

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2011

VOLUME 5 NO. 53

SMPD CHIEF MARILYN DIAZ RETIRES

Los Angeles County's 1st Female Police Chief Retires After Nearly 38 Years in Law Enforcement by Susan Henderson

Marilyn Diaz served her last day as Chief of the Sierra Madre Police Department on Thursday, December 29, 2011 after almost 6 years in that capacity. During her tenure as the city's 'Top Cop' she has been credited with bringing a new level of professionalism to the department and building a more positive relationship with the community and the city's police officers. The respect she has garnered from the citizen's was very apparent on Thursday evening, when a reception to honor her was held.

More than 100 Sierra Madre residents, including members of the Police and Fire Departments, paid tribute to a woman who was described as, "professional, kind, nurturing and a role model" by a variety of speakers. Presentations were made to her from the City Council, city staff, and the Police Officer's Association. In addition, the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club announced the establishment of the 2012 Marilyn Diaz Teen Support Fund for the Foothill Unity Center, to honor Diaz's outstanding work with teens.

The week before her retirement, I spent a morning with Diaz observing what a typical morning was like. Daily, Diaz would walk through down-



Chief Diaz as she enters her office during her last week (above) and chatting with residents at Beantown (left). Photos by S. Henderson. Below, Diaz, center, poses with the entire SMPD and SMPD volunteers. Photo by Bill Coburn

town Sierra Madre checking to see if merchants were in need of any assistance and greeting citizens. Everywhere she went citizens stopped to greet her and express their sadness at her retirement.

Although her time in Sierra Madre has not been without controversy, lawsuits from members of the department; and even efforts to have the county take over the department, Diaz has managed to prove her critics wrong. As she departs, she leaves the Sierra Madre Police Department better trained, more professional and literally better organized. She was at the helm of the department during some of the city's biggest and/or most horrific crimes - a murder victim



found at 1 Carter; a stabbing in Memorial Park; the largest financial crime in the city's history, the EVG credit card scam and on the heels of her retirement, the developing story of a well known resident arrested for possession of child pornography. Diaz, herself a resident of Sierra Madre, for 20 years, Diaz was born in Los Angeles and attended Cal State LA and the University of Southern California. She has been in law enforcement since 1973. In 1974 she joined the Pasadena Police Department where she remained for 32 years. She was the first woman assigned to a patrol office. She retired from the PPD in 2006 and joined the Sierra Madre department within a week.

Marilyn Diaz has received numerous awards and citations for outstanding professional and civic service, including, partial listing, the Pasadena YMCA Woman of Excellence Award. SMPD Captain Larry Giannone will become the city's Interim Police Chief upon Diaz's retirement.



CANDIDATES PREPARE FOR 2012 ELECTION

As the year comes to an end, preparations are underway to kick off the 2012 elections in Sierra Madre. On December 13, 2011, the City Council unanimously authorized an election to be held on April 10, 2012. In a statement issued by the city clerk, Nancy Shollenberger, the following offices/issues will be on the ballot:

1 Council Seat for the 2 year unexpired term of former Councilman Joe Mosca;

2 Council Seats for 4 year terms currently held by Councilwoman MacGillivray and Mayor John Buchanan;

The 4 year seat for the Office of City Clerk currently held by Nanacy Shollenberger;

The 4 year seat for the Office of the City Treasurer currently held by George Enyedi

In addition, there will be two ballot measures:

A measure to increase and extend the User Utility Tax measure's rate structure and

An advisory measure for the UUT.

As of press time, the following persons had requested nominating papers:

John Capoccia, Colin Braudrick, John Harabedian, Chris Koeber, and Bill Tice for council seats and Richard Mays for the Office of the City Treasurer.

It is not know if there will be any incumbents on the ballot at this time.

The deadline for filing nominating papers in January 17 or January 18th if the incumbent currently holding the seat does not run.

Those interested in filing should contact the City Clerk for an appointment at 626-355-3303 or her home 626-355-1569 or City Hall 626-355-7135.

RICHARD MAYS CHOSEN AS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce announced that it has named Richard Mays (holding certificate above), to be the 2011 Citizen of the Year.

Mays, who recently filed papers to run for City Treasurer, a post he has previously held, served as the City's Deputy Treasurer during 2011. In addition, he sat on the UUT Oversight Committee, was a member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), is currently a member of the SMPD Volunteer Force, and acted as Treasurer for the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society.

He is also a retired 32-year volunteer veteran on the Sierra Madre Fire Department.

Pictured with Mays, from left to right, are Melanie Shewmaker and Caroline Brown of CERT, Sierra Madre Police Chief Marilyn Diaz, Matt Krantz, Chamber president, and Chief Steve Heydorff of the Sierra Madre Fire Dept.

Mays will be honored at the Citizen of the Year Dinner in January, 2012.

Photo by Bill Coburn

THERE IS STILL TIME TO HELP DECORATE THE SIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT!



The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association encourages volunteers to help decorate the float!

All volunteers must sign a release form before working. Release forms for anyone under 18 MUST be signed by the parent, or guardian, before the minor will be allowed to work. An adult must accompany children under age 14 at all times. Workers physically on the float or on scaffolding must be at least 16 years of age.

If interested, download the Volunteer Release Form at <http://www.smrosefloat.org/get-involved/volunteer>.

If you have a group, we would be glad to schedule a time that would be convenient for you work together. Please leave a message for Bonnie Colcher at 626-355-7005 or email her at Sierramadrevolunteers@yahoo.com to secure a time.

For more information please contact the Float Barn at (626) 355-7005 or visit their website at www.sierramadrosefloat.com. The barn is located at 587 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Adjacent to the Pioneer Cemetery and above the Sierra Vista Park Tennis Courts.

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New Japanese erasers have arrived!

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 40s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 40s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 40s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 40s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
HOLIDAY CLOSURESSierra Madre City Hall and Community & Personnel
Services Holiday Closures

Monday, January 2, 2012

SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The Sierra Madre Public Library will be closed Saturday, December 24 through Monday, December 26, Saturday, December 31 through Monday, January 1. Library materials may be returned in the Book Drop, located on the Library walkway, which will remain open during these days.

YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTER HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Please note the YAC will be closed Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2, 2012. YAC Winter Break hours start December 27 and run through January 5, 2012. Winter Break hours are Monday through Thursday, 12:30pm-4:00pm.

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.

Sierra Madre's
Farmer's Market Is Back!

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



JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

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

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

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



Sierra Madre Rotary Club

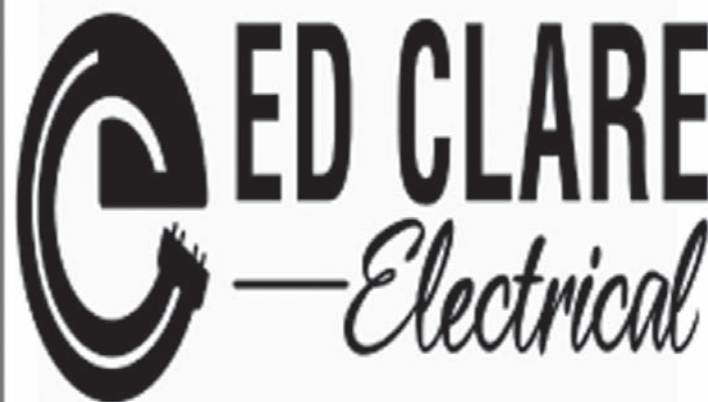
Meets Tuesdays 7-8:30 a.m.

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

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

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

While all Rotary Club memberships are by invitation, visitors are heartily welcomed to meetings. For more information, please visit our website or contact our membership chairperson at RudyHayek@gmail.com.

www.SierraMadreRotary.com


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ROSE PARADE LIVE STREAM
COLORADO/ORANGE GROVE

See the Rose Parade Jan. 2 streaming live, as if you were there, at roseparadelive.com or ustream.tv. All the excitement without the hassles. Pre parade coverage starts at 6:30 a.m. The parade officially begins at 8:00 a.m.

SIERRA MADRE CHAMBER TO
HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

On Monday, January 9, 2012, the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce will hold its' annual membership meeting. Ballots for the 2012 Board of Directors will also be held at that time.

The meeting will be held at noon at the Casa Del Rey Restaurant, 31 N. Baldwin, Sierra Madre. For additional information call 626-355-5111

COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMISSION 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 look for commission/committee applications. For more information please call (626) 355-5278.

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR!



Ring in the New Year with the Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighter's Association at their ANNUAL BALL.

The event will be held at St' Rita Catholic Church, in O'Malley Hall, at the corner of Baldwin and Grand View on New Year's Eve from 8pm to 1am.

the cost is \$10, and that donation, as well as all drink proceeds, will

benefit the SMVFA.

The Sierra Madre Fire Department is the last volunteer fire department in Los Angeles County and has proudly protected the people living and working in our little town for more than 85 years!

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AND SUPPORT OUR
FIREFIGHTERS!**

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CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING
AND HOLIDAY TRASH PICK-UP
SCHEDULE

The holiday season is here and residents will soon face the annual task of Christmas tree disposal. The City of Sierra Madre, in conjunction with Athens Services and the LA County Sanitation District, is pleased to announce the Christmas Tree Recycling Program as part of our green waste recovery efforts.

From Monday, December 26, 2011, through Friday, January 13, 2012, Athens Services will be collecting all uncontaminated Christmas trees during regularly scheduled pickup hours at the curbside. In order for trees to qualify for this free service, please remove stands, nails, ornaments, lights, and tinsel, and place the trees next to your regular trash containers. Trees with flocking or fire retardant are acceptable. Trees over 6 feet in length must be cut in half. If you miss the date for recycling, please cut up your tree and place it in your yard waste container(s).

Due to the fact that both Christmas Day and New Year's Day are both on a Sunday, there will be no change in your regular pick-up day.

Please call James Carlson, Management Analyst at 626-355-7135 for any questions.

FREE E-BOOKS @ THE LI-
BRARY—"E-READ WITH
OVERDRIVE!"

Why pay more—or anything at all—for e-books when you can download and read hundreds of new and noteworthy books on your PC, Mac, laptop, tablet, smartphone, e-reader, or other electronic device using OverDrive, Sierra Madre Library's free e-book lending library?

If you are among the thousands of people who received a Nook, Kindle, or other e-reader for the holidays, and would like to start taking advantage of OverDrive, the Library staff will help you create an account and show you how to request and download books onto

your personal e-device. All you need to start checking out books on OverDrive is an active Sierra Madre Library card. Don't have a card yet? Signing up is easy—just bring a photo ID with your current address to the Library Service Desk, and the staff will be happy to issue you a card. If you've recently moved, and your ID has not yet been updated, a utility bill can be used as proof of address. Don't delay—"get in gear" and "E-read with OverDrive" today!

For more information, please call (626) 355-7186 or drop by the Library, which is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., in Sierra Madre. www.sierramadrelibrary.lib.ca.us

WISTARIA TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!
ONLINE, FAST AND INEXPENSIVE!

If you're running out the door and just remembered someone for whom you forgot to pick up a gift, don't worry. The Chamber has just what you need! Wistaria Shuttle Tickets are available online now at www.WistariaTickets.com. You can go online, pick your ticket, and pay for it right there at your computer, and best of all - you print it right there on your printer. In a matter of minutes, you've solved your problem! Tickets are \$10 for adults 16 to 61, \$7 for seniors 62 and up and children 6 to 16. Family four-packs are available (two adults, two kids) at a discount, all four tickets for \$30. Or, team up with another couple couples and buy a six-pack of adult tickets for just \$50!. This year's festival will be held on Sunday, March 25th. Viewing the vine is free, but if you want to ride the shuttle round trip up the hill from the vine to the festival and back, this is how you do it. Order your tickets today!



Sierra Madre Rose Float Association Events:

Colorful Imagination Parade Entry #78

Judging:

Saturday, December 31st 11:47 AM Inside the Float Barn
Sunday, January 1st 11:47 AM at the Volleyball Court

Float Dedication/Display:

Sunday, January 1st @ 5:00PM, Float Barn, Sierra Madre
Sunday, January 1st @ 5:30PM, Kersting Court Bus Stop, Sierra Madre

Tournament of Roses Parade:

Monday, January 2nd @ 8AM, Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena.

Tournament of Roses Post-Parade:

Monday, January 2nd @ 1PM-5PM & Tuesday, January 3rd @ 9AM-5 PM, Sierra Madre Blvd, Pasadena.

Downtown Sierra Madre Float Display:

Tuesday, January 3rd @ 7:30-10PM
Wednesday, January 4th @ 8AM-5PM
Kersting Court, Sierra Madre.

Float Barn Location:

587 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA. 91024

Sierra Madre Rose Float Association • P.O. BOX 603 • Sierra Madre, CA 91025
www.sierramadrorefloat.com
SMRFA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3)

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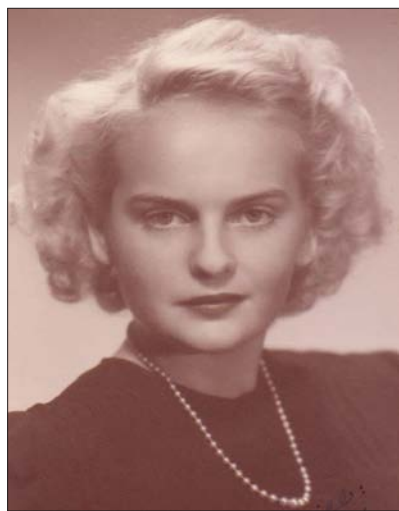
Arcadio

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

REMEMBRANCES



MARIE PEDERSEN

On Friday, December 23, 2011 at 11:01pm

Marie Pedersen, beloved wife and mother, died on Dec. 21, 2011, following a battle with brain cancer. She spent the last hours, days and months of her life surrounded and embraced by her husband, her five children and their spouses, her grandchildren and close

friends. She was 83 years old.

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey to Elie Pierre and Helen Leroy, Marie and her beloved older brother Robert spent their early years on the east coast, before the family decided to move west in 1939. The trip, which Bob documented as the family crossed the country, helped crystallize Marie's lifelong love of the west and Native American culture, which began with her early readings of James Fennimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans*. Once settled in Los Angeles, Marie's beauty and kindness made her popular at her new school, Blessed Sacrament, where she made many lifelong friends, continuing to meet up with classmates for decades afterward. When her mother Helen needed to take on a fulltime job, the teenager learned to manage a household along with her other duties. She attended Corvallis high school where her good nature and integrity caused the school newspaper to do a story celebrating her as "soft-spoken and dignified."

Following her graduation, Marie worked in the publicity department for KHJ Radio in Hollywood. The teenaged Marie not only developed her own fans among the stars who visited the studio, but she had a small army of protectors keeping an eye out for her. As much as she appreciated it, her protectors needn't have worried. Marie's gentleness was matched by her integrity, inner strength and iron-willed feistiness. Not only could she look out for herself, but she could also keep an eye on those around her with a remarkable sensitivity, always finding time to stop and offer a word of encouragement to someone seemingly at just the right moment. Though she had suitors, Marie held out for the Right One, and found him in Aksel Pedersen. The pair married in 1956 after dating for six months and enjoyed a 55-year marriage that produced five children—Aksel, Dana, Kirk, Lynne and Erik--and eight grandchildren.

A caring, deeply involved mom—and with the amount of coordination it took to manage five children, her job could hardly be called "stay at home"—Marie kept house, looked after her mother after her father died in 1963, took in many a stray animal and raised her children with great love, care and a gentle strength she found in her Catholic faith. She took great pride in her children and grandchildren and let them know it, pleased by their accomplishments and supportive through their endeavors.

Once her youngest was in school, Marie went back to work, first as a secretary and later in the office of the Sierra Madre News. From there, Marie took a job in the front office of La Salle High School, joining the staff the same year that her youngest child enrolled (which often led her to joke that they were freshmen together). It was a perfect match for Marie, who not only was an involved, compassionate Catholic throughout her life, but who also had enough love and kindness to share with the hundreds of students who came through the door of the front office.

Many students over the years have shared stories of how Marie seemed to seek them out when they needed a friend or word of encouragement the most: It was as if she had such an abounding source of love that it was inexhaustible—even when managing her marriage, family and the death of her own dear mother.

Marie worked at La Salle for three decades, eventually transitioning into working with the principal, and the community there was one of the great loves of her life along with her husband, faith and family.

Marie, who had previously bounced back from a broken hip, finally retired as her beloved Aksel battled his own cancer diagnosis, and their last few years were spent quietly together in the home they loved and shared for so many years.

Throughout her life, Marie Pedersen lived with integrity, compassion, love, strength and great pride in her husband, children and friends. She cared for others more than herself, looked out for those in need and lived an exemplary life of service to those around her. The love that she shared so freely in this life seemed to grow stronger in her final days and will continue to resonate long after she is gone. She is irreplaceable.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent in memory of Marie Pedersen to La Salle High School, 3880 E Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107 to the attention of Irene Santucci. Donations will provide tuition assistance to La Salle students in need.

Services were held at Cabot & Sons, on December 27, 2011.

By son, Eric Pederson

FRIENDS OF THE SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY 42ND ANNUAL WINE TASTING

The annual Friends of the Sierra Madre Library Wine Tasting will be held on Sunday, February 12, from 2:00-5:00PM at Alverno Villa, 675 West Highland Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA. More than two dozen vintners will be bringing their best wines to sample and Sierra Madre restaurants will be providing hors d'oeuvres that can be paired with the wines. Enjoy live music and Magic Castle magicians as you stroll about the lovely grounds of Alverno sampling the superb wines and appetizers. A silent auction will again be offering lovely artwork, services, tickets to special events, restaurant vouchers, and many other tempting items. In addition to the auction, there will be a raffle for a weekend wine tasting in Paso Robles, a prize valued at more than \$1,000 (raffle ticket holders need not be present to win).

Tickets to the Wine Tasting are \$60 and raffle tickets are \$5 each and go on sale December 15. Both can be purchased at the Sierra Madre Library, 440 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre, CA (telephone 626 355-7186). The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library is a non-profit organization and all proceeds benefit the Sierra Madre Library.



SIERRA MADRE STARTED THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH A SPECIAL PRESENT: *The Ribbon Cutting of the Remodeled Hart Park House Senior Center*



On December 15th, the Sierra Madre City Council, Senior Community Commission and the community officially opened the remodeled Hart Park House Senior Center.

The remodeling, which included an enlarged, modern warming kitchen, refurbishing of the historic fireplace, was the culmination of years of efforts by the senior community.

Originally, the project was spearheaded by former Senior Commissioner Pat Birdsall and was known as "The Cinderella Project". Based upon the resources available at that time, the computer room was added and, through a collaborative effort with the Foothill Creative Arts Group, a unique tile 'chess

table' was built on the patio. That table, which was spared from demolition, will be moved, very carefully, to the patio in front of City Hall.

However, the current project was funded primarily through Redevelopment Agency Funds totaling more than \$200,000.

