

### CITY CLERK ISSUES ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Sierra Madre City Clerk, Nancy Shollenberger issued a press release this week announcing the Council's approval of an election to be held on April 8, 2014.

On the ballot will be 3 city council seats, and the User Utility Tax. There is also reference to extending the current water and sewer tax until July 1, 2014.

The full text of the Press Release as submitted can be found on page B11.

Nomination papers will be available on December 16, 2013. The deadline is January 10, 2014 or January 15 if an incumbent does not run.

### JOIN THE VILLAGE CHURCH FOR A COMMUNITY POTLUCK BEFORE THE CANDLELIGHT WALK -

Planning to participate in Sierra Madre's traditional Candlelight Walk on December 22? Walk up the hill a little early (5:30), stop at the Church of the Ascension, and share in food and fellowship at the Village Church's Community Potluck Dinner (bring enough of your favorite salad, main dish, or dessert to serve 8). Filled with food and community spirit, you'll be ready to join the singing and celebrating as we share in the Candlelight Celebration at 7:00 pm. Community Potluck starts at 5:30 pm in the newly renovated Hawk's Hall all are welcome.

Church of the Ascension is located at the corner of Baldwin and Laurel. For more information about the potluck, call the parish office at 626-355-1133 or visit: [www.ascension-sierramadre.com](http://www.ascension-sierramadre.com).

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## SIERRA MADRE BOND RATING PLUMMETS

By Susan Henderson

In a scathing report issued late Thursday by Moody's Investor Service, the City of Sierra Madre's Water Enterprise's 1998 Revenue Bonds were downgraded from A3 to Ba1, a rating that, according to Moody's analyst David Jacobson, "is considered non-investment grade."

The report states that "the downgrade primarily reflects significantly weakened operating results leading to continued rate covenant violation and rapidly declining reserves. The rating also incorporates a weak track record of implementing rate increases, the enterprise's moderately sized customer base with an above average socioeconomic profile, as well as aging infrastructure that requires significant improvements." This news comes just as residents began receiving their Prop 218 ballots which gives them the opportunity to protest any proposed water rate increase. In 2010 when the previous Prop 218 process was started, opponents of the rate hike and ultimately the city council, failed to recognize the negative impact of what not implementing the recommended increase would have on the city.

#### Significantly weakened operating results leading to rate covenant violations

One of the conditions of the 1998 bonds, is that we keep "net revenues to equal at least 120% of our annual debt service". We have not met this requirement because of "weak financial performance" and that has led to "three consecutive years of violating the rate covenant".

Declining revenues are partially at fault, however repairs on the city's aging infrastructure and the cost of purchasing outside water have taken the largest toll on the water company's reserves. When the city's pumps its own water supply the cost is, according to Moody's \$95 per acre foot compared to the cost of purchasing water at \$260 per acre foot which we are cur-

rently paying. Our own well levels are too low to pump our own water, and given the drought and likelihood of its continuance, purchasing outside water may continue for some time.

The other contributing factor that Moody's cites is our "historically lackluster political will to implement rate increases sufficient to maintain healthy operations."

In 2010 when the 218 Process was put before the citizenry, an organized effort to protest the rate increase failed to get enough support. However, instead of moving forward with the increase as the law allowed, the council, led by Mayor Joe Mosca, chose to delay and ultimately adjust, under Mayor Josh Moran, the amount of the increase to a level that was not sufficient to keep the water company solvent. According to the letter issued to the city by Moody's in 2010, "The rate increase would have rectified the rate covenant issue within 90 days. However, City Council delayed implementing the rate increase for one year to get residents more aware of the coming rate increase". Those actions lead to the first downgrade from A1 to A3 in 2011.

#### Downgrade Part II.

On Thursday, when the city was downgraded even further to Ba1, the language from Moody's was even more disconcerting than it was in 2011. "...the current rating at a below investment grade level reflects the increased risk that arises from the demonstrated willingness to violate the bond's legal covenants, the enterprises limited financial resources, and the possibility that a successful rate payer 218 protest would exacerbate the enterprise's financial challenges."

Mayor Nancy Walsh expressed her ongoing disappointment with downgrade and the water company's finances. She said, "The Moody's letter paints the picture clearly. We are a city of residents that can well afford to pay for the services. However, we are governed by a series of Councils that

pandered to the irresponsible demands of those who don't want to pay for services.

It is harsh and it is true. I've argued for responsible fiscal governance since I joined council in 2010, and I've been ignored. Some Council members just vote No, and others weaken formulas that then fail to address properly our issues.

We have witnessed this approach recently in addressing the current water rate study. The projected outcome for the 2014 water rate is addressed in the Moody's letter as well. We must do the right thing for the sake of our City."

Councilman John Capoccia was also not blind-sided by the report. He said, "The downgrade is not surprising. Moody's analysis is consistent with the information that the City has published in various venues, including the ballot package mailed this week to all the water utility customers. Basically we're rapidly depleting our reserves, we have aging infrastructure that's been neglected over many years, our revenue is off because of the recession and conservation, and we've had unanticipated expenses such as rebuilding two of our wells. Thus, our financial position has deteriorated leading to the downgrade.

The problem has been exacerbated in recent years. Since the last rate study, revenue is off \$2.5M and the unanticipated expenses are up approximately \$2.5M, for a net negative hit of \$5M, thus the rapid depletion of reserves. The rate proposal that is before our citizens is frankly unpleasant for all of us, but it is necessary, and will address the issues highlighted in Moody's report. The rate proposal will build up our reserves, allow us to upgrade infrastructure on a pay-as-you-go basis to start to catch up on years of neglect, and it will allow us to meet the bond covenant.

I'm hoping that our water customers read the ballot package very carefully. It's very thorough and explains in great detail the (cont. on page 3)

#### MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE RATING SYMBOLS AND DEFINITIONS

##### Long-Term Obligation Ratings

AAA  
Aa1, Aa2, Aa3  
A1\*, A2, A3\*\*  
Baa1, Baa2, Baa3  
Ba1\*\*\*, Ba2, Ba3  
B1, B2, B3  
Ca1, Ca2, Ca3 - C1, C2, C3 - and C1,2,3

Moody's long-term ratings are opinions of the relative credit risk of financial obligations with an original maturity of one year or more. They address the possibility that a financial obligation will not be honored as promised. Such ratings use Moody's Global Scale and reflect both the likelihood of default and any financial loss suffered in the event of default.

AAA Obligations rated AAA are judged to be of the highest quality, with minimal credit risk.

Aa Obligations rated Aa are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.

A Obligations rated A are considered upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk.

Baa Obligations rated Baa are subject to moderate credit risk. They are considered medium grade and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics.

Ba Obligations rated Ba are judged to have speculative elements and are subject to substantial credit risk.

B Obligations rated B are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.

Caa Obligations rated Caa are judged to be of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk.

Ca Obligations rated Ca are highly speculative and are likely in, or very near, default, with some prospect of recovery of principal and interest.

C Obligations rated C are the lowest rated class and are typically in default, with little prospect for recovery of principal or interest.

Note: Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from Aa through Caa.

The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.

\* Sierra Madre's 2010 Rating

\*\* Sierra Madre's 2011 Rating

\*\*\* Sierra Madre's 2013 (Current) Rating

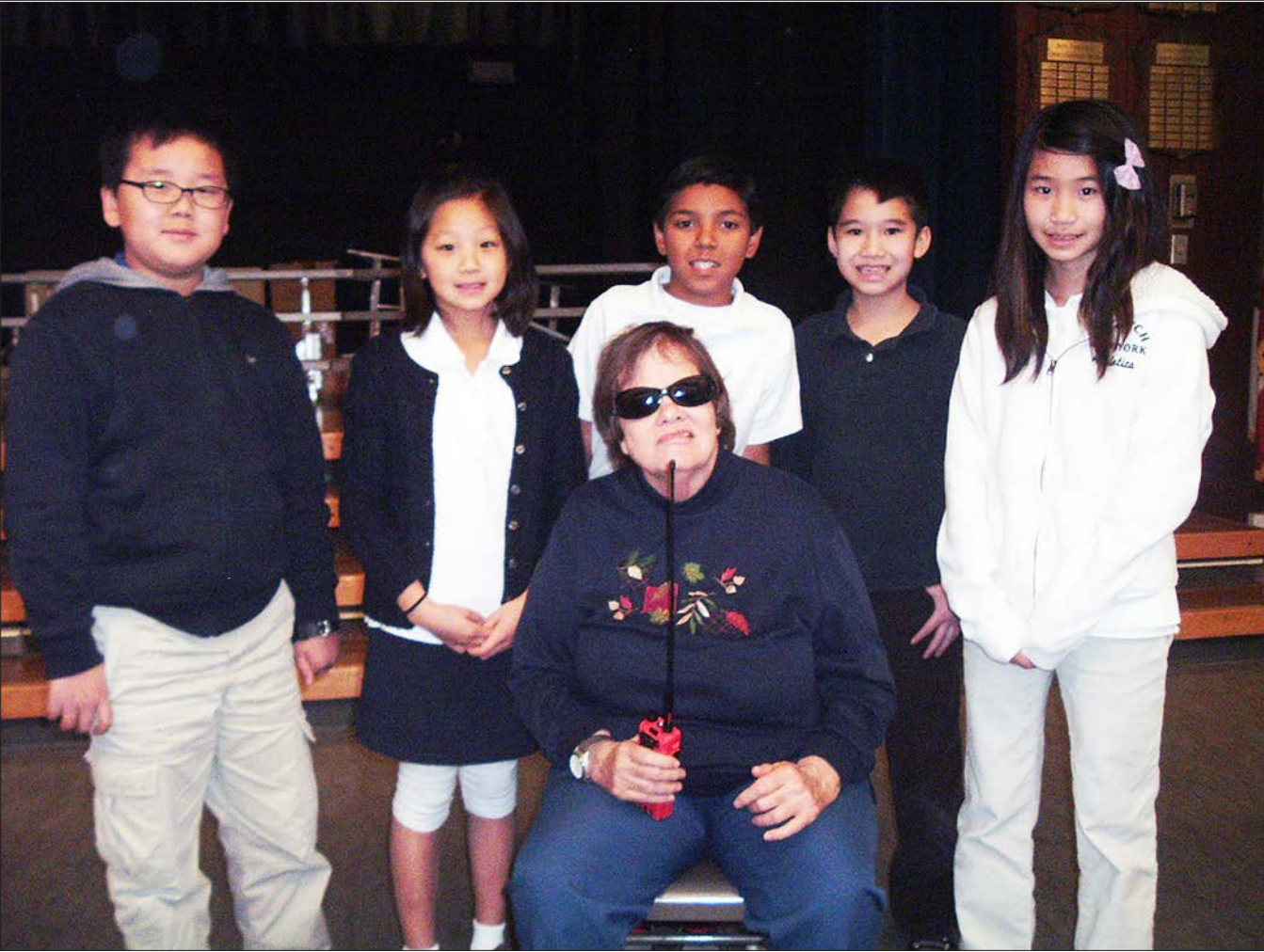
## VISION WITHOUT SIGHT - Sierra Madre C.L.I.M.B. resident sheds light on being blind

By Helen Simmons

How is it possible that a woman who came into this world weighing less than 3 pounds could have such a powerful impact on 130 Camino Grove 4th graders? It is possible because that woman is Jo Anne Seaman. Still full of the energy and spunk of a teenager, Jo Anne, now 65, managed to completely move and inspire this Arcadia crowd of 9 and 10 year olds, at an assembly held December 3.

Jo Anne and I met 14 years ago. I was in the process of writing an article about C.L.I.M.B., a facility for the multi-handicapped blind, located in Sierra Madre. (C.L.I.M.B. stands for the Center for Living Independence for the Multi-Handicapped Blind.) As resident of C.L.I.M.B. since it opened in 1977, Jo Anne volunteered to show me firsthand how people who are multi-handicapped blind can and do lead very fulfilling and successful lives. We became friends through the experience. Seven years later, when I became a 4th grade teacher at Camino Grove in Arcadia Unified School District, Jo Anne agreed to meet with my school's 4th graders as I wanted them to gain insight and appreciation of those with multiple handicaps through her experience. Since then, Jo Anne has returned almost every year to speak with our 4th graders. Each time she visits she makes a strong impact, with her open heart, multiple interests, love of children, and amazing gusto for life. At this year's assembly, Jo Anne readily addressed questions asked by our 4th graders. She explained how she lost her vision due to receiving too much oxygen as a premature baby, and demonstrated how she gets around with her cane. When asked if she could drive, Jo Anne chuckled heartily, as her silky, white cheeks turned slightly red. In good spirit she replied, "If I was driving without a license that would be illegal and I would have quite a few accidents. I'm afraid that I'd be the terror of the town and don't think the Sierra Madre police would like it if I drove. They would be after me!"

Sharing one of her biggest passions, being a licensed ham radio operator, Jo Anne whipped out her sleek, red ham radio, with its one foot long black antenna. She talked about how she enjoys communicating with people from all over the world using the device. "I spoke with a woman from China, yesterday!" she exclaimed, aware that a high percentage of Arcadia students have Asian connections. Jo Anne highlighted ham radio uses in disaster situations, referencing how the radio came in handy during the windstorm that ravaged our area a couple of years back, downing electric power lines and trees like matchsticks. Jo Anne also commented that she had communicated with children as young as 8 on her ham radio and knew of children as young as 5 who passed the ham radio



Jo Anne Seaman shares her sleek, red, ham radio with Camino Grove Elementary School 4th graders. From left to right: Standing: Nathan Chien, Audrey Cho, Bradford Hunt, Jonas Yee, Elise Fong. Seated – Jo Anne Seaman.

(continued on page 3)



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## Weather Wise

## 5-Day Forecast

## Sierra Madre, Ca.

<b>Mon:</b>	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
<b>Tues:</b>	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 40s
<b>Wed:</b>	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
<b>Thur:</b>	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
<b>Fri:</b>	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

CITY OF SIERRA MADRE  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

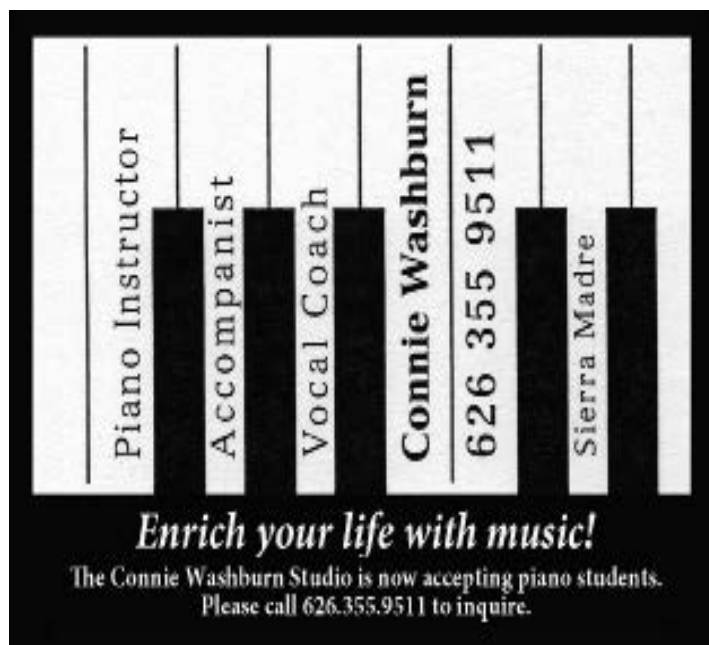
Unless otherwise noted, all meetings listed below are held at City Hall 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, Ca. 626-355-7135

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING:  
Tuesday, January 14, 2014  
6:30 pm

## CALENDAR

*Senior Community Commission	1st Thursday	3:00
*Planning Commission	1st and 3rd Thursday	7:00
*Community Services Commission	3rd Monday	6:30
*Tree Advisory Commission	3rd Wednesday	7:00
*Library Trustees	4th Wednesday	7:00

\* = Meetings are held in City Council Chambers



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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!

**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](mailto:radio@cityofsierramadre.com).



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626-355-8350 [www.creativeartsgroup.org](http://www.creativeartsgroup.org)

## Kids' Art Classes

Drawing & Painting~Mud Shop~Puppetry~Wheel Throwing  
New classes added! Ages 5-14  
Classes begin the week of January 20, 2014



## Rotary of Sierra Madre

Join us for Breakfast on Tuesdays mornings at 7 to hear some or all of our wonderful speakers listed below. Please be a guest to the Hart Park House, 222 W. Sierra Madre Bl. Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

Nov 26 <sup>th</sup> -	Tony and Jim LeVeque craft talks
Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> -	Meet at Alverno HS, 200 N Michillinda Ave, Sierra Madre, CA Author & Sierra Madre Resident, Jonathan Hennessy presents "The Gettysburg Address-A graphic Adaption"
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup> -	Donna Sutcliff, Bob Young and the Sierra Madre Princesses
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup> -	Alverno Choir will be perform. Speaker to follow. TBA
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup> -	Dark
Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> -	Dark

For more info please call Peggy 626-355-7635 or email  
[Peggybeau@gmail.com](mailto:Peggybeau@gmail.com)



**COME DOWN TO THE VILLAGE VINE BOOTH AT THE WHOVILLE FESTIVAL SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 1-8 pm KERSTING COURT SIERRA MADRE**

## VILLAGE VINE THIS WEEK

MONDAY - 10 - 11 am Barry, Rich & Lisa Show  
Trivia and Humor at it's finest. Just try to keep up with their wit!  
JOIN THE FUN!!!

