

To Those Whom Honor Is Due

Local Hero Shares Moving Story At Veterans Day Memorial Ceremony



Gordon Caldwell addresses the audience at the Veteran's Day service held in Sierra Madre's Memorial Park. Photo and Story By Bill Coburn

At the VFW Post 3208 Veteran's Day Service on Sunday, Sierra Madre resident Gordon Caldwell recalled his days on the USS Saratoga, in particular Feb. 21, 1945, when the Saratoga withstood what the Navy described as "one of the most concentrated attacks in which a carrier has survived, which might have sunk any other ship." A little background - The Saratoga left Ulethia for Tinian where she engaged in landing rehearsals with Marines on February 12. Tinian is located in the North Mariana Islands, 80 miles north of Guam. It was secured after 9 days in July of 1944. After securing the island, 15,000 Seabees and aviation engineers built the largest and busiest airfield of war on Tinian. Tinian is the same size and shape as Manhattan Island. The Tinian North runway was 20 miles long and 425 to 500 feet wide. Some interesting side notes, napalm was used for the first time on Tinian, the Enola Gay left from Tinian airfield to drop the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The Saratoga carried out diversionary strikes on Tokyo on the nights of February 16 and 17, before the historic landings on Iwo Jima. The Saratoga was assigned to provide fighter cover while the remaining carriers launched the strikes on Japan. In the process, her fighters raided two Japanese airfields.

On February 21, 1945, the Saratoga was detached with an escort of three destroyers to join the amphibious forces and carry out night patrols over Iwo Jima and night heckler missions over nearby Chi-chi Jima. (Chi-chi Jima was an island 150 miles north of Iwo Jima and 640 miles south of Tokyo, defended by 25,000 Japanese troops which served as the reinforcements for Iwo Jima. As the Saratoga approached Iwo Jima at 5 pm on February 21st an air attack developed. Taking advantage of low cloud cover and Saratoga's insufficient escort, six Japanese planes scored five hits on the carrier in three

minutes. She received more varied types of damage all at once than any ship since Pearl Harbor. About 1-1/2 hours after the first attack, with darkness setting in, more enemy planes appeared and dropped another bomb on the carrier before crashing. Damage from the second attack, although severe, was soon brought under control, damaged aircraft and debris was jettisoned overboard and the ship was able to receive its airborne pilots who were circling the ship while their fuel supplies ran low. A gaping hole had been blown in the flight deck. The bomb had penetrated the foredecks. Saratoga's forward flight deck was wrecked. Her starboard side was holed twice, and large fires were started in her hanger deck.

All in all, the Saratoga sustained seven direct bomb hits and 5 Kamikaze hits. Enough background, here's Gordon's personal story...I was in the shower on the port side of the ship when the general quarters alarm sounded at 5p.m. on February 21, 1945. I had to cross the hanger deck to the starboard side to my locker and grab my clothes, by this time the ship was completely locked down for battle. I was trapped in the locker area which was above the boiler room. There was an air intake for the boiler in this area, approximately the size of a door. I went up the ladder and could see out through the air intake and watched the Kamikaze planes weave through our anti-aircraft fire. I saw a direct hit on an enemy plane, which then hit the water and continued on at the same speed to penetrate the starboard side of the Saratoga below the water line. All this occurred 30-40 feet from where I stood. I could feel the ship listing to starboard and I knew we were taking on water. I realized we could go down. I got my life jacket. I thought, if we rolled to the starboard before we sank -- I had to escape. If she rolled to

(cont. on pg. 3)

Council Discusses Televised Senior Commission Meetings - Stay Tuned

The Sierra Madre city council chose Wednesday not to explore any further the idea of taping and rebroadcasting the Senior Community Commission's monthly meetings until they had more information, even though a number of residents said the move could greatly benefit seniors.

The only public opposition came from senior resident Barbra Cline who said the idea was a waste of money. She argued the meetings had low attendance even though there was free transportation to them. She said if seniors wanted to see the meetings they should take the time to come down to city hall.

Others expressed much more compassion, recognizing that many seniors who may be interested in what goes on in the meetings may not be physically able to attend.

Councilmember Joe Mosca said the meeting should be broadcast so seniors could have access to programs that might benefit them. He said the commission discussed senior trips and other activities that might see more participation if the meeting were televised. Councilmember Don Watts suggested changing the time the commission met. He said if it was pushed closer to the planning commission meeting, SMTV3 staff could cover both successively.

Councilmember John Buchanan said they should wait until they knew if SMTV3 had enough staff - something that others also said was a problem. He, along with Mayor Pro Tem Maryann MacGillivray, both said they should revisit the issue next year.

According to staff, the city is about to enter the second year of a three-year contact with Community Media of the Foothills at a cost of \$25,000 a year. Taping the senior meetings would cost an additional \$2,400 annually according to staff. Services are paid for with franchise fee money received from Time Warner Cable.

Chief Diaz Receives Standing Ovation From Community

Police Chief Marilyn Diaz received an unexpected standing ovation Wednesday, for the second time in a week, during a special meeting of the city council.

The meeting included ten closed session items dealing with existing litigation, several of which were lawsuits against the City and Diaz brought by the Sierra Madre Police Officers Association.

