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SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2015

VOLUME 9 NO. 1

"I THINK I CAN" - DID!

Sierra Madre Rose Float Association Wins For The 9th Time In The Last 10 Years!



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"I Think I Can as it moves along parade route." Photo by Dean Lee /MVNews

The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association has won 2015 Mayor's Award with it's 83rd entry, "I Think I Can". The award was presented for the "Most Outstanding City Entry - National or International". It was designed by Joanne G. Garcia, Nancie Filkins, and Justin Brandstater.



Parade Spectator Ray Burley of Cerritos, Ca., submitted this close up (above)

Riding on the float were Sierra Madre Rose Princesses Rose Princesses Kayla Rice, Alexi Zate, Britney Stone, and Kristine Kuhn. Ms. Rice is a junior at The Peace and Justice Academy, Ms. Zate is senior at LaSalle, Ms. Stone senior at San Marino High School and Ms. Kuhn is a junior at St. Lucy's Priory High School. (Above right - MVNews Photo)

Congratulations and thanks are in order for all of the hard working volunteers who spent countless hours painstakingly painting, gluing and placing millions of seeds and flowers on the float. Preparations for the float began in early 2014.

Special congratulations and thanks go to veteran volunteers and SMRFA leaders Bonnie and Dave Colcher, Kay and Dick Sappington, Barbie Bevington, Donna Sutcliff, Illona Linden, and float drivers, Dave and LaDonna Gaydosh (Partial listing). Their help was especially critical this year in helping the group carry on after the untimely death of longtime SMRFA President Bob Young. The float was dedicated to Bob's memory and the last car expressed the sentiment of the SMRFA and the entire city of Sierra Madre, "Forever Young". (right)

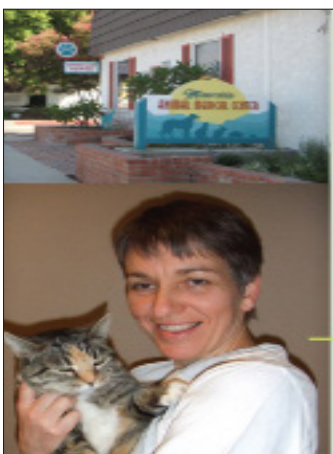
So what's next for this award winning organization? Breaking down the train after a brief stop in Kersting Court and beginning working on the 2016 entry.

S. Henderson/MVNews



RECENT SMRFA TROPHIES

- 2006 - "The Wonder of Reading"
The Founders Banner Trophy
- 2007 - "Our Wonderful Wistaria"
Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy
- 2008 - "Valentine's Day"
Princesses Trophy
- 2009 - "Bollywood Dreams"
Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy
- 2010 - "California Girls"
Governor's Trophy
- 2011 - "Suenos de California"
Governor's Trophy
- 2013 - "The Sky's The Limit"
Isabella Coleman Trophy
- 2014 - "Catching The Big One"
The Mayor's Trophy
- 2015 - "I Think I Can"
The Mayor's Trophy



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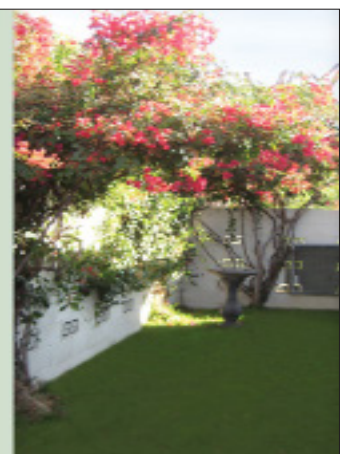
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Walking Sierra Madre...The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity in the finest sense of the word."

Goran Persson

It's 2015. Hard to believe. Looking back over the past year, we think it was pretty good. Hope yours was, too. We went to more baby events and children's birthday parties than funerals and we've learned to enjoy the Chuck E. Cheese birthday party, with pizza and soft drinks for the kids, vast quantities of tokens to play all the games and parents taking thousands of phone pictures. OK, grandparents, too. The kids who work at Chuck E. Cheese as birthday party wranglers are indefatigable and beyond nice to everyone. Besides, if your little person has their party at Chuck E. you don't have to clean house afterwards. No chocolate frosting on your white couch. Seriously! No downside at all! Just saying....

"Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties."

Helen Keller

Many people like to start their New Year's with black-eyed peas, a Southern tradition for good luck and prosperity, but my family likes to kick off the New Year with Split Pea Soup. Easy to make, do it ahead of time, and you can make enough to keep hungry teenagers happy all day long. You can double and triple this recipe with great success, if your pot is big enough.

Split Pea Soup

1 package split peas (these are found in the market aisle where rice, noodles, beans, etc. are located)
4 ham hocks (usually packaged 2 to a package in the meat section) or a ham shank, or the ham bone left over from Christmas.
3 medium-size onions

6-7 good size carrots (or a package of baby carrots)
1 good size bunch of celery
Salt
Pepper

Split pea soup is an opportunity to creatively express yourself. There are few rules, just a few suggestions:

Get a really large pot and put the ham hocks or the ham bone in the bottom of the pot. Throw the peas on top of that, followed by the onions, carrots and celery which you've washed and cut into big chunks. Cover all this with water, or a combination of water and chicken broth. Say about 8-10 cups of water. Season with salt and pepper and whatever else you like. If you're partial to thyme, put some in there. Or Mrs. Dash.

Cover your pot and put in the oven at about 300 degrees. Leave it in there for about six hours, or till the peas have become very tender. Take it out and let the mixture cool to where you can handle it without burning yourself. Take out the ham hocks or ham bone and set them (it) aside.

Assemble your blender and blend your lukewarm soup/veggie mixture into a smooth puree. Put this into a large container with a cover, like your crock pot. When all your soup is pureed, remove whatever meat is on your ham hocks or ham bone, tossing out all fat and other non-meaty parts and put the meat into your soup. Refrigerate. Let it sit for a day or so to develop flavor, reheat it and stand back so the hungry relatives don't run over you as they rush to grab a bowl of the best split pea soup anywhere. You could make some cornbread or corn muffins to go with your soup and everyone who has some will love you forever.

Happy New Year, dear Walking Sierra Madre friends. Hope to see you out and about in 2015. Check out my book page on Amazon.com: Deanne Davis@Amazon.com

MEET THE AUTHORS

The Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society and First Water Design present the finest assembly of experts of our magnificent mountains and their impact on our history, culture, and way of life. This extraordinary gathering will be held in Sierra Madre on Saturday, January 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to this free event at 154 West Sierra Madre Blvd.

This "who's who" roster of authors will be selling and signing their works:

John Robinson, The San Gabriels, Trails of the Angeles: 100 Hikes in the San Gabriels, Sierra Madre's Old Mount Wilson Trail; Michele Zack, Southern California Story: Seeking the Better Life in Sierra Madre, <http://www.mtlowe.net/altadenahistoricalociety.htm>
Altadena: Between Wilderness and City; Elizabeth Pomeroy, John Muir: A Naturalist in Southern California, San Marino: A Centennial History; Nat Read, Don Benito Wilson: From Mountain Man to Mayor Los Angeles 1841 to 1878; Michael Patris, Mount Lowe Railway; Glen Owens, The Heritage of the Big Santa Anita; Paul Rippens, The Saint Francis Dam; Willis Osborne, A Guide to Mt. Baldy & San Antonio Canyon; Christopher Nyerges, Enter the Forest; Norma Rowley,



The Angeles Was Our Home; and Chris Kasten, cartographer and former manager of Sturtevant Camp.

At 2 p.m. there will be a panel discussion with our writers.

For more information, contact Jeff Lapides of First Water Design at FirstWaterDesign.com or (626) 695-8177.



MEET THE AUTHORS

Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society
and First Water Design present
THE FINEST ASSEMBLY OF EXPERTS
on our magnificent mountains and
their impact on our history, culture, and way of life!

John W. Robinson — Michele Zack — Elizabeth Pomeroy — Nat Read
Glen Owens — Michael Patris — Christopher Nyerges
Willis Osborne — Paul H. Rippens — Norma Rowley — Chris Kasten
WILL SIGN AND SELL BOOKS — PANEL DISCUSSION AT 2 P.M.
EVENT IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Saturday, January 24, 1-4 p.m.
154 West Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, California

For further information: FirstWaterDesign.com or call Jeff Lapides at 626-695-8177

Program and authors subject to change.

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Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, December 21st, to Sunday, December 28th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 273 calls for service.

Monday, December 22nd

At 1:21 am, Sierra Madre Police responded to the 500 Block of North Hermosa Ave. regarding a domestic violence call. Upon arrival, Officers were met by the victim who informed them of what had happened. She stated she and her boyfriend had gotten into an argument when she questioned him about being faithful in the relationship. She stated her boyfriend shoved her to the floor then wrapped his arm around her neck and dragged her downstairs. The victim pleaded to her boyfriend to let her go because she couldn't breathe. After the victim threatened to call the police, the victim's boyfriend let her go. She then informed Officers she called the police after her boyfriend threatened to harm anyone else she would date. Ultimately the victim's boyfriend was arrested and cited for domestic abuse.

At 1:30 pm, Sierra Madre Police responded to the 100 Block of Lowell Ave. regarding a theft report. Upon arrival, Officers were informed by the victim that the night before, at around 9:30 pm, he left his tools unsecured on his front porch. The following day, at around 11:30 am, the victim realized he had left the tools on the porch and went to check on his property when he realized they had already been stolen. This case has been forwarded to the Detectives Bureau.

Tuesday, December 23rd

At 11:15 am, Sierra Madre Police responded to the 500 Block of West Montecito Ave. regarding two dogs loose in the subject's backyard. Upon arrival, the subject informed Officers that while in his home, he noticed the two dogs in his backyard. When he opened

his gate to investigate, his two dogs ran from the house and began fighting with the two other dogs. The subject attempted to separate the dogs and was bitten twice by one of the two unknown dogs. The subject was able to get his dogs into his home, which helped calm the situation. The subject then investigated his yard and noticed a large hole in the fence between him and his neighbor's yard. The dog's owner was notified of the incident and was told his dogs were placed on a ten day home quarantine until the fence was replaced with a more durable material.

Wednesday, December 24th

At 9:25 am, Sierra Madre Police responded to the 400 Block of Foothill Ave. regarding a possible residential burglary. Officers were informed by the victim, that at around 8:15 that morning, he went into his backyard to adjust his pool cover when he noticed the door to the pool house was open, along with a side gate that was rarely ever used. Upon investigating the pool house, the victim noticed the door had been damaged and items in the pool house had been visibly disturbed but nothing seemed to have been taken. Officers investigated the door and concluded the door had been smashed inwards and caused debris and broken window panes. The estimated property damage was set to \$150. This case has been forwarded to the Detectives Bureau.

Thursday, December 25th

At 4:06 pm, Sierra Madre Police responded to the 500 Block of West Sierra Madre Blvd. regarding a theft report. The victim informed Officers that sometime between 4 pm the day before and 4 pm that day, someone gained access to her unlocked apartment storage locker. Stolen from the locker was various hair care products and a printer, totaling to about \$600. This case has been forwarded to the Detectives Bureau.

SIERRA MADRE

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WANT A REALLY GOOD NEW YEAR RESOLUTION SUGGESTION? TRY VOLUNTEERING! IT MAKES A SOUL FEEL GOOD AND THE COMMUNITY BETTER!



Founded in 1931, the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society (SMHPS) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organized for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and displaying documents, artifacts, and oral histories pertaining to the founding and subsequent development of Sierra Madre, CA and its surrounding communities. Following our mission, the SMHPS operates and maintains the City's museums which are Richardson House and Lizzie's Trail Inn, both located in Mt. Wilson Trail Park at the corner of Mira Monte and Mt. Wilson Trail Drive. Also, the SMHPS and the Sierra Madre Public Library are co-owners of the Sierra Madre Archives which are located in the Library.

The SMHPS is approaching 200 members and we're hoping that you'd like to join this exciting and interesting group. We have excellent opportunities to docent at the museums, to participate with the oral history program, to volunteer at the Library performing archival duties, and to help with our exciting programs. If you'd like to meet us, please come to our upcoming free program on Saturday afternoon January 24th from 1-4pm at 154 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. This will be a local history authors' forum and will feature 11 respected authors who have written excellent books about Sierra Madre and the San Gabriel Valley area.

For more information about the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society, visit our new website at www.smhps.org. To contact us regarding specifics of how you can be an active member in the SMHPS, email us at smhps@outlook.com, leave a message on our museums' answer machine at 626-836-6709, or phone Maggie Ellis, membership chair, at 626-355-7074. We would love to have you join us!



Help us build our next amazing float! We're at the float barn, 587 East Sierra Madre Blvd, every Sunday from 10 am-?. Membership is open to all; \$25. Per family. Help is needed in many areas. For further information, go to our website, www.smrosefloat.org, or leave a message at 626 355-7005.



Who We Are

Volunteers, who feel that libraries are important, have become members of the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library. The group contributes volunteer hours, materials, and money to strengthen Library programs and services. Each year the Friends sponsor a gala wine tasting, noteworthy book sales, and a prestigious art fair.

Mission

The purpose of the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library is to promote community awareness of, support for, and utilization of the high quality programs, services, and facilities of the Sierra Madre Public Library as a lifelong center for learning. The Friends accept the obligation to raise funds so that the cost of the efforts, services, and necessary materials needed for optimal operation of the Library can be met. Want to help? Call (626) 355-7186

SIERRA MADRE KIWANIS CLUB

The Sierra Madre Kiwanis is a service club. We are local men and women who want to "give back" to our community. We are non-political, non-denominational, and accept anyone (at least 18 years of age) for membership. Our local club, founded in 1927, is part of Kiwanis International.



What we do: The emphasis of our Kiwanis Club is on the children of Sierra Madre. We've supplied funding for local students (scholarships) and schools (science lab equipment, text books, field trips, etc via grants. We have also supported the community as a whole by such activities as raising money for the Sierra Madre Emergency Radio Station, Purchasing a new sound system for the Hart Park Senior Center and more. We support many community

activities in partnership with the city and other organizations.

We also sponsor service clubs for youth at the middle school and high school level. We sponsor The Sierra Madre Middle School's Service Club (Kiwanis Builders Club) and the Arcadia High School Key Club.

Our Kiwanis Club meets each Tuesday at noon at The Lodge, 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre.

We'd love to have you come and visit. Mention this article and lunch is on us!

For more information call 626-355-0728 or go to our website: www.sierramadrekiwanis.com. You can also find us on facebook. Go to www.facebook.com/pages/Kiwanis-Club-of-Sierra-Madre

SIERRA MADRE CIVIC CLUB

is a club whose purpose is to promote unity and good fellowship, and to strive toward civic, philanthropic, and youth welfare advancement. Open to any person residing in Sierra Madre and vicinity.

Visit us on facebook : www.facebook.com/pages/Sierra-Madre-Civic-Club



NOMINATE THE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR!

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.

Completed forms should be mailed to Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, 19 Suffolk Ave, Unit A, Sierra Madre, 91024 by Jan. 6th. 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, 2014. Nomination forms are available either online at www.sierramadrechamber.com or by calling the Chamber Office at 626-355-5111.

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND/OR ORGANIZATIONS YOU CAN SUPPORT:

SIERRA MADRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Wistaria Festival
Sierra Madre Winter Festival
626-355-5111

THE SIERRA MADRE 4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE
Call 626-355-7135 for more information

THE SPERO FOUNDATION
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THE MT. WILSON TRAIL RACE
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VILLAGE VINE INTERNET RADIO
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Art Classes for Adults and Children starting January 19th



Creative Arts Group

108 N. Baldwin Ave. 626.355.8350

www.creativeartsgroup.org



"Creative Arts Group Sierra Madre"

About Creative Arts Group

Founded in Sierra Madre in 1960, Creative Arts Group (CAG) provides a friendly and nurturing environment for people of all ages, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds. Bringing together the richness of our diverse community through programs, exhibitions, and workshops, CAG provides a means for discovering creative self-expression and developing an understanding and appreciation of others through the arts.

Creative Arts Group is a vital, energetic, art center and gallery attracting more than 2000 students annually who both shop and take classes. The organization aims to enrich the lives of individuals through the arts – a place where children and adults come to experience the joy of creating art as well as to appreciate the artistic talents of others.

Hours: M-F 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sat. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

EVOLUTION OF A THEATRE - SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE

The Sierra Madre Playhouse has evolved from a theatrical heritage that stretches back to the days when Sierra Madre was just a tiny village. Residents presented dramas and musicals as early as the 1880s in their homes, in the Town Hall, and in the Woman's Club.



Then in 1923, the structure presently housing the Sierra Madre Playhouse was built. During the ensuing years, it has served as the focal point of the city's family entertainment center, whether as a movie house, an arcade, or most recently, a theatre.

Its names have changed, as well as its functions. It was the "Wistaria Theater" when it first opened, but by 1929 it became the "Sierra Madre Theatre."

As with most community theaters, the Sierra Madre Playhouse has often been in tight financial straits. To support the theater, a small group of dedicated local citizens spearheaded a campaign in 1995 to assist the Playhouse, with George Enyedi and Lee and Barbara Cline playing lead roles. The Playhouse reorganized and became a non-profit corporation. A Board of Directors was formed in 1996 comprising nine dedicated community volunteers and theater lovers.

Each season-which runs from January through the following December, The Playhouse presents six to eight events, featuring well-written comedies, musicals, and intriguing mysteries. More serious dramas are interspersed occasionally. All are family oriented, and they showcase a repertoire remarkably varied for a community theater.

