



Happy Thanksgiving

Mountain Views News

Where Your Community News Comes First

Sierra Madre — Arcadia — Pasadena — Altadena — Duarte — Monrovia

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2012

VOLUME 6 NO 46

SIERRA MADRE CHAMBER KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH THE WHO VILLE FESTIVAL AS AMERICANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TAKE PART IN SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

On Saturday, November 24th, Sierra Madre, will transform itself into Who Ville, as its formal kick-off of the holiday shopping season. The Who Ville Festival, which replaces the towns annual Dickens Village will be complete with Snow, Horse Drawn Carriages, The Grinch and Santa Claus. The will also be a special viewing of The Grinch Who Stole Christmas in Kersting Court on Saturday. The event is encouraing families to come to town and support our local business and civic organizations as well as have FUN!

Small Business Saturday is a day dedicated to supporting small businesses on one of the busiest shopping weekends of the year.

From 1 to 8pm Saturday, the downtown area will host special festivities designed to bring

shoppers to the popular shops in the Foothill Village. Beginning at 1pm, there will be an opportunity for kids to snow sled and ride a choo choo train. Local artists will have their work on display and for sale along with many of the local civic organizations in Kersting Court. Beginning at 4pm, horse and buggy rides will be available in a loop around a four -square block area downtown.

Later in the day, shortly after dusk, the official tree-lighting will take place, also at Kersting Court. Santa, accompanied by the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association princesses from the 2013 Rose Float, will be available to listen to the wishes of youngsters, from 5to 8pm.

For more information about the Who Ville Festival, call the Chamber Offices at 626-355-5111.



The Holidays Begins In Sierra Madre!
Join us in this years *Who Ville Festival* throughout downtown November 24th between 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Come Join us for the festivities.



Meet Santa and the Grinch!



There will be plenty of events for children and adults alike.

Get in the holiday mood by singing along with holiday carolers.

Watch your kids slide down the hill in the snow.

See your children's delight when the tree is lit.

Take a photo of Santa and the Grinch!

Start your holiday off with a romantic horse and carriage ride.

Shop for those special gifts at our local businesses.

Don't miss the non-profit clubs and organizations booths.



Who Ville Festival is sponsored by

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR & BOUTIQUE

Sierra Madre United Methodist Church is holding an Alternative Christmas Gift Fair & Boutique on Sunday, December 2, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Celebrate the spirit of the holiday season with a gift that truly “gives back.” Your donations help support the relief efforts of local organizations such as San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity, Friends in Deed, Foothill Unity Center, Family Promise, and global efforts such as Heifer International and missionary programs in Mexico. New this year is a boutique featuring homemade gifts. Fair Trade items from Equal Exchange and the Ten Thousand Villages Store will also be available. Enjoy free refreshments while you browse. The Church is located at 695 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre. Call 626-355-0629 for more information.

CITY OF SIERRA MADRE APPOINTS LARRY GIANNONE CHIEF OF POLICE

Sierra Madre, CA – After serving as the Acting Chief of Police for the past year, the City of Sierra Madre is honored to announce that Larry Giannone has been appointed as the City's permanent Chief of Police.

Chief Giannone is an active member of the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Management Program, a member of the San Gabriel Valley Police Chief's Association, a member of the Los Angeles County Police Chief's Association, and is currently the President of the San Gabriel Valley Peace Officers Association.

Chief Giannone began his career as a police cadet in 1973 with the Huntington Beach Police Department. He then joined the Monterey Park Police Department as a Police Reserve Officer rising through the ranks to a Reserve Police Captain. Larry was recognized twice by the California Reserve Peace Officers Association for his dedication to volunteerism.

Because of a true appreciation of the profession, Chief Giannone left the Reserve Corps and joined the Monterey Park Police Department as a full time employee in 1981. He has worked a variety of assignments including dispatch, technical services, patrol, motor officer, vice, narcotics, gangs, detectives, organized crime, administration, and professional standards. He also took on a specialty assignment as the department's first Arson Investigator, working with many Fire Departments in the San Gabriel Valley and was a member of the San Gabriel Valley Arson Task Force.

After spending 26 years with the Monterey Park Police Department he joined the Sierra Madre Police Department in 2007 as a Captain. He was tasked with the responsibility of overseeing the department's daily operations, administrative services, and budget. In December 2010 he was appointed the Acting Chief of Police for the City of Sierra Madre.

Chief Giannone is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards during his 34 years in law enforcement. He lives in San Dimas with his wife, Diane, and daughter, Christi. His eldest daughter, Marissa, is married to Donny, a City of Glendale Police Officer. Chief Giannone is the proud grandfather to their daughter, Zoey.

City Manager Elaine Aguilar stated, “I've had the pleasure of working with Larry over the past five years; his exemplary professional experience, combined with his knowledge of the community, will serve Sierra Madre well.”

Chief Giannone will be sworn in at the November 27, 2012 City Council Meeting.



VFW VETERANS DAY SPEAKERS REMIND US OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY RETURNING VETERANS

by Bill Coburn

Sierra Madre VFW Post 3208 held its annual Veteran's Day Ceremony on Sunday at the Veteran's Memorial Wall in Memorial Park. Commander Dave Loera announced the unveiling on the Memorial Wall of fourteen new photos of veterans who have lived at least a year in Sierra Madre, and gave a brief history of how Veteran's Day came to be, starting with Armistice Day in remembrance of the end of World War I. Commander Loera then turned the ceremony over to member Brian Neumann, who introduced the day's three speakers, two Vietnam veterans, Stan Pinta and “Doc” Harold Martin and one Iraq veteran, Nathan Kemnitz. Neumann noted that due to a partnership with the PCC Veteran's Club, Post 3208 has welcomed several new members, including the event speakers.

Mr. Pinta recalled seeing the Vietnam war on the news every day throughout high school, and a coach who discussed with the students that some of them would end up in Vietnam, and that there would be those who did not make it back, and how that really hit home with him. He talked about his parents encouraging him to sign up for the Navy, since there might be less danger out on the water than might be encountered if he were based on land, as his brother was with the Marines. He discussed his service as a mechanic, and his assignments as a member of the Underwater Demolitions Team, which evolved into a Seal Team, and his work with Seal Team 2.

“Doc” Martin, so nicknamed because of his Ph.D., not because he is a medical doctor, currently teaches classes for returning veterans at PCC. He served in various infantry divisions and special forces in his first go-round during Vietnam, then after a ten year break he re-enlisted and was assigned to the transportation corps. He spoke of his childhood desire to be a soldier, and how that changed as he became a young adult. He spoke of a comrade at boot camp, who explained his surly attitude by saying he was concerned that “all this might change me,” and that it had never occurred to him that it might change him. He thought he might change the Army, but it hadn't occurred that IT might change him. But it did, and Doc Martin shared with at-

tendees that he became resigned to the fact that he would die in Vietnam: “I was cold. I felt I was already a dead man, that death in Vietnam was my destiny, of the nine men in the original squad that I was assigned to, I was the only one left at the end of a month, so I was totally convinced I had no future, there was only a present, and if that's all I had, I was going to fight like nobody's business... I had the anger and the bitter hatred of a young man whose dreams were snuffed out, and whose life would soon be too. I was mean, I was brutal, I appreciated that I was unraveling as the kind of person that I had been... I was changed... and the only way I could tolerate these changes in me was because I believed that this sick bas-

ally great guy that I thought I was, he never survived Vietnam, and for years I didn't like the guy that came back in his place, I hated that guy. I used to fly an MIA flag from my house, but it flew for me, I was the MIA... over the years I used to search for his remains, and occasionally find bits and pieces. Well you can pinpoint on a manifest when a person returns, but that's the physical return, the emotional, mental and spiritual parts take a lot longer, if ever they return.”

But the years have helped Doc to come to terms. After several minutes of more light hearted talk about his service experience, he closed his speech on an upbeat note. “Others have had it far, far worse than me.



The latest additions to Sierra Madre's Veteran's Wall Photo by Bill Coburn

tard that I had become was soon going to be shot, blown up, and be gone forever, and so that made it tolerable. I wasn't brave, I was fearless.”

When he realized that he was going to come home, and that he hadn't died, he was in shock: “I was fully ready to die, I was totally unprepared to live... Before I entered the Army, strangers were drawn to me... it would be decades before that happened again.... You know how we have Memorial Day for those who lost their lives, and we have Veteran's Day, like today for those who came back, I often think there maybe ought to be a third day for those whose body came back, but their spirit did not. That re-

I'm standing here today. I'm not homeless. I'm not an alcoholic. I've got problems, but they pale. I got to be the kind of officer I wished I deserved, I got to be the kind of soldier and have an affection for the army which I'd always wanted and didn't have initially. I've got three great sons, one of whom came back from Iraq safe and sound, a wonderful wife of 35 years, I am a blessed person, far, far better off than I deserve.”

Last to speak was Nathan Kemnitz, who served in Iraq and was wounded in Fallujah, losing the sight in his right eye, and the use of his right hand, arm and shoulder. (See related story on page 13).

This Week's Highlights:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 | SIERRA MADRE NEWS
<i>A Hiker's Thanksgiving Story</i> |
| 4 | PASADENA/ALTADENA
<i>Man Charged In Deadly Fire Incident</i> |

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL RECIPES..... Page 9

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 5 | AROUND SG Valley |
| 6 | ARCADIA NEWS |
| 6 | MONROVIA/DUARTE |

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Calendar | Page 2 |
| Sierra Madre News | Page 3 |
| Pasadena/Altadena | Page 4 |
| Around San Gabriel Valley | Page 5 |
| Arcadia | Page 6 |
| Monrovia/Duarte | Page 6 |
| Education and Youth | Page 7 |
| Good Food & Drink | Page 8 |

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Best Friends | Page 9 |
| Arts/Health | Page 10 |
| Homes & Property | Page 11 |
| The Good Life | Page 12 |
| Business Today | Page 13 |
| Sports | Page 14 |
| Ballot Box - Election 2012 | Page 15 |
| Opinion /Left Turn-Right Turn | Pages 16-17 |



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www.mtnviewsnews.com

Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Thur:	Showers	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings listed below are held at
City Hall 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, Ca.
626-355-7135

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING:
November 13 2012

SIERRA MADRE NOVEMBER EVENTS

11/6 7:00 Library Trustees Special
Mtg.

11/13 6:00
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1630 AM
EMERGENCY RADIO &
Free on-air publicity for local events

Sierra Madre's EMERGENCY 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*. The station covers the city of Sierra Madre, plus surrounding areas of Pasadena, Arcadia, and Monrovia. 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.



THE SIERRA MADRE KIWANIS CLUB

A PROUD MEMBER OF KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL SINCE 1927.
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WE MEET WEEKLY AT THE LODGE (FORMERLY
THE MASONIC TEMPLE) AT 33 E. SIERRA MADRE BLVD.
MEETINGS ARE EACH TUESDAY AT NOON,
EXCEPT FOR THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH,
WHEN WE MEET AT 7:45AM. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
JOIN US, MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS, HELP YOUR COMMUNITY,
AND HAVE SOME FUN!



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

RADIO FISHBOWL THIS WEEK



Carol Canterbury's,
'CANTERBURY TALES'
Tuesdays at noon - This Week:
Brian Sheridan

OUR TRAVEL AFFAIR
Listen in every Thursday
at noon with your hostess, Cath-
erine Adde, Sierra madre resident
and Travel Consultant.....Our
show will feature all the fascinat-

ing aspects of Travel and our love affair with Travel. You can hear the Premiere Broadcast which aired on Oct 25th show on podcast. Go to: <http://www.radiofishbowl.com/#!shows/vstc1=our-travel-affair>

VILLAGE INTERSECTIONS - Join Gene Goss on VFRidays at 12:00 Noon.

Set your smart phone and or computer browsers to
www.RadioFishbowl.com.

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NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 3, 2012
9AM TO 2 PM
(SUNDAY ONLY 12 PM TO 4 PM)

550 W. SIERRA MADRE BLVD.
SIERRA MADRE, CA. 91024
626 355-7739

Parking located on Sunnyside Street.
All proceeds are donated to the many charities the club supports.

SM LIBRARY'S BEST HOLIDAY BOOK SALES

With the holidays fast approaching, the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library are offering several opportunities for you to purchase the best holiday gift of all- books. On Thursday, December 6, from 4:00-6:00PM a Friends' members only book sale will be held in the basement of the Sierra Madre Library. This event features newer fiction and non-fiction, lots of coffee table books, cookbooks, collectibles, DVDs, and audio books as well as books for children and teens so you're sure to be able to find something for everyone on your list. Not a member of the Friends? There will be an opportunity for you to join that night.

The following weekend, the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library's Best Used Book Sale is being held on Friday, December 7, from 3:00-7:00PM and Saturday, December 8, from 10:00AM-2:00PM in the library basement and on the back parking lot. Open to the public, this sale features holiday books, newer fiction (including 2012 titles), books on crafts and hobbies, sports titles, coffee table art and contemporary culture books. These items and many other adult fiction and non-fiction books, children's books, audio books, CDs, and DVDs will be available to purchase for your reading and listening pleasure. Tables outside the library will feature hardback and trade fiction and non-fiction for \$1.00 each and paperbacks for twenty-five cents each (or five for \$1.00). All children's books outside are now only 25 cents.

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



*Beautiful Gifts for the
Holidays*

*Gift Certificates for the
Gallery and Classes*

Holiday Hours:
M-F 9:00 - 5:00 pm
Sat 10:00 - 2:00 pm
Dec. 24, 10:00 - 2:00 pm
Closed for the holidays
Dec. 25 - Jan. 1

Winter Session Begins
January 21, 2013

Creative Arts Group

108 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, CA 91024
626-355-8350 www.creativeartsgroup.org

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WOMAN'S
CLUB HOSTS
COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST

By Phyllis Chapman

As holiday time approaches, Sierra Madre's Woman's Club invites the community to attend their annual All-Faith Prayer Breakfast. The event will be held on Wednesday, November 21, 2012 in the historic clubhouse, Essick House, 550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre. With business people in mind, the event begins very promptly at 8:00 a.m. and is over at 9:00 a.m. It is requested that those attending arrive by 7:45 a.m.

Everyone is invited. There is no charge but reservations are needed by calling the Reservation Chair Alma Mays at 626-355-8977.

Club members prepare and serve a delicious sit-down breakfast. Spiritual nourishment will be provided by members of the clergy who are invited to attend and give a brief message of praise and thanksgiving.

Low Cost
Vaccine Clinic
- Rescheduled

The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA has rescheduled the low cost vaccination clinic for December 6, 2012. The clinic will be held at Memorial Park, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 from 6:30pm to 8pm. All dogs must be on a leash and cats must be in a carrier. For more information please contact the Pasadena Humane Society at 626.792.7151 x 115.

Sierra Madre City
Offices
Thanksgiving
Break

City Hall, the Library and the Community Services Offices will be closed Thursday, November 22 - Sunday, November 25 in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be no eBlast next week, but we'll be back in December!

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Arcadia

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Altadena

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Sierra Madre Search and Rescue

During the month of October, Sierra Madre Search and Rescue (SMSR) responded to half a dozen calls for assistance. A selected set of calls are described below.

Injured Hiker, Chantry Flat/Big Santa Anita Canyon: Sierra Madre Search and Rescue responded to reports of an injured hiker near Hermit Falls. Rescuers arrived on scene to find a hiker suffering from a potential ankle fracture. Given the nature of the injuries and possible complications associated with a helicopter evacuation, a ground evacuation was initiated and the subject was wheeled out ~1.5 miles to an ambulance waiting at the trailhead.

Mutual Aid Request: Missing Hiker, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park: SMSR received a request from the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) to assist the National Park Service (NPS) in the search for a missing hiker in the Taboose Pass/Split Mountain area of the park. The hiker, Larry Conn, was reported overdue from a multi-day backpacking trip in the area. SMSR joined other SAR resources in an expanded search effort that included assignments in remote areas of the park. Crews were inserted by helicopter and spent several days looking for the missing man. Team members also filled roles within the incident management team overseeing the search. At this time, the subject remains missing and [search efforts have been scaled back](#).

Rescue, Bailey Canyon: An early morning hike resulted in SMSR responding with the Sierra Madre Fire Department (SMFD) to rescue a hiker who had taken a ~100 foot fall off the trail in Bailey Canyon. Rescuers established a command post near the debris basin at the mouth of the canyon and sent crews up the trail to effect the rescue. SMFD paramedics provided stabilizing treatment to the injured hiker while SMSR personnel packaged him in a litter. After a short wheel out the subject was loaded into SMFD's rescue ambulance and transported to the hospital.

Readers often see reference to a "litter" and an evacuation technique known as a "wheel out" and may not be familiar with the term. A litter is a basket-like stretcher designed to be used in difficult or hazardous terrain – like the mountains. The litter may be wheeled, carried by hand, lifted or lowered by rope or hoisted by helicopter. Once a person is strapped into the litter they can be safely evacuated by the techniques above. Given the rough terrain and narrow trails on our local mountains, a specially designed frame and ATV wheel is fitted to the litter. This allows a smoother and safer evacuation since the subject's weight is carried by the wheel rather than by the rescuers. SMSR's own Russ Anderson was a key developer of one of the modern litter wheel designs that is used around the world for SAR. For 60 years the all-volunteer Sierra Madre Search and Rescue team has been responding to calls for help in the local mountains and beyond. Funded entirely by private donations, SMSR provides a range of public programs on wilderness safety in addition to its search and rescue activities. The Team never charges for any of its services.

For more information, including how to arrange a wilderness safety demonstration for your school or group, visit www.smsr.org.

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

Period Covering November 5-11, 2012

Monday November 5, 2012

An officer observed the driver of a vehicle talking on a cell phone. After detaining the driver for the violation, the officer determined that the driver had also been drinking and displayed obvious signs of intoxication. The driver (male, 51 years of age) was subsequently arrested for DUI.

Wednesday November 7, 2012

At 2am, a vehicle travelling west on Orange Grove Avenue was observed committing several traffic violations. After stopping the vehicle, the officer found multiple open alcohol containers in the vehicle and determined that the driver had been drinking. The driver (male, 58 years of age) was determined to be intoxicated and was arrested for DUI.

A residential burglary occurred in the 00 block of Suffolk Avenue. An unknown suspect(s) entered the residence through an unlocked sliding glass door, ransacked the entire house and defaced some personal property items. The suspect(s) then forced the toilets to run constantly causing flooding in the house. The resident is currently compiling a list of the items taken.

A THANKSGIVING GIFT.....One Hikers Story by Fred Thomas

I have a lot to be thankful for every day, but after last Monday, I have a really big item to add to that list.

It all started rather innocently a few weeks ago. While socializing with the early morning drop-off parents at my children's school, a father had mentioned that he and others planned a hike to the observatory at the top of Mount Wilson on Veteran's Day. Not wanting to be overshadowed I quickly bantered that I had always wanted to hike that range. I was so confident in my statement that I hardly noticed the pontific looks of concern from the small gathering of my friends. After all, when once asked what kind of physical shape I was in, I replied, "asymmetric". However, the challenge was accepted and I had found myself in that all too familiar position of biting off more than I should be chewing.

As word spread amongst our tight-knit community, words of encouragement were matched evenly with strong warnings and admonitions. "You won't make it to First Water", was the most common response followed by uncontrolled laughter at the mere mental image of me attempting such an aggressive goal. When asked if I had trained for the hike I replied affirmatively by mentioning that I had in fact walked from Sunnyside Ave & Highland to Kirsten Court and back on the previous day... again with the laughter. My wife gently reminded me that the last time I went for a hike, "Wham" was still together. At any rate nothing could change my mind. As a military veteran and fierce competitor I was confident that I could pull together a "leisurely stroll" to a telescope. After arranging for most of the needed supplies (more on that later), and a good night's rest, I grabbed the family dog and off we set at 6:00am en route to Lizzie's Trail Inn.

