



## HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?

He is wanted in connection with the shooting death of an Arcadia husband and father during a home invasion.

The suspect is described as male Hispanic, light complexion, 5'7", 150 lbs., thin build, black hair, brown eyes, wearing dark clothing, a black hoodie sweatshirt and a bandaid under his eye. Full story on page 7.

## SIERRA MADRE CRIME PREVENTION WARNING

The SMPD 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 night-time 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

Residents should also be careful in dealing with the many home repair services in abundance after the wind-storm. 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/>

## REPORTS ON THE ARREST OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHER FAIL TO FOCUS ON VICTIMS

*Parents reminded to be cautious as predators mix and mingle among the unsuspecting.*

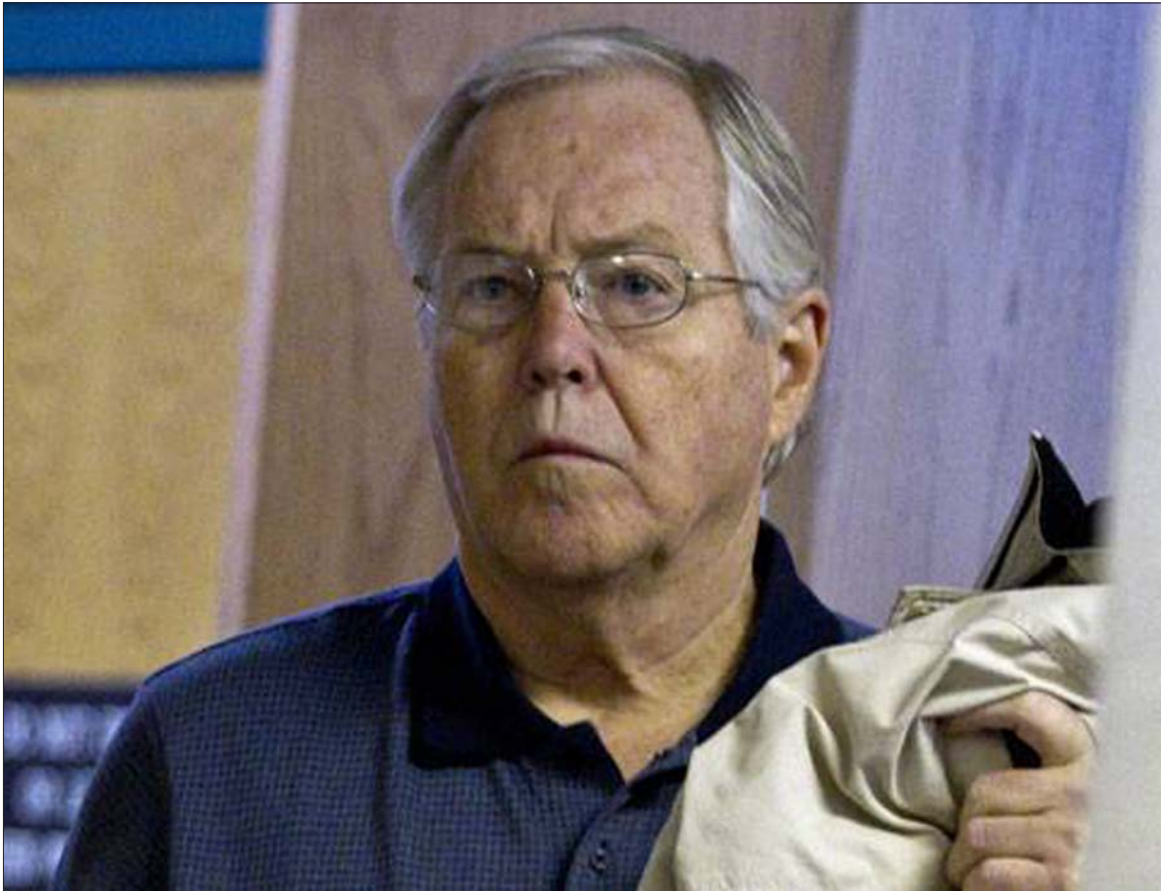
By Susan Henderson

On Tuesday of this week, word of the arrest and conviction of Sierra Madread Robert Matheson sent shockwaves throughout the community. Matheson, 66, pleaded guilty to possessing and smuggling child pornography in the Dartmouth Provincial Court in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. He was arrested on October 17th of this year at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport. The sentence imposed was 120 days with 12 days credit for time served. He was detained in Canada under house arrest from the time he posted bail until sentencing. Prior to his arrest he owned a home in Pictou, Nova Scotia, a small, close knit town, much like Sierra Madre. According to Canadian news reports, that home was sold to cover legal expenses and bail. There is a great deal of concern that after his release he will be deported back to the United States and return to Sierra Madre.

Much of the shock and disgust was based upon the fact that Matheson was a well known figure in the community, often seen at events sponsored by a variety of organizations. He was easily recognizable at most affairs because he often wore traditional Scottish attire, including kilt. He was known to contribute to charitable and political efforts and to the person interviewed for this story, no one suspected that he was capable of indulging in such horrendous acts as possessing child pornography. He is a principal of Millmath Properties, LLC., which lists its operations out of his home on Lilliano Drive in Sierra Madre.

Who the children were in the photos, and how the pictures came into being has not been disclosed. According to Canadian court reporter for the *Chronicle Herald*, Steve Bruce, "A search of the laptop turned up 2,500 photographs and 280 video clips of teenage boys either naked or engaged in sex acts with other boys. The computer also contained 10 written stories about sexual activities between a 10-year-old boy and his uncles, grandfather and father, and between the boy and other men such as priests and schoolteacher."

But local news reports and blogs have been focusing



*Robert William Matheson, 66, of Sierra Madre, Calif., enters Dartmouth provincial court Tuesday. He pleaded guilty to possessing and smuggling child pornography.*  
Photo Courtesy Krochak/Herald

on political associations rather than the exploitation of innocent children. If anyone suspects that a child has been victimized, past or present, please contact the police immediately.

This is not the first time a predator has been discovered in the midst of Sierra Madre social and/or political life. Approximately five years ago, Andrew West Reid, Jr., known as AWest (his professional name), was arrested by the FBI after seizing pornographic images of children and digital cameras from his Sierra Madre home. He was later arrested by the FBI in conjunction with the Pasadena Police and charged with child molestation. According to published reports, West worked in the Record Industry and served as "the city's film coordinator" from 2000-2004. Last year, West, who is currently serving an eight year sentence in federal prison, was ordered to pay his victim, who was 6 years old at the time, \$5.4 million dollars in damages.

In both instances, the predators were able to hide their depraved behavior from the public's eye. While we don't know how the photos and videos came about that were in Matheson's possession, AWest,

according to court records, took advantage of the child who was a friend of AWest's daughter.

While AWest is safely behind bars for now, the fate of Bob Matheson remains to be seen. Earlier this week, Sierra Madre Police Chief Marilyn Diaz stated she had ordered an investigation into the Matheson situation, including whether or not he would be required to register as a sex offender when he returns to the U.S.

Law enforcement encourages parents and concerned citizens to check the Megan's Law database for information on sex offenders in your area. There are currently 2 registered sex offenders listed as living in Sierra Madre although both are also listed as being in violation of their reporting requirements. Pasadena has 107 registered offenders, Altadena 31 and Arcadia 20.

For more information on the identities of these offenders and the offenses, go to: <http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov>.

## PUBLIC FORUM LOOKS AT RESPONSE TO THE RECENT WINDSTORM

*City estimates wind related costs at over \$6 Million*

By Dean Lee



*Ronald Garcia, So. California Edison*

City officials mixed personal stories and public information Wednesday during an open forum to discuss the emergency response to the windstorm two weeks ago to the day. The forum was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Sierra Madre.

Bruce Inman, Public Works Director, gave the latest statistics saying as of Wednesday the city had moved 89 dumpster - "roll out bins" full of debris, and had 35 more bins waiting in the city yard. "As of today we have moved 730 tons of debris out of Sierra Madre," he said. But Inman said the true heroes were the guys from Public Works, "Thank someone in an orange shirt," he said.

Inman said 34 homes had structural damage; eight were red tagged with major damage, seven residents and one commercial property were reported with moderate damage and seven

vehicles were also reported damaged by falling trees.

He also estimated the cost of damage to private residences at \$4.8 million and businesses, due to loss of power, at \$20,000. He said a preliminary cost of city property damaged was \$50,000 and cleanup of debris at \$700,000. He also said \$200,000 was needed for protective services and \$50,000 for replacement of emergency generators.

City Manager Elaine Aguilar said this was the most difficult disaster she had ever dealt with. "At 10:30 I got my first phone call [from police] saying Elaine the wind is really picking up and this is not the typical palm fronds on the ground, its starting to get a little scary out

here."

Aguilar said she was told at 12:30 a.m. Dec. 1 they needed to open the city Emergency Operation Center. "Thankfully I have a big truck because I would not have made it," she said. "I was literally driving over trees and who knows what." "It was Mister Toads' Wild Ride," she added. From the city's standpoint, "a lesson learned" would be to improve communications. "The power was out, it was dark, we could not reach all of our staff, so there phones weren't working or there cell phones were somewhere they couldn't be heard." She also said they could have called in outside help sooner to clear streets.

Hank Landsberg, who developed and oversees the city Emergency Radio Station 1630AM, also spoke of the need to improve communications. He said the radio station was down

more than he liked saying they found that emergency power in the city's maintenance yard was not constant. "So what we are going to do in the next few weeks is to make an improvement to the radio station hardware, so that we will have the option of the station turning itself off during overnight periods," he said. Other than that, he said, the station worked exactly as designed.

Police Chief Marilyn Diaz said at the beginning they were getting 70 calls an hour plus constant 9-1-1 calls with one dispatch person at the phones. She said they immediately called in officers on overtime for several days. Diaz said they divided the city up into quadrants and assigned an officer to each one along with a sergeant.

"There job was to stay out in the field their entire shift," she said. "I am pleased to say, unlike other cities around us, we did not have a single burglary during this time."

Diaz did say they had several reports of solicitors showing up, in pitched black, to peoples' doors selling magazine subscriptions. "In fact, we had a slight increase in solicitors, even in daylight," she explained.

She said they also found several parolees out in the neighborhoods including one that was arrested for an outstanding warrant for carjacking.

Fire Chief Stephen Heydorff said they responded to about 76 wind related calls over 36 hours. Eight of those were medical he said. "The first call came in about 8:20 p.m. for wires down," he said.

Ronald Garcia, Regional Public Affairs Manager for Southern California Edison said they had 1,000 workers

servicing 11 cities. He said they had 205 utility poles in the region go down, all of which he said were caused by trees. He said their electrical grid stayed in tacked. "Everywhere we went we found wires and lines in tree branches and trees down."

Sierra Madre Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer Caroline Brown also helped in the city's EOC. "Everybody sitting here could if fact be a member of Sierra Madre's CERT team, Brown said "However it does require serious training," "You will feel confident in what you can do to take care of yourself"

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## Weather Wise

## 5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

|              |       |        |          |
|--------------|-------|--------|----------|
| <b>Mon:</b>  | Sunny | Hi 60s | Lows 40s |
| <b>Tues:</b> | Sunny | Hi 60s | Lows 40s |
| <b>Wed:</b>  | Sunny | Hi 60s | Lows 40s |
| <b>Thur:</b> | Sunny | Hi 60s | Lows 40s |
| <b>Fri:</b>  | Sunny | Hi 60s | Lows 40s |

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

## Sierra Madre City Hall and Community &amp; Personnel Services Holiday Closures

Friday, December 23rd at noon  
Monday, December 26, 2011  
Friday, December 30, 2011  
Monday, January 2, 2012

## 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

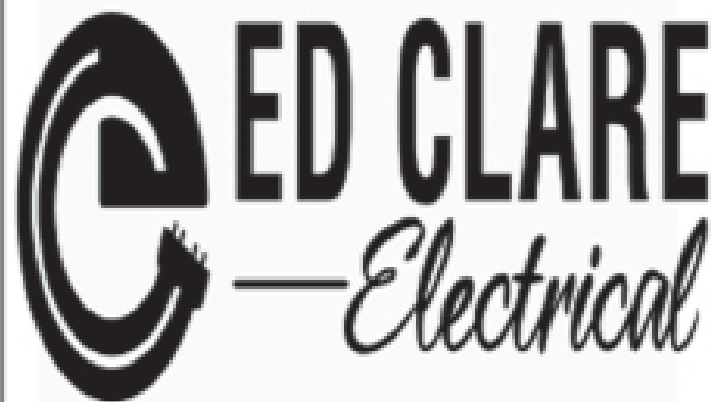
Meets Tuesdays 7-8:30 a.m.

431 E. Sierra Madre Boulevard  
Main 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 Elvira in the Park concert and donates hundreds of service hours to community events like the Western 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 [ReddyHayek@gmail.com](mailto:ReddyHayek@gmail.com).

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


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## OPEN DAILY

Weekdays 2-9  
Fridays noon -9  
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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.

Bean Town's Annual  
Christmas Benefit

*Bring Your Camera !  
& take a picture with  
Santa Claus*

*On Dec 17,  
from 1pm-3pm.*



*All donations go to  
the Performing &  
Visual Arts Program at  
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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).



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Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

## REMEMBRANCE

### SHELLEY LYNN RAUSCH



Shelley Lynn Rausch, age 50 was born on 11/27/61 and passed away on 12/05/11 in Monrovia, Ca.. She grew up in La Puente Ca. where she attended Bishop Amat High School. She worked as a manicurist for thirty years in Sierra Madre, Ca.. She was an avid Pittsburgh Steeler fan and enjoyed the outdoors. She was preceded in death by her father Henry Lawrence "Larry" Rausch. She is survived by her mother Sally Rausch along with three brothers Hank, Hal, Jack, and three sisters Sue, Judy, and Jill.

Visitation was held at Douglas and Zook Funeral home on Thurs., 12/15/11 from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM, located at 600 E. Foothill Blvd. Monrovia, Ca. 91016. The funeral was held at The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church located at 740 Shamrock Monrovia Ca., on Fri. 12/16/11 at 10:00 AM. Graveside services will be held immediately after at Live Oak Memorial Park at 200 E. Duarte Rd., Monrovia, Ca..

In Lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation be made in her name to AFSP, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT SIERRA MADRE'S VILLAGE CHURCH – ASCENSION

### All Are Welcome

Many special events take place at Ascension during Advent and Christmastide. You are invited to join us as we celebrate this glorious season through story, pageant, song, prayer, and candlelight. Church of the Ascension is located at 25 E. Laurel Avenue corner of Laurel and Baldwin Avenues in Sierra Madre. This year's schedule of special services for Christmas and New Years include:

December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve - Family Service and Mass at 5:00 p.m. This warm and wondrous service features the Children's Christmas Pageant during which our youth inspire us with the story of Christmas as told by St. Francis. All children attending this service are encouraged to participate in the story.

December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve – Carols at 10:30 p.m. and Mass at 11:00 p.m. Ascension's late Christmas Eve service features the traditional procession, incense, candles, prayer, sermon, and the great music of the season as the congregation joyously celebrates the birth of Christ.

December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day - at 11:00 a.m. join us for the



celebration of the Feast of the Nativity.

January 1, 2012 New Year's Day -at 10:15 a.m. we will celebrate Mass and Baptism. There will be no 8:00 am service.

January 6, 2012 join us for the Feast of the Epiphany at a Noon Mass. For more information, please call (626) 355-1133 or visit: [www.ascension-sierramadre.com](http://www.ascension-sierramadre.com).

## PET OF THE WEEK

### FLOYD: ANIMAL ID #A4368209

Meet an outstanding young lad, Floyd (A4368209). Floyd is a timid seven-month-old tan and brown male Chihuahua mix puppy who was found in Rosemead on November 23rd and brought to the Baldwin Park shelter. Weighing eight pounds, we can't tell how he is on leash because he is too frightened to walk. We do know that he likes other dogs, and are hoping to see him adopted into a multi-dog household. Floyd is sure to be a loving indoor pet for an adult household or one with older children, in any living situation whatsoever, and would be a wonderful companion for seniors. To watch a video of Floyd interacting with a volunteer, please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1bH8BuQAf4>

To meet Floyd in person, please see him at the Baldwin Park Shelter, located at 4275 N. Elton, Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (Phone: 626-430-2378). He is currently available now. For any inquiries about



Floyd, please reference his animal ID number: A4368209. 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 Floyd 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/>.

### Sierra Madre's 2012 "One Book One City"

The Sierra Madre Public Library is pleased to announce The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, as the City's 2012 One Book One City selection.

Sherlock Holmes—the world's most famous "consulting detective," who first appeared in publication in 1887—was featured in four novels and fifty-six short stories. The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes contains the first twelve short stories, originally published in London's Strand Magazine from July 1891 to June 1892. Events will take place during February 2012 to celebrate the Scottish author and his famous detective, one of the best-known and most popular characters in English literature. Copies of the book are available at the Sierra Madre Public Library.

A "Mystery Contest" drawing will be the first event in the program. Everyone who answers three questions about the selected stories will be entered in the "Kick-Off" drawing to be held at the Library on Wednesday, February 1. The winner will receive the elegant two-volume set of The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Short Stories, edited by Leslie S. Klinger, who will speak at the Library on Thursday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m. Additional events will be announced.

One Book One City annually engages the community in reading the same notable book at the same time and encourages everyone to come together to explore the literature and its cultural perspective. Doyle's tales, along with stage, screen, radio, and television adaptations, have made Sherlock Holmes a permanent part of our culture, appealing to readers and audiences of all ages.

For more information, contact Catriona Shafer or Sophia Duran at (626) 355-7186.

## NEW CROSSING SIGNS ON BALDWIN



Sierra Madre Police Officers (l to r) Dabney, Berry and Volpe proudly presented new traffic signs in front of Gooden School to remind drivers that they are entering a school zone. Without the signs, drivers traveling on Baldwin had a tendency to ignore other School Zone traffic signs. These will be placed in the middle of the intersection.

## Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, December 4th, to Saturday December 10th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 269 calls for service. See [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com) for updated information.

