

On Monday, the nation will celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Celebrate His Life.....
Make it a day of service to others.

S. Henderson, Publisher/Editor

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2012

VOLUME 6 NO. 2

SIERRA MADRE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Part 1 of 2 Photos and Story By Chris Bertrand



The former site of Highlander Liquors may become a Martial Arts Studio

Where One Door Closes, Another Opens: Sales, New Businesses, CUP Applications Ramp Up The Heart Rate of the SM Business Community

Sierra Madre has seen a surge of new businesses over the last year. Mother Moo Creamery, Sierra Bistro, Wistaria Grill and Taco Fiesta have added new retail and restaurant services to the mostly family owned businesses in the downtown area. Where one business closes, it seems the interest level is brisk in filling the spot, usually with a different flavor or type of business. The last two franchised fast food restaurants closed their doors. Kentucky Fried Chicken is now Taco Fiesta. Domino's Pizza morphed into Mother Moo Creamery, offering artisan ice cream and food preservation classes. Charcuterie was reborn with a great new chef, Sean Roche, great live music and a new attitude as Sierra Bistro... and much more.

A recent visitor from Mercer Island Washington commented on the buzzing vitality and friendliness at the businesses and restaurants in town, wishing her own town offered as many dining choices. She said she didn't have time to try them all.

Reni Rose and John Barker Purchase Prudential in Sierra Madre

A new chapter begins now at Prudential California Real Estate in Sierra Madre. As of December 20, 2011, John Barker and Reni Rose have completed their purchase of the local realty franchise from longtime owner, Daniel Bryant. Rose and Barker have known each other and done business together for 25 years. "We have had a very positive response from the Sierra Madre community, our own 32 agents and our peers in the real estate world," said Rose. Rose has been a Realtor for 25 years and a top selling agent at the local office since 1988, and ranked in the top 1% of Prudential agents since 1993. She has served as a Director of the Arcadia Association of Realtors. Barker, born and raised in Pasadena, and attended Arcadia High School. He has been a Realtor since age 18, when, in his first year, he rose to top agent at his office and remained there from 1976-82. Since then, he has managed or owned several large real estate franchises in Southern California, served as President of the Arcadia Association of Realtors and held a Director position at the California Association of Realtors for several years recently.

Barker is also President and CEO of Arcadia Real Estate Corporation, an organization that serves real estate professionals with online new licensing, continuing education classes and developed the iPad application, "Realty Agent" that has sold in over twenty countries.

Regarding 2012 real estate in Sierra Madre, Rose said, "Sierra Madre is an interesting and unique town. It has actually been less affected by the downturn, and prices have been more

stable here than in some other cities. Recently, I have noticed that buyers are feeling more confident about the market, and feel it's a good time to buy. We have that Norman Rockwell, Mayberry kind of town, where people buy here for the special lifestyle Sierra Madre has to offer."

"People walk in the door here and want to do business. We have such a great location for that and great people to serve them," said Barker.

Rose and Barker plan to continue their traditional involvement with the 4th of July parade celebrations, the Wine and Jazz Walk, and other charitable and community involvements. They intend to grow this independently owned franchise real estate office, building on the 32 agents now in their fold. "We like the traditional name recognition and stability of the Prudential rock," they said.

For more information, contact Barker or Rose at Prudential California Real Estate, 115 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard. 626-355-1600.

Potential Martial Arts/Wellness Facility Requests CUP Feb. 2 At Remodeled Former Highland Liquors Site

Scheduled for a February 2 meeting at the city's Planning Commission, the proposed tenant for 303 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard, Gary Gapezzani, will request a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to establish a Martial Arts and Wellness School for those "6-96 years old."

The building was extensively updated by owner, Nancy Shollenberger, after the closure of Highland Liquors in 2011.

A lifelong local resident who graduated from Arcadia High School, Gapezzani is an educator with two masters degrees and a passion for the martial arts. "I've been studying with the same teacher since I was fourteen years old," said Gapezzani. He and a business partner, who ran a different martial arts studio, or dojo, together with a larger group, have decided to venture on their own at this time. "In the previous studio," he said, "we all took a couple of days a week. This will be my full time job now."

Gapezzani continued, "I am looking at serving the entire community, from 6-96. Not only will we have beginning to advanced martial arts classes, we will especially be expanding into seniors exercise. I am trained in Qi Gong breathing and exercise, a system of breathing and slow movement very appropriate for seniors, similar to Tai Chi." Qi Gong, a moving meditation practice connecting the mind and breath, involves postures, conditioning and training of the whole body from bones to connective tissue, plus the musculature.

According to Dereck Purification of the Sierra Madre Planning Department, "Pursuant to SMMC Sections 17.36.020 and 17.60.30, fitness studios or similar uses in the Commercial Zone require the approval of a CUP to ensure that such uses will be rendered compatible with other existing and permitted uses located in the general area."

(cont. on page 3)

THIEVES STRIKE SIERRA MADRE AGAIN

Another Sierra Madre Gas Station 'Compromised'

On January 9th, after receiving numerous inquiries from residents, the Sierra Madre Police Department issued a press release warning the public that there is an investigation into another possible 'skimming' scam at the Valero Gas Station on the corner of Sierra Madre Blvd. and N. Baldwin.

The police, however, were already aware of the possible crime prior to receiving reports from the community because of a reported vandalism on December 27, 2011. According to Edgar Artenyan, owner of the station, when his employee arrived to work on that day, that the station had been vandalised. When the police arrived they discovered that "one of the gas pump doors was pried open and evidence that a "fraud skimmer" had been placed inside the gas pumps and then had been removed."

Customers did not start contacting police until about a week later when most had been notified by their banks that their credit and debit cards had been compromised. At press time, there were 17 such reports. In their press release, the SMPD stated, "This is very similar to the crimes that took place in 2010 where "fraud skimmers" were placed inside the gas

pumps at the old EVG Gas Station located at 50 S. Baldwin Ave."

Owners of the Valero Station, formerly the Union 76, were understandably distraught and are cooperating with the authorities in both investigations.

For sixteen years, Edgar Artenyan and Gary Tashchyan have operated gas stations in Sierra Madre. They originally operated a Valero station for 10 years, at 50 S. Baldwin. Then, when the opportunity became available, they bought the Union 76 station on the corner of Baldwin and Sierra Madre Blvd. and operated both stations for four years until they parted ways with Union 76 in 2008.

When the Union 76 relationship collapsed, they moved the Valero operations to the Sierra Madre Blvd. location. As soon as the lease expired on the Baldwin property they put that business on the market.

The business was sold in 2009 to Evengy Yakimenko who operated it as EVG until he disappeared when the first crime was discovered in 2010. Although many have been suspicious of the relationship with the current owners of Valero and the EVG owner, Yakimenko, Artenyan made it very clear in 2010 that he sold the business a year

before the first scandal and had no ties with Yakimenko., nor did he know him before the sale.

One troubling fact expressed by several members of the community is that even in the EVG scandal, there were a few questionable transactions that were done at the current Valero station. However, according to law enforcement sources the EVG scandal did not involve the Valero station.

And yet, despite the Valero owners spending more than \$20,000 upgrading our pumps and credit card processing last year, it appears that thieves managed to bypass it.

Since the investigation is ongoing, no dollar amount has been released at this time. And, although the SMPD and the US Secret Service and FBI are investigating both matters, at least one bank, Bank of America, is conducting its own investigation into the fraud.

Police ask that anyone who has purchased gas from the Valero Gas Station from December 1, 2011 thru December 27, 2011 and used a debit or credit card at the pumps should check their bank statements and report any misuse or fraud to the Sierra Madre Police Department at (626) 355-1414.

BE A FLOAT DESIGNER WINNER . . .CONTRIBUTE A DESIGN FOR THE 2013 SIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT

This year's design contest will be held until Friday, January 27th, 2012. We recognize that the official Tournament of Roses Theme Announcement will occur in mid-January, but we have been given information about the concept for the 2013 Parade. Please see the Tournament of Roses concept for the parade at www.smrosefloat.org/get-involved/design-a-float.

Design Guidelines:

1. Designs must be received no later than Friday, January 27th, by 5PM at P.O. Box 603, Sierra Madre, CA 91025.
2. Design submissions need to take into consideration the Tournament of Roses 2013 theme.
3. Designers should consider the appropriate use of float riders, Sierra Madre Rose Princesses/Escorts (2-4) and animation. Float designs should represent a float no longer than 55 feet and 18 feet wide.
4. The design contest is open to all ages (need not be a Sierra Madre resident nor a Sierra Madre Rose Float Association member).

Designs developed by Groups, Art Classes or other organizations are gladly received. Designers are encouraged also to submit more than one design.

5. Please provide a title to the float design. Submission should include a written description (no more than 100 words) of the concept and possible animations.
6. While only a very simple sketch is required to illustrate the concept, more detail can help in the selection process.

Design Rules:

1. Designs must be submitted on an 8 1/2 X 11 "Theme Draft Form" in black & white pencil. No color drawings or oversized drawings will be accepted. Do not put the name of your float as part of the drawing.
2. Designs submitted to the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association will become the property of the Association and may be modified by the Association to achieve construction and floral requirements.
3. Designers will be required to sign a De-

sign Release form certifying the originality of their design and assigning those design rights to the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association.

4. The designer(s) may be asked for consultation.
5. The designer understands that he/she will receive no compensation, monetary or otherwise, for the use of the design and that the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association, City of Sierra Madre and/or the Pasadena Tournament of Roses have no obligation of any kind towards designer(s).
6. Submitted designs are not returnable.
7. Mail all designs to: Sierra Madre Rose Float Association P.O. Box 603 Sierra Madre, California 91025

For further information, please call the Sierra Madre Rose Float Barn at 626-355-7005, leaving a message on the answering machine. We will return your call as soon as possible. Submission forms available at www.smrosefloat.org

Join the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce as we recognize Sierra Madre's 2011 Citizen of the Year Richard Mays



Sierra Madre Citizen of the Year Dinner

Friday, January 27, 2012

6pm, Sierra Madre Room at the Rec. Center

611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.

\$30/person – No Host Beer and Wine

Food provided by:

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------|
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TAKE A TOUR OF "THE LODGE"

Last year, Dr. Roger Joe, a dentist whose practice was in Arcadia, bought the Masonic Temple and refurbished it. The second floor now houses a state of the art dental facility and the lower floor is a remodeled meeting/banquet facility for public use.

On Tuesday, January 17th, take a tour of the building with the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club and hear Dr. Joe speak on modern dentistry.

The meeting begins at noon at "The Lodge" - 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. The public is invited, and lunch will be served. The cost for lunch is \$10 per person. The tour is free and will be at 12:30. Call 626-355-0728 for lunch reservations.

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New Japanese erasers have arrived!

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 40s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 40s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 70s	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
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

626-355-7135

Tue	Jan 17 - Community Services Commission @ 6:00pm
Wed	Jan 18 - Tree Advisory Commission @ 7:00pm
Thur	Jan 19 - Planning Commission @ 7:00pm
Tue	Jan 24 @ 6:30PM - City Council Meeting
Wed	Jan 25 - Library Board of Trustees @ 7:00pm
Thur	Jan 18 - Green Advisory Committee @ 7:00pm

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.

Hart House Under Center at Memorial Park
Hermosa at Sierra Madre Blvd.

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 Elbe 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 RudyHart@Gmail.com.

www.SierraMadreRotary.com


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www.mtnviewsnews.com
SIERRA MADRE'S "ONE BOOK
ONE CITY 2012" EVENTS

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, containing the first twelve short stories about the famous detective by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, will be honored during February at the Sierra Madre Public Library as the City of Sierra Madre's One Book One City selection for 2012. All events are free and open to the public.

One Book One City annually engages the community in reading the same notable book at the same time and encourages everyone to come together to explore the literature and join in public discourse. Doyle's tales, along with stage, screen, radio and television adaptations, have made Sherlock Holmes a permanent part of our culture, appealing to readers and audiences of all ages. Copies of The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes are available in a variety of formats—print, CD audiobook, e-book, electronic book—from the Sierra Madre Public Library.

A "Mystery Contest" drawing will kick off the month-long program on February 1. Everyone who reads the stories and is able to answer three questions will be entered in a drawing to be held at the Library on Wednesday, February 1. The winner will receive the elegant two-volume set of The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Short Stories, the most lavishly illustrated edition of the Holmes tales ever produced, edited by Leslie S. Klinger.

On Thursday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m., Leslie S. Klinger will present "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes, Hosted by Les Klinger." Mr. Klinger, considered one of the world's foremost authorities on Sherlock Holmes, is the editor of The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes, published by W. W. Norton in 2004 and 2005, winner of the Edgar Award for Best Critical/Biographical Work and nominated for every other major award in the mystery genre. Mr. Klinger (along with his wife, author Laurie R. King) also edited the recently released book A Study In Sherlock: Stories Inspired by

the Holmes Canon, in which eighteen superstar modern mystery authors provide fascinating, thrilling, and original perspectives on Sherlock Holmes. This book will be available for purchase and autographing after the talk.

On Thursday, February 9, at 7:30 p.m., Sisters in Crime will present a panel discussion on "Holmes' Influence on Detective Fiction." The panel will include Amnon Kabatchnik, known for his books on crime drama for stage and screen; Michael Mallory, Sherlock Holmes expert and author; and Naomi Hirahara, prize-winning mystery writer. Tammy Kaehler, author of the Kate Reilly car racing mysteries, will moderate.

On Thursday, February 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon, the Sierra Madre Public Library will host a book discussion of The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes at the Library during the Library's monthly "Third Thursday" book group.

In the evening of Thursday, February 23, at 7:30, Catherine Addé will present "Sherlock Holmes' London: An Illustrated Talk," an armchair tour of London in the footsteps of the world's greatest detective. Ms. Addé is a travel industry veteran and was thrilled to live in London while working on her Master's in Tourism Management. She is a long-time Sierra Madre resident, an active community volunteer, and an avid reader. She serves on the Board of Trustees for the Sierra Madre Public Library.

On Saturday, February 25, at 5:00 p.m., a special screening of a classic Sherlock Holmes movie will take place at the Library. This will be the final event in Sierra Madre's One Book One City 2012 program.

One Book One City 2012 is sponsored by the Sierra Madre Civic Club, the Sierra Madre Historical Preservations Society, and the Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library.

For more information, please contact *Catriona Shafer or Sophia Duran* at (626) 355-7186 or visit the Library's website at www.cityofsierramadre.lib.ca.us. The Sierra Madre Public Library - 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.,

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.

THE 2012 SIERRA MADRE
LIBRARY READ™ CAMPAIGN

1985, the American Library Association (ALA) launched the READ™ campaign which has proven immensely effective in promoting literacy among all age groups. Comedian Bill Cosby was the first notable to appear on a poster; since then, more than 150 celebrities have donated their images for these posters, which convey the simple, but potent message—READ. Although endorsements by popular stars have certainly been effective, the ALA encourages libraries throughout the U.S. to use local community leaders—adults as well as youngsters—as "celebrity models." The ongoing response to the program has been so consistently and overwhelmingly positive that READ™ has become one of the most successful grass roots literacy campaigns ever created.

The Sierra Madre Library launched its READ™ campaign in January 2011, which featured Jeffrey L. Throop, the 2010 President of the Tournament of Roses®, who posed with Afghanistan/Iraq War veteran Marcus Luttrell's memoir, Lone Survivor. Every quarter throughout 2012, a new poster will feature one or more Sierra Madre residents who are active in the local community, usually

posing with a favorite book. Souvenir bookmarks bearing the same design as the poster are also made available for takeaway at the Library.

This winter our local READ campaign features Sierra Madre resident Barry Schwam as Sherlock Holmes. In case you're wondering, "Why Sherlock—?" the poster is dovetailing with Sierra Madre's One Book One City read for 2012, which is The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Barry is an actor who has played nearly 50 character roles on stage, television, and in films. He also works as a voiceover artist and can be heard as the voice of the automaton Col. Sanders at the Colonel Sanders Museum in Kentucky. Barry is an accomplished musician, and is well-known for his skill on the theremin, the only instrument in the world that is played without touching it. Barry's favorite Sherlock Holmes story is The Hound of the Baskervilles.

The Sierra Madre Library is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre. 626-355-7186. www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us

"MY PC!"

If you've wanted to take computer classes, but have avoided them because you thought they'd be boring or full of incomprehensible "techno-babble," then the "MY PC" series is for you! Sierra Madre Library staff members Jill Schofield and Gerard Brane will be teaching this hands-on, fun, and user-friendly series of 10 one-hour classes on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., beginning January 25. These practical, jargon-free, and comfortably-paced classes will focus on how to make the most of your Windows 7 computer, and will include topics such as: "Start Here with Windows 7," "Digital Camera Tips and Tricks," "Share your Digital Photos," and "Stay Safe with Windows 7." There is no obligation to take the whole 10-part series; you can sign up for one, a few,

or all of the classes. Being intimidated by your computer will be a thing of the past once you've experienced "MY PC!"

In addition to the MY PC series, the Library will also be offering classes in Microsoft Word and Excel. A \$20.00 deposit per class is required, which is refundable upon attendance. The deposit may also be rolled over if you wish to take more than one class. A full listing of classes is available at the Library Service Desk and can also be viewed on the Library's website.

For more information, please come by the Library or call Jill Schofield or Gerard Brane at (626)355-7186. The Library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., in Sierra Madre. www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us.

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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.sierramadrelib.library.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!

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALES

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will be having two Bargain Book Table Sales in January in the Library during open hours. The first will run from Monday, January 9th through Saturday January 14th, and will feature Cookbooks, Comics, Fiction, Thrillers, and books for Children and Teens. The second sale will run from Monday, January 23rd through Saturday, January 28th. Crossword puzzle fans will want to browse the large collection of puzzle books that will be available during the second sale. Books on Collectibles will also be featured, as well as the usual Fiction, Thrillers and books for Children and Teens. Books are replenished daily, and are only \$1.00 each.

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

REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN!

The Community Services Department is happy to announce that registration is now open for the winter/spring session for both youth and adults. Classes include Tennis, Ballet/Tap, Gymnastics, Soccer, Karate, Yoga (Tuesday & Thursday evenings plus a new Wednesday morning class) and Tai Chi.

The Spring Aquatic Center schedule includes a variety of programs ranging from Lap Swim & Water Aerobics to Swim Team and Lifeguard & Water Safety Instructor Training classes. Also open - Whale Watching and Senior excursions.

Registration is available online at www.cityofsierramadre.com or walk-in at the Community Recreation Center or Hart Park House Senior Center. For more information please call the Community & Personnel Services office at (626) 355-5278.

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Sierra Madre

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GET READY FOR THE 2012 MOUNT WILSON TRAIL RACE WITH TEAM CROSSFIT ACADEMY!

The 2012 race will be here before you know it: Saturday, May 26.

Coach Eric LeClair and Team CrossFit Academy will be returning for their seventh year to provide free Saturday morning training runs for this challenging event for any interested trail runner. The training is a 16-week program designed with three different ability groups: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. The first training session will begin Saturday morning, February 4th at 7:00A in Kersting Court. It is recommended that all interested runners begin their training on this date; each Saturday morning will feature a different training run.

Coach LeClair has had hundreds of runners and racers within the ranks of the training team over the past six years. The training program has been so successful that it has resulted in over 20 Top 3 finisher medals!