Playhouse Productions

An Equity-waiver theater with ninety-nine seats, the Playhouse attracts both union and non-union actors of the finest caliber. The SMP can even boast a one-time performance in the 1982-83 season by Oscar-winner Tom Hanks, who filled in for a friend in Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park."

Many of Neil Simon's and Agatha Christie's successes have been produced at the Playhouse. A few plays have enjoyed return engagements through the years. Weightier scripts include "The Madwoman of Chailot," "Rashoman," "The Lion in Winter," "The Miracle Worker," "Steel Magnolias," "Caine Mutiny Court Martial," "All My Sons," "The Member of the Wedding," "The Innocents," and "Golden Boy."

"Oliver," "Dames At Sea," "The Fantasticks," "Sound of Music," "Spitfire Grill," "Putting it Together" and "Side

by Side by Sondheim," and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" are among the musicals which have been offered. Favorites at the holiday season are "Scrooge" and various versions of "A Christmas Carol."

The Playhouse is located in the charming foothill village of Sierra Madre, and attracts patrons numbering more than 8,000 from throughout the San Gabriel Valley and nearby cities. Most productions are presented on Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday matinees. Group events are welcomed.

While honoring the traditions of its long history, the Sierra Madre Playhouse has also entered into the modern age with e-mail and Website facilities. These conveniences are just one more way in which the Playhouse serves the needs of the clientele of today and tomorrow.

Sierra Madre Playhouse
87 West Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024
www.sierramadreplayhouse.org

Ralphs Club and The Sierra Madre Playhouse

Ralph's Grocery Stores have made it easy to help your local theater! It's Easy... just shop, swipe your card & earn!

Giving more back to the community! Ralphs is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. Year after year, local schools, churches and other non-profit organizations earn millions of dollars through our Community Contributions Program.

In this case, you will be helping The Sierra Madre Playhouse! The Ralphs Community Contribution Program was designed to make your fundraising the easiest in town by simply using your Ralphs Club Card.

The Sierra Madre Playhouse will receive from Ralphs: 4% on all monthly purchases, per enrolled card, up to \$500.00. 5% (BONUS LEVEL) on all monthly purchases, per enrolled card, over \$500.00. We receive the donations from Ralphs via a quarterly contribution check mailed directly to us. This program does not affect your club card discounts at all; it takes nothing from you. Please sign up today!



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

JOIN THE SIERRA MADRE GARDEN CLUB MONDAY JANUARY 12, 2015

CAMELIAS, AZALEAS, AND MORE.....

Tom Nuccio of Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena will be the speaker at the Garden Club's January 12th meeting. Back by popular demand, Tom will talk about recent camellia and azalea introductions, propagating and plant culture. He will specifically address the care for camellias and azaleas in the current drought conditions.

Tom Nuccio is part of the family owned Nuccio Nurseries. With more than 600 cultivars and species available. It is one of the most recognized sources for camellia and azalea introductions worldwide. Family members began the business as a backyard operation in 1935 in Alhambra. Today it is located on six acres in north Altadena at 3555 Cheney Trail. If you are looking for a camellia or azalea that is out of this world – this is the place! Nuccio's website is: www.nucciosurseries.com

Everyone is invited. Dinner begins at 6:30 P.M.; followed by the program at 7:15 P.M. Catered dinner is \$11; reservations for dinner must be made by January 10th by calling 626-836-4945. There is no charge for attending only the program.

Location: Hart Park House, Memorial Park, 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre. For information call the reservation number or visit www.smgarden.org

GATEWAY COACH TO OFFER TRANSPORTATION TO RALPH'S HASTING RANCH

The City of Sierra Madre in partnership with First Transit is adjusting the Gateway Coach Round-A-Bout fixed route transportation line beginning January 5, 2015. In place of the previous Albertsons stop, the Gateway Coach will now make a scheduled stop at the Ralphs in Hastings Ranch. The other stops along the route will remain the same.

The Gateway Coach operates Monday through Friday from 11:00am-1:30pm and stops at various locations throughout the City. The transportation service is offered at no cost for all ages. For more information on stop location and times, please contact the Community Services Department at 626-355-7135.

BEWARE: TAX SCAMS ARE INCREASING

IRS-Impersonation Telephone Scam

An aggressive and sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers claim to be employees of the IRS, but are not. These con artists can sound convincing when they call. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting.

Or, victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information.

If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

Note that the IRS will never: 1) call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill; 2) demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe; 3) require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card; 4) ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone; or 5) threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

For more details on this ongoing scam, see:

IR-2014-105, Scam Phone Calls Continue; IRS Unveils New Video to Warn Taxpayers

Special Edition Tax Tip 2014-18, Five Easy Ways to Spot a Scam Phone Call

IR-2014-84, Scam Phone Calls Continue; IRS Identifies Five Easy Ways to Spot Suspicious Calls

IR-2014-81, IRS Repeats Warning about Phone Scams

Special Edition Tax Tip 2014-17, IRS Updates Phone Scams Warning

IR-2014-53, IRS Reiterates Warning of Pervasive Telephone Scam

Special Edition Tax Tip 2014-10, IRS Renews Phone Scam Warning

IR-2013-84, IRS Warns of Pervasive Telephone Scam

Email Phishing Scam: "Update your IRS e-file"

The IRS has been alerted to a new email phishing scam. The emails appear to be from the IRS and include a link to a bogus web site intended to mirror the official IRS web site. These emails contain the direction "you are to update your IRS e-file immediately." The emails mention USA.gov and IRS.gov (without a dot between "IRS" and "gov"), though notably, not IRS.gov (with a dot). Don't get scammed. These emails are not from the IRS.

Taxpayers who get these messages should not respond to the email or click on the links. Instead, they should forward the scam emails to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov. For more information, visit the IRS's Report Phishing web page.

The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information.

Tax Scams

Don't fall victim to tax scams. Remember — if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Some of the other recent scams the IRS has seen include:

IR-2014-39, IRS Warns of New Email Phishing Scheme Falsely Claiming to be from the Taxpayer Advocate Service

IR-2014-16, IRS Releases the "Dirty Dozen" Tax Scams for 2014; Identity Theft, Phone Scams Lead List

IR-2014-5, Watch Out for Tax Scams as Filing Season

Opening Nears

IR-2013-90, IRS Warns Consumers of Possible Scams Relating to Relief of Typhoon Victims

IR-2013-33, Don't Fall Prey to the 2013 Dirty Dozen Tax Scams

IR-2012-23, IRS Releases the Dirty Dozen Tax Scams for 2012

IR-2011-73, IRS Urges Taxpayers to Avoid Becoming Victims of Tax Scams

IR-2011-39, Don't Fall Prey to the 2011 Dirty Dozen Tax Scams

Education is the best way to avoid the pitfalls of these "too good to be true" tax scams. For more information, see:

Tax Scams — How to Report Them

- Criminal Investigation's - Tax Fraud Alerts

Phony Arguments

No matter how some things are sliced, they're still baloney. If someone tells you that you don't have to pay taxes, check out The Truth About Frivolous Tax Arguments. This IRS.gov exclusive addresses some of the more common false legal arguments made by those opposed to compliance with the federal tax laws. Each contention is briefly explained, followed by a discussion of the legal authority that rejects the contention. The second section deals with frivolous arguments encountered in collection due process cases. The final section illustrates penalties imposed on those pursuing frivolous cases.

IR-2014-51, IRS Debunks Frivolous Tax Arguments, includes numerous recently decided cases that demonstrate that the courts continue to regard such arguments as illegitimate.

IR-2011-23, IRS Debunks Frivolous Tax Arguments, highlights the issue and possible penalties.

IR-2004-41 describes the increasingly strong penalties the courts have imposed from March 2003 to March 2004 on taxpayers who pursued frivolous cases to delay IRS collection actions.

IR-2003-28 details penalties the Tax Court imposed from April 2001 until early March 2003 for making frivolous Collection Due Process arguments.

Identity Theft Scams

The IRS has issued several consumer warnings about the fraudulent use of the IRS name or logo by scammers trying to gain access to consumers' financial information in order to steal their identity and assets. Scammers will use the regular mail, telephone, fax or email to set up their victims. When identity theft takes place over the Internet (email), it is called phishing.

The IRS does not initiate taxpayer communications through email. Unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS, or from an IRS-related component such as EFTPS, should be reported to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov.

Additionally, clicking on attachments to or links within an unsolicited email claiming to come from the IRS may download a malicious computer virus onto your computer.

Learn more about identity theft.

Learn how to protect your personal information.

You may also report instances of IRS-related phishing attempts and fraud to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484.

Reporting Tax-Related Schemes, Scams, Identity Theft and Fraud

To report the various types of tax-related illegal

throughout with dresses, jewelry, memorabilia from different wars, a tribute to the El Monte Police and Fire Departments and a Rolls Royce Winston Churchill rode in!

"Learning or Living History" is the theme for the Homestead Museum, 15415 East Don Julian Road, City of Industry. This museum covers the history of the LA Region from the 1840's when it was still part of Mexico through the 1920's when Los Angeles was known world-wide as a metropolitan city. Encompassing three acres there are three sites to see, the Workman House, an 1870's Victorian country home constructed around an 1840's adobe, La Casa Nuevo, a Spanish Colonial Revival mansion, and El Campo Santo, one of the region's oldest private cemeteries. (Pio Pico is interred there)

There are three other must-sees in the area. Arcadia's Ruth and Charles Gilb Historical Museum (380 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia, (626-574-5400) has a tribute to Anita Baldwin (Lucky's daughter), Veterans, famous Arcadians in addition to tracing the history of the local area.

Washington Irving, Mount Wilson, and General George Patton are connected to Alhambra's founder, Benjamin Davis Wilson. To find out how, visit the Alhambra Museum, 1550 W. Alhambra Road, Alhambra. (626) 300-8845. Call ahead for days/hours.

Monrovia's founder, William Newton Monroe played an important role in railroad construction! He was born in Lexington, Indiana, and fought in the First Iowa Calvary during the Civil War. He and his wife came to California in 1884 and was the Superintendent of Construction of the Southern Pacific Railroad for twelve years. A successful businessman, he bought 240 acres of land from Lucky Baldwin in 1886 for \$30,000! He also built railroads in Mexico and the first one in Alaska. The museum covers his life, the history of the city and more. Monrovia Historical Museum is at 742 East Lemon Ave, Monrovia. (626) 357-9537.

There are many family fun learning experiences in

THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY AND FUN LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR THE FAMILY

By Joan Schmidt

During my tenure at Annunciation School, Arcadia, there were two certain field trips for my sixth grade class: The Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena and the El Monte Historical Museum in El Monte. Although I retired from teaching, the subject came up again during the Breeders Cup. At a media function, I met the Toronto Jockey, Jamie Stewart's mom, who asked about local museums (The wife of her son's mount's owner was wondering about local attractions.) I returned home, located the museums' info and gave it to her!

The Norton Simon has so many beautiful works of art from the great masters of many periods. I mean Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Degas, Renoir, modern like Picasso, Kandinsky, and many more; Eastern art-statues of Buddhas from India and China; Medieval altar pieces; tapestry-the list goes on and on. (The late Norton Simon and his late wife, actress Jennifer Jones traveled to Asia on their honeymoon, and this is how they acquired the beautiful Eastern works. Norton Simon was an amazing man who amassed a great fortune at an early age; he loved art and wanted to share it with many to enjoy and appreciate.)

What has fascinated me about our area is all the cities have a different founder and such interesting history. Many years ago, my mom came to California each year from New Jersey. Disneyland was too crowded, too much walking and too pricey. Thanks to the yellow pages' "museum section" I found several! Her very favorite was the El Monte Museum. Signs call the city, "The End of the Santa Fe trail". That's because several wagons continued past Santa Fe and ended up in the current city-a lush, fertile area. In the Museum on one side are several little "cubicles" including two bedrooms, barber shop, apothecary, music shop, dress shop, classroom area, general store, living room, kitchen, and classroom!

Walking to the other side, the hall has a display from "Gay's Lion Farm". The circus couple came from Europe and began this popular farm. Celebrities and even a president came to visit! There are display cases

REPORT FINDS COUNTY HAS \$162 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY — In a just-released report requested by Mayor Michael D. Antonovich and Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, the County Counsel revealed that approximately \$162 million in available Proposition A funds can be spent without state legislation. The report determined that no State or County regulations exist that would prevent the Board of Supervisors from dispersing any of the available Proposition A funds.

"Voters were wise enough to reject Proposition P's tax increase, despite being told by the bureaucrats and some newspaper editorials, that there was not enough money for parks and open space projects -- and that access to any funding would require the passage of new state and county laws. This was untrue." Further, the measure was developed without the vital input of our communities and town councils, gave little notice to the public, and lacked a complete study as to need and purpose.

In August, the Board of Supervisors, on a 3-2 vote with Supervisors Antonovich and Ridley-Thomas dissenting,

voted to approve placing a proposition on the ballot in November that would levy a \$23-per-parcel property tax on county residents to generate approximately \$54 million a year over the next 30 years. In November, Proposition P failed to meet the two-thirds vote needed to pass.

"Parks are a vital component in enhancing the quality of life for our county residents. However, voters should not be rushed into saddling themselves with billions of dollars in taxes," Antonovich added. "Before burdening county residents with additional taxes, the County needs to determine what funds are currently available and how best to meet the needs of county residents. We need a comprehensive plan to spend existing unallocated revenues and a proposal specifying the need for additional revenue – that is what the voters and taxpayers deserve."

Antonovich will introduce a motion in January directing the Chief Executive Officer to identify park



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.*

At The Kensington, we are getting close to officially opening our doors. In the meantime, especially during this holiday season, we invite you to visit together with family. Learn about our care options and, if you're ready, let us help you lay the groundwork for wonderful change. Bring us your hopes, dreams, memories and traditions. Yours together with ours, along with our unwavering commitment to continual excellence in senior service, make for joyous holidays and a bright future.

We welcome you to visit throughout the holiday season to meet our team, tour our community and tell us how we can help you and a senior you love.

Call 626-355-5700 to schedule.



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Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Pasadena News Briefs

Alleged DUI Driver Arrested Driving Golf Cart on the 210 Freeway

A man was arrested Thursday night after confessing to stealing a Rose Bowl golf cart from the stadium and then driving it onto the 210 freeway —the man told officers he was trying to get to his car in East Pasadena.

CHP officers arrested 19-year-old Andrew Aldridge around 10:45 p.m. after officers received 911 calls from people saying a man was driving a golf cart, without headlights in the slow lane, on the eastbound 210 near Lake Avenue.

California Highway Patrol officers arrested Aldridge, form Dana Point, on Corson Street after he exited the freeway at Hill Street. He was the only person in the cart according to a CHP statement.

The cart had stickers on the side indicating it was from the Rose Bowl CHP officers said. Earlier in the day, the Rose Bowl stadium hosted the college football semifinal game where the Oregon Ducks beat Florida State, 59 to 20.

Aldridge was booked into Pasadena Police Department jail on suspicion of drunk driving.

Four People Hurt in Freak Wind Accident

Just 24 hours before the Rose Bowl game, a freak wind event Wednesday afternoon left four bystanders injured as video posted on YouTube shows people running for cover as tents and tables were picked up and slammed to the ground.

Pasadena Fire Public Information officer Lisa Derderian said three of the injured had minor injuries and a four individual had a slight finger injury, all were treated at the scene she said. The incident happened around 1:30 p.m. outside Lot H as crews were getting ready for the Rose Bowl game.

According to Senior weather.com Meteorologist Nick Wiltgen, the “dust devil” was, most likely, caused by strong north winds coming over the San Gabriel Mountains that induced turbulence in lower elevations.

As of Friday the viral video, “Tornado at the Rose Bowl” had over \$2.3 million views on YouTube.

Pet of the Week



Rudy is a friendly 8-year-old male Chihuahua. He's a very calm, sweet, and lovable little guy. He enjoys sitting in laps and going for walks. Rudy also qualifies for the Seniors for Seniors program which waives the adoption fee for adopters age 60 and up. The mandatory microchip fee of \$20 still applies.

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.



Dazzling Parade Brings Cold, Splendor

Under crisp blue skies, 40 floats, over 20 marching bands and 19 equestrian units entertained thousands that lined Colorado Blvd. Thursday morning with near freezing temperatures.

Those that braved the cold saw firsthand, everything from the city of Torrance's float “Louis Zamperini — A Race Well Run” to zappos.com “Lily the Hippo” opening its mouth to a stream of blue balloons bubbles to the cast of the 80s TV show “The Love Boat.” The parade ended with a surprise when retired Army Sgt. Dominic Perrotte III was given a new home in Virginia through the Military Warriors Support Foundation.

Highlights also included The Tournament of Roses honoring the memory of Grand Marshal Louis Zamperini, who

unfortunately passed away on July 2. Zamperini's children and their spouses rode in a 1936 Packard Standard Eight once owned by Joseph Stalin. Queen Madison Elaine Triplett and the Royal Court make their way down the parade route and Mayor Bill Bogaard with his wife Claire rode down the parade, the last year as Mayor, as he has decided not to seek reelection.

2015 President Rich Chinen, his wife Kim, and daughters Megan and Erin and their families (pictured above) rode in a 1925 Yellowstone Touring Bus fully restored after being found abandoned in a canyon in Elko, Nevada.