The association, in a widely publicized move, gave Diaz a vote of "no confidence" something many residents have been appalled at. The community support has been overwhelming," Diaz said after the meeting. "I'm just thrilled."

Long time resident Carolyn Brown explained Diaz had gotten the first standing ovation at Bean Town Thursday last week. Others also praised Diaz for her work in the community. "I went into Bean Town to get a cup of coffee and about 12 people sitting outside got up and started clapping," Diaz explained. "They made comments, 'we support you,' and 'you're doing a great job'"

Diaz played the situation down focusing attention on the whole department. She said she hoped to quickly get the litigation behind them.

"The department has done and achieved some terrific accomplishments over the last few years," she said. "I want to see the department moving in that direction and forge better relationships with the community to bring about a closer bond."

Low Humidity - High Temps - Winds Fires Rage Throughout So. Cal.

Late Breaking News: Red Flag Warning Extended Through Weekend

Strong Santa Ana Winds and single digit humidity have caused an explosion of fires in Southern California. At press time, fires were raging in Montecito (Santa Barbara area), Sylmar, Knollwood, Corona/Yorba Linda and Palos Verdes. The damage has been extensive in the Montecito fire and as many as 600 homes were destroyed overnight in the Sylmar area. Wind, smoke and flames caused closure of parts of the 210, 101, 118, and 405 freeways.

Sierra Madre's EOS 281 was dispatched to the Prado Dam area (Corona). Four volunteer firefighters, including Officer Todd Conrad were the first unit to leave the city in a joint effort to assist with the onslaught of fires.

The National Weather Service extended the Red Flag Warning for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties until Sunday afternoon and may issue extended warnings as the heat and winds continue. Fires have been fueled by the winds which send flaming embers into nearby homes.

A Red Flag Warning is a warning issued by the United States National Weather Service to inform area fire fighting and land management agencies that conditions are ideal for brush fire ignition and propagation. When humidity is low, especially with the Santa Ana winds blowing, the Red Flag Warning also notifies the public of the high fire danger.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

Sierra Madre Participates In The Great Shakeout; Emergency Operations Tested



Sierra Madre's new EOC headquarters in the basement of City Hall was the location of the simulated exercise which included participation by the city's police and fire, SM Search and Rescue, SM Ham Radio Operators, and all department heads and key personnel. Photos and Story By S. Henderson

On Thursday and Friday, residents and officials of Sierra Madre participated in a series of emergency drills, simulating the effects and aftermath of a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. The Great Shake Out was a statewide effort which encouraged individual residents to prepare, as much as possible, for surviving in the aftermath of "The Big One", the much predicted mother of all earthquakes.

Sierra Madre's Fire Safe Council held a drill for residents at their headquarters on Sierra Woods. FSC had distributed flyers throughout town which included information on what to do, where to go and what to prepare for. It is recommended that each family have emergency supplies, food and water on hand - enough to sustain them for several days.

At 10:00 am on Thursday, when the simulated shake struck California, those participating, including our local schools, were instructed to drop and take cover. In the photo on the left, participants drop outdoors, clear of the path of any trees, structures, or overhead wires and attempt to stabilize themselves by holding onto the ground.

Emergency Services In Action

The following day, the City of Sierra Madre participated with other agencies in simulating 'the morning after' operations.

According to PIO James Carlson and Sierra Madre Spokesperson Adam Matsumoto, "Two large aftershocks followed Thursdays 7.8 earthquake. The first was 7.2 along the El Cajon pass at 8:01 and the second was 6.8 along the Sierra Madre fault. There were three fatalities, six structure fires, and 44 injuries in the City of Sierra Madre. There was also an explosion at Alverno High School in the chemistry lab and a sinkhole on Sunnyside.

Residents were advised to stay in their home as long as it was safe and not attempt to leave their homes if possible. An emergency shelter had been established at the YAC at Sierra Vista Park, but that had to be moved to the Sierra Madre School Upper Campus due to structural damage.

TV3 was not available due to widespread loss of electricity, telephone communications including cell phones, and water.

Rescue operations are doing door to door searches to help survivors.

The simulated operation called for the EOC to test all procedures and plans that would be utilized if such conditions existed. The systems set up by the city for such emergencies are not limited to earthquakes, however, they will be employed during any disaster.



Holding On: (l-r) Residents Rich Snyder, Mike Kinney, Lee Cline, Forrest Brown, Gary Hood, Caroline Brown and little Miss Maheilia Thomas.

Inside The MountainViews-Observer This Week

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fires Raging A Hero's Tale Ounce Of Prevention | Pasadena/Altadena | Best Friends |
| Page 1 | Page 4 | Page 9 |
| Calendar & The Arts | Public Safety | The World Around Us |
| Page 2 | Page 5 | Page 10 |
| Around The SG Valley | Education & Youth | Health and Science |
| Page 3 | Page 6 | Page 11 |
| | Opinion | The Good Life |
| | Page 7 | Page 12 |
| | Legals | Homes & Property |
| | Page 8 | Page 13 |
| | | FYI |
| | | Page 14 |

Calendar & Arts

Weather Wise



5-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

BARGAIN BOOK SALE

WHAT: The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will have a Bargain Book Table Sale inside the Library during the Library's public open hours. Featured subjects will include Fiction, Mysteries, Children's and Specialty books, all in good condition. Stock up on goodies to give or to keep. All books will be sold at the bargain price of \$1.00 each.

