

GREEN FLAG ALERT

The City's state of emergency level is now at Stage One: GREEN FLAG—Activated under a prediction of 80%—100% chance of precipitation. Affected residents should get "READY" for potential evacuation. This includes keeping a close watch on weather forecasts. Updates will also be issued on SMTV3 (Time Warner-channel 3), the City's website www.cityofsierramadre.com, the Sierra Madre Community Radio (AM 1630), ebcasts, and the City's emergency blog (<http://sierramadrepio.blogspot.com>).

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2012

VOLUME 6 NO. 3

SIERRA MADRE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Part 2 Photos and Story By Chris

The Bottle Shop Expansion Shooting for Mid-February Completion

Bill Sullivan (right), owner of The Bottle Shop has completed the retail wine display area in the 900+ square expanded wine and spirits store. The new wine and beer tasting area, scheduled for opening in mid-February, will be able to be closed off from the retail establishment by new custom wrought iron gates, created especially for the store by a friend of the family.

On one side, an automated wine tasting dispensary will be set up, with 24 wines. Tasters over 21 years old will be able to purchase a debit card, and get automatic servings of one ounce of the wine of their choice. The price for each tasting will differ depending on the wine. Wine and beer tastings will be conducted in the more "traditional" manner with a live server at the main bar.

Sierra Madre muralist, George Rhode, is currently busy at work painting a large mural behind the tasting bar. In the foreground is a Tuscan vineyard scene. The mural all came about when Rhode came into the store and suggested the project to Sullivan. At Sullivan's request, the Sierra Madre view of the San Gabriel Mountains is being painted in the background, with Jones Peak, visible from downtown Sierra Madre at the center.

Sullivan quipped that the "little stuff" is left, though it could take up to a month to get the argon system for wine serving installed, the bathrooms completed, more painting and lighting done. Watch for grand opening news at 58. W. Sierra Madre Boulevard.

300 West Salon Closes. Will Reopen as Vitamin & Supplements Store

The site of the former 300 West Salon is undergoing a facelift outside and inside. The building's fresh face is in preparation for an online vitamin and supplements business, formerly located in Irwindale that will be opening a "brick and mortar" venue, according to the owner, who declined to be named.

Mother Moo... Ice Cream, Marmalade, Preserved Lemons and More

Karen Klemens, Mother Moo owner and chief ice cream impresario and food preservation teacher, is beaming from her recent LA Times mention in their recommended stops when visiting Sierra Madre.

Klemens continues to refine her product and class offerings, based on feedback from patrons and availability of local produce. Her current "can jam classes explore the many uses of grapefruit," native Oro Blancos, a cross between Pomello and white grapefruits, and other citrus to make the most of local fruit tree harvests. Another marmalade preparation on the class docket uses Meyer lemons and Myers Rum. Her classes can be tailored to the maturity level of the



Bottle Shop Owner Bill Sullivan

student. For instance, the preserved lemons, a product that can be used for cooking as well as display, is a perfect preservation product to involve pre-schoolers, according to Klemens. She also has begun offering tours of the ice cream making and food preservation facilities.

Kudos to Klemens, who saves copies of Mountain Views News at her store. Ice cream aficionados enjoying her homemade treats, apparently have been reading our paper at her sprawling, 1950's era "kitchen table." Recycling at its best! Thank you, Karen!

Klemens just held a preservation class for marmalade using a rare orange variety. Contact Klemens at 626-355-9650 for reservations. Upcoming marmalade classes are scheduled for 9 a.m. January 28 and 5:30 p.m. February 6. Candied citrus peel making class will be at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 24. Mother Moo is located at 17 Kersting Court. www.MotherMoo.com

(continued on page 3)

WHAT IS A DWELLING UNIT?

Commission Votes Not to Change the Definition of 'Dwelling Unit' To Accomodate Plans For Proposed Assisted Living Facility

Story and Photo By Dean Lee

After a firestorm of public comment Thursday night which included accusing city officials of trying to dodge the Voter's Empowerment Ordinance—better known as Measure V, the Sierra Madre Planning Commission voted unanimously not to recommend changing the definition of "dwelling unit" in the city's current ordinances. This issue was brought forth because the current definition may hinder progress on the proposed assisted living facility known as the

Kensington Project on Sierra Madre Blvd.

At issue was the 2001 definition in the building code of a dwelling unit as "one or more rooms in a building designed and intended to be used as living quarters by one person or family." A rejected recommendation by staff would have included provisions for, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

Changing the definition would allow the Kensington project, proposed for the 1.84 acre vacated nursing facility across

from city hall, to exceed the Measure V limit of 13 units per acre, a sticking point in moving the project forward.

Kensington project planner, Gregg Yamachika, said the project calls for 75 rooms and up to 96 residents, each with a kitchenette, excluding cooking equipment.

Pasadena attorney and co-author of Measure V, Christopher Sutton, said any clarifying of Measure V language was a way to amend a ballot measure without going to the voters.

(cont. on page 3)



Measure V Co-author Attorney Chris Sutton addresses Commissioners

SIERRA MADRE ELECTION COVERAGE

On April 10, 2012, voters in Sierra Madre will go to the polls and select three people from a field of seven to sit on the City Council and elect a new City Treasurer and City Clerk. They will also vote on a local ballot measure on whether or not to extend the User Utility Tax and a related advisory measure.

The city council race will fill two seats for new four year terms and one seat for the unexpired two year term vacated by former Mayor Joe Mosca.

The Mountain Views News will provide our readers with comprehensive coverage of this election. Each week, as we have done in the past, we will profile the candidates and give each of the candidates the opportunity to introduce themselves to our readers by answering the following questions: (All candidates are being asked to answer the same questions)

1. Why are you running for Office?
2. What are your plans if elected?

The paper will also review the pros and cons of the User Utility Tax ballot measures. The schedule:

January 28th
February 4th
February 11th
February 18th
February 25th
March 3rd
March 10th
March 17th
March 24th

The User Utility Tax Extension - The Pros and Cons
Unopposed Candidates Richard Mays for City Treasurer and Nancy Shollenberger (incumbent) for City Clerk
Incumbent Mary Ann MacGillivray for City Council - 4 year term
Candidate John Capoccia for City Council - 4 year term
Candidate Gene Goss for City Council - 4 year term
Candidate John Harebedian for City Council - 4 year term
Candidate Bill Tice for City Council - 4 year term
Candidate Colin Braudrick for City Council - 2 year term
Candidate Chris Koeber for City Council - 2 year term

It is our sincere hope that each candidate will submit their answers so that we can share them with our readers. A separate letter has been sent to each candidate asking them to participate.

In addition to the candidate spotlights, we will attempt to cover the various forums sponsored by local organizations. Where possible, the unedited video of these forums will be broadcast on the paper's website.

Our reporting on this election will be as fair and objective as possible. However, please keep in mind that our columnists are always free to share their opinions. Their opinions are their opinions and may or may not reflect the position of the paper. This is true in all things, not just this election.

We will also provide for you the calendar of important dates regarding the election. It is our goal to do whatever we can to help you make an informed decision on April 10, 2012.

Susan Henderson,
Publisher and
Editor



City Council Candidates (l to r) Mary Ann MacGillivray, Chris Koeber, Colin Braudrick, John Harebedian and John Capoccia. Far right: Bill Tice (above) and Gene Goss.



Nancy Shollenberger (left) and Richard Mays (right) are running unopposed for City Clerk and City Treasurer, respectively. Mays photo courtesy B. Coburn



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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon:	Showers	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 40s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi 80s	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 24 @ 6:30PM - City Council Meeting

Wed Jan 25 - Library Board of Trustees @ 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.

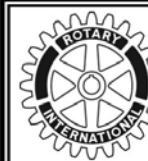


JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

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 Senior 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 Elvis in the Park concert and donates hundreds of service hours to community events like the Wistaria Festival, Dickens Village and July 4th Parade.

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

www.SierraMadreRotary.com



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SIERRA MADRE'S GOT TALENT ???

Join the students and families of Sierra Madre School as they hop on stage and show Sierra Madre what they've got on Friday, January 27th in the Gayle Bluemel Auditorium at Sierra Madre Elementary School, 141 West Highland Avenue, Sierra Madre. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Show starts at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for kids and \$10 for adults and proceeds benefit the Sierra Madre School Annual Fund.

This is a great event for the whole family and over 30 acts will be performing from both the Elementary and Middle Schools. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Sierra Madre Annual Fund helps Sierra Madre School be the outstanding educational center for our community's children. The Annual Fund provides financial support to a variety of school programs including visual and performing arts programs, science programs, librarians and health and safety aides. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Pat Vidimos at 396-5890 or email at pvidimos@pusd.us.

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:

Corfu
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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 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 orga Tickets are also available at Arnold's Frontier Hardware, Savor The Flavor and The Bottle Shop. Or by calling Jerry Carlton at 626-355-8342. nization 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.sierramadrelibrary.lib.ca.us.

FREE E-BOOKS @ THE LIBRARY—“E-READ WITH OVERDRIVE!”

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

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

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

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

BEST USED BOOK SALE!

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library's Best Used Book Sale is being held on Friday, February 3, from 3:00-7:00PM and Saturday, February 4, from 10:00AM-2:00PM in the library basement and on the back parking lot.

For youR nostalgia buffs, we're offering collectible sets of the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew books, some published in the 1940s and some newer. Other collectibles include a Childcraft collection from 1947 and other favorites from the past, including works by Tolstoy and deMaurier. Also in the basement will be an eclectic collection of newer fiction and non-fiction on nearly every subject including travel, home remodeling and history.

These items as well as children's books, audio books, CDs, and DVDs will be available to purchase for your reading and listening pleasure. Bargain Tables outside the library will feature hardback and trade fiction and non-fiction for \$1.00 each and paperbacks for twenty-five cents each (or five for \$1.00). All children's books outside are now only 25 cents. Bargain Table items are half price after 1:30PM on Saturday.

These sales offer high quality, slightly used books that are culled from our library shelves or donated, books that you'll be proud to place in your own library or to give to friends and family. So come early and come often to see what treasures you can find. Proceeds from the Best Used Book Sales will be donated to the Sierra Made Public Library to support program and equipment needs. The library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. in the city of Sierra Madre and there is parking on the street and behind the library.

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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REMEMBRANCES

STANLEY CLARENCE SPAETH

Aug. 30, 1927 - Jan. 9, 2012



Stanley Clarence Spaeth went home to be with the Lord due to heart complications on January 9, 2012 at 12:20 p.m. at San Antonio Hospital in Upland, Ca. He was 84.

Stan was born in Detroit Michigan and moved to California in 1949. He married Jean, his wife of 54 years, and raised 8 children in Monrovia where he owned and operated the Monco Sign Co. He then retired as the City of

Monrovia Electrician in 1989. He and his wife later moved to Landers, CA in the high desert where they lived out the remainder of their days.

Stan was active in many areas in Monrovia and the high desert community. He was a WWII vet, owned a sign company, was an amateur radio operator, pilot, contractor, electrician, worked with the Civil Defense, made all the radio equipment for the Monrovia Police cars in the 80's, a Rotary Club President, a Jaycee President, a Boy Scouts of America Scoutmaster, Morongo Basin Search Rescue Sheriff and a Trustee church leader, to just name of few of his amazing accomplishments.

He is survived by his 7 children: Claudia Beaudoin, Eric Spaeth, Greg Spaeth, Tim Spaeth, Laura Wiles, Shirley Jergensen, John Spaeth; and his 11 grandchildren: Chris Nichols, Reuben, Bryan & Elissa Spaeth; Evan, Ryan & Summer Wiles; Kyle & April Jergensen; Cory & Janice Spaeth.

A memorial service will be held at Calvary Chapel Landers, in Landers, Ca, on January 28, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. In place of flowers, donations may be made to Morongo Basin Search & Rescue in Stan's memory.

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, January 8th, to Saturday January 14th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 277 calls for service. See crimereports.com for updated information.

Sunday, January 8th:

12:59 PM- Use Another's Personal Identification to Obtain Credit/Etc. This case involves an unknown suspect that used the victim's credit information to open a credit card account without the victim's permission.

3:45 PM- Use Another's Personal Identification to Obtain Credit/

Etc. This case involves an unknown suspect(s) using the victim's Chase card to make unauthorized charges. The victim used his card at the Valero gas station prior to the fraudulent charges.

Monday, January 9th:

12:50 PM- Use Another Personal Identification to Obtain Credit/Etc. This case involves an unknown suspect(s) using the victim's Wells Fargo credit card to make unauthorized charges. The victim used his card at the Valero gas station prior to the fraudulent charges.

2:29 PM- Use Another's Personal Identification to Obtain Credit/

Etc. This case involves an unknown suspect(s) using the victim's Chase card to make unauthorized charges. The victim used his card at the Valero gas station prior to the fraudulent charges.

8:06 PM- Attempted to Abandonment of Animals, Bailey Canyon Wilderness Park. This incident involves the attempted abandonment of two rabbits in Bailey Canyon by a male adult and his juvenile son.

9:50 PM- Criminal Threats, 300 blk. Montecito Ave. This incident involves criminal threats posted on Facebook, which the victim perceived as threats to cause her great bodily harm or death. An Emergency Protective Order

was granted and the suspect was verbally served.

Tuesday, January 10th:

7:34 AM- Use Another's Personal Identification to Obtain Credit/Etc. This case involves an unknown suspect(s) using the victim's Wells Fargo card to make unauthorized charges.

2:39 PM- Take Vehicle W/O Owner's Consent, 600 blk. W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Unknown suspects stole a 2011 Suzuki GSXR 750 Motorcycle from an apartment carport. The suspects were identified as two male Hispanics in a blue Astro minivan.

11:40 PM- Danger to Self/Others/Gravely Disabled, 300 blk. Mariposa Ave. This case involves woman being placed on a 72-hour hold for

psychiatric evaluation.

Wednesday, January 11th:

7:07 AM- Use Another's Personal Identification to Obtain Credit/Etc. This case involves the attempted unauthorized use of the victim's debit card number after purchasing gas at the Valero gas station.

5:44 PM- Use Another's Personal Identification to Obtain Credit/Etc. This case involves the attempted unauthorized use of the victim's debit card number after purchasing gas at the Valero gas station.

Thursday, January 12th :

5:23 PM- Disorderly Conduct/Drunk in Public, 10 Blk. Kersting Ct. Officers responded to Lucky Baldwin's Pub regarding a disruptive patron who was refusing

to leave. Officers determined that the woman was too intoxicated to care for herself or others and arrested her for public intoxication. The Sierra Madre resident was transported to Pasadena Police Jail for booking.

Friday, January 13th:

11:36 PM- DUI Alcohol/Drugs, Rosemead Blvd and Foothill Blvd. An officer stopped a 20-year old Burbank motorist for a Vehicle Code violation and found that the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The male was transported to Pasadena Police Department jail for booking.

BUSINESS (cont. from page 1)

Iris Intrigue Closes... What's Next?

Health issues unfortunately forced the December closure of Iris Intrigue, clothing and gift boutique, owned by Lori Dutcher Brown. The signs are down and the retail space has been emptied at 49 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard (right), a prime corner location near Kersting Court. Building owner Richard Ward, who also owns one of the city's longest established businesses here, E. Waldo Ward and Son, confirmed the property is available for lease and ready to be shown, after a short delay. The retail space is 1668 square feet. A storage area in the back may also be available to a lessee. For more information, call 626-355-1850.



Steamers Building Under Construction

Though not much looks very different from the Sierra Madre Boulevard view of the building at 136-142 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard, the back of the building has been completely removed. Right now, "It looks like a doll house, where you can look in from the back side," said one citizen in town.

Previous information from owner, Robert Amin, indicated the building was being readied for March, 2012 occupancy of one to several tenants, with one to three ground floor restaurant or retail spaces plus office areas upstairs, accessed by a new

elevator. Inspection delays due to holidays and limited city inspection scheduling has contributed to a new planned completion target of April or May, according to Amin. "The demolition is done, and the foundation is complete. As soon as inspections take place, we'll put in the framing and finishing."

According to Danny Castro of the Sierra Madre Planning Department, "There are current building permits to make tenant improvements consistent with their Conditional Use Permit (CUP) approval granted by the Planning Commission. A part of the CUP approval is removal of the two dwelling units at the rear of the building, as well as reconfiguring interior space (removal of walls, etc.), and that's why

you see a partial demolition of the rear of the building. Construction plans are on file here at City Hall."

"We don't know yet what's going in" he continued. "The CUP allows restaurant/eating establishments at the site, but the CUP does not require these uses. It could be any other commercial uses - we are just not aware of the owner's plans at this time." In an interview with Amin, the owner indicated that he has interest from a national sandwich chain as well as a cupcake chain, and hopes one or both with enliven the western area of downtown Sierra Madre. The property is for lease, and information is available at 310-766-0588.

SENIOR COMMUNITY COMMISSION SEEKING "OLDER 'SIERRA MADRE' AMERICAN OF THE YEAR"

The City of Sierra Madre Community & Personnel Services Department and the Senior Community Commission are seeking your assistance to find the 2012 Older 'Sierra Madre' American of the Year. If you know someone who lives in Sierra Madre, has demonstrated outstanding community service and is 60 years of age or older, please contact the Senior Services Desk at (626) 355-7394 for a nomination form or stop by the Sierra Madre City Hall, Library or Community

Recreation Center for nomination information.

Nominations are due to the Community & Personnel Services Department, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., by Monday, February 20, 2012. The Senior Community Commission will discuss nominees and announce the honoree at their regular scheduled meeting on March 1, 2012 at 3 pm in the Sierra Madre City Council Chambers. The honoree will also be recognized at a reception held in their honor on May 11, 2012.

Previous Honorees include: Pat Alcorn, Fran Garbaccio, Ken Anhalt, Eph Konigsberg, Russ Anderson, George Throop, Loyal Camacho, John Grijalva, Joylouse Harte-Smith, James Heasley, Midge Morash, James Tyler, Isbella Paegal, Bonnie Garner, Rose Fafach, Ed Wellman, Celeste McCleary, Dorothy Tillquist, Doris Webster, Elsie Dannmayer, George Mauer & Karl Teigler.

DWELLING UNIT (continued from page 1)

"The purpose of this clarification is to increase the density in the core area and to change, what would be 96 units, into one unit. Not just do it for this next project on the agenda, but throughout the city."

Sutton suggested this would lead to a land rush, "to build these kinds of care facilities, because it would not matter how many people are in the facility, 200, 300, 500, 1000, as long as they all have one kitchen they would be one unit."

Former Planning Commissioner John Hutt agreed that such a change would be going down a dangerous road, "By this definition every office is a dwelling unit, certainly every hotel room," Hutt said they should leave the definition alone.

Hutt also said there was a danger in applying language from the building code into the zoning code. "In the definition of dwelling unit from the building code it talks about provisions for sleeping, eating, etc, as required by this code. Each one of those things that has a provision for, has a long, long list of what that means. That isn't taken over into the zoning code."

