

POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION CLAIM REOPENS CONTRACTING DEBATE

By Susan Henderson

Sierra Madre residents who support the outsourcing of public safety services may look at the recent claim filed by the SM Police Officers Association (POA) for new ammunition.

The complaint, filed in June with the state's Public Employment Relations Board, alleges that the city, "negotiated in bad faith" when it negotiated the Terms and Conditions of Employment imposed after the city and POA failed to reach an agreement late last year.

Although the SMPD officers are employees of the city of Sierra Madre, because they are represented by a union, a separate agreement, known as a Memorandum of Understanding is the mutually agreed upon governing document. The last MOU expired in December 2011 without the city and the Police Officers Association reaching a new agreement.

When that happens, the city imposes Terms and Conditions that govern the department until such time as a new MOU is executed.

According to Michael McGill, of Lackie, Dammeier, & McGill, attorneys for the Association, the city was well aware that there was no provision for holiday pay in the governing document under which the Police are currently operating. However, City Manager Elaine Aguilar denies the allegation. Says Aguilar, "When the Terms and Conditions were imposed in December, all previous MOUs were no longer valid. The city implemented the provisions that were in the new terms and conditions and the holiday provision was different than the old MOU".

At issue are the 48 hours of holiday pay per officer that the SMPD earned from December 22, 2011 through June 30, 2012. They are known as 'floating holidays', as officers are often assigned to work on holidays. When that happens, their holiday pay is accrued, or banked, until the officer chooses to use it. The terms and conditions imposed by the city that went into effect in December starts the 'floating holiday' accrual on July 1, 2012, rather than in December, 2011 when the MOU expired. On July 1st the officers received 104 hours of floating holiday time.

Further exacerbating the concerns of the officers is the fact that on January 1, 2012 when SMPD received their paychecks, the floating holiday hours accumulated were shown. The following pay period, according to SMPOA Vice Present Esther Doyle, they received a note from Personnel Director Elisa Weaver that those hours were shown in error and had been removed.

SMPOA President Ed Delcours says that efforts to address the issue prior to the claim being filed have been futile. The officers filed the claim in late June, days before the expiration of the statute of limitations for filing a claim.

Aguilar noted that the SMPOA did not file a grievance with the city, an avenue available to all employees.

The date of the hearing by PERB is not known at this time. Ironically, the POA and City continue negotiations on a new Memorandum of Understanding.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT HIRES NEW CAPTAINS



Former Paramedic Coordinator Greg Christmas, left, and Former Fire Marshal Rich Snyder, right, are two of the Captains hired. They are pictured above at a SM Fire Academy Graduation with Police Chief Steve Heydorf, center. Photo by Dean Lee, MVNews Archives

At press time, City Manager Elaine Aguilar announced the selection of three Captains for the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department. The following is the announcement:

After an extensive recruitment process, I am pleased to announce the appointment of the three full-time Fire Captains. Before rising to the top of the recruitment (we received 20 applications), these gentlemen took written exams, practical exams, and had at least three interviews.

The three new Captains are:

Greg Christmas- Captain Christmas has been employed with the City since 2007 (as the City's Paramedic Coordinator), in addition to possessing the required fire certifications, he also has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management and is currently enrolled in a Master's Degree program from the University of Phoenix. Christmas was also a SMFD Volunteer Captain and in addition to his fire and paramedic service, also has experience as an Emergency Room Technician and is a retired L.A. County Reserve Deputy Sheriff.

Rich Snyder- Captain Snyder has been employed by the City for the past 22 years. He has advanced through the ranks

from a Firefighter/EMT to Fire Inspector, to Deputy Fire Marshal to Fire Marshal. He was also a SMFD Volunteer Captain. Snyder has an extensive background in the fire service and is often called upon by other agencies in California and Arizona for his expertise in building construction and fire codes. Snyder served on the original State committee that developed the current Urban Wildland Interface Code. He is also considered "the expert" in fire sprinkler systems and codes.

Perry Goth – Captain Goth has been working with the City as a part-time Fire Engineer since October 2011. He has over 12 years of fire service experience, including 4 years as a company fire officer at Atascadero State Hospital in Atascadero, California. Perry is also certified by the State of California as a Fire Marshal, and as a fire instructor in multiple subjects related to the fire industry. His instructor experience will be a huge asset to Sierra Madre as we will be able to use his expertise to provide instruction for our Firefighters. He possesses an Associate of Science degree in Fire Science and has worked for City of Santa Paula Fire Department, Riverside County Fire Department and most recently as a Fire Captain for the Department of Mental Health.

KENSINGTON PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

Councilman Koerber's Official Statement

After an exhaustive review of the Kensington proposal – nine Planning Commission meetings and three City Council meetings – I am pleased that the city is moving forward with the November vote to approve what will undoubtedly be an asset to the Sierra Madre community.

While the proposed Kensington Project is not a perfect project, it is nonetheless a very good project.

I am particularly pleased that the project maintains the spirit of Measure V. Allowing citizens to vote on such an important project helps to ensure that the community has a say in major city changes – especially those located in the Downtown Central Core.

I'm especially pleased that private funds are being used for the Kensington – thus avoiding further burdens on Sierra Madre's budget.

I thank the applicant Fountain Square Development West, for their cooperation with the city and also for their request agreeing to put the project up for a Measure V vote.

I look forward to this important the project moving forward (pending the results of the November 6, 2012 vote), both for the important services it will bring to our community and also for the revenue it will generate for the citySierra Madre as well.

SIERRA MADRE CITY AND CHAMBER TO HOST BUSINESS FORUM

On Wednesday, August 1, 2012, from 3:00–4:00pm in the City Council Chambers, located at 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre, the City of Sierra Madre and the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a forum designed to provide local business owners with current consumer data specific to each business.

The data comes from the recent Market Demand Study commissioned by the City Council. The forum on the 1st will be presented by an expert in customer psychographics who will explain how the data can be used to Sierra Madre's businesses' benefit. Attendees will receive current consumer data including: household level demographic and psychographic detail and comparison, detailed household type reports, and household level Consumer Propensity Reports. Consumer Propensity Reports contain listings of actual products that Sierra Madre shoppers leave Sierra Madre to purchase; utilizing the consumer propensity reports, resident businesses could capitalize on this market share to increase their business' profitability.

359 Grove St., Sierra Madre, CA

Carol Canterbury

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Toni Moran

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Coming Next Week: Sierra Madre Police Blotter!

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s

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:
August 14th, 2012 6:30 pm

Wednesday, August 1 3:00pm - 4:00pm Business Forum

Thursday, August 2

3:00pm Senior Community Commission Meeting
7:00pm CANCELLED - Planning Commission Mtg

Friday, August 3

5:00pm Honors Dinner Nominations Due



Sierra Madre Rotary Club

Meets Tuesdays 7-8:30 a.m.
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
The Hart Park House



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.

Visitors are heartily welcomed to meetings. From more information, please visit our website or contact Peggy Beauregard at peggybeau@gmail.com and visit our Facebook page Rotary of Sierra Madre.

www.SierraMadreRotary.com

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.



This Thursday, July 26, 2012 at 7:00 PM, Village Intersections Host Gene Goss will interview Republican Candidate for Congress Jack Orswell.

Set your smart phone or computer browsers to www.radiofishbowl.com.

SIERRA MADRE FARMERS MARKET

The Farmers Market is open today and every Wednesday from 3:00-8:00 p.m. The location of the market is on Hermosa Avenue, south of Sierra Madre Boulevard to Mariposa Avenue, situated in the downtown area of Sierra Madre. The market has organic, fresh and locally grown produce. The farmers market is a great opportunity to come on down and meet the farmer directly. Dry Dock Fish has fresh and delicious wild caught varieties of fish. Rustic Loaf has your artisanal breads baked fresh that same day and brought to the market. Cutie Pie that has pies made with the fruits of our organic farmers, make sure you pick one or two up for desert. There are so many unique and amazing finds at the farmers market. Come on down to the Sierra Madre Farmers Market and shake the hand that feed you.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor at the Farmers Market, please contact Melissa Farwell from Raw Inspiration at (818) 591-8161 Ext. 806. Raw Inspiration, Inc., is responsible for all management and marketing of the City's Farmers Market.

Sierra Madre Friends of the Library BEST USED BOOK SALE

If your stack of summer reading material is getting low, the best place to replenish the stack is at the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library's Best Used Book Sale being held on Friday, August 3, from 3:00-7:00PM and Saturday, August 4, from 10:00AM-2:00PM. The library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. in the city of Sierra Madre.

Best Used Book Sales co-chairs, Martha Troedson and Alan Leahy, say the sale features a number of lovely coffee table books on gardening, art, history and contemporary culture. For the history buffs, there is a collection of Civil War books. And just in time for school, a number of dictionaries and references will be on sale. These items and many other adult fiction and non-fiction books, audio books, CDs, and DVDs will be available to purchase for your reading and listening pleasure. For the children and teens, we have many books and DVDs, including pop-ups. We still have some bound vintage copies of Life, Saturday Evening Post, and National Geographic that contain articles of historical interest and are fun to look at for the fashions and advertisements. The bargain tables in our parking lot will offer hardback and trade fiction and non-fiction for \$1-2.00 each and paperbacks for twenty-five cents each (or five for \$1.00). This month's bargain tables feature many resource and practice books for teachers and cookbooks. All children's bargain books are five for a dollar. Proceeds from the Best Used Book Sales are donated to the Sierra Made Public Library to support program and equipment needs.

Because the markets are encouraging us to use cloth bags, our supply of paper shopping bags is rapidly diminishing and we appreciate your bringing your own bags and boxes when you come to the Sierra Madre Library on Friday, August 3, and Saturday, August 4, for an opportunity to purchase some of the best used books around at the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library's Best Used Book Sale. For more information, visit our website at sierramadrelibraryfriends.org or call 626-355-7186.

COMMISSION APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

The City Council is still looking for interested people looking to serve on a City Commission. There following Commissions have vacancies as of July 1st:

Planning Commission - Two Seats
Senior Commission - Two Seats
Tree Advisory Commission - One Seat

Anyone interested in volunteering on a Commission, should visit the City's website or the City Manager's office.

SUMMER ART EXHIBIT

Summer Artist is Celeste Mendelsohn and her display will be up now through Friday, August 3, 2012. The special artist reception will be held on Friday, July 20th from 6:00pm - 7:30pm at City Hall. For more information on Celeste Mendelsohn's art please visit <http://celesteintheround.com>

SUMMER MOVIE SERIES



NEW 2012 Summer Movie Series in Kersting Court Thanks to generous donations from the Sierra Madre Police Association and the Sierra Madre Community through outreach by Bob Jackson, the Family Movie Fridays series continues this

summer! All movies are shown in Kersting Court and are absolutely free for everyone. Movies begin approximately at 8:00pm and patrons are encouraged to bring seating and blankets for the event.

The Sierra Madre Police Association is providing vouchers for ice cream and yogurt on the July 20 and August 3 dates, which can be redeemed at Mother Moo Creamery or Yogurt & More.

For more information contact the Community Services Department at 626-355-5278

Summer Family Movie Fridays Line-Up

- August 3, 2012 - Ratatouille
- August 17, 2012 - E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial

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THE SIERRA MADRE KIWANIS CLUB

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WHEN WE MEET AT 7:45AM. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
JOIN US, MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS, HELP YOUR COMMUNITY,
AND HAVE SOME FUN!



Splash into Summer Safety

With the warm summer months upon us and kids out of school for the summer, it's time to hit the beach and pools for some fun. Come out on Tuesday, July 31 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Splash into Summer Safety with Waterworks Aquatics and the Sierra Madre Fire Department. This eventful day will take place at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre. See first-hand at what Sierra Madre firefighters and lifeguards do when a drowning occurs and how parents and babysitters can be prepared for a safe outing at any pool.

A live demonstration of a "Mock" drowning water rescue will take place at 10am with FREE recreational swim for the community to follow. Specialized rescue equipment as well as activities and games will provide a unique learning opportunity for children and adults.

For more information, please contact Waterworks Aquatics at 626-836-1200.

SIERRA MADRE SCARECROW FESTIVAL

Plans are in the works for a contest in October where residents will receive "Crow Awards" for the most creative scarecrows in the "humorous" and "scariest" categories for residents and for businesses, for having the most creative scarecrow(s) representing their business.

Currently plans are for life sized scarecrows and according to Executive Director Jackie Raymond, "We envision residents and guests driving through the town" in a manner similar to when people view Christmas or Halloween decorations. "It will bring families of Sierra Madre together and promote our business."

Don't know how to make a scarecrow? Creative Arts will be hosting a FREE Scarecrow Making Workshop at Creative Arts Group Saturday, September 15, 2012 from noon to 7 pm, to the first 60 families.

Workshop participants need to bring clothes and accessories for their scarecrow. Everything else will be provided. These scarecrows are life-size, so bring appropriate items. You might want to bring pants or stockings to create legs and gloves to create hands for your scarecrow.

The workshop is free, but you must register (626-355-8350) LIMITED ENROLLMENT. To participate in the contest applications are due on September 25th. Scarecrows will be displayed October 1st through October 31st at residents and businesses.

On Friday, October 5th and awards ceremony will be held at Creative Arts for the winners of the residents and businesses.

For more information, contact the Creative Arts Group via email at foothillcreativeartsgroup@creativeartsgroup.org or call 626-355-8350.



SIERRA MADRE WOMAN'S CLUB LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Sierra Madre Woman's Club is looking for long-term volunteers. They are looking for assistance with their Thrift Shop and volunteers with newspaper editing and fundraising experience.

If you are interested in any of the volunteer positions please contact the Woman's Club at 626-355-4379.

Looking For The Mountain Views News?

Stop by any of the following locations (partial listing) for your copy every Saturday or call 626-355-2737 to sign up for home delivery!

Sierra Public Library
Sierra Madre Post Office
Sierra Madre City Hall
Bean Town Sierra Madre
Starbucks Sierra Madre
Bottle Shop Sierra Madre
Happy's Liquors Sierra Madre
Sierra Madre Senior Center

Arcadia Public Library
Arcadia Post Office
Arcadia City Hall
Starbucks Arcadia
Denny's Arcadia

Monrovia Public Library
Monrovia Post Office
Monrovia City Hall
Coffee Bean Monrovia (Foothill/Myrtle)
The Monrovia
Rudy's Monrovia
Monrovia Senior Center

Duarte Public Library
Duarte City Hall
Denny's Duarte
Starbucks Duarte
Coffee Bean Duarte
I HOP Duarte
Duarte Senior Center

Pasadena City Hall
Pasadena Senior Center
Faschings Car Wash
Robin's Bar B Que
Pasadena
Walkway at Vromans
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REMEMBRANCE

Edward Royal Hawkins

Edward Royal Hawkins II, of La Crescenta, born December 23, 1961, passed away in his sleep on July 20, 2012 in Sierra Madre, California. He is survived by his wife, Meg (Campbell) Hawkins, his daughter, Sophia Camille, age 13, and his son, Keaton Hugh, age 11.