WHEN: Monday November 10 through Saturday, November 15. Please note that the Library will be closed for Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11.

WHERE: The Sierra Madre Public Library, located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, is open Monday through Wednesday from Noon to 9 p.m., Thursday & Friday from Noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For further information on programs and services please visit the Library's web site at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us or call (626) 355-7186.

Upcoming Holiday Events

A solemn and joyous concert of The Arroyo Singers showcases Maurice Durufle, French Twentieth Century composer's Gregorian chant influenced Requiem followed by a joyous wreath of carols by John Rutter with Nonna Ayrapatova accompanying.

The chorale will be directed by Dr. James Reitzell and organist Sal Soria of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Refreshments follow the concert.

Sunday December 7, 4:00 at Oneonta Congregational Church, 1515 Garfield, South Pasadena. Tickets: \$12.00 adults, \$10.00 seniors and students, children under 10 free. More info call: (626) 447-1977 or (626) 755-5792.

3rd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Mary's Market - Thanksgiving Day at 3PM

Join This Wonderful Canyon Tradition!

An Invitation From Kim Clymer-Kelley

Roast Turkey, mashed potatoes (garlic and regular), gravy, stuffing (veggie and non-veggie), scalloped oysters, corn casserole, yams, assorted veggies, creamed onions, assorted desserts. It is totally free and open to anyone who has no where to go for Thanksgiving or simply does not feel like cooking. Anyone who wants to bring their own Thanksgiving specialty, appetizer, beverage or dessert is welcome to do so.

Last year we served about 40 people and we look forward to doing at least the same this year as the tradition grows. It is a lovely time filled with true Canyon Spirit. I am sure that there will be wonderful impromptu entertainment as has been traditional in the past. I will be posting flyers around town.

Those planning to attend can contact me at 355-1629 with any questions they may have or to let me know they are coming. I do not require notification, last minute attendees are openly welcome, it just helps me plan if I get an idea of how many to expect and what other dishes are coming. I will also leave a sign up sheet at Mary's Market for anyone who wants to sign up there. Please join us even if it is just for a few minutes to say Hi if you have dinner at home.



Sierra Madre Woman's Club
Wistaria Thrift Shop

Holiday Sale

**Friday & Saturday
December 5 and 6
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
in the historic *Essick House*
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Table Linen • Kitchen Necessities
Toys • Stuffed Animals • Dolls • Games,
Antiques • Jewelry • Collectibles

Proceeds support local charities
For information call 626-355-7739

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|--|-----------|---|--------|----------|
| | | | | Thursday 6 Mudslide Awareness Meeting 6:30PM Sierra Madre School Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m. Council Chamber Senior Community Commission 3:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber | | |
| General Election 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM At Your Local Polling Place | | | | 4 | | |
| Community Services Commission 6:00 p.m. Council Chamber | | Tree Advisory Commission 7:00 p.m. Council Chamber | | Planning Commission 7:00 p.m. Council Chamber | | 5 |
| | | Library Board of Trustees 7:00 p.m. City Hall Conference Room | | | | 5 |
| <h1>Happy Thanksgiving!</h1> | | | | | | |



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Saturday 1 – Jazz Vocalist VR Smith
Wednesday 5 – Too Many Guitars with Tom McNamara & Van Webster
Thursday 6 – The Danny Guerrero Jazz Trio
Friday 7 – The Bobby Bradford Motet
Saturday 8 – Thelonious Dub
Wednesday 12 – Max Buda
Thursday 13 – Jazz Vocalist Susan Krebs
Friday 14 – Jack Sheldon
Saturday 15 – Jane Fuller
Wednesday 19 – The Bruce Lofgren Jazz Orchestra
Thursday 20 – The Roger Claims Jazz Combo
Friday 21 – The Donovan Muradain Quartet
Saturday 22 – The Michael McDaniel Joint
Wednesday 26 – The Aluminum Marshmallow & the Age of Aquarius Horns
Friday 28 – Swing Dancing with Flat Top Tom & the Jump Cats
Saturday 29 – Blues!! Thee Superstitions
Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero & the Cafe322 Singers – Every Sunday in November

Sierra Madre Woman's Club 32nd Annual Community Prayer Breakfast.

Wednesday, November 19,
8 to 9 a.m.
550 West Sierra Madre Blvd.

Reservations REQUIRED to Dixie Coutant
dixie@coutant.com or 355-4908

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

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Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce
presents

Dickens' Village
 Saturday, November 29, 2008
 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.