Float winners included Best Theme given to City of Torrance, “Louis Zamperini - A Race Well Run,” the Sweepstakes for Most Beautiful went to Dole Packaged Foods “Rhythm of Hawai’I,” The President's Award went to American Armenian Rose Float Association “Cradle of Civilization” and the Grand Marshal's Trophy went to Singpoli “A Bright Future.” (pictured above).

Public Meetings for Director of Public Health Recruitment

The public is invited to provide comments and other input at three community meetings as the City prepares for a nationwide recruitment of a new director for the Pasadena Public Health Department.

Community information and feedback sessions are an important part of the process. The sessions will be hosted by the City Manager's Office and the Human Resources Department as follows:

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015
– 6:00 p.m.
Victory Park Recreation Center Gymnasium 2575 Paloma St.

Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015 – 12:00 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers 100 N. Garfield Ave., Second Floor.

Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015 – 4:30 p.m. Jackie Robinson Community Center 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave.

Community members who cannot attend a session or who would like to submit comments electronically can do so through a short online survey at <http://cityofpasadena.net/>

Director-Public-Health-Recruitment/. The survey will be available until Jan. 31, 2015.

JPL January Calendar of Events

JAN. 15-16: FREE LECTURE -- LOW DENSITY SUPERSONIC DECELERATOR

As NASA plans ambitious new robotic missions to Mars, the spacecraft needed to land safely on the red planet's surface necessarily become increasingly massive, hauling larger payloads to accommodate extended stays on the Martian surface. The heavier planetary landers of tomorrow, however, will require much larger drag devices than any now in use to slow them down -- and those next-generation drag devices will need to be deployed at higher supersonic speeds to safely land vehicle, crew and cargo. NASA's Low-Density Supersonic Decelerator (LDSD) Technology Demonstration Mission, led by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, has conducted full-scale, stratospheric tests of these breakthrough technologies high above Earth to prove their value

for future missions to Mars. Free lectures on Jan. 15 at JPL; Jan. 16 at Pasadena City College; both at 7 p.m.

JAN. 29: SMAP SPACECRAFT LAUNCH AT VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

The Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) mission, scheduled for launch on Jan. 29, will measure the moisture in the top few inches of soil with greater accuracy and higher resolution than any preceding mission. SMAP's observations have the potential to improve seasonal forecasts of water availability and forecasts of flood and drought risks. Changes in future water resources are a critical societal impact of climate change, and SMAP will help policy makers by providing a scientific understanding of how these changes may affect water supply and food production.

South Pasadena's “Still Winning” (pictured above center) is the oldest Self-built Float in the Rose Parade.

Cheeseburger Week Returns

Forty eateries celebrate the invention of the cheeseburger during Cheeseburger Week from January 11 to January 16, honoring Lionel Sternberger's the genius behind being the first to put cheese on a hamburger and serve it at the Rite Spot in Pasadena in 1924.

Forty of Pasadena's favorite restaurants, lounges and burger joints will offer their signature burgers, some special creations and a deals during Pasadena Cheeseburger Week. Green Street Restaurant, El Portal, La Grande Orange, Lucky Baldwin's and Whole Foods Market-Arroyo are among those offering specially created burgers for Cheeseburger Week.

Special events are planned for Cheeseburger Week, as well. Look for a special wine-pairing event as well as the Dog Haus Slider Eating Contest that kicks off Cheeseburger Week 2015.

Who makes your favorite lunch counter burger? Who serves your favorite turkey burger? Who makes your favorite veggie burger? Who serves the best beverage with a burger? You decide during Cheeseburger Week, January 11th through January 16th.

For more information visit www.pasadenarestaurantweek.com.

5th Annual Lunar New Year Festival

USC Pacific Asia Museum's 5th annual Lunar New Year Festival celebrating Year of the Sheep takes place Saturday, January 31, from 11 am to 5 pm, with performances, crafts, a puppet show, artist demonstrations and access to the museum galleries. Admission is free and open to the public. A full schedule is available at pacificasiamuseum.usc.edu.

The museum welcomes a delegation of 42 performers and traditional artisans from the Guangdong Province in China, and will also showcase the cultures of Korea, Cambodia and Vietnam who all celebrate the Lunar New Year as well. Performances and demonstrations will take place under a large tent in the museum's parking lot, while activities and crafts are available in the courtyard and auditorium. Food trucks around the parking lot provide a varied selection all day long.

This program is made possible in part by Guangdong Province and the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China, the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Los Angeles, Beauty Media Inc. and ICN TV Network. Special thanks to media sponsor KPCC.

Ex Public Works Employee Charged with Embezzling \$6.4 from City Slush Fund

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced Tuesday the arrest of Danny Wooten, a Management Analyst IV in the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department and a 12-year employee, after an investigation by the City of Pasadena and the District Attorney's Office revealed the misappropriation of public funds.

Wooten was arrested in connection with misappropriation of public funds and embezzlement of up to \$6.4 million from Pasadena over the past 11 years. He pled not guilty at an arraignment in court Wednesday.

“Embezzlement and theft of public funds is an affront to the people of Pasadena and to our hard-working employees. We will not tolerate criminal misconduct by city employees and we will fully cooperate in their prosecution,” City Manager Michael Beck said in a statement.

“We are grateful to District Attorney Jackie Lacey and her team for their cooperation and professionalism in the investigation and pursuit of those responsible. I am immensely disappointed that one of our former city employees allegedly exploited his position and leveraged our internal processes for personal gain by stealing taxpayer money and betraying the public's trust. We will use this experience to reinforce our commitment to good governance through our policies and procedures,” Beck said.

The city council will receive a briefing from the City Manager and staff at a public meeting beginning at 5 p.m., Monday, in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 100 N. Garfield Ave., second floor.

A city audit completed in November documented that Wooten allegedly provided as many as 296 potentially fraudulent invoices to the city on behalf of four vendors he was affiliated with for check payments in excess of \$6.4 million. The money came



from the Danny Wooten Underground Utilities Fund that covers the cost of moving overhead power and communications lines underground. Revenues to the Fund come from the underground surtax paid by electric customers.

Along with Wooten, Tyrone Collins and Melody Jenkins were arrested, both also pled not guilty.

According to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office Wooten allegedly directed more than \$2 million of the stolen money to Collins, who owns Collins Electric. Wooten also allegedly gave Jenkins, who was a temporary Pasadena city employee, more than \$40,000 in stolen city money.

In addition, Wooten is suspected of setting up bank accounts in his name and directing city money to two churches he was affiliated with – the Southern California Evangelist Jurisdiction Center and the New Covenant Christian Fellowship Center in Pomona.

Wooten's employment with the city was terminated on July 25, for personnel matters unrelated to the investigation.

At this time, Beck said, it is not believed that any other city employees had criminal involvement in this theft of public funds.

If convicted, Wooten faces up to 28 years in state prison. Collins faces up to 18 years in state prison. Jenkins faces up to four years in state prison.

Public Invited To Silver Gloves Boxing Tournament

The public is invited to watch more than 200 Olympic-style boxers compete in the Region XIII Silver Gloves Boxing Tournament Jan. 9-11, 2015, at the Victory Park Community Center gymnasium, 2575 Paloma St.

Hosted by the City of Pasadena's Human Services and Recreation Department, the three-day tournament consists of matchups between amateur boxers ages 10-15 representing Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah. Finalists will advance to the national tournament February 5-7, 2015, in Independence, Mo.

Tournament bouts will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9; two sessions will be held at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10; and the tournament will conclude Sunday, Jan. 11, with final bouts starting at 11 a.m.

Admission is \$8.00 per session for adults, \$5 per session for children ages 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. Tickets will be available at the door on tournament days only.

For additional tournament information, contact Bill Davis, Recreation Coordinator, at (626) 744-6523 or bdavis@cityofpasadena.net.

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

Closed - Studio and Administration Office

Through Sunday January 4, 2015 11:00 a.m.

Orientation & Tour

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

PCAC Board Of Directors - Regular Meeting

Tuesday January 6, at 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Studio Cameras & Floor Manager

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

Citizen Journalism Training

Wednesday January 7, at 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

ARCADIA

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, December 21st, through Saturday, December 27th, the Police Department responded to 881 calls for service of which 111 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, December 21:

Just before 12:25 a.m. during a DUI Checkpoint, an officer conducted a sobriety inspection of a driver at the intersection of Live Oak Avenue and El Capitan Avenue. While the officer confirmed the expiration of the driver's license, he detected a strong odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle. Through a series of tests, the officer determined the driver was under the influence of marijuana. The 20-year-old Hispanic male was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking. The vehicle was impounded.

At approximately 2:31 p.m., an officer responded to the 200 block of Renoak Way regarding a vandalism report. Sometime between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on December 21st, an unknown subject damaged the passenger side of the victim's car while it was parked in front of Ralph's, 1101 West Huntington Drive. The car was not in view of the surveillance cameras.

Monday, December 22:

At about 8:35 a.m., officers responded to a residence in the 400 block of West Woodruff Avenue regarding a burglary report. An investigation revealed unknown suspect(s) entered the locked garage and stole two road bicycles and a set of bicycle rims. The suspects entered the garage by breaking one of the glass panels in the garage door and disengaging the locking mechanism. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

At approximately 7:10 p.m., an officer responded to the front counter of the Arcadia Police Department to take a suspicious circumstances report. The owner of the residence, located in the 900 block of South Second Avenue, noticed a 30 foot tall tree went missing from his yard while the house was under construction. One of the construction workers arrived at the location this morning and found the fence surrounding the location missing, and eight to nine men cutting down the tree. The worker did not report the incident because he thought the owner of the home arranged for the tree to be cut down. The investigation is ongoing.

Tuesday, December 23:

Around 12:33 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of Huntington Drive and Centennial Way for not having a front or rear license plate. Upon contacting the driver, the officer discovered the driver had a suspended license. The 42-year-old Black female was issued a citation and released in the field. Her vehicle was left legally parked.

Just after 8:00 p.m., an officer responded to the 200 block of West Huntington Drive regarding a hit and run collision. The officer determined Party-1 hit the front end of Party-2, who was legally

parked, while trying to back up into a parking spot. Through witness statements, the officer was able to determine the hit and run vehicle was registered out of Los Angeles.

Wednesday, December 24:

Shortly after 12:01 a.m., officers responded to the area of Baldwin Avenue and Gate 9 of the Santa Anita Race Track regarding a traffic accident. An investigation revealed a 26-year-old Hispanic male collided with three parked vehicles then fled the scene on foot. Officers located him nearby and a breath test confirmed he had a blood alcohol content of .18%. He was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking. The vehicle was stored for the registered owner.

At about 10:30 p.m., an officer responded to Planet Recycling Center, 1101 West Huntington Drive, regarding a commercial burglary report. Surveillance footage revealed an unknown White male suspect manipulated the combination lock to get into the business and attempted to break open the receipt box. The suspect fled empty handed eastbound toward Sunset Boulevard. The suspect is described as 5'9" tall, with short hair, wearing a jacket, shorts, and long socks. The investigation is ongoing.

Thursday, December 25:

At approximately 1:30 a.m., an officer located a parked trailer that was partially blocking the roadway near the intersection of Duarte Road and First Avenue. A records check revealed the trailer had been stolen from Huntington Beach. The trailer was towed and held for the registered owner.

Around 11:43 a.m., an officer responded to the 1700 block of Highland Oaks Drive regarding a burglary report. The officer determined an unknown suspect entered the home sometime over the past three days by unknown means and stole two envelopes of cash. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

Friday, December 26:

Just after 7:31 a.m., an officer responded to Salvation Army, 180 West Huntington Drive, regarding a vehicle burglary report. An employee of Salvation Army stated an unknown suspect entered the company's van during the previous night through an unlocked door and stole a tool box with miscellaneous tools. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

At about 2:00 p.m., an officer conducted an enforcement stop on a vehicle in the 3300 block of Peck Road for failing to have license plates on their vehicle. Upon contacting the driver, the officer discovered they were driving with a suspended license. The 28-year-old Hispanic male was cited and released in the field. The vehicle was impounded for 30 days.

Saturday, December 27:

Just after 9:51 a.m., an officer responded to the 500 block of West Duarte Road regarding a vehicle burglary report. An investigation revealed an

unknown suspect smashed the rear passenger window and stole the victim's radio and a kitchen pan. Surveillance cameras were present but did not cover the area where the victim's vehicle was parked.

At approximately 8:18 p.m., an officer responded to Sephora at the Westfield Shopping Town, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a person in custody for shoplifting. The 28-year-old Hispanic female admitted to stealing approximately \$325.00 worth of merchandise from four stores within the mall. She was cited and released in the field.



"HE'S GOT INK IN HIS BLOOD: 30 YEARS OF CALIFORNIA PHOTOJOURNALISM."

THE WORKS OF TERRY MILLER

January 17 - March 14

Opening Wine Reception: January 17; 2pm - 4pm

Following in his father's footsteps, local photojournalist Terry Miller has been in the business of covering newsworthy events for over 30 years. The last 16 years of his career he has been with Beacon Media News, covering newsworthy scenes and stories throughout the San Gabriel Valley, producing thousands of breathtaking and stirring photographs. Miller can be seen with his camera all over the Valley, earning him notoriety and honorable awards. Join us for this introspective exhibit of the heart of the San Gabriel Valley and experience photojournalism at its best.

*The Gilb Museum of Arcadia Heritage 380 West Huntington Drive Arcadia, CA 91066-6021 (626) 574-5468
museum.ci.arcadia.ca.us*

MONROVIA - DUARTE

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY UPDATE

Alert: Road Closure Delayed. Magnolia Ave will be CLOSED from Evergreen Ave to Genoa St from December 29th to January 7th. See details below.

Holiday Schedule: No work will be performed on New Year's Day.

OFF-SITE IMPROVEMENTS

(Streets, Medians, Sidewalks and Freeway Underpass)

WHEN: January 5 to January 9

WHERE: Myrtle Avenue (between Duarte Road and Evergreen Avenue)

WHAT: Crews will be installing conduit for the street lights. Pedestrian traffic will be routed to the east side of Myrtle Avenue. Traffic lanes will be impacted, but all lanes will remain open. Street parking will not be available. Please observe street delineations and traffic signs for your safety.

WHERE: California Avenue (between Duarte Road and Evergreen Avenue)

WHAT: Crews will be drilling street light foundations and installing conduit. Pedestrian traffic will be routed to the east side of California Avenue. Traffic lanes will be impacted. Street parking will not be available. Please observe street delineations and traffic signs for your safety.

WHERE: Duarte Ave (between California Ave and Magnolia Ave)

WHAT: Crews will be drilling street light foundations and installing conduit. One lane will remain closed from California Ave to Myrtle Ave. The sidewalk west of Myrtle will remain open for pedestrian traffic. Street parking will not be available. Please observe street delineations and traffic signs for your safety.

WHERE: Pomona Ave (between Myrtle Ave and Magnolia Ave)

WHAT: Crews will continue excavation for the planters in the sidewalk on the south side of Pomona Ave. Pedestrian traffic will be routed to the north side of Pomona Avenue. Traffic lanes will be impacted, but all lanes will remain open. Street parking will not be available. Please observe street delineations and traffic signs for your safety.

WHERE: Magnolia Ave (between Evergreen Ave and railroad crossing)

WHAT: Crews will continue excavation for the electrical vaults early in the week. The road will be closed during working hours from December 29 until January 7. The road will remain open New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Local access to residents and businesses will be allowed. Please observe street delineations and traffic signs for your safety.

SHERLOCK HOLMES EXHIBIT AT THE DUARTE COUNTY LIBRARY

Happy birthday Sherlock Holmes! The famed sleuth's birthday is said to be January 6, 1854, as deduced by scholars after researching many literary clues. It is on that date each year that Sherlockians gather to celebrate and the Baker Street Irregulars converge on an iconic Holmes spot such as 221B Baker Street in London.

A fictional character created by Scottish author and physician Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Holmes is known for his astute logical thinking and his ability to adopt a variety of disguises. He is thought of as a real person by his fans, after first appearing in 1887 in four novels and 56 short stories by Arthur Conan Doyle. Over the years, Holmes has become even more popular with dozens of new stories, television series and movies, offshoots of originals stories, and even new books characterizing those traits for which he is admired.

An avid Sherlock Holmes fan, Duartean Alan Heller, will pay his birthday respects at the Duarte Library, 1301 Buena Vista, with an in-depth exhibit featuring Sherlock Holmes books, videos, action figures and other ephemera. Alan has collected all things pertinent to the British detective and has studied Doyle's writings. The display will run through the month of January.

For more information and Library hours, call: 626 358-1865.



MONROVIA POLICE BLOTTER

Highlighted Activity for December 18-28, 2014

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

December 18 at 6:14 p.m., a resident in the 400 block of East Cypress called police to report his home had been burglarized. The victim reported that he left his residence in the morning with all doors and windows locked. He returned home in the evening and found his residence had been broken into and ransacked. It appears the suspect(s) forced entry through the kitchen door by prying it open with some type of tool. The suspect(s) ransacked the house and left back out through the kitchen door. The only loss appears to be a laptop computer. The investigation is continuing.

Identity Theft / Possession of a Controlled Substance – Suspects Arrested

December 19 at 11:30 a.m., an officer responded to a hotel in the 900 block of South Fifth Avenue on the report of a subject using a fraudulent credit card to rent a room. The investigation revealed the two suspects in the room were in possession of several credit cards and mail belonging to possible victims, fraudulent DMV identification cards, and methamphetamine. Both suspects were arrested and held, pending their court appearance.