From the beginning trail runner to the experienced veteran racer, all will be welcomed into this fun group and will be assisted in accomplishing his or her desired goal. To contact Coach Eric LeClair or Team CrossFit Academy directly, please call 626-437-8739 or search for either on Facebook.

Registration

Registration for the 2012 Mount Wilson Trail Race will begin on Monday, March 5 at 9:00am. Registration is available online at www.cityofsierramadre.com/onlineregistration or in person at the Community Services Office located at 611



E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Runners are encouraged to register as soon as possible as space is limited.

mountwilsontrailrace.com or contact the Community Services Office at 626.355.5278.

The MWTR sells out on an annual basis, be sure to reserve your spot for 2012! For more information please visit www.mwtr.com

Ready! Set! Go! Runners from the 2011 race. (above)

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, January 1st, 2012 to Saturday, January 7th, 2012 the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 295 calls for service.

Monday, January 2nd

2:11 AM - Stolen vehicle report, 00 block West Orange Grove Ave. The victim reported hearing the engine start on his Chevrolet pick-up truck. He described the truck as a white four door pick-up with 33" BF Goodrich tires and chrome rims. The victim stated the truck may have sustained new collision damage on the front passenger side when the suspect(s) driver struck a mailbox as the suspect(s) fled westbound on West Orange Grove Ave.

Tuesday, January 3rd

3:26 PM - Arrest, Unlicensed Driver, 300 block E. Sierra Madre Blvd. The driver was stopped for a traffic violation. During the investigation a records check revealed the driver did not have a valid license. The driver was cited and released on a written promise to appear.

Wednesday, January 4th

3:07 AM - Arrest, Possession of Marijuana, 1100 block Arno Drive. While on patrol an officer conducted a vehicle check of an occupied parked car. Upon making contact, the Officer smelled the odor of marijuana emitting from the interior of the car. The passengers were issued citations for the above violation and released on a written promise to appear in court.

9:52 AM - Arrest, Unlicensed Driver, 00 block W. Sierra Madre Blvd. The driver was stopped for a traffic violation. During the investigation a records check revealed the driver did not have a valid license. The driver was cited and released on a written promise to appear.

2:38 PM - Arrest, Suspended Driver's License, 300 block W. Sierra Madre Blvd. The driver was stopped for a traffic violation. During the investigation a records check revealed the driver was driving with a suspended / revoke driver's license. The driver was cited and released on a written promise to appear.

Thursday, January 5th

12:04 AM - Arrest, Unlicensed Driver, Sierra Madre Blvd. and Baldwin Ave. The driver was stopped for a traffic violation. During the investigation a records check revealed the driver did not have a valid license. The driver was cited and released on a written promise to appear.

2:43 PM - Vehicle Tampering, 500 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. The victim reported her car was vandalized between 10:00 pm, Wednesday, 1-04-12 and 12:00 pm, Thursday, 1-05-12. The rear window was smashed on her silver Honda CRV. The car was parked in the rear carport of her apartment complex.

Saturday, January 7th

1:21AM - Arrest, DUI Driver, Santa Anita Ave. and Foothill Blvd. An officer stopped a motorist for a vehicle code violation. Further investigation revealed the driver was intoxicated. The driver was arrested and transported to Pasadena Jail.

Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Log

During the past month Sierra Madre Search and Rescue (SMSR) responded to three calls for assistance.

Overdue Hikers, Mt. Wilson Trail: The Team was called out at night to search for an overdue party of hikers on the Mt. Wilson Trail. While team members prepared to head into the field additional information from the reporting party indicated the subjects planned to spend the night outdoors. The search was cancelled.

Missing Off-Roaders, Kern County: SMSR's assistance was requested in the search for two missing ATV riders in rugged conditions in Kern County. Half a dozen Team members responded with two of the team's four-wheel-drive vehicles. The subjects were found deceased.

Overdue Hikers, Chantry Flat: An evening callout sent the team to Chantry Flat to search for overdue hikers who were out after dark. While the team was staging the subjects found their way to the trailhead safely.

Being a member of Sierra Madre Search and Rescue means being ready to respond to a call for help 24 hours a day, seven days a week... And even while on vacation. In separate incidents over the past few months, SMSR members have used their training and skills to help others while on "just for fun" trips outdoors.

Team member Karl Domangue and a friend were descending a canyon in Zion National Park, miles from the road, when they encountered a party of ten hikers unprepared for the technical demands of the terrain: five of them were trapped on a ledge midway down a 100-foot cliff. From the canyon floor, Karl ascended his rope to the trapped hikers and tied safety harnesses for them with his own spare webbing -- a technique every SMSR team member learns early in their training and practices frequently. Karl and his companion assisted the stranded hikers one by one down that cliff and then another further down-canyon, ensuring all ten made it home safely.

Team member Taison Tran planned on a few relaxing days exploring the backcountry in the Kanab, Utah area, but found himself called upon to assist a girl who had become separated from her family, at night, in temperatures below freezing. Taison found her and helped her a mile and a half to safety.

SMSR provides a range of public programs on wilderness safety in addition to its search and rescue activities. The Team never charges for any of its services. For more information on the open house event, or details on arranging a wilderness safety demonstration for your school or group, visit www.smsr.org.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

cont. from page 1

Harlequin Art Gallery Closes. Building Sold.

The retail building at 12-14 N. Baldwin has sold and Harlequin Art Gallery has closed its doors after decades in downtown Sierra Madre.

As of today, Ilona van Dongen is retired, according to an email to this reporter. Harlequin Art Gallery is officially closed. Van Dongen's husband, Frank, a well known, longtime business man in Sierra Madre, died recently in 2009. The property was listed in April and the sale closed January 5, last week to local buyers, Charles & Robyn Tapert, according to LoopNet, which provides commercial real estate data.

Craig Cardella of Keller Williams Realty in Pasadena represented Tapert, the buyer. Tapert is president of Stone Tapert Employee Benefits and Financial Services in Pasadena, a company helping businesses with employee benefits for over 50 years. He said "I grew up here on Orange Grove, and have lots of business and personal ties to the community. We're not sure what we're going to do with the building, but whatever we do, it will be something that we'll make the city proud of. It's a perfect location for a new business to further revive and improve the Sierra Madre business community."

Frank van Dongen settled in Arcadia, sponsored from Holland in the late 1960's. Early on, he built homes on Santa Anita in Arcadia. He eventually opened Frank's Fresh Fish Market on Kersting Court in Sierra Madre, selling fresh and prepared fish in the space now occupied by Lucky Baldwin's. When it was time for a career change, he went back to his early tutelage in art restoration, and opened an art gallery and frame shop on Kersting Court. The building was sold unexpectedly, and the building owner across the street at 14 N. Baldwin heard of their predicament, and offered to build out the undeveloped lower level there. Van Dongen's art restoration business grew in size and reputation. He and his staff became renowned as exceptional restorers, giving new life to all kinds of art, including religious icons from the 16th century and later, with clients from all over the country.

Frank van Dongen was very active in the Sierra Madre and Arcadia communities, as a member and president of both the Sierra Madre and Arcadia Chambers of Commerce. He was often deeply involved in Sierra Madre politics, even running for a city council seat in 1986.

"Sierra Madre is good place for family and other businesses to locate." Bill Ukropina Coldwell Banker Commercial Bill Ukropina, a 30+ year veteran commercial real estate broker involved in many landmark sales and lease transactions in the San Gabriel Valley including St. Luke Hospital and the 7.88 acre 151,444 square foot World Vision properties in Pasadena, represented the seller.

Ukropina, of Coldwell Banker Commercial North County in Pasadena, commented to this reporter on the state of the Sierra Madre business market. "Sierra Madre is good place for family and other businesses to locate and it's a desirable area, yet there is probably not going to be a lot of new development in the future because there's is little land available for expansion. I see more and more businesses interested in Sierra Madre, but I doubt it will ever be overbuilt. I find it a business friendly small city. When I worked with the city to discuss the permitted uses and others that would require a Conditional Use Permit, staff members were helpful and friendly."

Crystal Cleaners to Remain at 12 N. Baldwin

The adjacent business, Crystal Cleaners at 12 N. Baldwin, will remain at the location under the building's new ownership, according to family of Crystal's owner, Alina Avakyan.

Sierra Madre Medical Progressing on New Facility Plans

Sierra Madre Community Medical Group signed the contract with ACME Construction (www.ACMEcos.com) to start the project during the month of January. The project is going to be financed by Bank of America, and Nardi Associates LLP, Architects of record, with local offices in Monrovia, will be involved with the construction supervision. ACME Corporate offices are located at 80 S. Lake in Pasadena.



Fabulous Fabrications

A jewelry show
February 3, 7-9pm
February 4, 10-5pm

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2012 State of the City Ready to Go



Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard's 2012 State of the City event themed "Spotlight on Performance" is set for Jan. 26, at A Noise Within, 3352 E. Foothill Blvd.

Doors to the theater will open at 6:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 7 p.m. with Vice Mayor Margaret McAustin serving as master of ceremonies.

The Pasadena Police Department Honor Guard will present the colors, a scene from Michael Frayn's classic British farce "Noises Off" will be performed and accomplishments of the past year in Pasadena will be presented in a video narrated by a community leader.

During his remarks to the community, Bogaard will provide updates and future plans regarding the ongoing weak economy, redevelopment, environment, arts and culture, public safety, transportation and more.

The event is free and open to the public. Spanish interpretation will be provided. The program will be videotaped for future broadcast on KPAS and via streaming video on the Internet. A replay schedule will be announced.

Transportation on the Metro Gold Line is encouraged since A Noise Within is less than a block from the Metro Gold Line Sierra Madre Villa Station; free self-parking is also available at the station's parking structure with entrances on northbound Sierra Madre Villa Avenue and southbound Halstead Street.

Handicapped parking and drop-off will be available in front of the theater on Foothill Boulevard.

For more information email lnagahiro@cityofpasadena.net or call (626) 744-4311.

Pet of the Week



Roxy is a one-year-old Chihuahua. She has tons of puppy energy so an attentive, active and loving family would be best for her.

Roxy's adoption fee is \$120, 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 A287341, 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.



Celebrating the Cheeseburger

By Dean Lee

Pasadena is known for many things, and just as American as hometown parades and football games, the city, it turns out, also goes down as the birthplace for the classic cheeseburger. In that honor, starting Sunday, the city officially kicks off Cheeseburger Week.

Commemorating, teenaged Lionel Sternberger's, culinary experiment in the early 1920s at his father's restaurant The Rite Spot 1500 W. Colorado Blvd., near the present-day Stoney Point Bar & Grill was the idea of former City Councilman and current President of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Paul Little. Cheeseburger Week is sponsored by the Chamber with support from the City of Pasadena and is a California Restaurant Month event Little said.

As part of the fun, burger lovers are invited to take the Cheeseburger Challenge and vote for their favorite burger pasadenarestaurantweek.com

Little said in a press statement that there are two stories surrounding the

birth of, at the time called, a "cheese hamburger."

"Legend has it that young Lionel Sternberger burned a hamburger and, to cover his error, added a slice of cheese to the burger then served it to a delighted customer," Little explained. "Either that or a hobo, wanting a little extra protein, asked the kid behind the counter to add cheese to his \$0.15 hamburger, the rest is culinary history. The Rite Spot's Aristocratic Burger was a favorite with customers for decades and was priced at that same \$0.15 for twenty years."

According to a number of historians, Sternberger later expanded the Rite Spot opening another location in Highland Park which the famed Bob Wian, who started Bob's Big Boy Hamburgers, worked. Until the mid 1980s the Bob's Big Boy in Pasadena was legendary for being along the Rose Parade route, the location is now the Pasadena City College Shatford Library. An attempt to bring Bob's back to Pasadena failed last month with the closing of the newly opened restaurant on Del Mar Ave near Lake

Ave, Little said a number eateries were participating in the Cheeseburger Challenge including, CREPEstudio, Beckham Grill and Crown Pub, Lovebirds Café, Soleil at the Sheraton, Jersey Mike's, Noir Food and Wine and Kings Row Gastropub join Pie 'n Burger, a/k/a: an American bistro, The Counter, Burger Continental, Clearman's Galley, Toro Sushi, Magnolia Lounge, Vertical Wine Bistro, El Portal, M Local Mediterranean Grill and many others. Most are offering special menus and deals he said. Cheeseburger Week is January 15th -20th.

Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Join us in celebrating Chinese New Year as we greet the Year of the Dragon with fun stories and crafts to take home on Saturday, January 21 at 10 a.m. in Central Library's Children's Story Room, 285 E. Walnut St. For more information call (626) 744-4045.

Teddy Bear Tea Party

Bring your Teddy Bear or favorite stuffed animal with you for tea and special Teddy Bear stories on Thursday, Jan. 26, 3:30 p.m. at La Pintoresca Branch Library, 1355 N. Raymond Ave. Call (626) 744-7268 for reservations.

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

SCHIFF STILL SOPA PROPONENT AS OPPOSITION MOUNTS

By Dean Lee

With the threat looming that a number of popular internet sites —opposed to the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA)— are poised Wednesday to "blackout" their services, including Wikipedia and the user-generated news link startup Reddit, Congressman Adam Schiff said Thursday, that he not only still supports the bill but thinks it necessary to stop overseas intellectual property theft of American goods.

Schiff is one of 12 original co-sponsors of the bill, known as H.R. 3261, introduced in October by Representative Lamar Smith of Texas.

"These are my constituents that are losing jobs because of this [pirated movies/TV] and a lot of the theft of this comes out of L.A. and out of our neighborhood," he said.

Opponents of the bill included CEOs of some of the largest technology companies on Earth, including Google, Twitter, Yahoo, PayPal, eBay and craigslist.

In an open letter authored by, Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google, Jack Dorsey co-founder of Twitter and Arianna Huffington co-founder of the Huffington Post among others, says SOPA threatens the very existence of the internet.

Their concerns rage from the bills requirement that file sharing sites and search engines must monitor what users link to, or upload; to implications that it would deny website owners the right to due process of law giving the government, in what opponents say, amounts

Portantino's Whistleblower Bill Passes Key Committee



Assemblymember Anthony Portantino's bill to provide Legislative staffers with the same protections from retaliation as other state employees, has passed its first legislative hurdle.

AB 1378 was approved today by the Assembly Judiciary Committee on a unanimous vote.

The bill marks the first time legislative employees will have legal protection from reprisals for reporting government wrongdoing such as waste or abuse. It's part of Assemblymember Portantino's broader efforts to ensure openness, transparency and accountability in state government.

"This is another self-serving protection that the legislature enacted that needs to be repealed. Workers should

Next Steps for Heritage Square Senior Housing to be Discussed

The Pasadena community is invited to take part in the next step toward creating the Heritage Square affordable senior housing development by attending a public meeting Saturday, Jan. 28, from 10 a.m. to noon in the auditorium at Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave.

BRIDGE Housing, selected by the city of Pasadena to build and lease the planned Heritage Square development at 750-790 N. Fair Oaks Ave., will present the required draft local benefit plan for community input.

Under the terms of the approved development



to censorship. Schiff, optimistic, said he thinks the bill is being improved.

"There have been some amendments that have been adopted in committee to address some of the concerns that have been raised," he said. "The goal is really focused on these foreign websites that are the venue for massive amounts of theft of American work product."

In December The House Judiciary Committee held three markup sessions, one lasting over 10 hours. Schiff said the bill was currently still in markup and would again be heard sometime after Tuesday when the House convenes.

Reports from Computerworld.com, at the time, said about 20 amendments designed to address SOPA concerns were voted down.

The bills leading supporters include the Motion Picture Association of America, and the Recording Industry Association of America. Schiff said companies are losing billions of dollars and thousands of jobs to overseas pirating.

commented Portantino. "Each year, thousands of Californians do the right thing by reporting waste, fraud, violations of law, and political corruption. When they do the right thing, they are protected from retaliation under the California Whistleblower Protection Act. In most state houses in the nation those who witness and report these abuses are also covered with protection. Not in California. Folks who work for the State Legislature have no such protection. AB 1378 will change this disparity.

AB 1378 would require the Rules Committees of both the Assembly and Senate to designate an officer to receive written complaints and the state Auditor would then investigate those complaints. Those found guilty of retaliation could face fines up to \$10,000 and a year in county jail.

The bill now goes to Assembly Appropriations later this month.

and loan agreement with BRIDGE Housing, local benefit requirements call for 20 percent local hiring, 20 percent local subcontracting and 20 percent local purchasing of materials.

Pasadena ARTS Bus route 20 and Metro line 260 provide direct bus service to Jackie Robinson Center. ARTS Bus, Metro and other route schedules are available at www.cityofpasadena.net/publictransitoptions or by calling 5-1-1.

For more information contact Jim Wong of the Pasadena Housing Department at jwong@cityofpasadena.net or (626) 744-8316.

Windstorm Loan Center Reopens

The federal government has reopened a windstorm loan outreach center in the Pasadena Fire Department administration offices at 199 S. Los Robles Ave., Suite 550 (northwest corner of Los Robles Avenue and Cordova Street).

Closed for the holidays, the center is open again from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. through Jan. 20. Homeowners can apply for up

to \$200,000 to repair or replace damaged primary residences. Homeowners and renters can apply for up to \$40,000 to replace damaged personal property, including vehicles.

Businesses and non-profits can apply for up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged real estate, machinery, equipment, inventory and other assets.

Call (800) 659-2955 for information.

Westward Ho!

Ever wondered how we got here? Out west in California? Ben Fitzsimmons of the Autry National Center will share stories of the pioneers and their migration westward

FESTIVAL OF WOMEN AUTHORS TO BE HELD

The 4th Annual Pasadena Festival of Women Authors will be held March 3. This prestigious event, featuring four award-winning Southern California authors - Heidi Durrow, Fannie Flagg, Michelle Huneven and Susan Straight - will take place at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 East Holly Street, Pasadena, Calif. (9:30AM - 1:30PM). Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey, author of A Woman of Independent Means, will serve as moderator.

The Pasadena Festival of Women Authors brings together a group of diverse and well-published Southern California female authors to discuss their work with a group of enthusiastic people whose love of literature inspired the event. The festival provides an intimate setting where authors and guests will be able to interact

along with a hands-on exhibit of replica artifacts on Thursday, January 26 at 4 p.m. at Hastings Branch Library, 3325 E. Orange Grove Blvd. For more information call (626) 744-7262.



Heidi Durrow

with each other and authors will be available to answer questions and sign their books for guests.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Pasadena Senior Center. In the last three years, the Pasadena Festival of Women Authors has made more than \$60,000.00 in donations to benefit the programs and services there. Tickets for the festival are \$85 per person and include lunch. Reserved tables of 10 are \$850. Visit www.PasadenaFestivalofWomenAuthors.org for more information.

"What's Going On?"

News and Views from Joan Schmidt



Judy Chu and Mike Eng: The Dynamic Duo of the San Gabriel Valley

In 2001, I attended the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's "Know Gangs, No Gangs", Asian Gang Violence Prevention and Awareness Conference. This much-needed program lasted several hours, featuring many guest speakers from the Sheriff's Department, and various agencies that provided services and programs to aid youths. Attorney Mike Eng was the sponsor and that impressed me because I sat in a room with over 100+ attendees from several enforcement agencies besides LASD. These 100+ attendees would take back many ideas-tools, options and programs how to deal with an arising problem. Assemblywoman Judy Chu was there and presented special certificates to the sponsor and keynote speakers. That also was noteworthy because Judy HERSELF attended and presented the certificates.