- Sled rides on real snow
- Santa Claus
- Horse and Carriage rides
- Holiday Music and Carolers
- Family Art Project sponsored by Creative Art Studio
- Christmas Tree Raffle

Rain or Shine

For more information contact: Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce at:
www.sierramadrechamber.com or (626) 355-5111

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Paint Consultation
Labor Resources Available

Sierra Madre/Pasadena

JACKIE KNOWLES HONORED BY ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Jackie Knowles, Sierra Madre resident and long-time community activist, has been named Volunteer of the Year by the Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Area Churches (ECPAC). The announcement was made by ECPAC Executive Director Pat O'Reilly, in recognition of Knowles' spirited leadership in the development of *The Women's Room at Friends In Deed* (TWR), a service for women at risk of homelessness at 444 E. Washington Blvd. Knowles will be honored at the annual ECPAC Bad Weather Shelter Fundraiser Thursday at 6 p.m., at Pasadena Covenant Church, 539 N. Lake Ave.

"Jackie has truly taken the lead on making a safe daytime refuge for women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Pasadena a reality. She took the concept, which was formulated within the Women's Issues Committee (WIC) at All Saints Church, and made it happen," said O'Reilly.

"It was a tremendously exciting thing to watch our committee's idea launched through Jackie's energy and ECPAC's generosity in providing a home for the project," said WIC Co-chairman Monica Hubbard.

"Jackie infused her volunteers with a joy of service that made guests of the facility find comfort, hope and support. And Pat was instrumental in providing not only a home for TWR, but her wisdom and experience in providing services for those in need. Hundreds of women have now walked through our door. It is the dedication of women like Jackie and Pat that keep these doors open."

Anyone wanting to visit the facility is welcome. In the last year a shower and a washer/dryer have been installed for The Women's Room guests. Friends In Deed has also been able to provide an on-site nurse and nutrition classes in addition to its food/pantry service. For more information, or to make a donation you may contact Pat O'Reilly at 626.797.2402, or write to her at P.O. Box 41125, Pasadena, CA, 91114.

Doing together what we cannot do alone.

Monrovia

Art Show at Mt. Sierra College to Highlight Student and Alumni Artists

A showcase of brilliant work by undergraduates and graduates

Mt. Sierra College will open its doors Wednesday, November 12, 6-8 pm, in welcoming the public to a dynamic student and alumni art exhibit. On display will be the work of six students trained in traditional and digital design. Among those are two graduates who now freelance as artists; Hoyt Alan Sullivan Jr. and Sasha Palacio. Visitors can take in the art while enjoying refreshments, a poetry reading and live upbeat music.

Sullivan, who graduated this year with a B.A. degree in Game Arts and Design, is a designer freelancing to create "anything from photography to 3-D modeling." He sees the Group Show as an opportunity to meet people, including other artists. "Sometimes I just like to be anonymous during a show and listen to what others have to say about my art," says Sullivan, who is grateful for his studies at Mt. Sierra College. "They helped me focus and narrow in on which category I was interested in regarding game design." Guests will surely stop to study Sullivan's project entitled "Grumpy Alien Portrait." Created with ZBrush and Photoshop, Sullivan's distinctive skull character is set in a photo of a Nevada landscape.

Sasha Palacio, another Game Arts and Design 2008 graduate, is also featured with such eye-catching work as "Self Portrait," where Palacio demonstrates her talents in rendering human anatomy. According to Palacio, "Mt. Sierra has given me the tools to refine my talent and imagination. The classes have geared me towards my dream career to design characters that stay with the player long after the game has been finished."

"For the show, we hope visitors can dialogue with the artists to get ideas about how they created their characters. Those interested in attending Mt. Sierra can learn how the College inspires students to exercise their creativity while developing their skills," says Mt. Sierra's Outreach Coordinator, Rose Clark. "We welcome the public to the Show, plus we are getting out the word to alumni to bring family and friends. Guests can see how Mt. Sierra College is being revamped, including new equipment for the game and Mac labs, and a remodeled student lounge."

During the exhibit, visitors can enjoy sparkling cider, cheese and quiche. Exemplary work of undergraduates will also be prominent, including renderings by Megan Shoemaker, Mitchel McKenzie, Ron Pasillas and Aaron Diamont Silverstein. According to Clark, "The work of these students embodies the Mt. Sierra curriculum in terms of the Media Arts and Design Departments." Students prepare for work in animation, game design, media arts and graphic design through studying a blend of traditional art, theory and computer-based technologies. They learn techniques including organic modeling, hard surface modeling, digital sculpting, mapping, texturing, and video compositing using software such as ZBrush, Photoshop,

Maya, 3ds Max, Silo, XNormal, CrazyBump, After Effects, QuarkXPress, and Illustrator, to name just a few.

Beyond art, cheese and stimulating conversation, visitors will be impressed by the entertainment including poetry by Kendra Hinton and music by The Lowkeys. These artists deliver positive words specific to this generations' call for change. Vocalists/songwriters of The Lowkeys include (Matias) Nardi, J.M. (Just Me) and J. Sing (Julia Singleton). "We are all passionate about politics, but no one artist can do it all. If we have the blessings to create talent, we need to use that to create the ripple effect for change," says Nardi. The mission of this socially conscious group is "to deliver feel good music with a message."