Identity Theft / Possession of a Controlled Substance – Suspect Arrested

December 19 at 2:14 p.m., an officer was sent to a hotel in the 900 block of South Fifth Avenue in reference to a fraud investigation. The investigation revealed the suspect in the room was in possession of several credit cards and mail belonging to possible victims. The suspect was also found to be in possession of methamphetamine and heroin. The suspect was arrested and held, pending his court appearance.

Warrant – Suspect Arrested

December 19 at 7:55 p.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop in the area of Tenth and El Norte for a vehicle code violation. Upon investigation, he discovered the driver had two outstanding warrants. The subject was arrested and taken into custody for the warrants.

Driving Under the Influence – Suspect Arrested

December 20 at 2:07 a.m., a vehicle was observed by officers being driven erratically in the area of Evergreen and Myrtle. The driver was stopped and was determined to be driving under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested and taken into custody.

Mail Theft

December 24 at 2:35 a.m., a resident in the 300 block of Acorn called police to report a suspicious vehicle that was driving slowly and circling through their neighborhood. Officers arrived and contacted the subjects in the car. The driver was found to have a suspended license, and a consent search of the vehicle revealed stolen mail under the passenger seat of the vehicle. The subjects are husband and wife, and both were arrested for mail theft.

Critical Missing Located

On December 25 at 10:40 p.m., a 14-year-old autistic male juvenile was reported missing from a residence in the 500 block of East Walnut. The child had wandered away from the home. A description of the child was broadcast and officers conducted an area search. At approximately 12:35 a.m., the child was located by a relative at a Walmart in the city of Duarte.

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CHILD SAFETY INTERNET AWARENESS

Editor's Note: With many of our children receiving smartphones, tablets and computers over the holidays, we thought it would be a help to parents to hear from law enforcement regarding keeping your child safe from internet predators and inappropriate materials.
S. Henderson, Mountain Views News

From The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department:

The Internet has opened up a world of information for anyone with a computer and a connection. Your children will learn about computers. As a parent, it is your responsibility to make sure your child stays safe online. Too many dangers from pedophiles to con artists can reach children (and adults) through the Internet.

GETTING STARTED

Explain that although a person may be alone in a room using the computer, once logged on to the Internet, he or she is no longer alone. People using the Internet can find out who you are and where you are. They can even tap into information in your computer. Set aside time to explore the Internet together.

CONTROLLING ACCESS

The best tool a child has for screening material found on the Internet is his or her brain. Teach children about exploitation, pornography, hate literature, excessive violence, and other issues that concern you, so they know how to respond when they see this material. Choose and download a commercial online service that offers parental control features on all your devices. These features can block contact that is not clearly marked as appropriate for children; chat rooms, bulletin boards, news groups, and discussion groups; or access to the Internet entirely. Purchase blocking software and design your own safety system. Different packages can block sites by name, search for unacceptable words and block sites containing those words, block entire categories of material, and prevent children from giving out personal information. Monitor your children when they're online and monitor the time they spend online.

TELL YOUR CHILDREN

- To always let you know immediately if they find something scary or threatening on the Internet.
- Never to give out their name, address, telephone number, password, school name, parents' name, or any other personal information.
- Never to agree to meet face to face with someone they've met online.
- Never respond to messages that have bad words or seem scary or just weird.
- Never to enter an area that charges for services without asking you first.
- Never to send a picture of themselves to anyone without your permission.
- Once a picture, a message, a post is sent, it cannot be retrieved and will remain on the internet virtually forever.
- It's okay to say no and to never let anyone pressure them into doing something they feel uncomfortable doing.
- That everything they read or see on the internet may not be true and that people online may not be who they seem.

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THE COMMUNITY

Make sure that adults monitor access to the Internet at your children's school. Know your children's friends and their parents. Set reasonable rules for computer use and discuss them with your children. Investigations have shown that children will likely have a social media page whether you approve or not, so it is imperative that you teach them internet safety. If your child's friend has Internet access at home, talk to the parents about the rules they have established. Find out if the children are monitored while they are online. If your child receives threatening e-mails or pornographic material, save the offensive material and contact that user's Internet service provider and your local law enforcement agency. If you come across sites that are inappropriate for children when you are surfing the Net or become aware of the transmission, use, or viewing of child pornography while online, report it to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

For further information contact:

Sergeant Marvin Jaramilla Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department- Special Victims Bureau
 11515 South Colima Road Whittier, Ca 90604 (562)946-8531 mtjarami@lasd.org

WHAT EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT CHANGES IN THE CLASSROOM

(StatePoint) If you have school- age children, you likely have heard about the new Common Core State Standards. Already adopted by forty-three states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity, the Common Core focuses on developing the critical-thinking, problem-solving and analytical skills students will need to be successful in college and the workforce. What does this mean for your children and their education?

With these new standards in place, parents may need to offer their students extra support. How can you help your young scholars be better prepared to meet the new challenges of the classroom?

English Language Arts

Vocabulary development is a major component of the new standards for English Language Arts. Encourage your children to build their vocabulary organically by supplementing their required reading with a wide range of elected choices, such as classical myths, historical documents and seminal literature. If you don't already frequent the library, consider making that part of your family's routine.

Analysis and comprehension of reading is also important. So consider reading the same articles as your children and discussing what you both learned.

Mathematics

Supplement classroom learning with free online resources. For example, Casio Education offers in-depth information about standardized tests, including sample questions from various state exams. They also offer webinars and reference guides to help both students and teachers make better use of technology in math class, including topical calculator instruction. Free education resources and information can be found at www.CasioEducation.com.

Math is all around us -- from sports statistics to creating a family budget to investing for college. Parents can leverage real-life events and circumstances to both illustrate the importance of math comprehension, as well as help students further understand the Common Core curriculum.

"Mathematics education is most meaningful when it promotes abstract and quantitative reasoning skills and appeals to innate human curiosity," says Yuji Sasajima, vice president of Casio's education division. "We've developed programs and technologies that allow teachers and students to take on the Common Core curriculum from multiple fronts."

Students will need to adjust the way they learn to keep up with changes in the classroom. By learning more about the Common Core standards, parents can help ease the transition.

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 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

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 Kindergarten - 8th grade
 website: www.barnhartschool.org

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 E-mail address: jml@bcsllions.org
 website: www.bcsllions.org

Clairbourn School

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 FAX: 626-286-1528
 E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org

Foothill Oaks Academy

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 Co-Principals Nancy Lopez and Diane Kieffaber
info@foothilloaksacademy.org
preschool@foothilloaksacademy.org

Frostig School

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 (626) 791-1255

Head of School: Chris Schnieders, PhD
 Email: Jackykn@frostig.org

The Gooden School

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 (626) 355-2410 Head of School: Patty Patano
 website: www.goodenschool.org

High Point Academy

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 Headmaster John Higgins 626-798-8989
 website: www.highpointacademy.org

LaSalle High School

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

Monrovia High School

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

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

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 Principal Joan Harabedian (626) 355-9028
 website: www.st-rita.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School

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

Sierra Madre Middle School

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

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Lisa Feldman: Head of School

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 E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

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TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills
thechefknows@yahoo.com

The 2010 Simi Landslide Cabernet Sauvignon from Alexander Valley (not Valley)) is one cabernet that you should definitely put on your post-holiday wine purchase list. I discovered this one simply by the price point - I wanted a Cabernet in the mid \$20's, and I made a wise choice. The grapes are all harvested right on the estate. Remember wine fans, cabernets are one of the world's most widely recognized red wine grape varieties. It is grown in nearly every major wine producing country among a diverse spectrum of climates from Canada's Okanagan Valley to Lebanon's Beqaa Valley, and of course right here in California. Its popularity is often attributed to its ease of cultivation—the grapes have thick skins and the vines are hardy and naturally low-yielding, budding late to avoid frost and other dangers.

A few weeks ago I mentioned Chrissy Whittmann from Wild Horse being one of a handful of female wine makers. That trend continues here at Simi where the director of winemaking is Susan Lueker and the winemaker is Megan Schofield. Bravo ladies!

The cabernet goes great with a goat cheese salad, crusty sourdough bread or even goat cheese pizza with red peppers. The blending of this cabernet brings the alcohol content down to a modest 13.5%. The flavor starts with a hint of blackberry, and then somehow bursts into a red berry with notes of spice that come from the French oak. Despite it's youth (2010) the wine finishes with wonderful tannins. I find this cabernet compares with many wines at a higher price.



Dills Score: 91
Closure: Corked
Each week I will give you my Dills Score. I have added points for value. I'm starting with a base of 50 points; I added 8 points for color, 8 points for aroma or "nose", 8 points for taste, 7 points for finish, and 10 points for my overall impression, which includes my value rating.

Join me this Sunday at 12 noon for Dining w/Dills AM 830 KLAA follow me on twitter kingofcuisine



Slow cooker recipe

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 14.5-ounce can diced tomatoes (preferably fire-roasted)
- 1 large russet potato, peeled and diced
- 1 zucchini, cut into 3/4-inch pieces
- 1/2 white onion, finely diced
- 1 small jalapeno pepper, finely chopped, plus slices for topping (remove seeds for less heat)
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 3 sprigs cilantro
- 1 15 -ounce can hominy, drained and rinsed
- 3/4 cup crushed tortilla chips, plus whole chips for topping
- 4 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- Kosher salt
- 1 1/2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cut into 3/4-inch pieces
- 8 ounces American cheese, diced
- 1/2 cup milk

DIRECTIONS

Combine the tomato paste, tomatoes, potato, zucchini, onion, jalapeno, garlic, oregano, cumin, cilantro and hominy in a 6-quart slow cooker. Add the crushed tortilla chips, the chicken broth and 1 teaspoon salt. Cover and cook on low, 7 1/2 hours. Add the chicken and cook 30 more minutes.

Combine the cheese and milk in a medium microwave-safe bowl; microwave, whisking occasionally, until melted and smooth, 2 to 3 minutes. Serve the soup topped with tortilla chips, the cheese sauce and sliced jalapeno.

Recipe courtesy of Food Network Magazine

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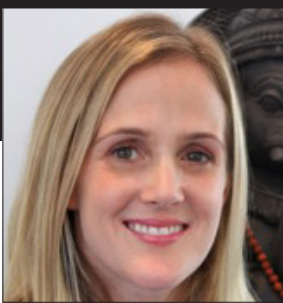
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Happy New Year! I simply love beginning a new year. There's no other period of time that provides the feeling of endless possibility and optimism. I enjoy looking back on my successes and trials of the past year as well. All of my experiences hold knowledge and invaluable wisdom that help propel me to the next place I'm supposed to be. With that development, I bring my focus upon setting my intention for the year ahead.

Once an intention is made, it can carry great power and energy. The more energy and thought we give to any certain intention, helps it to gain strength and eventually manifest to actuality. In yoga, we refer to energy as Prana. We are beings of Prana, or vital life force energy, and it is constantly changing or waxing and waning. Day-to-day life can drain Prana from us, while experiences like our yoga practice, pour Prana in. It's so

important to recognize the power of Prana. It is the enthusiasm and inspiration we bring into our life.

To set our intentions for the new year, we must first get clear on what it is we want. It's helpful (and powerful) to be as specific as possible. A written version of our intentions is an essential part. Whether it be a page in your private notebook or a fully visible vision board, write them down! Next, begin silently giving energy and contemplation to these intentions during meditation. Lastly, give these intentions Prana, or energy, in real life. Maybe 10 minutes seeking information on one of your goals?

Don't forget to add in the same patience, love and compassion you'd give to anyone whom you cared about. If your focus or enthusiasm wanes, be around the people who support you in your resolve. And as the saying goes..."Rome wasn't built in a day..."

Namaste friends and see you in class,
Keely Totten

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A NEW YEAR; A NEW YOU

Chances are, you ate and drank more than you really wanted to this holiday season. And many of you have a New Year's resolution to shed some unwanted pounds and improve your overall health. What better way to give you that jumpstart to weight loss and better health than with cleanse, detox or purification program.

A cleanse helps your body to purify and rebuild from the inside out. Cleanses go by multiple names. They all work the same in that they limit what you can eat or drink and some offer some sort of supplementation. Some target specific organs and others are whole body. There are lots of cleansing programs on the market. Some are good and some are not so good. The best cleanses support your major organ systems with the proper nutrients that are only found in whole foods. The follow up to a good cleanse is transitioning to a healthier way of eating that is pleasurable.

This is the time of year to do a cleanse. A cleanse helps your body to detoxify from the toxins that have accumulated from too many holiday parties! A cleanse also helps your body to maintain a healthy weight. The holiday food and drink are not the only ways our bodies obtain toxins. We are exposed to toxins on a daily basis including air pollutants, pesticides, and even household cleaners. Our bodies are made to rid themselves of toxins but can and do become overburdened with the task. A purification program or cleanse will offer your body additional support while ridding it of toxins naturally, reducing your weight and bringing about a feeling of vitality.

If you have never tried a cleanse, this is the year to do so. Cleanses and purification programs are not just for the stars or the rich and famous. You too can start a journey towards looking and feeling your best. Find out what it is like to live a healthy and vibrant life where your body functions at its best.

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by Chris Leclerc

MAN'S BEST FRIEND

As a pet sitter in Sierra Madre, I spend a lot of my time hiking the hills and strolling the sidewalks of our small town with my furry, four-legged canine clients. On any given day, during the course of a dog walk in this tiny burg, it is not unusual to stumble across at least ten or twelve other dogs walking with their humans and of the several dogs I might come into contact with in such a short period of time, it is rare that any two are anything alike.

The wide variety of colors, shapes, sizes and behavioral patterns among the many breeds in today's society truly amazes me. My most recent internet search for how many dog breeds there are currently in existence rendered a result of 181 purebred canine types registered with the American Kennel Club. If you add the list of un-registered breeds that have been officially named and propagated throughout the US and other parts of the world, the total count comes to a total of 200+ recognized canine breeds and I must say, that blows my mind. Especially when you consider the fact that the variety of characteristics from one breed to another are the direct result of nothing more than a minute .2% genetic difference!

For the past two centuries, man has been asphyxiated with the concept of breeding the "perfect" dog through the applied science of eugenics, the intentional practice of "improving" or somehow altering the genetic composition of a given population. In this case, the population happens to be the canine species, or what we dog-loving Americans like to call "Man's Best Friend". What lead to the human's insatiable desire to create the ideal specimen of a dog? How did man come to rely on the canine to be his "best friend"?

There are various schools of thought on how it all came about, however a combination of extensive research & scientific studies have left little room for argument that the domestic dog that we are so familiar with, originated from the grey wolf, scientifically known as *Canis lupus*. The mainstream theory among most canine history research scientists is that man's first one-on-one contact with the grey wolf occurred unintentionally. It is said to have happened sometime around 7000 BC (+/-), when the human population began to grow, moving away from an extremely primitive way of life, to occupy previously un-developed territories where they built living structures and established unprecedented property perimeters between themselves. The grey wolf was already in residence in the forests and other natural pristine spaces where man made claim to the land as "home", therefore the interface between the two species became inevitable.

Remains of the earliest known domesticated dog, scientifically known as *Canis lupus familiaris*, were discovered at the Jaihu archaeological site in China, dating back to the early Neolithic period (7000-5800 BC). Needless to say, a lot of changes occurred between that time and two hundred years ago, when intentional breeding resulted in the various varieties of the domestic dog that we know and love today. By the early 17th century, the dog had become a very important part of everyday human life. In fact, without the assistance of the dog, one can't help but wonder where man would be today, in terms of basic survival and "progress".

During the early stages of canine breeding, the main focus was to

develop a dog that would make life easier for the human. The hunting dog helped by keeping food on the table. Herding dogs helped control livestock, and perhaps the more loyal yet aggressive breeds served to protect the home and the family. Around the mid 19th century, man's effort to refine the specific qualities and characteristics of the domestic dog had become far more focused on aesthetic values than practical needs, and by the turn of the twentieth century the dog had become well known as a symbol of social status.

While the dog has proven to be man's best friend over many years of change, man has proven to be somewhat less than a best friend to the dog. While the side effects of breeding were certainly not intentional, they definitely have taken their toll. One example of eugenics gone bad is in the case of the Dalmatian, sometimes known as the "Firehouse Dog", mainly used as a carriage dog in its early days. The Dalmatian's white and spotted coat are what set this breed apart from the others, however it is the white beneath the spots that is directly associated with its tendency for blindness due to a gene that will not allow vitamin A to nourish the retina. Other examples of experimental breeding side effects include hip dysplasia in the German Shepherd and obsessive compulsive disorder in the Bull Terrier. Eye & ear allergies in the Bloodhound are other examples of undesirable results of intentional breeding of dogs for a specific purpose. Yes, man has benefited immensely from the efforts made to create the perfect pup. But there has been a high price to be paid.

Fortunately, there is a proverbial pot of gold at the end of the eugenic rainbow. Scientific research on how to reduce the side effects of breeding have had a double benefit to human society. By studying the problems that prevail as a result of canine eugenics, we are also learning how to treat some of the diseases that we as humans fall victim to. So, the dog has indeed been man's best friend through thick and thin, from the beginning to the end. In earlier days, the dog helped us move from the "cave to the castle", now it helps lend knowledge and understanding for our own health as human beings.

I personally feel strongly about adopting and not shopping for domestic pets. I dream of a day when there will be less animals kept in cages until they are euthanized in shelters throughout our country. All the beautiful breeds are amazing to behold, but until we humans get a grasp on the responsibilities that come with that beauty, I believe we should refrain from breeding and focus on finding forever homes for the millions that are now being held captive behind bars, hoping someone will care enough to love them and give them a good life.