At 6:30am my trusty canine companion and I signed into the trail log. By the way I noticed the last entry was several days earlier and I am sure that the Search and Rescue folks would want all users to sign in (side note). As I began the hike to a breathtaking sunrise, music blasting in my ears trying to escape the reality that I was on a lone mission to futility, my ego was instantly battered by the number of senior citizens that were bouncing up the side of the mountain like gazelles. Each one smiled and greeted me with looks that seem to simultaneously evoke support and fear for my journey.

I must admit that I was less than thrilled to discover that "First Water" had nothing to do with refreshments. In fact, I think it should be renamed, "Turn back here if you know what's good for

you"! But by now my leg cramps seemed to force me to continue to walk up-range. Doubt had turned into stubbornness as I pushed on through to Orchard Camp. Orchard Camp is a gorgeous and serene place and by this time I thought "This looks like a great place to die" as by now, I had no credible feelings in my lower extremities. But my steady diet of protein bars and water seemed urge the beast in me to continue. At this point my dog began to look quite concerned and assumed we must be lost.

My first guardian angel appeared about a half mile from Manzanita Ridge. I had engulfed my last drop of water and was seriously considering waiting until Search and Rescue found me in a fetal position on the trail. But instead I was met by four friendly hikers on their way down the mountain that took pity on me and gave me a bottle of water. When I reached the ridge, I saw a large wooden bench that look like the perfect place slip into a coma, but alas another hiker beat me to the spot. By now, there was no turning back, I was only 2.5 miles to the summit and I was out of water again so I needed to get to the observatory just to rehydrate. By this time I began to understand why people should hike in groups, someone has to survive to tell the story. As I reached the Toll Road, exhaustion became a fond memory as I was way beyond that at this point. Out of nowhere, a man shot past me on a mountain bike. I am ashamed to admit that it took all the restraint in my being to keep from pushing this young man off his bike just for being in such remarkable shape. (Just kidding but I was jealous!)

At 1:10pm a mere 6 hours 40 minutes later, I reached the Observatory. Too tired to do much more than monopolize the water faucet, eat a sandwich and take a few pictures. I lost most of the water I took in as tears formed in my eyes when the realization that I still needed to get home sank in. By now, my dog was not acknowledging my existence and tried to pretend she was a stray in the hopes that one of the smart people that drove up to the summit would adopt her.

I was the first person to leave the summit, but by Sunset I was the last person on the range and had not yet reached 1st water. It was clear to me that I would have to hike the last few miles in the dark. I had no flashlight (a flashlight may be a good item to pack). Already later that anticipated, I noticed a flashlight coming up the mountain to which a kind lady asked, "Are you Fred?" I replied, "Yes are you Search and Rescue?" She informed me that she was not SAR but that my wife was at Lizzie's Inn and was worried and

angry. To that I suggested that it might be safer for me to spend the night on the mountain than to return. About 1 mile from the trail start, two young men that had long since passed me down the mountain had returned with flashlights after speaking to my wife. She had assured them that I did not have the intellectual capacity to remember to pack a flashlight (I am paraphrasing of course, this is a family paper). The two young men seemed to have a calming presence on my dog, as she finally felt like someone she was with knew what they were doing.

By the ½ mile mark my legs were noodles and I could only take a few steps at a time. We were greeted by a wonderful couple that had heard of the hiker in distress (I guess that was me) and raced back with water, food, flashlights, and a new dog. I'm not sure what my dog thought of getting a replacement but I was thrilled to have such wonderful people come to my aid. We eventually made it to Lizzie's Inn at 6:30pm, 12 hours after we began and so exhausted that even my hair hurt.

A week later, feeling has returned to my legs, our family dog does not run away when she sees me, and I can cross the observatory off of my bucket list. However I have a few tips for novice hikers planning this trip:

1. Regulars on the trail will tell you that everything is only 20 minutes away. Every time I asked someone how far I was to the next checkpoint, 20 minutes was always the answer. What I realized is that it is twenty minutes away for those people in shape.
2. Bring water...lots of water. Believe me running out of water on a hike sucks.
3. Hike with a group. That way you can mask your crying in their laughter.
4. Make arrangements to be picked up at the top of the mountain, don't be a hero.
5. Whenever possible...take a tour bus.

I now understand why people seem to enjoy hiking. In between the pain, cramps, dehydration, and dizziness there were moments of absolute beauty and tranquility. It was as if the world's problems were non-existent and for every challenge I brought into the hike, I left with great clarity and a new sense of direction. Hikers are some of the nicest people I have ever met; each one with their own journey and goals, and willing to help a complete stranger on the same path. To those that took it upon themselves to help me complete my journey, you have my eternal gratitude and respect.

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Pasadena

News From Your Community



Altadena

For Your Community

Council to Consider NFL Use at the Rose Bowl

The City Council is scheduled Monday to consider amending the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance as a preliminary step that would allow a National Football League (NFL) team to temporarily use the Rose Bowl Stadium. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, on the second floor of City Hall, 100 N. Garfield Ave.

The proposed amendment would allow an NFL team to host home games at the Rose Bowl Stadium for no more than five years if, and when, an NFL team moves to the Los Angeles area while a permanent stadium is being constructed elsewhere.

The Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance currently restricts large events at the stadium with 20,000 or more attending to 12 such large events per year. Of those 12 events, seven are contractually reserved for University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) football games, plus two post-season collegiate games, including the Rose Bowl game. The proposed amendment to the ordinance would allow up to 13 additional large events per year for no more than five years.

The additional events would only be allowed if the City enters into an agreement with an NFL team to lease the Rose Bowl Stadium. No NFL team has been identified as moving to Los Angeles and the City and the Rose Bowl Operating Company have not begun negotiations to lease the stadium to an NFL team. The city, last week, released the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and related documents that were prepared regarding the proposed amendment to the ordinance.

Pet of the Week



Ana Molly is a sweet two-year-old black shorthair cat. She's very social and gets along well with other cats since she lives in our communal cat room. She loves being petted too.

Ana Molly's adoption fee is \$70, which includes her spay surgery, a microchip, the first set of vaccinations, as well as a free follow-up health check at a participating vet. New adopters will receive complimentary health and wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals, as well as a goody bag filled with information on how to care for your pet. Ask an adoptions counselor for more information during your visit.

Call the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA at 626.792.7151 to ask about A315608, 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.



Photo courtesy of Pasadena Fire

Man Charged in Deadly Fire Could Face the Death Penalty

By Dean Lee

Charges filed against a man suspected of purposely setting a fire at a boarding home in Northwest Pasadena that killed two people and seriously injured another last month, include two counts of capital murder and 15 counts of attempted murder as well as other arson related charges.

Garth Allen Robbins, 49, could face the death penalty according to a statement from the LA County District Attorney's Office.

At his arraignment Nov. 6 Robbins pleaded not guilty to all 19 charges including arson that causes great bodily injury and arson of an inhabited structure. He was ordered held without bail.

L.A. County Superior Court Judge Terry Smerling scheduled a conference the beginning of December moving the case forward.

Investigators said suspicious circumstances led them to believe the fire at the adult living facility located at 1385

El Sereno Avenue may have been set by Robbins in a room he rented at the location.

Police said Paul Richard Boyd, 75, and Cliff Juan Clark, 56, both died in the fire.

Another resident, Perry Simons was seriously injured, as 16 others had to be evacuated according to Pasadena Fire Spokeswoman Lisa Derderian.

Holden Headed to Sacramento

Judy Chu wins new redrawn 27th District, will represent Pasadena, Schiff also wins reelection

Pasadena Councilmember Chris Holden easily won in the Nov. 6 local Assembly race with nearly 58 percent of the vote, beating out Claremont businesswoman Donna Lowe. Holden will represent the 41st District covering foothill communities from La Canada Flintridge to Upland including most of Pasadena.

According to Secretary of State Debra Brown, Holden received 84,094 votes, 57.6 percent to Lowe's 42.4 percent, she received 61,899 votes.

Holden thanked supporters election night at a rally at the Democratic headquarters on South Lake Avenue. Holden had been recently criticized for, what some considered, retracting his support for the 710 freeway extension. He instead abstained until an environmental study is published. Lowe, a Tea Party member, was outspoken against the 4.5 mile project that would run through many west Pasadena neighborhoods.

On Capitol Hill Longtime San Gabriel Valley representative Judy Chu won a second term in congress in a race for the newly created 27TH district which includes Pasadena. Chu beat out Monrovia small business owner Jack Orswell with 65.36 percent of the vote.

Adam Schiff also won over actor Phil Jennerjahn, with 140,381 votes for 76 percent, for the 28th Congressional District that now includes West Hollywood. The district still contains a small part of Pasadena including all of the JPL campus.

Playhouse District Hosts Shop Indie

Over 30 local independent businesses will be participating in the Playhouse District Association's Playhouse Shop Indie! on Saturday, November 24th. The event invites shoppers to enjoy extraordinary savings and holiday treats as well as enter opportunity drawing to win an iPad Mini. Christmas carolers will be strolling through the District offering holiday cheer for all the shoppers. Shoppers who visit 6 businesses will be entered into a drawing for an iPad Mini. No purchases are necessary. For more information visit www.playhousedistrict.org/shopindie or call 626.744.0340

Sandwich Company to serve 'Thanksgiving Share a Meal'

The Pasadena Sandwich Company will serve Thanksgiving meals to families in Pasadena who are transitioning from self-sufficiency to homelessness.

The "Thanksgiving Share A Meal" is a collaborative effort of the Pasadena Fire Department, Pasadena Unified School District, Pasadena Sandwich Company and the Stephen E. Fink Memorial Fund.

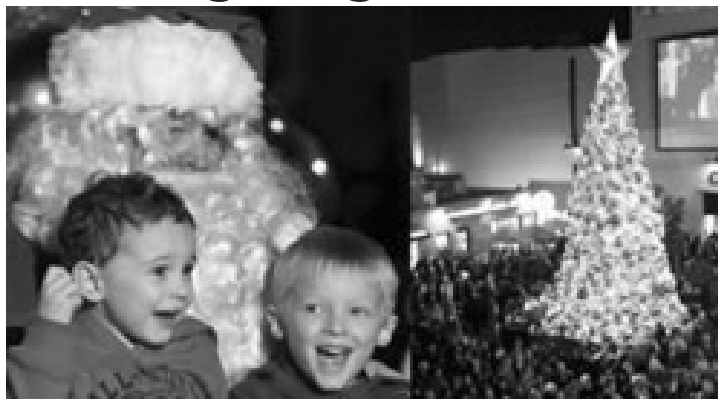
Stephen Fink was a sandwich artist and was known in Pasadena for his great sandwiches, big heart, and giving back to the community. The Stephen E. Fink Memorial Fund was created not only to remember a great man, but to raise awareness and help research Amyloidosis. Amyloidosis is a rare blood disease which affects one or more organ systems in the body. The accumulation of abnormal proteins affect the organs until they are unable to function properly.

The Fire Department has a long standing tradition of giving back to the community it serves and has supported the Pasadena Sandwich Company in their ongoing outreach to bring greater awareness to families facing difficult times.

Families have been selected and are being personally invited to this event, which will be coordinated through the Pasadena Unified School District.

To help make this event reality, the partnering agencies are asking the public to help by donating monetary and food contributions, paper goods, books and decorative/festive items. These items can be donated directly to the Pasadena Sandwich Company at 259 Sierra Madre Villa Avenue, Pasadena, CA. 91106 or by calling Pasadena Fire Inspector Steven Lawhorn at 626-744-7187 or Inspector Thomas at 626-744-7183.

One Colorado's Annual Tree-Lighting with Santa



Charles Phoenix, the cheery, charming humorist, will help One Colorado light up the Holiday season at their annual tree lighting ceremony. The evenings festivities will include seasonal songs from the Friendship Baptist Music Ministry, and the 2013 Rose Queen and Her Royal Court will assist Santa light One Colorado's dazzling 35-foot Christmas tree.

The free event will be held Friday, November 23, 6pm – 8:30pm. After the tree is lit, guests will enjoy complimentary cookies and hot cocoa while Roland & Adriane delight

the crowd with mellifluous and melodic musings.

Santa will also be sticking around for photos. Guests bringing a new, unwrapped toy for the Charles Cherniss Tournament of Toys drive will get a free photo (November 23, 6:00pm – 8:00pm only). Through the Pasadena Jaycee's Operation Santa toys will be distributed to underprivileged children in the San Gabriel Valley.

One Colorado will also open its direct line to Santa so you can let him know, in writing, that you've been very good this year. Drop him a letter in Santa's Mailbox and receive a personal reply.

Citizen Journalism Meet-up

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

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

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

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



the story, the tools needed to capture the story and the means to tell the story using the power of video, audio and print along with online social media. The next meeting is Nov. 20 from 6:30 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.

Local Election; Candidate Filing Period Opens



The Pasadena City Clerk's Office last week issued the notice for the March 5, 2013 Primary Nominating Election for the city council and the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD).

Pasadena's eligible voters will be able to participate next year in electing local representatives for Pasadena's City Council Districts 3, 5 and 7 and for PUSD Board of Education members representing the newly formed District Seats 1, 3, 5 and 7. Candidates for both City Council and PUSD will be

vying for four-year terms each.

For candidates, the official nomination period opened Nov. 13 and closes Dec. 7, 2012 for both the City and PUSD elections. Go online to www.cityofpasadena.net/cityclerk/election for election information or call the City Clerk's Office at (626) 744-4124. The City's web page will be regularly updated as candidates file nomination papers and if local measures are added to the ballot.

Poll workers and accessible polling sites are needed for the March 5, 2013 consolidated City and PUSD primary election and the April 16, 2013 general municipal election. If you speak Chinese, Korean or Spanish, you are especially needed! Poll workers provide a critical community service to the election process. Call the City Clerk's Office to help your community with the upcoming elections by signing up today as a poll worker or to host a polling site.

Polls for both elections will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

“What’s Going On?”
News and Views from Joan Schmidt



DUARTE HONORS VETERANS -
ADOPTS TWO SPECIAL PROGRAMS

On Veterans Day, Duarte honored all Veterans at Thorsen Park. Refreshments were provided by Monrovia’s Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. There were three collages representing World War I, World War II and the Viet Nam War. A handout, “Elected Officials” provided contact info- from President Obama down to Duarte City Officials and a pamphlet explaining “Project Get Back to Work Now” were available. Attending were Mayor Fasana, Mayor Pro Reilly, Council Members Margaret Finlay and Tzeitel Paras Caracci, City Manager Darrell George, School Board Members Ken Bell and Tom Reyes, Public Safety Director Brian Villalobos, Karen Herrera, Chamber Director Jim Kirchner and many more!

After a warm welcome by Mayor Fasana , Chuck Keen from Monrovia Post # 44 offered the Invocation, followed by local veterans posting colors, a beautiful rendition of the “National Anthem” by Melida Smith, and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Earl Sweeney, Post #44. Guest speakers were Miguel Vallegos, Robert Finlay and Otto Schreiter, all Veterans of World War II.

Miguel’s granddaughter, Jessica Joanou, read his account which brought tears to everyone’s eyes. Miguel, serving under General King, was Filipino and captured by the Japanese. The horrors of the Prison Camp were unbelievable, but he survived.

Robert, father-in-law of Council Member Margaret Finlay gave an account of his career from enlisting to basic training at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and in England. He retold crossing the English Channel, going into France, and being a scout who had to jump into a foxhole for cover, where he found a dead German with no legs! When the Battle of the Bulge started, his company reached the outskirts, but they were sent back to England, because of their bad feet conditions.



Earl Sweeney

Otto Shreider received Basic Training in southern Illinois at the Sixth Convalescent Hospital which was like a “MASH” unit, and described all places at which his training occurred. He also recalled “D Day” and the great amount of land crafts (3000), thousands of troops and 195,000 tons of bombs dropped. “We lost 10,000 the first day.” All three men’s accounts made all present realize how much we owe our Veterans.

Assemblyman Portantino read the list of Duarteans followed by Melida’s “God Bless America”. Mayor Fasana unveiled the Veterans Memorial Plaque and the program ended with “Taps” by Joseph Reyes, Senior Airman, U.S. Air Force.

Two special Duarte programs were noted. **Military banners** on Huntington Drive will represent active duty. When they return home, their banner will be presented to their family. City of Hope has donated the first thirty banners. If anyone wishes to help in this project, please contact City Hall. (626) 357-7931.

Mayor Fasana also mentioned a wonderful program, “**Back to Work within Ninety Days**”. The City of Duarte and Duarte businesses will partner with the National Employment Council to offer a free six-week training program beginning on December 5, to help unemployed military veterans connect with employees and get back to work.

“As a community, we see the National Employment Council’s “Get Back to Work” program as a truly meaningful way to thank our Veterans by providing them with the tools, guidance, and support needed to connect with employers and rejoin the workforce,” said Duarte Mayor John Fasana.

On November 28 from 5p.m. to 7 p.m. a reception will be held at the Duarte Community Center where local businesses can learn about the program.

The six-week training co-sponsored by Best Jobs Magazine will begin on Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Duarte Community Center, 1600 Huntington Drive. Next will be an online class on Dec. 12. The following four classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Community Center on Dec. 19, Jan. 2, Jan., 9, and Jan. 16. Training will be provided by Farhad (Fred) Omidar (Omid), director of the National Employment Center.

Program participants learn five steps to connect with employers in their field. Each step is accompanied with a guide to be used as a reference to speed up the job finding process. Upon completion, graduates are assisted with the job-matching process. Employers enrolled in the program and eager to interview the graduates have the option to hire qualified applicants directly from the program or try-out the graduates as interns. The program also assigns each applicant to a career coach until employment is realized by the applicant.

The GET Back to Work Now service is free to both job seekers and employers. It is financed by private corporations and businesses committed in improving our communities.

For more information about the program, contact Deputy City Manager, Karen Herrera at (626) 357-7931, ext. 221, or Fred Omid at (949) 870-0201.

METROLINK BREAKS GROUND ON
GLENDALE SAFETY CORRIDOR



Pictured Above: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, MTA Chairman and Metrolink Director

LOS ANGELES COUNTY— Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Chairman of the MTA and Metrolink Director, joined community leaders and residents at the groundbreaking of Metrolink’s new Glendale Corridor project which will improve four crossings in the cities of Glendale and Los Angeles.

“Our first priority is safety,” said Antonovich. “The 2008 Chatsworth tragedy and the 2005 Glendale crash strengthen our resolve to prevent these types of accidents from ever happening again. These improvements are part of a larger effort to upgrade our Metrolink system throughout southern California -- especially on the Antelope Valley line from Lancaster to Los Angeles Union Station.”

The four highlighted projects along the "Glendale Corridor" are at Sonora and Grandview avenues in Glendale, along with crossings at Chevy Chase Drive and Broadway/Brazil Street, bordering the cities of Glendale and Los Angeles.

The crossing upgrades include roadway widening, new automatic vehicle exit gates, sidewalks, handrails, automatic pedestrian gates and traffic signal advance preemption technology.

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THE WORLD AROUND US

Looking Up

with Bob Eklund

LOST IN SPACE WITHOUT A PARENT STAR

Astronomers have identified a body that is very probably a planet wandering through space without a parent star. This is the most exciting free-floating planet candidate so far and the closest such object to the Solar System at a distance of about 100 light-years. Its comparative proximity to us, and the absence of a bright star very close to it, has allowed the team to study its atmosphere in great detail. This object also gives astronomers a preview of the exoplanets that future instruments aim to image around stars other than the Sun.