Former Mayor Kurt Zimmerman said before the project moves forward, it should simply go before the voters. He also said, if that were the case, "I would vote in favor of it."

Of the candidates running for city council April 10,

only LAPD Sergeant Colin Broderick spoke on the issue although, saying at first, he was advised not to.

"I was told that I can't ask too many questions on measures, that I myself or others running for city council, may come before them." He said. "However, this is such an important issue that I think its income it on me to ask you guys some questions to answer."

For three hours the commissioners struggled with the issue, consistently going back to the original definition. Commissioner Spears suggested at one point they look at the Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center.

"The monastery at the top of Sunnyside looks a lot like what we are talking about. It's a number of people living in one building, who are not family and they eat communally."

Development Services Director Danny Castro and Assistant City Attorney Scott Porter repeatedly said that Sierra Madre Municipal Code 17.12.030 requires the planning commission to recommend to the city council clarification when ambiguity becomes relevant, as is in this case, they said.

Although a vote not to change the definition was unanimously passed, the project will continue with the planning process which includes further review of every aspect of the plans by the Planning Commission at its next meeting.



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 is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., in Sierra Madre, California.



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

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Portantino Political Career on Hold



Citing family matters, Assemblyman Anthony Portantino announced Wednesday that he will not seek office during the 2012 election cycle. Portantino made clear, in an email to constituents, that he has no plans to end his political career.

"Placing it on 'hold' allows me to focus on my family while they need me," he wrote. "I will continue to work to put trust and accountability back into public service, now and in the future."

Portantino said his mother, Barbara Portantino, has been in ill health since the death of his brother Michael in December 2010. He said she is awaiting surgery on February 14.

"Since I will be travelling back East to help with Mom's care and it is likely that I will be needed in New Jersey to pack up her house and to help with her transition into assisted living," he explained. "I won't be available to campaign in the manner that my supporters expect and our district deserves, while still attending to my legislative responsibilities."

Portantino added, "Ellen and I are grateful for the tremendous support that I have received during my five years in the State Legislature and the eight years prior on the La Canada Flintridge City Council. Your ongoing support and encouragement for me to continue serving in office is truly appreciated. I assure you that I will not be ending my public service."

Pet of the Week



Aquarius is a charming one-and-a-half-year-old gray and white tabby. He loves to be petted and is very observant of his surroundings. He enjoys being held and loves to relax in your lap.

Aquarius' adoption fee is discounted to \$120, which includes his neuter surgery, a microchip, the first set of vaccinations, as well as a free follow-up health check at a participating vet. Also, new adopters will receive complimentary health and wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals. Ask an adoptions counselor for more information during your visit.

Call the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA at 626.792.7151 to ask about A283102, 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.



Occupying the Courts

As part of a nationwide protest, a group of about 40 demonstrators Friday held signs as cars honked along East Walnut Street in front of the Pasadena Superior Court, as part of "Occupy the Courts."

"This is about it being the second anniversary of Citizens United and we're trying to raise awareness that this was a really bad Supreme Court decision," said the event's organizer, Patrick

Briggs. "And as a result of it, and all of the corporate money that's flooding the election system."

Briggs said on January 21, 2010 the Supreme Court ruled that "you can't deny corporate money coming into the system because its free speech." This allows unlimited spending for political purposes by corporations and unions.

Protesters were also collecting signatures that Briggs said

would be presented to Congressman Adam Schiff sometime in February. He said they were hoping to get at least 1,000 signatures supporting campaign reform. Briggs also said they plan to go before the city council in February.

He said they were looking for support towards a Constitutional amendment that

Crimes and Colorful Stories about Altadena Sheriff's Station



At the invitation of the Altadena Historical Society, Altadena Sheriff's Station Sergeant and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Historian John Stanley will be giving a lecture on the early history of Altadena Station Monday from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The event will take place at the Altadena Community Center, 730 E. Altadena Drive, Altadena

Sergeant Stanley's presentation will include anecdotes, crime details and colorful stories that took place from 1920-1950 under the tenure of six sheriff's captains. The program will also feature numerous rare photos.

No reservations required. Seating is limited.

District 2 Town Hall Meeting Scheduled

Pasadena Vice Mayor Margaret McAustin will host a District 2 town hall meeting Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Santa Catalina Branch Library, 999 E. Washington Blvd.

Pasadena Unified School District Superintendent Jon Gundry will give a brief overview of PUSD and the principals of the five public schools that serve District 2 will talk about their campuses and curriculum. The principals are Erica Ingber of Longfellow Elementary, Amin Oria of Jefferson Elementary, Sharon Leflar of Webster Elementary, Peter Pannell of Eliot Middle and Mark Anderson of Marshall Fundamental.

After the overviews, everyone will break into small groups and residents will have the opportunity to speak directly to principals and other parents.

For more information email mfuller@cityofpasadena.net or call District 2 Field Representative Margo Morales Fuller at (626) 744-4742.

Chamber Votes to Support Temporary NFL Team at the Rose Bowl



The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted last month to formally take a position in support of the Rose Bowl exploring the opportunity to host an interim professional National Football League (NFL) team for as many as four years.

"Without a deal on the table and without knowing what the financial, environmental and neighborhood impacts may be, the Chamber Board overwhelmingly supported the idea of looking at the Rose Bowl hosting an NFL team on a short-term basis, should that opportunity arise," said Chamber CEO Paul Little. "The Board felt very strongly that it would be a huge lost opportunity to dismiss the interim NFL team before even hearing what any deal terms may be and without understanding what impacts may result."

Little further explained, to date, there has not been an NFL team announced for the Los Angeles area. Two proposals are currently competing for the rights to bring a team to Los Angeles, one that would be located in the City of Industry and the other intended to be housed at a stadium to be built in downtown Los Angeles.

Citizen Journalism Meet-up

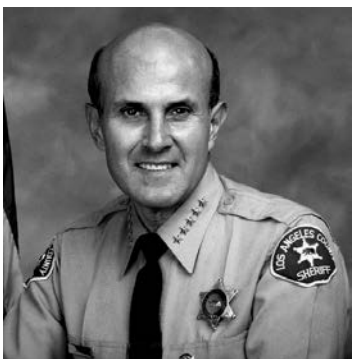
Learn not just how to blog but how to report the news

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

Baca Joins Law Enforcement Leaders at the White House



Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca Joins Law Enforcement Leaders at White House Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the U.S.

On Wednesday, Baca joined a coalition of thirty-four other high-ranking law-enforcement officials from around the country who were invited to Washington D.C.

The law enforcement leaders were there to speak with senior Administration officials concerning ways the federal government could improve support to state, local and tribal partners with community policing projects and other long-range policing efforts.

Administration officials,

Neither entity has been able to secure an agreement to re-located an NFL team to Los Angeles. If and when that happens, it is very likely that the Los Angeles NFL team would need a temporary stadium in which to play its home games for as many as four years as their permanent home is being built he said.

"Right now there is no indication that an NFL team will relocate to Los Angeles anytime in the near future, though we all recognize that an announcement could come in the next few weeks or five years from now," Little said. "The Chamber Board simply wants our Rose Bowl stadium to be able to entertain the idea of hosting an interim NFL team. The Board encourages the Rose Bowl to, at the very least, look into the opportunity and determine if it is in the best interest of the stadium, the community and our local economy to play host to professional football for a defined period of time. If, at some point, there is a deal to be considered, the Chamber Board will likely look at the deal points and decide if the economic benefits outweigh any impacts to our community or the Arroyo Seco."



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.

including United States Attorney General Eric H. Holder and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, briefed the group on the federal government's latest effort to counter violent extremism. Feedback was also sought concerning local realities on the Administration's newly-released "Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States."

In addition to providing insight to the particular law-enforcement characteristics of Los Angeles County, Baca expressed his opinion that Congress should allocate at least \$5 billion from the American Jobs Act to hire 40,000 new cops for the nation, insuring that critical law-enforcement jobs of the future are funded. "State, County and Municipal governments play a critical role in community preparedness and the necessary on-going improvement to public safety," said Sheriff Baca, "what we need is the appropriate funding to ensure a successful effort."

Gang Members Arrested in Teen Murder Case

Pasadena Police Detectives and law enforcement personnel from the United States Marshalls Fugitive Unit, California State Parole, and the Glendale Police Department arrested two men on Thursday in connection with the August 22 murder of an 18-year-old Pasadena resident.

Police said Scott King of Palmdale resident and Steven Fleming of Pasadena Marvin Laguan were taken into custody for the alleged killing of Marvin Laguan. Both suspects have gang associations and the assault is believed gang related they said. Laguan was shot and killed while conversing with a friend in the 400 block of North Mar Vista Avenue.

The Los Angeles County District Attorneys' Office filed charges of 1st degree murder on

King and Fleming. Additionally, two counts of attempted murder with gang enhancements on both suspects was charged. King was charged with an additional count of Ex-Felon with a firearm. Both suspects are schedule for arraignment today. King is being held on \$4,115,000 bail and Fleming is being held on \$3,040,000 bail.

"This case was very complex and required a great deal of investigation savvy, patience and determination. This ensures that criminal who pose threats to the safety of this community are taken off streets" said Chief Phillip Sanchez.

Anyone with information regarding this case or other crimes are asked to contact the Pasadena Police Department at (626) 744-4241.

Bixby Elected President of 2013 Tournament of Roses

Bixby Announces "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" as the theme for the Parade

In a ceremony Thursday, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association's Board of Directors confirmed Sally Bixby as President for the 2012-2013 Tournament year. Bixby will provide leadership for the 124th Rose Parade and the 99th Rose Bowl Game Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013.

President Bixby also revealed "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" as the theme for the 124th Rose Parade.

"The 2013 theme is about seizing the moment, throwing off the realistic cares of our daily lives and charging forth confidently," said Bixby. "It is meant to encourage all to reach higher than the highest star, and to create and explore a world that is full of possibility, rich with imagination, and bursting with discovery."

Bixby has been a volunteer member of the Tournament of Roses Association since 1989 and was elected to



the Executive Committee in 2005. Throughout her extensive Tournament career, Bixby has served on many committees and was chairman of three; Queen and Court, Decorating Places and Host committees. Bixby recently retired from a long professional career as the director of surgical services for two local hospitals. Bixby is only the second woman to serve as president in the Tournament's 123 year history and the first ever nurse.

Red Light Enforcement Planned

The Pasadena Police Department will be conducting a Red Light Enforcement Program on Monday. This enforcement detail will be deployed throughout the City of Pasadena. The hours of operation will be from 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

The Pasadena Police Department is committed to reducing the number of traffic collisions resulting from drivers running red lights or driving aggressively. The ultimate goal is to enforce and educate the driving public at the same

time reducing serious injuries and fatal collisions.

A RED LIGHT means stop at the stop line, crosswalk or before the intersection. Unless you are making a right turn, you must wait for the green light before you proceed. After making a complete stop, you may turn right on a red light if the intersection/crosswalk is clear of pedestrians and traffic. However, if the intersection is posted with a "No Right Turn on Red" sign, you must wait for a green light before any turning movement.

"What's Going On?"

News and Views from Joan Schmidt



County Area News: New Council Member And Proposed New Street Sign

By Joan Schmidt

The New Year has brought some VERY exciting news for the county area. First of all, there is a new Council Member, Terrence Williams. If his name sounds familiar, it should: he was a recent candidate in the Monrovia School Board election and was endorsed by the Pasadena Star News. Mr. Williams has lived in the Monrovia County Area for 22 years. He and his wife Bobbie are proud parents of four children. Their eldest, a daughter, is a product of Monrovia High School, currently attending Citrus College and working.



Their eldest son, Luke was a member of the Monrovia Football Team which just won the CIF Championship.

Their other two sons attend Monrovia schools also. Mr. Williams, a business owner, is an active community member, involved in his children's schools, his Church, Second Baptist in Monrovia and working with law enforcement to improve our communities. He certainly will be an asset to the Town Council, representing the Monrovia area.

The Town Council elections were scheduled for January 12th. No other candidates came forward by the deadline. There was an emergency Board Meeting and it was decided to appoint Mr. Williams to the Council and change the by-laws to having seven members as it originally had. The paperwork to do so has been mailed to the state.

The other news is the County Street signs. There has been a debate about this issue for over a year. Federal funding will provide for the new signs. Since we are unincorporated, there was the suggestion to change our name to a new name and it would include the three county areas of Arcadia, Monrovia and Duarte. Many residents DID NOT like this. I agree. I may live in the "County" area, but my address is "Monrovia" and my daughters are products of Monrovia High School. Dorothy Smith of the Duarte County area, who has done SO MUCH volunteer service, said, "I live in Duarte and my sons went to Duarte HS; I DON'T want to change the name of where I live!

At the January 16th meeting, there was the proposed new street sign. (See photo) Everywhere in the county area-be it Duarte,



Monrovia, or Arcadia- it would say, "Mayflower Village". I could hardly believe it. At first I thought it was amusing, but after much thought, "RIDICULOUS" describes it! "Mayflower Village" was built in 1949. It probably goes from Mayflower Avenue, East to either Peck Road or Myrtle Avenue. I live on the other side of Myrtle, so the name change would be beneficial if I wanted to sell my house. However, it's NOT FAIR for the residents of Duarte. They are proud of Duarte HS (YAY, FALCONS!) and the legacy of Andres Duarte. And the folks from South Arcadia (south of Live Oak Avenue) are not really part of "Mayflower Village"- that's in Monrovia. "Mayflower Village" was so unique. It had its own shopping center with the "Mayflower Market", a restaurant, Beauty Salon, Barber, Florist and Drug Store. The residents of Mayflower Village are NOT happy with the suggestion and I don't blame them. If you DO NOT want the ENTIRE UNINCORPORATED area called "Mayflower Village", please e-mail Town Council Chair, David Hall (davehall32@yahoo.com) or call Supervisor Antonovich's office (909) 394-2264 and let them know your feelings. These HUGE signs will be on the main streets and I can't understand why they can't fit "Monrovia County", "Arcadia County", or "Duarte County" instead of Mayflower Village.

The Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte Town Council meets the 3rd Tuesday each month, even month Tuesdays at Annunciation Church Hall, 1307 East Longden Ave, Arcadia; odd month Tuesdays at Pamela Park, Pamela Road, Duarte. There are always representatives from the Sheriff's Department and Brian Mejia, Field Deputy for Supervisor Antonovich's office who give updates on current activities. Members of the CA Highway Patrol and a rep from the Live Oak Library also attend on occasion. Meetings are a good way to know your area. See you there!

SOCALGAS WARNS CUSTOMERS ABOUT POTENTIAL PAYMENT SCAM

LOS ANGELES, January 19, 2012 – Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) is warning customers to be aware of an ongoing wire fraud that could potentially reach SoCalGas customers. The fraudulent activity has been reported on the East Coast and at this time there are no indications that SoCalGas customers have been targeted.

Utilities on the East Coast have reported that individuals misrepresenting themselves as utility employees are calling customers and threatening to turn off electric and gas service if payment is not made to them that day. Utility customers, primarily in the Hispanic community, have been told that payment must be made by purchasing a pre-pay credit card, and are directed to another phone number where information is then obtained from the card and the cash value is removed from the card or the permanent card is registered in another name and redirected.

"Although there have not yet been reports of this fraudulent activity in southern California, we want to alert our customers in an effort to prevent them from becoming potential victims," said Michael Schneider, vice president of customer operations at SoCalGas. "We advise customers to be alert and not to provide any type of financial information if they receive a call from a suspicious company."

SoCalGas does not proactively contact customers to ask for credit card information over

the phone, said Schneider. The utility provides past due notices in writing before service is shut-off for non-payment. Additionally, all SoCalGas employees on company business are required to carry a photo ID badge. When customers call SoCalGas for billing inquiries, employees will always be able to provide account information and the exact past due balance. If customers receive a phone call that makes them feel uncomfortable, they should hang up and call SoCalGas at 1-800-427-2200 or 1-800-342-4545 in Spanish, or the local authorities to file a report.

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About Southern California Gas Co.

Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) has been delivering clean, safe and reliable natural gas to its customers for more than 140 years. It is the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, providing service to 20.9 million consumers connected through nearly 5.8 million meters in more than 500 communities. The company's service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles throughout central and Southern California, from Visalia to the Mexican border. SoCalGas is a regulated subsidiary of Sempra Energy (NYSE: SRE).

YOURS? MINE? OURS? EXPLORING PRIVATIZATION A Free Community Forum, Feb. 11, 2012

The League of Women Voters Pasadena Area will tackle the challenging and controversial topic of privatization at a free community forum Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, at the Neighborhood Church, 301 N. Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena.

The forum title, "Yours? Mine? Ours? Exploring Privatization" captures the ambiguity of privatization. People who

appreciate using public resources such as libraries, roads, parks and schools tend to resist privatization. Cash-strapped communities and those opposed to taxes see privatization as a way to cut government costs. Few people, however, understand the full implications and complications of transferring public services, assets and functions to the private sector, what works and what doesn't work.

What happens when a municipality or government privatizes services such as libraries, roads, park and other functions? What are the impacts? Are there savings to governments? Does it make sense for cash-strapped cities? Does it make sense for everyone in the community -- residents and businesses alike?

The League forum will explore various models of privatization from complete divestiture (selling off public assets and public spaces) to contracting out services, sharing services with other cities and public/

private partnerships. Local examples will be provided.

The emcee and panel moderator will be Jan Sanders, director of Libraries and Information Services for Pasadena.

Cynthia Kurtz, former city manager of Pasadena and currently president and chief executive officer of San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, will lead off the program with an overview of privatization.

Panelists will be Mark R. Alexander, city manager, city of La Canada Flintridge; Scott Ochoa, former city manager of Monrovia and now Glendale city manager as of January 3; Frank Zerunyan, director of Executive Education, senior fellow, USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development.

Following the presentations, the audience will break into groups to discuss specific topics including public safety, municipal services, transportation and roadways, and property, facilities and open spaces.

Refreshments and a resource table with handouts on the issue of privatization will be available. The forum is free, but donations are welcome.

Reservations are requested by calling the League office, 626-798-0965, or e-mailing office@lwvpasadenaarea.org.

THE BIRTHDAY MEMORY RUN

CHRISTOPHER Nyerges



[Nyerges is the author of several books, including "Self-Sufficient Home," and he blogs at www.ChristopherNyerges.com. For more information on his books and classes, he can be reached at School of Self-reliance, Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA

90041]

Another cycle in my life has arrived and I performed my annual ceremony this morning. I went down into the Arroyo Seco, and ran 57 laps for my "birthday memory run."

It was cold and overcast down in the canyon amidst the sycamores, alders, and oaks, and the weather seemed to parallel my being born into the world with ignorance of the ways of man. The fact that there was no one around seemed to further make the point that we are each born into this world, alone and naked.