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Sierra Madre Supports New York Police Department



In response to the tragic event that resulted in the death of two NYPD Officers, Sierra Madre Police Department will be sending condolences in the form of cards from each department member. We would like to extend this opportunity to all residents of Sierra Madre to allow for families to deliver a personal card to the families of the fallen officers and the NYPD. A card collection box will be available in Sierra Madre's Police station lobby.

Collection will be from December 28th-January 4th and will be sent directly to the New York Police Department.

LOOKING FOR A BEST FRIEND??

Looking For A Best Friend??

To start the New Year with? Can you say "Fetch?" If you like to play with a happy, active dog, Hurley is the right one for you! Hurley is about 6 years old, and is being called a Chihuahua mix. He has very long slender legs, all the better to chase toys! He weighs around 14 pounds and has the most adorable under bite that gives him a very unique look. He is mostly tan, with some black ticking in his coat. His face has beautiful markings of both colors. His coat is short and easy to care for.

When we first met Hurley, we thought he was a bit on the shy side, but once he felt more comfortable, he showed us what an outgoing guy he really is. He gets along well with his kennel mate, who also likes to run and play. Hurley is very fast to fetch his toy, and then will run and jump into a lap to keep his toy safe. He is very nimble and can easily jump on laps and chairs during playtime. At the shelter, we saw him jump onto a table where he happily landed in a container of dog sweaters and blankets - still holding his toy in his mouth! He is very focused!

Hurley came to us from another shelter where he was famous for his fetching skills, and even has



his own You Tube video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JK1zQS4D6SA&feature=youtu.be>

Hurley would bring joy to an active family who can give him the regular exercise and play time that he loves. He originally shared his home with another dog, so he would probably do well with another dog as a playmate. Hurley is a very sweet boy who deserves a wonderful home. Why not come in to meet him and see what a special dog he is?

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

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

His adoption fee is \$120 which includes his neuter surgery, a microchip, first vaccinations and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian. Feel free to call us at (626) 286-1159 for more information on Hurley.

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



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Urological: Urinary Tract Infection(UTI), urinary frequency.
Dental: Toothache, TMJ dysfunction.
Harmony: Increase energy, strengthen immune system.
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SEAN'S SHAMELESS REVIEWS: THE GAMBLER

By Sean Kayden

"The Gambler" isn't a movie about gambling. In fact, I'm not sure what it even is. Mark Wahlberg

tries to fill the shoes of James Caan in this reimagining "Hollywood" version of the original 1974 underrated classic. Director Rupert Wyatt ("Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes", "The Escapist") does a satisfactory job keeping this film remotely entertaining. His work behind the camera is slick and cuts through with impeccable precision. However, the script by William Monahan ("The Departed") isn't nearly as gripping or as convincing as the original film that was penned by James Toback. I perceive this to be the case because Toback wrote about his own real life experiences. Monahan's script feels like the work of a person who doesn't know the first thing about gambling. It appears to be just a falsely depicted account of what it means to him as a distant outsider. Fortunately, Monahan's dialogue is often witty with sharp one-liners, but ultimately the story is flat with undeveloped secondary characters. Furthermore, Wahlberg's hapless and self-destructive character was far from anyone you could truly root for. He made it vastly difficult to be even slightly likable. Rounding up the supporting cast is Brie Larson, John Goodman, Michael Kenneth Williams, and Jessica Lange as the mother of Wahlberg's Jim Bennett character. "The Gambler" is lacking any sort of backbone or spiritual material to warrant the remake.

Jim Bennett isn't so much a gambler as he's a guy who's superbly depressed. Why? You really don't know why. He comes from money, has a good job as a college literature professor and is very bright. The types of wagers he makes are ones no respectable gambler would even attempt. All he bets is double or nothing in blackjack. He has a streak of four or five winning hands and then loses it all in one play. Continuously throughout the movie it is the same scenario. He comes off utterly pretentious to his students, where he believes only one of them in the entire class is capable of being an actual writer (Brie Larson's character, Amy). Amy knows about Bennett's secret life as a "gambler," but he tells her that's not who he is. The strange romantic relationship between these two is completely unripe. It's pretty unclear to why she has any ties to him whatsoever. Larson, who is great in everything I've ever seen her in, simply has nothing to work with here. In fact, it doesn't have true logic why she would even be somewhat interested in Bennett. Then there's Bennett's relationship with his mother played by

Jessica Lange. An odd dynamic fueled by loathing each have for one another, it doesn't make too much sense either why Lange's character would keep helping out her son fiscally. Lange, another star in her own right either wasn't right for the role or clearly had nothing to grasp onto as far as any sort of character development. On a brighter

THE GAMBLER

Directed By: Rupert Wyatt
Written By: William Monahan (Based on the 1974 version written by James Toback)
Rated R for language throughout, and for some sexuality/nudity
Release Date: December 25th, 2014

note, John Goodman in his four or so scenes unsurprisingly nails his role of a big time lone shark. He's supplied with the best and most witty lines in the entire film. Michael Kenneth Williams ("The Wire," "Boardwalk Empire") is also great as Neville, another lone shark. Unfortunately, the reason he even comes into Wahlberg's life felt unwarranted. There are two students in Bennett's class he has a fuzzy relationship with. One is an all-star basketball player and the other a top ranking tennis star. The basketball player tries to help Bennett's character out in the third act of the film. Bennett's life is at stake and Wahlberg's character acts as if he rather die than pay any money back to the numerous characters he owes. The other relationship with the tennis star makes no sense at all. Something was either cut from the final film because his existence was far short of any sort of value to the film.

Speaking of any value, in the end, what is this movie even about? It's obviously not about gambling because it's demonstrated in such an amateur way. In the original, James Caan would be sweating over owing \$44,000 to the bookies. You can see the fear and anxiety in his character. Wahlberg's character couldn't give two shits if he won or lost to pay back the \$260,000+ debt he accumulated. If anything, Bennett was addicted to losing than winning. There's no rhyme or reason to why he's like this, at least it wasn't accurately represented. As a whole the movie entertained in fragments as well as having a few players (Goodman, Williams) spark some interest for me. Other than that, this remake is yet another throwaway from Hollywood. Skip this dud and stream the much more superior original one on Netflix right now.

Grade: 2.5 out of 5

Jeff's Book Picks

By Jeff Brown

DESTINY OF THE REPUBLIC: A TALE OF MADNESS, MEDICINE AND THE MURDER OF A PRESIDENT

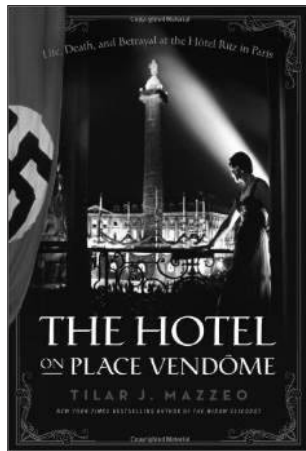
by Candice Millard

James Garfield was one of the most extraordinary men ever elected president. Born into abject poverty, he rose to become a wunderkind scholar, a Civil War hero, a renowned congressman, and a reluctant presidential candidate who took on the nation's corrupt political establishment. But four months after Garfield's inauguration in 1881, he was shot in the back by a deranged office-seeker named Charles Guiteau. Garfield survived the attack, but became the object of bitter, behind-the-scenes struggles for power—over his administration, over the nation's future, and, hauntingly, over his medical care. Meticulously researched, epic in scope, and pulsating with an intimate human focus and high-velocity narrative drive, *The Destiny of the Republic* brings alive a forgotten chapter of U.S. history.

THE HOTEL ON PLACE VENDOME: LIFE, DEATH, AND BETRAYAL AT THE HOTEL RITZ IN PARIS

by Tilar J. Mazzeo

Set against the backdrop of the Nazi occupation of World War II, *The Hotel* is the captivating history of Paris's world-famous Hôtel Ritz—a breathtaking tale of glamour, opulence, and celebrity; dangerous liaisons, espionage, and resistance. When France fell to the Germans in June 1940, the legendary Hôtel Ritz—an icon of Paris frequented by film stars and celebrity writers, American heiresses and risqué flappers, playboys, and princes, was the only luxury hotel of its kind allowed in the



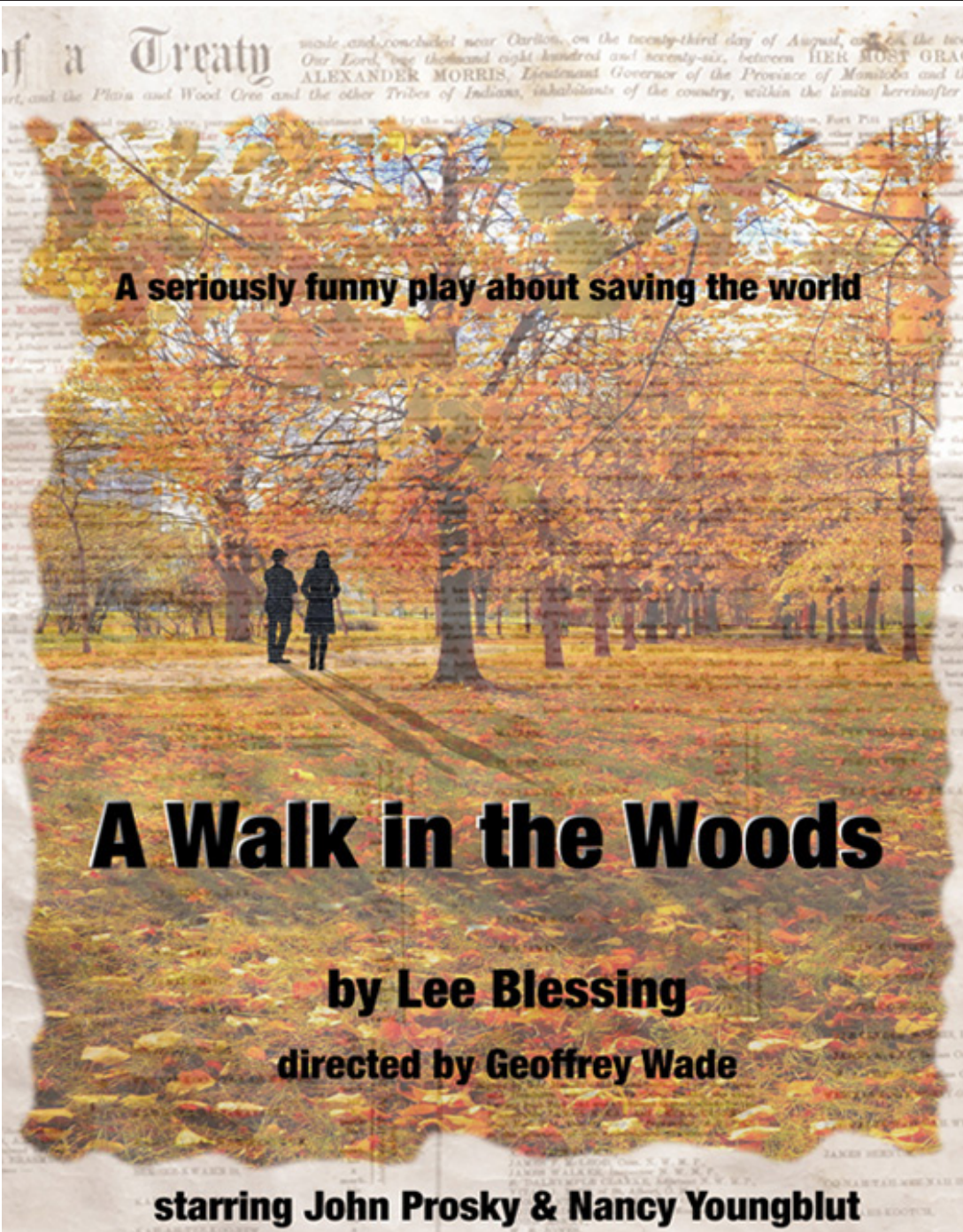
occupied city by order of Adolf Hitler. The book traces the history of this cultural landmark from its opening in fin de siècle Paris. The Hotel on Place Vendôme is an extraordinary chronicle of life at the Ritz during wartime, when the Hôtel was simultaneously headquarters to the highest-ranking German officers, such as Reichsmarshal Göring, and home to exclusive patrons, including Coco Chanel. He takes us into the grand palace's suites, bars, dining rooms, and wine cellars, revealing a hotbed of illicit affairs and deadly intrigue, as well as stunning acts of defiance and treachery. Rich in detail, and illustrated with black-and-white photos.

AGING BACKWARDS: REVERSE THE AGING PROCESS AND LOOK 10 YEARS YOUNGER IN 30 MINUTES A DAY

by Miranda Esmonde-White

Miranda offers an eye opening guide to anti-aging that provides essential tools to help anyone turn back the clock and look and feel younger no matter what age. She trains everyone from prima ballerinas to professional hockey players to Cerebral palsy patients: what do they all have in common? All of these people are hoping to heal their bodies, prevent further injury, and move optimally and without pain. In fact, they have the same goals as any of us who are trying to stay young, fit, and reverse the hands of time. Because the aging of our bodies occurs in our cells, it must be repaired there too—that's where her highly effective and sought-after techniques come in. The body is programmed to self-destruct as we age, but the speed at which it self-destructs is up to us. Recent scientific studies have proven this fact! In *Aging Backwards*, she offers a groundbreaking guide on how to maintain and repair our cells, through scientifically designed workouts. Healthy cells prevent joint pain, muscle loss and weak bones—helping to control weight, increase energy, and improve strength and mobility. Miranda offers readers of all ages the tools they need to look and feel young. Complete with tips, tools, and her Eight Basic Age-Reversing Workouts accompanied by instructional photos and web clips, *Aging Backwards* will help you grow younger, not older!

On the Marquee: Notes from the Sierra Madre Playhouse



WHAT:

WHO:

WHERE:

WHEN:

ADMISSION:

"A Walk in the Woods." A comedy-drama.

Written by Lee Blessing. Directed by Geoffrey Wade. Produced by Estelle Campbell and Christian Lebano for Sierra Madre Playhouse. Starring John Prosky and Nancy Youngblut.

Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Ample free parking behind theatre.

January 23- February 21, 2015. Fri. & Sat. at 8:00, Sun. at 2:30.

There is also a Saturday matinee at 2:30 on February 21.

\$25. Seniors (65+) \$22. Students (age 13-21), \$15. Children 12 and under, \$12.

RESERVATIONS: (626) 355-4318. ONLINE TICKETING: www.sierramadrepayhouse.org

American diplomat Joan Honeyman and her opposite number from Russia, Andrey Botvinnik, meet for a series of meetings in a tranquil forest in Switzerland, as the two representatives of the last remaining Western superpowers engage in negotiations at a particularly tense moment in the annals of world history. The very fate of the human race may depend on the ultimate outcome of these talks.

Can these two adversaries become friends? Can they prevent Armageddon? Originally produced in 1987, the play is just as timely today, as the U.S. is once again confronted with a Russia with a belligerent head of state. "A Walk in the Woods" is described as "a seriously funny play about saving the world," and it is, featuring the warmth, humor and wit characteristic of its playwright's work.

Lee Blessing is deservedly one of the most commercially successful living American playwrights, and Los Angeles in particular loves his body of work. Other plays by the prolific writer that have seen production locally within the last few years include "Cobb," "Down the Road," "Two Rooms," "Independence," "Fortinbras" and "Eleemosynary."

Geoffrey Wade directs. His previous directing credits include "Ruffian on the Stair," "Celebration," and "The Crucible" (shared credit). Also an actor, he has numerous credits on episodic television, with the L.A.-based Antaeus Company, and in regional theatre. He appeared on Broadway in "Translations" and "An American Daughter."

John Prosky portrays Botvinnik. He has appeared in 45 films, on episodic television (especially on "The Medium"), in regional theatre, and in multiple productions with Antaeus Company, among them, "The Crucible," "Cousin Bette," "Tonight at 8:30," and most recently "The Wedding Band: a Love/Hate Story in Black and White." The role of Botvinnik was performed in the original 1988 Broadway production by John's own father, the late celebrated actor Robert Prosky in a Tony-nominated performance.

Nancy Youngblut plays Honeyman. She directed "God's Man in Texas" last season at Sierra Madre Playhouse and also appeared here in "Our Town." Other stage roles include turns in "Burn This," "Fool for Love," "The Heidi Chronicles," "Dancing at Lughnasa," "The Dinner Party," and "A Life in the Trees." On TV, she has appeared as recurring characters on "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," "Weeds," "Perception," and "Diagnosis: Murder."

Assistant director: Amelia White. Stage manager: Sarah Poor. Assistant stage manager: Wysper Erigio. Lighting designer: Pablo Santiago. Costume designer: Candice Cain. Sound design: Jeff Gardner. Set designer: Rei Yamamoto. Playhouse Artistic Director: Christian Lebano.

ARCADIA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER SEASON THREE DOG NIGHT SEASON OPENING! SATURDAY, JANUARY 10 AT 8PM



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".

For tickets, visit Arcadiapaf.org

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HOW TO CLAIM THE RETIREMENT SAVER’S TAX CREDIT

Dear Savvy Senior:

A coworker was recently telling me about a tax credit she got last year for simply contributing to our company’s 401(k) plan. What can you tell me about this, and who’s eligible? Over 55



Dear Over:

It’s called the “retirement saver’s tax credit,” and it’s a frequently overlooked credit that’s available to low and moderate-income individuals and families who make saving for retirement a priority. Here’s how it works.