Sunday, December 4th:

1:29 AM- Unlawful Display Evidence of Registration, 100 blk. Esperanza Ave. An officer stopped a 40-year old Sierra Madre motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. Further investigation revealed that the driver had false registration tabs on the vehicle. The driver was cited and released on the scene.

3:40 PM- Warrant/Outside/Criminal, Lima Ave and Montecito Ave. A resident called police after seeing what she believed to be two solicitors in the area of Lima and Carter. A responding officer saw the two men get into a van, and stopped it. Both men were on parole for carjacking, and residential burglary, respectively. Officers arrested one of the men for a no-bail burglary warrant.

8:11 PM- Danger to Self/Others/Gravely Disabled, 1900 blk. Liliano Dr. This case involves a man being placed on a 72-hour hold for a psychiatric evaluation.

Monday, December 5th:

11:28 PM- False ID to Peace Officer, 400 blk. Sierra Madre Blvd. Officers arrested an intoxicated 18-year old woman who gave police a false name. Police took her to the Pasadena Police Department Jail for booking.

Tuesday, December 6th:

6:38 AM- Use Another's Personal Identification to Obtain Credit/Etc. This case involves an unknown suspect that used the victim's credit information to open a credit card account without the victim's permission.

1:32 PM- Possession Marijuana/1 oz or Less, Carter Ave and Lima St. An officer stopped a 26-year old Pasadena motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. Further investigation revealed that the driver was under possession of marijuana. The Pasadena motorist was cited and released on scene.

Wednesday, December 7th:

9:54 AM- Use Another's Personal Identification to Obtain Credit/Etc, 200 blk. W. Montecito Ave. This case involves an unknown suspect(s) that used the victim's credit information to open a Chase Bank account without the victim's permission.

Thursday, December 8th:

11:57 PM- DUI Alcohol/Drugs, Windsor Lane and Montecito Ave. An officer stopped a 54-year old Sierra Madre motorist for a Vehicle Code violation and found that the driver was under the influence of alcohol, and driving with a suspended driver's license. The man also had a \$35,000 warrant. The driver was arrested and transported to Pasadena Police Department for booking.

Friday, December 9th:

4:53 PM- Business License Required, 200 blk. Windwood Ln. This case involves a suspicious person soliciting without a business license. The 25-year old man was issued an administrative citation.

Saturday, December 10th:

2:22 AM- Drive while Suspended for DUI, Foothill Blvd and Baldwin Ave. An officer stopped a 22-year old Pasadena motorist for a Vehicle Code violation, and learned that the driver had a suspended/revoked driver's license. The officer released the driver on a citation and impounded the car.

2:22 AM- Possession of Controlled Substance, Foothill Blvd. and Baldwin Ave. An officer stopped a 22-year old Pasadena motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. Officers found that the passenger was in possession of less than 1 oz of marijuana and marijuana cookies without a medical card. The officer also found a glass smoking pipe with methamphetamine. The passenger was arrested and transported to Pasadena Police Department jail for booking.

2:22 AM- Warrant/Outside/Traffic, Foothill Blvd and Baldwin Ave. An officer stopped a 22-year old Pasadena motorist for a Vehicle Code violation, and arrested his passenger for a \$55,000.00 traffic warrant.

## Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Log

In the month of November, Sierra Madre Search and Rescue (SMSR) responded to three calls for assistance.

Mountain Biker, Big Santa Anita Canyon: The team was called to a trail in Big Santa Anita Canyon on a report of a mountain biker over the side of the trail. The subject was discovered to have taken a substantial fall and was aided at the scene by SMSR team members, L.A. County Fire Department personnel, and U.S. Forest Service units. Despite marginal weather conditions an L.A. County Fire Department helicopter was able to evacuate the subject and fly them to the hospital.

Missing Hiker, Chantry Flat: SMSR was dispatched to search for a missing hiker believed to be in the Chantry Flat area. SMSR crews worked into the night in poor weather but were unable to locate the subject. The search continued the following day with other local search and rescue teams assisting, but no sign of the subject was found. Shortly before the third day of searching began the subject was located out of the area.

Mine Recovery, Placer County: The all-volunteer L.A. County Sheriff's Department mine rescue team, including members of Sierra Madre Search and Rescue, was requested by the California Emergency Management Agency to help recover a body from an active gold mine an hour northeast of Sacramento. The mine rescue team was on-scene by daybreak of the following morning, and SMSR team members were first into the mine inspecting air quality and technical hazards. The L.A. County team, assisted by the Nevada County mine rescue team, was able to safely recover the body.

The all-volunteer SMSR team has been serving the local community for 60 years. Funded entirely by private donations, SMSR provides a range of public programs on wilderness safety in addition to its search and rescue activities. The Team never charges for any of its services. For more information, including how to arrange a wilderness safety demonstration for your school or group, visit [www.smsr.org](http://www.smsr.org).



MountainViews-Observer

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News From Your CommunityFor Your Community

## Portantino Calls for Public Utilities Oversight

Assemblymember Anthony Portantino proposed legislation Monday to improve emergency and disaster preparedness by California's public utilities. The proposed bill calls on each utility to report with every county in its service area every two years for the purpose of reviewing, updating and improving their emergency disaster and preparedness plans.

"We just saw firsthand that our public utilities can do a better job. Clearly, they were not prepared for a disaster of this magnitude. We need to use the recent wind disaster to improve our readiness and better prepare for future disasters such as a large earthquake. Having a review every two years will force better coordination, better service and better public safety," commented Portantino.

The proposed bill asks counties to inform cities within their jurisdiction about each meeting so that cities and the public can provide input into emergency planning. The legislation also calls on the California Public Utilities Commission to use its regulatory authority to set preparedness standards; for example, the use of weather reports to pre-position manpower and equipment before a storm and methods of improving communication between government agencies and the public.

"We learned some things from this calamity that will forever change the way we look at these disasters," added Portantino. "Like most ratepayers, I know that a portion of my bill is intended to pay for emergency preparedness and response; let's make sure it does. A review every two years will hold utilities accountable, increase coordination, public awareness and scrutiny. It's a practical and prudent course of action."

The bill is being written as an "urgency measure" and would go into effect once it's signed by the Governor. It would require that California public utilities conduct these disaster preparedness meetings within 3 months of the legislation becoming law.

## Pet of the Week



Meet Noel. He's a five-year-old brown and white Chihuahua mix. He enjoys being petted and has the cutest curled tail. Noel qualifies for our Seniors for Seniors program where his adoption fee is waived for adopters 60 years old or older. All you pay is the \$20 microchip fee.

Noel's regular adoption fee is \$120, which includes his neuter 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. Ask an adoptions counselor for more information during your visit.

Call the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA at 626.792.7151 to ask about A287335, 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 OKs \$1.9 Million to Fire Station

By Dean Lee

The city council took the first steps Monday night to retrofitting and rehabilitating fire station 39 near Ave 64 after being closed earlier in the year over building safety concerns.

The council unanimously approved allocating \$1.9 million to the project. City Manager Michael Beck said of the necessary funds, \$1,656,599 would come from the city's Charter Capital Fund. The council also approved transferring another \$243,401 to the project Beck said.

The motion was moved by Councilmember Steve Madison. Station 39 lies in District 6 which Madison represents.

"This has been a long and difficult journey since that time early in the year where we had to close the fire station," he said later adding, "This got lost a lot during the discussion but my home is in this coverage area, we care deeply about this and want

our firefighters and fire tucks back."

Councilmember Margaret McAustin said the money had to come from somewhere because the city was out of options.

"I think it's important to recognize that we are at that point in our budget where, it's right here in black and white on paper, where we are having to forgo other projects because this is a priority and we have to do it," she said.

McAustin added, "We'll be having to make more of these decisions as we look at the potential impacts of the windstorms and everything else."

Beck said the city initially looked at over 400 sites to relocate the station both public and private including San Rafael Elementary School as a temporary site.

The total estimated cost for the project is \$2.4 million; \$500,000 will go through General Fund

Beck said.

He said that seven other fire stations in the city were identified as in need of repairs. He said that cost was likely to top \$60 million.

Beck said the money could come through, or be reimbursed by, a Public Safety Utility Bond although would need voter approval and would not likely appear on a ballot until 2013.

## MAN SHOT DURING DISPUTE

Police found a male black adult with a gunshot wound Tuesday morning after officers responded to a shots fired call in the 1600 block of north Fair Oaks Blvd. The man was transported shortly before noon to a local area hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The preliminary investigation suggests that two individuals were shooting at one another following a dispute. One individual was struck by gunfire and the other is outstanding after a containment and extensive search.

Washington Elementary School was placed on lock down because of the proximity to the shooting. PUSD Administration was notified and officers were placed on campus as security to ensure the safety of students. The school lock down was in effect for one hour.

Detectives are actively investigating the shooting and seeking any witnesses who may have information. Call (626) 744-4620.

## Six Arrested in Operation Silent Night



The Pasadena Police Department's Special Enforcement Section conducted 27 probation / parolee compliance checks in the city, early Wednesday morning, as part of a larger operation throughout Los Angeles County. The raids at approximately 6:00 a.m. netted six arrests and two guns police said.

A tactical briefing was facilitated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Following the briefing over 100 officers from local, state and federal law enforcement agencies went to pre-identified locations throughout the county and started their compliance checks. The focus of the mission was to apprehend probationers or parolees with outstanding no bail warrants, most who have arrests or convictions for violent felonies.

The Southern Sector Command Post was located in Pasadena. There were two additional command posts: Palmdale (North Sector) and the City of Industry (East Sector).

In total 158 locations were targeted and searched in Los Angeles County.

## One City, One Story Selection; 'People of the Book'

The book selection for Pasadena's 10th One City, One Story community reading celebration is the novel "People of the Book" by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks.

A New York Times best seller inspired by the true story of a mysterious and ancient volume known as the Sarajevo Haggadah, "People of the Book" is a sweeping adventure through five centuries of history. From its creation in Muslim-ruled, medieval Spain, the illuminated manuscript makes a series of perilous journeys through Inquisition-era Venice, turn-of-the-century Vienna and the Nazi sacking of Sarajevo.

As a foreign correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, Brooks covered crises in



*Geraldine Brooks Photo Credit Randi Baird*

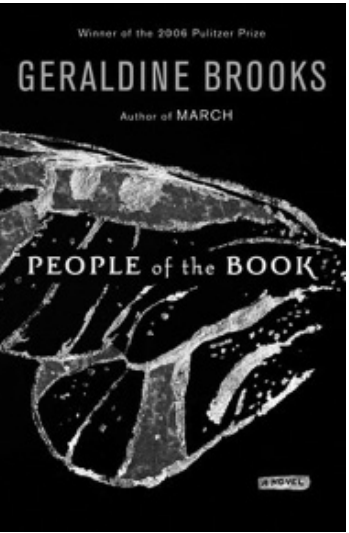
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Brooks is the author of "Caleb's Crossing," "People of the Book," "March," "Year of Wonders" and the nonfiction works "Nine Parts of Desire" and "Foreign Correspondence." She was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in fiction in 2006 for her novel "March." Her first novel, "Year of Wonders," is an international best seller and "People of the Book" is available in 20 languages. Her latest novel, "Caleb's Crossing," was published earlier this year.

She and Horowitz are the parents of two sons and divide their time between homes in Sydney and Martha's Vineyard.

One City, One Story activities and events will be scheduled for March 2012.

A community dialogue with the author is scheduled for Thursday, March 22. Details of book discussion groups, film series, lectures and other events will be announced in the near future.



the Middle East, Africa and the Balkans. In 1990 she and Horowitz received the Overseas Press Club's Hal Boyle Award for Best Newspaper or Wire Service Reporting from Abroad for their coverage of the Persian Gulf. In 2006 she was awarded a fellowship to Harvard University's

## Citizen Journalism Meet-up

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

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

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

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



of video, audio and print along with online social media. The next meeting is Dec. 17 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Pasadena Community Network - Studio G, 2057 N. Los Robles Ave.

For more info call 626.794.8585 or visit [pasadenan.com](http://pasadenan.com).

## Santa Catalina Branch Library Reopens



Pasadena's Santa Catalina Branch Library reopened, with an open house Thursday, following several months of repairs and renovation. Students from Longfellow Elementary School next door performed holiday classics as Mother Nature put on her own show outside.

"The kids all jumped with the thunder and lightning," said Library Communications Director Catherine Hany. "It was something to see, an unexpected wonderful addition to their performance."

Hany also said, that although, cake and punch was served it would be the last time as a new healthy snacks ordinance takes effect Jan. 1 banning unhealthy treats from city property.

Santa Catalina Branch Library opened with a small traveling collection of books in 1913 as part of an existing building. The current branch at 999 E. Washington Blvd. was constructed as a dedicated library in 1931. It was in need of new flooring, new paint and some other minor fixes. For more information call (626) 744-7272.



5

Mountain Views-News   Saturday, December 17, 2011

# THE BIG DAY APPROACHES

The Sierra madre rose float association and rose princesses prepare for the 2012 Tournament of Roses Parade

The day that the volunteers and members of the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association have been anticipating is almost here. On Monday, January 2nd they will join the Tournament of Roses Parade showing off their latest masterpiece, The theme of the 2012 Tournament of Roses Parade is "Just Imagine . . ." Sierra Madre's entry will be titled "Colorful Imagination," This float celebrates children's play and their unique ability to use their imaginations to create magical new worlds from ordinary, everyday objects. As these children play they envision colorful butterflies soaring from the swirling paint.

There is still time for you to help! The Float Barn will be open everyday except Christmas for visitors as well as volunteers. Barn hours will be Sundays from 10:00am until 6:00 pm; Mondays -Thursdays from 10:0 am until 6:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm. Other days and times may be scheduled.

The barn is located at 587 E. Sierra Madre Bl. Sierra Madre, CA 91024 and the telephone number is 626-355-7005.

Those interested in volunteering should stop by the barn or go the the website: [www.smrosefloat.org](http://www.smrosefloat.org) to review the volunteer guidelines and fill out the release forms. All workers must sign a release prior to working.

The association encourages visitors to see the float decorating progress including the judging events, dedication and the brief Kersting Court stop over on the evening of January 1st at 5:30pm. The float will also be on display at Kersting Court after the parade starting 7:30pm on Tuesday January 3rd and again at 8 AM Wednesday, Jan. 4th.

SMRFA is also holding their annual raffle for 2 Parade Grand Stand seats at 150 S. Orange Grove Blvd. (Row 4) including parking. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00. Raffle tickets are available at Mary's Market or the Rose Float Barn. The raffle drawing will take place at the Barn on Thursday, December 29th at 5 PM.

For further information please have people contact me at [SierraMadreVolunteers@yahoo.com](mailto:SierraMadreVolunteers@yahoo.com) or call the barn at (626) 355-7005.



The good news is, the Float Construction Is Complete! Volunteers completed the T2 Inspection overcoming the problems navigating the streets due to all the damage caused by Santa Ana winds. ork on the butterflys and the super-structure are all done. We are still screening the paint streams and buckets.



Sierra madre's 2012 rose princesses  
Julianna Gough, Kacey Benson, Tracey Janzen, Alisa Unell

## 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.

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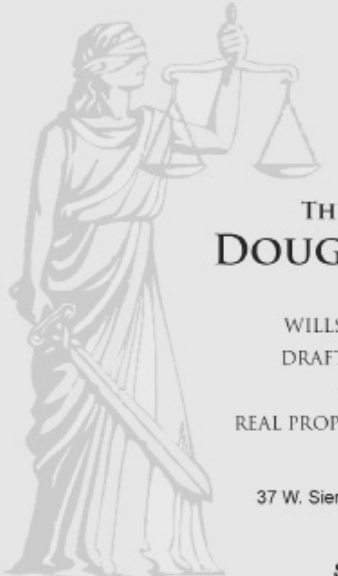
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## "What's Going On?"

News and Views from Joan Schmidt



It has been ten years since I became acquainted with Assemblyman Mike Eng and his wife Congress Member Judy Chu. (They are a remarkable couple, but that's another story.) When I met them both, I was writing for the Sheriff's Department besides my area and attended the KNOW GANGS, NO GANGS, PART II Asian Gang Intervention Conference.

This past Friday, my husband and I had the privilege of attending the third annual "Day of Inclusion". Why would this take place? Back in 2009, the "Day of Inclusion" was authored by Assemblyman Mike Eng and designated by means of the California State Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 76 to be December 17th.

On December 17, 1943, the Magnuson Act repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1881, and marked a turning point regarding our society's harsh attitudes towards immigration and immigrants. With this repeal of "Chinese Exclusion" prohibitions, the United States embarked on a commitment to break down cultural barriers, appreciate differences, enrich cultural diversity, and further racial religious and cultural tolerance. The hope and aspiration of America's future lie in embracing our shared differences. December 17th is set aside as the "Day of Inclusion" so we can remember and learn about the sacrifices and contributions immigrants have made in becoming American by embracing our shared differences and common goals.

Friday's event at San Gabriel's Hilton began with a buffet/reception. This was followed by the Halau Hula Moani'āala Anukea ensemble, which treated us to Hawaiian song and dance quite impressive.

We were welcomed by San Gabriel Mayor David Gutierrez. Assemblyman Eng then thanked everyone for coming and gave a history of the event. He also said there are more than 230 different Asian ethnic groups throughout the world! (I didn't realize the extent and diversity of the groups.)

Peter Hidalgo, (from Ecuador), Director of Government Relations for Time Warner Cable, the event's sponsor, spoke also of the important contributions of so many varied Ethnic groups in our country.

More entertainment followed. This time, Tonga members of the Lennox United Methodist Church. Their costumes were beautiful and their hand/arm motions resembled Hawaiian style.

The much-awaited award ceremonies began and the following seven groups were honored: South Asian Network (SAN), founded in 1990, is a community-based organization dedicated to advancing the health, empowerment, and solidarity of persons of South Asian origin in Southern California. Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC), is a community development non-profit organization began in 1994 and aims to create a thriving Thai community by creating

## ASSEMBLYMAN MIKE ENG'S DAY OF INCLUSION CELEBRATION



businesses and jobs, developing decent and affordable housing, and revitalizing public space. Khmer Girls in Action (KGA) was founded in 1997 to create social, economic and political justice by building a strong progressive and sustainable community institution led by Southeast Asian women and girls. KGA's role is to empower SE Asian women to become relevant social justice organizers who can respond to the immediate needs of the community. I-Vote is a bi-partisan organization dedicated to the political empowerment of the Pacific Islander community through voter registration, voter education and voter participation. Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA) was created to enhance the quality of life of Filipino Americans and other communities through youth development, health, economic, and social services. (I was shocked to learn, in the 1920's and 1930's, signs existed, saying, "No Filipinos, No Dogs allowed.") Tongan Community Service Center, serves the Tongan communities of Southern California. Their mission is to provide dignified human services to the Tongan community and empower them to engage and resolve issues of poverty, education, immigration, health and violence.

