

Mountain Views News

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2012

VOLUME 6 NO. 7



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 revised schedule:

THIS WEEK: Incumbent Mary Ann MacGillivray for City Council -Below

February 25th	Candidate John Capoccia for City Council - 4 year term Campaign Kick Off: February 19th Website: John@Capoccia4CityCouncil.com
March 3rd	Candidate Gene Goss for City Council - 4 year term Campaign Kick Off: Sunday February 26 Website: www.genegoss.com
March 10th	Candidate John Harabedian for City Council - 4 year term Website: www.johnharabedian.com
March 17th	Candidate Colin Braudrick for City Council - 2 year term Campaign Kick Off: February 29th Website: www.colin4cc.com
March 24th	Candidate Chris Koerber for City Council - 2 year term Website: www.chrisforsierramadre.com
	Camdidate Bill Tice for City Council - 4 year term No website available at this time.

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

INCUMBENT MARY ANN MACGILLIVRAY



I am running for re-election to the City Council to continue my service to the citizens of Sierra Madre. My record demonstrates my commitment to preserving and maintaining the small town character and unique charm of our community. I believe in government by the people and for the people and will listen to *all* residents of Sierra Madre.

I remain dedicated to the General Plan Update process and will continue to work diligently with the committee and all residents until it is completed and adopted by the City Council. The document provides a clear vision for the community over the next 20 years and the 5 Guiding Principles set forth in it, authored by the

people of Sierra Madre, serve as a barometer for policy decisions.

My leadership, experience and analytical skills enable me to continue to:

1. Assure that our public safety services are funded. This is an essential priority.
2. Fight overdevelopment and protect our property values.
3. Protect our hillsides from disfigurement and public safety dangers, and preserve our open space.
4. Stand vigorously against misguided and unfunded State mandates that threaten our right to live as we choose.
5. Ensure the responsible and appropriate use of City resources without unduly increasing the tax burden on our residents.
6. Protect our precious water resource from the contamination and over-use caused by overdevelopment.
7. Utilize the experience and knowledge of our residents to help formulate policy decisions they are expected to pay for.
8. Support and defend initiatives voted in by the people, such as Measure V.
9. Resolve our current financial crises with prudence and responsible planning.
10. Restructure the budget process to be cost-based so that spending is commensurate with revenue and we retain the services desired by the people who pay for them.
11. Simplify the budget to make it clear and understandable for everyone.
12. Protect the needs of seniors.
13. Support recreational programs and the library.

If we are fiscally responsible and creative in problem solving, we can rely on ourselves to resolve the challenging issues we face now and in the future, so that our beloved Sierra Madre will remain the unique gem of our foothills.

www.maryann4sm.com Campaign Kick Off: Saturday, February 25th

SIERRA MADRE SCHOOL CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Black History Month is being celebrated in classrooms throughout the country during the month of February. At Sierra Madre's Elementary and Middle School, in addition to individual classroom projects, students were treated to a special assembly courtesy of the African American Parents Council. Above, Baba the Storyteller, enthralled Sierra Madre School students, staff and parents on February 15 with his music and interactive stories. A Kora musician and Master Teller of Tales Baba the Storyteller is skillfully used his ancient African harp to discuss the history of African Americans and stressing how important the celebration of all cultures is today. Photo by Chris Bertrand/MVNews

CITY OF SIERRA MADRE TO HOST STATE OF THE CITY EVENT ON FEBRUARY 27, 2012

On Monday, February 27, 2012 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm the City of Sierra Madre will host its 2nd Annual State of the City address at the Community Recreation Center in the Sierra Madre Room at 611 East Sierra Madre Boulevard. This year's theme is "Preserving Our Sense of Community" and this event will highlight programs and services the City has provided over the past year and give residents insight to the City's goals for the next fiscal year.

Mayor Pro Tem Josh Moran will emcee the evening. A special performance by Bethany Christian School Choir Students will precede Mayor John Buchanan's State of the City

Address. Representatives from each City Department will be available to answer any community questions and a City booth will highlight current programs and projects.

Although the event will not air live on SMTV3, the event will be recorded and rebroadcast on Channel 3 for Time Warner customers and can be viewed on the City's website no later than March 5.

Refreshments will be provided by local Sierra Madre restaurants. This event is made possible by the support of our sponsors: Athens Services, Southern California Edison, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, West Coast Arborists, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, and Jan's Towing.

For more information on this event please contact 626.355.5278

FRIENDS OF THE SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY EVENT A WINE TASTING DELIGHT



Only Place In Town owner Mike Kefalas, left, and Bottle Shop proprietor Bill Sullivan do a little 'tasting' while an unidentified attendee encourages them. Photo by Chris Bertrand

Sue LaVoe, Chairperson and the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library hosted a very well attended Wine and Cuisine Tasting on Sunday at Alverno's Villa del Sol d'Oro.

More than two dozen vintners brought their finest wines for guests to sample and local restaurants provided delicious hors d'oeuvres that were appropriately paired with the

wines. In addition, music and Magic Castle magicians were on hand. A silent auction was also held. The funds from the event will help support library services and programs.

If you would like to learn more about the 'Friends' visit their website at sierramadrelibraryfriends.org.



I'm Roadie and I hang out at Niko's all the time with my dad! Niko's is dog friendly and their food and coffee are GREAT!

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www.NikoandFriendscafe.com



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Read The Paper Online At: www.mtnviewsnews.com

Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon:	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s

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

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING:
February 28, 2012 6:30 pm

Thu Feb 16 Third Thursday Book Club-One Book One
City Discussion 11am to noon

Thu Feb 16 One Book One City, Sherlock Holmes'
London 7:30 pm

Arts Commission - 2nd Wednesday @ 6:30

Community Services - 3rd Monday @ 6:00

Library Trustees - 4th Wednesday @ 7:00

Planning Commission - 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7:00

Senior Community - 1st Thursday @ 3:00

Tree Advisory - 3rd Wednesday @ 7:00

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.

Canyon Canine

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Sierra Madre, California

Chris Leclerc

www.canyoncanine.com
chris@canyoncanine.com

626-355-8333 / 626-533-9536



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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626 355-4424

THE FOURTH OF JULY
COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The Sierra Madre Fourth of July Committee is looking for motivated, enthusiastic, creative, and friendly volunteers to serve on the committee as a member or a Co-Chair. The committee seeks volunteers to assist with various tasks to help with the parade and festivities. Join in the fun of hosting Sierra Madre's favorite hometown tradition!

If you are interested in becoming a Committee Member, Co-Chair or volunteering the day of at the 4th of July Festivities, please provide your name, phone number and email address to the following contacts:

Colleen McEvoy, Fourth of July Committee Co-Chair at 626-355-7801

Community & Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278

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!

CIVIC CLUB TO HOST
CASINO NIGHT

Fun, food, and fantastic prizes all can be yours at Sierra Madre Civic Club's Casino Night being held at the Sierra Madre Community Recreation Center on Saturday, March 17 from 7 p.m. -11 p.m. For your \$25 ticket, you will receive a \$50 stake at the gaming tables, St. Patrick's Day-themed refreshments, such as corned beef sliders, and a chance to win a trip to Las Vegas. Beverages, including soft drinks, beer, wine, and, of course, Irish coffee, will be available at a modest cost.

At the blackjack tables, roulette wheel, craps tables, and poker tables, your winnings will be in the form of opportunity tickets, providing you chances to win such incredible prizes such as a Kindle and a gift card to Amazon, Nordstrom's gift cards, an iPad, restaurant and theater vouchers, tickets to sporting events, and many more tempting items. To increase your odds of winning one of the special prizes, additional opportunity tickets can be purchased for \$1 each.

The Sierra Madre Civic Club, a non-profit, philanthropic organization, 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. Casino Night is our major fundraiser for this year and we're counting on raising at least as much money to give away this year as we had in 2011.

Join your friends and neighbors for an enjoyable St. Patrick's Day event and you may win that special prize you've had your eye on. Tickets may be purchased by calling 355-2166.

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Etc., etc., etc.!

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Bargain Book Sales at the
Sierra Madre Library

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library are having two Bargain Book Table Sales in February in the library during regular library hours. The first will run from Monday, February 13th, through Saturday, February 18th, and will feature books on gardening and travel, Sue Grafton mysteries, fiction, and books for children and teens. The second sale will run from Monday, February 27th, through Saturday, March 3rd. This sale will offer cookbooks and books on sewing as well as many fiction and non-fiction books and books for children and teens. Fans of Clive Custer will find a large number of his books featured at our second sale. Books are replenished daily and are only \$1 each. All proceeds from the sales benefit the resources and programs of the Sierra Madre Library.

The Sierra Madre Public Library, located at 440 West Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre is open Monday through Wednesday from noon to 9:00 p.m., Thursday and Friday from noon to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We will be closed Monday, February 20th, for President's Day. (626) 355-7186. www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us

SIERRA MADRE'S "ONE BOOK
ONE CITY 2012" EVENTS

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

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

What's next?

The Sierra Madre Public Library will be closed Monday, February 20, in observance of President's Day. The 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Time will not be held that day, and will resume the following Monday, February 27. Library materials may be returned in the book drop located on the Library walkway, which will remain open all day.



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.

ATTENTION SIERRA MADRE STUDENTS!

Get those paint brushes and cameras in hand and enter San Gabriel Valley Women's Club annual competitions for local students. Award ribbons and gift cards for winners.

ART

Max 2 entries per grade, grade 2-12, no larger than 24x30, stiff backing, NO GLASS, plexiglass ok, Attach info on back: Name of student, Grade, Name of school, Title of piece
Deliver to Sierra Madre Woman's Club, 550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Wednesday, February 22 NOON-3:15pm

PHOTOGRAPHY

Max 2 entries per grade 7-12, no larger than 10x12 to 14x16 including matting, NO GLASS
see above info to enter.



IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 26 LAST DAY TO REGISTER
FOR APRIL 10TH ELECTION

MARCH 12TH FIRST DAY TO REQUEST
VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

APRIL 3 LAST DAY TO REQUEST
VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

ELECTION DAY -APRIL 10, 2012

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We are open daily except
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Business hours are from 8:00 to 4:30.

Closed Sundays - June 1 through December

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



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KIWANIS PRESENTS MAYOR JOHN BUCHANAN; COMMUNITY ELECTION FORUMS ALSO PLANNED

On Tuesday, February 21st, Sierra Madre Mayor John Buchanan will speak to the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club. The presentation will include a preview of the upcoming State of the City Address to be given later in the month.

The meeting will be held at The Lodge, formerly the Masonic Temple, at 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre. Lunch will be served at noon. The program will begin at 12.45.

Seniors and those unable to attend the State of The City Address on the 27th, are encouraged to attend. The event is free to the public.

Upcoming Events:

The Kiwanis Club will also present two informative community forums in March.

On Tuesday March 13, the Candidates Forum will present all candidates who are running for City Council. Candidates will state their positions on important issues and will take questions from the audience.

On Tuesday March 27, the Kiwanis Club will host an informational forum regarding the User Utility Tax. Representatives will present pro and con sides of this issue and will accept questions from audience members.

Both forums will be at noon, and an optional lunch will be available. Additional details will be forthcoming in a few weeks.

welcome.

The community is also welcome to join Ascension throughout this Lent on Wednesdays (from February 29th to March 28th) beginning with Eucharist at 6:00 pm, Lenten Potluck Supper (soup or salad) at 6:30 pm, and this year's Lenten Program Series "Encounter with Christ in Mainstream Culture" at 7:00 pm. Each week, Ministry Intern Marianne Zahn will examine multimedia excerpts from television, movies, and the Internet discussing how today's media culture interacts with Scripture, our Christian tradition, and our lives.

Come for some part or all of this special series of reflection. The Lenten Series is a great way to meet new neighbors and check out a wonderful community church. For more information, please call (626) 355-1133 or visit: www.ascension-sierramadre.com.

Lent officially starts with Ash Wednesday, a day of penitence and reflection. At Ascension, Ash Wednesday Mass and Imposition of Ashes will be held on February 22, 2012 at 7:00 am, Noon, and 6:00 pm. All are

CIVIC CLUB CELEBRATES 67 YEARS OF SERVICE



This month the Sierra Madre Civic Club celebrated its 67th birthday by honoring their past presidents and honorary lifetime members, picture above. Many of the honorees, including three of the original charter members of the club, were able to attend the party, some coming from as far away as 250 miles. The club thanked the 59 past presidents for their "devoted service and willingness to lead" and for bringing "new and different ideas from year to year" to the membership.

The club spokesperson, committee co-chairman Vicki Vernon, read a note from past president and charter member Ann Tyler (president 1951-1952), who was unable to attend, that spoke to the club's beginning and reason for being.

"I was 21 years old, the mother of 2 ½ babies, living with my parents while my husband was in the Navy, when 15 members in similar situations...organized the Sierra Madre Civic Club in June of 1944.

The faces have changed but the aims and purposes of the Club are still the same. All of the proceeds of our many endeavors were given back to the community. You are still doing the same things today and I am so proud to be a charter member of the Civic Club."

Honorary lifetime memberships are given for "service above and beyond the call of duty" and have been bestowed on 28 members for contributing to the club with tireless

enthusiasm and dedication to the community.

A special salute was given to honorary lifetime member Arly Hahn who, at the spry age of 97, is a beloved member and an example of the caliber of membership the club attracts.

Arly volunteered with the Red Cross for approximately ten years and performed two three-week tours in Hawaii in the aftermath of hurricane Iniki. She also went to Missouri after the floods to render aid, commenting that she "never wants to see another flood in (my) life - so devastating." Today Arly's activities with the club may have slowed down a bit, but her efforts have helped make the club what it is today.

Vickie Vernon went on to say that "today's members are the bones of the club." The club has grown from the 15 original charter members to a membership of more than 95 and growing. Its members represent all ages and walks of life in our town with old and young, students, retired, and business people joining together in an active, community-centered organization.

Current President Colleen McKernan said, "It's an honor to serve in the capacity of President considering the history of the club and its service to the community."

The Civic Club meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month, 7:30 P.M. at the Hart House in Memorial Park. Guests are always welcome.

WISTARIA FESTIVAL TO OFFER TOURS OF LANDMARK HISTORIC HOTEL SIERRA MADRE (THE PINNEY HOUSE)

The historic landmark Hotel Sierra Madre, also known as the Pinney House, will be open for self-guided tours during the March 25 Wistaria Festival in Sierra Madre.

Built in 1887, Hotel Sierra Madre is slated to re-open as a Bed and Breakfast Inn in summer of 2012. The property has not been operated as an inn for over 100 years.

Tours will be offered to visitors on the Wistaria Festival shuttle, as the bus stops in front of the Hotel Sierra Madre at 225 No. Lima St.

Hotel Sierra Madre was designed by noted Victorian architects, the Newsom brothers. It was one of a string of railroad hotels that served as lodging for train passengers who disembarked at the Baldwin depot on their travels from the midwest and east coast. It is one of the last remaining railroad hotels, and the only one to be operating as its original use of lodging.

Hotel Sierra Madre has undergone several years of renovation. It will open with six spacious elegant bed and bath suites, as well as several common rooms reminiscent of the late nineteenth century.

More information on Hotel Sierra Madre can be found at www.hotelsierramadreus.com. For more information on Wistaria Festival and to order Shuttle Tickets online, contact the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, www.wistariatickets.com.



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2012 MOUNT WILSON TRAIL RACE INFORMATION

Get Ready for the 2012 Mount Wilson Trail Race with Team CrossFit Academy
The 2012 race will be here before you know it: Saturday, May 26.