*Village Intersections with Gene Goss is back on the air!* This week Gene's guest is Sierra Madre Police Chief Larry Giannone. Join Gene and the Chief as they discuss public safety in Sierra Madre. See our Calendar for airing times or listen to the podcast at our Village Intersections page.

THURSDAYS -  
Noon  
Catherine Adde's

OUR TRAVEL  
AFFAIR

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WITH COUSIN  
MATTHEW

SATURDAY  
MORNINGS

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## ONE NIGHT ONLY! "THE CHRISTMAS CAROL MURDER MYSTERY" AT SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE ON DECEMBER 22

For those of you who enjoy "A Christmas Carol", you can enjoy the Sierra Madre Playhouse's mainstage production of the traditional tale of Scrooge and Tiny Tim. But here's a twist on the Christmas Carol you're familiar with. You still get the story you love, slightly condensed, except by the end of Act 1 a murder has happened. Jacob Marley becomes the detective, thanks to night school, and the characters you love, Bob and Ethel Cratchit, Fred and Elizabeth, Belle and of course, Tiny Tim, are all suspects. Oh, did we say there are your usual Ghosts and even a surprise ending? Enjoy one of your favorite Christmas stories with this interactive Murder Mystery worked into a joyous holiday tale.

This Dickens of a murder mystery is directed by Ken Salzman and presented by Sanzman Productions Renaissance Murder Mystery Players and Sierra Madre Playhouse.

"The Christmas Carol Murder Mystery." At Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Ample free parking behind theatre. Sunday, December 22, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Admission: \$20. Reservations: (626) 355-4318. Online ticketing: [www.sierramadre-playhouse.org](http://www.sierramadre-playhouse.org)



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## THE COMMUNITY CHORUS OF REDLANDS RETURNS



The Community Chorus of Redlands returns to Sierra Madre for a wonderful holiday gift of "A Concert of Anthems, Readings, and Carols of the Season." Be prepared for a moving and unique presentation.

The event is on Saturday, December 21 at 8 pm at St. Rita Catholic Church, 318 N. Baldwin (corner of Grandview), Sierra Madre. Parking lot behind the church; enter from E. Grandview.

Dr. Jeffrey Rickard, Professor Emeritus of Sacred Music, directs a 70-voice choral ensemble with orchestral accompaniment. The festive evening features a wide variety of music. Also on hand is a special appearance by Ensemble XXI, a Redlands Camerata of over twenty voices.

This is the fifth visit to St. Rita by this very gifted and special group. Dr. Rickard originally asked St. Rita to host this event because of the widely acclaimed acoustics of the church building. He is a native of Sierra Madre and thus presents this very special gift to his former hometown.

This event has previously been held on a Sunday afternoon. We hope the Saturday evening time will allow more people to attend and enjoy this wonderful gift and prelude to Christmas.

Free will offering. For further information, please call St. Rita Parish Office, 626/355-1292.

A Note From Sierra Madre Resident JB:  
HOLIDAY MUSIC GIFT

Sierra Madre's residents, world class Jazz singer Cheryl Barnes and husband keyboardist Phil Cabasso, have put out a wonderful new CD along with some of the greatest backup Jazz musicians in the world. Its called Listen To This. You can hear excerpts and purchase the CD at [CherylDbarnes.com/listen](http://CherylDbarnes.com/listen). On her U.S. tours, Cheryl has shared the stage with such preeminent artists as Quincy Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Lou Rawls, J.J. Johnson, Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr. Containing straight ahead Jazz, ballads, lat-in, world music and a Christmas song it is a great holiday gift for music lovers.



# SIERRA MADRE

Sierra Madre

Arcadio

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

## REMEMBERANCE

### LORENA MARIE GOUAUX WYNNE

Born in Carencro, Louisiana on April 26, 1927, the second of five children, Lorena was raised in Lafayette, Louisiana. She attended Lafayette High School and the University of Southwestern Louisiana, where she majored in English Literature. She married her husband of 60 years, Leslie Bernard Wynne, Jr., in 1949 and came to Sierra Madre, where they raised five children.

She passed away following a brief illness on December 7, 2013. She was preceded in death by her husband in 2009, her parents Claude Bernard Gouaux and Lorena Guidry Gouaux, sisters Laurette Gauthier and Leontine Trappey and brother Claude Bernard Gouaux, Jr.

She is survived by one sister, Louise Patout, and by her children Dr. Les Wynne of Monterey Park, Mary Forney, Leontine Bajer, Laura Forney and Leonard Wynne of Sierra Madre, her grandchildren Joseph Forney, Lorena Bajer De La Rosa, Paul Forney, Louise Forney Fahlstrom, Robert Wynne, and Anne Forney, and by two great grandchildren.

Lorena loved life, was ever gracious, and brought a sparkle of joy into so many lives. The combination of her southern hospitality and her natural gift of relating to others endeared her to everyone she met. She was a wonderful mother and role model, as well as being the driving force of support and biggest fan for her artist husband's career.

She was a devout Catholic and loved her dear St. Rita's Parish. She loved traveling, shopping with her daughters, cooking with her son, Leonard, and visiting with all her children and grandchildren. She was a voracious reader and especially loved Russian literature. She had an indomitable spirit, and she loved to laugh and share jokes. She was the center of her loving family, and she will be very dearly missed.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 12 at St. Rita's Catholic Church, followed by interment at Sierra Madre Pioneer Cemetery.



## WALKING SIERRA MADRE.....THE SOCIAL SIDE

By Deanne Davis

Have you walked through Kersting Court and admired our really handsome Christmas tree, with wonderful red bows, ornaments, and even a gift or two beneath? Last Sunday we were delighted to see a family of Mom, Dad and three young adult kids, decked out in red Santa hats, standing in front of our community tree, tripod set up on the sidewalk, Dad taking one last look into the lens then vaulting over the wall to get into position for the family Christmas photo. They were having such a great time. If you haven't done yours yet, there's a new idea. We walked up Baldwin, too, and admired another Santa inspired Christmas decoration, which isn't exactly in the tree category, but is extremely creative. Photo below.

All this Christmas tree talk reminds me that my moment is coming, too, when it's time to trim the tree. Lovingly, we unearth all the boxes of Christmas stuff, try to remember what we did last year with the manger scene that made it look so sweetly reverent, promise ourselves we're not going to do so much this year, and then put up more than ever before.

There's no way we can't put out all the Christmas goodies the children made in Sunday School through the years; the little hands pressed into plaster of paris, the pictures mounted in bread dough frames, the miniature red felt stockings with family names in glitter, the red globes that date from the beginning of our marriage, which are cracked and crazed (as is, occasionally, our marriage), but precious in our sight.



Yep, it's two weeks before Christmas, you've bought a beautiful real tree that smells so fresh and forest-y that you want to bury your face in it. It's in the house in the time-honored Christmas tree spot and it's time to decorate. The family scatters like roaches when the light is turned on, and you and Tree find yourselves alone, even though you made cookies to convince everyone how much fun this is going to be. This intimate moment deserves a small celebration. It's definitely time to make Egg Nog!

Look through any Christmas Cookbook and you'll find Egg Nog, all right, the Victorian version requiring way too much labor, and you've already got the labor ahead of you: Tree, Naked.

Here's your traditional Egg Nog: Beat yolks and whites of 8 eggs separately. Add 1/2 lb. sugar to whites, beat until stiff. Add beaten yolks to whites, mix until blended. Beat in 2 jiggers Rum. Add 1 bottle (4/5 qt.) Whiskey. Beat mixture. Add 1 pint heavy cream. 1 quart of milk. Mix. Chill well. Grate nutmeg over top. Serve.

A bottle of whiskey?? Make this and Tree will still be naked tomorrow and you'll have a headache!

Here's a much easier, kinder, gentler version:

1. Buy a carton of prepared low-fat egg nog right out of the dairy case at your favorite market.
2. Put a tray of ice cubes in your blender.
3. Fill the blender two thirds full of egg nog mix.
4. Add a half cup of rum, brandy, or a little of both to the blender (or more, or less, depending on how annoyed you are).
5. Blend until ice is pleasantly crunchified.
6. Pour into a large, beautiful, stemmed glass. Grate fresh nutmeg over top.
7. Sit down and admire Tree, while enjoying egg nog.
8. Realize that peace reigns now that family has scattered to unknown destinations.
9. Put on the Christmas CD that YOU like, the one that has "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer" on it, if that's your cup of egg nog.
10. Allow joy to flood your heart, soul and mind.
11. Plug in that first string of lights and think about that first Christmas night, that first Light.
12. Rejoice! Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men!
13. Know in your heart that Tree will be the most beautiful one ever!
14. Invite friends and family over to share your egg nog and admire Tree.

"On a night like this, centuries ago,  
A brilliant star rose in the East,  
To show the Wise Men where to go.  
They set out on a journey,  
To find an unknown King.  
Their hearts were filled with happiness  
And praises they would sing!"

("A Night Like This" from "Star of Wonder - A Christmas Musical"  
Book & Lyrics by Deanne Davis, Music by David Wheatley)



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



Contact us at: [editor@mtnviewsnews.com](mailto:editor@mtnviewsnews.com) or [www.facebook.com/mountainviewsnews](http://www.facebook.com/mountainviewsnews) AND Twitter: @mtnviewsnews

LIGHT - (continued from page 1)

test required to attain an operating license. When I asked our 4th graders if anyone would be interested in becoming a ham radio operator, about 40 hands shot up like rockets. Jo Anne was delighted to hear that so many students had an interest. She then suggested that, together with their parents, they check out a website, [www.hamuniverse.com](http://www.hamuniverse.com), to attain information on how to get a ham radio operator license. JoAnne wanted parents to know that unlike risks involved with children using the Internet, the ham radio culture is much more "child safe." She also noted how helpful ham radio operators tend to be, both blind and sighted, in assisting those who need help. Next, Jo Anne opened up about challenges she faced learning to read Braille as a 1st grader. Because she struggled with learning Braille, she had to repeat 1st grade. However, a teacher eventually figured out that her difficulties were not due to learning issues, but due to the fact that she had been forced to learn to read Braille using her right hand, when she was left handed and had more touch sensitivity in her left hand. Once that glitch was figured out, Jo Anne had no problem reading Braille. After sharing how she struggled to learn Braille, Jo Anne demonstrated how proficient she had become. Due to my request, she had brought the Braille translation of The Cay, a book that our 4th graders will be required to read as part of their

curriculum this year. Student eyes popped like popcorn when they saw her adeptly decipher and read aloud the sea of thousands of raised bumps arranged in complex patterns on the page. As an assembly finale, Jo Anne unveiled her talents as an accomplished composer, pianist, and singer. Springing up quickly from her folding chair, Jo Anne grasped the edge of my elbow and followed me with ease to the auditorium keyboard. She performed a song she wrote for C.L.I.M.B. right after she moved in there. "I thought C.L.I.M.B. was such a wonderful place when I first came that I wanted to write a song about it," Jo Anne explained. "And I still think it is wonderful," she added. As Jo Anne played, I stood next to her and looked out at the audience of 4th graders. Bodies were still. Faces were intense and serious, totally opposite the look of a typical 10-year-old out on the playground. Jo Anne's song connected the room. Her slender fingers touched the keys of the keyboard precisely, as her beautiful, pristine voice caught our hearts. Tears began to well up in some students' and teachers' eyes. Her lyrics resonated deep within us as she crooned, "We're just like anyone else, only we can't see." When the song ended, the crowd erupted in applause, celebrating Jo Anne. We had come to appreciate how far she had come from less than 3 pounds at birth to a mountain of strength and warmth, determined to see light, despite darkness, hope despite challenges, and humor in driving a car without sight.

### DOWNGRADE (continued from page 1)

need for the rate increase, and it also has answers to the most frequently asked questions. I also encourage everyone to contact city staff or any members of the city council if they have any questions at all, and I'm asking that our citizens support the rate increase.

In my opinion, if the rate increase does not pass, we'll have to immediately go into a lock-down mode where we defer maintenance wherever possible to buy time while we look at the possibility of selling the water utility while we have some leverage. If we completely deplete our reserves and default on the bond debt, we will lose negotiating leverage. Speaking as a citizen as well as a Council member, the sale of the water utility under any circumstances would be a bad deal for all of us, one that we would regret long into the future."

### A path to recovery?

As the Mayor and Councilman Capoccia stated, the only hope for the future of our Water Company is the passage of the rate increase. In order to do so, it is recommended that residents not protest the increase in the Prop 218 packet.

Moody's is doubtful the Sierra Madrean's are responsible enough to recognize the need to financially support the city's water company and its obligation. They warn, "Failure to adopt or fully implement the proposed rate increases will result in further downward pressure on the rating." They do offer steps to recovery, however:  
-Sustained and material improvement of debt service coverage leading to compliance with rate covenants;  
-Significant improvement of reserves  
-Long-term stable customer growth.

They also articulate what will certainly bring the rating down:

- Failure to implement the Prop 218 rate increases
- Further decline in debt service coverage
- Loss of Customers and revenue sources
- Further Violations of Bond Covenants

The downgrade will impact more than just the city's bonds. In the event of a disaster or other unforeseen circumstance, the water company, although it is a separate entity of the city, and its challenged credit rating will impair the city's ability to borrow, refinance or engage in many other fiscal activities at a reasonable interest rate. It may even cripple the city's ability to restructure its finances totally. Given the city's "above average socioeconomic profile" investors, as stated by Moody's will not look favorably on the city's willingness, or lack thereof, to properly manage its obligations.

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# Human Remains Found in Altadena

Investigators are still not certain the identity of human skeletal remains found Wednesday along the 3900 block of Fair Oaks Avenue in Altadena. According to the Sheriff's Homicide detectives, a skull and bones were found by hikers around 12:30 p.m. Although the bones were scattered, they are thought to be one person.

A search Wednesday had to be called off due to bad weather and darkness. The area is the northern most part of Altadena in a section of the Angeles National Forest. Rugged terrain also made the search rough.

The cause of death is still under investigation. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau at (323) 890-5500.

# One Person Dead in Retirement Center Fire

One person was killed Monday afternoon during a fire at a senior living complex in the 2600 block on North Lincoln Ave. Firefighters said two units at the Friends Retirement Center were damaged. The fire started around 1:30 p.m. The fire was knocked down in 20 minutes.

According to reports, firefighters found a body in one of the apartments. Another person was injured in the blaze estimated to have caused over 1 million in damage.

Authorities had Lincoln Ave. blocked off all afternoon. Flames could be seen for blocks.

The name of the deceased had not been released. An investigation into the cause of the fire was also ongoing.

# Pet of the Week



Chuck is a seven-month-old pitbull puppy. He's very active and loves eating treats from his Kong toy.

Chuck's adoption fee is \$125, which includes his neuter surgery, a microchip, the first set of vaccinations, as well as a free follow-up health check at a participating vet. 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 A337936, 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](http://www.pasadenahumane.org).



# Plans Heard for St. Luke's Medical Center

The city council heard plans Monday night for the, long vacant, former St. Luke Medical Center that include demolishing a number of potentially historic buildings, constructing a three-story parking structure and new medical offices.

City staff made clear that no formal application, for the property, had been submitted.

The site comprised of three parcels, with a total size of approximately 13 acres, would be redeveloped by Denley Investment.

Under the proposal, plans would include, re-occupying the former hospital with medical offices. The main building's most prominent feature is the stepped form of

the central tower component built in 1933 and designated a historic landmark. Plans also include demolition of the "Annex Building" — a potentially historic structure— to make way for a three-story, 280-space, parking structure. A one-story office building, located south of the hospital building would also be demolished. A 750 square foot receiving facility to the rear of the power plant to the southeast of the hospital building is also planned.

City Staff also said a Traffic Impact Study would need to be conducted for the project.

According to a city staff report, the St. Luke Medical Center closed in 2002 and in 2003 portions of the hospital

facility was used by Caltech as offices, but is currently unoccupied. The existing medical office building at 2750 E. Washington Blvd., to the southeast of the hospital, is currently in operation. The site also contains five single family residences, along Woodlyn Road on the south side of the property. Although under the same ownership, no alterations to the residences are proposed.