I began my run, one lap for each year, while trying to re-live that year as I ran. I was able to more fully get into the past feeling of being there, and actually living it.

Suddenly there was this Conscious awareness, "me," and it was looking out at a very strange world through my new eyes. "What is this strangeness?" I thought. I found myself crying as I ran through these early years, as I often cried back in the mid to late 1950s in my Pasadena home. Why did I cry? I was fed, clothed, warm, and there were no abuses. But I felt an indefinable feeling that something was wrong and that I was no longer a part of the Eternal Oneness that I'd been connected to.

But how could I have told anyone about that? Even now, it's difficult.

I ran around the large body of water, surrounded by still fallen branches from the recent heavy winds.

As I ran, I realized how we all take everything for granted, and we question too little, much to our detriment. We seldom ask "Why?" and we quickly join the herd in trying to get better, get more, outdo, make money, make more money, go to school so you can get a job, and get married. These are the things we all do. They are expected. We do so automatically. And we end up with barely any time to look at each of our choices, and each thought, to see where our choices are taking us.

I felt much empathy for my parents, two people who were like gods to me as a child, and who in fact struggled like every one else in their day to day challenges. How blind I was!

I looked for real love, and sometimes found it. My life with Dolores was full of ups and downs, and successes and failures, and a rich tapestry of struggling to find meaning in life, all the while working to fit this into the necessities that society and others impose upon us.

I saw my various projects that brought me and others happiness and fulfillment, though my mind went to the many projects that I did not get done. I wrote in my notebook these projects so I could take action this year.

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"Where there is no struggle, there is no merit."

I saw the birds and heard the squirrels and a cool breeze sung in the treetops as I neared the end of my life's review. Life is sweet and short, and, as we've all been told, this is it and there's no dress rehearsal. I smiled inwardly at my circle of friends and family, and hoped and prayed that 2012 will be the best year ever, the transformational year of change, as reflected in the fulfillment of the 13th Baktun of the Mayan Long Count calendar. Yes, 13 means "good luck" to Mayans! It was a great run, and I thank each of you who have been a part of this wonderful circle.

Pet of the Week

Homer: Animal ID # A4374988

Meet a stunning boy with mesmerizing eyes, the debonair Homer (A4374988). Homer is a calm and affectionate one-year-old white and red male Boxer mix puppy who was found in emaciated condition in the City of Industry on December 16th and brought to the Baldwin Park shelter. Weighing fifty pounds, he is underweight and needs to gain ten to fifteen pounds. Homer walks well on the leash and although he doesn't know any commands, he is very well socialized. He passed his shelter-given temperament test with flying colors. He is good with other dogs and we think he will be good with children. Soulful and handsome, with a medium energy level, Homer will be the ideal indoor pet for an individual or family living in a private home. To watch a video of Homer interacting with a volunteer, please click here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8e92Eip3PZs

To meet Homer, please visit him at the Baldwin Park Shelter, located at 4275 N. Elton, Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (Phone: 626-430-2378). For any inquiries about Homer, please reference his animal ID number: A4374988. The shelter is open seven days a week, 12 pm-7 pm Monday-Thursday and 10am-5pm Friday-Sunday. This is a high-intake shelter with a great need for adoptions. For more information about Homer



or the adoption process, contact United Hope for Animals Volunteer Adoption Coordinator Samantha at samanthasayon@gmail.com or 661-309-2674.

To learn more about United Hope for Animals' partnership with the Baldwin Park Shelter through its Shelter Support Program, as well as the many dog of all breeds, ages, and sizes available for adoption in local shelters, visit <http://www.unitedhope4animals.org/about-us/shelter-support-program/>.

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Monrovia

Methodist Hospital Appoints Steven A. Sisto as Chief Operating Officer

ARCADIA (January 19, 2012) – Methodist Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of Steven A. Sisto as senior vice president/chief operating officer (COO).

“We are very fortunate to have such a talented executive join our team,” President and CEO Dan Ausman said. “Steve is an engaging leader, and his collaborative style fosters a ‘can do’ problem-solving attitude that can quickly cut across all hospital departments to forge a working alliance with leaders, staff and physicians to improve service and satisfaction.”

Sisto has 20+ years of operational experience as a healthcare executive, most recently as the VP of operations for a large six-hospital system in Arizona, where he was responsible for coordinating operational initiatives, capital budgeting, facility construction, regional strategies for consolidated engineering, EVS, security and biomed across the system.†

“Steve is skilled in all areas of operational management, ranging from productivity to lean to expense management, managing multi-disciplinary service line committees to improve service, and holding staff accountable to achieving our goals,” Ausman said.

Sisto, who assumed his new duties January 3, has also served as a CEO for a 132-bed acute-care facility and as a hospital COO at four other California acute facilities ranging in size from 150 beds to a 348-bed tertiary-care trauma hospital.

He received his bachelor of science in healthcare administration from the University of La Verne and is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Married with six children, Sisto said he is happy to be back in California and closer to family.



Steven A. Sisto

About Methodist Hospital

Founded in 1903, Methodist Hospital is a 460-bed, not-for-profit hospital serving Arcadia and surrounding communities. Services include comprehensive acute care such as medical, surgical, perinatal, pediatrics, oncology, intensive care (neonatal and adult) and complete cardiovascular services, including open-heart surgery. Methodist Hospital is accredited by The Joint Commission. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's main standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. For more information, visit www.methodisthospital.org.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, January 8th, through Saturday, January 14th, the Police Department responded to 874 calls for service, of which 120 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, January 8:

At about 4:36 p.m., an officer responded to the Arcadia Police Department front counter in regards to a fraud report. The victim explained she discovered fraudulent charges on her credit card, which occurred in Las Vegas. The victim was in possession of her credit card at the time of the report. She is desirous of prosecution.

At approximately 10:51 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Resident's Inn, 321 East Huntington Drive, in regards to a burglary report. The victim left her hotel room unattended for a short period of time. When she returned, she discovered money was missing from her purse and other personal property. She had no idea who entered her room, except for the housekeeper.

Monday, January 9:

Shortly after 10:42 a.m., an officer responded to the 2000 block of Louise Avenue, in reference to a residential burglary report. The victims returned home and discovered their rear patio door was tampered and left wide open. Unknown suspect(s) forced entry into the home and ransacked the bedrooms. Numerous items of jewelry were reported missing. No one saw or heard anything suspicious.

Around 4:23 p.m., an officer responded to Burlington Coat Factory, 1201 South Baldwin Avenue, in regards to a theft investigation. While reviewing sales transactions, a loss prevention officer discovered an employee was fraudulently processing gift cards. Video surveillance revealed the suspect concealed the gift cards inside his wallet. The 19-year-old Hispanic male was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Tuesday, January 10:

Between 7:00 p.m. on January 9th and 5:00 a.m. on January 10th, unknown suspect(s) burglarized a vehicle in the 000 block of Southview Road. When the victim returned to his vehicle, he discovered his GPS system and sunglasses had been stolen. Officer determined the suspect(s) broke the driver side window and fled undetected.

At approximately 8:00 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Nordstrom at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in regards to a theft investigation. A female adult concealed merchandise inside a used shopping bag, and left the store without making payment. The 41-year-old Chinese female was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Wednesday, January 11:

Around 9:49 a.m., an officer was dispatched to LA Fitness, 1325 South Baldwin Avenue, in regards to a burglary report. The victim left his property secured inside a locker, and later discovered his locker was empty. Unknown suspect(s) cut the lock and fled undetected.

A short time later, a woman filed a found property report at the Arcadia Police Department front counter, in which the property belonged to the victim. The woman was driving on Lovell Avenue and observed the property lying in the middle of the street. An investigation revealed the victim's phone and cash from his wallet were still missing.

At approximately 5:56 p.m., an officer responded to the intersection of Colorado Street and Harvard Drive, in regards to a two-party traffic accident. Party one, traveling northbound on

Colorado Street, failed to yield to oncoming traffic as she attempted to make a left turn onto Harvard Drive. Party two did not have enough time to stop and collided with party one. No major injuries were reported.

Thursday, January 12:

Shortly after 1:30 a.m., an officer observed a white Toyota with a broken brake light traveling on Santa Anita Avenue, and conducted a traffic stop at Grand Avenue. Through investigation, the officer discovered the passenger provided false identification and had two warrants for his arrest, which included a felony no bail. A methamphetamine pipe was also found on his person. The 39-year-old White male was transported the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Around 9:07 a.m., an officer responded to the Arcadia Police Department front counter in regards to a suspicious circumstances report. The reporting party explained she was walking home from Arcadia High School on January 11th, in the area of El Monte Avenue, at Lemon Avenue, when she observed a blue pickup truck slowing down as it approached her. The juvenile walked west on Lemon Avenue and the driver pulled up alongside her. The driver repeatedly asked her if she wanted a ride, to which she declined. The vehicle drove away for a short distance, then made a u-turn, and approached the juvenile again. The juvenile quickly walked into a nearby driveway and the vehicle drove out of sight. The subject is described as a male Hispanic with light skin, late 20's to early 30's, with wavy brown hair, brown mustache, long pointed goatee, wearing no shirt, and had tattoos covering his arms. The vehicle is described as an older model two-door “low rider”, sparkling blue paint, with an open bed and black rims.

Friday, January 13:

At approximately 1:05 a.m., an officer responded to the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in regards to a solo traffic collision. Upon contact with the driver, the officer noticed an odor of alcohol emitting from his breath. Through investigation, the officer determined the driver was under the influence of alcohol, and discovered he was on parole. The 25-year-old Black male was arrested for DUI and placed on a parole hold.

At about 5:52 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Pavilions, 745 West Naomi Avenue, in regards to a theft report. A female adult took plastic bags from an unmanned register, concealed merchandise inside the bags, and left the store without making payment. An investigation revealed the suspect had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. The 46-year-old White female was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Saturday, January 14:

At roughly 5:20 a.m., an officer responded to Gorgeous Nail Spa, 330 East Foothill Boulevard, in reference to an activated burglary alarm. The officer discovered the rear window had been forced open and observed shoe footprints near the area of a motion detector. It appeared as if the suspect(s) fled when the alarm activated. No property was reported missing.

14. Shortly after 2:48 p.m., an officer responded to BJ'S Restaurant, 400 East Huntington Drive, in regards to a disturbance. A group of about ten patrons became loud and began to rearrange the tables to block the aisle way. When the waiter informed the subjects about safety issues and calming their noise level, they became argumentative. The subjects fled the location without paying their tab. A few suspects were seen entering a black BMW, and they fled eastbound on Huntington Drive.

Secret Service Agents Speak at Arcadia Chamber

By Joan Schmidt

At the recent Arcadia Chamber of Commerce's monthly Government Affairs Forum, Secret Service Special Agents Garret Fritch and Owen Evans were featured guest speakers. Their topics included a brief history of the Agency and counterfeit Investigations.

Garret Fritch began by stating that he has been with the Secret Service since 2009, and is based in the Los Angeles area. He mentioned he had recently returned from Hawaii, where he was part of the group responsible for the President and his family's safety. Of course everyone would enjoy time in Hawaii, but Garret also pointed out that other agencies such as Navy Seals, local law enforcement, Department of Defense and Coast Guards to name a few - were also involved in the Presidential detail.

Garret and Owen Evans are currently part of the “Counterfeit Squad”. The Agencies have several “squads”. Previously he had been assigned to a “Bank Fraud Squad.”

Did you realize that the Secret Service actually began during President Lincoln's term in office? On April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln signed the Secret Service into existence. During the Civil War, 1/3 of US currency was counterfeit!

A Power Point Presentation gave a lot of information about currency, how it is made, and ways to determine if it is real or not.

Real currency has NO wood pulp content. It is 75% cotton and 25% linen.

Security features include red and blue fibers. All genuine US currency is printed by the Bureau of Printing and Engraving in Washington, DC.

Different methods of printing were disclosed:

- Intaglio Printing is printed under very high pressure, requires heavy equipment, has raised print-3D look, distinctive feel and unique feathering.
- Typographic Printing has treasury seal and unique green, raised printing serial number and “halo” stamp effect, worms, watermark in the paper, optically variable ink, red and blue fibers in the paper, micro printing on the front and security thread.

Where is counterfeit US money being printed?

Not only in the United States, but it is printed also abroad in South and Central American countries. Digital technology (60-70% is produced digitally) has enabled counterfeit money to be produced at home. However when inkjet is used, the dots can be seen with the naked eye.

Outside the United States, plants are constantly being produced on the Black Market. Some counterfeit bills are high quality; others look like a five-year-old drew them.

After the informative presentation, there was a question-and-answer period in which we learned much about the counterfeit operation.

One was, “How are these bills dispersed?” The perpetrator chooses a crowded store and locates a swamped cashier. She/he may not have the time to examine the bill closely. Sometimes, a large item is purchased with a counterfeit bill. Then the item is returned to another branch of that store for a complete refund. One method was to purchase a low-cost item with a large counterfeit bill and ask for change.

Who dispenses the counterfeit bills? For instance, a person may print several thousand dollars of bills. He may have several “workers” whom he sells them to. For instance many bundles of \$500 worth of counterfeit money are sold at \$400 each.

Banks do not accept counterfeit notes. For instance, someone in front of a person in line at the bank deposits \$2,000 worth of counterfeit money. Then the next person makes a withdrawal of \$100 and receives a counterfeit bill. The person receiving the counterfeit bill cannot go back to the bank and is stuck with a loss. This policy exists because anyone could just go to the bank with counterfeit money and pretend the bank issued it!

Another interesting note was that a counterfeit \$20 bill is more common than a \$100 bill!

When suspicious of money, compare it to genuine-genuine watermark, red and blue fibers, embedded security thread, and UV reactive to black light.

If in doubt, call (213) 533-4360 or (213) 533-4400 (24 hour duty desk).

ARCADIA SCHOOLS MAKE BIG CHANGES

By Scott Hettrick

While Arcadia School District officials and supporters wage campaigns on several fronts to cover millions of dollars in lost state funding, administrators have also been managing a recent flurry of high-level management departures and realignments.



Debra Amos

The changes were sparked by the resignation the first week of January — unexpected by most District staff — of Deputy Superintendent Robert Leri effective March 1, and the sudden retirement of Food Services Director on Jan. 10, effective immediately. Leri is leaving to become Superintendent/Chief Learning Officer of the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District.

Last week it was announced that popular Arcadia High School principal David Vannasdall would take on the additional role of Deputy Superintendent March 1 and leave his post as principal at the end of this school year to become Deputy Superintendent. On March 1 the District will begin a search for a new AHS principal, according to a memo e-mailed to all District

employees last week from Superintendent Dr. Joel Shawn.

And Camino Grove Elementary School principal Brook Reynolds is being assigned this week as the interim Director of Food Services, Operations, and Transportation. Danae Popovich, Teacher on Special Assignment, will immediately take Reynolds' place at Camino Grove as interim principal.

The resignation of Amos exacerbated the situation involving an unfilled vacancy for the past year that was created with the unplanned departure of Paul Letson as Director of Facilities, Operations, Transportation, and Maintenance.

Since then, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Christina Aragon has been supervising all those departments on top of her regular job.

While acknowledging that all of the above “represents a great deal of change,” Shawn said the District is fortunate to have the talent among current staff to fill the positions.

All this comes as the District is trying to cover a projected \$7 million annual budget deficit by preparing a mail-in election on Feb. 13 for a five-year parcel tax of \$228 per-year on each taxed parcel of land for property owners that would raise about \$3.4 million per year; while the Arcadia Educational Foundation just mailed out its annual solicitation last week asking every adult resident to donate at least \$365 and every parent to donate \$500 for every student they have in schools; and against the backdrop of Governor Brown threatening to cut another \$4.8 billion from the already depleted education funding if voters don't approve his proposed tax this summer. (School parcel tax web site here.)

Deputy Superintendent Leri, an outdoor enthusiast, said in an e-mail to the District that he will assume his new role in Tahoe Truckee April 2 as an opportunity to return to Central California where he grew up in the Modesto/Stockton area and lived in Mariposa County before coming to Arcadia in 1996.

“Living in a school district with at least five major ski resorts is exciting,” he said, but he noted that he is committed to helping pass the parcel tax and “being an active part of this district until my last day.”

City of Arcadia Senior Services Nominations for 2012 Senior Citizen of the Year!

Applications are available at the Arcadia Community Center front desk for nominations for the 2012 Senior Citizen of the Year! Do you know someone who is: caring and at least 55 years of age; an Arcadia resident; actively involved in volunteer work; invaluable to your organization and deserving of recognition? If so, then nominate that special person for the

2012 Arcadia Senior Citizen of the Year Award. Recipient of the award will be honored at the Arcadia Rotary Club's Salute to Seniors luncheon on Tuesday, May 8th. Nominations must be submitted by Tuesday, February 21, 2012 to the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive, Arcadia, CA 91066-6021.

For more information, please call 626.574.5130.

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Monrovia

This Week In Monrovia from Mark Alvarado Interim City Manager

Monrovia has an uncanny way of making lemonade out of lemons...

State of the City on January 24

2012 opens with much to be decided, but despite the challenges-- in true Monrovia fashion-- we are still moving forward with gusto. This begins with the annual State of the City address. Mayor Mary Ann Lutz will deliver her annual State of the City address at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, at the Krikorian Premiere Theatre in Old Town. The public is invited to attend, however, we are almost booked up and seating is limited so please call (626) 303-6600 for reservations. If you don't get a chance to attend, KGEM TV will be carrying the speech, and it will be posted on the City's website following the event.

Free Mulch Giveaway

I am happy to announce that the City of Monrovia will be hosting a free mulch giveaway on the last two Saturdays in January. The recent windstorms generated a good amount of mulch from downed trees and limbs. In order to help our residents keep their yards looking healthy and beautiful, we are offering it to everyone. Mulch has many benefits, and can be a great tool to your landscaping needs. The mulch will be available (while supplies last) from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on January 21st & 28th at Recreation Park (near the Boys and Girls Club). Bring your own shovel, containers, gloves and goggles. For more information about this event, please call Public Works Department at (626) 932-5575.

PetSmart is Open

Two months after the PetSmart's sign went up at 745 W. Huntington Drive - at the former Circuit City site - the pet supply store is now open for business. The grand opening will be held on Friday, January 21, according to the store's Project Manager. We are excited for the new addition as the retailer will generate more activity for that location (alongside the Office Depot store). Thank you to the Redevelopment/ Economic Development ("R/ED") Team staff for their efforts in recruiting this retailer to our City, and to the Community Development staff for their business-friendly policies that continue to attract businesses to town.

Welcome Wagon Celebrates Nine Years of Service

At Tuesday night's City Council meeting, longtime residents of Monrovia and members of the Monrovia Historic Preservation Group, John Watson and Hal Leavens, announced that the Welcome Wagon will be celebrating nine years of service. These volunteers have welcomed new families to Monrovia, delivering informational packets to help their neighbors get acquainted with their new community. Congratulations 'Welcome Wagon' for nine years of service, and thank you for representing our community well.