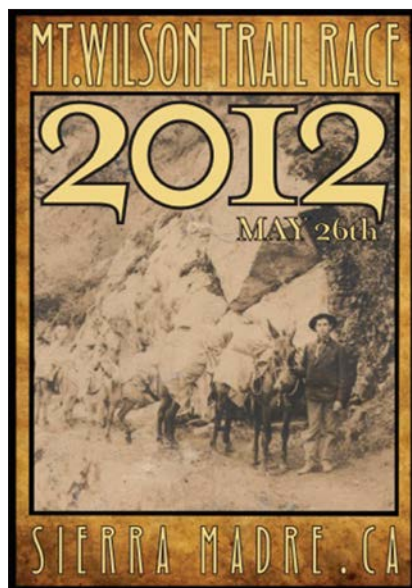
Coach Eric LeClair and Team CrossFit Academy will be returning for their seventh year to provide free Saturday morning training runs for this challenging event for any interested trail runner. The training is a 16-week program designed with three different ability groups: Beginner, Intermediate, and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

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

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

Registration

Registration for the 2012 Mount Wilson Trail Race will begin on Monday, March 5 at 9:00am. Registration is available online at www.cityofsierramadre.com/online/registration. Runners are encouraged to register as soon as possible as space is limited. The MWTR sells out on an annual basis, be sure to reserve your spot for 2012! For more information please visit www.mountwilsontrailrace.com or contact the Community Services Office at 626.355.5278.



WANNA WATCH A WHALE?

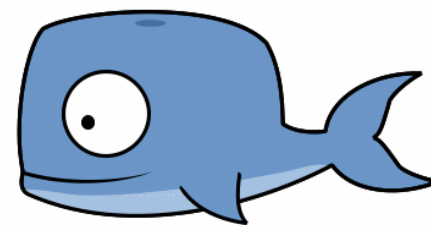
Whale Watching Community Excursion

Join the Community and Personnel Services Department for its annual Whale Watching excursion on Saturday, March 3, 2012. Enjoy a two and a half hour narrated tour by Aquarium of the Pacific staff, charter boat with a two level viewing deck, and transportation to and from Long Beach. Snacks are available for purchase on the boat, or lunches can be brought aboard. For more information call 626-355-5278.

Date: Saturday, March 3, 2012
Time: 10:00am - 3:30pm
Cost: \$28.00 per person

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012

Transportation leaves from the Community Recreation Center, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024.



Find us on
Facebook



Marston Hefner Arrested for Battery



Marston Hefner, the son of Hugh Hefner, founder of Playboy Magazine, was arrested Sunday night after police say he allegedly attacked his girlfriend 2011 Playboy Playmate of the year Claire Sinclair.

Police say they responded to a residence in the 100 block of West Del Mar Blvd., at 10 p.m. after receiving a call of a suspected domestic violence battery.

Their investigation revealed sufficient probable cause to warrant the arrest of Hefner for domestic violence battery. Sinclair sustained minor injuries. On Monday, police said she was issued an Emergency Restraining Order.

Hefner was booked in the Pasadena Jail. He later posted \$20,000 bail. The case will be forwarded to the City Prosecutor's Office. Hefner is due in Pasadena Superior Court March 14 on Domestic Battery charges.

Hugh Hefner released a statement Monday saying the couple would "patch it up" if "they care about each other." Reports Wednesday also say he posted, "I'm really disappointed in my son Marston's behaviour & have expressed my support to Claire," on Twitter.

Antonovich Welcomes Vice President Xi Jinping



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich welcomed Vice President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China to Los Angeles County Thursday

Pet of the Week



Nani is a three-year-old Doberman Pinscher. She loves being petted and is a very active girl. An active, loving family would be great for her.

Nani's adoption fee is \$120, which includes her spay surgery, a microchip, the first set of vaccinations, as well as a free follow-up health check at a participating vet. 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 A243627 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.



Business Owners Call for Better Policing of Central Park

By Dean Lee

A district 6 meeting got contentious Wednesday night after residents and business owners claimed police were doing nothing to stop drug dealing, prostitution and fighting in Central Park, across from the Del Mar Gold Line Station and blocks away from Union Station homeless shelter. Police Chief Phillip Sanchez denied all allegations.

Sanchez interrupted two owners of La Grande Orange Café as they made claims of rampant drug use and fist fighting in the park and the Del Mar Gold Line Station, derailing the conversation he was having about homelessness in Pasadena.

"Statistically speaking your assertion does not pan out, the reality is that the park is not generating the perception that you might have," Sanchez said making the comment about halfway through the public discussion.

After the meeting Police Commander Chris Russ said there were 384 police responses to the park over the last year, of which, he said 299 were officer initiated.

"That's when they go out to check the park, get out of the car," Russ said although did not know the breakdown on types of calls, such as violent robberies or assault.

"We break it down by self initiated vs. a call or request for services in the park," he said.

Russ told residents that last month the area was swept by two undercover drug teams. He also said although the response numbers were high, actual arrests were low.

"Officers will go out there and ask them to move on, the problem is, it's a public park," he said. "Nobody has the right to ask you to move on, just because they are laying there in the park, you can't ask them to move on."

Russ said they can ask question such as, are they on active parole? "We can't violate their constitutional rights."

Co-owners, Adam Strecker and Bob Lynn of LGO Hospitality which operates the La Grande Orange Café said things had gotten so bad they were considering closing the restaurant and leaving Pasadena altogether. Strecker said they were not worried about homelessness they cared about crime.

"The last one we had was a

knife fight that actually occurred in the building," Strecker said. "It started across in the park, spilled over inside the building."

He went on, "The guy grabbed a knife off the table, swung it at one of the managers, they [police] detained the guy, one of the police officers comes back in and says that we are going to let these two guys go. I said myself, you need to arrest them he swung a knife at one of our managers."

Strecker claimed no arrest was made and no police report was filed. He also said in another instance Lynn saw an officer sit in her police car watching a fight in the park doing nothing about it.

Sanchez tried to stop the two restaurant owners from continuing asking that they have the conversation after the meeting.

"I'm hearing we're concerned about homeless but we're not concerned about homeless," Sanchez said. "Maybe we can have a separate dialog after..."

Lynn said he was not interested in a one on one "sidebar" meeting, "I think there are a lot of other people in the room, with all do respect, that care about this issue."

Sanchez said there are a number of reasons reports are not written, "I'm not suggesting for a moment that that's 100 percent a true capture for the dynamic that's occurring there."

He said in the last year 20 times a report was generated, "because someone wanted one."

Teddy Bedjakian, owner of the Equator restaurant off Colorado Blvd said he no longer calls the police saying when one drug dealer is gone another moves in, he said he now takes care of the situation himself something officers advised against.

"Last week I caught a gentleman smoking meth in my stairwell," Bedjakian said. "I broke the pipe, I kicked him out." He said the man called police accusing him of assault, "There is nothing I can do, my hands are tied."

Bedjakian said calling the police has also affected his liquor license.

"I have probably the worst conditions of any business owner," he said. "I have 28 conditions; I have to have a security guard, at a restaurant."

Other residents also claimed the park was overrun by drugs and homeless, at one point circulating pictures of people sleeping in the children's play area, "Would you want to have your kid play there," one of them said. They also accused police of doing nothing about Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena feeding hundreds of homeless Sunday mornings, "This is like they are opening up the Apple store with a new product, with the line, waiting to be fed."

Sanchez said, earlier, that

Portantino Introduces Legislation Deleting the Statute of Limitations for Rape

Assemblymember Anthony Portantino introduced AB 1682, this week, his latest effort to ensure that rapists are ultimately caught and convicted in California. "Under current law, there is a ten year statute of limitation for the crime of rape. AB 1682 deletes this arbitrary time limit and will provide that those who sexually prey on our citizens can be brought to justice."

"I have in the past introduced legislation to

ensure that all rape kits that are collected in California are tested for evidence of crime. Unfortunately, many rape kits are never tested. It is frustrating to know a rapist could continue to walk the streets because a vital piece of evidence went untested because of the costs of processing these kits."

Under current law, evidence from rape kits is held in law enforcement evidence lockers where many languish, oftentimes past the statute of

limitation there are between 950 to 1,100 homeless in shelters, temporary housing and on the street. He also said estimates suggest that four out of every six returning Iraqi war veterans, and others that served in the Middle East, will end up on the street.

He said, "The good news in that area is, we have over 1,200 nonprofits in Pasadena, in one form or another, who are capable of helping individuals."

Strecker and Lynn suggested numerous times during the meeting they were also willing to help clean up the park, with possible activities.

Temporary Fire Station Up and Running

Councilmember Steve Madison gave a quick update Wednesday night surrounding the temporary fire station in a private home saying firefighters had received their first call earlier in the day.

Madison said that although it was a sacrifice for neighbors in the 100 block of Glen Summer Road, he explained the city had done everything to ease the pain including disabling the warning "beep" from rescue ambulances as they backup. He also said sirens would not be used until vehicles got to Avenue 64 or Colorado Blvd.

"That way no one in the middle of the night is going to be awakened by that," he said.

During a two hour long discussion last week, residents argued that fire and ambulance trucks racing through narrow streets could put lives at risk. San Rafael Park is also at the end of the street they said.

Some also accused the city of rubber stamping a six month deal with a private home owner to use the property.

He said rebuilding station 39 would take 18 months. They are in the design phase now he said. The city is exempt from needing a CUP and EIR for one year he said.

"I think the ideal situation is, if we can find another location or two, we could do Glen Summer for six months, and then another for six months and then another," he said.

limitations for prosecuting the crime. AB 1682 will provide a different solution to the problem by deleting the statute of limitations for the crime of rape. "While justice delayed, is justice denied; a statute of limitations that terminates prosecution because we do not want to spend money testing rape kits is unconscionable." This measure will hold accountable those who commit this terrible crime whenever it was committed.

Police Raid Homeless Encampments Prior to Occupy Protest

Police Commander Chris Russ told a group of residents Wednesday night that the department conducted sweeps of large homeless encampments prior to the occupy protest aimed at the 123rd Tournament of Roses parade Jan. 2.

"We wanted to make sure that everyone understood, you weren't going to spend the night in our parks," he said. "You weren't going to spend the night near our freeways and create a problem."

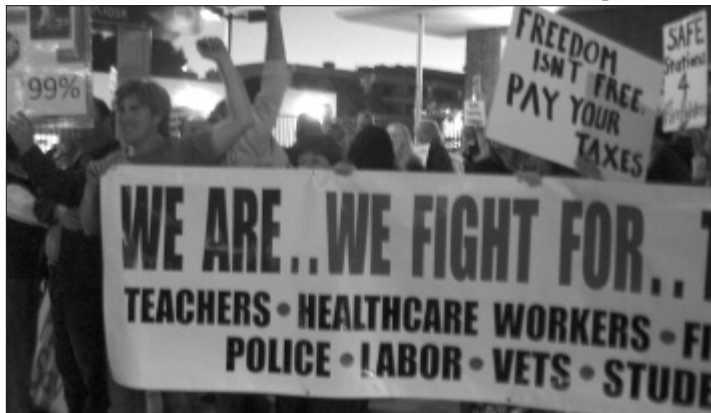
Although he was not specific, Russ said they first cleared a large homeless encampment near an off ramp of 210 freeway on west side of the city and then later conducted another sweep in east Pasadena. Both incidents occurred "about a month and a

half ago," he said.

Russ made the comments while talking about a newsletter sent out by Chief Phil Sanchez as an email blast about post police events and instances. He said anyone can sign up to get the info by emailing the department.

Pasadena police doubled the number of law enforcement agents patrolling the parade and skies, in addition to extra officers there were also extra sheriff's deputies, CHP, and undercover federal agents according to a press release sent out at the time.

Occupy the Rose Parade organizer Peter Thottam estimated other 1,000 people marched in the event tagged to the end of the official parade.



City Gets Book Festival, Launches Saint Patrick's Day

Pasadena book lover's will get a taste of the first community-wide book festival, LitFest as it hits town next month organizers announced Friday. The event will be held on Saint Patrick's Day in the city's Central Park. Admission is free.

LitFest Pasadena will be a celebratory day of readings and panel discussions featuring well-known local and California authors, hands-on activities for young people, good food, better books, and great fun, all aimed at promoting the literary arts.

Attendees can look forward to an irreverent and informative festival that incorporates theater, music, poetry, and more. Some of L.A.'s hottest gourmet food trucks, courtesy of Chefs Center, will be located along Raymond Avenue, and public parking is under the Gold Line Del Mar Station directly across the street from Central Park, a comfortable green space between Raymond and Fair Oaks Avenues just south of the historic Castle Green.

Panel discussions will explore topics such as 21st Century Noir; The Rise of the Graphic Novel; Local L. A. Publishers: Where New York Dominates, L.A. Innovates; The L.A. Canvas; and History, Fiction... Truth?

Confirmed authors include Pulitzer Prize-winner Jonathan Gold; novelists Mona Simpson, Michelle Huneven and Lian Dolan; L.A.'s unofficial poet laureate, Wanda Coleman; poet and Young Adult author Ron Koertge; scholar and Libros Schimbros founder David Kipen; and L.A. mystery writer Denise Hamilton. More than 25 publishers and vendors will have books by these and other authors available for sale at the event.

A children's area will feature storytelling, Shakespearean actors from Foshay Learning Center, and a Quidditch demonstration!

For more information: litfestpasadena.org

Citizen Journalism Meet-up

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

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

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

We will put the news in your hands. Learn how to find



the story, the tools needed to capture the story and the means to tell the story using the power of video, audio and print along with online social media. The next meeting is Feb. 14 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.

Portantino Introduces Disaster Readiness Bill

In the wake of fierce winds and power outages that caused significant damage to parts of Southern California late last year, Assemblymember Anthony Portantino has introduced a bill to improve emergency and disaster preparedness in California.

AB 1650 requires gas and electric companies to hold comprehensive disaster preparedness meetings every two years with the counties and cities they service in order to improve readiness and better prepare for future disasters. It also calls on the California Public Utilities Commission to use its regulatory authority to set preparedness standards for public utilities.

"We learned some things from this recent disaster that change how we look at these events," explained Assemblymember Portantino. "Having utilities review their plans every two years will force better coordination, better service

and better public safety. Many ratepayers may not know that a portion of their utility bills is intended to pay for emergency preparedness; let's make sure it does."

The San Gabriel Valley was hit hard in early December by devastating winds that knocked out power to nearly a quarter of a million customers, some of them for more than a week. In a preliminary report, the California Public Utilities Commission stated that in some cases, Southern California Edison's equipment did not meet safety standards and that the utility was slow to restore power to homes and businesses. Local utilities also had trouble with communications plans.

AB 1650, gas and electric companies will be required to begin their disaster preparedness meetings within three months of the legislation becoming law.

"What's Going On?"

News and Views from Joan Schmidt



Y-LIFE PROJECT: SANTA ANITA YMCA AND LIFE CHURCH PASADENA JOIN HANDS FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Joan Schmidt

There has been much said about prisoner realignment and re-entry in California. Statewide by June 31st, 24,000 are to be released and 3700 in LA County alone! This obviously is a concern for everyone.

At the February 14th Duarte City Council Meeting there was a special presentation of the Y-Life Project by Pasadena Life Church Senior Pastor Richard Brown, Damon Colaluca, Santa Anita Family YMCA and Ulises Gutierrez, Community Mediation Team.

This special project targets both young offenders and adults. How did this come about? Santa Anita YMCA's Social Services and Community Outreach were approached by Los Angeles County to do this special program. When prisoners are released, they usually don't have programs to help them make the transition.

Los Angeles County approached the YMCA and also looked for a Church to assist in this endeavor. This is a great idea because Churches have positive effects on the community. About twenty years ago, there was a shooting in the Duarte County Area and I remember the Sheriff's Department asking Town Council President David Hall and Pastor Donnie Williams from the Family Church for assistance. There were rumors of violence and these men went in with Captain Bob Mirabella and Sgt. Sammy Jones to calm everyone down. I also recall attending a special Sheriff's Conference centered on Church ministries about fifteen years ago. There were representatives from various churches- different denominations- but all that mattered was that these Church ministries were working with the Sheriff's Department helping former prisoners and at risk people to turn their lives around and become productive citizens.

Ulises Gutierrez from the Community Medication Team began the presentation explaining how these released prisoners/parolees needed guidance. He held up a donated backpack. Inside it was a \$20 Walmart Gift card (Thanks, Duarte Kiwanis), toiletries donated by a hotel, a towel and even a blanket! All of these items were donations.

Reverend Richard Brown, Senior Pastor for nine years at Life Church, Pasadena was the next speaker. He feels, "All citizens are worthy of a second chance."

Pastor Brown explained that his Church is "very interested in community involvement". They have had periodic ministries for the homeless, juvenile camps, and even at prison ministries. The Life Church's role is "to help the community".