# Chamber Holds Holiday Party

The Pasadena Chamber hosts its annual Holiday Party for members and friends at Castle Catering's Romanesque Room at 50 East Green Street in Pasadena on Thursday, December 19th at 5:00 p.m.

The party is organized by the Chamber Ambassadors. Food is being donated by Castle Catering, Stonefire Grill, Chefelle, Buca di Beppo, California Pizza Kitchen, Domino's Pizza, Colombo's Italian Steakhouse, Menchies Frozen Yogurt, Panda Express Catering and others. Dance Syndicate provides music. Drinks are offered at Happy hour prices. 90 minutes of free parking is available across Green Street in the Schoolhouse Parking Structure.

The Chamber Holiday Party is also the culmination of the Chamber's annual toy drive to support local children's service organizations. This year the Chamber is supporting Operation Santa Claus, the Pasadena Jaycees' program that delivers toys to needy children on Christmas Eve. Anyone wanting to donate to the Chamber Toy Drive can bring an unwrapped toy to the Holiday Party or leave it at the Chamber offices in Pasadena.

Chamber members who donate toys at the Holiday Party receive free admission. Non-members with a toy and Pasadena Chamber members without a toy pay \$10. All others pay \$20 to attend. For more information about the Toy Drive or Holiday party, please call the Chamber office at (626) 795-3355.

The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association is a professional business organization. Since the earliest days of Pasadena, the Chamber has played a major role in the development of this internationally renowned city.

# Chu Votes to Rein in Patent Trolls

Congresswoman Judy Chu voted last week to pass H.R. 3309, the Innovation Act of 2013. This legislation helps curb abusive litigation by patent assertion entities, more commonly referred to as "patent trolls." These actors abuse the patent system by purchasing the rights to overly broad patents in order to threaten legitimate businesses and consumers with costly litigation. According to a Boston University study, lawsuits brought on by patent trolls cost the U.S. economy more than \$29 billion annually.

# Gang Members Arrested in \$2.5 Million Drug Trafficking

Federal charges were announced Thursday, against 24 members and associates of Pasadena-based gangs and drug trafficking organizations in the San Gabriel and Antelope Valleys for their roles in a narcotics network in which methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin were supplied from Mexico and distributed widely in southern California.

"The Pasadena Police Department worked closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation/Safe Streets Team, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and other regional law enforcement partners to bring this 18 month operation to a successful conclusion," Pasadena Police Chief, Phillip L. Sanchez, said. "Moreover, this investigation underscores the results of combined law enforcement efforts, arresting numerous predatory gang members and significantly impacting the distribution and sales of narcotics in the San Gabriel Valley and Lancaster Region."

Operation Rosebud targeted the street gang known as "Vario Pasadena Rifa" (VPR) whose members are known to distribute large quantities of methamphetamine in the city of Pasadena and surrounding areas in the San Gabriel Valley. VPR operated through a network of suppliers that facilitated the delivery of pure methamphetamine from Mexico through southwest states and ultimately to local destinations. The task force seized more than 60 pounds of methamphetamine, heroin and powder cocaine from sources linked to the drug trafficking organization.

The Varrio Pasadena Rifa (VPR) is a violent, and one of Pasadena's oldest, street gangs, consisting of more than 50 documented gang members. VPR members are known to control their distribution of illegal narcotics through violence and intimidation. Varrio translates in English to "neighborhood," Pasadena relates to the City of Pasadena, and Rifa translates in English to "we rule," or "we are the best."



Sheriff Lee Baca speaks during a press conference in Pasadena

# Schiff Urges Extending Unemployment Insurance

Adam Schiff, a member of the Appropriations Committee, released the following statement Wednesday after a budget agreement was reached between Sen. Patty Murray and Rep. Paul Ryan last night, and urged Congress to extend unemployment insurance before leaving town for the holidays:

"I appreciate the work that the budget negotiators have done to replace the sequester with a more rational budget process, and I will be evaluating the specifics to determine whether it is something I can support. The deal may help Congress return to a regular appropriations process and stop the economically-destructive practice of going from crisis to crisis. It would also restore some of the funding cut by the indiscriminate sequester."

"However, I'm deeply disturbed that this deal does not include an extension of unemployment insurance for 1.3 million Americans who are actively seeking employment. A recent CBO



study showed that failure to extend unemployment insurance will not only hurt struggling families, but also will cost our economy another 200,000 lost jobs that we just can't afford to lose during this tepid recovery. Congress should not leave town for the holidays until we have extended these vital benefits.

"I hope that we will be able to reach agreement on unemployment insurance and avoid putting a lump of coal into families' stockings during this holiday season."

# Learn How to Produce Your Own TV Show

In anticipation of Pasadena Media opening new studios at 150 S. Los Robles Ave, they are offering free television-training programs for producers. Plan to attend an orientation to discover the right classes for you. Producers' Training teaches how to produce shows for The Arroyo Channel. Studio Production/Equipment training is also offered to volunteer crewmembers. In addition, on-going training will soon be



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## Character Generator Training

Wednesday Jan. 8 at 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

## Video Tape Op. Training

Thursday Jan. 9 at 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

## Citizen Journalism

coming soon

## Digital Film Group

coming soon





## “What’s Going On?”

News and Views from Joan Schmidt

## REDEDICATION TO DEPUTY DAVE MARCH:

*Thank you, Awesome Irwindale POA, LASD and David Laing*

The day after Thanksgiving, I learned Deputy Dave March's Memorial on Live Oak Avenue was destroyed. I was very upset, but Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Sgt. Burt Brink assured me it would be replaced. “When and how?,” I thought.



Yesterday the unbelievable happened. There was the poignant rededication of a new Memorial and the planting of a “Crape Myrtle” tree that will be in full bloom every year during the anniversary of Deputy March's passing!

I cannot find the words to express the gratitude to Irwindale Police Officers Association, David Laing of L & L Building Materials and Laing Construction, Mr. and Mrs. Figueroa of Fig Memorials in El Monte, and William Luna of Gasser/Olds Company Incorporated in Vernon for refinishing and repairing the beautiful monument. I also want to thank Temple Station Captain Chris Nee and Sergeant Sherif Morsi, for their role in the beautiful rededication program and both Deputy Bill Harrington, Temple Station volunteers and Irwindale PD and their volunteers/cadets who helped with traffic and set-up.

After my early arrival, I spoke with Irwindale Officer Robert Avila on duty the AM of the accident, who quickly contacted Temple Station. I met Officer Rudy Campos, President of the 37 Member Irwindale Police Officers Association, who put up the original Memorial and were responsible for having it rebuilt.

Officer Campos was the MC for the Program which began with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Honor Guard, of Lt. Tom McNeal, Deputy Mary De Bella, Deputy Warren Ondatje, and Deputy Tim Shultz. Sergeant Bryan Ward performed the National Anthem followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officer Campos thanked all present: LA County Sheriff Baca, Irwindale Interim Police Chief Roy Campos, California Highway Patrol Captain Mark Shaw, Baldwin Park Office Commander, Mayor Mark Breceda and City Manager John Davidson, Bradbury Council Member Richard Barakat, members of the business community and citizens of Los Angeles County and especially the March family. (Dave's parents, his sister Erin and her husband, Dave's widow Teri, Dave's godmother, her husband and other relatives). Officer Campos spoke of Dave's great sacrifice-which is why Irwindale acted so quickly with the first Memorial and the rebuilding after it was destroyed. He also mentioned how Temple Station has held a 24 hour Honor Guard at the site since Dave's passing at the site - was another reason it needed to be rebuilt.

Captain Nee, Temple Station Commander said “It speaks great volumes” as he looked at the great turnout: Sheriff Baca, Chief Roberta Abner, who was Temple Station Commander at the time of Dave's passing, Chief Jim Lopez, East Region, and members of nearby law enforcement agencies. He told of the “Brotherhood among Police Agencies” and commended Officer Campos who contacted him and reassured him the Memorial would be quickly replaced.

Sheriff Baca remembered the fateful day Dave died. He spoke of Dave's bravery, great sacrifice and how “Our Department's Creed takes his exact words”.

Dave's widow Teri thanked Irwindale POA for their great generosity. She has a “...sense of peace. You said you wouldn't forget him and you haven't.”

Dave's dad John thanked everyone and said Dave's memorial “represents all law enforcement officers. They go out every day and take a risk; this reminds us of their great sacrifice.”

Dave's mom Barbara felt “As Dave's mom, you made me feel proud. I have learned to love all you guys. Dave would be very grateful to you.”

The program ended with the planting of the tree. I would like to thank Irwindale POA and all involved in rebuilding the Memorial. I also am grateful for the huge turnout- retired Community Programs Director, Natalie Salazar, Temple Station Personnel including Sgt. Jim Dexter and neighboring agencies who attended: Arcadia PD Captain Paul Foley, Sgt. Tom Levesque, Lt. C. Flores and detectives; Azusa PD Officers Plascencia and Jarrett; San Gabriel Sgt. Rene Hernandez and Det. Sunny Kim and Alhambra PD. Dave was surely smiling, looking down from Heaven. He will never be forgotten.

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## HOW TV DISTORTS REALITY

By Christopher Nyergeres

[Nyergeres is the author of “Self-Sufficient Home,” “How to Survive Anywhere,” and other books. He can be reached at Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041, or [www.ChristopherNyergeres.com](http://www.ChristopherNyergeres.com).]

This week, I got a call from a popular TV “news magazine” show. I was told that they were planning to air a program the following day about the December 21, 2012 end date of the Mayan calendar cycle. They were aware that I teach survival skills and they saw my name associated with the Mayan date.

“We'd like to talk to you about the Mayan prophecies,” I was informed.

“Which Mayan prophecies are you referring to?” I asked.

“You know, the end of the world prophecies,” she casually responded.

“I'd be happy to talk to your viewers about the Mayan calendar,” I said, “and I'd let them know that there are no Mayan prophecies of doom-and-gloom that anyone knowledgeable is aware of.” I explained that I studied in Mexico and Guatemala with Mayans. “Are you aware of specific prophecies?” I asked.

“No, just in general that the world is going to end.”

I explained that all the Mayan end-of-the-world hype was media fabrication. What would be happening on December 21, according to most scholars, is that a large cycle of the Mayan calendar – 13 Baktuns lasting 5,125 years – will end, and another cycle will begin the next day. I told her that I'd be happy to ease her viewers' fears, and explain that zealous media pundits somehow confused “end of a calendar cycle” with “end of the world.”

The TV show representative explained that she'd seen me on the National Geographic's “Doomsday Preppers” show, and said she'd really like to see me with my survival gear. (I was offered no compensation for the time I expected to give.) I explained that I was driving to work (yes, I do work!) and that I only had the minimal gear that I always carry, but not my full wilderness pack.

“I'd still be happy to share with your viewers how knowing survival skills is a good thing all the time,” I continued, “considering all the very real problems that we all have to contend with, such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, economic disasters, terrorists, diseases, and so on.”

“Actually, we're really looking for someone who is seriously preparing for the December 21st date. We really want something more dramatic and sensational,” I was told.

It was becoming clear that I would not be on their show.

“Well, if you're looking for a nut who's frightened about the Mayan calendar and who is taking radical action based on panic and fear, then I'm not your man,” I told her. “Still, I'd be happy to talk to you to give your show some balance.” I continued, telling her that there is no special planetary alignment associated with December 21, no comet that we know of that's about to hit the earth, no mysterious planet about to show up, and no heightened sun spot activity. I again explained that we never really know what might happen, but we shouldn't listen to the fear stories about things that have no relation to the Mayan calendar. She politely listened.

“I tell people that whenever you act out of fear or panic that you nearly always make bad choices,” I added.

“Yes, well, we really want something more dramatic. We want to show people who are very concerned about this December 21 date and who are doing something about it.” She told me she would talk to her producers and might call me back for a taping later in the day for a show that was already planned for the following day.

To no surprise, I never got a return call.

This taught me a lesson I'd experienced many times. The modern media are all too often so focused on ratings and sensationalism that they will twist and distort (or ignore) the facts if this helps maintain viewers. Though many of us might view the “quest for truth” to be a high ideal, not everyone does. In this case, it was clear that the producers of this TV program were not concerned about whether or not there were in fact any Mayan “prophecies” at all.

It is not just distortion and lies that we should protect ourselves against. We also need to be equally concerned about that the reporters and journalists do not tell us.


Sadly, TV, despite its vast potential, has increasingly become a wasteland.  
(Reprinted from December 15, 2012 - MVNews)

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# ARCADIA

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Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

## AT-RISK MISSING PERSON



On December 12, 2013 at about 7:45 p.m., several dependent adults were visiting Westfield Arcadia located at 400 S. Baldwin Avenue. The group was accompanied by a caretaker. One member of the group, Joshua Fuller (pictured left), engaged in an argument with the caretaker then left the area on foot. Fuller suffers from schizophrenia and anxiety, taking medication daily. Fuller is described as a 33-year-old male white, 600/190, shaved head, gray sweater, jeans, and purple shoes. Fuller has history as a “walk away” from facilities, is high-functioning, and may use public transportation. If spotted, please contact local law enforcement.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Arcadia Police Department. If you prefer to provide information ANONYMOUSLY, you may call “Crime Stoppers” by dialing 800-222-TIPS (8477), texting the letters TIPLA plus your tip to CRIMES (274637), or using the tip web page at [Los Angeles Regional Crime Stoppers](#).

### From Arcadia's Best

## 3 OF 5 SEATS OPEN FOR CITY COUNCIL

The City of Arcadia has issued the following notice of an all-mail ballot to elect three of five City Council seats on April 8.

Two current City Council members and former Mayors are termed out this election cycle — Bob Harbicht and Pe-ter Amundson — and current Mayor Mickey Segal is up for re-election though it is not known if Segal will run again.

This means that three seats are available to a new candidate or any former Council member such as Roger Chan-dler, who was termed out two years ago. Current City Council members and former Mayors John Wuo and Gary Kovacic are in the middle of four-year terms. Wuo is currently the Mayor Pro Tem but would need to be elected by a majority of the new City Council in April to be Mayor next year. The position of Mayor is appointed annually to one of the five Council members elected by voters with the Council members choosing amongst themselves who will be Mayor each year. Council members may serve two consecutive four-year terms before being required to sit out at least two years be-fore running for re-election. Segal is ending a four-year term and is eligible for re-election if he chooses to run again. Candidates must submit application paperwork between Dec. 16 – Jan. 13.

## NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an All Mail Ballot General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Arcadia on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 for the following Officers:  
For three (3) Members of the City Council  
(Full term of 4 years ending April 10, 2018)  
The nomination period for these offices begins on Monday, December 16, 2013 at 7:30 a.m. and closes on Mon-day, January 13, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.  
If nomination papers for an incumbent officer of the City are not filed by Monday, January 13, 2014 (the 85th day before the election), the voters shall have until the 83rd day before the election, January 15, 2014, to nominate candidates other than the person(s) who are the incumbents on the 85th day before the election for that incum-bent's elective office.  
If no one or only one person is nominated for an elective office, appointment to the elective office may be made as prescribed by Section 10229 of the Elections Code of the State of California.  
/s/ Lisa Mussenden

Chief Deputy City Clerk/Records Manager  
City Elections Official  
Dated: December 9, 2013

## THE JEWISH FEDERATION HOSTS 6TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF JEWISH MUSIC

ARCADIA, Calif., Dec. 2013 – On Sunday, December 15, 2013, at 3:00pm, the community is invited to come together for what has become an annual tradition... the Festival of Jewish Music. On that day, the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, in cooperation with the Cantors in our community, is inviting the community for the 6th Annual Festival of Jewish Music. And, as a special addition, a Visual Arts Exhibition of area artists will take place before and after the festival.

With a standing-room only crowd and the audience singing and clapping together, the past five year's Festivals have filled the room with electricity. This year's Festival is sure to be another huge success. Our community will gather for an afternoon filled with song, music, and unity. We will be treated to a delightful concert of Jewish music that will feature youth and adult choirs, a performance by Kol HaEmek, our community's Jewish Community Chorale, our area Cantors, the Jewish Federation's Jewish Youth Orchestra, and even a few surprises! The festival will begin at 3:00pm and take place at the Jewish Federation (550 S. Second Avenue, Arcadia).

Festival of Jewish Musi  
"The Jewish Federation works hard to not only serve as the Jewish voice for the community, but also to find and create opportunities for local Jews to come together," says Jason Moss, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation, "For the past 5 years, this one event has become a community favorite." "In a community like ours," Moss continues, "the Festival of Jewish Music gives community members a chance to celebrate their Jewishness at a time of year when they are inundated with sleigh bells and reindeer!"