Free-floating planets are planetary-mass objects that roam through space without any ties to a star. Possible examples of such objects have been found before, but without knowing their ages, it was not possible to know whether they were really planets or “brown dwarfs”—tiny stars that lack the bulk to trigger the reactions that make stars shine.

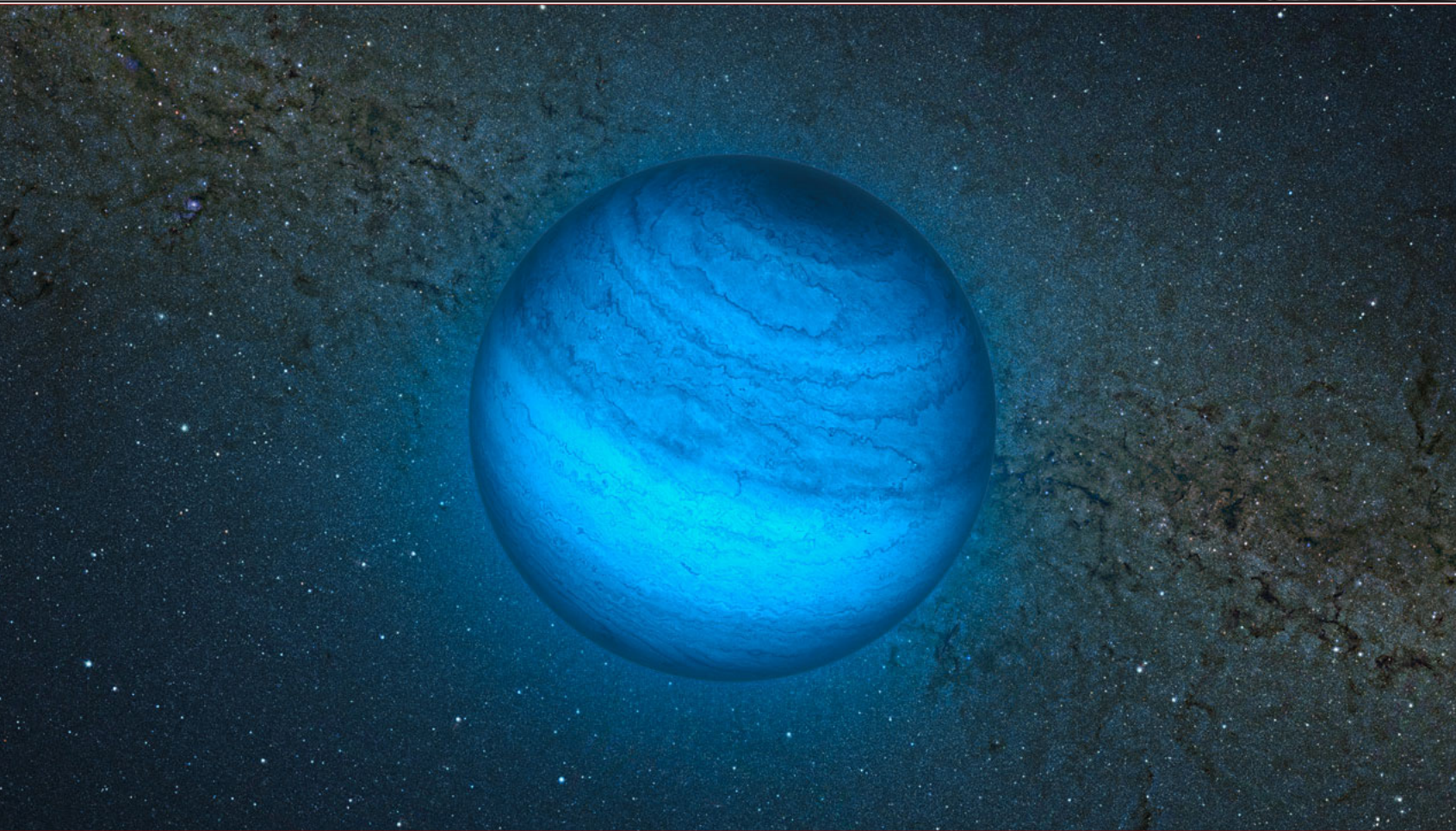
But astronomers have now discovered an object, labelled CFBDSIR2149, that seems to be part of a nearby stream of young stars known as the AB Doradus Moving Group. The researchers found the object in observations from the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope and harnessed the power of the European Southern Observatory’s Very Large Telescope to examine its properties.

The AB Doradus Moving Group is the closest such group to the Solar System. Its stars drift through space together and are thought to have formed at the same time. If the object is associated with this moving group—and hence is a very young object—it is possible to deduce much more about it, including its temperature, mass, and what its atmosphere is made of.

The link between the new object and the moving group is the vital clue that allows astronomers to find the age of the newly discovered object. This is the first isolated planetary mass object ever identified in a moving group, and the association with this group makes it the most interesting free-floating planet candidate identified so far.

“Looking for planets around their stars is akin to studying a firefly sitting one centimeter away from a distant, powerful car headlight,” says Philippe Delorme (Institut de planetologie et d’astrophysique de Grenoble, CNRS/Universite Joseph Fourier, France), lead author of the new study.

Free-floating objects like CFBDSIR2149 are thought to form either as normal planets that have been booted out of their home systems, or as lone objects like the smallest stars or brown dwarfs. In either case these objects are intriguing—either as planets without stars, or as the tiniest possible objects in a range spanning from the most massive stars to the smallest brown dwarfs.



“These objects are important, as they can either help us understand more about how planets may be ejected from planetary systems, or how very light objects can arise from the star formation process,” Delorme points out. “If this little object is a planet that has been ejected from its native system, it conjures up the striking image of orphaned worlds, drifting in the emptiness of space.”

Alone is like a scattered star
And galaxies of privacy
Have not an ounce of gravity
For one who knows what spaces are.
—Bob Eklund

The poem is from the book, “First Star I See Tonight: An Exploration of Wonder,” by Robert L. Eklund. Copyright 2007 by Robert L. Eklund.

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

ARCADIA

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

STREET CLOSURES FOR THE 59TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF BANDS PARADE

On November 17, 2012, the City of Arcadia is hosting the 59TH Annual Festival of Bands Parade. Forty high school bands will compete in this prestigious event. There will be a number of street closures associated with the event that may affect vehicular travel. Street closures will be as follows:

- ❑ Baldwin Avenue between Huntington Drive and Naomi Avenue – CLOSED for vehicular traffic from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- ❑ Duarte Road between Golden West and El Monte Avenue – CLOSED of vehicular traffic from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- ❑ Campus Drive between Santa Anita Avenue and Holly Avenue – CLOSED from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Residents living south of Huntington Drive, north of Duarte Road, east of Baldwin Avenue, and west of Holly Avenue are asked to use the intersection of La Cadena Avenue and Huntington Drive as the primary entrance and exit from the area. Other residents will be allowed into the surrounding areas with proof of residency.

Robert T. Guthrie, Chief of Police

About the City of Arcadia
Nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, Arcadia is an 11.38 square mile community with a population of just over 56,000. Located approximately 20 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, Arcadia is known for combining small-town charm with the conveniences and amenities of a mid-size city. Arcadia is a full-service charter city governed by a five-member City Council, elected at large. Recognized for exceptional education and recreation opportunities and beautiful neighborhoods, Arcadia is also defined as the “Community of Homes” and has twice been designated the “Best City in California in which to Raise Kids” by Business Week Magazine.

REMEMBRANCE



Deacon Gil Chavez, Annunciation Parish, Arcadia, passed away suddenly in Las Vegas while visiting family.

Services will be Saturday, November 24th at 10am at the San Gabriel Mission. Deacon Gil served at Annunciation many years, and baptized many babies. He will be greatly missed by his wife Delores, several family members and friends.

Left: Deacon Chavez with the Moya-Lupercio family.

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MONROVIA - DUARTE

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MONROVIA CITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZES HAUNTED HAPPENINGS SPONSORS AND SET FOR LIFE AND THE 8TH ANNUAL HEALTHY LIFE EXPO

By Joan Schmidt

At a recent Monrovia City Council meeting, the sponsors of the “Haunted Happenings Halloween event, were recognized. They included Athens Services, Sierra Autocars, Inc., Wendy’s Hamburgers, Huntington Veterinary Hospital, Consolidated Republic Services, and Thomas Hoffman and Ashley Andrews, LLP. Two hundred twenty participated in the costume event and 800 attended. Activities included arts and crafts, demonstrations, photo booth, face painting, wellness games and library story times. Mayor Lutz related what a great time was had by all who attended! Then the Mayor continued noting “What a great city our Monrovia is and how the local businesses participated in helping the children celebrate Halloween!” 6000 Trick-or-treaters walked up and down Myrtle Avenue, stopping at all the businesses where they were given candy or a little trinket.

Recognition then followed for SET for LIFE and the 8th Annual Healthy Living Expo. SET for LIFE (Senior Education & Training for Living Informed Futures Every day is the work of the Second Baptist Church of Monrovia. Through the help of their healthcare sponsors (City of Hope, AARP, Healthcare Partners) and their healthcare partners who volunteered to provide screenings (Southern California Witness Project, Azusa Pacific Nursing Program, Bill Moore, Inner Valley, Dr. Emily Tran, The Hear Center, Methodist Hospital, Alta Med), SET for LIFE was able to provide approximately 514 FREE individual health screenings to local community members. These include screenings for Stroke, Oral Cancer, Breast Cancer, Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, HIV/AIDS and Hearing. In addition everyone who came received a FREE lunch which was sponsored by the City of Hope and AARP/ Drive to End Hunger. What an awesome event! Thank you, Second Baptist Church and ALL the outstanding sponsors to provide such great services for over 500 people!



DUARTE AWARDED \$334,332 CAL-GRIP GRANT FOR GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

DUARTE, CA, November 13, 2012 -- The City of Duarte has been awarded a \$334,332 competitive state grant under the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) Program to sustain its gang prevention and intervention programs. The grant period is from January, 2013 to December 31, 2014.

A portion of the grant will provide the Duarte Prevention and Intervention Program with the funds necessary to continue the services of Los Angeles County Probation and the Sheriff’s departments despite recent budget cuts that threatened the program.

Funds will also support the Duarte Public Safety and Teen Center youth outreach programs, including the Duarte Boxing Gym, and two Duarte partner organizations, the Santa Anita Family YMCA and THINK Together. The organizations support Duarte families with after-school care and positive summer programs and assist law enforcement in prevention efforts by providing youth with close supervision and positive alternatives. The grant funds will enable the YMCA and THINK Together to expand their services and provide even more positive pro-social activities to Duarte youth.

Focus of the Duarte Prevention and Intervention Program is to reduce gangs and gang violence by working closely with at-risk youth, parents, and teachers, with the goal of reducing gang membership and violence by 50% during the life of the grant.

In 2009-2010 Duarte was awarded a Cal-GRIP grant of \$191,312 which positively impacted the City’s prevention efforts with a 65% reduction in juvenile arrests. L. A. County Probation also reported a significant reduction in gang recruitment with fewer of Duarte’s minors being institutionalized in probation camps.

The City of Duarte’s Special Assignment Team handles gang identification and intervention. They also work with residents that are affected by gang-related activity and serve in special operations pertaining to narcotic and other gang related crimes. Duarte’s Probation Officer focus is on early prevention, intervention, and coordinates services with parents, schools, probation, law enforcement and community partners.

ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, November 4th, through Saturday, November 10th, the Police Department responded to 931 calls for service of which 124 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, November 4:

1. At approximately 1:06 a.m., an officer responded to the area of Santa Anita Avenue and Huntington Drive to check on an elderly woman sitting on the sidewalk. Investigation revealed the woman was confused and disoriented, and had difficulty standing or walking on her own. A subsequent records check revealed that the 78-year-old woman was reported missing to the Torrance Police Department a day earlier. The victim’s family was contacted, and the Arcadia Fire Paramedics transported the victim to Arcadia Methodist Hospital for further evaluation.

2. On Santa Anita Avenue at Santa Clara Street, at about 1:43 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a black Mercedes for a defective headlight. A consensual search of the vehicle revealed the driver was in possession of drug paraphernalia. The 48-year-old, White male was arrested for possession of a meth pipe, and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Monday, November 5:

3. At about 12:56 p.m., an officer observed a suspicious male sitting in a parked vehicle on Second Avenue near Colorado Boulevard. A DMV records check revealed the vehicle had a warrant attached to the license plate. Further investigation revealed the 28-year-old, Hispanic male had two outstanding warrants, was arrested, and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

4. At about 8:11 p.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop for expired registration in the area of Baldwin Avenue and Longden Avenue. The officer discovered the driver had a suspended license. The 33-year-old Hispanic male was cited, released in the field, and his vehicle was impounded.

Tuesday, November 6:

5. At approximately 3:25 p.m., officers responded to the 2000 block of S. Baldwin Avenue regarding two female suspects stealing mail out of mailboxes. Upon arrival, officers confronted one of the suspects walking south on Baldwin Avenue. The suspect told officers she got into an argument with her friend and her friend drove away. During a subsequent search of the suspect’s purse, officers found four credit cards with different names on them. The 30-year-old, Hispanic female was taken to the Arcadia City Jail for being in possession of stolen credit cards and charged with receiving stolen property. The other suspect involved was described as a White female, 30-years-old, with blond hair, and blue eyes.

6. At about 4:03 p.m., officers responded to the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a suspicious male wearing a Batman mask, acting erratically, and refusing to leave the premises. Upon contact with the subject, officers noticed significant indications of drug use and intoxication. As a result, the 20-year-old male was taken to the Arcadia City Jail where he was booked for being under the influence of a controlled substance and trespassing.

Wednesday, November 7:

7. Around 12:48 a.m., an officer attempted a traffic stop on a vehicle for speeding in the area of Duarte Road and Fifth Avenue. The male driver failed to pull over for the officer and sped off. What resulted was a pursuit that lasted a few minutes through City streets, reaching speeds in excess of 60 MPH, before the driver yielded and surrendered to police. The 29-year-old, White male was arrested for recklessly evading a police officer and driving while under the influence of alcohol.

8. At about 6:13 p.m., an officer responded to Sephora at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a male suspect in custody for theft. The suspect concealed several cosmetic items in a bag, exited the store without paying for them, and was detained by loss prevention officers for theft. Further investigation revealed the suspect had stolen clothing from three other stores in the mall. The 18-year-old, Hispanic male was arrested for burglary and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Thursday, November 8:

9. Around 6:41 a.m., officers were dispatched to the 1600 block of S. Santa Anita Avenue in regards to a residential burglary. Investigation revealed the residents were out of town, and the neighbor noticed the garage door open and the residents’ car missing. Officers discovered the suspect(s) attempted to pry open the front door with a screwdriver. Further investigation revealed a back window screen was cut open and the window smashed by two bricks. Several rooms were ransacked, and the residents’ 2001 white Toyota Avalon and jewelry were stolen. There were no witnesses or surveillance cameras.

10. At about 6:13 p.m., an officer responded to H&M at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding two female suspects in custody for theft. The suspects concealed several clothing items in a bag and exited the store without paying for them. Investigation revealed the suspects had stolen clothing from several stores in the mall The 18 and 19-year-old, Hispanic females were arrested for burglary and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Friday, November 9:

11. At about 2:01 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a defective license plate light in the area of Baldwin Avenue and Naomi Avenue. Upon contact with the driver, the officer smelled an odor of alcohol emitting from inside the vehicle. A subsequent investigation revealed the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The 28-year-old Asian male was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

12. Around 10:47 a.m., officers responded to the 1000 block of W. Duarte Road regarding vandalism. Investigation revealed that suspect(s) had forced opened two coin vaults on laundry machines and stole an unknown amount of coins. The door leading into the community laundry room was open, unlocked, and no suspects were seen or heard during the incident.

Saturday, November 10:

13. At about 1:27 a.m., officers responded to the Station Bar, 1218 S. Baldwin Avenue, regarding a physical fight between two subjects. During the investigation, a male subject in the crowd was yelling obscenities at the officers and advancing towards them. The 30 year-old, Asian male refused to comply with the officers’ orders and was arrested for both delaying an officer in the course of his duties and public intoxication.

14. At about 2:01 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for driving the wrong way on Huntington Drive. A subsequent investigation revealed a passenger in the vehicle had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The 25 year-old, Hispanic male was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

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FILING PERIOD OPENS FOR PUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

The official filing period for candidates for Seats 1, 3, 5 and 7 on the PUSD Board of Education is now open. Interested candidates can only run for the seat that is in the geographic subdistrict where they reside.

PUSD board districts became geographic subdistricts after the passage of Measure A last June, replacing the previous at large system. Board members will be elected to a four year term for subdistricts 1, 3, 5 and 7 next year and subdistricts 2, 4 and 6 will be on the ballot in 2015.

The filing period to run for the PUSD Board of Education will close December 7, 2012. Voters in Altadena, Pasadena and Sierra Madre will go to the polls March 5, 2013 for the primary nominating election and April 16, 2013 for the general election (if necessary).

The map of the new geographic subdistricts is available at www.measurea.pasadenausd.org or www.cityofpasadena.net/city-clerk. Information for candidates is available online at the City Clerk's website or by calling the Pasadena City Clerk's Office at (626) 744-4124.



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200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3463 Head of School: Ann M. Gillick
E-mail address: agillick@alverno-hs.org

Arcadia High School

180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: Brent Forsee
bforsee@ausd.net

Arroyo Pacific Academy

41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca,
(626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org

Barnhart School

240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 446-5588 Head of School: Ethan Williamson
Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.org

Bethany Christian School

93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527 Principal: James Lugenbuehl
E-mail address: jml@bcschools.org

Foothill Oaks Academy

822 Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010
(626) 301-9809
Co-Principals Nancy Lopez and Diane Kieffaber
info@foothilloaksacademy.org
preschool@foothilloaksacademy.org

The Gooden School

192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-2410 Head of School: Patty Patano
website: www.goodenschool.org

High Point Academy

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

LaSalle High School

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(626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org
Principal Bro. Christopher Brady, FSC

Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 471-2800 Principal Darwin Jackson
Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

Norma Coombs Alternative School

2600 Paloma St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 798-0759
Principal: Marcatta Williams

Odyssey Charter School

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

Pasadena High School

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(626) 798-8901 Principal: Gilbert Barraza
website: www.pasadenahigh.org

St. Rita Catholic School

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

Sierra Madre Elementary School

141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428 Principal: Esther Salinas
E-mail address: salinas.esther@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School

160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom
E-mail address: newsom.garrett@pusd.us

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(626) 797-0204
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

Wilson Middle School

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(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln
E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

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(626) 795-6981 Website: www.pusd@pusd.us

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(626) 471-2000 Website: www.monroviashools.net

DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010
(626) 599-5000 Website: www.duarte.k12.ca.us

THE REEL DEAL: by Ben Show

Movie Reviews Especially for Teens & 'Tweens

SKYFALL



'Skyfall' is the crescendo of the James Bond series. It is the best one yet and again Daniel Craig proves that he is the perfect super spy.

It's an average day for Bond: he's chasing down a bad guy in a far away country, trying to retrieve a list of MI6 operative's names and their cover identities. He has help from Eve (Naomie Harris), a well prepared field agent. However, things go wrong when Bond and the villain take the battle to a train heading through the mountains. Eve is set up to shoot, but the shot isn't clear. M (Judi Dench) tells her to shoot, she does, and Bond goes down. Within days, an attack directed towards M is launched and MI6 is turned upside down. Where is Bond and who has the nerve to take on M and MI6 head on?