"In our culture, there are broken and hurt young people...Jesus was a healer-not only of physical, but also emotional needs...For re-entry into society, healing must take place, and education is an important part of that process...There is a needed balance of instruction, prayer and faith."

Pastor Brown also noted there are a great number of volunteers at Life Church who help minister to those in need. He went on to say his Church was happy to connect with the YMCA as the County wanted a faith community involved.

Another speaker was Ed Cordero from the Los Angeles County Parole Office. He spoke more about community partnership. For instance, there is a Re-Entry Committee and a Community Mediation Team. The Community Mediation Team is a partnership of committed Monrovia, Duarte and L.A. County leaders and stake holders who assess and address the needs of people who live or work in our communities. This is done through effective communication and proper resource matching. Lois Gaston, Reyna Diaz, Tina Cary, Karen Herrera, Christine Benet, Derek Blow and Ulises Gutierrez are among members.

Ed Cordero also said that when people are released, "We hook up with them immediately...but there is a lack of resources for those released...They need help...The best outreach comes from community Churches who have prison outreach. They offer services so the former prisoners won't reoffend in the community."

David Calaluca from the YMCA said "We address people who really need our help. We re-integrate these young people into our community."

After learning about Y-life, I felt somewhat relieved about the prisoner releases in the county. Our county officials should be commended for initiating this pro-active program aimed at helping former prisoners integrate into local communities.



PET OF THE WEEK: Dodger: Animal ID #A4390558

Meet the incredibly joyful Dodger (A4390558)! Dodger is a phenomenal one-year-old tan and black male Cardigan Welsh Corgi mix puppy who was found in La Puente on January 28th and brought to the Baldwin Park Animal Care Center. Weighing twenty-five pounds, Dodger walks well on the leash and has probably been trained. He loves other dogs as much as he loves people, which is a lot. With his constantly wagging tail and happy-go-lucky temperament, Dodger will be the perfect indoor pet for anyone in any living situation whatsoever, and we think he will be great with children. To watch a video of Dodger please visit this link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bX7sNzd18c

To meet Dodger in person, please see him at the Baldwin Park Shelter, located at 4275 N. Elton, Baldwin Park, CA 91706

(Phone: 626-430-2378 or 626-962-3577). He is currently available now. For any inquiries about Dodger, please reference his animal ID number: A4390558. 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 Dodger or the adoption process, contact United Hope for Animals Volunteer Adoption Coordinator Samantha at samanthasayon@gmail.com or 661-309-2674. To learn more about United Hope for Animals' partnership with the Baldwin Park Shelter through its Shelter Support Program, as well as the many dogs of all breeds, ages, and sizes available for adoption in local shelters, visit <http://www.unitedhope4animals.org/about-us/shelter-support-program/>.



I-210 BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION ENJOYS FLAWLESS SAFETY RECORD

No recordable incidents with nearly 30,000 "man-hours" logged

The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority (Construction Authority) announced today that with nearly 30,000 "man-hours" completed on the I-210 Gold Line Bridge construction project, the project has an injury-free safety record. Construction by Skanska USA and its subcontractors on the \$18.6 million bridge has been ongoing since April 2011.

"The success of our safety program is the result of careful pre-construction planning and diligent oversight on behalf of Skanska USA and the Construction Authority," said Construction Authority Director of Construction, Gary Baker. "Skanska has created a culture of safety on the project - everyone on the job site is responsible for making sure the site is safe, with a unified goal of zero workplace incidents."

The bridge project is now nearly 60% complete, and is on schedule to be finished this coming summer. During the last several months, foundation, abutment and column work has been completed, and work has now begun on the superstructure.

"The risks posed around any major construction project are real and significant," said Baker. "With this project they are intensified because of the uniquely confined site, which sits adjacent to an active and heavily used freeway."

Over the next several weeks, construction on the I-210 Gold Line Bridge will focus on the erection of falsework, which will temporarily support the concrete and reinforcement of the superstructure (and

provide a safe work space for crews to perform their tasks). The falsework will span the eastbound lanes of the freeway, requiring up to 20 full closures of the eastbound I-210 Freeway in February and early March for this work. The full eastbound closures will take place between Baldwin and Santa Anita Avenues, and occur between Midnight and 5:00 a.m. On nights of full closures, eastbound on-ramps at Rosemead Blvd., Michillinda Ave. and Baldwin Ave. will close at approximately 9:00 p.m., lane closures will begin at approximately 10:00 p.m. and all lanes will re-open by 6:00 a.m. the following day.

Completion of the Gold Line Bridge is scheduled for late Summer 2012, and the entire Gold Line Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa is on schedule to be completed in late 2015.

About the Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa - The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa is a \$735 million project fully funded by Los Angeles County's Measure R. The light rail extension is being overseen by the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority and is currently undergoing final design and construction. Construction of the 11.5-mile light rail extension is on schedule to be completed in 2015, adding six new stations along the Gold Line in the cities of Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, Irwindale and Azusa. The first element of the project to move from design to construction is the \$18.6 million I-210 Gold Line Bridge, which will span the Eastbound I-210 Freeway between Baldwin and Santa Anita Avenues, allowing connection between the existing Sierra Madre Villa Station in Pasadena and the future Arcadia Station.

The project is estimated to generate nearly 7,000 jobs and \$1 billion in economic output for the region DURING CONSTRUCTION.

PORTANTINO INTRODUCES LEGISLATION DELETING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR RAPE

Assemblymember Anthony Portantino (D - La Cañada Flintridge), has introduced AB 1682, his latest effort to ensure that rapists are ultimately caught and convicted in California. "Under current law, there is a ten year statute of limitation for the crime of rape. AB 1682 deletes this arbitrary time limit and will provide that those who sexually prey on our citizens can be brought to justice."

"I have in the past introduced legislation to ensure that all rape kits that are collected in California are tested for evidence of crime. Unfortunately, many rape kits are never tested. It is frustrating to know a rapist could continue to walk the streets because a vital piece of evidence went untested because of the costs of processing these kits."

Under current law, evidence from rape kits is held in law enforcement evidence lockers where many languish, oftentimes past the statute of limitations for prosecuting the crime. While the number of unopened or untested kits throughout the State has been subject to debate, it is clear that local resources are not adequate to process rape kits for evidence unless there is a determined commitment to do so. "Not testing rape kits after a woman has submitted herself to the invasive process of collecting a rape kit, betrays the victim's faith in the criminal justice system, Portantino said."

AB 1682 will provide a different solution to the problem by deleting the statute of limitations for the crime of rape. "While justice delayed, is justice denied; a statute of limitations that terminates prosecution because we do not want to spend money testing rape kits is unconscionable." This measure will hold accountable those who commit this terrible crime whenever it was committed.

A WINTER VISIT

by Christopher Nyerges

[Nyerges is the author of "Guide to Wild Foods," "Enter the Forest," and "How to Survive Anywhere" who leads regular survival classes. For more information, contact him at www.ChristopherNyerges.com or Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041.]

I had never been to Mount Lowe before, though I'd been to Echo Mountain many times. This was the mid-1960s. My friend George from the neighborhood was in the Boy Scouts and he'd been up there with his troop. So one winter day he offered to lead the way to the old Mount Lowe Camp. We hiked to Echo Mountain from the top of Lake Avenue, and then hiked into Castle Canyon. I realized I was unprepared for snow when we were about halfway to Inspiration Point and my feet were already wet and cold. I was wearing some old suede shoes, which were not waterproof. My friend assured me that we were "almost there," but every step was getting more and more difficult, and my feet were cold. I also saw the value in snowshoes during that hike, since my feet kept sinking into the holes in the snow that I made with every step. I was working hard step by step.

This is the scene Christopher thought he would find on his first cold trek to Ye Alpine Tavern. Since then, I have worn cramp-ons on my boots, as well as primitive snowshoes that I have fabricated from willow branches. The primitive snowshoes take about an hour or so to make, and you need some long flexible branches (I used willow), a knife or clippers to cut the branches, and some sort of cordage.

I did not have snowshoes on that first cold day to Inspiration Point and Mount Lowe Tavern. Occasionally, where we could not readily see the trail due to the thick drifts of snow, we would step out too far and our foot would go right into the ground and we'd have to jump back to keep from falling off the cliffs.

My friend began to tell me about the "tavern" -- I had not heard of it before. He was explaining the people who went there, and what they did, and for some reason, he did all his explaining in the present tense. I had pictures of a modern ski lodge up there, and I was mentally counting the change in my pocket and wondering if I'd have enough for a hot chocolate and maybe, just maybe, I'd have enough money so I could buy some chicken noodle soup.

I was looking in the direction of where my friend said it was, figuring I'd be the first one to see the smoke coming from the chimney. Imagine my great shock when we hiked up to the little saddle of Inspiration Point and he said, "We're here."

"We're where?" I exclaimed.

"Inspiration Point. This is where it was. And the old tavern is actually down where the camp is now." His use of tense seemed more accurate now, and after a few questions, I realized to my chagrin that I would be having no soup or chocolate that afternoon.

My feet were completely wet, and cold, and only moving around kept me feeling somewhat comfortable. It seemed a little easier hiking that quarter mile down to the old tavern site. There was a lot of snow, and there was much more left of the old site back then than you will find today. It was a wonderful and mysterious place with the stone walkways, and walls, and little trails. Only the cold kept me from exploring even more, though I returned many times to the tavern site in the years that followed.

On that day, we struggled to make a small fire, using up our matches. We had a tiny fire, which we fed pine needles, and we managed to get it bigger but we didn't get any warmer. I think that all the fire we generated was merely steaming off the water in the wood, and we felt



This is the scene Christopher thought he would find on his first cold trek to Ye Alpine Tavern.

very little heat. George had some dried soup which we tried to cook, and I recall having a "lunch" of lukewarm "soup" with crunchy needles. But I was cold and hungry and even crunchy not-hot soup was better than nothing.

Occasionally a wind would pass through the area and we'd hear the loud wind in the treetops and lots of icicles and snow would drop from the trees. It was very much a Christmas scene. After a while of not-getting warm by the not-warm fire, we kicked some snow over it, and ran most of the way back down to the city.

On a more recent visit to Echo Mountain just a few years ago, I was hiking around with my hiking class from Pasadena City College. It had been a drizzly and cold day, and after we explored the ruins, we went over by the large fireplace area to have our lunch. We were surprised that a man in a t-shirt was sitting nearby, and he'd cleaned out the fireplace for his shelter. We started talking, and we were admiring all the arrowheads he'd just made from the bits of glass he'd collected from around Echo Mountain.

He said he was very skilled in wilderness survival, and he made some sort of a bet with a friend about whether or not he could spend 10 days in these mountains with nothing but the clothes he was wearing. That was apparently his second day there. He knew about some edible plants, though there wasn't much to collect. He had the tools for making fire with a bow and drill, and he'd made a quickie bow and some arrows, and had nearly finished making a batch of arrowheads.

He said he was going to catch squirrels to eat, and maybe other animals. We were all mighty impressed and asked him lots of questions. I gave him my magnesium fire starter, and then we departed. I told him I wanted to hear how he did in those 10 days, and gave him my address and phone number. I never did hear from him again, though I assume that if things got really tough, all he had to do was walk a few miles down to the city. It was winter, and some snow had actually fallen close to Echo Mountain, so it would have been a cold 10 days.

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DOMINIC LAZZARETTO - ARCADIA'S NEW CITY MANAGER

Arcadia has chosen a new City Manager, 40-year-old Dominic Lazzaretto of Glendale who has been City Manager of the small Orange County town of La Palma.

La Palma is a town of less than 16,000 people, nearly half of which are Asian, and more than a third of which are Caucasian, according to the 2010 Census.

Assuming Lazzaretto is formally approved by the City Council Tuesday, Feb. 21, he will start work March 26, replacing Don Penman, who will leave March 23 after nearly four years in the top job and 14 overall. Penman, who officially retired last November, will give his farewell State of the City address at the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce Planning Conference Thursday, Feb. 23.

"We received more than 80 applications for the job and were very pleased with the level of interest and quality of the applicants," Mayor Gary Kovacic said in a City Council announcement Thursday, Feb. 16. After an extensive review and interview process, Dominic was the unanimous choice of the Council Members."



Kovacic and Mayor Pro Tem Bob Harbicht finalized the contract with Lazzaretto, who reportedly will make a base salary of nearly \$200,000. When he agreed to a three-year contract with La Palma less than two years ago, Lazzaretto received a base salary of \$172,750 per year and a benefits package (retirement, insurance, car allowance, etc.) with a value of \$67,823, for a total compensation rate of \$240,573 annually.

"Mr. Lazzaretto has some big shoes to fill as Don Penman did an outstanding job for us. We are confident he is equal to the task and are looking forward to having him on board," Harbicht said.

Lazzaretto, one of four sons of former Burbank City Manager Andrew Charles Lazzaretto Jr., has been with the City of La Palma for nine years and was City Manager for the past six, during which time La Palma was twice listed among the "Top 100 Small Cities in the United States" by Money magazine and twice named "The Best Small City to Raise a Family in Orange County" by Parenting magazine. He is regarded as a hands-on manager who is team oriented and very involved with the community.

Lazzaretto's brother, Charles "Chuck" Lazzaretto, was a Glendale police investigator who was shot to death at age 30 in an ambush on May 27, 1997, in a Chatsworth warehouse while investigating a domestic violence case.

—Story By Scott Hettrick, Arcadia's Best
Photo courtesy City of Arcadia

PARTICIPATE IN READ ACROSS AMERICA

Children and their families are invited to listen to stories read by Arcadia's own fire fighters on Wednesday, February 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Come join in on the celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday as readers and listeners across the country participate in this nationwide event. What better way to send a message that reading is fun and important! It's always a fun time and one you won't want to miss!

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

DEADLINE – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST FOR 2012 SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

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.

A WORKSHOP FOR MIND, BODY, & SOUL

Senior Services Division is offering an exciting, creative, workshop designed for seniors to interact with others through storytelling, role-playing, and improvisation. The group facilitator, Tom Franco, will offer a clear understanding at this free workshop as to the ex-

pectations of this new class that will start in April. Light snacks and refreshments will also be served to those in attendance. The lecture will be held Tuesday, February 28th from 1-2pm at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive, Arcadia.

For more information call Arcadia Senior Services at 626.574.5130 or visit our website at ci.arcadia.us.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, February 5th, through Saturday, February 11th, the Police Department responded to 907 calls for service of which 108 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, February 5:

1. Between the hours of 8:04 p.m. and 8:21 p.m., two suspects stole a flat screen television from a hotel room at Springhill Suites, 99 North Second Avenue. Video surveillance revealed the suspects wrapped the television in a hotel blanket and carried it out of the back door of the facility. The suspects are described as a White female, 5'1" tall, 90 lbs., with medium length blonde hair, wearing blue jeans and a grey sweatshirt; and a Hispanic male, 5'7" tall, 150 lbs., with light complexion, wearing a black baseball hat and oversized white t-shirt and black pants.

2. At approximately 9:02 p.m., officers conducted a traffic stop on a green Honda Civic for traveling westbound in the eastbound lane of Wheeler Avenue at Indiana Street. Upon contact with the driver, the officer detected an odor of alcohol emitting from her breath and person. An investigation revealed the 46-year-old Black female was driving under the influence. She was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Monday, February 6:

3. Shortly after 4:00 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the 000 block of West Sandra Avenue regarding an attempted residential burglary report. The resident explained he returned home and noticed his living room window screen was on the ground. The officer determined unknown suspect(s) attempted to force entry into the home but were unable to defeat the window lock. They fled undetected and no one saw or heard anything suspicious.

4. Around 5:58 p.m., an officer responded to the Drinker's Hall of Fame parking lot, 151 East Huntington Drive, in regards to a hit and run report. The reporting party returned to the parking lot and discovered unknown suspect(s) collided into the rear of her vehicle. She advised the area is monitored by video surveillance. Further investigation is being conducted by the Detective Bureau.

Tuesday, February 7:

5. At about 2:33 p.m., an officer responded to Panorama Drive and Michillinda Avenue in regards to a traffic accident. A driver was traveling eastbound on Panorama Drive when he swerved his vehicle to avoid hitting a peacock; however, he ended up sideswiping an unoccupied parked vehicle. While the driver was on the telephone with the Arcadia Police Department, he did not notice that the owner of the parked car entered the vehicle and drove away.