Business Roundup

As we wade through the impending elimination of redevelopment, we thought this was a pertinent time to promote some recent economic development successes in Monrovia. In the middle of 2011, a number of actions were taken within City Hall to promote a business friendly environment, including the adoption of an Economic Development Action Plan, the creation of the Online Business Resource Center, and the addition of the My Monrovia Business Blog - which has already received 10,000 hits in six months. In fact, it was this activity, in addition

to Monrovia's established reputation, that earned it this year's "Most Business Friendly City" award among cities with populations under 60,000 in Los Angeles County.

We cannot leave out the new businesses that opened in 2011, when touting Monrovia's economic advances during this last year. This isn't a comprehensive list, but below is a list of nearly 25 businesses, which added nearly 250 jobs, and opened within the last year:

Old Town

Sena on Myrtle
Big Shrimp Fish Grill
Pho Lemon
Noor's Indian Restaurant
Charlie's House
Candy Connection
Old Town Bistro
A Snail's Pace
Firm Media
Michelle's Upscale Boutique
UPS Store
Resource for Seniors
Other Locations in Monrovia

Flame Broiler
Monrovia Modern Dentistry
Oto Oto
Max's Mexican Cuisine
Peridot Nail Salon
Chase Bank
City of Hope
Esoterix Genetic Lab
Zen Buffet
Headquarters of the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

And we're off to a good start in 2012, too. PetSmart opened on January 16, and WorleyParsons is set to open its downtown location next month.

If you want to stay in the loop, you can find out the latest on new businesses in our City by visiting the My Monrovia Business Blog at www.mymonrovia.blogspot.com.

Old Town News

Monrovia's Old Town merchants are having a promotion for Valentine's Day. They will be having a drawing on Friday, February 10, for a special gift package consisting of:

A 40-inch teddy bear One dozen roses

A gift certificate for dinner (or lunch or breakfast) at your favorite Old Town restaurant
Eligible participants must collect receipts from three Old Town businesses, dated between January 20 and February 10, and turn them in at one of the following locations to be entered in the drawing.

Six 2 Six - 114 S. Myrtle Avenue

The Dollmaker's Kattywompus- 412 S. Myrtle Avenue
Lavish Shoes - 517 S. Myrtle Avenue
Pages from the Heart - 137 E. Colorado Boulevard

Contest deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday, February 10. The drawing will be at 8:30 p.m. in front of the Dollmaker's storefront. Winner need not be present to win. Go to www.oldtownmonroviaca.com for more information.

Duarte Kiwanis Club Gets Update on MOOSE Program



Pictured below from the left – Duarte School Board Member and Kiwanis President Elect, Pam Kawasaki, MOOSE Program Director, David Karp, Kiwanis President, Tina Carey, Mt. Olive Principal, Kevin Morris, Duarte School Board President and Kiwanis Board Member, Reyna Diaz.

On January 17th, the Duarte Kiwanis Club heard an exciting update from David Karp on the unique MOOSE Program at Mt. Olive Alternative High School. The MOOSE (Mount Olive Outdoor Science Experience) Program provides great experiences for kids ranging from creating worm farms and worm tea to planting native foliage and managing a pond ecosystem and garden. This year the program will be partnering with the National Parks Service, and some of the participants will have the opportunity to work and learn in such wonderful locations as

Yosemite. The Duarte Kiwanis Club presented Mr. Karp and Principal, Kevin Morris with a check for \$1000.00 to help support the MOOSE Program. The Club is looking forward to their own "field trip" meeting to Mt. Olive on May 29th to see the results of this latest investment. The Duarte Kiwanis Club has lunch meetings the first, third and fifth Tuesdays of the month at Westminster Gardens. For further information on speaking or joining the club, contact Dr. Diane Hernandez at drdiane@drhernandezoptometry.com.

Monrovia Police Blotter

During the last seven-day period, the Police Department handled 415 service events, resulting in 86 investigations. To see a complete listing of crimes reported, go to <http://www.crimemapping.com/map/ca/monrovia> for crime mapping.

Felony Hit and Run Traffic Collision - Suspect Arrested. On January 9 at 5:42 p.m., a bicyclist was traveling west on Foothill and stopped at Violet when a dark colored SUV collided into the bicyclist. The bicyclist was ejected approximately 20 feet and the driver of the SUV fled west on Foothill. The bicyclist was treated by Monrovia Fire Department at the scene and was taken to a hospital. His external injuries appeared minor, but his internal injuries were unknown, so as a precaution, he was taken to a trauma unit.

During the investigation, Monrovia Police Department received a call from a subject who claimed to have possibly been involved in a traffic collision with another vehicle on Foothill. The caller provided a description of his vehicle, which matched the description of the hit and run vehicle. Officers responded to the driver's location and after further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

Shots Fired. On January 13 at 10:42 p.m., residents in the area of 1100 South Primrose heard several shots fired. Officers responded and discovered four .45 caliber bullet casings in the south alley in the 200 block of West Huntington, near Magnolia. Video surveillance showed a male suspect, possibly White or Hispanic, wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt in the alley. The suspect fired four rounds east in the alley, then he ran west out of sight. It is unknown what he was shooting at; however, at the time of the shooting, the manager of a business saw a male Black subject, approximately 18 to 20 years old, wearing baggy clothing, dancing around in the parking lot. He then ran east toward Primrose. It's possible he could have been the target and was attempting to avoid getting hit. No impact points or blood on the ground was located. Hospitals were notified, but no victims were reported during the night.

On January 16 at approximately 3 a.m., an officer stopped a suspicious subject. During the contact, the subject claimed to be the victim of the shooting that occurred on January 13. The victim said he was in a business parking lot and was shot at; he was not struck or injured. The victim would not cooperate with the officer and refused to provide any additional information. The clothing the victim was wearing during his contact with the officer matched the possible victim's clothing reported on the night of the shooting. The officer completed a supplemental report regarding his contact with the possible victim and an identification card was also completed. Investigation continuing.

Grand Theft Auto - Motorcycle. On January 14 at 2:33 a.m., a resident in the 300 block of South Shamrock heard noises in his front yard and went outside to investigate. He saw his 2005, orange and black, KTM dirt-bike motorcycle was missing off a trailer he had parked on the street in front of his house. Witnesses told him they saw a male Hispanic subject, approximately 30 years old, pushing it west on Lemon toward California. Officers searched the area for the suspect and the motorcycle, but did not locate

either. Investigation continuing.

Theft. On January 14 at 10:19 a.m., officers responded to a theft report at an apartment complex in the 700 block of South Myrtle. A pickup truck parked on the first level of the parking structure behind the security gate had two duffel bags stolen out of the bed of the truck. Investigation continuing.

Embezzlement - Suspect Arrested. On January 14 at 11:43 a.m., officers responded to a business in the 600 block of South Myrtle regarding an embezzlement report. The owner of the business noticed a discrepancy in the inventory and confronted the employee in charge, who admitted to embezzling property from the business. During investigation, the employee confessed to embezzling property from the business over the past five years. The suspect was arrested and taken into custody.

Special Enforcement Team Activity

Possession of Marijuana for Sales / Traffic Stop / Warrants - Suspects Arrested. On January 14 at 8:46 p.m., an officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in the 1600 block of South Myrtle. He recognized the driver and knew she had an active want for her arrest issued by Monrovia Police Department. A search of her vehicle revealed marijuana found in different containers, and a large quantity of cash was found on her person. Her cell phone contained multiple texts from people that indicated she was selling marijuana to them. She was arrested for the want, as well as possession of marijuana for sales and transportation. There was a passenger in the vehicle that was found to have five felony warrants, which included a no-bail probation warrant. The passenger was also arrested.


Domestic Violence / Outside Assist -

Huntington Beach Police Department - Suspect Arrested. On January 14, the Special Enforcement Team detained a distraught female on Myrtle and Duarte. The subject said she was upset because her twin sister had been involved in domestic violence with her husband. While talking to her, her husband and sister arrived. After further investigation, the sister was arrested for domestic violence for battering her husband. Since the incident occurred in Huntington Beach, the Huntington Beach Police Department responded and took custody of the female suspect.

Detective Bureau - Case Follow-up

On November 16, 2011, at approximately 8 p.m., officers were dispatched to the area of 300 East Colorado regarding vandalism in progress. The officers were able to locate one adult suspect and a juvenile suspect. The suspects were arrested for tagging in the area of 300 East Colorado. The tagging is unique and there were several reports describing the particular tagging.

A follow-up investigation by a detective discovered two additional suspects tied to the original suspects. After an extensive data collection effort by the detective, the cost of cleaning up the paint and replacing the damaged glass amounted to a felony vandalism charge. The detective was able to use the detailed preliminary investigation by the officer to secure a felony filing against all four suspects and close 25 cases. Since the case was filed, the detective has found two additional cases to add to the filing.



City of Monrovia Department of Community Services
MONROVIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
321 South Myrtle Avenue • 626.256.8274
www.monroviapubliclibrary.org

Monrovia Library Computer Club

The Computer Club meets to discuss computer-related topics in a friendly and relaxed setting. Join like-minded people who want to learn and share tech tips. Every meeting showcases a demonstration of a topic members have chosen to learn more about.

First Meeting and Planning Session

Help set the direction of the Club as a founding member. The flagship meeting is

Wednesday, February 1, 2012
6:30 - 7:45 p.m.
Library Community Room

- Determine demonstration topics for the next 6–12 months
- Discuss ideas for a Computer Club blog, screencasting, and video
- Explore options for assisting computer novices with basic skills
- Plan to showcase member talents and interests
- Suggest other technology topics like smart phones, game systems



This free club is open to all and is especially recommended for adults. Registration is encouraged. Walk-ins are welcome.

Club meeting dates 2012: The first Wednesday of every month, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. in the Library Community Room, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5.

Questions? Suggestions? Call the Adult Services Reference Desk, 626-256-8274. Just eager to sign up? Go to www.monroviapubliclibrary.org and click on the Library Events calendar icon, find the February 1 listing, and sign up there.



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New students only.
Limited time offer.



PUSD CELEBRATES MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Art & Essay Contest Winners Announced



Pasadena, CA - Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) students performed at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration at Jackie Robinson Park, and honored the civil rights leader's legacy with service activities and essay and art contests.

Madison Elementary School students, families, teachers and staff were joined by community leaders and district officials on Saturday, January 14 for planting, landscaping, and campus beautification organized by the MLK, Jr. Community Coalition.

Student singers and dancers from McKinley School and Madison performed at the annual MLK celebration at Robinson Park on Monday, when winners of the art and essay contest were announced.

More than 1,100 local students who attend both private and public schools submitted essays or artwork. PUSD students won the top three places in all categories. The winners are listed below:

Essay Contest Winners
Elementary School
Middle School
High School

First Place
Andrea de la Torre

5th grade
Jackson Elementary
Teacher: Mr. Villela
Reese Proctor
7th grade
Sierra Madre School
Teacher: Ms. Nepf
Aidyn Cooper
12th grade
CIS
Teacher: Mr. Quaranta
Second Place
Anthony Rodriguez
4th grade
Don Benito Fundamental
Teacher: Mrs. Seger
Marissa Langley
7th grade
Sierra Madre School
Teacher: Ms. Nepf
Nancy Mendoza
11th grade
Blair High School
Teacher: Ms. Rothner
Third Place
Laritz Montelongo
3rd grade
Washington Accelerated

Teacher: Dr. Green
Zeke Ogron
8th grade
Sierra Madre School
Teacher: Mrs. Graff
Matthew Teon
9th grade
Blair High School
Teacher: Ms. Anderson
Art Contest Winners
First Place
Victor Hoffman
4th grade
McKinley School
Teacher: Mr. Lira
Heather MacDougall
8th grade
Eliot Middle School
Teacher: Mr. Moya
Jose Carlos Virgen
12th grade
Blair High School
Teacher: Mrs. Martinez
Second Place
Lilli Bower
5th grade
Don Benito Fundamental
Teacher: Ms. Annett
RonnaMae Pidut
8th grade
Eliot Middle School
Teacher: Mr. Moya
Daniel Rosales
11th grade
Pasadena High School
Teacher: Mr. Shultz
Third Place
Candace Mills
4th grade
Don Benito Fundamental
Teacher: Mrs. Seger
Clairese French
7th grade
Eliot Middle School
Teacher: Mr. Moya
Emma Yervandyan
10th grade
Pasadena High School
Teacher: Mr. Shultz

LIBRARY'S FREE PARENT/CHILD WORKSHOPS SLATED FOR FEBRUARY

Sierra Madre Public Library's latest five-week Parent/Child Workshop for families with children ages three and younger will feature noted resource professionals from the community. Each workshop session will feature a different aspect of parenting, including early literacy, speech, hearing and language development, child development, nutrition, music, play, and health.

The popular workshop series, which will take place at the Library on consecutive Wednesday evenings: February 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., will be interactive and will include toys, crafts, books and play in addition to discussions of



parenting issues and concerns. Enrollment is free, but in-person pre-registration at the Library is required to ensure a spot in the program.

This project is supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

For more information, please call Meegan Tosh, Youth Services Librarian at (626) 355-7186. The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre. www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us



www.facebook.com/mountainviewsnews

Madelynne Jensen, of Sierra Madre, Named to Dean's List at the University of Delaware

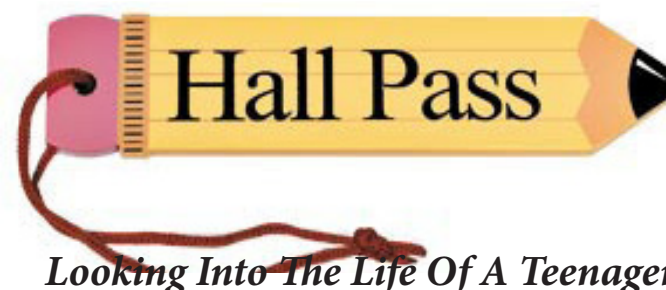
Jensen honored as one of the top students at UD

Madelynne Jensen has been named to the University of Delaware's Dean's List for Fall 2011. Jensen is a Senior Arts and Sciences major from Sierra Madre.

To meet eligibility requirements for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled full-time and

earn a GPA of 3.33 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

The University of Delaware, founded in 1743, is one of the most popular universities in the U.S. Our student body encompasses nearly 17,000 undergraduates, 3,700 graduate students and 850 students in professional and continuing studies from across the country and around the globe.



Looking Into The Life Of A Teenager
By Meaghan Allen

MEATLOAF

Possibly the most well known and made fun of meal, meatloaf is a family food staple. Composed of eggs, meat, and anything ranging from Worcestershire sauce to onions, meatloaf is the grand concoction of leftover food at its prime. Growing up, I despised the loaf; the texture was wrong and the burnt ketchup on top was unnecessary. Then, years later, my dad and I created our own version, and I was converted to the meatloaf lover's world.

Aside from being absolutely delicious, there is more to meatloaf; there's a sense of identity and family. Having eaten meatloaf at different

households, I've come to notice that everyone makes meatloaf differently, adding different spices or veggies to the pile, inspiring new flavors and styles. Because of this, each meatloaf reflects a person's flavor palate and a part of who they are. Heat junkies add jalapenos, horseradish and cayenne. Sauce lovers like me use breadcrumbs, BBQ sauce, Worcestershire and tomato sauce to make sure that the loaf is extra juicy. There is no wrong way to prepare a meatloaf, unless of course you burn it, and that's what I love about it. So get creative and make your own variation. Discover your meatloaf self.

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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: pcclarke@arroyopacific.org

Barnhart School

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Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.com

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(626) 355-3527 Principal: James Lugenbuehl
E-mail address: jml@bcsliions.org

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626/358-5164 fax office: cardenofthefoothills.com

The Gooden School

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(626) 355-2410 Head of School: Patty Patano
website: www.goodenschool.org

High Point Academy

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Pasadena, Ca. 91107 626-798-8989
website: www.highpointacademy.org

LaSalle High School

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(626) 351-8951
website: www.lasallehs.org

Mama Pete's Nursery School

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

website: www.mamapete.org

Monrovia High School

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

Norma Coombs Alternative School

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

Odyssey Charter School

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

Pasadena High School

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

Pasadena Unified School District

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

St. Rita Catholic School

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

Sierra Madre Elementary School

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

Sierra Madre Middle School

160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
Phone: (626) 396-5910 - Fax: (626) 836-2964
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Mountain Views News Saturday, January 21, 2012

A letter delivered to Table for Two.

I am fond of getting letters but I never receive any letters from a beautiful lady with a picture enclosed. Oh well, I guess the humor and pointed comments that I receive will have to suffice. Here are a couple emails that were sent to thechefknows@yahoo.com this week and added a touch of humor to my week.

Brandon from Temple City sends a joke to me. "Dear Peter, what do you call the people that use Groupon?"
Hmmm, I'm not sure Brandon, what do you call the people that use Groupon?
A: Group Hoopers.
I guess I've heard of Groupon users being called a Groupshop.
Writers Note on these

TABLE FOR TWO by Peter DILLS
thechefknows@yahoo.com

- 40 percent incremental costs (mostly food) this is the reported food cost of an item on a restaurant menu that the restaurant pays including labor.
- Customer typically spends about 20% over the value of Groupon (There is little value to the restaurant).
- . 85 percent of coupons are redeemed.
- . 40 percent are used by existing customers (I like this).
- . Two are bought per customer.
- 10 percent come back again — or send friends. (I don't see that as significant value to the restaurant in marketing expense to ratio of customers)
- My next email comes from Steve A. in Arcadia.

"Peter, I'll often go to a restaurant that has open hours posted on a website and we get there they are closed. Why is that?"

I fall for that myself sometimes as well. As I often say in my reviews, no matter what the website says or a current menu, I suggest you always call the restaurant to be sure they are open. With the economy being tough, many of the Mom and Pop restaurants that I have spoken to say they just can't afford to keep the doors open when there are no dollars in the building. Corporate chains aren't so flexible; you can usually rely on them to keep the stove hot until closing time. Across the board at least the opening time are generally firm. Hope that helps!!!

Pasadena Pinot Fest is here..... Mark your Calendar and call for tickets (626)795-7199. The event is going now until February 11th, costs range from \$15 to \$89.

For more fun conversation please tune into Dining with Dills on KABC Talk Radio each weekend, listen live to www.kabc.com for exact times.



Serve this beef stew with warm flour tortillas and hot cooked rice.

Ingredients:

- 1 pound stew beef
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 10 1/2 ounces condensed beef broth, undiluted
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1 or 2 small jalapeno or serrano chile peppers, chopped
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch, dissolved in a small amount of cold water

DIRECTIONS:

Brown meat in oil on all sides. Pour off excess grease. Add tomato paste [optional], beef broth, salt and pepper, garlic, chili powder, cumin, chile peppers, and water. Cover and cook on low for 8 to 12 hours, or until meat is very tender. Turn to high and dissolve about 2 teaspoons of cornstarch in small amount of cold water and slowly pour into stew, which is simmering, until proper thickness of gravy is obtained. Serve with rice and warm tortillas, if desired.
Serves 4.