Ed was born in La Canada to Yvonne (Lechinski) Hawkins and Robert Royal Hawkins. He graduated from La Canada High School, class of 1980, and then served for four years as an Air-crewman in the United States Navy. He graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena with a degree in product design and went on to found and run the company Cool Military (www.coolmilitary.com), producing custom-made designs for military units around the world.

He will be dearly missed by his parents and six siblings, brother Bob and wife Jackie Hawkins of Seattle, Washington, brother Joe Hawkins of Mobile, Alabama, brother John and wife Kelley Hawkins of Granada Hills, brother Tim and wife Eva Hawkins of Atascadero, brother Tom Hawkins of Santa Monica, and sister MaryRose and husband Ken Lovgren of Chico; and by his brothers-in-law Dan and Tim Campbell, his sisters-in-law Lynn Karp and Carla Berrey, his mother-in-law Nancy Campbell, and all of his friends and family.

Memorial Services will be 11:00 am Friday, July 27 2012 at St. Bede Catholic Church in La Canada. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been set up at Bank of America in La Crescenta. Any donations can be made to account 325001945713 either in person or online via www.bankofamerica.com

SMPOA *continued from page 1*

A very vocal group of Sierra Madre residents may see this latest claim as another reason to contract out public safety services as the cost of defending such actions is an additional strain on the city's budget.

Lackie, Dammeier, & McGill are also representing former SMPD Officer John Ellins in an appeal that is currently pending in Federal Court. Ellins, sued the city and former Police Chief Marilyn Diaz in 2009. The City won that lawsuit, however, an appeal is currently pending. *(See related story on right).*

SIERRA MADRE FREE CONCERT IN THE PARK SERIES - *Presented by Athens Services and the Sierra Madre Issei Memorial Foundation*

Join the City of Sierra Madre this summer for the Concerts in the Park, beginning Sunday, July 8, 2012 and occurring every Sunday through August 26, 2012. The concerts are FREE thanks to the support of Athens Services and the Sierra Madre Issei Memorial Foundation, along with numerous community hosts. Concerts begin at 6:00pm and run through 8:00pm. All concerts will be held at the Memorial Park Bandshell, 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. next to City Hall. Seating is on the green so remember to bring blankets and lawn chairs. Alcohol is prohibited. Spectators are encouraged to support local organizations that may provide refreshments. For additional information please contact the Community Services Department 626-355-5278.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK SCHEDULE:

July 29 – Aluminum Marshmallow (Classic Rock) sponsored by the Sierra Madre Civic Club Hot dogs and home-made pie with ice cream for purchase

August 5 – TAIKOPROJECT (American Taiko Drummer Ensemble), hosted by L.A. County Arts Commission Concert and “learn taiko” segment with hands- on demonstration

August 12 – HAPPY BIRTHDAY KIWANIS - JJ Jukebox (60's and 70's Rock) sponsored by Kiwanis and Friends of the Library

August 19 – The Grove (Classic Oldies) sponsored by Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters Association The Subs (Mainstream Acoustic) opening act

August 26 – Take Two (Top 40's) sponsored by Dr. Roger Joe, DDS, The Lodge at Sierra Madre, and Crosslife Community Church

The Saga Continues.....

FORMER SMPD OFFICER JOHN ELLINS LOST HIS LAWSUIT AGAINST THE CITY - APPEAL STILL PENDING

Among the actions handled by the law firm of Lackie, Dammeier, & McGill, the 'police officer's lawyers', a federal lawsuit filed in 2009 still lingers. At that time, former SMPD Officer John Ellins sued the city and SMPD Chief Marilyn Diaz alleging that Diaz did not readily sign his advanced Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) certificate in retaliation for his leadership in a vote of no confidence against her by the rank and file.

When the lawsuit was filed, Ellins was also President of the Sierra Madre Police Officers Association (from 2006 until January 2010). Ellins has, since then, left the SMPD.

According to the official court records, Diaz delayed signing his certificate because, when the documents were presented, Ellins had two internal affairs investigations against him; had recently been reprimanded by Internal Affairs after another investigation, and was also under investigation by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

The two investigations that were pending resulted in suspensions. Ellins was suspended for 125 hours for “associating with a convicted narcotics offender and attempting to dissuade a Sergeant from issuing a parking ticket to this ex-convict”. He was also suspended “for not citing or arresting a marijuana suspect”. Ellins' earlier reprimand was for “stating to a city employee that residents who did not follow a fire evacuation plan ‘deserved to die’.

The LA District Attorney's office was investigating Ellins for “allegations of selling and using anabolic steroids, assault with a deadly weapon, and sexual misconduct while on duty”. No charges were filed against Ellins as a result of that investigation.

When the investigations were completed and Ellins completed the suspensions were imposed upon him, Diaz eventually did sign the certificate and Ellins received the retroactive pay increase to which he was entitled.

The court ruled against Ellins and in favor of the City and Chief Diaz in January, 2011. However, Ellins immediately filed an appeal which is still pending. Ellins left the department in 2010. He was President of the POA from 2006-2010.

The City Attorney and Council discussed the appeal in closed session at the last council meeting.

DOWNLOADING CITY DOCUMENTS MADE EASY

City Council agenda packets are now available online from the City's webpage. Stop by the Library anytime during open hours and they will show you how to access and download the meeting packets. Other boards and commissions have also begun putting their agendas and meeting packets online as well.

The Library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre, CA 91024, (626) 355-7186, www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us

E-READER WORKSHOPS SLATED

Learn how to download free eBooks from the Sierra Madre Public Library to your Kindle, iPad, Nook or other device. Free classes will focus on how to download free books from the Library Overdrive service and will include a demonstration. Please call or check the Library website schedule.

HONORS DINNER NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

Nominations Due Friday, August 3, 2012 at 5:00 pm. Submit to City Hall or email to city@cityofsierramadre.com.

This is the City's opportunity to recognize and honor the true treasures of Sierra Madre, its volunteers, City Commissioners and employees. Sierra Madre Honors Dinner will recognize all out-going City Commissioners as well as extraordinary community members, organizations and employees. To nominate a member of the Sierra Madre Community for one of the Awards, please include the person's name, phone number, address, and explanation of nomination along with your name and phone number, and return to City Hall or email to city@cityofsierramadre.com.

George Maurer Lifetime Service Award

Presented to a person/entity that most strongly represents a commitment to serving and volunteering over the course of a lifetime, which is the true spirit of Sierra Madre.

Wistaria Award

In recognition of City/Community partnership, presented to a local business or organization whose major contributions to the City/Community of Sierra Madre have demonstrated a true partnership which assists in and provides services, programs or enhances the general welfare of the community as a whole.

Police Chief's Special Award

Presented by the Sierra Madre Chief of Police to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to duty (employee) or service (community) in resolving a community law enforcement-related issue.

Public Safety Award

Presented by the Mayor to an individual, either an employee or citizen, who took action to protect and maintain the safety of the community by taking lifesaving action.

Public Service Award

Employee of the Year – presented by the Mayor upon the recommendation of the City Manager to an extraordinary city employee who has represented remarkable customer and public service as well as dedication to the citizens of Sierra Madre over the course of a year.

Community Youth Service Award

Presented to a young adult in the community who demonstrates dedication and outstanding service to the community. Youth must be 18 years or younger to qualify.

For more information on the nomination process or on the event, please contact City Hall at 626-355-7135 or city@cityofsierramadre.com.

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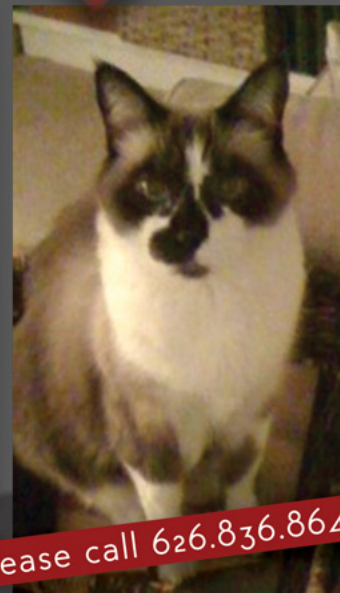

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Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Curiosity on Track for Early Landing

A maneuver Tuesday adjusted the flight path of NASA's Mars Science Laboratory spacecraft for delivering the rover Curiosity to a landing target beside a Martian mountain.

The car-size, one-ton rover is bound for arrival the evening of Aug. 5, 2012, PDT (early Aug. 6, EDT and Universal Time). The landing will mark the beginning of a two-year prime mission to investigate whether one of the most intriguing places on Mars ever offered an environment favorable for microbial life.

The latest trajectory correction maneuver, the third and smallest since the Nov. 26, 2011, launch, used four thruster firings totaling just 40 seconds. Spacecraft data and Doppler-effect changes in radio signal from the craft indicate the maneuver succeeded. As designed by engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., the maneuver adjusts the location where the spacecraft will enter Mars' atmosphere by about 125 miles (200 kilometers) and advances the time of entry by about 70 seconds.

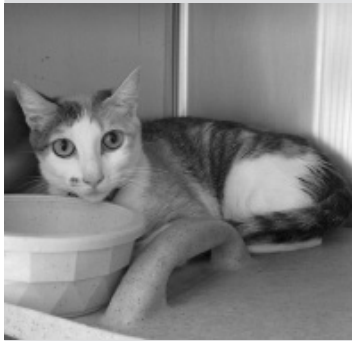
"This puts us closer to our entry target, so if any further maneuvers are needed, I expect them to be small," said JPL's Tomas Martin-Mur, the mission's navigation team chief. Opportunities for up to three additional trajectory correction maneuvers are scheduled during the final eight days of the flight.

The maneuver served both to correct errors in the flight path that remained after earlier correction maneuvers and to carry out a decision this month to shift the landing target about 4 miles (7 kilometers) closer to the mountain.

It altered the spacecraft's velocity by about one-tenth of a mile per hour (50 millimeters per second). The flight's first and second trajectory correction maneuvers produced velocity changes about 150 times larger on Jan. 11 and about 20 times larger on March 26.

Shifting the landing target closer to the mountain, informally named Mount Sharp, may shave months off the time needed for driving from the touchdown location to selected destinations at exposures of water-related minerals on the slope of the mountain.

Pet of the Week



What is there not to like about Holly? She's a mellow two-year-old calico. She's very observant and has stunning green eyes. She loves having her head petted too!

Holly's regular adoption fee is \$70, which includes her spay surgery, a microchip, the first set of vaccinations, as well as a free follow-up health check at a participating vet. 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 A307322, or visit at 361 S. Raymond Ave. in Pasadena. Adoption hours are 11-4 Sunday, 9-5 Tuesday – Friday, 9-4 Saturday. Pets may not be available for adoption and cannot be held for potential adopters from phone calls or email. Directions and photos of all pets can be found at www.pasadenahumane.org.

Police Sign Agreement to work with Foreign Police Departments

By Dean Lee

Police Chief Phillip Sanchez signed a partnership agreement Wednesday with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) William Brownfield to utilize the knowledge and expertise of active serving Pasadena police officers to train, advise and mentor foreign law enforcement personnel.

Pasadena joins 28 other U. S. cities participating in the foreign programs. Pasadena Police Sgt. Ed Calatayud spent one week, earlier this month, in Kingston, the capital and largest city of Jamaica, training officers in the use of nonlethal police tactics.

Calatayud said it was not uncommon for Jamaican police to use military tactics, including using assault rifles, during a simple traffic stop. He said Jamaica is the largest supplier of marijuana to the U.S. so police are over cautious dealing with drug cartel. He said his mission was to catalog proper equipment such as pepper spray, batons and stun guns and other equipment the INL might fund.



"By sending Ed Calatayud to assess the state of Jamaican law enforcement the State Department's bureau International Narcotics and Law Enforcement has taken the first steps towards enhancing law enforcement cooperation between the United States and Jamaica," Congressman Adam Schiff said in a statement. "This is also taking steps that will result in less crime here on our shores and on our streets."



Chief Phillip Sanchez and William Brownfield sign MOU

White House Honors Caltech and JPL Scientists, Engineers



Chiara Daraio, professor of aeronautics and applied physics, and Christopher Hirata, professor of astrophysics, both at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), and Ian Clark of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)—which is managed by Caltech—are winners of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. This is the highest award given by the United States government to science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers.

Daraio was recognized by the Department of Defense for her "pioneering contributions to nonlinear mechanical phenomena in acoustic crystals, granular material, and multifunctional nanostructures, and for mentoring women and providing research opportunities for high school and undergraduate students."

"I am very excited about this award. I wanted to be an inventor and engineer early on. I came to the U.S. as a graduate student and am grateful that here I could pursue my dreams," Daraio said. "Caltech has provided me with an excellent environment to realize my ideas, working with the world's best students, postdocs, and colleagues on the faculty." Daraio added, "This has been a very special year for me: I had a baby just two months ago, and a few weeks earlier became a U.S. citizen. The Presidential Early Career Award is the icing on the cake."

Hirata was recognized by the Department of Energy for "innovative work reducing astrophysical uncertainties that limit the extraction of fundamental physics parameters from cosmological observations, for studies of the sensitivity of structure formation to the relative velocity between dark matter and baryons in the early universe, and for service on NASA/DOE Joint Dark Energy Mission working groups." "In the past decade, cosmology

has been revolutionized by ever-improving observational capabilities. My colleagues and I have been developing the theoretical tools that enable us to connect the direct observables—the cosmic microwave background and the distribution of galaxies—to the underlying physical processes that occurred during the first fraction of a second after the big bang," Hirata said.

"When I received word about winning this award, I was in the middle of debugging software code, so the work continues," he added. "But it's nice to take a step back and see how far we have come."

Clark was recognized by NASA for "exceptional leadership and achievement in the pursuit of advanced entry, descent and landing technologies and techniques for space-exploration missions."

"It's certainly quite an honor," Clark said. "However, there are remarkable achievements every day here at JPL/Caltech that are equally deserving of recognition. I wish we could honor the JPL and NASA teams for the amazing work on the Mars Science Laboratory as we prepare for it to land on Mars."

"Discoveries in science and technology not only strengthen our economy, they inspire us as a people," President Obama said. "The impressive accomplishments of today's awardees so early in their careers promise even greater advances in the years ahead."

The Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers was established by President Clinton in 1996 and is coordinated by the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy. Awardees are selected for their pursuit of innovative research at the frontiers of science and technology, and their commitment to community service as demonstrated through scientific leadership, public education, or community outreach. Fourteen Caltech professors and researchers have won the award since its inception.

"At the end of the day what we are looking for... is a situation in which everyone wins," Brownfield said. "A foreign government and its police community win because they have access to the knowledge and the talent of big U.S. city police departments. I win because I have a very talented pool of officers that I can draw from not just in this hemisphere but in Southeast Asia in Central Asia and Africa..."

The Pasadena police department wins because it develops the experience, the contacts and the networks overseas."

Brownfield also speculated, although insisted he was not pressuring Sanchez, that Pasadena police officers could help with future deployments in Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

Sanchez said the partnership was an opportunity for the department to reach out internationally.