6. At approximately 6:32 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the 1000 block of Valencia Way in regards to an identity theft report. The victim received a tax reporting document in the mail for an online merchant account, which he never established. He later discovered unknown suspect(s) opened the account using his personal information. He has no idea how his personal information was compromised.

Wednesday, February 8:

7. Around 2:00 p.m., an officer responded to the 2000 block of South Fifth Street regarding a fraud report. The victim discovered numerous unauthorized transactions on her Bank of America account. An investigation revealed unknown suspect(s) made bank transfers totaling thousands of dollars without her knowledge or permission. She is desirous of prosecution.

8. At approximately 10:15 p.m., an officer observed two subjects riding their bicycles without safety lights on eastbound Foothill Boulevard at Leandra Lane. The officer conducted an enforcement stop and discovered one of the subjects, a 19-year-old Hispanic male, was in possession of multiple drugs and drug paraphernalia. The second subject, a 20-year-old Hispanic male, had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. They were arrested for the listed charges and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Thursday, February 9:

9. Shortly after 2:22 p.m., officers responded to the 000 block of Christina Avenue in reference to a residential burglary report. Unknown suspect(s) entered the home and ransacked two bedroom closets. The victim reported thousands of dollars in cash missing from her guest bedroom. No signs of forced entry were located and no one saw or heard anything suspicious.

10. Between 2:00 p.m. and 6:15 p.m., unknown suspects stole 96 bras from the merchandise drawers at Victoria's Secret at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue. The manager on site explained the store was crowded with customers. Review of video surveillance footage for possible suspect(s) information was underway at the time of the report.

Friday, February 10:

11. Around 1:57 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for lane swerving in the area of Huntington Drive and Santa Anita Avenue. A record check revealed the driver, a 30-year-old Hispanic male, had an expired license. The passenger, a 21-year-old Hispanic female, was in possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia, and had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. A vehicle search revealed the driver was in possession of stolen mail, sixteen checks belonging to other people, and burglary tools. Through investigation, the officer determined some of the checks were altered to show the passenger as the payee. Both suspects were arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

MONROVIA - DUARTE

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CAPTAIN NEE GIVES REPORT AT DUARTE CITY MEETING

By Joan Schmidt

At a recent Duarte City Council Meeting, Captain Christopher Nee, Commander of Temple Station, gave a year-end report of crimes in the City of Duarte.

What many don't realize is that a Commander of a Sheriff's Station has the "rank" of Captain, but in actuality is equivalent to a "Chief of Police" for the cities served under his station's jurisdiction. At Temple Station, Captain Nee oversees not only the City of Duarte, but the Cities of Bradbury, Rosemead, South El Monte and Temple City! And then he is also responsible for the unincorporated areas of Arcadia, Duarte, Monrovia, East Pasadena and South San Gabriel!

For his presentation on the City of Duarte, Captain Nee used charts that showed the crime patterns from 2007-2011. Captain Nee began with the number of citations issued. There were 2,582 in 2011, and that was an increase. That is not necessarily a negative, because citations are issued to improve safety. If people speed or run stop signs, for example, I am glad they are cited. Hopefully that will deter them from ignoring a law again.

The next topic covered assaults. Aggravated assaults are more serious. In 2011, there were

thirty-nine; twelve of these involved domestic violence. For non-aggravated assaults, thirty-nine occurred; fifteen were domestic violence.

Robberies totaled sixteen; eight armed, eight strong-armed. Captain Nee noted that 75 residential burglaries occurred. The items stolen usually included cash, jewelry and electronics such as computers, game systems, iPods, even cell phones! Captain Nee told residents they need to be alert and call the station if they see anything suspicious. This can stop a robbery in process and prevent the crime happening again. Commercial burglaries reached 35, a sizable drop from 71 in 2007. Grand theft occurrences were 54, a good drop from 88 in 2007. Thirty-eight vehicles were recovered, and the Captain mentioned most auto thefts occur in the southwest section of the City.

Petty theft went up to 154 in 2011, from 122 in 2007. There is now a Task Force working with LAPD on this problem. Of these 154 petty thefts, 77 involved shoplifting. Sixty-one occurred at Walmart and 6 six were at Target.

Arson dropped from four in 2011 to two in 2012. Rape went up from four to five; the attackers were all known by the victims. Homicides dropped from 1 to 0.

There are 74 parolees in the Duarte area. Of these, 58 are monitored and registered. Six parolees are non-revocable parolees and there are two at large. Sgt Haines said he had been in the area over three years, and these two parolees have been missing since then. It's believed they left the area long ago. However until another agency finds them and contacts the Sheriff's Department, the missing parolees will continue to be listed as "At large".

Before the Captain left, he was asked if he had the County Area statistics for his other cities, but he did not.

DUARTE STATE OF THE CITY/SCHOOL DISTRICT/ COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT TALKS AT DUARTE CHAMBER LUNCHEON, MARCH 6

Duarte Chamber of Commerce will host its annual State of the City, State of the School District, and for the first time, the State of the Community College District as well at a luncheon, Tuesday, March 6.

Mayor John Fasana will present his assessment of the State of

the City; while Duarte Unified School Board President Reyna Diaz will report on the State of the School District, and Citrus College Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D., will update the community on the State of the Community College District.

The luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Westminster Gardens' Packard Hall, 1420 Santo Domingo Ave. in Duarte. Tickets to the luncheon are \$25 per person.

For more information and reservations, call Duarte Chamber of Commerce, (626) 357-3333.

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- Prevents soil compaction
- Improves root structure

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ARCADIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL CHAMPS



The Arcadia High School Constitution Team won its second state championship in three years on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012.

The 30-member team of AHS seniors were heading home from the two-round competition in Bakersfield Saturday evening.

Advanced Placement Government teacher Kevin Fox, talking from his cell phone on the bus with the team, said it was an "amazing team effort," with the six student units competing twice today and remaining "consistent across both rounds."

The team will represent California at

the national Constitution Team competition in April in Washington, D.C. It will be the second national competition since the AHS team won the national championship in 2010, under Fox, now in his 13th year. Arcadia High School has won five state championships overall.

Topic areas of focus for the AHS team today involved the Occupy movement, due process, and how the Constitution might provide for a more limited government in the future.

Fox said the team received high praise from judges for their conversational style and passion for the topics. They also appreciated how they demonstrated

how the history of the country lays a road map for the future. Judges were also impressed that students even referenced an Op-Ed piece in today's New York Times.

The team left Friday afternoon for Bakersfield, where the local Centennial team, a perennial contender, came in second place.

Fox also praised volunteer coaches including Mayor GaryKovacic, Jim Romo, Bob Garrett, Megan Leahy, Carl Nielsen, and Karyn McKreary.

— Story and photo courtesy Scott Hettrick and Arcadia's Best

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

- Alverno High School**
200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3463 Head of School: Ann M. Gillick
E-mail address: agillick@alverno-hs.org
- Arcadia High School**
180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: David L. Vannasdal
- Arroyo Pacific Academy**
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(626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke
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E-mail address: watkins12@pusd.us
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(626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neill
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Lisa Feldman: Head of School
- Wilson Middle School**
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(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln
E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us



YES, THIS IS REAL

So I have recently discovered this new website, Pinterest, where people are able to 'pin' pictures of anything they like. There are photos of doors, tattoos, motivational quotes, fun facts, movie posters and, my favorite, recipes. Some of the recipes are fairly generic: soups, chili, dips, but some are out of this world crazy and inspiring. Some of my favorites include mini Oreo cheesecakes, Red Velvet Cheese Balls, and Hummingbird Cake. But my favorite, although I have not tried it yet, is the Cookie Dough Dip.

I am a sucker for sweets, especially brownies, but this dip sounds out of this world. So, without further adieu, I would like to share this recipe with you and I hope that you enjoy it!

COOKIE DOUGH DIP

- 1 1/2 cups chickpeas (1 can, drained) (250g)
- 1/8 tsp plus 1/16 tsp salt
- tiny bit over 1/8 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup nut butter (You can get away with using only 3 T. If you use peanut butter, it'll have a very-slight "pb cookie dough" taste, so if you don't want this, you can sub oil.)
- Up to 1/4 cup milk of choice (Start with 1 T, and add more as needed)
- Sweetener (see note below, for amount)
- 1/3 cup chocolate chips 2 to 3 T oats (or flaxmeal) (You can omit, but also omit the milk if you do)

Add all ingredients (except for chocolate chips) to a good food processor (not blender), and blend until very smooth. Then mix in the chocolate chips.

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...books about the Presidents lives.

Presidents Day

Do you know which two U.S. presidents were born in February and have holidays on the calendar? Can recognize them by their silhouettes above, which you've seen many times on coins? What are you doing this year to learn about our Presidents?

Read the clues below and fill in the puzzle with the last name of the correct President:

- Our president today; first African-American President; encourages students to get a good education; likes basketball: Barack _____.
- One story tells that our first president never "told a lie" and confessed to cutting down a cherry tree: George _____.
- Family was poor, but he learned to read and write; loved books; tallest president; fought to keep the nation united: Abraham _____.
- First president to travel outside the U.S.; first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize; Teddy Bear named for him: Theodore _____.
- Became President 12 years after his father: George W. _____.
- Wrote most of the Declaration of Independence; designed his own home: Thomas _____.
- Only president to serve 2 terms not back to back; married in the White House: Grover _____.
- First president to have his photo taken; had an alligator; kept a diary: John Quincy _____.
- On the \$50 bill; fought in Civil War where he was the first 4-star general: Ulysses S. _____.
- Was governor of Arkansas; can play the saxophone: "Bill" _____.
- Never married; his niece went to the White House to be his hostess: James _____.
- Five-star Army General, first president to ride in a nuclear-powered submarine: Dwight D. _____.
- Youngest elected president; set up the Peace Corps to help poor countries: John F. _____.
- At 13, took part in a Revolutionary War battle; was taken prisoner and slashed with a sword for refusing to clean a British officer's boots: Andrew _____.
- His wife, Dolly, saved a favorite portrait of George Washington before the British attacked the city of Washington and burned the White House: James _____.

HOW ABOUT A FEW DAYS OFF FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY

To say I loved summer vacation would underplay the rapture I found each June. Every moment in the penitentiary of school was a clockwatching moment until my release for Summer Vacation. Show me a boy that doesn't love summer, and I will show you a boy who has read Huckleberry Finn but doesn't practice the spirit.

So, I must admit as a schoolboy, I looked forward to the month of February. Mostly because I knew a holiday in honor of two presidents was soon to be mine, I could escape my teacher's scrutiny for a day, and most years there were only 28 days to get through.

These days I look forward to Presidents' weekend once again because my home away from home, Santa Anita Race Track, is open. Don't worry, my concerned readers: I might have a champagne appetite but this writer's budget is strictly a beer allowance. A \$2 exacta box is about all this hopeful gambler can muster. But when it comes to food, I gambled that researching our Presidents this year would find a handful of winning flavors, and I was right. I uncovered a wide assortment of favorite foods enjoyed by those holding our highest office. Here is what my research came up with.



TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills
thechefknows@yahoo.com

My favorite Executive of the Oval Office was our 35th President -JFK.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy was the first president to shine a spotlight on the White House chef. His staff approached chef Jacques Pépin, but having already served for France's President Charles de Gaulle, he turned down the generous offer. "I loved Kennedy, but I had no inkling for the potential publicity in the White House," recalls Pépin. Turned out, John Kennedy wasn't a big foodie; instead, he often had to be reminded to dine. When at the table, President Kennedy was true to his New England roots, munching on New England clam chowder, corn muffins, and baked beans.

Here are the rest of our Presidents since JFK, and their food favorites:

Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-1969): Ice cream, pancakes, seafood, spinach soufflé, sweet potatoes with toasted marshmallows

Richard Nixon (1969-1974): meatloaf, dried figs, cottage cheese

Gerald Ford (1974-1977): pot roast, red cabbage

Jimmy Carter (1977-1981) eggplant, chicken, sirloin steak, cornbread

Ronald Reagan (1981-1989): Jelly beans, macaroni and cheese, monkey bread

George H. W. Bush (1989-1993): pork rinds, hated broccoli

William Jefferson Clinton (1993-2001): enchiladas, ribs, hamburgers, and pie

George W. Bush (2001 – 2009): Mexican food, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches

Barack Obama (2009-present): Chili, hamburgers.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SAFE HOUSE

Review by Sean Kayden



Safe House radiates a promising plot that grows exceedingly predictable once it's kicked into high gear. Director Daniel Espinosa takes a few examples right out of the Tony Scott director's handbook. Boisterous action displayed in shaky cam mode soaked with color filtration. 2000s action filmmaking 101 is back into play in Safe House. Ryan Reynolds plays green CIA agent, Matt Westin, who is in charge of a safe house in South Africa. He sees his first bit of action when the CIA captures one of their most wanted rouge agents, Tobin Frost, who's been on the run for many years.

Denzel Washington, in his usual always-cool-under-pressure disposition, plays Frost.

Don't get me wrong, there are moments of pleasure in Safe House. The performances carry a less than stellar script (ironically hailed one of the best "unproduced" scripts back in 2010) to heights that could only be done with talent such as this. However, once the film concludes, nothing feels memorable or eternal. Safe House is agonizingly paint-by-numbers that we've all seen before countless times.

After the real CIA agents bring in Frost to the safe house, the stage is set. Reynolds' boy scout persona meets Washington's character for the first time. Their introduction is brief given the fact that the people trying to kill Frost in the beginning of the movie have now just raided the safe house. Of course they kill the CIA agents, which leads Westin having no choice, but to get Frost out of harm's way. The two go on the run and eventually escape from the bad guys after an outrageous, quite unbelievable car chase. Now that the two are alone, Frost warns Reynolds about the CIA and that now he could be in danger as well. Not surprisingly he doesn't believe or at least, want to believe Frost could be right and that he's only strictly getting inside his head. After a series of events, Frost manages to break away from the novice field agent. When the agent reports back to the CIA about Frost, they begin to believe of the possibility that Westin could be working with Frost. The problem with the film is that the audiences knows exactly how the CIA is functioning, but frustrating as it may be, it takes Reynolds' character two-thirds of the film to catch up with us. When the movie feels it's time for some action, it hits you with gunfights and car chases. Cool? Yeah, sure, but it's as if nothing of substance needs to be said and all it does is give the audience another "keeping-you-on-the-edge-of-your-seat" sequences. The third act, while pretty intense and mostly enjoyable, feels devastatingly derivative of any action movie you've seen in the past decade. Nothing new or revolutionary is happening and the film slips into predictability ever so effortlessly.

If you enjoy Denzel Washington movies, then you should find something likable here. Safe House is by no means a bad film. It's just a painfully generic one. You'll predict every twist well before it is presented on screen. Unfortunately, in doing so, it takes away most of the fun and excitement. While Reynolds may get a bad wrap from time to time, I've always enjoyed the guy. Although Washington may be headlining this movie, it's Reynolds' film all the way. Washington is a bona-fide movie star, but with Safe House he takes bits and pieces from his previous acting performances and combines them here. He rarely disappoints (because he's always the coolest guy in the room), but he's sort of grown into a caricature of himself. He's trapped in playing the same guy always, even though it's what we expect from him. At any rate, Safe House, despite its familiarity and laborious plotting, does supply strong performances and excitement in small, bursting fragments. I just wish Safe House didn't play things so conventional and, well, safe. Grade: 3 out of 5.

"Safe House"

Directed by: Daniel Espinosa

Written by: David Guggenheim

Rated R for strong violence throughout

and some language

Theatrical Release Date: February 10, 2012



INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups uncooked spiral pasta
- 1/2 pound lean ground beef (90% lean)
- 1/2 pound Italian turkey sausage links, casings removed
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1/3 cup tomato paste
- 3/4 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/8 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 2 ounces sliced turkey pepperoni
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese

DIRECTIONS

• Cook pasta according to package directions. Meanwhile, crumble beef and sausage into a large skillet; add onion. Cook and stir over medium heat until meat is no longer pink. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer. Drain. Stir in the tomatoes, tomato paste and seasonings. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 5 minutes.