After the Awards presentation, the sponsors, Time Warner Cable, SEIU 721 API Caucus, Chinatown Service Center, and APLsCAN were acknowledged and volunteers Anna Jung, Thomas Wong, Teresa Tran, Matthew Wong, Diane Ujiye, and OC Lee were thanked. Assemblyman Eng had the ENTIRE room in unison thanking each group in their native language. Dancers then came out and people joined in. It was an interesting informative meeting. Thank you Assemblyman Eng not only for ACR 76, but continuing to encourage ALL Americans to appreciate the different Ethnic groups that have contributed to our society.

## ANTONOVICH DISPLAYS WEAPONS CONFISCATED FROM PROBATIONERS IN RECENT D.I.S.A.R.M. SWEEP

LOS ANGELES COUNTY -

"These weapons were confiscated during Wednesday's operation," said Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich who held a press conference today announcing the successful confiscation of 23 firearms and the arrest of 35 probationers who were in violation of their probation Wednesday as part of the D.I.S.A.R.M. program. "The Probation Department led a team of 250 law enforcement officers from 5 federal and state agencies in a sweep of 158 residences within the fifth district of Los Angeles County."

"Since the inception of the D.I.S.A.R.M. program in February 2000, there have been over 16,000 arrests, nearly 8,000 weapons confiscated and over \$360 million dollars in illegal drugs and drug money seized," he added.

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

In Los Angeles County, there are 50,000 adult probationers and 20,000 juve-

nile probationers. They are prohibited from possessing firearms and are subject to warrantless searches as a condition of probation.

In November, D.I.S.A.R.M. officers conducted 1,832 unannounced searches of residences, persons, vehicles, and businesses and confiscated 188 weapons, over \$53 million in ille-



Pictured: Chief Probation Officer Jerry Powers, Los Angeles County Probation Department, Supervisor Antonovich and Eric Newby, Los Angeles County Probation Department

gal drugs and arrested 136 probationers.

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**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)

### 4th Quarter Construction Update – 2011

## Southern California Edison's Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project – Segments 6-9, 11

**Project Update** – Southern California (SCE) contractors are continuing construction-related activities along portions of Segments 4-11 of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP). Upon completion, the project will provide renewable generated electricity and help meet California's renewable energy goals.

### Construction Activities: Upgrades to the electrical system will include the following:

(Please note that the construction schedule is tentative and may change depending on weather and other factors)

#### ■ Segments 7-8 – Improvements to structure site access roads:

**Duarte:** Adjacent to Van Tassel Motorway and also northeast of the northern end of Las Lomas Road in northern Duarte

**Portions of Segment 8:** At or near multiple structure sites along Segment 8

#### ■ Installation of new foundations and structures (220 and 500 kilovolt):

**Duarte:** Adjacent to Van Tassel Motorway in northern Duarte

**Irwindale:** South of the Foothill Freeway (210) along the San Gabriel Freeway (605) to Ramona Boulevard

**South El Monte:** West of the San Gabriel River Freeway (605), north and south of the Pomona Freeway (60)

**Montebello:** South of the Pomona Freeway (60), from Paramount Boulevard to San Gabriel Boulevard

**Monterey Park:** North of the Pomona Freeway (60), from Paramount Boulevard to SCE's Mesa Substation located at Potrero Grande Drive

**Pico Rivera:** Between the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and the San Gabriel River Freeway (605), spanning Rooks Road

**Industry:** Between the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and the San Gabriel River Freeway (605), spanning Rooks Road

**Rowland Heights:** From the Powder Canyon area spanning east over Fullerton Road, Pathfinder Road and Pathfinder Park to the Orange Freeway (57); Additionally, south of Fullerton Road and east of Harbor Boulevard

**Additional areas of unincorporated Los Angeles County,** including the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area (south of Pomona Freeway (60)) and the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority area.

**Installation of warning lights and marker balls** – Along portions of the project routes, installation of warning lights on electrical transmission structures and marker balls on the top wire spans between structures NOTE: These activities may include the use of a small helicopter

■ **Segment 11D** – Installation of foundations and transmission structures: At SCE's Gould Substation in La Canada Flintridge and near the Goodrich Substation in Pasadena.

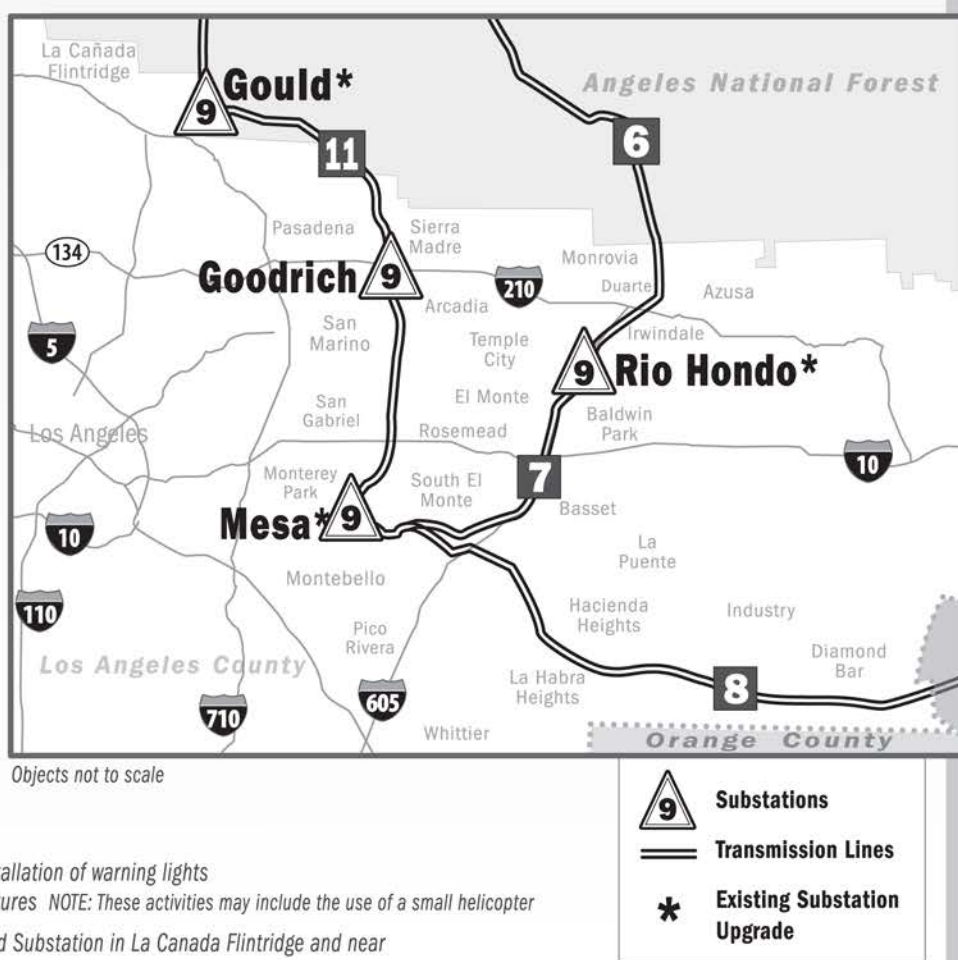
– **Relocation of electrical transmission wires:** Electrical transmission wires (220 kilovolt) will be reconfigured at Gould Substation to accommodate the new transmission wire installation. NOTE: This activity may include the use of a small helicopter.

■ **Segment 11B** – Installation of electrical transmission wires on existing structures: From Gould Substation to Goodrich Substation, also traversing portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County. NOTE: This activity will include the use of a small helicopter.

**Every effort will be made** to reduce the amount of noise generated by activities related to construction. SCE understands that construction may be inconvenient to local residents. We greatly appreciate your patience as we move to complete construction as quickly and safely as possible.

### Questions?

**[www.sce.com/tehachapi](http://www.sce.com/tehachapi)**  
or call our toll-free line (877)795-8787



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# ARCADIA

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## MAN SOUGHT IN SHOOTING DEATH OF HUSBAND AND FATHER

Sheriff's Homicide detectives are continuing their investigation into the circumstances surrounding the shooting death of a man, who was a husband and father of 3 young children.

Shortly after 8:00pm Monday evening, Dec 12, 2011 the family was returning to their home on the 11000 block of Kristi Court, Arcadia, when they were surprised by an armed light-skinned Hispanic man who had apparently been lying in wait.

As the family entered the garage of the residence, the man approached the family, pointed a hand gun at them and demanded money. Fearing for their safety, the victims gave the gunman the only money they had in their possession, their rent money.

Determined they had more money inside the house, the gunman demanded entry and ordered the family into

their residence.

Once inside the residence, the gunman directed the mother and her two sons, ages 3 and 5 and 6yr old daughter into a bedroom. The victims were instructed to shut the door and not to exit the room. The gunman then gave the father more commands for cash and shortly thereafter, several gunshots were heard by the family. They exited the room and found the male victim suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. The suspect left the residence prior to the family finding the victim.

The suspect is described as male Hispanic, light complexion, 5'7", 150 lbs., thin build, black hair, brown eyes, wearing dark clothing, a black hoodie sweatshirt and a bandaid under his eye.

The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.



Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau at (323) 890-5500. If you prefer to provide information anonymously, you may call "Crime Stoppers" by dialing (800) 222-TIPS (8477), or texting the letters TIPLA plus your tip to CRIMES (274637), or by using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org>.

## Arcadia Police Blotter

*For the period of Sunday, December 4, through Saturday, December 10, the Police Department responded to 967 calls for service of which 117 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.*

Sunday, December 4:

- At about 6:59 a.m., an officer was dispatched to the 200 block of West Foothill Boulevard in regards to a female victim in distress. While walking through her residence, the victim noticed the front door was open and attempted to close it when an unknown suspect walked up behind her and pushed the door closed. The suspect, described as a male adult with light or medium complexion, short dark hair, wearing a black long sleeve shirt and black bandana over his face, took money from the victim's wallet and bedroom. The suspect pushed the victim into a bedroom closet and eventually fled undetected. Through investigation, the officer determined the suspect forced entry into the home by breaking a glass window pane.
- At approximately 4:57 p.m., an officer responded to H&M at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in reference to a juvenile detained for theft. The suspect was observed damaging a pair of jeans by attempting to remove the security sensor. The suspect then removed the security sensor from a sweater, put it on, and left the store without making payment. The 16-year-old Hispanic male was cited and released to his mother.

Monday, December 5:

- Shortly after 8:15 a.m., an officer was dispatched to the 1900 block of South Seventh Avenue, in regards to a vehicle burglary report. The victim discovered the rear passenger side window of his car had been smashed, which he left parked in his driveway overnight. Numerous items were reported stolen.
- Around 12:34 p.m., an officer responded to Express at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in reference to a grand theft report. The store manager explained that on December 4<sup>th</sup>, between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., unknown suspect(s) stole sixty-one men's shirts from the front display inside the store. The store was overcrowded and no one saw the theft.

Tuesday, December 6:

- At about 10:47 a.m., an officer responded to the 1200 block of South Golden West Avenue regarding a fire assist. Dispatch advised a large amount of smoke was seen coming from an apartment building. Arcadia Fire Department Engine 105 responded to the scene and made forced entry into an apartment filled with smoke. An investigation revealed the smoke was caused by burnt food. The tenants forgot they were cooking and left the location.
- At some point in time between December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>, unknown suspect(s) stole a laptop computer from a home in the 100 block of East La Porte Street while the resident was away. Through investigation, the officer determined the point of entry was through an unlocked bedroom window. A dust for latent prints proved negative and no other property was reported missing.

Wednesday, December 7:

- At about 5:26 p.m., an officer responded to Arcadia Method Hospital, 300 West Huntington Drive, regarding a hit and run. While the victim was stopped in the parking lot, a vehicle reversed into her front driver side door causing minor damage. The victim explained to the driver that she needed to get to the emergency room. The driver told the victim that she was a nurse at the hospital and would wait for her in the emergency room to exchange information; however the driver never showed up. AMH checked the hospital directory and was unable to locate a nurse matching the name provided by the driver. The victim recorded the vehicle's license plate at the time of the incident and provided it to the officer. A follow-up investigation is being conducted on the registered owner of the vehicle.
- Around 7:54 p.m., an officer responded to the Arcadia Police Department front counter in regards to an identity theft report. The victim explained that his wife attempted to use their credit card at a gas station but the transaction was denied. The victim called his credit union and discovered their shared checking account was overdrawn due to several unauthorized charges. Both victims were in possession of their credit cards at the time of the report and have no idea how their information was compromised.

Thursday, December 8:

- Shortly after 8:00 p.m., an officer responded to Sephora at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding two juveniles detained for theft. The loss prevention officer advised he saw the juveniles each conceal a men's fragrance inside their purse, and walk out of the store without making payment. Both juveniles, a16-year-old White female and 17-year-old Asian female, were arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking. They were later released to their parents.
- At approximately 2:34 p.m., an officer responded to Murietta Drive and Volante Road regarding a suspicious parked vehicle. The officer approached the vehicle and discovered three occupants inside smoking marijuana. Through investigation, the officer determined the 19-year White male driver was in possession of a medical marijuana license and furnished marijuana to his friends, of which one was a juvenile. The driver was arrested for Furnishing Marijuana to a Minor and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor.

Friday, December 9:

- At about 6:17 a.m., officers responded to the area of Tyler Avenue and Live Oak Avenue regarding a traffic collision. The reporting party explained to officers that she saw a male adult flee from his vehicle carrying a 12-pack of beer after he drove it into the west curb of Tyler Avenue. Officers located the suspect nearby on Freer Street and determined he was under the influence. The 28-year-old Hispanic male was arrested for Hit and Run, DUI, BAL greater than 0.08%, and Unlicensed Driver.
- Around 2:30 p.m., an officer was traveling along Huntington Drive at Baldwin Avenue and conducted a traffic stop for expired registration. Through investigation, the officer learned the driver was operating the vehicle with a suspended license. The 27-year-old Black male was arrested for the listed charges and an outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

Saturday, December 10:

- Shortly after 3:20 a.m., an officer conducted an enforcement stop on a vehicle for lane swerving on Huntington Drive at Colorado Place. Upon contact, the officer noticed an odor of alcohol emitting from the driver's breath. Through investigation, the officer determined the 30-year-old Hispanic female was driving under the influence, and placed her under arrest for DUI and BAL greater than 0.08%. The passenger, a 33-year-old Hispanic female, was also arrested for a valid misdemeanor warrant.
- At approximately 7:45 p.m., an officer responded to the Santa Anita Mall security office, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in regards to a theft report. While the victim was eating in the food court, she placed her child's diaper bag on top of her stroller, and noticed it missing a short time later. The diaper bag contained the victim's wallet and she did not see anyone suspicious near her seating area.

*From Arcadia's Best:*

## EDISON "FAILED" \$2 MILLION STORM COST

by Scott Hettrick

"We did fail," admitted Southern California Edison in a rather startling apology for poor communication since last week's unprecedented wind storm that turned into a mea culpa in front of the Arcadia City Council and about 25 residents Tuesday night, December 6th. The company later issued a bulletin showing that Arcadia suffered by far the biggest impact with 35,844 SCE customers affected since last Wednesday/Thursday, 1,389 of which remained without power at 5 p.m. Tuesday. That's nearly three times the 13,000-plus affected in Sierra Madre and Altadena. Other cities such as Temple City, South Pasadena, and Monrovia each had 10,000 – 12,000 customers affected (Pasadena does not use SCE service.)

The Arcadia Cty Council had convened a special study session to take steps that will allow Arcadia to receive state funding if Governor Brown declares a state of emergency (which doesn't appear likely unless the area is considered a "catastrophe") to recoup damage and recovery costs to the city estimated at well in excess of \$2 million.

After listening to a few complaints from a handful of customers still without power six days after last week's unprecedented wind storm, SCE local public affairs director Jo Ellen Chatham began by saying, "I'd like to apologize." Addressing frustration by City officials about a lack of communication from SCE for many days about specific status reports and updates on service outages, Chatham said, "We're very unproud<sic> of our lack of

communication." She noted that the company also fell short in providing timely updates on the SCE web site, let alone offering many other customer outreach efforts, including phone blasts to residents used effectively by the Arcadia School District and Waste Management. Responding to SCE's grossly-missed public projection last week that 99.9% of customers would have power restored by Sunday night, she volunteered the further apology, "We made promises we couldn't keep; it was a mistake on our part. We created a false expectation," she confessed, suggesting that SCE did not realize the severity of the damage to Arcadia and Temple City, the two cities she said were hit hardest by severe winds that she equated to Category 4 hurricane force.

After several angry residents complained about SCE claiming to be unaware that their neighborhoods were without power until Tuesday, despite multiple calls to SCE each day and having to start from scratch logging their information each and every time, Chatham said SCE "didn't have the right system in place."

One engineer resident said SCE workers tried to leave his neighborhood without confirming the power was restored after doing work that he incorrectly assumed fixed the problem. It turned out the worker had simply not flipped a switch. Many attendees, including City Councilmen, complained of not seeing any SCE trucks in their neighborhood for many days after the storm. But most noted that SCE workers were polite and patient, if uninformed and misinformed.

Finally, Chatham also apologized for an "erroneous rumor" advanced by at least one SCE employee that SCE workers had to wait before repairing some lines and transformers until Arcadia City workers cleared fallen trees. That was never the case, she said, praising the cooperation and efficiency of city workers and management.

