

POWER OUTAGE SHUTS DOWN SIERRA MADRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DURING RAINSTORM



Sierra Madre Elementary at 1 pm Friday. Photo courtesy Lisa Spagali

Power Has Been Restored at Pasadena Unified's Sierra Madre Elementary -Classes Will Resume Monday, December 15

The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) announced early Friday morning that Sierra Madre Elementary School would be closed Friday, December 12 due to a power outage resulting from the major overnight storm. Families were notified about the cancellation of classes earlier this morning via phone message. Parents on social media also helped spread the word.

Sierra Madre Middle School is not affected by the power outage and SMMS students followed their regular schedule.

SIERRA MADRE POLICE NAB BURGLARY SUSPECT

Alert Resident And One Minute SMPD Response Time Lead To Arrest



Burglary Suspect Christian Castaneda

credit cards, checks, GPS devices, phones, wallets, etc."

Just hours before the arrest and a few hours after several Sierra Madre thefts (see inset), the suspects are said to have purchased a large quantity of merchandise in Glendora with a stolen credit card. Castaneda was booked at the Pasadena Jail. His bail is set at \$30,000.

Upon further investigation the SMPD learned that there were in fact two suspects, the driver of the vehicle and one person who fled when he saw the police approaching. The vehicle had been reported stolen from an Azusa residence with stolen plates from Glendora.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents please call the Sierra Madre Police Department's Detective Bureau, at (626) 355-1414.

S. Henderson/MVNews

RECENT THEFTS IN SIERRA MADRE

"Residential Burglary (garage)

A residential garage burglary occurred in the 500 block of Camillo Road. This incident occurred between Tuesday, December 09, 2014, at 10:00 pm and Wednesday, December 11, 2014 at 6:00 am.

Unknown suspect(s) entered the victim's unlocked 2004, white Honda, parked in the driveway. The suspect(s) ransacked the Honda then took and used the garage door remote control and opened the garage door. The suspect(s) entered the garage and stolen a black, Kandal 29 inch bicycle, a Craftsman circular saw, and fled. The

garage is attached to the home and the residents were home at the time of the theft. The loss is valued at approximately \$1,500.00

Residential Burglary (garage)

A residential garage burglary occurred in the 2000 block of Lilliano Drive. This incident occurred on Wednesday, December 10, 2014, between 12:30 am 6:30 am.

Unknown suspect(s) entered the victim's unlocked 2009, silver GMC pickup truck parked in the driveway. The suspect(s) ransacked the pickup truck then took a pair

of sunglasses and the garage door remote control. The suspect(s) opened the garage door with the remote control, entered the garage and ransacked it. At this time, it is unknown if anything was taken from the garage. The garage was also attached to the home and the residents were home at the time of the incident. The garage door remote control and the sunglasses are valued at approximately \$230.00.

Note: At press time, it was unclear if Castaneda would be charged with these crimes.
Report Courtesy Sgt. R. Enriquez, SMPD

Inside this week:

CALENDAR	Pg. 2
SIERRA MADRE NEWS	Pg. 3
PASADENA/ALTADENA	Pg. 4
ARCADIA NEWS	Pg. 5
MONROVIA/DUARTE	Pg. 5
EDUCATION & YOUTH	Pg. 6
FOOD & DRINK	Pg. 7
Peter Dills / Rich Johnson	
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT	Pg. 9
BEST FRIENDS	Pg. 10
HEALTHY LIVING	Pg. 10
GOOD LIFE	Pg. 11
SECTION B	
AROUND SGV	Pg. B1
THE WORLD AROUND US	Pg. B2
BUSINESS NEWS	Pg. B3
OPINION	Pg. B4
LEGAL NOTICES	Pg. B5

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES SOUGHT

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the 2014 Citizen of the Year. To be eligible, a person must be a resident of Sierra Madre. The accomplishment(s) or project(s) for which they are being nominated must have been of benefit to the community of Sierra Madre and its citizens during 2014. They must have served without remuneration on the project for which they are being nominated, and members of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors are not eligible.

If you would like to nominate someone, nomination forms are available at www.sierramadrechamber.com.

You can also pick up nomination forms at the Chamber office, City Hall, the Library, and the Recreation Center. Completed forms should be mailed to Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, 19 Suffolk Ave., Ste. A, Sierra Madre, 91024 by January 3, 2015.

The winner will be selected by members of the Chamber Board of Directors, and will be honored at the annual Citizen of the Year/Board of Directors Installation Dinner to be held in January 31, 2015.

Previous Awardees:

Joe and Jacquie Pergola	2013	Celeste McCreary	1989
Marlene Enmark	2012	Harry C. Martin	1988
Richard Mays	2011	Howard L. Wagner	1987
Glenn and Amy Putnam	2010	Royden F. Estoppey	1986
Paul and Louise Nieby	2009	A. Virginia Liskow	1985
Angel Throop	2008	Joseph Delgatto	1984
Pete Siberell	2007	Hugh Campbell	1983
Bud Switzer	2006	Marjorie Peterson	1982
John Grijalva	2005	Mary Tumulty	1981
Hank Landsberg	2004	Phyllis Chapman	1980
Rob Stockly	2003	Gertrude Gerke	1979
Bill Messersmith	2002	Charles Brown	1978
Carol Canterbury	2001	R. Robert Evans	1977
Marilyn McKernan	2000	Sam Tesoro	1976
George Enyedi	1999	John Goodall	1975
Judy Webb-Martin	1998	George Maurer	1974
William McKernan	1997	Earl LaLone	1973
Shirley McGillicuddy	1996	H. Clay Reavis	1972
Lew Watanabe	1995	Myrtis Waite	1971
Jan Reed	1994	Rudolph Hartman	1970
Michael Sizer	1993	Janet Wood	1969
Dorothy Hobiak	1992	Carl Hobson	1968
Doug Hayes	1991	Ruth Barden	1967
Helen Walker	1990	William Wark	1966

KIWANIS CLUB HOLDS HOMECOMING LUNCHEON THIS TUESDAY

The Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club invites all past and present members to join us for our final luncheon of the year. Spouses and children of former members are welcome too! Event begins at noon on Tuesday, December 16th at The Lodge, 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre. Former members dine free. Guests \$10. Call 626-355-0728 to reserve your seat!

Bean Town's Annual Christmas Benefit
Bring Your Camera ! & take a picture with Santa Claus
On Saturday Dec 13th from 1pm-3pm.

All Donations Go To The Sierra Madre School Arts Program.
Come one, come all, the more the merrier!
A photographer will be on hand if you forget your camera.
4321 N. BALDWIN AVE. SIERRA MADRE CA, 91024 (626) 355-1500

CANDLELIGHT WALK DECEMBER 21st

Neither let the wind of winter nor the cold of the western night forbid the hope of Christmas from entering your heart.

The story of Christmas was written in that dark age of despair, when the shadows of the world crept over the descendants of Adam and Eve. Even in that great season of suspicion, there were those who knew of a king -- a king of heavenly kindness. These gateways of knowledge were commissioned with the name of "wise men." They were vigilantly loyal to God, and they hungered for the stories of Heaven, which they housed as treasures in their heart. In righteousness of Heaven and the celestial power of angels, the wise men came to resolve the riddles of prophets and the story of a child who was to be born under the perfect light of a star.

Therefore, we dedicate a December evening each year to the birth of a Heaven King. We join as a community in the hope for "Peace on Earth and good will to all," knowing that on such a night when God's people are

gathered, angels are our audience. May we experience the emotion of humble shepherds who were overcome with the spirit of Christmas.

December 21, 2014 6:45 PM

The Candlelight Walk is held each Christmas season to celebrate the journey that Joseph and Mary made to Bethlehem where Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago. The procession will begin at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Sierra Madre, with "Mary and Joseph" leading the way, and other participants holding candles while singing traditional Christmas carols. The procession will end at Kersting Court in the center of town where the Christmas Story will be read from Scripture.

The procession begins at St. Rita traveling down Baldwin to Kersting Court. It is recommended that you arrive by 6:45pm, so that the walk can begin promptly at 7:00 pm.

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Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun:	Ptly Cldy	Hi 60s	Lows 50s
Mon:	Ptly Cldy	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
Tues:	Showers	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
Wed:	Showers	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
Thur:	Ptly Cldy	Hi 60s	Lows 50s
Fri:	Ptly Cldy	Hi 60s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING:
Special Meeting Tuesday, January 6, 2015
6:30 pm

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.

SIERRA MADRE CITY
MEETINGS

City Council

Special Council Meeting

General Plan

Moratorium on the Demolition of
Older Homes

January 6, 2015 - 6:30 pm

The final agenda and staff reports will be available online no later than Friday night. Enter the date "01/06/2015" for the complete agenda packet.

Can't make it to the meeting, but still want to share your thoughts? You can mail or drop off a written statement to City Hall or email city@cityofsierramadre.com before 5:30 the night of the meeting and your statement will be delivered to all the Council Members.

Upcoming Public Meetings

Agendas and staff reports will be posted online 72 hours before the meeting. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place in the City Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Monday, December 15:
Community Services Commission, 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 17:
EENR Commission, 7:00pm

Thursday, December 18:
Planning Commission, 7:00pm

Tuesday, December 23:
City Council CANCELED

Wednesday, December 24:
Library Board of Trustees CANCELED

The Sierra Madre Interact Club joined members of the Sierra Madre United Methodist Church to prepare and serve dinner to homeless families in the Family Promise support program.

The Sierra Madre Interact Club is a Rotary-sponsored community service club for young people ages 13-18. The club meets on Monday evenings at 7:15PM, across the hall from the choir room in the United Methodist Church at the corner of Sierra Madre Blvd and Michillinda Ave.



Rotary Club of Sierra Madre

Is known for its camaraderie (ComRotary).

If you have been thinking about making a difference

In your community, please join us for

Breakfast created by Chef Mario at

The Park Hart House,

222 W. Sierra Madre Bl.,

Sierra Madre, CA 91024,

Tuesdays, 7-8:30 a.m.

We have dynamic speakers each week.

For more info go to Facebook or Meetup

SIERRA MADRE HOLIDAY
PARKING REGULATIONS:

Beginning on December 20th and continuing through January 4th 2015, overnight parking will be exempt for the Holiday season. Sierra Madre Police wishes you a safe and stress free Holiday season! Please be sure to like and share to help share with residents!

SIERRA MADRE ROSE
FLOAT ASSOCIATION
NEEDS YOU!

We are scheduling Volunteers using an online program for the month of December and especially for DECO week (December 26th to 31st).

Walk up volunteers are still welcome, but, if crowded, preference will go to those signed up at <http://smrfa.ivolunteer.com/>

Sierra Madre Rose Float Association
Visit our WEB site at SMRoseFloat.org

FREE CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Athens Services will pick up and recycle your Christmas Tree from December 26th to January 9th. Residents may put their tree by the curb on their regular pick-up day for this free program. Please remove stands, nails, ornaments, lights and tinsel, and place the trees next to your containers. Trees with flocking or fire retardant are acceptable. Trees over 6 feet in length must be cut in half.

If you miss the date for recycling, please cut up your tree and place it in your yard waste container, or call Athens Services for a "bulky item" pickup.

For additional information, please call Athens Services at 1-888-336-6100 or the Sierra Madre Public Works Department at 626-355-7135.



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"AN OLD-FASHIONED HOLIDAY"

Queen Anne Cottage, Coach Barn & Santa Anita Depot
Open House and Family Activities

Stroll down memory lane and view treasures and furnishings normally seen only through windows of the charming Victorian-era Queen Anne Cottage. These historic facilities, decorated in Christmas finery, have become a Southland tradition for holiday visitors.

Lucky Baldwin's National Register guest house is open to the public only twice a year, so be sure to add to your calendar this rare opportunity to tour the Cottage interior with knowledgeable docents. Baldwin's matching Coach Barn will also be open. Down the path a short distance, the Santa Anita Depot will welcome visitors with docent-led tours.

Date: Sunday, December 14, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007

Price: Free with admission to Arboretum

Contact: Nancy Carlton, Volunteer Manager

(626) 802-8471

Email: nancy.carlton@arboretum.org

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Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

REMEMBRANCE



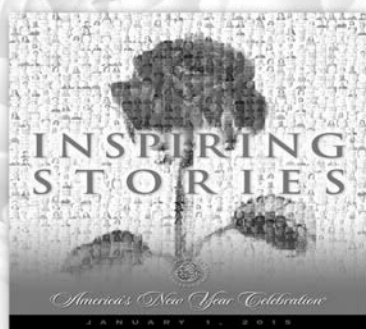
BRIAN KEITH ECK, aka "AUGGIE, OGGIE, OG,"

Born on Sept. 5th 1963 to Sheila Joan Eck Pierce and James Clarence Eck, Sr., succumbed to a blood infection on Dec. 2, 2014.

He is survived by his parents and brother James C. Eck, Jr., sister Melissa Stute, half brothers James Eck and Scott Eck, half sisters Margaret Eck and Elizabeth Eck, and step sister Jeanne Pierce and step brother John Pierce.

Rosary will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13th followed by a mass at 10:30 a.m. at St. Rita Church, 318 N. Baldwin Ave. in Sierra Madre.

Burial will be private.
Photo Courtesy sierramadrenews.net



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Walking Sierra Madre...The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas." Calvin Coolidge

Christmas is just a little more than two weeks away. Yes, it really is! This is such a beautiful time of year, especially if you happen to be driving 'round town at night when the lights on all the houses are at their best. My walking buddy and outdoor light designer, John, put the lights on our fence yesterday and, once again, I find it heart-stoppingly beautiful to see the lights across the street, next door and down the block.

Our tree in Kersting Court is the best one ever. And today the park around the tree was filled with folks enjoying the Nativity scene and the tree. The menorah on the far side of the tree looks stunning, too. There was one young lady there reading, wearing a Santa hat with mouse ears.

Mother Moo has shiny ornaments hanging from her awning and many of our store windows have had Christmas theme pictures painted on them. We are definitely in the Christmas spirit.

Have you noticed FoothillTEK is now where Sierra Fitness Pilates was before they moved to their beautiful new home on Montecito. And Harlequin Gallery is coming back to where Yellow Bus was. Baldwin is a busy place these days! Speaking of Baldwin, our friends up at the top who decorate their cactus with Santa hats have done it again, bigger and better! You've got to walk up there and take a look. A guaranteed smile! And while you're up there, just a few steps before Carter, admire the baby oak tree which is decorated with some lovely ornaments.

The moment is fast arriving when everyone will be bringing their Christmas tree home. The drought and the heat have supposedly impacted the tree market, but I'll tell you, friends and neighbors, the trees were piled higher than ever before at Home Depot last week. Like you, we have so many wonderful memories in the boxes where our Christmas ornaments live, like 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 tiny 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. We've got all the bread dough ornaments, some really serious art there, our two youngest made the year they were both home from school with chicken pox.

Yep, it's two weeks before Christmas, you've brought home a perfectly symmetrical 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. Even though you tell the family how much fun decorating the tree together will be, they still scatter 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 we're all going to have. This intimate moment



deserves a small celebration. It(s definitely time to make Egg Nog!

Here(s my 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, elegant, 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, or maybe that wonderful recording of The Messiah you've wanted to play.
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.

"Christmas It's almost here!
My favorite, favorite time of year!
Think...mistletoe and holly, children's faces... jolly!
Carols on the radio, happy smiles each place you go.
Presents piled beneath the tree, some for you and some for me.
Christmas! It's almost here!
Think Joy! Think Peace! Think love!"

("Think Joy!" from "Star of Wonder - A Christmas Musical"
Book & Lyrics by Deanne Davis, Music by David Wheatley)

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, November 30th, to Sunday, December 7th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 281 calls for service.

Tuesday, December 2nd

At 6:53 am, Sierra Madre Police responded to the 100 Block of Vista Circle Drive regarding a suspicious person in the reporting victim's car. Upon arrival, Officers were informed by the victim that as she was leaving her house, she noticed the interior light of her vehicle was on. With her vehicle being parked on the hillside above her front door, she was able to see under her car and saw the suspect's feet hanging out the side of the car. When the victim confronted the suspect he informed her that "They were at it again,...cars were hit...they didn't find anything." The suspect then got out of the vehicle and walked to sit across the street. The victim then went back into her home to call the Police, and the suspect left the area. The suspect was described as a white male with long black hair wearing a multi-colored tie-dyed shirt, dark jogging pants, and without shoes. Further investigation concluded the victim failed to lock her car because she felt the area was safe. No property was reported missing. This case has been forwarded to the Detectives Bureau.

Tuesday, December 2nd

At 7:54 pm, Sierra Madre Police responded to the station lobby regarding a financial crime report. Officers were informed by the victim that, earlier that day he had checked his bank business account and noticed two unauthorized purchases. One charge was for just over \$9 and another charge for over \$1800 for airline tickets. The victim contacted his bank and filed a fraud report and closed his accounts. This case has been forwarded to the Detectives Bureau.

Friday, December 5th

At 7:19 pm, Sierra Madre Police responded to

the 500 Block of Brookside Lane regarding a possible burglary report. Upon arrival, Officers were informed by the victim that earlier that morning she left her house secured and intact. Upon returning home later that evening, she noticed a window pane from her front door had been broken. The victim feared her house was possibly burglarized and called Sierra Madre Police to clear the residence. As Officers investigated the area, they noticed a package on the porch with one of the corners showing signs of being smashed or bent. Officers cleared the home and no property was reported stolen. Concluding their investigations, Officers believed the window pane was damaged when the delivery service threw the package onto the porch, where it then hit the window, shattering the glass. This case has been forwarded to the Detectives Bureau.