Councilwoman Nancy Walsh, who also helped raise money for the center via the county's recycling program, was the MC for the event. Senior Commissioner Chairperson Ann Luke, due to prior commitments, arrived after the formal ribbon cutting.

Senior activities, which had been temporarily moved to the Sierra Madre

Room, resumed on the following Monday. (For a complete schedule of Senior Activities on page 19.)

Picture above at the ribbon cutting are: (left to right), Commissioner Amy Putnam, Councilwoman Walsh, Commissioner Dorothy Jerneycic, Commissioner Jacqui Pergola, Councilwoman Mary Ann MacGillivray, Commissioner Bill Nelson (back), Public Works Director Bruce Inman, Councilman Josh Moran, former Commissioner Ken Anhalt, Commissioner Nina Bartolai, Mayor John Buchanan and former Commissioner Bill Robinson. Hidden from view is City Manager Elaine Aguilar.

Photo by Bill Coburn

CITY OF SIERRA MADRE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice that the City Council will conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of Ordinance 1322, replacing and updating Municipal Code Chapter 13.24 "Mandatory Water Conservation Plan."

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2012
(Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.)

PLACE OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre
City Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

Proposed alterations in the existing Conservation Plan include but are not limited to:

- Mandatory water conservation levels to meet the requirements of California Water Code Division 6, Part 2.55, Sections 10608-10608.8, 10608.12 and 10608.16-10608.44 (SB 7, Steinberg)
- Customer water consumption for 2007 set as base year for purposes of measuring compliance with conservation goals.
- Appeals process clarified.
- Penalties for violations of Chapter 13.24 clarified.
- Added provision for moratorium on new water services during periods of water shortage.

At the Public Hearing, the City Council will hear and consider oral and written testimony from any person interested in the proposed Ordinance.

Save a Life Sunday Give Blood Give Life

St. Rita's Catholic Church
Blood Drive
318 N. Baldwin, Sierra Madre
Sunday January 8, 2012
8:30 am – 2:30 pm
Held in O'Malley Hall

If you would like to make an appointment contact Marilyn McKernan at Yoooper1935@msn.com Or (626) 355-1292 You can also visit WWW.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code strita to make your appointment.

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- * Restaurants & Food Service Companies
- * You, Your Family & Friends

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

Contact us at: editor@mtnewsnews.com or www.facebook.com/mountainviewsnews



Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, December 18th, 2011 to Saturday, December 24th, 2011 the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 245 calls for service.

Sunday, December 18th

12:09 PM – Residential Burglary – 800 block of Skyland Drive. Officers responded to a burglary investigation and found the burglary actually occurred between the period of 12-12-11 and 12-18-11. Unknown suspect(s) entered the attached garage that was left open and stole four snowboards, a snowboarding jacket and a pair of pants from the garage. Once inside the garage, the suspect(s) then entered an unlocked television room, which is next to the garage, and stole an Xbox video game console. The total loss was estimated at approximately \$3,500.00.

7:51 PM – Arrest, Public Intoxication, 00 block of Kersting Court. Officers responded to a call of an intoxicated man in front of Lucky Baldwin's. He was arrested for public intoxication and transported to the Pasadena Police Department jail for booking.

Monday, December 19th

9:57 AM – Theft of Identity, 300 block of Churchill Road. The resident reported being the victim of theft of identity after discovering that someone fraudulently used his credit card information and made an unauthorized purchase on his account.

1:35 PM – Theft of Identity, 600 block of Auburn Ave. The resident reported being the victim of theft of identity after discovering that someone fraudulently used her credit information to obtain telephone service without the victim's permission.

10:54 PM – Arrest, Suspended License, Baldwin Ave and Sierra Madre Blvd. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. Further investigation revealed the motorist was driving on a suspended/revoked driver's license. The motorist was cited for the misdemeanor violation and released on a written promise to appear in court.

Tuesday, December 20th

7:40 AM – Arrest, Unlicensed Driver, 500 block Mount Wilson Trail. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. Further investigation revealed the motorist was driving without a valid driver's license. The motorist was cited for the misdemeanor violation and released on a written promise to appear in court.

Wednesday, December 21st

12:21 PM – Arrest, Suspended License, Foothill Blvd and Baldwin Ave, in Arcadia. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. Further investigation revealed the motorist was driving on a suspended/revoked driver's license. The motorist was cited for the misdemeanor violation and released on a written promise to appear in court.

5:25 PM – Elder Abuse of Financial Fraud, 600 block of Canyon Crest. Adult Protective Services alerted SMPD of a possible financial abuse to an elderly man. Officers discovered the elderly man was a victim of a telephone scam, after he sent \$500.00 to an out-of-state bogus publishing company.

Friday, December 23rd

10:14 AM – Arrest, Unlicensed Driver, Santa Anita Ave and Grandview Ave. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. Further investigation revealed the motorist was driving without a valid driver's license. The motorist was cited for the misdemeanor violation and released on a written promise to appear in court.

1:35 PM – Arrest, Unlicensed Driver and Possession of Marijuana, Sierra Madre Blvd and Michillinda Ave. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. Further investigation revealed the motorist was driving without a valid driver's license and was in possession of less than an ounce of marijuana. The motorist was cited for the violations and released on a written promise to appear in court.

10:01 PM – Arrest, Unlicensed Driver, Baldwin Ave and Hampton Rd, in Arcadia. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. Further investigation revealed the motorist was driving without a valid driver's license. The motorist was cited for the misdemeanor violation and released on a written promise to appear in court.

10:31 PM – Arrest, Suspended License, Hastings Ranch Drive and Mayfair Drive, in Pasadena. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. Further investigation revealed the motorist was driving on a suspended/revoked driver's license. The motorist was cited for the misdemeanor violation and released on a written promise to appear in court.

Saturday, December 24th

12:42 AM – Arrest, Public Intoxication, 00 block of Kersting Court. Officers handled an incident of a disruptive customer that refused to leave Lucky Baldwin's. Officers arrested them man for public intoxication and took him to the Pasadena Police Department jail for booking.

9:09 PM – Arrest, Unlicensed Driver and Possession of Marijuana, Orange Grove Ave and Rancho Rd. An officer stopped a motorist for a Vehicle Code violation. Further investigation revealed the motorist was driving without a valid driver's license and his passenger was in possession of less than an ounce of marijuana. Both men were cited for the violations and released on a written promise to appear in court.

MOTHER NATURE MADE MORE MEMORABLE HEADLINES IN 2011 THAN ANYONE ELSE OTHER THAN HOMETOWN HERO JOHN SHEAR



IT STARTED WITH THE FIRST EVER RAINED OUT WISTARIA FESTIVAL! (Above left - March 26, 2011 MVNews Archives) Visitors waited patiently in pouring rain to view Sierra Madre's historical Wistaria Vine. Although there have been other rainy festivals in other years, this was the heaviest rainfall in the festival's history. Old Fashioned California Trolleys were scheduled to take visitors from owtown Sierra Madre to the vine. Trolley service continued until a combination of the winds and rain made the trip to the vine too risky. Tour buses rom various parts of the state also made the journey to Sierra Madre. The rains never stopped for more than a few moments all day.

But by August, (above right MVNews August 27, 2011), the wet cold weather was totally forgotten when temperatures soared past the 100 degree mark.

However, the worst and best of 2011 came the first week of December, (right MVNews December 3, 2011), when hurricane strength winds, 85 - 100 mph by some measurements, destroyed hundreds of trees and damaged more than 30 homes. The town was without power for several days, some areas as long as 5 days.

City staff did an extraordinary job under the circumstances utilizing what resources were available to keep residents safe and as informed as possible. The public works department and outside contractors such as Osti Tree Service had the majority of the town cleaned up before the holidays.

The good news that was drawn from the windstorm was that miraculously there were no deaths or injuries.

SIERRA MADRE GOOD SAMARITAN BUSINESS OF THE YEAR:

Beantown and its owner Matt Krantz who provided coffee to the city's emergency center during the windstorm, and shared his generator with residents who did not have power for their telephones and computers.



HEROIC PADDOCK GUARD JOHN SHEAR BACK IN ACTION

Sierra Madrean John Shear won the hearts of people across the country when he, at age 90, threw himself in front of a race horse in order to save the life of a six year old child.

ARCADIA, Calif. (Dec. 22, 2011)--Long-time Paddock Guard John Shear, who was seriously injured while protecting a young girl from a loose horse on March 12, was a Santa Anita press box visitor Thursday and informed that he would be back in action on opening day. As a result of his heroic act, Shear has been honored by the cities of Arcadia and Sierra Madre.

"My doctor said I'm okay to come back to work," said Shear, who will turn 91 on Jan. 17. "I'll be back at my same job, which is Paddock Supervisor. I've been doing a lot of physical therapy and I can't wait to get back to work, to see all the people."

Shear, a former hot walker, groom, exercise rider and trainer, has been employed seasonally at Santa Anita since Dec. 23, 1961.

"At that time, I was working in the parking lot, but I wanted to be around the people and the horses," said the English native.

Shear, who suffered multiple fractures, including a broken pelvis, as well as life-threatening internal bleeding, has been exercising regularly at a local gym, readying for a comeback.

"I've been going three days a week and I'm doing a lot of back and leg stretches. I'm also doing 10 pound curls with each arm and except for my left knee, I think I'm 100 percent" When asked what he's missed most during his period of convalescence, Shear was quick to respond.

"I've missed the people the most. Just talking to everyone. I have people come up and they say they can't believe I'm still here, that they remember me from when they used to come to the races with their parents or grandparents.

"I miss the camaraderie of being around the jockeys and everyone who works here. I love Santa Anita and I love coming to work here,"

Shear added.

"John is a fabulous person and a great employee," said Santa Anita President George Haines. "Having him back with us on opening day, after all that he's been through, is a dream come true and we know there are many, many people who are looking forward to seeing him back at work."

As he marks his 50th anniversary working at The Great Race Place, Shear admits "My wife and my son both want me to retire. But what am I going to do? I'm not going to just sit home and look at four walls. I told my family that I'm not on any timetable. I'm taking each year as it comes and I'll see how I feel. "Right now, I can't wait for Monday, it's going to be special."

First post time on Monday is 12 noon. For more information or to make dining or seating reservations, go to www.santaanita.com, or call (626) 574-RACE.



BUSINESS TODAY

The latest on Business News, Trends and Techniques

By La Quetta M. Shamblee

MINDSET FOR SUCCESS IN 2012

The definition of success is specific to each business owner. For some of us, it's having the flexibility to pick children up from school, or taking an active role in local civic and community organizations that meet during typical business hours. Perhaps those who work from home enjoy taking a relaxing walk to the local coffee shop for a quick rendezvous with other entrepreneurs for inspiration.

For many, it's the idea of being one's own boss, setting financial goals that aren't restricted by an employer's salary scale, or simply having a sense of freedom to decide when and how to work. Self-employment has become one of the most popular career paths for university graduates in recent years. Officials at Temple University were somewhat surprised after reviewing the results of a survey of its 2009 graduating class – it revealed that the self-employment was ranked among the most popular career choices along with banking, healthcare and education.

It's not the easiest road, but it's well worth it. If things didn't go as well as you would have preferred last year, it's a good time to take a personal inventory of what really makes you tick as an entrepreneur. It's important to rekindle the fire that prompted you to choose the path of self-employment. Think about why you made the decision to leap into the world of self-employment and consider what

you need to do to bring those reasons to life.

Let's face it, your success as a business owner is indelibly tied to your bottom line of whether you're turning a profit and whether it's sufficient to sustain your livelihood. If you are among those who dared to step into the shoes of self-employment, then you have already demonstrated that you have the gusto needed to keep taking steps needed to reach your goals.

Looking to generate more profit throughout 2012? Need more customers willing to give you money for what you sell? In the midst of these challenging economic times, some small businesses are actually gaining steam. The question for every entrepreneur is, "Am I doing everything within my power to generate the type of success that I desire?"

Those who dream of greatness on a personal and business level are well served by a popular adage for success, "The difference between a dream and a goal is a plan with a deadline." Understanding and applying this distinction will propel your business and your income in an upward direction. The list of what's needed to bring your plan to life is not long at all, it's simply a matter of focus, discipline and consistency. The start of this year presents an opportunity for a fresh new start to pave your way, blaze your trail and commit to building the business that you truly envision.

OUT TO PASTOR A Weekly Religion Column



If You Can't Resolve 'Em, Perfect Last Year's Mistakes

By Rev. James L. Snyder
An old year is fading and a new year is upon us again. Looking back over the old year, I worry that my blunders were not as bad as they could have been. Did I make all the gaffes I possibly could? Did I fill my quota? What is my quota, anyway?

The New Year offers the opportunity to start over. Actually, what happens is people simply make new mistakes curiously similar to the mistakes made during the old year. What a waste of time.

What is wrong with my old mistakes? The only thing I can think of is that I did not work hard enough to make the most of them. It is one thing to make a mistake, but it is quite another thing to perfect the art of making a mistake so that you do not have to repeat it ever again. Too many amateurs have given mistake-making a bad name.

Some mistakes take lots of time to fully mature, but when its time comes, I want to make sure it is implemented as smoothly and as perfectly as possible. I refuse to execute any mistake before its time.

If I am any judge of character, the majority of people will not make any new mistakes this coming New Year. Oh, they think they are making new mistakes, but in reality, they are dusting off old ones and re-dating them for the current year.

For those who take mistake-making seriously, allow me to offer some help to guide this pursuit in the coming New Year.

Look back over the old year and make a list of all of the mistakes you have made. If you are a husband, solicit help from your wife, who will be

able to remember all of those mistakes you have forgotten. (Not to mention one or two you did not make.)

Go over each mistake on your list and determine if it needs repeated for the New Year. It does not make sense in doing new mistakes if you are not finished with the old ones. Nothing is more disheartening than a half-baked mistake.

For every mistake from the previous year not needing repeating, place a nice red star in front of it. That mistake can now go into your Hall of Blame, which you will never have to repeat again.

Of course, you will have some mistakes, even though they have been perfectly executed, which are well worth repeating.

Now look at all of those mistakes listed for repeating during the New Year. Prioritize them so you can begin the New Year with a good plan.

Prioritize this list and think of ways in which you can improve on your mistakes from this past year. No satisfaction compares with doing something as good as you can.

Some people have the strange idea that they live a completely mistake-free life.

The Bible, an authority on mistakes, says this; "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." (1 John 1:8-10 KJV.)

The great hope we have is that there is no mistake bigger than God's ability to forgive.

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. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

MountainViews-Observer

Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community

For Your Community

Final Preps Underway for Occupy the Rose Parade

Occupy the Rose Parade event organizer, Los Angeles attorney, Peter Thottam said they expect at least 1,000 people to show up for Monday's march down Colorado Blvd right behind the official parade — a number far less than 40,000, the estimate given earlier this week by a number of news agencies.

Also counter to reports, organizers said they knew nothing of Michael Moore possible showing up. They did confirm Cindy Sheehan and musician Michelle Shocked would be part of the protest.

Police have said they stepped up security including unconfirmed reports that undercover federal marshals will also patrol TV corner.

According to documents from occupy officials plans include a procession with a 250 foot long constitution, held up in front so that the words "We the People." Next will be a 70 ft constitution of similar construction with a visible "We the Corporations" in front.

It further says, following the two constitutions will be the "Goldie Sachs Wheel of Fortune" followed by the Octupus Octopus. Reaching 70ft in diameter and requiring 40 people to operate it, the octopus represents the strangle hold of Wall Street and other corporations on our democracy. Bringing up the rear of the procession will be float #99. Ninety nine people representing the 99 percent will carry, on an imperial throne, a single member of the 1 percent. Scattered between this visuals will be a number of occupiers wearing "person" sized occupy tents with core message of the Occupy Movement written on the wall of the tents.

A separate Occupy Music Concert with Michelle Shocked and others will follow with an end celebratory party at the local Yard House restaurant organizers said.

Pet of the Week



Meet McKenzie. She's a four-month-old gray domestic shorthair kitten. She loves attention and is very inquisitive.

McKenzie's adoption fee is \$70 which includes her spay surgery, a microchip, the first set of vaccinations, as well as a free follow-up health check at a participating vet. Also, new adopters will receive complimentary health and wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals. Ask an adoptions counselor for more information during your visit.

Call the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA at 626.792.7151 to ask about A299862, 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.



(Above) Burbank's Float Barn

Keeping Up the Traditions

By Dean Lee

Six of the 43 floats in this year's Rose Parade hold on to a longtime tradition, dating back as far as the parade itself, "building them yourself."

Self built floats include, cities of Sierra Madre, Burbank, Downey and La Canada Flintridge. Cal Poly Universities also enter a self built float each year.

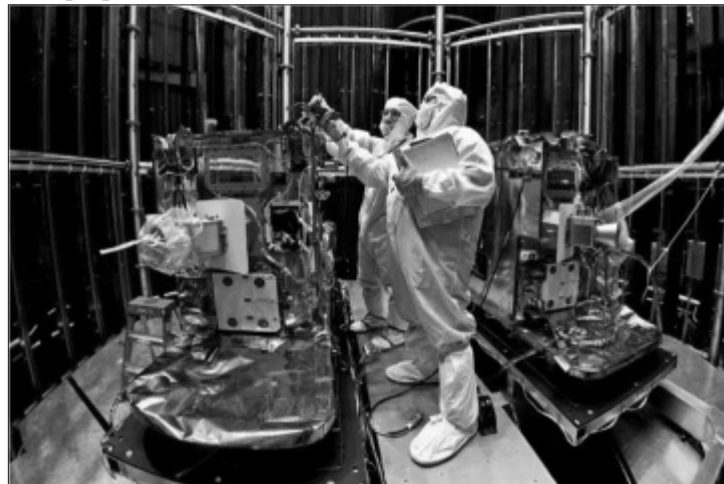
Julie Smith, Head Decorator for the South Pasadena Float, said their city is the second oldest float builder/entry in the parade going back 119 years.

This year's float them is "When Life Gives You Lemons..." The concept includes an optimistic pair of aliens who reverse their fortunes despite their crash landing into a lemon tree by setting up a roadside refreshment stand.



South Pasadena Float, "When Life Gives You Lemons . . ."

Spacecraft on Final Approach for Moon Orbit



NASA's twin spacecraft to study the moon from crust to core are nearing their New Year's Eve and New Year's Day main-engine burns to place the duo in lunar orbit.

Named Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory (GRAIL), the spacecraft are scheduled to be placed in orbit beginning at 1:21 p.m.

"Our team may not get to partake in a traditional New Year's celebration, but I expect seeing our two spacecraft safely in lunar orbit should give us all the excitement and feeling of euphoria anyone in this line of work would ever need," said David Lehman, project manager for GRAIL from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

The distance from Earth to the moon is approximately 250,000 miles. NASA's Apollo crews took about three days to travel to the moon. Launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station Sept. 10, 2011, the GRAIL spacecraft are taking

"As we all know, when life gives you lemons you make lemonade," Smith said.

Like all self built floats, Smith said they do everything with volunteers, raise all of their own money. Other parade participants, with the bad economy, have looked into self built as a way to save money although most of the float associations' members say it's about tradition and city pride not money. The average self built float cost around \$80,000.