• Drain pasta; stir in meat mixture and pepperoni. Transfer half of the pasta mixture to a 2-qt. baking dish coated with cooking spray. Sprinkle with half of the cheese; repeat layers.

• Cover and bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes or until bubbly.

Yield: 6 servings.



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HOWARD Hays As I See It



"We don't need a president to tell us in what direction to go . . . We just need a president to sign this stuff. We don't need someone to think it up or design it . . . Pick a Republican with enough working digits to handle a pen to become president of the United States."

- Grover Norquist at CPAC

Candidates dutifully made their appearances, and Sarah Palin discouraged Romney supporters from assuming inevitability. It was left to Grover Norquist, though, to remind candidates and attendees at this month's Conservative Political Action Conference of whom they would ultimately be answerable to.

It's not the American people. For nearly all Republicans serving in congress, pledging to uphold the Constitution is insufficient without a supplemental vow of fealty to Norquist's Americans for Tax Reform – a vow to protect and defend not the Constitution, but the Bush millionaires' tax cuts. Aspirants appearing at CPAC are answerable to those employing multi-millionaire Washington lobbyists like Grover Norquist.

If the current slate of Republican candidates seems uninspiring (turnout at primaries and caucuses has been meager, and a poll shows 20% of Republicans supporting President Obama), it's because that's what those financing the contest want. As Norquist put it at CPAC, "we are not auditioning for fearless leader."

George W. Bush fit the bill - someone who'd "sign this stuff", under the guardianship of Vice President Dick Cheney. Bush had "enough working digits" to enact the first-ever tax cuts during wartime, and to put those cuts, two wars, and a massive giveaway to the pharmaceutical industry on a no-limit national credit card for somebody else to deal with. For cover, he simply kept such expenditures off the books, so the national balance-sheet wouldn't appear so alarmingly out-of-whack.

(Soon after the inauguration, President Obama fulfilled his promise of honest accounting and put those expenses back on-budget, which led to Republican apoplexy over the sudden deficit increase under the new administration.)

The goal is to complete a transformation begun nearly fifty years ago; from a nation where wealth was created with a strong middle-class as its foundation, to one where it's treated as a zero-sum game – siphoned off to those gaming the wealth created by others. In 1965, 53% of our nation's economy was in manufacturing; this dropped to 39% by 1988 and 12% in 2007. Today, nearly 30% of all profits flow to the financial services industry, and 20% of our economy is consumed by the least cost-effective healthcare system among developed nations.

Capital investments don't go to factories or an expanding workforce, but towards the purchase of lawmakers. Following the Republican takeover of the House in 2011, the 12 freshmen on the House Financial Services committee each raised an average \$535,000 within their first six months in office – 32% more than freshmen serving on other committees.

Policies promoted at CPAC might further en-

rich the top 1%, but we know they won't work for the rest of us because they never have. We've heard the same arguments before, and they've been disproved repeatedly going back at least to President Harding.

That's why we're seeing attempts to change the subject. Rather than economic recovery, we're debating birth control (birth control!). President Obama visits Michigan to tout our resurgent auto industry, and Rick Santorum flies to Washington State to bemoan their acceptance of gay marriage.

Contrary to the suggestions of Grover Norquist, the nation does expect a "leader"; someone who will "tell us in what direction to go". President Obama assumes this role with the presentation of his 2013 budget, and the direction it indicates is to the policies which fueled our post-war expansion under the leadership of Presidents Truman and Eisenhower.

There'd be a return to tax policies that encourage investment here at home, rather than amassing wealth in offshore tax havens. Those whose income derives from dividend checks and distributions would be taxed more on a par with those who rely on a paycheck. President Obama characterizes this as not "class warfare", but "common sense".

The corporate tax rate would be lowered, but offset by eliminating the special tax breaks lobbyists like Norquist were paid to deliver. We'd be dealing with those breaks that have allowed 30 major corporations to avoid any federal taxes at all over the past three years while recording \$160 billion in profits; breaks such as those allowing profit-shifting to offshore havens that, according to the OMB, cost us \$90 billion in 2008 (more than the entire budgets of the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs).

The deficit is addressed by allowing Bush tax cuts to expire for those making over \$250,000 a year, not by cutting Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security. Those programs are protected and not, as Republicans call for, turned over to the same Wall Street players who tanked the economy – wiping out thousands of 401(k)'s and pension accounts in the process.

That post-war era of economic expansion is reflected in a call for investment in infrastructure and education, particularly in making college more affordable and spurring studies in the sciences, health care and advanced manufacturing technologies. (Meanwhile, Republicans question climate change and evolution.)

As reported in the NY Times, today's deficit of \$1.3 trillion is the same in dollar terms as it was when Obama took office, but with our economic expansion, represents a smaller share of GDP (8.5% vs. 9.2%). The proposed budget brings that deficit down to \$901 billion, or 5.5% of GDP, with projections it will come down to 3% by 2017 (the level economists consider "maximum sustainable").

70% of our economy is consumer-based, depending on a strong middle-class with money to spend, rather than trickle-down largesse from the upper 1%.

Voters understand this. That's why, rather than allowing a billionaire funder of a Super-PAC to anoint someone who'll just "sign this stuff", come November, much to the consternation of lobbyists like Grover Norquist, we'll be re-electing a leader.

RICK SANTORUM'S WILLFUL ASCENT

Rick Santorum was the longest of long shots when, five years after losing his bid for reelection to the Senate by 18 points, he spent much of 2011 campaigning for president in three early-primary states. But he campaigned longer and harder - albeit with less media attention, money, and staff - than any other Republican candidate. By the time Santorum barely won Iowa (as we belatedly learned), he had held nearly 400 town-hall meetings.

The rise of Santorum can be attributed to several key factors:

Media coverage: Santorum's universally unforeseen sweep of the contests in Minnesota, Missouri, and Colorado last week won him enormous attention on broadcast and cable news across the country.

A campaign that had struggled to raise \$1 million over three months in 2011 raised more than \$2 million in the 72 hours that followed that romp.

Electability: Santorum is the most electable conservative remaining in the race.

Despite Newt Gingrich's high name recognition and his history as a leader of the conservative movement, his baggage has proven insurmountable. Gingrich's only win, in South Carolina, came on the heels of two dynamic but unrepeatable debate performances, and he has been unable to unite social conservatives with fiscally conservative tea-party voters.

Santorum has solid, long-standing support among social conservatives, and recent polling shows he is winning more tea-party support. It helps that he opposed the federal bailouts that Gingrich and Mitt Romney supported.

Absence of gaffes: This campaign has seen several national front-runners: Donald Trump, Michele Bachmann, Rick Perry, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich. But all of them were unable to sustain a burst of support in the harsh glare of national media scrutiny.

Santorum's campaign had been left for dead many times, but it conserved its resources, developed a unique strategy, and let its workhorse drive it while committing very few gaffes. When Santorum has been given an opportunity - as he was when Romney's campaign foolishly underestimated the potential impact of a Santorum sweep last week - he has seized it.

Solid debates: It's hard to overstate the importance of the televised debates in this campaign. While nearly every Republican candidate has had a bad debate or a cringe-inducing moment, Santorum's

MATT Mackowiak



performances have been consistently solid, leaving audiences with the impression that he is intelligent, confident, and experienced. His tactic of lumping Romney and Gingrich together on such issues as bailouts and an individual health-insurance mandate has been particularly effective in setting him apart.

Timing: Santorum is the last of the anti-Romney candidates. And when you are the last to bat, you can be the last to score.

In 2008, John McCain benefitted from peaking at the right time, when he won New Hampshire and Florida, after faltering badly early in the campaign. Santorum never faltered; rather, for a long time, he never really got going. But he is benefiting now from peaking at the right time.

While the national media, pundits, and conservative leaders were flirting with the flavors of the month, Santorum was doing the grueling, unglamorous work of building an organization. That ultimately earned him wins in four of the nine states that have held contests.

Santorum has significant momentum. To maintain it, he will need to prevent Romney from winning both Arizona and Michigan on Feb. 28. He also has to prove that he can win a large, expensive state, and that he can take harder punches from Romney, which Gingrich was unable to do.

More important, he needs to raise \$5 million to \$10 million over the next two or three weeks to fund his efforts on Super Tuesday, March 6, and in large states later that month and in April.

What Santorum needs most, though, is for Gingrich to exit, which would allow him to consolidate the "anti-Romney" vote.

Not long ago, no one had high hopes for the Santorum campaign - except perhaps Santorum, his family, and his longtime consigliere, John Brabender. Now Mitt Romney's campaign is hoping to come up with an effective response. But how do you beat a candidate who held nearly 400 town-hall meetings and scarcely made a mistake?

Matt Mackowiak is a Washington- and Austin-based Republican consultant and president of Potomac Strategy Group, LLC. Matt can be reached at matt@potomacstrategygroup.com.

Independent's Eye by LET'S NEVER FORGET CHARLIE AND JOE Gandelman BRADEN POWELL AND KEEP ASKING WHY?



The plate clatter grows around dinner time at Spaghetti Works here in Des Moines' historical district. A family enters with two young boys. I look at them and my eyes tear up. A couple comes in with a teenage son. I think about what I read months ago about an ill-fated teen and feel a huge sense of grief.

I'm thinking of the horrific final moments of some kids who didn't deserve to die or die before they reached adulthood. They didn't deserve their unspeakably terrifying, painful and shocking final moments. Their tragic stories haunted me when I read them and they haunt my dreams still.

Their stories beg the question of what kind of media and entertainment "imprinting" our society does so that ticking-time-bomb-like, mentally unstable people transform into faces of utter evil -- and perform unspeakable acts, as if they've had so much experience doing it before.

These kids will never sit at dinner with friends. Never be around for years to be a joy (or pain) for their families. They won't date, marry, or decide not to marry. They were betrayed -- and their lives snuffed out -- by relatives or friends they fatally trusted. They died in horrifying murderous acts symbolizing the madness we have almost accept after a 20th century, where the biggest brutalities were totalitarian government sanctioned murder. Now our outrages have become ever so more personal.

On Feb. 11 more than a thousand people grieved for Charlie Powell, 7, and his brother, Braden, 5 in Tacoma. Their father, Josh Powell, was a person of interest in the disappearance of their mother, Susan. Josh Powell became unfettered evil when a social worker dropped the kids off. He locked her out, was heard telling his sons "I have a surprise for you..." -- then chopped them up with a hatchet and blew up his house.

What kind of lifetime mental images created someone who could come up with such a terrifying final ending?

Last April there was news of Florida's Seath Jackson, 15, who was caught in a teenage love triangle, lured to see a former girlfriend,

then attacked by four teens who beat him with a wooden object, shot him repeatedly, put him a bathtub and broke his knees so he'd fit in a bag, then burned his remains into ash and bone fragments. The four teens were thankfully put away for a long time. But what mental images helped them do what they did the way they did it with such efficacy?

Yes, there have been assassinations, murders, mass murderers and serial killers throughout history. The 20th century saw assembly-line-like state sanctioned mass murder in Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union. But it has gotten personal in America. A new movie, "Murder by Proxy: How America Went Postal," looks at the string of post office mass murders by angry employees that began in the mid-80s. Since then we've seen school kids killing fellow students and teachers. Workplace and school bullying are big issues now.

But where does the imprinting come that blueprints and scripts these violent acts?

So I sit here realizing I'm lucky because I'm HERE. I've been blessed. I reached my 20s and will reach my senior years. I have loving relatives, good friends and a mother who is 90.

But Charlie and Braden lost their mother two years ago and even a head of cabbage at Vons supermarket now knows Daddy Josh murdered her. Seth's parents never saw their son again. His young murderers totally obliterated him off the face of the earth as surely as Josh Powell totally obliterated his kids in the explosion.

Charlie, Braden and Seth: you deserved happier experiences in your short appearances on life's always-too-brief stage. You were terribly cheated and are proof that "life is not fair."

But it can be a mite less unfair if the rest of us never forget you and what happened to you. Some of us won't. And some of us will continue to ask "why?"

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



WILL Durst THE 2012 POLITICAL ANIMAL AWARDS

Don't mean to overreact and risk boosting everybody's blood pressure higher than opening offers on Facebook's upcoming IPO, but this might be a halfway decent time to seek out a nice, safe steel bunker to hunker down in or behind, because it's awards season and heavy metal statuettes are being tossed around like dimes at a county fair.

Like the flurry of resumes from the outer office of Michele Bachmann's inner circle. As plentiful as the doubts currently circling Mitt Romney's Super PAC. We've already been treated to the golden-plated spectacle of the Grammys, BAFTAs, Golden Globes, People's Choice Awards, Machine Tool Diamond Awards, Screen Actor Guild Awards and what with the Emmys, Oscars and CMAs right around the corner, this might be the perfect opportunity to weigh in with the most consequential of them all: the 2012 Political Animal Awards. Note: No tuxes have been bruised in the creation of these awards.

BEST COSTUME: Rick Santorum for that winning period look -- subtly harkening back to a young Mr. Rogers with rabies.

BAD TIMING AWARD: Tim Pawlenty, for deserting the presidential line-up before getting his own shot at leading the pack. Runner-up: Mitch Daniels.

UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT AWARD: Herman Cain, for continuing to blame the media for finding his fan full of feces.

THE DUMBER THAN HE ALREADY LOOKS AWARD: In an extremely competitive field, Rick Perry.

THE NOT AS DUMB AS HIS HAIR LOOKS AWARD: For the sixth consecutive year, Donald Trump.

THE CLAUDE RAINES INVISIBLE MAN AWARD: George W. Bush.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: In a thankless role, Callista Gingrich.

THE WE CAN'T FIND A MUZZLE BIG ENOUGH AWARD: Joe Biden. May have to retire this award in his name.

BEST SCORE: Whoever bought Apple at 8.

THE WHY WON'T ANYONE RETURN MY CALLS AWARD: DEMOCRATIC DIVISION:

John Edwards. John Kerry. Anthony Weiner.

THE WHY WON'T ANYONE RETURN MY CALLS AWARD: REPUBLICAN DIVISION: Dick Cheney. Pat Robertson. Glenn Beck.

BEST SPECIAL EFFECTS: Industrial Light & Magic for making Mitt Romney appear so lifelike. **BEST MAKE UP:** Newt Gingrich for his very convincing Walking Dead grimace.

BEST CHOREOGRAPHY: Grover Norquist.

THE "OH MY GOD, NOT YOU AGAIN" AWARD: Whoever decided contraception made for a good election-year wedge issue.

BEST BOY: Marcus Bachmann.

BEST ANIMATION: Chris Christie.

THE OTHER MORMON MEAT AWARD: Jon Huntsman.

BEST NEWCOMER: Paul Ryan for his highly controversial script, "Roadmap for America's Future."

THE LUCKY IT WASN'T BITTEN OFF AWARD: Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer.

MENSA'S SMARTEST MOVE OF THE YEAR: In a huge upset, Sarah Palin picks this one up for refusing to accept another supporting role.

THE HOW CAN WE MISS YOU IF YOU WON'T GO AWAY AWARD: Ron Paul.

BEST ENSEMBLE IN A MUSICAL OR COMEDY: The entire Republican Party Presidential Nomination cast.

BEST ACTOR: Body of work award goes to Speaker of the House John Boehner for various portrayals as outraged defender of fiscal responsibility, obstinate party stalwart and sophisticated gentleman to whom gracious cooperation is of the highest priority and doing it all while orange.

BEST DIRECTION: The Koch Brothers.

MISDIRECTION AWARD: Newt Gingrich for his moon-base proposal. Always knew his full ambitions could never be contained by Planet Earth.

COMEBACK OF THE YEAR AWARD: The U.S. economy.

THE BETTER TO BE LUCKY THAN GOOD AWARD: Barack Obama.



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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



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With his phony and plastic "Hey Goober" smile, Mitt is one more entrant in America's long cavalcade of idiots who will say--then unsay--whatever that particular whistle-stop requires to keep the catcalls down to a murmur.

Mitt's Mormonism is the least of his problems. It's his message - not his religion - that turns people off. It's his contempt for those less fortunate than he is. We're in the middle of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression and he has the gall to say:

"I'm not concerned about the very poor. We have a safety net there. If it needs repair I'll, I'll fix it. I'm not concerned about the very rich; they're doing fine. I'm concerned about the very heart of America, the 90-95% of Americans who right now are struggling."