Sunday, December 7th

At 2:13 am, Officers were patrolling the area of the 100 block of North Baldwin Avenue, when they were flagged down by the passing motorist. The motorist informed Officers there was a man asleep in his running vehicle on the 210 freeway off-ramp near Foothill Blvd. Upon arrival, Officers discovered a male subject asleep with his head resting against the window. When Officers attempted to make contact, the driver released his foot from the brake causing the vehicle to roll forward into a center median and colliding with a traffic sign. The driver exited the vehicle unharmed and informed Officers that he was 18 and that he had been drinking at his friend's house prior to the incident. The subject agreed to a BAC test, and was ultimately deemed over the legal limit. The subject was arrested and booked for underage drinking and driving while under the influence.



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GROUPS FILE LAWSUIT AGAINST DEVIL'S GATE DAM PROJECT

Representatives of the Arroyo Seco Foundation and the Pasadena Audubon Society announced Wednesday their intent to file a lawsuit challenging the LA County Flood Control District's program to scour the basin behind Devil's Gate Dam in Hahamongna Watershed Park. The announcement was made during a morning news conference near the dam.

Representatives said the lawsuit will challenge the environmental impacts of the Flood Control District's Big Dig program, which would involve 150,000 diesel trucks removing more than 2.4 million cubic yards of sand and sediment from the basin behind Devil's Gate Dam over a five year period and permanently degrading more than 50 acres of streamzone habitat there. The massive nature of the sediment trucking program has raised serious concerns over air pollution, traffic and public health they said.

"The Flood Control District's Big Dig plan ignores overwhelming community support for a more moderate and less destructive approach to removing the sediment that has accumulated behind Devil's Gate Dam over many decades," said Tim Brick, ASF Managing Director. Laura Garrett, PAS Conservation Chair, said, "We can protect the habitat, wildlife and recreational activities at Hahamongna, while providing a safe level of flood protection. Pasadena's recommendations and the scores of comments offered during the Environmental Impact Report process demonstrate that."

The plan was approved by the LA County Board of Supervisors on Nov. 12 by a 4-1 vote, with County Supervisor Yaroslavsky dissenting.

Pet of the Week



Zoe is a 1-year-old female blue pit bull. She's very energetic and enjoys playing and going for walks. She has earned her blue ribbon which means that she knows her sit, down, and stay commands. Because of her blue ribbon training, her adoption fee has been reduced to \$100.

The regular dog adoption fee is \$125 which includes the spay or neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations, and 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.

Call the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA at 626.792.7151 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.



Chick-fil-A Quietly Opens in Pasadena

By Dean Lee

After years of trying, Chick-fil-A finally opened a store location in the city Thursday near Pasadena City College against the wishes of some students due to the company's stand in opposition to same-sex marriage.

Hundreds of people lined up Wednesday night for a change to be one of the first 100 customers, winning a free Chick-fil-A meal per week for a year, something the eatery does at every new store location.

The first 100 were selected by raffle ticket. Those chosen, then camped overnight in the parking lot creating a scene reminiscent of the Rose Parade. An official ribbon cutting, with Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, and the

new owner and operators, took place around 6 a.m. Thursday morning.

Bogaard took a bite of a chicken sandwich to mark the opening.

During a deadlocked decision in May, Bogaard along with Councilmembers Jacque Robinson, Margaret McAustin and Councilman Steve Madison voted in favor of allowing the restaurant to take over the vacant Burger King and expand the drive-thru.

At issue was a request by Councilman Terry Tornek to revisit a request for building permits related to the drive-thru and two protected trees. Some criticized Tornek's move as political. In March Pasadena, LGBT students rallied against the restaurant arguing that the

presence of Chick-fil-A near the school would "cause great distress."

Over a six year span, the city council had denied Chick-fil-A permits at six other potential restaurant locations throughout the city.

The eatery has promised to hire 50 to 60 PCC students at the new location.

Rep. Schiff Urges Funds for Body Cameras

Rep. Adam Schiff, a former federal prosecutor who recently urged the Department of Justice earlier this month to help fund local police departments' purchase of small body-worn cameras in order to increase transparency, decrease tensions between police and community members, and create a record of events, released the following statement after President Obama announced the Administration would provide \$75 million in funding for this program:

"The President's announcement that he will seek \$75 million in new funding to expand the use of body worn cameras for police officers is a welcome and important step towards making the use of body cameras standard practice in police departments across the country, and I'm looking forward to working to accomplish our shared goal of fully funding this initiative. The broader use of body cameras is a commonsense step which would help build trust and accountability where police-community relations are frayed, and potentially avert deadly confrontations like the one in which Michael Brown lost his life. We know that body cameras for police officers work, and it's time to make them a reality."

Schiff, along with other Members of Congress, recently sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder urging the Department of Justice to help fund local police departments' purchase of small body-worn cameras.

From the letter: "These cameras provide a visual and audio record of interactions with the public, so that in the event of a confrontation or police-involved shooting, such as the one that occurred in Ferguson, there is an unalterable record of the events. There are also indications that the presence of body cameras has a civilizing effect on both police officers and the public, resulting in lower incidences of excessive force complaints and deescalating tense situations before they become violent."

Kwanzaa Celebration

Join us for Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community & Culture on Saturday, December 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at La Pintoresca Branch Library, 1355 N. Raymond Ave. Enjoy music, stories and tasty dishes prepared by members of the Pasadena Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. For more information contact Pat Smith (626) 744-7268 or psmith@cityofpasadena.net.



The oldest large-scale Christmas lighting spectacle in the United States is set today to hold the 94th Annual Christmas Tree Lane Lighting Ceremony and Winter Arts and Crafts Festival starting at 2 p.m. The tree lighting ceremony takes place at 6 p.m.

Every Christmas season for more than 80 years, the majestic deodars on the "Mile of Christmas Trees" are strung with 10,000 lights.

In 1885, real estate magnate John P. Woodbury of the Woodbury Family, the founders of Altadena - planted 134 deodar trees (Cedrus deodara) as a grand mile-long driveway entrance to the mansion he would build. Woodbury's mansion was never built, but the trees thrived and the "driveway" became Santa Rosa Avenue.

In 1920, Altadena resident and department store owner

Frederick C. Nash organized the first tree-lighting spectacle. In that first December when deodars were decorated with colorful lights with the goal of attracting shoppers to Nash's store, one of the most celebrated Los Angeles-area traditions was born. The Lane is recognized as the oldest large-scale outdoor Christmas display in the world, listed in the National Register of Historic Places and designated as the California State Landmark No. 990.

Christmas Tree Lane in Altadena is on Santa Rosa Avenue, between Woodbury Avenue and Altadena Drive. Arts and Crafts Festival to include 29 gift and food vendors, face painting, and the Girl Scouts will provide free hot cocoa. The Girl Scouts local troop #060401 will also light the Lane.

For more information, visit www.christmastreelane.net.

Free December Events at Pasadena Senior Center

There is something for everyone in December at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St. You do not have to be a member to attend. Some events require advance reservations as noted.

Stay Connected with Social Media - Tuesdays and Thursdays, through Dec. 23, from 9 to 11 a.m. Learn how to keep in touch with family and friends via email, Skype, Facebook and other forms of social media during a 30-minute, one-on-one meeting with an instructor. You'll choose which applications you want to learn. Bring a laptop or use one of the onsite computers. If you have an email address, bring it and your password. Sign up with Edison at the Welcome Desk.

Smart Phones, Tablets and Computers - Any Questions? - Tuesdays and Thursdays, through Dec. 23, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Get the answers you need about technology devices, whether you own them already or are considering a purchase. Learn how to text, check voicemail, set an alarm, navigate the Internet, download apps and more.

Friday Movie Matinees - Friday Dec. 26, at 1 p.m. "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947) starring Edmund Gwenn and Natalie Wood.

Senior Living Options - Thursday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m. Several options for senior living are available, and knowing what Medicare covers is important in choosing the right one. Learn about long-term care, assisted living, nursing homes and their relationships to Medicare. Presented by Laura Morgan & Associates.

For more information visit www.pasadenaseniorcenter.org or call 626-795-4331.

CITY CELEBRATES UN HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

The community joined Mayor Bogaard and the Pasadena Chapter of the United Nations Wednesday night to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The event took place at the Pasadena Central Library.

Each year during International Human Rights Day, Pasadena joins communities around the world to celebrate the U.N. General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Dec. 10, 1948. This year's celebration featured a special video presentation, lecture and exhibits centered on the 2015 U.N. theme "International

Year of Light and Light-based Technologies."

The events began with opening remarks by Bogaard.

"As the international community tackles the challenge of global climate change, there has been an increased focus on conservation and using renewable and alternative energy sources," Bogaard said of the event. "Pasadena's ongoing commitment to attaining greater energy efficiency mirrors the U.N.'s 2015 theme of light and light-based technologies."

This year's featured speaker was award-winning scientist and sustainability expert Elena Christopoulos.



PCC Attends White House College Opportunity Day of Action



Dr. Robert Miller, interim superintendent-president of Pasadena City College, joined President Obama, the First Lady, Vice President Biden, and hundreds of college presidents and higher education leaders last week announce new actions to help more students prepare for and graduate from college.

The White House College Opportunity Day of Action, Dec. 4, highlighted President Obama's commitment to partner with colleges and universities, business leaders, and nonprofits in an effort to support students across the country to help reach the Administration's goal of leading the world in college attainment.

"It is a humbling experience to be asked to represent our faculty and staff at our nation's capital," Miller reported from the event, which was held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. "As I participate, I will reflect on the quality of our great college and the miracles performed every day by our students, faculty and staff. PCC continues as one of the greatest colleges in the nation. And this tribute is further evidence of this fact."

Participants were asked to commit to new action in one of four areas: building networks of colleges around promoting completion, creating K-16 partnerships around college readiness, investing in high

school counselors as part of the First Lady's Reach Higher initiative, and increasing the number of college graduates in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The President also announced new steps on how his Administration is helping to support these actions, including announcing \$10 million to help promote college completion and a \$30 million AmeriCorps program that will improve low-income students' access to college.

Expanding opportunity for more students to enroll and succeed in college, especially low-income and underrepresented students, is vital to building a strong economy and a strong middle class. Today, only 9 percent of those born in the lowest family income quartile attain a bachelor's degree by age 25, compared to 54 percent in the top quartile.

In an effort to expand college access, the Obama Administration has also increased Pell scholarships by \$1,000 a year, created the new American Opportunity Tax Credit worth up to \$10,000 over four years of college, limited student loan payments to 10 percent of income, and laid out an ambitious agenda to reduce college costs and promote innovation and competition.

Learn How to Produce Your Own TV Show

New Citizen Journalism training starts Wednesday nights, learn how to report news using social media skills.



PASADENA MEDIA

With the opening of the new Pasadena Media 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 crew members. In addition, on-going training will soon be available in citizen journalism and digital film groups. Call the office (626) 794-8585 or go to PASADENAMEDIA.ORG and explore what Pasadena Media has to offer.

Class offerings days and nights weekly
Station Schedule

PCAC Board Of Directors - Special Meeting

Wednesday December 17 at 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Citizen Journalism Training

Wednesday December 17 at 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Pasadena Media's Winter Wonderland Bash

Friday December 19 at 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Orientation & Tour

Monday January 5 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Studio Cameras & Floor Manager

Wednesday January 7 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

ARCADIA

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

ARCADIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Upcoming DUI/Driver's License Checkpoint

The Arcadia Police Department will be hosting a DUI/Driver's License checkpoint in the City of Arcadia during the evening hours of Saturday December 20th. One of the goals of our enforcement activity is to promote public safety and increase awareness of the dangers associated with drinking and driving. This will be accomplished by providing a highly visible enforcement and publicity campaign, in order to deter intoxicated drivers from getting behind the wheel and driving. Through these efforts, we also seek to reduce the number of injuries and deaths associated with collisions involving intoxicated drivers.

We would like to remind the public of the dangers associated with drinking and driving. Help save a life; call 9-1-1 to report drunk drivers. It simply is not worth it to drive while impaired. Give the gift of life this holiday season and celebrate responsibly by using a sober designated driver.

Don't forget to visit the Arcadia Police Department News & Information Blog or follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Nixle for other pertinent news and information. Remember, the solution begins with you!

Funding for these operations is provided from a grant administered by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, November 30th, through Saturday, December 6th, the Police Department responded to 946 calls for service of which 130 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, November 30:

Just before 4:31 p.m., an officer responded to the intersection of First Avenue and Alta Street regarding a subject yelling at citizens. The officer determined the subject was intoxicated and unable to care for himself. The 22-year-old Hispanic male was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

At approximately 6:34 p.m., an officer responded to Macy's at the Westfield Shopping Town, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a petty theft subject in custody. Surveillance footage revealed the 48-year-old Asian female selected numerous items of merchandise and concealed some of the items in a shopping bag. She paid for the visible merchandise but failed to make payment for the concealed items. She was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Monday, December 1:

At about 2:32 a.m., an officer conduct a records check on a vehicle in the parking lot behind Station Bar, 1218 South Baldwin Avenue, and discovered the vehicle was stolen. An investigation revealed the suspect is an ex-boyfriend of the registered owner and the vehicle was reported stolen when he failed to return it. The 36-year-old Hispanic male was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

At approximately 1:00 p.m., an REI employee flagged down an officer and informed him that two suspects had just fled in a Dodge Charger after stealing several items. The officer located the suspects and surveillance footage revealed the passenger, a 35-year-old Hispanic male, had concealed \$1,217.00 worth of merchandise under his jacket before fleeing in the awaiting vehicle. The driver of the vehicle was not involved in the theft but did have an expired license. The passenger was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking. The driver, a 37-year-old Hispanic male, was cited and released in the field.

Tuesday, December 2:

Around 11:52 a.m., an officer responded to a parking lot in the 200 block of West Huntington Drive regarding a hit and run accident. The officer concluded Party-1 failed to stop resulting in a collision with Party-2, a parked vehicle. Party-1 fled the scene without providing the required

ARCADIA RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES WINTER KID'S CAMP!



The Recreation and Community Services Department is offering a Winter Kid's Camp at Baldwin Stocker Elementary School, 422 W. Lemon Avenue in Arcadia. This retreat is open to elementary school children ages 6-11 and provides a safe, supervised, kid friendly retreat during winter vacation. The dates are Monday, December 22, Tuesday, December 23 and Friday, December 26, 2014 and Monday, December 29, Tuesday, December 30, 2014 and Friday, January 2, 2015 from 9am to 5pm for a cost of \$20 per day. Sign your child up for one day or all six. The camp is filled with fun group activities including crafts, board games, movies, snacks and more. Children must bring a sack lunch each day. Supervision is generally on a ratio of one Recreation Leader for each group of 10 children. To register go to the city's website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.ci.arcadia.ca.us"](http://www.ci.arcadia.ca.us) www.ci.arcadia.ca.us under the Recreation and Community Services Department or come by our office, 375 Campus Drive. Cancellations must be made by Monday, December 22nd in order to receive a refund (which is subject to a \$10 service charge).

For more questions, please contact the Recreation Department at 626.574.5113.

About the City of Arcadia

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

ARCADIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Upcoming DUI Patrols

The Arcadia Police Department will be out in force looking for impaired drivers. Members of the department will conduct DUI Saturation Patrols in the City of Arcadia during the evening hours of Friday, December 12th and Saturday, December 13th.

One of the goals of our enforcement activity is to promote public safety and increase awareness of the dangers associated with drinking and driving. This will be accomplished by providing a highly visible enforcement and publicity campaign, in order to deter intoxicated drivers from getting behind the wheel and driving. Through these efforts, we also seek to reduce the number of injuries and deaths associated with collisions involving intoxicated drivers.

We would like to remind the public of the dangers associated with drinking and driving. Celebrate during the holidays responsibly and do not drink and drive! Help save a life; call 9-1-1 to report drunk drivers.

Don't forget to visit the Arcadia Police Department News & Information Blog or follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Nixle for other pertinent news and information. Remember, the solution begins with you!

Funding for these operations is provided from a grant administered by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

information. No witnesses were located.

Just after 7:41 p.m., officers responded to a residence in the 800 block of Tindalo Road regarding an audible burglary alarm. Officers determined unknown suspect(s) entered the residence by breaking the rear glass door. The residence appeared undisturbed and the loss is unknown as the residents are out of town. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

Wednesday, December 3:

Shortly after 7:40 a.m., an officer conducted an enforcement stop on a vehicle at the intersection of Duarte Road and Santa Anita Avenue for having expired registration. Upon contacting the driver, the officer discovered the man was never issued a driver's license. The 49-year-old Asian male was cited and released in the field. The vehicle was released to a licensed driver.

At about 9:33 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 1800 block of South Baldwin Avenue regarding a domestic battery report. An investigation revealed a 27-year-old female of unknown race bit her fiancé during an argument and then fled before officers arrived. The suspect returned home a short time later and officers were able to arrest her. The victim stated his fiancé suffers from psychological problems, and recently ingested a large number of prescription medications. Arcadia Fire responded to the scene and transported the suspect to Arcadia Methodist Hospital for evaluation and treatment. The victim did not seek medical treatment.