Steven Edwards Vice President for the Burbank Float Association said their motivations are much different, he also they also try stuff professional float builders might not do.

He said Burbank was the first to use foam instead of air in the tires of the float so they do not get flat tires Edwards said the tournament

was even thinking of making this a requirement in the parade. He said they also use a wireless intercom system with a tournament official that help guild the float, "They can communicate with anyone riding on the float," he said.

Burbank's float depicts a sleeping boy floating on clouds. As gears turn, shafts spin, and smoke bellows from the machine, his dream becomes reality. The machine has produced a rocket ship and a new astronaut.



(Above and below) La Canada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association entry, "if pigs could fly"



Man Found Shot in Northwest

Police are asking for the public's help after they found a man dead while responding early Tuesday morning to reports of gunshots in the area of Marengo Ave. At approximately 5:40 a.m. officers conducted an extensive area check and found a male Hispanic in the 100 block of Dearborn Street.

Police later identified the man as Edward Santana, 43, of Altadena. They also said he was, most likely, not related to anyone in the neighborhood.

Detectives are investigating the incident as a homicide. Police said the victim was shot at least once. No other information was given.

Anyone with information should call detectives at (626) 744-4241 or <http://lacrimestoppers.org> and click on "Submit a web tip".

BANDFEST FREE LIVE WEBCAST SATURDAY

The Tournament of Roses announced Wednesday that the three 2012 Bandfest Presented by Remo shows will be available via free live webcast Saturday. Featuring the prizewinning bands of the 2012 Rose Parade, Bandfest is a spectacle of band field shows, expertly displaying the talent that made the bands from all over worthy to perform in the Rose Parade.

"By offering the Bandfest webcast for free, we are providing our participating bands international exposure through the Rose Parade brand," said Alex P. Aghajanian, chairman of the Tournament of Roses Music committee.

For information, including times can be found at tournamentofroses.com

City's Public Works Doing Double Duty

By Dean Lee

City Manager Michael Beck gave a quick windstorm update Thursday on the cleanup efforts as they relate to the Rose Parade route saying, other than putting in long hours, everything is good to go.

Beck said, with a shortened time schedule, they have a dedicated cleanup crew just for the parade.

"We're still working 12 hour shifts, city contractors as well as city crews," he said. "We have a dedicated crew for the parade route but we're making sure we are cleaning up the neighborhoods as well."

He said they wanted to make sure they were meeting the needs and expectations of residents, "while we make sure the city is presentable to the world."

Beck said their strategy was to first clear all the major streets, such as Green Street, Union Street and Colorado Blvd and then side streets. .

"We are making sure all of the fingers off the parade route, which are pedestrian access points, are cleaned as well," he said again stressing that they have two teams, one for the parade and another for neighborhoods.

Now the problem is people illegally dumping derbies on streets they have already cleaned he explained.

"That's been a challenge because we think it's clean and we're moving on to other parts of the city," he said. Beck added that there are still sites open where residents can take debris themselves.

Sierra Madre and Washington Boulevards is the only drop-off area not still open because of the post parade float viewing.

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 Jan. 3 from 6 p.m. to 8p.m. at the Pasadena Community Network - Studio G, 2057 N. Los Robles Ave. For more info call 626.794.8585 or visit pasadenan.com.

Share Your Photos from the Pasadena Windstorm



to your own account, share that image under Discussion Topic: Pasadena Windstorm 2011. Detailed instructions are available at www.flickr.com/help/groups.

If you don't have a Flickr account, e-mail your photos to pplarchives@cityofpasadena.net. Include your name and the date, location and description of each image submitted.

By submitting your photos on the website or via e-mail, you agree to allow PDHC to publish them online.

The Pasadena Digital History Collaboration is a consortium of institutions including Pasadena Public Library, Pasadena Museum of History, Shattford Library at Pasadena City College and The Huntington Library. The website www.pasadenadigitalhistory.com brings local history to life by providing access to the largest collection of digitized photo archives in Pasadena.

For more information contact Martha Camacho, Pasadena Public Library research librarian, at (626) 744-4279 or info@pasadenadigitalhistory.com.

“What’s Going On?”

News and Views from Joan Schmidt



GUESS WHO’S COMING TO DINNER?

Last Friday was a very exciting day. We met newly-acquired friends visiting from the Philippines.

The Saga began several months ago when I was on the Internet and in a “Pro Basketball” mood. Years ago, as a college senior in Newburgh, New York I had friends on the Knicks. I met a young lady, Bonnie Wright, who eventually married Emmette Bryant and we attended games together. Red Holtzman, the Knicks then-coach actually gave money for a room to be rented and we had a surprise birthday party for the late Nate Bowman. “Clyde”, (Walt Frazier) was a great dancer and Cazzie Russell, “Captain Willie” (Willis Reed), and “Head and Shoulders” (Phil Jackson) were among attendees. It was a blast! Emmette was traded to the Celtics, so we met several players there including the late Larry Seigfried. Every so often I go on the Internet to see how people are doing.

I am a really big Pete Maravich fan. I never personally knew Pete but admired him greatly from his playing time at Louisiana State under his Dad, Press. Pete tragically died here in Pasadena, while working at the Church of the Nazarene at a basketball clinic. It was so sudden; he was dribbling the ball and just collapsed. Pete had been born with a heart defect which no one realized. To this day, I still have a heavy heart when I pass by that Church.

The day I was in the “basketball mood”, I found out Pete had two sons, Jaeson and Josh. I connected with them and found a “Choy Lu”

fan! So many players I had watched over the years were introduced. Presently, a few have passed away, such as “Wilt the Stilt” Chamberlain and Dave DeBusschere. Pete was represented by his two young sons, Josh and Jaeson.

Choy Lu is such a Pistol Pete fan that his dream was to come to the USA, meet Pete’s two sons and visit Pete’s grave. Choy, his wife Connie, son Josh and daughter, Maroushka are currently here in the USA. They have been visiting relatives in Riverside, with outings that included Disneyland, Sea World and the San Diego Zoo. It’s up in the air if they will make the trek to Louisiana because there are no direct flights and the expense. Choy has spoken to Pete’s sons; if he makes it to Louisiana, he will meet them.



This past Friday they came to our home and I prepared Italian food, which they greatly like. The children said they were tired of “American food” and were glad they did go to a Chinese restaurant a few days before.

Choy is actually Chinese and manages a trucking business. Connie, his wife is Filipina. Usually it is frowned upon if you marry someone not of your own nationality. However, Choy’s real grandmother passed away when he was very young, and his “adoptive” grandmother is Filipina, so that helped his family accept Connie. And why would they not? She is beautiful, warm, friendly and an excellent mother. Choy noted that their children, Josh and Maroushka have a maid at home, but I couldn’t believe it. They served the food, wouldn’t let me clear the table and were so gracious. Josh and Maroushka speak FOUR languages, English, Tagalog, Mandarin and Cantonese! They are involved in sports, musically inclined, do well at school and love to read!

My hubby Bob and I learned a lot from the Lu’s. In the Philippines, Pro Basketball is king. American football is not a favorite. We spent the afternoon talking about basketball, sports, our families and customs. I would mention a player. Then Choy would say a date and tell you that on that day, Pistol Pete played against that player and describe the action! It blew my husband away that Choy had so much knowledge. He is only 47. So what he tells us is from games he saw in much later years! Pro Basketball is GREATLY loved in the Philippines. If someone has a TV that gets Internet reception, a group will watch an old game together-like our Super Bowl parties!

We were so thankful to meet this wonderful family and learn a little more about the Philippines. It was fun to reminisce about the old NBA! We hope Choy fulfills his lifelong dream to visit Pistol Pete’s grave and meet his sons.



who also was a great fan! Choy and I became Facebook fans and shared Websites on line. My favorite link is the “Fifty Greatest NBA Players of all Time.” The link shows halftime at an All-Star Game where the 50 GREATEST NBA players are mentioned. Pistol Pete was the only one who had passed away, and was represented by young sons Jaeson and Josh. I was blown away by the amazing trip down Memory Lane and seeing SO MANY stars whom I watched in high school and college. And I am 63! I even saw Bob Cousy as a high school freshman in New Jersey. We rode on two buses to the old Garden. We were in the highest bleachers and everyone kept saying how great Cousy was! That was before I became a real

SANTA AND DONORS FULFILL HOLIDAY WISHES FOR HILLSIDES CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



With help from Santa Clause and donors, Hillside’s, a Pasadena children’s charity, hosted its annual Hillside’s Christmas for children living at its campus prior to some of them going on home visits for the holidays. Bringing holiday cheer throughout the campus, Santa Claus and his elves made an early visit to children living at the residential treatment facility.

“The holidays are really special times for the children living at Hillside’s,” said Hillside’s Chief Executive Officer Joseph M. Costa. “We create traditions that are memorable and restore hope during a time that reminds them of their families. With the help of our donor community, we are able to fulfill special wishes not just for our children, but for the families that we serve as well.” Children gathered in the morning to enjoy a catered breakfast and participate in the traditional sing-along of

holiday songs led by Hillside’s Chief Executive Officer Joseph M. Costa. While the children were singing songs, Santa’s helpers distributed the donated gifts that were on children’s wish lists and were delivered to their respective cottages.

Eagerly awaiting the distribution of gifts from Santa, children quickly ripped open the gift wrapping to unveil their new gifts. Smiling and overjoyed with their special wishes, children captured the attention of any adult present to show them their new gifts.

Some companies that helped during the holidays included: Venerable Chiropractic Clinics and Family Chiropractic, Baxter Bioscience, Bellissima Salon and Day Spa, Parkway Grill, Arroyo Chop House, Café 140 South, Pilgrim Tower East, Briggs and Associates, APS LPC, Laughlin, Falbo, Levy & Moresi, Rusnak Auto Group, Starbucks, Western Asset Management, Tokio Ma-

rine Management, Northrop Grumman, CPCU, San Gabriel Chapter, Kaiser Permanente, Citizens Bank, Curves on Green, Parsons, Forensics Group, Giroux and Associates, xotapa Restaurant, Bar Celona, and Villa SORRISO.

Nearly a hundred families also participated in the holiday adopt-a-family program. Family members received special wishes, a week’s worth of groceries. Additional companies that joined individuals in adopting families included: Collins, Collins, Muir & Stewart Law Firm in South Pasadena, Coldwell Banker, South Coast AQMD – Laboratory Services in Diamond Bar, Premier Healthcare Services, Arch Insurance, Kate| Yoga in Monrovia, The Station Bar in Arcadia and Bank of America.

To learn more about the children’s charity, visit www.Hillside.org or to sponsor winter outings during the children’s holiday break, contact Brittany Berryman, assistant director to community resources at 323-254-2274 ext. 258

TOUGH ECONOMY CAN’T KILL DREAM

For the first time in 18 years, the Rose Parade® welcomes a new float builder.



Matt and Katie Rodriguez weren’t out of business very long.

Days after closing their company, Charisma Floats, Matt and Katie received a curious email from Charlie Meier, a promising young designer. The trio quickly bonded over their common love of the Rose Parade® and agreed that they would to pool their resources and give the parade another try. Weeks later, the Tournament of Roses® approved the launch of new company, Paradiso Parade Floats.

Earlier this year, economic woes prompted multiple sponsors to drop out of the parade, including Matt and Katie’s last remaining clients. The recession triggered increased competition between float builders. Matt and Katie’s lack of an in-house designer and floral director proved too much to overcome in the current economic climate.

Enter Charlie Meier.

Charlie, well known in Sierra Madre for designing five consecutive award winning floats for the town, is bidding the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association, a volunteer organization, a fond farewell to start this new venture. Charlie’s last float for Sierra Madre was “Suenos de California,” which won the 2011 Governor’s Trophy.

Charlie says, “I am deeply indebted to Sierra Madre’s volunteers for years of encouragement and support. I never would have been able to consider starting a new company if it weren’t for the experience I gained working with the wonderful people of the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association. It is sad to be moving on after building so many warm relationships, but it is time to embrace some new possibilities.”

Charlie holds the record as the youngest designer in Rose Parade® history. He designed his first entry at age 13. With the exception of that first float, all his designs have won awards. He

submitted a design for the 2012 Sierra Madre Float design, however, due to the selection process lottery, by the time Meier’s Sierra Madre design was reviewed, another entry, very similar, had already been chosen. The Sierra Madre entry for 2012 is designed by _____.

In the intimate world of professional float-building, opportunities for advancement are rare. Despite closed doors, Charlie persevered by designing entries built by volunteers.

The response to Charlie’s volunteer designs was unanimously enthusiastic. Still, the proverbial “foot-in-the-door” to professional float-building proved elusive.

“I heard that Matt and Katie had decided to close their business over the radio.

Immediately I pulled my car over and emailed them,” Charlie says. “I thought, ‘I have to at least try. I’ve been wanting to do this my whole life.’”

Katie recalls first meeting Charlie, “We had no idea what to expect, but it wasn’t long before we discovered that the three of us had all the components we needed to build a dynamic new business.”

When asked about Paradiso, Charlie responds, “Some people might say that starting a float company in this economy is crazy, but for us, the timing fell together perfectly. We may be in our early 30’s, but we have 60 years of experience between us. The Rose Parade® is ready for a fresh perspective and some new ideas. The road may not be easy, but we’re very optimistic that sponsors will be excited about what Paradiso has to offer.”

Katie adds, “Adversity only makes us stronger. We, like many Americans, have experienced hard times, but we are persevering. We believe there are always opportunities for people who are willing to work hard.”

This is one dream that is alive and kicking.

RED CARPET CHRISTMAS PARTY UNITES CELEBRITIES AND COMMUNITIES OF PASADENA

The Armenian Community Coalition of Pasadena (ACCP) held its annual Christmas Party on Wednesday evening, December 21, 2011 at Robin’s BBQ Grill on Rosemead Blvd.

A diverse multi-cultural group of community leaders were among the guests invited to what was dubbed as the “A-List” party organized by the ACCP. Mayor Bill Bogaard, Senator Carol Liu, South Pasadena mayor Michael Cacciotti, Assemblyman Anthony Portantino, Former mayor of Pasadena Bill Paparian, and many other elected officials and community leaders created a “who’s who” crowd of Pasadena. The party was like a Hollywood awards show with “celebrity” status individuals. Attendees had an exclusive opportunity to rub shoulders and chat with leaders of communities in a cordial and respectful atmosphere. “We met many old friends, and met some new ones, a very fine event indeed” said active community member German Barrero, who attended the event with his wife Rosie.

Chris Chahinian, chairman of the ACCP and

the San Gabriel Valley Armenian American Democrats - co organizers of the event - was very happy with the positive outcome of the evening. “All our communities felt united tonight” he said. “We all have our differences and some disagreement on some issue or another, but coming together at such pleasant events heals old wounds and creates opportunities to mend friendships and alliances. We are proud to have succeeded in creating that opportunity and bringing all our communities together for the general advantage of Pasadena as a whole.”

As an annual tradition, ten community members were honored with special certificates of recognition. The most important award was the selection of “Man of the Year”, presented to Mr. Robin Salzer for his relentless efforts, dedication, and commitment to improve Pasadena.

Raffle prizes were drawn and the grand prize was a pair of prime seats to the Rose Parade.

The ACCP Board thanked everyone and invited everyone again to attend next year’s party.

PET OF THE WEEK

Calhoun: Animal ID # A4371143

Meet the magnificent Calhoun (A4371143)! Calhoun is a gregarious and cooperative six-year-old black neutered male Mutt who was found in El Monte on December 4th and brought to the Baldwin Park shelter. He has a microchip and the shelter has tried to contact his registered owners without success. Weighing thirty pounds, he walks very well on leash and is well socialized. Good with children, Calhoun is friendly with other dogs. Calhoun clearly loves his treats – he is a pudgy boy who needs a diet and some exercise. This charming little gentleman is sure to win your heart. A friendly, well-balanced dog, Calhoun will be the perfect indoor pet for anyone in any living situation at all, and would be a spectacular companion for a senior.

To meet Calhoun, please visit him at the Baldwin Park Shelter, located at 4275 N. Elton, Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (Phone: 626-430-2378). For any inquiries about Calhoun, please reference his animal ID number: A4371143. 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 Calhoun or the



adoption process, contact United Hope for Animals Volunteer Adoption Coordinator Samantha at 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 dog of all breeds, ages, and sizes available for adoption in local shelters, visit <http://www.unitedhope4animals.org/about-us/shelter-support-program/>.

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STATE RULING COSTS ARCADIA MILLIONS

With two rulings by the California State Supreme Court Thursday morning, millions of Redevelopment dollars that go to support Arcadia business, development, low-income housing, as well as the jobs and salaries of local workers and the budgets of community organizations, have been put in imminent jeopardy.

Among the potential hit list:

- the Gold Line overall and Arcadia enhancements planned for the train station
- housing for seniors and low-to-moderate income residents
- redevelopment of Downtown Arcadia
- expansion of Rusnak Mercedes or any development of related buildings purchased by City
- more than 10% of the annual budget of the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce
- planned enhancements to freeway off-ramps and other local road projects
- City marketing support for this fall's Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita
- 10% – 100% of the salaries of multiple high-ranking City managers and department heads

Late Thursday afternoon the City of Arcadia hastily scheduled a study session for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, preceding the first City Council meeting of the year, to discuss implications of Thursday's ruling that upheld Governor Jerry Brown's decision to eliminate the state's authorization of redevelopment agencies, first adopted 66 years ago in 1945, and its funding of about 400 community Redevelopment Agencies across the state. Arcadia adopted a Redevelopment Agency for the city in 1973.

The state Supreme Court landed a second blow when it disallowed the state's offer to have cities like Arcadia pay a "ransom" from city property taxes to keep the money coming. Arcadia City Council already agreed to pay about \$1.5 million in ransom.

Redevelopment agencies permit cities and counties to identify areas in need of improvement/support and receive state funding to partner with private developers and/or use a portion of property taxes to help pay for those improvements, projects, and entities.

Arcadia has benefited from the use of about \$4 million per year in redevelopment monies, most of which — \$2.6 million at present – is committed to bond payments, which City Manager

Don Penman told ArcadiaBest.com he believes the state will be legally obliged to continue funding.

The other \$1.4 million has been used to support the development of everything from the new Campus Commons senior apartments on Campus Drive near Arcadia High School (20% of Redevelopment funding is mandated for use on such projects) to plans for a transit center retail and open area at the Gold Line train station on First Avenue at Santa Clara Street.

Of broader impact, Thursday's ruling struck a serious blow to the entire Gold Line project from Pasadena to Azusa, with the critical mandated maintenance and operations facility in Monrovia owned entirely by the Monrovia Redevelopment Agency. Gold Line officials say they will "review (their) options." (It was one of two blows to the Gold Line Thursday, the other from a different court judge who threw out the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report that would have allowed the Monrovia facility to be used for the Gold Line. Officials will challenge that ruling and hope for a reversal.)