I won't spoil anything, since this is a movie I think everyone should see, but rather the story focuses more on M and her past relations than Bond. Yet, both Bond and M tango with death, power, and their clouded pasts in the greatest Bond movie ever made. Let the sky fall.

Learn

Serve

Lead

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Newspaper Fun!

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I'm going to be in a Thanksgiving play.

Turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, squash, cranberry sauce, hot rolls and pumpkin pie! Yay!

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle. It is about the Pilgrims, their Thanksgiving and the Thanksgiving we enjoy today.

The Pilgrims:

- were from this country
- wanted religious
- sailed on this ship to America
- landed here in Massachusetts
- lost almost one half of their people during the first, cold, hard
- were shown ways to grow food by the Native American
- shared this large dinner
- had about this number of Indians at the celebration
- had races and

What are your plans for Thanksgiving Day? I'm looking forward to a nice dinner with my family, some hiking, and shopping too. Have fun whatever you do!

A whole cornucopia filled with fruits and nuts. Yum!

Happy Thanksgiving

Today:

- Thanksgiving on the 4th Thursday of this month
- most families roast this for dinner
- it's a day to think about all of the good things in our lives and to give

Print out our Thanksgiving Fun and Girls in Action! puzzles! Make sure you print out the reading log and certificate set: www.readingclubfun.com

HOLIDAY TIPS FOR THOSE NOT IN THE KNOW

Must admit with all the past Wine Tasting at Vons, I almost missed my chance to brush up on etiquette lessons for the holidays. I have to take my Andy Rooney Card out again and give you my fellow diners the rules of Etiquette 101. I love my daughter, and some of my friends kids. But here goes.

I am asked frequently asked about etiquette and table manners, so I compiled this simple list based on the most common questions.

Your napkin goes in your lap, folded in half, as soon as you sit down. Many people wait until the food arrives, but the proper form is to be prepared.

If you leave the table, place the napkin to the left of your plate, loosely draped.

A napkin is never for blowing your nose or wiping your mouth. Use it to dab at the corners of your mouth or your fingertips. If you need to cleanse further, leave the table and use the appropriate products in the restroom.

In formal dining, a charger will be under the place setting. It remains there during the starter course and is removed at the main course.

Your eating utensils go in the order of use, starting from the outside (furthest from the plate) and working their way in. Forks go on the left; knives and spoons on the right, as you face the plate. Dessert utensils are placed at the top of the plate, sideways.

The bread and butter plate goes to the left, above the forks.

The water glass goes above the knives (behind the wine goblet, if there is one).

Food should be passed counter-clockwise.

It is considered impolite to start eating before



TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills
thechefknows@yahoo.com

everyone is seated and served, including your host.

Only the meal settings and food belong on the table. Do not place your elbows, eyeglasses, notebook, pen or other objects on the table.

Cut no more than two bites of any item at a time. When it comes to bread, tear off one bite at a time and butter it, rather than buttering a whole roll.

Do not season your food until you have tasted it.

It is permissible to use a piece of bread to wipe up excess gravy, as long as you use your fork and not your fingers.

If you need to leave the table, place your utensils on the edge of your plate so that the tips point to the plate's center, in a V-shape. To signal when you are finished, lay your utensils side by side diagonally on the plate.

BIG NEWS:

Keep December 6th at noon open I will be on the Channel 9 News .

Topic” Tipping

Listen to Talk radio KABC's Dining with Dills at 6 PM. Email me at thechefknows@yahoo.com

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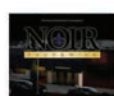
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Peter Dills is your Southern California food critic, helping find the best in dining experiences, extraordinary food and wine, and new culinary experiences.



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INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups butter
- 1/4 cup onion juice
- 1/4 cup garlic juice
- 1/4 cup Louisiana-style hot sauce
- 1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 7 fluid ounces beer
- 3 gallons peanut oil for frying, or as needed
- 1 (12 pound) whole turkey, neck and giblets removed

DIRECTIONS:

1. Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion juice, garlic juice, hot sauce, Worcestershire sauce, black pepper, cayenne pepper and beer. Mix until well blended.
2. Use a marinade injecting syringe or turkey baster with an injector tip to inject the marinade all over the turkey including the legs, back, wings, thighs and breasts. Place in a large plastic bag and marinate overnight in the refrigerator. Do not use a kitchen trash bag. If your turkey is large, you can use an oven bag.
3. When it's time to fry, measure the amount of oil needed by lowering the turkey into the fryer and filling with enough oil to cover it. Remove the turkey and set aside.
4. Heat the oil to 365 degrees F (185 degrees C). When the oil has come to temperature, lower the turkey into the hot oil slowly using the hanging device that comes with turkey deep-fryers. The turkey should be completely submerged in the oil. Cook for 36 minutes, or 3 minutes per pound of turkey. The turkey is done when the temperature in the thickest part of the thigh reaches 180 degrees F (80 degrees C). Turn off the flame and slowly remove from the oil, making sure all of the oil drains out of the cavity. Allow to rest on a serving platter for about 20 minutes before carving.

DEEP FRYING A TURKEY: WHAT DO TO WITH USED OIL + FIRE SAFETY

Do you deep fry your turkey? Before deep-frying your turkey, read these safety tips from the U.S. Fire Administration:

Use turkey fryers outdoors a safe distance from buildings and any other combustible materials.

Never use turkey fryers in a garage or on a wooden deck.

Make sure fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping.

Never leave the fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you do not watch the fryer carefully, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.

Never let children or pets near the fryer, even if it is not in use. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot hours after use.

To avoid oil spillover, do not overfill the fryer.

Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. If possible, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.

Make sure the turkey is completely thawed, and be careful with marinades. Oil and water do not mix; water causes oil to spill over, causing a fire or even [becoming] an explosion hazard.

The National Turkey Federation recommends thawing the turkey in the refrigerator approximately 24 hours for every five pounds in weight.

Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. If the fire is manageable, use your all-purpose fire extinguisher. If the fire increases, immediately call the fire department for help.

Remember, cooking oil doesn't go down the drain. Recycle your used cooking oil by calling the following disposal companies listed here. You can also call around to local restaurants, who may accept used cooking oil.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: *Over the years, we have shared with you favorite recipes submitted by contributors, their families, supporters and well wishers. We hope you will try at least one recipe. They are really, really good!*

Mary Lee's (Dean Lee's Mother)

Sausage Appetizers

Also makes great sandwiches the next day !

Ingredients

Refrigerated dinner rolls (10 in a tube)
Farmer John sausage links (cut in half or thirds)
butter on top

Directions:

Take rolls and flatten separately with hand or rolling pin
Put link in half of flat dinner roll
(if using thirds spread sausage to cover roll)
Fold over and seal edges by pinching
Put 10 in ungreased cake pan
Bake 350 degrees/20 minutes until top is golden brown

Enjoy

Richard Garcia's

Cranberry-Pomegranate Sauce

1 1/2 pounds fresh or frozen cranberries (6 cups)
2 cups sugar
1 cup pomegranate juice
2 cups fresh pomegranate seeds

Directions

In a medium saucepan, combine the cranberries with the sugar and pomegranate juice. Bring to a simmer and cook over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, until most of the cranberries have burst, about 10 minutes. Scrape the cranberry sauce into a medium bowl and let stand until cool, about 2 hours. Fold in the pomegranate seeds and serve the sauce chilled or at room temperature.

Pat Ostrye's Non-Recipe Turkey(The Best)

My recipe would be that my husband always fixed the turkey. I really don't know how it began but, even when we had turkey a lot through the years, he always fixed it. So when he died 21 years ago, the men in the family thought I didn't know how to do it, which was fine with me. So, for this Thanksgiving, the family is going to Martin's in Arcadia. He is the youngest who was 27 when his dad died in October of '88. A few days before Thanksgiving that year he called to say he had the turkey but where should he fix it since he had a small apt in Arcadia at that time. Two of his sisters helped him do it and they brought it all to my sister-in-law's because I was living in Escondido yet, moving back to the area the first of that year. That Christmas, the oldest son took care of it, buying and fixing 2 turkeys. As long as the family doesn't run out of men, we have it made.

Dixie Countant's Easy Anti-marshmallow Yams

For those of us who don't like marshmallow on our yams, here's the family recipe for Candied Yams.

Ingredients:

Yams or sweet potatoes Butter Light Brown Sugar

Buy as many yams as you need depending on how many people are coming to dinner. I plan two medallions per person if I'm doing a full-blown dinner with all the trimmings.

Wash and slice yams (or sweet potatoes) into one-inch medallions. Steam medallions until barely done. (Not too soft) Skin the medallions by gently cutting the skin and lifting - it will almost fall off.

Arrange medallions in baking dish. (They can touch, but don't stack them) Put a small pat (aprox 1/4 tsp of butter on top of each medallion. Sprinkle light brown sugar over medallions. Cover and bake in 350 oven for 1/2 to 1 hour.

From the Pen & Kitchen of Deanne Davis:

Thanksgiving Day Breakfast

The festive bird is stuffed and in the stove, the potatoes are boiling for mashed potatoes, you've said the gravy prayer (please, Gravy Deity, let it be smooth this year). And people are saying, "we're hungry!"

This is not a problem, put down that ladle and in just minutes, you can hand everybody an Eggnog-Brandy Muffin!

If you're truly feeling like Wonder Woman, whack up some bacon and an onion into small chunks, sauté them together, throw in some eggs, scramble it altogether, and serve the Thanksgiving breakfast they'll remember with delight all year long.

Eggnog-Brandy Muffins

2 cups flour
2/3 cup granulated sugar
1 TB. Baking powder
½ tsp. Salt
¾ cup prepared eggnog
½ cup brandy
5 TB butter, (unsalted if you've got it...use a little less salt if you don't) melted
1 egg, beaten
½ tsp. Grated nutmeg plus a little more for sprinkling on top

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease 12 muffin pan.

In a large bowl mix flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Add eggnog, brandy, butter, beaten egg and ½ tsp nutmeg. Stir only till mixed. DO NOT OVERBEAT or muffins will be rubbery and tough.

Spoon batter into greased muffin cups and sprinkle tops of muffins with nutmeg. Bake about 20 minutes or until tester inserted into center of muffin comes out clean. Remove from tin, butter and enjoy.

They freeze nicely and are probably about 200 calories per muffin.

Happy Thanksgiving!
May your turkey be tender, succulent and juicy, and may somebody who really knows how.. offer to carve it.

Good Eats Roast Turkey



Recipe courtesy Alton Brown

Prep Time: 15 min

Inactive Prep Time: 7 hr 0 min

Cook Time: 2 hr 30 min

Level: Easy

Serves: 10 to 12 servings

INGREDIENTS

1 (14 to 16 pound) frozen young turkey
For the brine:
1 cup kosher salt
1/2 cup light brown sugar
1 gallon vegetable stock
1 tablespoon black peppercorns
1 1/2 teaspoons allspice berries
1 1/2 teaspoons chopped candied ginger
1 gallon heavily iced water

For the aromatics:

1 red apple, sliced
1/2 onion, sliced
1 cinnamon stick
1 cup water
4 sprigs rosemary
6 leaves sage
Canola oil

DIRECTIONS

2 to 3 days before roasting:

Begin thawing the turkey in the refrigerator or in a cooler kept at 38 degrees F.

Combine the vegetable stock, salt, brown sugar, peppercorns, allspice berries, and candied ginger in a large stockpot over medium-high heat. Stir occasionally to dissolve solids and bring to a boil. Then remove the brine from the heat, cool to room temperature, and refrigerate.

Early on the day or the night before you'd like to eat:

Combine the brine, water and ice in the 5-gallon bucket. Place the thawed turkey (with innards removed) breast side down in brine. If necessary, weigh down the bird to ensure it is fully immersed, cover, and refrigerate or set in cool area for 8 to 16 hours, turning the bird once half way through brining. Preheat the oven to 500 degrees F. Remove the bird from brine and rinse inside and out with cold water. Discard the brine. Place the bird on roasting rack inside a half sheet pan and pat dry with paper towels.

Combine the apple, onion, cinnamon stick, and 1 cup of water in a microwave safe dish and microwave on high for 5 minutes. Add steeped aromatics to the turkey's cavity along with the rosemary and sage. Tuck the wings underneath the bird and coat the skin liberally with canola oil.

Roast the turkey on lowest level of the oven at 500 degrees F for 30 minutes.

Insert a probe thermometer into thickest part of the breast and reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Set the thermometer alarm (if available) to 161 degrees F. A 14 to 16 pound bird should require a total of 2 to 2 1/2 hours of roasting. Let the turkey rest, loosely covered with foil or a large mixing bowl for 15 minutes before carving.

Tips For Preparing a Thanksgiving Turkey

For home cooks, preparing a Thanksgiving turkey is a rite of passage. Not only do snafu opportunities abound, but there is added pressure on the holiday to prepare and serve a perfect meal for family and guests.

Whether you're a seasoned Thanksgiving chef, or a newbie in the kitchen, these tips can help eliminate the stress associated with prepping your meal's centerpiece:

Prepare Ahead

It's hard to perfect a turkey when you've got endless side dishes to worry over simultaneously, so accept guests' offers to bring some favorites. Assemble accompaniments to your meal in advance, especially sauces and dips, which actually improve in flavor over time.

Remember, you only have so much space in an oven, so schedule cooking accordingly to ensure everything is ready at mealtime.

Talk Turkey

You may not have aced home economics when you were in school, but the folks at the Turkey Talk hotline are experts in the field. You can get most turkey conundrums solved by giving them a call at 1-800-BUTTERBALL, or by emailing them at talkline@butterball.com.

Work Smart

Maintaining your knives streamlines kitchen

operations, especially the formidable task of carving your Thanksgiving turkey. But knife sharpening doesn't need to be daunting. In fact, every home cook should get comfortable doing this regularly. With the right tools, your knives will last longer, and be safer and more efficient.

Generally, you should hone or polish knife edges after each use and sharpen knives regularly with a high-quality sharpener. Look for a sharpener that offers diversity. For example, Edgeware's adjustable knife sharpeners include coarse and fine sharpening slots for dull and damaged knives and regular maintenance respectively, and are ideal for sharpening a variety of knives from straight edge blades to serrated. For how-to videos and other tips on restoring your knives to their original factory angle, visit www.edgewareproducts.com.

When preparing the Thanksgiving meal, make sure your knives are sharp in the kitchen and to sharpen any knives that will be used to carve your bird at the table. Do this before setting the table so you won't forget.

Getting it Right

The general wisdom is to allot 1 to 1 1/2 pounds of turkey per person. Just be sure your turkey is big enough to provide you with leftovers! There's nothing more satisfying than a turkey sandwich for lunch the day after Thanksgiving.

Ready your bird for the oven by following the National Turkey Federation guideline on thawing: for every 4 1/2 pounds of frozen turkey, thaw for 24-hours in the refrigerator.

You don't need to be Julia Child to master the art of turkeys. By maintaining your kitchen

Paul Nieby's CORN BREAD DRESSING

Ingredients:

2 - 6 oz. bags Mrs. Cubbison's Seasoned Cornbread Stuffing Mix
1 cup chopped, raw white onions
1 cup chopped raw celery
10 dried apricots cut into pieces
4 oz. Walnuts (they can be bought in a bag of about that size)
6-8 oz. Sausage, sauteed brown, defatted & crumbled. (Jimmy Dean brand sage flavored is good)
2 cups heated Chicken Broth
4 tbsp. butter melted in with 1 cup of the chicken broth

Directions:

Toss the vegetables and stuffing mix in a bowl. Add 1 cup of the heated broth with the melted butter and toss again. Load lightly in a greased covered casserole and bake for 45 minutes in a 350 degree oven. Half way through, pour the additional cup of chicken broth over the dressing.

This recipe is modified from the one that appears on the Cubbison pack by the addition of the sausage, apricot, and walnuts. The additional broth added half-way through the baking, makes the dressing moist enough but still light and discreet.

Also from Paul Nieby: CREAMED PEARL ONIONS

Ingredients:

Onions, small pearl as needed
Milk, butter, flour, Worcestshire Sauce, Cayenne, Salt & Pepper

Directions:

Trim the bottoms of the onions but otherwise leave them unpeeled. Drop into boiling water for 3-5 minutes. Drain and peel when cool. Reserve the onion water.

Make a medium white sauce (2/2/1) using half milk and half onion water. You may make a Mornay Sauce by adding shredded cheddar if desired. Flavor with Worcestshire, Cayenne and salt and pepper. The sauce should be fairly thick as the cooking onions will add liquor.

Pour the sauce over the onions in a casserole and bake covered in a medium oven for 30-40 minutes.

Mary's Confetti Stuffed Mushrooms

Thanksgiving Potluck Vegan-style Mushrooms

1-1/2	#	Mushrooms, Brown or Cremini: Separate into caps & stems.
1/3	cup	Celery, 1/8" dice
1/3	cup	Carrots, 1/8" dice
1/3	cup	Baby Bell Peppers - Yellow, Orange, Red - 1/8"
1-1/2	Tbsp	Extra Virgin Olive Oil
3/4	cup	Vegetable Broth, divided
1/4	cup	Apricot, Peach, Orange or Blackberry Brandy
3/4	tsp	Lindberg Porterhouse & Roast Seasoning (from Taylor's)
1	cup	Parsley, Finely Chopped
2	Tbsp	Lemon juice (fresh)
1	cup	Bread Crumbs - slightly dry
1/4	cup	Pecorino-Romano Crumbled Cheese

Clean Mushrooms. Remove Stems, set caps in lightly greased baking pan with holes up.

Dice mushroom stems into 1/8" bits.. You should have 2 cups diced mushroom stems. If not enough, add more mushrooms (if you have them) to make 2 cups.

Put olive oil & ½ cup broth in sauté pan, turn heat to medium. Add Seasoning. Add celery and carrots. Layer with diced mushrooms, then diced peppers. Cover and cook slowly about 5 minutes, stirring once to ensure mushrooms and peppers get mixed with broth.

Add Parsley. Simmer another 5 minutes. Taste and add more seasoning if needed. Remember - adding breadcrumbs will soften flavor intensity.

Drain broth from sauté pan into cup.

Add remaining broth with brandy and lemon juice to mushrooms, and return to heat until broth boils. Drain this liquid also into the cup. Reserve.

Add breadcrumbs and grated cheese to drained mushrooms. Mix well. If very dry, add 1 - 2 tablespoons of reserved broth.

Stuff mushroom caps. Place neatly in greased table-ready stove top / baking dish. Carefully spoon some of the reserved broth into the dish;

Simmer gently for 5 minutes ... Add more mushrooms as the others shrink. Simmer another 5 minutes & repeat. When adding the last mushrooms, drizzle any remaining broth lightly over all the mushrooms' stuffing for the final cooking.

Remove from heat and let cool. Serve room temperature. Or chill, and reheat just before serving. More fun to stuff the mushrooms with someone else - for sociability - after all, thanksgiving and social are what it's all about.



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Happy Tails

by Chris Leclerc



Charlee

even think about what he went Harlean and Ellen took him in. Big Santa Anita Canyon when about a year old, and appeared the hill at high speed. He had in his eyes. Ellen and Harlean vet tended to his wounds and home. The rage that I feel when I as a puppy can be neutralized feel coming from Nevada when he was to have met Ellen and better than any other dog I've a year ago, Harlean and Ellen keep him company. Oddie was when they saw him and simply that the positive energy I feel in their home comes from a combination of the kindness in those two lady's hearts and the gratefulness in the hearts of their two darling dogs.