After pledging to do better in the future, Chatham stressed that SCE's response to the most important work of repairing downed lines and restoring power has been solid, reducing the number of impacted SCE customers from 430,000 to about 5,000 in six days. About 237 crews, including 10 line crews, have been working 24/7 (24-hour shifts followed by 10-hour breaks) to repair 152 downed poles and 70 destroyed transformers. SCE customers who continue to have problems should call SCE at 1-800-611-1911 or 1-800-655-4455.

Waste Management will conduct its normal weekly automated trash collection today (Wednesday, Dec. 7). Residents who need to get rid of additional refuse need to call Waste Management at 1-800-266-7551 so they can send an additional truck to collect up to 10 "bulky" bags of debris, a service Waste Management provides up to four times a year per customer. The company also offers bigger containers for a rental fee, and collection at a price of \$130 per container.

Department heads offered status reports at the Tuesday evening meeting, noting that there have been no injuries, deaths or storm-related crimes or vehicle accidents, although police have received 1,250 calls (300 calls to 9-1-1 on Day One), the Public Works department has received 785 calls, and the Arcadia Fire Department has received 400.

Seven buildings of the original 13 remain red-tagged as too unsafe to be occupied, awaiting work by SCE. Forty-four occupants of those buildings had to be evacuated.

The Council plans to meet again to determine how to deal with the clean-up of debris that is the responsibility of property owners.

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

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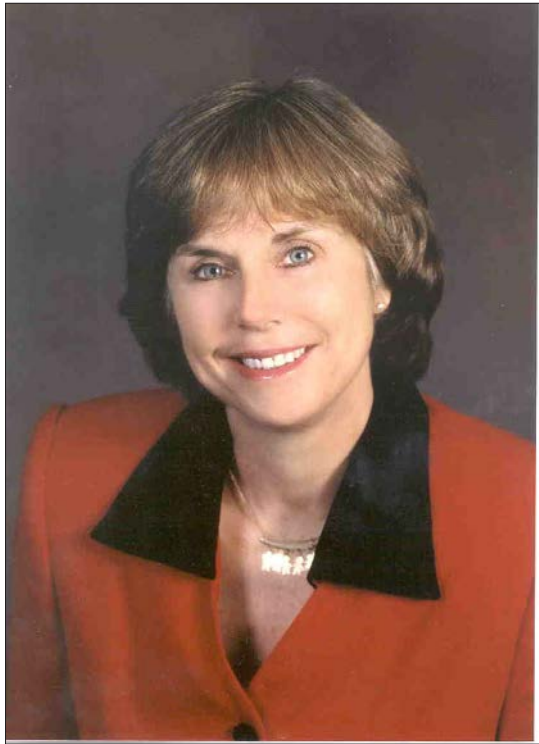
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## DUARTE COUNCILMEMBER MARGARET FINLAY AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS CORO FELLOWSHIP



Margaret Finlay, Councilmember and four-time Mayor of the City of Duarte, has been awarded the distinguished Coro Fellowship by the Southern California Association of Governments for the 2011-2012 academic year.

This prestigious fellowship is only granted to approximately 20 officials every year in the Southern California area. It is a nine month program designed to help executives in the public and non-profit areas hone their leadership skills. Some of the topics to be

tackled in the program this year relate to logic and understanding of outstanding school districts in areas that defy excellence in education, how Hip Hop has entered mainstream society and why it is here to stay, and the diminishing water resources in California.

The Coro Southern California Executive Fellows Program (EFP) is a part-time leadership program that enhances the skills of public officials to effect change in the communities they serve. Coro's Executive Fellows Program is not academic in the usual sense of the word. There are no lectures. A rigorous curriculum, interviews, and regional site visits are coupled with ample opportunity for self-governance. This process transforms assumptions about the dilemmas faced by civic leaders and allows them to better understand how to create strong relationships to get things done. The program is also an experience in individual growth and group dynamics. Coro's goal is to help translate what the participants learn into effective action for improving their organization's goals and outcomes, and to revitalize their leadership practice.

Finlay has an undergraduate degree in business from St. Mary's College at Notre Dame, Indiana and a Masters in Public Administration from Cal State Long Beach. "Continuing education is the key to keeping abreast of the changes that are occurring every day in our state," said Finlay. "If we don't seek to educate ourselves, then we are falling behind those cities that do have educated leaders. For that reason, I will continue to take time to keep our city ahead of the pack."

## Monrovia Police Blotter

*During the last seven-day period, December 1-7, the Police Department handled 858 service events, resulting in 91 investigations.*

### Monrovia's Emergency Operations Center Activated

On December 1 at 4:24 a.m., the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the City of Monrovia was activated due to the amount of damage created by windstorms. All available personnel were assigned to specific tasks to meet the demands on the calls for service regarding power outages, downed power lines and downed trees. The windstorms began the night before at approximately 11 p.m.; calls reporting property damage began after midnight. The Police Department received more than 500 calls for service in a 24-hour period. The calls ranged from residents trapped due to downed trees or power lines, preventing them from leaving their residences, to broken water lines. The appropriate departments were notified through the EOC. The entire day was spent answering calls for service due to the wind related incidents. While there were more than 500 calls for service, only two involved criminal investigations. The calls for service did not let up until after 9 p.m. The EOC was scaled down after midnight.

### Attempt Residential Burglary

On December 1 at 8:36 a.m., a resident in the 400 block of West Colorado reported an attempted burglary. Suspect(s) tampered with the deadbolt on the detached garage and cut the lock off a toolbox on a nearby trailer. The incident occurred sometime between 2:45 and 6:30 a.m. No suspects were seen or heard. Investigation continuing.

### Commercial Burglary / Forgery

On December 1 at 5:31 p.m., the owner of a business in the 400 block of West Foothill called to report that a female suspect had entered her business on November 19 and purchased several items using a check from a closed account. The female was identified through computer checks. The investigation is continuing.

### Petty Theft

On December 2 at 1:26 p.m., a resident in the 500 block of Falling Leaf called to report someone had stolen his laptop from his unlocked vehicle, which was parked in front of his residence during the night. No suspect(s) seen or heard. Investigation continuing.

### Vehicle Burglary

On December 2 at 6:54 p.m., a female resident in the 1000 block of Royal Oaks parked her vehicle in the parking lot of her apartment complex, leaving her purse inside the vehicle. The female was inside for about an hour, and when she returned, she discovered the passenger window had been smashed and her purse was taken. No suspect(s) were seen or heard. Investigation continuing.

### Vehicle Burglary

On December 2 at 8:37 p.m., a female subject called to report a vehicle burglary that occurred in the 1300 block of South Magnolia. She parked and locked her vehicle in a carport of an apartment complex. When she returned to her vehicle, she discovered her rear window smashed and her computer case and accessories missing. A citizen recovered some of the victim's property in the roadway at Canyon and Chestnut. The citizen called police and turned in the victim's property. The crime occurred sometime between 6:40 and 8:30 p.m. Investigation continuing.

### Traffic Collision / Driving Under the Influence - Suspect Arrested

On December 4 at 3:20 a.m., a vehicle collided with two parked vehicles in the 800 block of West Foothill. Officers responded and determined the driver to be driving under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested.

### Attempt Residential Burglary

On December 5 at 10:16 p.m., a resident in the

800 block of South Canyon called police to report an attempted burglary. The crime occurred sometime between noon and 10 p.m. The front door of the residence was forced open, but nothing was taken. Investigation continuing.

### Grand Theft Auto Recovery

On December 5 at 9:49 p.m., a vehicle was reported stolen from a business parking lot in the 500 block of West Huntington. The stolen vehicle was a white, four-door, 1994 Honda Accord. At approximately midnight, the Monrovia Police Department was notified by the California Highway Patrol that the vehicle was found abandoned on the 60 Freeway at Rosemead Boulevard. Investigation continuing.

### Possession of Narcotics - Suspect Arrested

On December 7 at 12:57 a.m., an officer stopped a bicyclist at Mayflower and Colorado for a traffic violation. During a consent search, the officer found a small baggie of cocaine. The suspect was arrested for possession of narcotics.

### Theft from a Vehicle

On December 7 at 7:47 a.m., a theft from a vehicle was reported in the 500 block of West Lime. The victim reported that someone went into his vehicle during the night and took his GPS System. The vehicle doors had been left unlocked. Investigation continuing.

### Residential Burglary

On December 7 at 1:34 p.m., an officer responded to the 700 block of Norumbega Drive regarding a burglary. The victim has been ill and was home asleep. Suspect(s) broke a bedroom window, gained entry, and stole jewelry from the room. The victim did not hear the glass breaking. He woke when he heard his bedroom door open and the lights went on and off quickly. He did not see the person and thought it was the cleaning lady. Investigation continuing.

### Vehicle Burglary

On December 7 at 3:52 p.m., a vehicle burglary was reported in the 700 block of South Myrtle at an apartment complex. The victim reported that his locked vehicle had been broken into sometime on Saturday, December 3. His GPS System, iPod, and some coins were taken. Investigation continuing.

### Domestic Violence - Suspect Arrested

On December 7 at 4:02 p.m., a female victim of domestic violence called to report an incident that occurred in the 900 block of Diamond. The female victim reported that she had been battered by her live-in boyfriend, who is the father of her child. He struck her in the head several times with a closed fist and left the location on foot. The officer learned the suspect might be on his way to Pasadena. The Pasadena Police Department was notified of the incident and within the hour Pasadena called to advise they were detaining the suspect. The officer responded to Pasadena and arrested the suspect.

### Theft from a Vehicle

On December 7 at 8:42 p.m., a theft from an unlocked vehicle was reported in the 200 block of West Lemon. The

### Detective Bureau Case Follow-Ups

Search Warrant - On December 6, detectives went to Anaheim to serve a search warrant for a stolen laptop computer. The computer was stolen from a vehicle at Homestead Village. The laptop was equipped with a tracking device. The tracking service was able to produce the Facebook page for a possible suspect and an address associated with the IP address. The detectives recovered the computer. The investigation to identify the suspect continues.

Search Warrant - On December 7, detectives went to Winnetka to serve a search warrant on a counterfeit suspect. The detectives did not find any more counterfeit bills, but they did seize a usable amount of methamphetamine.

### FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER - SCOTT OCHOA

## WINDSTORMS WREAK HAVOC

It began late at night on Wednesday, November 30 - winds whipping and whistling through trees and down streets. The power in our area went out about 1 a.m. Within a couple of hours, City of Monrovia personnel were mobilizing for the aftermath of a wild windstorm.

Public Works Director Ron Bow was called out in the wee hours of Thursday morning, December 1. Tasked with being the Incident Commander, Ron performed an initial assessment with on-duty police and fire personnel. He then called me and I reported to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 4:30 a.m.

Over the ensuing 12 hours, Monrovia personnel from all departments - from public safety and Public Works to Administrative Services and Community Services - swung into their respective roles as first-responders. Some staff were called out early to begin working on damage assessments, public outreach and communications/IT infrastructure. Others, who reported to work at their normal time, were put to work in the EOC or in the field. Still others were sent home and directed to return at a later time to take a shift in the EOC, as we were operating 24/7.

I have to say, all of our people performed in exemplary fashion - their training, their resourcefulness and flexibility, and their endurance were on full display. I do believe that Monrovia responded faster and with more resources than any other agency affected by the windstorms. We kept field crews working all night, staffed the main City Hall switchboard so that folks could actually have a live person to talk to, and constantly updated all of our various media. Augmented by community members, such as our CERT volunteers and local contractor Steve Pokrajac's heavy equipment crews, Monrovia's clean-up efforts have been accelerated greatly!

This event was definitely a challenge for folks. Considering the damage estimate of between \$3.5 and \$4 million, and the response-cost estimate of \$450,000, this event was indeed a disaster. Still, we are lucky that we, as a community, got such a relatively benign wake-up call about disaster preparedness. Had this been a major earthquake or wildfire, I do worry that not enough of our homes are prepared to be self-sufficient for the first 72 hours. No doubt, we will circle

back to residents and use this incident as a training opportunity.

We closed down the EOC operation on Tuesday, the 6th, once we confirmed that all of Southern California Edison's (SCE) circuit's were back in service. Though it did take several days for the power to be restored, SCE deserves kudos for working around the clock to make repairs. To the extent that it did take a long time for the power to come back on, that should give an indication of just how devastating and far-reaching the damage truly was.

If you have any questions about the incident please contact Public Works Director Ron Bow. If you have any questions about disaster preparedness for your home or business, please contact Fire Chief Chris Donovan.

### City Council Recap

Tuesday's meeting was interesting mostly for the discussion that was had by the Council regarding Councilman Clarence Shaw's seat. As you may know, Councilman Shaw is currently serving on active duty in the US Army until the summer of 2012. A longtime reservist, Mr. Shaw was activated this past summer and sent to Washington State. Under existing law, absences by Councilmembers serving in the armed forces receive special consideration. Specifically, the Councilmember in question does not have to relinquish his seat during his tour of duty. That is, the council seat remains his, subject only to the outcome of an election. That said, the law does allow the remaining Councilmembers to appoint a temporary "caretaker" to the seat until the original Councilmember returns. Until now, the Monrovia City Council has not wanted to fill the seat in honor of Mr. Shaw's service and because Mr. Shaw had asked that the seat be left open. Recently, however, a tie vote (because there is currently only an even-number of Councilmembers) led Councilmember Tom Adams to ask that this matter be reconsidered.

Ultimately, the Council directed that the City Attorney and I consult with Councilman Shaw to determine definitively whether he can participate in Council deliberations during his tour of active duty. If he is precluded from participation, then the Council may reconsider the temporary appointment.

In other Council business, the Council voted unanimously to extend Athens Services' Old Town franchise through 2012 while the new commercial recycling program is developed, and to grant Athens' contractually-set-out annual rate increase for Old Town customers.

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The MAD Town Council is committed to helping the unincorporated areas of Monrovia, Arcadia, and Duarte. The Council links County Services, Sheriffs Dept., Pamela Park Staff, Cities and the Supervisors office to better serve our community. The MAD Town Council is looking for interested community members to serve as Board Members.

**Meetings 7pm:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month**  
**Pamela Park odd number months**  
**Annunciation Parish Hall even number months**

**If you are interested or you know someone who would be interested in serving our community and lives in the unincorporated part of Monrovia, Arcadia, or Duarte please contact: Council President David Hall at (626) 616-9332**



THE GAYLE BLUEMEL AUDITORIUM

Former Sierra Madre School Principal Gayle Bluemel was honored Wednesday with a festive evening celebrating her 38 years as an educator in the Pasadena Unified School District. Since 2006, she has been Principal of Sierra Madre School, both campuses, and under her leadership, the school was ranked as one of the top schools academically, statewide. The Performing Arts were also an important part of Bluemel's legacy at the school and as a fitting tribute to her, the Lower Campus school auditorium was renamed in her honor. As part of the celebration, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students presented a Holiday Spotlight focusing on the Arts and History around the world.

On the right, Bluemel is pictured with PUSD Board Vice President Ed Honowitz as the wall plaque bearing her likeness is unveiled.



Below, students from the upper campus perform.

Photos by S.Henderson/F. Thomas

LA SALLE "ADOPTS" 139 CHILDREN FOR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Pasadena, CA – La Salle High School's Student Life members joined with Maryvale and Hillside Services for its 17th Annual Adopt-a-Family program. On Saturday, December 10, hundreds of students, parents, children and families enjoyed games, attacking the Grinch, face painting, Christmas

Carols, bingo and a delicious lunch at the Adopt-A-Family Christmas party. Santa and his elves arrived to visit with the children at the party and help distribute Christmas presents. During the week preceding the party, students wrapped hundreds of gifts for 76 foster and needy children from Hillside and

56 orphaned girls from Maryvale.

"It is a wonderful and generous way for our students and alumni to start the Christmas Season," said Michelle Grima, Student Life Service Coordinator. "Everyone truly has a great time!"



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**  
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**Hall Pass**

Looking Into The Life Of A Teenager

By Meaghan Allen

**BENEFITS OF TEA**

As the year comes to a close, so does the semester which means, of course, finals - cramming late into the night, study sessions that aren't too successful with friends, and lots of caffeine. Usually, this means the coffee pot is running non-stop with strong, dark coffee that resembles oil more than the widely consumed drink. This year, however, I have decided to continue my methods of exploration and opt for tea, English Breakfast to be exact, instead of coffee.

Although the caffeine content is significantly less, there is something more sophisticated and relaxing about tea. It also lacks the negative effects of late nights even though you're tired because of the caffeine buzz or increased heart rate combined with your already tense nerves. Not to mention there are so many varieties of tea: Candycane Lane, Green, Sleepytime, and so many more! So this year, as you study for finals, grab a cup o' tea instead of coffee, sit back, and relax.

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SHOGUN

Where can you romance a first date or frolic with good friends, Shogun Restaurant. It blends a circus of excitement that yields the mind to the samurai carrying John Belushi and a Hollywood director with a healthy pyro-technic budget.

The restaurant is a Japanese Teppanyaki-style operation. Teppanyaki being a combination of two words: Teppan meaning iron plate and Yaki meaning grill. Hibachi is likely the word that is most common to the ear of Americans and is closely tied to Teppanyaki.

TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills  
thechefknows@yahoo.com

Do you want to impress, appear hip and be entertaining? Then Shogun is the bevy of complimentary entertainment that you seek. The atmosphere is island like as the rectangular grill flames in the anticipation of eight different meals, as your food and others is artfully prepared before you. Some of the chefs are uniquely funny and can make your time with them most memorable. From the seafood to meat lovers, Shogun Japanese Restaurant offers everything to maximize your experience.

The seating at Shogun is distinctive as you seat at a horseshoe shape pattern that seats 8 with the centerpiece being a large grill. Behind the grill is the chef conducting a comedy routine and a food preparation clinic, cooking class and fire-show that keeps you, or someone in your party looking for a fire extinguisher at all times. The chefs wear skyscraper hats that fetch flying objects when a chef's spatula flips an item toward the sky. And the knives swirl about like a warrior conducting a mission. The chefs here are not just moving your food around, they are performing acrobatic tricks with your meal. I do not want to spoil this for first timers (ask for the volcano) but let me warn you, I have lost a few eyebrow hairs when I was peeking a little too closely. Mix in the sounds that complete this performance and you have one of the most unique beginnings to any meal in town. It is the closest thing to dinner theatre that I am aware of without being at one. If you bring your kids, they will be talking about this for days or weeks after. Be sure to keep matches away from them so little Einstein does not conduct experiments.