Thursday, December 4:

At approximately 12:35 a.m., officers responded to the Santa Anita Inn, 130 West Huntington Drive, regarding a disturbance call. Officers determined the dispute was between a 30-year-old Hispanic male who accused his ex-girlfriend of stealing items from his house. The ex-girlfriend was not in possession of his items, however, a records check revealed the 26-year-old Hispanic female had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant as did her friend, a 30-year-old White female. Officers discovered the White female's boyfriend, a 31-year-old White male, also had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. All three parties were arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Around 2:05 a.m., officers responded to the intersection of Second Avenue and Huntington Drive regarding an injury related to a hit and run collision. An investigation revealed Party-1 failed to stop at the intersection and collided with Party-2. The driver of Party-1 fled the scene and was located nearby. Upon contacting the 47-year-old White male driver of Party-1,

MONROVIA - DUARTE

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

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VOLUNTEER'S NEEDED FOR DUARTE 2015 HOMELESS COUNT

DUARTE, CA, December 11, 2014 – The homeless population, although often silent and in the shadows, are part of the demographic make-up of Southern California. To accurately count this often-vulnerable group, the City of Duarte recently voted to participate in the 2015 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count sponsored by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). The actual count is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2015 from 8p.m until approximately 12am. The City also participated in the 2012 Homeless Count.

Interested individuals, 18 years and older, are invited to volunteer and assist. The City will need approximately 20-25 volunteers to successfully complete this task. Volunteer counters will receive training and refreshments that evening and be deployed from the Duarte Community Center in groups to count blocks within a specified area. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department will be assisting the City in this endeavor. Interested individuals are encouraged to sign up online via Eventbrite at <http://bit.ly/1GaBn7L>.

LAHSA, the lead agency for the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LACoC), coordinates a biennial count of homeless people. The organization strives to make a difference in the lives of homeless residents and the count allows them to assess how and where homeless people can be best served. LAHSA has contracted with the San Gabriel Valley Consortium on Homelessness, a nonprofit agency, to provide participating cities with support. For additional information please contact Duarte City Hall at (626) 357-7931, X267.

About the City of Duarte

The City of Duarte was incorporated on August 22, 1957. With integrity and transparency, the City provides exemplary public services in a caring and fiscally responsible manner with a commitment to our community's future. For more information visit www.accessduarte.com or call (626) 357-7931. Follow the City of Duarte on Twitter @CityofDuarte.

CARRIAGE RIDES, RESTAURANTS AT CHRISTMAS MARKET DEC. 6, 13, 20

Free Downtown Arcadia rides courtesy of MW Development

ARCADIA, Ca. – Free horse-drawn carriage rides will be offered for the first time in Downtown Arcadia on Saturday evenings, Dec. 6, 13 and 20, courtesy of sponsor MW Investment Group.

The rides are a new element of the second annual Christmas Market presented by Arcadia's Best Foundation in association with the Arcadia Improvement Association. Also new to the market from 5-9 p.m. Saturdays on First Avenue between Huntington Drive and Wheeler Street will be local restaurants Matt Denny's Ale House, La Luna Negra, and Stacked Sandwich offering speciality food and beverages for purchase. Other vendors, food trucks and business vendors will also offer a plethora of delicious holiday fare.

A horse-drawn white wagonette provided by G and F Carriages in Bloomington, Ca., will take riders through Downtown and past the new Arcadia Transit Plaza featuring a lighted clock tower. Sponsor MW Investment Group is owned by local developer Matt Waken, whose Walbern Developments has been involved in the building of several prominent commercial buildings in Arcadia, among many other residential, commercial, and retail projects in Southern California.

The Christmas Market, which features blowing snow, free horse-drawn carriage rides, Dickens Christmas carolers, more than 50 holiday food and merchandise vendors, Santa Claus posing for photos at a classic fire truck, inflated jumpers for kids, and live bands, is sponsored primarily by the Foothill Gold Line, as well as Forest Lawn. Horse carriage rides are free courtesy of MW Investment Group. Waste Management provides trash services. Additional support comes from the City of Arcadia, Matt Denny's Ale House Restaurant, Marie Taylor of NAI Capital, and attorney April A. Verlato.

The event is produced by Family Festival Productions in association with Wayne Tay and Town & Country Event Rentals.

Plenty of free parking is available in several public lots off Wheeler Street east and west of First Ave.

the officer detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from his breath and noticed he was unable to care for himself. Arcadia Fire responded to the scene to treat the driver of Party-2 and transported the driver of Party-1 to Arcadia Methodist Hospital for treatment. The driver of Party-1 was arrested for DUI and was transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Friday, December 5:

Just after 9:03 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 130 block of Oak Meadow Road regarding a burglary report. The officer discovered unknown suspect(s) entered the home by breaking the rear bedroom window and ransacked the location. No loss was reported as the home contains minimal belongings. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

At about 7:45 p.m., an officer responded to Macy's in the Westfield Shopping Town, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a petty theft report. Surveillance footage revealed a 47-year-old Hispanic female paid for some of the items she selected, but failed to make payment for the items concealed in her purse. She was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Saturday, December 6:

Just after 9:14 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 1400 block of Oaklawn Road regarding a burglary report. The reporting party noticed the front door was open and the entire house had been ransacked. The officer concluded unknown suspect(s) broke into the home by removing a rear door window and ransacked the home. The resident is currently out of town therefore the loss is unknown. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

At approximately 9:30 p.m., an officer responded to the 300 block of East Newman Avenue regarding a report of grand theft from a vehicle. An investigation revealed unknown suspect(s) used unknown means to enter the vehicle between December 3rd and December 4th. The suspect(s) stole clothing, jewelry, a women's watch, and various other items. The vehicle showed no signs of force or damage. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

MONROVIA POLICE BLOTTER

Following are the weekend's highlighted issues and events. To see a complete listing of crimes reported, go to the City of Monrovia website and click on the crime mapping link. Sign up to follow us on Twitter for police notifications.

Residential Burglary – Suspect Arrested

December 4 at 6:30 a.m., officers responded to a residence in the 400 block of West Duarte Road on the report of a burglary in progress. The suspect forced entry into the victim's home by kicking the front door open. The victim locked his bedroom door and went out to his balcony, where he immediately called the police from his cell phone. The suspect then kicked open the bedroom door and entered the bedroom closet to search through it, as the victim watched through the sliding glass door. Officers arrived and found the suspect in the victim's kitchen. The suspect was arrested for burglary and taken into custody.

Traffic Collision

December 4 at 11:59 p.m., a traffic collision was reported in the 400 block of South Magnolia. A driver crashed into a parked car and then fled the scene. The driver was found several blocks away and taken to a hospital for treatment. A blood sample was drawn to support a DUI investigation. No arrests were made pending the results of the blood test.

Warrant – Suspect Arrested

December 5 at 8:15 a.m., an officer was on patrol in the 400 block of West Duarte Road when he observed a male subject he knew had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. A warrant check confirmed the subject had a \$50,000.00 warrant for his arrest. The officer contacted the subject, confirmed the warrant and the subject was arrested.

Commercial Burglary – Suspect Arrested

December 6 at 2:47 p.m., a business in the 600 block of West Huntington called police to report a male subject attempting to make a purchase using a fake California driver's license with one of their customer's names on it. Officers arrived and detained the suspect. He was positively identified by his true California driver's license. The suspect was arrested for fraud and commercial burglary.

Grand Theft

December 8 at 3:30 a.m., a resident in the 100 block of Oaks called police to report a grand theft. The resident woke to a loud noise coming from outside his residence. He went outside and found his garage door open. He looked in and saw his mountain bike was missing. He ran down his driveway and saw a male suspect riding away on his bike. The victim went after the suspect in his vehicle. The suspect saw he was being chased, jumped off the bike and fled through side yards. The victim recovered his property, returned home and called police. Officers responded and searched the area on foot and by vehicle, but the suspect was not located.

ARCADIA RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES WINTER KID'S CAMP!

The Recreation and Community Services Department is offering a Winter Kid's Camp at Baldwin Stocker Elementary School, 422 W. Lemon Avenue in Arcadia. This retreat is open to elementary school children ages 6-11 and provides a safe, supervised, kid friendly retreat during winter vacation. The dates are Monday, December 22, Tuesday, December 23 and Friday, December 26, 2014 and Monday, December 29, Tuesday, December 30, 2014 and Friday, January 2, 2015 from 9am to 5pm for a cost of \$20 per day. Sign your child up for one day or all six. The camp is filled with fun group activities including crafts, board games, movies, snacks and more. Children must bring a sack lunch each day. Supervision is generally on a ratio of one Recreation Leader for each group of 10 children. To register go to the city's website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.ci.arcadia.ca.us"](http://www.ci.arcadia.ca.us) www.ci.arcadia.ca.us under the Recreation and Community Services Department or come by our office, 375 Campus Drive. Cancellations must be made by Monday, December 22nd in order to receive a refund (which is subject

to a \$10 service charge).

For more questions, please contact the Recreation Department at 626.574.5113.

About the City of Arcadia

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PASADENA TOURNAMENT OF ROSES® AND ZAPPOS.COM® SHARE SHOES WITH PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CHILDREN IN NEED

PASADENA, Calif. (December 8, 2014) -- The Pasadena Tournament of Roses and Zappos.com joined together with Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Families in Transition, a charitable organization serving homeless children enrolled in PUSD, to provide shoes for children in need this holiday season.

The joint PUSD Families in Transition – Zappos.com – Tournament of Roses event took place on Saturday, December 6 at the PUSD District Offices. Representatives from each organization worked to fit shoes for children currently enrolled in the Families in Transition program. Marking its first year as a participant in the Rose Parade®, Zappos.com presented new shoes generously donated by Vans -- one of the brands carried by Zappos.com -- for the event.

Families in Transition serves the needs of homeless and transitional students (and their families) by serving as a compassionate and understanding resource to help students grow personally and academically. All services are offered to families while they are in an emergency housing situation in order to provide basic needs, family support, academic accountability, clothing and many other services as are needed. Currently, Families in Transition serves the needs of 257 students and their families.

About the Tournament of Roses®

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses is a volunteer organization that annually hosts the Rose Parade®, the Rose Bowl Game® and a variety of associated events. The Tournament's 935 volunteer members act as



and was named a J.D. Power 2011 Customer Service Champion; one of only 40 companies so named in the U.S. More information about the customer service philosophy, unique culture, and job openings at Zappos.com can be found at <http://about.zappos.com>. More information about Zappos Insights, and its business membership program can be found at <http://www.zapposinsights.com>. Zappos.com is a subsidiary of (AMZN) Amazon.com.

ambassadors of the organization within the community and serve on one of 31 committees that ensure the success of the parade and game. Collectively, they contribute upwards of 80,000 hours of manpower each

year. The 126th Rose Parade presented by Honda and themed "Inspiring Stories," will take place Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015, followed by the College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Rose Bowl Game presented by Northwestern Mutual. For additional information on the Tournament of Roses please visit the official website at www.tournamentofroses.com.

About Zappos.com

Established in 1999, Zappos.com, operated by Zappos IP, Inc., has quickly become the leading destination in online apparel and footwear sales by striving to provide shoppers with the best possible service and selection. Zappos.com currently showcases millions of products from over 1000 clothing and shoe brands. Zappos.com, Inc. was recognized in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 as a FORTUNE 100 Best Companies to Work For®. Zappos.com is also proud to be rated ELITE by STELLAService

100 PTA UNITS NOW ENROLLED IN TEENSAFE'S EXCLUSIVE FUNDRAISER

-- As a Gold Sponsor of the 2014 Annual National PTA Convention and Exhibition, TeenSafe Announces Signup Milestone, Providing Families Discounts and Fundraising Opportunities for Their Schools ---

LOS ANGELES (Dec. 9, 2014) – TeenSafe, creator of the iPhone, Android and tablet monitoring software for parents, announced today that more than 100 PTA units have signed up for an exclusive fundraising opportunity. TeenSafe supports PTA at all levels, giving parents who sign up through their dedicated registration page a 33 percent lifetime discount on its software. In addition to the discount, TeenSafe donates \$10 for every paid subscriber to their school's PTA unit. TeenSafe has had the honor of educating hundreds of PTA leaders and families across the nation to help keep their children safe in this digital age. Furthermore, TeenSafe is able to offer a solution to help parents protect their children while allowing them freedom to enjoy the benefits of technology.

"We are incredibly excited to announce that 100 PTAs have signed up for our exclusive TeenSafe fundraiser which is designed to give back to our schools across America. Not only does it give families access to the best iPhone, Android and tablet monitoring solution available, it empowers parents to better protect their children, giving them peace of mind while supporting their local PTA unit," said Ameeta Jain, TeenSafe Co-Founder. TeenSafe's monitoring service provides parents access to their children's incoming, outgoing and deleted text messages, web browsing history, contacts, call logs, and location, as well as all their activity on Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Kik. By having an overall picture of their child's digital world, TeenSafe empowers parents to start conversations and step in when needed to keep their child safe.

"Congratulations to TeenSafe for achieving this remarkable milestone! Since our school started working with TeenSafe earlier this year, and since we have adopted their PTA fundraiser, we've had the chance to see how they provide solid support for parents through their resources and helpful

tools," said Deana Rodriguez, Bixby PTA Communications Chair. "We've seen firsthand the positive effects that a resource such as TeenSafe.com can have on entire families. It provides parents with another way to take active roles in their child's digital world. We are very happy to have them supporting our school."

TeenSafe and National PTA are committed to keeping children safe in the digital world. Determined to help children succeed in an age with the most advanced technology, TeenSafe encourages parents to guide their children with love by monitoring and teaching them as they grow. Parents using TeenSafe can be empowered with the knowledge they need to support and communicate with their children during their adolescent years.

About TeenSafe

Founded in 2011 and based in Costa Mesa, Calif., TeenSafe developed the world's first iPhone monitoring solution that works without modifying your child's phone, allowing parents to monitor their children's text messages, location, web browsing history, contacts and call logs. Over 500,000 parents have signed up for TeenSafe since inception and their web-based software solution provides parents easy and secure access to their children's social interactions via an online TeenSafe account. TeenSafe has created a parental advice blog called Teenology.com which gives tips, guidelines and personal testimonials in order to support and help parents of teens in today's technology-filled world. For more information about TeenSafe, please visit www.teensafe.com. Like TeenSafe on Facebook.com/teensafe and follow them on twitter.com/TeenSafeCom.

APPLY NOW FOR THE CALIFORNIA SENATE FELLOWS PROGRAM SENATOR HUFF URGES ALL QUALIFIED SOUTH STATE STUDENTS TO APPLY

SACRAMENTO: Applications are now available for the 2015-16 California Senate Fellows program and can be picked up in the Capitol or District offices of Senate Republican Leader Bob Huff (R-Diamond Bar) or accessed online. Established in 1973, the California Senate Fellows (CSF) program is one of the oldest and most distinguished service learning programs in the country. It offers college graduates a paid, full-time legislative staff position in the State Capitol for 11 months.

The deadline for submitting applications for the 2015-2016 California Senate Fellows is February 25, 2015.

The CSF program is jointly sponsored by the California State Senate and the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento. Fellowship opportunities are also available in the California State Assembly, the Governor's Office and the California Judicial Council.

"This is one of the best opportunities any student could ever ask for when it comes to gaining first-hand knowledge of how the California Legislature works," said Senator Huff. "This experience can often guide students into future political careers. Former Senate Fellows include current members of Congress and the California Legislature."

Anyone who will be at least 20 years of age and a graduate of a four-year college or university by September 1, 2015, is eligible to apply. There is no preferred major since work in the policy arena covers a vast number of issues. Individuals with advanced degrees and those in mid-career are encouraged to apply.

Senate Fellows are offered a stipend of \$2,550 per month plus earn generous health, vision and dental benefits. They also earn six units of graduate credit from California State University, Sacramento for the academic portion of the program.

Eighteen 2015-2016 California Senate Fellows will be selected to serve as full-time Senate staff for 11 months beginning in October 2015. They will be assigned to the personal or committee staff of a Senator and also participate in academic seminars with Senators, senior staff, journalists, lobbyists and state government officials. Fellows will be assigned a variety of tasks ranging from helping to develop legislative proposals, researching and analyzing bills, responding to constituent inquiries, and writing press releases and speeches. The online applications can be accessed at the links below:

Senate Fellows Program: www.csus.edu/calst/senate
Assembly Fellows Program: www.csus.edu/calst/assembly
Executive Fellows Program: www.csus.edu/calst/executive
Judicial Administration Fellowship: <http://www.csus.edu/calst/judicial/index.html>
Senator Huff serves as the Senate Republican Leader and represents the 29th Senate District covering portions of Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties. Follow Senator Huff on Twitter at @bobhuff99.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

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

Arcadia High School

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

Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

Barnhart School

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

Bethany Christian School

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

Claibourn School

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

E-mail: 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
preschool@foothilloaksacademy.org

Frostig School

971 N. Altadena Drive Pasadena, CA 91107
(626) 791-1255
Head of School: Chris Schnieders, PhD
Email: Jackykn@frostig.org

The Gooden School

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

High Point Academy

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

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

Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 471-2800 Principal Darvin Jackson
Email: 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

Pasadena High School

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

St. Rita Catholic School

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

Sierra Madre Elementary School

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

Sierra Madre Middle School

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

Walden School

74 S San Gabriel Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166
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. 91107
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E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

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THE REEL DEAL: by Ben Show PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR



The 'Madagascar' series has been a staple in the lives of kids since it first came out, with the penguins always being at the center of that popularity. From merchandising to their own tv show, it was only a matter of time before Dreamworks made their own spinoff movie.

Skipper (Tom McGrath), Private (Christopher Knights), Kowalski (Chris Miller), and Rico (Conrad Vernon) have been together since birth, and even lived in the same zoo. As they continued their adventures outside the zoo, they run into someone from their past, someone who has a big grudge against the penguins. With the help of the North Wind, they must fight to stop his evil plans from throwing the world into chaos.