Get your tickets today for this incredible concert. Tickets are \$10 for children (12 and under), \$12 for adults, and \$36 for a family. To purchase tickets or for more information, please contact the Jewish Federation at (626) 445-0810 or e-mail [federation@jewishsgpv.org](mailto:federation@jewishsgpv.org).

The Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys focuses its energies on building a community that strengthens and enhances Jewish life in our community. By sponsoring and facilitating programs, the Jewish Federation provides programs and services that meet the needs of the local Jewish community, bring Jews from across the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys together for Jewish events and causes such as the annual Jewish Book Festival, the Festival of Jewish Music, Cultural Arts Program, Camp Gan Shalom, and more. The Jewish Federation also gives people a sense of pride in their Judaism, all while serving as a Jewish voice to the broader community.

## Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, through Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Police Department responded to 884 calls for service of which 111 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, December 1:  
1. Around 8:55 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for expired registration in the area of Lower Azusa Road and Peck Road. An investigation revealed the driver was in possession of numerous fraudulent social security cards. The 24-year-old Hispanic male was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.  
2. At about 5:40 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the Arcadia Police Department front counter regarding a theft report. The victim explained he was standing at the bus stop located at Huntington Drive and Centennial Way when an unknown Hispanic male ran by him and grabbed his handbag. The victim attempted to run after the suspect, but was unable to catch him. The total loss included the victim's identification cards, credit cards, and \$2,500 cash.

Monday, December 2:  
3. Shortly after 1:00 a.m., an officer conducted an enforcement stop on a driver for making tire “burnouts” in the area of Clark Street and Peck Road. Upon contact with the driver, the officer detected an odor of alcohol emitting from his person. An investigation revealed the 47-year-old Hispanic male was under the influence with a blood alcohol content greater than 0.08 percent. He was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.  
4. At approximately 8:00 p.m., an officer was dispatched to a residence in the 300 block of East Haven Avenue regarding a burglary report. Unknown suspect(s) forced entry through a rear door, ransacked the location, and fled undetected with purses and jewelry. No evidence or witnesses were located.

Tuesday, December 3:  
5. Just after 9:34 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for expired registration in the area of Baldwin Avenue and Huntington Drive. The officer discovered the driver had a suspended license. The 49-year-old Hispanic male was cited, released in the field without incident, and his vehicle was left legally parked.  
6. Around 5:23 p.m., an officer responded to the 100 block of North Santa Anita Avenue regarding a domestic violence report. An investigation revealed a male subject hit his girlfriend in the head after an argument and fled the location. Arcadia Fire responded to the scene and transported the female subject to Arcadia Methodist Hospital with neck pain. Both subjects were determined to be transients.

Wednesday, December 4:  
7. Just before 4:00 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Arcadia Methodist Hospital, 300 West Huntington Drive, regarding a battery report. The juvenile victim explained he was kicked in the legs and head by another student while inside the locker room at Arcadia High School, 180 Campus Drive. The victim was being treated for an abrasion to his ear and was released from the hospital a short time after. The suspect is described as a 16-year-old Asian male. Further investigation is being conducted by the Juveniles Crimes Detective.  
8. Around 11:23 p.m., an officer was patrolling Motel 6, 225 Colorado Place, when he discovered a motorcycle reported stolen out of the City of San Bernardino. The officer made contact with a male subject inside a hotel room who was in possession of a motorcycle helmet and jacket. The subject explained the property belonged to an unknown friend who was nowhere in the area. The 31-year-old Black male was arrested for suspicion of vehicle theft and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Thursday, December 5:  
9. Just after 10:50 a.m., an officer made consensual contact with a known parolee in the Albertson's parking lot, 298 East Live Oak Avenue. The officer discovered the 45-year-old Hispanic male was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, which was in violation of his parole. He was arrested, transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking, and placed on a parole hold.  
At about 7:09 p.m., officers were dispatched to a residence in the 000 block of East Floral Avenue regarding a residential burglary in progress. Officers conducted an area check, but no suspects were located. A search of the house revealed the suspect(s) forced entry through the front door and stole a wallet, cash, jewelry, and a safety deposit box. A fresh cigarette butt located in the street near the residence was collected as potential evidence. No one reported seeing or hearing anything suspicious.

Friday, December 6:  
10. At about 4:06 p.m., an officer responded to JC Penney at the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, in reference to a theft report. A 31-year-old Hispanic female subject concealed \$353 worth of merchandise inside a used shopping bag and exited the store without making payment. She was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.  
11. At approximately 8:57 p.m., an officer was dispatched to American Legion Arcadia Post 247, 615 East Live Oak Avenue, in regards to a disturbance. The officer discovered a 27-year-old Hispanic male subject was intoxicated and unable to care for himself. He was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Saturday, December 7:  
12. Around 2:44 a.m., an officer located a motorcycle with expired registration in the parking lot of Motel 6, 225 Colorado Place. The records check also indicated the registered owner had an outstanding warrant and was on probation for a narcotics violation. The officer made contact with the registered owner and discovered he was under the influence of a controlled substance. The 28-year-old White male was arrested for the listed violations and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.  
13. Shortly before 9:30 a.m., officers located a motor home with expired registration in the Ralph's parking lot, 211 East Foothill Boulevard. An investigation revealed the registered owner was under the influence of methamphetamine and had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. The 53-year-old White male was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

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## Monrovia Police Blotter

### Highlighted Activity for the Weekdays of December 9-11 2013

During the last seven-day period, the Police Department handled 368 service events, resulting in 78 investigations. To see a complete listing of crimes reported, go to <http://www.crimemapping.com/map/ca/monrovia> for crime mapping. For Police Department news and information, visit our website and follow us on Twitter for police notifications.

#### Vehicle vs. Pedestrian Traffic Collision

December 9 at 8:55 a.m., a traffic collision was reported at the intersection of Myrtle and Foothill. A mother was pushing her daughter in a stroller south on Myrtle, crossing Foothill, when a vehicle traveling south on Myrtle turned east onto Foothill and struck them. Both were taken to a hospital, the mother for complaint of pain and the daughter for evaluation.

#### Hazmat Spill

December 9 at 11:13 p.m., police received a call of a possible hazmat spill at a business location in the 100 block of Railroad. Monrovia police officers established a perimeter, while Monrovia fire personnel responded and conducted an assessment of the spill. Approximately 300 employees were evaluated at the scene, with about 100 receiving triage, and 7 were taken to local hospitals for treatment.

Trespassing / Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance / Resisting and Delaying a Peace Officer  
December 10 at 1:17 p.m., officers responded to the 400 block of East Walnut regarding a subject seen going into a residence, which was later determined to be a neighbor's residence. Officers responded and contacted the subject who appeared to be under the influence of a controlled substance. The subject resisted and struggled with officers as they attempted to detain him. The subject was eventually taken into custody. He said he entered the residence while the resident was away to get his computer. The suspect was arrested for the above listed charges.

#### Minor in Possession of a Broad-tip Marker – Suspect Cited

December 10 at 7:29 p.m., two male juveniles were seen on the top level of a parking structure in the 100 block of West Colorado looking at the walls. Officers arrived, questioned the subjects and discovered they were looking for a place to write graffiti. One of the subjects was in possession of three broad-tip markers. The juveniles were released to their parents. The subject in possession of the markers received a citation to appear in court.

#### Driving Under the Influence – Suspect Arrested

December 11 at 12:30 a.m., a male subject was reported to have fallen asleep behind the wheel of his vehicle with the engine running at a gas station at Myrtle and Evergreen. The vehicle was next to a gas pump with the hose still attached to the vehicle's gas tank. When officers arrived, they discovered the male was heavily intoxicated and was determined to be DUI. The subject was arrested and taken into custody.

### TIP OF THE WEEK: HOME BURGLARY PREVENTION

Criminals look for easy targets. Burglars, watch for homes that are dark and seem to be temporarily unoccupied. Residential burglary prevention continues to be a focus of the Monrovia Police Department. Police officer presence in neighborhoods, investigators working surveillance, following up on leads and tips, and recovering stolen property are all part of preventing residential burglaries and property crime.

-Here is what you can do to help:

- Lock all of your doors and windows when you are not home. Leave any exterior lights on if they are not sensor activated.
- Make sure that all side gates are locked and secured.
- If you have an alarm system, activate it, even if you will be away for just a few minutes.
- If you have surveillance cameras affixed to the exterior of your property, make sure you periodically check them to ensure they are working properly.
- Ensure that all of your hedges and or bushes are trimmed from the front of your residence so that your house is not concealed from the street.
- Never leave old newspapers, mail or door leaflets piled up on the front steps of your residence.
- Never leave valuables in plain view from the outside.
- If you have valuables, please secure them in either a safe or safe deposit box at your local bank.
- Always take an active role in getting to know your neighborhood.
- Keep your eyes open to suspicious activity in your neighborhood and always do your part as a good witness.
- Never attempt to stop a crime; always call 911.

The most important deterrent in preventing property crime is you, the resident. It is very easy for you to take an active role in keeping your property safe. It is extremely important for residents to discourage a would-be thief and make their job as difficult and time consuming as possible. And if you see something suspicious happening in your neighborhood, do not hesitate to call police and report it.

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REGISTRATION FEES (INCLUDES 5 PANCAKE BREAKFAST TICKETS)			
DIVISION	AGE	BEFORE 12/07/13	AFTER 12/08/13
FOAL	4	\$ 115.00	\$ 125.00
SHEPHERD – Machine Pitch	5 & 6	\$ 140.00	\$ 150.00
PINTO	7 & 8	\$ 180.00*	\$ 190.00*
MUSTANG	9 & 10	\$ 180.00*	\$ 190.00*
BRONCO	11 & 12	\$ 190.00*	\$ 200.00*
PONY	13 & 14	\$ 190.00*	\$ 200.00*

\*Registration fee includes a mandatory \$40 Snack Bar Deposit per player. Deposit will be refunded upon completion of Snack Bar Duty. (This excludes the Foal and Shepherd Division)

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## THIS YOUNG MAN KNOWS HOW TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON *Grayson Wade encourages others to give to needy children*



Local resident, Grayson Wade, is embracing the act of giving to those less fortunate. You may have seen his collection boxes in local businesses around town. As we approach this season of giving, Grayson has embarked upon a grassroots movement collecting money and donations and spreading awareness for Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child (OCC). OCC sends shoeboxes filled with school supplies, hygiene items, toys, games and clothing to children in desperate need throughout the world. In an effort to receive support and raise awareness, Grayson has walked through neighborhoods and spoken at Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, schools, boy scout troops and has been a featured speaker at meetings of the Operation Christmas Child San Gabriel Valley Team. This year Grayson is focusing on promoting youth awareness about giving to children in need.



This is Grayson's fourth year packing shoeboxes. His goal is to raise \$5000 in order to pack 250 shoeboxes. In addition to raising funds, he hopes many kids will join this campaign in the future.

Samaritan's Purse will be sending over 520,000 shoebox gifts to children in the Philippines in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan.

At press time, Grayson has raised well over his goal and delivered 364 shoebox gifts to Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child. He received cash and shoebox donations from students at several different schools, boy scout troops and families in Sierra Madre, Arcadia and Monrovia, and Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs in Monrovia.



Grayson is a student in Sierra Madre, a member of the Boy Scouts in Arcadia and lives in Monrovia. Photos courtesy of Ed Wade & Jeanne Fasana

## TEEN GIFTS NEEDED TO FULFILL HOLIDAY WISHES AT HILLSIDES CHARITY

Log on to <https://hillsides.org/holiday-giving> to give

PASADENA) Sarah\*, 16, never had a real childhood. The eldest of four, she was thrust into the "mom" role at age 10 when her father abandoned the family and her mom went to work full-time. Sarah took care of her siblings -- making dinner, giving baths, and changing diapers. Money was tight, and there was no cash for extras, such as holiday gifts.

When Sarah came to live at Hillside Residential Treatment Services program when she was 15, her therapists were determined to give her a happy Christmas. They asked her to write a holiday wish list, which included a coat, nail polish, art supplies, and a scarf. But now the challenge was, who would fulfill these holiday wishes?

Every holiday season, generous donors provide gifts for the children of Hillside. However, "it is a challenge for us to find gifts for the teens because many people prefer to give presents to the younger children. This leaves us scrambling to fulfill the holiday gift wishes of the older children," said Joseph M. Costa, Hillside chief executive officer. "We are therefore asking the community this holiday season to consider giving to the many teens in need who live at Hillside or who we serve through our Family Resource Centers located across Los Angeles County."

With this in mind, Hillside has created a Hillside Holiday Giving Teen Wish List. Items on the list include pastels and watercolor sets, purses, skateboards, soccer balls, tennis rackets, books, Forever 21 gift cards, journals, sunglasses, wallets, journals, and jewelry.

To donate these or other gifts this holiday season to the teens of Hillside, please visit <https://hillsides.org/holiday-giving> or contact Laura Kelso, director of community resources, at 323-254-2274, ext. 251 or [lkello@hillsides.org](mailto:lkello@hillsides.org).

Hillside is a premier provider dedicated to improving the overall well being and functioning of children, youth, and families in crisis. For more information, please visit [www.hillsides.org](http://www.hillsides.org).

\* Name and details changed to protect client's privacy.

## PET OF THE WEEK Marcos:

**Animal ID  
#A4657404**



This little pup is the definition of fur-baby, meet Marcos (A4657404)! Marcos is a three year old black and white male Short Haired Chihuahua mix. He was turned into the shelter on December 2nd as a stray from La Puente. This tiny ball of love weighs approximately three pounds. His gentle spirit allows him to get along with absolutely everyone however because of his tiny size you should be cautious with him around larger dogs. He is great on leash but of course would rather be cuddled in your arms all the time. He will become your best friend and turn heads wherever you two go together, come adopt Marcos today!

To meet Marcos in person, please see him at the Baldwin Park Shelter, located at 4275 N. Elton, Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (Phone: 626-430-2378 or 626-962-3577). He is currently available now. For any inquiries about Sparky, please reference her animal ID number: A3627054. 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 Marcos or the adoption process, contact United Hope for Animals Volunteer Adoption Coordinator Samantha at [Samantha@hope4animals.org](mailto: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/>.

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## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

### Alverno High School

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

### Arcadia High School

180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007  
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: Brent Forsee  
[bforsee@ausd.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.barnhartschool.org)

### Bethany Christian School

93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-3527 Principal: James Lugenbuehl  
E-mail address: [jml@bcsclions.org](mailto:jml@bcsclions.org)  
website: [www.bcsclions.org](http://www.bcsclions.org)

### Clairbourn School

8400 Huntington Drive  
San Gabriel, CA 91775  
Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172  
FAX: 626-286-1528

E-mail: [jhawes@clairbourn.org](mailto:jhawes@clairbourn.org)

### Foothill Oaks Academy

822 Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010  
(626) 301-9809

Co-Principals Nancy Lopez and Diane Kieffaber  
[info@foothilloaksacademy.org](mailto:info@foothilloaksacademy.org)  
[preschool@foothilloaksacademy.org](mailto: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](http://www.goodenschool.org)

### High Point Academy

1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
Headmaster John Higgins  
626-798-8989  
website: [www.highpointacademy.org](http://www.highpointacademy.org)

### LaSalle High School

3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 351-8951 website: [www.lasallehs.org](http://www.lasallehs.org)  
Principal Bro. Christopher Brady, FSC

### Monrovia High School

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

### Odyssey Charter School

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

### Pasadena High School

2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 798-8901 Principal: Gilbert Barraza  
website: [www.pasadenahigh.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:newsom.garrett@pusd.us)

### Walden School

74 S San Gabriel Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166  
[www.waldenschool.net](http://www.waldenschool.net)

### Weizmann Day School

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

### Wilson Middle School

300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91017  
(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln  
E-mail address: [resseln@pusd.us](mailto:resseln@pusd.us)

### PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109  
(626) 795-6981 Website: [www.pusd@pusd.us](http://www.pusd@pusd.us)

### ARCADIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

234 Campus Dr., Arcadia, Ca. 91007  
(626) 821-8300 Website: [www.ausd.net](http://www.ausd.net)

### MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016  
(626) 471-2000 Website: [www.monroviashools.net](http://www.monroviashools.net)

### DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

## THE REEL DEAL: THE BOOK THIEF

by Ben Show



Although I had not read the book, I had heard great things about it before seeing the movie. I find myself doing that more and more with movies that are based on books. Since movies are never as good as the books, I would rather have a fresh perspective of the story instead of having read the book and be able to see what was wrong with the movie. For The Book Thief, I was especially glad that I did that.

Young Liesel (Sophie Nélisse) and her brother are in the process of being sent to a new family when he unexpectedly dies on the journey. After burying him on the side of the train tracks, Liesel picks up a book that one of the gravediggers dropped. When she gets to her new family, she discovers that her new father, Hans (Geoffrey Rush) likes to read and the two of them set off on a journey to not only learn to read but also change the lives of those around them along the way.