SIERRA MADRE CIVIC CLUB COOK BOOK

What do you ask when you hear that some of the finest cooks in Sierra Madre have published a cookbook? You ask where to get one, of course. Well, members of the Sierra Madre Civic Club have published a collection of their best recipes for hors d'oeuvres, soups, salads, entrees, breads, vegetable dishes, side dishes, relishes, sauces, and brunch items in a volume entitled Recipes We Proudly Share.

The collection can be purchased for \$15 at Arnold's Hardware and Savor the Flavor or by calling 792-0852 or 355-7880.

The Sierra Madre Civic Club is a non-profit, philanthropic organization that last year donated more than \$20,000 back to the community in the form of educational

scholarships and grants to such organizations as the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association, the library's One Book One City Program, Sierra Madre Elementary School, Creative Arts, and the Sierra Madre Playhouse. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks become part of the philanthropy fund.

So do yourself and your community a favor and get your own copy of Recipes We Proudly Share. We hope you'll find, as many others have, that once you've bought one copy, you'll be back to buy additional ones for sisters, cousins, friends, and neighbors who've asked you where you got that recipe for the delicious dish you've served.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SMCC Publishes Cookbook SEAN'S SHAMELESS REVIEWS: FIRST AID KIT



Swedish sisters, Johanna and Klara Söderberg make the up folk pair, First Aid Kit. After

much critical acclaim for their 2010 record, "The Big Black & The Blue", the young siblings return with their follow-up, "The Lion's Roar". The new record is a collection of deeply sullen folk tunes that showcases beauteous harmonies and woody arrangements. Fans of Fleet Foxes should feel right at home with First Aid Kit, who ironically covered their song "Tiger Mountain Peasant Song" a few years ago that set the blogosphere on fire. Honestly, I've never been a huge enthusiast of folk rock. There are plenty of bands in the genre that frankly sound exactly the same and offer very little difference from one another. However, First Aid Kit doesn't seem much like imitators, but innovators. While dull moments sometimes arise, it's the aching lyrics and brutal honesty implanted within each song that lifts First Aid Kit from an inferior girl group to a superior dynamic duo.

When I first think about folk rock in today's music, what comes to mind are bands mimicking artists from another era. Often their songs sound just like the ones from that period in time, but only more polished. The biggest problem with today's folk music is merely the fact you must be in the mood for it. The atmosphere is often dreary with distinctive storytelling ranging from anecdotes of mountains and cabins to the man you're supposed to be to anything Americana related. First Aid Kit does a marvelous job having me believe their making music for tomorrow not today and certainly not yesterday. "In The Hearts

Of Men" is solemn but immaculate. It'll carry you away on its shoulders and take you to a fond memory; one that you wish will never fade away.

Artist: First Aid Kit
Album: The Lion's Roar
Label: Wichita Recordings
Release Date: January 17, 2012
Key Tracks: "Emmylou", "In The Hearts Of Men", "Blue"
Grade: 7.5 out of 10

"Emmylou" is romantic and as tender as the love it speaks of. The lyrics for "Blue" are wistful, but the song swiftly moves along and may be the most joyous of the bunch.

Little can be said the same for the finale song, "King Of The World", which feels strangely out of place, especially with Conor Oberst from the band Bright Eyes on guest vocals. Something about the song struck me the wrong way, which led to my realization that this is definitely the filler song off the record. Despite my strong disliking to the closer, the nine prior songs are either pretty good or really wonderful. There not all downers, but the best ones are. First Aid Kit doesn't knock it out of the park on each track, but the songs all have stark moments of bliss, true significance and dazzling arrangements. For fans of the persuasion, you really can't ask for much more. And for non-supporters of this resonance, "The Lion's Roar" may just be the surprise you've been truly hoping for all along.

Raise your glass with Peter Dills from KABC Talk Radio and Chef Zov Karamardian

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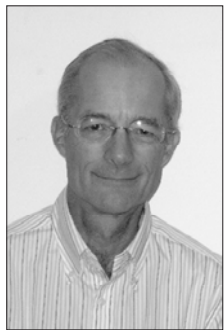
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HOWARD Hays As I See It



"Some animals were meant to carry each other to live symbiotically over a lifetime. Star crossed lovers, monogamous swans. We are not swans. We are sharks."- George Clooney, "Up In The Air"

In this film from a couple years ago, Clooney played a character that flew around the country on assignment to inform targeted employees of client companies their services were no longer needed. Clients gladly availed themselves of the services offered by Clooney's firm, avoiding the necessity of undertaking the unpleasant task themselves. In an opening montage, a succession of individuals sit across the table from Clooney as he collects keys and company I.D.s, telling them to gather personal belongings and vacate the premises. For this sequence, director Jason Reitman cast non-professionals who had themselves been recently laid off, so their reactions to being hit with a wrenching life-change were informed by real-life experience.

Last week, Greg Welborn explained that when Mitt Romney said he enjoyed firing people, he didn't mean firing people, but because his company Bain Capital fired people, it's all for the good. I find it difficult to imagine Romney himself firing somebody up-close and personal, rather than having someone else do it for him, as in the movie "Up In The Air". At a Hollywood job, I had frequent phone dealings with a career employee at the news division of a major TV network. It was acquired by a new corporate parent that chose to cut back an unprofitable division, and saw salaried employees as expendable when interns would work for free. Soon after, when I received another call from this fellow with whom I'd never before exchanged personal information, in a voice of desperation he told me of being in his late 50's, making mortgage and car payments, supporting two kids in college, and not knowing what he was going to do now.

At another job, I reported to a man who'd spend the day going over spreadsheets in his office, and then send me out to take care of things when he felt a personnel change might improve the figures. I remember in particular collecting the keys from a fairly new employee, who just the day before had proudly showed me the picture of two young kids he placed on the ledge above his workstation.

These incidents happened many years ago, but the memory hasn't dimmed. Firing is a subject much easier to deal with in the abstract; it's hard to make flippant analogies when considering the effects on real people, real families, and real communities.

One way to desensitize the subject is to mask true objectives and dehumanize the objects. It's easier to talk about pampered big-government bureaucrats than about teachers, firefighters and social workers – neighbors, working mothers, heads of families and customers of local merchants – whom we're told to resent for earning the salary and benefits we once expected

for ourselves. It's easier to argue for smaller government than rationalize contracting-out, where government treasuries fund private profit rather than public service, and thousands of former public employees join the competition for scarce jobs.

It's easier to describe a company like Bain Capital, as Greg does, as one that turns struggling companies into "viable and growing enterprises", than confront the reality of a process consisting of taking control, borrowing against or selling off assets, then pocketing the proceeds while leaving a byproduct of shuttered factories, jobless workers and decimated retirement funds. An example can be found at the center of today's campaigning, at Georgetown Steel in South Carolina.

Under Romney's leadership, Bain bought the parent company in 1993 for \$24.5 million, and a few years later had returned \$58.4 million to investors – with \$900,000 in annual "management fees" for themselves. As for the steel company, it was left bankrupt – \$553.9 million in debts against \$395.2 in assets.

The head of the steelworkers' union explained, "We were doing well and then Bain Capital bought us and they took everything they could out of the company without making the investments we needed to stay competitive." 1,750 workers were cut by Bain managers – who continued to collect hefty bonuses from the firm while driving it into bankruptcy.

According to the L.A. Times, four of the ten highest-priced companies acquired by Bain under Mitt Romney went bankrupt within a few years. In three of those four, Bain and its investors made millions, while thousands were made jobless. As reported in the Times, Bain made money for investors "by firing workers, seeking government subsidies, and flipping companies quickly for large profits."

Some have suggested government should be run like a business. We tried that – it's called "The Previous Administration". Republicans ran the government as Romney ran Bain Capital: assets, in this case "the full faith and credit of the United States", were leveraged to the maximum to finance trillions in expenditures (two wars and a massive Medicare giveaway to drug companies), and most significantly, a big payout to investors. A massive tax cut was awarded those whose investments bought a controlling interest in the United States Congress.

And, like at Bain, those wealthy investors walked away with billions more while the rest of us, and the subsequent administration, were left to pay the bills and clean up the mess left behind.

We can expect more of the same under a Romney administration. According to the Tax Policy Center, his proposed plan would result in a tax hike for the majority of families with children with incomes under \$50,000 a year. Those making over \$1 million a year would get additional tax cuts of nearly \$150,000. Half the benefits of his plan would go to those million-and-above earners, paid for by adding over \$6.5 trillion to the deficit over the next decade.

We've seen that movie before. And in this case, we don't need a sequel.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN SO FAR

Independent's Eye by JOE Gandelman



HOBBS, N.M. -- You learn something new every day. In driving around the country, I've learned that oil companies reserve large numbers of motel rooms in this city and others so oil rig workers have places to stay. In some

cities it's almost impossible to get a hotel room. You have to carefully plan in advance.

That's also the story of the months leading up to the 2012 presidential election: we're learning something new every day. Here's a partial list of what we've learned so far:

Ignore media hype about candidates who'll enter the race and obliterate all competition. Texas Governor Rick Perry would supposedly enter the race, zoom in the polls and prevent former Massachusetts' Gov. Mitt Romney from getting the Republican nomination. Perry turned out to be as smart as a Texas pinto bean and will be forever remembered as "Mr. Oops!" The press suggested former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman was a shoo-in and that Team Obama feared him but Huntsman should have stayed Ambassador to China. Considered by GOPers a traitor for having served in the Obama administration, Huntsman was patrician and mistakenly assumed that that being reasonable and thoughtful were virtues in today's Republican Party. He was the perfect Republican Presidential candidate -- for the 1980s. No bomb Iran produces could EVER be as big as these two.

Perry and Huntsman joined history's ranks of Presidential wannabe failures overhyped by the media: Republican John Connally (1980), Democrat Edmund Muskie (1972), Republican Fred Thompson (2008), and Republican Rudy Giuliani (2008). Talking heads and scribes predicted all these guys would bust the town wide open but they couldn't bust a city block.

Plentiful debates are a double-edged sword. The many Republican debates were criticized by some as hurting the GOP brand. But debates influenced candidates' poll numbers. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich got a second political lease on life due to solid debate performances. The shockingly ill-prepared Perry deflated due to them. The well-prepared Romney is slowly making his "sale" to the general electorate partially due to them: a Gallup poll now has Romney up 23 points over

his closest competitor.

PAC money always works – well, almost. Romney destroyed Gingrich in Iowa with PAC-funded ads. But Gingrich's PAC funded ads going after Romney for his Bain Capital days sparked Republican backlash.

A politician can get a second chance rebrand but he can ruin his rebrand. Gingrich convinced many Republicans there was a "new" older, wiser, not-as-much-a-bomb-thrower Gingrich. Then he destroyed his rebranding by going after Romney with the Bain Capital issue and other verbal attacks. His polls tumbled.

The Republicans could have problems winning the center, independent voters and Hispanic voters. On Monday, some in the debate audience booed when it was noted that Romney's father was born in Mexico. At a debate in September some booed when a soldier noted he was gay. A week before that Tea Party audience members cheered when Ron Paul talked about someone dying uninsured. Meanwhile, the word "moderate" is used as a contemptuous, defining adjective while candidates such as Romney insisted they were never moderate. Democrats will have fun with video clips of these moments in defining today's increasingly smaller tent GOP.

Political team Obama is a B team. Forget comparing them to the ace political teams that helped elect FDR, JFK, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton and the two George Bushes. They defend and react more than define and control.

Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign had a huge impact. In her excellent, must-read book "The Hillary Effect," Washington pundit Taylor Marsh notes that Clinton's 2008 campaign had ripple effects: Sarah Palin's becoming Republican John McCain's running mate, Palin then embracing the Tea Party and helping it oust some GOPers in 2010 to put its own people in Congress, Tea Party influence in Congress and Michele Bachmann seeking the Republican nomination. To many Americans, given the misogynistic ordeal Clinton endured during her 2008 campaign and how she later resurfaced as a superb Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton is not a bittersweet case of "could have been" – but "should have been."

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,

BAIN CAPITAL AND AMERICA'S GREATNESS

So, I write this article as a conservative, and right now Mitt Romney is the assumed standard bearer of our cause. But I'm not necessarily a fan of Romney. It's not that I oppose him, it's just that I'm disappointed in Romney's apparent inability to explain, justify and elevate the role that companies, such as Bain Capital, played in the success of the U.S. in the last quarter of the 20th century.

Ironically, today is the day that Mitt Romney released details about his tax return, confirming that he is a very successful capitalist, and it is the day that Kodak put itself into bankruptcy, disgorging thousands more on to unemployment. A once great company has fallen to unimaginable lows. Kodak is the company whose engineers developed and pioneered digital photography. Kodak is also the company that couldn't capitalize on that discovery because of poor management. The irony is that Kodak, and its employees, would be in a much better place if they had attracted the attention of Bain Capital, or some other private equity or venture capital firm.

Such piracy (that's what the raiders of venture capital and private equity firms are often called) would have forced complacent, out-of-touch, slow-to-react management to change their ways. That is the wonderful role and legacy played by the Bain Capitals of the world. By forcing management to improve or be fired, they save companies and industries from themselves and allow their successors to thrive.

An honest review of our country's economic history in the 1970s would tell us that the success in the decade that followed was not a foregone conclusion. Our economy was suffering, and many a good company was teetering on the edge of bankruptcy, extinction or irrelevance. We could easily have taken the path that would have led us to what Europe has become today: a has-been. Europe used to house the preeminent powers of the world for several centuries. But sadly, its great companies became complacent and lethargic. Management in these once-great companies became complacent and arrogant. European governments abetted this sclerosis by protecting companies and whole industries from competition. Without

MIKE Antonovich



GOVERNOR NEEDS A NEW HORSE – NOT A NEW SADDLE FOR A DEAD HORSE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – Governor Brown, who has proposed a 7% increase in his FY 2012-13 budget, is once again asking voters for more tax increases when the state's economy remains

stalled by already high taxes and slow growth.

"Threatening voters with draconian cuts in public safety and education if they don't approve his tax increases is a typical scare tactic used by bully politicians who have failed to initiate reforms and improve government efficiency," said Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.

"The Governor fails to recognize that when you have a dead horse, you need a new horse -- not a new saddle," he added. "The Governor needs to tackle civil service reform and initiate structural reforms, not continue business as usual. Abuses in the antiquated civil service system are currently paying two prison doctors, Dr. Jeffery Rohlfing

PETER Funt



At the End of Our Rope?

A few hours with the TV and radio the other night – one lowlight being a commercial for a holster guaranteed to prevent getting "pinched" by your concealed gun – underscored what a

troubled and divided nation we have become.

Fox News Channel carried the latest debate among GOP presidential candidates, during which Mitt Romney pledged never to support any laws whatsoever that limit gun sales in any way. Moving on to foreign policy, Romney said of our enemies, "We go anywhere and kill them." Period.

In an incoherent rant, Rick Perry said Turkey should be kicked out of NATO, adding that its respected prime minister, Recep Erdogan, might be an Islamic terrorist.

Newt Gingrich doubled down on his earlier piece of oddball thinking that 13-year-olds should work as janitors in schools. He added that as many as 30 such teen employees could be hired for the cost of a single professional janitor in New York City.

For a moment, Rick Santorum seemed like a flaming liberal when he said that felons, even those who had committed violent crimes, should be given the right to vote after they "have paid their debt to society." Mitt Romney jumped in to make clear that he would never support such a thing.

Ron Paul, lovable gent that he is at these affairs, said the proper income tax rate for Americans is "zero."

After two hours of this, plus an hour with Sean Hannity in the Spin Room – where the remarks were even more likely to cause dizziness – I turned on the radio. The host was Alex Jones, whose syndicated talk program is heard on over 60 stations, with commentary that Rolling Stone magazine said makes Rush Limbaugh and Glenn Beck "sound like tea-sipping NPR hosts on Zolof."

On this night Jones and his guest were discussing which countries would be the best

GREG Welborn

t h e threat of



competition and the mandate to thrive in order to survive, slow deterioration gave way to abject failure.

America in the 1980s could easily have travelled the same path. Fortunately, our sense of economic freedom prevented government from simply stepping in to protect our economic dinosaurs. Instead, companies managed by

tired or arrogant executives were allowed to fall prey to venture capitalists and private equity firms. The titles sound somehow menacing, but venture capital and private equity are simply names given to groups of people who believe they can buy struggling companies (thus putting their money at risk) and turn them around. In this, they were largely successful.

Did people lose jobs as a result? Absolutely. Management teams and unproductive workers who didn't contribute as much as they consumed in salaries were let go. In their place the Bain Capitals of the world put better management and more motivated and harder working employees. Some companies nonetheless failed. But many more rose from their putative death beds, grew to several times their former size, and added to the employment roles more than could ever have been afforded in their previous anemic states.

America owes a great debt to the Bain Capitals of the world. Their willingness to risk their money to buy, turn around and nurture companies back from the brink resulted in greater, not less, employment in the long term and a renewed economic strength that has been the envy of the world. We can only hope that Mitt Romney, if he is to be our standard bearer, can rise to the occasion and actually articulate the great benefit his work at Bain provided this country.

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@mvsobserver.com.

and Dr. Radu Mischu, who were responsible for inmate deaths, over half a million dollars a year just to sort mail and review files in storage. This is an outrage."

A sample of the vital structural reforms needed include:

- Consolidating Franchise Tax Board and the Board of Equalization to save \$100 million annually;
- Consolidating Medi-Cal, Calworks and Food Stamps to save \$4 billion, including \$1.5 billion in state general funds over five years;
- Biennial renewal of driver's licenses to save \$1.2 million;
- Cut the bloated California State University system bureaucracy which now has more administrators than full-time faculty. Between 1975 and 2008, the number of faculty members rose by 3% to 12,019 while the number of administrators rose 221% to 12,183;
- Implement a 2-year budget;
- Adopt a part-time legislature; and
- Repeal term limits.

places to flee to if politics and social programs made living in the U.S. intolerable. After detailed analysis of everything from tax rates to the behavior of dictators, they concluded that Canada and Australia were the best bets.

But the most disturbing element of Jones's program turned out to be the commercials. During a single break, there were four 30-second spots, each thoroughly frightening.

The first was for food rations – the type you could store in your basement and survive on in the event of, well, just about any bad thing that would send you down to the basement for months at a time.

The next commercial was for a type of pill that combats the effects of nuclear fallout. An announcer cited the accident at a nuclear plant in Japan as good reason for Americans to buy one hundred of these pills but indicated they were also handy should we be thrust into, well, just about any sort of nuclear nightmare.

Then there was the ad for the holster – the one that made carrying a concealed gun more comfortable without any nasty pinching – since, well, we'll all apparently be needing such weapons pretty soon.