Most of us don't spend much time thinking about the poor (or the rich for that matter). We're too preoccupied with just keeping our jobs. By Mitt's calculations only 5% to 10% of Americans are "very poor" or "very rich." This may seem reassuring to some folks, but it is both inaccurate and misleading.

According to the 2010 Census, 1 in 2 Americans are poor or low-income, while the wealthiest 1% of households averaged 225 times the wealth of the median households. But no matter, Mitt will say anything to get the GOP nomination, even something he knows or should know to be false.

Mitt is likely to soften his message a little in order for it to reach beyond the Republican faithful he is appealing to now. If he wins the nomination, the idea that Obama is somehow un-American, anti-religion and pro-abortion is likely to suffuse the attack ads that will be unleashed this summer with an intensity unparalleled in U.S. history.

Although Mitt has earned some points with the right wing lunatics during the primaries by savaging Obama, this probably won't work during the general election. Most Americans may be unhappy with Obama's performance, but polls con-



knew about life could fit nicely in my trouser pocket with plenty of room for a country boy's pocketknife.

One of the things that I did not know is that a naïve country boy is a target for a young lady looking to settle down. It is a good thing I did not know these things because it is better in some areas of life to be caught off guard. If you always have your guard up you are never going to see some of the more interesting sights of life.

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Looking back on the whole affair our relationship changed one day when she slipped me a note as we passed each other in the hall going to separate classes. The only note I had ever received in my life came from my mother which contained a list of things she wanted me to do "or else." Now I was getting a note from this young lady. I smiled when she handed it to me but inside I was more frightened than I have ever been in my entire life. A note, what in the world did she want me to do? What did I do that she has to communicate to me in such a covert manner?

My fears were allayed when I opened the note and discovered it was a "love note."

For anybody who has received such communication in the past you will understand quite readily that this completely changed our relationship. This was before e-mail, texting, cell phones and Facebook. Back in "the day," we had to do all of our communication in person like, face-to-face. The only exception was the notorious love notes, of which I was being introduced.

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My Turn SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT MITT ROMNEY

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Although Mitt has earned some points with the right wing lunatics during the primaries by savaging Obama, this probably won't work during the general election. Most Americans may be unhappy with Obama's performance, but polls con-

sistently show that they generally like the President as a person and hope he does well.

If Mitt decides to attack Obama in the same merciless fashion he has attacked the other Republican candidates there may very well be an anti-Romney backlash. The idea of a failed presidency orchestrated largely by the Tea Party fringe is just not an option for most Americans.

But what if this ruthless anti-labor, anti-union stooge of Corporate America becomes President? What if this one-time corporate raider with no foreign policy experience becomes the Leader of the Free World? I think we all know the answer--a return to the failed Bush policies at home and abroad--the same policies that got us in the crapper in the first place.

All politicians crave power, but the big difference between Mitt and Barack is the depths of dishonest, opportunistic, corrupt lengths Romney is willing to go to get it. The good news is that If he is elected, the stench of Corporate America and its Military Industrial Energy Complex will be out in the open again. The bad news is that everyone but the top 1% will take it in the shorts.

Mitt, like most Republican candidates since Reagan, has a predictable speech:

"My opponent believes the best days of America are behind us. He believes we can't compete. We lack ambition, drive, and ingenuity. We have lost our way.

"I believe in an America that is always moving forward towards an even better, greater, brighter future.

"I believe that Americans can do anything, and by God, when I'm President, we will begin that journey toward renewed greatness."

Then end with the obligatory "God Bless America" while a giant flag waves in the background and the release on cue of hundreds of red, white, and blue balloons. Add some cleverly edited patriotic film footage of "Morning in America." Old Glory, balloons and patriotic film clips... That's the way to win an election.

And that my friends, is why America's greatness is quickly receding in the rear-view mirror. Because DESPITE our gifts, natural resources, education, and know-how, we want easy answers not thoughtful evaluation. Sound bites, talking points and clever TV ads are what win elections--Image not substance is what it takes.

WE GET THE LEADERS WE DESERVE!

OUT TO PASTOR A Weekly Religion Column

IT ALL BEGAN WITH A LOVE NOTE

Forty-one years ago, I was a naïve 19-year-old just beginning life's journey. I did not like to brag but I was the poster child for naïveté. I had a few ideas about life but too few to make me a contributing member of the human society. What I

knew about life could fit nicely in my trouser pocket with plenty of room for a country boy's pocketknife.

One of the things that I did not know is that a naïve country boy is a target for a young lady looking to settle down. It is a good thing I did not know these things because it is better in some areas of life to be caught off guard. If you always have your guard up you are never going to see some of the more interesting sights of life.

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I turned the note over to see if there was any explanation on the back, but it was blank. I was a little concerned about her when underneath her name she put a series of X's and O's. Whether this was some secret code I was supposed to know about or whether she had just run out of words was beyond my experience at the time.

As I thought about that note, I wondered, when in the world did she have time to miss me? What was it she missed? It certainly was not my charm because I had not developed that attribute until recently.

Now I was in a quandary. What do I do? Do I go up to her after class and apologize for being missed? Do I sit her down and explained to her that between seeing each other we had been in different classes in different rooms? What do I do with this bit of information? I thought the better part of valor was to pretend I knew what she was talking about.

It was not long before I realized that she was expecting me to reciprocate and write her a love note. I really did not know what to say. If I wrote a note similar to the one she wrote me and said, "I miss you," I would be lying. I knew where she was. I knew that after the class was over I would see her again.

It took me a while to realize that the purpose of love notes had nothing to do with exchanging information. In fact, no love note carries with it any sensitive information at all. To this day, I am still not sure what a love note really is.

I began my writing career and although I had hoped to start writing nonfiction I was writing fictitious notes that had no meaning whatsoever. I began writing little love notes to her saying, "I miss you, too." I felt a little guilty and somewhat silly, but she looked forward to my "missing" her. I'm still a little embarrassed to say that it took some time for me to figure out the X's and the O's.

Now when I hear someone say that X marks the spot a different picture comes to mind.

Upon thought, I discovered that God was the first one to write a love note. "Jehovah appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee" (Jeremiah 31:3 KJV).

Everything in my life began with God's marvelous love note to me.

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STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE



I'M SO SORRY

I regret to say this but I really think all the tears and grief relating to the unfortunate death of

Whitney Houston is really misplaced. It is often said the way to judge a country is to notice how the least privileged people within the society are treated. I don't doubt that but perhaps another important perspective is to notice how the society treats the most honored and privileged people. Hilary Clinton reminds us, "It takes a Village" meaning that, in a way, we are all responsible for the nurturance of our next generation. I believe this is true. I also believe that the society is responsible for the ultimate treatment of our celebrities.

Really, as shocking as it was, the untimely death of Whitney Houston cannot be said to be a surprise. Similarly the tragic death of Michael Jackson cannot be said to be completely unexpected. As you may know, the most frequent cause of death in America from unnatural causes is overdoses of prescription drugs. I find this statistic amazing because, as a Criminal Attorney appointed to represent indigents, I am constantly faced with situations wherein people are brought before the Criminal Justice System because of their use of illegal drugs. I tend to think of drug use as related to the attempts of poor people to fortify themselves as they strive to cope with their difficult lives.

Yes, I am mistaken. I gather now that it is all America that is awash in drugs, legal and illegal. The main difference I guess is that if you have sufficient wealth you can prevail upon your doctor to prescribe drugs so that their simple possession is not illegal. It is not only Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson, Heath Ledger, Lindsay Lohan, and Robert Downey Jr. who abuse drugs. The list also includes the great American conservative Rush Limbaugh, the great quarterback Brett Favre, popular newscaster Fred Rogin, and the list goes on and on. An incredible percentage of America's most famous writers: Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Styron, Faulkner, Mailer, Cheever, were drug abusers and drunks. The recent suicides of Spalding Grey, David Foster Wallace, and Hunter Thompson - all of whose work I loved, and all of whom abused drugs for their entire adult lives - must be considered. What is going on? Is life just too hard? Is being famous so dehumanizing that our most famous people often think of taking their own

life? Suddenly, Marilyn Monroe comes to mind.

All right I admit it. I do not drink alcohol. Perhaps this has something to do with the fact that I am a Type 2 Diabetic, but I don't really think so. I just never liked drinking very much—perhaps it has something to do with being Jewish? I also take no prescription drugs to combat depression or emotional problems. This is contrary to the practice of many people I know who take daily doses of prescription medication to combat depression and anxiety. Maybe I am just lucky or too dull or something. My friends tell me I just do not understand how important these mood-changing, anxiety reducing drugs are and that life would be impossible without them. Again, I AM SORRY, but I do not agree. I believe that all these drugs, yes legal and illegal - cause more problems than they solve. I believe that modern society is kind of perpetually adolescent. People crave excitement, thrills and adventure. They want to do secret bad things and not get caught - isn't this the lure of Las Vegas? Really, I don't know; I never go there. Aren't the constant thrills and fantasies of Disneyland what make it the Happiest Place on Earth? I don't know about that either, because I almost never go to Disneyland.

I think you know what I am saying: Modern Society has chosen to glamorize and prolong adolescent needs. Our video games present cyber-existences filled with excitement and adventure that many young-folk seem to prefer to their actual boring lives. Our society celebrates the adventures and drug-filled adventurous sex-lives of our celebrities. The whole society seems to search for adventure and prefers powerful automobiles to fuel conserving vehicles. Everyone seems to yearn for permanent adolescence as they dye their hair and torture themselves trying to keep their body toned and perpetually attractive.

Have I made my point? Look, Hitler, Stalin, and Nixon too, were drug abusers. We can stop the madness. THE WAY WE ALL LIVE IS CRAZY and the untimely deaths of Whitney and Michael are just the tips of the iceberg. If our poor, vulnerable species is to survive it is necessary that all of us, THE WHOLE VILLAGE, learn to FOCUS on what is really important.----and I AM SORRY to tell you that does not seem to be happening. Really what would the world be like if we all threw away our drugs and our alcohol along with our guns and video games? Do you think it can happen?

RICH Johnson



CELEBRITY MONIKERS

One of my favorite actors was Archie Leach. His performances were great in such movies as "North by Northwest", "It Takes a Thief", "The Philadelphia Story", and my personal favorite "His Girl Friday". What? You don't know Archie Leach? Oh, forgive me, that's right, he went by a stage name. Most people knew him as Cary Grant? But his good friends knew him as Archie Leach.

Stage names, once commonplace in Hollywood, seem to have fallen out of fashion. Studio execs once wanted snappy billboard friendly names like Tab, Chuck, Rock, Judy, Kirk or Bo. Like the following: (aka means also known as)

Tab Hunter	aka	Arthur Andrew Kelm
Chuck Norris	aka	Carlos Ray
Rock Hudson	aka	Roy Harold Scherer, Jr. (Fitzgerald later)
Judy Garland	aka	Frances Ethel Gumm
Kirk Douglas	aka	Issur Danielovitch Demsky
Bo Derek	aka	Mary Cathleen Collins

The list goes on and on. Some actors use part of their real names. Bruce Willis is really Walter Bruce Willison. Sophia Loren is Sophia Scicoloni. Gary Oldman is Leonard Gary Oldman. And who can forget Chan Kong-Sang? You might recognize him as Jackie Chan.

Musical celebrities are not immune from creative name changing. Are you a fan of George Michael? His parents called him Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou! Here's more:

Freddy Mercury	aka	Farouk Bulsara
Tina Turner	aka	Anna Mae Bullock
Shania Twain	aka	Eileen Regina Edwards
Joni Mitchell	aka	Roberta Joan Anderson
Courtney Love	aka	Love Michelle Harrison
Billie Holiday	aka	Eleanora Fagan

And you're probably not surprised that Snoopy Doggy Dogg was once known as Cordazer Calvin Broadus. Other names we have long suspected were not on the birth certificates:

Chubby Checker	aka	Ernest Evans
LL Cool J	aka	James Todd Smith III
Meat Loaf	aka	Marvin Lee Aday
Pink	aka	Alecia Moore
Coolio	aka	Artis Ivey, Jr.
Vanilla Ice	aka	Robert Van Winckle
Eminem	aka	Marshall Bruce Mathers III
Billy Idol	aka	William Broad
Ice Cube	aka	Oshea Jackson
Axl Rose	aka	William Bruce Rose
Sting	aka	Gordon Matthew Sumner
Ice-T	aka	Tracy Morrow

Maybe the record for the longest "real" name belongs to the "cuchi-cuchi" girl herself, Charo. If you want her real autograph you better have a big piece of paper. Maria del Rosario Pilar Martinez Molina Baeza de Rasten (take a breath).

My band, JJ Jukebox will be performing at Café 322 in Sierra Madre on Saturday, March 31st starting at 7:00. Our group specializes in music from the 1960s and 1970s peppered with humorous banter. We will be followed by Jane Fuller performing rock and roll. Café 322 offers wonderful Italian cuisine. Reservations are cheerfully accepted by calling (626) 836-5414.

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

A CENTURY OF CHARM AND TRADITION FOR THE MODERN FAMILY



From the curb of Park at Ramona, it's not hard to imagine that you've stepped back in time to the Sierra Madre of 1911. When this 3,168 square foot, two story home is officially on the market in early March, the new buyers will represent only the third family in a century to own this meticulously maintained and updated treasure.

The huge, screened front porch beckons for quiet mornings sipping tea or long suppers while enjoying the pleasant sundowner breezes that rustle through the trees of this 1/3 (+/-) acre, corner homesite.

Inside, the living and dining rooms flank the entry. Magnificent original beamed ceilings have been painted a semi gloss black to reflect the light from the windows, lamps and the fireplace, while making a subtle design statement. The eye is naturally drawn to the focal point of the living room, the central brick fireplace, bordered by matching windows and built-ins for books and display. While all the rooms are spacious, every room feels inviting and comfortable.

The dining room boasts two beautifully preserved corner hutches and plate rail all around. In homage to the original home, which was dual powered by gas and electric lighting, two gas sconces (decorative only) decorate the room.

French doors from the dining room and several pocket doors allow for easy traffic flow for grand entertaining, or for partitioning the use of the home, when the demand for multiple separate activities arises.

Vestiges of the past remain, beautifully converted to modern day use. Ice delivery once came through a door adjacent to the butler's pantry. Today, the floorplan has been reconfigured, here and elsewhere for today's lifestyle.

A large butler's pantry with original cabinetry from various other locations in the home is the perfect place to stage entertaining events, and extend the cooking preparation stations.

The maid's room from a century ago, which previously opened directly into the kitchen, now is a main floor office. A large main floor bedroom, bath and sleeping porch were also reconfigured into a single large family room, with a wall of original cabinetry and ample room for billiard play.

The adjacent full bath was converted to a powder bath, and the original vintage tub was moved upstairs to create a delightful master suite bathroom.

The improvements and the craftsmanship have all been accomplished with a masterful artistry and meticulous eye to detail.

The large kitchen, remodeled by Alchemy Construction, was the second project by the company, after a successful bathroom in earlier years. The kitchen was designed with four functional, interactive areas.

A compact hub offers a pass through to a casual dining area, and is open to the large central area that serves well as the natural gathering place for most parties, the kitchen.

Upstairs, bedrooms, bathrooms, sleeping porches and closets have been configured to modern day use, with four bedrooms and two full baths, including a master suite with private bath, three closets and a wall of windows.

A sun room could be an extra bedroom sans closet in a pinch, but it's so beautiful as is, almost begging for a child's toys and



dolls, a craft studio or computer room.

For those who feel the need to save and store lots and lots of... stuff, the huge walk-out basement is the ticket here. Not only is there room for storage, there's a workshop area, too!

Flowering vines on grand trellises provide a floral-filled display of light pink purple, yellow and white throughout the year, and dappled shade during the summer and fall months.

Reputed to be some of the finest citrus around, mature orange, tangerine, lime and lemons have provided decades of citrus nearly year round, while the persimmon provides that luscious squishy fruit that hangs like decorative orange ornaments, even after leaf drop.

This home offers central air & heat, a rebuilt chimney, and has been bolted to the foundation.