New PCC Measure P Oversight Members Introduced

The Pasadena Area Community College District Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Sandra Burton Greenstein, Hanna Israel, Anthony Portantino, and Allen Shay to serve on the Pasadena City College Measure P Citizen's Oversight Committee, which will report on the progress of PCC renovations and construction funded by voter-approved Measure P Bond funds. The passage of Measure P in 2002 authorized PCC to issue up to \$150 million in bonds to finance the construction. Bonds will be repaid through local property taxes.

The 12-member committee meets quarterly to ensure that campus projects are developed and funded as specified in Measure P. Committee members serve for two years. Members may be reappointed for a second term. Measure P campus projects have included a new parking structure, a new Industrial Technologies Building, the renovation of the Campus Center building, and technology and safety upgrades to most of PCC's existing buildings.

For more information about Measure P, call (626) 585-7202 or visit the Measure P website at www.pasadena.edu/bond.

Democratic Headquarters to Hold Opening

Progressive voters from throughout the San Gabriel Valley are invited to join the celebration as United Democratic Headquarters launches its 2012 campaign and celebrates President Barack Obama's 51st birthday on August 4. The event will take place 519 S. Lake Ave from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Members of the Community Bible Gospel Choir will lead the attendees in singing Happy Birthday to the President while a special Obama birthday cake is presented.

UDH is the campaign coalition of eight local Democratic clubs throughout the San Gabriel Valley. It is one of the largest and most active Democratic campaign headquarters in Southern California.

Speakers will be, State Senator Carol Liu, Pasadena City Councilman Chris Holden and Assembly District 41 candidate and Pasadena City Councilman Steve Madison.

For more information visit pasadenademocrats.com.

Report Shows Abuse and Neglect in Two Local Nursing Homes

By Dean Lee

Through a recently obtained public records request, the California Advocates for Nursing Home Residents (CANHR) released reports, last week, issued by the California Attorney General's "Operation Guardians" that detail widespread abuse, neglect, and other unsanitary conditions in nursing homes inspected since 2010 — two facilities, of which, are in Pasadena.

According to the report, at Golden Cross Health Care on Fair Oaks Avenue there was inadequate wound prevention and treatment, dehydration, inadequate psychotropic medication practices, and poor end-of-life care identified." One resident developed maggots in an open wound.

A summary of the report states, the facility did not note dehydration as a diagnosis for multiple residents despite "clear documentation of dehydration" in the residents' records. The facility also improperly medicates its residents with antipsychotic drugs. "Deficiencies in this area include: inadequate verification of informed consent; inappropriate monitoring and lack of monitoring; and lack of monitoring for adverse drug effects." Patients are even treated with antipsychotic drugs that have reactions to medications they are already taking.

One of the most prominent discoveries inspectors made

at Sunrise Convalescent Hospital also on North Fair Oaks Avenue, was the lack of precautionary measures for residents wandering in and out of the facility. Residents were permitted on many occasions to come and go as they please without first informing staff.

One resident, recovering from a traumatic brain injury, was reported to have left the facility on at least one occasion without permission and returned with alcohol on his breath.

Investigators found that several residents did not have the capacity to make decisions and the facility staff had become their decision maker." In addition, some residents who had been appointed conservators had personally signed forms consenting to the administration of medication without the conservator ever being notified. "In a number of cases reviewed, residents lacking capacity were signing their own Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms." Additionally, the wishes of patients reflected in their POLST forms, were sometimes ignored the report states.

CANHR called on California's Attorney General to use the reports as a basis for a criminal or civil prosecution of nursing home staff members, managers and owners responsible for the reprehensible care and conditions in the poor performing nursing homes.



Golden Cross Health Care

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

Schiff Calls for Gun Control in Wake of Aurora Shooting

Adam Schiff, a former federal prosecutor, Tuesday released the following statement after the shooting in Aurora last week:

"I was deeply saddened by the tragic and senseless shooting at an Aurora, Colorado movie theater. Our priority must be aiding and comforting the victims and their families. I also believe we should take this moment to examine our laws and determine how we can prevent horrendous acts like this one in the future. We will never be able to stop all senseless acts of violence — there will always be those, who, for reasons unfathomable to us all, decide to take the lives of innocent people around them. But there are some common sense steps we can take to make these types of shootings more rare and less destructive.

"First, my colleague Senator Feinstein led the charge almost twenty years ago to pass the Assault Weapons Ban, but it has since been allowed to expire. It is past time to put that law, which would have outlawed the type of gun used by the shooter, back in place. Second, we should pass the



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 July 31 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.

Schiff Calls for Gun Control in Wake of Aurora Shooting

Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act sponsored by Congresswoman McCarthy, which would prohibit the sale of ammunition magazines that can hold more than ten rounds at a time. The ability to fire 30 or even 100 shots without reloading increases the destructive capacity of shooters while serving no legitimate purpose. Third, we must also examine legislation to close the gun show loopholes and crack down on straw purchasing, both of which help divert guns out of legal channels and into black markets where they are easily obtained by criminals and the mentally ill.

"I realize, of course, these steps will not stop all mass killings, or even all mass shootings. As the Governor of Colorado pointed out, if this killer didn't have access to the weapons and ammunition he used, he might have built a bomb instead. But it is also true that we do not need to make such killing easy, and I do not believe that anything in the Second Amendment, or any desire to hunt or for self-protection requires ready access to assault weapons with extended ammunition clips."

"What's Going On?"*News and Views from Joan Schmidt*

HONORING A FALLEN HERO: ARCADIA PD MOTOR OFFICER/ARCADIA FD ASSISTANT CHIEF, ALBERT EDWARD MATTHIES

Shortly before midnight, July 18, 1926, Officer Albert Matthies was doing patrol accompanied by his friend, Leo Bartolina. At the intersection of Foothill and Northview, Arcadia, they noticed a suspicious vehicle. When Officer Matthies walked toward the car to question them, he was shot. He later died at 12:07 AM, July 19, 1927. At the time, the three perpetrators escaped, but they were caught a few days later. They were found guilty and sentenced to jail. One died there and the other two died shortly after their release.

At the time of his death, Officer Matthies left a wife and two young daughters; Zora, who was 6, and Minnie, 4. Besides being a Motor Deputy for Arcadia Police Department, he also was Assistant Fire Chief; the two agencies were actually one at that time!

In 2007, at the 80th anniversary of his death, a special Ceremony of Remembrance was held for Officer Matthies. Last year this was done again at the site of his death. When Officer Matthies was laid to rest at Live Oak Cemetery, a simple ground level marker was put in. Members of Arcadia Police Officers Association and Arcadia Firefighters Association felt that this was not appropriate; that a better headstone/memorial was needed for Officer Matthies' ultimate sacrifice. A joint effort, begun two years ago by these two fine Associations accomplished this great feat.

Minnie is deceased, but Officer Matthies' daughter Zora Kristruke is well and attended Thursday's ceremony. Also present were current Arcadia Police Chief Bob Guthrie, retired Police Chiefs Bob Sanderson and Neal Johnson, and many officers. The Master of Ceremonies was Arcadia Police Officer Joe Jurman, and the Honor Guard was Officer Bob Rajewski. Representing the Fire Department were Fire Chief Tony Trabbie, Deputy Chief Kurt Norwood and Battalion Chief Barry Spriggs, Honor Guard Engineer Drew Pryor, Bagpipe Player, Captain Dave Hutcheson and several firemen. From the City of Arcadia were Mayor Bob Harbicht and City Manager Dominic Lazzaretto; Jack Orswell also attended.

Arcadia Police Chaplain R.C. Reyes performed the Invocation at the beginning of the ceremony and Benediction at the end. Officer Jurman gave an account of how Officer Matthies had lost his life. The Honor Guard was on either side of the podium and then walked to the new headstone for the unveiling ceremony. It brought tears to everyone's eyes- the headstone is made of beautiful black granite with Office Matthies' picture on it. There are the insignia of both the Arcadia Police Department and Arcadia Fire Department on each side of the picture; the inscription acknowledges Matthies was a World War I Vet. The inscription at the base of the monument reads, Officer Matthies made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and in service to the city of Arcadia. You will not be forgotten." Part of the ceremony included Fire Captain Hutcheson playing the bagpipes. It was beautiful.

After the ceremony, there was a reception. It was great to visit with Zora, who thought this was something "really special". She remembers her dad as a "big, happy man." I also spent time with Zora's daughter, Roxana Perez, and granddaughter, Sheryl Straub. Roxana was "very impressed with the memorial and ceremony...it was very toughing."

For over sixty years, Zora has lived in the same house in Duarte, not two blocks from my home! I mentioned an old friend, Joan Peck, who was confined to a wheelchair, but took two buses to work in Santa Fe Springs! Zora and her family knew exactly whom I meant, and wondered how she was. I explained that she is well, but at the Country Villa in Arcadia! It is a small world.

I cannot say enough for the Arcadia Police Officers Association and Arcadia Firefighters Association to plan such a special tribute. Sheryl, Officer Matthies' great-granddaughter was so overwhelmed at the beautiful ceremony and headstone, and couldn't wait till all family members could see it.



THE STUDY OF WILD FOODS SEEKING THE PATH OF PRACTICAL ECOLOGY

By Christopher Nyerges

[Nyerges is the director of the School of Self-reliance, and author of "How To Survive Anywhere," and other books. He can be reached at Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041, or www.ChristopherNyerges.com]

in the book that Dolores and I authored, "Extreme Simplicity: Homesteading in the City." [You can get it on Amazon]

LEARNING ABOUT WILD FOODS

The best way to learn about wild plants is to see them first-hand, in the field, with an expert. Never eat a wild plant that you haven't positively identified, and remember that there are no shortcuts.

So what wild foods are available in our yards and fields?

Recently, during our Wild Food walks, we have been collecting the following for their salads and cooked dishes: Curly dock, watercress, lamb's quarter, mustard, wild radish, nettle, nasturtium, and mallow. Soon we'll be collecting purslane. Most of these can be prepared raw or cooked, and many are now finding their way into local farmers markets.

One of my favorite wild foods is the fruit of the carob tree. There are tens of thousands of carob trees in the Southland, and the ripe brown fruits can be simply wiped clean and eaten. This is the perfect survival food. It is rich in calcium and B vitamins, it tastes good, you don't have to cook it, and it lasts for years.

The Department of Agriculture tells us that some of the most nutritious plants are wild ones. Dandelion is richer in beta-carotene than carrots. Purslane is the richest plant source of Omega-3 fatty acids. Curly dock is

one of the richest sources of vitamin A. Lambs quarter, so common in the urban areas, is a spinach relative that is arguably nature's best mineral tablet. Using wild food is not only a way to prepare for the emergencies, but it's also a way to create free and nutritious meals.

Recent WILD FOOD COOKING WORKSHOP Menu

SALAD
"Wood Stump Salad"
Salad consisted of equal parts chickweed, wild radish, hedge mustard, and one tomato. Trader Joe's Italian dressing

SOUP "Screaming at the Dawn"
Finely chopped greens of wild radish, hedge mustard, mallow, with quinoa seed, were cooked in miso broth.

GREENS
"Viking Wake-Me-Up"
Only tender tops of nettles were collected, and they were boiled with no seasoning. They were delicious, like buttered greens.

EGG DISH
"Return to Childhood"
In a cast iron skillet, we cooked wild radish and lambs quarter greens until they were nearly done. Then we added eggs, and cooked like an omelette.

ACORN: "Tongva Memories"
Processed acorn flour (with tannic acid removed), mixed half and half with wheat flour. The flour was then formed into small loaves and cooked on soapstone slab.

METRO LAUNCHES LATE-NIGHT WEEKEND SERVICE ON ALL METRO RAIL LINES AND THE METRO ORANGE LINE



Supervisor and MTA Chairman Michael D. Antonovich; Art Leahy, Metro CEO; Pasadena Councilman Chris Holden; Steve Mulheim, President & CEO of Old Pasadena Management; Michael deLeon, General Manager, Paseo Colorado; Jeff Loeb, Associate General Manager, Paseo Colorado

LOS ANGELES COUNTY—Supervisor and MTA Chairman Michael D. Antonovich joined community leaders and local businesses at the Gold Line Memorial Station in Pasadena to announce the expanded late-night weekend service on all Metro Rail lines throughout Los Angeles County and the Metro Orange Line busway in the San Fernando Valley.

"One of the most frequent requests we receive is to extend Metro rail service past midnight on weekends to afford our residents a reliable transit option to visit culture and entertainment venues throughout the county," said Antonovich. "Starting today, the Metro Blue, Red, Green, Gold, Orange, Purple and Expo lines will operate until 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. The Orange Line will run up until 2:40 a.m. to accommodate the transfer of patrons from the Metro Red Line at the North Hollywood Station."



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EL MONTE'S OWN KIM RHODE SEEKING FIFTH OLYMPIC MEDAL

By Joan Schmidt



Kim Rhodes, left, and friend

In a local paper and on *Patch*, it was mentioned that *Monrovia's* Kim Rhode was going to her fifth Olympics. Kim is a current resident of Monrovia but she does call herself, an "El Monte Girl"-that's where she was born and raised. Her parents still live in El Monte. Her grandfather graduated from El Monte High School and both Kim and her dad graduated from Arroyo High School. (She also attended Cherry Lee and Durfee Schools)

I met Kim MANY years ago- back in 1996 when an awesome seventeen-year-old received a gold medal in trap! She came to our Route 66 Parade in Duarte along with Dr. Tommy Lee and Rafer Johnson. Mary Barrow Sommerlott always finds AWESOME Parade Grand Marshalls, and that year it was honoring Olympian Gold Winners! In the next three Olympics, Kim also earned medals. In 2000, Kim won a bronze medal in double trap, in 2004 a gold medal in double trap, and in 2008, a

silver medal in skeet.

When and how did Kim begin shooting? Kim has been shooting since she was seven years old, growing up with a fishing rod in one hand and a gun in another. This was all part of a family tradition-going back to her grandparents' generation. Every year the family hunted deer and bears, and fished for catfish. She picked blackberries and made jam with her grandmother.

At age seven, Kim actually shot her first two doves in Arizona. The game warden didn't believe she could shoot, but when two flew by and her dad alerted her, she did it, and the game warden was a surprised believer.

At ten, Kim began shooting a competitive 22 rifle. First she won competitions in club shoots, and then moved on to the State Finals for six-and-a-half years.

How does one become so talented? It takes A LOT of practice. Try about 25,000 targets every year for four years, 1500 rounds a week! Consequently most

of the day is spent standing up. How about carrying a nine-and-a-half pound shotgun and five to ten pounds of ammo in your front and back pockets? Special molded ear plugs, as well as computer chips, are used to deaden sounds.

When I saw Kim several months ago at the El Monte Historical Museum, she related that it was A LOT different shooting in damp London as opposed to sunny California. And then there are THE RULES! There are rules pertaining to clothing, color of clothing, and even equipment checks! Kim said that every time you competed, a sticker was put on your shotgun. Kim had many stickers and they were a great record of all her competitions. I remember her shotgun was stolen several years ago, and I was glad when it was retrieved. However I didn't know anything about the stickers and all the stickers had been removed.