It was until several months later that I learned that Judy Chu and Michael Eng were married! I thought that was neat and appropriate as they seemed like two caring people committed to help others.

Back in the 1970's, Judy Chu was a math major at Cal State Santa Barbara and pursuing a career in computer science. One day as Chu was walking across campus, someone handed her a flyer about an Asian American Course, and Chu decided to check it out. She recounts the incidence, "It was like a light went off in her head". She listened to the history of Asians coming to America. Times were tough for them-discrimination and stereotypes-but that didn't hold them back. They made many contributions to American life and culture. One day, there was a guest speaker, Pat Sumi. This third generation Japanese American had helped voters to register in Mississippi and organized protests against the Viet Nam War. Ideas began to circulate in Chu's head, "Perhaps an Asian-American woman could be a leader". Chu then transferred to UCLA, changed her major to Clinical Psychology and met her husband, Michael Eng, a student attending UCLA at that time!

In 1978, the couple married. Chu who holds a doctorate in psychology continued to teach-first at Los Angeles City College and then at East LA College. Eng continued to practice immigration law.

By the 1980's, the couple had settled in the City of Monterey Park. Because many Asians were settling in the community, longtime residents sought a ban on Chinese language storefront signs and the City Council voted to support a resolution endorsing English as the nation's official language. Judy Chu and Mike Eng helped form the Coalition for Harmony in Monterey Park and started "Harmony Days" to celebrate various cultures.

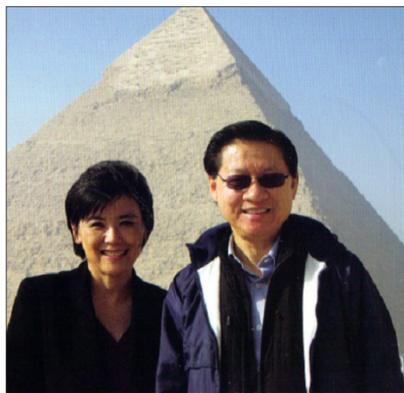
Chu's political career began as a member of the Garvey School Board. She was elected to the Monterey Park City Council and served from 1988-2001, setting a record for longest time in office by a Council Member! From 2001-2006, Chu served on the California State Assembly until she termed out. Then her husband Mike Eng was elected to fill that position. Judy was a member of the Board of Equalization until 2009.

Pet of the Week

Daisy Mae: Animal ID #A4380399

Meet a really mellow sweetheart, the adorable Daisy Mae (A4380399). Daisy Mae is a timid, loving, two-year-old black and white female Longhaired Chihuahua who was found in Rosemead on December 27th and brought to the Baldwin Park shelter. Weighing thirteen pounds, she walks okay on the leash and has probably had some training. She is good with other dogs and we think she will be good with kids. Poor Daisy Mae is terrified at the shelter, and will be even more affectionate and adorable when she gets into a safe, loving home. Daisy Mae will be the perfect indoor pet for anyone in any living situation whatsoever, and would be a great companion for a senior. To watch a video of Daisy Mae interacting with a volunteer, please visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGkMVKY0zpc

To meet Daisy Mae in person, please see her at the Baldwin Park Shelter, located at 4275 N. Elton, Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (Phone: 626-430-2378). She is currently available now. For any inquiries about Daisy Mae, please reference her animal ID number: A4380399. 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



Obama Administration.

When I met Mike Eng, he was an attorney who supported the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in its mission to deal with the Asian Gang problem, work against more youths entering gangs by providing awareness courses and offering prevention and alternative courses. When Mike Eng decided to run for State Assembly, Bob and I attended the kick-off campaign and I learned a lot about Eng. He was the recipient of awards for his work with literacy programs and the library besides helping immigrants. Most recently, he introduced Assembly Bill 11-56, "Tabitha's Law". This is the anti-bullying legislation which will have gone into effect by the time you read this! Three important components are (1) The bill EXPANDS the definition of bullying. Previously the gravity of bullying was not recognized. EVERY DAY, 160,000, children across America are bullied! Eng revealed that as a youth, he was locked in a locker at school and to this day has a problem with claustrophobia, and must always ride on an aisle seat on a plane. (2) Every school district MUST have a school safety program that deal with bullying. Schools have fire drills and earthquake drills/ prevention within school problems- but there has to be some program of action to address bullying. (3) The child being bullied MUST be allowed to transfer to a new school district. The policy has been to ship out the perpetrator but that does no good. The child being bullied is left in that school and the perpetrator usually has several friends that continue to bully and sometimes it's worst because they are angry their friend is gone.

Mike Eng recently held his Day of Inclusion which we attended. Eng works tirelessly to make ALL Americans aware of how many diverse groups came to this country and continue to come bringing so much culture and diverse contributions to our society. He wants to end prejudice against any American and bring awareness and appreciation of ALL contributions by so many great diverse peoples.

Yes, Mike Eng and Judy Chu are truly the Valley's "Dynamic Duo".



for adoptions. For more information about Daisy Mae 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 dogs of all breeds, ages, and sizes available for adoption in local shelters, visit <http://www.unitedhope4animals.org/about-us/shelter-support-program/>.

Grants Funding Information at Your Fingertips at Flintridge Center's Philanthropy Resource Library

PASADENA, Calif.—Flintridge Center's Philanthropy Resource Library is a special library offering free access to comprehensive grants research tools and extensive resources geared to the nonprofit sector. Located at 236 West Mountain Street, Suite 118, in Pasadena, the Library is open to the public and professionally staffed.

The collection includes online databases where nonprofit organizations and other grantseekers can quickly obtain detailed information about funding opportunities from private and corporate foundations and government grants. Individual donor prospects can also be researched using the Library's four computers or via WiFi. Expert assistance is always available for those needing help researching grants or locating specific reference materials.

"Organizations in the San Gabriel Valley have access to a wealth of information in a convenient location—right here in Pasadena," says Flintridge Center program director Lisa Wilson who oversees the Library collection, as well as Flintridge's educational programs for nonprofits.

"Our goal is to help nonprofits and individuals find the funds and information they need to support their essential services for the community. We make the research process easy."

As a Cooperating Collection of the New York-based Foundation Center, Flintridge's Library offers access to the Foundation Center's specialized databases: Foundation Directory Online Professional profiles more than 100,000 U.S. grantmakers. The helpful search tool can pinpoint potential funders who are a strong match. The 990 Finder provides access to more than one million IRS returns for foundations and nonprofits. The Foundation Center's Grants to Individuals Online database features grants for students, artists, researchers and other individual grantseekers.

The Philanthropy Resource Library also contains print directories, proposal writing guides and hundreds of books, periodicals and electronic resources covering a wide spectrum of topics of interest to nonprofits. The complete catalog of titles can be viewed online at www.Flintridge.org.

Flintridge's Library, one of only four Cooperating Collections serving the greater Los Angeles area, has been called "one of the most significant in the Western United States" by the Foundation Center. The Library is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am to 6 pm and on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10 am to 1 pm. Introductory orientations take place on the 3rd Saturday from 9 to 10 am.

In addition, Flintridge presents ongoing educational workshops, trainings, Library webinars and one-on-one consulting services for nonprofits at affordable rates. The Calendar of Events is at www.Flintridge.org.

For more information about the Philanthropy Resource Library or Flintridge Center programs, contact Barbara McKinzie-Slater, Librarian,

626/449-0839, x118.

Upcoming free Library webinars:

Fundraising Planning for Nonprofits w/ Lunchtime Networking
Thursday, January 19, 2012, 12 noon - 1:00 pm
236 W. Mountain St., Suite #118, Pasadena, CA 91103

The live broadcast webinar is an introduction to fundraising planning and how to diversify your organization's support. Learn from the experts how to conduct an assets inventory, develop a case statement, identify funding partners and prepare a fundraising plan and calendar to generate diversified funding streams. Handout materials are included. Come early, bring your lunch, and network with other attendees. Register online at www.Flintridge.org and select Calendar of Events or contact 626/449-0839, x118.

Introduction to Corporate Giving w/ Lunchtime Networking
Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 12 noon - 1:00 pm

236 W. Mountain St., Suite #118, Pasadena, CA 91103

Seeking to target companies that might fund your organization? Need to get beyond the Yellow Pages? The live broadcast webinar is an introduction to corporate support for nonprofits and some funding research tools to help you identify corporate prospects. We'll answer such questions as:

- What are the motivations behind corporate giving?

- What is the difference between a direct corporate giving program and a company-sponsored foundation?

- Are there different pathways to partnership with a company?

- How can I match my organization's needs with a corporation's interests?

- What resources are available to help locate corporate funders?

A case study of a corporate-nonprofit partnership and handout materials are included. Prior experience with foundation grantseeking is strongly recommended. Come early, bring your lunch, and network with other attendees. Register online at www.Flintridge.org and select Calendar of Events or contact 626/449-0839, x118.

To build hope and resilience in the lives of youth and their families in Northwest Pasadena and West Altadena, Flintridge Center works in partnership with the community to provide life-changing services and to act as a catalyst for pragmatic solutions that reduce community violence, improve academic achievement, and launch career paths for the benefit of the greater Pasadena/Altadena area.

NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS IN GUATEMALA

Thoughts on the Death of My Brother

By Christopher Nyerges

I was sitting in a bus, driving through the Guatemalan countryside when I got the call that my Richard had died. I was troubled, and upset, and saddened that I'd not see Richard again. I began to think over some of our life together. I thought mostly of childhood incidents, and they mostly made me laugh.

-- The haircuts Richard and I would get from our father. My father would sit us up on highchair in the garage and the whole neighborhood could watch the spectacle of a poor haircut.

-- Or our early morning Pasadena Star News paper routes when we were out in the neighborhood on our bicycles when everyone else was asleep.

-- I was often surprised when Richard was overly protective of me as his younger brother. Once, while walking home from school, an older boy said something to me, and I just ignored it. But Richard went over to this boy and punched him more times than I could count, and the boy limped away, and I was shocked at his reaction. Yet, I gained a new respect for him.

But mostly, when I heard of his death, I was sad. He'd not be around anymore, even though we probably only talked once a month or so. The last time I saw him was at his son Jonny's memorial, just two months earlier. I realized that life is short and precious, and we don't always get all the time we think we need, or deserve.

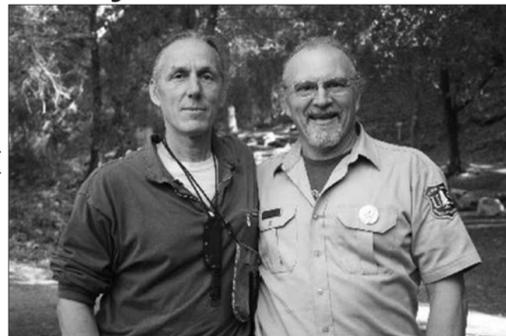
I remember many years ago when I felt bad, or had some problem, I could always call my parents and talk. I would talk for an hour or so with my mother, and it always made me feel better, and hopeful. Then both parents were gone, and I discovered that I could still talk to them, which I do almost daily. I just don't get the same responses anymore.

We could do the same with Richard too, and he will feel your support. Even if you don't believe this, you can talk to him still and feel better yourself.

The following two days in Guatemala were particularly painful, not entirely but partly because of thinking about Richard. One night I spoke with a friend, Doug, and Doug told me many things, including that my pain wasn't because of Richard's pain, but because of my own fears about life, and that was very insightful. Doug told me that night that Richard would appear to me in my dreams. I went to sleep anticipating Richard's appearance, but he did not appear to me that night.

The following day, I was participating in our class on the meaning of certain Mayan glyphs, and later did a meditation while light music was playing.

When I closed my eyes, I found myself on a large flat mountaintop, not unlike the top of one of the many pyramids we were visiting. Richard was there with me, smiling. He didn't say anything, but we held hands and began to dance in a circle, slowly at first. We smiled and laughed as we held hands and twirled. We laughed, and Jonathan joined the circle, as we talked lightly about how much fun it was. Dolores joined,



and my mother and father joined, smiling. My mother said, "Aren't you going to invite us to dance?" and we all laughed and continued to dance in this circle.

It was such pure, child-like enjoyment, and others, seeing our delight, quickly joined. Helen joined the circle, and my other brothers Tom and David and Gilbert quickly joined. Pam, Michael, and Jeffrey joined. Spouses and children joined and the circle got bigger and louder and we were singing and smiling and it was like a Michael Jackson "We are the World" songfest, except the music was more like the Jewish folk song Hava Nagilah. [If you don't know this song, you should listen to it right now on YouTube to get a feel for my dream].

We went round and round and friends began to join -- I saw the neighborhood friends join with Richard, and I saw the many family friends join the dance. People kept joining, friends of Richard and friends of his friends and the circle got larger and larger, and the music was like this celestial angelic music and we moved as one and we smiled and we felt a oneness that you just want to feel on earth but you rarely do.

The circle got larger and larger and as we danced and moved we all began to see that we were all one family, one organism, and we recognized that if I hurt you, I hurt myself, and that if I steal from you, I steal from me, and that if I cause pain to you, I cause pain to myself. We were all moving and there was no fear, no pride, no lies, no prejudice, no Democrats, no Republicans, and Richard in his bright green shirt, was smiling broadly.

As the circle continued and everyone felt their oneness with each other, and with Richard of course, I saw flashes of bright white light all around us -- believe me, this would make a great music video!

While we danced, Richard was on the far side of the circle and he said, "Don't cry for me." I said, "People are sad. Why not cry?" He said, "Don't cry. Just live better. Live your life, and be good. Live better and respect each other and be good to each other. Do that in my memory."

My meditation ended. I smiled, and I mentally thanked everyone who was -- and is -- part of this great circle.

[Nyerges is the author of many books, who broadcasts a weekly podcast on Preparedness Radio Network, and who writes a Blog at his website, www.ChristopherNyerges.com. He can also be reached about his books and classes at Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041.]

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ARCADIA POLICE CHIEF AT CHAMBER AMBASSADORS LUNCH JAN. 18

Arcadia Chief Robert Guthrie to discuss home security

New Police Chief Robert Guthrie will be the guest speaker at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce's quarterly Business Lunch Connection produced by the Chamber Ambassadors and sponsored this month by Sylvia Ramos of Coldwell Banker.

Chief Guthrie will discuss home security alarms and other home safety and general police information in the Chamber conference room, 388 W. Huntington Drive.

The event, at which attendees may introduce

BOOK DISCUSSION THE HUNGER GAMES

Start the New Year with a riveting read of the Hunger Games and join in on the sure to be lively discussion of the book on Tuesday, January 24 at 10:00 a.m. or Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Join a fun group of fellow readers to discuss the book of the month every fourth Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. or the fourth Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. The Potpourri of Books Adult Book Discussion meets January through October. This free program is a great way to meet new and interesting people and to share (or just listen in) to a lively discussion. All discussions are held in the Library Conference Room at the Arcadia Public Library and no registration is needed. Copies of the books to be discussed will be available for check out at the Library.

For more information, please call (626) 821-5569 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.

What Is It Like to Live on an Indian Reservation?

The next Brown Bag Lunch Talk is scheduled for January 19 from noon until 12:30 p.m. featuring the Ruth and Charles Gilb Arcadia Historical Museum Curator Dana Dunn and special guest Tracy Nelson, former chairperson of the La Jolla Indian Reservation.

Bring your lunch and listen to our guest speakers who will present snippets about local history, people, places and events. The Brown Bag Lunch talks take place the third Thursday of the month on the Museum's outdoor patio. Please dress appropriately according to weather conditions. For more information, please call (626) 574-5440, visit our website at <http://museum.ci.arcadia.ca.us> or follow us on Facebook.

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

themselves and network, is open to the public.

A \$15 fee includes lunch. Centerpiece decorations are provided by Ralph's Florist.

Call the Chamber to RSVP at 626-447-2159 or e-mail to info@ArcadiaCaChamber.org.

Ambassador Lunch Connection is held on the third Wednesday every third month - the next will be April 19, featuring new Methodist Hospital CEO Dan Ausman as the guest speaker.

GET SMART ON ART

Take an artistic journey filled with tales about famous artists and make an artistic collage to take home. Learn about Picasso, Kandinsky, Van Gogh and other famous artists on January 28 at 2:30 p.m. Younger children will need to be accompanied by an adult to assist with the craft. No reservations needed and programs at the Arcadia Public Library are always free.

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.

ARCADIA'S KIDS NIGHT OUT

Arcadia Community Center
Winter Wonderland
Friday, January 13th - 6-11pm

Recreation Staff and Volunteers will offer themed games, a movie, a delicious dinner and supervision so mom and dad can have a night on the town or a quiet evening at home. Children must be at least four years of age to attend. All activities will be geared toward elementary school children; anyone younger must be potty trained. The cost is \$15.00 per child and also includes snacks and beverages. Registration for Kid's Night Out can be done on-line, by fax, 626.821.4370 or by coming into the Recreation Office, 375 Campus Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007. For more information please call 626.574.5113!

POOL TOURNAMENT

The City of Arcadia Senior Services Division is hosting a senior (for those 50+ years of age) pool tournament on Thursday, January 19th at the Arcadia Community Center. The tournament will start at 9am sharp and conclude around 1pm depending on the size of the draw. This will be an eight-ball, double elimination tournament and prizes will be awarded to the top three placements.

The tournament entrance fee is \$5 per player and there is a maximum of 16 entries.

For more information about the tournament, please contact Arcadia Senior Services at 626.574.5130.

WINTER CLASSES

Winter 2012 Classes for Adults (50 years +)

The City of Arcadia Recreation & Community Services Department - Senior Services Division is offering winter classes for adults (50 years of age and older). The course offerings include yoga, strength training, line dancing, kinetic tai chi, zumba gold, aerobics, yogalates and balance and mobility classes. We also offer oil and watercolor painting classes. Registration is open now! Courses are offered at the Community Center, 365 Campus Drive AND the Dana Gymnasium located at Dana Middle School, 1401 S. First Avenue.

For specifics on class dates, times and locations, or to register, please contact Arcadia Senior Services at 626.574.5130 or log onto the City of Arcadia Website at ci.arcadia.ca.us.

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.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, January 1st, through Saturday, January 7th, the Police Department responded to 748 calls for service of which 96 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, January 1:

At about 2:10 a.m., an officer conducted an enforcement stop on a vehicle for a broken headlight and lane swerving on Santa Anita Avenue at Colorado Boulevard. Upon contact with the driver, the officer detected an odor of alcohol emitting from his person. An investigation revealed the 20-year-old Hispanic male was under the influence of alcohol, and he was arrested for DUI.

At approximately 2:52 p.m., an officer responded to the Arcadia Police Department front counter in regards to a fraud report. While reviewing her online statements, the victim discovered one of her checks had been altered. After the victim mailed her check, an unknown suspect(s) obtained the check and cashed it for a different amount.

Further investigation revealed a Black female suspect was arrested for check fraud by the El Monte Police Department. A DMV check revealed this suspect lived a short distance away from the location where the victim mailed her check.

Monday, January 2:

Shortly after 11:40 a.m., an officer responded to Arcadia Gardens Retirement Home, 720 West Camino Real Avenue, in regards to a possible fraud report. The victim received a telephone call from an unknown male subject who informed him that he won 13 million dollars from a sweepstakes he had entered, and needed to pay a fee in order to receive his prize money. The victim mailed the check and never received any prizes. The suspect called a second time requesting an additional fee, at which time the victim realized it was a scam. He is desirous of prosecution.