Along with Mt. Sierra College, the art show's co-sponsor is "Twenty Something", a print/web magazine published by Mt. Sierra graduate Lorraine Delgado. To support her alma mater, Delgado writes about her classmates. According to the publication, "Today's twenty-something is extremely focused on the idea of 'balance' - between careers, families, and fulfilling dreams. As a community magazine, we showcase the positive twenty-something and how they are achieving more in this generation than ever before."

Besides the upcoming art show, other changes at the College include a concerted effort to get students and staff involved with the community. "We want to do more for the students on a recreational level than just feeding them academics," says Clark, who after only a few months with the College, has put together several events including Rock the Vote, a Thanksgiving canned-food drive in partnership with the Foothill Unity Center, and "The Angel Program," where College staff may purchase a holiday gift for a child in need.

Mt. Sierra College is a private institution offering bachelor's degree programs in media arts and design, business and technology. Founded in 1990, the College has a successful record of providing students with practical real-world skills using contemporary techniques and technologies. The high-tech campus is located in Monrovia, in the greater Los Angeles Metro area. Mt. Sierra College provides students a flexible, yet challenging academic environment. Among the school's innovations is a pioneering program called FlexLearn. This concept enables students to attend courses on-campus and on-line, and was designed to adapt to today's student profile and need for greater scheduling flexibility.

In addition to programs that make it possible to earn a bachelor's degree in just three years, the school is known for offering a high quality, balanced education combining professional growth skills development with the technical tools that employers demand in today's new economy. Mt. Sierra is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology. For more information, visit www.mtsierra.edu.

VETERAN (cont. from page 1)

port I could crawl out the air intake before she went down. By the time I got the life jacket on I felt the ship give a tremendous lurch again. Even though I did not see it, I knew they had scored another hit on the starboard side. I was still trapped, with the hanger deck and all the fueled planes above me ablaze. That was my only way out. The smell of burning fuel, planes and burning bodies was overpowering and inescapable. It was not until after the second attack 1-1/2 hours later that the fires on the hanger deck were under control, that I could open the hatch cover and escape to what was left of the hanger deck. My assignment had been damage control. I tried to get to my battle station but the damage in that area was so bad I couldn't get there. The hatches were bent and warped from the fires and explosions they had to be cut with torches. I worked at general clean up during the twelve hours we waited before the welder was able to get to the job. It took another hour before we broke through to my general quarter's station. When we opened the hatch, we could see all eleven of my buddies sitting on the floor against the bulkhead, all dead from the pressure of the explosions. None had fallen over; they were sitting on the floor against the wall. That's where I would have been. That is the last I saw of my buddies until they joined the others to be buried at sea. The welder had to cut into a set of airlocks doors to reach those that were on duty in boiler room No. 9. All of the Saratoga's sixteen boilers produced superheated steam to run the engines. Each boiler required a 3 man crew. When we reached boiler No. 9, the three sailors were all dead. I continued to clean up. The kamikaze who inflicted this damage on boiler room No. 9 was decapitated and partially burned but still wearing the belt and padlock that had anchored him to his pilot's seat. His severed arm still held his luger clutched in his stiff hand. This I removed. We continued to clean up as we headed to Eniwetok, still able to run at 24 knots. We buried at sea our 123 sailors who died in the attack of February 21st, in a solemn ceremony en route to Eniwetok. From Eniwetok we headed to Bremerton with one Japanese plane still lodged in the starboard side of the Saratoga, below the water line.

After the Japanese surrender I continued to serve aboard the Saratoga in project Magic Carpet in which the Sara brought 29,204 Pacific war Veterans home to the United States.



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**Duarte
SURVIVORS
HONORED**

Duarte Mayor Phil Reyes with Navy veteran Lyle Umenhoffer, one of only 316 survivors of the torpedo attack sinking of the USS Indianapolis in WWII in which 880 died, and U.S. Army veteran and former POW Miguel Vallejos, a survivor of the infamous Bataan Death March in the Philippines in 1942, were among those honored at the City of Duarte Veteran's Day ceremony at Thorsen Park.



Letter To The Editor

Re: Proposed Detroit bailout- the devil is in the details

Dear Editor:

There is a lot of talk about bailing out the Detroit auto industry. Nobody is talking about what the terms should be.

Detroit has been grossly uncompetitive for a variety of reasons including that its labor costs are vastly higher than those of other auto manufacturers in the United States and that it continues to attempt to support many too many brands/models as well as dealers.

It is one thing to talk about possibly doing something if the Big 3, their unions, and their dealers can present a serious plan about major cost cuts making them competitive. On the other hand, why should we simply dump money where it is to be used to prolong the present situation which is a slow death. This would just subsidize the competitors of other automobile manufacturers in the United States, their workers, and their dealers, who are and have been competitive.

As the saying goes, "God helps those who help themselves".

--Eric Olson

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Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community

For Your Community

Thousands expected for Sunday's Marathon

On Sunday 8,000 participants and spectators will take to the streets for the first ever Pasadena Marathon. The event is sponsored by Kaiser Permanente. The race will start and finish on Colorado Blvd. in front of Pasadena City College.

The Pasadena Police Department will secure the entire route beginning at 5:00 am the day of the event. A Bike Tour will let off at 6:00 a.m. followed by the full and half marathon at 6:30 a.m. and the 5k Run/Walk at 6:50 a.m.. The Finish Festival at Pasadena City College will open free to the public from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. All parking for the event will be at Pasadena City College organizers said.