If you do not bring a group, you will be seated with others. It's almost like speed dating, in that one moment you are waiting to be seated and the next moment you are paired with strangers. Sometime it works great and you meet some very nice people, other times? Oh well. You are stuck.

The menu offers shrimp, New York Steak, Chicken, Lobster and, my buddy Laffit Pincay's favorite is the Lobster Tail at (\$42.50). Shogun isn't cheap. Heck, with all the lights, grills and chefs, the overhead must be enormous. Prices range from (\$16.75) to (\$42.50). My favorite is the Mikado, Filet Mignon and Lobster (\$39.95) and The Fuji with steak, shrimp and diver scallop (\$36.95). There is a child's menu in the (\$9) range to help keep this affordable for the whole family.

The lunch menu is slightly less pricey with virtually the same menu. There is a small Sushi Bar with adjacent seating for those who want a quiet evening. Call me crazy, but how could anyone ever get tired of this show? For me, it is all about the main dining room and all the action!

Suggestions: A great place for a party. If it's your birthday, you get a hat, dessert and all the servers sing to you as they clap with a tambourine (reminds me of the Partridge family). Birthdays are very popular, and people return year after year for their special day. They probably just really love those hats – what do you think?  
Reservations: Reservations essential for weekends. Unfortunately, even if you have found a favorite chef or server, you can't "reserve" a table with them. In my humble opinion, the Mai Tai's need some improvement, but they have a full bar and Sake selection, so there are options.

Maybe it is the kid in me, but I never seem to tire of this place. If you want to be the Father or Mother of the month, bring them here because they will remember it.

This is Peter Dills heading out the door for next week's article. I only hope I have half the fun that I did researching Shogun. OW - I think I burnt myself.

Shogun is located at 470 Halstead Pasadena, Full Bar (626) 351-8945. Lunch and Dinner. Please go to their website www.restaurantshogun.com for updated prices and menu.

Email me your thoughts to thechefknows@yahoo.com Listen to me on Sunday at 12 Noon - KABC Talk Radio 790 AM.



INGREDIENTS

- 18 OREO Cookies, finely crushed (about 1-1/2 cups)
- 2 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 4 pkg. (8 oz. each) PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened
- 1-1/2 cups sugar, divided
- 1 tsp.vanilla
- 4 eggs
- 6 squaresBAKER'S Semi-Sweet Chocolate, melted, cooled slightly
- 2 tsp. cornstarch
- 1/2 cupwater
- 2 cups pitted frozen cherries
- 1 tsp.Mexican cinnamon (canela)

DIRECTIONS

HEAT oven to 325°F.

MIX cookie crumbs and butter; press onto bottom of 9-inch springform pan.

BEAT cream cheese, 1 cup sugar and vanilla in large bowl with mixer until well blended. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating on low speed after each just until blended. Reserve 3 cups batter. Add melted chocolate to remaining batter; mix well. Pour over crust. Carefully spoon reserved batter over chocolate batter.

BAKE 1 hour 5 min. or until center is almost set. Run knife around rim of pan to loosen cake; cool before removing rim. Refrigerate 4 hours.

MEANWHILE, mix cornstarch and water in medium saucepan. Stir in remaining sugar. Add cherries; stir. Bring to boil on medium-high heat, stirring constantly; cook and stir on medium heat 2 min. or until sugar is dissolved and sauce is thickened. Stir in cinnamon. Cool completely. Refrigerate until ready to spoon over cheesecake just before serving.

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SEAN’S SHAMELESS  
REVIEWS:  
“OSCAR” CONTENDERS &  
“SUNDANCE” MOVIES WORTH  
SKIPPING

In “Rampart,” Woody Harrelson portrays Dave “Date Rape” Brown, a dirty cop under investigation for his crimes during the LAPD’s Rampart scandal. While being hailed as a “masterful” performance by Harrelson, I really can’t say the same about the movie. The storytelling is distorted and the viewer is never truly immersed into what’s being presented to them on screen. “Rampart” feels like a series of scenes barely connected together with an ambiguous ending (if you can call that a true ending) that ultimately leads to an entirely unsatisfying viewing experience. You can’t really knock the dynamite performance by Harrelson, but despite the deep character study, the supporting players (which includes some famous names) feel non-genuine, one-dimensional, and flat. When all is said and done (which feels like little was both said or done), you’re left wondering what the point of the entire film was. Director Owen Moverman directed the fantastic 2009 film, “The Messenger”, but with “Rampart” he’s definitely taken a step in the wrong direction. Profoundly disappointing and lacking a cohesive plot, “Rampart” is a slowly paced, uninspiring slog of a film.

“The Descendants” puts George Clooney on the radar for next year’s Academy Awards. However, it’ll be an obligatory nomination because it’s Clooney we’re talking about. His performance, while satisfactory, is by no means “Oscar” worthy. Clooney stars as Matt King, an indifferent husband and father of two girls, whose wife is involved in a potentially tragic boating accident. Unequipped to handle the responsibility of raising two girls (ages ten and seventeen), Clooney finds himself in limbo and somewhat lost. To add to the stress, he’s in the middle of negotiating a deal to sell his family’s land handed down from Hawaiian royalty and missionaries. “The Descendants” isn’t a horrible film, but it’s noting spectacular either. At least not in the way it could have been, especially coming from renowned “Sideways” writer and director, Alexander Payne. Easily the best parts of the movie involve Clooney and his ten-year-old daughter (Amara Miller). Additionally, the older sister (Shailene Woodley) often upstages Clooney. I was hoping “The Descendants” was going to be moving, inspirational, and tug at the strings of my heart. In the end, it barely reaches any of those heights. I’m only left with idea of what it could have truly accomplished. Looks like I’ll have to invest those eminent expectations in another film.

2011 Sundance flick, “I Melt With You,” stars Thomas Jane, Rob Lowe, Jeremy Piven, and Christian McKay as four old college buddies getting together for a drug induced week getaway. The first 45 minutes is awash with heavy drug use, music video type cinematography and a loud, semi-aggressive soundtrack. After the barrage of drugs and partying with both younger men and women, the film takes a very expected dark turn. It takes a lengthy time getting there and even a longer time coming to a resolution. “I Melt With You” will definitely split audiences as it remains largely convoluted, controversial, and rather depressing. I’m not entirely sure what kind of audience this movie was intended for, but I know I was left out in the cold. Four middle age men at crossroads, all of which bear a haunted past or present life isn’t all that enticing to moviegoers. None of the guys are in any way much likable with the slight exception of Christian McKay’s character. However, you really don’t know anything about these buddies. Their demons are scattered throughout the movie, but you find no sympathy or connection to these self-absorbed men. A letter at the end of the movie shows up that practically tries to sum up the last two hours, but it’s way too late for any last minute pleas. The filmmaker’s intentions remain clearly unknown (possibly to even themselves?) because this film means absolutely nothing. A bloated (122 minutes), toxic, miserable movie trying to be different, artsy and meaningful comes together poorly, misguided, and ornate.

Jeff’s Pics The Book Report  
by Jeff Brown

THE HOUR I FIRST BELIEVED: A NOVEL BY WALLY LAMB

In this book, Lamb embodies in his fiction myth, psychology, family history stretching back many generations, and the questions of faith that lie at the heart of everyday life. The result is an extraordinary tale, at once a meditation on the human condition and an unflinching yet compassionate evocation of character. When high school teacher Caelum Quirk and his younger wife, Maureen, a school nurse, move to Colorado, they both get jobs at Columbine High School. In April 1999, Caelum returns home to Three Rivers, Connecticut, to be with his aunt who has just had a stroke. But Maureen finds herself in the school library at Columbine, cowering in a cabinet and expecting to be killed, as two vengeful students go on a premeditated, murderous rampage. Miraculously she survives, but at a cost: she is unable to recover from the trauma. Caelum and Maureen flee Colorado and return to an illusion of safety at the Quirk family farm in Three Rivers. But the effects of chaos are not so easily put right, and further tragedy ensues. While Maureen fights to regain her sanity, Caelum discovers a cache of old diaries, letters, and newspaper clippings in an upstairs bedroom of his family’s house. The colorful and intriguing story they recount spans five generations of Quirk family ancestors, from the Civil War era to Caelum’s own troubled childhood. As Caelum grapples with unexpected and confounding revelations from the past, he also struggles to fashion a future out of the ashes of tragedy. His personal quest for meaning and faith becomes a mythic journey that is both contemporary and American. Recommended by Alison Snow Wesley from Friends of the Library.

SPONTANEOUS HAPPINESS BY DR. ANDREW WEIL

Everyone wants to be happy. But what does that really mean? Increasingly, scientific evidence shows us that true satisfaction and well being come only from within. Dr. Weil has proven that the best way to maintain optimum physical health is to draw on both conventional and alternative medicine. He gives us the foundation for attaining and sustaining optimum emotional health. Rooted in integrative medicine, the book suggests a reinterpretation of the notion of happiness, discusses the limitations of the biomedical model in treating depression, and elaborates on the inseparability of body and mind. Dr. Weil offers an array of scientifically proven strategies from Eastern and Western psychology to counteract low mood and enhance contentment, comfort, resilience, serenity, and emotional balance. These strategies include body oriented therapies to support emotional wellness, techniques for managing stress and anxiety and changing mental habits that keep us stuck in negative patterns, and advice on developing a spiritual dimension in our lives. Whether you are struggling with depression or simply want to feel happier, his revolutionary approach will shift the paradigm of emotional health and help you achieve greater contentment in your life.

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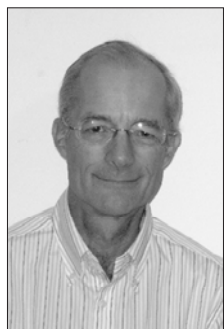
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## HOWARD Hays As I See It



"We have got to send a constitutional amendment to the states that says, simply and straight-forwardly, what everyone, except for five members of the United States Supreme Court, seems to understand, and that is, corporations are not people. Bank of America is not a person. Exxon Mobil is not a person."

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

President Obama paid tribute to Teddy Roosevelt recently, reminding us of parallels to the "trust buster" president who a century ago took on the Gilded Age robber barons lording over our nation's economy. They also held ownership over our Congress and statehouses, and in his speech on the Senate floor, Sen. Sanders evoked that history by reminding that since Roosevelt's time corporate money has been banned from politics - until the Citizens United Supreme Court decision of two years ago.

The proposed amendment would overturn that decision by declaring a) corporations are not people with constitutional rights enjoyed by people, b) corporations are subject to regulations by people, c) corporations can't make campaign contributions, and d) Congress and states can regulate campaign finances.

Sen. Sanders explained, "At a time when corporations have more than \$2 trillion in cash in their bank accounts and are making record-breaking profits, the American people should be concerned when the Supreme Court says that these corporations have a constitutionally-protected right to spend shareholders' money to dominate an election as if they were real, live persons."

In addition, he decried prohibitions against states and localities attempting on their own to keep money out of politics, and in the court's inventing a "right" to secrecy among donors. This disallowing of disclosure requirements renders meaningless the laws against infusion of foreign money, or money from foreign-controlled corporations, into our electoral process.

Sen. Sanders cited a recent Politico report that the industrialist Koch brothers are planning to inject \$200 million into the 2012 campaigns. In an open secret, he stated the obvious by explaining, "Whatever powerful and wealthy special interests members of Congress are prepared to take on -- on behalf of the interest of the middle class and working families of this country -- they will know in the back of their mind that there may be a flood of money coming in to their state. They're going to think twice about how to cast that vote."

"When the Supreme Court says that for purposes of the First Amendment, corporations are people, that writing checks from the company's bank account is constitutionally-protected speech and that attempts by the federal government and states to impose reasonable restrictions on campaign ads are unconstitutional, when that occurs, our democracy is in grave danger."



## CONFESSIONS OF A CHILD JANITOR

By Tina Dupuy

My first job was cleaning the group home I lived in. True story. I participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program part of the Job Training Partnership Act passed during Reagan's first term. It was a War on Poverty federal program considered to be an economic stimulus and a way to keep teenagers off the streets. I was in foster care and had just barely turned 14; I went to a few seminars on job skills and was given a job "super cleaning" for minimum wage (\$4.25). I pulled in about \$75 a week... before taxes.

I learned two things at that job: one, horizontal blinds are a malevolent plague on society; and two, Republicans don't care about people who work.

No, Republicans, in general, and disgraced former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, specifically, concern themselves with their fickle "job creators" and not the staple of the American economy: job workers.

The overpaid, overfed, and over-hyped Gingrich said to an audience at a Nationwide Insurance luncheon earlier this month, "Really poor children in really poor neighborhoods have no habits of working and have nobody around them who works, so they literally have no habit of showing up on Monday."

Gingrich is willfully ignorant of the fact you can work and still be "really poor" in this country. You can show up every Monday and do your job faithfully and STILL not make a living. If you work full-time at the federal minimum wage you'll pull in \$15,000 a year before taxes (and yes, they do take social security, state and federal taxes out of those paychecks). Add children to the equation and it's worse than the working poor - it's the working impoverished.

Now 49 million Americans live in poverty - with 2.6 million falling into the category last year. That's 16 percent of Americans. There are more Americans living in poverty than there are Canadians on the planet.

Gingrich is trying to equate poverty with a moral shortcoming. It's a warped offshoot of the prosperity gospel - riches are a sign of god's love - poverty is a sign of his indifference.

But also in Gingrich's richer-and-therefore-holier-than-thou diatribe is an attempt to

Another proposed amendment was introduced early last month by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM), which specifically addressed the issue of allowing Congress and states to regulate campaign spending. In addition to Citizens United, which equated corporations with people, it would also overturn Buckley vs. Valeo (1976), which equated money with speech.

"Campaigns should be about the best ideas, not the biggest checkbooks," explained Sen. Udall. Another backer, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) added, "It is something we have to do something about if we are going to reclaim American democracy as the shining light to other countries that it has always been."

A corresponding version of Sen. Udall's amendment was introduced in the House by Rep. Betty Sutton (D-OH), with the House version of Sen. Sanders' proposal introduced by Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL).

Rep. Deutch named his amendment after the movement that spread across the country, and the world, over the past few months: "No matter how long protesters camp out across America, big banks will continue to pour money into shadow groups promoting candidates more likely to slash Medicaid for poor children than help families facing foreclosure. . . . No matter how strongly Ohio families fight for basic fairness for workers, the Koch Brothers will continue to pour millions into campaigns aimed at protecting the wealthiest 1%. No matter how fed up seniors in South Florida are with an agenda that puts oil subsidies ahead of Social Security and Medicare, corporations will continue to fund massive publicity campaigns and malicious attack ads against the public interest. Americans of all stripes agree that for far too long, corporations have occupied Washington and drowned out the voices of the people. I introduced the OCCUPIED Amendment because the days of corporate control of our democracy must end. It is time to return the nation's capital and our democracy to the people."

Today, Republicans hold unemployment insurance and extension of the payroll tax cut hostage, and once again threaten to shut down our government, over demands to gut environmental protection. The president's nominee to head the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau can't get a hearing not because of doubts over his qualifications, but in order to kill the CFPB before it can get started. These are not actions taken for the good of the country, but at the behest of corporate sponsors.

It's a major task obtaining two-thirds approval in both houses of Congress, and the endorsement of 38 of 50 states, but, as Sen. Sanders pointed out, constitutional struggles establishing racial and gender equality were generational causes.

A much-noted sign at an "Occupy" protest read, "I'll believe a corporation's a person when Texas executes one." Corporations are not people. Corporations do not love their country. Corporations do not worry about the future their children will inherit. Our country belongs to We the People. Corporations do not have a family member at Arlington or Westwood that gave their life to ensure it stays that way.

bust unions. He suggested firing union janitors to hire children to clean their own schools. Yes, a janitor with a job that pays him enough to live on is, in Gingrich's eyes, a problem. In the call for hiring children and ending child labor laws is also the call to end working for a living.

All the anchors of a middle-class living (pensions, benefits, decent salaries) are being dubbed "luxuries" by Republicans, to be sacrificed so magical "job creators" can be cajoled into saving us all.

Because, really, the greatest threat to America is that janitors are paid too much. Please. Wealthy janitors are, to borrow Gingrich's phrase, "an invented people."

Gingrich has a dark vision for a Shining City Upon a Hill: where poor children work in place of union labor. It's basically the 20th century played in reverse.

Working (even scrubbing toilets) should mean making a living. If someone who works is still eligible for food stamps and government assistance - it's really the employer who is federally subsidized. These "job creators" are taking advantage of government programs so they won't have to cut into their profit margins to pay living wages.

The best example of this is also the biggest private employer in the country: Walmart.

If Newt and his Republican same-thinks want to go after Welfare Queens and those who don't value work - go after the Walmart heirs. According to economist Sylvia Allegretto in 2007 the six Walmart heirs owned more than the bottom 30 percent of Americans. And that was four years ago when their wealth was estimated at \$69.7 billion, now it's thought to be around \$93 billion.

Will Newt take them on? No, Gingrich is showing his courage as a K Street custodian by kicking the little guys. Because really, it's not that poor children need jobs to make them better workers - it's that jobs need to be better to adult workers.

Is this kind of bravery to take on the least powerful (and some imaginary) among us resonating with Republicans?

Well, he is the new front-runner.

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Tina Dupuy is an award-winning writer and the managing editor of Crooks and Liars. Tina can be reached at tinadupuy@yahoo.com.

This column has been edited by the author. Representations of fact and opinions are solely those of the author.

## Corporate Welfare



Most of the time when media pundits compare the Tea Party with the Occupy-Whatever-Town-They-Happen-To-Be-In crown, the comparison is wishful thinking on the part of the media elites who are hoping to transfer some of the Tea Party's hard-won credibility to the occupy crowd. So it's truly a newsworthy event when that comparison is legitimate, as is the case with regard to corporate welfare.

Corporate welfare, as most readers know, is a system of government handouts or tax credits awarded to the politically connected corporate classes. This is money taken from the pockets of the 99% and given - via the local or national politician - to some corporation. The great irony of the most recent example of this is the fact that it is Obama's home state, Illinois, which is all too willing to engage in this unseemly process.