If your contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA, or an employer sponsored plan like a 401(k), 457, 403(b), SEP plan, SIMPLE IRA or other retirement-savings plan, the retirement saver’s tax credit will allow you to claim 10, 20 or 50 percent of your contribution, depending on your income, up to a maximum of \$1,000 per person or \$2,000 per couple.To qualify, you must also be at least 18 years old and not a full-time student, and were not claimed as a dependent on someone else’s tax return. And your adjusted gross income in 2015 must be \$61,000 or less as a married couple filing jointly, \$45,750 or less if filing as head of household, or \$30,500 or less if you’re a single filer. These income limits are adjusted annually to keep pace with inflation.

To get the 50 percent credit, you’ll need to have an income below \$18,250 if you’re single, \$27,375 if you’re filing as head of household, and \$36,500 for couples in 2015.

The 20 percent credit rate applies to individuals earning between \$18,251 and \$19,750; for head of household filers it’s \$27,376 to \$29,625; and for couples it’s \$36,501 to \$39,500.

And the 10 percent rate is for individuals with an adjusted gross income between \$19,751 and \$30,500; for head of household filers 29,626 to \$45,750; and couples it’s between \$39,501 and \$60,100.

Double Tax Break

You also need to know that the retirement saver’s tax credit can be claimed in addition to the tax deduction you get for contributing to your employer’s retirement plan or a traditional IRA. Here’s an example of how this works.

Let’s say you’re married and have an income of \$37,000, and your spouse is not working. If you contribute \$1,000 to your company’s 401(k) plan, your adjusted gross income would be reduced to \$36,000 on your tax return. You would also be able to claim a 50 percent retirement saver’s credit, which is worth \$5,000, for your \$1,000 401(k) contribution.

Keep in mind though that this is a tax credit, not a deduction, so it lowers your income tax dollar for dollar. It is, however, a nonrefundable tax credit, which means it cannot reduce the amount of tax owed to less than zero.

How to Claim

To claim the credit, you will need to fill out Form 8880 (see irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8880.pdf) and attach it to your 1040, 1040A or 1040NR when you file your tax return. Don’t use the 1040EZ Form.

If you think that you would have qualified for the credit in previous years but didn’t claim it, you can file an amended return as far back as 2011 and still get the credits. A 2011 amended return is due by April 15, 2015. See IRS Form 1040X (irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040x.pdf) for instructions on how to file an amended return.

And for more information on the retirement saver’s tax credit, see IRS Publication 590 “Individual Retirement Arrangements” (irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p590.pdf).

If you don’t have Internet access to see or download these forms, call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail them to you.

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.

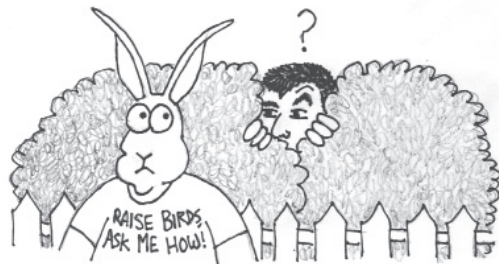
KATIE Tse.....*This and That*
AWKWARD....



Awkward....
Awkward moments. We’ve all had them, and we can usually look back at them and laugh at our mishaps. But it’s always funnier if it happens to someone else. In this case, my mom was the embarrassment victim. But you have to understand the background story first.
Some people are dog people, other people are cat people. And then there are bird people. Bird people can always tell other bird people because they’re the crazy-looking ones. Over the years my family has had many birds and developed a reputation as the go-to people when others find a baby bird that needs caretakers until being released back into the wild. One of their recent “visitor” birds was a mockingbird that my mom’s friend, Florence, found. (You may remember Florence from her many stories I’ve written when I needed ideas for articles. She’s a riot.)

During the two or three weeks while the mockingbird, whom my mom named “Baby,” stayed with my parents, my dad often put its cage next to their two parakeets’ cage out on the deck. After Baby was released, he continued to come back and sit in a certain spot at the top of the orange tree and chirp to the parakeets. Baby probably figured his caged friends were going to be released soon like he had been.

Looking for Baby’s arrival became a daily routine for my parents. If they didn’t see him Mom worried



that something might have happened. It was after a couple days of absence that Baby returned and Mom happily went outside and said, “Hi Baby!”
Imagine her surprise and embarrassment when their neighbor (we’ll call him Jack) answered, “Hi.” Flustered, my mom tried to explain herself, “I’m sorry, I meant the mockingbird.” “What mockingbird?” From Jack’s angle he couldn’t see Baby perched in the orange tree. My mom pointed toward him “He’s over there. We raised him for a couple weeks and he keeps coming back to that same spot.” Jack smiled and nodded good-naturedly. He’s used to my parents’ occasional quirkiness. “He likes to talk to the parakeets...” Mom trailed off her explanation, realizing the more she talked the deeper the hole she was digging herself into.
Needless to say we all had a good laugh over it later. Now every time Mom gets up to go outside we tell her, “Remember to say hi to Baby!”

SENIOR HAPPENINGS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ... January Birthdays



Mary Tassop, JudyWebb-Martin, John Johnson, Mary Bickel, Marlene Enmark, Ross Kellock, Ruth Wolter, Sue Watanabe, Sandy Thistlewaite, Bobbi Rahmanian, Fran Syverson, Shirley Wolff, Judy Zaretska and Becky Evans. * 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

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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

MAXIMIZING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

The City of Arcadia Recreation & Community Services Department is holding a free seminar for senior citizens on Monday, January 26, 2015 from 1pm-2pm at the Arcadia Community Center located at 365 Campus Drive. The Social Security Workshop is being offered by Scott Burch, Registered Investment Advisor.

This presentation will discuss several key components including:

- The four Critical Components of Social Security Benefits you have to know
- How you can increase your social Security Benefits with “File and Suspend”
- How you can reduce or eliminate taxes on your Social Security benefits
- What a “Delayed Actuarial Credit” is and how you can receive more than 100% of your benefits

For more information or to register, call Arcadia Senior Services at 626.574.5130.

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.



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FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett



HOW TO CORRECTLY NAME BENEFICIARIES FOR YOUR IRAS

As I help clients get their financial affairs in order, one of the most common mistakes I see is how beneficiaries are named on IRAs. As we kick off the New Year I want to encourage you to look at how you've named the beneficiaries of your IRAs. You see, you could be unintentionally reducing your family's wealth potential if you do not properly designate the beneficiaries of your IRAs. The ramifications of this mean your IRA assets could pass to the wrong people or entities, so how you execute your beneficiary designations is critically important. Here are some issues to be aware of regarding your IRA beneficiaries:

Spouse: A surviving spouse can either roll the funds into his or her existing IRA or establish an inherited IRA and take distributions that will be calculated based on his or her life expectancy. It is often (though not always) a good idea to name your spouse as the primary beneficiary of your IRA.

Children: Just like spouses, children can stretch required distributions from an inherited IRA over their own life expectancies. But be careful. Naming minor children as primary or even contingent beneficiaries is almost never a good idea.

Trusts: A trust can be named a beneficiary of an inherited IRA (and this is often the right way thing to do), but there are a number of complex issues involved, so be sure to consult with an attorney for guidance.

Contingent beneficiaries: A surviving spouse may wish to disclaim interest in an inherited IRA, so the assets can pass to children or grandchildren.

Therefore, it is important to name secondary as well as primary beneficiaries for your IRA so assets remain within the control of your family. Naming the right contingent beneficiaries is often as important as naming the right primary beneficiary.

If you'd like to learn more about how to properly protect retirement accounts or other financial assets for loved ones or have other estate planning questions, call our office today to schedule a time for us to sit down and talk. We normally charge \$750 for a Family Estate Planning Session, but because this planning is so important, I've made space for the next two people who mention this article to have a complete planning session at no charge. Call today and mention this article.

Happy New Year to you and yours,

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.

BUSINESS TODAY

The latest on Business News, Trends and Techniques

By La Quetta M. Shamblee,MBA



BASIC BUSINESS MARKETING TOOL KIT

Success happens when preparation meets opportunity. Developing a marketing kit is one of the things that every entrepreneur needs to complete. It will be used to support the successful launch and promotion of a business and should include the following items:

Logos & Taglines

McDonald's golden arches and the Nike swish are two of the most familiar corporate logos around the world. Each one is simple, with very little detail, which makes it easy to recognize no matter its size. A logo should be designed so that it is still easily recognizable when it is reduced to a size small enough to fit onto a business card. A tagline, also referred to as a slogan, should be succinct and memorable like the Nike "Just Do It" tagline that launched a marketing campaign that is remembered to this day. Many companies have several designs of their logo, including some layouts that include the company name or tagline.

Internet Presence

Every entrepreneur needs to determine which combination of digital media will best meet the needs of the company. Websites are no longer the only centerpiece of an online presence now that an increasing number of social media services can be customized with features to display and sell products, support customer

dialogue and include links that allow visitors to choose the social media tool of their liking.

Business Cards

Traditional business cards are still in demand as they remain one of the most inexpensive, tangible business tools that can be distributed to potential customers. Like the logo, the design should be simple and the style and size of the font should be easy to read. Too much information will make it look crowded and difficult to read. The main purpose of a business card is to provide contact information and where to find your company online or on social media.

Brochures, Flyers or Postcards

Businesses that cater to those in the Baby Boomers generation and older will still find it necessary to include printed marketing materials in the tool kit. These collateral materials should convey professionalism and be designed to convey the image and message that will encourage people to visit your website, join you on Facebook*, Twitter*, Pinterest* or other digital media. Younger people are inclined to use smart phones, tablets and computers to view information from businesses attempting to bring them in as customers.

Once completed, each tool in the marketing kit can be used to build the company's brand.



Social Media Tips, Tricks & Ideas



by: MJ Finstrom

INSTAGRAM SYSTEM: POST ONCE, POPULATE MANY

Building systems for your social media will save you time and help you get your message out. There are lots of ways to set up your tools so you can post in one place and populate others. Instagram is a great starting tool in a system. You can take a picture from your smart phone, post it on Instagram and it will automatically post on Twitter, Facebook and your website.

Here are two easy steps that will build a system for your Instagram posts:

-Instagram settings: choose "share settings." Select Facebook and Twitter and follow the instructions to link to your accounts. You can set up your Facebook feed to go to your personal profile page or to a business page you admin.

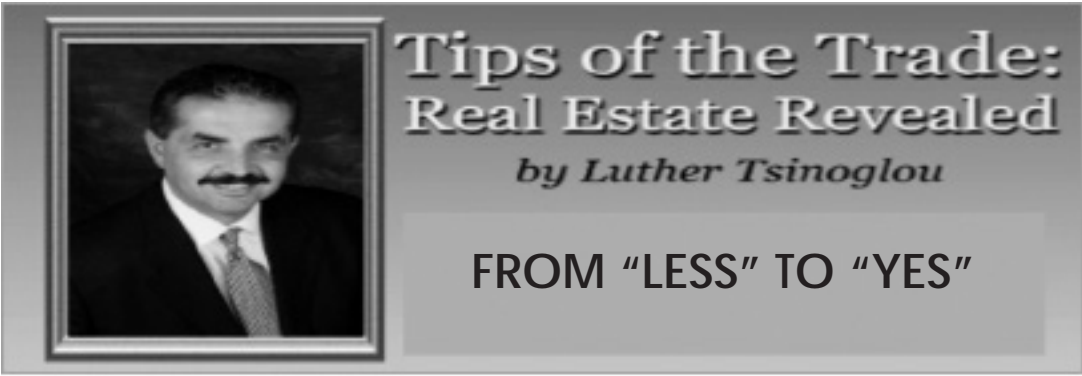
- Add a feed to your website: Use a widget maker like Snapwidget.com to create code that you can install on your website. There are several widget

format types to choose from (grid, slide show, scrolling etc.) This is a great way to keep images current on your website.

Setting up systems saves you time and extends the reach of your content.

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, webinars and presentations at: www.hutdogs.com/workshops/schedule



FROM "LESS" TO "YES"

The painful truth: Sellers who do not price their property competitively are the most likely targets of lowball offers. In soft markets, buyers are more prone to make low offers on listings seen to be priced too high. Listings that don't sell usually require price reductions, which in turn often mean ultimately accepting an offer lower than you could have received by pricing aggressively from Day One.

Since selling your home can be such an emotional and subjective experience, it's easy to understand why you'd be reluctant to counter an offer below your asking price. But rather than feel insulted, try to see it as the beginning of a dialogue that could ultimately produce a sale.

If you feel any of the terms or conditions of the offer are unacceptable, ask your agent to present a counter-offer. Sometimes buyers and sellers don't really know beforehand what price they'll accept until they've begun the negotiations. For example, a buyer might agree to a higher price than planned if interest rates suddenly drop.

If you've received a lower than expected offer, but the buyers have proven their qualifications and commitment by securing loan pre-approval, you have grounds for serious consideration. The process of counter-offering can be swiftly settled or carry on ad nauseam. Be prepared to explore all options and act quickly before letting your negotiations fail.



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LIFE LINES

by Amanda Rogers

Many of my coaching clients come to their last session in December wanting to talk about resolutions and how to make changes in the New Year. I respond by asking the client to leave the room. No, really, I instruct my client to wait outside and send in their "Saboteur" instead. You know, the self-judge we all have. That powerful, internal voice that tries to convince us we're not good enough and gets in the way when we want to make positive changes.

Seconds later, the Saboteur enters the room (cleverly donned as my client) acting a bit on edge. It tells me we have to keep it short because New Years is a very busy season for Saboteurs, with resolutions to discourage and promises to hinder. I invite it to sit, assuring it that it is welcome and that I just want to get to know it.

I can see it relax... a little. I ask the Saboteur what exactly calls it forth. It tells me that whenever my client takes the initiative to illicit change in his life, an alarm sounds, waking the Saboteur from its slumber. I ask the Saboteur what it is most fond of saying to my client. It tells me it uses whatever manipulation the moment calls for. Examples? "You're not good enough," "It's too hard," "It won't work anyway," "You can do it later," "You're fine the way you are," "It's too scary," "You might get hurt," "You don't deserve it" ... Whatever angle it knows will be most triggering. And how does it know what triggers my client? Well, the Saboteur explains to

me that it's known him for a very long time. Yes, they go way back.

I ask the Saboteur what it is trying to accomplish with all its negativity. Its tough exterior softens. It quietly confesses that all it really wants to do is protect my client from danger, loss of relationship, and a catastrophe of some kind. It's there to keep him from taking potentially unsafe risks. "I understand," I say, "But you are most commonly overcautious at times that call for great risk, for the sake of positive change! And it's very CONFUSING because when you recite an old litany of judgment, rules and limiting beliefs, my client actually hates you and trusts you at the same time! Making my job very difficult!"

The Saboteur pauses, deciding whether or not to admit something to me. "I fear that if I take a vacation, I'll be forgotten. I'll be out of a job." "No," I counter. "My client needs you. Sometimes your voice gives him instruction, or reminds him of past scenarios he may have chosen to forget. Sometimes you actually challenge him to commit to something. The harder he pushes against you the more committed he becomes to the change he's trying to make." It seems as if I've struck a chord.

As a rule, I never let any of my clients' saboteurs leave before asking their name. If my clients are going to live with these Saboteurs, they should know exactly with whom they are dealing. I've met quite a host of colorful characters in my office around the New Year... Captain Inertia, Lady Nit Picky, Madam Martyrdom, Dr. Did It Wrong, Sir Never Satisfied, to name a few.

Finally, I thank the Saboteur for coming in and I tell it how I see its future relationship with my client. I suggest that up until now it has loved my client with fear. And fear stifles life and gets in the way of fulfillment and our freedom to complete ourselves. I suggest we re-negotiate the relationship a bit. And I suggest that it put out an all points bulletin to all Saboteurs the world over, from me. "Lead with love! Help us remember lessons we've learned in our past so we don't have to learn the same lesson over and over again! And as long as all you Saboteurs out there approach us with a healthy sense of safety that doesn't hinder or control us, none of you will be out of a job."

Satisfied, the saboteur and I ask the client to come back into the room and the three of us toast to the New Year.

To continue the conversation join me at www.amandarogerscoaching.com

MONICA HUBBARD, EL PATRON NAMED ALTADENA'S BEST FOR 2014

Citizen of the Year Monica Hubbard

Monica Hubbard has spent her career putting disparate things together to make a greater whole. From 1966 through 1999 she conducted choirs in academic, church and community settings. When Caltech first admitted women undergraduates, she taught voice and conducted choirs there from 1972-1999, as well as conducting choirs for public and private schools. She was the national repertoire and standards chair for the American Chorale Directors Association and was instrumental in getting ACDA to have a national women's honor choir perform at a national convention, as well as working to develop and commission new choral works. She also started the first database of repertoire composed specifically for women's voices, and repertoire for upper voices by women composers.

After 27 years at Caltech, she left conducting to open a consulting practice for arts and social services nonprofits with a focus on board development and capacity-building. Her clients have included the Pasadena Playhouse, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the AIDS Service Center, and Occidental College.

Her foremost tool has been her computer: "Caltech gave me my very first computer," she said, and she quickly mastered its possibilities in terms of research, communication, and creating databases, and carried this into her consulting work. Along the way, she created "Wired Women," a weekly email newsletter that covered women's issues and events in the greater Pasadena area.