Around 3:29 p.m., officers were dispatched to JC Penney at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in regards to two male adults in custody for theft. The suspects concealed merchandise inside their clothing and exited the store without making payment. The 18-year-old and 19-year-old Chinese males were transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking without incident.

Tuesday, January 3:

At approximately 1:42 p.m., an officer was driving north on Santa Anita Avenue at Wheeler Avenue, and observed a suspicious vehicle driving west on Wheeler Avenue. The driver saw the officer and began to drive in reverse, east toward First Avenue, in attempt to get away. The subject abandoned his car in the Denny's parking lot, 7 East Huntington Drive, and fled on foot through multiple businesses. Assisting officers detained the suspect in the Domenico's parking lot, 251 North Santa Anita Avenue. An investigation revealed the subject ran from police for no apparent reason. He was released without further delay.

Sometime in the morning hours, unknown suspect(s) attempted to force entry into the master bedroom of a residence in the 000 block of East Camino Real Avenue. When the victim returned home she observed the door frame was damaged. Officers determined the alarm was activated and the suspect(s) fled undetected. No property was reported missing.

Wednesday, January 4:

Shortly after 10:00 a.m., an officer conducted a license plate look up on a black Chevrolet Tahoe as he was driving south on Second Avenue, north of Huntington Drive. The officer

discovered the vehicle had a warrant attached and conducted a traffic stop. An investigation revealed the warrant was valid and the driver was never issued a license. The 25-year-old Hispanic male was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

At about 8:42 p.m., an officer responded to the Macy's parking lot at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in reference to an auto burglary. After the victim returned from work, she discovered unknown suspect(s) stole her factory navigation system and third row seat. Officers did not locate any signs of forced entry and no one saw or heard anything suspicious.

Thursday, January 5:

Around 11:35 a.m., an officer was dispatched to the 000 block of California Street, in regards to a mail theft. The victim observed a female adult approach her front porch and walk away carrying her package that was just delivered. The suspect entered a brown 1980's four-door sedan, which was parked in front of the victim's house. The victim attempted to chase after the suspect; however, the vehicle fled northbound on Second Avenue. An area check proved negative. The suspect is described as a White female with long blonde hair, about 5'7", 135 lbs., wearing a white or pink colored shirt with a dark sweater tied around her waist, and blue pants.

Shortly after 6:09 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Santa Anita Avenue and Las Flores Avenue, in regards to a three-party traffic accident. A driver was traveling southbound on Santa Anita Avenue while two other parties were stopped ahead of him. The driver did not stop in time and struck the rear end of party two, who then moved forward and rear-ended party three. No major injuries were reported.

Friday, January 6:

At approximately 1:42 a.m., an officer responded to AMC Theaters at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in regards to a movie piracy report. A male adult was observed video-taping a movie with his cellular phone. The 21-year-old male of unknown race was arrested for Movie Piracy and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

At about 5:27 p.m., an officer responded to the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in reference to a sexual battery investigation. A juvenile victim was standing in the food court area, and was approached by an unknown suspect who grabbed her buttocks. The victim attempted to move away, however the suspect continued to follow her. When the victim yelled for help, she was assisted by mall security and the suspect fled in an unknown direction. An area check for the suspect met with negative results. The suspect is described as a White male adult, 20 to 30-years-old, about 5'6" tall, 300 lbs., with long straight shoulder-length brown hair, wearing a gray zip-up hooded sweater and blue jeans.

Saturday, January 7:

Between 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., a theft occurred at West Coast Elite Gymnastics, 900 South Santa Anita Avenue. When the victim went to retrieve her purse from a shelf, she discovered it was missing. No one observed anything suspicious. The victim has no idea who may have taken her property.

At about 8:08 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Sephora at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in regards to a female juvenile detained for theft. The suspect concealed multiple items inside a used shopping bag and exited the store without making payment. Further investigation revealed the suspect was in possession of burglary tools. The 17-year-old Chinese female was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

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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.

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DUARTE: ANNUAL SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PRESENTED AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

By Joan Schmidt

The City of Duarte surely knows how to recognize its special people. Prior to the January 10th City Council Meeting, there was a buffet and a room occupied with many residents. I asked Council Member Phil Reyes, what was going on, and he said, their "Annual Service and Achievement Awards". It was great to stop and chat with MANY old friends! Reyna Diaz, School Board Member and former integral member of the Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte Town Council was there, but she was representing the Duarte Kiwanis Club. Also on hand were Duarte Superintendent of Schools Terry Nichols and School Board Members Ken Bell and Tom Reyes. Honorees brought family members to enjoy festivities. Donna Georgino had her son - now a grown teenager - but I remembered as a toddler! And it was pleasant to see Council Member Paras-Caracci's husband again. (We met several months ago at a Scout Eagle Court of Honor.)

The 2011 Service Awardees included: 5 Years of Service: Cecilia Contreras, Clerk Typist, 2006-2008; Administrative Secretary, 2008-present, Community Development. Teresa Renteria, Civil Engineering Technician, 2006-2007; Assistant Civil Engineer, 2007-present, Community Development, and Brian Villalobos, Director of Public Safety, 2006-present.

10 Years of Service Honorees included Tzeitel Paras-Caracci, City Council Member, 2001-present; and Patricia Starratt-Thorpe, Traffic Safety Commissioner-2002-present.

15 Years of Service Awardees included Karen Herrerra, Administrative Assistant, Community Services, 1987-1989, Consultant/City Service Worker, 1/1998-5/1998, Assistant to City Manager, 1999-2007. Interim Deputy City Manager, 2/2007-11/2007, and Deputy City Manager, 2007-present; David Rendon, Transit Supervisor, Administrative Services, 1996-Present, and Kristine Swart, Accounts Payable/Computer Operator, Community Services, 1996-1997, Accounting Specialist, Administrative Services, 1997-present.

Being honored for 20 Years of Service were Cesar Monsalve, Recreation Supervisor, 1991-2004, Recreation Superintendent, 2004-2011, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation, 2011-present,

and Council Member Phil Reyes, Economic Development Commissioner, 1988-1989, City Council Member, 1993-present.

For 30 Years of Service, Neil Bjornsen, Traffic Safety Commission, 1981-present and Donna Georgino, Senior Recreation Leader, 1981-1982, Recreation Supervisor, 1982-1985, Deputy Director, 1985-1987, and Director, 1987-2011, Parks and Recreation Department.

Sometimes Award Ceremonies may seem to last a long time. This was different. I have never seen so much enthusiasm, love and camaraderie as I did in the Duarte Community Center. The City and its residents are more like a family. I attend Arcadia and Monrovia City Council Meetings and every member I have met has always been warm and friendly to me. But here in Duarte, the set-up of its community center/city chambers enables more socializing prior to its meetings. There's a long table with agendas, informative flyers and there is even coffee / refreshments. It's very conducive to people socializing. The seating at Monrovia and Arcadia Chambers seems more geared to "Council Meetings", but Duarte always makes me feel like I am at home! Special thanks to the Duarte City Council, City Manager Darrell George and the City Employee Recognition Committee for making this occasion so special!

After the Awards, there were two special presentations, The Duarte Youth and Family Master Plan report Card and a presentation by the Kiwanis Club, which included a short history since its inception in 1915. The Key Club was established and, I remember 15 years ago, special youth members of the Key Club being honored for their volunteerism. The latest program is the Key Leader and Renee Estephon shared a recent weekend workshop she attended because of this fine program. Some topics included "How to Build Leadership Skills, How to Deal with Problems in the Real World, and Pursuit of Excellence. It was a most rewarding learning experience for Renee and she made several new friends who she will keep in touch with via Facebook! Renee was very grateful to the Kiwanis Club and Tine Carey for this opportunity.

Monrovia Police Blotter

Grand Theft Auto. On January 5 at 7:51 p.m., an employee of a business in the 1600 block of South Mountain called to report a stolen vehicle. The female victim arrived at work, parked and secured her vehicle in the parking lot. While on a break at 5 p.m., she saw her vehicle in the parking lot. At 7:45 p.m. she went on her lunch break to her vehicle and the car was gone. There was no broken glass on the ground where the car had been and the victim has accounted for all keys to the vehicle. The vehicle is a silver four-door, 1998 Honda Civic. The vehicle was later recovered by El Monte Police Department. Investigation continuing.

Hit and Run Traffic Collision / Driving Under the Influence - Suspect Arrested. On January 7 at 9:44 p.m., officers were dispatched to Myrtle and Lemon regarding a non-injury traffic collision. Upon arrival of the officers, one of the involved parties was leaving the scene in his vehicle, heading east on Lemon. The suspect parked in the 100 block of East Lemon and ran south on Ivy. The suspect's direction of travel was broadcast and another officer in the area located and detained the suspect at the corner of Ivy and Colorado. He was positively identified as the driver of the suspect vehicle by witnesses. Through investigation, officers determined the suspect was also driving under the influence. He was arrested.

Mail Tampering. On January 6 at 9:52 a.m., mail was stolen from the mailbox at Mayflower and Foothill. The mail was found in several different locations. Checks had been taken from the envelopes and it was later determined that a male Hispanic subject had attempted to cash one of the checks in Santa Fe Springs. However, the attempt was unsuccessful. Investigation continuing.

72-Hour Mental Evaluation. On January 6 at 10:57 a.m., a male teenager who resides in the 1200 block of South Sherman was threatening suicide while on the phone with his mental health counselor. Officers responded and had to make forced entry into the residence. The subject was taken to a hospital where he was held for mental evaluation. His mother was notified.

Residential Burglary. On January 6 at 8:28 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 400 block of East Los Angeles on the report of a burglary. When the officer arrived the female victim told him that her son arrived home at 7 p.m. and found their computer and some items of jewelry missing. Investigation continuing.

Special Enforcement Team Activity
Felony Warrant/Possession of Methamphetamine / Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - Suspect Arrested. On January 4, Special Enforcement Team officers saw a known subject in the 300 block of South Myrtle that they knew had a \$100,000 felony warrant for his arrest and a suspended driver's license. As the subject started to drive away, he was stopped and arrested for the warrant. A vehicle search revealed a methamphetamine pipe that contained a useable amount of methamphetamine. He was also charged with possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. His vehicle was stored.

False Registration Tabs on a Vehicle / Driving Without a License. On January 7, during an investigation, Special Enforcement Team officers stopped a vehicle for numerous Vehicle Code violations. The driver was arrested for placing false registration tabs on his vehicle's plates and driving without a license. The vehicle was stored.

This Week In Monrovia from Mark Alvarado Interim City Manager

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING RECAP

Wednesday's special City Council meeting was held to further tackle the issue of dissolving our Redevelopment Agency. We are still waiting to hear from the League of California Cities ("League") and the California Redevelopment Association ("CRA") representatives on what type of new "version" of redevelopment is being proposed to the Legislature and the Governor. However, in order to comply with the bizarre terms and process the State established with the passing of the ABX1 26 legislation, all redevelopment agencies must be dissolved by February 1, 2012. In order to do so, a successor agency must be formed to carry out the liquidation of all the former Monrovia Redevelopment Agency's assets and obligations. At Wednesday's meeting, the City Council appointed themselves as the successor agency, and will now take on the responsibility of winding down the former agency's affairs. In the meantime, we'll continue to keep you posted on the status of the League and CRA efforts. We shall see...

January 17th City Council Meeting Preview
 The January 17 City Council meeting will start the new year with the swearing in of new City Councilmember Larry Spicer. Congratulations and welcome, Larry!

Under Public Hearings, we have one item. PH-1 is the consideration of the proposed 38th Year (FY 2012-2013) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funding allocation. This year's funding represents a 29%, or \$100,000, reduction of revenue. CDBG handles our code enforcement issues, rehabilitation grants for neighborhoods, and recreational activities for our youth. This public hearing is just to decide to accept the funding. The program implications of reduced funding will be considered during the City's 2012-13 budget study sessions in the Spring. Staff recommends approval.

There are two items under the Redevelopment Agency. Are these the last two actions ever taken

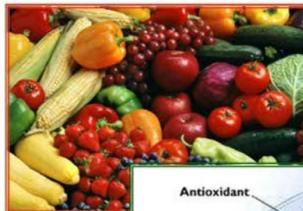
by our Agency?? We hope not! Both items have to do with the process of complying with the rules of AB X1 26, the dissolution of redevelopment. The first report is the approval of the Enforceable Obligations Payments Schedule. This updates the list of obligations to be paid through June 30, 2012. It is simply a list to clearly show the State what bills the Agency is paying, and is obligated to pay. The second item is a declaration (to the State) that our Agency has not forgiven any debt, nor has had any debt forgiven, in regards to financial activities the Agency has undertaken in the past. Again, it is more information the State is requesting as they prepare to oversee the dissolution of redevelopment agencies. Good luck State!

We have two items under Administrative Reports. The first report, AR-1, is the purchase of a portable generator from Precision Electric company. Staff has been discussing the feasibility of purchasing a permanent generator for City Hall. After the windstorm event last month, the idea of a portable generator came up. A portable generator will allow us the flexibility of powering up any of our city facilities, giving us options if multiple buildings are without power, and one is considered more critical than another. Staff is recommending approval of the purchase of a portable generator from Precision Electric Company in the amount of \$25,000.

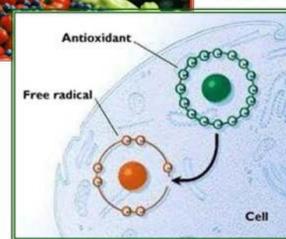
AR-2 is the roof replacement at the Public Works Corporate Yard Garage by Highland Roofing company. Also related to the windstorm, damage was caused to the roof at the Corporate Yard. Repairs are necessary before the heavy rainy season hits us. Thank goodness for summer weather in December! Staff is recommending approval for the replacement of the roof at the Corporate Yard Garage by Highland Roofing Company in the amount of \$29,340. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about an item on the agenda.



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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Sign up online at monroviapubliclibrary.org by clicking on the calendar

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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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ALVERNO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS MAKE A COMMITMENT TO GIVE BACK

Alverno High School Community Service Fair raises more than \$1,300 for charities

On Friday, January 6, 2012, Alverno High School hosted its Second Annual Alverno Community Service Fair, which showcased the senior class' self-created service projects ranging from fighting hunger and cancer to providing funds for reading programs and animal shelters.

The fair grew out of Alverno's senior theology course, Contemporary Social Issues, which asks students to explore the social justices that taint our world. To respond to these injustices, Alverno's 45 seniors have committed themselves to a service project molded by their own passions, ideas and care for the social issues in today's world.

On Friday, members of the Alverno and local community came together to learn about and support the projects of these exemplary seniors at the Second Annual Alverno Community Service Fair. Individuals were asked to purchase \$1 tickets upon entering the fair, which they could then place into a jar on each table to demonstrate their support for that particular charity. Desserts, specialty items, homemade jewelry, and shirts were also available to be purchased using the same tickets. At the end of the fair, each of the tables turned in their tickets to receive the money that had been contributed to their chosen charity. These funds will be donated directly to the charity or will be used to fund a larger service project designed by a senior. In total, more than \$1,300 was raised for local, national, and worldwide organizations.

In addition to philanthropic support of the organizations at the fair, attendees were also given the opportunity to sign-up to volunteer with local organizations that included: Children of the Night (Pasadena, CA), Pasadena Humane Society (Pasadena, CA), Brother's Helpers (La Canada, CA), The Carter Place Senior Citizen Home (Pasadena, CA), Ronald McDonald House (Pasadena, CA), Club 21 (Pasadena, CA), Maryvale, Life Straw, Kitten Rescue, Beagles and Buddies and Best Friends Animal Society. Alverno High School students are expected to contribute 20-50 service hours each to the local community each year, for a school wide total of more than 6,000 hours. However, last year Alverno students exceeded their goal by contributing more



than 10,000 service hours to the local community and they are once again expected to exceed their goal.

"The Service Fair was a wonderful success and we are so proud of our seniors. All of our students as well as faculty, staff and community members, were able to browse over 25 service projects. Each project was built to spread awareness and encourage action in regards to a specific social issue," said Susana Capra, Campus Minister. "The seniors were so passionate about these injustices and that excitement was spread to the younger students. It is often easy to lose sight of how powerful and intelligent a teenager can be in our society today. This service fair showed how wonderful, creative and socially aware high school students are and how much they can inspire those around them. It was a beautiful reminder of the solidarity and justice that is very alive in our world."

Ann Gillick, Head of School, said "The Service Fair is a perfect example of how one individual can make a tremendous impact on her community. Each of these young women chose a project that meant something to her and in turn made that project important to our entire community. A commitment to service and community

is a basic tenet of our Franciscan and Immaculate Heart roots and just one of the ways Alverno empowers each young woman to be exactly the person she wants to be."

About Alverno High School

Alverno High School is a Catholic, private, college preparatory school for young women dedicated to preparing them to function in a society as informed, knowledgeable persons, who have the requisite skills to make and implement mature decisions about complex problems. Enlivened by the spirit of its Immaculate Heart Community sponsors, and mindful of the Franciscan roots of its founders, Alverno's program -- academic, spiritual, aesthetic, social, and physical -- is shaped by the staff, trustees, and students in light of the world for which the students are being educated. Alverno's mission is to empower each young woman to be exactly the person she wants to be and since 1960, Alverno has empowered more than 4,100 women to meet that goal. For more information about Alverno High School, please call 626-355-3463 or visit www.alverno-hs.org.

PUSD TO HONOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY WITH SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Superintendent Jon R. Gundry will join students, families, teachers, and community leaders to honor the legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. at two events this weekend.

On Saturday, January 14, Superintendent Gundry will join the Tournament of Roses Royal Court in the MLK Day On, Not off Action Day at Madison Elementary School where volunteers will participate in campus beautification, landscaping, and planting. The event is organized by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Coalition.

On Monday, January 16, Superintendent Gundry will join community leaders at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at Jackie Robinson Park featuring music, speakers, dancers and more. The event is sponsored by the Martin Luther King Community Coalition, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, the Pasadena Unified School District, the Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Area Congregations, Aspires West Pasade-

na, Pasadena NAACP, and the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Gamma Lambda Chapter in association with the City of Pasadena.

PUSD schools and offices are closed on Monday, January 16 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Subject: MLK Day On, Not Off Action Day
Date/Time: Saturday, January 14, 2012
8:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.: Campus Beautification
10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.: Speakers and Student Performances
Location: Madison Elementary School
515 Ashtabula St., Pasadena
Subject: MLK Celebration
Date/Time: Monday, January 16, 2012
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.: Freedom March Video
Breakfast
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Celebration
Location: Jackie Robinson Park
1081 Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena

Pasadena Christian School

1515 N. Los Robles Avenue

Pasadena, CA 91104

Pasadena Christian School has scheduled a Campus Tour on Thursday, January 26, from 9:00-10:30 a.m. for prospective parents interested in preschool (2-5 years old) through eighth grade. Those who attend will have an opportunity to meet the school administrators and to learn about the curriculum and programs offered. Guests may briefly observe in the classrooms and will be taken on a special tour of the campus. For reservations, please call (626) 791-1214.