For a kids movie, the plot is pretty normal. However, the only real major flaw the movie has is that the North Wind upstages the penguins completely, to the point where they become a hindrance to the film's pacing. 'Penguins of Madagascar' may amuse a younger audience but for more seasoned moviegoers, it is pretty average and, at some times, below average.

AVANTI CAFÉ INTRODUCES AVANTI ITALIAN BISTRO

Over the past few months I have made it a point to let my readers know that I am in a constant search for the family owned restaurant. You may accurately say, it is the Holy Grail for this Restaurant Critic. It is the American dream for many and a business which has put many a child through diapers and college. It may stem out of some kind of shameless guilt which I carry. For I have written about the Big Chains almost exclusively these past few months, but I vowed that I would return to my true love, the Local Corner Restaurant. I think I found the Grail. Tap your heels together three times and just repeat the words, "There's no place like home, there's no place like home." It has been there right in front of me the whole time! Avanti Café has been on the corner of Union and Lake in Pasadena for 21 years, and for the past 14 years they have been utilizing a wood fire pizza oven. They are responsible for some of the area's best gourmet pizzas. On my last visit I was to enjoy the glazed Apple Pizza (\$15.95) and a traditional Pepperoni Pizza for (\$12.85). One of the tests I put to each restaurant that I review is their soup. Avanti Café makes an unbelievable Chicken Barley Soup, all I can add is, Wow. If you live in the area for any

TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills
thechefknows@yahoo.com

length of time you have certainly passed the Avanti Café countless times. Need another reason to stop the next time. The Giuseppe Pizza (\$17.95) is loaded with Spinach, Ricotta, Chicken Breast, Mushrooms and Red Peppers, all very fresh and perfectly baked in these flavorful ovens. The setting at Avanti is as you would expect a restaurant like this; unpretentious and very welcoming. There is a small parking lot in the back, seating is fairly limited here but Avanti maintains a nice selection of beer and wine. It has won the appetite of many loyal customers, along with numerous awards, which it can showcase. I give it thumbs up. Well worth the drive from wherever you are reading this. My daughter Lauren has to have the Garlic Knots with each visit. She knows her stuff, and you will love them too!!!

Avanti Café 111 N. Lake Ave Pasadena
Part II

The restaurant mortality rate is so high, that even with all my experience in the hospitality business I would be crazy to open a restaurant. So when I heard that Avanti Café was expanding to two locations I had to find out what the deal was. Owner Bobby Ghorfania bought the space of the old Spring Garden to open Avanti Bistro I had to send the medics to see if he was feeling OK. Seemed Ok to me.

Avanti Italian Bistro and Bar 187 N. Sierra Madre,
Pasadena

Join my new food blog www.peterdills.tumblr.com
tune into my radio show on AM 830 KLAA
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Wine Editor

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Recommends

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Peter Dills
KLAA 830 AM Sunday



INGREDIENTS:

1 Boneless pork loin center roast, approximately 1 ½ lb
9 oz Earth & Vine Provisions Spicy Apple Garlic Jam
3 Cups Pepperidge Farms Herb Seasoned stuffing mix
1 Cup chicken broth
¾ Cup chopped yellow onion
¾ Cup chopped celery
3 Tablespoons butter
1 Teaspoon fresh sage, finely chopped
1 Teaspoon fresh thyme, finely chopped

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Heat skillet over medium/high heat, add butter and melt, sauté celery & onions, add chicken broth and herbs and bring to a boil.

Turn down heat. Fold in stuffing mix, stir until moister is absorbed.
Remove from heat and fold in 4 tablespoons Earth & Vine Provisions Spicy Apple Garlic Jam.
Cut tenderloin lengthwise down the center (not quite through to bottom).
Open up tenderloin and cut again lengthwise on either side, but not quite through to bottom.
Cover tenderloin with plastic wrap and pound out to ¼ inch thickness, using the flat side of a meat mallet.

Spread stuffing mixture evenly over the flattened pork loin within ¼ inch of edge. Roll up jellyroll style, secure with tooth picks or kitchen string. Place tenderloin seam side down on a rack in a shallow baking dish. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes or until the juices run clear. Remove from oven, cover and let stand for 15 minutes. Cut into ¼ inch rounds.

Serve with extra Spicy Apple Garlic Jam, green beans, baked Yukon gold potatoes or garlic mashed potatoes.

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RICH Johnson

DINER LINGO



I had the distinct pleasure of spending a few moments in the presence of two wonderful ladies this morning. The brilliant, talented and beautiful pair, Eve and Connie, were seated outside enjoying breakfast and lattes at the fashionable Corfu Restaurant here in Sierra Madre. Eating out entered the conversation to nobodies surprise. By the way if you're looking for the perfect gift in the \$20 range, for a client or even me, Connie creates gift coffee cakes. They are yummy and originate from Connie's grandma's original recipe. Call Connie at Oven Lovin' (626) 676-0276.

Anyway, our discussion regarding eating led to a remembrance of "Diner Lingo". "Diner Lingo is verbal slang used by wait staff, cooks and chefs to communicate orders to the cooks. The slang was most used in diners and luncheonettes from the 20s to the 70s. Of course we know BLT is bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwich. Some of the other memorable terms included:

Adam and Eve on a raft: (two poached eggs on toast)
Adam and Eve on a raft and wreck 'em: (two scrambled eggs on toast)
Arnold Palmer: (half sweet tea, half lemonade)
Battle Creek in a bowl: (bowl of corn flakes)
Black and Blue: (a steak cooked quickly over high heat, seared on the outside, blue inside)
Boiled Leaves: (hot tea)
Bossy in a Bowl: (beef stew)
Checkerboard: (waffle)
Cup o' joe: (coffee)
Hockey Puck: (a hamburger well done)
Keep off the grass: (no lettuce)
Make it Cry: (serve with onions)
Motor Oil: (maple syrup)
Pigs in a Blanket: (sausage wrapped in pancakes)
Run it through the Garden: (any sandwich, with lettuce, tomato and onion added)
Smear: (margarine or butter)
Whistle berries: (baked beans)
Wax: (American cheese)
Wreath: (cabbage)
Yellow Paint: (mustard)
Some of the references are not food related:
Bubble Dancer: (Dishwasher)
Campers: (customers who take up a table for a long time causing the server to lose money)
Chuds: (customers who take up an entire table and drink only coffee)
In the Alley: (item served as a side dish)
In the Weeds: (a waitress or cook that cannot keep up with the tables or orders)
Let it Walk: (an order to go)
Marry: (Put the leftovers in the same container) (also means pouring ketchup from half-filled bottles to other bottles to make full bottles. Get it?)

I hope you are having a festive Christmas holiday season. If you can't decide what to get me here's a suggestion: I have installed little buckets all over town, supervised by people ringing bells. We're calling it the Salvation Army and they could use the donations. Really, if you do your due diligence regarding charitable giving you will find the Salvation Army makes the best use of your contributions in getting help to those who need it.

Thank you for reading my column. And thank you to those of you who tell me, when you see me, that you read my column. That is a wonderful Christmas present in and of itself.

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LEGAL NOTICE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
NO. VS026627

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner ANNA ELIA AVALOS HAS FILED A PETITION WITH THE LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT - SOUTHEAST JUDICIAL DISTRICT FOR A DECREE CHANGING NAMES AS FOLLOWS:

Present Name:
ANNA ELIA AVALOS

Proposed Name:
ANNA ELIA GARCIA

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 02/04/2015 at 1:30PM in Dept. C - RM. 312 at 12720 NORWALK BLVD., NORWALK, CA. 90650.

THE COURT ORDERS that all interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.
If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

JDC - Mountain Views News December 13, 20 and 27, 2014.

Anna Elia Avalos
Petitioner Appearing Pro Per
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Bell Gardens, Ca. 90201

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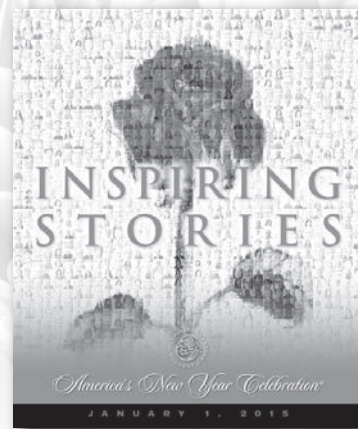
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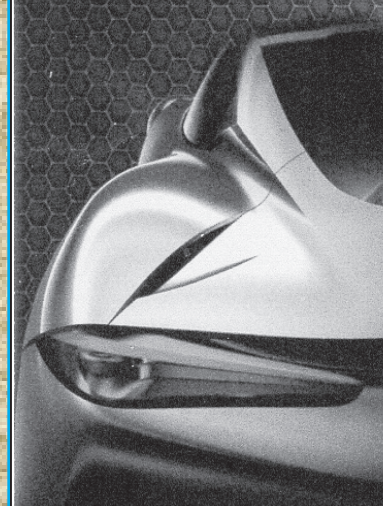
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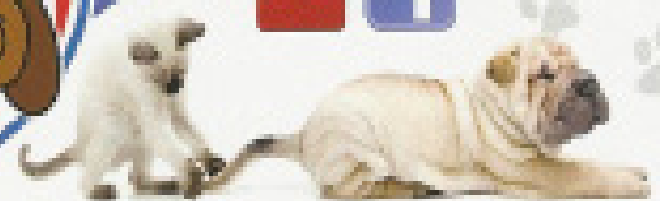
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SEAN'S SHAMELESS REVIEWS: THE ROAD TO THE OSCARS STARTS NOW

By Sean Kayden

The award season for next year's Oscars heats up this month. It is abundantly clear that December is a crowded month for films.

Additionally, the quality of films arriving in theaters appears to be the finest the year has to offer. While superior films such as "Boyhood," "Whiplash," "Birdman," "Foxcatcher," and "Nightcrawler" have already hit theaters; there are a whole new slew of contenders making their way into the arena. This month alone features Reece Witherspoon's nature/wilderness film "Wild." It centers on a woman going through a tumultuous time in her life who sets out alone to hike the Pacific Crest Trail—one of the country's longest and toughest through-trails. Jean-Marc Vallée, who helmed last year's "Dallas Buyers Club," directed "Wild." On Christmas day in limited release before expanding nationwide in January, "Selma" tells the real story of Martin Luther King and the civil right rights marches he once led in Alabama. At the end of the month, writer and director J.C. Chandor ("All Is Lost," "Margin Call") returns with "A Most Violent Year." It's a crime drama set in New York City during the winter of 1981 and focused on the life of an immigrant and his family trying to expand their business and capitalize on opportunities as the rampant violence, decay, and corruption of the day drag them in and threaten to destroy all they have built. In addition to what's coming out, there's Tim Burton's "Big Eyes," Ridley Scott's "Exodus," Disney/Rob Marshall's "Into The Woods," Peter Jackson's final installment of The Hobbit series, "The Battle of Five Armies," and Angelina Jolie's directorial effort of "Unbroken," which is based on a US Olympian prisoner-of-war soldier at a Japanese war camp during WWII.

I want to focus on the three films I am most excited for this month. They might not be considered typical Oscar contenders yet they appear to be the most entertaining of all the films coming out. The first one is "The Gambler." It features a solid cast consisting of Mark Wahlberg, John Goodman, Brie Larson, Michael K. Williams and Jessica Lange. It's the modern day remake of the 1974 film starring James Caan as a college

professor with a dangerous gambling addiction. That one was loosely based on the true-life story of James Lee Toback, who wrote the original. For this latest re-imagining, Wahlberg lost 60 lbs. for the role. Up and coming director, Rupert Wyatt ("The Escapist," "Rise of the Planet of the Apes") is behind the camera while William Monahan, who also wrote the screenplay for "The Departed" in 2006, penned the screenplay for "The Gambler". This one looks like a winner.

Next up is "Inherent Vice," which is based on the novel by Thomas Pynchon. This crime-dramedy centers on a private investigator named Larry "Doc" Sportello as he investigates the disappearance of his ex-girlfriend's boyfriend. It takes places in Los Angeles during the 1970s. "Inherent Vice" was directed by the superbly talented P.T. Anderson. He's responsible for writing and directing such films as "Boogie Nights," "Magnolia," "Punch-Drunk Love," "There Will Be Blood" and "The Master." This motion picture contains probably the best ensemble of actors this year has to offer. This includes Joaquin Phoenix, Josh Brolin, Owen Wilson, Katherine Waterston, Reese Witherspoon, Benicio del Toro, Jena Malone, Maya Rudolph and Martin Short. From the era it takes place in, the themes of the film, as well as the actors Anderson attracted to his screenplay, I'm hoping for a wild, unhinged, and humorous tale to come to life on the big screen.

Lastly, there's Clint Eastwood's "American Sniper," which he directed based on Chris Kyle's autobiography. He was once considered the top sniper in the entire US armed forces. While Eastwood has had a number of directing misfires over the last several years, "American Sniper" appears to be a return to form for the iconic actor. The movie focuses on Kyle and his numerous involvements of secret raids on Al-Qaeda. Leading man, Bradley Cooper takes on the important main role alongside Sienna Miller, who portrays his wife in the film. While the trailer for this one was brief, it was utterly taut. I'm anticipating the feature length version to be just the same. In the end, there are so many movies December has to offer. I've attended a Christmas released film for the past several years now and this year will be no different. Only choice I need to make is which film to see?

Jeff's Book Picks

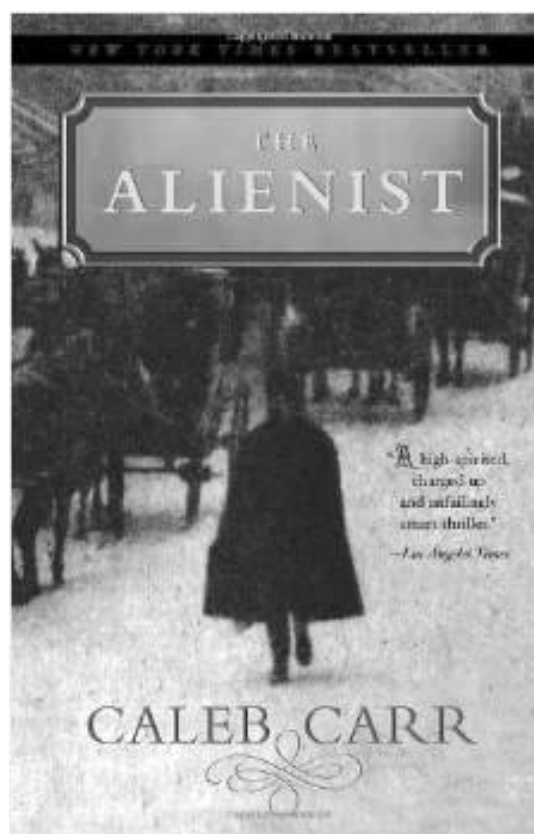
By Jeff Brown

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE: A NOVEL by Anthony Doerr

A New York Times bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind and her father builds a perfect miniature of their neighborhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great-uncle lives by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel. In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track the resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure's converge.

THE ALIENIST by Caleb Carr

1896 - New York City. On a cold March night New York Times reporter John Moore is summoned to the East River by his friend, former Harvard classmate Dr. Laszlo Kreizler, a psychologist, or "alienist." On the unfinished Williamsburg Bridge, they view the horribly mutilated body of an adolescent boy, a prostitute from one of Manhattan's infamous brothels. The newly appointed police commissioner, Theodore Roosevelt enlists the two men in the murder investigation, counting on the reserved Kreizler's intellect and Moore's knowledge of New York's vast criminal underworld. They are joined by Sara Howard, a determined woman who works as a secretary in the police department. Laboring in secret (for alienists, and the emerging discipline of psychology, are viewed by the public with skepticism at best), the unlikely team embarks on what is a revolutionary effort in criminology--amassing a psychological profile of the man they're looking for based on the details of his crimes. Their dangerous quest takes them into the tortured past and twisted mind of a murderer who has killed before. and will kill again. Fast-paced and gripping, infused with a historian's exactitude, The Alienist conjures up the Gilded Age and its untarnished underside: verminous tenements and opulent mansions, corrupt cops and flamboyant gangsters, shining opera houses



and seamy gin mills. A wonderful ride.

THE BURNING ROOM (A Harry Bosch Novel) by Michael Connelly

Detective Harry Bosch and his rookie partner investigate a cold case that gets very hot... very fast. In the LAPD's Open-Unsolved Unit, not many murder victims die a decade after the crime. So when a man succumbs to complications from being shot by a stray bullet ten years earlier, Bosch catches a case in which the body is still fresh, but any other clues are virtually nonexistent. Even a veteran cop would find this one tough going, but Bosch's new partner, Detective Lucia Soto, has no homicide experience. A young star in the department, Soto has been assigned to Bosch so that he can pass on to her his hard-won expertise. Beginning with the bullet that has been lodged for years in the victim's spine, they must pull new leads from years-old evidence, and these soon reveal that the shooting was anything but random. As their investigation picks up speed, it leads to another unsolved case with even greater stakes: the deaths of several children in a fire that occurred twenty years ago. But when their work starts to threaten careers and lives, Bosch and Soto must decide whether it is worth risking everything to find the truth, or if it's safer to let some secrets stay buried.

ARCADIA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER SEASON THREE DOG NIGHT SEASON OPENING!



Arcadia Performing Arts Foundation presents Three Dog Night, for the first performance of its second season, on Saturday, January 10 at 8pm. For over four decades, Three Dog Night has propelled popular music with a long list of smash hits, many of which are staples of American rock music.