Finally, there was a most unusual ad for rope. The announcer sang the praises of 500 feet of very strong rope, without actually indicating what you might use it for.

I told a conservative friend about the strange rope commercial. He said flatly, "If people become angry enough, there's no telling what's next, even lynchings."

Go figure. I thought the ad meant: If watching the five current GOP candidates becomes intolerable, and if fleeing to Australia doesn't seem viable, you might find 500 feet of rope handy to, well, hang yourself.

Peter Funt is a writer and speaker and can be reached at www.candidcamera.com.

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

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

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



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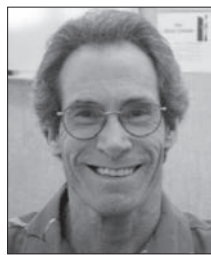
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Mountain Views News Mission Statement

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

HAIL Hamilton My Turn



Bad Trip

Please forgive me if I'm raining on someone's parade, but if you're rethinking of taking your family on a winter Caribbean cruise on Holland America? Think again... particularly if it's a Westerdam cruise.

This was our third cruise so we thought we knew what to expect, but our two prior voyages were with Princess. However, I knew we were in trouble when we boarded the Westerdam. It was mid-December the skies were permanently overcast and there was a freezing--almost gale-force--breeze that never stopped blowing. The temperature ranged from the mid-50s in the day to the low-30s at night -- definitely not cruising weather.

Our two cabins were nice enough and our stewards were outstanding. My wife and I had an eighth floor extra large balcony veranda. My kids shared an interior on the fifth floor. We figured they'd be out and about most of the time and wouldn't need a view. We had five hours to kill before the ship sailed so after unpacking we decided to try the Lido Restaurant's luncheon buffet.

If the bad weather was a harbinger of things to come, the buffet was a loud gourmet alarm bell telling us that things were going to get worse. What a disaster. For precautionary purposes, only the staff can put food on your plate and provide you with drinks. This caused massive lines with people cutting in and out of lines making the whole "all you can eat" buffet experience miserable.

This went on for the first 48 hours of the cruise. By the time you got your drink, your food was cold. Worse the food was tasteless and about as appetizing as you'd expect from a high school cafeteria. Holland America provides food with lots of starch and the food selection is the same every day with a few minor differences. Good luck finding a table during peak hours. Forget finding one by a window.

The sail away is no big deal to Holland America. No poolside music, no fan fare, no streamers, just a couple of toots from the ship's horn and off you go. Heck, there was more activity on the yachts passing us as we made our way out of the Ft. Lauderdale harbor. I will never know whether those sailors were wishing us a fond bon voyage or just making fun of us for being such suckers in choosing the Westerdam. Little did we know that we had chosen a ship from hell.

From the start it was obvious that the the Westerdam had too few crew per passenger to render all but minimal services. Clearly, it makes its money on booze, crummy bazaar-like jewelry stores, the innumerable "extras" they hawked at you relentlessly. Consider the \$100 for a piece of "Jackie Kennedy" jewelry that probably cost no more than \$10, or the \$99 junk watches from China "sale-priced" at \$9.99.

Dinner in the main dining room, the Vista, was very disorganized, understaffed and

disappointing. We were consigned to "free-style" dining which meant each night you had to wait in line to eat early or eat late and be satisfied with leftovers -- especially desserts. There were four formal nights for which the captain never showed up. The rest of the time the dress code was "smart-casual" which for some meant T-shirt and sandals. But what you wore really didn't add or detract from the mediocre food.

Of course no one complained about the food the first eight days because the ship was tossing and rolling so much just keeping your dinner down was a major effort. Twice I noticed barf on the floor by the maitre d's station. I also smelled barf in our hallway one night. Seasickness was epidemic. Passengers were bouncing off the bulkheads like pool balls night and day. Thank God there was enough Dramamine and saltine crackers on board, for just about everybody needed it.

After eight days of rough cruising the southern Caribbean to overblown destinations like Half Moon Cay in the Bahamas (owned by Holland America), Aruba, Curacao, and Bonaire we were happy to see Ft. Lauderdale again, if only for an afternoon. That evening we departed for Grand Turk, San Juan, St. Thomas, and Half Moon Cay (again!). This is when the horrors of an already bad trip became intolerable.

On the second night out my wife (who suffers from fibromyalgia) was accidentally struck in the arm by a heavy plate being carelessly carried by a waiter after eating dinner in the main dining room. This event immediately caused a severe and very painful flair-up of her fibromyalgia. She was wheeled to the ship's doctor to be treated -- EXCEPT he refused to treat her pain. Instead, he gave her an ICEPACK!

The next morning I confronted him about his ignorance of fibromyalgia. He even refused to talk to my wife's rheumatologist in Pasadena, whom we had telephoned from the ship and was waiting for his call. He told us that there was nothing more he could do and that if we were so dissatisfied with the ship's medical care we should to DISEMBARK in San Juan. We returned to our room and called the San Juan paramedics instead. They advised us that if we went to the city hospital we would very likely miss the ship's sailing that night.

The next day we arrived in St. Thomas and I took her to the hospital there, which my wife's doctor recommended. About 40,000 people live on St. Thomas compared to more than 5 million in San Juan. Fortunately, my wife got the care she needed and she was able to resume our trip pain-free. Unfortunately, the 2-day medical hiatus aboard ship cost her to miss the two ports-of-call she most wanted to see -- San Juan and St. Thomas (except what little she saw on the way back to the ship from the hospital).

"Bad trip" doesn't begin to describe our damned voyage on the Westerdam. All I can say is this will be the last Holland America cruise we ever go on.

OUT TO PASTOR A Weekly Religion Column



by Rev. James L. Snyder

God does not make grandmothers like He once did. At least not like MY grandmother.

Grandmother never trusted such things as banks with her money. Someone once told my grandmother, "If you would put your money in the bank, they would pay you interest."

With a confused look on her face she responded, "I have enough interest in my money, nobody else needs to bother about it." That was that!

After my grandfather died, my wife and I had the opportunity to take grandma out for supper. It was a delightful restaurant and we thought it would be a real treat for her. More than once, I had to keep her from getting up and serving coffee to the rest of the people in the restaurant. After all, she did that at the church suppers. Why not here? "I've got two good legs," she protested.

Then came time to pay the check and the waiter brought the check and laid it in front of me. I immediately took a credit card out of my wallet and laid it on the check.

I could tell grandma had never seen a credit card before.

"Put that away," she said. "I believe that man wants you to pay for our supper. Don't you have any money?"

"I'm paying for our supper with my credit card," I explained.

"Oh, dear," she moaned. "You know I don't believe in cards. Cards are of the devil, and I have never had a deck of cards in my house. I'm a little surprised that you, a minister, would be fooling around with such things of the devil."

She insisted we tip the waiter in "good ole American cash." I am not sure if grandma ever really understood the credit card. She bought nothing on credit and did not accept credit. Everything had to be done in cash. She often quoted the scripture verse that says, "Owe no man any thing . . ." (Romans 13:8 KJV), which she took quite literally.

As grandma got older, she began to rethink the business of opening a bank account. Without telling anyone, she decided to go to the bank and open an account. She had saved up \$50 for this purpose. Grandma nervously entered the bank and walked up to the man sitting at the desk marked "New Accounts."

"Good morning, Ma'am. I'm Gary Goodman. How can I help you today?"

The man seemed pleasant enough, and grandma thought entrusting him with the delicate job at hand was probably safe.

"I wanna open an account," she mumbled.

"Fine. I'll get you all set up. It won't take but a few minutes." With that, he took out some papers and laid them on his desk in front of grandma.

"Now," he said, "let's begin. What is your name?"

She told him.

"O.K. What is your address?"

"What?"

IN LIFE, AN "ACCOUNT AT THE BANK" CAN BE A RELATIVE THING

"What is your address?"

"Why do you need to know that?"

"I'm just filling out the form, Ma'am."

The young man a little confused with her hesitancy said, "We can come back to that. What is your date of birth?"

Grandma's face turned a little red. "What do you want to know that for," she gasped?

"I'm just filling out the forms. Can you give me your telephone number?"

That did it for grandma. She got up from her seat and looked him right in the face and said, "Young man, I don't know who you think you are, but I am not interested in your advances. I'm old enough to be your mother. You ought to be ashamed."

Just then the manager of the bank walked by.

"Mary, what are you doing here?"

The manager quickly assessed the situation and told the young man he would take care of this customer and tried to console my grandmother.

"I don't know what's gotten into young folk these days," she whispered.

Barely concealing his smile, "I'll take care of you, Mary," he assured her. He knew all the information about her and quickly filled in the paper work and walked grandma to the teller for her first deposit.

Grandma handed the teller a crumpled \$50 bill. The teller took it and gave her a deposit receipt.

"Where's my money?" grandma demanded.

"It's safe in the bank, Ma'am."

"How do you know my money from everyone else's?"

"The money is all deposited in the bank, and if you need any, all you do is write a check."

She showed grandma how to write out a check. By now grandma was confused and more than a little exasperated. Quickly grandma wrote out a check for \$50 and handed it back to the teller.

"You're withdrawing all your money?"

"Yes."

The teller counted out \$50 and handed it to her. Grandma looked at the teller and said, "No. I want MY money." The teller retrieved the crumpled \$50 bill and handed it to grandma.

As she walked out, the teller heard her mumble, "What a crazy way to run business. No wonder banks fail."

There is only one sure account I can bank on. Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:" (Matthew 6:19-20 KJV).

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

CURBING BAD BEHAVIOR: IS IT RIGHT?

By Ron Carter



Today, Tuesday, January 17, 2012, the day after Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday, I am inspired to post one of his many profound remarks as this week's blog. Below is the text.

"On some positions, Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it politic?' And Vanity comes along and asks the question, 'Is it popular?' But Conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?' And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must do it because Conscience tells him it is right."

Enough said.

STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE FAME



It's Tuesday morning and I just finished racing around Sierra Madre trying to find Senator Feinstein. A

few minutes earlier we were just pulling out of the gas station at Sierra Madre and Baldwin when my wife exclaimed, "there's Di Fi". "Huh, who", I muttered and my wife patiently explained, as she continued to pull away from the station, that she had spied the rich and famous Senator Diane Feinstein pulling in to the other side of the pump we were just vacating. I looked up and damn if it didn't look like the elegant Senator herself driving alone in a cheap car with some sort of logo on the side. "Stop, stop", I said, knowing that my wife would not stop. How did I know? Well, before we knew one another, my wife had worked in radio and T.V. and the News in San Francisco and already had met everybody worth knowing and she had done it long ago.

There are pictures of my wife and the young Robin Williams hugging one another and more pictures of her parties in San Francisco where in attendance were all the soon to be rich and famous. My wife is anything but a braggart but she does carry with her a certain amount of that kind of "Been there-done that - and I can't be bothered to do that again". "If you want to talk to her so much then you'll have to do it by yourself". I know my wife is not a Di Fi fan (that is my wife's pet name for the Senator) as she had seen the then-Supervisor Feinstein nimbly step over the dying, assassinated Mayor Moscone on her somehow unforgiveable, determined march to microphone, future Mayorhood, and eventual Senatedom. Well, I did want to talk to her and as soon as we got home I moved into the driver's seat and of course couldn't find my own keys. Knowing my wife thought me insane, I didn't even bother asking her where my keys were. After angrily scurrying up and down the stairs and getting out of breath I found the keys hidden deep within my front pants pocket. Down to the car I raced, down the S turns to the gas station and of course Di Fi was gone, if she had ever been there..

I asked the workers and the operator of the Station if they had seen the Senator and attempted a

description. No one understood what I was talking about; that's happening a lot lately. I learned no more and returned home crushed. What's going on? Is there something I really want to talk to the Senator about? What is this strange business about being next to celebrities anyway?

It's sort of like real life only takes place on television. Most of us—maybe it's the famous 99%, only have the roles of spectators and voyeurs. Real life is only for the famous and the rest of us believe that this true existence is somehow contagious—that is, if only we can get close enough to fame then we can catch the bug and then WE WILL REALLY EXIST. Of course this is nonsense and mere mortals, like my wife who have met the famous, know that it is nonsense. Still I can remember about fifteen years ago when my wife and son were sitting in a restaurant on Wilshire Blvd. and lo and behold there appeared the giant Chinese Basketball Player Yao Ming walking to an elevator with a couple of other very tall men. Zoom, gone were my wife and son into the elevator and soon back with stories about how gigantic was Yao Ming's Camel Hair Coat. What's so amazing about it? Well, it's fifteen years later and I, who never even saw the Camel Hair Coat in the first place, can still picture it and here I am still writing about it.

Is it that my and your own meager lives are not enough—that we need some connection to the famous, even the momentary famous, to find life bearable? Really it's strange. Recently, the News described a situation wherein the parents of newborns were unable to see their infants because the use of the floor was reserved for the use of a celebrity couple or something like that. Really it's not surprising and perhaps Herman Kane was right. Life is about becoming rich and famous and if we are not rich and famous—let's face it—we have failed. So we should get out of the way, go back to our couches and thank the Successful Ones for creating some jobs and allowing us to have a roof over our heads. Is this the way it feels to be a Republican?

Well, come November be sure to vote for the millionaire Harvard Law Graduate of your choice. This is all supposed to be funny and ironic but somehow I'm not laughing very hard.

RICH Johnson



CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO GOD

The Gospel of Matthew

tells us

Jesus said,

"Truly I

tell you,

unless you

change and

become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

I miss those early childhood days when I knew nothing of paying mortgages, light bills, buying food, washing clothes. School was the biggest pain most of us endured. It was like a job but, when we came home, we had some chores and the rest of the time was spent playing. One of the greatest differences between childhood and adulthood is children tend to not worry. Worry is defined as tormenting oneself with cares, anxieties, disturbing thoughts and fret. Do children do that? Certainly not to the extent that adults do.

Let's resolve to worry less this year. Whatever will be will be. A great alleviator of stress is humor. So, here are some actual letters or notes to God that you might find stress relieving. I hope so.

Dear God: Thank you for my baby brother. But what I prayed for was a puppy.

Dear God: In school they told us what you do. Who does it when you are on vacation?

Dear God: Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that or

was it an accident?

Dear God: Who draws the lines around countries?

Dear God: I went to a wedding and they kissed right in the church. Is that okay?

Dear God: What does it mean you are a jealous God? I thought you had everything?

Dear God: Please send me a pony. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up.

Dear God: Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother.

Dear God: You don't have to worry about me. I always look both ways.

Dear God: If you watch me in church on Sunday, I'll show you my new shoes.

Radio Fishbowl is an internet radio station broadcasting out of Sierra Madre. And now, I, and my friends Barry Schwam and Lisa Bowman have started a 45 minute radio program airing once a week. It will include music from the 1960s and 1970s and bits of trivia like you read in my column. The program will also highlight the banter that takes place between the three of us which, hopefully, you will find enjoyable. The show is now scheduled to air at 12:00 noon on Tuesdays and possibly they will repeat it throughout the week. Go to www.radiofishbowl.com to access the station. Be well.

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



Tucked away in Monrovia

This elegant, two story home in eastern Monrovia is situated just over a block from Bradbury's rambling estates. A convenient location for commuters, this location is only about a mile to the 210-605 interchange. With 3809 square feet, on a .21 acre lot, this home offers a private place for everyone

in the household, including a large dog run for Fido.

Located on a secluded cul de sac, this brick-detailed, traditional style home and several around it were built much later than most of Monrovia; this one in 1991. Windows in the two story foyer and staircase bring abundant natural light into the center of the home, a feature found throughout the dwelling which drew the owners to the property initially.

The exterior brick detailing is continued inside, with a brick faced, living room fireplace, and another wood burning fireplace with a raised hearth brick surround, providing a striking focal point for the casual areas, and an interesting counterpoint to the two story cathedral ceilings of the family room.

The spacious dining room, with an inset ceiling, can accommodate a large dining table for gracious entertaining for a big crowd. Recessed lighting can bathe the rich burgundy walls with interesting light, or illuminate artwork. Most of the main level features oak hardwood flooring, a unifying architectural feature, and a warm colored foundation for area rugs, if desired.

The kitchen features upscale appliances including large double ovens and a gas cooktop. The casual areas of the kitchen, casual dining area and family room are open to one another, for that easy, California-style living. The casual areas open directly to the covered patio, for smooth indoor to outdoor entertaining and relaxation.

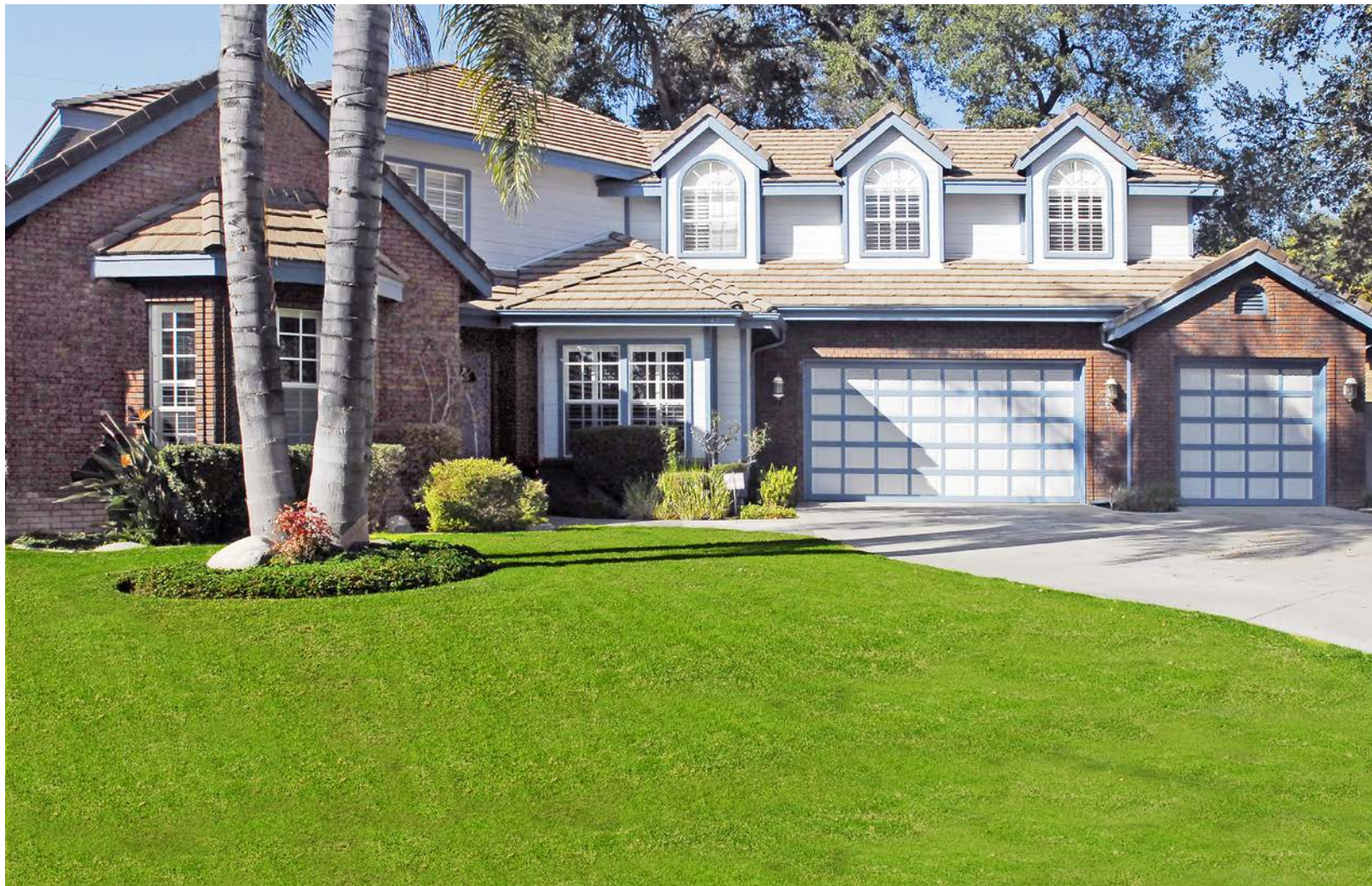
The fenced yard is clearly visible from the rear facing windows, to keep easy track of children or other activities in the back yard. The brick patio, shaded by a stately mature oak, offers a full aluminum cover with built-in night lighting, requiring much less maintenance than a wood cover.