Nevada

Last but most definitely not least, "Gunner" is a gorgeous, enormous canine companion of mine that was adopted by Jennifer and Mike. As young as he was, he already stood tall enough to intimidate, but Gunner doesn't have a single mean bone in his body. In fact, he is a gentle giant with loads of affection to share, and I assume that is partly because he knows he's one lucky dog! Gunner and the 2 other adopted dogs that live with him, Sid and Elijah have got to be the most tended-to and loved animals on the face of this earth. As huge as Gunner is, he shows full respect to his two kid brothers, and to anyone else he comes in contact with. He is a sensitive-hearted big ole guy whom I love to be around. Again, it is obvious that this dog is very thankful for being rescued and given the opportunity to live a great life with a caring family, and his thankfulness has a way of healing the hearts of those around him, including my own.

Enjoy the holiday season in a special way this year by showing your appreciation for all the good things in life, and as always don't forget to love and let live!

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PET OF THE WEEK: FLOPPY - #A4509478

Meet the very cool, calm and collected Floppy (A4509478). Floppy is a relaxed five month old brown and white male Cocker Spaniel mix puppy who was jettisoned at the Baldwin Park Animal Care Center on November 8th because his former owner moved and made no provision for his dog. Weighing sixteen pounds, Floppy walks well on the leash and is calm and well-behaved overall. He is well-socialized and likes other dogs, and volunteers think he will be super with children. He is also a handsome dog, with a luxuriant coat and beautiful markings. Floppy will be the perfect indoor pet for anyone in any living situation at all. To watch a video of Floppy please click here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0XJoUnclgY

To meet Floppy in person, please see him at the Baldwin Park Shelter, located at 4275 N. Elton St., Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (Phone: 626-430-2378 or 626-962-3577). He is currently available now. For any inquiries about Floppy, please reference his animal ID number: A4509478. 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 Floppy or the adoption process, please contact United Hope for Animals Volunteer Adoption Coordinator Samantha at Samantha@hope4animals.org. 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/>.



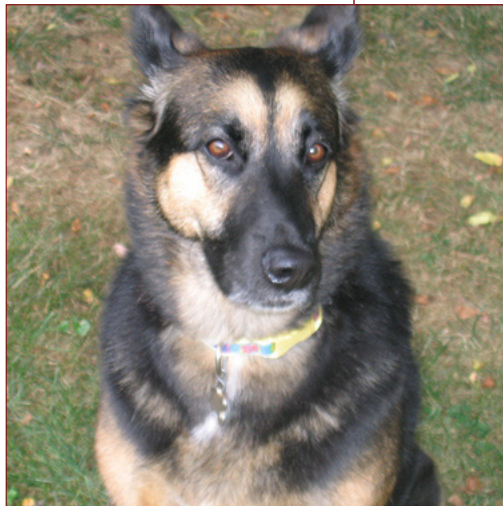
THE GRATEFUL DOG

With Thanksgiving now upon us, I feel a strong urge to show more appreciation for all attitude of gratitude tend to be happier beings in general, and some believe having a thankful argue whether it's a fact that being grateful acts as an effective healing agent for the human thankful for in my life, is the time I get to spend with my beloved canine companions; both

Each and every pet I have the privilege of caring for is special in it's own way, and each has it's must say that the canines I care for that were either adopted from a shelter or rescued from the love and attention they receive. A pet rescued from tragic circumstances seems to know that shelter for in my life, is the time I get to spend with my beloved canine companions; both

"Charlee" was just a puppy when she stumbled desert outside of Palmdale. She was as skinny as a rail, safe with the folks she'd found, because she allowed Unfortunately the couple could not keep Charlee their good friends Hattie and Susan who took Charlee dog, living in a beautiful home with a loving family When you look into Charlee's smiling eyes (one blue, inside. Now the biggest challenge for her owners is

"Hannah" is another beautiful dog that is thankful similar to that of Charlee's, but she was living in the sleeping under cars when the police found her and not allow much time before euthanizing abandoned listed for adoption on a website and just knew they shelter to see Hannah in person and immediately fell been together ever since. Hannah is uniquely sweet in an abundance of unconditional love into Colleen's life kind spirit. There is no doubt in my mind that Hannah with had Colleen not rescued her.



Hannah

"Nevada" is a precious dog whose beginning is among the most tragic I have ever heard for an abandoned puppy. It is hard for me to through before two animal-loving sisters He was walking on the street near the gate to Ellen saw him struggling along. He was only to have been thrown from a car coming down cigarette burns on his skin, and intense fear rushed him to the animal hospital where the eventually got him healthy enough to come think about what that little guy went through only by the wonderful warmth and kindness I I am in his presence. He knows how fortunate Harlean that day, and he shows his gratitude ever met. Nevada is 12 years old now, and just adopted a cute little pup named "Oddie" to at a Pasadena Humane Society adoption event, could not resist! There is no doubt in my mind

the blessings I enjoy in life. It is often said that those who have an heart plays a part in living a longer, healthier life. I, for one will not heart, I'll just do it! Among the many things that I have to be my own and those of my clients.

own unique means of forming a bond with we humans. However, I streets are the ones that tend to show the most appreciation for the they've escaped certain death by the 'skin of their teeth' because this week's holiday, I thought it appropriate to share the stories of a dogs who would otherwise have met their demise,

upon a couple camping while wandering in the high and timid at first but she must have known she was them to take her with them when they broke camp. because they already had 3 dogs, so they contacted in with open arms. Now she is a very healthy happy with whom she shares lots of fun and affection. one brown), you see pure gratitude emanating from how not to spoil her rotten!

for being given a second chance at life. Her story is streets of Tampa, FL eating out of garbage cans and took her to the local animal shelter; one that does pets. It was a sheer miracle that Colleen saw Hannah were meant to be together. Colleen went to the in love with her. She took her home and they have every way that a dog can possibly be. She has brought and she shows her gratitude clearly through her realizes the potential demise she may have been met



Gunner

when he was about 2 years old.

PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM HOLIDAY HAZARDS

You can bet that during the holiday season your pet is bound to sniff out leftovers, dig into the presents and have fun with all of your decorations. And while these holiday effects can spread cheer and joy amongst your human family members, they can be a real hazard to pets. This season, keep your holiday celebration safe, happy and healthy for pets by taking these key measures:

Decorate Wisely

Avoid poisonous holiday plants like poinsettias and holly. There are plenty of toxic-free alternatives as evocative of the season as these traditional holiday favorites. If you must deck the halls with such plants, place them in an out of the way spot your pets can't reach and keep your pets away from those areas of your home.

Tinsel and gift ribbons are tempting for pets that like to play with shiny things, but when swallowed, such items can cause intestinal obstructions. Clean up after opening presents and vacuum around the tree to pick up any gift debris, as well as fallen pine needles which pose a similar hazard.

Avoid the Problem

When it comes to the holidays, there's no need to be a Grinch in order to keep your celebration safe for pets. New technologies are making it easier to teach pets to stay away from certain areas of your home, both indoors and outside. For example, Invisible Fence Brand Micro Shields Avoidance Solutions are small mobile wireless units to train pets to avoid areas of the home or yard where they might get in trouble. And if you have multiple pets, you can set different rules for different pets.

So don't forgo that lovely holiday candle display just because you have a pet in your life. More information can be found at www.invisible-fence.com.

Watch Your Plate

As most great pet owners know, not all human foods are safe or healthy for pets. Pets can choke on bones in meat or fish dishes. And such foods as onions, macadamia nuts and chocolate -- which are commonly found in holiday cooking and baking -- are unsafe for dogs.

Avoid having your well-meaning guests sending Spot to the vet by laying ground rules about sharing food.

Also, one man's trash is a pet's treasure, so be sure to keep the lid on the garbage secure. By taking proper precautions, you can keep the holidays festive this year for both you and your pets. (Statepoint)



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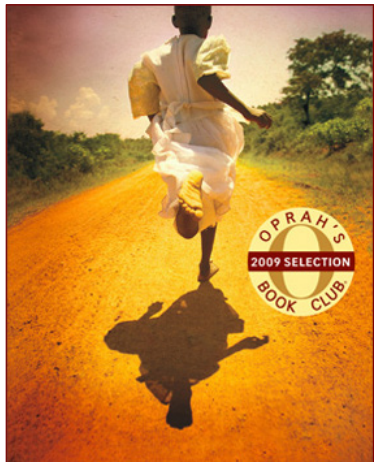
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JASMINE'S CORNER

Book Reviews by Jasmine Kelsey Williams

SAY YOU'RE ONE OF THEM By Uwem Akpan

As the holiday season approaches, the selection for your booklist may take a more festive direction or one that requires you to curl up in your favorite comfy chair and relax. This next choice by Uwem Akpan will satisfy both ends and also require the reader to have a stronger sense of sympathy and insight for this book. 'Say You're One of Them' focuses on several different characters in five superbly written short stories, each story giving notice to the children who are the focal point of each one and their courage, bravery, and resilience of the horrors each of them experience. Each child is given not just a different story but also a completely different experience as individuals and the unique ways that they find their strengths will immediately speak volumes to the reader. The first story "An Ex-Mas Feast" weaves a tale of a family living in Kenya and each member's attempt to find a Christmas present for the holidays, while the next story, "Fattening for Gabon" takes a darker route in the form of a brother and sister trying to help each other cope when their uncle attempts to sell them into slavery.



Another sharp story is "My Parents' Bedroom", in which a young girl plays up the façade of normality even through experiences of horrific and unspeakable acts. "Luxurious Hearses" and "What Language is That?" both really hit home for the reader at this point as both explain the experience of having a different religion for young children. Akpan is not afraid of fleshing out the details to the reader and rather creates the atmosphere of wanting to be invited into the lives of each character and wanting to connect with them on deeper levels of understanding. Copyrighted in 2008 and selected to Oprah's Book Club selection in 2009, 'Say You're One of Them' is a bittersweet and compelling selection, one that will not just keep the reader engaged, but suspenseful, wondering if there will be a positive outcome. To give this selection even more credit is that Uwem Akpan has received critical acclaim for 'Say You're One of Them' and his short story "My Parents' Bedroom" was chosen as a finalist for the Caine Prize for African Writing.



SEAN'S SHAMELESS REVIEWS:

Review By Sean Kayden

MOTORAMA

It's not everyday where you come across a musical group that absolutely blows you away. Granted, there are many acts one may enjoy, but I'm talking about hearing a song (and eventually the entire album) that makes you feel like your listening to music for the very first time in your life. I strongly believe this moment of sheer enlightenment or bliss or whatever you want to call it happened to me. I present, Motorama, a band hailing from Rostov-on-Don (Southern river port), Russia.

Their sound is considered to be post-punk rock, but you'll unmistakably notice the '80s new wave style blended into their unique style. However, to lump them into any genre isn't fair. Their music speaks louder and means more than the confinements to any specific type of category. The strange thing is the band's lyrics are all in English. They're completely unknown stateside and are signed to a French label.

As far similarities go, the band's music evokes the sounds of The National, Interpol, and Joy Division with a dash of chillwave sprinkled on top. These obligatory comparisons are drawn on the basis of the singer's strong vocal resemblance to the lead singers of these bands. The vocals are stark, deep, and carry much emotional weight. However, what really stood out to me were the wondrous arrangements that are dreamy, light, and float effortlessly in each and every song. Like I previously mentioned, Motorama will completely surprise you on every track. Their sound is sweet and while it gallops fluently, it will draw you in like a strong vortex.

Artist: Motorama
Album: Calendar
Label: Talitres
Release Date: November 6th, 2012

"Calendar" features ten remarkable tracks. The consistency of the album is astounding. That's not to say the band plays anything too safe because they hardly ever do. Their talent of crafting soothing and peaceful melodies is rather astonishing. Rarely can a group put you in a perpetual reverie state like the way this five-piece band does. There is no denying how their sound induces a strong presence, one that needs not to be ignored or freely dismissed. If you're looking for some of the best music offered in any country, look no further than Motorama. These guys will shock you on how great they are. Of course everything is subjective, but I'm telling you, if you're a fan of any kind of rock music, Motorama is your next favorite band. Listening to their sophomore album, "Calendar" is like heading to unknown terrain. You don't know what you'll discover, but when you do find that something, you'll realize it's exactly that very thing you've been missing all along. Motorama is the band absent from your car's CD player, your computer's hard drive, and your mp3 player's playlist. Don't go another day without listening to this exceptionally unmatched band.

To identify which songs precisely are a highlight from the album is not an easy task because every song is simply marvelous. The opening track, "Image," is an excellent example of how the record will sound throughout. With it's danceable, jangly like rhythm, you'll get easily lost within the music. Despite how an individual song may open up sounding, Motorama always switches gears and shifts their resonance into something quite heavenly. "Rose In The Vase" is completely stunning. This masterpiece has an exquisite rhythmic sound and a deeply melancholic tone. "Calendar" brings you an arsenal of pensively twee pop tunes. There's no lack of warmth, heart, or soul. Everything found on the album was unexpected pleasure matched with unparalleled beauty. With some of the best sounding arrangements I've ever heard, Motorama's follow-up album, "Calendar," is an extraordinary accomplishment on all levels of production. This isn't just the best album of the year, but one of the greatest albums in quite sometime.

Grade: 9.7 out of 10
Key Tracks: "Rose In The Vase", "In Your Arms", "Young River", "Sometimes"

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Life is a balancing act. There are poses in your yoga practice designed to help you find balance. The secret is core, located in the abdominal region of the body, the literal center of our strength. By "core" we mean building a strong foundation that will sustain you through a challenging pose or situation.

One such pose is Vrksasana - Tree pose. Basically, you're standing on one leg, the other leg bent at the knee with the foot resting on the inner thigh of the standing leg, arms stretching upwards. Sounds rather improbable, right? But with a strong core, this particular pose becomes surprisingly easy.

So it goes with everything. Find balance, in your body, in your life. Next time you're facing a challenge - big or small - picture yourself in tree pose. Why? Because a tree has roots deep in the earth and they help it grow tall and stand up straight with branches and leaves extending to the skies. Imagine yourself as that tree. A graceful tree, maybe a bit swaying in the wind, but firmly planted in the ground. Reach your arms up, lift your head, look up... all of a sudden, you realize you're doing the balancing act just fine... Enjoy the day ahead!

Namasté, René

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615 E. Orange Grove Sierra Madre

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This home is in need of some 2013 pizzazz! The lot is tree lined with mature landscaping. There is a pool in center of yard with a fully permitted over 600 square foot guest house/maybe office! You also have a large garage and a driveway that can hold many cars. The main house is 3 bedroom 2 bath, there are hardwood floors and some vinyl flooring. This would be a great project for the right Buyers!!!

373 W. Sierra Madre Bl. Sierra Madre

\$775,000
Perfect for live work BUYERS!! Zoned Residential Professional! Adorable craftsman type cottage with newly built addition that has 2 master suites and a den (all built in 2007), there is also a 3rd bedroom with a another bath. Porch surrounds the front yard with pretty garden; back yard has private garden setting .

One Of A Kind: *Featuring unique homes and gardens and the people who create them*

Story by Chris Bertrand Photography courtesy of Ecke Ranch



BE THE FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK! ORANGE POINSETTIAS FOR THE THANKSGIVING TABLE!

The potted red poinsettia has become a staple of dramatic and colorful floral display and gift giving for the Christmas season over many decades. As a new SoCal resident in the 1980's, I remember my awe when first driving past acres and acres of Ecke greenhouses with poinsettias under cultivation beside the I-5 in San Diego County. It had never occurred to me to ponder where all those beautiful, tropical flowers came from.

It's likely that the six to ten foot displays of poinsettias (their normal mature height) in a few local Los Angeles gardens are the result of a holiday gift from a past decade

or two or three.

According to the University of Illinois Extension service, this Euphorbia plant which technically displays its bracts not flowers, is a native Mexico. It was introduced to the United States in 1825 by a botany lover, and the United State's first ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett. Hence its current common name, the poinsettia. As an aside, Poinsett also started the institution which eventually evolved into the Smithsonian.

Though they are commercially grown in all fifty states, according to U of I, ninety per cent of all the flowering poinsettias got their start at the Paul Ecke Ranch, which originated in the Encinitas area. Over \$200 million of this popular Christmas flower are sold each year, mostly over the six week holiday season.

Now, for those cutting edge gardeners who must have the latest and greatest horticultural development, Ecke is offering an orange poinsettia, destined to adorn the Thanksgiving table, right next to your pumpkin pie.

I must admit I did a double take last week, when I spied one of these orange wonders, Orange Spice, at an Armstrong Garden Center. I had to check to see if my sunglasses had altered my color vision. Occasionally, I had ventured away from the traditional red, to a pink or a white, depending on my decorating theme, or the offerings at my neighborhood Costco. But was I ready for orange? I was intrigued. The outside garden managers at Monrovia's Home Depot, Kim and Sharon, alerted me years ago of their practice of stocking a new or unusual variety of poinsettia each holiday season. I was instructed to be on the lookout for the highly anticipated delivery each Christmas and to "grab em" right away, if I wanted something horticulturally unusual for gifts to fellow gardeners, or for display. After decades of full production, the Ecke Ranch people have been breeding and producing cuttings only over the last decade, producing new and unusual color combinations for growers to "finish" then sell to retailers, according to Cheryl Ann Crysler at their Encinitas headquarters.

Their "Orange Spice" is out in the stores now, ready for Thanksgiving enjoyment, available at some nurseries, retailers and big box stores like Costco, Home Depot, Lowes, Sam's Club and Walmart.

Other distinctive poinsettias released for this holiday season, according to Crysler, are:

"Tikal Red" – A beautiful landscaped poinsettia that is a sister to our Advent Red which came out in 2011. This plant is an early variety and can already be found in retail stores as it blooms early for the season.

Premier – Another early variety, true rich red. In 2013 consumers will have an opportunity to purchase premier in a pink and Jingle.

Monet Early- One of my favorites, a compact plant which starts out pink and with maturity turns an intense reddish pink with bright green leaves. Great for a gift or to create a stunning combo with orchids.

Jubilee – One of the best presentation poinsettias, you can find it in a deep red and pink. In 2013 consumers will have the opportunity to pick the full color line, Red, Pink, White and Jingle."

In case you're wondering, it's time to clear up that urban myth. Poinsettias are, in fact NOT poisonous, according to the California Poison Control's website (www.CalPoison.org), which says "Eating many leaves may cause mild stomach upset. The sap from the plant may cause skin rash and should be washed off with soap and water. Contrary to earlier beliefs, poinsettias are safe in the home during the holidays." Even if you're not adventurous enough to choose an orange poinsettia for your Thanksgiving table this year, here are a few summarized tips from the Ecke organization for purchasing and caring for your poinsettia, no matter what the color: Choose strong stems with no breakage or wilting. The brightly colored bracts should show no green edges. The presence of tight yellow cyathia (cluster of flowers), with little pollen present, indicates the poinsettia is fresh. Protect poinsettias from temperatures below 50 degrees and avoid cold drafts or excessive heat. Water when the soil feels dry to the touch.

Happy Thanksgiving!



INVASIVE PEST FOUND IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Fire and Forest Officials Ask Public's Help to Stop Spread

Idyllwild - The goldspotted oak borer (GSOB) has been detected in a recently-killed California black oak tree in the Riverside County mountain community of Idyllwild. Larvae extracted from under the tree bark were subjected to DNA analysis at the University of California Riverside and confirmed to be *Agrilus auroguttatus*, the scientific name for GSOB. This new detection of GSOB represents the first long-distance movement of the beetle from its known area of infestation in San Diego County, 40 miles to the south. It is believed to have made the jump from San Diego to Idyllwild through the movement of infested firewood. The infested tree is slated for immediate removal and disposal.