While the movie starts off relatively slow, you soon become captivated in the characters and the world they live in. The Book Thief gives an uncomfortably realistic perspective of what it was like to live in Germany during the 1930s and 40s. All in all, I would say that The Book Thief is a glorious emotional roller coaster that straps you in, tosses you around, but let's you leave with a nice warm feeling in your heart.



Now that we are in full holiday swing, just a reminder of the severe penalties for drinking and driving, my rule is always one glass of water for every drink, no more than one drink a hour and once I reach 3 that's it, time for uber or a cab. Here are some fun laws from around our great country.

## ALASKA

There are 83 dry towns and villages in Alaska. <sup>2</sup> In addition, Fairbanks is a dry town for moose, where it's illegal to feed a moose any alcoholic beverage. <sup>3</sup> Apparently they can't hold their alcohol.

## ARIZONA

The Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control recently raided a weekly senior citizens' garden party within a gated community in Mesa. Agents seized the alcoholic beverages and wrote a citation for selling alcohol without a license.

Perhaps the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control has too many officers and too much time on its hands. Or perhaps this over zealous enforcement is simply a reflection of the growing anti-alcohol movement in the United States. <sup>4</sup>

## ARKANSAS

Temperance members of the Russellville City council in Arkansas approved a motion censoring any discussion of legalizing alcohol sales during budget sessions. The motion was passed after the city's Revenue Task Force suggested legalizing alcohol sales.

It appears that the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment protection of free speech won't apply Russellville's council as long as temperance-minded officials have their way. <sup>5</sup>

# CALIFORNIA

It is a violation of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control Act for producers of alcohol beverages to list the names of retailers or restaurants that sell their products in advertising or even in newsletters. [6](#)

TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills  
***thechefknows@yahoo.com***

If it's bad for producers, it's even worse for servers in California, where they can be convicted of selling to a minor if the purchaser uses a false or altered ID to buy the alcohol. <sup>7</sup>



More lunacy in California: An award-winning adaptation of *Little Red Riding Hood* was withdrawn from a recommended reading list by the school board in Culver City, California, simply because the heroine had included a bottle of wine in the basket she brought to her grandmother.<sup>8</sup>

## COLORADO

Colorado law requires that wine be sold in containers of at least 24 ounces and spirits in containers at least a fifth of a gallon. But, at the same time, it also decrees that no alcohol beverage can be stored in hotel minibars in anything larger than miniature containers. <sup>9</sup> Ward Churchill must be teaching logic now.

There are more but just wanted to share a few with you. Be safe and sane this holiday season.

Listen to Dining w/Dills on KABC 790 AM on Sundays at 5 PM follow Peter on Facebook

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*Editor's Note: I recently discovered a 'Cookie Party' in town where friends bring their favorite homemade holiday cookies and share them and the recipes. I missed it this year, but you can bet I won't miss it in 2014. Sounds like a lot of fun! Here are two of the favorites:*

# ALMOND SUGAR COOKIES by Peggy Beauregard

1 lb. butter or Margarine  
3 Cup sugar  
4 eggs  
1 Tablespoon Almond extract  
4 Tablespoon cream or milk  
5 Cups Flour  
½ Teaspoon salt  
1 Teaspoon baking powder

1 ¼ Cups finely ground-blanchd almonds (Coffee Grinder works really well)  
2-Teaspoon Cinnamon  
1-Teaspoon Cloves  
2-Teaspoon Nutmeg  
1 grated lemon/lime rind (optional)

Mix and beat until light the butter, milk, sugar, eggs, extract. Mix in all dry ingredients until well blended.

Arrange with teaspoons 1" apart on well greased cookie sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes or until lightly browned at 350 degree.

# SPICE COOKIEs by Doug Kerns

mix together  
1c white sugar  
1tsp finely ground black pepper  
1/2tsp salt  
1/4tsp ground cloves  
2tsp ground cinnamon  
1tsp ground ginger  
1tsp baking soda

Cream dry ingredients together with  
1/2 c butter  
1/4c molasses  
1tsp vanilla extract

Mix thoroughly with  
1 egg

Mix in  
2 1/4c all-purpose flour

At this point, the dough should be rather sticky.

Refrigerate the dough for a few hours, until the dough is firm.

Roll 3/4-inch spherical balls of dough in coarse sugar, place at least 3 inches apart on a cookie sheet coated with baking parchment, or grease the cookie sheet.

Bake for 13 minutes at 350F.  
Allow cookies to cool before removing from the sheet.



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We've all heard it, maybe your doctor told you. You don't need all this stress. But shy of crawling into a cave, the stress will still be there. The yogis have a unique perspective on this. Just sitting down to try to meditate when your head is full of all kinds of thoughts and worries, is impossible, so we give you something to do. First yoga asana (postures) that work with specific breathing. Calming the breath calms the mind. So increasing the challenging poses and still calming the breath teaches you to breathe in challenging situations. We also focus on back strength. To meditate – you must have a strong spine that can sit straight for a while, but also a strong healthy spine helps handle stress.

In addition to getting some of the nervous energy under control, strengthening and loosening the joints and muscles, yoga balances your prana. Prana is that wonderful life force energy inherent in everything. We can't see it, but we certainly know when our energy is low. Yoga

teaches us to work with it and balance it. It then teaches us to cultivate it and direct it. This is done through breath and concentration exercises. The gathering of energy and the focused direction of it are what make yoga so unique and wonderful. You can give less energy to the things you don't want in your life and direct more energy to the things you do want. Sure that can sound simple, but practice makes.....it easier. If nothing else, you can come to a yoga class and just move and chill. The best and most important part of class is the relaxation. It's hard to do at home this time of year, with all the gifts piling up to be wrapped. So get in to class and learn to stress less. Everything will get better.

Did I mention that the gift of yoga is the best gift you can give your loved ones? We have many packages available, online purchasing and a Holiday special! You can plan now for the New Year and get that task off your plate! I can't wait to see you after class, all calm and content.

Namasté, René

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*Dr. Tina is a traditional naturopath and nutritionist at Vibrant Living Wellness Center*

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## SLEEP BETTER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Everyone knows that sleep is essential to good health. The body needs to do it's house cleaning which can only be accomplished while we are asleep. Many people find it harder to sleep well during the holiday season than they do the rest of the year. This may be due to shorter days (less sunlight) or it may be because we are under more stress trying to accomplish too much and attend holiday events.

Whatever the reason for your less than stellar night's sleep, here are a few things that may help you sleep longer and sounder.

The first is to make good evening meal choices. Eating healthy but high glycemic foods, like rice and potatoes, for dinner or no sooner than 4 hours before bed where shown to help people fall asleep 49 percent faster according to a study published in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. This is because those foods increase the concentration of tryptophan, a precursor of serotonin, which is a sleep-inducing agent.

The next thing you can do is take a brisk walk for 20 minutes. Exercisers are more likely than non-exercisers to have a sounder night's sleep.

Lastly, use lavender oil or even sprigs of dried lavender to scent your bedroom. Herbalists have known for centuries that lavender has calming and sedative properties. It is also thought to decrease heart rate and blood pressure.

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## JUST FOR BEST FRIENDS

## Happy Tails

by Chris Leclerc



I so enjoy observing the local wildlife that resides in and around Sierra Madre, and I absolutely adore hearing the musical calls of birds echoing through the air. I especially love hearing the audacious calls that come from the enormous birds of prey living among us. In fact, when I hear the unique, low-tone hooting of an owl, I feel a sense of warmth and comfort that is hard for me to describe. Just knowing that owls nest in the trees close to where I live is like an honor to me. We are truly blessed with nature's goodness in our hillside village!

I recently came across an article entitled Homeless Owls Need Homes, Too, about a project that provides alternative habitation for owls rendered homeless due to development in the San Gabriel Valley. I decided to contact the author, Steve Scauzillo to ask him a few questions, and he was kind enough to take the time to chat with me. Steve admitted that he is not an owl expert and may not be the best person to consult about local owls. His column covers a variety of current issues and concerns regarding the environment, and this particular article just happened to be about owls. Steve suggested that I contact Kimball Garrett at the LA Museum of Natural History, who truly is an expert on owls, so I gave Kimball a call.

Kimball Garret was more than willing to share what he knows about the owls that inhabit our foothills. Apparently there are a few types that might be seen nesting in the forest right behind us and visiting our village, but the ones we may hear exuding resonant hooting sounds ("hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo") back and forth to one another are most likely Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus pacificus*). He explained that this particular owl is more prominent in our parts because

## THE MYTHICAL, MYSTICAL, MAGICAL OWL

they are adaptable to changes in their environment, so they are willing and able find alternative nesting spots when preferred locations are not available. Great Horned Owls prefer nesting in very tall trees, but when older, taller trees go missing, which seems to be more of a trend now than ever in our town, the Great Horned Owl is wise enough to take up residence in lower lying canopies. Some will even nest in man-made boxes built on stilts where they are protected from predators, high winds and hard rains.

Like all living things, owls play a very important part in keeping nature in balance. With this in mind, the next time you are tempted to complain about having too many rats running around in your yard or under your house, let it be a reminder of how important the big trees are. Indeed, big trees provide a place where owls and other birds of prey will stay and help keep that rat population in check.

I had a remarkable experience with a couple of local owls on the morning my dad passed away. I slept in a little later than usual that Saturday morning, so I was still lying in bed at 8am when I suddenly heard two owls calling out in unison, one slightly higher pitched than the other. They were so close and so loud that the huge picture window on the north wall of my room seemed to vibrate from the resonance. My husband was there to witness the experience, so I can always rely on his confirmation when I share this story with my friends. They may not believe it really happened, otherwise.

We both laid there listening, amazed at how loud those owls were. We assumed they had to be very close by, maybe even perched in the avocado tree in our side yard. To me, having owls visit my property is a blessing, like nature's reward for being a good steward on behalf of the environment. This is not to say I think I am a saint when it comes to giving earth the respect it deserves, but I do try my best to treat it with kindness by cleaning up trash I find on the trails and sidewalks, and abstaining from the use of toxic chemicals on my property. I also allow fallen leaves to remain where they lie, so they can return to the soil and nourish the trees and fauna they

fell from. I even talk to trees, telling them how important they are and how thankful I am for their beauty, their shade, their photosynthesis and their fruit. I truly believe that humane and respectful treatment toward any living thing is our duty as human beings.

When I heard those owls hooting away so loudly near my bedroom window that morning, I thought is sounded like some sort of heavenly choir singing a sacred hymn just for me. Just moments after hearing the owls, I got out of bed and went down to make coffee. That's when I got the call from my family back east, telling me the sad news that my father had just passed away. When I hung up with my brother, I sat for a while crying and trying to take it in, that I would never again have the chance to see or talk to my dad here on earth. With such shocking news to process, the owls left my thoughts completely until later that day when it dawned on me; at the very moment my dad died, I was lying in bed listening to the amazing sound of two owls hooting louder than I had ever heard before.

There are many mysterious, mystical myths associated with the owl, passed down through oral traditions of various peoples. One myth says that the owl is an omen of death soon-to-come. Another regards the owl as the bearer of the deceased soul as it passes from this world into the next. I have never subscribed to mythical theories about animals before, but I must say that the experience I had on the morning my dad passed away made me think twice about whether those ancient theories might hold some truth.

One thing that is definitely true for me is that I love these amazing birds of prey. I love them because of their beauty and elegance, their tenacity and their symbiotic relationship with nature, not to mention the fact that they provide excellent examples to us humans through their loyal, familial life-style. They work very hard to overcome life's hurdles, just to survive in today's world where fast-paced development is so quickly stealing away the places where they used to stay. I thank God every day for this beautiful earth and all the creatures he placed on it, particularly the mythical, mystical, magical Great Horned Owl.

## LOOKING FOR A BEST FRIEND??

## So is Weebo!!

He is asking Santa for a home of his own for Christmas!! Weebo came to the shelter in August of 2012 in a very fearful state of mind. He was found in dirty living conditions, tied to a bed, and his demeanor suggested that he might have been abused. He was very hand-shy, timid with people, and nervous around loud noises and a lot of activity.

Volunteers have spent many hours working with Weebo to reduce his anxiety levels. He has come a long way, has learned to trust the people he sees often, and has shown an interest in "normal" dog play. He has always got along well with his kennel mates, and enjoys playing with them.

He loves to go on walks, and if you sit down with him on the grass or in his kennel, he will snuggle up close and ask for a belly-rub. He is a very loving little dog who just wants some love and security.

It will take someone special to adopt Weebo – he needs someone with patience who will take the time to get to know him, and give him the extra attention he needs. He would do better in a quiet home where there is not too much activity. He would enjoy a nice yard to play in, and going for daily walks. He would probably do well with another dog in the household to play with.

Weebo is believed to be a miniature pinscher/spaniel mix, about 2-3 years old, and weighs around 15 pounds.

He currently resides at the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society located at 851 E. Grand Avenue in San Gabriel. We are located off San Gabriel Blvd., north of Mission and south of Las Tunas.

To arrange a 'Meet and Greet' with Weebo (aka....5090), please stop by any time from 10:00am to 4:30pm Tuesday thru Sunday. His adoption fee is \$120 which includes his neuter surgery, a microchip, first vaccinations and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian. Feel free to call us at (626) 286-1159 for more information on Weebo.

See our website at [www.sgvhumane.org](http://www.sgvhumane.org) for information and photos of all our available pets.



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HOW TO GUARD AGAINST WINTERTIME HEART ATTACKS



Dear Savvy Senior: When I had a mild heart attack about six months ago my doctor told me I needed to be extra careful during the winter when recurring heart attacks are more common. Is this true? How can the seasons affect your heart? Leery Senior

Dear Leery: Everyone knows winter is cold and flu season, but most people don't know that it's also the prime season for heart attacks too, especially if you already have heart disease or have suffered a previous heart attack. Here's what you should know, along with some tips to help you protect yourself.

Heart Attack Season In the U.S., the risk of having a heart attack during the winter months is twice as high as it is during the summertime. Why? There are a number of factors, and they're not all linked to cold weather. Even people who live in warm climates have an increased risk. Here are the areas you need to pay extra attention to this winter.

Cold temperatures: When a person gets cold, the body responds by constricting the blood vessels to help the body maintain heat. This causes blood pressure to go up and makes the heart work harder. Cold temperatures can also increase levels of certain proteins that can thicken the blood and increase the risk for blood clots. So stay warm this winter, and when you do have to go outside, make sure you bundle up in layers with gloves and a hat, and place a scarf over your mouth and nose to warm up the air before you breathe it in.

Snow shoveling: Studies have shown that heart attack rates jump dramatically in the first few days after a major snowstorm, usually a result of snow shoveling. Shoveling snow is a very strenuous activity that raises blood pressure and stresses the heart. Combine those factors with the cold temperatures and the risks for heart attack surges. If your sidewalk or driveway needs shoveling this winter, hire a kid from the neighborhood to do it for you, or use a snow blower. Or, if you must shovel, push rather than lift the snow as much as possible, stay warm, and take frequent breaks.

New Year's resolutions: Every Jan. 1, millions of people join gyms or start exercise programs as part of their New Year's resolution to get in shape, and many overexert themselves too soon. If you're starting a new exercise program this winter, take the time to talk to your doctor about what types and how much exercise may be appropriate for you.

Winter weight gain: People tend to eat and drink more, and gain more weight during the holiday season and winter months, all of which are hard on the heart and risky for someone with heart disease. So keep a watchful eye on your diet this winter and avoid binging on fatty foods and alcohol.

Shorter days: Less daylight in the winter months can cause many people to develop "seasonal affective disorder" or SAD, a wintertime depression that can stress the heart. Studies have also looked at heart attack patients and found they usually have lower levels of vitamin D (which comes from sunlight) than people with healthy hearts. To boost your vitamin D this winter, consider taking a supplement that contains between 1,000 and 2,000 international units (IU) per day. And to find treatments for SAD, visit the Center for Environmental Therapeutics website at cet.org.

Flu season: Studies show that people who get flu shots have a lower heart attack risk. It's known that the inflammatory reaction set off by a flu infection can increase blood clotting which can lead to heart attacks in vulnerable people. So, if you haven't already done so, get a flu shot for protection. See flushot.healthmap.org to find a nearby vaccination site.

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 Tse.....This and That

"WHEN THE DOG BITES! WHEN THE BEE STINGS!"

"The hills are alive..." with the sound of critics. Did you watch "The Sound of Music" last Thursday? My husband and I did, and though I doubt any of the cast are going to be nominated for acting awards, I shamelessly admit that I loved it! (That doesn't mean I want to watch it again, but it was fun the first time.)