A main floor bedroom, with an adjacent bath and outside entrance offers flexibility to accommodate an elderly relative, guests, an au pair or a home office. Upstairs, the master suite is positioned at the far end, for maximum privacy. The master includes a large walk-in closet plus a wonderful, two-room private bath with separate tub and shower, dual sinks plus vanity seating.

A three car garage is a hard-to-find commodity in most homes in the area, adding to the plentiful storage everywhere in the home. Generous additional parking on the curved drive allows for extra off-street parking.

Just a block or so away is the Duarte bike trail along Royal Oaks Drive, a wonderful shady trail for biking and hiking, which connects fairly easily to the San Gabriel River bike trails that wind all the way through the Santa Fe Dam area, through Whittier Narrows and beyond. For more information on the trails, visit <http://www.labikepaths.com/bike-paths/upper-san-gabriel-river-trails/>.

611 Ranchito Road in Monrovia is listed at \$1,048,000 by Prudential California Realty. For more information, contact Jan Thornton at 626-893-3303 or Shereen Kelly at 626-827-5000.



MUSHROOMS AT ARBORETEUM

MUSHROOM IDENTIFICATION...

just in time for the Mushroom Fair at the Arboretum on February 12!

Saturday, February 4

10am-Noon (followed by a walk in the garden to hunt for mushrooms!)

Palm Room at the Arboretum (301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007)

\$25 Arboretum members / \$30 non-members
Dr. Jerrold Turney, Ph.D, instructor

Please call the Arboretum class registration line at 626.821.4623 to register for class. You may also pay at the door.

This class will provide a basic overview of the fungal kingdom with emphasis on mushroom identification. Learn the basic characteristics used to identify mushrooms and other fleshy fungi. Find out which mushrooms are safe to eat and which ones to avoid. Jerry will also take the class out on Arboretum grounds to seek out and identify mushrooms right in "our own backyard." Bring to class any mushrooms you

find for identification and group discussion. Then with a new understanding of our fungal friends, attend the Wild Mushroom Fair on February 12 from 10am - 4 pm at the Arboretum.

Dr. Turney received his B. S. In Botany from California State Polytechnic University and his Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of California at Riverside. He has served as the curator of the camellia gardens at the Huntington Library and Botanic Gardens, a research

horticulturist at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, and is currently the plant pathologist for the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures for the County of Los Angeles. In addition, Dr. Turney was formerly a licensed landscape contractor,

and is currently a licensed agricultural pest control advisor and an ISA certified arborist. His primary fields of expertise are plant pathology, mycology and arboriculture.



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

A CHORE NEXT DOOR

While not a very common problem, if you've got it, it can have a terrible impact on your listing: The Messy Neighbor. If you live next door to a "neglected" property, you might lose up to 20% of your home's market value, particularly with buyers looking for any excuse to reduce their offer.

It's technically not your problem, but ask not for whom the bell tolls. It's well worth your time and effort to resolve this situation amicably. Always be respectful, and don't let your emotions get the best of you.

Unless you believe your neighbor is "unhinged," you should begin with a visit to their home and a positive attitude - no name-calling or finger-pointing. Don't grab everyone on the block

and gang up on your neighbor - you'll get better results if you go alone or with one other person.

If you find your messy neighbor is unwilling to take care of their maintenance, it may still be in your best interest to do the work yourself or with the help of other neighbors. No, it's not fair, but if you want a fair sales price, this may be your only option.

As a last resort, you could file a complaint with your property owners association or city government. You could be referred to a mediator who will help settle your disagreement cordially.

Luther Tsinoglou specializes in residential and income property in Southern California. Luther can be reached at his direct line (626) 695-8650 or at luther@tsinoglou.com.

Everyday is an open house:

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•Neurosurgery •Soft Tissue
•Laser Surgery •General and Advanced Surgery

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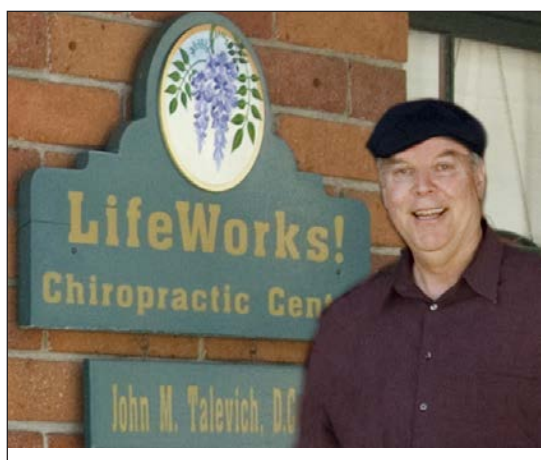
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**EXTRAORDINARY
CUSTOM FLORAL
ARRANGEMENTS**

YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Today's Subject:
pH

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.

The pH balance of the body (acid-alkaline ratio) is important for a lot of reasons, but is particularly crucial for the alleviation of pain. A body that is too acidic can be prone to injury because of a heightened inflammatory environment, and then slow to heal as well. What can we do to maintain a healthy pH and quench the free radical formation that contributes to the imbalance?

First of all, oxidative stress is a normal aspect of body metabolism; if too much stress occurs, though, the chemical balance is thrown off and an acidic environment results. Nutritionally, meat, eggs, dairy, white flour and sugar contribute to acidification. In order to neutralize the handful of negative effects of such an imbalance, a diet rich in alkaline foods such as fruits, veggies, beans, lentils and peas can be introduced.

One good way to get in touch with the pH of your body is to purchase litmus paper test strips at your local pharmacy. Each morning for a period of two to three weeks, dip the strip into a bit of saliva (in a spoon) and read the results. Over a period of time with the implementation of an alkaline diet, the pH will begin to rise to a level between 7.3 and 7.5. Checking in regularly will allow for an accurate evaluation of an essential level of body chemistry.

Another great way to maintain a healthy pH is to have a couple glasses of green drink a day. These come in both powdered and liquid form and can be used along with freshly made vegetable juices.

pH testing is a low cost way of measuring stress, and is another great way to stay healthy this coming year and beyond.

To your good health, Dr. John

John M. Talevich, D.C.
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HOW TO FIND SENIOR AIRFARE DISCOUNTS

Dear Savvy Senior,
Do airlines still provide discounts to seniors on their airfares? My husband and I are retired and like to travel and are wondering which airlines offer the best discounts to budget conscious seniors.
Frugal Travelers

Dear Travelers,
While senior airfare discounts are not nearly as common as they used to be, there are a handful of carriers that still offer them. Here's a rundown of the different airlines that are currently offering senior airfares, along with some tips to help you find the best deals.

Senior-Friendly Skies

The only U.S. airlines that are currently offering senior airfare discounts are:

- Southwest which has discounts on all domestic routes to passengers 65 and older. For details on fares call 800-435-9792 or you can search online at southwest.com.
- American which offers some senior fares to travelers 65 and older on their American, American Eagle and American Connection domestic flights. Call 800-433-7300 to find out which flights offer these discounts. You cannot search specifically for senior airfares on American's aa.com website.
- United has some discounts on select flights to those 65-plus but they are few and far between. To search for them, visit united.com and select "child or senior" from the dropdown menu. When the site returns your fare quote, the results for your search will indicate the type of discount you are receiving, if one is available. You can also call 800-241-6522 to find out if a senior discount is available for a particular flight.
- Continental which is merging with United in a few months has senior discount fares as well on very few flights to passengers 65 and older. To search, visit continental.com and click on "Advance Search" to access the "seniors" category, or call 800-523-3273.
- Delta has senior discounts that vary by age and apply only to flights from three Latin American nations – Panama, Honduras and Ecuador. Call 800-241-4141 to inquire.

Shopping Tips

When shopping for cheap plane tickets, it's important to know that many of the airlines

regular discount fares or online specials are usually cheaper than the senior discount fares. So, to ensure you get the best price available, you need to compare prices and options from all carriers.



To help you do this, your best resources are online travel sites like orbitz.com, travelocity.com and kayak.com. These sites will let you search for the lowest priced flights on all the different airlines at the same time. They will not, however, let you search for senior fares.

Once you find a flight with the lowest fare that fits your schedule, look up similar flights on the different airlines that offer senior fares (Southwest, American, United, Continental and Delta) and compare. You can do this either online at their respective website (with exception of American and Delta), or by calling their reservation department number. This will ensure you're getting the best deal.

Another tip that can help you save is to be flexible when you travel. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday are typically the three cheapest days of the week to fly, while Friday and Sunday are the most expensive. And the cheapest time to fly is typically the first flight out in the morning.

The day of the week you purchase your tickets can also affect the price. Airlines usually post their lowest domestic fares on Tuesday at 3 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. Sales typically last three days so you stand a decent chance of getting bargains on Wednesday and Thursday too.

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 21, 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/onlineregistration



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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Join the Senior
Community Commission
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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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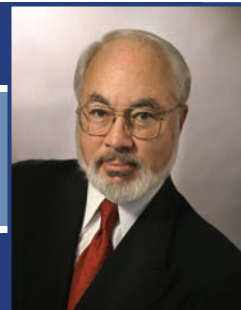
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**EXTRAORDINARY
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Looking Up

with Bob Eklund

A New Take on a Familiar Picture

In 1995, the Hubble Space Telescope’s “Pillars of Creation” image of the Eagle Nebula became one of the most-viewed stellar pictures of the 20th century. Now, two of the European Space Agency’s orbiting observatories have shed new light on this enigmatic star-forming region of our galaxy.

The Eagle Nebula is 6,500 light-years away in the constellation of Serpens. It contains a young hot star cluster, called NGC 6611, which is sculpting and illuminating the surrounding gas and dust, resulting in a huge hollowed-out cavity and pillars, each several light-years long.

The 1995 Hubble image hinted at new stars being born within the pillars, deeply inside small clumps known as “evaporating gaseous globules” or EGGs. Owing to obscuring dust, with Hubble’s visible-light picture it was impossible to see inside the pillars and prove that young stars were indeed forming.

A new image of this nebula taken by ESA’s Herschel Space Observatory provides a different view of the pillars and the wide field of gas and dust around them. Captured in far-infrared wavelengths of light, the image allows astronomers to see inside the pillars and structures in the region.

In parallel, a new multi-energy X-ray image from ESA’s XMM-Newton telescope shows those hot young stars responsible for carving the pillars.

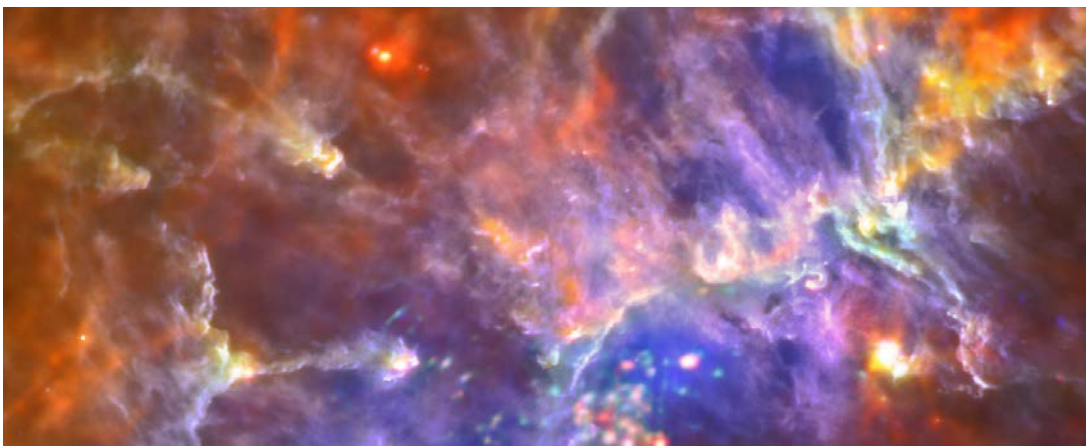
Combining the new space data with near-

infrared images from the European Southern Observatory’s Very Large Telescope at Paranal, Chile, and with visible-light data from ESO’s Max Planck Gesellschaft 2.2-meter-diameter telescope at La Silla, Chile, we see this iconic region of the sky in a uniquely beautiful and revealing way.

In visible wavelengths, the nebula shines mainly due to reflected starlight and hot gas filling the giant cavity, covering the surfaces of the pillars and other dusty structures. At near-infrared wavelengths, the dust becomes almost transparent and the pillars practically vanish. And in far-infrared light, the Herschel Space Observatory detects this cold dust and the pillars reappear, this time glowing in their own light. Intricate tendrils of dust and gas are seen to shine, giving astronomers clues about how they interact with strong ultraviolet light from the hot stars seen by XMM-Newton.

In 2001, near-infrared images from the Very Large Telescope at Paranal had hinted that only a small minority of the EGGs were likely to contain stars being born. However, the new Herschel Space Observatory image shows it to be possible to search for young stars over a much wider region and thus come to a much fuller understanding of the creative and destructive forces inside the Eagle Nebula.

Earlier mid-infrared images from ESA’s Infrared Space Observatory and NASA’s Spitzer



Space Telescope, together with the new XMM-Newton data, have led astronomers to suspect that one of the massive hot stars in NGC 6611 may have exploded in a supernova some 6,000 years ago, emitting a shockwave that would have destroyed the pillars. However, because of the distance to the Eagle Nebula, we won’t see this happen for several hundred years yet.

Powerful ground-based telescopes continue to provide astonishing views of our Universe, but images in far-infrared, mid-infrared and X-ray wavelengths are impossible to obtain from the ground because of the absorbing effects of Earth’s

atmosphere. Space-based observatories such as ESA’s Herschel and XMM-Newton help to peel back that veil and show the full beauty of the Universe across the electromagnetic spectrum.

In regions like the Eagle Nebula, combining all of these observations helps astronomers to understand the complex lifecycle of stars.

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 were the jobs are located and how to get pass the “gate-keepers”. As an Executive Recruiter I was privy to working directly with Corporate Recruiters and understanding their process in selecting which candidates to interview and hire. I will candidly answer your questions, possibly bluntly answering your questions, but I will be totally honest. My objective is to help you achieve your employment goal.

I have over 15 years experience in marketing and worked for 3 employers. I do not feel that a one page resume tells my story. What is the right number of pages for a resume? Perplexed.

Dear Perplexed,

The appropriate number of pages for a resume depends on your work history and experience. Rule of thumb is no more than two pages. I would suggest one page if you have less than five years experience and two pages if you have more than five years experience. Be sure that you include all the necessary information to get the employer’s attention to respond to your interest in their position: Summary of Experience, Work History with accomplishment statements, Computer and Software skills, Industry skills and Education.

I received a call from an employer who said she was reviewing resumes and wanted to ask me only one question: “what type of salary did I want?” I wasn’t sure what to say. I was afraid that I would give her an answer that would be too high or low and not be considered for the job. The answer I finally gave her was the salary that I made at my last position. I was really underpaid at my last job. What should I have said? Underpaid.

Dear Underpaid,

Employers typically conduct a “candidate screening call”. It sounds like this was a screening call and not a telephone interview. In this scenario there is only one person who does not know what the salary is. That is you. You should always prepare yourself to answer this question during a screening call, telephone interview or office interview.

If you have no idea what the salary for the position is you have all the right in the world to ask the employer. Knowing the salary should also become part of your employment screening process. A possible response could have been “I did not notice a listing for the salary, could you tell me what the range is?” At this point you should be prepared to respond if you are or not comfortable with the range. If the employer does not give you a salary range and pushes you for a response, again, be prepared with a salary response. I would suggest that you give the employer a \$5,000 - \$10,000 range around the salary you actually want. Be very careful with your response because an employer will usually hold you to what ever salary or salary range you give. Research salaries in your area by checking out the following websites: www.PayScale.com or www.Salary.com.



Happy Tails

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

STOP SHOPPING AND START ADOPTING A BIT OF ADVICE FOR TODAY’S ‘OVER’ POP CULTURE

My parents were born in the early 1920’s, which means they spent most of their early childhood growing up under the unfortunate financial influences of the Great Depression. I’m not sure whether they had the privilege of owning pets when they were young, but I do know that by the time I came along in the early 60’s, they were both avid animal lovers. However, my mother’s way of expressing love for animals differed remarkably from that of my father’s. My dad had such a tender-hearted, open-minded attitude towards any animal, regardless of appearance. My mother loved animals too, and we spent a lot of time watching birds when I was a kid, but when it came to domestic pets, she had her preferences. I totally understood as my mother had her hands full raising seven children, so she had to be choosy about which strays she let us keep, for practical reasons. Daddy, on the other hand allowed us full liberty to adopt just about any ole stray we found along the way, and he could turn the roughest-around-the-edges pet into a prize winning trickster! I benefited greatly from both my parents’ love and respect for animals, but my dad’s open-hearted acceptance of homeless, needy pets appealed to me most. I now realize that in his gentle, kind way of loving the “unlovable” animal bequeathed to me a desire to carry on his legacy. Whether he knew it or not, my dad taught me that caring for all God’s creatures, good bad or ugly, was a fore-gone conclusion in life, regardless of lineage, looks or likeability.