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 Luguenbuehl
E-mail address: jml@bcsliions.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@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

Walden School

74 S San Gabriel Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166
www.waldenschool.net

Weizmann Day School

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

Wilson Middle School

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

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Looking Into The Life Of A Teenager

By Meaghan Allen

This past Monday to Wednesday evening I went on my school's senior retreat in Wrightwood, CA. It was not only nice to breathe some fresh, clean, crisp air, but also to be alone in the wilderness.

Although almost all of my best friends went, I was able to escape into my own personal solitude for a few hours, and man did it feel great. I did not realize how much I needed to just breathe and get away from school - college, tests, grades, etc. - and just be with myself in my head. Sitting in a lone little meadow and enjoying the sunshine was so cleansing and purifying because, although negative thoughts crept into my head, I was able to cope with them and sort them out. But I was also able to just zone out on a single blade of

grass and let my mind go completely blank; a slight humming that let my body go numb and my breathing slow until I was completely at peace with myself.

And it was nice I was able to have this time because inside during the activities, we were asked those hard questions about our future and what we will do to make sure it happens. How can I know? How can I anticipate what will come, not only two weeks ahead but months and years? These questions troubled me, but because I was able to escape I was able to come to the conclusion that I won't know, I can't know. I can only go with the flow and find places to escape.



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THE RAYMOND RESTAURANT

The San Gabriel Valley is rich in fascinating history and could easily fill a library with its intriguing past. One of the most colorful places in the area is Lucky Baldwin's and it is named after the legendary, Lucky Baldwin, who established the Santa Anita Race Track, and the Arboretum. Another figure of ours that has left landmarks on the landscape is the Railroad Baron, Henry Huntington. His legacy is found in the influential Huntington Library, the classic Huntington Hotel, and a Hospital that is named after him.

Still another captivating pillar that marks our past is the Raymond Restaurant on Fair Oaks. This tranquil restaurant sits on the border of South Pasadena and Pasadena and is one of the historic places that can bring us back in time and allow us to live our history.

TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills
thechefknows@yahoo.com

"In 1886, Walter Raymond, a Boston native, came to Pasadena and built The Raymond Hotel - a fabulous sunny destination for Easterners looking to escape harsh winter weather. On Easter Sunday in 1895, sparks from a chimney ignited the roof and the entire hotel burned to the ground in only 40 minutes.

Undaunted, Mr. Raymond built an even grander hotel with 300 rooms, along with a charming caretaker's cottage. In the early years, Walter and his wife often stayed in the cottage when special guests didn't occupy it. Gracious hosts, the Raymond's entertained celebrities such as Charlie Chaplin, Tom Mix, and Buster Keaton, who visited and filmed in Pasadena in the roaring 1920s.

Sadly, in 1931, the Great Depression toppled the Raymond Hotel and the party was over. The hotel was razed to make room for residential development, and Walter and his wife moved into the cottage, where they lived until 1934.

The caretaker's cottage is now The Raymond

Restaurant, and the timeless charm and spirit of this lovely space can be enjoyed by all."

I have known the owners, Rob and Leslie Levy for years, and they are the personification of hospitality. Their vision includes great food and a cocktail list that will refashion your perspective in a dazzling and adventurous assortment of cocktails. Recently, I attended the re-opening of the bar at The Raymond. I love the new name The 1886. The drinks were flowing and the bartenders were mixing magic and I felt as though I was watching doctors perform surgery, and I believe I was healed.

The General Manager, Chris Mangandi gave me a quick tour of the bar, and he promised me that they would revolutionize the world of cocktails in Pasadena. Special thanks to my bartender, Marcos Tello, who gave me a history lesson of the bar and The Raymond Hotel. This is my kind of classroom for history! The bartenders at The 1886 are uncommonly skilled in their art and each will reveal you with stories that make you nostalgic for a bygone era. Make sure you come thirsty and there is no charge for the history lessons.

The Raymond Restaurant is one of the unique places that we can call our own and is an adventure with every visit.

1886 Bar at the Raymond Restaurant 1250 S. Fair Oaks
Pasadena (626) 441-3136, Listen every Sunday Night at 7PM to my talk show on 790 KABC e mail me at thechefknows@yahoo.com



INGREDIENTS:

- 6 slices bacon, diced
- 3 to 3 1/2 pounds chicken pieces, such as leg and thigh quarters
- 4 medium onions, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 teaspoon ground marjoram
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon leaf thyme
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 can (12 ounces) beer, room temperature
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar

DIRECTIONS:

In an oven-safe Dutch oven or large saucepan, fry the bacon until crisp. Remove with slotted spoon to paper towels to drain. Over medium heat, brown chicken pieces in the bacon drippings, turning to brown all sides. Remove to a platter as chicken browns.

Add onions to the pan and cook until tender, about 4 to 5 minutes. Drain off excess fat. Sprinkle on the flour, marjoram, pepper, thyme, salt, sugar, and garlic. Stir in beer. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring constantly, until thickened and bubbly. Stir in vinegar. Add chicken back to pot. Sprinkle with bacon. If necessary, transfer to a large baking dish. Cover and bake at 350° for 55 to 65 minutes, or until chicken is tender. Serves 6 to 8.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SEAN'S SHAMELESS REVIEWS:
THE BIG PINK



Electro-rock duo, The Big Pink, return with their sophomore album, "Future This", the follow-up to their critically acclaimed debut effort, "A Brief History Of Love."

While their latest compilation may seem like a companion piece to their 2009 record, I assure you, The Big Pink are still on the right track. What could have easily turned out to be the typical sophomore slump album for such a praised band ends up being sharper, deeper and cooler than their previous outing. Despite claims of changing their style on this new record, The Big Pink remain faithful to the sound of their first album which got them on the map. "A Brief History Of Love" was pretty self-explanatory in its title; a record about love and everything (good and bad) that comes with it. However, with "Future This", the tracks don't necessarily tie in with one another and feel more stand-alone than appearing to be a part of a concept album with a consistent theme. While the duration of the record is ephemeral, The Big Pink delivers ten brand new tracks that sound polished and tighter than possibly anything else in the genre. Granted, while their resonance hasn't changed all that much, I still believe "Future This" marks the first great album of 2012.

The synth-pop team adds some fuzzed out guitars and sub-bass howls to their super-charged sound. The energy is high and production values top-notch. This is a loud tracklist with beats and samples, instrumental layers and some vocal melodies scattered in the album. "Stay Gold", the band's opening track and single, bears a strong resemblance to their hit single, "Dominoes" from the last album. It's a very friendly radio tune that definitely has "single" written all over it of course, but that shouldn't devalue it. It's not the best song of the bunch; however, it's the catchiest and arguably most fun. The second track, "Hit The Ground (Superman)" follows in the same footsteps as "Stay Gold". It's a grandiose and ambitious tune that puts a lot of emphasis on the chorus rather than the verses. Simple lyrics and metaphors, but

solid sound, if not a bit formulaic even for The Big Pink. Not surprising at all to find out the aforementioned track is the second single off the record.

In a rare instance, the singles are not the best songs off the record. "The Palace" is a beautiful sounding euphoria-like song. It's gold from beginning to end. The following track "1313" starts off soft and breezy but ends up a bit rough around the edges. One moment it floats effortlessly and the next it's a little too random in

Artist: The Big Pink
Record: Future This
Label: 4AD Records
Release Date: January 17, 2012
Grade: 8.3 out of 10
Key Tracks: "The Palace", "Future This", "77"

some spots. The song is at least a minute too long since it travels into an entirely different location of soundsphere. The second to last track, "Future This" is a dark, deeply synthesized song that showcases superior harmonies. It's the perfect out of the box sort of song that oddly feels inside the box as well. "77" is the closing track and the one song on the album that shows a different side of The Big Pink. The finale is an intensely personal track that's beyond anything they've produced. With "77", The Big Pink displays a break from their signature sound. It's the highlight of the record and surely to stand toe-to-toe as one of the best songs for the year. Fans of their first album are either going to be pleased with the palpable comparison or loathe the fact the band didn't fully dive into unfamiliar terrain. No matter the case, this album is everything I could have hoped for in a follow-up and then some. Not perfect by any means, "Future This" is one lively, often entertaining, sometimes sensitive, keen piece of work.

Joyce Pan, Violinist, Brings Expertise, Enthusiasm, and Dazzle to Pasadena Community Orchestra January 27 Concert

PASADENA, Calif. - January 9, Animation.

2012 - Joyce Pan will perform Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor with conductor Alan Reinecke and the Pasadena Community Orchestra on Friday, Jan. 27, at 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary of First Church of the Nazarene, Pasadena (PazNaz). The church is located at 3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., one block west of Michillinda Ave. Reinecke, in his fourth year as conductor following his father Wayne's retirement in 2008, leads the symphony in Smetana's Sarka, from Ma Vlast, and Mozart's beloved Symphony #39 in E-flat Major.

Before joining PCO, Joyce served for three years as concertmistress of California Youth Symphony in the Bay Area. She has soloed with California Youth Symphony and San Jose Youth Symphony, and has won numerous awards, including the Stanford Young Artist Festival, the Palo Alto Jewish Community Center Sound of Music Festival, and Music Teacher's Association of California VOCE competition. She has studied privately with Patricia Burnham, Livia Sohn, Henry Gronnier and with St. Lawrence String Quartet members Geoff Nuttall, Barry Shiffman, and Christopher Constanza. With Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Computer Science from Stanford University, Joyce currently works as technical director at DreamWorks



Ms. Pan has always been a big fan of Prokofiev, she revealed, "particularly for his unique rhythms and intervals. The range of sounds he explores in his music, from the very tender to the discordant and harsh, makes it easy to relate to emotionally." This violin concerto is one of his more conventional compositions, weaving romantic melodies reminiscent of traditional Russian folk music with brash peasant dance tunes throughout the piece. It premiered in Madrid, Spain, in December 1935 to wild applause.

The 2011-2012 concert series marks Pasadena Community Orchestra's 28th year bringing fine classical music to the community. Concerts are free, with donations taken at the door. Well-trained musicians, professionals in other fields, provide a high-quality musical experience. PazNaz offers an abundance of free parking with wheelchair access. As an added bonus, guests are treated to refreshments at an after-concert reception enabling musicians, soloists, and concertgoers to meet and mingle. For further information, please contact the orchestra at 626.445.6708, via email at pcomail@gmail.com, or at http://www.pcomusic.org.



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HOWARD Hays As I See It



*"ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready for use ...
"Nothing can ever replace safe gun handling ...
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- National Rifle Association

I try to maintain an attitude of dispassionate reason in approaching a new column, but this time, after reading Susan Henderson's front-page story in last week's MVN, I'm really concerned.

Assemblyman Tim Donnelly (R) and I probably don't agree on much, but he represents me in Sacramento, and, like me, is a husband and father, so reading that his very life has been threatened by opponents instills a singular desire to see the perpetrators of such crime apprehended and brought to justice.

Years ago, I was a juror on a case where the defendant was charged with having made a "terrorist threat". (A fellow warned his girlfriend that if she leaves him for another guy, "I'm going to kill you.") The judge explained that two findings were necessary for a guilty verdict; first, the threat had indeed been made, and second, that the victim believed the defendant capable of carrying out that threat.

As to whether threats have been made, Donnelly has repeated the charge in print and broadcast media up and down the coast. Regarding his belief there'd be an attempt to carry it out, he says he packed heat as a safeguard, and the fear apparently so unhinged his mind that he handled the weapon in a reckless, illegal, and just plain stupid manner.

After personnel at Ontario International Airport found in Donnelly's carry-on a .45-caliber Colt Mark IV with four rounds loaded, along with five rounds in a separate magazine, his office explained that he "forgot". John Rabe asks in his KPCC blog, "Would the Assemblyman care to tell us how he FORGOT that he was carrying a loaded .45? Seriously, he forgot to unload it last time he used it, forgot to make sure it was unloaded before he put it in the bag, then forgot where he put the gun ... He also forgot to obtain necessary permits as required by law."

But the focus must be on tracking down those who threatened the life of our assemblyman. I wanted to know more, so I called Donnelly's offices - both in Hesperia and Sacramento. The staffers therein were unable or unwilling to provide an answer to my question: Did the assemblyman contact the police about these threats? I don't think there'd be a reluctance to answer if he did.

Presumably still at large are criminals who issued the "terrorist threat", but Donnelly didn't tell the police. He didn't tell the Assembly sergeant at arms, who provides security for members. He didn't tell the Highway Patrol,

which offers protection to legislators at public events. Instead, he told John and Ken on KFI.

Political opponents are sometimes accused of ignorance, faulty reasoning or self-serving agendas, but Tim Donnelly accuses them of threatening to kill him. He couldn't just make that up.

Could he?

At the aforementioned trial, much time was spent assessing witness credibility. With that in mind, I revisited an October, 2010 profile of Tim Donnelly by Greg Maddaus in the L.A. Weekly. It related the story of a 10-year-old boy who inflicted a gross attack of potty-mouth on a fourth-grade classmate. The school district's response became a cause celebre of Donnelly's. Answering those who noted the boy was the son of Mexican immigrants and the classmate a white girl, he wrote, "I am proud to be a 'racist' if the definition of racist means that you can tolerate being called names in order to protect children from sexual predators." With no direct involvement in the matter, he accused the boy of having "molested and terrorized 11 girls."

While volunteering with the Minutemen at the Arizona border, Donnelly heard a resident describe the cries of women being raped as they crossed her property. He repeated the story in an interview with the Washington Times, but in this telling it was Donnelly himself, not the woman, who'd heard the cries; "I thought the wailings we heard at night were the coyotes barking at the moon ... It's something you never forget."

In 2005, Donnelly wrote, "We are told that raping young girls, marrying extremely young girls, ogling women in an aggressive manner and using a child as a human shield are all cultural differences that we must learn to accept." It's not clear who he imagines told him this, but hearing such "voices" can be troubling - especially when coupled with an obsession for guns ("I do tend to always be armed.").

Maddaus of the Weekly describes an "apocalyptic despair" in Donnelly's observations, such as his warning that an "illegal invasion" will "very probably wipe out the freedoms we American Christians enjoy, as Muslim Extremists blend in with the so-called 'innocent' illegal aliens, and eventually proselytize them."

Some of Donnelly's warnings are transparent, such as his move last year to "safeguard our right to vote" by imposing further restrictions at the voting booth. In this, he's just parroting talking points from the Koch-backed American Legislative Exchange Council, part of their nation-wide campaign to disenfranchise groups such as seniors, students and the poor.

Maybe I'm wrong to be concerned by alleged death threats against my assemblyman; others seem to treat the matter as they would the ramblings of a doddering old family member whom they long ago stopped taking seriously.

Now I'm more concerned by the fact it's still a long time 'til November, when we'll be able to elect someone without the guns and paranoia, who'll take seriously the unfinished business in Sacramento.

GREG Welborn



I ENJOY BEING ABLE TO FIRE PEOPLE...

The other day, I fired someone, and I am very happy I did it. I'm even happier that I had the freedom to do it. I imagine that most readers have had similar experiences, but apparently most of the contenders for the Republican nomination have never appreciated this freedom we all have to insure we're getting the best service for the money we spend. I would hope that such a startling lack of understanding about what makes our system great would disqualify the lot of them from any other public service.

Competition is the quintessential ingredient for keeping our economy vibrant. Without competition, every one of us would eventually become complacent and lazy. It is only the knowledge that I might lose my job, my customers or my clients if I don't perform that keeps me on my toes. Mr. Romney may have stated this truth ineloquently, but that's really all we can accuse him of doing. The reality of what he was describing is something each one of us has done in the past, will do in the future and should recognize as key to our success and happiness.

Mr. Romney's full quote was, "I want individuals to have their own insurance. That means the insurance company will have an incentive to keep you healthy. It also means if you don't like what they do, you can fire them. I like being able to fire people who provide services to me. You know, if someone doesn't give me a good service that I need, I want to say I'm going to go get someone else to provide that service to me."

Because of that, Mr. Romney has been accused of being the modern version of yesterday's Robber Barons. The quote is being taken out of context to imply that he enjoys the act of firing people. He said no such thing, of course. He simply pointed out that he enjoys having the ability to fire people who aren't measuring up to what they've promised. He enjoys having the freedom to spend his money where it will generate the most benefit and value for him. That's exactly what each and every one of us does every day of the week, month and year.

Think about the decisions we make on a daily, if not hourly basis. When we decide what restaurant to visit, we're deciding whether to give our business to restaurant A or restaurant B. If we've gone to restaurant B for awhile and decide to go to restaurant A instead, we are in essence firing B. The same holds true when we go the movies, use a plumber, choose a doctor or buy clothes from one

store over another. We are exercising the freedom we have to spend our money as we see fit. This is what makes producers and service providers work hard to meet our needs. If we were forced to pick one, or to stay with one once we've picked them, they would quickly lose the motivation to meet our needs.

I cannot imagine a single reader of this newspaper disagreeing with this. Yet, when we change the example from individuals deciding who to buy from to companies deciding whom to buy from, this simple economic freedom becomes a scarlet letter of disgrace. Mr. Romney was the head of Bain Capital, a company's whose job was to decide where to invest money. It specialized in buying companies that had been badly managed, replacing incompetent management and turning them around into viable and growing enterprises. Bain Capital was remarkably successful in doing this, and as a result earned a tidy profit.

Sometimes Bain Capital had to fire some people in order to keep others employed. Many of the companies it bought were terribly inefficient. Many were already facing bankruptcy. Instead of criticizing Mr. Romney for taking the risk and firing some, we should thank him for the thousands of jobs he saved. Every company that was saved or was started because of Bain Capital is an example of hundreds and thousands of jobs created.

Mr. Romney hasn't done anything wrong except to poorly explain why we all need to have the freedom to fire those who aren't performing in order to employ those who will perform. If he's guilty, we're all guilty. In reality, we're all just doing our part to keep the economy working as efficiently and responsibly as possible. Thank God we can fire people.

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

Independent's Eye by JOE Gandelman



SUICIDE BY TEA?

You've heard of "suicide by cop"? America is now seemingly witnessing political suicide by tea.

Tea Party, that is. Only a few months ago Republicans seemed poised to fulfill a dream: if the economy continued to recover slowly or was barely on the mend, and if President Barack Obama continued to appear to be a nice guy who could give a terrific scripted speech but was inept as a leader and problem-solver, Republicans could capture control of the Senate, Congress and White House. They could then repeal "Obamacare" and complete the job of taking over the Supreme Court, which petulant Democrats trying to teach their own party a lesson by staying home in various elections helped the GOP nearly achieve.

But now it doesn't seem to be in the tea leaves, largely because catering to the powerful Tea Party pushed the party so far to the right that it sparked a new ideological purity war and threatens to alienate the country's center. When the Tea Party burst on the scene in 2009 top GOPers saw the conservative and libertarian movement's potential and moved in and tried to consolidate it as part of the party's base. Now the tail is wagging the elephant (to the right).

A new Gallup poll underscores Republican perils. It finds 40 percent of the electorate now describe themselves as independents, up a percentage point from the previous year - but it's a record high. Thirty-seven percent self-identify as Democrats and 25 percent as Republicans. Democrats made gains at the expense of Republicans. Another finding: many independent voters lean Republican.

This fits in with what I found during a three month tour last year of the mid-west and East Coast. I ran into many people who said they had been Republicans but they a) were independent now because their party was too far right for them, b) were turned off by demonizing rhetoric, c) felt Republicans need to work with Democrats, and, e) felt their party was now too far to the right on social issues.