Like all great musicals, "The Sound of Music" has a unifying effect on people. The fact that NBC is selling a sing-along DVD attests to this. There are a surprising variety of people you wouldn't expect to know, or care, about "The Sound of Music." One of my junior high teachers was a big, tall "man's man" who liked rough and tumble sports and had a Saint Bernard with a head the size of a basketball. The topic of faith came up one day during class. Misty-eyed, my teacher described the scene in which the Mother Superior exhorts Maria to "Climb Every Mountain!"

Then there was my Mom's principal, an Asian man in his 40's; he loved the movie so much that he even gave his daughter the Alpine name, Heidi. Even my husband surprised me by knowing many of the songs. Apparently he sang them in grammar school for a Christmas program.

Of course, what I love most are Rodgers & Hammerstein's songs! Commenting on the musical score, Rodgers once stated, "You don't leave the theater humming the scenery." While no one has criticized Carrie Underwood's singing, many have lambasted her acting ability and her nerve to attempt Julie Andrews's iconic role as Maria von Trapp. Frankly, I think any actress would be crucified for taking on that role. (The same can be said for Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz," or Scarlet in "Gone With the Wind." Actually, there was a "sequel" to the latter, but it was so awful it doesn't warrant mentioning.)

While I'm by no means extolling Underwood's acting, I think we all need to take a step back and remember that this was a LIVE, MUSICAL. I readily admit I know as much about acting, singing, dancing, and the theater in general as I do about higher math. However, as a closet old person, I've watched many movie musicals, and even went to see a few musical plays.

As far as I can fathom, movies are vastly different from plays, especially musicals. First, theater actors have to project their voice, movements, and overall character enough so the people in the nosebleed section can appreciate them. This, in itself, necessitates some over-acting. Now, when you add dancing and singing to the mix, even more is required from actors. Not only do they have to remember their lines, but they've got to belt them out, sometimes while dancing. I can barely hike and talk at the same time, so I have a deep respect for those who sing and dance simultaneously. Heck, I can't even stand being "dressed up" for more than a couple hours.

Furthermore, while movie actors have the luxury of multiple takes and breaks in between scenes, theater actors have to get it right the first time. There are no second chances in front of a live audience. For all of these reasons, I've always considered musical theater actors more as athletes. The stamina it must take to pull off these productions night after night, week after week boggles my mind.

The difference in the amount of skill and energy expended by these actors is kind of like comparing my little column to the work of a stand-up improv actor. It's one thing to come up with witty one-liners on the spot, and it's another to sit typing at home in your jammies, as I am now. By the time you read this, it will be at least my third draft, (and even then, I can't promise anything). But at least it's a lot cheaper than buying theater tickets! And now I must bid you "So long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Good bye!"



SENIOR HAPPENINGS

By Pat Birdsall

FYI: THINK OUTSIDE THE GIFT BOX

Don't let the real reason for the season get lost under a pile of presents. Here's how to balance the "gimmies" with giving back. Choose charities: [www.charitynavigator.com](http://www.charitynavigator.com) has everything listed from A to Z in the Los Angeles area. Wherever your interests lie, you can find a charity that matches that interest...There are 218 organizations listed alphabetically with a description of each, followed by a rating system. When you make a difference in someone or something's life, it truly enriches your own. Create Coupons for Family and Friends: Vouchers for special outings to museums, movies, or football games make great stocking stuffers. Go the Homemade Route: The thought is really what counts, especially if you're giving gifts to close friends or family. Even if you're not the crafty type, there are lots of easy projects you can do...really. I got most of the information for my column from an article in the Better Homes and Gardens Magazine, so I would be remiss not recommending their web site for Christmas gift ideas, they're really quite good and all in one spot... Browse [www.bhg.com/diygift](http://www.bhg.com/diygift) Surprise your friends and family with your handiwork! You might surprise yourself too. Merry Christmas!

HELPFUL HINT: Repurpose those paper towel rolls: (1) Make an Art Tube out them... Either for a child's masterpieces or yours. Just be sure to label each one. (2) Roll linens around them for wrinkle-free storage.

FOR YOUR FUNNY BONE - A lady walks into a drug store and tells the pharmacist she needs some cyanide. The pharmacist said, "Why do you need cyanide?" The lady then explained that she needed it to poison her husband. The pharmacist's eyes got big and he said, "Lord have mercy, I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband! That's against the law! I'll lose my license; they'll throw us both in jail! You absolutely can NOT have any cyanide!" The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife. The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied, "Well now, you didn't tell me you had a prescription." ~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ... December Birthdays



Pat Karamitros, Joan Hufnagel, Marie Pedersen, Mary Alice Cervera, Carol Horejsi, Shirley Anhalt, Mignon Grijalva, Helen Reese, Levon Yapoujian, Toni Buckner, Bonnie Garner, Lottie Bugl, Pat McGuire, Sheila Wohler, Nan Murphy, Eleanor Hensel, Sylvia Curl, Elizabeth Levie, Gayle Licher and Cindy Barran.

\* To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required.

Quote of the Week: It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air ~ ~ W.T. Ellis



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 Caf : 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

Lunch and Learn with the Mayor Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>- 12:00- 1:00 pm Hart Park House Senior Center Mayor Nancy Walsh will recap notable happenings in Sierra Madre over the past year and share projects and expectations for the upcoming year. Stay informed about the City of Sierra Madre through this information filled presentation. Any questions you have are welcomed. If you would like to have lunch during the talk, please make a lunch reservation with the Senior Lunch Caf  at 626.355.0256 or bring your own.

Free Balance Class: Every 3rd Monday for 11:00 am to 11:45 am with Shannon Vandeveld. A variety of balance exercises are practiced; all ability levels are encouraged and welcomed.

Free Blood Pressure Testing: Held Second Tuesday of the month from 11:00 am-12:00 pm: No appointment necessary.

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

Free Chair Yoga: New Hours: 11:00 to 11:45 Every Wednesday morning. Join Paul Hagen for this free class that focuses on senior yoga techniques. No reservation is necessary!

Free Legal Consultation: Pasadena attorney Lem Makupson volunteers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 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: 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.

Senior Citizens Club: Every Saturday at the Hart Park House (Senior Center). Brown bag lunch at 11:30am; Club meeting at Noon; Bingo 12:30- 3:30 pm. Only .25c per card.



UPCOMING EXCURSIONS:

Los Angeles Times & Printing Plant (Los Angeles, Ca.) Date: Friday, January 10, 2014

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Meeting Location: Hart Park House/Senior Center Cost: \$15.00 (does not include lunch) With a daily circulation of more than one million readers, the Los Angeles Times is by far the most popular newspaper in the Southland. The publication's headquarters, built in 1935, is situated on the outskirts of Downtown. The one-hour tour is an educational trip through the entire publication process as well as a history of this storied American newspaper. Following the Headquarters tour, the bus will take a short drive to the printing plant. During this 45-minute tour watch robots assist in the preparation of final copies of the paper for distribution. After the tours lunch will be enjoyed at a downtown restaurant. It is recommended that you bring \$10 to \$15 for lunch. Last day to register is Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Level of walking: Moderate

Save the Dates: Thursday, February 27, 2014 Feline Conservation Center (Rosamond, Ca.)Time: 9:00am to 4:00 pm Cost: \$15.00 (does not include lunch)

Saturday, March 22, 2014 Whale Watching (Long Beach, Ca.) Time: 10:00am to 3:30 pm Cost: \$31.00 (does not include lunch)

\*Registering for Excursions can be done in person at the Hart Park House Senior Center and the Community Recreation Center or online at [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com) Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted. Make checks payable "City of Sierra Madre". Payment must be made at the time of reservation.

Senior Cinema Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm

Join us for a special holiday feature complete with coffee, hot chocolate and holiday treats. This will be the only movie shown in the month of December. It will be held at the Hart Park House/Senior Center to accommodate for the food and beverages. Enjoy the warmth of the Senior Center as the fire flickers while watching the classic "A Christmas Story." (1983) Ralpie has to convince his parents, teachers and Santa that a Red Ryder B.B. gun really is the perfect gift for the 1940s.Rated PG-Run time 94 minutes. Movie and snack provided by Humana.

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## WHAT'S ON 98

December 16 - December 22

As we are approaching the holiday season Sierra Madre TV is happy to reveal this years Sierra Madre Rose Float. Remember to stop by the Rose Float Barn from now until December 30 to volunteer you time or make that holiday donation to our world-famous Rose Float Association. For more information on how to volunteer or make a donation visit <http://www.smrosefloat.org>.

We have created a Christmas Music Video page at [sierramadretv.com](http://sierramadretv.com) for the holidays. Enjoy the hours of holiday cheer on the site.

On December 24 we will be broadcasting our Christmas Special all day long. You will be suprised by the selection of great little know holiday films. On Christmas day will will be showing some of your greatest films in our collection.

### The Best Sci-fi movies

The best Sci-fi movies contain familiar ideas and beliefs that are expressed in a strange and at times in unimaginable environments.

The best sci-fi movies has wild looking characters appear on the silver screen and demonstrate all the strengths and weakness of mere human mortals. At times these aliens possess physical and mental abilities that are, to humans, so far beyond our worldly experiences.

The Science Fiction genre, aka the Sci-Fi genre, uses, for the purpose of entertainment, science-based elements that are not proven or accepted by conventional science and scientists. These elements include, but are not limited to aliens, time travel, cyborgs, and technology far more advanced than currently exists.

Sci-Fi films have been around for decades, but they really weren't taken seriously until the 1960s. Despite the genres' slow start, since the '60s, it has taken off and has produced some of the most popular movies and movies series in history! Possibly one the first Sci-Fi moves was George Melies' A Trip to the Moon, which was produced in 1902 and used "trick photography" special effects.

Despite the fact that the best Sci-Fi movies didn't gain great recognition until the '60s, there were still some popular films of the genre over the decades. These films were a far cry from the Sci-Fi films we watch today because they lacked the special effects and large budgets of current Sci-Fi movies.

Despite this, these the best Sci-Fi movies and their effects were still viewed as future- forward and high- tech for the age. Some popular Sci -Fi movies of the 1930s are King Kong, Flash Gordon, and The Invisible Man. In the '40s, Black Friday, Dr. Cyclops, and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde hit the big screens. In the 1950s, The Thing from Another World, 20,000 Leagues under the Sea, and Journey to the Center of the Earth came out.

The best Sci-Fi movies is influencing the film culture and the culture of the people. It changed the film culture by proving to be one of the most popular and profitable film genres. It has also changed the culture of the general public. One very recent example of this is the development of Google Glass. Ever since the '80s, Sci- Fi films have featured characters using wearable computers. Because of all the hype, Google, in the last few years, has been making this once Sci-fi contraption into a reality with its wearable computer glasses, Google Glass.

If you're looking for some great Sci-Fi films to see, but don't know where to start, here's a list of must-see Sci-Fi films from free movie websites: King Kong, all of the Star Wars episodes, all of the Star Trek episodes (that will keep you busy for a while!), Back to the Future, Pacific Rim, and Godzilla.

This is how the schedule works:

7-11	Youth programs and movies
11- Noon	Comedy movies
1-3	Romance movies
3-5	Film Noir movies
5-6	Community Programing
7-9	Crime movies
9-10	Mystery movies

This programming is only available for Sierra Madre Time Warner customers. Those who do not subscribe to Time Warner will not be able to view the programing available on Channel 98.

We are looking for help in provide this service to the Sierra Madre community. I know there is some kind of video entertainment you enjoy. Help develop a time segment for the shows you want to watch.

### My Picks of the Week

Monday	Human Bondage
Tuesday	Tommorow
Wednesday	Gaslight
Thursday	Jane Eyre
Friday	Meet John Doe
Saturday	Triumph Of Sherlock Holmes
Sunday	Dixiana

Make sure you have your popcorn ready, gone to the potty, cushions fluffed and your are comfortable. There are no interruptions during the movie. The films are not edited for time or content.

The City of Sierra Madre is not funding any aspect of the printing, videos, movies, tv shows etc. Not one taxpayer dime has been spend on this programing.

**Find out what is going on in town every day, every week, every month, every year!**

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# SIERRA MADRE

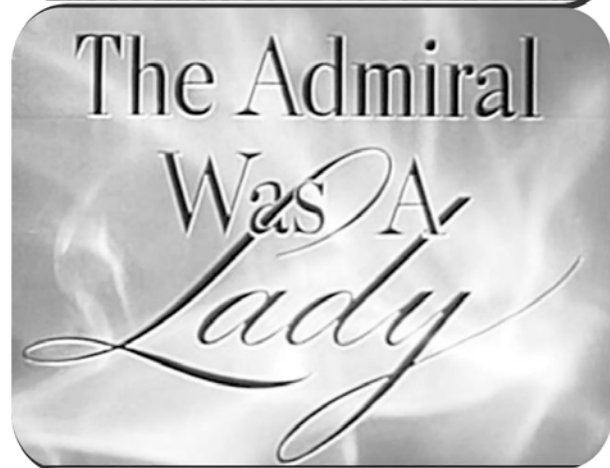
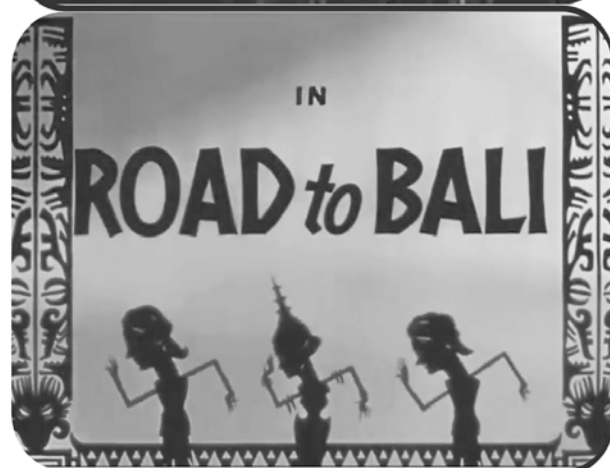
Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

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Monrovia



## THIS WEEK ON 98

Monday 12.16.13	Movies
7 to 8 am	Children's Programing
9 to 10 am	Northwest Trail
11 to 12 pm	Comedy
1 to 2 pm	Palooka
3 to 4 pm	Heading for Heaven
5 to 6 pm	Community Programing
7 to 8 pm	Federal Men
9 to 10 pm	Human Bondage
Tuesday 12.17.13	Movies
7 to 8 am	Children's Programing
9 to 10 am	Affairs of Cappy Ricks
11 to 12 pm	Comedy
1 to 2 pm	Bride for Henery & Lady Gangster
3 to 4 pm	Trapped by Television
5 to 6 pm	Community Programing
7 to 8 pm	Mystery
9 to 10 pm	Tomorrow
Wednesday 12.18.13	Movies
7 to 8 am	Children's Programing
9 to 10 am	Comedy
11 to 12 pm	Hey Hey USA
1 to 2 pm	Car of Dreams
3 to 4 pm	Strange Illusion
5 to 6 pm	Community Programing
7 to 8 pm	Gaslight
9 to 10 pm	I Thank You
Thursday 12.19.13	Movies
7 to 8 am	Children's Programing
9 to 10 am	Children's Programing
11 to 12 pm	Comedy
1 to 2 pm	The Admiral Was a Lady
3 to 4 pm	Jane Eyre
5 to 6 pm	Community Programing
7 to 8 pm	Tidal Wave
9 to 10 pm	Shock
Friday 12.20.13	Movies
7 to 8 am	Children's Programing
9 to 10 am	Comedy
11 to 12 pm	The Scarlet Pimpernel
1 to 2 pm	Meet John Doe
3 to 4 pm	The Big Combo
5 to 6 pm	Community Programing
7 to 8 pm	Hi De Ho & Lights of Old Santa Fe
9 to 10 pm	Yellowstone
Saturday 12.21.13	Movies
7 to 8 am	Children's Programing
9 to 10 am	The Last Man
11 to 12 pm	Enter the Lone Ranger
1 to 2 pm	Dawn on the Great Divide
3 to 4 pm	Rim of the Canyon
5 to 6 pm	Community Programing
7 to 8 pm	Triumph Of Sherlock Holmes
9 to 10 pm	Boy What a Girl
Sunday 12.22.13	Movies
7 to 8 am	Children's Programing
9 to 11 am	Forbidden Music & Escape to Paradise
11 to 12 pm	Murder with Music
1 to 2 pm	Pymalion
3 to 4 pm	Murder at Glen Athol & Murder at Dawn
5 to 6 pm	Community Programing
7 to 8 pm	Dixiana
9 to 10 pm	Till the Clouds Roll

Want your ad in the **What's On 98?**  
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647 Ashcomb Dr.,  
Valinda



Beautiful 3bed/2 bath home situated in the city of Hacienda Heights. Property was built in 1955, and is located in a nice/quiet neighborhood. Call Luther for more info 626-507-3029.