In trying to accommodate the desire of Arcadia's only auto dealership and biggest single sales tax generator, Rusnak Mercedes, to expand their showroom and car lot, Arcadia has leveraged Redevelopment monies to purchase four parcels of land on Huntington Drive and Santa Anita Avenue. Although Rusnak is once again threatening to leave Arcadia unless the City ponies up another \$3 million in incentives to cover \$1 mil. in lost annual onuses from Mercedes for the past three years, Arcadia had hoped to use Redevelopment money to attract new businesses to the buildings that have been vacated.

Much of the \$1.4 million is doled out in smaller increments of tens of thousands of dollars to support many local projects and entities. All of it could be cut off immediately as a result of the ruling, though Penman expects lawmakers to take another stab at finding an alternate solution. "I don't think most legislators want to see Redevelopment Agencies go away," Penman said.

Governor Brown proposed the concept earlier this year as part of his solution to cover the state's massive debt. Officials estimate that the state could save and reallocate \$1.7 billion by ending the funding of Redevelopment Agencies. Nonetheless, Arcadia will need to take

some sort of action in January.

Redevelopment money was responsible for the creation of Old Pasadena and San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter. Merchants in the Downtown Arcadia area along First Avenue and Huntington Drive have spent the past year laying plans to create a legal business district in early 2012 that would work to revitalize Downtown Arcadia into something akin to Old Monrovia on Myrtle Avenue. The Arcadia City Council previously approved \$20,000 in Redevelopment money to pay for a consultant to help the merchants explore the project and recently tentatively approved additional Redevelopment Agency funding to create the Business District. That plan is now in limbo as the result of Thursday's ruling.

Also up in the air is the ongoing employment of the people in the City's development department since cutting off state Redevelopment funding would drastically cut the City's ability to finance any development. That includes Economic Development Manager Jerry Schwartz, whose entire salary is paid by Redevelopment funds. Nearly half of the salary of Assistant City Manager Jason Kruckeberg is covered by Redevelopment money, and about 10% of City Manager Penman, who is retiring in 2012 as soon as a new City Manager is hired.

The City also funds more than 20% of the \$300,000 annual budget of the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce, 50% of which (\$31,000, or nearly the entire annual pay for two of the four staff members), comes from Redevelopment funds.

In 2008 and 2009, the City spent \$25,000 in Redevelopment money to promote and market the Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita with street banners and a web site, among many other promotional efforts. The Breeders' Cup returns to Santa Anita this fall but Penman said no City money would be available this time as a result of Thursday's ruling. Short of a last-ditch effort by legislators to create an alternate source of funding for Redevelopment Agencies, the City's only options are to shift already constricted General Funds to cover Redevelopment expense items, or eliminate projects and positions.

– By Scott Hettrick
(This article does not reflect any official position or the opinions of anyone at The Arcadia Chamber of Commerce, where Hettrick is Executive Director.)

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, December 14, through Saturday, December 27, the Police Department responded to 857 calls for service of which 123 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, December 18:

1. At about 4:38 p.m., an officer responded to H&M at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in reference to a theft investigation. A loss prevention officer observed three female suspects select numerous articles of clothing and conceal them in bags. The suspects were detained after they exited the store without making payment. The 21-year-old Black female, 20-year-old Black female, and 17-year-old Black female were transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking. The juvenile was later released to a guardian.
2. At approximately 8:19 p.m., an officer responded to Baldwin Avenue at Camino Real Avenue, in regards to a rear-end traffic collision. A vehicle had stopped for a red light, however the driver behind was unable to stop in time. The officer determined the latter was speeding, and no major injuries were reported.

Monday, December 19:

3. Shortly after 3:25 p.m., an officer responded to the Arcadia Police Department front counter, in regards to an identity theft report. The victim explained she received two credit card statements in the mail for accounts she never opened. Unknown suspect(s) made numerous charges, and the victim had no idea who opened the accounts or how they obtained her personal information.
4. Around 9:30 p.m., a victim was walking home from Au79 Tea House, 815 West Naomi Avenue, when he was robbed by an unknown male suspect. As the victim walked eastbound on Camino Real Avenue toward Melanie Lane, a male adult approached him and forced him to the ground. The suspect searched his person and fled with his wallet, two cell phones, and keys. The victim described the suspect as a Black male, 20 to 25-years-old, approximately six-feet tall, stocky build, bald head, wearing a black jacket, red t-shirt, dark pants, and dark shoes, and observed him get into the passenger seat of an awaiting vehicle that drove off westbound on Camino Real Avenue. The vehicle is described as a late 1990's black four-door Toyota or Honda with tinted window. Officers made contact with nearby residents; however no one saw or heard anything suspicious.

Tuesday, December 20:

5. At about 7:29 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the 1000 block of Rancho Road, in reference to a residential burglary report. Unknown suspect(s) forced entry by smashing out the window of a balcony door, which led into the master bedroom. The victim returned home and observed numerous drawers ransacked, and discovered cash, watches, and several items of jewelry missing. The suspect(s) fled the scene without activating the alarm.
6. At approximately 9:37 p.m., officers responded to the parking lot of President Square, 1300 South Golden West Avenue, in regards to a stabbing that had just occurred. Through investigation, officers discovered that a group of persons were involved in a verbal altercation, after which a male adult suspect stabbed a male victim in the chest. Officers were directed by witnesses to the suspects' location and detained two suspects inside Money Pot, a restaurant located within President Square. The Arcadia Fire Department paramedics arrived at the scene and rendered aid to the victim. He was transported to the Huntington Memorial Hospital in the City of Pasadena, where he later died as a result of injuries. A 31-year-old Hispanic male and 26-year-old Hispanic male were arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking. Further investigation is being conducted by the Detective Bureau.

Wednesday, December 21:

7. Shortly after 3:15 p.m., an officer responded to JC Penney at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in regards to a theft report. While shopping with her two children, a female adult concealed numerous items of baby clothes and other merchandise inside the undercarriage of her baby stroller. The suspect directed her daughter to exit the store with the baby stroller while she made payment for only one item. The 34-year-old Hispanic female was arrested and her children were released to her boyfriend.
8. At about 9:16 p.m., a female victim was walking toward her car after shopping at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, when an unknown suspect, described as a male Hispanic, approximately 5'8" tall, medium build, medium complexion, wearing a black hooded sweater, approached her while she was placing her bags inside the car trunk. The suspect grabbed the victim's purse and ran through the parking lot to a waiting vehicle. The victim observed the vehicle, described as a mid to late 1990's Acura or Integra with rear tinted windows, flee the parking lot out of sight.

Thursday, December 22:

9. Around 1:45 a.m., officers were conducting a DUI checkpoint at 41 East Live Oak Avenue. Upon contact with a male adult driver, officers noticed an odor of alcohol emitting from his breath and person. Through investigation, officers determined the driver was under the influence and had a blood alcohol level greater than .05%. A bottle of alcohol and small container of marijuana were also found inside the vehicle. The 19-year-old male of unknown race was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail without incident.
10. Shortly after 11:00 a.m., an officer responded to Royal Construction, 11680 Goldring Road, regarding a fraud report. Unknown suspect(s) fraudulently manufactured checks using the company's account information and attempted to cash three checks. The company was flagged by bank representatives and has no idea how their information was compromised.

Friday, December 23:

11. At approximately 1:02 p.m., an officer responded to the Arcadia Police Department front counter in regards to a theft report. The victim explained he never received a package that he was expecting from Amazon, however the UPS shipping status of his order and receipt state that it was received by an unknown subject. The victim does not know the subject and is desirous of prosecution.
12. At about 8:09 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Santa Anita Mall parking lot, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in reference to a traffic collision. As an 8-passenger golf cart came to a stop along the sidewalk to pick up another passenger, it was rear-ended by a 15-passenger van. The driver and front passenger of the golf cart were ejected from their seats. The golf cart was not equipped with seat belts and only minor injuries were reported.

Saturday, December 24:

13. Between 9:00 a.m. and 9:50 a.m., unknown suspect(s) stole a white 2008 Suzuki motorcycle parked in the front of Ralphs, 1101 West Huntington Drive. The victim returned to his vehicle after shopping and discovered it was missing. No one saw or heard anything.
14. Shortly after 4:38 p.m., officers responded to the intersection of Baldwin Avenue and the eastbound 210 freeway off ramp, in regards to a two-party traffic collision. As one party attempted to make a left turn off the ramp onto northbound Baldwin Avenue, he was struck by a vehicle proceeding southbound through the intersection on a yellow light. No major injuries were reported.

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MONTHLY FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

Join us in January for everything Dance; February everything Monsters and March everything Bugs! These special Family storytimes are for all ages and scheduled for Thursday, January 19, February 16 and March 15 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for an evening of stories, crafts, games and surprises for the whole family. No registration is necessary for these special programs but space is limited so come a little early!

The Arcadia Public Library is located at 20 W. Duarte Rd. Arcadia. For more information, please call (626) 821-5566, visit the Library's website at <http://library.ci.arcadia.ca.us> or follow us on Facebook.

DRAGON PARTY

It is the Year of the Dragon, so come celebrate this mythical creature at the Arcadia Public Library. There will be stories, a craft, snacks, and a short movie. We will even have our own Dragon Parade! This special family program will take place on Saturday, January 21 at 2:30 p.m. All ages welcome. Seating is limited so please come early.

For more information, please call (626) 821-5566 or visit the Arcadia Public Library's website at <http://library.ci.arcadia.ca.us>. You can now also follow us on Facebook and Twitter. The Arcadia Public Library is located at 20 W. Duarte Rd. Arcadia.

MONROVIA - DUARTE

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BILLY SPICER TO FILL SHAW'S SEAT BY MONROVIA CITY COUNCIL

By Joan Schmidt

At the Monrovia City Council Meeting on December 20, 2012, Billy Spicer was appointed to sit on the Council as a replacement for Clarence Shaw until Shaw returns from active duty with the military. The vote was 3-1, with Council Member Tom Adams voting the only "no". Mayor Mary Ann Lutz and Council Members Joe Garcia and Becky Shevlin voted in favor of the appointment.

This saga began last July when Shaw was activated to military duty. The Monrovia City Council had operated smoothly for the next five months. On December 1, at a special council meeting, there was a deadlock vote of 2-2 on a vote pertaining to the city's parks programs.

California Law permits a city council to appoint a temporary replacement for a Council Member who has been called to active duty. However, a city council is not required to do so. Monrovia's City Council seemed to be operating fine until the December 1 deadlock over park programs. At

the December 1 Meeting, Council Member Tom Adams then moved that a temporary replacement for Shaw be found, but that was voted against. However there was discussion over possible replacements, and the matter was referred back to City Staff, the City Manager and City Attorney.

At the December 20th meeting, Council Member Adams wanted the appointment matter placed in the agenda under his council member report. This makes sense, because it was Council Member Adams who first brought up this issue after the deadlock vote on December 1. When it was time for his council member report, Adams moved that former Mayor Bob Bartlett be appointed as a temporary replacement for Shaw. This makes great sense, as EVERYONE knows Bob Bartlett and what an outstanding job he did as Mayor of Monrovia with all the improvements to the city! However NO ONE would second the motion, so it died. Then the issue of appointment was brought up again under the second

agenda item by City Manager Scott Ochoa. Mr. Ochoa relayed communication with Mr. Shaw, who was advised by the Judge Advocate General's Office not to participate as an elected official while on active duty. Yet Mr. Shaw told Mr. Ochoa that he "prefers that his seat not be filled". Mr. Ochoa also noted that Mr. Shaw said "if a temporary appointment is made, that he (Shaw) had a recommendation."

Council Member Becky Shevlin said she had discussed the matter with Shaw and he recommended Billy Spicer. This recommendation of Shaw's was reiterated by Mr. Ochoa. The council did eventually nominate Spicer, and appointed him by a vote of 3-1. Mr. Adams was not happy and I don't blame him.

I don't live in the City of Monrovia, only in the county area. However if someone is advised "not to act as an elected official", I don't feel they should be making suggestions. It is no wonder Council Member Tom Adams was NOT happy and said, "I think I have been set up".

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY IN OLD TOWN MONROVIA

Looking for something fun and local to do on New Year's Eve? Come countdown the end of 2011 and ring in the New Year in Old Town Monrovia! This year we will be hosting our First Annual New Year's Eve Celebration in Old Town at 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 31st.

This event will feature:

- A beer and wine garden (\$5 drink tickets sold at the door) on the 500 block of South Myrtle Avenue (Lemon Ave- Colorado ...Blvd.) The beer and wine garden will open at 7 p.m. and remain open until just after midnight...Of course this area is for people 21 years old and up with proper I.D.

- A live band (The Lance and Gary show), at Colorado Blvd. and Myrtle Ave., from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

- A champagne toast with a midnight ball drop celebration at Myrtle Avenue and Colorado Blvd.

Most of your favorite Old Town retailers and restaurants will be open and accessible, so make sure to arrive early to shop and dine before joining the festivities in the street.

For more information call Diane Delmatoff at 626-303-6600.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

From December 26 to January 13, Athens Services will be collecting Christmas trees for recycling. To participate, residents should simply place a tree out on the curbside the night before the regular trash collection date, or before 6 a.m. that morning. Click here to learn more.

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS SET FOR JANUARY 24

Mayor Mary Ann Lutz will deliver her annual State of the City address to a reservations-only audience at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, at the Krikorian Premiere Theatre in Old Town. The public is invited to attend. Seating is limited For reservations, phone (626) 303-6600.

Interested in Serving your Community?

The Monrovia Arcadia Duarte (MAD) Town Council is look for you!

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:

**3rd 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**



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Job Seekers All-Day Event

Sponsored by Friends of the Monrovia Public Library



Representatives from Monrovia businesses will be available to talk about job opportunities and the interview process when applying for a position within their companies. **Don't miss this terrific opportunity.**

Steps to Employment

Learn how to file an online unemployment application, find jobs via social networking and access a multitude of free resources for job hunters.

A demonstration of the *Career Transitions* 24/7 online resource walks users through the entire job search process.



10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Hot Resumes

Emphasize strengths and minimize weaknesses with an attention-grabbing resume.

Learn formats, key phrases, and show an employer what you can do for them.



Bring your resume to this workshop for helpful advice.

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Ace the Interview & Dress for Success

Understand the rules of the interviewing game and how to dress.



Gain insider perspective from a dynamic re-creation of the interview that gets the job, during *The Perfect Interview* segment.

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 7

10:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Library Community Room

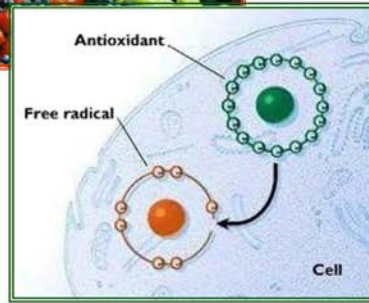
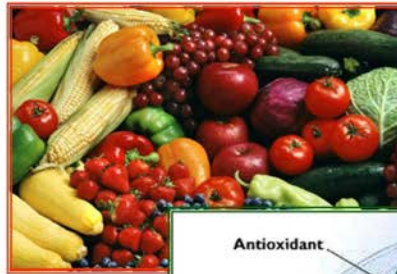
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Brown Bag Workshop Antioxidant 101 or "The Antioxidant Miracle"



There is a battle against aging and degenerative diseases raging inside our bodies. It's a war between antioxidants for health and longevity, and free radicals for disease. What are free radicals and how they are directly related to aging and degenerative diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, and more? What foods contain high antioxidants?

Dr. Lee Olivia, Chiropractor and Osteoporosis Consultant at the Arcade Medical Group in Duarte, spells out the benefits of healthy eating and intake of antioxidants.

Tuesday, January 17

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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PUSD News this Week

STATE'S MIDYEAR CUTS TO PUSD EXCEED \$1.8 MILLION

PUSD to use its reserves for the remainder of 2011-2012

Pasadena, CA - The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) stands to lose more than \$1.8 million in midyear cuts triggered by the state this month, with \$1.6 million coming from the reduction of state funding for student bus transportation. To minimize disruption to students and schools, the district will tap its reserves to maintain services for the rest of the year, but will raise the total dollar amount of reductions slated for 2012-2013.

"The prudent actions by the PUSD School Board should allow us to escape damage inflicted by these cuts for the 2011-2012 school year", said PUSD Super-

intendent Jon R. Gundry. "Unfortunately, I worry about next year."

PUSD currently provides bus transportation for 2,800 students per day. Options to absorb the cuts to transportation include discontinuing all busing except for students for whom the district is legally obligated to provide transportation.

PUSD schools have sustained more than \$20 million in cuts over the last 3 years, leading to the loss or elimination of programs and the reduction of staff at all levels. To close its budget gap, the district has shortened the academic year since 2009-2010, eliminated most professional

development for teachers, increased class size, cancelled summer school, and severely curtailed support to school libraries. The district has also furloughed employees from principals, administrators, and teachers to clerks, psychologists, and custodians.

"Any budget related decisions that are made by my administration are viewed through the lens of what will impact our classrooms the least," said Superintendent Gundry. "The PUSD family has done a wonderful job of keeping our school doors open and the lights on. But make no mistake: these cuts to education hurt kids."

PASADENA YMCA – TEEN LEADERSHIP CLUB OFFERED AT THE SIERRA MADRE YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTER

The City of Sierra Madre has partnered with the Pasadena YMCA to offer teens 11-17 years-old Teen Leadership Club at the Youth Activity Center. Starting Monday, January 9, 2012 the Pasadena YMCA will offer teen programming at the Sierra Madre Community Recreation Center, in the second story Youth Activity Center. The YMCA Teen Leadership Club creates a space where teens feel valued and supported, know they have options and prospects for a successful future and gain the competence and confidence to become productive adult citizens.

Pasadena YMCA Focus:

- Youth Development: Staff-support-

ed homework time, literacy and educational support, arts and enrichment programming

- Healthy Living: Nutrition and physical fitness
- Social Responsibility: Character development and community service learning projects

The program will be offered on Mondays 12:30pm – 6pm, Tuesdays through Thursdays 3pm-6pm and on Fridays at Kersting Court from 3pm-6pm. The cost is \$30.00 per week. Registration materials available starting Tuesday, January 3, 2012 on website at www.ymcala.org/pasadena or in person at the Pasadena YMCA office 2844 E.

Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107, (626) 432-5880. For more information, program application or to register, please contact Jennifer Sullivan, Senior Program Director, Regional Child Care Specialist for YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles, at jennifer-sullivan@ymcala.org or (213) 351-2271.

Spring and Summer Day Camps enrollment begins March 1, 2012. During the breaks the YMCA Teen Leadership Club transforms into a half day, day camp operating from 12:00PM-6:00PM Monday through Friday at the Sierra Madre Youth Activity Center. Activities vary throughout the day and week based on themes and weekly field trips.