The frenzied scramble to please the Tea Party and conservative base has been particularly tough for former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Both were politicians who occasionally had worked with and compromised with those on the other side. Both in previous incarnations were center right.

And they have been in a battle over who is the biggest hypocrite in terms of being conservative.

Romney all but obliterated Gingrich in Iowa with millions of dollars in TV ads paid for by a friendly PAC. And if you believe Romney didn't know about the ads, then let me tell you about a little furry bunny who'll sneak into your house and hide painted eggs this Easter. Gingrich had enough of Romney's painting himself as just a modest businessman who merely dabbles in politics because of a sense of public service and said enough with the "pious baloney." Which was ironic: over the years Gingrich has generated enough pious baloney to supply all of Hebrew National's orders for the next two years. Except Gingrich's baloney isn't Kosher.

To get the nomination, Romney and others have to jump through hoops. Romney did it clumsily and is getting stuck in some of them. If he gets the nomination he'll likely be damaged goods and it's a pity: if this had been 10 or 15 years ago he'd be the perfect big tent establishment Republican to head the ticket and capitalize on Obama's and the Democrats' weaknesses.

Few pundits now predict the GOP will sweep the House, Senate and the White House. Exiled Republican moderates, centrist Democrats, moderates in the general electorate, independents and centrists may be unhappy with Obama but they could feel they have limited options on voting day.

Voters will sometimes choose for President someone inept but predictable over someone who appears batty. And my betting is that if trending continues, the least repulsive option won't be one where they see they also have to swallow a big gulp of tea.

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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.

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TINA Dupuy



THE GOP'S LONG SAD MARCH TO THE INEVITABLE NOMINEE

Republicans have a wide variety of conservative white males now vying to be their nominee. No, really. Bear with me.

They have former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich summing up the worst of the '90s GOP. Not only did he shut down the government during his tenure, he attempted to oust a president for doing what Gingrich was doing at that very moment. The Speaker investigated Bill Clinton for hanky panky with an intern (a paid one - FYI - oh the '90s were a golden age) while Gingrich was messing around with a Capitol staffer; soon to be his third and current wife, Callista.

I've stopped using the word "hypocrite" for people like Gingrich. It's a 75-cent word no one cares about. A better term is "fraud." Gingrich enjoys after people for the things he's guilty of, like when he said we should lock up Congressman Barney Frank and Senator Chris Dodd. Gingrich described them as "the politicians who profited from the environment and the politicians who put this country in trouble." This was before it was disclosed Gingrich was paid \$1.6 million by Freddie Mac for what any reasonable person would call lobbying. (He maintains it was anything from being a celebrity to being a historian that "earned" such a paycheck.)

He's now attacking Mitt Romney for "making people unemployed" at the leverage buyout firm Bain Capital, while not mentioning Gingrich was on the advisory board at a competing leverage buyout firm Forstmann Little after his stint as Speaker.

Fraud.

But don't worry, Republicans also have a sample of the worst of their party from '00s: Rick Santorum. Now Santorum believes your uterus doesn't have a right to privacy. If Santorum has his way, women's private parts are up for public scrutiny and federal regulation. He's also bravely stood up for states being able to ban birth control and not wanting to make black/blah people's lives better by giving them someone else's money. But Santorum ranks among the worst of the Bush Era because of a blah spot on the Grand Old Party called: The Terri Schiavo case. In 2005, Schiavo was in a decades-long vegetative state; her husband wanted to abide by her wishes

and not keep her alive by artificial means. Her parents disagreed. They went to court. Then Congress got involved. Then the President of the United States at his home in Crawford boarded Air Force One on Easter to fly to Washington to sign legislation to "save Terri." Santorum was at the bedside of Terri Schiavo (uninvited) to make a national spectacle of himself. How'd he get there? Walmart corporate jet. Why was this Pennsylvania senator in Florida? Outback Steakhouse fundraiser. So an industry toady uses his corporate favors to publically moralize our most intimate issues? He's pro-life, with the caveat of being pro-er-big-big-business. A few months later in that same year, nearly 2,000 Americans died in Hurricane Katrina without a special session from Congress or a visit from Santorum. It's hard to embrace the sanctity of life while corpses float along the streets of an American city. Santorum lost his seat by 17 points the next fall.

So worst of the '90s, worst of the '00s and just to add diversity - the cartoon of an absurd GOP future: Rick Perry.

All that really needs to be said about Perry is he was finally able to list all three agencies he'd cut while president and got a near-standing ovation from an otherwise subdued New Hampshire crowd last Saturday at ABC's debate. As they say in Texas, Perry is all hat and no...

"Uh ... I can't ... sorry ... oops."

Which leads us back to the 1 percent (tipper) representing, Mitt Romney. Because all the other candidates remind us of bygone ethics violations, shameful hysterics, China or Ron Paul, the GOP looks like they're stuck with Romney. But they do not love him.

His campaign has been like the rehearsal dinner for an arranged marriage: kind of sad, kind of inevitable - fun to watch from another party.

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

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CURBING BAD BEHAVIOR



Ron Carter

Listen At Your Own Risk

Curbing Bad Behavior/ Several years ago, I was watching Jim Cramer, TV personality and host of CNBC Financial Show "Mad Money," on television.

On this particular night, Mr. Cramer was advocating to his viewers to buy Conoco Phillips (COP) stock. He was bullish on COP and enthused it would rise from its current price (lower \$80s' at the time) to \$125.00 in a short while. Oil stocks he raved was hot and this one (COP) was going to be a good investment. The next day, I did some research on COP and was impressed with the dividends the stock paid, moreover, Jim Cramer said it was going to rise to \$125.00. So, I bought several hundred shares of COP. Several weeks later, to my chagrin COP fell to the low \$50s' and I lost thousands of dollars. Rightfully, Jim Cramer

was ridiculed in the media and thousands of his viewers lost faith in his stock predictions. Many investors were infuriated, yours truly included. If you mentioned Jim Cramer's name in the same breath as COP to any stock investor during this period, you would have heard a few explicit words (which cannot be reported in this blog) describing him. Even the ratings for his show fell a few points.

In 2009, TheStreet.com, the financial Web site founded by Cramer, was investigated by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Presently, Cramer is on television giving stock advice to his ardent fans. I have noticed that he has not said a word about COP's bullishness during his recent television rants. Maybe it's because COP has not been higher than \$82.00 in the last year. And, Cramer's prediction of COP rising to \$125.00 remains a pipe dream.

I learned a valuable lesson listening to Jim Cramer; listen to the stock experts' advice at your own risk.

We'd like to hear from you!
What's on YOUR Mind?
 Contact us at:
editor@mntviewsnews.com or
www.facebook.com/mountainviewsnews

Mountain Views News

PUBLISHER/ EDITOR
Susan Henderson

CITY EDITOR
Dean Lee

EAST VALLEY EDITOR
Joan Schmidt

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

PRODUCTION
Richard Garcia

PHOTOGRAPHY
Lina Johnson
Ivonne Durant

WEBMASTER
John Avery

CONTRIBUTORS

Jeff Brown
Pat Birdsall
Chris Leclerc
Bob Eklund
Howard Hays
Paul Carpenter
Stuart Tolchin
Kim Clymer-Kelley
Christopher Nyerges
Peter Dills
Hail Hamilton
Rich Johnson
Chris Bertrand
Ron Carter
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La Quetta Shamblee
Katie Hopkins
Deanne Davis
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Meaghan Allen
Sean Kayden

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Letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to:

Mountain Views News
80 W. Sierra Madre Bl.
#327
Sierra Madre, Ca.
91024

Phone: 626-355-2737
Fax: 626-609-3285
email:
mtnviewsnews@aol.com

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RICH Johnson



ARE YOU IN?

Where has life taken you over the years? Motivated by friends, I traveled to and looked in Ward to see if I've been there before. You have to be alone to be in Ward. Unlike Cahoots. I'm not in Cahoots often because you can't go there alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've don't remember ever being in Cognito. They say Cognito is a lonely place as nobody recognizes you when you're in Cognito. I have, however, been in Sane. As I recall, you can't fly there, you must be driven there. Most people are in Sane thanks to friends, family and co-workers.

Lately, I admit I've been in Doubt. That, like Cognito, is a sad place to go and I try not to be in Doubt often. People have accused me of being in Flexible but, honest, I've never been in Flexible. I stand firm on that.

More and more I find myself in Capable, especially now that I'm getting older. One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense. The last time I was in Suspense was when my daughter was born. When I'm in Suspense, my adrenalin starts flowing and pumps up the old ticker. And I need all the stimuli I can get.

One place I don't ever want to be is in Continent. I'll do whatever I have to do to stay away from Continent.

Hopefully we all weathered Friday the 13th.

In the Gregorian calendar (the one we use) Friday the 13th occurs at least once, but no more than three times a year. If the month starts on a Sunday, the 13th day will fall on a Friday.

There are several theories as to why Friday the 13th is an unlucky day. In numerology, the number twelve is the number of completeness. 12 months of the year, 12 hours on the clock, 12 tribes of Israel, 12 apostles of Jesus. The number 13 was considered irregular. In fact, Norse legend had it if there were 13 people seated at a table it will result in the death of one of the diners. It was certainly true at the Last Supper. There are apparently 17 to 21 million people affected by a fear of Friday the 13th. Some don't get out of bed and, of course, many won't get on a plane. The airlines estimate that \$800-900 million is lost in business on Friday the 13th. So you can prepare I've listed, as a public service, this phenomenon over the next few years. In 2012 we will experience Friday the 13th in January, April and July. In 2013 beware in September and December. You can relax in 2014 as only June will have a Friday the 13th. We're back to three of them in 2015 taking place in February, March and November. Finally in 2016 only May will we have to suffer with this unlucky day.

Of course all this is dependent on the outcome of 2012. If the Mayans are accurate and the world ends this year I, for one, am not going to worry about 2013 and beyond. So, I wouldn't worry if I were you. Be well.

OUT TO PASTOR A Weekly Religion Column



SOME AMAZING WORDS FOR THE NEW YEAR

By Rev. James L. Snyder
Every year somebody, who does not really have a life, comes up with words that should not be used during the New Year. I am not sure where this started but it just goes to show that there are a whole lot of

people who do not have much to do.

Topping the list this year of words not to be used is the word "amazing." Allegedly [which I think is one word that should not be used this year], 1500 people voted to ban the word "amazing."

I think it is rather amazing that out of the 312,867,000 people living in the United States, 1500 people tell us what not to say. Who are these 1500 people? What do they have against the word "amazing?" Have they ever seen anything that was actually amazing?

Of all the words I would like to see canceled during this year, "amazing" is not one of them.

A few words have come to my attention that I would like to eliminate for the coming year. I know I am only one person, but by Jehoshaphat, I am going to have my say.

The first word I would like to see banned would be, "caucus." I have no idea what this word means. Sure, I can look it up in the dictionary and find out what it is supposed to mean, but when used in the political arena, I am all confused. It would surprise me if some of the commentators that use the word knew exactly what it means. After all, it takes all their concentration to read the teleprompter.

Yet, this word is employed in the process of determining who will be the nominee for the political office of President of the United States. I think it is interesting that in order to get to the White House every politician needs to start with a Native American caucus. Of all objecting in using this word, the Native Americans should be the loudest.

Another word I would like to see banned for the year is the word "polling." It seems no politician can do anything without first doing some polling. They will spend millions of dollars doing this polling. I would not mind so much if they did not call me on the telephone and waste my time. If everybody whom they call on the telephone in their polling was as sarcastic as I am, I do not put any faith in their polling at all. Mr. Politician, call me at your peril!

Contemporary politicians would not know what day of the week it was, if it were not for the latest poll. Even though the Creator gave each politician two legs to stand on, they are always

switching from one leg to the next. Now I know why a politician has a left foot and a right foot.

The only natural thing that lives by polls is a polecat. There may be some resemblance here.

The word "earmarks" is another one I would like to see banned for this coming year. A politician without his or her earmarks is like a skunk without his stink. If you take a skunk, you are going to have to put up with his stink.

I guess the politician needs to do something with his or her ears, for they certainly are not employed in hearing anything from their constituents. If a politician insists on earmarks, I think we ought to do some marking of their ears.

When I was a youngster in school, my teachers found a wonderful use for my ears. Whenever they wanted me to do something, they would grab me by the ears and jerk me into the right direction. Where is one of those teachers when you really need her? I would like to help them with their ear jerking operation. I know. Let's call it the Ear Jerking Operation (EJO).

One final word I would like to see obliterated is the word "party." Especially when associated with something political. Let's face it. The political world is just one great big party after another, usually, at someone else's expense. If I could go to a party with somebody else sponsoring it and paying for it, I guess I would go to.

Whenever somebody asks me which political party I belong to I usually respond by saying, "The birthday party." At a birthday party, at least you get to eat cake and sometimes in the excitement get a little bit on your face. At political parties, everybody is eating their own words and ending up with egg on their face.

If we are going to have a party, let's make it a birthday party where everybody is invited and everybody gets a slice of cake. Make that two slices of cake.

I suppose there would be a whole lot of other words I could add to my list but there is one word I am not going to ban and that is God's Word. There is nothing more amazing to me than the relevance of God's word in my life today. One word I love is, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

I am quite content to allow God have the last word in my life. I have found it to be amazingly true.

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 jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

HAIL Hamilton My Turn



This is how a bailout (any bailout) works!

I watched with amusement at the threat of default by Greece on its international loans and the likelihood of another gigantic multi-national bailout. I said I was amused because a bailout (any bailout) is such a sham.

Here's my explanation of how a bailout works. It may be short on deep economic theory, but it is true nonetheless.

It is a slow day in a little Greek Village. The rain is beating down and the streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody lives on credit. Sound familiar?

On this particular day a rich American tourist is driving through the village, stops at the local hotel and lays a crisp new Ben Franklin (\$100 bill) on the desk, telling the hotel owner he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs in order to pick one to spend the night.

The owner gives him some keys and, as soon as the visitor has walked upstairs, grabs the \$100 bill and runs next door to pay his debt to the village butcher.

The butcher takes the \$100 bill and runs down the street to repay his debt to the local pig farmer.

The pig farmer takes the \$100 bill and heads off to pay his feed and fuel bill at the Farmer's Co-op.

The guy at the Farmer's Co-op takes the \$100 bill and runs to pay his bar tab at the local tavern.

The bar tender slips the money along to the local prostitute drinking at the bar, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer him her "services" on credit.

The hooker then rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill to the hotel owner with the \$100 bill.

The hotel owner then places the \$100 bill back on the counter so the rich traveler will not suspect anything.

At that moment the traveler comes down stairs, picks up the \$100 bill, states the rooms are not satisfactory, pockets the money, and leaves town.

No one produced anything. No one earned anything. However, the whole village is now out of debt and looking to the future with a lot more optimism.

And that, Ladies and Gentlemen, is how a bailout works!

STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE



THE DEVALUATION OF MEN

I spend a lot of time on the Driving Range, alone, just hitting golf balls. Most of the time I don't talk to anyone and there is no way to keep score. I've been playing for twenty years and I don't get any better. Religiously I watch golf videos and go out and practice

what I watch even though deep-down inside I know it isn't going to help. Understand that every time I play with a friend or even groups of strangers, I am inevitably the worst player in the field. Honestly, I don't think I have ever defeated anybody and really I am not a person who enjoys losing. Yet every day I can hardly wait to get out to the golf course and either play or just hit balls.

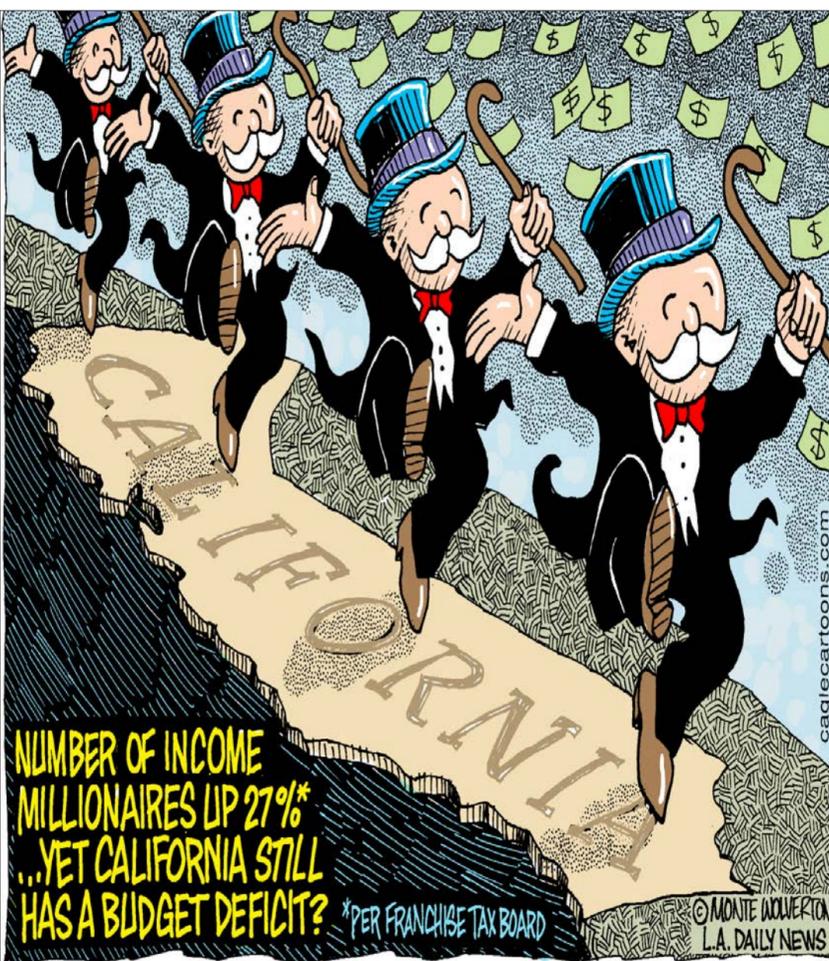
I think the answer has something to do with being a man, and that men typically live in a kind of dream world. Last week I wrote an article about loneliness and one of the responses I received enlightened me to the fact that I wasn't really writing about loneliness, but was in fact addressing the subject of the devaluation of men. It is just one symptom of the fact that men, particularly white men, are no longer able to dominate society. Together with the loss of the number of male-only jobs and the increasing number of working women now able to replace them, employers have hired women who are better suited to their jobs because they are loyal employees, better at collaborating, willing to accept lower wages, possessing no criminal records, and are inevitably less aggressive and violent. As I pointed out in my article, men are also not worth much at home. They can't, or won't, take care of the kids and are unwilling or unable, to do the housework. Still, unemployed or not, they expect their wives to cater to their needs.

Really, I don't mean to be revealing any secrets but, around Sierra Madre at least, there are a very surprising number of domestic partnerships composed of formerly married women who now seem to be living happily within an all-female relationship. In my hand I now hold a book entitled, "Are Men Necessary?" The book is by the New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd, who quotes a neuropsychiatrist as follows: "Think of a man as carrying a quiverful of arrows. When he spies a target, he lets fly with the whole caboodle. Most of his arrows will miss the bull's-eye, but one is likely to hit. And that's the one he will remember - and applaud. A woman, though, proceeds slowly and considers carefully. Only when she's pretty sure she has a perfect shot does she send off a single arrow."