The GSOB is transported in oak firewood, so it is critical that Californians keep firewood local and not move it out of the area. Here are some immediate steps to help stop the spread of GSOB:

- Use firewood from local sources - "Buy it Where you Burn It"
- Leave firewood at home - do not transport it to recreational cabins, campgrounds or parks

"The public plays a key role in stopping the spread of the destructive GSOB," said CAL FIRE Director and State Forester Ken Pimlott. "When choosing firewood make sure you buy it from a local source and not from out of the area. This infestation could have devastating effects on California and we all must work to stop its spread."

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is collaborating with the University of California, the U.S. Forest Service and the County of Riverside to develop a rapid response plan for GSOB in San Jacinto forest communities. Surveys are already in progress to determine the extent of the infestation. Property owners in the Idyllwild area will be receiving additional information in the coming weeks on the GSOB and how to assess their own oak trees as well as a list of recommended contacts for questions. These infestations can be very destructive to our forests, communities, individual properties, and are extremely costly to control.

"This discovery of GSOB in Riverside County is of great concern," said CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Chief John R. Hawkins. "These mountain communities have endured years of drought and bark beetle infestation and we need to work collaboratively with the public and all stakeholders to stop the GSOB from further destroying our forest and oak woodlands."

Anyone planning to purchase or burn firewood is encouraged to visit www.firewood.ca.gov to learn how help stop the spread of GSOB and other pests through the movement of firewood. For more information on GSOB visit www.gsob.org.



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IS A LONGEVITY ANNUITY RIGHT FOR YOU?

Dear Savvy Senior:
What can you tell me about longevity annuities? I come from a family with long life expectancies and I would like to protect myself from running out of money in my old age. - Looking Ahead

Dear Looking:
If you're worried about outliving your retirement savings, longevity annuities are definitely an option worth looking into.

Longevity annuities are simply deferred annuities that pay you income for life, but only if and when you make it to a certain age. How does it work? You give an insurance company a lump-sum of money when you retire (say age 60 or 65), in return for monthly income usually starting at around 80 or 85.

The advantage of choosing a longevity annuity over an immediate annuity is that the payouts are much higher. For example, a 65-year-old man who puts \$30,000 into a longevity policy could expect to receive around \$1,600 per month (that comes to \$19,200 per year) starting at age 85. Buying a \$30,000 immediate annuity at age 85, he'd get only around \$370 per month.

Why such a big difference? Because the insurer has more time to make money off your money before it must begin paying you back. And, they're betting you won't live long enough to receive many, if any, checks. National statistics show that a 65-year-old man will live, on average, to 82, and a 65-year-old woman to 85.

Another great benefit with a longevity annuity is it gives you the freedom to spend down your nest egg, knowing you've locked up an income stream for your later years.

But as tantalizing as those big payouts may be, longevity annuities have their drawbacks. For starters, a basic longevity policy offers no escape hatch for you to retrieve your money during the 20 years or so you're waiting for benefits to start. And your heirs won't get death benefits if you die before you begin to collect.

If that bothers you, you may want to consider a longevity policy that offers flexible features like a death benefit to be paid to your heirs, early payment options, inflation protection and more. The downside, however, is that every extra feature you add will reduce your monthly benefit.

You can use the Brandes Retirement Simulator (see www.brandes.com/institute) to figure out if you should consider a policy. Plug in your current and projected income, expenses and investment strategies. It will show you the possible impact of a longevity product on retirement spending and on your income after age 85. Brandes does not sell longevity insurance.

When to Buy
Most people purchase a longevity annuity at or just prior to the time they retire. To estimate how much coverage you should get, figure out how much of your essential expenses you can cover with Social Security, pensions, and other forms of guaranteed income, and buy longevity coverage for the rest. But don't overdue it. Experts recommend you use no more than 10 to 15 percent of your assets to purchase a policy, and leave the rest in your portfolio to provide income until it kicks in.

Also, when choosing a product, remember that you're buying income that will not kick in for 20 years or more. So be sure to go with a company with a good reputation and solid financials which you can check online for free at ambest.com, standardandpoors.com and thestreet.com/insurers. Insurance companies that currently sell longevity annuities are MetLife, Hartford Financial Services, Symetra, New York Life, Northwestern Mutual and MassMutual.

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.



KATIE TseThis and That

DO NOT GO GENTLE INTO THAT GOOD NIGHT...

It seems like no matter what your job is, there are going to be staff meetings. Sometimes these gatherings include a printed agenda so you can follow along, as if you were watching a play or musical performance. Any typical meeting might proceed as follows: Prelude: Welcoming of new interns, Act 1: Latest budget cuts. Intermission (to compose yourself after hearing about the budget cuts). Etc.

If you're lucky to have a boss who dislikes meetings as much as the majority of the employees do, you might get out of there before you punch the clock at 5:00. But if your boss likes to hear him/herself talk, you might be stuck there for a few hours. Even worse than a loquacious boss are the occasional coworkers who live for a captive audience whom they can torture with circular arguments and tangential comments. It's times like these that put you to sleep --sometimes literally.

Though falling asleep during a staff meeting isn't polite, I've witnessed more than a couple of my coworkers nodding off. First their eyelids start fluttering like a drugged butterfly, then before they know it, their heads flop down for minutes on end. It's easier for the ladies to get away with this by letting their hair down to partially block their faces. I've never heard snoring, but there's a first for everything. They'll stay semi-conscious until some rousing moment of the meeting jolts them back to reality. If staff meetings were a purely spectator event, my slumbering coworkers could probably get by with sleeping away the last hours of the day. But so often the boss or a visiting presenter will tell us to break into groups.

Once formed, the groups need to designate a "recorder" who will write down our scintillating late-afternoon thoughts, and a "presenter" who will deliver these nuggets of insight to the rest of the staff. But I digress, I'm sure you've been there

before and know EXACTLY what I'm talking about.

While it can be funny watching others try to feign alertness, the things people do to stay awake are even more humorous and varied! Grad school comes to mind. I'd almost forgotten the long nights of grad school until I recently had dinner with a friend. Although she has many years of experience and several credentials, the brass in her field keeps tacking on "mandatory" courses. So, my friend puts in a full day of work, then drives another 15 miles to sit through a class until nine o'clock!

How does one make it through these long nights? Some drink coffee or Red Bull, but after you've reached a caffeine tolerance, you have to get creative. (If you're easily grossed out, this is your warning to stop reading!) Some of my friend's classmates brush their hair or stare into small mirrors and pop pimples. One guy even plucked a nose hair. Yes, it's true; and he wasn't even discrete about it! He made a big, digging movement with his arm to uproot the thing, then brought it near his eyes to get a better look.

Since attending Pasadena City College about 10 years ago, I've always wanted to go back and take all the interesting classes I deprived myself of when I was a teenager. I imagined myself attending a pottery class on a Wednesday night. In my dream class, I'm skillfully throwing and shaping smooth slabs of clay into artful, fluid designs. My classmates are similarly inspired, and we talk about the latest novels we've read. This fantasy is very appealing while I'm looking over the course catalogues from PCC. But in reality, I'd probably either be falling asleep at the pottery wheel or fixated at a classmate pulling ear hairs. Higher education is great, and I think I'll save myself for it until I retire. Happy learning!



PASADENA SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE CHANGES HOURS

Effective November 19, 2012, the Pasadena Social Security office will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – a reduction of 30 minutes each weekday. In addition, beginning January 2, 2013, the office will close to the public at noon every Wednesday. On November 23, the day after Thanksgiving, all Social Security field offices will be closed to the public.

Most services do not require a visit. Applying for retirement, disability or Medicare benefits, signing up for direct deposit, replacing a Medicare card, obtaining a proof of income letter or a change of address or telephone number can be done online at www.socialsecurity.gov or by calling 1-800-772-1213. Hearing impaired may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.

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By Pat Birdsall

FYI: Last Sunday, Veteran's Day, the Harry L. Embree VFW Post 3208 recognized those men and women in our community who have admirably served our country in various branches of the military. There were three speakers. Two of whom were in the Vietnam War and the third, and the youngest, was severely injured in Felucia, Iraq, not too long ago. He has had 25 surgeries to date after being injured by an IED. A combination of feelings welled up in their talks; anger, fear, horror, disbelief and rollicking humor. Without that humor perhaps some memories would be entirely too painful to revisit. Fourteen new plaques were unveiled. The ceremony was held at a very special place in Sierra Madre, the Veteran's Memorial Wall. The Wall itself is the result of one man wanting to leave "something behind." The man was the late, **John Grijalva**. He worked tenaciously to see the tribute to local veteran's come to fruition. He drew up the plans, researched the plaques and even collected funds to erect it...sometimes dollars at a time... *and* on several occasions talked to a very unwilling council. I think he finally wore them down because the Veteran's Wall was finally approved both in design and location. It was dedicated in October, 2003. Thanks again, to the dedication and the determination of one man...**John Grijalva**.

There are many spaces left for new plaques. If you or a friend, family member or neighbor served in any of the United States military branches the criteria for inclusion is simple: You must have lived in Sierra Madre for at least one year sometime in your life and have a picture of yourself in uniform. **Please call Dave Loera, Commander of VFW Post 3208, to be included and for more information: (626) 355-3382. We'd be proud to have you!**

You can help: I'll list groups each week that need your help until I run out. The first one is a group that helped the young man severely maimed by an IED in Iraq in the story above. It is the **Wounded Warrior Project:** www.woundedwarriorproject.org/programs



~MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS DECEMBER 7~

HELPFUL HINT To stop the static shock in rooms with wall to wall carpeting, fill a spray bottle with a mixture of one part liquid fabric softener and five parts water, then lightly mist the carpet.

FOR YOUR FUNNY BONE

A little old lady is sitting on a park bench in Trailer Estates. A man walks over and sits down on the other end of the bench. After a few moments, the woman asks, "Are you a stranger here?" He replies, "I used to live here years ago." "So, where were you all these years?" "In prison," he says. "What did they put you in prison for?" He looks at her, and very quietly says, "I killed my wife." "Oh, so you're single then?"

A guy was sitting quietly reading his paper when his wife walked up behind him and whacked him on the head with a magazine. "What was that for?" he asked. "That was for the piece of paper in your pants pocket with name Laura Lou written on it," she replied. "Two weeks ago I went to the races, Laura Lou was the name of one of the horses I bet on," he explained. "Oh honey, I'm sorry," she said. "I should have known there was a good explanation." Three days later he was watching a ball game on TV, when she walked up and hit him in the head again, this time with an iron skillet which knocked him out cold. When he came to, he asked, "What was that for?" She replied, "Your horse called."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Alberta Curran, Carmela Frontino, Lena Zate, Joe Pergola, Janice Kacer, Flo Mankin, Valerie Howard, "Mike" Ruggles, Lois Stueck, Joan Ruggles, Jean Wood, Shirley Yergeau, Kathi Jefferson, Pat Krok, Irene Nakagawa, Anna Ross, Mary Steinberg, Christine Durfort, and Sue Quinn. To add your name to this list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737 YEAR of birth not required.

Quote of the Week:

No one is free when others are oppressed. ~Author unknown

ACTIVITIES: Unless listed differently, all activities are at the Hart Park House (Senior Center) 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre

YMCA San Gabriel Valley Intervale Senior Café: Monday-Friday at 12:00 Noon (Participants are urged to arrive no later than 11:45 A.M.) All seniors 60 and up can take part in the lunch program. There is a suggested donation of \$2.00 for those 60 and over and \$3.75 for non-senior guests. Daily reservations are necessary as space is limited. Please call 24 hours in advance...626.355.0256

Free Blood Pressure Testing: On the **2nd Tuesday** of the month from 11:00 am-12:00 pm: A nurse from Methodist Hospital, Arcadia volunteers to do the readings. No appointment necessary.

Bingo: **Every Tuesday** afternoon from 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm Cards are only .25c each!

Free Chair Yoga: Every **Wednesday** morning from 11:00 am-11:45 am. Volunteer Teryl Willis offers this class that focuses on senior yoga techniques. It is geared toward gentle movements, breathing techniques and balance improvement. No reservations are necessary.

Free Legal Consultation: Pasadena attorney Geoffrey Chin volunteers on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month. He focuses on estate planning, trusts, wills, probate, conservatorships and business law. ***Appointments are a must.** Please call 626.355.7394 to make yours. ***Conflicting court schedules can occasionally cause cancellations.**

Birthday Celebrations: The **2nd Thursday** of the month the Senior Center celebrates the birthdays of our patrons at 12:30 pm. Please join us for free cake and ice cream and **"celebration."** (The cakes are provided due to a generous donation from the Sierra Madre Civic Club.)

Game Day: Game Day: **Every Thursday** at 1:00pm. Poker is usually the game of choice, or should I say chance? Board games and other card games are also available. Outside, on the patio, a beautiful, one-of-a-kind chess table is anxious for players.

Free Strength Training Class: Free Strength Training Class: **Every Friday** from 1:00 pm -1:45 pm Conducted by long-time volunteer Lisa Brandley. The class utilizes light weights for low-impact resistance training. Weights are provided by the Sierra Madre Senior Center. It's a great way to stay in shape and to socialize with your peers. (Gossip included)

Senior Citizens Club: Every **Saturday**-at the Hart Park House (Senior Center) Brown bag lunch at 11:30am; Club meeting at Noon; Bingo at 12:30- 3:30 pm. For more information call Pat at 626.355.7290

EXCURSION: CALIFORNIA SCIENCE CENTER- CLEOPATRA EXHIBIT AND IMAX MOVIE (LOS ANGELES, CA.)

Date: Friday, December 14, 2012
Departure: 9:00am from the Hart Park House
Lunch and Activities: 10:00am- 2:00pm
Return -Hart Park House: 3:30 pm (time approximate)
Cost: \$32.00 (does not include lunch)

Come discover more than 150 priceless Egyptian artifacts from nearly 2,000 years ago. Unearthed by two of the world's leading archaeologists the exhibition features colossal statues, jewelry and coins from Cleopatra's lost palace in Alexandria. After the IMAX movie, patrons can either visit the other exhibits or have lunch on your own at the California Science Center. For more information visit www.californiasciencecenter.org Reservations or more info call the Park House at (626) 355-7394



SENIOR MOVIE PROGRAM: Free Movies are shown on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. The films, one contemporary and one vintage, are chosen by the seniors themselves. This month's selections are:

November 27- The Odd Couple (1968) Written by Neil Simon, this is the hysterical tale of two men separated from their wives who try sharing an apartment; one is a neurotic neat freak and the other is a fun loving slob. Jack Lemmon and Walter

Matthau star.

Movies are shown in the Sierra Madre Council Chambers (222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.) at 1:00 PM.

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DOLLARS AND ¢ENTS

By Carl Davis, CIMA

COUPLES: Combining Finances.....
... OR NOT

If you're married, engaged or in a relationship where you share day-to-day expenses with a partner, broaching the topic of how to blend your finances is essential. It's a subject every couple should discuss and revisit from time to time. For couples thinking about combining their finances for the first time, learning to communicate about money, sharing in bill paying, pooling incomes and discussing savings and retirement plans are financial steps that should not be overlooked.

Co-mingling finances works differently for every couple, and there are many ways to go about it. Making the decision about whether to share everything, maintain independent accounts – or something in between isn't always easy. To avoid confusion about who pays for what and arguments over differences in money habits, couples should consider the following while discussing their financial choices.

Start with Understanding

A candid conversation about money habits and styles is a great first step to identify how to manage funds in a new relationship. If two individuals have very different philosophies when it comes to money, keeping some independence may help maintain a healthy relationship and protect your joint financial wellness. If you're on the same page – both savers, for example – togetherness in all things financial can create a stronger relationship and financial efficiency. It's also important to discuss different “what if” scenarios. Talk with each other about how much each partner would spend on a new furniture purchase or vacation, for example. And remember to discuss how you each would approach an unexpected financial event such as a job relocation.

Establish a Working Budget

Relationships bring many shared expenses – monthly rent or mortgage payments, groceries, gas, clothing and more. It all adds up. Couples should pencil out their fixed shared expenses together and talk about how each expense will be paid. Once an agreement is reached, revisit the monthly budget plan periodically to ensure all the bases remain covered. As you work on the budgeting process together, you will each gain a better understanding of how your partner approaches money.

Agree on a Plan

In addition to careful budgeting, couples should agree on how they will combine money to manage certain expenses. A good compromise is to establish a joint checking account in which you each deposit a portion of your income. Some couples may agree to also maintain individual accounts that can be used as each person wishes – no questions asked. Agree on how much money you will save together, and to establish an auto-transfer from the shared pool so that saving is easy and automatic.

Communicate Frequently

Equally important to the budget creation and planning process is ongoing, honest communication about money – saved and spent. Couples likely won't enjoy a healthy financial relationship if secrets are kept about money. Set aside time each week to pay bills and talk about money together. These planned “money talks” will keep any financial mistakes from affecting other areas of your relationship.

While there may not be a one-size-fits-all solution for blending finances, having regular conversations about it is important for all couples – whether newlyweds or retirees. Couples should consider sitting down with a financial advisor who can help them talk about different options and determine what might work best.

Carl H Davis, CIMA®, CRPC® is a Financial Advisor and Vice President with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Los Angeles, CA. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 36 years. To contact him at 310-954-2566 or via email @ carl.h.davis@ampf.com, or at 10880 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90024

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File # 146743

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

IRS ANNOUNCES 2013 PENSION LIMITS

The IRS has announced the 2013 pension plan limits. Taxpayers may contribute up to \$17,500 to their 401(k) in 2013.

Social Security Wage Base to Increase in 2013

The Old Age Survivor's and Disability Insurance (OASDI) taxable wage base will increase to \$113,700 in 2013. The 2012 wage base is \$110,100. The 4.2 percent employee Social Security rate now in effect for employees is scheduled to expire at the end of 2012 and will revert back to the 6.2 percent rate for 2013, unless the federal government extends or changes the rate. The employer OASDI rate will remain at 6.2%.

Outstanding Federal Loans Increase 2012 FUTA Costs for Several States

As of this writing, twenty states, including California, have outstanding loan balances from the federal unemployment account. If outstanding balances are not repaid by November 10, 2012, these states will become «FUTA Credit Reduction» states for 2012. Employers in FUTA credit reduction states will be charged an additional 0.3 to 0.9% on the first \$7,000 of employee wages for 2012.

Several states have already announced that they will be unable to pay their loans, and have been deemed as 2012 FUTA credit reduction states:

What else is happening this month?

Thanksgiving is almost here and it is a great time to spend with family and friends. Renew all those relationships that are dear to you, but seem to get put on the back burner because life is so busy. I'm hosting family dinner at my house and I hope you all are too.

New workshops:

Check www.QBworkShop.com for on-line QuickBooks workshops.

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 or www.QBworkShop.com

Social Media Tips & Tricks
By Merri Jill Finstrom

PROMOTE SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Saturday, November 24, is designated as Small Business Saturday. American Express created this special day as a way to encourage people to do their holiday shopping at local businesses. #SmallBizSat is the Twitter hashtag to use in November. Large national companies are promoting it so why not jump in and encourage folks to buy local?

If you are offering special promotion for Small Business Saturday, use your social media channels to get the word out and make it happen.