Kim felt the toughest challenge was when she was forced to switch to International Skeet. No more double trap.

One of her greatest moments was "in Atlanta in 1996, when all the United States participants were lined up and all the audience was chanting, "USA". Complete strangers hugging each other-it was so touching, standing there representing your country and recalling all the hard work to get there".

Last week, when my husband received his latest issue of *Sports Illustrated*, it predicted Kim will win the Gold! In *USA Weekend*, there also was mention of Kim. She's quoted, "Every Olympic journey is unique. That's what flashes when you're up there on the Podium watching the American flag go to the top of the pole-of course, with the anthem playing. Personally, that's why I keep coming back."

And Kim is coming back for the FIFTH consecutive Olympics. Good luck to her as most of El Monte and Monrovia watches. Bring home the gold!

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES TO SPEAK AT CHAMBER AUGUST 2

Meet the candidates who will represent Arcadia in the United States Congress at the Chamber's monthly Government Affairs Forum at 8 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 2. Longtime Arcadia resident and Republican candidate Jack Orswell is confirmed to speak, and Democratic candidate and current Congresswoman Judy Chu hopes to attend as well.

The Government Affairs Forum is inviting the candidates for State Senator and the California Assembly to speak at the September and October programs.

Also on the agenda for the Aug. 2 Forum is a 10-min presentation on the proposed 710 freeway extension's environmental study relating to the potential impact on traffic throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

Additional brief updates will be provided by the representatives from City, County, and State government offices, the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension and the San Gabriel Valley Business Coalition. Join us to hear informative presentations at the monthly Government Affairs Forums led by co-chairmen Pete Ulrich, former Arcadia City Councilman, and Mary Dougherty, former President of the Arcadia School District Board of Education. The Forum, held the first Thursday of each month, is free and open to the public. RSVPs are appreciated to the Chamber office: 626-447-2159 or info@ArcadiaCaChamber.org.

ARCADIA – FAMILY FLICKS ON THE PROMENADE WEDNESDAYS!

Once again, this year, the City of Arcadia and Westfield Santa Anita are teaming up to bring you a new program called Family Flicks on the Promenade (upper level of the mall) 400 S. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007. Family fun starts at 6:30pm with pre-show entertainment and activities with Radio Disney Street Team, as well as exclusive dining discounts and fabulous prizes. All movies are shown on Wednesdays beginning July 11th. Movies begin at dusk*.

August 1 Winnie the Pooh (G)

August 8 Cars 2 (G)

August 15 Zookeeper (PG)

* Titles subject to change. Visit Westfield.com for more event information.

It is a completely free event and no registration is required. For more information, please contact the City of Arcadia Recreation and Community Services Department at 626.574.5113

MONROVIA - DUARTE

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

Remembering a friend:

LILLIE B. JEFFERSON

September 13, 1931 - July 2, 2012

By Joan Schmidt

Lillie Bell Jefferson was born in Hollinsville, Oklahoma on September 13, 1931 to Hardie and Leora Lee. Lillie was the second eldest daughter of eleven children; she attended grammar school in Duarte and graduated from MAD (Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte) High School. Lillie married L.J. Jefferson in 1958, and they were blessed with one daughter, Jennice and two sons, Rodney and Curtis.

Lillie accepted Christ at an early age and was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Duarte, where she was an usher for over thirty years and participated in Bible Study and Woman's Fellowship. She was an active bowler until 2000. After retirement from Rain Bird, she continued working at Adam's Rite for ten years and then did adult caregiving until her passing.

Lillie's deep faith sustained her. Lillie was preceded in death by her parents, Hardie Sr. and Leora, as well as two brothers, Wafford and Hardie, Jr., and two sister, Cora and Rosie. Also her son Curtis preceded her in death, which is very hard for a parent. But Lillie had a loving supportive attitude and could change the atmosphere with her humor and giving nature towards family and friends.

Her service ("Home going Celebration") was beautiful. Minister Leslie Monroe offered a Prayer of Comfort, reminding us that Lillie had gone home to Heaven, followed by Minister Richard Spicer's Scripture Reading. Yolanda Crocker reminded us that "Sister Lillie made me my birthday cake every year", and gave a moving rendition of *Because He Lives*. One of Lillie's granddaughters, Monique Jefferson, read a poem that she had written for her grandmother, and it brought tears to many people. There also was a solo by Delores Sanders and Elder Bradford Graves gave the Eulogy/Gospel Message, which was very comforting. His message reminded us that God is waiting for us and has a place for us. Final Closing Prayer was by Pastor Ronnie Herrell.

When someone's life is being celebrated, and there is standing room only, that speaks volumes of the person. So many came out to send this special lady home. I sat with Duarte School Board Member Ken Bell and his wife. School Board President Reyna Diaz and Council Member Margaret Finlay also attended. From Monrovia, I noticed Mayor Mary Ann Lutz and former Mayor Bob Bartlett. Also Terrence Williams from the Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte Town Council.

When it was time for people to come up and speak of Lillie, two neighbors did. They said when their elderly mother was ill, Lillie was at their home, every day, from 6AM- 6PM. There was mention of Rodney Jefferson, whom EVERYONE in Duarte knows-he is the High School Coach. Rodney also does the special basketball camp for youths during the summer. Rodney is such a great mentor and this is what he learned from his mom.

What a beautiful tribute to a beautiful lady, a life well spent serving Jesus and others. Everyone left the service thankful that they had Lillie had been a part of their lives.



MONROVIA POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven-day period, the Police Department handled 536 service events, resulting in 86 investigations. To see a complete listing of crimes reported, go to <http://www.crimemapping.com/map/ca/monrovia> for crime mapping. For Police Department news and information, visit our website at www.monroviapd.org and follow us on Twitter for police notifications.

Vehicle Burglary / Fraud

On July 19 at 10:10 a.m., a vehicle burglary was reported in the 800 block of West Foothill. Sometime between 5 p.m. on July 18 and 10 a.m. on July 19, suspect(s) used an unknown object to break the front passenger window, reach in and remove the victim's purse from the front seat. The suspect(s) attempted to use the victim's credit cards that were in the purse at several locations in town and made an online purchase. Investigation continuing.

Domestic Violence

On July 19 at 1:06 p.m., officers responded to the report of domestic violence in progress in the 100 block of Melrose. The female victim and her boyfriend were arguing, and the argument led to the male striking the female on the forehead and on the right side of her torso. The male subject left the location prior to officers arriving. The female complained of pain to her right side. She was checked by Monrovia Fire Department paramedics and taken to a local hospital. A wanted person entry was completed for the suspect. Investigation continuing.

Vehicle Burglary

On July 20 at 7:03 a.m., a vehicle burglary was reported in the 400 block of Meadow Lane. The victim parked the vehicle in the street in the evening and returned to the vehicle the next morning to find a window had been smashed. An Ipod was taken from the vehicle. Investigation continuing.

Forgery / Counterfeit Money - Suspect Arrested

On July 20 at 9:45 p.m., a 16-year-old male suspect passed a counterfeit \$20 bill at the Monrovia Family Festival at a business on Myrtle and Lemon in exchange for merchandise. The clerk confronted the juvenile suspect and he ran east on Lemon. A group of citizens chased the suspect and detained him. Friday night bike patrol officers were first to arrive at the location and took custody of the suspect.

Subsequent investigation revealed the suspect was in possession of 9 additional counterfeit \$20 bills. All of the bills were of poor quality and several of them had identical serial numbers. The suspect was arrested and the Secret Service was contacted. Investigation continuing.

Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor - Suspect Arrested

On July 21 at 12:50 a.m., officers responded a residence in the 200 block of Valle Vista regarding juveniles consuming alcohol at the location. Investigation revealed an 18-year-old male subject was hosting a gathering of 11 minors at his residence while his parents were out of town. Several of the minors were consuming alcohol at the location. Empty beer cans and plastic cups were found. The 18-year-old resident did not have any identification in his possession. He was arrested for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Threats / Annoying Phone Calls

On July 23 at 5:09 p.m., a mental health facility in the 2600 block of South California called to report a disturbed client who was making threatening phone calls and was now at the facility. The client is a 42-year-old, male Hispanic subject. He was upset at his doctor and was demanding a termination of service form. The subject is schizophrenic, off his medication, and was acting oddly and making wild allegations. Officers responded, but the subject left the location prior to their arrival. The suspect was not located. The investigation is continuing.

Vehicle Burglary

On July 24 at 8:58 p.m., a vehicle burglary was reported in a business parking lot in the 700 block of East Huntington. The burglary occurred between 7:15 and 8:45 p.m. The victim left the windows of the vehicle down 4 to 5 inches. A wallet and the car stereo were stolen. Investigation continuing.

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Looking Up with Bob Eklund



ROVER "CURIOSITY" TO LAND ON MARS AUG. 5

NASA's most advanced planetary rover is on a precise course for an early August landing beside a Martian mountain to begin two years of unprecedented scientific detective work. However, getting the Curiosity rover to the surface of Mars will not be easy.

Curiosity is scheduled to land at 10:31 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time on Sunday, Aug. 5.

To achieve the precision needed for landing safely inside Gale Crater, the spacecraft will fly like a wing in Mars' upper atmosphere instead of dropping like a rock. To land the 1-ton rover, an airbag method used on previous Mars rovers will not work. Mission engineers at JPL designed a "sky crane" method for the final several seconds of the flight. A backpack with retro-rockets controlling descent speed will lower the rover on three nylon cords just before touchdown.

During a critical period lasting only seven minutes, the Mars Science Laboratory spacecraft carrying Curiosity must decelerate from about 13,200 mph to allow the rover to land on the surface at about 1.7 mph.

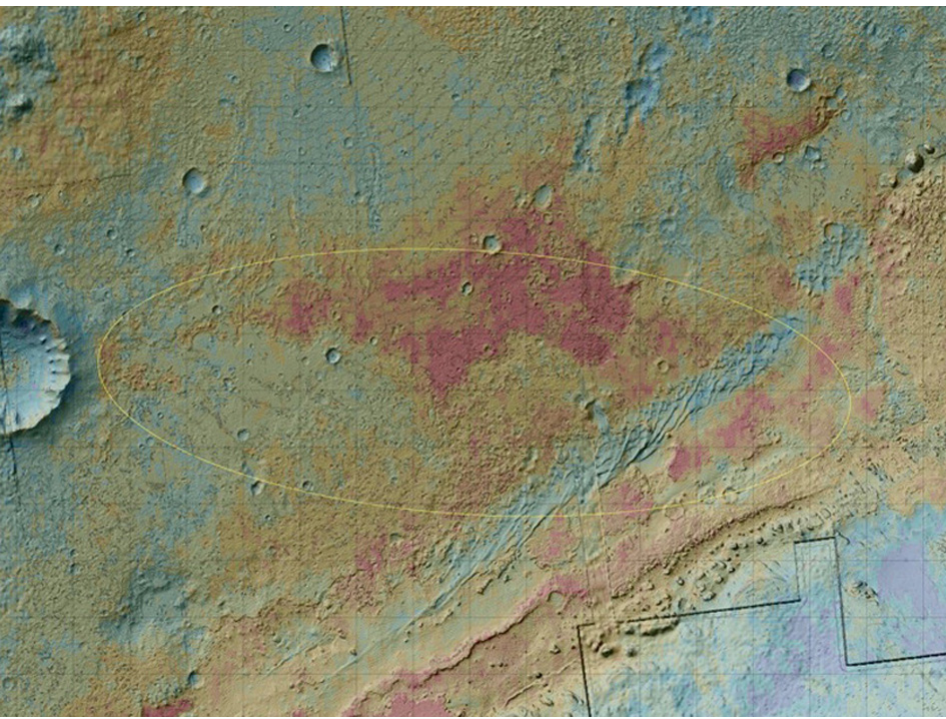
Curiosity will use tools on a robotic arm to deliver samples from Martian rocks and soils into laboratory instruments inside the rover that can reveal chemical and mineral composition. A laser instrument will use its beam to induce a spark on a target and read the spark's spectrum of light to identify chemical elements in the target.

Other instruments on the car-sized rover will examine the surrounding environment from a distance or by direct touch with the arm. The rover will check for the basic chemical ingredients for life and for evidence about energy available for life. It also will assess factors that could be hazardous for life, such as the radiation environment.

The chosen landing site is beside a mountain informally called Mount Sharp. The mission's prime destination lies on the slope of the mountain. Driving there from the landing site may take many months.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

In a NASA-Microsoft collaboration, a new outreach game will



Follow this link to skip to the main contentNASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration Home News

give the public a sense of the challenge and adventure of landing in a precise location on the Martian surface. Called "Mars Rover Landing," the game is an immersive experience for the Xbox 360 home entertainment console that allows users to take control of their own spacecraft and face the extreme challenges of landing a rover on Mars.

"Technology is making it possible for the public to participate in exploration as it never has before," said Michelle Viotti, JPL's Mars public engagement

exploration is fundamentally a shared human endeavor, we want everyone around the globe to have the most immersive experience possible."

NASA has several other forthcoming experiences geared for inspiration and learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Information about many ways to watch and participate in the Curiosity's landing and the mission on the surface of Mars is available at:

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/participate>

You can also follow the mission on Facebook

and on Twitter:

<http://www.facebook.com/marscuriosity>

<http://www.twitter.com/marscuriosity>

For more information about the mission and to use the new video game and other education-related tools:

<http://www.nasa.gov/mars>

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/>

"PLANETFEST" TO FEATURE LIVE COVERAGE OF LANDING

On Sunday evening, August 5, you can witness the Curiosity landing in real-time at the Pasadena Convention Center, 300 E. Green St. Planetfest, a two-day weekend celebration focused on the Curiosity landing,

features some 30 scientific experts plus dozens of artists and performers. Sunday evening's program includes a play-by-play live narration of the spacecraft's decent and landing. An unforgettable addition to your space memories! Details: www.planetary.org/get-involved/events/planetfest-2012/

You can contact Bob Eklund at: beklund@MtnViewsNews.com



Paul Miller, a Technology writer for "The Verge" (<http://www.theverge.com>) will attempt to live without the Internet for a year. He began his project on May 1st of this year and is now going into the 4th month of his endeavor. In the pursuit of this goal he has ruled out using the Internet in any manner whatsoever. He may not use it at work or at home. He may not ask anyone to use it for him or look over their shoulder as they use it for themselves. He may not use email or any web-enabled software, including games and video-streaming applications. Although Text Messaging uses the SMS (Short Message Service) protocol to send messages over a telephone network to text-enabled end devices, Mr. Miller feels as if texting is too close to web browsing and is has been ruled out as well. In order to keep up current events and keep in touch with friends and family Mr. Miller will make use of basic telephones (Internet-free), the Post Office, television, newspapers and magazines. A lot like the state of communications in pre-Internet 1993.

He has continued to write for The Verge during his time off the Internet but he's unable to see his work after it has been posted or respond to comments on his articles.