Men are dreamers and women are doers. No wonder I so rarely see any women on the practice range. I am out there alone, or along with a bunch of solitary non-conversing men, living in our private dream-worlds. We remember our one or two good shots which keep us coming to the course. I rarely even hit the one good shot, but my dream of hitting one is enough to keep me hitting. This would be all well and good except that our whole society is falling apart. Thirty years ago I theorized that men were necessary because they performed three valuable functions: 1) They have good senses of direction and are willing fetchers. 2) The body structure of men equips them to lift heavy things and reach high-places. 3) They are necessary reproductive partners and act as a kind of swizzle-stick mixing up the gene the pool and allowing evolution to proceed along its merry way.

Well modern technology has made most of these functions unnecessary. Global Position Systems (GPS) have made pen-bearing fetchers unnecessary, while soon to be perfected cloning will soon make the presence of men as necessary biological partners a potential historical oddity and evolution of the specie may well stop its glacial march. Sure men are cute, but undeniably, they are large wasteful consumers who are frequently aggressive and more trouble than they are worth. It is doubtful that the male gender's height and strength will be a sufficient reason to keep it hanging around. Alas, men are, or soon will become, superfluous.

All right; I agree it would be a shame to completely lose Men. But if they are going to be kept around Men must be removed from their permanent adolescent dream-worlds and must learn to be more open about their feelings and act in a committed way as employees and parents and partners. The day of the sole economic provider, responsible and therefore dominant in the family are over. Depending on your point of view, it was fun while it lasted, but change is necessary. Really' dogs and cats are appropriate as pets - Men are not.



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

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editor@mtnviewsnews.com or
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One Of A Kind: *Featuring unique homes and gardens and the people who create them.* Story by Chris Bertrand. Photos courtesy of Quality House Painters.



QUALITY HOUSE PAINTERS *Repainting the San Gabriel Valley One House at a Time for 30+ Years*

Back in 1980, Todd Delahooke and David Andrews were seniors at Maranatha High School. Delahooke, who's always lived in Sierra Madre, was busy painting apartments for his dad's business in the off-school hours. Andrews, a "late comer" to the community, moved

to Sierra Madre at age five.

The two decided to make a business of painting houses. And the rest, as the saying goes, is history, with over 5000 homes painted across the San Gabriel Valley by the Quality House Painters (QHP) team over the last 31 years.

Both continue to make the small city of 10,000 their home to this day; their families living only a few blocks apart now after three decades as business partners in this close knit town.

You'll likely see the two around town, after a long day amid paint, bushes, scrapers and their newest equipment, a HEPA vacuum system. The QHP team even sent out their annual Christmas card sporting the new, bright yellow backpack system to control dust and contaminants from spreading through the air, by sucking up the particulate when sanding and scraping.

"We purchased it for safely removing toxic lead paint from buildings before repainting. Our customers love it for ALL our sanding and scraping applications now, not just the lead paint removal situations, because it leaves much less dust and debris at the job site," remarked Delahooke.

QHP is staying ahead of the curve, with this new equipment. "There are new regulations and certifications required to meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards (<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm>) for sanding and removing lead paint from pre-1978 homes, but we're finding that we're using it for everything, even non-lead based paint on interiors and exteriors, because it keeps things so clean."

When asked about how to evaluate a painting company, Delahooke reflected, "Ask to take a look at a property that was done several years ago, not one completed last week. Take a look at how the work stands up." Then he adds, "And always check that the company carries insurance, is licensed, bonded, has liability and workers comp." Pretty important in an industry where a majority of the work is done up on a ladder, on a roof, and with wet and potentially messy materials.

"Our specialty is repainting projects. Though we often work with designers and architects, and occasionally work on new construction, we love working directly with the homeowner who is repainting their home, or part of it." We feel we have a better handle on our direct communications with clients, scheduling and quality control in these situations, and we love helping our customers choose colors and finishes based on our decades of experience," smiled Delahooke.

"Unfortunately," he continued, "contractors generally have the reputation for being difficult to reach when necessary, and to pin down to a deadline. On the contrary, it is important to us that our clients can reach us easily and can expect us to be punctual."

QHP does large color samples on every job, as part of their color consultations, so homeowners can view and decide from the real color on the real walls, as opposed to a color chart or small chip from the paint manufacturer. This also helps with matching an older paint job to a new one due



to repair or other circumstances.

As far as paint products, Delahooke remarked, "Paints have changed over the past five years. Paint companies are changing their products due to requirements from Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and the EPA. A vast majority of the products we use now are water based materials with low VOC from the painter's vernacular, meaning low volatile organic compounds."

"We always keep current on those changes in order to provide highest quality materials for our clients. There are green low to zero VOC products, and that affects how the paint stands up. Low VOC application is easier and much less costly than zero VOC paint, which is very expensive." Those who are very sensitive to chemicals are typically those who opt for the zero VOC products, according to Delahooke.

In their over 5000 homes painted, their biggest projects were an all white application to a 10,000 square foot Victorian and parts of the Wrigley Mansion, now the headquarters for the Tournament of Roses executive offices.

Reflected Delahooke, "At the Wrigley Mansion, it was all about the colors, the detail work like crown molding and lots of this to cover and be careful of, especially with debris and dust! Detail and craftsmanship are important to us."

QHP works primarily by word of mouth referral from their bank of successful clients, though you might see their advertising bench in front of Dunn Edwards Paint in Pasadena. Client who have lost our number, have been known to drive over there to jot down our phone number!" Ummmm.... I was one of them!

Quality House Painters can be reached at 626-355-5453 or visit their website: www.QualityHousePainters.com.

Keep Your Landscape Deer Free

Deer damage to ornamental plants is an increasing problem. Deer populations in neighborhoods have grown rapidly due to abandoned farms, hunting restrictions and suburban sprawl. And they are dining on expensive suburban landscapes - especially in areas with heavy snowfall in the woods. In those areas, front and backyard plantings can serve as easy winter forage.

"Deer are selective feeders that eat leaves from flowers, shrubs and ornamental trees," explains Tchukki Andersen, staff arborist with the Tree Care Industry Association. "Damage to larger trees can extend up to 7 feet off the ground."

In some areas, deer damage peaks in winter when snow cover reduces the food supply. Most areas with overpopulated deer herds experience problems year-round. The availability of natural food sources and the taste preferences of individual deer make deer-proofing a difficult task in many areas.

"Deer will eat almost any plant rather than starve," says Andersen, "so damage control measures will be needed in addition to careful plant selection. Use of fencing and repellents can help control deer damage to landscapes."

A fence is the most effective control against deer damage. An 8-foot fence is generally sufficient to deter deer, and lower fences can work if they slant away from your yard. Tree protectors (pictured at left) or shelters also prevent deer from browsing on young trees. Made of polypropylene tubing, plastic tree wrap or woven-wire mesh cylinders, netting can be used to protect individual or group plantings. The netting can be left on year-round if it's attached loosely at the base to allow for plant growth, but should be monitored frequently.

Repellents may help deter deer, but they do not eliminate damage completely. Homemade repellents include rotting eggs (mix two eggs with a gallon of water and spray the mixture on ornamentals). The eggs rot on the plants and the smell repels deer. Human hair hung in mesh bags makes a simple repellent. Hang the hair bags on the outer branches of trees about a yard apart, and replace them monthly. Bars of strong-smelling soap hung in the same way will also work. This is a good way to make use of all those aromatic Christmas gift soaps you don't plan to use. Repellents containing predator urine or spray-on, soap-based mixtures usually only last a few weeks, depending on the weather.

Once deer taste your garden, it is difficult to rid them of the habit. Replacing your current mix of trees and shrubs with plants that are less appealing will help move the herd along to other sites. The Tree Care Industry Association recommends planting trees that have a history of surviving areas of heavy deer activity, such as:

Best trees

Bottlebrush buckeye, downy serviceberry, shadbush, Allegheny serviceberry, pinion pine,

Chinese paper birch, 'heritage' heritage birch, paper birch, Japanese false cypress, Japanese cedar and Colorado blue spruce.

Best shrubs and climbers

Larger, tall shrubs tend to withstand deer browsing better than low-growing ones because they have more leaves, making them able to withstand some defoliation, and taller plants are out of reach. Try these shrubs: bearberry, pawpaw, boxwood, caryopteris, American bittersweet, red osier dogwood, Japanese plum-yew, creeping wintergreen, John T. Morris holly, Lydia Morris hollies, leucothoe, European privet, Japanese andromeda, Virginia creeper, blueberry elder, dwarf sweet Christmas box, and rose of Sharon.



Check with your local garden center or tree care company for a list of trees and shrubs in your area that are the least appealing to deer.

What can you do?

The best advice is to hire a tree care professional with the experience, expertise and equipment to safely take down or prune damaged trees. Require proof of liability insurance and check to see if the cost of the work is covered by your insurance company. Contact the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), a public and professional resource on trees and arboriculture since 1938. It has more than 2,000 member companies who recognize stringent safety and performance standards and who are required to carry liability insurance. TCIA has the nation's only Accreditation program that helps consumers find tree care companies that have been inspected and accredited based on: adherence to industry standards for quality and safety; maintenance of trained, professional staff; and dedication to ethics and quality in business practices. An easy way to find a tree care service provider in your area is to use the "Locate Your Local TCIA Member Companies" program. You can use this service by calling 1-800-733-2622 or by doing a ZIP Code search on www.treecaretips.org.



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

**PROTECT YOUR HOME
AND YOUR WALLET**

If you own or plan to purchase a home, then you know that insurance is not just a luxury, it's a requirement. While you should not skimp on certain coverage items, there are some steps you can take to reduce your overall premium.

If you have a security system installed (and operating!), you might lower your premium by 5% or more. You'll just need to provide your insurer with a copy of your contract or latest statement. Also, while newer homes have smoke alarms already installed, hooking them up in an older home might also reduce your premium by as much as 10%.

Just like health or auto insurance, if you increase your deductible on homeowners insurance, you'll reduce your premium. Just be sure you're prepared to pocket smaller repairs like broken windows or damages from leaks.

If your policy is held by a company that also offers auto or health insurance, look into discounts for multiple policies. You could save a percentage on both your homeowners and auto policies, for example.

Another money (and time and stress) saver is to document everything in your home with a photographic inventory. Store photos, cds or videos in a fireproof box or, preferably, a safe deposit box off site. This will reduce the time and effort required to complete a claim, and guarantee an accurate replacement payment.

"Luther Tsinoglou has been practicing real estate since 1992. He specializes in residential and residential income properties in Sierra Madre and the surrounding communities. Luther can be reached at (626)695-8650 or at Luther@Tsinoglou.com.

Leonora Moss

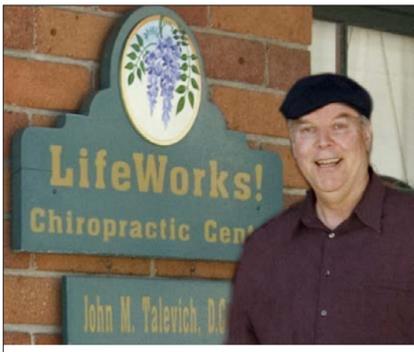
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YOUR HEALTH MATTERS Today's Subject: KEEPING THAT BALLOON IN THE AIR



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.

Okay. So, we've got the first week or so of the new year out of the way. How are those resolutions coming? The good news is that we made some goals in the first place ~ that says we are always game. The not as good news may be the feeling underneath it all that we were going to fail. With these concerns in mind, let's consider a few practices for staying on track:

1. Find a friend. If we plan to do something that requires some will power, a little support goes a long way.

2. Eat regular meals. Will power decreases when blood sugar drops.

3. Be clear on what your goals are and why. Saying "I don't want to end up like Uncle Bill," rarely works because fear is a short-term influence. "I want to be able to do the things that have meaning to me; therefore, I need to be my best," has a continual flow.

4. Breathe. Simple. Still works this year, just as it did last year. Herbert Benson's book, The Relaxation Response, is the bible of stress reduction.

5. Turn off the lights before 10 p.m. (including the computer) and get a good night's sleep. Do this for one month and see how you feel.

6. Walk. A short 20-30 minute walk can do wonders.

7. Easy does it. Shaping new patterns of behavior takes time. The idea is to be forgiving of ourselves if we don't get it done all at once and the very first time. At some point, it will become second nature to be the person that we have been striving to become and we will engage our willpower for the next great challenge.

These are just the fundamentals. The real joy will be in seeing what this new year will spontaneously bring our way.

Have a great year!

Dr. John

John M. Talevich, D.C.
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HOW TO GET YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER

Dear Savvy Senior
I would like to get my personal and financial information organized so my kids will know what's going on when I die. Any tips would be appreciated.
Overwhelmed Senior

Dear Overwhelmed,
Organizing your important papers and personal information is a smart move and a great gift to your loved ones. Here are some tips to help you get started.

Get Organized
The first step in getting your affairs in order is to gather up all your important personal, financial and legal information so you can arrange it in a format that will benefit you now, and your loved ones later. Then you'll need to sit down and create various lists of important information and instructions of how you want certain things handled when you die or if you become incapacitated. Here's a checklist of areas you need to focus on.

Personal Information
· **Contacts:** Make a master list of names and phone numbers of close friends, family, clergy, doctors, and professional advisers such as your lawyer, accountant, broker and insurance agent.
· **Personal documents:** Include such items as your birth certificate, Social Security card, marriage license, military discharge papers, etc.
· **Secured places:** List all the places you keep under lock and key or protected by password, such as safe deposit boxes, safe combination, security alarms, etc.
· **Service providers:** Provide contact information of the companies or people who provide you regular services such as utility companies, lawn service, etc.
· **Pets:** If you have a pet, give instructions for the care of the animal.
· **End of life:** Indicate your wishes for organ, tissue or body donation including documentation (see donatelife.net), and write out your funeral instructions. If you've made pre-arrangements with a funeral home include a copy of agreement, their contact information and whether you've prepaid or not.

Legal Documents
· **Will:** Include the original copy of your will and other estate planning documents you've made.
· **Power of attorney:** This names someone you trust to handle money matters if you're incapacitated. If you don't have a will or power of attorney, do-it-yourself resources like legalzoom.com can help you create them for a few dollars.
· **Advance directives:** These documents – a living will and medical power of attorney – spell out your wishes regarding your end-of-life

medical treatment when you can no longer make decisions for yourself. For free advanced directive forms visit caringinfo.org or call 800-658-8898.

Financial Records
· **Income and debt:** Make a list of all income sources such as pensions, Social Security, IRAs, 401ks, interest, investments, etc. And do the



same for any debt you may have – mortgage, credit cards, medical bills, car payment.

· **Financial accounts:** List all bank and brokerage accounts (checking, savings, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, IRAs, etc.) and their contact information. And keep current statements from each institution in your files.
· **Company benefits:** List any retirement plans, pensions or benefits from your current or former employer including the contact information of the benefits administrator.
· **Insurance:** List the insurance policies you have (life, long-term care, home, auto, Medicare, Medigap, prescription drug, etc.) including the policy numbers, insurance agents and phone numbers.
· **Credit cards:** List all credit and charge cards, including the card numbers and contact information.
· **Property:** List real estate, vehicles and other properties you own, rent or lease and include documents such as deeds, titles, and loan or lease agreements.
· **Taxes:** Keep copies of tax returns for seven years and the contact information of your tax preparer.
Keep all your organized information and files together in one convenient location – ideally in a fireproof filing cabinet or safe in your home. Also be sure to review and update it every year, and don't forget to tell your loved ones where they can find it.

Savvy tips: To help you get organized, Nolo (nolo.com, 800-728-3555) offers a great resource book called "Get It Together" for \$18.50. You can also purchase helpful guides at organizemyaffairs.com.

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.

SENIOR HAPPENINGS

JANUARY 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 14, 2012

2012 EXCURSIONS

SAVE THE DATES

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

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

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

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

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

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

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

Registration can be done either in person or online at www.cityofsierramadre.com/online-registration



January Birthdays

Loyal Camacho, Mary Tassop, Becky Evans, Roberta Rahmanian, Louise Thistlewaite, Sue Watanabe, Ruth Wolter,



Meals-On-Wheels

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

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

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

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LUNCH & LEARN

Join the Senior Community Commission at the HART PARK HOUSE 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

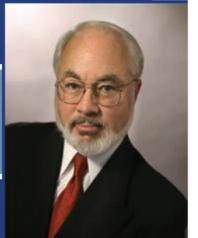


Pasadena Highlands, an independent and assisted living community, is proud to provide a special gift basket on the first Tuesday of each month. Accredited In-Home nursing care will provide a special prize on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Bingo takes place every Tuesday at 1:30 pm at the Sierra Madre 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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Looking Up

with Bob Eklund



"LISTENING UP" TO A SKY FULL OF RADIO WAVES

The world's most famous radio telescope will become the "Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array" to honor the founder of radio astronomy, the study of the Universe via radio waves naturally emitted by objects in space. The National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) announced the new name for the National Science Foundation's Very Large Array (VLA) at the American Astronomical Society's meeting last week in Austin, Texas. The new name will become official at a rededication ceremony at the VLA site in New Mexico on March 31.

After more than a decade of work, the VLA, originally dedicated in 1980, is nearing completion of a technological transformation that has turned it into a completely new and vastly more capable radio telescope.

"When Karl Jansky discovered radio waves coming from the center of the Milky Way Galaxy in 1932, he blazed a scientific trail that fundamentally changed our perception of the Universe," said NRAO Director Fred K.Y. Lo. "Now, the upgraded VLA will continue that tradition by equipping scientists to address outstanding questions confronting 21st-Century astronomy."

"It is particularly appropriate that the upgraded Very Large Array honor the memory and accomplishments of Karl Jansky," Lo explained, adding that "the new Jansky VLA is by far the most

sensitive such radio telescope in the world, as was the receiver and antenna combination that Jansky himself painstakingly developed 80 years ago."

Karl Guthe Jansky (1905-1950) joined Bell Telephone Laboratories in New Jersey in 1928, immediately after receiving his undergraduate degree in physics. He was assigned the task of studying radio waves that interfered with the recently-opened transatlantic radiotelephone service.

After designing and building advanced, specialized equipment, he made observations over the entire year of 1932 that allowed him to identify thunderstorms as major sources of radio interference, along with a much weaker, unidentified radio source. Careful study of this "strange hiss-type static" led to the conclusion that the radio waves originated from beyond our Solar System, and indeed came from the center of our Milky Way Galaxy.

His discovery was reported on the front page of the New York Times on May 5, 1933, and published in professional journals. Jansky thus opened an entirely new "window" on the Universe.

"This discovery was like suddenly being able to see green light for the first time when we could only see blue before," said Lo.

Discoveries made with radio telescopes have earned four Nobel Prizes. Those include the



discovery of pulsars; detection of the microwave background radiation that is the remnant heat from the Big Bang; and the first indirect evidence for the gravitational waves predicted by Albert Einstein. Although Karl Jansky was never honored for his discovery during his lifetime, his name has been memorialized in the scientific unit "Jansky" that astronomers use every day as a measure of the strength of astronomical radio-signal sources.

The original VLA was authorized by Congress in 1972, and astronomers began using it for research even before its dedication in 1980. To date, more than 2,500 scientists from around the world have used the VLA for more than 13,000 observing projects.

Upgrading the electronics of the VLA to the

technological state of the art began in 2001, and completion is scheduled for later this year. The upgrade replaces the 1970s-vintage electronic equipment and an analog data transmission system with state-of-the-art receivers and electronics, a fiber-optic data transmission system, and a central supercomputer.