1449 Pontenova Ave.,  
Hacienda Heights



This home offers a front house with 3 beds and 1 3/4 baths. The bedrooms have hardwood flooring, and built-in cabinetry allowing space for storage. The back house offers 1 bedroom, and 1 bath with a living room and laundry unit.

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**625 Oak Crest  
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**278 E. Alegria  
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Offers easy everyday living. An updated kitchen with granite countertops, Craftsman inspired wood cabinetry, manufactured hardwood flooring and an adjacent charming breakfast nook that extends the kitchen, opens to the laundry area and to the step down family room. Pella sliding doors open to the patio and large back yard with fruit trees, vegetable garden, expansive lawn, children's play area and newer spa. The level landscaped back yard is perfect for year round entertaining and playdates. The home features a master suite with a large walk in closet and an updated bath. Second bedroom with an adjacent renovated full bath

1282 sq ft house (per assessor) 8064 sq ft lot (per assessor) 2 Bedrooms 2 Baths Built 1908  
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THE GRINCH, THE MAYOR, SANTA AND THE PRINCESSES



SIERRA MADRE CHAMBER GAVE A JUMP START TO THE HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON WITH THE 2nd ANNUAL WHOVILLE FESTIVAL

On Saturday, November 30th, downtown Sierra Madre was transformed into a most magical place, complete with snow, horse drawn carriages and trains, vendors and service clubs with crafts and goodies, and lots of shopping fun!

Formerly called Dickens Village, The Grinch and Santa Claus greeted young and old. Introducing families to the wonderful shops in our downtown was the primary goal as the event was held on Small Business Saturday. The weather was mild during the day with just the right amount of chill in the evening.

The Sierra Madre Civic Club, Garden Club, SM Historical Preservation Society, Rotary and Kiwanis were all on hand as well as the Friends of the Arts in Kersting Court who provided an Art Activity for children.

Merchants reported a marked increase in sales and it is hoped that many of the parents who did not have the opportunity to shop will return for those special Christmas gifts.

Santa rode into town in style escorted by the 2014 Sierra Madre Rose Float Princesses and chauffeured by the Sierra Madre Fire Department. The Grinch was on his very best behavior and full of the Christmas spirit.

A silent auction was held by the chamber of Christmas Trees beautifully decorated by students at The Gooden School, Sierra Madre Elementary and Middle Schools and St. Rita School. The proceeds from the auction (100%) was donated to the respective schools for various activities.



It was a picture perfect day for the festival. Above, the Grinch, Mayor Nancy Walsh, Santa and Rose Princesses Tessa Rose Brandstater, Hannah Latham, and Madison Vlcek. Somewhere in the picture are Barry Schwam and Pat Coburn. Hmmm.

Left, Chamber President Ed Chen kept the line moving for both the trains and the snow slide. Right, the Civic Club sold beautifully hand crafted gifts all day long.

Photos by Bill Coburn



THE SIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

By Coco La Salle

New Years is just around the corner and the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association (SMRFA) needs all they help they can get for this years festivities.

Each year viewers are amazed at he creativity and hard work volunteers put towards making these floats. Ever wondered how exactly the floats are put together? Have you previously helped out and can't wait to help again this year? This is the perfect time to join the Sierra Madre community and help design this year's Rose Parade float.

The Rose Float Association is in need of all sorts of support from construction and decorating crew members to volunteer chefs, sales and postcards. There is a job for anybody and everybody

who donate their time.

Are you a High School student looking to earn those extra community service hours? What better way to get those done! Volunteer today and you will not only be helping the community, you'll get the chance to use your creativity and have lots of fun!

The association has put together a new means of signing up for a shift. Now everything is online! You can sign up for all the shifts you want from the convenience of your own home. All you have to do is go to the SMRFA website to sign up and plan that wonderful week between Christmas and New Years. Shifts run from December 26- 31 between 9 A.M. and 10 P.M.

Not only can you volunteer your time for a great experience, you can also donate to the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association. They are currently in search for key supplies such as working blenders and non-steam irons for the preparation of all the floral materials.

If you can help by donating any of the following or have any further questions please contact Bonnie, the SMRFA Volunteer Coordinator, by emailing [volunteers@smrosefloat.org](mailto:volunteers@smrosefloat.org) or leave a message at the barn (626-355-7005). Be sure to leave your name, call back number, and how you would like to get involved.

Come decorate and be a part of this 125 year tradition.

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## JASMINE'S CORNER

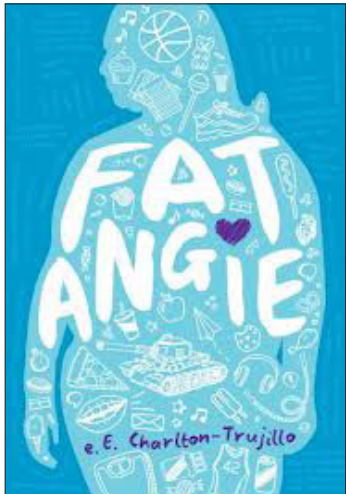
Book Reviews by Jasmine Kelsey Williams

### FAT ANGIE By E.E. Charlton-Trujillo

We have now arrived to the start of December and I am guessing that many of you, my dear readers, are already trying to get into the holiday spirit and festive cheer of the month. However, the next selection for the start of December continues on a serious note from our previous selections and brings us now to “Fat Angie” by E.E Charlton-Trujillo.

Short on title, strong on impact and theme, “Fat Angie” will really speak volumes to pre-teen and teen readers on the issues of bullying, high school, troubling family life, and newfound courage when one can overcome the adversities they face throughout life. Angie is one such individual and the protagonist of the story, and readers can instantly connect with her struggles, both internal and external. Angie is a “plain Jane” of sorts: bullied in high school, trouble-making brother and indifferent mother, no father, and her picture-perfect turned war hero older sister. Added to her plight is her feeling of isolation from others, and turning to junk food to fill the void. The tone of “Fat Angie” is rather dark, somewhat bleak, and overall somber until new student KC Romance arrives and takes a shine to Fat Angie, which prompts Angie to make small, simple changes for her mindset, and gradually opens up to KC Romance as a friend. KC Romance is that one character who immediately makes herself known in the way she sticks up for Fat Angie, and readers will be able to connect with her as well; she is that one cool friend who always listens, does not judge, and looks good doing it. “Fat Angie” is dark and bittersweet, but eventually takes on a more of an uplifting tone towards its conclusion, which goes to show readers of any age that we can find a true friend who will always have your back.

Copyrighted in 2013, and receiving praise from various critics, as well as Booklist and Publishers Weekly, “Fat Angie” is another profound work perfect to teach important life lessons on individuality and friendships for any reader in this day and age.



## SEAN'S SHAMELESS REVIEWS:

By Sean Kayden

### ABOUT TIME

“About Time” is the latest feature film from writer/director Richard Curtis (“Love Actually”). This romantic/faux sci-fi tale is about one young man's desperate pursuit to find love with his newfound ability to travel back into time. Oddly enough, he finds it rather quickly. The movie was advertised as a romantic comedy but is only for the first half at that. It switches gears and is more about this young man and his ability to go back into a certain time of his life.

At first glance it was to aid him in finding true love. Then it led to helping others like his sister, who dealt with her own relationship woes. It was also a link between Tim and his father to maintain a strong connection. The movie wants to be so many things and never really decides on which it will ultimately be. It's a movie where there's a lot of telling rather than showing. It is also very dialogue driven and the dilemmas never seem all too serious. At first it's romantic and that sort of fades once love is secured. It has a few lighthearted moments, but a comedy it is not. The third act heads into more drama, but never does it feel utterly dramatic. “About Time” suffers from a gimmicky plot device that becomes more tedious than clever. It has sweet moments scattered throughout and has a trio of fine performances especially from the father character played by Bill Nighy. However, “About Time” is far too long for such a thin plot. It had the potential to be something far more superior with the time traveling element as a key component to the film's story.

Written and Directed By:  
Richard Curtis  
Rated: R for language and some sexual content  
Release Date: November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Lead actor, Domhnall Gleeson is quite likeable as Tim. He's endearing in a dorky, oblivious sort of way. The problem is how the film puts so much emphasis on how it seems like the end of the year not to find love at 21 years old. Not only does he marry the first girl that loves him, but also had another chance with his first love he hadn't seen in a number of years. The movie also feels too long with how it's over the span of many years. Rachel McAdams as the love interest is lovely as usual. However, she doesn't have a whole lot to work with after the initial setup, eventually leading up to marrying the kind and perceptive Tim. McAdams' character strangely takes a backseat as Tim focuses on helping his sister with her own complexities and unhealthy relationship (which is never shown only told through dialogue). After that small subplot is quickly resolved, the last part of act three is where Tim and his father connect. It almost feels as if it is a little too late. I wish the film expanded the father-son dynamics more. Don't get me wrong, it's still rather sensitive, but the murky plot device makes the film almost feel too phony. Luckily, when you have great actors like Bill Nighy, your material is elevated to greater heights more so than it should be with such shortcomings found in the screenplay.

In the end, “About Time” is a fine film that's simply too elongated. There's quite a bit of filler to make it feel a bit overstuffed. Fine performances, a couple of tender moments and a few scattered laughs make “About Time” merely a Redbox rental/Netflix stream then a must-see love story in theaters. Unfortunately, when it finally ended, the only thing that came to mind was, “about time.”

Grade: 3 out of 5

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# The World Around Us

## Looking Up

with Bob Eklund

### CONTROVERSY OVER USE OF ROMAN INGOTS

Two thousand years ago, a Roman vessel with ingots of lead extracted from the Sierra of Cartagena sank in the waters off the coast of Sardinia. Since 2011, more than a hundred of these ingots have been used to build the Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events (CUORE), an advanced detector of neutrinos—almost weightless subatomic particles—at the Gran Sasso National Laboratory in Italy.

In the 18th century, another ship loaded with lead ingots was wrecked on the French coast. A company of treasure hunters recently retrieved this material and, despite problems with French authorities, managed to sell it to the Cryogenic Dark Matter Search (CDMS) team. This team's detector, located in a mine in Minnesota, looks for signs of the enigmatic “dark matter.”

These two examples have served as reference for the discussion that two researchers have opened between archaeologists, worried about the destruction of our underwater cultural heritage, and particle physicists, pleased to have found a material that is uniquely valuable for research on neutrinos and dark matter.

“Roman lead is essential for conducting these experiments because it offers purity and such low levels of radioactivity—all the more so the longer it has spent underwater—which current methods for producing this metal cannot reach,” explains Elena Perez-Alvaro from the University of Birmingham.

“Lead extracted today is naturally contaminated with the isotope Pb-210, which prevents it from being used as shielding for particle detectors,” adds physicist Fernando González Zalba from the University of Cambridge.

These two researchers have published a study in the journal “Rosetta,” also commented upon this month in “Science,” which poses a dilemma: Should we sacrifice part of our cultural heritage in order to achieve greater knowledge of the universe and the origin of humankind? Should we yield part of our past to discover more about our future?

The underwater archaeologist and the physicists are encouraging dialogue between both collectives, as well as the development of legislation that regulates these kinds of activities.

The jury is still out. In the case of the CUORE detector, for example, in principle the lead from the least well-preserved Roman ingots is used, although their inscriptions are cut and preserved. Some archaeologists also suggests that there are other pieces of valuable metal, such as anchor stocks, rings or tackles for fishing that we should assess whether or not to sacrifice for science. Further complicating the issue is the fact that these artifacts are protected by UNESCO's 2001 Convention on the protection of underwater cultural heritage if they have been under water more than 10 years, as well as by the 2003 Convention for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Regarding the use that the Romans made of these ingots, Pérez Álvaro points out that they were generally used as a water-resistant material for pipes, water tanks or roofs, and also for making arms and ammunition.

A special case is the cargo of large lead bricks recovered from the largest Roman ship of the excavation of the Mediterranean, the wreck of the Bou Ferrer, which sank very close to the port of La Vila Joiosa (Alicante). A series of engravings on the ingots (IMP. GER. AVG) have enabled specialists to determine that their owner was the Emperor of Rome himself, probably Caligula, Claudius or Nero.

You can contact Bob Eklund at: [b eklund@MtnViewsNews.com](mailto:b eklund@MtnViewsNews.com).



Bou Ferrer shipwreck with roman lead ingots. / De Juan / D. G. de Cultura - Generalitat Valenciana



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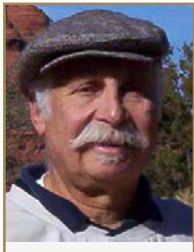
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Mountain Views News Mission Statement

The traditions of community newspapers 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.



STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE DON'T BE SO SURE

In this month's Atlantic Monthly (December 2013) there appears the following very short book extract:

*“ All the way back to primary school, John Lennon is remembered as a garden-variety delinquent----the type of kid who would pocket the change he was instructed to deposit in the church collection box, and pilfer from his aunt's handbag. He would hitch free rides on the bumper of tramcars, steal cigarettes and then sell them, pull down girls' underpants, vandalize phone booths, set stuff on fire, act the clown in class, skip detention, gamble, pick fights, and arouse fear in others as he and his friends toiled around on their bicycles. His best childhood friend, Pete Shotton, explained that Lennon "... came to be regarded, by all but his small circle of friends, as thoroughly bad news. Even I sometimes worried that he seemed destined for Skid Row.”*

--From Beatles vs. Stones by John McMillan

I include this entire paragraph to begin my article in recognition of the fact that no public-figure during my lifetime has had the profound influence upon me as did John Lennon. His music, on those first Beatles albums, was contemporaneous with my college entrance. It went from the most basic beginnings of I Want to Hold Your Hand through the experiences with the Maharishi and psychedelic drugs, through his concerns with world politics. He evolved to become an activist, profoundly interested in equality and justice and completely dedicated to his role of father and nurturer. His choice of Yoko Ono as a spouse, someone whom he uniquely supported and appreciated, gave a kind of recognition to the special qualities of a type of person not usually appreciated by our celebrity-driven main stream culture. His assassination by a person who claimed that the murder was motivated by Lennon's half-serious claim that he was more popular than Jesus Chris, was a devastating illustration of the conflicting passions and beliefs that exist simultaneously within our complex world.

It was absolutely amazing for me to read that this larger-than-life being was initially viewed as some commonplace typical jerk who would leave nothing behind him other than the unpleasant memories of those who had encountered him. I knew that Lennon had a difficult childhood, during which he had lost both parents and received minimal nurturance from his aunt. Typically young delinquents, like John Lennon ,would grow up with criminal records and a history of detentions. Normally these experiences would mark a person for life. Their criminal backgrounds would

prevent them from obtaining jobs. What friends they had were usually involved in new crimes, which generally meant more trouble for the juveniles as they became adults. Advanced education was hardly an option, as such people rarely had the skills, interest, or discipline necessary to stop themselves from sinking further into decline.

How fortunate the world is that John Lennon somehow escaped these forces and lived long enough to create songs like Imagine, that still resonate within our brains in these unharmonious times and inspire many of us to believe that there is still a reasons to optimistically cherish hope. I wonder how many other young men and women are so stigmatized by the experiences of youth such that their true talents never are allowed to emerge. The life-history of John Lennon also tells another story. How can someone like the young John Lennon acquire and maintain the belief that he has something special to offer the world. Why was he not brought down to believe in his own ordinariness, much like the rest of us?

This past weekend I watched part of a College Football game with a young friend who is a new father. The mother was out running errands and I had the opportunity to spend a little time with the father and a five-month old baby. It has been a long time since I spent much time with a baby and this time I was actually allowed to be alone with him while his Dad prepared lunch. How exciting it was for me to see how this young miracle enjoyed his existence. How he laughed and moved and examined everything around him, even including placing his foot in his mouth.

Shouldn't we be able to maintain this contagious appreciation of ourselves, not as a contest against others but as simple self-appreciation? Instead we learn to compare ourselves against others, to inevitably experience jealousy, envy, and regret. Often we crave outside validation as we cannot alone believe in our individual self-worth. I'm afraid that's just the way it is, which is why it is so amazing to realize that some few individuals like John Lennon or Nelson Mandela or Mahatma Gandhi or Martin Luther King or Jesus Christ manage to go through life staying in touch with their best selves and inspiring the rest of us.

Let us do the same. If Mike Tyson can be a Broadway Star and Muhammad Ali still has the power to inspire us, it should not be too difficult to appreciate what a wonderful, unique miracle lies beneath each of our often fatigued, troubled outer disguises.



OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

MY CHRISTMAS CHEER DRAMA

I enjoy being cheerful and Christmas time is a special time to be cheerful and I try my best to

live up to it. Occasionally, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will suggest I am going a little too far.

During the rest of the year I stay out of shopping malls as much as possible. During the Christmas season, I want to go to the shopping mall and walk around without any purchases to make. I like watching people spend their money on things they do not need and for people they may not like.