During the race there will be restricted vehicular access along the route with cross-route traffic at designated intersections. Police said streets will re-open based on a 17 minute-per-mile pace with Colorado between Marengo Euclid & Pasadena Avenue reopening before 8:50 a.m. and the complete course re-opening just before 3:00 p.m. Residents and visitors to the City should be advised to expect delays when traveling in Pasadena.

The route will be posted with no parking restrictions on the day of event. Colorado Blvd. between Euclid & Pasadena Avenue will be posted between 1:00 a.m. and 8:50 a.m.. While no streets will be closed within the Playhouse District, log-on to pasadenamarathon.org to view more information about road closures impacting travel and access in the surrounding districts and residential areas.

Questions about the marathon, including registration, volunteer and sponsorship, call the Pasadena Marathon Office at (626) 797-7238.

Robinson Park Sports Field Is Topic Of Community Meeting

The Robinson Park Master Plan is moving forward with the expansion of the existing athletic field, including a regulation-size football field, soccer field, two baseball diamonds, new parking lot, restroom and concession stand.

The community is invited to a public meeting Thursday, Nov. 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at Robinson Park Center, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave. in Pasadena.

Plans also call for synthetic turf that will provide a state-of-the-art field surface while conserving water and reducing maintenance costs.

Staff in the Pasadena Public Works Department and the Human Services and Recreation Department have been working with local residents to implement this first phase of the plan.

For more information call (626) 744-4321.

Simulating "The Big One"

Millions Participate In Exercise To Gauge Disaster Readiness

By Dean Lee

Although less visible Thursday's Great Southern California ShakeOut was still on going Friday afternoon as seismologists and geophysicists monitored aftershocks produced by a simulated 7.8 magnitude earthquake along the southern San Andreas Fault considered to be the "Big One."

U.S. Geological Survey Geophysicist Robert Dollar said of the event, "we want to make sure people know this was just a simulation, we aren't predicting anything." He, along with Geophysicist Dr. Nancy King, explained some of the basic geology behind the event.

Meanwhile at exactly 10 a.m. Thursday, Pasadena City College, like many schools, participated in the ShakeOut the largest disaster drill in U.S. history. Organizers estimated 5 million people took part all across the southland.

It wasn't hard for PCC students to figure out something was dreadfully wrong as smoke poured out of the schools science building after the make believe shaking stopped. Inside police cadets played the part of dead and injured students as rescue teams assembled to assess the situation. The exercise lasted until noon.

At Caltech, The sound of rumblings started at 10 a.m. and lasted close to two minutes, followed by a simulated loss of power, at which time it was said that generators had restored electricity. USGS Spokesperson Margaret Vinci immediately fielded questions from the reporters, including the one from this newspaper which specifically asked how soon we should anticipate the impending aftershock, to which she replied, "We'll see." Approximately one minute



Aron Meltzner from the USGS's office in Pasadena, analyzes data during from The Great California ShakeOut, an earthquake simulation, that occurred state wide, on Thursday. Nov. 13, 2008. Photo D. Belis /MVO.



Geologists analyze data at the USGS office in Pasadena Photo D. Lee /MVO

later the 5.7 aftershock occurred.

Organizers said two years went into the planning. The point was, or is, to bring about awareness to safety. They added there will be a 7.8 quake; "it was just a matter of time."

The internationally recognized "Drop, Cover and Hold On" protocol was used in the ShakeOut. It consists of three simple steps they said, drop to the ground, take cover by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and hold on to it until the shaking stops.

Check emergency supplies they also said to make sure they are accessible and functional. Organize or refresh emergency equipment - fire extinguishers, first aid, flashlights, batteries, food, water, hand-powered radios, satellite phones,

generator, and fuel. Make sure it's known the location and how to utilize supplies.

King said shakeout.org was a great website for general information. She specifically advised clicking on the resources tap on the homepage. On the site there is even a game to play "Beat the Quake," you click on items in a room and give the best answer for how to secure it. The room then shakes and you are given a score based on damage.

King said they estimated 13 feet of simulated displacement would have occurred along 199 miles of the San Andréa's fault starting east of the Salton Sea. It would have gone as far north as Palmdale he said explaining the time line was based off aftershock data. In comparison the break along the fault in the 1906



PCC search and rescue teams work on a chemical spill Photo D. Lee /MVO



An injured victim is taken to a triage center at PCC Photo D. Lee /MVO

San Francisco earthquake was just over 200 miles said Aron Meltzner from the USGS.

Meltzner said Thursday's simulated quake moved toward Los Angeles. He said had it gone the other way, which he explained was very possible, the shaking would last much longer but the intensity would be less.

"It takes some time to rupture," King said. "And if it ruptures towards you, you feel it more than if it ruptures away from you."

She added that, for the purpose of the drill, the earthquake was chosen to rupture towards L.A.. It would have also had a magnitude 5,000 times greater than the recent Chino Hills quake July 29.