Kid's Night Out – New Year's Eve Kid's Night Out

Saturday, December 31st – 6pm-1am

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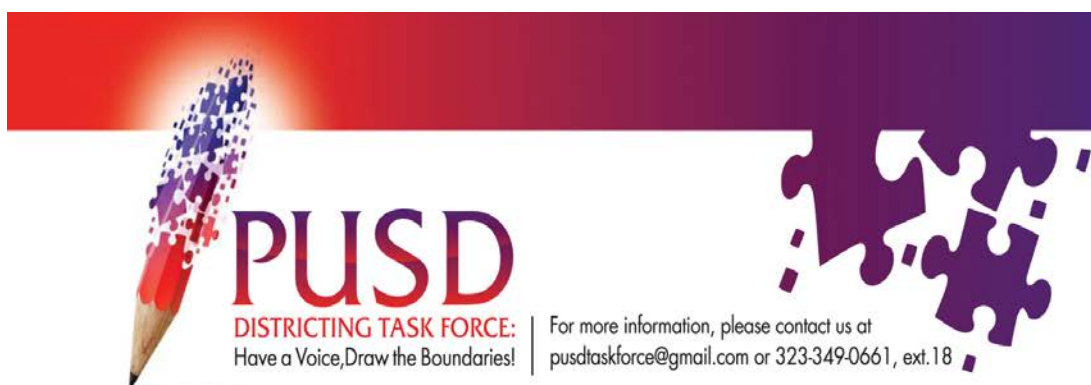
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Join us to learn about the importance and impact of the new PUSD School District Regional Sub-District Boundaries!

The Pasadena Unified School District Districting Taskforce would like to invite you to attend an important series of meetings that require community input and participation to have a successful outcome in developing new sub-regional districts to elect School Board Members.

The taskforce and technical team will present information about the districting process, mapping methods, and how you can participate to complete this process.

• January 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m., Jefferson Elementary in the Auditorium, 1500 E. Villa Street, Pasadena, CA 91106.

• January 17, 2012 at 6:00 p.m., Mountain View Cemetery, 2400 N Fair Oaks Ave., Altadena, 91003.

• February 7, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., Western Justice Center, 55 Grand, Pasadena, CA 91105.

• February 21, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., Al-Kebulan Cultural Center, 1435 North Raymond Ave., Pasadena, CA, 91103.

Visit our website: <http://districting-task-force.pasadenausd.org>.

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

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

High Point Academy

1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road
Pasadena, Ca. 91107 626-798-8989
website: www.highpointacademy.org

LaSalle High School

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

Mama Pete's Nursery School

71 Suffolk Avenue, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-9567
website: www.mamapete.org

Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 471-2000,
Email: 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

Odyssey Charter School

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

Pasadena High School

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

Pasadena Unified School District

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

St. Rita Catholic School

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

Sierra Madre Elementary School

141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
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

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\$19 Million Dollar Budget Approved

Mayor Directs Staff To Investigate Costs of Contracting Out Police, Fire and Paramedic Services
By Susan Henderson
The City of Sierra Madre has approved a \$19 million budget for the fiscal year 2012-2013. The budget includes a 1.5% increase in the city's operating budget, which is the highest increase in the city's history. The budget also includes a 1.5% increase in the city's capital budget, which is the highest increase in the city's history. The budget was approved by the City Council on December 15, 2011.

HomeTown Parade, Vintage Planes, Celebrities, Food, Drinks, Games, and BIG Fun in Sierra Madre on July 3rd & 4th

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Lots For Sale -

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Great Coffee

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Great Sandwiches

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Great Cookies

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Read The Paper Online At:

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pens friends toys
nuts families socks
cards services books
games candles surprises
words cookies canes
plurals stockings puzzles
tops candies mittens
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We get to stay up until Midnight... ...to welcome the New Year!

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Happy New Year!

People all over the world are welcoming the **New Year**. The New Year holiday is celebrated with gusto in **Scotland**. There, New Year's Eve is called **Hogmanay**. At midnight, church bells ring throughout the land. People join hands and sing the song, "Auld Lang Syne." It is a song to help people remember old and new friends and "days gone by." Have you ever sung it in school or with your family?

Read the clues below to fill in the puzzle:

What Do You Know About Scotland?

ACROSS

- musical instrument with bag of pig's skin, pipe to blow, and several horns
- a design or "plaid" of a Scottish clan
- Scotland's national poet
- popular game invented by the Scottish people
- New Year's Eve is called this
- lake that is said to have a creature living in it
- country north of England.
- a plaid, pleated skirt that can be worn by men
- large group of related families with the same last name

DOWN

- pudding cooked in sheep's stomach
- song to remember friends and "days gone by"
- capital of Scotland
- person bringing luck on New Year's Day
- Scotland's largest city; great ships built here
- contests of athletics, music and dancing
- small pony from a group of islands northeast of Scotland's mainland

Golf was invented in Scotland. I'd like to dive for all the golf balls that they hit into the water!

Edinburgh
tartan
Shetland
golf
Highland Games
Glasgow
Auld Lang Syne
Loch Ness
Edinburgh
Robert Burns
haggis
Glasgow
clan
Scotland
bagpipe
first footer
kilt

THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!!!

I hope that you were able to spend valuable time during Christmas with your family and friends. Next up on the calendar, The New Year! I think time is speeding up on me.

One of my favorite subjects is joyfully known as "Bubbly." I do not wish to be a referee with zebra stripes but I think it is important to discover some of the more intriguing historical elements of the liquid that tingles within our glass upon the stroke of midnight. There is a difference between "Champagne" and "Sparkling Wine." Champagne is a distinct region in France and by strict French Law, only grapes grown and produced in the region can be called Champagne.

TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills
thechefknows@yahoo.com

Many states and countries produce a sparkling wine using very similar methods as the French. In California the procedure is called, "Champion Method." In Spain they call it Cava, and South Africa uses Cap classique. An Italian sparkling wine is called Asti. In Germany, Sekt is a common sparkling wine. Other French wine regions cannot use the name Champagne, i.e. Burgundy and Alsace produce Crémant. Sparkling wines mislabeled Champagne can be and are often seized and destroyed by legal authorities.

How did this wonderful bottle of Bubbly come into our world? Most believe that the monks of France developed and began the process some four hundred years ago. It appears that these guys have a lot of free time on their hands. Like some many of our greatest discoveries, Champagne was actually a mistake. Can you believe that! Most wines were drunk very early, but some were transported long distances and through the journey, the casks would warm and set off a secondary fermentation. A strange bubbling would be noticed when these casks were opened. Dom Perignon gets the credit for one of the first successful deliberate capture of the "mousse" in a bottle. Since then many a ship have set sail and many weddings have started and ended with Champagne. Here are a few of the funnier quotes I found...

"I only drink Champagne when I'm happy, and when I'm sad. Sometimes I drink it when I'm alone. When I have company, I consider it obligatory. I trifle with it if I am not hungry and drink it when I am. Otherwise I never touch it - unless I'm thirsty." (Lily Bollinger)

"I drink Champagne when I win, to celebrate . . . and I drink Champagne when I lose, to console myself." (Napoleon Bonaparte)

In victory we deserve it, in defeat we need it." (Winston Churchill)

"Champagne makes you feel like it's Sunday and better days are just around the corner." (Marlene Dietrich)

"My only regret in life is that I did not drink more Champagne." (John Meynard Keynes)

"Champagne is the only wine that leaves a woman beautiful after drinking it." (Madame De Pompadour)

"Three be the things I shall never attain: envy, content and sufficient Champagne." (Dorothy Parker)

"Two warm bodies and one cold bottle of Champagne will produce something more wonderful than would happen without the Champagne." (Helen Gurley Brown)

"Champagne offers a minimum of alcohol and a maximum of companionship." (David Niven)

"Champagne is the wine of civilization and the oil of government." (Winston Churchill)

So, if this has got you in the mood for bubbly, I can't blame you. In fact, I toast you!! Drink responsibly! Wear eye protection if you insist on letting the kiddies rocket the cork with a bottle opening! Email me thechefknows@yahoo.com for further information. Thanks to Google for helping me research this. Join me this Sunday afternoon at 12 Noon at 9 PM on KABC Talk Radio



Each New Year's, revelers around the world chow down on specific foods to summon good luck for the next 365 days. While some traditions call for noodles and others call for fruit, all the edibles connote forward movement, prosperity and health. Whether or not you're superstitious, take a look at our list of common celebratory eats. If no luck comes your way, at least you'll go into the new year with a full belly.

Long Noodles

In China, Japan and other Asian countries, it's customary to eat long noodles, signify longevity, on New Year's Day. Since the noodles are never to be broken or shortened during the cooking process, the typical preparation for "Long-Life Noodles" is a stir-fry.

Pork

In some countries, including Cuba, Spain, Portugal, Hungary and Austria, pigs symbolize progress. Some say it's because these animals never move backward, while others believe it's all in their feeding habits (they push their snouts forward along the ground when rooting for food). And it's not limited to pork-foods shaped like pigs (think cutout cookies) count, too.

Round Fruits

Though the number of pieces varies by region, eating any round fruit is a common New Year's tradition. In the Philippines, the custom calls for 13, considered a lucky number; in Europe and the U.S., it calls for 12, which represents the months in a year. In both cases, their shape, which looks like a coin, and their sweetness are the common denominators.

Whole Fish

According to Doris Lum, a Chinese cuisine expert, the Chinese word for "fish" sounds like the word for "abundance," one of the many reasons fish has become a go-to good luck food. Also, Rosemary Gong writes in Good Luck Life, her book on Chinese celebrations, that it's important for the fish be served with the head and tail intact to ensure a good year, from start to finish.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates represent good luck in Turkey for many reasons: Their red color, which represents the human heart, denotes life and fertility; their medicinal properties represent health; and their abundant, round seeds represent prosperity-all things everyone hopes for in any fresh start.

Greens

From the coastal American South to Europe, people eat green leafy veggies-including kale, collards and cabbage-on New Year's Day because of their color and appearance, which resembles paper cash. Belief has it, the more you eat, the more prosperous you'll be (and the healthier, too!).

Lentils

A popular New Year's meal in Italy is Cotechino con Lenticchie (green lentils with sausage) because of the legume's greenish color and coin-like appearance. Deeper into the myth: When cooked, lentils plump with water, symbolizing growing wealth. Lentils are also considered good luck in Hungary, where they're preferred in a soup.

Pickled Herring

In Germany, Poland and Scandinavia, it's believed that eating herring at the stroke of midnight will ensure a year of bounty-as herring are in abundance throughout Western Europe. Also, their silvery color resembles that of coins, a good omen for future fortune.

Black-Eyed Peas

Considered good luck due to their penny-like appearance and abundance, these peas, enjoyed in the southern United States, are traditionally served in a dish called Hoppin' John. On the day after New Year's Day, leftover "Hoppin' John" becomes "Skippin' Jenny," meant to demonstrate frugality and promote prosperity in the new year.

Cornbread

A favorite throughout the year, cornbread is especially venerated as a New Year's treat in the southern United States. Why? Its color resembles that of gold. To ensure extra luck, some people add extra corn kernels, which are emblematic of golden nuggets.

Original article appeared on WomansDay.com

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ADAPTED BY
JAMES W. RODGERS



DIRECTED BY
CHRISTINA HARRIS

It's a Wonderful Life fulfilled our expectations – and then some! The last two weeks were completely sold out.

If you were one of those who weren't able to get in before Christmas, we have good news for you: There will be five additional performances, January 6 – 14.

You may think of this as a Christmas play, and it is. But, even more, it is a love story, a warm, family show about good people doing the right thing, about good triumphing over greed.

And, once the tree is down, the fruitcake put away, the company gone home, and the stresses of shopping behind us, is a perfect time to relax and enjoy some really great live theatre.

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WHERE: Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Ample free parking behind theatre.

Fridays at 8 p.m. : December 23; January 6, 13.

Saturdays at 8 p.m.: January 7, 14.

Sunday at 2:30 p.m.: January 8.

Wednesday at 8 p.m. on December 21.

Thursday at 8 p.m. on December 22.

ADMISSION: \$25. Seniors (65+) and students (13-17), \$22. Children 12 and under, \$15.

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SEAN’S SHAMELESS REVIEWS: WAR HORSE

Steven Spielberg returns to the frontlines with WAR HORSE, (based on a children's book), a film set in World

One about a miraculous super horse that touches the hearts of many, especially one young lad. Albert Narracott, portrayed by newcomer Jeremy Irvine, is a teenage boy from a poor family. His broken down father purchases a vigorous horse he sees at an auction in hopes of saving his house and farm. Albert names the horse Joey and attempts to train him to plow through the rugged terrain of the farm. On the cusp of England going to war, the man must sell his horse to the cavalry when things don't go as hoped for him and his family. By this time, Albert has grown especially fondly of Joey. He's become super-connected with the animal and is absolutely heartbroken that his beloved horse will be shipped off to war. Throughout the film, this "war horse" goes through the hands of many individuals and makes a lasting, indelible impression on them. The story is pretty remarkable, if not far-fetched at times. Despite a heartwarming story, the film starts off considerably slowly out of the gates and is pretty deliberately paced all the way up to the end. What could have been an amazing, epic, and exceptional movie turned out to be rather simplistic, ordinary, and sappy. The cinematography for "War Horse" was passable, at best. It evoked a seemingly generic landscaped that appears overproduced and not at all authentic. The battle scenes were top notch, but the rest of the movie's aesthetics looked artificial. On the other side of the coin, the score was marvelous. The arrangements were bold, beautiful, and lovely. They easily warm your heart as the sentiment it releases sinks into your soul. It's one of the few true highlights of the film

that will play with your emotions. I did become misty-eyed toward the end of the film, but never bawling. What I was seeing was a façade of manipulation. I mean, how could you not tear up a bit after seeing an animal, that's gone through hell and back, become reunited with the boy that loved him ever so dearly. Add in the grandiose soundtrack and facial expressions of characters displaying hope, excitement and relief, there's no denying the outcome for the viewer at hand.

“War Horse”

Directed by: Steven Spielberg
Written by: Lee Hall and Richard Curtis (based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo)
Theatrical Release Date: December 25, 2011
Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of war violence
Grade: 3 out of 5.

Unfortunately, getting up this point is a tedious and sometimes implausible journey that isn't as affecting as it could have been. Spielberg's magic is present in bits and pieces, but even he settles for the easy way out that truly ends up disappointing rather than inspiring. "War Horse" is far from being a complete dud. It does have some really fine scenes and proves that people from all different countries display a strong affinity toward animals. If only humans could treat other humans with the same kindness and benevolence is somewhat of an underlining theme. In the end, lofty expectations once again this year got the best of me. I was in fact hoping for a deep, inspirational and exceptionally poignant film. It rarely reached those grand heights, which results in a middling, second-rate effort from a first-rate director. At just shy of two and a half hours, I say skip the theater and wait for DVD.

Jeff’s Pics The Book Report by Jeff Brown

Presence: The Art of Peace and Happiness - Volume 1 by Rupert Spira

Your self, aware presence, knows no resistance to any appearance and, as such, is happiness itself; like the empty space of a room it cannot be disturbed and is, therefore, peace itself; like this page, it is intimately one with whatever appears on it and is thus love itself; and like water that is not affected by the shape of a wave, it is pure freedom. Causeless joy, imperturbable peace, love that knows no opposite and freedom at the heart of all experience....this is your ever-present nature under all circumstances. Presence is a profound and luminous book with great power and is obviously the fruit of many years of contemplation. These two volumes together are a relentless and utterly thorough examination of the nature of experience, exploring every square centimeter of the territory with absolute excellence and ruthlessly precise analysis. Their astuteness and clarity will be extremely exciting to those readers who are ready for the next steps in lifting the veil of separation.

Presence: The Intimacy of All Experience - Volume 2 by Rupert Spira

All that is known is experiencing and experiencing is not divided into one part (an inside self) that experiences and another part (an outside object, other or world) that is experienced. Experiencing is seamless and intimate, made of 'knowing' or Awareness alone. This intimacy, in which there is no room for selves, objects or others, is love itself. It lies at its heart of all experience, completely available under all circumstances. "Presence is one of the most exciting and illuminating books on non-duality I have encountered and its precision, articulateness in naming the nameless, unparalleled depth and ability to inspire were constantly appreciated. This book succeeds in taking the reader beyond concepts and into the experiential level. The irony is that this work, which is so advanced and sophisticated in its use of language, thought and conceptualization, is inexorably directed towards pure experiencing. It is a brilliant and lucid work carrying great strength and authority suggesting it is an indisputable source of Truth."

Victoria Ritchie, Former Manager of Watkins Bookshop and Editor for Eckhart Tolle.

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HOWARD Hays As I See It



"(He was) the one who made sense, talked as ordinary people do, and rose above politics. They may have scored. He connected. And that's a problem for Romney . . . (This other candidate is) forcing people to re-think his run at a time when he was supposed to be out of the game."

- Bill Schneider, CNN Senior Political Analyst

Trivia time: Bill Schneider made that comment on CNN about which leading Republican candidate, following a debate performance coming on the heels of a convincing first-place finish at the Iowa caucuses in 2008?

Remember Mike Huckabee? (He conceded to John McCain barely two months later.)

Here's a couple more on the same subject: In the 2008 Iowa Republican caucuses, Huckabee came in first, Mitt Romney second and eventual-nominee McCain fourth. Who came in third? And on the Dem side: Barack Obama had a solid first-place finish. Who came in second? (Answers below.)

As an eagerly-anticipated quadrennial event, many are looking forward to the Summer Olympics in London. Nothing is more distinctly American, though, than these on-year (as opposed to off-year) elections.

It doesn't look like we'll be seeing a repeat of 1980 on the Democratic side, when a president's record of accomplishment was overshadowed by challenges from his own party, and Sen. Ted Kennedy's attempt to wrest the nomination from President Jimmy Carter left a weakened party going up against Ronald Reagan.

The party today is rallying behind the president, and so are many Americans. Recent Gallup figures show the president's approval ratings once again topping his disapprovals (47% to 45%), for the first time since last summer. The Consumer Confidence Index surged 10 points in December to 64.5. (According to the AP, analysts predicted it wouldn't go above 59.)

100,000 new jobs have been added every month now for five straight months, despite Republicans' efforts to keep unemployment high by laying-off thousands of government workers. (We were losing 750,000 jobs a month at the end of the Bush years.) Our troops are coming home from Iraq. Bin Laden is still dead.

Those 47% to 45% figures for President Obama contrast with a recent ABC / Washington Post survey showing approval for Republicans in congress at an all-time low: 20% vs. 72% disapproval.

Aside from true-believers convinced our president is the vanguard of a Muslim force intent on imposing Sharia law, growing numbers dismiss Republican talking points as the bogus product of overly-compensated marketing consultants – reminiscent of those 1940s Camels ads where doctors tout smoking as good for your health.

Two years ago, they warned of “death panels”. Now, with some components of the Affordable Care Act in place, Dept. of Health and Human Services reports 900,000 seniors have already saved a combined \$461 million in prescription drug costs. 17 million of them have at least once

taken advantage of the provision for preventive check-ups with no co-pays.