- Ask people to share your posts and pictures on Facebook
- Join the conversation on Twitter –use keywords and hash tags like #smallbiz and #SmallBizSat

- Leverage the buzz American Express, [Constant Contact](#) and other large companies are creating around Small Business Saturday
- Tell your existing customers. Maybe there is an incentive for them to spread the word or even offer them a special “insider deal”
- Use language like “Shop Small on 11/24 and help the small businesses in your community.” “Support Small Business Saturday.”

- Collaborate with other small businesses
- Make sure to build your email list from the traffic you get from Small Business Saturday. Encourage people to stay connected with you by “Liking” your Facebook page or following you on Twitter.

Have a game plan for follow-up after 11/24:

- Follow up with an email to those people who shopped with you, thank them for supporting small businesses.
- Encourage repeat business with special offers or coupons
- Take advantage of the interest in your business that comes from Small Business Week. Leverage it to build a longer campaign that encourages customers to keep coming back.

About MJ: MJ and her brother David own HUTdogs, a creative services business that 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. Sign up for their upcoming classes and presentations at: www.hutdogs.com/workshops/schedule



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"NOT YOUR USUAL CRAFTS FAIRE"

by La Quetta M. Shamblee

"Not Your Usual Crafts Faire" appears more than a catchy introduction for The Artisan Faire that will take place inside the historic facility at Santa Anita Park on November 17th & 18th – FREE general admission to the public. The call for artisans to participate in this inaugural event has resulted in an impressive gathering of talented individuals who demonstrate mastery in bringing creative ideas to life. Adrienne Hall, Javier Harriman and DeAnn Singh are among the featured juried artisans who have been selected to create a combined exhibit of arts, crafts and onsite DIY presentations unusual in a single venue.



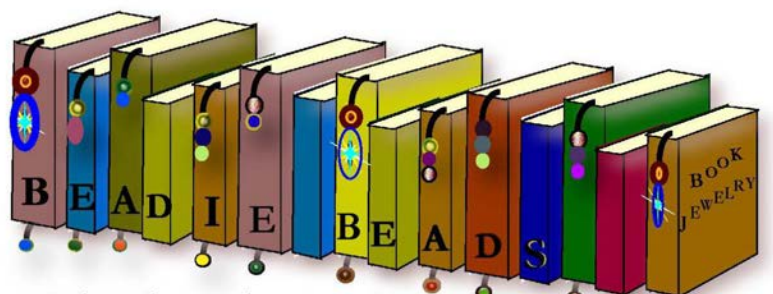
About 15 years ago, Adrienne's jewelrymaking hobby designing earrings and necklaces, gave rise to the creation of *Beadie Beads Book Jewelry*.™ Using leftover cord that wasn't long enough for a necklace and extra beads that had minor flaws, Adrienne created her first bookmark. It looked very much like one of her beaded necklaces, thus the name. It was a simple, yet clever twist for an age-old item. Velvet gift boxes used for displaying and packaging lend a sense of elegance. When most people stop to browse her selection, they often ask, "Is this a necklace or bracelet? or "How do you put it on?" – especially when their eyes hone in on the attractive spread of jewelry instead of first noticing the small display of books with an assortment of beads and charms dangling from both ends of the spines. Her meticulous selection of quality materials is matched by her attentiveness to the design and construction of each piece of Beadie Beads Book Jewelry.™ She creates each one with an intensity that mimics a scientist looking through a microscope. Her repertoire of beads, gems and more than 700 different charms is used to create individual bookmarks that offer an array of favorite colors, animals, hobbies and professions. This line of eye-catching items lives up to its slogan, "A bookmark so unique, it has to be called book jewelry."

The weekly Monrovia Family Festival serves as an open-air workshop for artist Javier Harriman. Throughout his childhood, he enjoyed drawing and drew much of his inspiration from comic books. This influence is evident in his paintings of "drip sketch portraits" using watercolors. The fluidity of water that made it impossible for him to control the gravity-induced dripping effect of this paint medium, has become an element that defines this category of his work.

teaches figure painting at Art Center College of Design, his alma mater where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration. Several lucky attendees at The Artisan Faire will have the opportunity to win a sitting for Javier to create their personal portrait (enter free drawing to win at www.facebook.com/TheArtisanFaire). His impressive art portfolio spans a range of styles and mediums. A quick search on YouTube for "Javier Harriman" offers a front row seat to see this incredible artist in action.

DeAnn Singh is counted among an elite convening of calligraphers regarded as masters of this writing style that has roots dating back thousands of years. The age of digital communications has had a diminishing impact on the number of individuals who communicate words by putting pencil or pen to paper. Yet calligraphy is alive, well and positioned to regain popularity, thanks to stewards like Singh who teaches group workshops and private lessons. Her body of work in this visual art form, spans three decades, including the recent creation of placecards for the star-studded Annual Carousel Ball held last month at the Beverly Hilton Hotel to raise funds for the Children's Diabetes Foundation. Her works are displayed throughout the world on resolutions and commendations that hang on thousands of walls in public buildings, private buildings and residences. For years she worked as a calligrapher for the County of Los Angeles, creating those familiar, colorful and beautifully scripted scrolls to celebrate visiting dignitaries and local heroes. She has an extensive and impressive portfolio of commissioned works for television, movies and publications and is regarded as a sage-of-sorts among the 350 members of Southern California's Society for Calligraphy. When asked what's next on her list, she shares, "I am in the process of developing a book art center called "The Word Nest." Clearly, DeAnn is at the forefront of preserving and bring back the "lost of writing" for generations to come.

You'll want to include this event on your schedule of weekend events, it's just in time to find unusual gift items for holiday giving. Come out with friends and family to meet and great these three creative individuals and other artisans. For more information, visit: www.TheArtisanFaire.com.



A bookmark so unique,
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St. Rita School Kindergarten Play Day

Thursday, November
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HOWARD Hays As I See It



"... the party of big business, big banks, big Wall Street bailouts, big corporate loopholes... the party that simply protects the rich so they get to keep their toys."
- Bobby Jindal

"If another Republican man says anything about rape other than it is a horrific, violent crime, I want to personally cut out his tongue."
- Karen Hughes

"It won't kill the country if Republicans raise taxes a little bit on millionaires."
- Bill Kristol

Bobby Jindal is the Republican governor of Louisiana. Karen Hughes headed "public diplomacy" under President Bush. Bill Kristol is editor of the Weekly Standard, and longtime spokesman for conservatives. This is how Republicans assess the drubbing their party suffered in the election. And – they're increasingly concerned about risking irrelevancy (as in Sacramento) unless House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) wake up and stop taking cues from those who predicted a Romney landslide.

The matter at hand is the "fiscal cliff" addressed by President Obama in his press conference Wednesday morning. That "cliff" has a lot of layers to it that would make for a severe fall. First, there are those Bush tax cuts originally set to expire at the end of 2010. Republicans coming off wins in the mid-terms threatened to raise taxes on everybody unless millionaire tax cuts for the upper 2% remained untouched. Those tax cuts are due to expire again at the end of this year.

Also set to expire December 31 are parts of the president's economic stimulus, such as the cut in payroll taxes, waiving of the alternative minimum tax for middle-income families, hiring incentives for small businesses, and extension of benefits for the long-term unemployed.

Another layer to the cliff is the "sequester" of funding for federal programs across the board (education, FEMA, Medicare, etc.), including \$55 billion from next year's Pentagon budget – all set to kick in January 1. Republicans insisted on this as part of their debt-ceiling deal, though they probably never thought they'd actually be faced with it as a looming reality.

Writing in Forbes, Rick Ungar estimates this fiscal cliff of combined tax hikes and budget cuts would take some \$800 billion out of the economy. Under that scenario, the CBO sees another recession hitting at the beginning of the year, with growth dropping by half a percent and unemployment rising above 9% by the end of the year.

In his press conference, President Obama emphasized that a deal has already been struck in the Senate – significant cuts in federal spending combined with returning the marginal tax rate on income over \$200,000 a year (\$250,000 for families) to what it was under President Clinton. It's a plan, he reminded, that would allow us to continue our recovery while protecting tax cuts for 98% of taxpayers, and 97% of small businesses.

In the House, however, Speaker Boehner seems intent on protecting the Mitt Romney tax plan, though the candidate himself was soundly defeated at the polls. According to the Tax Policy Center, that plan gives a \$175,000 average tax cut to those with incomes over \$1 million a year and a \$1,800 cut to those in the \$75,000-100,000 range. Those earning less than \$30,000 would see their after-tax income go down by about \$130.

Republicans such as those quoted above are warning that playing a game of chicken with our nation's solvency isn't going to work today as it did two years ago. A Pew Research Center poll from last week found that should a deal not be reached to avoid that fiscal cliff, only 10% would blame both the president and Congress; 29% would blame President Obama, and a majority of 53% would place the blame squarely on Republicans in Congress. As the president noted, more Americans support his compromise plan than supported him for president.

The day that poll came out, White House spokesman Jay Carney reiterated that the president won't be signing any deal extending the Bush millionaire tax cuts to avoid the fiscal cliff. Democrats in Congress get the message, seeing additional seats gained in both the House and Senate. Republicans see prominent tea-baggers sent packing. Perhaps more will see that unless they engage in grown-up governing, they'll see it's their own party being shoved off the cliff.

On another subject: I don't get a lot of comments on my columns – but I did receive a number of compliments on the one I did a few weeks ago on Malala Yousafzai – the Pakistani teenager recuperating from an assassination attempt by the Taliban, brought on by her very public advocacy of everyone's, especially girls', right to an education.

If you can, try logging onto this website: <http://educationenvoy.org>

There's a short video narrated by former British PM Gordon Brown, now the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education. He tells how November 10 (last Saturday) is "Malala Day", a day in which a petition is presented to the Pakistani president holding over a million signatures from around the world in support of Malala's cause – and decrying the fact of some 61 million children in the world denied a primary education.

This goes beyond any left/right issue. It's about a fifteen-year-old girl who took a bullet through her head but remains determined to return home and continue speaking out, knowing the Taliban has promised not to fail in a second attempt to kill her and permanently silence her voice.

It's about my writing these words late at night in my comfortable Sierra Madre home, then turning out the light, going up to bed, kissing my wife goodnight, then staying awake wondering if, of all the convictions I've written about in this column, if there were any I'd risk my life for.

It's about that world-wide slogan, "We are all Malala" – and wondering, how many of us really are?

GREG Welborn

ELECTION 2012:
WHERE IS THE COUNTRY?

This will be the last postmortem of the 2012 elections, I promise. I'm revisiting the topic because I believe it is important that we truly understand why Mitt Romney lost and Barack Obama won. It's not for the reasons being pushed forward by most of the mainstream media and liberal elites. It is not because demographics or cultural trends have somehow moved against the Republican Party or made the conservative message obsolete.

The accepted wisdom going into the election was three fold: 1) the conservative base would turn out in larger numbers than they did in 2008 because they were really angry about what Obama had done, 2) the liberal base would turn out in smaller numbers than they did because they were disheartened by what Obama had done, and 3) the independents would break for the challenger because that's what they always do.

The exit polling was absolutely fascinating. It confounded everything we thought we knew about the election going into it. Romney actually made gains (I repeat, gains) among women voters and younger voters. Yes, you heard that correctly! Despite the "war on women" and the extensive campaign waged by team Obama to convince the young and impressionable (college kids and the millennials) that Obama's policies would meet their needs, Obama captured a smaller percentage of these groups which showed up to vote. Romney captured a larger share. Romney also captured a larger share of the self-identified independents that showed up to vote. Independents swung 13% in favor of the Republican ticket from 2008 to 2012. That is an astounding number!!! It doesn't bode well for the Liberal approach to governance and policy.

So, why did Obama still win? It's a great question, and the answer will undoubtedly surprise you, as it did me. Despite all the frustration and disappointment among conservatives with what Obama has done over the last 4 years, Republicans voted in smaller numbers in 2012 than they did in 2008. Now, it's also true that Democrats voted in smaller numbers, but the Republican decrease was more pronounced than the Democratic decrease. This is the deadly stealth statistic of the 2012 election. I say this because Obama's ground game was supposed to be superhuman, perfected in 2012 beyond its already impressive 2008 results. But there was dissatisfaction in the land. Fewer people turned out to vote in 2012 than did in 2008 – fewer Liberal diehards turned out than were expected or targeted. For all the money, and all the effort, the vaunted Obama machine didn't turn out a larger vote. In addition to this disaffection of the left, we were also supposed to find excitement among the right. Obamacare was supposed to be an issue. The economy was supposed to be an issue. America's deteriorating prestige abroad and ability to influence foreign events was supposed to be an issue. The problem is that for these to have been critical electoral issues a candidate had to emphasize and reinforce them as such. There needed to be a candidate who articulated the problem and then offered a specific solution around which the generally speaking conservative-leaning population could wrap their hearts and mind.

Herein was the great tragedy that was the Romney campaign. With the exception of the brilliance of the first debate's 90 minutes, there was no aggressive, articulate conservative candidate. Romney ran a no-risk unimaginative campaign which offered no compelling positive reason to vote for him as opposed to the other guy. It is a testament to our system that the electorate usually chooses to vote in favor of one candidate as opposed to choosing to vote against the other candidate. America was looking for a cogent argument about why they should vote for Romney. They wanted to vote for a new vision of American growth, for a new vision of how healthcare issues were going to be solved, for a new vision of U.S. leadership in the world. That message, that vision was never adequately developed or presented.

Independents broke for the challenger, but that's what they typically do. But breaking for the challenger is not in any way, shape or form breaking for a vision. Independents weren't casting an affirming vote for Romney as much as they were casting a condemning vote Obama. Independents did pretty much what they were expected to do, and if the conservative base had shown up as needed, the independents would have taken Romney over the top. 2012 witnessed fewer conservatives casting a vote for Romney than the conservatives in 2008 who voted for McCain.

Among those who voted, Romney beat Obama 49% to 44% on the Obamacare issue and 51% to 47% on the handling of the economy. Unfortunately, there just weren't that many conservatives or conservative-leaning voters who turned out to vote. Romney's team made a strategic decision to play it safe. They criticized Obama, but never really offered a cogent philosophy or set of policy prescriptions for why to vote for Romney. Without that commanding and inspiring vision, conservatives stayed home. Romney refused to put himself out there or to articulate a clear message of specifics that would reverse the impact of Obamacare, reinvigorate the economy and improve our international standing. His message was largely, "trust me, I know what I'm doing". He played it safe, the other team swung for the fences, and the game broke for the man who was able to convince the dwindled electorate that somehow 4 more years of the same policy will generate distinctively different results.

In the end analysis, the demographic and generational changes were not the harbinger of greater potential danger for Conservatives. We lost because we didn't have a candidate that truly spoke to the hearts of those who believe in smaller government, individual freedom, and fiscal sanity. Those concepts polled very well. We just didn't have anyone who really advocated them with reverence and conviction.

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 Pasadena area with his wife and 3 children and is active in the community. He can be reached at gregwelborn2@gmail.com

JOE Gandleman

An Independent's Eye

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE
2012 ELECTIONS

The 2012 elections surprised both sides and hit a reset button on the Obama administration -- and American politics. Here are 10 conclusions:

1. So much for Citizens United destroying the fabric of America with big bucks automatically meaning victory. Billionaire Sheldon Adelson would have gotten more bang for his buck if he had visited The Chicken Ranch.

2. Republican Party, you DID build that: From its wishful-thinking alternate reality; to its exiling and dissing of moderates who then voted for Barack Obama in huge numbers; to its polarizing talk show hosts turning off key demographic groups; to its cherry-picking partisan pollsters and

voter suppression efforts that brought indignant targeted voters out to vote -- the GOP literally gave this election away. In the end, Clint Eastwood's empty chair symbolizes the inaccuracy of Republican assumptions about the Presidential race, the degree of national conservative support -- and about America.

The National Journal's Charlie Cook writes about GOP primaries: "It would be easy to just blame [Mitt] Romney, but when he finally got around to being himself, in the first debate, his numbers moved up.... Instead, Republicans should be asking themselves about their own party and how they took a very smart and rational guy and made him turn into a pretzel to win the nomination—a contortion that left him unable to straighten himself out in time to win in November. The nomination process has been captured by such an exotic breed within the GOP that anyone emerging from it faces significant electability challenges."

3. The center lives: Losers included many high profile, outspoken, media-hungry Tea Party/Talk Radio Political Culture candidates that moderate voters couldn't stand.

4. Winning independents doesn't guarantee success. Romney won independents. Moderates flocked to Obama. The Democrats' coalition of women, Latinos, young people, and Asian and Jewish voters was as potent as the 2008 Obama coalition or the winning FDR coalitions. Some pollsters didn't correctly sample cell phone users.

5. Serious analysts not political entertainers are the ones to watch for REAL predictions. The accuracy of New York Times' Nate Silver, the University of Virginia's Larry Sabato, and San Diego political scientist Samuel Popkin again demonstrated why they're the best in the business. Before the vote, Wall Street Journal's Peggy Noonan announced that "all the vibrations were right" for a Romney victory. She must have been feeling the vibrations from her TV tuned to "Fox & Friends."

6. Dick Morris MUST have something bad on Rupert Murdoch. What else can explain him continuing to be paid to make predictions so breathtakingly wrong that he further damages the Fox News brand?

7. Karl Rove Political Genius, Buh-Bye: Will Congress pass a special law to protect billionaires from Karl Rove? His costly PAC's efforts flopped, his on-the-air Fox News election night melt-down gave him an enduring image as a hack, and his plan to support more electable candidates in GOP primaries means he'll be at war with Tea Partiers.

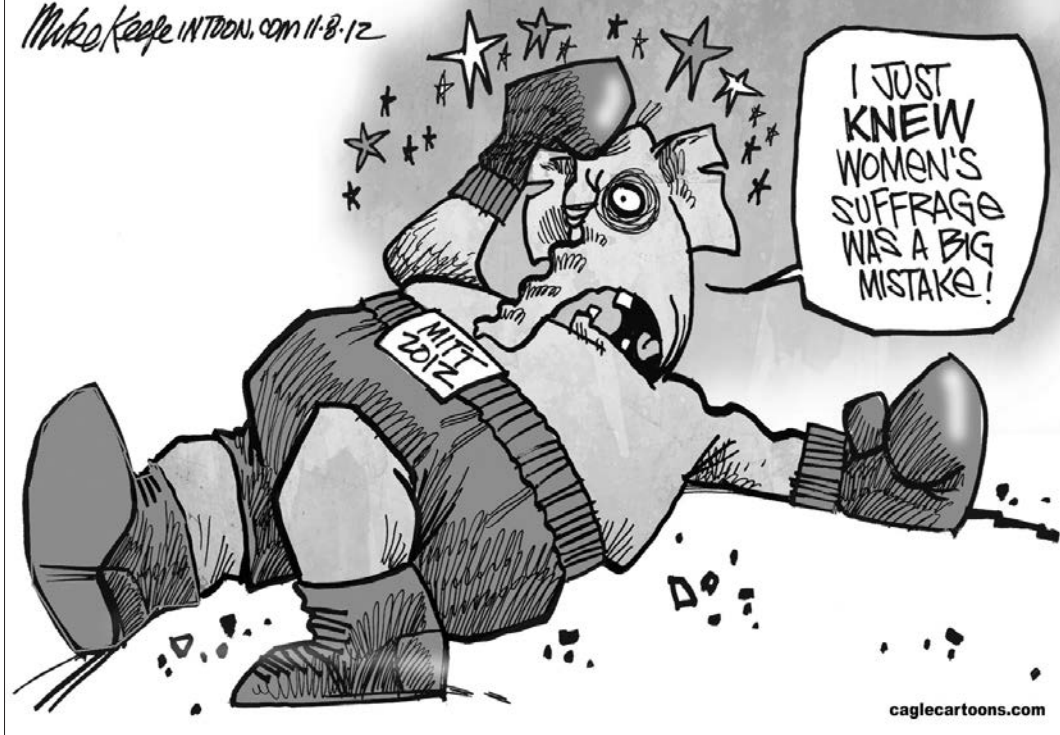
8. Telling post-election signs. Barack Obama teared-up thanking his young campaign workers. Mitt Romney's campaign staffers on election night found their campaign credit cards were turned off when they tried to pay for taxis taken home.