Tickets, available online by visiting www.Arcadiapaf.org, are \$39.50 to \$109.50 with VIP Meet and Greet Packages available. The theatre is at 188 Campus Drive at North Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia CA 91007. For more information please call 626-821-1781.

Legendary music icons, Three Dog Night, continue to perform to sell-out crowds, bringing along some of the most astonishing chart statistics in popular music including 21 consecutive Top 40 hits, including 3 #1 singles, 11 Top 10's, and 12 straight RIAA Certified Gold LPs.

Perfectly re-creating their larger than life songs with customary impeccable harmonies and exciting arrangements, Three Dog Night will perform their hits including "Mama Told Me (Not To Come)", "Joy To The World", "Black and White", "Shambala", "One", "Liar", "Celebrate" and many more songs that drive their chart and sales success.

Three Dog Night, which is made up of founding

members Cory Wells and Danny Hutton on lead vocals, original band mates Jimmy Greenspoon (keyboards) and Michael Allsup (guitar) and completed by Paul Kingery (bass and vocals) and Pat Bautz (drums), now perform for audiences spanning several generations.

Initially brought together in 1968 by Danny Hutton and Cory Wells, Three Dog Night recorded the music of the best (and mostly undiscovered) new songwriters of their time including Harry Nilsson, Randy Newman, Elton John, Laura Nyro, Paul Williams and Hoyt Axton among many others. The group's eclectic taste, combined with their ability to recognize and record hits in a unique, distinctive and appealing style, resulted in Three Dog Night dominating the charts for years. The now-famous name came from a story about Australian hunters who, on cold nights in the outback, sleep with their dogs for warmth. The coldest evenings are known as a "three dog night".

Recently Three Dog Night added new songs to their arsenal with the release of their first double-A sided single in nearly 25 years. These new tracks, "Heart Of Blues" and the a-cappella ballad "Prayer of the Children", are available now in an exclusive online release. See www.threedognight.com for more information.

See us online at:
www.mtnviewsnews.com



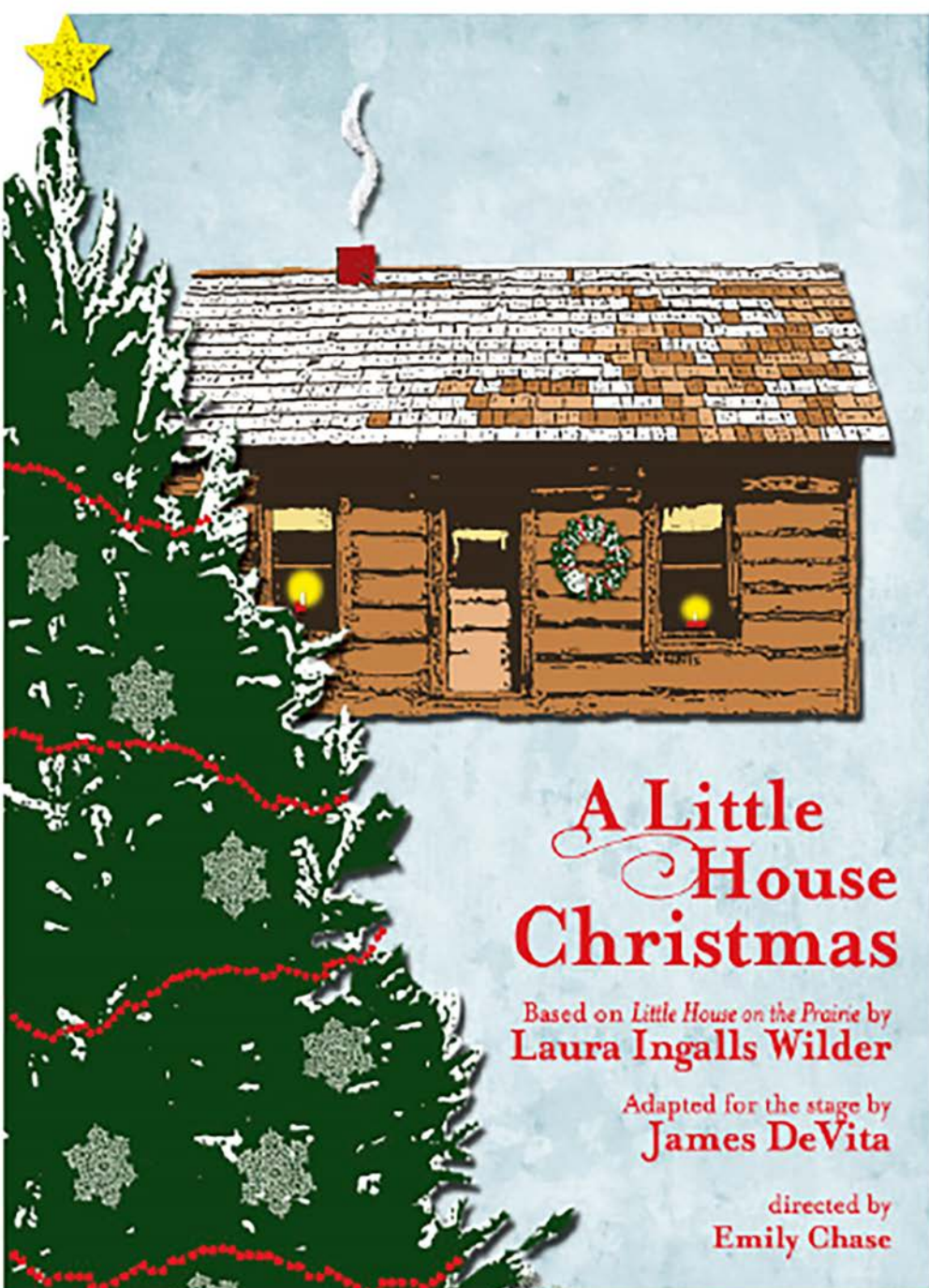
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NOTHIN'S AS LOVIN' AS SOMETHIN' FROM THE OVEN

I spend a lot of time with my dog, Molly, in the house and in the yard. To be completely honest, that girl follows me everywhere I go, and I think it's because she simply does not like being alone. She also doesn't want to miss out on a potential random ride through town in the car, or an evening walk around the block. There are also times when Molly insists on hugging my heels when I'm in the kitchen cooking up something good! This is particularly true during the holidays, when there's a lot more going on in that part of the house. Molly gets her fair share of goodies, but I try to be careful not to overdo it. I'm selective about the special treats she receives, and when I bake them myself, I try to choose recipes that are healthy, with less additives or mystery ingredients than might be found in store-bought treats.

With this in mind and with Christmas just around the corner, I thought it would be fun to share a few healthy holiday canine cookie recipes in this week's column. Here's wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and I hope you have lots of fun baking for your beloved, furry four-legged friends!

Sherry Yard's Bachelor Dog Treats

Yields approx. 3 dozen treats
4 eggs, divided (2 for the dough, 2 for the wash)
1 ounce vegetable oil
1 tablespoon honey
8 ounces chicken stock
10 ounces whole wheat flour
5 ounces all purpose flour
3 ounces cornmeal
1 cup peanut butter

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In a large bowl, whisk together two of the eggs, the oil and honey. Whisk in chicken stock. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, combine flour and cornmeal. With the mixer on medium speed, slowly pour in the chicken stock mixture, then add the peanut butter. Mix until the dough comes together, about 1 minute. Divide the dough in half. Roll out each ball of dough approx. ½ inch thick. Cut into desired shapes using a small cookie cutter and place on slightly oiled baking sheets. Whisk the remaining two eggs and brush the egg wash lightly over the cookies. Allow to dry for 10 minutes and brush with egg wash a second time. Bake until golden brown, about 15 minutes, depending on the size of the cookies.

Best of Breed Dog Biscuits

Combine the following in a mixing bowl:
2 cups White Whole Wheat Flour

1 cup rolled oats, regular or quick
1 tablespoon dried parsley or 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
½ cup nonfat dry milk
½ teaspoon salt

Add 2 large eggs and 1 cup (9 ¼ ounces) peanut butter, crunchy or plain. Stir to combine; the mixture will be crumbly. Add ½ cup + 1 tablespoon cold water, or enough to make a cohesive dough. In winter, you may have to add a bit more water for proper consistency. Drop dough in walnut-sized balls onto a lightly oiled parchment-lined baking sheet and flatten to about ¼" thick, or roll dough to ¼" thickness and cut with a bone-shaped cookie cutter and place closely on oiled baking sheet. Bake for 40 to 60 minutes (depending on size). When they are golden brown, they are ready to remove from the oven and let cool for your canine!

Flax Seed Dog Treats

12 ounces whole wheat flour
12 ounces bread flour
2 ounces wheat germ
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons brown sugar
3-4 teaspoons flax seed
3 eggs
1 cup vegetable oil
3 ounces powdered milk
1 cup water

Combine flour, wheat germ, salt, brown sugar and flax seed in a large mixing bowl. Stir in eggs and vegetable oil. Dissolve dry milk in water then incorporate the mixture. Mix to form a very firm dough that is smooth and workable. Adjust by adding a little extra flour or water as required. Cover the dough and set aside to relax for 15-20 minutes. Roll dough out to ½" thick. Cut biscuits and place on sheet pans lined with baking paper. Bake at 375 degrees for approx. 40 minutes or until brown and crispy. Let biscuits cool, and store in covered container.



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JUST FOR BEST FRIENDS

LOOKING FOR A BEST FRIEND??

Looking For A Best Friend?? To enjoy the holidays with? Macy is a 6-year-old terrier mix. She's a bit larger than some terriers, weighing in at around 16 pounds. She has a medium length salt and pepper coat that needs regular brushing and grooming for her to look her best. She came to the shelter with a dirty, matted coat, but volunteers sponsored a professional grooming session for her, and she looks just beautiful now.

Macy is a friendly girl who enjoys the company of people and loved posing for her holiday photo. She can be a little shy at first, but she makes good eye contact and when she is comfortable, she will lie quietly beside you, or even settle in your lap for some quality petting. She is not demanding, but does enjoy physical contact from her human companion.

Macy looks forward to going on a walk and trots happily on the leash. She has a calm energy level and is easy to manage.

Macy gets along well with her kennel mate and with other dogs she has met at the shelter. She tends to be relaxed and quiet, but she can be playful when she is in the mood and has an active playmate.

Macy would love to find a forever home with a person, couple or family who can give her the attention she deserves. She would probably do well with another dog that she is compatible with, but she could also do fine as the only dog in the home. Why not come in to meet sweet Macy and see if she is the right dog for you? She would love to have a "Home for the Holidays."



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

To arrange a 'Meet and Greet' with Macy, please stop by any time from 10:00am to 4:30pm Tuesday thru Sunday.

Her adoption fee is \$120 which includes her spay 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 Macy.

See our website at www.sgvhumane.org for information and photos of all our wonderful pets.

PET OF THE WEEK

SANDY: Animal ID #A47774627

Meet Sandy a very lady like and composed light brown Longhaired Chihuahua who loves to please! Sandy (A4774627) is a beautiful heart-warming 7-year-old Longhaired Chihuahua who was left at the Baldwin Park Animal Care Center on December 8th. Weighing a tiny 5lbs, Sandy adores and cherishes every moment she can spend in your arms or on your lap. She enjoys the company of other dogs, especially those who are small like her, but people are her main squeeze. She has a luxating patella (grade 2 out of 4), which should be evaluated by an outside veterinarian (this condition often prescribes regular easy walks). She is full of love and kisses and always has a smile on her face. She also absolutely loves people and other animals who are willing to respect her size. She is soulful and loving and will make a perfect indoor pet/ addition to your family. Sandy is the perfect puppy lover we know he will make a super indoor pet for an individual or family living in a private home, he will do wonderfully with elders or children old enough to respect his itty bitty size. To watch a video of Sandy please visit the following link: <http://youtu.be/v0kcCSYBf8>

To meet Sandy in person, please see her at the Baldwin Park Shelter, located at 4275 N. Elton, Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (Phone: 626-430-2378 or 626-962-3577). She is available now. For any inquiries about Sandy, please reference her animal ID number: A4774627. The shelter is open seven

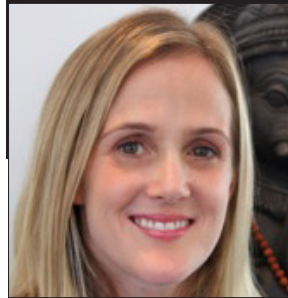


days a week, 12 pm-7 pm Monday-Thursday and 10am-5pm Friday-Sunday. This is a high-intake shelter with a great need for adoptions. For more information about Sandy or the adoption process, contact United Hope for Animals Volunteer Adoption Coordinator Samantha at Samantha@hope4animals.org.

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/>.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

THE JOY OF YOGA HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE FOR YOGIS



Wondering what to get for that special someone in your life? How about the gift of yoga or some other fabulous,

earth-friendly, yoga inspired item? Feel good about what you're giving, who knows if the gift could change someone's life. Here are a few yoga-friendly gift ideas:

1. A gift certificate for a series of yoga classes. Nothing says, 'I love you' like the gift of yoga. If the recipient is new to yoga, they can pick their classes and attend at their own convenience. Who knows, this could be the beginning of a health and wellness revolution for them!

2. A private lesson with their favorite teacher. Many students find it hard to make the extra splurge for a private session with their teacher. This gift is an unexpected, and well-appreciated surprise!

3. Gear and accessories. Every yogi needs a their own mat! I recommend a quality Manduka mat. They are not cheap, but last forever and give the extra firm padding needed for our knees and wrists. Less expensive mats such as a Jade or Tapas mat work well too, but may need to be replaced sooner. Other props such as a Bolster and blocks are extremely helpful and almost essential to a home practice. Don't forget the meditation cushion, or 'zafu', to allow that perfect lift for a comfortable seated position.

4. Devotional accompaniments. Typically, a student of yoga has a space at home for practice or meditation. A set of mala beads, or prayer beads, is a very special gift. A deity to place on an altar, or dresser is a lovely gift too. Any deity, whether it be a statue of Ganesha or Mother Mary can make the space sacred. To complete the space, a special candle is perfect. Yoga Madre carries Breathe In Candles, which are handmade organic soy blend candles. They are infused with Reiki healing energy and make the perfect gift for yogis and non-yogis alike.

5. Books. There is not enough space in this article for all the recommended book titles! Light on Yoga and Light on Life by B.K.S. Iyengar are essentials. The Secret of the Yoga Sutra by Pandit Rajmani Tiganait is a new, very inspiring book. Additionally, The Four Desires by Yogarupa Rod Stryker and The Art of Attention by Elena Brower are excellent choices.

My very first yoga mat was a gift from someone at Christmas. At the time, I had not yet taken a yoga class. Just a month or two later, I was inspired to attend my first class using that same mat. It was my mat for the next few years.

Happy gift giving this season! Yoga Madre has many great gifts including quality Manduka mats and lovely Breathe In candles. See you in class very soon!

Namaste,
Keely Totten

Vibrant Living Wellness Center Heathcare the Way Nature Intended DON'T BE IN A HURRY TO GROW OLD



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

It is often said that the eyes are the window to the soul but your face is a window to how healthy you have lived. Premature aging makes us look tired, older than we are and less vital. Think about it, don't you love being around people who make you happy, who get excited about life? They seem fresh and energetic.

We are all going to age and look older. After all, the opposite of aging is death and most of us are not in a hurry for that to happen. There are a lot of thing we can do to prevent premature aging. Our diet and lifestyle pay a huge role in how fast our face ages.

Here are 5 things you can do to prevent premature aging of your face.

-Don't smoke, quit smoking and stay away from those who do smoke. There is probably nothing that ages the face faster than smoking. The nicotine causes narrowing of the blood vessels in the outermost layers of your skin impairing blood flow to your skin. This causes your skin to get less oxygen and important nutrients, such as vitamin A and C. The chemicals in cigarette smoke also damage collagen and elastin, which will cause the skin to sag and wrinkle. This happens from second hand smoke too.

- A poor diet will contribute to premature facial aging. We need to take in antioxidants from the foods we eat, namely fruits and vegetables. It is important to eat a wide and colorful variety of fruits and vegetables.

- Avoid excess sun, mainly between the hours of 10 and 2 but don't avoid the sun all together. Protecting your face from sun is fine but we need to have some sun exposure to unprotected skin on a regular basis so that our bodies can make Vitamin D which will aid in keeping us youthful.

- Avoid harsh elements. It is a good idea to protect the delicate skin on your face from extreme cold and wind. Both wind and cold will zap the moisture out of your skin.

- Keep your body well hydrated with water. Our bodies are roughly 70% water and when we are dehydrated our skin suffers quickly.



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SHARED HOUSING CAN HELP SENIORS IN MANY WAYS

Dear Savvy Senior:

What can you tell me about senior home-sharing programs? Since my father passed away last year, my mom, who's 70, is interested in renting out a room in her house for some extra income and for the companionship. Is this a wise idea?
Housemate Hunting



Dear Hunting:

It could be a great idea if your mom has the space and can find the right housemate/renter.

Shared housing among older adults has gotten a lot of attention lately as more and more people are recognizing that they can use their home to get help with a variety of needs, such as generating income, getting help with household chores, and even finding some much needed companionship. But home sharing isn't for everyone. Your mom needs to carefully consider the pros and cons of renting out a room in her house, and make a list of what she wants (and doesn't want) in a housemate/renter.