The new Jansky VLA is ten times as sensitive to faint radio emission as the original VLA, and it covers a radio frequency range three times as broad.

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

Ask jai.....



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

Is it really important to include a cover letter with my resume when applying for positions? I've been told that no one really reads them. Rosalind

Dear Rosalind

It is important! Employers do read cover letters submitted with resumes and applications. The cover letter completes the application process and demonstrates your professionalism. The letter should be no longer than one page and include no more than 4 short paragraphs. The first paragraph should state the reason why you are submitting your resume, what position you are interested in and how you found out about the opening. Discuss what you know about the company and why you would like to join their team. Include in the second paragraph your accomplishments or skills that you feel would add value to their company success. In the next paragraph explain why you are currently seeking a position, any gaps in your resume, relocation issues, if you are transitioning industries or professions. In the final paragraph include a request for an interview and state that you will follow-up with them within the week. Be sure to include all your contact information in the cover letter.

I am signed up with several staffing agencies to help me get an administrative assistant position. It has been more than 2 months and I have not heard from any of them. I send them an e-mail once a month and they do not respond. I am getting desperate for job. I don't want to make a nuisance of myself with them. What should I do? Barbara

Dear Barbara

I would suggest that you call them at least once a week. Find out the name of the recruiter who will be working with you and develop an on-going relationship with the agency. This will keep you on their active "radar" list of candidates seeking positions. Let them know that you need a job immediately, what type of position you are willing to accept, salary requirements, and if you are open to temporary, part-time or full-time positions. Staffing agencies receive thousands of applicants a month and you can get lost in the "human" process. Staffing agencies are financially compensated by employers and therefore are actually working to help employers find employees. Not necessarily job seekers to find jobs. So, sign up with more than 10 agencies to get the results you are seeking.

Happy Tails

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



Among the many characteristics that separate humans from other animal species, most disconcerting to me is the human's tendency to find fault with other creatures who "get in their way", resulting in a huge category of life forms known to mankind as "pests". I am sure that the human's tendency to harbor this brand of 'animal animosity' is not intentional, rather I think humans foster an attitude of contentment toward other living things due to selfishness and ignorance or a lack understanding about why certain animals were created to begin with. Strangely enough, it seems that humans consider it normal behavior to annihilate mass populations of other habitat that pose a potential threat to their personal plan. Unfortunately, the human's desire to control nature by killing numerous members of other species has caused a variety of negative side effects for the earth and the life forms who live here, including our own species. As a human myself, I do understand why certain critters fall victim to the vices of extermination, but I feel that it is important for people to think outside the box when it comes to this issue, and try to understand the impact their actions have on the environment as a whole.

I find it rather shocking when people are willing to poison living things or remove them from their natural habitat, in order to ease the task of growing non-indigenous, 'imported' plant materials where natural growth once thrived. Killing small animals as a means of maintaining an immaculately manicured, man-made landscape seems senseless in my mind, because it inevitably has negative side effects that affect the over-all environment. There once was a day when folks let their yard just be a yard. There was no need to reinvent what God had already created there. But things have changed. I think that the human's trigger-happy reaction to creatures they deem undesirable comes from a negligence to learn

HOLY MOLE! The Ground Mole's Reciprocal Relationship with Man and Nature

and try to understand each species' reciprocal role in nature, and how their existence plays a part in sustaining the livelihood and survival of all other living things. The most predictable response of the average human being, to a "pest" found on "his" property, is to call the exterminator and have it removed or killed. To me it just doesn't make sense. But then again, I never claimed to be an average human being.

One curious little creature that has fallen victim to man's desire to control 'their own' patch of dirt, is the ground mole. The most common mole found in our local foothills is known as the broad-footed mole. These little guys like to burrow beneath the surface of the soil and dig down deep where they take up residence and create nests for their families. I realize that these funny looking little fur-balls can reek havoc on a freshly landscaped lawn by leaving volcano-like lumps of dirt here and there, but I don't think the answer is to eliminate the entire population of any living thing that facilitate a manicured yard. Annihilating a species, or removing it from its indigenous habitat, is sure to cause a ripple in nature's balance and since we humans are clearly connected to nature, we should keep in mind that a ripple can become a tidal wave by the time it hits us where we sit, at the top of the food chain! Anytime a species becomes extinct, it has a major effect on nature.

Before you attempt to omit the mole from your property, at least take the time to learn more about this omnivorous under-grounder. First of all, God created the mole. That should be enough to convince anyone that there is a reason for its existence. But, did you also know that ground moles help aerate the soil that sustains those beautiful flowers and shrubs you work so hard to plant in your garden? Yes, there are times when a mole will disrupt the roots of some plantings, but with a little forethought, a smart gardener will include underground barriers around certain plants to help guide the mole in the right direction, where his hard work will be effective in promoting the health of the soil and the growth of less vulnerable trees and shrubs.

Ground moles also keep the

population of insects in check by preying and feeding on them while traveling through their mysterious subterranean labyrinths and foraging on the surface. Among the top items on the mole's meal menu are grub worms, spiders, beetles, insect larvae, ants and centipedes. How many of those guys have you had to exterminate to keep a comment-worthy garden in good shape? Through numerous research studies, experts have discovered that moles do not feed on flower bulbs, nor do they care much for roots, as long as there are plenty of bugs and worms to eat, which brings me to a good reason not to eliminate entire populations of insects that you might find living in your yard. Where does it end? Must every tiny creature that "gets in the way" be removed for man's preference and convenience?

Above and beyond the mole's role in life, let's not forget that birds of prey and other wild animals rely on rodents and other small creatures as a source of nutrition as well. Nature thrives on balance. Whether it be the ocean's inter-dependent relationship with dry land, the sun's nurturing relationship with earth and the other planets, or the reciprocal relationships between the various species that live on earth, balance is absolutely paramount. With each attempt mankind makes to change things in nature, such as exterminating a given species, that balance is negatively effected.

In reality, the ground mole is not our enemy at all. Indeed, from my perspective the mole is a shy, low-lying little creature who eats the insects that would otherwise devour the plants and trees in my yard, and does the tedious work that I'd rather not do, which is tilling and turning the surface of the soil. I challenge you to educate yourself and try thinking outside of the box before taking radical action that we may all have to pay for in the long run. Who knows, with a little information and understanding about nature, you might even find a little love in your heart for one of God's oddest creations; the ground mole. And when that happens, you might even find it in your heart to share a little space with him on that patch of dirt you are blessed enough to occupy at the moment!

On Line

By PJ Carpenter



"THE PRICE OF CHEAP"

Newswires are reporting that Microsoft is investigating an incident at a Chinese factory where 300 workers threatened to kill themselves in a dispute over pay and working conditions. The incident happened at a Foxconn-operated factory. You may remember the name Foxconn from tech headlines in 2010, where over the course of that year, 14 workers committed suicide due to several factors related to the harsh working conditions that have been reported by workers.

Foxconn is a large contract manufacturer that lists Apple, Dell, HP, Motorola, Nintendo, Sony and Nokia among its customers and is one of the most sophisticated consumer manufacturing contractors in the world. They are the company that puts together a significant number of the most popular hi-tech devices popular here in America and all over the world. In a very real way Foxconn is the embodiment of the manufacturing expertise that was shipped from these shores in search of greater corporate profit.

Even if those hi-tech manufacturing companies were to relocate here overnight it would take a significant amount of time for the domestic workforce here to catch up to what is being produced overseas. We definitely have the workers to fill the slots but what we lost in the race for profits was a few tech generations, a generation being defined here as 3 years of manufacturing expertise that we would be hard-pressed to match.

Large-scale offshoring of the American tech sector began in the mid-to-late '90's and has continued to the point where we now have an entire generation of consumers who never knew that this state of affairs was once very different. And now it is evident that the widespread availability of high quality consumer electronics here is being paid for over there and that cost is being paid by the workers themselves.

The simple fact of the matter is that these nice toys don't cost less to make over there; the costs of the parts and manufacturing processes involved have probably risen at the same pace that they would've risen here. The potential, and reality, for profit comes from the fact that these goods are produced at what can only be described as slave wages to an American worker and the conditions that they are produced under aren't much better.

When the news of the working and living conditions at some Foxconn facilities reached the western press following a rash of suicides there was the very predictable outpouring of outrage and condemnation towards the Chinese government for allowing these conditions to exist. Everybody felt that somebody should be doing something to help those people. But nobody did anything and predictably, things stayed the same.

More conspicuously, nobody seemed to hold the western companies to account for not working to raise the working and living conditions of the factory workers to more humane levels and to ensure that conditions didn't return to their former state. It seemed like we really cared about the plight of those workers...until the new iPhone came out. Or until Call of Duty 3 came out. And then the holiday season started and we got really busy.

So, on a cold morning in January 2012 the workers played the only card they felt they had left. It's being reported that Foxconn has resolved this dispute earlier this week but the company refuses to disclose the details of the agreement reached and workers that have resigned are none to pleased with what was offered.

It is a cold truth of capitalism that in order for one party to profit, another party has to lose. We always seem to be most comfortable when we're not doing the losing.

KATIE Tse.....This and That



TREES OF LEGEND!

With the infamous Wind Storm of 2011 over a month behind us, it's easy to slip into gradual acceptance of the wide open spaces that were not very long ago filled by trees. Perhaps we haven't noticed the lack of foliage because the weather has still been fairly cool. We don't relish the shade now as much as we would during the dog days of August. Consequently, it's imperative that we start the replanting process A.S.A.P.!

(Disclaimer: The opinions of "This & That" do not supplement those of your professional arborist. Plant with caution!)

While we're replacing our toppled oaks and ficus trees, we must obviously consider the stability and resilience of the trees with which we're replacing. Sierra Madre abounds with avocado and orange trees, so it'd seem those would be good choices.

Wouldn't it be nice though, to also know that you're replacing your juniper with a "Johnny Appleseed" tree? Or maybe you'd like a clone of the "Angel Oak," a 65 foot giant that has graced its spot in South Carolina for over 1,400 years. Perhaps you'd appreciate the Honey Locust shading Lincoln's audience during his Gettysburg Address. If you like politics, you might also want the Tulip Poplar from George Washington's Mount Vernon's estate. (There's no mention of lying or chopping associated with this tree.) There are also Red Maples from Henry David Thoreau's Walden pond, for those of you who are often in a pensive state of mind.

Such historic trees used to be available from "American Forests," (their site does not clearly state the reason they no longer sell them). This company also sold "Moon Sycamores," one of many seeds carried to the moon by Stuart "Smoky" Roosa during the Apollo XIV expedition. Somehow I doubt there's a sycamore grove thriving on the moon. Apparently traveling to outer space is enough to popularize any plants. Another company, Woodworkers Auction, sells prestigious trees. I was particularly taken by Elvis' Favorite Graceland tree (of unspecified species). But you better order soon; Woodworkers might go out of the tree selling business, too. So put a little of the King in your garden -- "It's now or never!"

Personally I'd like an olive tree from the famous "The Mount of Olives." Others might prefer a clone of the Bodhi tree under which Buddha sat to receive enlightenment. I don't think even the American Forests has samples of these or of the Tree of Life from Genesis and Revelation. But at least I know I'll see it someday. So for now I'll enjoy the oranges and avocados.





HUDDLE UP!



By Harvey Hyde

IT'S RECRUITING SEASON!

The holiday season is over, and now we're in college football recruiting season. Recruiting was a major part of my job as assistant or head coach at PCC, UNLV, University of Hawaii and with George Allen at Long Beach

State.

The deadline to sign letters of intent accepting a scholarship to a school is Feb. 1. In January, coaches, student athletes and their parents face some important decisions. Although I am no longer coaching, I still get questions from athletes and their families about this process.

The best advice I have is, don't get discouraged if your favorite Division I-A school doesn't come calling. It is true that all players don't have the same exposure. High school and junior college programs with a tradition of winning get a closer look by recruiters. And in most, but not all cases, athletes from winning programs are the best players.

Only Division I-A programs have guaranteed full-rides, but football has more full-ride scholarships than any other college sport. There are lots of opportunities. There are some 80,000 players at more than 850 college football programs in six divisions. There are 120 programs in Division I-A, 128 in Division I-AA, 148 in Division II, 237 in Division III, 91 in NAIA, and there are 138 community college programs.

A college football scholarship can be a way to get an education, an opportunity to join a team on the playing field, and for a very few, a step toward an NFL career.

I can tell you that in recruiting, football coaches look for size, speed and quickness. They evaluate an athlete against others of similar ability. They want to see competitiveness, how a player finishes a play or a block and how he handles pressure in finishing a winning or losing game.

There are many athletes who are not heavily recruited who end up having great careers. However, from a pool of 80,000 college players on 850 teams, only about 2,000 players end up in the NFL. Chances are slim. But if a player is great, he can be found.

I'll give you few examples. I coached Randall Cunningham at UNLV. Other schools had recruited him out of Santa Barbara High School as a defensive back but he came to UNLV to play quarterback (and was a fantastic punter). Randall, the younger brother of USC legendary fullback Sam Cunningham, ended up an NFL star.

At UNLV I was the only coach to offer Ickey Woods of Edison High in Fresno a college scholarship. He did not play his high school senior year because of injury. He ended up leading the nation in rushing while at UNLV, and as a pro invented the Icky Shuffle. He played in Super Bowl XXII, for the Cincinnati Bengals.

Terrell Davis, was an NFL MVP for the Denver Broncos. I recruited him to Long Beach State. As a senior at Lincoln High in San Diego, Davis' team didn't win a game. He had no college offers. When I saw him at Lincoln, I asked the equipment manager, "Who is this kid?" He answered: "The best athlete we've had at this school since Marcus Allen." He played tailback, nose guard, and linebacker. He competed in the 100-yard dash, the long jump and the shot put.

At Long Beach State, I tried telling NFL scouts how good he was. They didn't believe me. The Broncos didn't draft him until the fifth round. He was the 191st player selected. The Broncos and John Elway didn't win a Super Bowl until Davis arrived.

So if you are a parent or a student athlete, remember to not get discouraged. If there is skill, and a will, there is a way. If the effort, the grades and the character are there, there is a chance for scholarship. If you are good enough to play on Sundays, they're likely going to find you. If not, get the most out of the college education football has provided to you.

Listen to Harvey Hyde on 710 KSPN Sundays 9-11 a.m.



LAST FRIDAY, LA SALLE VARSITY TEAMS CAME UP WINNERS AGAINST MARANATHA, In Everything!

La Salle defeated Maranatha in:

Boys Soccer 6-2
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All the JV teams won as well.



SANTA ANITA THOROUGHBREDS RUN ON MONDAY...



The current Santa Anita Park meet is in full swing. The premiere of the HBO show Luck is just over two weeks away on January 29th. We cannot ask for better horse racing weather during this coming week. The beautiful San Gabriels are in full view...

Current and future horse racing fans will be in for a real treat this coming Monday. It is \$2 day! In addition to the live racing action, there will be \$2 Hot Dogs, soda and domestic beer available in the general admission and clubhouse area concession stands and bars.

Gates open at 11:00am. First race is set to start at 1pm. For program and handicapping information

you can go to santaanita.com
See you at the races!

Scoop For You:

For more value, you can have access to a complimentary clubhouse admission to Santa Anita Park this coming Monday by going to the following weblink: https://www.facebook.com/CalHorseRacing?sk=app_155991834489042. You can use this pass one time during the meet. Why not on MLK Day?

Stay tuned for coverage of the upcoming Sunshine Millions at Santa Anita Park on January 28th.



WHAT DOES YOUR PUTTING STROKE AND GREEN READING HAVE IN COMMON?

If I had an opportunity to stand up in front of the entire golf world and I was only allowed to say one sentence, what would it be? "EVERY PUTT IN GOLF IS A STRAIGHT PUTT".... Since I would only be allowed to say one sentence, maybe the powers to be would let me repeat myself, "EVERY PUTT IN GOLF IS A STRAIGHT PUTT".

If there is one thing that I am 100% sure of it is this. Most amateur golfers have acceptable putting strokes. Keep in mind that there are two parts to our sport. One part is in the air and the other is on the ground. The one on the ground (putting) is so precise at times that it can drive you up a wall. It is kind of like the Red Zone in football. You go 85 yards in two plays and then it takes four plays to go one yard. You hit a towering tee shot, followed up by the best 5 iron of your life, and then you 3 putt from 10 feet.

The reason I say acceptable putting strokes is because you don't do this for a living and the putting strokes that most of you have is good enough for you to shoot lower scores. The problem begins after you read a putt. This article is all about matching your putting stroke up with

reading the green correctly.

No questions asked, the number one putting mistake that I see amateurs golfers make is they don't aim the putter where they want the ball to start. Most amateur golfers that struggle with their putting, aim the putter at the hole and then they either swing out-to-in (pull) or roll the face closed for putts that break right and in-to-out (push) or roll the face open for putts that break left.

Therein lies my favorite quote in golf "EVERY PUTT IN GOLF IS A STRAIGHT PUTT". If you have a putt that breaks 10 inches right to left, you have to aim the putter face 10 inches right of the hole and swing the putter straight back and straight through to that exact spot. You have to start that putt STRAIGHT and allow the ground to curve the ball from left to right into the hole. You can not start that putt at the hole and then swing the putter in-to out and push it on line.

Of course this applies for putts that break left to right. You have to aim the putter left of the hole, swing the putter straight back and straight through, allowing the ground to curve the ball, not your stroke or clubface.

The next time your struggling with your putting, remember this mantra: WHAT DOES YOUR PUTTING STROKE AND GREEN READING HAVE IN COMMON-**EVERYTHING!!!**



LA SALLE NAMES RUSSELL GORDON NEW FOOTBALL COACH

Pasadena, CA -La Salle's Athletic Director Anthony Harris, announced the selection of Russell Gordon as the Lancers' new football coach during a packed Athletics Boosters meeting Tuesday evening. Gordon comes to La Salle from Campbell Hall where he has been for the last 15 years. In his eight years as Head Coach, he has compiled a 51-37 overall record. Gordon has taken his teams to the post season four of his eight years including a trip to the CIF finals. Gordon was named CIF Coach of the Year in 2005 and is the Head Coach for the East in the 2012 Daily News All-Star game.

Gordon has been successful preparing his athletes for the next level and has placed 17 of his former players on Division I and IAA college football teams. "I have had great success not only with a winning percentage, but also in making sure that student athletes learn to be accountable for their actions while learning lifelong lessons that they can implement into their daily living," commented Gordon.



"We are very excited and pleased with taking our program to the next level," said Harris. "Gordon was very impressive in the search process, but more importantly, he is the best fit for La Salle football as we move forward."

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

Contact us at:
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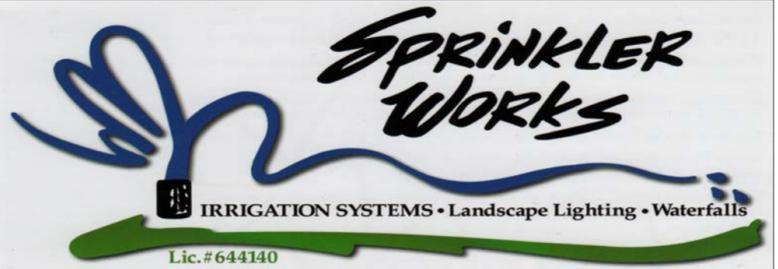


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