9. Big Labor is back and battling. No longer can you joke that you couldn't even start a labor union in a maternity ward.

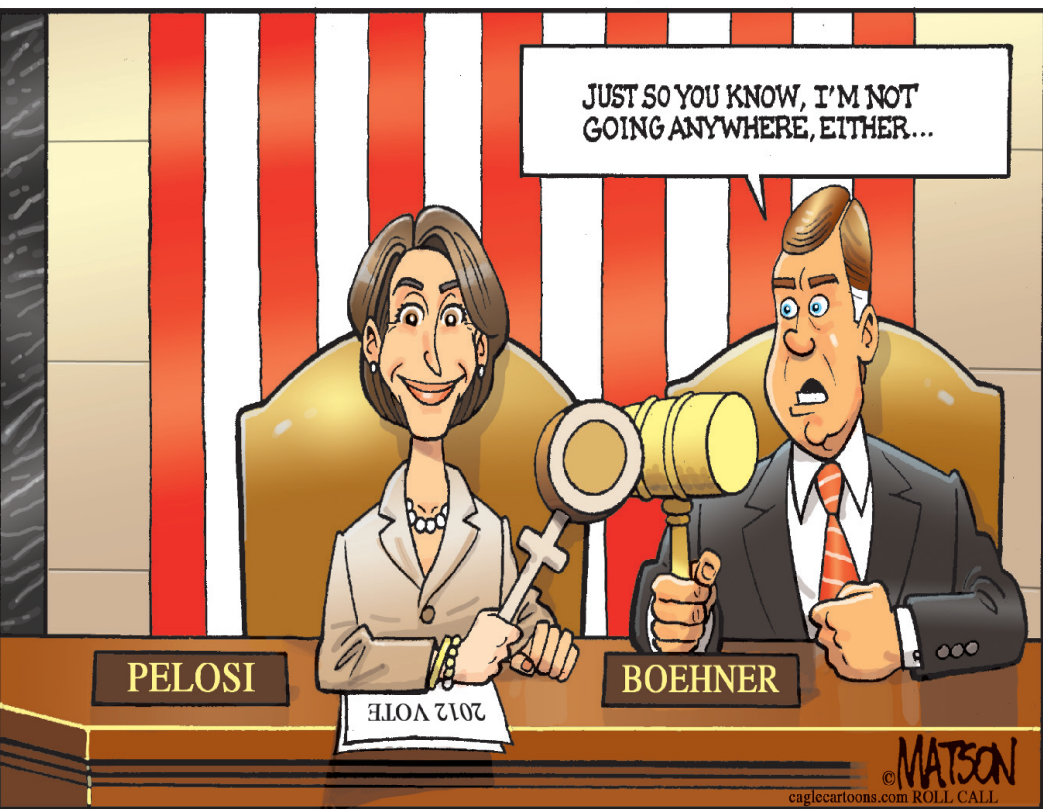
10. Truth matters. Future campaigns will note that Mitt Romney's stunning discarding of past positions and his campaign's running of proven, false assertions may have backfired. Fox News has also been damaged by its dishonestly, badly misleading and misinforming viewers.

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

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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



DEBUNKING THE THANKSGIVING MYTH

Thanksgiving has become synonymous with family, food and football over the years. But this unassuming American holiday is not without controversy. Schools teach children that Thanksgiving marks the day that Pilgrims met helpful Indians who gave them food, farming techniques and other strategies to overcome the bitter New England cold. Children color cutouts of grateful Pilgrims and happy Indians that ignore the reality that contact between the two marked the beginning of the decimation of millions of Native peoples.

What's wrong with this picture? Just about everything. The Pilgrims were not the innocent, simple folk seeking a peaceful place to build new lives away from religious persecution. They were political revolutionaries and religious zealots who had been thrown out of England for fomenting the overthrow the British monarchy. Fully intending to take away the land from its native inhabitants, the Pilgrims saw themselves as God's Elect and were willing to use any means necessary to achieve their goals, including treachery, war, torture, murder, and genocide.

The Thanksgiving myth has the Pilgrims boarding the Mayflower, coming to America and establishing the Plymouth colony in the winter of 1620-21. This first winter is hard, and half the colonists die. But the survivors are hard working and tenacious, and they learn new farming techniques from the Indians. The harvest of 1621 is bountiful. The Pilgrims hold a celebration, and give thanks to God for his generous blessings. They are grateful for the new abundant land He has given them, and invite their Indian friends to share in the bounty.

The problem with the myth is that the harvest of 1621 was not bountiful, nor were the colonists hardworking or tenacious. 1621 was a famine year and many of the colonists were lazy, drunken thieves! In his *History of the Plymouth Plantation*, the governor of the colony, William Bradford, reported that the colonists went hungry for years, because they refused to work in the fields. They preferred instead to drink beer and steal food. He says the colony was riddled with "corruption," and with "confusion and discontent." The crops were small because "much was stolen by night and

day," before it could be harvested.

The Pilgrims were no friends to the Indians either. On the contrary, they were engaged in a ruthless war of extermination against their hosts from the day they stepped ashore at Plymouth Rock, even as they falsely posed as friends. Just days before the alleged Thanksgiving love-fest, a company of Pilgrims led by Myles Standish actively sought to capture and chop off the head of a local Wampanoag chief.

Any Indian who came within the vicinity of the Pilgrim settlement was subject to robbery, enslavement, or even murder. The Pilgrims further advertised their hostility by building an 11-foot wall around settlement, placing five canons on a nearby hill, and then organizing the men into four companies of militia--all in preparation for the military destruction of their friends the Indians.

Standish eventually got his bloody prize. He went to the Indians, pretending to be a trader, then beheaded a Wampanoag man named Wituwamat. He brought his head to Plymouth, where it was displayed on a wooden spike for many years as a warning and a symbol of the Pilgrims' righteous God-given wrath. Standish also had the man's younger brother drawn and quartered for good measure. From that time on, Pilgrims were known to the Indians of Massachusetts by the name "Wotowquenange," which in their tongue meant cutthroats and butchers.

The Indians were not invited to the 1621 "feast" out of the goodness of the Pilgrims' hearts in a demonstration of Christian love and interracial unity. The Wampanoag were members of a large and powerful confederacy known as the League of the Delaware. The Indians were invited to the feast in order to negotiate a treaty that would secure land for the Pilgrims. Unfortunately, they did not understand the European notion of ownership. They thought they were granting the Pilgrims possession and the right to use the land, not title to it.

So this Thanksgiving ask yourself just what you're celebrating? Is it really only about family, food and football? Is it really about the myth we've been taught to believe, or is it about something more? Before you begin your meal this year take a moment to consider the holidays' real origin, and what the day meant for the Wampanoag then and what it continues to signify for American Indians today.

Originally printed Mountain Views News, Nov. 19, 2011

RICH Johnson



KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BOUNCING "TAX" BALL

(I promise I will return to "Court Jester" status next week.)

Well, the election is over. And tough decisions are in the works. Now we will see how the boys and girls on both sides of the aisle are getting along in our sandbox called Washington D.C.

An increase in taxes is inevitable. And apparently, not just to those who make over \$250,000 a year. There are a few bouncing "tax" balls we need to keep our eye on.

First: Social Security Payroll Tax Cap. If you are fortunate enough to make over \$110,000 a year, you currently don't pay social security tax on the amount of your income over \$110,000. One of President Obama's 2008 campaign promises was his being open to raising the level of income on which we pay social security taxes. That would be a tax increase on those making more than \$110,000.

Second: Mortgage Interest and Property Tax Deduction. If you itemize on your taxes and currently take the mortgage interest and property tax deductions, you could be faced with losing that deduction. That would result in paying a lot more in taxes even if you make well below \$250,000 a year.

We would be prudent to keep our eyes on these issues. Maybe even more fundamental here is the task of reigning in government spending sprees. For many of us, raising our taxes because we are spending too much money is like punishing our overspending teenagers by giving them raises.

One of my favorite presidents was George H. W. Bush (the first one). You all remember his campaign slogan: *"Read my lips: no new taxes."*

Well, once in office President Bush couldn't get the Democratically controlled Congress (yes, both houses) to agree to spending cuts without tax increases. (And I thought only the Republicans were the party of "No"). Finally, in an attempt to end what we called "gridlock" President Bush agreed to raise taxes if the congress cut spending. He did his part but congress did not do their part.

I consider President Bush's reversal of his campaign pledge of no new taxes to be one of the most courageous acts taken by a president. He had to know it was political suicide. Yet he did it to try to keep the country going.

So subsequently in the campaign and election of 1992 President Bush was attacked from both sides. During the primary, fellow republican Pat Buchanan mounted a challenge to Bush criticizing his tax increase. And in the general election it was Bill Clinton who attacked President Bush for not being trustworthy and going back on his word. Which I believe was hypocritical as Bush raised taxes trying to work with a democratically-controlled congress. And then they hung him out to dry.

The day after the Proposition 30 win, the LA Times ran an editorial warning the California State Legislature that this win was not an invitation for them to go out and spend, spend, spend. Let's hope they listen. So, in conclusion, if we are going to be forced to pay more in taxes, let's make sure congress and the president realize it's not an invitation to spend, spend, spend.

Finally, my singer songwriter friend (and fellow Sierra Madrean) Jane Fuller, is taking the stage with a one-woman Christmas musical called "The Jane Fuller Arctic Express". It will be held Sunday evening, December 9 from 7:00- 8:00pm at the Sierra Madre Playhouse. Tickets are \$20.00 which includes a full length Christmas CD by Jane entitled, "The Spirit of Giving." For tickets and info contact the Playhouse at (626) 355-4318 or check it out on Jane's website, www.janefuller.com.

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STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE THOUGHT PRISONERS



Here we are in Boston on a week long vacation connected to my wife's best friend son's wedding. I just woke up and heard my wife's voice and I yelled out "Who are you talking to?" "No one," she said. "I'm just singing." Right. This happens all the time. She's always singing or whistling but this morning was different. We're on vacation which means I don't have to race off to work and since it wasn't a weekend and is quasi-freezing, I can't go play golf. So I actually had time to think.

Why does she get to sing and whistle all the time and why don't I get to do that? I have never sang or whistled to myself in my whole life. Whistling is easy to understand. Whistling a tune is among the many things I have never attempted or even thought about doing. But singing is another thing. Like everyone else I think I always have songs running around in my head. Not just songs but particular versions of songs sung by artists I frequently can't even name. The songs come without being summoned or chosen by me. For example, this morning my wife told me we didn't have to start packing and find another hotel, as the one we are staying in had previously been booked for the last night of our stay now had an opening.

Relived I snuggled back under the covers and noticed that in my head some man was singing "One More Day." I don't even know the name of the singer but I believe it's Colin Something who sings the song in the productions of Les Miserables which I have seen live and on TV. I think what goes on here? Who is the disc jockey here and how do these songs get selected or collected? This really seems to be an interesting question as my unconscious self seems to be a much more creative and adventurous and other cool things than my conscious self. My conscious self chronically is focused on stuff I'm supposed to be doing or even more frequently on things I'm supposed to do but wish to avoid. You know: bill paying, traffic fighting, even clothes selection. Add to that my usual where are my keys, where am I going anyway, plus the additional why does my arm hurt, why am I so tired and isn't this the day I'm supposed to do something important.

I could continue describing the stuff that keeps going through my mind but I've already scared myself. The question I want to stay with (and it's a struggle) is whether or not some song is playing under this mish mash of chronic worry. I guess my question is would my life change if I gave myself permission to sing aloud to myself. How do I do that or does one do that? Okay, I'm going to ask my wife right now and see what she says but as I write this I'm already fearful that she will say something like, "What a stupid question, who's stopping you?"

Okay, I asked her how long she had been doing that. Answer, "My whole life." Next question: "Did you ever think that was a crazy thing to do? Answer. "No" Okay end of conversation. Not much help there but I'm kind of ensnared whether or not that's a word. I would like to go around happily singing. I bet you non-singers out there would like to do the same. I just got a call from a client who thinks we are in Court today in Van Nuys. I don't think we are but now I'm worried and have to check and farewell, for the time being at least, to my potential singing. I think I've answered my own question because now I'm worried that this article makes little sense. It may not but it's real and that's the best I can hope to do,

What I have realized from this little exercise is that I am a prisoner of my own habits that keep me locked in a cell of my own making. I have in my unrecognized awareness a key that may potentially open the door of this limiting prison but I have never even taken the time to search for the key and until then the prison door remains locked. Strangely, for a lifetime, I have contented myself with worrying about the day to day concerns of profession and life tasks and have never thought to try and even momentarily rise above these continual (there's always something) worries by just singing aloud. So, if in the near future you happen to see me singing my head off on the street somewhere, it's no that I have gone crazy, it's just me experimenting with life.

OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

THOU POLLEST TOO MUCH, METHINKS

Now that we have gotten past the recent elections, we can get back to life as normal. Of course, I am not sure what "normal" really means. One man's "normal" is another man's "over the cliff."

I am not quite sure I am normal and I fear bringing this query to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. My fear is that she will tell me the truth. You know what we Americans think about the truth.

There was a time when truth was a pretty stable thing. There were certain things that were absolute truth and no if's, and's or but's about it. Those were the good old days.

Nowadays truth is not as clear as it once was. What was true in "the day," is now altogether a different matter. Being the simpleminded man that I am, it is very hard for me to keep up with all of this nonsense. I mean, after all, how do you know what is true if it changes all the time? I think if it is true, it is always true. That only beguiles my age.

If truth is as slippery as some people are indicating, how do I know what is true today? It does not matter what was true yesterday. That was yesterday. Today is a new day and henceforth, what was true yesterday is not true today. To make matters even more confusing, what is true today will not be true tomorrow.

I believe the reason I am getting bald on the top is that I am scratching my head too much lately. I cannot seem to make heads or tails out of all the nonsense transpiring today as truth. How do people keep up and know what is really true?

If I plan to live quite a few more years, I am going to have to get a handle on this very thing. I am not quite sure where to go. Something has to be done so that I can figure out day by day what is really true.

I shared my dilemma with my better half and as is usually the situation, she came up with a brilliant answer. Please, do not let her know I said that. She might get a big head and we cannot afford to buy a whole new set of hats.

She simply said, "Why don't you do what the politicians do?"

I did not quite know what she was getting at, so I inquired further.

"Silly," her pet name for Yours Truly, "the politicians always take a poll before they decide on anything."

It dawned on me like a morning in June. Of course. Whenever a politician wants to know what truth is flying on any given day, he reverts to taking a poll. Out of that poll, he can know what the truth is for that day. Amazing.

I need to learn some lessons from today's politician.

The first thing I need to understand from a politician's point of view is, "What I am saying at the time is not necessarily what I mean."

This is convenient and frees me up to say things I normally might put a check on. The check's in the mail and I now am free to say whatever is on my mind at the moment. The first thing I need to do is find out what is on the mind of the people I am talking to. Whatever is on their mind is exactly what is on my mind.

This has such a freeing aspect to it.

Another thing from a politician's viewpoint is, "What I said yesterday doesn't count today." This also is from the polling machine. The amazing thing about most people is they do not remember what was said yesterday. A very poor politician reminds people of what they said yesterday. A politician needs to tell them what he is saying today. Because today's truth is today's truth. No need to worry about tomorrow.

Tomorrow will be reflected by tomorrow's polling.

This is very important because it reduces the necessity to use any sort of memory whatsoever. Because what I said yesterday does not really matter today. I do not have to remember what I said yesterday. If I want to know what I said yesterday, I need only take another poll today and that settles the matter.

Perhaps the most important view from a politician is, "Tomorrow may never come." I do not have to worry that what I am saying today will catch up with me tomorrow, for the simple reason tomorrow may never come. If it does come, so what. I will take a poll tomorrow to find out what I need to say tomorrow.

I think there is something to this polling mechanism. I do not have to worry about anything; all I need to do is just take another poll. I know it may get a little confusing, but I clear up that confusion by taking another poll. It is always the last poll that really counts.

Thankfully, when it comes to God, truth does not change from one day to the next. What is true today was true yesterday and will be true tomorrow. You can count on that.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8 KJV).

I can always count on God being true to His Word because God never changes.

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CITY OF SIERRA MADRE

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

From: The City of Sierra Madre

Subject: **ORDINANCE TO AMEND MUNICIPAL CODE RE: SPECIAL EVENTS, TEMPORARY USE PERMITS, ENCROACHMENT PERMITS, AND EXCAVATION PERMITS – MUNICIPAL CODE TEXT AMENDMENT 11-03 (MCTA 11-03)**

Applicant: City of Sierra Madre

Project Location: Properties in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California

On November 27, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. or thereafter, at Sierra Madre City Hall, located at 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre CA, 91024, the Sierra Madre City Council will conduct a public hearing to consider whether to adopt an ordinance adding Chapter 12.34 to the Municipal Code to regulate special events occurring on public property; and revising Chapter 17.88 relating to temporary use permits, Chapter 12.12 relating to encroachment permits, and Chapter 12.16 relating to excavation permits. The proposed amendments will directly or indirectly affect all property within the city.

The complete text of the proposed ordinance is available via the city's website: <http://www.cityofsierramadre.com> by clicking on the Search Current City Documents link, then searching by meeting date (November 27, 2012). It is also available via the City Clerk's office located at 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024; (626) 355-7135.

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre
City Council meeting
Thursday, November 27, 2012
(Hearing begins at 6:30 p.m.)

PLACE OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre
City Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the City Council will hear them with respect thereto.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The project qualifies for a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Exemption pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (Review for Exemption) of CEQA, as there is no possibility that the proposed Ordinance would have a significant impact on the environment.

Danny Castro
Director of Development Services



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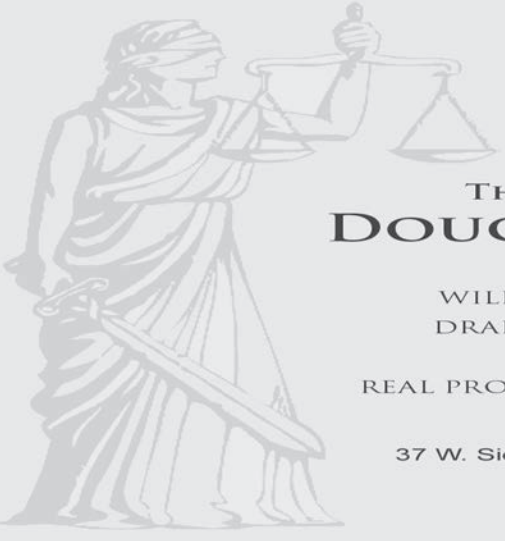


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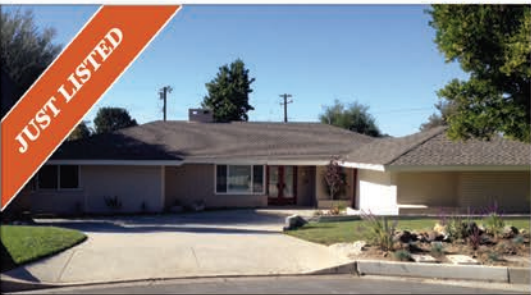
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