To help her sort this out, the National Shared Housing Resource Center offers a 16-page "Consumers Guide to Home Sharing" that provides a self-questionnaire to those considering renting their home, along with a list of renter's questions and important points to discuss, and a sample home-sharing lease agreement that lays out the details in writing. This guide costs \$10 and can be ordered at nationalsharedhousing.org.

Finding a Renter

After going through the guide, if your mom wants to proceed in finding a renter, a good first step is to contact a home-sharing program in her area that matches adults who are looking for shared housing with older adults who are looking to rent.

These programs handle background checks and other screenings, and consider lifestyle criteria when making matches. They can also help her with the leasing agreement that the renter would sign that covers issues like smoking, pets, chores, overnight guests, use of common rooms, etc.

Most home-sharing programs are free to use or request a small donation. Others, however, may charge the homeowner and potential renter a fee

for this service.

There are dozens of home-sharing programs throughout the U.S. You can find a list of at the National Shared Housing Resource Center website at nationalsharedhousing.org.

If you don't find a program that serves your area, you can also search for housemates through national resources like Let's Share Housing (letssharehousing.com), the Golden Girls Network (goldengirlsnetwork.com) and Roommates 4 Boomers (roommates4boomers.com). All of these programs offer national Web-based matching programs and charge membership fees that run anywhere between \$30 and \$39.

If you don't have any luck with the home-sharing programs, put a call in to your Area Agency on Aging (call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 for contact information) who may be able to offer assistance or refer you to local agencies or nonprofit organizations that offer shared housing help.

You can also check with the local senior or community center, church or temple that your mom attends to see if you can post an ad on their bulletin board or in their newsletter. Or, you can advertise in your local newspaper or online at roommates.com or craigslist.org.

If your mom finds someone on her own that she's interested in renting to, ask the prospective renter to fill out a "rental application" (see rentalleaseagreement.org to download and print one for free) and run a full tenant background check, and then call their references. Background checks can be ordered online through companies like starpointtenantscreening.com and screeningworks.com for a small fee.

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 THE BIONIC CRICKET

We are nearing the shortest day of the year, and the weather has finally gotten cold

enough to wear sweaters. Summer being a distant memory, my husband and I were surprised when we heard a cricket in our kitchen the other night. "I thought they only came out during summer," I said. "Yeah," my husband replied, "We haven't had any in months." Judging by its loud chirping, this sucker must've been huge. We looked in the corners and cleared away some of the junk that was cluttering our small kitchen. But the cricket was elusive. It also had incredible stamina, because it kept a steady rhythm for several minutes. "Oh my gosh," I groaned, "I'm not going to be able to sleep with this noise." Eventually the thing got tired and shut up.

However, a few days later the loud chirping of our unwelcomed visitor returned. After another fruitless search in all the corners I happened to glance up and noticed a small red light blinking on the ceiling. "Oh!" I exclaimed, "I think it's the smoke detector!" Sure enough, our super cricket simply turned out to be the warning signal that our battery was running low. We had a good laugh and I even mentioned it to my parents when I dropped by to visit.

I'd nearly forgotten about our cricket-sounding smoke alarm when I was at my parents' a couple



weeks later. My Dad was telling me about a noisy cricket that woke him up early in the morning. It sounded very close, and he figured it must have been right outside the bedroom window. He was in the middle of explaining to me how to determine the ambient air temperature by counting the number of chirps a cricket makes in a given amount of time, when suddenly the monster itself began chirping

loudly.

"There he is again!" Dad exclaimed. "Wait, it's inside!" He grabbed a broom and hurried down the hall, intending to sweep it outside. "Don't kill it, John!" my Mom called after him, always the animal lover. "Are you sure it's not the smoke alarm?" I asked as he disappeared around the corner in hot pursuit. A few moments later he reemerged, smiling sheepishly. "Well, I guess you're right," he replied. "That makes sense, since at his rate it would mean that the temperature was 95 degrees!" And so the mystery of the bionic crickets was solved and a new battery was installed. So if you hear winter chirping, it might just be your smoke detector -- by Jiminy!

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Dental: Toothache, TMJ dysfunction.
Harmony: Increase energy, strengthen immune system.
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(Henry) JooHun Yoon, L.Ac.

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS

SPECIAL HOLIDAY LUNCH

Thursday, December 18 at 12:00PM

The annual holiday lunch is here! Join us on December 18 as the YWCA is providing a special menu of Cornish game hen, fresh sweet potatoes, corn, tossed salad and apple pie. The Senior Community Commission will be on hand to hand out raffle prizes! Be sure to make your reservation early, as seating is limited. Call the Senior Lunch Cafe at 626-355-0256 to RSVP.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ... December Birthdays

Pat Karamitros, Joan Hufnagel, Mary Alice Cervera, Carol Horejsi, Shirley Anhalt, Mignon Grijalva, Helen Reese, Levon Yapoujian, Toni Buckner, Lottie Bugl, Pat McGuire, Sheila Wohler, Nan Murphy, Eleanor Hensel, Sylvia Curl, Elizabeth Levie, Gayle Licher, Cindy Barran, and Melissa Stute. * To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required



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

YMCA San Gabriel Valley Intervale Senior Café: Monday-Friday at 12:00 Noon (Participants are urged to arrive no later than 11:45 A.M.)

All seniors 60 and up can take part in the lunch program. There is a suggested donation of \$2.00 for those 60 and over and \$3.75 for non-senior guests. Daily reservations are necessary as space is limited. Please call 24 hours in advance...626.355.0256

Free Balance Class: Every 3rd Monday, from 11:00 to 11:45 am with Shannon. All ability levels are encouraged and welcomed.

Hawaiian and Polynesian Dance Class: Every Tuesday morning from 10:00am to 11:00am. Join instructor Barbara Dempsey as she instructs you in the art of hula.

Bingo: Every Tuesday beginning at 1:00pm. Cards are only \$0.25 each! Everyone is welcome to join. May be canceled if less than 5 people. Canceled on August 5th and 12th.

Free Blood Pressure Testing: Held 2nd Tuesday of the month from 11:00am to 12:00pm. No appointment is necessary.

Free Legal Consultation: Wednesday, August 27th from 10:00am to Noon. Attorney Lem Makupson is available for legal consultation. He specializes in Family Law, Wills, Trusts, Estates, and Injury. For an appointment call 626-355-7394.

Chair Yoga: Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 to 11:45 am, except on the third Monday of the month when the balance class is held. A suggested donation of \$5 at one of the classes is requested, but is not required.

Birthday Celebrations: Every second Thursday of the month the Hart Park House Senior Center celebrates birthdays of our patrons. The free birthday cake is provided by the Sierra Madre Civic Club.

Game Day: Every Thursday starting at 12:45pm. A regular group of seniors play poker. Other games available for use.

Free Strength Training Class: Every Friday from 12:45pm to 1:30pm with Lisa Brandley. The class utilizes light weights for low impact resistance training. All materials for the class are provided.



UPCOMING EXCURSIONS

Los Angeles Central Library (Los Angeles)

Date: Friday, January 23, 2015 Time: 9:30am to 3:30pm

Meeting Location: Hart Park House Senior Center - Cost: \$5.00 (does not include lunch)
A visit to the Los Angeles Public Library's state of the art Central Library located in Downtown. A docent led tour will introduce you to the art and architecture of the Goodhue Building with its distinctive sphinxes and rooftop pyramid followed by a walk through the high-tech Bradley Wing, designed by famed architect Norman Pfeiffer, where participants will gaze at the 8-story atrium and whimsical chandeliers. Finish the tour learning about the library's comprehensive book, magazine, audio and videotape collections as well as its extensive network of formational databases. Lunch will be on your own at Grand Central Market where you can enjoy tasty treats or a leisurely meal from a variety of local vendors. Participants should bring money for lunch and souvenirs. Last day to register is Monday, January 12th. Level of walking: Medium to High

SIERRA MADRE HART PARK HOUSE SENIOR CENTER
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA 91024 626-355-7394
www.cityofsierramadre.com

HOURS OF OPERATION
Monday through Thursday
11:00am-2:30pm
(closed on Fridays)

Hart Park House Office closed from
December 24 - January 2 for the holidays
Lunch Program open during regular days
except December 24 & 25 and January 1st

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626.355.8350 www.creativeartsgroup.org

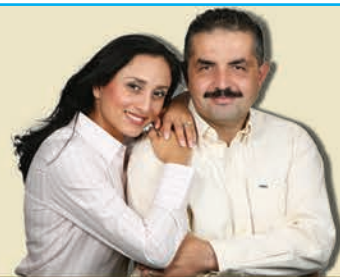
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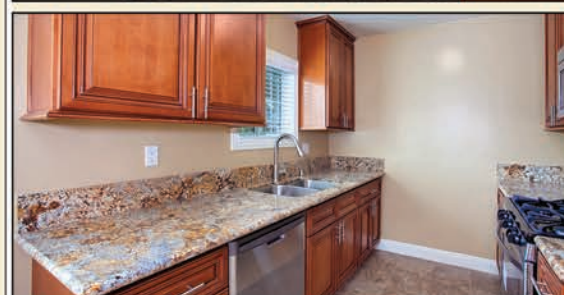
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New Years Eve PARTY!! December 31, 2014



\$50 Prix Fixe Menu (includes cover) 5pm-8:30pm
\$20 cover @ 7pm

Entertainment by Mercy & the Merkettes @ 9pm!
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AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

HILLSIDES LAUNCHES HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE IN 55 LOCAL STARBUCKS STORES



Twenty-five volunteers from local Starbucks stores helped assemble and decorate 55 donation boxes that will be used to collect toys in participating Starbucks stores during Starbucks annual toy drive benefiting Hillsides.

(PASADENA,CA)For the fifth year in a row, Starbucks is sponsoring a toy drive in participating Starbucks stores in the San Gabriel Valley and surrounding area. This year, 55 stores will be participating. The drive will run from December 12 – December 25.

Each store will feature a large white donation box topped with a red gift box and decorated with colorful holiday ribbon and a Hillsides poster. “We are asking customers to please consider donating new, unwrapped toys when they visit Starbucks,” said Laura Kelso, Hillsides director of community resources. “These gifts are incredibly important to the children and families Hillsides serves because otherwise, they may not receive anything for the holidays.”

Starbucks began its Hillsides toy drive in 2010 with donation boxes in 12 stores. Since then, the number of participating stores has grown steadily each year. “This toy drive has become a real tradition for us,” said Starbucks district manager Jennifer Vanderpool. “It feels good to partner with a local San Gabriel charity so embedded in the community and to create even more awareness of Hillsides with our many customers.” She estimates that the toy drive will collect some 2,000 toys for children in need.

This year, Starbucks employees also assembled the donation boxes that will be used in the stores. Twenty-five Starbucks volunteers, ranging from baristas to

regional managers, spent three hours at Hillsides main campus in Pasadena wrapping and decorating the boxes.

In addition to its holiday support, Starbucks has partnered with Hillsides Youth Moving On (YMO) program, which provides youth formerly in foster care or probation affordable quality housing and numerous other support services. Starbucks has hired two recent graduates of the YMO housing program, and both youth have seen great success at the company. One YMO hire was recently named district partner of the year -- a distinction that only four employees out of 300 was awarded.

“We are very thankful for the tremendous generosity the local Starbucks community has shown Hillsides during the holidays and throughout the year with its support of our YMO program, and look forward to a continued collaboration in the future,” said Joseph M. Costa, Hillsides chief executive officer. Hillsides, founded in 1913 and headquartered in Pasadena, is a premier provider dedicated to improving the overall well-being and functioning of children, youth, and families in need throughout Los Angeles County. To find a list of participating Starbucks stores, please visit Hillsides news page. To learn more about Hillsides and holiday giving opportunities at Hillsides, please visit www.hillsides.org.

LAURA SKANDERA TROMBLEY NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE HUNTINGTON

Trombley, President of Pitzer College, Succeeds Steven S. Koblik, Who Retires June 30, 2015

SAN MARINO, Calif. – Laura Skandera Trombley has been named the eighth president of The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, The Huntington's Board of Trustees announced today. Trombley takes the helm on July 1, 2015, the first woman to do so, following the retirement of Steven S. Koblik, who has served as The Huntington's president since 2001.

Trombley comes to The Huntington after 13 years as president of Pitzer College in Claremont, Calif. She is widely credited with dramatically improving the college's standing in higher education. Under her leadership, the college completed three successful fundraising campaigns, raising over \$110 million, while its U.S. News ranking improved 50 percent, moving from 70th to 35th, a feat unmatched in higher education. Pitzer has become one of the 20 most selective higher education institutions, and financial aid has increased 125 percent, decreasing student debt by 27 percent for the past decade. In addition, Pitzer has been the national leader for the number of Fulbright Fellowships awarded per 1,000 students. Also under Trombley, Pitzer's endowment increased more than 200 percent, and the college added eight new buildings, all receiving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum or Gold certification. More...



About The Huntington

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens is a collections-based research and educational institution serving scholars and the general public. More information about The Huntington can be found online at www.huntington.org.

Visitor information

The Huntington is located at 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, Calif., 12 miles from downtown Los Angeles. It is open to the public Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from noon to 4:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Sunday, and Monday holidays

from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Summer hours (Memorial Day through Labor Day) are 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Tuesdays and major holidays. Admission on weekdays: \$20 adults, \$15 seniors (65+), \$12 students (ages 12–18 or with full-time student I.D.), \$8 youth (ages 5–11), free for children under 5. Group rate, \$11 per person for groups of 15 or more. Members are admitted free. Admission on weekends: \$23 adults, \$18 seniors, \$13 students, \$8 youth, free for children under 5. Group rate, \$14 per person for groups of 15 or more. Members are admitted free. Admission is free to all visitors on the first Thursday of each month with advance tickets. Information: 626-405-2100 or www.huntington.org.



DUARTE, AZUSA AND GLENDORA: HOST TOWN for Special Olympics World Games 2015

By Joan Schmidt

It began when a guest speaker at a “Cities” meeting explained Special Olympic World Games 2015 “Host Town” program. Duarte’s then Mayor Liz Reilly and Council Member Sam Kang looked at each other and said, “Let’s do this.” Liz worked diligently over the next several months. Obstacles included enough facilities to house the athletes/coaches, but that didn’t deter Liz. Azusa University offered its facilities, neighboring cities of Azusa and Glendora came aboard, and the culmination of this joint effort is the three cities being a “Host Town”!

The “Host Town” is a special 3-day program prior to the Opening Ceremony of the 2015 World Games. At their Host Towns, athletic delegations from all over the world are welcomed and celebrated. Their Host Town schedules events-meet the community, take part in cultural activities unique to its area and practice and rest before the Games. The 100 Host Towns can be large cities, small towns, or joint cities from San Luis Obispo to San Diego.

This past Tuesday, there was a wonderful event at Azusa Pacific University’s Dillon Field-a Host Town flag presentation ceremony and all three Mayors attended. Master of Ceremonies was Andrew Barton from APU’s President’s Office. Speakers included APU President, Jon Wallace who told the history of APU, and its high ideals and “we’re so thankful and proud to be part of the Host program”.

Azusa Mayor Joe Rocha read all of his City’s Proclamation. He was proud to be part of “one of the most heartfelt events...In 1968, Eunice Shriver decided to work on her dream-inclusion...Azusa puts God first, and our motto is –Never give up or give in...Special Olympics ‘ motto is let me win or let me be brave.” He then presented Proclamation and the Key to the City of Azusa.

Duarte Mayor Tzeitel Paras-Caracci told us “It is such a thrill to share in Special Olympics...the city cannot contain its excitement. Our special Thanks to Azusa, Glendora and APU for giving us the opportunity for learning and cultural gain...excited to share the City of Hope. She then presented a Proclamation and Key to the City of Duarte.

Glendora Mayor Judy Nelson spoke...“We jumped at the opportunity” to be a Host Town and spoke of Rubel Castle and a hometown picnic where many

residents will come out and meet the Athletes. She presented a Proclamation and a Plaque from the City of Glendora.

Debi Anderson, 2015 World Games Messenger revealed she has been participating in the Olympics for seventeen years. She wore her Medal on Tuesday; Debi participates in volleyball, bowling and gymnastics.

Patrick McClenahan, President and CEO of LA2015 praised APU-his son Eric graduated and was a football star there. He also mentioned his daughter Kelly who has cerebral palsy. He reminded us of Eunice Shriver and her vision of “No exclusion”; also Eunice’ husband Sargeant Shriver founder of the Peace Corps.

Bryan Clay, an APU alumnus and Assistant Track and Field Coach, won a silver Medal at the 2004 Olympics and a gold medal in the Decathlon at the 2008 Olympics . A devout Christian, he credits APU for making his dreams come true.

Also attending were Glendora Council Member Joe Santoro, Duarte Council Member Liz Reilly, Mayor Pro Tem Sam Kang, City Manager Daryl George, Assistant Karen Herrera , School Board Member Reyna Diaz and APU’s Mascot and cheerleaders. Please visit LA2015.org to learn more.



ADVISORY: RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY REMAINS A HOLIDAY FAVORITE CRIME. PLEASE REMAIN VIGILANT - SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

Dear Nixle User,

Looking at the crime m ap pictured you would not know it, but since Thanksgiving, residential burglary has actually decreased slightly in Arcadia. But, as you can see, from East Pasadena through Arcadia, there are still a number of “Res Burgs” being reported, particularly north of the freeway. The majority of Arcadia burglaries have been committed during daytime hours. Several of the homes burglarized were targeted while the residents were gone for a few days at a time. While

the Department places additional officers, both in plain cars and marked units in problem areas, we are not always in the right place at the right time. Please remember to be vigilant in both your observation of your neighborhood and with your own home safety and security.