Earlier this month, the Centers for Disease Control reported 2.5 million young adults are insured thanks to the provision allowing them to remain on their family's plan until age 26. (HHS Sec. Kathleen Sibelius could've been referring to my wife and me when she said, “Moms and dads around the country can breathe a little easier knowing their children are covered.”)

A Congressional Budget Office analysis found that repeal of the Affordable Care Act would add \$230 billion to the deficit from 2012 through 2021, and 32 million Americans would be added to the roles of the uninsured. (House Speaker John Boehner replied, they're “entitled to their opinion”.)

Just a few months ago, Republicans threatened to shut down the government over the deficit, yet refused to touch its major cause – the Bush tax cuts. The unblemished credit rating of the United States would be sacrificed to prevent setting a tax rate for income over a million a year that would still be lower than it was under President Clinton.

Thanks in part to Occupy Wall Street, voters realize the deficit was a smokescreen to divert attention from the real issue: unprecedented income redistribution and destruction of the middle class. The National Priorities Project points out that for 2011, the average Bush tax cut for the richest 1% (\$66,384) is greater than the average income for the other 99% (\$58,506)

Democratic initiatives have succeeded, while Republicans' have failed. The CBO estimates President Obama's stimulus bill added 0.9 million jobs in 2009, 3.3 million in 2010 and 2.6 million jobs in 2011.

Republicans have long argued that reduced government spending boosts economic growth. The Center for American Progress compared the 24 states that cut government spending from the start of the recession (December 2007) through 2010, with the 25 that increased spending. (Alabama's data was unavailable.) Those that increased spending saw a drop in unemployment, an increase in private sector employment and economic growth. Those that cut spending saw a rise in unemployment, decreased private sector employment and economic contraction (relative to the national economic trend).

Republicans will be challenged to provide evidentiary support for their arguments. In early December, as Democrats proposed a 1.9% surtax on the top 0.2% of income earners to pay for an extension of the payroll tax break for middle-class families, Republicans argued this would hurt small businesses and job creation. National Public Radio then put out a call to “numerous Republican congressional offices, including House and Senate leadership” for help in finding an effected party for them to talk to, but “they were unable to produce a single millionaire job creator for us to interview” (probably because this surtax would only effect 2% of those reporting business income).

I wonder how I might be starting off a column four years from now - “Remember Donald Trump? Tim Pawlenty? Sarah Palin?” In any event, these next several months are sure to be memorable ones – and not just for the games in London.

Happy New Year

Trivia answers: 1) Fred Thompson; 2) John Edwards

WHY WE NEED BETTER BS

From The Right

TOM PURCELL

Here's something we can do with less of in 2012: BS.

It's all over television, in magazines and in newspapers -- and even in our serious papers, such as The New York Times. It is spouted by politicians and pitched by product spokesmen.

Modern life is manufacturing an unprecedented amount of it.

BS "is unavoidable whenever circumstances require someone to talk without knowing what he is talking about," writes Harry Frankfurt, philosopher emeritus at Princeton University, who authored "On Bull (expletive)."

Thanks to cable television there are numerous opportunities for people to yap about all kinds of things they know nothing about.

Nowadays, our news folks are almost as bad. It used to be that the press existed to catch folks in the act of BS-ing. But our press has been shoveling out a fair share of its own.

Didn't the run-up to the last presidential election show that some of our "objective journalists" were in the tank for Obama all along?

Republicans have produced a lot of BS, too. During the Bush years, they used words such as "fiscal responsibility" and "limited government," while they wasted more dough and expanded government faster than you can say "we're broke."

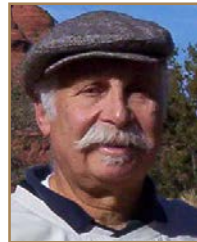
Then again, maybe it's not the BS that bothers us so much — maybe it is that BS is being so practiced so poorly.

The truth is BS has a long, proud history in America. During our early years, the "tall tale" was an accepted form of BS. Exaggeration lent more credence and color to stories, and yarn-spinning became a celebrated part of American culture.

From our beginning we've had our share of snake-oil salesmen and flimflam artists. These scoundrels weren't judged on the rightness or wrongness of their scams so much as the skill with which they practiced their craft.

The sorry truth is that we want to be lied to in America. Whereas the truth can be painful, costly and time-consuming, we're suckers for a

STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE



WHAT A YEAR!

Here we come limping into the finish. The year started with my mother's death in January. I walked into the hospital room and there she was---GONE. I should have been ready but I wasn't. I feel abandoned, kind of like an old orphan and I guess that's the way it's just going to have to be. This morning I turned on KPFK at 7:00 a.m. and there was my daughter speaking about the future of American Immigration Law. She had alerted me in a late-night texting that we wouldn't be able to keep our date to walk around the Rose Bowl because she was going to be on the radio. Sure, any excuse will do I thought. Nevertheless. I turned on the radio at 7a.m. and tried to listen to the radio. Curses, radio reception is terrible up here in the canyon and I ran down to the car, drove around and listened to the program for an hour.

Hearing my daughter on the radio sounding like a knowledgeable professional was also a pretty weird experience. I don't have the opportunity to see her in that context very much and it felt like she was pretending to be some sort of grown-up. Do most parents have that same experience when they are forced to realize that their children are grown-ups? If my daughter is a grown-up it must mean that I am something even older than a grown-up. Strange, because I'm still wondering what to do when I become an adult. Specifically, I am confused about what I believe at some very basic level. I went to a bunch of lectures this year and have read a number of books about neurobiology and cosmology. For what it's worth right now I am having a great deal of trouble accepting the current Standard Model that things just sort of happen randomly.

As I repeatedly and proudly proclaim I am a life-long atheist. I think it's arrogant and silly to pretend that I can accept obviously supernatural and mythic explanations of how this universe or multi-verse came to be the way it is. I spent about a month struggling with this book Biocentrism that makes one basic point. These first class scientists Robert Lanza and Bob Berman emphatically proclaim that the sources of everything are in the mind of Man. Time, space, past, future, death, and of course God are all mental constructs. They assert that “the mind generates the spatio-temporal relationships

skillfully told yarn that puts us at ease and helps us sleep better at night.

In America we want our tax cuts and increased spending. We want our politicians to limit spending and build a new bridge in our backyard. We want "free" health care and fatter Social Security checks, and we want somebody else to pay for them.

But our politicians and the press are doing a horrible job these days spinning their mistruths. I think it is because they are lazy.

I remember the "good old days" when "news" shows, such as "Dateline," went to elaborate lengths to pull one over on us. They rigged up a truck with explosives, then blew it up on-screen.

Some time ago, cigarette companies said smoking wasn't bad for us and we believed them. Lyndon Baines Johnson said he was going to end poverty, and we believed that, too.

I'm really missing Bill Clinton's presidency. He could twist and contort any mistruth into the prettiest and most convincing words. We knew he wasn't telling the truth but we didn't care. We loved the way he didn't tell it.

As for President Obama, he can't possibly believe some of that stuff he is saying -- that his health plan will reduce costs or that he has a strategy to reign in runaway spending -- or does he?

Heck, I don't know who or what to believe anymore, and I sense millions of others feel just as I do.

If our press and political leaders have any hope of restoring their credibility, one thing is for certain.

They better come up with a better line of BS.

©2011 Tom Purcell. Tom Purcell, a freelance writer is also a humor columnist for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, and is nationally syndicated.

Independent's Eye by
JOE Gandelman

THE BEST, WORST AND MOST OF 2011

Here's our modest annual list looking at 2011 – a list that might help guide us in 2012.

Best New National Scene Republican: Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman. Some

him for having served as President Barack Obama's Ambassador to China, but he offered the kind of thoughtful conservative Republicanism that could have roped in independents. He would have had a better chance running 10 years ago.

Most Interesting Moderate Republican: Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who was a moderate Republican in his old incarnation. But you always suspected in those days that Romney didn't really mean it – that he was just saying what he needed to get elected and survive politically.

Most Interesting Conservative Republican: Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney who is a conservative in his new incarnation.“ But you always suspect he doesn't really mean it – that he is just saying what he needs to get nominated.

Most Overexposed Liberal (if you don't include Rep. Anthony Weiner): Vermont independent Senator Bernie Sanders, who gets excruciatingly long segments on liberal talk radio and ideological cable, shows. With all of his airtime you think he was a Senator with enormous clout. Wrong. He's on the shows because he validates these shows' hosts', viewers' and listeners' viewpoints.

Worst Republican Moment: The Tea Party influenced House Republicans' refusal to pass the Payroll Tax Extension until the GOP establishment and Senate Republicans denounced them -- and polling showed Republicans taking a beating. This political Christmas gift for Obama added lingering imagery about Republicans that will hurt the party with independents

Worst Democratic Moment: The Democrats' impotence in the debt ceiling debate and/or in any major political controversy pitting them against Mr. Super Pro Strategist Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, the Karl Rove of the U.S. Senate.

Biggest Republican Rising Star: New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. Liberals may despise him, but he has a refreshing authenticity and comes across to many voters as an old-school center-right Republican who is in many ways – get ready, here comes the dirty word for some – moderate. Christie has a huge future (if he chooses to pursue it).

Biggest Democratic Party Rising star: New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has a 68 percent approval rating in a new poll. When his moment

comes to decide whether to run for President, he won't dither forever like his politically ill-fated father Mario.

Best Sopranos Wannabe “Boardwalk Empire”: Its shocking season finale made it a reason to subscribe to HBO. Set in a meticulously recreated prohibition era Atlantic City, this show is about as good as TV gets.

Beset Soprano's Replacement: “Breaking Bad”. The AMC show with solid writing and top rate acting about a teacher turned drug dealer is today's Sopranos replacement. It's as good as TV EVER gets.

Best Cable Political Show for Moderates and Independents: MSNBC's Morning Joe, where Joe Scarborough and friends offer consistently thoughtful political talk that avoids screaming and name calling found elsewhere.

Biggest Career Shrinkages: Conservative Glenn Beck and liberal Keith Olbermann. Hey, guys, being off a major cable channel matters.

Most Interesting Republican: Herman Cain. The charismatic Godfather's Pizza CEO who skyrocketed and crashed , and was famous for groping for answers and accused of groping. His “999” tax plan became a comedian punch line.

Biggest Career Melt Down Charlie Sheen: “Losing!” Wait: he got a new TV sitcom. “Winning!”

Most Gratifying News Story: The end of Osama bin Laden. A moment of national justice and retribution.

Best Healthy Restaurants: Souplantation also known as “Sweet Tomatoes” in some states, the best salad-soup buffet chain around where everything is freshly made, healthy and delicious. In Evansville, Indiana I stopped at the new small Salad World chain, a different concept (not a buffet) but equally superb – with delicious custom salads and the world's best vegetarian chili.

Best Pizza: No competition here. Pepe's Pizzeria in New Haven, CT.

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Joe Gandelman is a veteran journalist who wrote for newspapers overseas and in the United States. He has appeared on cable news show political panels and is Editor-in-Chief of The Moderate Voice, an Internet hub for independents, centrists and moderates. CNN's John Avlon named him as one of the top 25 Centrists Columnists and Commentators. He can be reached at jgandelman@themoderatevoice.com and can be booked to speak at your event at www.mavenproductions.com.

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

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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.

RICHI JOHNSON'S New Years Perspective



According to the World English Dictionary the word perspective means (among other things), "a way of regarding situations, facts, etc., and judging their relative importance."

My good friend, Juan's, sister died suddenly and unexpectedly Christmas morning. She was 35 and the cause of death was a ruptured aorta. I'm sorry to share this sad news with you. However, my motivation is to offer perspective on your lives and mine as well.

We all have our crosses to bear. We have a continuous stream of conflicts looming in our families, our workplace (if we're lucky enough to have one), our towns (especially in Sierra Madre), and a myriad of other facets that encompass our lives. By the way, I use the word 'facets' pointedly. If you look up the meaning of 'facet' you will find

the word, among other definitions, to mean, "one of the small, polished plane surfaces of a cut gem." We are all precious gems, at least according to my faith. God views each of us as the most precious part of his entire creation.

For most of us in the last week of 2011, even the most distressing facet of our lives is bright in comparison to the loss experienced by my good friend Juan. So, let me toast in the Year 2012 for us all. May you have:

Enough success to keep you eager,
Enough failure to keep you humble,
Enough joy to share with others,
Enough trials to keep you strong,
Enough hope to keep you happy,
Enough faith to banish depression,
Enough friends to give you comfort,
Enough determination to make each day better than yesterday.

LEGALS

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The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ASSISTED TRANSITION - ARCADIA, 7220 N. ROSEMEAD BLVD., SAN GABRIEL, CA 91775. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) MY CALLING, INC., 7220 N. ROSEMEAD BLVD., SAN GA-

BRIEL, CA 91775. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed: FRANK J. CUNNINGHAM. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/22/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-151715
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BEST DRINKING WATER, 3475 TWEEDEY BLVD., SOUTH GATE, CA 90280. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) MARTHA MOLINA SALAS, 84304 ELIZABETH AVE., SOUTH GATE, CA 90280. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: MARTHA MOLINA SALAS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/21/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-154008
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BOB'S BIG BOY, 21090 GOLDEN SPRING DR., DIAMOND BAR, CA 91789. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) TSAI INVESTMENT GROUP, 1628 WAYLAND AVE., SO. PASADENA, CA 91030. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed: JAMES Y. TSAI. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/22/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-149771
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: C J GAMES, 818 E. 87th PL., L.A. CA 90002. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) CHANEL JOHNSON, 818 E. 87th PL., L.A. CA 90002. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: CHANEL JOHNSON. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/16/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-149874
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CALI PROPERTY MANAGEMENT; RCH PROPERTIES, 3516 E. 7th ST., L.A. CA 90022. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) CORINNA HERNANDEZ, RUDY HERNANDEZ, 6229 ELMQUIST, WHITTIER, CA 90601. This Business is conducted by: HUSBAND AND WIFE. Signed: CORINNA HERNANDEZ. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/16/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-152049
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CAPE ROBBIN COLLECTION, 741 E. PICO BLVD., L.A. CA 90021. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) CAPE ROBBIN, INC., 741 E. PICO BLVD., L.A. CA 90021. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed: XI CHEN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/21/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-152049
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CARNICERIA LA TAPATIA, 739 E. HYDE PARK BLVD., INGLEWOOD, CA 90302. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) RUBEN S. BARAJAS, 739 E. 67th ST., INGLEWOOD, CA 90302. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: RUBEN S. BARAJAS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/16/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/03/2011. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-151074
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CARNICERIA LA YALALITECA #4, 4820 SANTA ANITA BLVD., L.A. CA 90022. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) NORMA BOLLO, 340 RUTH-ERFORD ST. #35, GOLETA, CA 93117. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: NORMA BOLLO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/16/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-146351
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CHANTAL MOORE, 954 S. LOS ANGELES ST. STE A, L.A. CA 90015. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) CHANTAL WIZMAN, 233 S. CANON DR., BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: CHANTAL WIZMAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/09/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-151206
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: COREY PLASTERING COMPANY, 21710 LOST RIVER DR., DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) MILTON MC GILL, 21710 LOST RIVER DR., DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: MILTON MC GILL. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/20/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-151578
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CREATIVITY, MORALES CREATIVE, 355 W. LEXINGTON DR. #1, GLENDALE, CA 91203. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) MIGUEL MORALES, 355 W. LEXINGTON DR. #1, GLENDALE, CA 91203. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: MIGUEL MORALES. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/20/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/01/2011. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-153451
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DE LA CRUZ DENTAL GROUP, 746 S. ALVARADO #8, L.A. CA 90057. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) MIGUEL MORALES, 355 W. LEXINGTON DR. #1, GLENDALE, CA 91203. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed: GLORIA MONICA RODRIGUEZ. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/21/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/08/2010. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-153451
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DE LA CRUZ DENTAL GROUP, 746 S. ALVARADO #8, L.A. CA 90057. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) MIGUEL MORALES, 355 W. LEXINGTON DR. #1, GLENDALE, CA 91203. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed: GLORIA MONICA RODRIGUEZ. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/21/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/08/2010. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-145384
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DENTISTA FAMILIAR, DENTISTA DE LA FAMILIA, 3516 E. 7th ST., L.A. CA 90022. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) RAFAEL ANTILLON, 19703 WALKING HORSE LANE, WALNUT, CA 91789. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: RAFAEL ANTILLON. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/08/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/08/2010. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-149988
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DHINO'S COLLISION CENTER, 4435 E. OLYMPIC BLVD., L.A. CA 90023. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) JUAN FUENTES, 4435 E. OLYMPIC BLVD., L.A. CA 90023. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JUAN FUENTES. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/16/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-150403
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DIAMOND DETAIL, 2350 S. DIAMOND BAR BLVD., UNIT H, DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) BRANDON GARRETY, 2350 S. DIAMOND BAR BLVD., UNIT H, DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765. This Business is conducted by: CO-PARTNERS. Signed: BRANDON GARRETY. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/19/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/01/2011. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-149591
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DOUG AUDETTE FURNITURE, 12118 LOUIS AVE., WHITTIER, CA 90605. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) BRANDON GARRETY, 2350 S. DIAMOND BAR BLVD., UNIT H, DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: DOUG AUDETTE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/16/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2011-151221
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DOWNNEY INJURY CENTER, 8361 E. FLORANCE AVE. STE 204, DOWNEY, CA 90240. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) LY TUAN, 486 VAN BUREN DR., MONTEREY PARK, CA 91755. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: LY TUAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/20/11. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code/Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec 31, 2011 Jan. 07, 14, 21, 2012

OPINION HAIL Hamilton My Turn 2011 DARWIN AWARDS

Once again, it's time for the Darwin Awards. A w a r d Nominees... " T h e Darwins" are awarded every year to the persons who died in the stupidest manner, thereby removing themselves from the human gene pool."

Not surprisingly this year's nominees and winner are exclusively male which doesn't say much for men, but is hardly a surprise. The fact is that men too often act like wayward children with their proclivity for engaging in high risk-taking behavior. This year's top 5 nominees are: Nominee No. 5: (Hickory Daily Record): Ken Charles Barger, 47, accidentally shot himself to death in December in Newton, NC. Awakening to the sound of a ringing telephone beside his bed, he reached for the phone but grabbed instead a Smith & Wesson 38 Special, which discharged when he drew it to his ear.

Nominee No. 4: (UPI, Toronto): Police said a lawyer demonstrating the safety of windows in a downtown Toronto skyscraper crashed through a pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death. A police spokesman said Garry Hoy, 39, fell into the courtyard of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower early Friday evening as he was explaining the strength of the building's windows to visiting law students. Hoy previously has conducted demonstrations of window strength according to police reports. Peter Lawson, managing partner of the firm Holden Day Wilson, told the Toronto Sun newspaper that Hoy was "one of the best and brightest" members of the 200-man association.

Nominee No. 3: (The News of the Weird): Michael Anderson Godwin made News of the Weird posthumously. He had spent several years awaiting South Carolina's electric chair on a murder conviction before having his sentence reduced to life in prison. While sitting on a metal toilet in his cell attempting to fix his small TV set, he bit into a wire and was electrocuted.

Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of

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



SECLUDED MOUNTAINSIDE LIVING ABOVE BAILEY CANYON

Pristine Remodel Offers Views and Extraordinary Privacy

Situated just above the mouth of Bailey Canyon, a unique single level home has just come on the market. Though the original structure was built in the 1960's when the street was cut, this Sierra Madre home was reconfigured and nearly entirely rebuilt in the early 1990's, with essentially the central fireplace as the only remaining identifiable feature.

Perched on a promontory point shaded by a mature oak, the home and property enjoy views of downtown LA and the valley below on one side, and the San Gabriel Mountains to the North. Even a strip of shiny ocean appears in the far distance every once in a while.

The home's location and configuration are unique, with a pie shaped footprint fanning out from the entry. Formal living and dining rooms span the south side; a great room for casual living with kitchen and family room and eating areas to the west, and a private bedroom wing with four bedrooms to the north. Three areas enjoy expansive, exposed beam, cathedral ceilings for added visual space in the formal living room, great room and the master suite.

The current owners reconfigured and extensively remodeled within the home's footprint since 2006 with the help of LeVeque Construction, and had planned to retire and "age in place" here until a grandbaby arrived in Northern California. They had even ensured that the home was easily wheelchair accessible from the street and driveway through the home and much of the yard.

The kitchen was stripped to the studs and expanded in 2006 into a custom cook's dream, with maple cabinetry slab granite and upscale appliances including 30" double convection ovens. A huge slab granite island is the focal point for entertaining and allows for guests to watch meal preparation, grand buffets for large parties, or for homework while dinner is being prepared.

When the ceiling was raised in the kitchen as part of the remodel into a great room, the owners added double stacked Andersen windows as part of total window replacement, to capture more views and the full silhouette of the oak perched on the end of the yard. Now the oak can be viewed from the foyer through the great room to the back yard.

The owners laugh remembering their initial puzzlement on furniture placement when moving in. "We didn't even realize there were many five sided rooms. Once we did, we were delighted, because it will never be a cookie cutter home. It's very very well planned out for comfort, privacy and entertaining, and multiple activities without stepping on one another's toes. There's not a bit of wasted space. The best of all for us... the grand piano sounds fabulous in the acoustics of the five sided living room, too!" said the owner.

In the master suite, one can fall asleep or awaken to magnificent views with no concern for privacy, and fall asleep to the soothing sounds of the fountain, or enjoy the natural sounds of the forest beyond. The master suite is located separately, for added privacy, and includes cathedral ceilings with exposed beams. The master bath was also reconfigured and completely rebuilt in 2006 into



showcase quality, with gorgeous yet impervious porcelain tile, dual sinks, a two station walk-in shower and jetted tub.

Outside, the landscape has been mostly converted to low water usage or drought tolerant plantings, including a recent project redesigning the north bed with over a dozen huge and magnificent agaves threaded through flax, photinia, sedum and rare, dark blue 'Storm Cloud' agapanthus. The back yard flows seamlessly from the home through seven sets of sliding Andersen doors, for easy casual entertaining.

Flagstone was added to the covered and sunny patios, complementing the warm hues of the

home's matching interior and exterior color palette. The patio now flows level onto the main deck, creating an expansive area for entertaining or relaxing. A smaller, lower patio creates an intimate seating area, perfect for a glass of wine and sunset watching.

Recently a solar system was installed, which provided more than 100% of the power usage at the home in 2010, even with air conditioning set to 74 degrees. The enhances the natural venting system for the home's clerestory windows, which allow hot air to escape through high windows in the great room and master suite.

The generous, level driveway leads to the three

car garage, and offers extra parking for oversized vehicles. Oak Crest Drive is a wide accessible street of about two dozen homes; one of the few in the city with underground utilities. Nearby, on Carter and Grove, is the entrance to the park and trails of Bailey Canyon, which can be seen in the distance.

625 Oak Crest Drive in Sierra Madre, is offered at \$1,788,000 by Eileen Benson of Dilbeck Christies Real Estate. For more information and a virtual tour keyed to the floorplan, visit www.625OakCrest.com or contact the agent at Eileen.Benson@Dilbeck.com or 626-278-0187.



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

PRICING UNDER PRESSURE

THE BUYER'S BLUEPRINT

Once you find a home you love and are ready to make the commitment, consider the Offer To Purchase as your blueprint for executing a successful transaction. Your real estate representative will present your offer to the seller's agent, and the ball will be rolling.

The most critical elements of your purchase agreement include your proposed offer price, what property will be included in the sale, inspection and financing contingencies, provisions for the disclosure and repair of any defects, requested seller concessions, your deposit or "earnest money" amount, and finally the expiry date of your offer.

Your real estate agent will draft this document

with you, explaining all of your options and what will happen once the offer is presented. Once the seller reviews your purchase agreement, the seller may accept, reject or counter your offer. Any changes that the seller or the buyer make to the agreement will be initialed, and the Offer To Purchase will not become binding until all parties have signed the document.

If you don't want to pay full price, but also don't want to risk rejection of a low offer, propose other terms that will reduce your bottom line, such as a quick closing or offering to buy "as is." Your agent will explain your options and help you present an offer that is most likely to be accepted.



9 Kersting Court Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
626-355-1180

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CUSTOM FLORAL
ARRANGEMENTS**



Luther & Georgina
TSINOGLOU
Working on Common Ground

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



*We are grateful for your
business and support
in the past year
and wish you a happy
2012!*

...where do the days go?



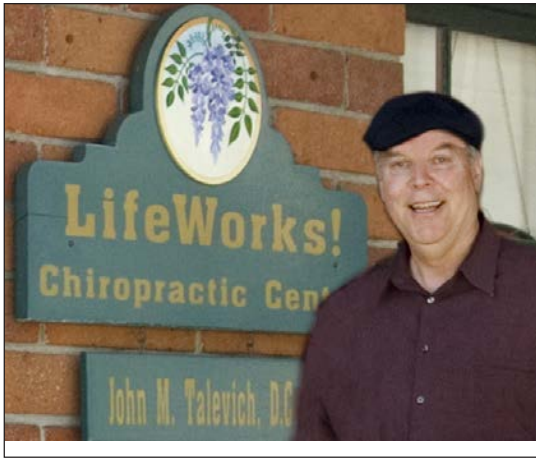
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YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Today's Subject:

GENTLE LANDING



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.

In the final week of the year 2011, the holidays rapidly vanishing in our rear view mirrors, we find ourselves considering the possibilities of the new year. Some of us may not be inclined to set resolutions at all, while others are fearlessly doing so. That said, what are your goals for the coming year? Among the most common are: spending quality time with loved ones, getting fit, quitting smoking and/or drinking, getting out of debt, taking on something new, volunteering, getting organized, and being happy. Not so surprisingly, many of these are the most commonly broken resolutions, as well.

Self Acceptance

In all the studies done on successful goal setting, the most important factor is the ability to find pleasure and joy in the process. Included in this equation is the attitude of self acceptance, to be a good steward for our growth; in other words, to "accept as I perfect." With this in mind, I'd like to share my ten goals for the new year, the first I've made in a long time:

1. Learn a new mindfulness/meditation practice each month.
2. Go for a stroll every day.
3. Find a path in the woods and walk it at least once a week.
4. Eat a diet richer in fruits and vegetables.
5. Get my lab work done.
6. Develop a person-specific supplement plan.
7. Find a writing group/finish at least one of the projects gathering dust in the file cabinet.
8. Make the family reunion this year.
9. Take a honeymoon adventure.
10. Win the lottery.

Take better care of my shoes...oh, wait...boy, once you get started! And that last item, number ten, as good as it sounds? Maybe I need the struggle, and....no. I'll take the millions and trust myself enough to know what to do with it.

Happy New Year!
Dr. John

John M. Talevich, D.C.
CHIROPRACTIC: Simple, Elegant, Effective
31 S. Baldwin Avenue Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
626-355-4710

HOW TO GET FINANCIAL AND RETIREMENT ADVICE ON A BUDGET

Dear Savvy Senior,
Can you recommend any resources that provide affordable one-shot financial advice for folks on a budget? I'm about six years from retirement and would like a quick financial checkup and get a few questions answered, but I don't want to pay an ongoing financial advisor to manage my money.
Seeking Advice

Dear Seeking,

There are actually a number of services you can turn to for occasional financial and investment advice without tying yourself down or spending a fortune. Here are several to check out.

Fee-Only Advisors

If you only want a one-time financial checkup, have a few financial questions you need answered, or are looking for some occasional investment advice, a fee-only financial advisor with a certified financial planner (or CFP) certification is one of your best options. The CFP certification serves as the gold standard for personal financial planning, and fee-only advisors charge on an hourly basis, versus advisors who earn a commission by selling you financial products.

A great place to find fee-only advisors is at the Garrett Planning Network, which offers the services of 300 independent advisors nationwide. At garrettplanningnetwork.com (or call 866-260-8400) you can locate an advisor in your area, hire one, and get an hour or two of advice either over the phone or in person. There's no minimum income or net worth requirements you'll need to meet to get help. And you can use this service for a one-time engagement, as well as for periodic or ongoing financial advice. The cost for a Garrett advisor ranges between \$180 and \$300 per hour. You can also find fee-only advisors through the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors website, which lists 1,400 accredited advisers at napfa.org.

Other Services

Another convenient service you should know about is My Financial Advice (myfinancialadvice.com), which provides hourly advice via phone or email. You select the topics you want help with, like retirement planning, investing, insurance, employee benefits, debt management and more, and then choose a financial planner who is standing by to answer your question. This



is great for one-shot questions and second opinions. The cost for this service averages \$150 per hour, but simple questions can be answered for less.

If you're looking for help with your 401(k), 403(b), 457 plan, federal Thrift Savings Plan or SEP IRA, a company called Smart 401k (smart401k.com, 877-627-8401) is worth a look. They provide personalized investment advice either over the phone or online based on the funds available in your retirement plan. The cost is \$200 per year.

And for do-it-yourself investors, Financial Engines (financialengines.com, 888-443-8577) is an online company that offers investment advice for retirement accounts, including guidance on employee stock options for \$150 a year. Or you can get comprehensive investment advice that includes non-retirement accounts for \$300 per year.

Free Services

If you're an AARP member, you can now get a free financial consultation through a new partnership program between AARP and the financial services firm Charles Schwab (www.schwab.com/aarp, 877-310-7746). This program provides a complimentary, no obligation financial consultation with a Schwab financial advisor either over the phone or in person at one of their 300 branches nationwide.

Another resource that offers free financial advice is Jump-Start Your Retirement Plan Days. This is a completely free public service program provided by the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA) and Kiplinger Personal Finance magazine. On Thursday, Jan. 12 and Tuesday, Jan. 17 you can call toll free 888-919-2345 anytime between 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. eastern standard time, and a NAPFA advisor will be standing by to answer your financial and retirement questions. Or, if you prefer, you can participate in an online discussion on these same dates through Kiplinger's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KiplingerPersonalFinance.

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

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

WE'RE BACK!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19th

Senior Programs return to the Hart Park House Senior 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/onlineeregistration

December Birthdays



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



Meals-On-Wheels

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

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

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



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PC Computer Repairs
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Dave Felt 355-8315

LUNCH & 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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Joy to the World!

New Year's Day at San Marino Community Church



San Marino
Community Church
welcomes you to
worship on New
Year's Day! Associate
Pastor, Rev. Karen
Berns preaches at

this special family-friendly service held at 10:00 am. Communion will be celebrated. Childcare for younger children will be provided.

Our 9:15 am Traditional Service and 11:15 am "Gathering" service resume next week on Sunday, January 8, 2012.

San Marino Community Church
1750 Virginia Road, San Marino, CA 91108
Call: (626) 282-4181 or visit us online: www.smccpby.com

Looking Up with Bob Eklund



A Christmas Comet in the Southern Sky

The recently discovered Comet Lovejoy has been captured in stunning photos and time-lapse video taken from Paranal Observatory in Chile. The comet graced the southern sky after it had unexpectedly survived a close encounter with the Sun.

This bright comet was also seen from the International Space Station in another stunning time-lapse sequence on December 21 as the crew filmed lightning on the Earth's night side.

Comet Lovejoy has been the talk of the astronomy community over the past few weeks. It was discovered on 27 November by the Australian amateur astronomer Terry Lovejoy and was classified as a "Kreutz sungrazer," with its orbit taking it very close to the Sun. In mid-December, the comet entered the Sun's corona, a much-anticipated event, passing a mere 52,000 miles from the Sun's surface. A close shave indeed....

The comet had been expected to break up and vaporize, but instead it survived its steaming hot encounter with the Sun and re-emerged a few days later, much to everyone's surprise. It is now visible from the southern hemisphere, appearing at dawn, and features a bright tail millions of miles long, composed of dust particles that are being blown ahead of the comet by the solar wind.

Lovejoy will now continue in its highly eccentric orbit around the Sun and once again disappear into the distant Solar System. It would be interesting to know if it will actually survive to re-appear in our skies in 314 years as predicted.

International Space Station Commander Dan Burbank captured spectacular imagery of Comet Lovejoy, viewed from about 240 miles above the Earth's horizon on Dec. 21. Burbank described the comet as "the most amazing thing I have ever

seen in space."

For a video of the comet filmed from the ISS, including live comments and a selection of individual images, go to: <http://www.nasa.gov/station>

FOR WATCHERS OF THE SKY, THESE ARE EXCITING DAYS. The discoveries during the past year pointing toward the possibility of life beyond the Earth encourage this writer to wonder: Will mankind finally discover a second habitable planet in 2012? And what other marvels will the New Year bring? These days are filled with enough starry wonders to make everyone who looks skyward an "astropoet."

Speaking of which, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver writes, in her poem, MYSTERIES, YES, "Truly we live with mysteries too wonderful to be understood... / Let me keep my distance, always from those who think they have the answers. / May I keep company always with those who say, 'Look!' and laugh in astonishment, and bow their heads."

To which I will add an astropoem of my own as a fond farewell to 2011:

A STAR BEYOND

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

This beach at evening wears a desert face,
Deserted and forgotten by the crowd
Whose distant rush goes silent at the boom



And hush of water, working in the gloom.

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

- Bob Eklund

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

The poem "Mysteries, Yes" is Copyrighted 2009 by Mary Oliver.

The poem "A Star Beyond" is from the book, First Star I See Tonight, by Robert L. Eklund. Copyrighted 2007 by Robert L. Eklund.

Editor's Note: PJ Carpenter took a well deserved week off. He'll be back in 2012

TOP TERRIBLE TECHNOLOGY BLUNDERS OF 2011 By John Breeden II (excerpts)

The year 2011 was a good one for technology. We saw a lot of great products and ideas, some of which could lay the groundwork for an even better 2012 and beyond. But like Las Vegas, for every winner, there were lots of losers. Not everyone or every technology made the grade this year. This is an A-list ticket to a D-grade affair. So here they are, technologies and people and news stories that made history this year, but for all the wrong reasons.

1. Taliban tweets to victory

In 2011, those wacky Taliban folks attacked Twitter, but not in the way you might think. Instead, they set up shop with that most Western of excesses, the self-promoting Twitter page. Perhaps they thought they would strike fear into the hearts of the United States with their rants. Instead, their claims were the stuff of storybooks. In one day alone, they claimed to have destroyed a dozen mainline battle tanks and taken over two U.S. airports. Dan Brown better watch out if these guys keep up the outlandish narratives. They might start to outsell him.

2. Chinese government exposes itself

After years of denying any intrusion into U.S. computer networks, the Chinese got caught peacocking a bit too much, and fell into their own lies. A government-sponsored video shows off the country's military might with displays of artillery shooting, planes attacking targets, ships rolling across the ocean and, oh yeah, a computer specifically designed to launch cyberattacks against targets within the United States. Launching from, of all things, a drop-down menu of targets, the hacker in question even instigates an attack right there for all to see. That the Chinese government

would film something that contradicts its "we are an innocent, wrongly accused nation" stance is reckless. That they would broadcast it is downright foolish. Sorry, China. You're busted. Don't they have a good AV club over there?

3. HP loves the TouchPad, loves it not

In a terrible case of "we're so large we don't know what everyone is doing," Hewlett-Packard released the HP TouchPad to great fanfare, while at the same time working behind the scenes to remove the entire computing division from the company like its big rival IBM did a few years ago. This was after paying billions to buy Palm, so it could own the WebOS used in the TouchPad in the first place. Did anyone at HP ever go to business school, or successfully balance a checkbook?

The TouchPad was a good product, and people really liked it. So when HP announced that it was getting the boot, there was outrage. Well, there was nerd rage, in any case. It wasn't pretty. Then the company had to start selling them for \$99, which really ramped up demand to the point that nerds were boxing in the streets over them, replacing homeless brawls and funny cats as the No. 1 thing to watch on YouTube when you don't want to get any work done. So who knows what will happen with HP and its schizophrenic management style? Maybe the TouchPad will save the computing division, or make a fitting tombstone. But its follies made for fun watching this whole year.

4. Search engine wars

In the tech world imitation is a time honored tradition. But that's not how Google put it earlier this year in accusing Bing of copying Google's results for queries and then passing them off as

their own. Microsoft promptly denied the charge, accusing Google of using the spammer tactic of 'click fraud' to make Bing look bad.

Google apparently laid a clever trap, making up search results for nonsense queries, such as "juegosdebenlogrande." When they went to Bing and typed in those nonsense words, guess what happened? The same fake search answers came up. Was Bing looking at Google for answers? Not according to Microsoft, which accused Google of a "spy-novelesque stunt" to falsely prove Bing was lifting results and called the ploy a "backhanded compliment." But whoever came out on top of the dust-up earlier this year, it just goes to show that among arch rivals, reverse engineering may be the sincerest form of flattery.

5. Crazy like a Firefox

In a head-scratching moment of weirdness, the developers of the Firefox browser thought it would be a great idea to remove version numbers from the browser, you know, so people would have no idea if their system was up to date. Somehow they thought this would cause more people to keep Firefox updated. Instead, it almost caused a cyber riot. The version numbers on Firefox are back now, but the damage might have already been done, as reports are that Chrome is now the second most popular browser in the world. Perhaps removing version numbers was crazy like a fox, just without the fox part.

6. Feds take the bait

One of the least technical and easiest types of attack to defend against is phishing. Yet in 2011, lots of feds fell for it, including those who got snagged in the attack on Google's Gmail. Granted, many were targeted because they were feds, but if you follow

the simple advice of not opening attachments in e-mails or following them to Web pages, you will be 100 percent protected. It's that simple. Go forth, and don't get fooled again. This is the last time we want to see any feds on this list. Oh, and just in case it comes up, don't take candy from strangers or hop into any weird vans.

7. WireDoo or don't

Please Hammer, don't hurt em! When rapper MC Hammer showed up at a Los Angeles tech convention saying he was working on a search engine that would beat the tar out of Google, everyone thought it was a joke - at first. But WireDoo exists, or at least the top page of a Website that offers users the ability to sign up to beta test the new search engine is real.