My personal memory of my parents’ contrasting approaches to pet ownership somehow reminds me of the differences I observe among prospective pet owners in today’s society. Here we are in 2012, decades later and while some things have changed, it seems that many have stayed very much the same. The most important thing that I would like to see change regarding pet ownership is the individual’s ideal of what makes an animal a great pet. Too many people in today’s society still maintain the mindset that only pure bred dogs are worth having. When domestic dog breeding first began, there were very specific needs to be met for survival purposes. When man realized that a dog breed could be manipulated to meet their preferences for appearance, it eventually became a trend to have just the right dog, with just the right look; they wanted something they could flaunt in social settings. Basically, the practical reasons for breeding dogs began to fade into the need to be noticed and respected in mainstream society. Kind of like the way diamond earrings are worn by women to make themselves stand out in the crowd. Dogs became just another accessory, and the “perfect” specimen of a given breed would set one apart from the rest.

Now that the earth is grossly over-populated with animals left homeless by irresponsible humans, many of the pet owners in today’s society know better than to breed or purchase a pet intentionally bred. The idea that a purebred dog makes a better pet than a mixed breed is absolutely ludicrous and

considered passé among today’s ever-growing community of true animal lovers. According to a report issued last week by the American Humane Society, California ranks as #1 in the nation for humane treatment to animals, partly based on the fact that we value the life of every animal equally regardless of breed. People are realizing the true beauty and intelligence of any dog, and many have come to prefer a rescued dog over one bred intentionally. The main reason for the movement toward adopting versus shopping is the fact that there are so many animals in shelters who need loving homes it makes no sense to bring more into the world until we can get a grip on the current population. The human started a “trend” long ago, and we have dropped the ball on our part of the bargain. It’s time for the “shallow Hal hound lovers” in today’s society to stop being dog snobs and get on board.

The United States spends approximately 2 billion dollars a year rounding up, euthanizing and disposing of homeless animals (USA Today). 56% of the dogs and puppies taken into shelters are euthanized (National Counsel on Pet Population). About 5 million pets are killed in shelters each year. In six years, one un-spayed female and her offspring can produce 67,000 dogs (Spay USA). These statistics make me absolutely sick to my stomach. The public acquires only 14% of its pets from shelters; 48% are found as strays or come from friends or shelters, and 38% get their pets from breeders or pet stores. It is that 38% percent that concerns me most, along with the fact that many pet owners are still neglecting to spay or neuter. The way we treat our domestic animals has become a blight in our society. Let’s face it, breeding has worn out its welcome, with these statistics in mind.

If you really do love animals, put your efforts into helping turn things around rather than adding to the problem by bringing more animals into the world. I love puppies, I do, but I also love chocolate. Get my drift? Just because you can, doesn’t mean you should. There are thousands of puppies in shelters who need loving homes, so stop breeding and spay or neuter your pets before they breed on their own. Dogs are not accessories to be flaunted, so do away with the list of hoity-toity criteria, and open your heart to the beauty of every animal. Visit your local shelter and I guarantee that the desperate look on those dog’s faces will be enough to convince you not to purchase a pet from a puppy mill store or a breeder. Haven’t we done enough damage? With so many homeless animals begging to be loved, and hoping to have a home before their expiration date arrives, it’s time for people to come out of our shallow shells and assume responsibility for the mess we’ve made. Every animal is loveable, in fact adopted shelter dogs are typically much more grateful than purchased purebreds. I hope I haven’t stepped on too many toes, but I refuse to be silent on this issue. For those who “get” my point, thank you. Let’s stop the madness, for the animal’s sake.

On Line

By PJ Carpenter



6 Minuses and One Plus

Like most IT pros I know, I occasionally have friends or family ask me to get them a job in IT. For some reason, a lot of the people who ask me this have a perception that everyone who works in IT is making great money or is on their way to becoming the next Bill Gates. Aside from having an incorrect perception about IT salaries, few people outside IT seem to understand just how tough working in IT really is. In order to clear up a few misconceptions I’ll share with you some of the inside info that only us IT pros know about our chosen career.

The hours are long. - There are all sorts of IT jobs, but most of them have one thing in common: They involve working long hours. If you want to work in IT, you better be prepared to work nights and weekends.

Your personal time will be interrupted - If you handle a critical support role within your organization, you will likely be tied to a cell phone. And that means you could be called upon to deal with an emergency at any given time.

You have to deal with a lot of angry people - One of the worst things about working in IT (especially for helpdesk roles) is that you encounter a lot of angry people. Almost everyone who calls you is upset because they have a problem and they expect you to fix it right now. Often, there is a great deal of

hostility behind these calls. Those who are calling are under pressure to get a job done — and the problem your system caused is preventing them from doing it.

People (friends, family and co-workers) expect you to fix their home computers - ... all the time.

You have to keep your education current – If you didn’t like school, then this is not the field for you because the schooling never ends.

Things don’t always work the way that they’re supposed to - Believe me when I say that there’s nothing worse than trying to complete a project by the deadline you have been given, only to have things come to a grinding halt as a result of technical problems. Computer systems are complicated and sometimes, in spite of your best efforts, things just do not work the way they’re supposed to. Something as simple as an inconsistent chip version on a series of system boards can derail an entire project. Naturally, it’s up to you to find the problem and fix it.

If you still have your heart set on a career in IT the plus side is that there’s never been a time quite like this to be in this field. There are probably more specialties than one can count to work in and overall IT has changed the face of the modern world in ways that geeks from earlier times could never have imagined. Plus One!

KATIE Tse.....This and That



It’s The End Of The World, As We Know It!

Although Doom’s Day isn’t forecast for several months, I just watched “The Last Man on Earth,” and it put me in an apocalyptic mood. No, you haven’t wandered into the movie review section, I just couldn’t resist sharing another cinematic gem with you! This 1964 film starring Vincent Price was based on Richard Matheson’s novel “I am Legend.” Shot in Italy, mostly with Italian-speaking actors, the voices don’t quite sync with the lips. But that just makes it all the more deliciously corny. “The Last Man on

Earth” is considered to be the precursor to “The Omega Man,” (1971) a film with a significantly bigger budget, starring Charlton Heston. Recent movie-goers will recognize its latest rebirth as “I am Legend,” (I suppose the name gives it away).

The premise of “The Last Man on Earth” is that an air borne pathogen is spreading across continents, making people sick, killing them, and subsequently turning them into the walking dead. But these night walkers don’t exactly conform to our modern zombie stereotype. Although they have the classic zombie dead pan expression and stiff gait, they also possess vampire qualities. They are repelled by garlic and their reflections in mirrors. They are most effectively killed when impaled with a wooden stake through the torso. Also, these zombies can speak simple phrases (e.g., “Come out, Morgan! We know you’re in there!”). They’re too articulate to be true zombies, but too crude to be vampires. Everyone knows that vampires are sexy and well-spoken.

The story begins with Robert Morgan (Vincent Price) exiting his mirrored and garlic-laden home, to drive around and collect bodies of the infected. (As with most zombie flicks, there seems to be a period of time between death and zombie-hood). His task is made funnier by the fact that the dummies must’ve weighed about 15 pounds, so Price effortlessly tosses them into his 50’s station wagon, not bothering to close the tailgate. “They’re not gettin’ out!” After he’s accumulated a good number of bodies, he heads to “The Pit,” a perpetually smoking zombie landfill. He dons a gas mask (left over from “Plan 9 from Outer Space” or some similarly cheesy production), douses the wrapped, staked bodies with gas, and chucks them in. On the way home, Morgan replenishes his mirrors and checks on his garlic garden. At night the zombies gather outside his house to weakly throw stones and beat against his boarded up doors and windows. Morgan plays a record, attempting to drown out their voices, and tries to get some sleep on the couch.

One day, Morgan spots a disheveled, but otherwise normal-looking woman walking though a field. She is frightened, but he is able to bring her back with him. Once subdued, the woman, Ruth, asks how Morgan survived. He explains that years ago he was bitten by a bat infected with the vampire germ. The bat’s system strained the germ before it entered his body, thus giving him immunity.

Over coffee, Morgan begins to suspect that his lovely guest is infected. A potent whiff of garlic proves his theory. Ruth flees the room and starts to inject herself, but is interrupted by Morgan. She tells him that she, and her people, are infected, but keep the germ at bay through regular injections of treated blood plus vaccine (I didn’t understand that, but then science was never my strong suit, and maybe not that of the screenwriter’s either). Ruth warns Morgan that her people have plotted to kill him. Overcome by exhaustion, she falls asleep on the couch. While she’s knocked out, Morgan hooks up a transfusion of his own blood into hers. In his kitchen laboratory he discovers that the transfusion has cured her! Unfortunately, the Infected Resistance captures Morgan after a long chase, and harpoons him in a church as he shouts, “You’re freaks! I’m a man --the last man!” Ruth consoles him as he dies in her arms.

Yet we are left with a sense of hope as Ruth leaves the church hugging her freshly injected arm. They killed the last man, but Ruth’s blood holds the promise of a cure. The morals of the story are: 1. Eat lots of garlic (seriously, it’s anticarcinogenic!), 2. Don’t pick up strange women, 3. Don’t go home with strange men, and 4. Give blood, but with discretion.





HUDDLE UP!



By Harvey Hyde

A Little Poll Dancing Here

The college football season is essentially over, except for a few all-star games which often serve as NFL tryouts. Scouts, agents, and team representatives watch these closely. Players realize this as well.

You've probably seen the final polls from sportswriters, computers and coaches etc. I am often asked my opinion regarding games, teams, players, scores and results. I don't like to predict scores prior to games and do so only when pushed. The college football season is over, along with most of the official polling. But I do have my own summary poll now that all the games have been played. It may be a little different from others you have seen.

My Top 10 is based on which teams I wouldn't want to face if I were still coaching, and mainly takes into account how they finished the season with the players and coaches who were on the field at the end of the season. So here goes:

No. 1: Alabama. Excellent coach, great talent, tough, makes few mistakes – certainly no argument that the Crimson Tide deserves the top spot in any poll.

No. 2: Oklahoma State. It's all about speed, speed, speed. Defense is possibly the only weakness.

No. 3: Oregon. Again, it's speed, speed, speed – even when it comes to play calling. A little soft in the defensive line, however.

No. 4: USC. Okay, the Trojans didn't play in

a bowl game, but I wouldn't want to play them considering how strong they finished the season. At that point, they may have been the best team in the country.

No. 5: Stanford. Less speed but the Cardinal had Andrew Luck and a very sound defense. Imagine if Luck would have had a receiving corps like the ones at Oregon, USC or Oklahoma State.

No. 6: LSU. The Tigers were a big disappointment in the title game. They lacked emotion, and the play calling left a lot to be desired.

No. 7: Boise State. The Broncos almost always find a way to win. They are a very sound team with athletes who play up to or above their ability. And quarterback Kellen Moore is a gamer.

No. 8: Wisconsin. The Badgers were balanced on offense. They had a powerful running game and an athletic quarterback in Russell Wilson. The Big 10 should be proud of their performance in the Rose Bowl, despite losing to Oregon.

No. 9: Baylor. Who would want to play against Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III? I call him the king of the big play.

No. 10: South Carolina. Steve Spurrier has found a way to make the Gamecocks winners again.

Note that I have three SEC teams in my top 10, which is no surprise. But I also have picked three Pac-12 teams, which might surprise some. Anyway it's easy to rank teams at the end of the season. With recruiting, new schedules and some new coaches I'll be anxious to see what next season brings.

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



Senior Cassie Saavedra steals the ball from her opponent and scores a goal.

Alverno Celebrates 5-0 Victory Against Sacred Heart

Alverno's soccer team defeated the Sacred Heart of Jesus on January 13th moving one step closer to what could be their 12th league championship in a row. They started the season losing to Bishop Conaty, but won the next two games, with a 6-0 victory over Holy Family and a 7-0 victory over San Gabriel Mission. This was their 3rd straight victory.

"The soccer team is doing really well this season and they are in great form," said Head Coach Ken Berry. "With Alverno getting all of its starting players back on the field, they have been doing an amazing job working as a team and winning many of their games." The second half of league play starts this Friday 1-20-12 where Alverno will play against Bishop Conaty again.

ANTONOVICH HONORS TOMMY LASORDA ON HIS 63RD SEASON WITH THE LOS ANGELES DODGERS



DEEP ROUGH

I believe there are three reasons why amateur golfers struggle out of deep rough. The number one reason is because professional golfers play golf from the golf ball to the green and amateur golfers play golf from the green back to the golf ball.

Professional golfers look at the lie, their stance, wind, yardage and a few other considerations. Amateur golfers look at the yardage, grab a club and swing away. The second reason amateurs struggle from deep rough is they are counting on a miracle recover shot. Unfortunately that is why they are in the deep rough in the first place.

Lastly is the technique that you have to use to get out of deep rough. If Jack Nicklaus or Tiger Woods attempted to hit a shot out of deep rough with their regular golf swing they could not advance the golf ball.

Making solid contact with a golf ball that is in deep rough takes a special swing.

Play Smart

Let's start from the beginning. When I approach a golf ball in deep rough the first question I ask myself is "if I hit a perfect shot what can I expect the results to be". Then I work backwards. Can I reach the green or not? If it hits the green is it going to stop? What are my chances of making great contact with this lie?

I think you are starting to get it. Let's do our homework first before we pull out a 3 wood and try and advance the ball 235 yards down the fairway over a lake, on to the green and have it stop next to the hole.

Now with this thinking it eliminates the second problem which is the miracle shot. If you want to learn how to play out of deep rough, watch a couple of the Open Championships this summer and you won't believe how many times the players take out their wedges and pitch the ball back in play.

Now that I have you checking the lie and working from the ball to the hole, let's spend



some time on the technique of advancing the ball from deep rough.

The Secret

The main reason you struggle is because the hosel of the golf club (the part that connects the shaft with the head) gets hung up in the grass. If you, I or Jack Nicklaus swings the golf club on the same arc the length of the grass grabs the hosel and turns the toe before impact.

Sometimes you can make a great swing only to look up and see the golf ball 10 yards in front of you. You have to have a completely different swing so the hosel does not come in contact with the tall grass.

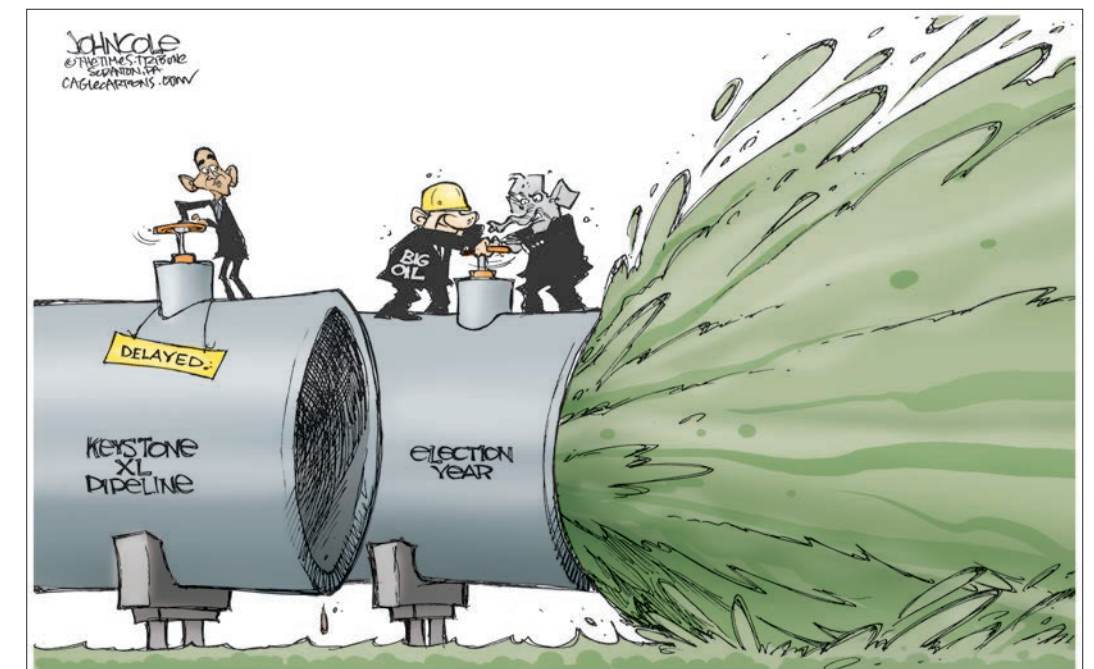
When you address the golf ball you have to make sure that you swing the golf club UP and DOWN not around. The best way to do this is to place 70% of your weight on your left foot at address. Now this is the secret once again, swing the arms up and down and make sure you do this without shifting any weight to the right foot.

Now there is one more thing you have to remember. DO NOT allow the golf club to swing UP after impact. Keep the clubhead low to the ground so the power is going down not out.

Want to learn more? Go to Bobby Eldridges Purepoint Golf Forum at www.purepointgolf.com



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich honored Hall of Fame winning Dodger manager Tommy Lasorda on 63 seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers with an official presentation at the meeting of the Board of Supervisors earlier this week.



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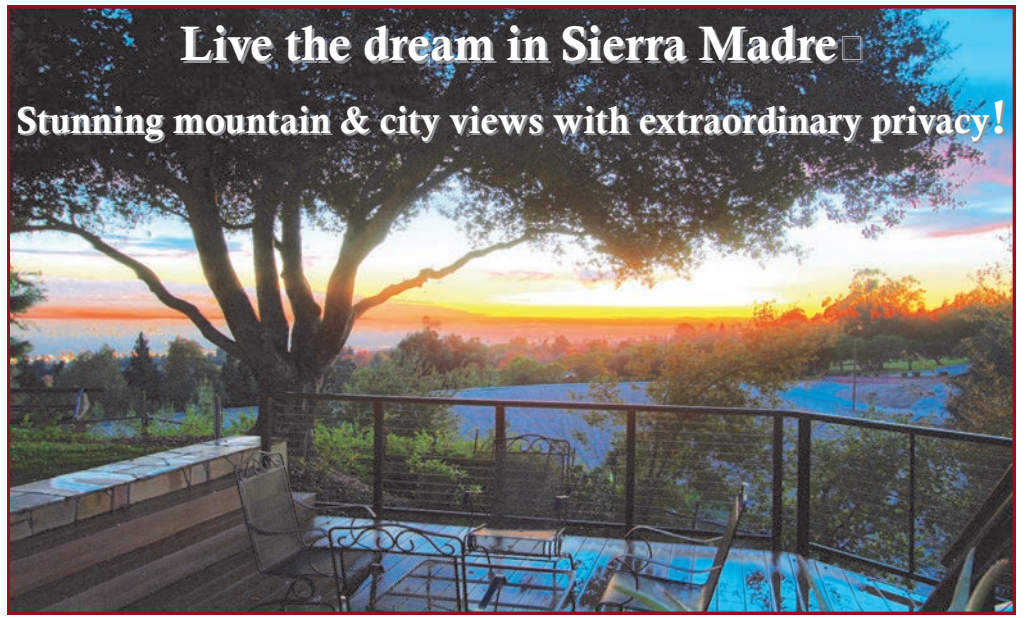
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