HERE are tips for preventing home burglary. Remember, if you See Something, Say Something! <http://arcadiapolice.blogspot.com/2014/11/weekly-tip-home-burglary-prevention.html>

INCREASED PATROLS FOR UNINCORPORATED AREAS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY — Increased law enforcement services for the County’s unincorporated areas was approved by the Board of Supervisors today. On a motion by Mayor Michael D. Antonovich, the Board allocated \$7.3 million for 67 sworn positions for the unincorporated areas -- 25 will be deployed to Altadena, Santa Clarita, Antelope and Crescenta Valleys.



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Looking Up

with Bob Eklund



TRACES OF MARTIAN LIFE COULD BE LOCKED IN A METEORITE; GEMINID METEOR SHOWER DEC. 13-14

Did Mars ever have life? Does it still? A meteorite from Mars has reignited the old debate. An international team that includes scientists from Ecole Polytechnique de Lausanne (EPFL, Switzerland) has published a paper in the scientific journal Meteoritics and Planetary Sciences, showing that Martian life is more probable than previously thought.

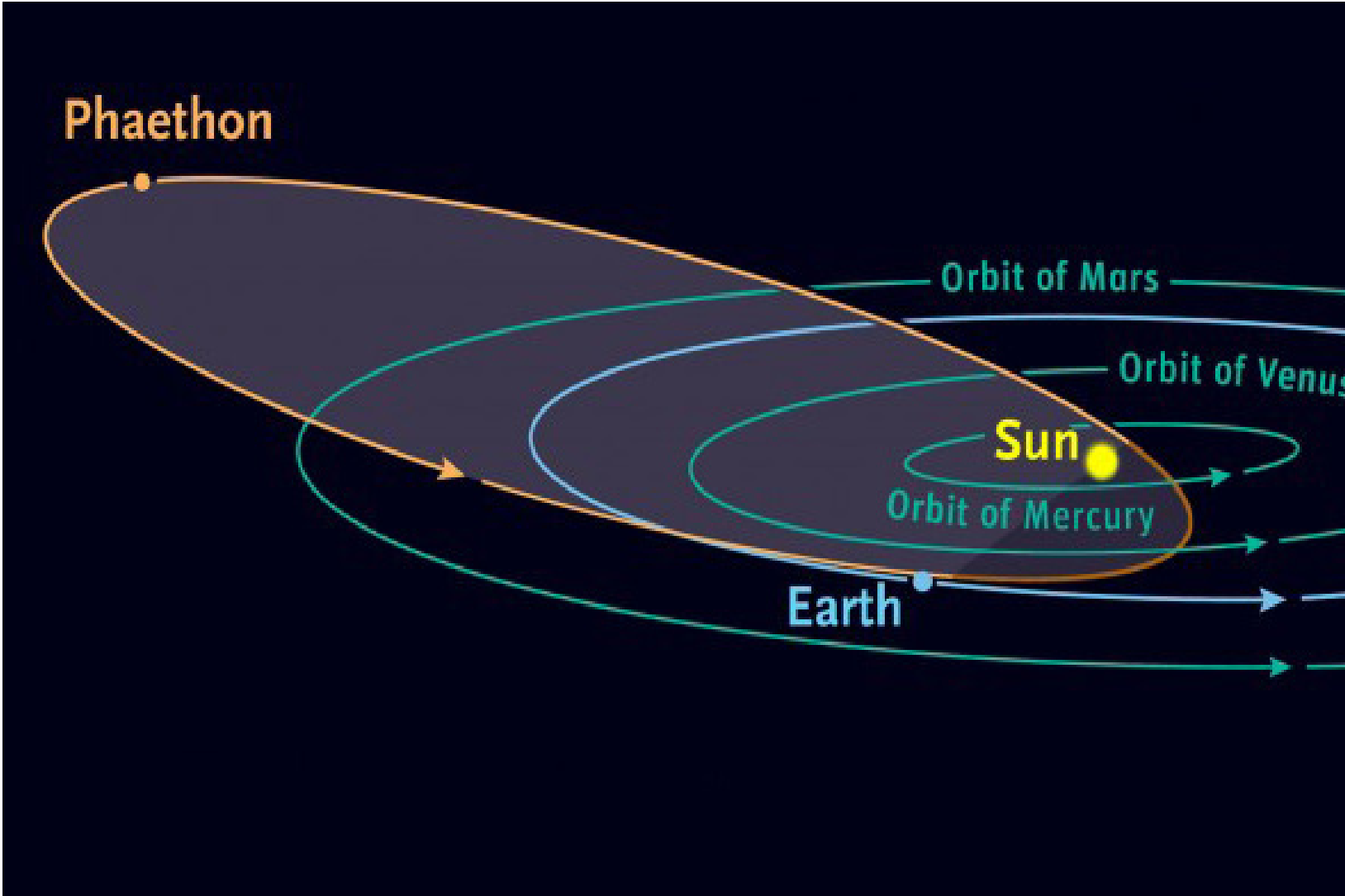
“So far, there is no other theory that we find more compelling,” says Philippe Gillet, director of EPFL’s Earth and Planetary Sciences Laboratory. He and his colleagues from China, Japan and Germany performed a detailed analysis of organic carbon traces from a Martian meteorite, and have concluded that they have a very probable biological origin. The scientists argue that carbon could have been deposited into the fissures of the rock when it was still on Mars by the infiltration of fluid that was rich in organic matter.

Ejected from Mars after an asteroid crashed on its surface, the meteorite, named Tissint, fell on the Moroccan desert on July 18, 2011, in view of several eyewitnesses. Upon examination, the alien rock was found to have small fissures that were filled with carbon-containing matter. Several research teams have already shown that this component is organic in nature. But they are still debating where the carbon came from.

Chemical, microscopic and isotope analysis of the carbon material led the researchers to several possible explanations of its origin. They established characteristics that unequivocally excluded a terrestrial origin, and showed that the carbon content was deposited in the Tissint’s fissures before it left Mars.

GEMINID METEOR SHOWER DECEMBER 13-14 – If it’s clear late on Saturday and Sunday nights, Dec. 13 and 14, keep a lookout high overhead for the “shooting stars” of the Geminid meteor shower. “The Geminids are usually one of the two best meteor showers of the year,” says Alan MacRobert, senior editor at Sky & Telescope magazine. “They’re sometimes more impressive than the better-known Perseids of August.”

Under a clear, dark sky, you might see a shooting star every minute or two from 10 p.m.



local time until dawn on these two nights. If you live under the artificial skyglow of light pollution the numbers will be reduced, but the brightest meteors will still shine through.

To watch for meteors, you need no equipment other than your eyes. Find a dark spot with an open view of the sky and no glary lights nearby. Geminids can appear anywhere in the sky, so the best direction to watch is wherever your sky is darkest, probably straight up. If you trace each meteor’s direction of flight backward far enough across the sky, you’ll find that this imaginary line crosses a spot in the

constellation Gemini near the stars Castor and Pollux. Gemini is low in the eastern sky during late evening.

The Geminid meteors are created by tiny bits of rocky debris (mostly the size of sand grains to peas) shed from a small asteroid named 3200 Phaethon, which was discovered in 1983. Before then no one knew the source of the Geminid shower. Phaethon is small, only about 3 miles across, and it loops around the Sun every 1.4 years in an orbit that approaches the Sun closer than any other known asteroid.

Over the centuries bits of Phaethon have

spread all along the asteroid’s orbit to form a sparse, moving “river of rubble” that Earth passes through in mid-December each year. The particles are traveling 22 miles per second (79,000 mph) with respect to Earth at the place in space where we encounter them. So when one of them dives into Earth’s upper atmosphere, about 50 to 80 miles up, air friction vaporizes it in a quick, white-hot streak.

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



THE YEAR OF NO CHRISTMAS

By Christopher Nyerges

When I was around 10, my brothers and I were particularly bad, belligerent, and misbehaving one autumn. My mother gave us several warnings and threats and a few “beatings” in her ceaseless attempt to get us to obey. I don’t recall what was “wrong” with us that year. It was as if we were afflicted by some unseen infection. Or maybe it was what all teens go through when they believe they know more than their parents. So my mother said, “Keep it up and

there will be no Christmas this year.” Of course, my mother didn’t control the calendar. She just meant “no gifts.” That threat did at first affect our behavior, but then we’d go back to our nonfeasant and malefasant ways. There were numerous threats, as November rolled into December, but things didn’t substantially improve. Now, I was at the age where I began to think about things, and the relative unfairness in the world, and the questioning of authority. But I also wondered why we should receive gifts at Christmas. By this time, I was aware that Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus at this time, and that it was primarily a religious holiday. I just didn’t get the whole gift thing –not that I minded receiving. But because I lacked an understanding of the whole picture, the idea of “no gifts” didn’t seem that threatening to me.

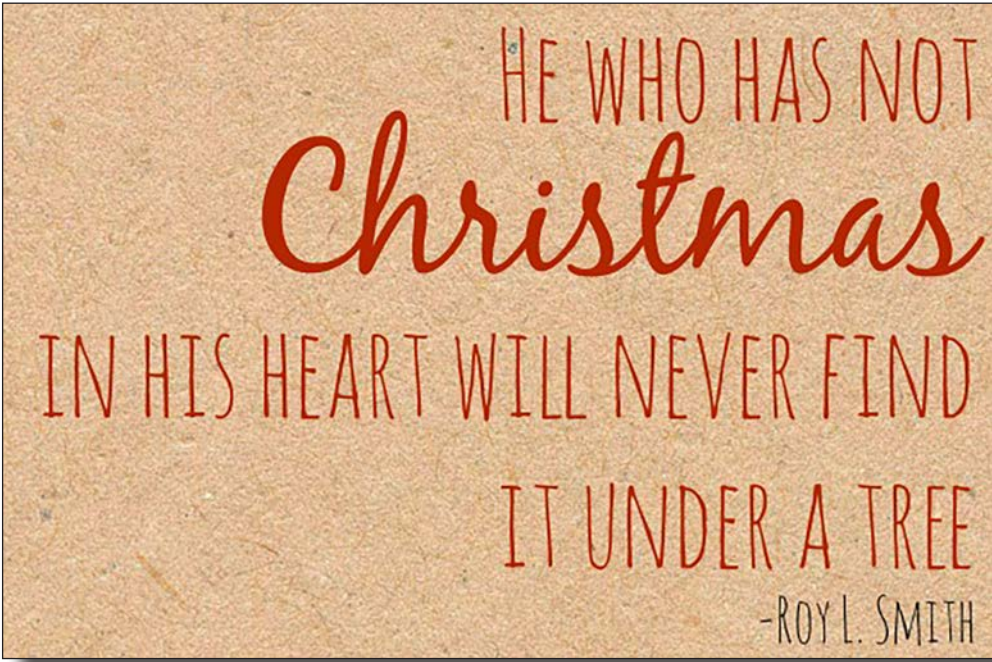
Thinking back, our bad behaviour that year was likely the trickle-down defiance from our oldest brother. David was never a defier, certainly not an open defier, but the defiance of Gilbert the eldest would have trickled down to Thomas, to Richard, to me. We were not an ideal family, and I am sure I have suffered my entire life due to unnecessary defiance and the disrespect that I showed to my parents. Did my parents deserve respect? In retrospect, of course they did, though the question would have been irrelevant then – like the pot calling the kettle black.

We were not saints, so who were we to point out hypocrisy in our parents? Anyway, by mid-December, the word was out: No Christmas this year. We were schizophrenic about this. “Oh, we don’t care,” we sassed, but inwardly I believe we each felt a deep dismay at our own inability to live up to our household’s very simple standards. I felt particularly dismayed that I had been no better, and that I was swayed along with the tide of my older brothers’ mob mentality. No Christmas. “She won’t follow through on it,” Tom told us with assurance. But inwardly, I felt my mother had to follow through, otherwise her word would mean little to us, and she’d gain little by “being nice.” I don’t recall what my father had to say about this, but it wasn’t much.

So, sure enough, Christmas came, and we went glumly into the living room to a fire and the usual Christmas tree, but there were no gifts. We went to church and we talked with our schoolmates. When they talked about what they got for Christmas, we just found ways to change the subject. We had a quiet Christmas dinner. One of my brothers told his friends that my mother was mean, but I never did that. I knew we deserved nothing, and I felt a certain euphoric sense of justice in her actions, and I respected her more because of it.

Interestingly, in certain ways, I felt closer to my mother after that, was more obedient because I simply felt better doing what was expected of me, and I never complained. Despite a seeming lack, it was actually one of the best Christmas’ ever, where I received the most fitting possible “gift” – the ability to quickly experience that my choices and actions have consequences.

The story about my mean mother gradually got out into the neighborhood, and my mother once again became the topic of conversations, mostly criticizing my mother. I always remained silent, trying to listen to both sides. But I only heard one side—no gifts – from those who truly lost the meaning of Christmas, whose sole focus for Christmas seemed to be the acquisition of things.



So I was “given,” slowly, a second “gift” by my mother’s action – a unique insight into the all-too-common mundanity of most people’s very narrow thinking. And I was allowed the rare opportunity to try and experience the meaning of Christmas without the over-focus on material things.

[Nyerges is the author of “How to Survive Anywhere,” “Self-Sufficient Home,” and other books. His blog can be read at www.ChristopherNyerges.com. He can be contacted via his site, or Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041]

Do you know a senior that will soon be faced with making a move into a smaller home or assisted living?

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‘Tis the Season

FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett



"HOW SHOULD I TAKE TITLE TO MY HOME?"

As an estate planning attorney, I get that question all the time. And it's a great question. You definitely want to make sure you hold title to your home correctly. Why? If titled incorrectly:

- The home owner cannot control what happens to the property after s/he dies.
- The home owner's heirs can lose the property to creditors, the government, or even an ex-spouse.
- The home owner's heirs will have to pay capital gains tax on the sale of the property.
- The home (and the heirs) will have to endure the public, time-consuming, and very expensive probate process.

Common Ways to Hold Title

- Joint Tenancy (JT): Under JT, the owner who dies first cannot control what happens to the property after his or her death. JT ensures there will be a probate upon the death of the second joint tenant. Finally, the surviving joint tenant will pay capital gains taxes on one-half of the property after the death of the first joint tenant.
- Tenants in Common (TIC): A TIC does not provide any survivorship rights among the co-owners. When one tenant in common dies, that tenant's interest in the property does not automatically pass to the surviving tenants in common. And each tenant's interest does have to pass through probate upon each of their deaths. In California, a tenancy in common is presumed unless title is specifically taken in some other way.
- Community Property (CP): Possibly the most common way for married couples to own property, CP causes half of the property to be probated upon the first death, and the whole property to be probated upon the second death.
- Community Property with Right of Survivorship (CPw/ROS): Like joint tenancy, CPw/ROS is he-who-

dies-last-wins situation, because only the surviving owner controls the disposition of the property upon death.

What eliminates all these potential problems? A Living Trust

The best way to own your property is in a living trust.

- Owning property in a properly drafted and funded living trust avoids probate upon the death of both the initial and surviving spouses.
 - Property received by heirs can be sold free of any capital gains tax and often avoids property tax reassessment.
 - The trust will ensure the right people receive the property after the death of the owners.
 - The property can be protected from creditors, predators, and even any future ex-spouses of the heirs.
- Be one of the first five callers to mention this article and I'll research and review the title of your primary residence free of charge. You'll learn exactly how your title it is currently held, what that means to you and your loved ones, and how you can change the way you hold title if you're not happy with the results.

To you family's health, wealth, and happiness,

MARC

A local attorney, father, and CASA volunteer (Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children), Marc Garlett is on a mission to help parents protect what they love most. His office is located at 49 S. Baldwin Ave., Ste. G, Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Call 626.355.4000 to schedule an appointment to sit down and talk about ensuring a legacy of love and financial security for your family or visit www.GarlettLaw.com for more information.



Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed

by Luther Tsinoglou

HARDER THAN IT LOOKS

With markets so rapidly changing, it's easy to imagine how property appraisers might sit in a darkened room, waving their hands over a crystal ball, and producing the mysterious and all-powerful document of a home's value. Let's dispel the notion of magical figures and look more carefully at the process.

When comparing against similar properties, it's not just the final price that counts. Appraisers also factor in any "incentives" offered, such as sellers who pay closing costs or remodeling allowances. Perhaps the most important factor that lenders review in an appraisal is the closing dates of the "comparables" (other homes by which yours is measured). Unfortunately, with today's stricter lending requirements, most "comps" must have sold within the last 60 or even 45 days to carry weight. Markets change so quickly that any sale price over two months old may be completely irrelevant.

Now a few words about how foreclosures in a neighborhood affect determination of value. Technically, appraisers shouldn't consider them, because they don't fit the Appraisal Institute's definition of "a property reasonably exposed in a competitive market." However, if several area homes have been abandoned, we know the negative effect that can have on a home's "perceived" value.

If you're planning to sell, express your concerns about the appraisal process to your representative, who will offer explanations and suggestions for improving your report's results.

Holiday Shopping

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Creative Arts Group

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Find us on Facebook as "Creative Arts Group Sierra Madre"



Social Media Tips, Tricks & Ideas



by: MJ Finstrom

HOW DO PEOPLE FEEL ABOUT YOUR BRAND?

Part of a good marketing strategy is about finding the right people you can persuade that your product or service is worth spending their money on.

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Maya Angelou said...

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Take a look at your social media presence and see if you are creating a brand that is likeable. Are you adding in human touches? Are you sharing interesting information? Are you listening and commenting on other people's social media posts?