Some of you readers may know that Illinois recently decided to impose a 67% increase in state income taxes and to then increase corporate income taxes further. It seems as though this increased tax burden has prompted two of the state's most significant employers to consider moving their operations elsewhere. Mind you, these companies are not talking about just opening new facilities in some other state. No, Sears and The Chicago Mercantile Board of Trade are actually considering shuttering their existing facilities in Illinois and opening them in a more tax-realistic state.

Indiana has been fairly responsive to the perverse incentives created by Illinois politicians. Indiana's governor, Mitch Daniels, has already persuaded more than a dozen Illinois companies to relocate to the Hoosier State simply by pointing out that tax rates are more reasonable there. Given the ludicrously which passes for fiscal wisdom in Illinois, it's miraculous that more of the state's industry and commerce hasn't uprooted.

That's where corporate welfare comes into play. Rather than admit that their tax structure is excessively burdensome and is driving away employers (hence jobs), Illinois politicians would rather maintain their triple-A rated liberal credentials by raising taxes on "the rich" and then granting waivers to those members of the rich which are smart enough and politically

connected enough to obtain relief from those taxes - hence corporate welfare.

As of this writing, the Illinois legislature is seeking to pass legislation which would grant the Chicago Mercantile Board an estimated \$85 million tax exemption and grant Sears a \$15 million exemption. In a state the size of Illinois, it defies logic to think that there are only two corporations in the state. This means that two out of however many are the only ones to receive special dispensation from the state's tax burden. Every other corporation in the state, and all the individual tax payers - the 99% - are left to foot the bill for the Merc and Sears.

You have to give the Occupy crowd credit for righteous anger at this one - of course the Tea Party crowd is equally upset about this, but they don't threaten to burn down the whole state because they're angry.

The point is that humans and corporations (which are really only collections of humans, after all) are for the most part rational. If you raise their taxes beyond a certain level, they will react by either decreasing their economic activity or by moving their economic activity to another location with lower, more reasonable, taxes. The lesson is that tax rates do affect incentives.

Perhaps this will be an occasion when citizens of all political persuasions can unite to bring about some manner of fiscal discipline. Tax burdens are too high. If we want the economy and employment to improve, we have to insist on spending restraint and reasonable tax rates.

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,

## "WHAT EVERY BUSINESS OWNER NEEDS TO KNOW"

*A checklist of "must-reads" for serious entrepreneurs*

"What Every Business Owner Needs to Know"

420 Total Word Count

A checklist of "must-reads" for serious entrepreneurs

by La Quetta M. Shamblee, MBA

Local and regional publications like newspapers are good barometers for what's happening in the business environment. Stories on upcoming developments in the region and articles on consumer trends are readily available with a small investment of time, and often free of charge. Every entrepreneur benefits from identifying the most useful sets of information that apply to their respective businesses, and learning how to use it to their strategic advantage in the planning and execution of their business activities.

The following checklist includes four basic must reads" for businesses that want to get a keep a competitive edge.

1) Local and regional newspapers let you know what's happening at ground zero, in your front and back yard on a regular basis. These outlets include reports about current and pending events and decisions that could have an adverse impact or your operations, or that could spell opportunity.

2) Professional or trade publications specific to the industry for you business keep you abreast of standards, best practices, new products and services, and industry trends. Many of these publications are produced monthly or quarterly by professional groups or associations and are usually included with annual memberships, with interim updates often provided at their websites. Some offer paid subscriptions to non-members Staying plugged in to this type of information sources guarantees that you will stay near the head of the pack in knowing what's happening in your industry.

3) Websites or magazines popular with your target audience(s) help acclimate you to what makes your customers tick. The better you

understand them, the better you can market to them. One of the best ways is to become one of them as it relates to taking time to read (or at least peruse) the types of books, magazines and websites they read, watch the cable stations and movies they watch, join the online social networks they join and spend time familiarizing yourself with the trends that they seem to be following.

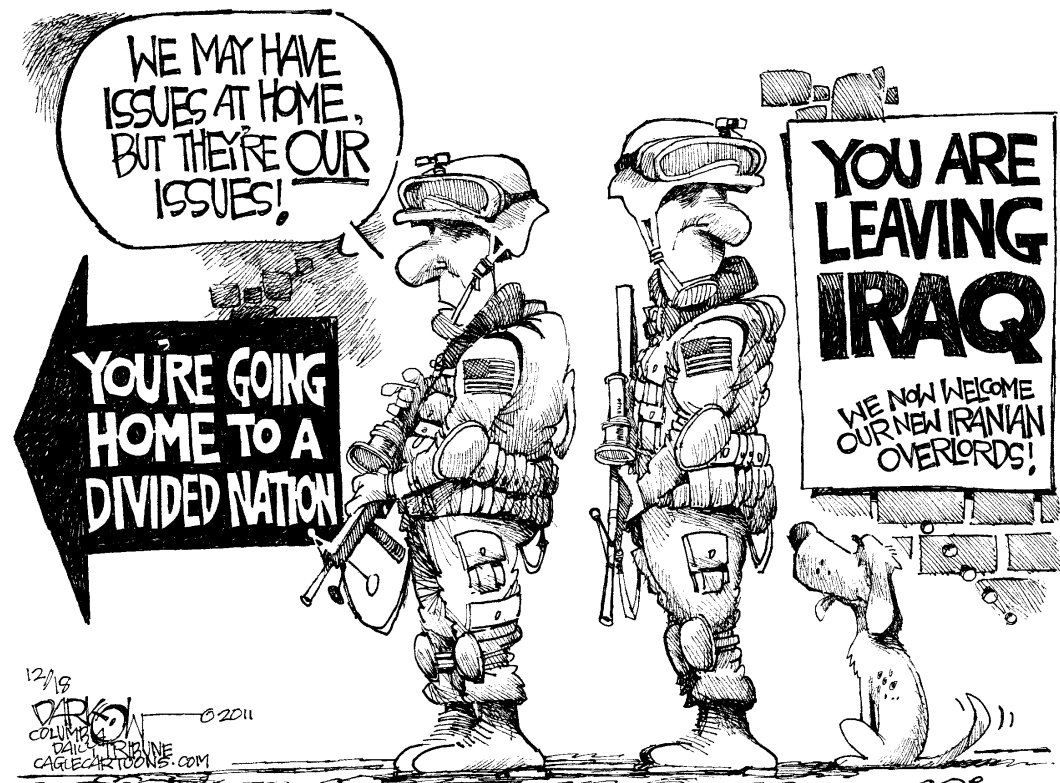
4) Economic reports and forecasts provide you with detailed information that can have a direct and significant impact on what happens in your business. Since this information always determines how and when decisions will be made by government and major corporations, it is prudent to schedule time to read at minimum, an annual report prepared for your geographic region by a respected source. (For an online library of free reports that can be viewed/downloaded from the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership's website, visit [www.valleyconnect.com](http://www.valleyconnect.com) and click the "Library" tab to access "Economic Data & Reports." that can be used till holds some relevance when it comes to the importance of knowing as much as you can about the region where your business is located.

Every business that is serious about improving the bottom line must have someone on board who is aware of owner who is serious about improving the A list of must-reads for business owners in San Gabriel Valley includes

By becoming aware and stayed attuned to what national and regional reports have to say has massive and direct influence on the opportunities that will be available to a small business.

The most successful business owners are those who understand and implement "best practices" in all key areas of their operations. standard business practices manage the fundamental components that are key. It is also the time for aspiring entrepreneurs to take the leap into creating their dreams.

It is a well-known fact that small businesses provide the innovation and jobs that fuel the economy.





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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 Christmas 2011 -- Birth of a New Tradition

As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods --merchandise that has been produced at the expense of

American labor.

This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands.

Yes there is! It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper?

Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local American hair salon or barber? Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plonking down the Benjamin's on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town-Americans

with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the American working guy?

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.

My computer could use a tune-up, and I KNOW I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre.

Musicians need love too, so find avenue showcasing local bands. Honestly, people, do you REALLY need to buy another ten thousand Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a five dollar string of light, about fifty cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, trash guy or babysitter a nice BIG tip.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining American pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about US, encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine.

THIS is the new American Christmas tradition.

## OUT TO PASTOR A Weekly Religion Column



## CHRISTMAS FRUITCAKE ALWAYS GETS A BAD RAP

Rev. James L. Snyder

Many reasons exist why a person should love and embrace the Christmas season. I hear of those who attack the Christmas season and I take no notice to them at all. The thing that keeps buffoons energized his attention paid to them. If they were really serious about their so-called beliefs, they would leave the country during the Christmas season and go somewhere where it is not celebrated.

My recommendation is the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

Ignoring the holiday buffoons, I snuggle down and enjoy the Christmas festivities. So much about the season to savor and enjoy.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has our home all decorated for the Christmas season. In the evening, we sit down in the living room among all of the decorations, sip our hot cocoa and have a healthy slice of Christmas fruitcake.

When it comes to decorating things, I don't even have a thumb. During this time, I envy those who are all thumbs. My decorating expertise is simply to enjoy the work done. And that I do.

I love everything about the Christmas season, except maybe shopping in the mall. I think there should be some kind of a law restricting shopping in the mall. It is not that I hate going to the mall... well, I guess if I am truthful, I really do hate going to the mall. If they had a nice good used bookstore, I might see my way to the mall more often and deliberately.

Apart from the mall, the Christmas season is a terrific time to be alive.

I love the Christmas trees. Go ahead and call it a "Holiday Tree" if you do not mind letting other people know how stupid you really sound. Solomon, in the Old Testament, had some of these people in mind when he wrote, "Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding." (Proverbs 17:28 KJV). If it is a "Holiday Tree," which holiday does it represent?

I love all the decorations associated with this time of year. Throughout the year, everything seems to be rather drab, but when Christmas comes along things begin to brighten up.

I love all the stories associated with Christmas. Yes, I know some of them are just stories made up; but every once in a while it is good to listen to a story. The fact that somebody has accused Santa's reindeer's of bullying poor little Rudolph only indicate that some people do not know the difference between fact and fiction.

Do not let this get out, but, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer does not even exist. He is just a made-up character in a Christmas story. I know

that will come as a shock to many people, but the truth is the truth no matter whom it hurts.

I love the music of Christmas. Particularly, because 90% of the Christmas music is religious. Go figure? Nothing is more inspiring than listening to a choir sing Handel's Messiah. Of course, there is a danger that the wrong people will get a hold of this great piece of music and want to change the title. I am looking for someone to protest this and insist we call it, "Handel's Person."

The music of Christmas is uplifting and inspiring despite all the naysayers that seem to come out of the ground during this time of the year. I wish they would stay underground and celebrate whatever they celebrate with Punxsutawney Phil.

Dare I mention the food of Christmas? I'm going to anyway. The best thing about the food at Christmas time is that nobody, and when I am talking about nobody, I am referring of course to my wife, says, "You shouldn't be eating that." The beauty of Christmas food is that you can eat it whenever and as much as you like.

When I come back for my second slice of fruitcake and somebody looks at me I always say, "I'm starting my diet next month." And I get away with it.

Speaking of fruitcake, it is the best part of the Christmas food frenzy. My biggest concern in this area is that the fruitcake has gotten a very bad rap by people who do not understand this delicacy. It is a very wonderful way for a person to get their daily portion of fruit. How nice of it to be mixed in with cake. After all, if the word "fruit," is associated with it, it must be good, right? Everybody knows fruit is good for a person.

I take my portion of vegetables in carrot cake and my portion of fruit in fruitcake. This is the cuisine of the gods.

There is a very practical side to this fruitcake business. As I am picking up my fifth slice of fruitcake, I begin thinking about the New Year and how I need to add more fruit to my diet. As I slowly chew on the fruitcake, every aspect of my being is energized with glorious delight and goodwill toward men. After a few slices of fruitcake, I am in such a good mood that even the "Holiday Tree" people do not bother me so much. Nothing comes between my fruitcake and me.

Christmas is the season to rejoice in God's love for the world so much that he sent his only son, Jesus Christ.

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



## MERRY CHRISTMAS 2011

Wow, it's Christmas time again? Happy Holiday season to you all. Christmas

seems to be coming with increased regularity the older I age. Quite a switch from the Christmas season of my youth. When you are young the longest night of the year is Christmas Eve night. That is, if your family is in the open gifts Christmas morning camp. My parents insisted we open presents on Christmas morning. What does your family do? We all had friends who were lucky enough to be in the open gifts Christmas Eve camp. They got to open their gifts the night before Christmas. I guess Santa used UPS to pre-deliver gifts to those families. My brother and sisters and I finally wore down my Mom and she agreed we could open one gift on Christmas Eve. But she had a trick up her sleeve: She got to pick the gift. So what did I get to open on Christmas Eve? Socks, a bathrobe, or

slippers. Not exactly what I had in mind.

Yes, you may ask, I am still a open gifts on Christmas morning person. But pay close attention to me parents. If your kids get up at 5:30 am on Christmas morning shaking you awake, and start badgering you to roll out of bed I have a suggestion for you. A suggestion that will permit you to sleep in...guaranteed. Here it is: Let your kids open a cool gift on Christmas Eve. And let them stay up and play with whatever they open. Pretend to tell them to go to sleep knowing full well they will play with their new toy under the blankets with a flashlight. They will finally fall asleep (possibly passed out on their bedroom floor). My wife and I made a practice of this technique with young Alex and Olivia. The net result? We had to shake them awake at 8:30 Christmas morning to open presents.

This reminds me of the three stages of man (or woman): 1. You believe in Santa Claus. 2. You don't believe in Santa Claus. 3. You become Santa Claus.

As regular readers of my column know, I like to give you little bits of trivia and such that you can pass on amazing and delighting your Christmas guests. The following is a funny recitation (which means it is funny IF you read it out loud word for word and exactly as it is written):

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

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

Make sure the whiskey is still okay. Cry another tup. Turn off the mixer. Beat two legs and add to the bowl and chuck

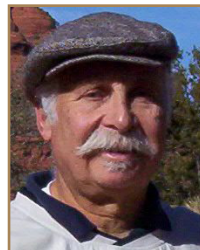
in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the tuner. If the fired druit gets stuck in the beaterers, pry it loose with a drowscriver.

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

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

Finally, as I do every year, I have asked the Lord to bless me with a Christmas morning reminiscent of the Christmas mornings I used to experience when I was a young child growing up in Minnesota. If I get my wish, you will wake up Christmas morning and discover Sierra Madre blanketed with a foot of snow. It's my fault. I'll be selling snow shovels in Kersting Court. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

## STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE



## DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE GOD PARTICLE?

Tomorrow, Tuesday December 13, 2011 is potentially a very big day in the history of Science. Perhaps you have found the time to educate yourself about the big search.

Remember the book and movie the da Vinci Code that talked about CERN and the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)? If you're anything like me you were probably more interested in the story than in the Science, so to refresh your memory, the LHC is a gigantic scientific instrument buried under Switzerland about 100m underground (about 110 yards I think). As you can already tell, I'm not really a science-guy but, as I understand it, what has been created is a gigantic 17 mile giant doughnut which is called a particle accelerator. The Scientist who lives around the corner tells me that he used to work at the location and has actually ridden his bicycle around inside of this circular construction. This particle accelerator is used by physicists to study the smallest known particles - building blocks of all things. Supposedly it will revolutionize scientific understanding, from the miniscule world of atoms to the vastness of the Universe. Everything about the present state of scientific understanding of the Universe is about to change and frankly I am almost completely in the dark about the whole thing.

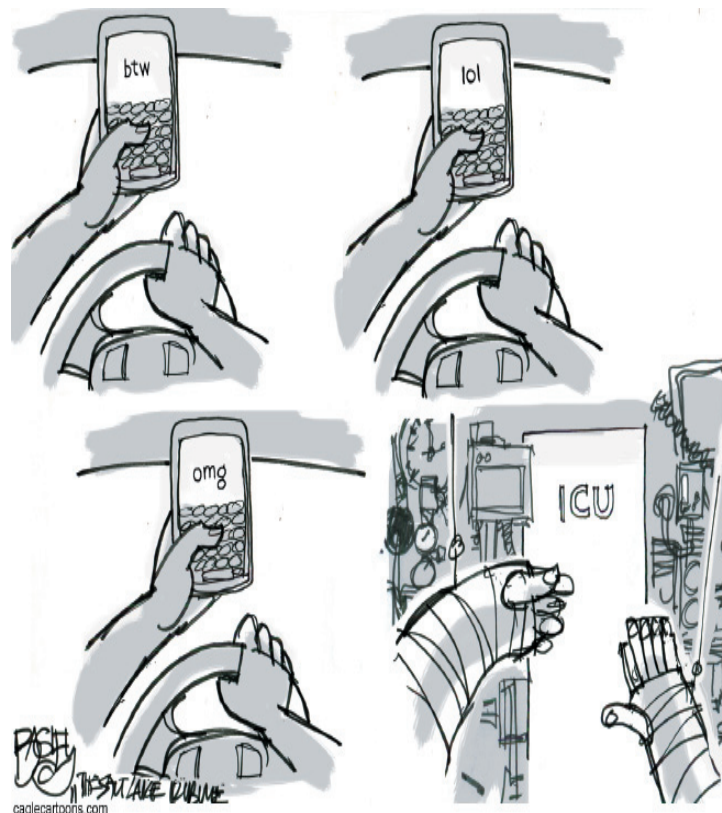
What is being attempted is to create within the LHC conditions as similar as possible to the moment of creation, the Big Bang, so to speak. If all goes right two beams of subatomic particles called "hadrons" - either protons or lead ions-travelling in opposite directions inside the circular accelerator, gaining energy with every lap, will collide head-on at very high energy creating new particles as a result of the collision. The particle, which may then be possibly observed, has already been named, although it has to date never been proven to exist. It is referred to as the Higgs Boson (named after the physicist Peter Higgs) or the "God Particle" for the reason that it has been theorized to be responsible for the creation of all mass within the Universe.