But as an Altadena resident, she said she also wanted to connect "the people who were doing positive things" closer to home, and created a second newsletter, the "Altadena Women's Network." She also began to work more closely with and cultivated relationships in the Altadena community, serving as a neighborhood watch co-captain, joining the Sheriff's Community Advisory Committee and serving on the town council's Public Education Committee. She is a member of multiple community groups, including Altadena Heritage, the Altadena Historical Society, and Friends of the Altadena Libraries, among many others. She is a founding member and/or board member of Invest in PUSD Kids, Pasadena Village, and the Pasadena Educational Foundation. She was also a member of the Altadena Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors from 2007-2009.

More recently, she has been involved in founding two organizations: the Altadena Library Alliance, which recently succeeded in passing Measure A, assuring funding of the Altadena Library District through a special parcel tax for the next ten years; and Neighbors Building a Better Altadena. A group that was started to raise concerns about a Walmart Neighborhood Market opening in Altadena, NBBA is now working on making Altadena's business districts more "walkable" and art-filled. NBBA models working with other organizations, such as the Altadena Town Council and Chamber of Commerce, to cooperatively make concrete things happen to improve the community.

"I really like connecting people with resources," Hubbard said. "When I see people do good, I like to help them in any way possible."

As for being named Citizen of the Year, "I'm surprised and delighted," Hubbard said. "It's an honor. When I look at some of the people who received it in the past, it's a little humbling."

Business of the Year: El Patron Mexican Restaurant

For a relatively new business -- it will be five years old in May -- El Patron Mexican Restaurant has already made a big splash in Altadena. Not only has it gotten a reputation for good, hearty food and excellent service -- and has opened a second location -- but you can count on the restaurant helping out at local events, fundraisers,



2014 Honorees - El Patron Co-Owner Alex Cortes and Community Activist Monica Hubbard

and other gatherings, giving back to the community that brought it success.

All this in a location that has seen many restaurants come and go over the years. El Patron is here to stay.

Owner-founder Alex Cortes comes from a family in the restaurant business, and always wanted to have a restaurant of his own. He was working for an Irwindale-based candy distributor ten years ago when he opened his first restaurant with his brother at an Irwindale location. They sold that business after a year, and Cortes continued working for the candy distributor.

When his employer announced it was moving to El Segundo, farther from home, Cortes began looking for another opportunity to open his own restaurant. An amateur boxer, Cortes said that he went to his gym one evening, found it closed, and decided to drive around a bit in the late night. In Altadena, he came across a "For Rent" sign at a wedge-shaped Google-style building almost on the corner of Lake Avenue and Altadena Drive, a site where many restaurants were born and died over the years.

He called the landlord, took a tour of the building, and decided it was what he was looking for. While he and his wife Margarita had saved money for a down-payment on a home, she encouraged him to invest their money in the restaurant he always wanted.

Cortes said that, when the landlord called to offer him the building, they were in the hospital, with Margarita in labor. That day, his son was born, and the next day, he had a restaurant.

While the original location at 2555 N. Lake Avenue is a full sit-down restaurant, they opened another location at Lincoln Crossing, 2234 Lincoln Avenue, that emphasizes take-out Mexican food.

El Patron has also branched out to help the community in many ways. Once a month, the restaurant holds a fundraiser where 15 percent of the proceeds go to a local organization. Beneficiaries have included the Altadena Relay for Life, the Altadena Library Alliance, and the St. Mark's Church Haiti fund.

El Patron's pop-up tent also shows up at community events, including the Farnsworth Park summer concert series, the Altadena Community Center 10th Anniversary Celebration, the North Lake Pole Holiday Festival and Sidewalk Sale, and it has been part of last year's "Taste of Altadena" at the Chamber of Commerce annual meeting.

"I feel good -- it's exciting," Cortes said about the Chamber's honor. "I wasn't expecting to be Business of the Year. It's an accomplishment for me and my team."

El Patron Mexican Restaurant and Monica Hubbard will be honored at the Altadena Chamber's installation of officers and "Taste of Altadena" dinner at the Altadena Town & Country Club on Feb. 6, 2015.

DAWN SPACECRAFT BEGINS APPROACH TO DWARF PLANET CERES

NASA’s Dawn spacecraft has entered an approach phase in which it will continue to close in on Ceres, a Texas-sized dwarf planet never before visited by a spacecraft. Dawn launched in 2007 and is scheduled to enter Ceres orbit in March 2015.

Dawn recently emerged from solar conjunction, in which the spacecraft is on the opposite side of the Sun, limiting communication with antennas on Earth. Now that Dawn can reliably communicate with Earth again, mission controllers have programmed the maneuvers necessary for the next stage of the rendezvous, which they label the Ceres approach phase. Dawn is currently 400,000 miles from Ceres, approaching it at around 450 miles per hour.

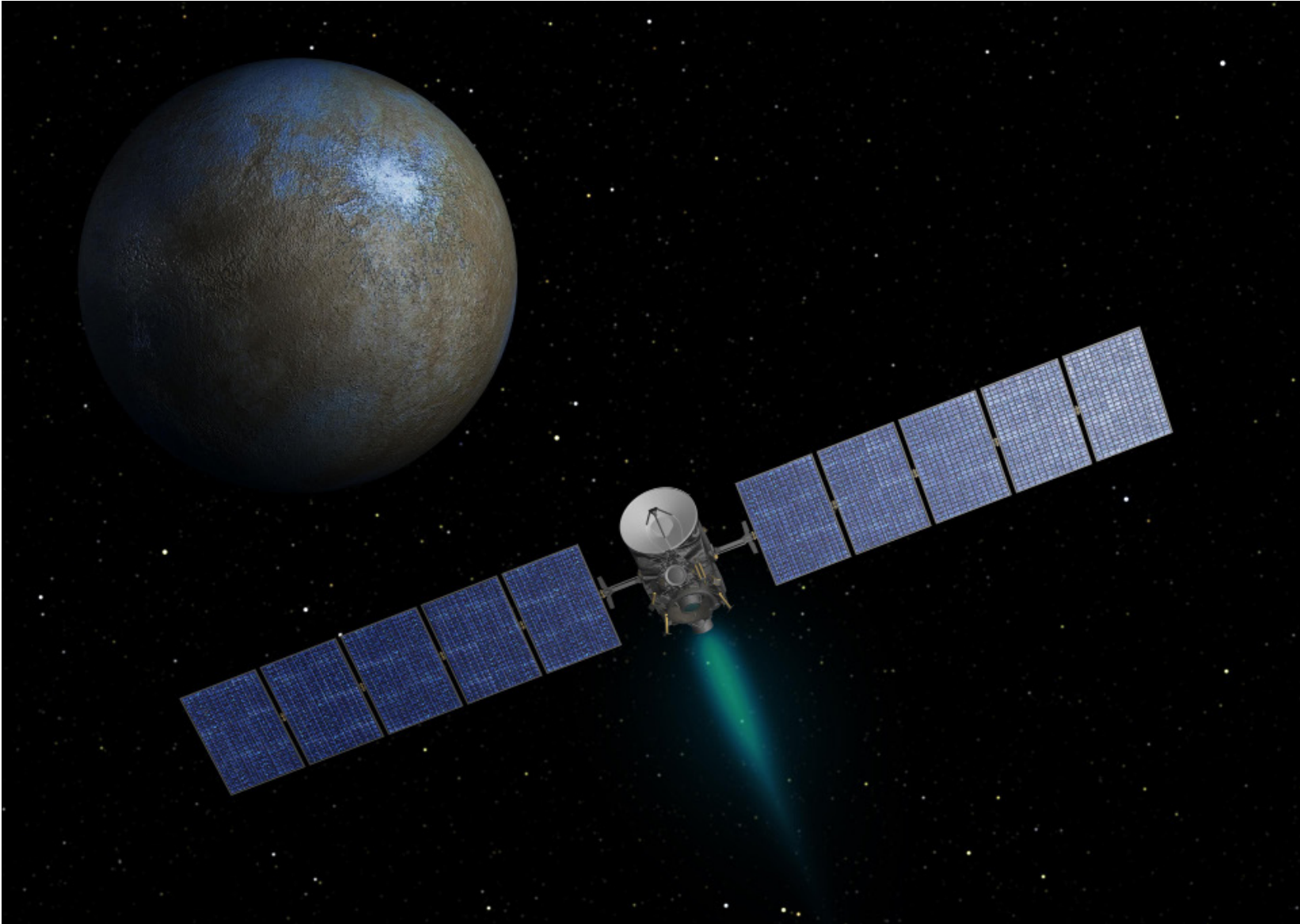
The spacecraft’s arrival at Ceres will mark the first time that a spacecraft has ever orbited two solar system targets. Dawn previously explored the protoplanet Vesta for 14 months, from 2011 to 2012, capturing detailed images and data about that body.

“Ceres is almost a complete mystery to us,” said Christopher Russell of UCLA, principal investigator for the Dawn mission. “Ceres, unlike Vesta, has no meteorites linked to it to help reveal its secrets. All we can predict with confidence is that we will be surprised.”

The two planetary bodies are thought to be different in a few important ways. Ceres may have formed later than Vesta, and with a cooler interior. Current evidence suggests that Vesta only retained a small amount of water because it formed earlier, when radioactive material was more abundant, which would have produced more heat. Ceres, in contrast, has a thick ice mantle and may even have an ocean beneath its icy crust.

Ceres, with an average diameter of 590 miles, is also the largest body in the asteroid belt, the strip of solar system real estate between Mars and Jupiter. By comparison, Vesta has an average diameter of 326 miles, and is the second most massive body in the belt.

The spacecraft uses ion propulsion to traverse space far more efficiently than if it used chemical propulsion. In an ion propulsion engine, an electrical charge is applied to xenon gas, and charged metal grids accelerate the xenon particles out of the thruster. These particles push back on the thruster as they exit, creating a reaction force that propels the spacecraft. Dawn has now completed five years of accumulated thrust time,



far more than any other spacecraft.

“Orbiting both Vesta and Ceres would be truly impossible with conventional propulsion. Thanks to ion propulsion, we’re about to make history as the first spaceship ever to orbit two unexplored alien worlds,” said Marc Rayman, Dawn’s chief engineer and mission director, based at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

JOY TO ALL THE WORLDS! Speaking of unexplored alien worlds, let’s zoom out to a cluster of galaxies 60 million light-years away. This beautiful new image from the Hubble Space Telescope shows an edge-on view of galaxy IC 335 in front of a backdrop of distant galaxies. I wonder how many worlds there might be in this field of view—and what their inhabitants, if any, are doing at this moment?

In each galaxy,
A trillion new wonders wait...
Joy to all the worlds!

—Bob Eklund

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



WEATHER LORE

By Christopher Nyerges

Aside from consulting with newspapers, the weather service, and such online services as Weather Underground, you should learn to make your own weather observations, and learn to interpret what you see. If nothing else, this helps to increase your awareness of the environment and keeps you alert.

Birds perch more and fly lower before a storm because the low-pressure air makes it harder to fly.

A barometer – either store-bought or home-made – is a good tool for determining if there will be clear days or rain ahead. A rising barometer indicates decreasing air pressure and clear weather, while a rapidly falling barometer sometimes forecasts rain, snow, or other stormy weather.

Though you might have a barometer on your wall at home, most people do not carry a barometer with them into the wilderness areas. However, many people do carry altimeters (sometimes built into their wrist watches), and these are essentially barometers. First, you need to know where you are on your map, and your altimeter needs to be accurate. Then, over the course of a day or so, if our altimeter shows a higher elevation than is accurate, it means the pressure is falling and this could indicate that a storm is coming. If the altimeter shows a lower elevation than what the map indicates, then the pressure is rising and you have a general indication of clear or clearing weather.

The key here is an accurate altimeter, and your observation of a change in the altimeter while you were at the same location.

Dew on the grass at night or early morning can be a sign of fair weather, and dry morning grass can foretell rain or an overcast day. However, in some areas where it is very dry, you may not get morning dew even though the day will be clear.

The presence of a red sunrise or sunset is also a good general indicator of the weather to follow. A red sunset generally indicates fair weather, and a red sunrise may foretell rain within 48 hours. A simple rhyme makes it easy to remember: “Red sky at night, sailors delight; red sky in morning, sailors take warning.”

Learning to read the clouds can be another skill for short-term weather forecasting.

For example, cumulus clouds are the puffy, flat-based, cauliflower-like clouds which are constantly changing. They mean fair weather followed by clear nights. However, if they begin to stack up into cumulonimbus clouds, that means rain or snow is on the way.

Cumulonimbus clouds result from strong vertical air currents. These are the most familiar thunderheads, with winds often molding the tops into an anvil form. Their based may almost touch the ground in the mountains, and violent updrafts can carry the tops to 75,000 feet. In their most violent form, they can produce tornadoes. Usually a sign of approaching storms, these cumulonimbus clouds will drop rain or snow, and sometimes hail.

There are many other natural signs which will tell you about upcoming weather systems. Most of these signs are fairly logical once you understand the mechanisms at work. One of the best books on this subject is Eric Sloane’s illustrated “Weather Book.” Sloane gives the reader a basic understanding of the principles which control weather, and his beautiful drawings make the subject easy to grasp.

I have also learned a lot from Ellsworth Jaeger’s “Wildwood Wisdom” and from the weather section of most Boy Scout manuals.

Observing short-term weather signs is a good way to increase your awareness. When planning your trips, take advantage of all the modern resources.

Once while discussing weather with meteorologist Dr. George Fischbeck, well-known to Southern California TV audiences, he told me that he is very suspect of the long-term weather projections of a week to 10 days. “Weather is a very dynamic thing,” he told me. “No one can accurately predict the weather beyond more than 48 hours.”

How to determine weather conditions by observing a rope that was hung from a tree limb:

If the rope is:	The weather condition is:
MOVING	Windy
STILL	Calm
INVISIBLE	Foggy
WET	Rainy
DRY	Sunny
GONE	Hurricane

[Nyerges has been teaching outdoor skills since 1974. He is the author of many books, including “Testing Your Outdoor Survival Skills,” “How to Survive Anywhere,” “Enter the Forest,” and others. Information about his books and classes can be seen at www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com.]



OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

WHAT IT WAS, WAS FRUITCAKE

The period between November 1 and January 1 happens to be my favorite time frame. Oh yes, there is the idea of Christmas and Christmas presents and all of that. I certainly enjoy Christmas with my family and friends.

As the oldest person in my family, (I will never mention aloud that the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is a wee bit older than myself), it is my duty to pay for all of these Christmas presents. By the time January 1 rolls around, I am just about broke.

What good is money if you can’t spend it on your favorite people in all of the world? I won’t say that my family is the best people in all of the world, although it is true, I just won’t say it aloud.

What I do like about this period of the year are the delicacies of the season. It is the time of the year to splurge on the finer elements of life. By that, I mean food. I don’t think it’s possible to get too much food during this time of the year.

My wife is infamous for looking at me and saying, “Don’t you think you’ve had enough?” Being married as long as I have I only allow her to say, “Don’t you think...” And I stop her right there, shake my head vigorously and say, “No I don’t think. Tis the season not to think.” And I’m not bragging or anything, but when it comes to not thinking I have perfected the art.

I have one rule when it comes to this time of the year. Vegetables are completely off my diet. All year long my wife force feeds these wretched vegetables on me as though it was good for my health. The only thing good for my health is to eat them so that she doesn’t badger me as much as she can. But vegetables? At Christmas time?

This time of the year is the time for me to exploit the delicious delicacies of the season. I can’t think of any dessert at this time of the year that I don’t indulge in and do it right smartly. Whenever I’m invited to a party, I always manage to bring some kind of dessert. And I don’t bring the dessert for the host. I bring the dessert for me. When you are at a party, it is not polite not to eat the dessert. And I want to be as polite as I can along this line.

It was a couple days before Christmas when I realized something rather strange. Of course, being who I am thinking about something strange comes rather normal. But this was something a little different. I turned to my wife and said, “Have you noticed something absent this year during the Christmas season?”

“Vegetables?” She said somewhat sarcastically.

“No, something else.”

Then I explained what I have not seen this holiday season. They must be around, but I have not run into any this year.

What I have missed this year is the good old fashion Fruitcake. What is the Christmas season without Fruitcake?

There was a time when Fruitcake was everywhere you looked and you couldn’t get away from it. Of course, I never tried to get away from Fruitcake. Being the nut that I am, I absolutely love Fruitcake.

I know many people make fun of this holiday delicacy. I’m not one of them. I don’t make fun of that which has some special meaning. Only during the holiday season can you get this wonderful, delightful delicacy.

Just think about it for a minute. On the one hand, you have “fruit,” and on the other hand, you have “cake.” What two things could merge in such a harmonious marriage of deliciousness?

The goodness of the fruit cancels out the badness of the cake.

Now when I say badness of the cake, I’m only quoting my wife. I have never seen a cake that was bad, except the one that I can’t eat. Cake is the one thing that makes a gathering worth gathering.

Don’t you think it’s a little hypocritical for those people who think a cake is bad, and then have it on certain celebrations? For example. How could you have a wedding without having a wedding cake? I could go on from there if you want me to, No matter what the celebration, cake makes it better.

I fondly remember the first time I brought home Fruitcake for our Christmas festivities. I set it on the table and my wife looked at me and said, “What in the world is that?”

I looked at her and smiled one of those smiles that comes to someone who is happy to be doing what he’s doing at the time and said, “This is not from the world, my dear, this is from heaven.” Then I explained to her what a fruitcake was. I’m not sure she bought the whole story.

Life is full of combining things and when combined with other things they take on a new identity. I think life is much like a Fruitcake.

Perhaps Jesus said it best, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:29-30).

When we combine our life with Jesus we take on His identity.

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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.