Mr. Miller also writes about some of the effects that his Internet-free lifestyle is beginning to have on his life in general. So far he's noticed that his handwriting has gotten better and that he talks to people more often in his daily life. He's become more aware of the frequency in which he gets lonely. While his friends contact each other frequently in cyberspace, Mr. Miller's contacts are confined to face-to-face contacts in meatspace and as such he sometimes doesn't get to seem them as often as he would like. And since the Internet is a place of non-stop action and stimulation he's found that he cares less for things that can be easily "Googled" and can be definitely categorized as minutia.

While the author may have many reasons for undertaking this journey, his entries at his column (<http://www.theverge.com/paulmiller/offline>) gives us direct insight into how much the technology we use on a daily basis changes how we relate to each other and the world around us.



SANTA ANITA PARK LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE THE 2012 BREEDERS' CUP

This is your chance to be part of the action by welcoming thousands of guests to Santa Anita Park for the world's greatest races! The Breeders' Cup takes place November 2 and 3, 2012. Please contact Connie Russell to register or get more information at 626-574-6664 or crussell@santaanita.com.

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

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



KATIE TseThis and That

FIBER LAND!



I had a great time in Long Beach last week. You might've been there, too, but I'm pretty sure we wouldn't have seen each other. That's because my parents and I were at the Handweaver's Guild of America's International Fiber Convergence! Every two years all the fiber nuts from around the country unite to buy, sell, and learn about the latest innovations in prehistoric technology.

Have you ever stared at the fabric of your sleeve and marveled at the complexity of woven cloth? Perhaps not. But there are people who are passionate about fiber in all its forms and applications! (I figured "passion" sounds more positive than "obsession.")

Most hobbyists do one or two things in their field of interest. Bikers bike, and sometimes branch off into mountain biking and riding marathons. Painters paint in oil or acrylic, and might do a mural or go into watercolors. But weaving is just one of the passageways into the world of fiber nuts. (I say "nuts" with the most respect; similar to people who are "health nuts.")

Fiber is like a drug in the way in which it affects people who are susceptible to addiction. Some people can just crochet something and walk away. But for others, a knitted sweater is merely the brink of a plunge into weaving and a host of other handwork. You'll never know whether or not you're one of theses people until you try it! These people say things like, "It all started when I joined a knitting group. Then before I knew it, I had bought a couple of sheep for the back yard and now I spin their wool each year."

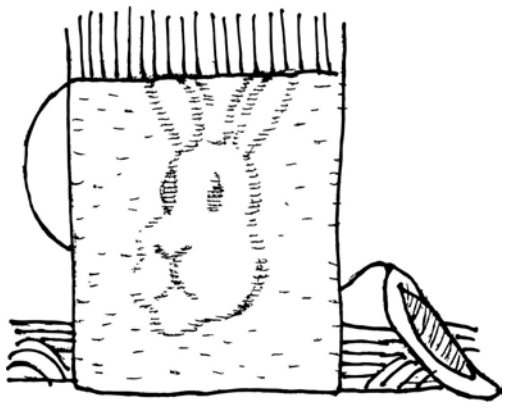
Just like how it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a host of experts to raise a weaver. Teachers at my mom's weaving class have become household names for us. My mom has spent many an hour watching DVDs of Madelyn van der Hoogt explaining how to warp a loom from front to back, and back to front. And everyone knows John Novak from Solvang. His shop, Village Spin & Weave, is the staple supplier of all things fiber this side of the Mississippi.

In Fiber Land, you acquire a whole new vocabulary for spinning (not what you do at the gym), carding (not what you do during the holidays), and dyeing (with colors, not embalming fluid). Weaving practically has its own language! You shoot shuttles through the shed. I never can remember which is the castle and which is the temple. And I still get the treadles and heddles mixed up. You can imagine being in a convention hall filled with people speaking "fiberese."

Another interesting observation at the Convergence was the number of men there. And I'm not talking about husbands and boyfriends wearily trailing behind women, pausing now and then to hold a purse while the lady feels every different type of alpaca wool. No! These guys are sitting at carpet looms --weaving carpets. A couple of burly guys were camped out at spinning wheels. Their speed and accuracy indicated this wasn't their first try at it. Weaving also appeals to men because looms are mechanical in nature.

And like a drug, fiber arts offer an immensely soothing escape from the stress of everyday life. The repetitive motion echoes the rhythmic beating of your heart. Making thread and fabric is such a basic, earthy craft. You feel somehow connected to the ancients who were doing the same thing all around the world. It's fascinating to imagine that before the spinning wheel was invented in the 15th century, people were using hand held drop spindles to make thread. Ships with sails would have been nonexistent without a bunch of folks spinning single threads at a time!

Although the Convergence went on for a week, we felt fulfilled after just one day. On our way out my mom spotted Madelyn van der Hoogt talking with some shoppers at a booth. "That's Madelyn van der Hoogt!" she whispered to my dad. (My parents couldn't pick Lady Gaga out of a lineup, but Madelyn van der Hoogt is iconic.) "Want me to take your picture with her?" I asked. "No, no" my mom laughed. We started toward the exit, but then my mom turned around toward Madelyn's booth. "We can go back," I said. "It's now or never!" My mom chuckled, "No, that's okay." So we left without a picture of my mom next to her fiber heroine. Since the Convergence only happens every other year and travels all around the country, my mom probably won't get another opportunity like that. But at least she can say that she was in the same room as Madelyn van der Hoogt. And that makes the drive down there all worth it!



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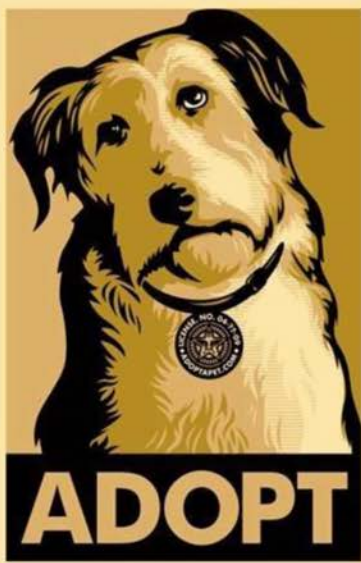
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Homeless To Forever Foundation is a non profit animal rescue organization that primarily saves dogs, cats, and critters from local high kill shelters. We rescue animals that are in danger of being killed due to overcrowding and we will oftentimes rescue animals that are injured, ill, and who are seniors.

We also work with families who have to rehome their pets or who are dealing with an abandoned animal. Our animals are in foster homes and so we rely heavily on volunteer foster families and on volunteer transporters. All of our animals are fixed, vaccinated, and microchipped.

The adoption process is fairly simple, with an application, home and yard check, contract, and a tax deductible adoption fee. Homeless To Forever Foundation is grateful for any size tax deductible donations that will allow us to continue to save animals in need.

Saturday, July 28, 2012

The Shabby Dog will be hosting a
Pet Adoption from
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Location:
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email: info@theshabbydog.com

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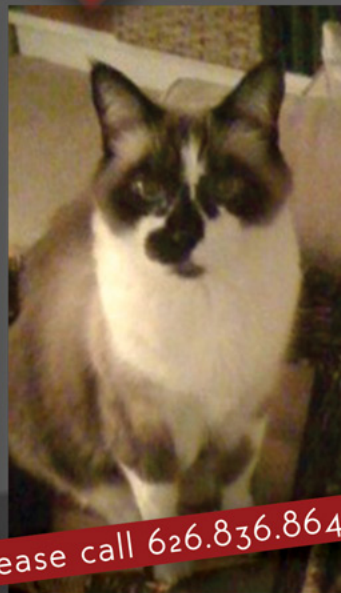
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(NAPSI)—Investing a little time and effort before you leave can pay big dividends when traveling with your pet. Here are some tips that can help keep you and your pet on the road to happiness:

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- Pack a travel bag for your pet. Include a bowl, food, water, leash, plastic bags and grooming supplies. Additionally, remember your pet's favorite toy or pillow.

- If your pet still shows signs of travel anxiety, you'll be glad to know there are natural remedies that can help. Veterinarian recommended and 100 percent natural, Rescue Remedy Pet is designed to help address a wide range of pet problems including anxious behaviors from travel or change in routine, fear of loud noises, barking or scratching.

You can find Rescue Remedy Pet at Whole Foods and anywhere natural products are sold. Visit www.rescuere medy.com/pets to learn more.



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by Chris Leclerc

TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE?

OK, Sierra Madre, it's that time of year again! You know, the time of year to enjoy the great outdoors, working in the garden and finding comfort in hearing the buzz of busy bees flying about from one flower to another, doing what comes natural; helping nature take its course! With so many fragrant flowers, a wide variety of blooming plants and blossoming trees covering our yards and hillsides, it seems everything alive is answering to the sun's beckon with a plethora of plumage, making the local bees as happy as can be!

I learned to appreciate the important, integral part that bees play in the basic balance of nature at a very early age. I remember my dad bringing home golden jars of fresh honey from a local beekeeper in Huntsville, AL where I grew up, and I still have a vivid memory of how good it tasted on my breakfast toast! When he brought home the honey, my dad made a point of reminding me how much effort it took for the bee to produce, and encouraged me to appreciate it for that reason. Now, as an adult living in Southern California, I enjoy watching bees buzzing about in my community, knowing they are helping sustain a healthy balance in nature and facilitate the growth of delicious edibles such as honey, fruit and nuts that would not be available to me without the hard work of the bee.

Being the bee lover that I am, I was naturally drawn-in by the headline of an article I saw in the California section of the Sunday, July 15 issue of the LA Times, about a young couple totally sold-out on urban beekeeping in Los Angeles. HoneyLove, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded by 2 big-time bee lovers, is on a major mission to promote the freedom of urban beekeeping in Los Angeles. A few incorporated cities in the LA urban area have opened up to the idea of residential beekeeping, but most have maintained a sense of rigid resistance, enforcing a 200 ft. perimeter between human dwellings. Well, if you leave it up to Rob and Chelsea McFarland, the founders of HoneyLove, that fact will soon change!

Honey bees are important pollinators for commercial crops in California and most of America in general. Although they are not indigenous to our continent, they succeeded in establishing themselves as a part of our ecosystem and we have grown quite dependent on their presence for crop propagation. "Pre-honey bee" pollination in America was carried out by other hard-working vectors such as the bumble bee, the beetle, the butterfly and the moth. The honey bee with which we are familiar was first brought to America's east coast in 1622, and made its way to the west coast around 1853. The immigrants who brought the European honey bee to America also introduced a number of European plant species for the intentional purpose of continuing the harmonious relationship between the two, and facilitating the growth of green pastures and a variety of foods for livestock and human alike.

In the 1980's, the European honey bee in America found itself somewhat challenged by a 'new bee on the block', that was brought over

from Africa. The African honey bee is more socially aggressive, making it a challenge for the docile European bee, which tends to focus more on producing honey than fighting off the enemy. Regardless of their differences, both types of honey bees have succeeded in surviving and thriving here in the US for many decades, and we humans have most certainly benefited from their presence.

I caught up with Chelsea at HoneyLove this past week, hoping to learn more about what drives their mission to legalize beekeeping in LA. Their organization spends a lot of time educating the public about bees and sharing their views on urban beekeeping as well as other down-to-earth techniques for healthy living that I found quite refreshing. Look them up on line at honeylove.org. Even if you are not a huge bee enthusiast, I think you will be impressed with what you find on their website.

After talking to Chelsea, I felt inspired to learn even more about the bees in LA, and began wondering about my own feelings as to whether it makes sense to encourage backyard beekeeping in our local community. I was curious as to whether Sierra Madre had any ordinances in place for or against bee keeping, and I found out that our town does allow backyard beekeeping, limited to the same 200 ft. perimeter range that many other towns in LA set forth.

Next, I came across a website for Orange County Beekeepers Association, and I called the phone number they show for contact. I was able to talk to Amy, the president of the organization. Amy has been involved with the bee community and studied bee culture in Southern California for many years and has volunteered enormous amounts of time and energy to the cause. She owns a bee removal and rescue business in Costa Mesa called Bee Detectives (949) 922-6986. Amy explained how the bee population became what it is today in California, and offered several other resources for information on the subject, including the name of a bee expert, Dr. Eric Mussen, Professor of Entomology at UC Davis. Dr. Mussen was kind enough to take the time to share his thoughts on urban beekeeping, and gave me insight on lots of other facts about bees that truly fascinated me. He has dedicated his life to the scientific study of insects, with a special interest in bees, so he has more knowledge than most on the subject. By the time I finished talking to Chelsea, Amy and Dr. Mussen, I thought my head would split wide open with information overload on bees in California!

Ultimately, after reviewing the facts and hearing various thoughts on urban beekeeping, I was able to decide that it seems to me to be a perfectly natural activity to take part in, if you go about it in the right way. Dr. Mussen made it clear that in his opinion, it is best to work with European honey bees versus African bees for the urban backyard. Mainly because the European bees are better honey-producers and are much more docile and less likely to attack if aggravated, than the Africanized bee. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining at least two or more healthy colonies at any given time, because a single colony stands a higher risk of dying out. Now that I feel like I have graduated from my self-immersed course on urban beekeeping, I am thinking maybe someday I might take up the hobby myself, even if just to remember how good that fresh honey tasted on my toast as a kid!

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PET OF THE WEEK: SANDY: Animal ID #A4460749



Meet a stunning dog, the extremely handsome Sandy (A4460749). Sandy is a cute, docile one year old orange and brown neutered male Norfolk Terrier/Irish Terrier mix puppy. He was found in West Covina on July 11th and was brought to the Baldwin Park Animal Care Center. Weighing twenty-five pounds, Sandy will be an eager pupil for training. He is shy but agreeable with other dogs, and he likes people and sticks close to his handler. Well-suited to life as a lapdog, Sandy will be a faithful companion for an adult household in any living situation, and he is perfect for an older person or someone who works from home. To watch a video of Sandy please visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8wCLV72ghs

To meet Sandy 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 Sandy, please reference his animal ID number: A4460749. 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 Sandy or the adoption process, contact United Hope for Animals Volunteer Adoption Coordinator Samantha at samanthahasayon@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/>.

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Gary R. White, DVM

One Of A Kind: *Featuring unique homes and gardens and the people who create them* Story by Chris Bertrand. Photos Courtesy of Habitat for Humanity



HABITAT'S A BRUSH WITH KINDNESS PROGRAM *Needy Homeowners Receive Critical Safety and Exterior Improvements*

Habitat for Humanity International, with affiliated chapters around the world, has built more than 500,000 homes, sheltering low income families worldwide, according to the organization's

website, www.Habitat.org.

In their mission to provide decent, safe and affordable housing to qualified applicants, with a "hand up, not a hand out", the organization coordinates the efforts of volunteers from churches community groups, corporations and individuals.