Doo Dah Madness Strikes Again



Outgoing Queen Mickie

Photos T. Baxter /MVO

The Pasadena Doo Dah Parade Queen Tryouts take place Nov. 23 at the American Legion Hall located in east Pasadena. Live music includes legendary Doo Dah house band Snotty Scotty &

the Hankies along with Horses on Astroturf and special performance by 2008 Outgoing Queen Mickie.

Refereed by Sierra Madre Sue, Queen Tryouts will highlight the "No Doo Dah

Day" celebration and royal hopefuls will compete to reign over the Parade on Sunday, Jan. 18 in Old Pasadena. The public is welcome to attend. In the new democratic style this year, anyone can vote, but only if they buy a pitcher of beer to share with the other judges.

Enjoy the colorful festivities and home cooked food and cheapest drinks in town! The cover charge is \$5.00 going to a Legion's charity. Ample free parking is available.

Individuals of all genders, sizes, shapes, ages, beliefs and persuasions are welcome to compete! And the best part is everyone gets to participate in the Doo Dah Royal Court on parade day!! Media

and royal watchers are all welcome to come enjoy the spectacle as queen aspirants of all types share their talents with Doo Dah's official judges and onlookers. Previous hopefuls have included Zeke the Sheik, Serpent Queens Saphora and Saphrona, trailer parkers, declined Rose Queen contenders, Pasadena Diva's, country western dudes, erotic saw players, the world's biggest old lady, one candidate on Xerox paper and another in a Mason jar.

Hopefuls this year include Roobie Breastnut, the Swami from El Monte, Eric(a) Valentine, Sir Pee Pee Poo Poo, Rebecca the stilt walker, Photo Genic, Fire Maidens, A Desperate Housewife, Viola the Cat

Woman, Count Smokula, Mimi MarGo-Go, and others. All one needs to do is show up, or call to get more information (626) 205-4029.



A Doo Dah Regular: Dr. Demento



Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know?

It's A Start...Part II

By Pat Birdsall

Last week we mentioned two corporate giants who are making concerted efforts to incorporate eco-friendly initiatives in their pursuit to reduce waste and to recycle. We started with Starbuck's and Whole Foods. This week, we feature Amazon.com.

Tired of spending your first exciting moments with a new toy or gadget wrestling with its complicated packaging? Amazon.com feels your pain. The site has recently launched: "Frustration Free Packaging," a multi-year initiative designed to take the headache out of packaging and reduce the subsequent waste by new products in tough-to-open packaging.

Rather than repackaging the products, Amazon worked closely with manufacturers to streamline the process from the start. The products come off the assembly line in the special boxes, made of easily recycled materials such as cardboard. "Frustration Free" packaging is also sturdy enough to use as a shipping box, another clever way to reduce the need for additional materials in the shipping process.

Initially focusing on U.S. products encased in hard plastic known as "clamshells," and products utilizing plastic-coated wire ties (commonly used with toys), the organization will start with 19 products from manufacturers such as Fisher-Price, Mattel and Microsoft. The project will go international in the beginning of 2009.

As an example of how this initiative can reduce waste, consider the Fisher-Price Imaginext Adventure Pirate Ship. The new packaging eliminates: 36 inches of plastic-coated wires, 1,576.5 square inches of printed corrugated package inserts, 36.1 square inches of printed folding carton materials, 175.25 square inches of PVC blisters, 3.5 square inches of ABS molded styrene and two molded plastic fasteners... That's just from ONE toy!

"It will take many years, but our vision is to offer our entire catalog of products in "Frustration-Free Packaging," said Jeff Bezos, founder and CEO of Amazon.com. We say, "It's a start..."

Earth911.com

Next week: Payless ShoeSource

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

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Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council* (SMEAC)

P. O. Box 85

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* We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Park House (Senior Center) in Hart Memorial Park, 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. - Please join us- Your thoughts and comments are welcome...



Fire Safe Council "Announcements and Observations"

Our next Fire Safe Council meeting will be December 1, 2008 at 7 P.M. in the City Council chambers. We will be celebrating our Three Year Anniversary and invite all to join. Call Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council, 355-0741, for information. Refreshments will be served.

What did you do in response to the Southern California Shake Out, November 13, 2008, at 10 a.m.? Please share your response and experience with the Fire Safe Council in an

e-mail to: madresiera@earthlink.net.

At the anniversary meeting we will have an opportunity for all in attendance to tell their stories of this earthquake drill and actual stories from past earthquakes you have experienced as well as the more recent fire and mud flow events of this past April and May.

You can follow-up by going to the Shake Out website: www.shakeout.org and log on to the appropriate link to answer questions about your efforts to become more informed and prepared during this mock 7.8 Southern California earthquake.

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, November 2nd, to Saturday November 8th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 280 calls for service.

Sunday, November 2nd:

2:31 PM - Petty theft, 4 North Baldwin Ave. Gasoline was purchased using a stolen credit card. The crime occurred between 1:20 pm and 2:16 pm on Sunday, 11/2. The card, which was inadvertently left at the station, has not been recovered. The loss was limited to \$41.49 as the card was quickly canceled.

