taken 12 year-olds to a national championship. Coach Reece is a co-founder of Pacific Palisades' Tsunami Basketball Program and has volunteered at USC's Henry Bibby Summer Camp and Long Beach State's Wayne Morgan Summer Camp.

UPCOMING EVENT: Upcoming for SAL is their first annual "Ballapalooza" on December 17-18 with the Monrovia Y.M.C.A (501 Mountain Ave. Monrovia, CA) encompassing a skill clinic for ages 5-17, and a 3-on-3 tournament for divisions 13-17 and 18-and over. There will be Free Throw, 3-Point and Lab Skills Challenge contests, guest speakers, vendors, booths and lots of activities for kids of all ages. For more information go to: [www.studentathletelab.com](http://www.studentathletelab.com)

Follow SAL: @TheSALab on twitter

Contact SAL: (626) 214-8526

Craig Stover, SAL President, [stover24@hotmail.com](mailto:stover24@hotmail.com)

Darrel Reece, Executive Director, Head Coach, [reece@studentathletelab.com](mailto:reece@studentathletelab.com)

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## PUTTING FOR LOVE



The First Tee of Pasadena decided to take their game to another level. On Thursday, December 8th they held a charity Putting contest to support the collection of toys in conjunction with the City of Pasadena Fire Departments Sparks of Love. The event, which focused on the Life Skill of, "Giving Back To Our Community" was held at Brookside Golf Course in Pasadena. The First

Tee, a non profit golf program from children, teaches children core values of: Honesty, Integrity, Sportsmanship, Respect, Confidence, Responsibility, Perseverance, Courtesy and Judgment.

For more information about the program or to donate to the Sparks of Love, please go to: [www.thefirstteepasadena.org](http://www.thefirstteepasadena.org)

## IT'S GOOD TO GET MOVING - WHATEVER YOUR AGE

(NAPSA)—The experts at the National Institutes of Health advise all Americans to make physical activity a priority. Just about anyone can carve out some way and time each week to be active.

Here are some hints that can help:

What You Can Do

•Put your workout time on your calendar and treat it like any other appointment.

•Try waking up a half hour earlier to walk.

•Schedule workouts for lunchtime.

•Take an evening fitness class.

•Build physical activity into your routine chores. Rake the yard, wash the car or do energetic housework.

•Make family time physically active. Plan a weekend hike through a park, a family softball game or an evening walk around the block.

•Train for a charity event. You can work to help others while you work out.

•Start slowly. If you're starting a new physical activity program— even one you once did well— go slow at the start.

•Try a personal trainer. A certified personal trainer can show you how to warm up, cool down and use fitness equipment like treadmills and dumbbells, as well as demonstrate the proper form to reduce your risk for injury.

•Remember, you don't have to spend a lot of money, join a gym or buy workout gear to get fit. You can choose free activities. Take your children to the park to play or take a walk.

•Join a class or sports league where people count on you to show up. If your basketball team or dance partner counts on you, you will not want to miss a workout.

•If you have a health problem, talk with your doctor. Find out which physical activities you can safely do and follow advice about length and intensity of workouts.

•Set up short-term goals, such as walking 10 minutes a day, three days a week. Once you are

comfortable, try to do more. To add variety, you can do low-impact aerobics or water aerobics for 30 minutes, two days a week. Then walk on a treadmill or outdoors for 30 minutes, one day a week. Then do yoga or lift weights for two days.

•Track your progress by writing down your goals and what you have done each day, including the type of activity and how long you spent doing it. Seeing your progress in black and white can help keep you motivated.

### Keep Energized

As part of your increased activity program, you may want to try MonaVie Active®, a mouthwatering fusion of 19 body-beneficial fruits and scientifically proven glucosamine, which targets joint mobility and flexibility. Formulated with AcaVie®, the purest, most potent form of açai available, just 2 ounces daily can:

•Encourage production of glycoproteins for healthy connective tissue and joint cartilage;

•Deliver key nutrients to ensure your body maintains a healthy range of motion;

•Fight oxidative damage and aging using powerful antioxidants and polyphenols.

### Stay Hydrated

Don't wait to drink until you feel thirsty while you work out, warn the experts at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dehydration occurs when the body loses water faster than it should, such as during times of extreme heat or extreme exertion. Defeat dehydration with the help of MonaVie (M)mu'n, a drink that delivers a beneficial blend of 19 fruits plus Wellmune®, shown to strengthen your body's immune defenses, help safeguard your body from potentially harmful microorganisms and fight oxidative damage and aging using powerful antioxidants and polyphenols. Containing beneficial fiber and key vitamins A, C and E, as well as essential nutrients to support and sustain your overall health, it can be your daily defense for a healthier life.

Now both beverages are easier to add to your diet because they come in new "shot" sizes that fit nicely into a purse, glove compartment, gym bag or desk drawer.

### Learn More

You can find further facts on energy at [www.monavie.com](http://www.monavie.com) and (866) 217-8455. Or join them on Facebook at [facebook.com/monavie](http://facebook.com/monavie).

## 2011 Christmas Tree Fundraiser

Proceeds Will Benefit  
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Fundraiser Begins: 10/21/11

Redeem: 12/5/11 thru 12/14/11

4:00-8:00 pm

- \$65
- 6-7 Foot Noble Tree
- Other types and sizes available

All Christmas Tree gift certificates are non-refundable and non-exchangeable for cash.

Exchangeable for any on-premise tree priced at or less than the quality and size of three listed on gift certificate.

All trees are available on first come first serve basis. Trees reserved but not picked up within 3 days are subject to resale.

Must redeem by December 14—No guarantee of any tree availability.

**THANKS**

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and  
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