Today, 470 Ramona in Sierra Madre looks forward to beginning just its third chapter (or family) in over a century. It will be on the market March 1st and offered at \$1,100,000. For more information, or to arrange a showing, contact Reni Rose, of Prudential California Realty in Sierra Madre at 626-355-8400 or visit www.ReniRose.com. Web site coming soon: www.470Ramona.com



Tips of the Trade:
Real Estate Revealed
by Luther Tsinoglou

WHEN LESS COSTS MORE

"Timing the market" in real estate doesn't work the way it does with stocks. Homes are bought and sold more out of necessity than to make an easy buck. However, some indicators give a clue when it's a good time to buy. Like now!

Despite the fact that rates are low and prices may still drop, now is the time to move if you have good credit and funds for down payment. It would be a mistake to "wait and see" if rates or prices fall any more. Why?

Rates are low now because of federal bailouts, but continued low rates can fuel inflation. Fear of inflation causes "the Fed" to raise those rates. Waiting for a lower price on a home while interest rates rise could make the home more expensive.

Example: purchasing a home now for \$177,000 at 5% could make the total cost around \$370,000 by the end of the loan term. But what if you wait for prices to fall more, and next year you get that home for \$160,000. You saved \$17,000 - right? Wrong!

If rates rise 2% during that time, you could pay over \$400,000 over the life of the loan - \$30,000 more than if you bought now! If the math is still fuzzy to you, call me and I'll be glad to crunch the numbers with you. You'll be glad you did.

JEANNE KEATING JOINS CENTURY 21 VILLAGE

Andy Bencosme, Managing Broker of CENTURY 21 Village in Sierra Madre recently welcomed veteran REALTOR Jeanne Keating to his Sierra Madre office. The announcement was made at the office's weekly marketing and sales meeting.

Keating said that she is very excited about her new association with Village and that she chose the Sierra Madre office for the wonderful atmosphere, friendly agents and Bencosme's extensive real estate knowledge.

Keating has been a REALTOR for over 20 years and was honored as the 2011 REALTOR of the Year by the Arcadia Association of REALTORS.

Keating is a Los Angeles native and a longtime resident of Sierra Madre. She has a strong commitment to professionalism and education. She has earned the Council of Residential Specialists (CRS) designation, Seniors Real Estate Specialists (SRES) designation and an e-PRO Internet Specialist designation from the National Association of REALTORS.

Jeanne Keating and all of the friendly CENTURY 21 Village agents can be contacted at 38 W. Sierra Madre Blvd in Sierra Madre or by telephone 626.355.1451 or on the internet at www.c21village.com



WIDE WORLD OF CAMELLIAS

Tom Nuccio of Nuccio Nurseries in Altadena will present the "Wide World of Camellias" at the Sierra Madre Garden Club's dinner/meeting Monday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m.

This presentation will be held in the newly renovated Memorial Park Hart Senior Center, 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre. The public is welcome.

Tom Nuccio, back by popular demand as the program presenter, will show and describe new camellia and azalea introductions, as well as discuss Nuccio's hybridizing and propagation techniques. Tom is part of the family owned Nuccio Nurseries. With more than 600 cultivars and species available, Nuccio's is one of the most recognized sources for camellia and azalea intro-

ductions worldwide. Family members began the business as a backyard operation in 1935 in Alhambra.



Today it is located on six acres in north Altadena at 3555 Cheney Trail.

A catered dinner will be served at the meeting. Cost is \$9 with reservations needed by calling 355-0606. If you wish to attend only the program there is no charge or reservation necessary. Arrive by 7:15 PM.

Please visit the Nuccio website at: www.nucconurseries.com and also the Sierra Madre Garden Club's new website at: www.smgarden.org.

LOVELY SIERRA MADRE LOCATION, READY TO MOVE IN, PRIVATE CORNER LOT
304 Sunnyside Ave., Sierra Madre | Offered at \$739,000

Beautiful, bright, open floor plan. Located in lovely Sierra Madre. This is a large corner lot; the home is 3 good sized bedrooms, 2 baths. The kitchen is open to dining room. There is an indoor laundry room located off the kitchen. The home has just been painted inside and out, pretty hardwood floors, the roof was put on in May 1999. All the windows have gorgeous wood shutters-. This home is ready for you and yours! Showing is easy, just call me!!! No need to preview, great condition!

Features: 1,590 sqft | 9,647 Lot Size | 3 BR | 2 BA

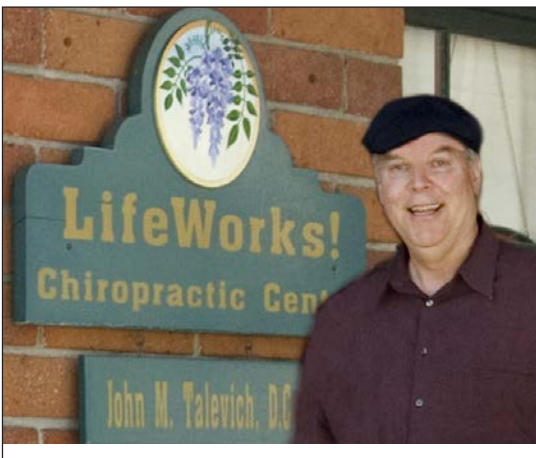


CAROL CANTERBURY

Prudential California Realty
626-252-6322 Cell

CarolCanterbury@hotmail.com

YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Today's Subject:
B-R-E-A-T-H

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.

ious and breathe in the upper portion of the lungs, thereby not receiving the benefit, and calming influence, of deep breath.

Next time you feel anxious or depressed or just plain our of sorts, check in with your breathing. Take a moment to pause and slow down, to breathe deeply and slowly, to exhale in a relaxed fashion. Enjoy it. Watch how your body and mood reset, how life can feel more normal and even uplifted.

Never underestimate the power of calm, deep breath. Try it ~ you'll like it! Dr. John

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

ORGAN DONATION:
YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD

Dear Savvy Senior:

Is there an age limit on being an organ donor? At age 73, I'm interested in being a donor when I die, but am wondering if they would still want my organs. What can you tell me, and what do I need to do to sign up?

Willing But Old

Dear Willing:

There's no defined cutoff age for being an organ donor. In fact, there are many people well up into their 80's that donate. The decision to use your organs is based on health, not age, so don't disqualify yourself prematurely. Let the doctors decide at your time of death whether your organs and tissues are suitable for transplantation.

Donating Facts

In the United States alone, more than 112,000 people are on the waiting list for organ transplants. But because the demand is so much greater than the supply, those on the list routinely wait three to seven years for an organ, and more than 6,500 of them die each year.

Organs that can be donated include the kidneys (which are in the greatest demand with more than 90,000 on the waiting list), liver, lungs, heart, pancreas and intestines. Tissue is also needed to replace bone, tendons and ligaments. Corneas are needed to restore sight. Skin grafts help burn patients heal and often mean the difference between life and death. And heart valves repair cardiac defects and damage.

How to Donate

If you would like to become a donor, there are several steps you should take to ensure your wishes are carried out, including:

Registering: Add your name to your state or regional organ and tissue donor registry. You can do this online at either donatelife.net or organdonor.gov. Both sites provide links to all state registries. If you don't have Internet access, you can call your local organ procurement organization

Well, now, that's just silly, isn't it? After all, the human animal cannot even survive without the intake of oxygen.

True. Still, we have lots of interesting research on just how poorly we humans tend to breathe. In most of the animal kingdom, breathing is a given, a natural event. When prey animals are alarmed, they immediately run and make their escape; within minutes of reaching safety, they relax and breathe normally. Hunting animals, too, have their pattern: breathing changes profoundly during the chase, and returns to normal quickly once the event is over.

Humans, though, have forgotten these patterns. Many times each day, we are startled and either stop breathing or rapidly breathe. The difference with us is, we do not go back quickly to a normal breathing pattern. Instead, we tend to remain anx-

ious and breathe in the upper portion of the lungs, thereby not receiving the benefit, and

calming influence, of deep breath.

Next time you feel anxious or depressed or just plain our of sorts, check in with your breathing. Take a moment to pause and slow down, to breathe deeply and slowly, to exhale in a relaxed fashion. Enjoy it. Watch how your body and mood reset, how life can feel more normal and even uplifted.

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and ask them to mail you a donor card, which you can fill out and return. To get the phone number of your local organization, call Donate Life America at 800-355-7427.

Identify yourself: Designate your decision to become an organ donor on your driver's license, which you can do when you go in to renew it. If, however, you don't drive anymore or if your renewal isn't due for a while, consider getting a state ID card – this also lets you indicate you want to be a donor. You can get an ID card for a few dollars at your nearby driver's license office.

Tell your family: Even if you are a registered donor, in many states family members have the ultimate say whether your organs may be donated after you die. So clarify your wishes to your family. It's also a good idea to tell your doctors and include it in your advance directives. These are legal documents that include a living will and medical power of attorney that spell out your wishes regarding your end-of-life medical treatment when you can no longer make decisions for yourself. If you don't have an advance directive, go to caring-info.org or call 800-658-8898 where you can get free state-specific forms with instructions to help you make one.

For more information on organ and tissue donation and transplantation, visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Donate the Gift of Life website at organdonor.gov. Also see the United Network for Organ Sharing at unos.org, and transplantliving.org which offers information on being a living donor.

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.

FROM SOCIAL SECURITY: Q & A

Question: How long do I need to work to become eligible for retirement benefits?

Answer: Everyone born in 1929 or later needs 40 Social Security credits to be eligible for retirement benefits. You can earn up to four credits per year, so you will need at least 10 years to become eligible for retirement benefits. During your working years, earnings covered by Social Security are posted to your Social Security record. You earn credits based on those earnings. If you become disabled or die before age 62, the number of credits needed depends on your age at the time you die or become disabled. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question: I have children at home and I plan to retire next fall. Will my children be eligible for monthly Social Security payments after I retire?

Answer: A child (biological, legally adopted, or dependent stepchild or grandchild) may potentially be eligible. Monthly Social Security payments may be made to your children if they are:

- Unmarried and under age 18; Age 19 if still in high school or Age 18 or over, who became severely disabled before age 22 and continue to be disabled.

Question: Is there a time limit on Social Security disability benefits?

Answer: Your disability benefits will continue as long as your medical condition has not improved and you cannot work. Social Security will periodically review your case to determine whether you continue to be eligible. If you are still receiving disability benefits when you reach your full retirement age, your disability benefits will automatically be converted to retirement benefits. Learn more about disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Question: Why is there a five-month waiting period for Social Security disability benefits?

Answer: The law states that Social Security disability benefits begin with the sixth full month after the date your disability began. You are not entitled to benefits for any month prior to that. Learn more at our website: www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Question: My grandfather, who is receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), will be coming to live with me. Does he have to report the move to Social Security?

Answer: Yes. An SSI beneficiary must report any change in living arrangements within 10 days after the month the change occurs. If the change is not reported, your grandfather could receive an incorrect payment and have to pay it back, or he may not receive all the money due. Just as importantly, your grandfather needs to report the new address to Social Security to receive mail from us. You can report the change by mail or in person at any Social Security office or call Social Security's toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778). You can get more information by reading the booklet Understanding SSI, at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi.

Question: I found out that my son submitted incorrect information about my resources when he completed my Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs. How can I get my application changed now to show the correct amount?

Answer: You can call 1-800-772-1213 and let us know. Or you can visit your local Social Security office (find it by using our office locator at www.socialsecurity.gov/locator). Information on your application will be matched with data from other Federal agencies. If there is a discrepancy that requires verification, we will contact you.

SENIOR HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

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

MONDAYS: City Hall & Lunch Café

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.

2012 EXCURSIONS

SAVE THE DATES
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD - Community Whale Watching Trip; \$28 per person. The bus will leave the Community Recreation Center at 10 am and return at 3:30 pm. Cost includes transportation and a 2 1/2 hour charter boat tour out of Long Beach. Registration can be done either in person or online at www.cityofsierramadre.com/onlineeregistration

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THURSDAY, APRIL 26TH - Palm Springs Follies. Spend the day in sunny PS and see the new show Hot! Hot! Hot! celebrating those memories of endless summers with music and dance. COST per person is \$58 (includes transportation, tip & show). Lunch will be on your own at one of the many restaurants next to the theatre.

Registration can be done either in person or online at:

www.cityofsierramadre.com/onlineeregistration



February Birthdays
Lorraine Bush, Hilda Pittman, Susan Henderson, Sylvia Lorhan, Ann Luke, Janet O'Day, Ana Ptasiński, Jan Reed, Winifred Swanson



Meals-On-Wheels

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

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

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



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

LUNCH & LEARN

Join the Senior
Community Commission
at the
HART PARK HOUSE
for a FREE presentation. Lunch is
available for a
\$2 donation
Call (626) 355-0256 by
12 noon the day before.

DIAL - A - RIDE TICKETS

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



Pasadena Highlands, an independent and assisted living community, is proud to provide a special gift basket on the first Tuesday of each month. Accredited In-Home nursing care will provide a special prize on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Bingo takes place every Tuesday at 1:30 pm at the Sierra Madre Recreation Center while the Hart Park House is under remodeling. The game begins at 1:30 pm but those wishing to play must arrive 10 minutes before to secure your Bingo cards. Join us on the 1st & 4th Tuesday of each month

Elite Dentistry
of Pasadena

Oksana Boyechko, DMD, CDE
Professor at UCLA School of Dentistry



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EXTRAORDINARY
CUSTOM FLORAL
ARRANGEMENTS

Looking Up

with Bob Eklund

COULD VENUS BE SHIFTING GEAR?

The European Space Agency’s Venus Express spacecraft has discovered that our cloud-covered neighbor spins a little slower than previously measured. Peering through Venus’ dense atmosphere in the infrared, the orbiter found that surface features were not quite where they should have been.

Using the VIRTIS instrument at infrared wavelengths to penetrate the thick cloud cover, scientists studied surface features and discovered that some were displaced by up to 20 km from where they should be given the accepted rotation rate as measured by NASA’s Magellan orbiter in the early 1990s.

These detailed measurements from orbit are helping scientists determine whether Venus has a solid or liquid core, which will help our understanding of the planet’s creation and how it evolved.

If Venus has a solid core, its mass must be more concentrated towards the center. In this case, the planet’s rotation would react less to external forces.

The most important of those forces is due to the dense atmosphere—more than 90 times the pressure of Earth’s—and high-speed weather systems, which are believed to change the planet’s rotation rate through friction with the surface.

Earth experiences a similar effect, where it is largely caused by wind and tides. The length of an Earth day can change by roughly a millisecond and varies seasonally with wind patterns and temperatures over the course of a year.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Venera and Magellan orbiters made radar maps of the surface of Venus, long shrouded in mystery as well as in a dense, crushing and poisonous atmosphere. These maps gave us our first detailed global view of this unique and hostile world.

Over its four-year mission, Magellan was able to watch features rotate under the spacecraft, allowing scientists to determine the length of the day on Venus as being equal to 243.0185 Earth days.

However, surface features seen by Venus Express some 16 years later could only be lined up with those observed by Magellan if the length of the Venus day is on average 6.5 minutes longer than Magellan measured.