In recent years, Habitat's efforts have expanded into smaller scale projects geared toward homeowners in need. After spawning in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota then spreading nationwide, "A Brush with Kindness (ABWK) is an exterior home preservation service that offers painting, landscaping, weather stripping and minor repair services for homeowners in need. ABWK helps low-income homeowners impacted by age, disability and family circumstances, who struggle to maintain the exterior of their homes, reclaim their homes with pride and dignity," according to Habitat's website, serving "as a companion to local affiliates' core building services, enabling them to serve more families and increase opportunities for volunteers and sponsors."

Since 2010, the San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity has completed "urgent to critical home repairs for twenty local homes within their service area, from Atwater Village to Duarte, El Monte to Altadena" according to Sonja Yates, Executive Director. "We're finding this often appeals to seniors and veterans who are on limited or fixed incomes, often covering just food, utilities and doctor bills."

"Keeping up a property you own is a real challenge for people in that circumstance," continued Yates. Some of the areas the San Gabriel Habitat has addressed in their local projects have been safety accommodations like wheelchair ramps and correcting dangerous, uneven driveways, removing dry rot from wood components of homes, replacing windows for increased energy efficiency and security, and we've even done some roofing projects."

"In our first ABWK, we partnered with Temple City in 2010, the community's 50th anniversary. The city could have allocated dollars to have a big celebratory party, but instead used the available funds for a project with lasting community value. Wasn't that cool?" reflected Yates.

"Mayor Pro Tem, Cynthia Sternquist, was a driving force in this first effort, helping to raise funds, taking applications from needy homeowners, and much more. I have great admiration for this responsible leader," said Yates.



Courtesy of SGV Habitat for Humanity

One of the most poignant and heartwarming success stories was the very first project in Temple City. "The lady had recently lost her husband" remembered Yates. "When attempting to do some things in the house on her own, she broke both ankles trying to do it herself. She was just thrilled to have us come in with a qualified crew to add safety railings. The front porch had none at all."

As with any project, it is sometimes a challenge to fit all of the deferred maintenance or safety projects into the budget, which most times is capped at \$10,000, but "\$10,000 is better than nothing," according to Yates, "and we work out a mutually acceptable project and get to work."

Habitat provides qualified construction supervision for its volunteers, and then trains the volunteers in the specific task to which they are assigned.

"In this economy, this program has been a great opportunity for corporations to give a smaller donation, even \$2-5,000 and be able to attach their logo on partnership signs, coordinate corporate teams or individual volunteers to help with a short term project," said Yates. "It is a wonderful corporate team building process for coworkers"

Individual volunteers are always welcome, too. "Once the sign goes up for a project," we get signup calls from neighbors or people just show up," smiled Yates. In Atwater Village, a nearby homeowner was enthusiastic about the experience, saying she had always wanted to be involved with Habitat, and was especially please to help his own neighbor in need as well as improve his own community.

This year the group has a goal to do ten "Kindness" projects in their service area. Though the usual budget is \$10,000 per project, a \$60,000 grant from Home Depot, targeted specifically for Veterans in need, will allow the group to increase the project budget to \$15,000 for qualifying Veterans who are in need.

In all Habitat projects, according to the Habitat website, "a no-interest loan is made to the homeowner to cover the cost of the project. Payments made by the homeowners are placed in a revolving fund to help A Brush with Kindness serve others in need." A lien is placed on the property, which is due only if the property is refinanced or sold, according to Yates.

Perhaps the most recognized Habitat for Humanity volunteer, former President Jimmy Carter became involved with Habitat for Humanity nearly three decades ago. In addition to fundraising, Carter involves himself with the actual building process in the annual Jimmy Carter Work Project "blitz build." Yates called for volunteers from all walks of life to partner with them on Habitat's projects such as ABWK. "At the end of the day, our volunteers are VERY tired, but the reward is priceless. Volunteering may be a life changing experience."

To learn about applying for a Brush with Kindness Project, purchasing a Habitat home, volunteer or donation opportunities, contact San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity at 626-387-6899 or visit their website at <http://www.SGVHabitat.org>.

The organization also operates two ReStores, offering 8,000 square feet of donated new and used building materials including hardware, doors, windows, lighting, appliances, sinks, furniture, etc., priced at least 30% below retail. The stores are located at 400 S. Irwindale Avenue in Azusa, and at 770 N. Fair Oaks Avenue in Pasadena. They welcome donations in kind from both private and corporate entities.



Happy homeowner in Temple City, after project completed.
Courtesy of SGV Habitat for Humanity



Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed

by Luther Tsinoglou Realtor®

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Many homeowners are still facing mortgage default, and while the best bet is to contact your lender directly, there are tempting advertisements out there for companies that claim they can solve your financial crisis. Fraud is rampant, so look out for the following warning signs.

First, don't believe the hype when you hear, "We'll stop the auction!" or, "Debt eliminated, guaranteed!" If it sounds too good to be true, it is!

You should be suspicious of any company that tries to gain your trust by imitating a government agency. They may (illegally) publish government logos and names, or even copy the look of an official website, so pay attention to the details.

Back out of any deal that requires you to pay any fees upfront. There is no need to pay anyone to modify your mortgage terms, because your lender, and only your lender, can do that.

Most importantly, do not make mortgage payments to anyone but your lender. If a person or company presents you with an official looking statement that indicates payments should now be made to them, don't walk – run for the door, and call the Better Business Bureau.

By working directly with your lender, you may be able to modify your loan terms, or agree to a pay-off through a "short sale" listing. Please heed this advice from an experienced professional.

Luther has been licensed and practicing real estate since 1992. He specializes in residential and income property in the Greater San Gabriel Valley. Luther Tsinoglou has again been named a top producing sales agent with Podley Properties for 2011, making the top 10% at the company overall. Luther can be reached at his direct line (626) 695-8650 or at luther@tsinoglou.com



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SEAN'S SHAMELESS REVIEWS:

Review By Sean Kayden

MILO GREENE

For fans of Mumford & Sons and Of Monsters and Men comes Milo Greene, a five-piece outfit that doesn't have a single member named Milo Greene in the band. These Southern California natives trekked to a cabin located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains to record their luminous debut self-titled record. Influenced by 70s soft rock and contemporary indie pop, Milo Greene exhibits a deep catharsis while never mimicking those that have inspired them. The thirteen tracks, albeit reasonably short in duration, is an incredibly easy listening undertaking. Despite their inexperience, Milo Greene exemplifies a pastoral and rustic style that has them sounding like hardened veterans rather than unproven rookies.

Four out of the five members of the band share vocal duties, which leads to a completely uncommon scenario for the listener. The most notably voice is from the single female in the band, Marlana Sheetz. However, no matter who's providing the primary singing, they all satisfy without hesitation. Milo Greene skillfully developed a record that's filled with beautiful harmonies, hints of folk and bluegrass. It never appears overblown while everything feels simple, but divinely elaborate. Lyrically, it's a rudimentary presentation, but the songs still feel poignant juxtaposed with the flourishing background music. While many tunes offer a similar tone, there really aren't any surprises if you listen to the record in sequence order. Therefore, every song feels like a substantial piece to something much greater. With titles such as "What's The Matter," "Don't Give Up On Me," and "Cutty Love" and lyrics to boot, it's difficult to ignore the comprehensive theme of vanished love and irrevocable heartbreak. However, the record goes even further as it is incessantly alarmed by the disappearance of youth.

There are four tracks that play out like intermission tracks. It's as if they break the album into separate parts demonstrating different themes between each interlude-resembling track. Technically, you're left with nine tradition songs that are more or less superb. The closing track is definitely the weakest link here. It's more barebones, heavy on vocals, light on instrumental arrangement. As the album ends, you wish you were sent off with something a little more prevailing. In spite of that, Milo Greene has easily produced a sparkling and bittersweet album that is connected to not only their generation, but also previous ones. They may be young and time will only tell what they may ultimately become as a unit. For now, it's difficult to deny their strong presence in the increasingly growing arena of indie rock.

Grade: 8.3 out of 10

Key Tracks: "Don't Give Up On Me", "Perfectly Aligned", "Silent Way", "1957"

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Lynn Hendricks	Dawn Mendelson	Debbie Schweiner
Jim Heuston	Djibril N'Doye	Anne Sears
Cathy Imhoff	Kimberly Nicholson	George Sherman
Susie Kustner		Rob Sherrill

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*Member of Actor's Equity Association and/or one of the 4-A Unions

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Fritz Coleman

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UNDERSTANDING REVERSE MORTGAGES

Dear Savvy Senior:
Where can I get reliable, unbiased information on reverse mortgages? My wife and I are thinking about getting one but want to do some research first.
Need Money

Dear Need:
For seniors that are house rich but cash poor, a reverse mortgage is a viable option, but there's a lot to know and consider to be sure it's a good choice for you. Here are some tips and tools to help you research this complex financial product.



Let's start with a quick review. A reverse mortgage is a loan that lets older homeowners convert part of the equity in their home into cash that doesn't have to be paid back as long as they live there.

To be eligible you must be age 62 or older, own your home (or owe only a small balance) and currently be living there.

You can receive the cash either as a lump sum, a line of credit, regular monthly checks or a combination of these. And with a reverse mortgage, you, not the bank, own the house, so you're still responsible for property taxes, insurance and repairs.

Currently, 99 percent of all reverse mortgages offered today are Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECM), which are backed by the Federal Housing Administration.

Repayment is due when you or the last borrower dies, sells the place or lives elsewhere for 12 months. Then you or your heirs will have to pay off the loan (which includes the money you borrowed plus accrued interest and fees) either with the proceeds from selling the place, or if you want to keep the house, with money from another source.

Educational Resources
To get a better handle on reverse mortgages and how they work, there are several excellent resources you can turn to for reliable information, but you're going to need access to the Internet utilize them.

To get started, the National Council on Aging recently created a free new website called the Home Equity Advisor that's designed to help you think through the best way to leverage your home – a reverse mortgage isn't your only option.

Just go to homeequityadvisor.org and click on their "Quick Check" tool which will ask you a series of questions about your personal and household situation to define exactly what you might need or want. Then, based on your answers, you'll receive an individualized report offering information, tools, and consumer advice on a range of possible solutions that includes reverse mortgages and other alternatives.

If you find that you are a good candidate for a reverse mortgage, your next stop is at reverse-mortgage.org, a new consumer website created by the National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association.

This site offers lots of educational information including "Your Road Map" which will help guide you through all the features of reverse mortgages and the process of obtaining one.

It also has a calculator to estimate how much you'd be eligible to receive from a reverse mortgage, and offers has a comprehensive directory of licensed HUD-approved mortgage lenders, banks, and credit unions that offer reverse mortgage loans in your state.

Get Counseling
Another important resource to help you understand the pros and cons of a reverse mortgage and how it would work in your particular situation is through counseling.

In fact, because reverse mortgages are such complicated products, the federal government requires that all reverse mortgage borrowers receive counseling through a HUD approved independent counseling agency before they take out a HECM loan.

Counseling can be done in person or over the phone and some agencies today provide it for free or at a minimal fee. Some locations charge around \$125. To locate counseling agencies in your area, visit hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hecm/hecmhome.cfm or call 800-569-4287.

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.

HEALTH & FITNESS
THE JOY OF YOGA
HOW WE GROW SPIRITUALLY:



The yoga code of ethics

How do we engage in the world and not get caught up in the drama? How do we not become entangled? Everyday, all day, there are dramas trying to lure us in. There are friends that are a living drama, clients that are a living drama, media news that is a big 'ol drama. We can buy into drama and before you know it – our whole day is gone, worse yet, years of our lives. As yogis on the spiritual path, we must constantly remember to NOT buy into the drama. Oooo it's so hard! Not to hear the gossip? Not to gossip ourselves? To purposefully choose what comes out of our mouths is a discipline. To choose not to be a slave to drama is one of the most challenging yet rewarding choices you can ever make.

For the yogi, spirit and nature are not separate. When we practice yoga we are discovering our true nature. We are discovering our soul. We start with the physical body, because that's what we can first identify with. It's our doorway in. Then we discover our own evolution. When we want to progress from there we must take a look at our moral and ethical awareness. The yoga tradition has a code of ethics. As we evolve this becomes more and more important.

We cannot evolve spiritually without an ethical framework. To become self –realized in classical yoga, as in the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali, there are 5 yamas or principles of self -restraint. Nonviolence (ahimsa), truthfulness (satya), non-stealing (asteya), self -control/fidelity (brahmacharya) and non-coveting (aparigraha). In future articles we will explore these concepts in greater detail. In the meantime keep on the mat, cultivating deeper awareness within.
Namasté, René

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS

JULY 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.

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.

Thursdays:
1:00 to 3:30 pm: Game Day. Join us for Poker and more. Wii - 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. Please call for more information.

Fridays: Intervale Lunch Café; daily reservations needed 355-0256
1:00 pm to 1:45 pm: Strength Training with Lisa Brandley. FREE class of stretching with light hand weights while you sit.

Saturdays: 11:30 am: Senior Club brown bag lunch and BINGO at 12:30 pm.

2012 EXCURSIONS

NEWPORT BAY CHARTER BOAT CRUISE AND LUNCH
Thursday, August 9, 2012
Departure: Charter bus leaves at 9:15am from the Hart Park House Senior Center
Boat Charter: 11:00am-12:30pm
Arrival: Charter bus will arrive back in Sierra Madre at approximately 3:00pm
Cost: \$20 includes transportation and tip (Does not include lunch)

More Info: Call the Hart Park House Senior Center at 626-355-7394. The 90 minute tour views the entire harbor, including the 7 Islands of Newport Bay. The tour is narrated by the experienced Captain and Crew. You will get a chance to see celebrity homes, sea lions, and much more! For more information on the cruise please visit their website at www.funzoneboats.com. Lunch will be on your own from 12:30-2:00pm in Newport Beach. Please be sure to register early as space is limited. Registration is available at the Hart Park House at 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Community Recreation Center at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. or online at www.cityofsierramadre.com/onlineregistration.



July Birthdays
Anthony Gheezo, Joanne Gheezo, Betty Hansen, Beverly Turko, Vivian Abrams, Shahrzad Arzani, Eunice Banis, Cindy Barnard, Christine Durfort, Dorothy Montgomery, Beth Pancoska, Janet Swanson, Linda Thunes, Barbara Watson,



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.)

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



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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 Library

NEW!
Senior Movie Program

The Hart Park House Senior Center is starting a brand new monthly movie program beginning Wednesday, August 15.

Each month a movie will be shown at no fee in the City Council Chambers located in City Hall.

The movie for the month of August is, Invasion of the Body Snatchers, filmed in our very own Sierra Madre!

All patrons are encouraged to join us monthly and it's a great way to beat the summer heat. Location: City Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Time: 1:00pm-3:00pm
Cost: Free, no charge.

*Food is not allowed in the Council Chambers

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BUSINESS TODAY
The latest on Business News, Trends and Techniques

By La Quetta M. Shamblee, MBA



DOES YOUR ACTIVITY TRANSLATE INTO PRODUCTIVITY?