Making your audience feel good is good for your business.

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. Sign up for their upcoming classes and presentations at: www.hutdogs.com/workshops/schedule



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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.



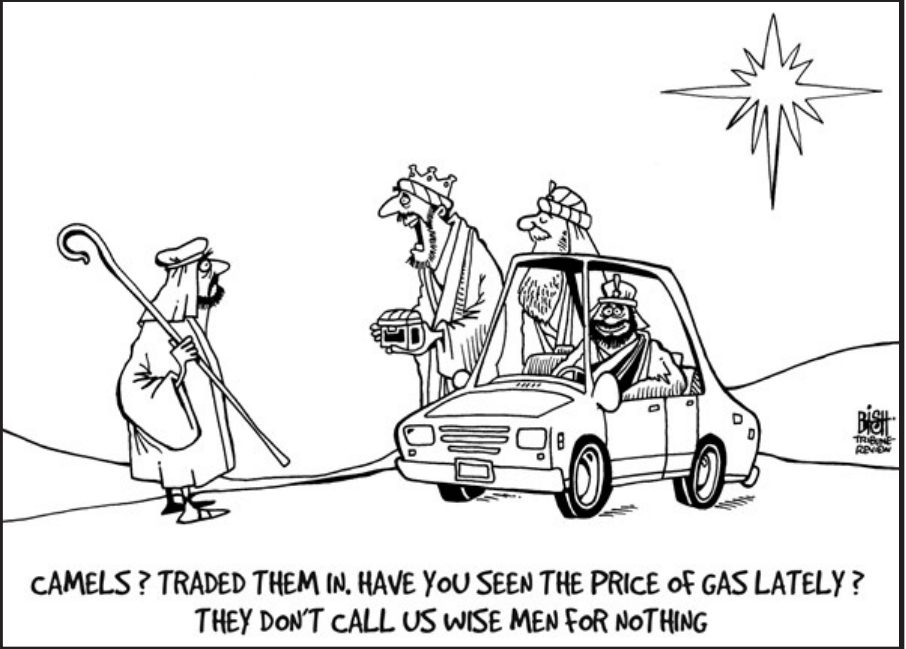
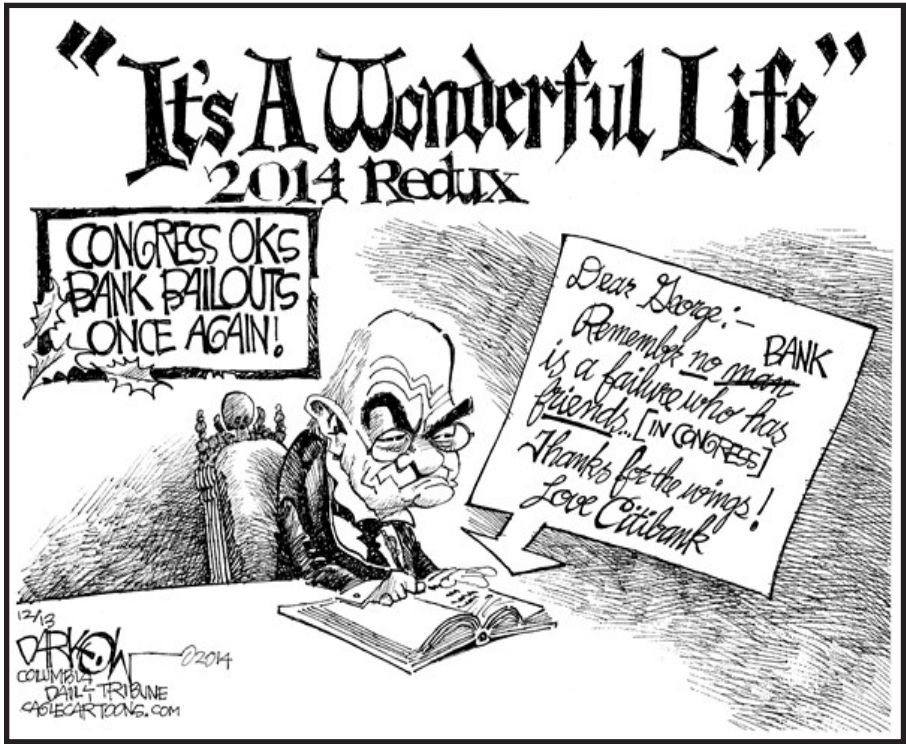
OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

THE GREAT WALL OF SILENCE AFTER THANKSGIVING

In our home the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I have a wonderful tradition.
Really, when you think about it, what is a home without traditions? Many people pretend that they do not have traditions which in and of itself has become a tradition.
Our tradition is that on what is normally called "Black Friday" we do not leave our house except to go out and get the mail. Years ago we did, but those ensuing years have created a sense of wisdom that has brought us to banning any out of the house experience on "Black Friday."
When we were younger, we had more energy and could run. Now, running is a very fond memory. I am not that fond of shopping malls in the first place, and in the second place, I do not like to be run over by a mob trying to out buy me.
Thus, our tradition on "Black Friday" is to stay home and appreciate one another's companionship. It is always good to relish Thanksgiving dinner leftovers, sit back and just enjoy ourselves. I think we also watched a little bit of television.
As we were watching television, a terrible thought wrestled my mind to the mat. I guess my mind is not as strong as it used to be.
The thought was simply this; there is a special holiday that follows Thanksgiving. I did not give it any thought until at this point. That special holiday is Christmas. And Christmas means buying a Christmas present for my wife.
This is always a stressful time for me. After all, what do you get somebody who has everything? She has me! What more could she need. (Don't tell her I said that.)
Now my mind was racing a thousand miles an hour trying to figure out what I should get her as a Christmas present this year.
I thought maybe if I could remember what I got her last year it might give me some ideas for this year. The harder I thought, the less thoughts came. I could not for the life of me figure out what I had given her last year for Christmas.
I knew at this point I was in serious trouble. I decided I would try to get my wife to tell me what I could get her this year for Christmas.
We were chatting back and forth; she was telling me one story after another. I think there were several stories but it all sounded the same to me. Although I have two ears, they do not seem to be connected. So, in the midst of our chatting I said, "You know Christmas is only a few weeks away."
I thought that would get some conversation going and in a subtle way I could direct it to what she wanted for Christmas. Boy, was I wrong.
As soon as I said that, all silence broke loose in our living room. I cannot remember the last time it was this quiet when both of us were in the room.
I am not quite sure she has figured me out yet, she probably has. Anybody who has ever attempted to manipulate their wife into disclosing information knows that I was up against the Great Wall of Silence. I tried to think of another strategy. Then I came up with one.
"How did you like the Christmas present I got you last year?" Thinking I could get her to talk about something that would refresh my memory and lead me in a direction of something for this year.
"Fine, how did you like yours?" she said and went behind the Great Wall of Silence.
Now I was backed into a corner. I could not remember what she gave me for Christmas last year. I tried to crank up the old think-machine, but it seemed to be out of gas. If only I could remember what she got me it might spark me to remember what I got her.
For the next few moments silence reigned queen for the day as I tried to think of how I could get her to tell me something that I could get her for Christmas.
I had another semi-brilliant idea.
"What did we get your mother last year for Christmas?" I thought this might spur some conversation that would lead me to the information I was seeking.
She looked at me and then said, "What did we get her for Christmas last year? I can't really remember."
Now, I knew very well she knew what we got her for Christmas last year. If anybody knows how to stonewall their husband, it is the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.
"What do you think we ought to get her this year?" I asked searchingly. This I thought would spur some conversation.
"I am not quite sure. What do you think she would like?"
At this point, I think my cover is blown. If I am going to get any information out of my wife about what to get her for Christmas, it will not be during my lifetime.
In the quietness, I began to reflect upon some scriptural admonitions. I especially like what David said, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth" (Psalms 46:10).
It is in the quietness that the reality of God shines the brightest in my heart.

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LEFT TURN/RIGHT TURN

HOWARD Hays As I See It



"John Boehner is now second-guessing the jury verdict in the Eric Garner case. He says he might want to hold congressional hearings over the issue. Is this the same John Boehner that showed zero enthusiasm about the Benghazi hearings?"
- Sean Hannity

Two weeks ago, the St. Louis County grand jury failed to indict Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson for shooting to death Michael Brown last August. A week later, the Staten Island grand jury failed to indict NYPD Staten Island Officer Daniel Pantaleo for choking to death Eric Garner last July.

This past week, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund posted a list to remind that the passion and rage behind "Black Lives Matter" go far deeper than anguish over two recent headline-grabbing decisions. As the NAACP reminds, in this past year alone:
On January 16, 26-year-old Jordan Baker was bicycling through a Houston-area strip mall when off-duty Houston Police Officer J. Castro, working security at the mall, thought he matched the description of previous robbers. (They wore black hoodies.) According to Castro, after a brief chase Baker "charged" at him, so Castro shot him dead. Baker was unarmed, and there were no other witnesses.
Jordan Baker was a student at Houston Community College and leaves a 7-year-old son (Jordan Jr.). Officer Baker was put on administrative leave.
When Southfield (outside of Detroit) police officers answered the call from shopping mall security guards on January 28, they found 25-year-old McKenzie Cochran handcuffed and not breathing. Cochran died on the way to the hospital.
Earlier, the guards were called by a store owner about an agitated Cochran who refused to leave his store. Cochran was pepper-sprayed and thrown to the ground face-down by the guards, one with his knee on Cochran's back.
Attorney Gerald Thurswell described a cellphone video of the incident: "When he's telling them that he's dying, he says, 'I can't breathe, I can't breathe. Call 911, I can't breathe, I'm dying.' And they just keep that knee on his back, compressing his lungs and chest into the ground..."
The Oakland County (Michigan) Medical Examiner attributed the death to "position compression asphyxia". The Oakland County Prosecutor acknowledged "mistakes" made by the guards, but declined to file charges.
Last March, 22-year-old Victor White III was stopped by New Iberia, Louisiana police officers, patted down and found to have marijuana, cocaine and some Cigarillos. He was put in the back seat of the police car, hands cuffed behind his back, and taken to the station.
Despite the frisking, according to the officers, they missed the gun White allegedly had on him which, with his hands cuffed behind him in the backseat, they say he somehow managed to use to shoot himself (later labeled the "Houdini suicide").
The initial police report says White was shot in the back. The coroner's report says it was in the chest, with none of the gunpowder traces typical of a point-blank shot.
The local investigation is pending.
Tyree Woodson (38) was picked up August 2 by Baltimore police on several open warrants. After hours in a holding cell, he was escorted to a restroom, where, upon entering the stall, he allegedly shot himself.
His family wonders how a criminal considered dangerous could be arrested, jailed and transported within the facility all while managing to hang onto a high-caliber weapon – not for an escape attempt, but to kill himself. An investigation is pending.
On August 5, John Crawford III, 22, went with his girlfriend to a Wal-Mart in Beavercreek, Ohio, to shop for a family barbecue. He got a phone call, and while talking on his cell picked up an open BB gun from a store shelf, which he carried with him while talking and walking down the aisles with nobody else paying much attention.
A witness called 911 to say a customer was pointing a gun at people. A month later, the same witness said he wasn't pointing the gun at anybody. Store video shows two officers rushing into the store with guns drawn, then shooting their target the second he comes into view at the end of an aisle, still on his phone.
The grand jury issued no indictments. Crawford leaves two sons.
On August 12, two days after the killing of Michael Brown, the LAPD says 25-year-old Ezell Ford was killed in South L.A. during a confrontation with them in which "a struggle ensued". Witnesses and family members say he was shot three times while lying on the ground, complying with their orders. The LAPD put an "investigative hold" on the autopsy report.
Cleveland Police got a call November 22 about a man "probably a juvenile" with a gun "probably fake" at a local park. According to police, upon arrival an officer got out of his car and told the suspect to put his hands up. Instead, they reported, the suspect reached into his waistband and pulled out a gun, at which point the officer fired. According to video of the incident, however, the police car pulls up at 0:19 and by 0:21, all of two second later, the suspect is falling to the ground, mortally wounded.
Tamir Rice, owner of the BB gun, was 12.
In the Michael Brown case, the focus has been on a struggle in the police car, not on whether Brown was later killed while attempting to surrender – or on a prosecutor presenting the case against prosecution to a grand jury.
For Eric Garner, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) suggests that if "politicians" had not made cigarette taxes so high, Garner wouldn't have been selling singles on the street, which got him into trouble in the first place.
This isn't about isolated incidents, insufficient "respect" shown to police or high taxes, for that matter - but about an ongoing pattern of conduct and cover-up throughout the country that the "Black Lives Matter" campaign refuses to allow to continue.
And no, Sean Hannity, it has nothing to do with Benghazi.

GREG Welborn

TORTURED TRUTHS



America is owed the truth from its political leaders, and the importance of that entitlement is directly related to the significance of the issue in question. Sadly, we've all grown accustomed, maybe even accepting, of politicians lying, evading, denying and covering up. To the extent this is true, we deserve what we get. But on the "big" issues, most Americans still expect that our leaders will rise to the occasion and do what's right – level with the people. Sadly, the Senate Intelligence Committee's report on CIA interrogations is anything but a truthful analysis; its sole purpose seems to be the furthering of some incomprehensible political agenda.
There is no mistaking the intent of this report. The Democratic members of the Senate committee released a report which attempts to hold members of the CIA accountable to accusations of "torture" in the aftermath of 9/11. In doing so, they very conveniently ignore the history of those days, weeks and months.
9/11 was the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil, in the wake of which President Bush signed a congressional authorization for the use of military force. It was a bipartisan authorization which specifically granted the President the authority to "use all necessary and appropriate force against [those] he determines [were involved in] the terrorist attacks". The point of the authorization was very specific: "to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States".
In a similarly bipartisan method, the CIA's rendition, detention and interrogation program was designed with the participation of the Congress and the President. Full disclosure of this program, which included the use of enhanced interrogation techniques, was made to the chairmen and ranking members of both the Senate and House intelligence committees.
The Democratic report released this week attempts to paint a much different picture. Among its central claims are the assertions that the programs were developed without oversight and without the knowledge and approval of the Congress. That is just a lie! It's not even a good lie since the report doesn't offer any evidence to suggest that any member of the intelligence committees were unaware of, or even later shocked by, the programs. In fact, the reactions at the time of the congressional briefings ranged from no objection to approval to some calling for a more aggressive approach.
Further incriminating of the lie in this Democratic report is the fact that President Obama's Justice Department investigated the CIA program and in 2012 found no basis whatsoever for criminal prosecution. They found – albeit reluctantly – that the CIA had lawfully carried out the lawful instructions of the President and the Congress.
With hindsight, we should have known such a shameful political attack was coming. The Senate committee didn't bother to interview President Bush, Vice President Cheney, their advisors, the heads of the CIA or any of those involved in the programs. Doing your research and interviewing all the witnesses is something I trust they teach early in law school, although I'm sure it's viewed as just a nuisance in our universities' political science departments. Why strive for the truth when a more convenient political narrative can simply be invented?
Part of that convenient Democratic political narrative is the assertion by the Democratic report that the enhanced interrogation techniques were actually "torture". Simply calling something torture doesn't make it so. Americans are by and large good people, possessing a more-than-ample quotient of common sense. Torture is inflicting significant physical pain; a slap in the face is not significant. Nor is creating a sensation of drowning where there is no drowning. Waterboarding tricks the human system into thinking it is drowning. There's no real physical harm. American service men and women are exposed to it during training, because with training you can teach yourself to ignore the sensation. The human mind can be taught to recognize that the "feeling" of drowning is not really drowning. Real torture can't simply be ignored.
This, and a host of other psychological techniques, have been wonderfully successful in convincing terrorists (without real damage to themselves) to give up valuable information which has saved lives. But this fact is also denied by the Democratic report. In their narrative, not only did the U.S. torture people, but it did so just knowing that no "actionable intelligence" would be obtained. That narrative couldn't be further from the truth. As several CIA heads and military leaders make clear in the 12/10/14 Wall Street Journal, the interrogations exposed and prevented a second wave of attacks which were being planned by Al Qaeda. The truth is that real lives were saved while no real harm was done to terrorists.
As for the political calculation behind this piece of partisan fiction masquerading as serious investigation, I can't begin to imagine what benefits could outweigh the serious damage that this Democratic report will cause. At the very least, Al Qaeda, ISIS and others will use this to recruit and to justify their truly torturous treatment of prisoners. Who could object to beheading a few Americans when Americans themselves torture? America needs our friends to trust us and our enemies to fear us. Exercises in self immolation, like this report, embolden enemies and drive away friends.
It is my firm belief there is a special place in hell for those terrorists who torture, maim and kill with abandon. I'm beginning to believe – or at least hope – there is a place also reserved for those who would make such false and damaging accusations against those who put their lives on the line to protect our country.

About the author: Gregory J. Welborn is a freelance writer and has spoken to several civic and religious organizations on cultural and moral issues. He lives in the Los Angeles area with his wife and 3 children and is active in the community. He can be reached mailto:gregwelborn2@gmail.com



How to make good use of holiday togetherness when you're caring for a senior loved one

Celebrating the holidays together with family is one of the best rewards of the season. If you are caring for an older relative, however, the holidays can be worrisome. You might notice that your loved one seems lonely, feels isolated or is overwhelmed. Or maybe you identify safety issues that signal your loved one needs more assistance than you are able to provide. If so, then the holidays offer you and your family a special opportunity: *to share in the discussion and decision-making about care alternatives for someone you all love.*

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