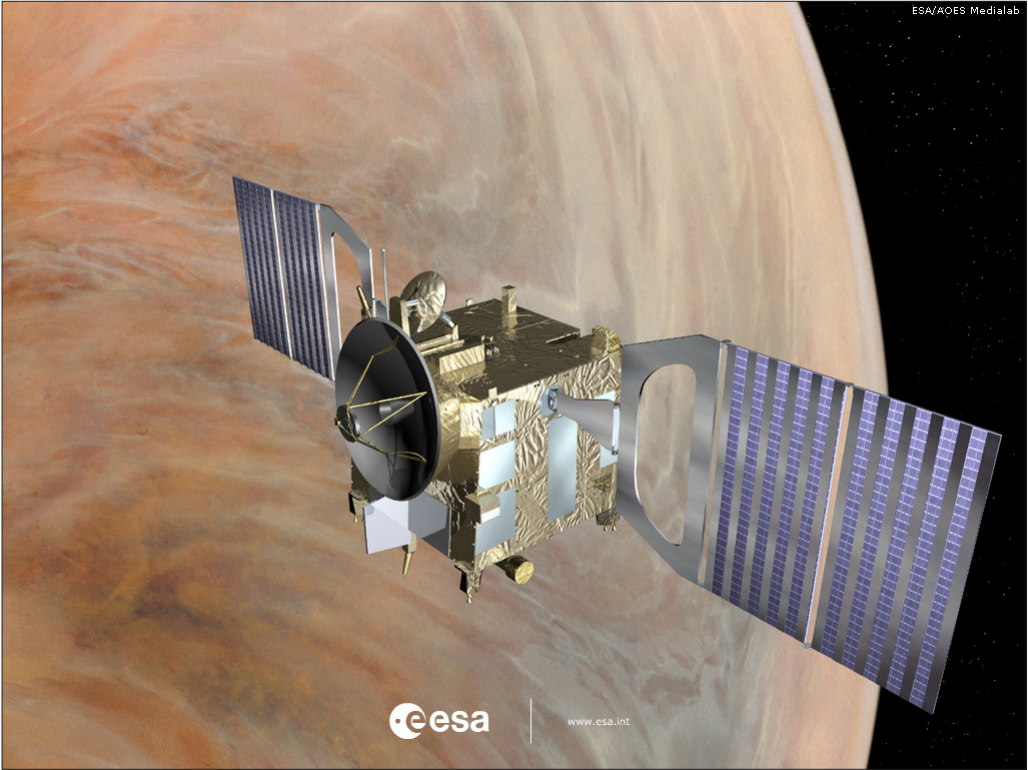
This also agrees with the most recent long-duration radar measurements from Earth.

“When the two maps did not align, I first thought there was a mistake in my calculations as Magellan measured the value very accurately, but we have checked every possible error we could think of,” said Nils Müller, a planetary scientist at the DLR German Aerospace Center, lead author of a research paper investigating the rotation.

Scientists, including Özgür Karatekin of the Royal Observatory of Belgium, looked at the possibility of short-term random variations in the length of a Venus day, but concluded these should average themselves out over longer timescales.

On the other hand, other recent atmospheric models have shown that the planet could have weather cycles stretching over decades, which could lead to equally long-term changes in the rotation period. Other effects could also be at work, including exchanges of angular momentum between Venus and the Earth when the two planets are relatively close to each other.

“An accurate value for Venus’ rotation rate will help in planning future missions, because precise information will be needed to select potential landing sites,” noted Håkan Svedhem, ESA’s Venus Express project scientist.



Venus Express in orbit since 2006 around our nearest planetary neighbour.

Credits: ESA

While further study is needed, it’s clear that Venus Express is penetrating far deeper into the mysteries of this enigmatic planet than anyone dreamed.

On Line

By PJ Carpenter

GUEST COLUMNIST: LAQUETTA ON LINKEDIN

LOOKING FOR A JOB? GET LINKEDIN!

LinkedIn™ has been described as the social networking site for adults. Launched in May 2003 just nine months before Facebook went live, LinkedIn has evolved into the most widely-used, social networking services used as a pre-employment screening tool by human resources professionals like Vickie Campbell. She has added this tool to a repertoire of more than 20 years experience as a recruiter, which has included positions with two of the Top 10 international law firms in the Los Angeles area.

She was assigned to coordinate the recruitment of attorneys and interns from the top 50 law schools in the U.S., including Harvard, Yale, Stanford, USC, UCLA, Loyola Marymount and others. Her employers high standards entailed identifying and screening students who were ranked in the top 5% to 10% of

their graduating classes. This task required a high level of scrutiny and a meticulous attentiveness to each phase of the process, up to, and including employment.

Vickie is known as an early adopter of social media since she was quick to understand the importance of, and invested time to master systems like LinkedIn. When peers realized that

she was one of the few among them who was actually using this technology, she was approached to teach and mentor colleagues and job seekers. For the past year, she has conducted LinkedIn trainings and other social media workshops at Women At Work’s Career Resource Center in Pasadena. She as developed a LinkedIn course curriculum with a focus on strategic networking to identify and generate employment opportunities. She believes that the pros of using social media far outweigh the cons, stating, “LinkedIn provides job seekers with immediate access to an online community that readily shares job leads and expertise. It’s also more cost effective, since all it requires is access to a computer with internet access.”

Happy Tails

by Chris Leclerc.

Canyon Canine Dog
Walking & Pet Sitting Services

I received a call from one of my Canyon Canine clients, Colleen, a couple of weeks ago. Let me just say, this is a girl who loves her dogs more than most pet owners. She takes them out for a vigorous walk every day, keeps them on a balanced diet, and calls me to keep up the routine periodically, when she has to travel for her job. Naturally I was very pleased to hear her voice, but unfortunately, she was calling to give me some not-so-happy news about one of her two dogs, a sweet shepherd mix named “Hannah”, who was recently diagnosed with canine Diabetes Mellitus (DM). I was so surprised to hear that such a healthy, active dog as Hannah could have contracted a disease that I’ve always assumed to be associated with obesity and/or a lack of exercise. Hannah has a normal energy & activity level for her age, and has been trained to maintain healthy exercise & eating habits all her life, so to me she seemed like an unlikely candidate for diabetes.

When I asked Colleen about the symptoms that prompted her to pay a visit to the veterinarian, she said that Hannah had been camping out at the water bowl, drinking like a fiend. She first noticed Hannah’s water asphyxiation a few weeks ago, but with unusually warm weather at the time, and more trekking and hiking the trails in the canyon than usual, it seemed natural that Hannah would be so thirsty. Eventually, when the temperature dropped and Hannah was still spending inordinate amounts of time at the water bowl, her mom realized it was time to visit the vet. Hannah showed no other symptoms or signs of sickness, but her obvious need to drink was enough to cause my client’s concern. Fortunately, the vet knew which tests to perform, and was able to diagnose the problem and prescribe the proper treatment in a timely manner. I couldn’t help myself from feeling frustrated on her behalf and thinking, “Darn that doggie diabetes disease!”. It just seems un-fair for a responsible, loving & caring pet owner who does all the right things to ensure the best health of her dog, to have to deal with such a drastic disease, but that is apparently how it goes with canine DM.

After hearing the news about Hannah’s demise, I looked further into the facts about this serious, yet manageable doggie disease, and I learned that canine DM is nowhere near as selective as I thought it was in choosing its victims. Much like it does for humans, Diabetes Mellitus causes major concerns and complications for the canine, and is not at all limited to overweight or sedentary dogs. It is known to attack canines of various activity levels, ages, sizes and breeds and it can even show up in dogs which are kept on excellent exercise regimens and healthy diets, such as Hannah.

DARN THAT DOGGIE DIABETES DISEASE!

Tips On Detecting & Managing Canine DM

According to the information I found during my research on this subject, canine DM is caused by a variety of factors. While it is indiscriminant in terms of which dogs it chooses to attack, there are certain breeds that are known to have a naturally stronger pre-disposition for developing the condition, rendering them at a higher risk. A 2007 study published in “Journal of Heredity” ranked several popular canine breeds from high to low risk, in developing diabetes. The top 2 breeds on the ‘risk list’ were reported to be the Cairn terrier and the Samoyed. The same study showed that German Shepherds and Golden Retrievers are less susceptible than previously assumed. These findings came as a surprise to many in the canine care community, since traditional preconceptions (including my own) indicate that larger breeds are more at risk due to an overly healthy appetite, while medium to small breeds tend to respond to the dinner bell with a picky pallet. A canine’s tendency to succumb to the detriments of diabetes can be associated with previous health complications, such as pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas), or hyperadrenocorticism (aka: Cushing’s disease). A dog whose health has been marginalized by a condition resulting in problems with insulin production or processing is inherently more vulnerable to contracting DM. The jury is still out for some veterinarians as to the accuracy of the 2007 study findings, but the general consensus is that diabetes can indeed occur in any breed of dog.

The happy side of this otherwise sad saga, is that canine DM is manageable if detected in a timely manner, and treated properly. Because Hannah’s loving owner was observant enough to notice her increased water intake, she was able to be diagnosed and treated before her condition deteriorated to a point of no return. Hannah is now receiving daily injections of carefully measured insulin, per doctor’s orders. Daily insulin therapy allows her system to process glucose that would otherwise overpopulate her blood stream, thereby creating a virtual garden for the growth of infection, and possibly cause major damage to her kidneys. Another course of action taken to get Hannah’s system back on course was to put her on a high fiber diet, for more expedient excretion of potentially sugar producing food particles in her digestive system.

Thankfully, Hannah is doing great! She takes daily walks and loves to play ball in her back yard with her doggie brother “Murphy”. As pet owners, we can learn from Hannah and Colleen’s experience, by paying closer attention to our dog’s drinking habits, and consulting the vet if we detect anything other than normal thirstiness. All the best of health & happiness to you and your beloved pets!

KATIE Tse.....This and That



Dear Diary...

KPCC aired an interesting story last week. Here it is in a nutshell: a woman met a man who she wasn’t sure about, although he pursued her with gusto from the start. One day she noticed his journal left conspicuously on a table. Her curiosity got the better of her, and she opened the book. After reading lurid details of his current exploits with other women, she broke up with him immediately. Her sister relayed a similar account of finding her boyfriend’s journal lying out in the open. Discovering that he intended to break up with her, she used the opportunity to beat him to the punch.

The lesson in these stories is that satisfying the urge to know what someone really thinks of you will likely leave you wounded in the end. But with all this talk of journals, all I could think of was --how many men really keep journals? We all know “journal” is just a masculine name for “diary.” And “diaries” conjure up images of hard bound, floral print books fastened with dainty clasps. I also wondered, how did these women know the books were diaries? (Assuming they didn’t have ruffles or rhinestones?) Perhaps men’s journals have some sort of clasping devise, a rugged leather cord fastened through a buckle. Sorry, I don’t care if it’s raw hide with metal studs, diaries are still girly.

Stereotypically speaking, men are also less verbal than women, so the thought of them chronicling their daily lives seems unusual. And why were these men leaving their diaries, containing their most intimate thoughts, exposed to possible prying eyes? It’s as if they were screaming “Read me! Read me!” They seemed to be using the journals as a passive form of exhibitionism. Which brings us to question the actual purpose of journaling. Often people talk about journaling as a cathartic means of getting through rough times in life. Such as: “My counselor told me to journal my feelings as my divorce was being finalized.” Few people are disciplined enough to make daily entries if life is hunky dory. So, keeping a diary im-

plies some specific needs on the part of the writer. Either you’re afraid you’ll forget all the interesting things that happen to you, or you need some sort of record if you’re ever called to testify as to what you were doing on February 18, 2009. Or, as with passive exhibitionism, you might be mildly egocentric and believe that your daily experiences are more interesting and relevant than those of everyone else. (These are the people who Tweet about the cute way their cat crawls in a circle before going to sleep.)

I recently started a very informal diary of my own. Informal, in that it’s a Word document; putting pen to paper is just too much



© 2012 Katherine Tse

effort. And since I plan to read it at some later date, I’ve decided to record only majorly happy or extremely funny events. And because these don’t happen regularly, I’m not obligated to make daily entries. One of my latest entries was about a blond Labrador crossing Baldwin as I was driving north. Its owner got to the middle of the road, and then his dog hunkered down right in the middle of the street. No amount of cajoling, yelling, or jerking of its leash made a bit of difference. At last, the owner had no choice but to drag him across, in an upright seated position. That dog must have a calloused bottom or have been just really stubborn.

See? This is the sort of thing I’ll laugh about in my twilight years, even if I don’t recall the actual incident.



HUDDLE UP!



By Harvey Hyde

Tom Knust: Another Kind of Hero

In this space last week I wrote about my former player, Randall Cunningham, who was honored in Indianapolis on Super Bowl weekend with the NFL Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

This week I'm highlighting another former player, Tom Knust. Tom doesn't have the same name recognition as Randall, who went from UNLV to a 16-year NFL career. But in my eyes the achievements of Tom Knust make him a true hero. Randall received a prestigious award. Tom received a Purple Heart.

A 1965 graduate of Arcadia High, Tom was a 178-pound sophomore defensive tackle on my PCC team that was the No. 1-ranked junior college team in the country before being upset by Henderson (Tex.) in the last Junior Rose Bowl ever played.

Tom was an adventurous sort who took time off after his freshman year to join a carnival based in Minnesota just for the experience. He did everything from selling soda pop in the stands to cleaning up after the animals. He was penciled in as a starter on the team, so he returned to PCC to play a second season of football.

After the football season and looking for more action, Tom enlisted in the Marines and was soon off to Vietnam. He had been there only three weeks when his battalion got ambushed. Tom got shot in the head.

"The bullet went through my helmet, through my head and out the other side," Tom says. "It felt like I had been hit in the head with a sledge hammer. Then everything went dark and I thought, 'This is what it feels like to die.'" Incredibly, Tom lived. His squad consisted of nine men. Seven died.

Tom's recovery and hospitalization took many months and he was left paralyzed on his right side. These days he walks with a pronounced limp.

After returning from Vietnam and gaining enough strength to go to work, Tom got a job at Santa Anita, first becoming a groom, the most menial rung on horse racing's ladder. Over time he worked his way up through the ranks and in 1990 became the racing secretary at both Santa Anita and Del Mar.

He lost that job in 1999 because of corporate changes. These days he is not only a jockey agent but also the racing secretary



Tom Knust

for the Fairplex Park racing meet held annually during the Los Angeles County Fair in Pomona.

As a jockey agent, his current client is Kevin Krigger, an up and coming 28-year-old who rode in Washington and Northern California before coming to Santa Anita. Former clients include Patrick Valenzuela, Kent Desormeaux and Corey Nakatani.

Tom wrote a book about his life which he has turned into a screenplay. I hope he is successful in selling the screenplay. It would make a heck of a movie.

I interviewed Tom on my radio show a while ago after he had completed a second book which took three years to research and write. Inspired by a friendship with B. Wayne Hughes who is a horse owner and the founder of Public Storage, Tom wrote "Behind the Orange Door." Written long before the TV show "Storage Wars," the book details 36 stories about what people leave behind in Public Storage facilities. The book tells of the people who stored the contents and those who eventually buy the abandoned units at auction. We learn that some come across treasures worth a small fortune, and others discover a fascinating history of each container and past owners.

I am proud of so many of my former staff and players. I am especially proud of Tom Knust, who did what he did, not for pay, or for a scholarship, but for our country -- and continued on to achieve success. He may walk with a limp, but he stands tall. I salute him.

LASALLE ADVANCES IN CIF PLAYOFFS

On Thursday, February 16 starting at 7:00 pm, the La Salle Lancers took on the Silver Knights of Riverside Prep in Victorville to determine who would advance to the second round of the CIF-Southern Section 4A Girls Basketball playoffs.

Facing a team that had gone 21-0 in their regular season and had been 12-0 in league play, the Lancers came out sluggish and were down 22-11 at the end of the first quarter. Some intensified defense, fast-break opportunities and overall improved effort helped the Lancers storm back, taking a 32-31 halftime lead.

"Our team fought through some early adversity and got after them on defense," said Lancers Head Coach Kevin Cormier. "I really liked the intensity for the last three quarters, as it not only led to tougher looks for them, but also gave us a chance to get out in transition, score the basketball and set our defense."

The Silver Knights, led by Sophomore Tianni Hill who averaged 15.6 points per game during the regular season, were no match for the inspired Lancers who outscored their opponent 37-17 in the second half, breaking open a close game and advancing in impressive fashion by a final score of 69-48.



"We are excited to be hosting a second round CIF game on Saturday night," stated first year Director of Athletics, Anthony Harris. "Even though it is a three-day week-end, we hope all Lancers staying in the area will come out and support the girls who do a great job of representing the school. As an 8-seed the expectations are high, but we know that they can achieve or surpass these expectations and give a great effort in attempting to continue this playoff run."

Next up for the Lancers will be the Marlborough Mustangs from Los Angeles' Hancock Park. Winners at home on Thursday night over the Cubs of Mayfield Senior School by a score of 72-39, they come into the contest playing solid basketball. The game will be played at Duffy Lewis Gymnasium on the La Salle Campus starting at 7:00 pm, this coming Saturday, February 18th. Tickets are available at the door. General Admission is \$8 per person. Students (with valid High School I.D.) are only \$5, as are Children (Ages 3-13).

Lancers also topple North High Torrance



Lasalle's Varsity Boys Volleyball team was also victorious when they faced North High School, Torrance earlier in the week.

Photos by John Blackstock



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