Measurable outcomes are the only true measurements of whether all of your activity is resulting in anything meaningful. Far too many business owners and managers awake throughout the workweek to tackle a Matterhorn of tasks, and at the end of each workday they find themselves asking, “What did I really accomplish?” They scurry about from meeting to meeting in between reviewing and responding to numerous phone calls, e-mails, texts and Twitters. Our misuse of the current communications technology is contributing to a mound of unfinished projects that contribute to a pattern of dysfunction that we incorrectly regard as productivity. Reflect on the following questions to determine if you’re truly productive, or simply very busy.

- 1) What are the three major goals that you indicated (in writing) at the beginning of the prior three month period?
- 2) Did you achieve at least one key milestone toward each of the goals?
- 3) If you had to pay someone else for what you accomplished during this time period, how would you rate their performance? (Note: This is not a score for your level of “activity” in your efforts to achieve the goal, rather a score of the final outcome from your personal efforts)
- 4) Do you have more than three important goals or key tasks that remain as unfinished items after more than 30 days?
- 5) If you function in the same manner for the next 30 days, as you have done in the past 30 days, do you anticipate that you will be satisfied with your progress?

Of course, these five items are not the end-all-be-all for the questions helpful to help you focus on what is important. However, an honest response to each of the questions will help you determine if productivity might be increased by finding a different approach to how you work, and most importantly, the tasks to which you apply your time and energy on a routine basis. Productivity is not measured by the number of hours worked, e-mails answered or meetings attended. Tangible or measurable results, based on pre-established goals and objectives are the true indicators of whether you’re truly making strides or creating a dust cloud of activity, which serves to cloud the reality that you’re simply engaging in a web of self-created, overlapping activities. Improving your productivity is a matter of identifying and planning for specific goals. You cannot adequately measure your progress or attainment of a goal that you have not identified in advance.



OMG! OH MY GOSH DID YOU KNOW..... By Patricia Richardson, M.B.A

...Intuit, the maker of QuickBooks, offers several options for payroll. As an employer, you have specific payroll responsibilities that are required by government agencies. These agencies can be federal, state, or local. Some of these responsibilities include, but are not limited to, withholding amounts from your employees’ compensation to cover income tax, social security, Medicare, and other payments. Reporting and depositing payroll taxes to the appropriate agency in an accurate and timely manner is vital to your business. Late or inaccurate deposits may result in penalties and interest charges. These complex payroll tax requirements may seem intimidating but by learning a few simple concepts, you will be able to understand your payroll responsibilities and choose the best method for meeting them.

Intuit Online Payroll is a perfect companion for QuickBooks online because it does not require the actual purchase of QuickBooks because it allows “Anytime, Anywhere Access”. The Desktop payroll versions include Intuit QuickBooks Payroll Enhanced for Accountants and Intuit QuickBooks Payroll Enhanced. These two payroll options require the purchase of QuickBooks software and allow integration between the programs. This includes employee Direct Deposit and updated financial statements. Intuit Assisted Payroll and Intuit Full Service Payroll include several important functions of payroll (reporting and electronic filing) provided directly by Intuit. You can bet that Intuit will be ready come January 1st to implement all Federal and State tax changes.

...Straight from the IRS

Employers will be required to withhold an extra 0.9 percent in Medicare taxes for high-income earners.[i] The following questions and answers provide employers, employees and payroll service providers information that will help them as they prepare to implement the Additional Medicare Tax which goes into effect in 2013. The Additional Medicare Tax applies to individuals’ wages, other compensation, and self-employment income over certain thresholds; employers are responsible for withholding the tax on wages and other compensation in certain circumstances. The IRS has prepared these questions and answers to assist employers and payroll service providers in adapting systems and processes that may be impacted.

BASIC FAQs

- When does Additional Medicare Tax start? Additional Medicare Tax goes into effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012.
- What is the rate of Additional Medicare Tax? The rate is 0.9 percent.
- When are individuals liable for Additional Medicare Tax? An individual is liable for Additional Medicare Tax if the individual’s wages, other compensation, or self-employment income (together with that of his or her spouse if filing a joint return) exceed the threshold amount for the individual’s filing status:

Filing Status	Threshold Amount
Married filing jointly	\$250,000
Married filing separately	\$125,000
Single	\$200,000
Head of household (with qualifying person)	\$200,000
Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child	\$200,000

- What wages are subject to Additional Medicare Tax? All wages that are currently subject to Medicare Tax are subject to Additional Medicare Tax if they are paid in excess of the applicable threshold for an individual’s filing status. For more information on what wages are subject to Medicare Tax, see the chart, Special Rules for Various Types of Services and Payments, in section 15 of Publication 15, (Circular E), Employer’s Tax Guide.
- What Railroad Retirement Tax Act (RRTA) compensation is subject to Additional Medicare Tax? All RRTA compensation that is currently subject to Medicare Tax is subject to additional Medicare Tax if it is paid in excess of the applicable threshold for an individual’s filing status.
- Are wages paid to employees that are nonresident aliens or U.S. citizens living abroad subject to Additional Medicare Tax withholding? There are no special rules for nonresident aliens and U.S. citizens living abroad for purposes of this provision. Wages earned by such individuals that are subject to Medicare tax will be subject to Additional Medicare Tax withholding if paid in excess of the \$200,000 withholding threshold.

For additional questions and answers this publication can be found at www.IRS.gov
[i] Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-148), §9002

Patricia Richardson the owner of Monrovia Computerized Business Service and is a local accountant, educator and trainer working to help business owners realize their business mission and vision by empowering them with tools and training in areas that may not be their core competency. For additional information, patti@qbworkshop.com.



Social Media Tips & Tricks

By Merri Jill Finstrom



THE PEOPLE FACTOR

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 40 percent of all American workers will be self-employed by 2019. Working for yourself and starting your own business seems to be the trend.

I’ve been self-employed for 15 years and I love helping others who want to have their own business too. We meet a lot of people at our social media education seminars that are starting a business and leaving a corporate job (by choice or by pink slip). They often ask how we’ve managed to stay in business. The answer boils down to one thing...people and the relationships we’ve built along the way.

Today’s on-line tools make it possible to stay connected with all kinds of people. If you look at social media tools as a way to stay in touch with people who are important to your business, it makes Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Pinterest easier to digest.

Think about connecting with people you’ve worked with in the past who know your

skills and your work ethic. I’m not saying you have to invite them all to Thanksgiving, just add them as a “friend” or “connection” and let them know you are still there!

I’ve often received messages on Facebook from people I worked with in the past who want to refer business. I once received a message from someone I went to school with 30 years ago who needed some business consulting!

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About MJ: MJ and her brother David own HUTdogs, a creative services business that also specializes in Social Media Education for business owners. Join their conversation on Facebook and get good tips and tricks about social media, www.facebook.com/hutdogs

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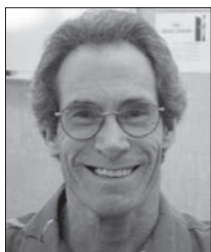
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The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our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

HAIL Hamilton My Turn



THE HYPOCRISY AND FAILURE OF THE WAR ON DRUGS

I am disappointed by the LA City Council's decision Tuesday to outlaw all sales by previously legally licensed and closely monitored marijuana dispensaries. The decision is clearly a step backward in the fight to decriminalize pot and a step forward in the increased drug-related carnage that is sweeping the nation and the world (Mexico has had 58,000 narcotic-related murders since 2006!)

It is one more victory for the drug lords, DEA, prisons, and local narcotics enforcement officials who are making billions of dollars year on the brutal misery of others, and the spin being perpetrated by the mainstream media that Council's decision is in some perverse way a affirmation that the City of Los Angeles supports of the failed War on Drugs

The truth be told, the War on Drugs is a sickening cesspool of hypocrisy, incompetence, and corruption that has left a wake of human destruction almost beyond comprehension in its magnitude. Originally declared by President Nixon in 1971, the War on Drugs became institutionalized two years later with the creation of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

U.S. involvement in the international narcotics trade began during the Vietnam War when the CIA began shipping home heroin from the Golden Triangle in the body cavities of dead American soldiers. Our involvement has continued unchecked from transporting cocaine from Columbia to pay for the Contras in Nicaragua to the reintroduction of heroin production in Afghanistan.

That's right, the CIA is importing the same illegal drugs the DEA and local law enforcement are arresting street drug dealers for, and it is this involvement that has added an extra 1.25 million non-violent drug offenders to our already overcrowded prison system. More insidious has been the laundering of CIA profits by some of America's largest, most respected banks, and offshore by CIA-run financial operations like BCCI, aided and abetted by U.S.-supported dictators like Panama's Manuel Noriega.

Since January 1, 2011, the War on Drugs has cost the American taxpayer approximately \$1 trillion -- or more than \$700 million a day! This is a total waste of tax dollars; and we just began the new year!

The human cost is much worse. Drug prohibition has decimated generations and criminalized millions for behavior which is entwined in human existence, and for no other purpose than to uphold the defunct and corrupt thinking of a minority of misguided, self-righteous, degenerate, racist demagogues who wish nothing

but the unadulterated destruction of blacks and Hispanics.

Based on the unalterable proviso that drug use is essentially an unstoppable and an ongoing human behavior which has been with us since the dawn of time, any serious reading on the subject of past attempts at any form of drug prohibition (including alcohol prohibition) would point most normal thinking people in the direction of sensible regulation.

By its very nature, drug prohibition cannot fail to do anything but create a vast increase in criminal activity and, rather than preventing society from descending into anarchy, it actually fosters an anarchic business model -- the international illegal drug trade. Any decisions concerning quality, quantity, distribution and availability are then left in the hands of unregulated, anonymous and ruthless drug dealers, who are interested only in the huge profits involved.

Thus, the allure of this reliably lucrative industry, with its enormous income potential that consistently outweighs the risks associated with the illegal operations that such a trade entails, will remain with us until we are collectively forced to admit the obvious -- our failed drug prohibition policy.

There is therefore an irrefutable connection between drug prohibition and the crime, corruption, disease and death it causes. Anybody who's not mentally challenged should be capable of understanding that it is not simply the demand for drugs that creates mayhem, it is our refusal -- despite all evidence to the contrary -- to allow legitimate businesses to meet the demand.

Because drug cartels -- the largest being the CIA -- will always have an endless supply of ready cash for wages, bribery and equipment, no amount of tax dollars, police powers, weaponry, wishful thinking or pseudo-science will make our streets safe again. Only an end to prohibition can do that! Remember the positive effects of ending national alcohol prohibition in 1933? How much longer are we willing to foolishly risk our survival by continuing to ignore the obvious, historically confirmed solution?

If you support the mass suicide cult of prohibition, and erroneously believe that you can win a war without logic and practical solutions, then prepare yourself for even more death, tortured corpses, corruption, terrorism, sickness, imprisonment, economic tribulation, unemployment and the complete loss of the rule of law. The only thing prohibition successfully does is prohibit the regulation while turning our schools and streets in black markets for drugs. Regulation would mean the opposite.

RICH Johnson KIDS & WHAT THEY SAY



When it comes to funny anecdotes regarding ones' own children, I am a rich man. Particularly when it comes to my daughter. She will remain nameless in this article because if she gets a whiff I am writing about her, my life will truly be in jeopardy. That being said, there were a couple occasions in her early years where her comments were priceless and memorable.

When she was four (and her brother six) the two of them decided to experiment with a pair of scissors. Unfortunately for my daughter, the experiment involved the scissors and her hair. She sacrificed her beautiful bangs to the pursuit of knowledge, not realizing they wouldn't suddenly reappear at the end of the experiment. Apprised of the tragedy on the way home from work, I prepared to somehow "fix" the situation. And there she was, waiting for me at the garage with a look of true grief. I shouted out to her how much I liked her new hair do (you know, now with a good chunk of it gone). She instantly perked up, smiled and said, "Yes, I wanted my hair to look just like Daddy's". Grrrrrr.

When my daughter (who shall continue to remain nameless) was 3, her favorite stuffed animal was an orangutan. She referred to this fuzzy, cuddly orange primate as her husband, possibly because he slept right next to her every night. One early morning my daughter was storming around the house with a particularly sour expression on her face. I asked her, "What was the matter?": She replied, "I can't find my stupid husband."

As cultural icon Art Linkletter once said on television, and in a book or two, "Kids Say the Darndest Things." Here are some more you might enjoy:

When you breath you inspire. When you do not breath you expire.

H2O is hot water, and CO2 is cold water.

When you smell an odorless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide.

Mushrooms always grow in damp places and so they look like umbrellas.

Vacuum: A large, empty space where the pope lives.

To keep milk from turning sour, keep it in the cow.

The president has the power to appoint and disappoint the cabinet.

Parallel lines never meet unless you bend one or both of them.

When two straight lines come together, they form an angel.

To find the number of square feet in a room, multiply the room by the number of feet.

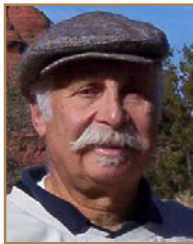
A triangle is a circle with three corners to it.

Horse power is the distance one horse can carry a pound of water in an hour.

By the way, I haven't mentioned Fresco's Coffee shop in a while, so let me give them a shameless plug: Great food and great parking. They are open every day until 2:30, so plan on a great breakfast and/or lunch there. They are in the Albertson's shopping center just on the other side of the border at Michillinda and Sierra Madre Blvd.

Also, keep August 12th on your calendar. Sunday night from 6:00 to 8:00 the band I have the privilege to perform with JJJukebox. JJJukebox will be headlining the Concert in the Park at Sierra Madre Memorial Park. It is sponsored by the Kiwanis and the Friends of the Library. So come out and enjoy the celebration.

STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE REACHING OUT



Recently I had the privilege of visiting my deceased friend's grandchild. My forty year old son and I happened to be in the neighborhood and called and went for a quick visit. The baby's father had been among my closest friends for over sixty years and had lived with my son, daughter and I for a couple of months. Right before his brain tumor was diagnosed he was staying with my wife and me. In fact it was my wife who first suggested that he see a doctor to try and understand his loss of balance and forgetfulness. Anyway, now he's gone and I'm not really close with the baby's mother and it's sort of strange to go over and visit a ten month old. I wouldn't have gone alone but my son wanted to go and so we did.

The mother is a business woman, filled with responsibilities and worries. The child we knew had been ill a few times. She asked us to take off our shoes, wash our hands, nd not breathe into the baby's face. She even added that the baby was not really comfortable with men and that it was probably best that we not expect to hold him. That was fine with me as I probably had gone over thirty years without holding a baby and felt no real need to end that streak. Maybe it would be better if we hadn't come at all.

We sat down and the three of us beganto chat as she held the baby. She tells ua that she still thinks of her dad every day and shows us a picture of him at the baby's age and they look identical. I began to feel a bit more comfortable and I noticed how much the mother looks like she did when she did when she was ten years ago and all at once I noticed that my son was holding the baby

The baby and my son looked very happy together and the baby sees me looking and begins to stare right into my eyes. He has eyes just like his father's and he reaches out to me and now I'm holding him. He's jumping up and down in my lap. What powerful legs he has. He's laughing and I'm laughing. There's a wonderful connection and before we leave the mom asks my son and I to act sort of like surrogate grandparents. We say we will and are intending to be at the baby's birthday next month.