My understanding of the significance of the importance of the verification of the existence of this particle comes directly from the lecture which was presented by the Skeptic Society at Cal Tech on Saturday. I regularly attend these lectures with my disabled son, who has not mastered reading or writing, but who understands this stuff about as well as I do. Perhaps this is a convenient way of saying that if you want to try and understand this stuff, your best bet is to look it all up on the Internet rather than attempt to gain any insight from my limited understanding. My purpose here is not to be a disseminator of scientific knowledge - which is well beyond my capability; rather I am trying to alert you to the fact that some really exciting things are going on all around us. Unfortunately most of us are distracted by whatever else we are doing or by what is being done to us.

Did you get up to watch the eclipse? Just before dawn on Saturday my wife and I sat on our deck, kind of freezing, but entranced by the vision of the moon entering and emerging from the Earth's shadow. What are the words? Experiencing the cold, the night sky from our perch on the hill brings to mind a link to the previous generations of Native Americans that have watched the night sky from this very spot. Sure, like our conjectures about the Higgs Boson and the creation of the Universe, it all remains mysterious and unfathomable. How do you get something from nothing? Yet somehow there is, at least for me, a kind of satisfaction and completion when experiencing the alignment of the sun, moon, and Earth in such a dramatic way. At least for this moment it all seemed to be a Goldilocks world where everything lined up perfectly in a way that included even me. My wife and I wordlessly experienced a kind of joy at being together and just living in this perfect, at least for the moment, world.

Tomorrow the announcement about the reality of the Higgs Boson will be made. If the particle is observed as predicted, Mankind will have confidence that today's Standard Model explains the process whereby pure energy can acquire mass and become matter. If the particle is not observed then Science will have to create new theories in an attempt to understand. My overriding concern, and perhaps yours, is that we human inhabitants of this already existing perfection use whatever knowledge is obtained wisely and that we not be overwhelmed by the distractions and complexity of our daily lives. We all await the news of tomorrow.

Now tomorrow has come and it has been announced that the Higgs Bison may have been glimpsed, or maybe not. It will probably take another six months to be sure. Right now though there is enough evidence to really excite the physics community and to be of great interest to lay people like you and me. There is time to educate yourself and share in the excitement if you want to. Really, this time, like all other times, is a great time to experience the daily miracle of awareness. Let's all use that gift well.

















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

### 2011 HOLIDAY DECORATING AWARD WINNERS!



Thanks to our readers and other volunteers, we at Mountain Views News received many nominations for our 2011 Holiday Decorating Awards! We welcomed submissions from our service area including Altadena, Pasadena, Arcadia, Sierra

Madre, Monrovia and Duarte, though not all communities received nominations.

Special recognition and thanks go out to our two "anchor" holiday spirit leaders in Sierra Madre. Year after year, Tim Osti on N. Auburn, and Ralph Ter Horst on N. Grove go all out to bring us into the holiday spirit. Osti lights nearly every inch of his home, roof and all; plays music and personally welcomes visitors to his Christmas display. Ter Horst lights the "North Star" of Sierra Madre in the northwest quadrant of the city. Ter Horst told Mountain Views News he personally climbs the tree, using a ladder as a launching point. He uses a rope to help place the lights. The recent horrendous windstorm didn't bring down the star, much to his surprise, and the tree remains lit on December evenings to welcome in the season.

We hope you'll enjoy touring our award winners' decorations as much as we enjoyed choosing them! Though our awards are totally subjective, what's not to like???? If you're feeling Scrooge-like, here's the perfect cure! Take a tour!

- Best "over the top" decorations :  
27 N. Auburn, Sierra Madre
- Best Sierra Madre Decorations TIE:  
38 W. Grandview and 60 E. Grandview
- Best Monrovia Decorations:  
241 Magnolia at Monroe
- Best Altadena Decorations:  
Balian Mansion, Mendocino Drive at Allen
- Best Pasadena Decorations:  
915 Cynthia at Sierra Madre
- Best Duarte Decorations:  
Buena Vista Just south of I-210
- Best Pasadena Neighborhood Decorations: Upper Hastings Ranch Association (North of Sierra Madre Blvd between Riviera and Michillinda)
- Best Monrovia Neighborhood Decorations: Madison, north of Foothill, Monrovia
- Best Decorations Seen from Afar:  
331 N. Grove, Sierra Madre
- Best Historic Display:

Christmas Tree Lane, Santa Rosa Avenue between Woodbury and Altadena Drive, Altadena

Honorable Mentions:

1. 189 N. Hermosa, Sierra Madre
2. 229 N. Hermosa, Sierra Madre
3. 171 W. Orange Grove, Sierra Madre
4. 347 N. Grove, Sierra Madre
5. 421 N. Baldwin, Sierra Madre
6. 187 N. Madison, Monrovia
7. 318 S. Mountain, Monrovia
8. 632 Terrado, Monrovia
9. 2025 Delford, Duarte



**OPEN SUN 1-4**




**1212 VALENCIA WAY | ARCADIA | \$778,000**  
New Listing – There are 2BR, 2BA, kitchen, LR & DR on middle level w/polished wood flrs. Top level has secluded master suite & lrg FR on lower level w/pl. Nice pool & spa w/lrg patio area in backyard. Hurry!





**Carolyn Papp**  
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**231 VISTA CIRCLE DR.**  
**Contemporary home in Sierra Madre Canyon.** Stunning City lights view from front deck. Living room has stone fireplace. Hardwood floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lots of storage, wine cellar, laundry room, large brick patio with built in bbq, remodeled kitchen.

**Priced at \$809,000**

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**Coming soon... Rare in Sierra Madre!**

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Soaring ceilings, upscale materials, artisan workmanship and meticulous maintenance all combine for the ultimate mountainside experience! Maple flooring, custom cabinetry, gorgeous kitchen and master bath, Andersen windows, solar, granite and flagstone patios are just the beginning! Easy wheelchair or handicapped access. Three car garage with extra side driveway parking, too! **\$1,788,000**

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## YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

## Today's Subject:

## A "DEAR JOHN" LETTER



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.

*I've been in my business a very long time now. As Christmas approaches, I take extra time to consider my life and its blessings, its "half-full glass" aspects. Some days these grateful moments are really easy. I received this email last week, and it has made my season. You just never know what joys may come:*

Dear John,

Ha ha ha....I always wanted to write that to someone, but I never dated a guy named John. Anyway, here's my story.....

One of my children has recently had a bad experience on his journey through life, as we all do, so I encouraged him to walk with me a couple of days ago and just share conversation. Get out of the house, just be. A lot of the conversation on the walk had to do with being your own worst critic and learning how to forgive oneself. Rather than being a victim, view the experience as a wake up call. God and his angels are speaking to you, we just need to listen. Trust that someone is

watching out for you. (Including Me!). Yesterday my son seemed much happier with himself, and I think he felt the walk was a big part of that.

This morning before his physical therapy session he asked when he got home if we could walk again. I welcomed it with an open heart and arms. While he was in getting ready, I sat down and pulled up my emails (I honestly don't read them daily so yours might have come a week ago). So when I read your article in the Mountain Views about letting go of the negatives in our lives while walking, I was happily connected.

I believe that God does speak to us, but not in the way you might think. I could clearly hear him through you. You are my angels and I am blessed you are in my life.

As he started to leave I asked if I could read him something. I read your article on forgiveness and walking to him. All I can say is Wow.....I believe he is starting to see his connection.

My purpose in this life is more clear every day.

Thank You for sharing. May God Bless you always and keep you safe.

I extend my grateful thanks to this generous patient in my life, and to each of you.

Let's keep on walking, talking, and healing.

Dr. John

**John M. Talevich, D.C.**  
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**31 S. Baldwin Avenue Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024**  
**626-355-4710**

## HOW MUCH DO YOU NEED TO RETIRE?

Dear Savvy Senior:

*Is there an easy way to figure out how much savings a person needs to retire? I'm 52 years old – about 10 years from when I would like to retire – and I want to see where I stand. Planning Ahead*

Dear Planning:

How much money you need to retire comfortably is a great question that all working adults should ask themselves. Unfortunately, far too few ever bother thinking about it.

But calculating an approximate number of how much you'll need to have saved for retirement is actually pretty easy and doesn't take long to do. Here's a quick, simple three-step approach that can help you find your magic retirement number.

*Estimate Expenses*

The first step is the trickiest – estimating your future retirement expenses. If you want a quick ballpark estimate, figure around 75 to 85 percent of your current gross income. That's what most people find they need to maintain their current lifestyle in retirement.

If you want a more precise estimate, track your current expenses on a worksheet and deduct any costs you expect to go away or decline when you retire, and add whatever new ones you anticipate.

Costs you can scratch off your list include work related expenses like commuting or lunches out, as well as the amount you're socking away for retirement. You may also be able to deduct your mortgage if you expect to have it paid off by retirement, and your kid's college expenses. Your income taxes should also be less.

On the other hand, some costs will probably go up when you retire, like health care, and depending on your interests you may spend a lot more on travel, golf or other hobbies. And, if you're going to be retired for 20 or 30 years you also need to factor in the occasional big budget items like a new roof, furnace or car.

*Tally Income*

Step two is to calculate your retirement income. If you contribute to Social Security, estimate how much your monthly benefit will be at the age you want to retire. You can get a personalized estimate at [www.ssa.gov/estimator](http://www.ssa.gov/estimator). If you're married, remember to



count your spouse's benefits too.

In addition to Social Security, if you have a traditional pension plan from an employer, find out from the plan administrator how much you are likely to get when you retire. And, figure in any other income from other sources you expect to have, such as rental properties, part-time work, etc.

*Calculate the Difference*

The final step is to do the math. Subtract your annual expenses from your annual income. If your income alone can cover your bills, you're all set. If not, you'll need to tap your savings, including your 401(k) plans, IRAs, or other investments to make up the difference.

So, let's say for example you need around \$45,000 a year for retirement and you expect to receive \$25,000 a year from Social Security and other income. That leaves a \$20,000 shortfall that you'll need to pull from your nest egg each year (\$45,000 – \$25,000 = \$20,000). Multiply your shortfall by 25, and that's how much you'll need to have saved.

In the case above, you would multiply \$20,000 by 25 and come up with \$500,000.

Why 25? Because that would allow you to pull 4 percent a year from your savings, which is a safe withdrawal strategy that in most cases will let your money last as long as you do – at least 30 years.

If you find that your savings are lacking, you might want to go back to your worksheet and cut some costs. Or, you may need to consider part-time work during retirement or postponing retirement so you can boost your savings.

**Savvy Tip:** If you need help figuring out how much you'll need to retire, there's a variety of free online calculators that can assist you. Some top tools are offered by Analyze Now ([analyze-now.com](http://analyze-now.com)), T. Rowe Price ([www3.troweprice.com/ric/ricweb/public/ric.do](http://www3.troweprice.com/ric/ricweb/public/ric.do)) and AARP ([aarp.org/work/retirement-planning/retirement\\_calculator](http://aarp.org/work/retirement-planning/retirement_calculator)).

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.

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

Contact us at:  
[editor@mtnviewsnews.com](mailto:editor@mtnviewsnews.com) or  
[www.facebook.com/mountainviewsnews](http://www.facebook.com/mountainviewsnews)



## SENIOR HAPPENINGS

## DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

WE'RE BACK!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19th

Senior Programs return to the Hart Park House enior Center, 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Memorial Park - Come by and see the changes!!

MONDAYS: City Hall & Lunch Café

Closed December 26th - Happy Holidays!

12 noon: Intervale Lunch Café: Come enjoy a hot meal with others. Donation for seniors (60+) of \$2.00; visitors \$3.75. 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.

TUESDAYS:

FREE blood pressure checks by Methodist Hospital Nurse; 11 am to 12 noon.

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

WEDNESDAYS:

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.

THURSDAY:

1:00 to 3:30 pm: Game Day. Join us for Poker with Bridge on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays; so please call for more information.

FRIDAY: City Hall closed on Dec. 16, 23 & 30 and Lunch Café closed on Dec. 23

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

Saturday: 11:30 am: Senior Club brown bag lunch and BINGO at 12:30 pm. The Senior Club will return to the Senior Center starting on Saturday, January 7, 2012

## 2012 EXCURSIONS

SAVE THE DATES

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH - Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. Join us as we return to Orange County to visit the Warriors: China's Enduring Legacy exhibit as well as the museum's ongoing exhibits like California Legacies.

Cost per person is \$22 (includes transportation & museum entrance with audio tour). Lunch will be on your own.

Bus will depart from the Hart Park House Senior Center at 9:30 am and return around 3:30 pm.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH - San Antonio Winery Tour & Tasting. Come enjoy a tour of this historic Los Angeles Winery, taste their wine, visit the gift shop and savor the flavors of their onsite restaurant.

Cost per person is \$10 (includes transportation, tour & tasting). Lunch will be on your own.

Bus leaves the Hart Park House Senior Center at 10:30 am and will return around 3 pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD - Community Whale Watching Trip; \$28 per person. The bus will leave the Community Recreation Center at 10 am and return at 3:30 pm. Cost includes transportation and a 2 1/2 hour charter boat tour out of Long Beach.

Registration can be done either in person or online at [www.cityofsierramadre.com/online-registration](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/online-registration)



## 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.

**Foothill**  
**Computer Services**  
 20+ years in Sierra Madre  
**PC Computer Repairs**  
**& Electronics Consulting**  
**Dave Felt 355-8315**

## 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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Service of Darkness and Light  
at San Marino Community Church

Longing for a place to nourish your spiritual life? San Marino Community Church holds its fifth annual "Service of Darkness and Light" on Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 pm in Christ Chapel. The service is specifically designed for those who experience

grief at the holidays – a time of joy for most. This important time of worship offers comfort, encouragement, and peace."

San Marino Community Church also offers two ongoing Grief Groups. They meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in the church library and every Wednesday at 4:00 pm in the church lounge. Led by trained Stephen Ministers, participants can experience the empathy and encouragement of those who are traveling a similar path. For details, contact Rev. Karen Berns at (626) 282-4181 x 20 or [KBerns@smccpby.com](mailto:KBerns@smccpby.com)

**San Marino Community Church**

1750 Virginia Road, San Marino, CA 91108

Call: (626) 282-4181 or visit us online: [www.smccpby.com](http://www.smccpby.com)



# Looking Up

with Bob Eklund



## DAWN SPACECRAFT IN LOW ORBIT CIRCLING ASTEROID VESTA

NASA's Dawn spacecraft successfully maneuvered into its closest orbit around the giant asteroid Vesta on December 13, beginning a new phase of science observations. The spacecraft is now circling Vesta at an altitude of 130 miles.

"Dawn has performed some complicated and beautiful choreography in order to reach this lowest orbit," said JPL's Marc Rayman, Dawn chief engineer and mission manager. "We are in an excellent position to learn much more about the secrets of Vesta's surface and interior."

Launched in 2007, Dawn has been in orbit around Vesta, the second most massive object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, since July 15, 2011.

Dawn's framing camera and visible and infrared mapping spectrometer instruments will image portions of the surface at greater resolution than obtained at higher altitudes. But the primary goal of the low orbit is to collect data for the gamma ray and neutron detector (GRaND) and the gravity experiment. GRaND will be looking for the by-products of cosmic rays reflected off Vesta to reveal the identities of many kinds of atoms in the asteroid's surface.

Close proximity to Vesta also enables ultra-sensitive measurements of its gravitational field. These measurements will tell scientists about the way masses are arranged in the giant asteroid's interior.

After the science collection is complete at the low-altitude mapping orbit, Dawn will spiral out and conduct another science campaign at the high-altitude mapping orbit altitude of 420 miles. Dawn plans to leave Vesta in July 2012 and arrive at its second destination, the dwarf planet Ceres,

in February 2015.

NEW MARS-BOUND ROVER BEGINS RESEARCH IN SPACE

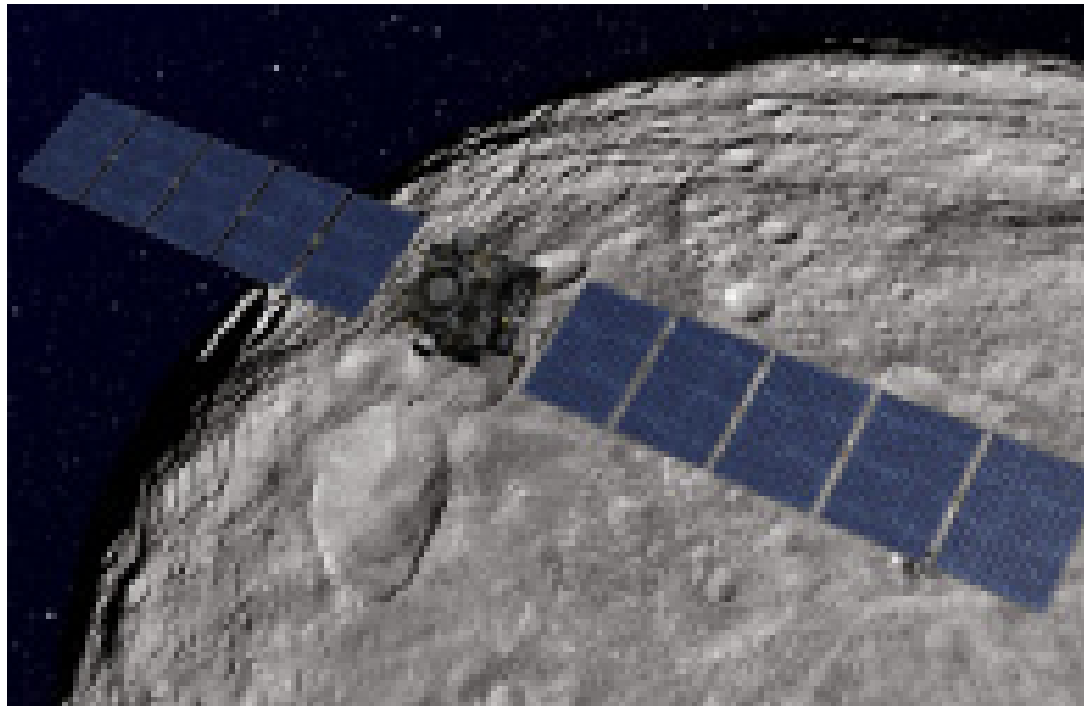
NASA's car-sized Curiosity rover has begun monitoring space radiation during its 8-month trip from Earth to Mars. The research will aid in planning for future human missions to the Red Planet.