Had Hammer demonstrated how his engine was different from Google - like if it concentrated on the entertainment industry, for example - then he might have had something. But details were sparse to say the least, leading many to simply chuckle at the rapper trying to conquer the world's largest search engine. We thought ending this list with Hammer would be funny, but really, it's just a touch sad.

As for WireDoo, we don't really know what to think yet, but we've been waiting months for our beta application to be approved. Perhaps in 2012? Hit us Hammer! About the Author John Breeden II directs the GCN Lab.

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



LIFE'S TRUE TREASURES - ORIGINAL ROOTS OF HAPPINESS

"In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." Gen. 1:1
"And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat." Gen. 1:29
"Right now at this moment, you have a mind which is all the basic equipment you need to achieve complete happiness." ~ Dalai Lama

Is it just me, or has the majority of the population in our "highly advanced" American society lost sight of what really matters in life? Perhaps the wonders of technology and the seemingly unlimited resources that make our lives so much easier in America, have become a distasteful distraction from life's true treasures. I remember a conversation I had with a couple of close friends at an open house Christmas party a few years ago, during which I lost my audience when I admitted that, in some ways I envy those who live in lesser developed countries where they still practice tribal rites, they value their cultural roots, and have not been tainted by the lures of the western world. If that wasn't enough, I continued my 'monologue' by confessing that if given the option, I doubt I would ever have even invented the clock. I know that sounds pretty radical, but I truly feel that way. Understandably, my friends were quite perplexed by my less-than-conventional comments, and they were rather astounded by my overall opinion that mankind has lost its way in this world by leaving their original roots behind to chase rainbows of power, success, fame and fortune, and last but not least, to trade irreplaceable treasures of nature for the conveniences and comforts of life.

I have been told that moderation is a key component to health and happiness, and for the most part I agree. So, when new cultural concepts arise, I often wonder why people find it necessary to completely do away with, and replace the original ways of living with the new. Knowledge and understanding are God-given virtues that we humans were blessed with from the beginning, and He instilled such virtues within us for an express purpose; to determine and choose the right path for ourselves as part of His creation. While the relatively recent rise of technology & scientific discovery are considered to be positive developments for mankind, they can never replace the basic inherent virtues that God gave us as tools for living on earth, from the beginning.

It seems that few cultures have managed to adhere to the basic premises of life that were taught from the start, but there is one "under-developed" nation, centered deeply in the eastern hemisphere whose people seem to have found a way to maintain their appreciation for their original roots of happiness. An ancient country with a mere population of about 600,000 people, Bhutan is a kingdom neatly centered in the Himalaya, sandwiched between two huge neighboring countries; China and India. Boasting more natural wildlife refuges and more appreciation for nature than any other country on earth, Bhutan is a virtual paradise lost. In a recent survey, 97% of the Bhutanese population declared themselves to be 'happy'. In terms of monetary and material wealth, Bhutan hardly even registers on the world index, so I cannot help asking myself, "What is it about Bhutan that generates so much contentment?" The simple answer is that the kingdom of Bhutan has chosen an alternate path to that of economic development. Ironically, while Bhutan is considered to be among the poorest countries on earth, more of God's creatures thrive in their natural habitat there, than in any other country!

Bhutanese people live by a code of life that is very different from ours in the western world. Their decidedly slow-growth approach in today's society, sets them apart from the rest of the world. The Bhutanese culture is guided by the ideals of sanctity of life, preservation of nature, and giving back to earth what has been taken away, so in keeping with their philosophies they intentionally resist the influences of western "progressive" culture, particularly the idea of making life simpler with technology, and the pursuit of monetary gains. To me, this makes total sense. Indeed, the Bhutanese are people of my own heart. One thing that I really respect about the Bhutanese culture, is the fact that the citizens never assume true ownership of the property they occupy. Not because the government says so, but because they believe that the earth can never truly be owned, but only borrowed for the period of time during which they occupy it. How true this is, regardless of where you live on planet earth.

The lessons that can be learned from the cultural lifestyle of the Bhutanese are manifold. They protect the animals with which they share their land-mass. They appreciate every aspect of nature, and are careful to reciprocate to keep a healthy balance. They are calm-spirited individuals who do not let themselves become caught up in the trap of need or greed, and to me that is the ultimate true root of happiness.

KATIE Tse.....This and That Late Entry



Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and that you don't have too many resolutions stacked up for 2012. This year I had the wonderful opportunity again to serve dinner to the float workers at Dapper Field. The stamina of these people is amazing! I thought it was freezing outside despite the big turkey BBQ, but then I learned that the float building had the air conditioning running to ensure that all the plants stayed fresh. I salute all the workers who spent hours hunched in uncomfortable positions, their bare fingers coated with cold glue.

My mom asked why they were working on the float so early (12/27), seeing as New Years was several days away. She thought the flowers would die by then. Drawing upon my limited knowledge of float construction, I told her that there was plenty of work to be done, since the Parade guidelines consider any once-living plant acceptable material for decorating floats. It's kind of like playing 20 questions; anything that doesn't fall into the animal or mineral category is fair game! Lentils, rag weed pollen, willow bark, straw --it's all good!

After a moment my mom asked, "Why don't they just walk around the neighborhood streets and collect plants for the float? There's still a bunch of branches and leaves from the storm." Hence my inspiration for the "Wind Float!" Wouldn't it be funny, we thought, if they gathered all the storm debris and built a float with it! The most photographed character by far in the wind saga was a very large tree that uprooted the sidewalk. Its roots and attached sidewalk could be at the head of the float. The exposed cement "shelves" would make nice seats for the wind princesses to sit on and wave to the crowd. Big slices of tree trunks could be the wheels (think of "Flintstones," but after the stone age). For the moving parts, giant leaf blowers could swing back and forth, spewing gaseous smoke and leaves. People walking alongside the Wind Float could use rakes as canes and dance to "Puttin' on the Ritz," (of course someone would have to come up with witty, storm related lyrics). And the float's caboose would be a big chipper, shooting out a fine layer of wood shavings onto Colorado Blvd. This would serve a secondary purpose as an absorbent for all the horse droppings and those of other parading animals.

"But who would sponsor such a float?" you may ask. Well, maybe the businesses that profited from the storm would be willing to contribute: tree services (the legitimate ones, not the suspicious guys who come to your door), OSH, Home Depot, and the pizza parlors. Yes, pizza doesn't seem to fit in with landscaping and home improvement, but that doesn't mean they didn't fill a key role in the days without electricity. Empty pizza boxes were a familiar sight on top of the trash barrels lining the street. Taking a walk was like conducting a survey of pizza popularity. With all that cheese, storm victims' cholesterol probably spiked during the power outage. But who worries about cholesterol when you're using a flashlight to tell which shirt you've pulled from the closet?

Although we won't have a Wind Float to memorialize the infamous wind storm of 2011, we can be thankful that we're not identifying our clothes by flashlight, and that our diet consists of more than just pizza. And with that, Happy New Year! And at least the lights are working!





HUDDLE UP!



By Harvey Hyde

A GREAT GIFT FOR USC AND ITS FANS

How many of you thought quarterback Matt Barkley would be back at USC next season? I, for one, thought there was a 50-50 chance. It

made a lot of sense.

Sure, it is pretty costly for Barkley. Yeah we know, there's a big monetary difference between a college scholarship and what an NFL first-round draft pick gets. But he's still on a valuable scholarship.

And, money doesn't buy the memories of playing college football in your senior year and possibly vying for a national championship. There is no price tag on such a thing. Also, Barkley could end up becoming the biggest name athlete in Southern California in 2012. That includes Kobe Bryant and Blake Griffin and Chris Paul. Actually, this had already started before he announced his decision.

Why did I think Barkley would be coming back for his senior season? Because, as he said, "We have unfinished business."

He may have reasoned that there was a way to get even with punishments that are unjustified. The NCAA will be watching and reading and no doubt there will be comments about the unfairness of the penalties bestowed upon USC. (Look at some of the other sanctions.) But let's not get into that now.

The positive thing here is what Barkley's decision means to USC. Athletic Director Pat Haden said, "This is a great day for USC, for our family, for our fans and I would say for college football as well."

Just think about it. With Barkley back for a fourth season as the Trojans' starting quarterback, how many times will USC be on national television? What will it do to season-ticket orders? Better get yours in soon. How about sales of Barkley No. 7 jerseys? And corporate sponsorships no doubt will bring

in more money because of the popularity and excitement around USC's coming football season.

I initially said on my radio shows that it was 50-50 that Barkley was coming back. But that I hoped he would. As time went on, the odds improved that he was coming back. When All-American left tackle Matt Kalil decided to go and Barkley said nothing: 60-40. Then defensive end Nick Perry decided to go: 70 -30. But when All-American safety T.J. McDonald decided to come back, it went to 80-20

I was at lunch with friends when the Barkley announcement was made. One of my friends, echoing what they all thought, said: "Coach, aren't you going to go listen to Barkley's announcement?" I said, "I don't need to. I know he is coming back. Would you have a press conference with band and the song girls if you were leaving?" (odds: 90-10) Sure enough, the band was playing and the song girls were dancing.

Pete Carroll, Barkley's coach during the quarterback's freshman season, told the Times' Gary Klein: "I would have been surprised had it gone the other way. He sees the experience differently than other guys have. There's more that he would like to do and he likes playing college football."

I say congratulations to this young man for realizing that he is finishing what he started and that he has an opportunity of becoming one of the all-time Trojan heroes. Of course there will be added pressure that goes along with that.

We can talk about that later. For now, let's enjoy the offseason and read the publications to see how well USC's recruiting is going. Then, on Sept. 1 with the season opener against Hawaii we'll see what is in store for opponents of the 2012 USC Trojans.

Santa (and Matt Barkley) delivered the team and its fans quite a gift.

Listen to Harvey Hyde on 710 KSPN Sunday mornings, 9-11 a.m.



On The Course

With Bobby Eldridge

How to chip the golf ball with precision

If you want to improve your short game you have to learn how to chip the golf ball with solid contact. I am going to explain to you exactly how to just that. The address position for chipping the golf ball has three components. Today I am going to tell what they are and how to apply them.

#1. Ball position is critical for consistent impact. It has to be in the middle to middle back of your stance. If it is too far forward you will hit up on it and top the ball or hit it thin most of the time. The other reason you want it in the middle to middle back of your stance is so the clubhead will approach the ball on a steep angle.

#2. The second part is to make sure you have 75% of your weight on your left foot at address. Once you place the weight on your left side, leave it there during the backswing and downswing. If you stay put during the swing the clubhead will swing steep into the back of the golf ball and it

will have the same flight and roll every time.

#3. After you have placed the ball in the center of your stance and you leaned over to the left with 75% of your weight on your left leg, it is time now to move the handle over to your left side. Remember when you address the golf ball the handle of the club is in the center of your body. When you moved your weight over to the left, the center of your body is now on your left side. That is why YOU HAVE TO MOVE THE HANDLE OVER TO THE CENTER OF YOUR BODY.

When you move the handle over to your left leg it will allow the club to swing UP in the backswing and DOWN in the downswing, thus creating a steep and consistent impact.

If you follow these steps you will chip the golf ball better than ever.

For more information go to: www.bobbyeldridgegolf.com



"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS AMERICA AND WE'RE BETTER THAN THIS! THERE'S NO REASON WE CAN'T FIGURE OUT THE BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES!"

NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

2012 AND THE MAYA CALENDAR



By Christopher Nyerges

[Nyerges is the author of numerous books on self-reliance and survival. He also leads regular outdoor field trips. He can be reached at

www.ChristopherNyerges.com, or Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041]

On December 30, the Los Angeles Times published a cartoon on their editorial page titled "Teenage Mayan Prankster," with two youth saying "Yeah, predict the world will end in 2012... that'll really freak 'em out." They are shown carving a large image of the popular Aztec calendar!

The cartoon not only is symptomatic of the decline of the Los Angeles Times' attention to details, but it shows the general ignorance about the Mayan calendar.

So, for starters, there is a real Maya calendar and yes, one large cycle ends on December 21, 2012, and another cycle begins. But there are no predictions whatsoever about "doom and gloom" by the Maya

In December 2010, I had the opportunity to travel to Mexico's Yucatan peninsula and, among other things, learn about the significance of the December 21, 2012 date to the Maya.

I went to the Mayan sites under the guidance of Miguel Angel Vergara Calleros, PhD. Vergara is the author of numerous books on the Maya. He was the director of cultural services at Chichen Itza for several years and is one of the foremost authorities on the archaeological site of Chichen Itza. Additionally, he studied with a Mayan shaman for 17 years, and now continues to share in classes and seminars about Mayan spirituality. [Note: Vergara's latest book, "Sacred Knowledge of the Maya," is currently available from Lulu.com.]

But I wasn't going to learn about 2012 in a vacuum. I was going to spend nearly two weeks immersed in Maya culture, learning significant aspects of their beliefs, spirituality, and monumental architecture. I would learn about 2012 in the proper context.

We began by visiting Mayapan, the last place where Kukulkan was known to reside. Kukulkan, aka Quetzalcoatl, was referred to as the Mayan Christ, a visitor who came from afar, who uplifted the people, and who created Mystery Schools whose ancient universal teachings are still

preserved in stone.

We visited Izamal, where the top of a major pyramid had been leveled to create a large cathedral in the colonial days. There, on the large sprawling plaza of the cathedral, Pope John Paul II came in 1993 to ask forgiveness of the native people for the atrocities committed by the Spanish and by the Church. Ten thousand native people showed up to see the Pope and to hear his plea for forgiveness.

Later, we had lunch at Mani, where in 1562 the zealous Bishop Diego de Landa ordered the burning and destruction of Mayan codices and artifacts. Even though de Landa didn't understand what the artifacts meant, he was convinced that they were contrary to the teaching of the church.

"This destruction was akin to the burning of the library of Alexandria in the ancient world," said Vergara. Interestingly, as an afterthought, de Landa thought there might be something of value in the Mayan writings and he saved 4 codices from destruction, and began to write down everything he could recollect in his famous document, "Relacion de Cosas de Yucatan" ("History of the Things of Yucatan"). It is because of de Landa's writings that much of the Maya writings have been translated and understood.

One night, Vergara and author Richard Jelusich talked about the Mayan calendar. Like our own modern calendar, the Maya had different divisions of time which they kept track of.

HOW THE MAYA FIGURED TIME
First, the Maya did not number each year as is our modern custom. Rather, they counted time by the number of days that have elapsed since a day that corresponds to our August 11, 3114 B.C. The historical significance of that date is unclear, but is generally thought to correspond to a mythical date of creation.

So, the first question that arises is, how did we correlate our modern calendar with the Maya calendar? Scholars have used historical evidence, astronomical evidence, and archaeological evidence to arrive at this correlation. Though the majority agree on this date as a point of correlation, there are some who come up with other dates, and therefore, other dates besides December 21, 2012 as the end of the current Long Count.

The divisions of time that they kept track of were the following:
One day, which is referred to as a "kin";
20 days, called a "uinal" – roughly a month;
18 uinals or 360 days, called a "tun" – roughly a year;
20 tuns or 7,200 days, called a "katun"—19.7 years;
20 katuns or 144,000 days, called a "baktun" – 394.26 years.
Thus, a calendar glyph would be represented by 5 symbols, and a



number to indicate how many days in each of the periods have elapsed since August 11, 3114 B.C.

The "Long Count" of the Maya calendar is the time it takes for 13 baktuns, counting from August 11, 3114 B.C. This Long Count is a period of 5,125.36 years, and that cycle ends on December 21, 2012. However, the following day does not begin the 14th baktun, but rather, the count from 1 to 13 begins again. One Long Count ends, another begins.

"The calendar doesn't end," says Vergara. "It just begins another cycle. It just rolls on, just like our modern calendar that never really ends." Plus, adds Vergara, "It is important to note that in their calendars the ancient Maya did not say that the year 2012 would be the end of humanity. If so, then why did they include mention of dates after this year?"

PREDICTIONS?

There are no "predictions" – except one – that specifically refers to December 21, 2012. This is due in part because the majority of the surviving inscriptions describe their current-day leaders and events. Still, there is nothing in the recorded records predicting doom and gloom. In fact, there is hardly any mention about 2012 at all. There are only two known stelae that mention this date. Vergara points out that "The (2012 date) is date is found recorded in stone in Stele No.6, discovered in the archeological zone of Tortuguero, Tabasco and in a fragment found in the Olmec-Maya city of Comocalco, Tabasco. What is the stela telling us? What is going to happen on this date? The stela tells us and in a clear and direct way that we are going to conclude a period of time, an era, a sun, a final cycle, and then initiate a new one. Once the 13 Baktuns end on the 23 of December 2012, Bolon-Yokte-Ku [also spelled "Bolon-Yookte' K'uh"], the god of the 9 pillars, will descend from the heavens." OK, the god of the 9 pillars will descend from the heavens. What does that mean? Is this an actual "prophecy"? The Tortuguero monument 6 is the only known specific date reference to 2012. In his "The 2012 Story" book, author John Jenkins refers to the work of epigrapher David Stuart who offered his

translation of this reference to the end of the 13th Baktun. The inscription actually reads that "something [the something is effaced and untranslatable] will occurIt will be the descent (?) of the Nine Support God(s) to the (?)." Stuart continues: "This is it. The term following uht-oom is the main puzzle, and largely effaced. The 'descent' reference is highly tentative, too. The enigmatic deity Bolon Yookte' K'uh [the "Nine Support Gods"] has been known for some time from many sources, and I suspect that he (or they) has some tangential relationship to the Principal Bird Deity....Frankly, the Tortuguero passage, buried in lots of other data, hasn't been a huge deal to most of us because it is damaged and very, very ambiguous.... Even if the glyphs there were clear and legible, no Mayanist I know honestly believes that the Classic Maya foresaw something that might actually come true in our day and age."

Vergara acknowledges that lots of folks are simply making things up to sell books and fill seminars. "The Maya would have celebrated such a cycle ending, just like everyone today celebrates the New Year." Vergara is aware that many are treating 2012 with great fear, largely due to ignorance.

Richard Jelusich points out that the one astronomical event tied to 2012 – the plane of our solar system crossing through the center of the plane of the Milky Way galaxy – has been occurring from 1980 through 2017. "2012 is a process, not an event," says Jelusich. During my time in the Yucatan, both Vergara and Jelusich downplayed any extraordinary significance of the December 21, 2012 date.

2012 was described as a point where one cycle in the abstraction of a calendar ends, and another begins. It is certainly to be viewed as a moment where one should reflect to consider what has gone on before, and what choices one will make in the future. It should be regarded very much as anyone would regard every January 1st as the "new year," or every lunar new year as the "Chinese new year," and every birthday as our "personal new year." So in this sense, the value of 2012 is entirely up to us. Whether or not we gain, or evolve, is entirely a function of our own physical, mental, and spiritual work and preparedness. There is nothing inherently "good" or "bad" about the December 21, 2012 date.

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