I like to give cheer more than anything else. Actually, it is the only thing I can afford. And so I will send my cheerfulness into cheer bankruptcy. Whatever that may be.

The Christmas season has never been a time for me to spend excessive amounts of money. I leave all that to my wife. She knows how to shop and she begins her Christmas shopping right around February. I could never figure that out. When I buy a gift for someone, I want to hand it to them right then. She has the discipline to buy Christmas gifts months ahead of time.

Something happened this past week that brought all of my cheerfulness to an abrupt halt.

I had just come from the mall where I was making fun of people scurrying around trying to find the latest bargain. It is a little strange to me that when people get a gift for somebody they look for a bargain.

When I got home, I sat down in my recliner reminiscing about the day and then I did something I do not normally do. I took out my wallet to clean it. This is something I do at least once a year.

Sometimes I get cards in my wallet that have expired or are no longer valid. No sense in having things in your wallet that you do not need or cannot use. Several cards had expired and so into the trash-can they went.

You can tell a lot about a person by the things in his wallet. My wife, on the other hand, carries a purse. I will not be caught dead looking in that purse. In fact, I would be dead if caught looking. I am not sure what she has in her purse and I do not want to know what she has in there. I love living.

A man's wallet is a little different. He has things in there that are rather practical. There will be a driver's license, a Social Security card, insurance card, not to mention credit cards. Everything he

LEFT TURN/RIGHT TURN

HOWARD Hays As I See It



To start off, I had to check on Greg Welborn's statement in his column last week that President Obama "contributed to (our) debt burden more than any other president". As far as the numbers go, tracking how they've changed

during Obama's presidency, Greg has a point. To what extent the president himself "contributed", though, is another matter.

The Associated Press pegged major responsibility for our debt on the Bush tax cuts of 2001 and 2003. This was the first time in history taxes were cut in a time of war. These cuts were financed by debt and, a couple years ago, were estimated to have already cost us some \$1.6 trillion. For the most part, they remain in place – and continue to add to the red ink.

A second major cause of the debt was healthcare entitlements – with \$1 trillion added to our debt over the past few years solely from the extent healthcare cost increasingly exceeding the overall rate of inflation. Despite the best efforts of Congressional Republicans and conservative money-launderers, the prospect of these increases becoming "basically 100%" of our debt problem was averted by enactment of the Affordable Care Act.

Medicare Part D (enacted 2003, effective 2006) has added nearly a half-trillion in red ink. This was the prescription drug plan where taxpayers subsidize participants opting for high-price (and high-profit) brand name drugs rather than lower-price generics. It also prohibited Medicare from negotiating with drug manufacturers for lower prices (like the V.A. does). This program was not paid for, and was financed by debt. Again, many of its problems will be alleviated by the Affordable Care Act.

The Watson Institute at Brown University estimates the cost of the Iraq War at \$1.7 trillion. Adding the wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan, along with commitments to returning vets and their families, brings it up to \$4 trillion. It's estimated we'll be paying an additional \$4 trillion in interest on that debt over the next forty years.

President Obama did take an action which significantly added to the record of our budget deficits and debt. In the Bush years expenditures, such as for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and Medicare Part D, were dealt with off-budget as "emergency" and "supplemental appropriations" – another way of saying they were kept off the books. The incoming president directed such expenditures be put back on the books, so we could get a clearer picture of our nation's financial situation. It wasn't pretty, but it was honest.

Still, the budget deficit is now lower as a percentage of GDP than before the Great Recession, after spiking when Obama first took office. The first eleven months of this fiscal year, it's shrunk \$400 billion from a year ago.

The subject of Greg's column, though, was Detroit's heading for bankruptcy - with the focus on public employee pensions and "lavish" benefits.

The average Detroit city worker retires on \$19,000 a year. For police or firefighters, it's about \$30,000 – with no Social Security. Greg devoted maybe 90% of his column to public employee pension obligations, though it only comprises 20% of Detroit's debt.

Whatever the problem might be, it's not the pensions. Our economy was strongest, the middle-class most prosperous, retirements most secure when pensions were most prevalent. In 1980, 40% of our workforce, public and private, were covered by pensions. Now it's less than 20%.

When 401(k)s came out in the late-1970s, they were seen as a supplement to pensions. When employers realized a 401(k) would cost the company only half what a pension would, they became not a supplement but a substitute. Best of all, whatever risk there was would shift from the employer to Wall Street.

The problem was that retirees would end up with only 10-33% of the income as they would from a pension. And, there was shifting of that risk from employers who may have some connection of loyalty to their employees to those who simply loved playing with other people's money.

In 2009, 50 million workers lost over \$1 trillion in 401(k) investments. The Wall Streeters who gambled and lost got bailed out by the taxpayers. Nobody bailed out the taxpayers whose retirement accounts were gambled away by the Wall Streeters.

The primary cause of Detroit's problems is the decimated tax base caused by unemployment and de-population. As stated by the Economic Policy Institute, "It's unrealistic to expect Detroit's remaining 700,000 residents, more than one-third of whom have incomes below the poverty level and whose per capita income is only \$14,000, to support a city and an infrastructure built for 1.8 million."

The other problem is the billions of dollars tied up in municipal bonds and other Wall Street creations. As Demos reported last month, "Detroit's bankruptcy was primarily caused by a severe decline in revenue and exacerbated by complicated Wall Street deals that put its ability to pay its expenses at greater risk. To address the city's cash flow shortfall and get it out of bankruptcy, the emergency manager should focus on increasing revenue and extricating the city from these toxic financial deals."

Municipal bonds are investments, often insured against loss. Pensions are contracts, promises made between a government and its workers. Those holding bonds own powerful voices in Lansing and Washington to make sure they're first in line to be paid, and paid in full. Those same voices have worked over the years to weaken unions and the collective voice of public employees, so if those workers want promises made them to be kept, they'll have to wait much further back in that line - and wait to see if there's anything left.

I usually open my column with a quote, but this time I'll close with one – one that made me feel a certain kinship with Nelson Mandela. Someone referred to him in his presence as a "saint", and he replied that he wasn't any saint, "unless by a saint you mean a sinner who keeps trying."

IN PRAISE OF NELSON GREG Welborn MANDELA



Nelson Mandela's passing marks the death of a truly amazing and honorable man. While I still find myself in conflict with many of his policy prescriptions for his beloved South Africa, I nonetheless admire the man, his strength and his integrity. Given his early Marxist leanings, this may seem odd for a conservative to write, but Nelson Mandela showed he was capable of growth and change, and he gifted to Africa and to the world at large something remarkable which very few before him have ever been able to provide.

For the vast majority of his adult life, Mandela was cut from the same Marxist revolutionary cloth that has produced one failed African leader after the other. The pursuit of the collective at the expense of the individual and the concomitant abuses of power and position that are the unavoidable fellow travelers have kept Africa one of the poorest continents on earth despite its rich natural resources.

Into that history, Mandela was born and trained as a lawyer. He joined the African National Congress. As he rose in party ranks, he moved solidly toward Marxism and admiration of the Soviet model. Above his desk at home, he kept portraits of Stalin and Lenin. As his embrace of their revolutionary prescriptions increased, so too did his frustration with the ANC's peaceful resistance to apartheid. He came to believe that only armed revolt would free his country of the scourge that was apartheid.

Perhaps frustration and embrace of armed resistance can be excused. It always depends on the circumstances. Our own country was formed as a result of an armed rebellion, but only after all peaceful efforts had been exhausted and a full articulation of the grievances presented to the ruling authorities. Something similar had occurred in South Africa, and the ruling elites were just as intransigent as were King George's governors.

Mandela was arrested for plotting violent sabotage, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island, near Cape Town. He then began what would become a 25-year incarceration. Despite his revolutionary leanings and violent advocacy, his trial gave us insights into someone who would be different than the typical radical revolutionary. In his own closing arguments, Mandela said, "I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities."

Unlike too many leftists who promise equality only to practice the Orwellian version of all are equal, but some are more equal than others, we would learn that Mandela meant what he said. He disappeared for 25 years, but he was freed in February 1990 at the age of 71. He was the de facto leader of the ANC, and all presumed – correctly it turned out – that he would soon rule the country that had imprisoned him.

In the country's first free presidential elections, Nelson Mandela was elected president. He showed no bitterness, nor sought revenge. Enough to earn him praise in all quarters. Be he seared his integrity into the consciousness of his countrymen and millions around the world by actively working to unite an anxious nation. He worked with his former enemies to establish a robust constitution with protections for all and an independent judiciary.

Then, he did something no other African strong man has done. He willingly gave up power at what can only be described as the pinnacle of his popularity. Thus, like Washington in an earlier century on a different continent, he can truly lay claim to the title of father of his country. We should all pray that his successors live up to his standards.





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15% of your credit score is based on the length of your credit history, so make sure that the opening dates of all your accounts are accurate. Also make sure that the limits on your credit cards are correct, and keep the balances under 50% of those limits. Total debt accounts for 30% of your credit score.

Finally, think twice about closing credit card accounts with zero balances, because this negatively reduces your ratio of "available credit" to your debt. First, get the facts. Then, make corrections. Finally, apply for home financing with confidence!

## BUSINESS TODAY

*The latest on Business News, Trends and Techniques*



By La Quetta M. Shamblee, MBA

### WINNING WITH COLLABORATIVE COMPETITION

If you're in a major city and see the infamous golden arches in the distance letting you know that a Big Mac or other familiar options await you at McDonald's, you can guarantee that you will find at least one or more of their major competitors in very close proximity. Jack In The Box, Carl's Jr's or the healthier Subway option are certain to be among your choices. The big guys understand and embrace the benefits of a collaborative competition, of sorts.

Modern day malls and shopping centers are nothing more than a contemporary adaptation of the age-old concept of the marketplace dating back to ancient times. These marketplaces were sometimes permanent fixtures in townships, and in other instances, operated similar to weekly farmers' markets and community festivals. Each month across America, a robust schedule of traveling trunk shows, crafts fair and other specialty events appeal to millions with interests in everything from jewelry making to collecting antique firearms.

All of these examples point to the power and profitability of collaborative competition. Entrepreneurs who understand this concept are better able to identify and develop opportunities otherwise hidden to those who can view competition only as threat. The opportunity for more individuals and families to own businesses increased as we made the transition from small clusters of townships, separated by vast rural areas where the majority of American lived prior to the Industrial Revolution of the early 1800's. Today's major urban centers evolved out of this economic boom as waves of people moved to benefit from job opportunities.

With the temporary dismantling of the traditional, one-stop country store and the cursory one store per major merchandise category that dictated one-blacksmith, or one-seamstress, or one-café per town, the reality of supply and demand made it feasible for competitors to come together to create the modern day marketplaces. As the population density increased, so did the need for more businesses selling goods and services in the same categories.

There was a time in small town USA when opening a similar business close to a competitor would have been considered an insult, a frontal assault. We're almost three generations beyond the era when the successful strategy for retail and food businesses was to maintain a healthy physical distance from one's direct competition. Clusters of vendors hocking their crafts and wares at community festivals and similar venues were the exception and one of the few places where this practice would have been viewed as acceptable.

Take a stroll into the food court area of any regional mall to see the benefits of collaborative competition. There was a time when the choice of food outlets in these venues was very limited, and it would have been thought quite outrageous for them to have been located in adjacent spaces. A brief observation will reveal that all of the competitors in this situation benefit as hungry shoppers, who are undecided when they step into this area, gaze across the choice of eateries. Repeated hundreds of times daily, think of this process as the lottery that results in wins for every competitor in the food court area over time.

Likewise, small businesses have opportunity to develop collaborative competition models to their benefit within specific industry categories or geographic categories. Regions where cities are clustered near major urban centers and accessible transportation are ripe for establishing shopping districts and travel associations. This can create opportunities for small businesses to benefit from shared marketing and promotional efforts. Thoughtful and well-planned models for collaborative competition can contribute to a significant increase in business at a more favorable cost for all of the small businesses involved.



**RICH Johnson**

### 2013 GIFT SUGGESTIONS: THE MAGIC 8 BALL AND THE PET ROCK

Have you ever had an idea for an invention? We're told that an infinitesimal number of invention (and patents) actually ultimately turn into successful money making ventures. The number is something like 99.2% of new inventions fail.

What makes an invention or patent successful? Probably the most important element is marketing. Also, an incredible stroke of luck that causes a product to "go viral" which means spread like a virus. Someone likes a product (becomes infected) and shares the idea with friends. Thanks to social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter, going viral is more and more of a regular societal happening.

Some of these viral success stories predate the internet and social media. Take the Magic 8 ball. Someone in your family has or had one. Remember, you ask the little black ball and quickly turn the ball over. One of 20 or so different sayings on a 20 sided dice (called an icosahedron) popped up. The sayings? Ten of the sayings were positive: "It is certain", "It is decidedly so", "Without a doubt", "Yes definitely", "You may rely on it", "As I see it, yes", "Most likely", "Outlook good", "Yes", and rounding out the positive answers, "Signs point to yes".

Five of the sayings were iffy: "Reply hazy try again", "Ask again later", "Better not tell you now", "Cannot predict now", "Concentrate and ask again"

And the last five were not optimistic: "Don't

count on it", "My reply is no", "My sources say no", "Outlook not so good", "Very doubtful". About a million of these Magic 8 Balls sell every year. You can purchase a Magic 8 Ball on Amazon for \$9.68. If you'd like one that gives you rude and crude offensive answers it will cost you \$17.95. Oh, and it is now available as an App.

The Pet Rock is another phenomenon of a crazy idea going viral. This miracle product first appeared in 1975. The Pet Rock was described as the perfect pet. You never had to feed it, take it for a walk, give it a bath. Also it would never pass on to that rock quarry in the sky. A big part of the gift was the 32-page official training manual titled "The Care and Training of Your Pet Rock". It contained several commands that could be taught to your new pet. The easiest were "sit" and "stay". "Roll over" was a bit more difficult and required a little help from the trainer. "Attack" was also a fairly simple command but again required a little help from the trainer. The Pet Rock sold for \$3.75 and the inventor sold one and a half million. Pet Rocks are still available through Amazon. They cost \$6.00 but now include a leash.

Speaking of luck, the Vegan community and our desire to all be lucky have helped another novelty product go viral. Most popular during Thanksgiving this product gives everyone at a Thanksgiving dinner have a 50-50 chance of being lucky. What is it? Figure it out? It is the Plastic Wishbone. The Lucky Break Wishbone Corporation manufactures and sells fake wishbones. You can purchase four for \$3.99, or 400 for \$195.00. *Wanna get lucky?*



### PLANNING FOR A NEW WEB SITE

Your web site is the cornerstone of your online presence. Investing in it is important. Your web site is often the first impression a potential customer, client, volunteer, donor or investor has of your business or non-profit. Isn't it worth a bit of planning?

Step One - Needs Assessment

"I need a new web site. How much does it cost?" is like asking "I need new transportation. How much does it cost?" Do you simply need a new pair of shoes, a piggy-back ride, a bus pass, a skateboard, a boat, a hot air balloon, an airplane ticket, or do you need a Ferrari that matches your private jet? The point is, creating your website is not a one-size fits all solution. Every business requires a unique solution. Sure, some of the technology will be similar to other sites, but the final solution should be customized to fit your business.

A good web site solution is designed to fit an organization's needs, wants and intended audience. Each business and non-profit has a unique flavor, unique needs, unique offerings, unique budget and unique goals. Each deserves a unique look and feel. Since the potential solutions have a wide range of possibilities, step one is to define your needs and hence the scope and purpose of your new web site.

Needs assessment starts with four important questions:

1. What do you want your web site to do? (sell, inform, collect information, etc.)
2. How does it fit into your overall online system and business?
3. What is your budget?
4. What other tools need to work with your site? (email capture, social media etc.)

Taking time to answer these questions will set the stage to move on to the next important step of establishing an online web presence that will contribute to the success of your business or organization.

About MJ: MJ and her brother David own HUTdogs, a creative services business that specializes in Internet Marketing strategies and Social Media. They offer social media management services and help their clients build a strong on-line presence. "Like" them on Facebook for trending news in social media, internet marketing and other helpful tips, [www.facebook.com/hutdogs](http://www.facebook.com/hutdogs).

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STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE  
OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
The following person(s) BIZFILINGS, has/has not a fictitious business name:  
NAME: 1800TOPREPAIR, 2490 S. WESTERN  
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business name referred to above was filed on  
11/21/2013, in the county of Los Angeles. The  
original file number is 2013104332. The business  
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statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los  
Angeles on 11/21/2013. The business information  
in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant  
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knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) SIGNED:  
PRES.  
Publish: Mountain Views News  
Date Pub: November 25, 30 December 07, 14,  
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