Curiosity launched on Nov. 26 from Cape Canaveral, Fla., aboard the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL). The rover carries an instrument called the Radiation Assessment Detector (RAD) that monitors high-energy atomic and subatomic particles from the Sun, distant supernovas and other sources.

These particles constitute radiation that could be harmful to any microbes or astronauts in space or on Mars. The rover also will monitor radiation on the surface of Mars after its August 2012 landing.

"RAD is serving as a proxy for an astronaut inside a spacecraft on the way to Mars," said Don Hassler, RAD's principal investigator from the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colo. "The instrument is deep inside the spacecraft, the way an astronaut would be. Understanding the effects of the spacecraft on the radiation field will be valuable in designing a craft for astronauts to travel to Mars."

Previous monitoring of energetic-particle radiation in space has used instruments at or near the outer surfaces of various spacecraft. The RAD instrument is on the rover inside the spacecraft and shielded by other components of MSL, including the aeroshell that will protect the rover during descent through the upper atmosphere of Mars.



Spacecraft structures, while providing shielding, also can contribute to secondary particles generated when high-energy particles strike the spacecraft. In some circumstances, secondary particles could be more hazardous than primary ones.

These first measurements mark the start of the science return from a mission that will use 10 instruments on Curiosity to assess whether Mars' Gale Crater could be or has been favorable for microbial life.

As of noon EST on Dec. 14, the spacecraft will have traveled 31.9 million miles of its 352-million-mile flight to Mars.

You can contact Bob Eklund at: [HYPER-LINK "mailto:b.eklund@MtnViewsNews.com"](mailto:HYPER-LINKmailto:b.eklund@MtnViewsNews.com) [b.eklund@MtnViewsNews.com](mailto:b.eklund@MtnViewsNews.com).



For those of you not familiar with the long and storied history of the online music service known as "Napster", you may have missed out on one of the great ones. Today iTunes rules as the online music provider of choice, but in the mid-to-late 90's when the whole concept of getting digital music online was just beginning to gain a foothold in the marketplace, Napster was my favorite. Of all the computer ventures started in a college dorm room by an uber-geek, this one was my favorite. Napster made waves when it first hit the scene because it allowed its users to search for and download music online for free. Later (and probably even at the time) this was ruled to be the very definition of illegal, much to the relief of the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America), who fought long and

hard to shut down the freeloading upstart. But once the genie was out of the bottle, there was no way to put it back in again.

Napster had shown that the peer-to-peer computing model could be adapted for widespread commercial use quite nicely. Other similar networks popped up all over the place to try and find their own niche on the Internet, and this was before the widespread use of residential high-speed internet connections. Fast-forward to 2003 and, after a series of legal ups-and-downs and a few changes in ownership, Napster re-emerged as a paid-subscription service that offered online music for paying customers. The company had made the transition from the underground to the mainstream and beyond. As a result of being in the game for so long before emerging as a legitimate online music service, Napster had assembled a huge library of content.

Fast-forward to December 1, 2011. The online music provider Rhapsody has acquired Napster for an undisclosed sum and merged Napster's existing customer base with its own and here's where the trouble began. The following day millions of Napster users found

themselves unable to access their accounts online while the conversion took place. Other users found that content downloaded to mp3 players and other portable devices suddenly wouldn't play and, in some cases, the devices displayed cryptic messages about expired licenses. My personal nightmare consisted of not being able to transfer songs from my music library to my mp3 player and then not being able to play content in any of the media players on my system.

Later I found that I was not able to play a full 70% of my legally purchased Napster content with the Rhapsody media player. I'd been a paying Napster subscriber for more than five years and my music library consisted of more than 2,000 songs. I soon found that I was not alone in this situation after visiting Rhapsody's online forums and reading the postings of other disgruntled Napster customers who were forcibly, and stealthily, converted to a service that they neither wanted nor asked for. Rhapsody has been around for a while and there was a reason I wasn't a user of their service; it's because I (and millions of others) chose Napster.

Rhapsody sucks. Thanks for nothing, Rhapsody.

## Happy Tails

by Chris Leclerc.  
Canyon Canine Dog  
Walking & Pet Sitting Services



## Calming Cure of the Canine

*"Dogs are amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. They are the role model for being alive."*

Gilda Radner

*"There is no psychiatrist in the world, like a puppy licking your face."*

Ben Williams

*"Dogs are not our whole lives, but they make our lives whole."*

Roger Caras

Numerous accounts of physical and mental health benefits resulting from canine interaction have been documented throughout history. It pleases me to know that I am not alone in my recognition and appreciation of the physical, psychological and even spiritual benefits of spending time with a cuddly canine. Loving and being loved by a dog is not only a heart-warming, comforting experience, but the fact is that dogs can play a part in prolonging and enhancing the quality of life for the human being. I would be hard-pressed to understand and try to explain just exactly how it works, but I believe in my heart that dogs are God's gift to mankind, and I take it for face value based on my own experiences and those of many others.

One example of how a canine can positively impact the health and well-being of the human, is clearly shown by the work of a certified health-care therapy dog. The first documented therapy dog was a Yorkshire Terrier named "Smoky". Smoky had been abandoned on the battlefield in New Guinea during WWII, when Corporal William Wynne took him in, cared for him and gave him his name. Smoky proved to be a major asset to Wynne's military outfit, lending comfort to the troops and playing a part in saving their lives by running a telegraph cable through an underground pipe, completing in minutes what would have been a 3-day, very dangerous operation for the soldiers responsible for the project.

Dr. Charles Mayo (of the famed Mayo Clinic) was Corporal Wynne's commanding officer who allowed Smoky to go with him on hospital rounds, to visit injured troops. The little pup's popularity grew so strong, that he became the troop's mascot, eventually continuing his work for 12 years, even after WWII had ended. Who knew that Smoky, a would-be abandoned mutt, would become a famous fore-runner for a prolific program that makes a major positive impact on the lives of so many people today?

Last weekend, I had the privilege of participating in the American Cancer Society Bark for Life of Arcadia event where I met Marianne Cortland, who greeted me with warm smile at the "Lending a Paw Therapy Dogs" information booth. Marianne and several other volunteers, as well as a group of therapy dogs accompanied by their owner/handlers, were there as a team to help support the

event. The fact that dogs are often used as health-care therapists has been common knowledge to me for years, but this was the first time I had the chance to meet real-life therapy dogs in person, and I have to say it was the highlight of my day! Marianne is absolutely delightful, and she was kind enough to share the details about how their program works. I thought it would be an excellent topic to share with my readers.

Lending A Paw Therapy Dog's objective is to form a network of caring individuals who are willing to share their animals in order to bring happiness to all whom they serve. They are responsible for training and certifying the dogs that make their mission possible. Their therapy dogs must be at least 1 year old, and must meet the criteria of the required obedience training and be capable of consistent harmonious interaction with humans and other dogs. Their volunteer animal assistance activities include, but are not limited to hospital visit, special needs centers for seniors and

Children visits, nursing home visits and school visits. Requests for dog therapy services can come from patients, family members or facility staff members. Often times, a dog therapy team will even go from room to room, to see who is up for a visit. Interestingly enough, there are times when the therapy dog will let the handler know who needs their brand of therapy by pulling toward the door of their room! Group sessions are the typical scenario at retirement homes, where patients or residents gather together in one room to enjoy the presence of the therapy dogs. Whatever the circumstances may be, therapy dogs always bring big smiles and renewed hope to those whom they visit. One stroke victim patient, named Dorothy, had not spoken for a year, but after a therapy visit from Maggie and Marianne, she somehow found the energy and desire enough to speak. When she did finally speak, amazingly enough, it was to say the name of the therapy, "Maggie"! That is what a caring canine can do for a stroke patient who may have never otherwise spoken again.

In addition to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life events, Lending a Paw Therapy Dogs also participates in other community activities with the local fire departments and libraries. For more information about Lending a Paw Therapy Dogs, and to participate in their activities or events, please contact Marianne Cortland via e-mail at: [HYPERLINK "mailto:twokuute@gmail.com"](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:twokuute@gmail.com) [twokuute@gmail.com](mailto:twokuute@gmail.com). I personally benefit in many ways from my dog's company each day, but I also think there may be a time when I will be the one in need of a therapy dog, and it comforts me to know that organizations such as Lending a Paw will be there for me. Thank you for all your efforts in bringing life and hope to those in need, Marianne and the other volunteers at Lending a Paw Therapy Dogs. God bless you.

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



### IT'S IN THE BAG!

I have a truly riveting topic for you this week, though I can't take full credit for it.

On route to Christmas shopping, my husband suddenly said that he had an idea for my next article. "Great! What is it?" "I don't remember," he said, "We were talking about it at work. It had something to do with the holidays... or food... or shopping... I know! Vacuum cleaners!" I wondered what that had to do with any of those subjects, but waited for his spin on it. "Why do people buy bagged vacuum cleaners, now that there are bag-less ones?" The first thought that sprang to my impractical mind was crime investigation. (Joe murders Bob and leaves behind hair and fibers. Bob's cleaning lady vacuums it up before discovering the body. Joe's hair and distinctive tweed threads prove that he was there the night before!)

"If you buy a bagged vacuum," my hubby explained, "you have to keep buying replacement bags." After consideration, I said, "But If you already have one that's bagged, that'd be a reason to keep buying bags." I'm using my grandmother's upright bagged vacuum from the 60's. Old bugger's held together with duct tape, but still sucks mightily. "Yeah," my husband replied, "but they're still making bagged ones. Who would want to buy a new bagged vacuum?"

We turned into the mall parking lot. "It's all marketing," I said, "The vacuum makers probably just want people to keep buying bags, and the public hasn't caught on yet. It's like how American car manufacturers used to make iron mufflers that quickly rusted and needed to be replaced. When the Japanese cars came out with stainless steel mufflers, Detroit knew their game was up." We arrived at Macy's, postponing our vacuum debate.

Later at home I resumed the search for vindication of bagged vacuums. The bagless ones boast multi-cyclonic systems and HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filters. Okay, so bagless vacuums have the advantage of supposedly giving you really clean air and the luxury of not buying replacement bags. But, you still have to buy replacement filters for bagless vacuums! At the end of the day, filter

replacements equal or exceed the cost of replacement bags. But does the multi-cyclonic system of particulate removal result in cleaner air than that achieved by the bagged version? Well, that depends on the quality of bags. In olden days, bags used to be more porous, leaving a layer of fine dust to collect on the inside of the canister. Now there are 3 ply paper bags, and even fabric bags, which capture microscopic dust particles.

The biggest drawback I found regarding bagless vacuums was their tendency to expel a cloud of dust when emptying the canister into a waste basket. A maid posted an interesting review, complaining that the bagless vacuum she uses is cumbersome and heavy, especially when she cleans stairs. (I think carpeted stairs should



be illegal! Whoever devised this insane idea never tried walking on them in socks or anything less gripping than football cleats.) This vacuum's manual instructs the user to keep the canister at the bottom of the stairs, extending the wand upward. But what happens if you have 15 feet of stairs and only 5 feet of wand?

A frequent complaint is the awkwardness of dragging or pushing vacuums from room to room; which led to my husband's epiphany! The blowing action of "leaf-blowers" could be reversed into suction, making them wearable vacuums! Perhaps shoulder straps could accessorize current vacuum models. If you're interested, we're still looking for a financial sponsor on our vacuum enterprise.





## HUDDLE UP!



By Harvey Hyde

### 'HIRE' STANDARDS IMPORTANT FOR MORA

In this space this week I want to start things off by looking at rebuilding a storied college football program. I'm specifically

talking about UCLA and its new coach, Jim Mora Jr. His staff and player selections will be critical for UCLA success.

Mora, a defensive back at Washington in the early 1980s, has spent almost his entire coaching career in the NFL. He was the head coach in Atlanta for three seasons and head coach in Seattle for one. He does have a tie to Southern California. His father, Jim Sr., played and coached at Occidental and was an assistant coach at UCLA under Pepper Rodgers for one season in 1973.

For the record, the new UCLA coach is Jim L. Mora and his father is Jim E. Mora, but they are commonly referred to as junior and senior.

The senior Mora, a head coach with the New Orleans Saints and Indianapolis Colts, may be best remembered for his memorable post-game comments. After a loss in 2001, in which the Saints had four passes intercepted and a lost fumble, Mora was asked if the Saints would have to win all their next games to make the playoffs.

"Playoffs?" squealed Mora. "Don't talk about – playoffs? You kidding me? Playoffs? I just hope we win a game!"

Now the son is faced with a task that involves more than providing entertaining sound bites for the media. First of all, he must build a strong staff familiar with this area. I believe he can find great talent for that staff right here in Southern California. The next step will be getting players. Those X's and O's are important, but players are more important. When my defensive X is bigger and faster than

your offensive O (and vice versa), you're in trouble.

UCLA gave the 50-year-old Mora a five-year deal that will pay him around \$12 million, or about \$2.5 million a year. His predecessor, Rick Neuheisel, was making \$1.25 million a year.

I'm not sure money buys you victories, but it should be pretty motivating for all concerned. Good luck to Coach Mora and all you UCLA fans who have been starving to get Bruin football pride back.

\*\*

Congratulations to this area's two CIF champions. Monrovia High School finished the season 11-3, and won its second consecutive CIF title by beating San Gabriel, 53-14. Rio Hondo Prep, located in the southern-most part of Arcadia, won its 13th CIF title overall with its 13th victory in a row, downing Desert Christian of Lancaster, 34-13.

\*\*

Congratulations are also in order for Baylor University. Robert Griffin III put Baylor in the headlines with his fine play and by becoming the school's first Heisman Trophy winner. Griffin is one of the best deep ball passers I've seen in a long time, and the kid can run too. That's a great combination. And he's only a junior. Will he stay or come out? I hope he stays. In fact, I hope all juniors stay, particularly USC's Matt Barkley. That would make for a great Christmas present for Trojan fans.

\*\*

Finally, on Saturday, Santa is going to be at Bean Town from 1 to 3 p.m. The address is 45 N. Baldwin in Sierra Madre. Bring your cameras, or you can have photos emailed to you. I know I can't wait to see Santa. I think I've been good this year.

## THE VOICE OF SANTA ANITA

Trevor Denman, who aspired to be a jockey in his native Durban, South Africa, is set to embark upon his 29th anniversary year as the "Voice of Santa Anita," when The Great Race Place opens its gates on Dec. 26.

Denman, who has called the Breeders' Cup World Championships since 2006 and who will once again preside over the two-day extravaganza at Santa Anita next November, was first hired at Santa Anita in the fall of 1983.

An instinctive judge of equine talent, Denman's ability to anticipate developments in a race are legendary.

"I try to treat each race individually and although I want to be sure and let our fans know what's going on with the betting favorite, I also try to let the race develop and I just try to describe what I'm seeing," said Denman. "I guess you could say that I've been blessed to have grown up with racing and I'm able to spot horses who are full of run and conversely, I can spot a horse who's for all intents and purposes, spent."

After calling the first five weeks of Santa Anita's Autumn Meet, Denman flew to Churchill Downs, where he called the two-day Breeders' Cup on Nov. 5 & 6. Since then, he and his wife, Robin, have been at their farm in Minnesota.

"We have about 110 acres here," he said by telephone. "I've found that this is a great place for me to stay fresh and to re-charge my batteries, so to speak. I think everyone needs a break and for Robin and me, this works beautifully."

Denman added that even though he's approaching

three decades high atop Santa Anita's grandstand, he's very much looking forward to the challenge of opening day.

"Opening day at Santa Anita is magical. The weather is clear and the mountains are strikingly beautiful. There's so much pent-up anticipation and there's always some new faces. The (Grade I) Malibu is always a terrific race and then there are so many other Grade I races on both the dirt and the turf throughout the meet. I'm told that our horse population is improving, so I'm optimistic that we're headed in the right direction."

For many years, Denman cited the 1989 Preakness Stakes, which featured a stretch-long battle between Sunday Silence and Easy Goer, as the greatest race he had ever called. That all changed in November, 2009.

"Without question, Zenyatta's last-to-first win in the 2009 Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita was the most dramatic and breathtaking race I've ever called," he said. "It had everything. She was undefeated and had never run against the boys, nor had she been a mile and a quarter. Her



style suggested that she'd need racing luck to be able to weave through a lot of traffic with a 12-horse field and to be honest, she was so far back early, that I really didn't think she could do it.

"Her race that day was truly one for the ages and the fact that she did it on a picturesque day with a huge crowd and a worldwide television audience, it just can't get any better than that."

Denman noted that in addition to Zenyatta, his all-time favorite horses include Nijinsky II and Precisionist.

He has a grown daughter, Katrina, and when Santa Anita is conducting live racing, he and his wife live in nearby San Dimas.

Santa Anita's 75th winter/spring meeting will open on Monday, Dec. 26. First post time on opening day is 12 noon. The 79-day meet will run through April 22. For more information, visit [www.santaanita.com](http://www.santaanita.com), or call (626) 574-RACE.

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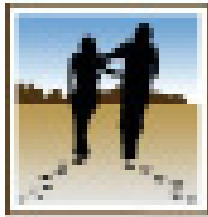
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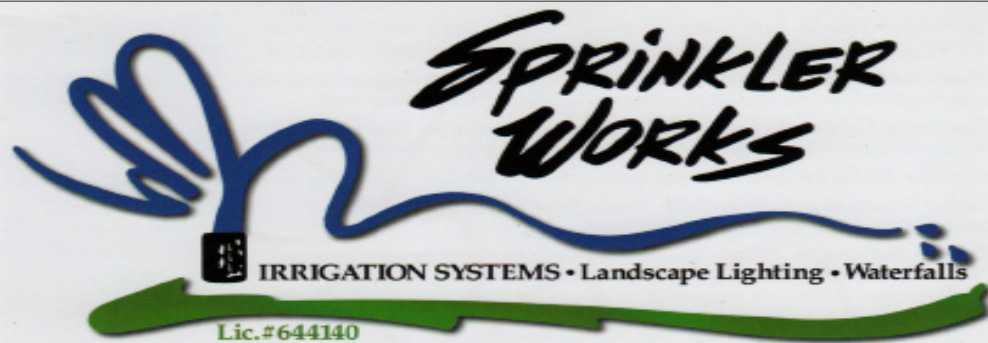


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