I'm telling you this story as I think of another baby. Another perfect baby named James Holmes. This baby grew to be a privileged, gifted, successful honor student working toward a PhD in a very difficult scientific field. We all now know the unimaginable horror story of this young man senselessly killing or wounding almost seventy people. Among the most frightening parts of the story is when his mother, a mental-health nurse herself, was contacted and told that her son had committed this horrific act she was told

"We're not sure we got theright man."

"You've got the right man," she said.

To me that response by the mother meant that she had feared some sort of catastrophe for a long time. I believe she suffered and tried to close her eyes to what was happening. She probably felt isolated and powerless. After all, her brilliant son was a thousand miles away living in some honor doem. What could she do?

For that matter what could her son do as he felt his life coming apart. We are told that he was dropping out of the program without getting the degree that he had worked toward all his life. I imagine him, like many highly gifted people, to be fairly isolated and without confidants. Alone he fantasized about doing some extreme act that would leave his mark upon the world.

In writing about this monstrous act it seems appropriate to speak about gun control legislation and increased mental health outreach. Perhaps periodic psychological evaluations should become an integral part of graduate programs. I am not opposed to such potentially helpful changes but I think they will be of only limited assistance. The real problem is that modern societies have failed in their major responsibility to raise and nuture the perfect babies born to them. Instead of reaching out supportively raising children in tribes we have allowed, and even encouraged these vulnerable young people to go out on their own. As the kids face inevitable, but still unexpected, disappointments, they have no one to lean on. Adults , fearing being inappropriate, are removed and distant. In this increasingly over-populated world we all seem to be more and more alone.

I hope by reaching out to my old friend's grandson, my son and I might just be doing a little something to hold this world together; meanwhile other kinds of needed reorganization can take place. Anyway it will be really nice to go to the party.

OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

ALL I EVER WANTED TO DO WAS GO FISHING



I just celebrated another birthday, which got me to thinking about the "good old days." You can usually tell how old a person is by how many times they refer to the "good old days," or the phrase, "when I was a youngster."

I have come to the conclusion that getting old is not something to be ashamed of in the least. A person reaches a certain age simply because they have not died yet, which is nothing to make a person feel guilty.

Although I do not think too much of birthdays, I intend to have as many as possible. Don't get me wrong. I am ready to go when my time is up, but, in the meantime, I am going to enjoy life.

My recent birthday got me thinking about the "good old days" of my youth. Memory is a funny thing. For the most part, we remember the good of our youth and rarely the bad. I often hear some old geezer say, "I wish I were 16 again." If their memory was serving them correctly, 16 was not a very good year for any of us. I am glad I have gotten beyond my 16th birthday. As I remember it, it was a terrible year.

I can honestly say that the best years of my life are the ones I am living now.

Sure, I have some regrets. I have done things I probably should not have done, and I did not do some things I probably should have. If I had to live my life over again not only will I make the same mistakes but also I probably would add to the list quite significantly. I do not want to live my life over again. Once is enough for me, thank you.

But as I was thinking of those "good old days," I could not help but think what I was thinking about back then. It went something like this.

When I was in school sitting in Ms. Ammon's class, I was daydreaming about going fishing. All I could think about was what kind of fish were biting out by the lake this afternoon. Ms. Ammon would call upon me and I would have no idea what she was talking about. In my mind, I was fishing. In my body, I was suffering under classitis. It is what students, especially boys, get when they are bored with the class they are in at the time. It involves a lot of jittering.

"Where was your mind?" Ms. Ammon would ask. "I hope you weren't fishing, now, were you?"

One thing about good ole Ms. Ammon, she could read a boy's mind like a book. Maybe because there are so many blank

pages in a young boy's mind.

I would suffer through counting down the hours and minutes and seconds until the school day would end.

You did not hear it from me, and this is not a confession, but on those rare occasions when I would skip school and go fishing, I had another problem. I was where I wanted to be, doing what I wanted to do, but then as I threw out the line waiting for a bite all I could think of was what was happening back in school I was missing. I often wondered if Ms. Ammon was missing me.

I would smile and then the fish would bite and my attention would be on the task at hand.

It was not long before my mind would wander back to the classroom. What were they doing? What was I missing? For the life of me, I cannot understand why, but I could never enjoy fishing and when I was playing hooky from school for thinking about what I was missing back in school.

One of the advantages of getting older is developing a sense of maturity. Don't ask me to define maturity, because I am not quite sure what it really means. As a person matures, he begins to learn how to enjoy the moment. This, I say, comes with age. A lot of age in some instances. By the time you learn to enjoy the moment, it is gone.

I have come a long way from good ole Ms. Ammon's classroom. I will not tell you how many years it has been, let's just say a lot. I still find myself doing the same thing.

I am in the middle of doing one thing and I begin thinking of what I could be doing. I could be home reading a book. Then when I go home and begin reading, I think about what I could be doing in the office.

I have tried to take a day off for many years. I just cannot seem to manage it. I take a day off and think of what I really could be doing if I was working. When I am working, I think of how much fun I could have if I was taking the day off.

I hope to live long enough to be able to bring these two opposites together in some magnificent activity. I have not got there yet. I am aspiring, to be sure.

David was right. "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalms 118:24 KJV).

The only thing I need to do today is to rejoice in the goodness of the Lord.

HOWARD Hays As I See It



"We offer our sympathies, we mourn, we shrug our shoulders – and that's it. We don't do anything. We don't hold our elected leaders accountable for the decisions they make that allow someone to walk in and buy a military weapon and put a hundred rounds in it . . . and blast it off in a movie theater . . . Something is going to change . . . when the American people get outraged, because it's not going to come from elected leaders who are in the pockets of the NRA – it's going to come from a lot of pissed-off Americans."

- Colin Goddard, survivor (shot four times) of the Virginia Tech massacre

"This is really not a time to be talking about the politics associated with what happened in Aurora." - Mitt Romney

Maybe Mitt's right. After all, here in my normal spot in the pages of the MVN last week, Susan already addressed the subject, with a moving account of the death of her father at the hands of a deranged individual who managed to have a gun. She listed other mass shootings of the past few months which, for whatever reason, failed to garner the headlines of the "Dark Knight Rises" incident.

(She left out the more mundane statistics of an average 230 people being wounded, with 87 dying, from gun violence in our country – the equivalent of seven Aurora Cinema massacres – every day.)

I could respond to Greg Welborn's mentioning Romney's management of the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City in his column last week, by reminding that Romney approached that task like his buddies on Wall Street approach theirs – by relying on government bailouts (\$410 million from the federal government for those Olympics).

I can't let the opportunity go by, though, without commenting on a fact I was most struck by: that the entire arsenal acquired by James Holmes – two Glock 40 cal. pistols, shotgun, body armor, 6,000 rounds of ammo, AR-15 assault rifle modified with 100-round clip – was acquired legally. This was thanks to the lobbying organization working to block any attempt to inconvenience psychos, gang-bangers, would-be terrorists and street thugs seeking lethal firepower - the National Rifle Association.

The NRA is not an organization for gun owners, but for the arms industry – those who see the Aurora massacre not as a tragedy, but as an opportunity to stoke fears that can spike gun sales. MidwayUSA, Barrett Firearms Manufacturing and Brownells, Inc. are among major manufacturers of military-style assault weapons and/or high-capacity magazines that have executives on the NRA board – raising a quarter-billion dollars a year to buy Congress and state legislatures.

One such high-capacity magazine used by Holmes at the Aurora Cinema jammed, preventing the carnage from becoming even greater. That magazine, along with the AR-15, was outlawed under the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban, which was allowed to expire in 2004 under an NRA-controlled Republican Congress. Those who'd defend an employer's control over a woman's reproductive choices, and restrict whom an individual can marry, will characterize availability of 100-round magazines as a "basic freedom", as did Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) on Fox News.

In a Salon article, Alan Berlow, who describes the NRA as "the nation's de facto lobby for street criminals, criminal gun dealers and an industry that reaps a sizable percentage of its income from criminal gun use", quotes a Pittsburgh police detective as saying the group "takes every chance it gets to stymie even reasonable efforts to combat gun violence."

In 2003, the NRA pushed through legislation banning the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms from requiring dealers to conduct periodic inventories to detect lost or stolen firearms. It also required that records of Brady background checks be destroyed within 24 hours – despite the FBI warning Congress that such a requirement would allow 97% of criminal gun buyers to get away with it.

In the wake of the Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) shooting, NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg sent undercover agents out to gun stores, and found 25% of the dealers had no problem selling weapons to someone saying flat-out they were an illegal straw purchaser who couldn't pass a background check on their own. At gun shows, they were able to buy from 94% of licensed dealers. Thanks to the NRA.

Being on the FBI's Terrorist Watch List can prevent you from boarding a plane, but not from purchasing an assault rifle. Legislation to grant the U.S. Attorney General "authority to stop the sale of guns or explosives to terrorists" was killed by the NRA. The NRA fought against closing the "gun show loophole", allowing buyers to arm themselves without a background check. The NRA fought to overturn local ordinances requiring the reporting of lost or stolen firearms. The NRA fought efforts to encourage the sharing of criminal and mental health records among government agencies to make it harder for crooks and crazies to get guns.

All the above measures, according to Republican pollster Frank Luntz, enjoy clear majority support among NRA members. But the NRA has other concerns – like working to make it easier for felons to have their gun rights restored.

The L.A. Times ran an article about the reluctance to name the Aurora, Colorado shooter – so as not to give him publicity. As I see it, it's time we name names and give publicity to those in Washington and Sacramento whoring out their offices to the NRA.

Despite the outrage from "a lot of pissed-off Americans", Colorado State Sen. John Morse (D) warns we're up against those who'd defend the availability of AR-15s and high-capacity magazines by rationalizing periodic massacres as some kind of trade-off; "The NRA has managed to convince the country that this has to happen to protect our Second Amendment rights . . . As long as we let people buy these guns, we will bury our children."

THE AURORA SHOOTING TRAGEDY GREG Welborn



It is truly saddening to see how the mainstream media turns every tragedy into a talking point for the left's political world view and in support of their desire to exert more and more control over our lives. So it's not surprising that the alleged shooter, whose name will not be mentioned lest he derive some satisfaction from the publicity, hadn't even made his first court appearance before a media talking head told us that A) he was a member of the Tea Party, and B) stricter gun control laws would have prevented this. We all know now that the press was wrong on the first part, but the press is still spinning the second part, so let's consider some real world facts about gun ownership.

Gun control advocates point to the fact that Colorado is a concealed-carry state so therefore, in their view, had guns been banned, this tragedy would have been prevented. I wish there were more sophistication to their argument, but there's not. But the facts in this case, as in so many others, clearly support the opposite conclusion. More guns in a society usually means there will be less crime.

Yes, Colorado is a concealed-carry state, meaning that citizens can carry a gun and may actually conceal it. This doesn't mean, however, that all locations in the state allow guns. Private homeowners and private business owners are allowed to dictate what happens on their property. In the case of the Aurora theatre, where the killings occurred, the theatre company has a strict "gun-free zone" policy. No weapons are allowed in the theatre. As a result, law abiding citizens checked their guns before entering the theatre, but clearly the shooter did not. Thus, the gun-free zone became a target rich environment for the gunmen, and a little slice of hell for those who gave up their weapons.

It is not a coincidence that the shooter chose such a location to perpetrate this evil. Most killers are pretty practical and realistic about their choice of location. We may want to argue that there's something "wrong" with a person that wants to commit mass murder, but that's different than saying the person is not rationale. Being evil, immoral or angry is not the same as being irrational. This gunmen, like so many others, was in fact very rational. He wore bullet proof armor and chose a location where his victims were unarmed. Even if he desired to martyr himself, he clearly wanted to live as long as possible in order to kill as many as possible. The fact that the shooter didn't go unprotected into a gun club to do his killing is proof of the deterrent affect of gun ownership.

The Aurora shooter chose the place where victims couldn't fight back, where their right to protect themselves had been compromised. Had anyone else in that theatre been allowed to take their gun into the theatre, this tragedy would have been largely avoided. If there is blood on anyone's hands, it's not the Tea Party, but it is on those people who insist that victims be unarmed.

Consider some other examples of how gun possession has actually helped protect innocent lives. In April of this year, another shooter went into a church, in Aurora Colorado of all things, and shot the mother of one of the pastors. But that's all the killing he was able to do. A congregant, who was carrying his gun, killed this shooter before more innocent lives were taken. In late 1997, a lone shooter went to a Pearl Mississippi high school and started indiscriminantly shooting. Two people died, but more would have died had the assistant principal not retrieved his gun from his car and shot the shooter. A similar situation occurred at a law school in Virginia where two law students used their weapons to stop a shooter on their campus.

Unfortunately, we also have plenty of examples on the other side. Virginia Tech was a "gun-free" zone. Ironically, a Virginia Tech student, who had a permit to carry a weapon, was disciplined in 2006 for having his gun on campus and violating this rule. Less than a year later, thanks to the diligent enforcement of this gun-free zone policy, nobody was able to shoot back when a crazed gunman shot 32 people to death on that campus. These are only a few of the examples evidencing what a mountain of studies have proven conclusively: gun control laws not only fail to control guns, but they also increase the rate of violent crimes. For those who really want to dig into the data, I highly recommend John Lott's book, "More Guns, Less Crime". Professor Lott painstakingly lays out the wealth of data which clearly shows that when potential victims are allowed to arm themselves (the criminals already have arms), violent crime rates go down. The greater the number of potential victims who are potential gun owners, the lower will be the number of victims. All things considered, most criminals want to live long lives, or at least long enough to kill more people. They choose their sites carefully where the odds of them being challenged and stopped are low.

If we really want to stop tragedies like Aurora or Columbine from happening again, we need to disabuse ourselves of the folly of believing that it's possible to create a gun free zone. In fact, it would be more honest to simply call them victim zones. As study, after study, after study has shown, the safest place to be is actually the place where more good guys have guns than bad guys have guns.

About the author: Gregory J. Welborn is a freelance writer and has spoken to several civic and religious organizations on cultural and moral issues. He lives in the Los Angeles area with his wife and 3 children and is active in the community. He can be reached at gregwelborn@earthlink.net.

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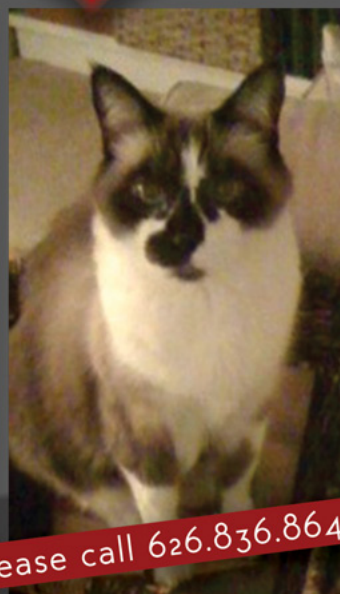
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