DANNY Tyree



2015: SOME NEAR-SURE BETS FOR THE NEW YEAR

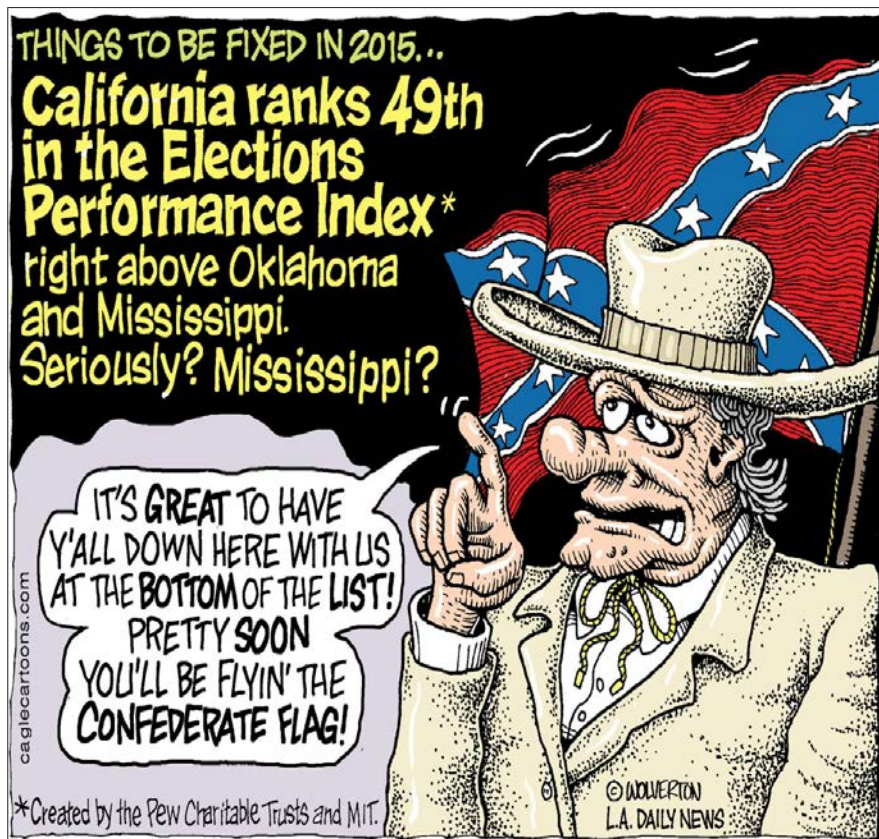
Sure, we humans like to think of a new year as a blank slate; but deep down we know that history repeats itself. We know that along with the unexpected revelations and unpredictable fads, 2015 will bring us more NFL rap sheets, Facebook privacy settings reconfigurations, fracking debates, "stand somebody else's ground" military actions, sighs over a "do nothing" Congress, major retailer security breaches and warnings of a comet that may or may not strike in 37 years.

Judging by past performance, I have determined with 95 percent accuracy that you can expect the following "shocking" developments in 2015:

- Archaeologists in Israel discover a thumb-sized fragment of pottery and announce with certainty that Judas Iscariot was in reality (a) the brother-in-law of Jesus, (b) the "love child" of Jesus or (c) a bird-like dinosaur.
- A near-mint copy of "Action Comics" #1 (1938, the first appearance of Superman) sells for an unbelievable amount – and the new owner is dismayed to learn that the ads in the magazine provide waaay better medical advice than Dr. Oz.
- August 17: scientists discover 17 species of invisible fifth-dimensional amphibians that defy all laws of physics. August 21: Al Gore declares, "The science is settled!"
- Rush Limbaugh causes a stir when the world press erroneously reports that he consoled a grieving little boy by telling him that moderate Republicans can go to heaven.
- Post-trilogy Hobbit withdrawal sets in. Fans petition Peter Jackson to direct a new \$200 million epic based loosely on J.R.R. Tolkien's laundry list.
- Police departments nationwide begin using body cameras to get at the truth about deadly confrontations. Al Sharpton is soon on TV announcing, "I have discovered that one of the screws on the cameras was installed by a person of the Caucasian persuasion. Coincidence? I think not."
- Unmarried celebrity couples with less and less commitment to one another will announce the formation of a "baby bump." 2015 may be the year that pairs who haven't even MET yet will make the announcement. ("Have your people impregnate my people.")
- President Obama issues an executive order preventing future presidents from issuing executive orders. ("And they have to hop on one foot when entering my presidential library!")
- Google is overloaded when another newsmaker you haven't given a rat's rump about in 30 years finally kicks off. ("In my defense, I've been sort of busy catching up on 'Game of Thrones'.")
- Magazines continue to publish wild rape allegations. ("Our legal department says this was fully vetted by Elvis and the Tooth Fairy.")
- Endangered species slip nearer to extinction because of the black-market quest for folk-remedy aphrodisiacs. (It's too much to hope that women worldwide will announce, "Not tonight. I've got a headache. And I just remembered that my biggest turn-on is moonlit walks on the beach, not pathetic losers who think killing a rare rhino will enhance their prowess.")
- Because the opportunities for 15 minutes of fame are dwindling, a computer whiz develops an algorithm that lets you be "the first openly gay (fill-in-the-blank)."
- Waterboarding and sleep deprivation are discouraged, but the assigning of moronic baby names remains a popular form of torture. ("I don't know anything about the location of a ticking bomb, but if you DO find it, use it on my parents!")

And the surest bet for 2015? Near year's end, Danny Tyree scrambles for stupid predictions about 2016.

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LEFT TURN/RIGHT TURN

HOWARD Hays As I See It



"In order to maintain an untenable position, you have to be actively ignorant. Our motto on the show is, 'Keep your facts, I'm going with the truth!'"
- Stephen Colbert

I know it's premature, but with the start of the New Year I look forward to getting my taxes taken care of. If I'm due a refund, the sooner the better. If it turns out I owe, I like to know how much I've got to get together by April 15. I also like to have time to try to make the facts and figures produce a desired outcome; establishing that practically everything I spent money on over the past year was either a business expense or somehow deductible.

I try – but it doesn't work. Most all of what I get is taxable income, and I can squeeze out only so many deductions. The facts and figures speak for themselves, regardless of what I'd rather have them say.

This brings me to the incoming 114th Congress. The majority party has already made news the week before it convenes: Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY) has resigned after settling charges of felony tax evasion; Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX) has been sued by a former communications director for sexual harassment; House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA), the third-most powerful member of the new Congress, first said he couldn't remember having spoken before a white supremacist group a dozen years ago, then later remembered – but denied having been aware of the views of the group, the European-American Unity and Rights Organization led by former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke.

(Conservative RedState blogger Erick Erickson asked, "How do you show up at a David Duke event and not know what it is?" Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) commented, "Whip Scalise's involvement with a group classified by the Anti-Defamation League as anti-Semitic and the Southern Poverty Law Center as a hate group is deeply troubling for a top Republican leader of the House." Rep. Steve King (R-IA) compared Rep. Scalise to Jesus.) It didn't make as much news, but Republicans announced that under new rules the figures pertaining to our nation's budget will no longer speak for themselves, but will say whatever the majority party wants them to; whatever it takes to produce that desired outcome, regardless of the facts.

Their proposal involves a process called "dynamic scoring", and blocking the reappointment of Doug Elmendorf as head of the Congressional Budget Office. The problem's been that the CBO has let facts and figures speak for themselves. Under the new rules, the CBO and House Joint Committee on Taxation would be required to factor macroeconomic considerations into their scoring, such as how more tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations lead to breaking open capital markets bringing wealth and prosperity to all.

Never mind they've been using the same "trickle-down" argument for decades, and for decades it's been shown to be wrong. It's like requiring the IRS, in deciding whether to classify all my expenses last year as deductible, to consider what the impact on the community will be as I use the inflated refund check to support local charities; never mind that refunds in the past have inevitably gone towards car repairs and credit card balances instead.

House Ways and Means Chmn. Paul Ryan (R-WI) calls the proposed new dynamic scoring rules "reality-based". Prof. Robert Reich of UC Berkeley calls it "magical"; a term borrowed from Reagan budget director David Stockman, who, in his report to Congress rationalizing Reagan's proposed cut in the top tax rate from 70% to 28%, dealt with "embarrassing questions" with what he termed "magic asterisks". As it turned out, the result of that rate cut was a near-doubling of our nation's debt.

Reich points out how the CBO, referred to by Newt Gingrich during his presidential campaign as a "reactionary socialist institution", has become a "truth-telling thorn in the Republicans' side". It reported how the mostly-for-the-rich tax cuts of the first Pres. Bush cost our nation some \$3 trillion in revenue. It took a look at Rep. Ryan's own budget proposal, which entailed more tax cuts for the rich and corporations, slashing Medicaid and turning Medicare into a voucher program. Rep. Ryan maintained it would cut the budget deficit; the CBO clearly did not agree.

It's not just tax policy and the CBO; Prof. Reich cites Republicans' approach to topics as diverse as climate change, wealth inequality, prevalence of "voting fraud" to justify voter suppression, torture revelations and even evolution, concluding, "The pattern seems to be: if you don't like the facts, make them up."

In its editorial, USA Today describes dynamic scoring as "the budgetary version of voodoo math", a process "tailor-made to produce the results that politicians want, enabling them to avoid tough choices." As for ousting CBO Director Elmendorf, "He is being targeted by overtly political groups that want a CBO that will provide support for ideological arguments on fiscal policy."

It's not the facts, but the messaging that matters. As reported by Media Matters last July, segments dealing with economic issues on nation-wide broadcast and cable news shows during the second quarter of 2014 featured a total of 654 guests, of whom 59% were journalists and 25% were political.

The number of actual economists appearing in these segments on economic issues was 18, or 3% of the total.

That fact and those figures speak for themselves.

A NEW YEARS TAX RESOLUTION

Resolutions come and go, especially at this time of year and especially in the Congress. We, mere mortals, make our solemn resolutions to do this or not do that, and then within a few weeks return to our old ways. Our higher and mightiers in Congress do the same thing. They pass "continuing resolutions", which are at least honest in their title, informing us that they are going to continue doing what they've been doing – spend money!! Or, they pass "non-binding resolutions", which I guess are also honest in a way, informing us that they have no intention of actually doing whatever they said they want to do. Why any of us make resolutions is beyond me, but since it's that time of year, here's one we can all support.

Be it resolved that the conservative Congress will pass, and the Liberal President will sign, a law that eliminates taxation of corporations. It truly can be a win/win.

Everyone seems to agree that the current U.S. tax codes is ridiculous. It is overly complex, means different things to different people – even inside the IRS that's true – and distorts economic activity. I am not the only person who has called an IRS office for an explanation, received one, and then learned the hard way the advice given was wrong. If they can't understand it, my God, we need to replace this thing. Even with near universal agreement on that point, both Conservatives and Liberals will want to write a new tax code that still favors pet social issues. My ultimate resolution would be for a 100% economically neutral tax which neither encourages nor discourages certain economic activity. I want people free to do what they want and then be taxed the same on the outcomes. If you serve food in a restaurant, make movies, or build cars, I don't want the government to reward one of you and punish the other.

But since that ultimate resolution is probably not realistic in today's environment, let's return to the one which is. Abolishing the corporate tax should be easy. Both sides will benefit. To understand that, we need to understand what the corporate structure is and what it accomplishes. Put simply, a corporation is a group of people who have banded together to pursue some economic activity. Corporations are ultimately owned by people. They're called shareholders, and "they" are you and me. Anyone who owns stock or who has shares in a retirement plan is a shareholder. What this corporate structure accomplishes is (A) allows us to accomplish larger economic projects together than we could on our own, (B) spreads the risk of those projects so that a mistake isn't economically devastating for one person, and (C) allows every

GREG Welborn



shareholder to enjoy the success of the venture.

It is this last functionality of corporations which is critical to understanding how corporate taxes hurt all of us. All of the corporation's profits are "owned" by all of its shareholders. One way or the other, all the shareholders benefit from these profits. If management distributes them in the form of dividends, all of us shareholders get a check. If management retains them to expand operations, all of us shareholders benefit from an increasing value in our investment (our portfolio or our 401K balance).

If the government steps in and taxes the corporation, they are taxing us. They are taxing people. Whatever the government takes away in taxes (to spend as it sees fit) is less money that can be paid to us, to spend as we see fit, or is less money to be retained to expand operations, which increases employment. Taxing the corporation taxes us and dampens employment.

There is one other particularly nasty component of the corporate tax code that deserves its own special mention. Dividends are not deductible. That means any money earned by the corporation is taxed once at the corporation level and then is taxed again when we receive it. Corporate profits sent to us as dividends are taxed twice. The bottom line is that corporate taxes are people taxes!! And if the tax is on dividends, it is double taxation. There is no magic difference which insulates shareholders from the effects. There is no magic difference that protects workers. If you hurt the corporation, you hurt the owners (us) and you hurt the workers (us).

So, what would happen if we abolished the corporate tax? Here's the quick list. 1) The economy would grow. The system would be more efficient so more investments in expansion would occur. 2) More people would be employed. As the expansion occurred, more factory workers and management types would be needed. 3) Tax revenues would increase. As the economy grew and all profits flowed to individuals, total taxes would increase.

That's a list of benefits Conservatives and Liberals can love. The government would interfere less in our lives, the economy would become stronger, employment would grow, and there'd actually be more money available for legitimate social programs. Let's do it right this year. Make the resolution to get rid of the damn corporate tax!!

A WORD FROM THE PUBLISHER



Susan Henderson, Publisher/Editor

DO YOU WANT A BETTER 2015?

Well, we've entered into another year and for that everyone should be happy. We've lived to see another day, another year. Most people hope that the New Year will bring more peace and happiness than the last. I certainly do. Personally, I've been blessed. Wonderful, loving family, good health – not perfect but certainly nothing to complain about. I've completed my eighth year of publishing this weekly newspaper in Sierra Madre and surrounding communities with a fantastic group of supporters, contributors, and staff; and much more. As my parents used to say, "Be grateful you have a roof over your head and food on your table", and I certainly am. However, that does not mean that for one minute I am not disturbed with much of what I see in the world outside my little bubble.

2014 has been a year that has really poured salt into the wounds of racial division that still exists in our country. And it is not just against African Americans, it's against Latinos and it is not just against Asian Americans, "not in my backyard", and everyone else who is 'different'. But during the last year, the African American community has garnered the most attention and people, including me, are upset about it. It is so hard to listen to people go on and on about how "Michael Brown should have just stopped when the policeman told him to". That's correct, however, I've read nowhere where the penalty for disobeying a police officer is immediate execution. Same goes for Eric Garner, the man who died in a police chokehold for selling cigarettes in New York. And on and on. Things are still not as they should be in this country when it comes to how we view each other. I had someone who I thought was a friend (not of color) tell me once that "black people just shouldn't wear hoodies then we wouldn't be scared". Seriously. And what is so sad is that she, and probably some of you who are still reading this column don't see a thing wrong with that statement.

We've got to get a grip people. The problems that plague our society do not get better by trying to make a particular group of people responsible for them. That goes for the racist who makes judgments based on ethnicity as well as those who generalize all police officers as bad. I can't offer you any instant way to fix things but they must get better before our society implodes.

I take that back. I can tell you how we can start to make things better. We can start with ourselves. Let's stop the generalizations, even jokingly, that disparage people who are different. Let's make a concentrated effort for seeing people as individuals, and not as the twin of the last person we saw on the news. And for heaven's sake, let's not take what we hear on social media or even network news as gospel until you've heard the story for at least a week. Then you will know which parts are accurate.

Let's deal with our fears in a rational manner. The other day I got on the elevator and before I reached my destination, a young white man got on. A young man who was dressed like the average

twenty something, baggy pants, hoodie with a demeanor that seemed to exude 'I don't give a damn'. We rode together for what seemed like forever and finally I reached the floor where I got off. I was so relieved. And then I had to stop and ask myself, "why were you afraid"? What did that young man do to make you concerned about your safety? Not a damned thing. But, as a senior, black woman on an elevator alone, every negative thing that you can imagine flashed across my mind. Was I going to be assaulted, was I going to be robbed or what? For no reason other than my giving in to the stereotypes that we have for young people who dress like, well, young people. And, I was really annoyed with myself because I think I am really one of the most open minded people on the planet. I suppose that with all the hysteria and hype about violence and this craze of just running up to people and hitting them, even I was concerned.

But, I will tell you what I did do. When the young man got on the elevator, I nodded my head as to acknowledge his presence and when I got off, I told him to have a nice day, respecting him as an adult human being. That's the kind of thing we all can do to help make things better. Show respect each other regardless of what you think they ought to say or do.

Perhaps if we start with ourselves we can also diminish the amount of hatred that permeates the air. It will also help us fend off the insane manner that we select people to run for public office. In my opinion when you find a candidate who can only spew forth vitriolic rhetoric about what's wrong and cannot articulate anything that he/she will DO to make things right, let's pass on that candidate because they are doing nothing but playing on our fears and emotions. The government isn't some alien entity, it is our government and it is the sum total of what we put into it.

So I guess my welcome to 2015 message is let's all do better. Let's start with ourselves, one person at a time. That's how hatred spreads, so let's see if we can make love and respect spread the same way. Let's make 2015 the year when we passionately, as individuals, work on real change. Ujima!*

*Ujima is the Kwanzaa principle of Collective Work and Responsibility which reminds us of our obligation to the past, present and future, and that we have a role to play in the community, society, and world.

Happy New Year!

Wishing You a Happy and Healthy New Year!!!



2015

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