Monday, November 3rd:

9:32 AM - Arrest, 900 Block Cynthia Ave. Pasadena. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed his license was suspended / revoked. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

Tuesday, November 4th:

11:55 AM - Arrest, Orange grove Ave. and Michillinda Ave. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed his license was suspended / revoked. The driver was

arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

Thursday, November 6th:

3:47 PM - Grand theft, 300 block Churchill Road. A black Dell laptop computer was stolen during a party at the residence. The crime occurred between 8:00 pm Thursday, 7/31 and 10am Friday, 8/01. The loss, which was estimated at \$1600.00, is currently being investigated.

10:15 PM - Arrest, 100 block Mariposa Ave. Two men were discovered, one lying in the street. Both men were intoxicated. They said they had been drinking at the Buccaneer Bar. Both were arrested for public intoxication and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

Friday, November 7th:

9:25 AM - Attempted commercial burglary, 141 West Highland Ave. Window screens at Sierra Madre Elementary School had been taken off two classroom windows. The crime occurred between 3:00 pm, 11/6 and 8:00 am, 11/7. No entry or loss was found.

scene. The suspects were not found during an area search.

Units were dispatched to the 2200 block of Canyon Road around 7:48 p.m. in reference to a mountain lion in a backyard. The mountain lion was located and it was feeding on a dog. When the mountain lion saw the officers, it moved away from the dog and charged at the officers. For their own safety, the officers fired several rounds at the mountain lion and it died at the scene.

Thursday, November 6:

A grand theft occurred at Servpro Monrovia, 119 La Porte, between 12:00 p.m. on November 2 and 6:30 a.m. on November 5. Unknown suspect(s) entered an unlocked vehicle and stole a tool bag containing tools and a drill.

Around 9:24 a.m., a witness notified police that he was following a suspected DUI driver. Officers located the suspect vehicle and followed it to a medical building at 301 West Huntington. The driver struck a curb when entering the parking lot and then he rear ended a parked vehicle while trying to park in a stall. A 49-year-old male was contacted and he claimed that he was a diabetic and suffered with other health issues. He said that he was given some new medication, which made him feel dizzy, so he wanted to see his doctor. A field sobriety test revealed that he was operating the vehicle while under the influence of narcotics and was arrested. Due to his medical condition, he was cited and released at the hospital.

Friday, November 7:

Around 4:23 p.m., units responded to the 1200 block of South Second regarding an identity theft report. The victim received an unsolicited credit card in the mail and was told that the account was opened online by an unknown suspect on October 18. When the victim did not receive mail for several days, he contacted the Post Office and was told that someone had called and asked that the mail be placed on "hold" and that it would be picked up at a later date. The victim also advised that in October about \$6,600 of unauthorized charges were made on different credit card accounts.

Security personnel from Westfield mall advised that they had detained a man for sexual battery around 4:30 p.m. The suspect grabbed a female victim's buttocks while on an escalator. A private person's arrest was made, and the 29-year-old was taken into custody.

Saturday, November 8:

An attempted strong-arm robbery occurred at Ralphs, 16 East Live Oak, around 9:30 p.m. A male suspect tried to grab the victim's purse, but she clutched her purse to her chest and was tossed to the ground. The victim screamed and the suspect fled on foot.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, November 2, through Saturday, November 8, the Police Department responded to 944 calls for service of which 126 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, November 2:

Shortly before 1:00 a.m., a traffic stop was initiated at Clark and Peck for a code violation. A 30-year-old male driver was contacted, and officers detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his breath and person. A field sobriety test was conducted and it was determined that the driver was operating the vehicle while impaired. The man was arrested for driving while under the influence, driving on a suspended license, and outstanding warrants totaling \$100,365.

An armed robbery occurred in the 600 block of Fairview around 1:15 p.m. The victim was approached in the underground parking garage by two male suspects. One suspect displayed a handgun and demanded her purse and jewelry. The suspects took the items and fled on foot. An area check was conducted, but the suspects were not found.

Monday, November 3:

Around 1:32 p.m., a victim came to the station to file a fraud report. Unknown suspect(s) obtained the victim's gas credit card account information by unknown means and made 10 unauthorized charges totaling over \$1,400.

Between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., a residential burglary occurred in the 1900 block of South Eighth. Unknown suspect(s) made forced entry through a rear sliding glass door. Once inside, the suspect(s) ransacked rooms and took a \$3,000 laptop computer and pried open a safe.

Tuesday, November 4:

Officers responded to the 00 block of Alice around 5:23 a.m. in reference to a structure fire. Two units within the same complex were on fire and it was quickly extinguished by fire personnel. AFD conducted an investigation and determined that the fire was intentionally set.

Around 11:14 a.m., units were dispatched to the 700 block of Val regarding a theft of a diamond ring. The victim advised that she last saw her ring in her lockbox in April and that was about the same time when two unfamiliar cleaning ladies were at her home. The total reported loss was about \$4,300.

Wednesday, November 5:

A robbery occurred at D&M Gifts located at 120 East Live Oak around 10:33 a.m. Two male suspects entered the location wearing hooded sweatshirts and sunglasses. One suspect pointed an object through his sweatshirt, simulating a handgun, and demanded lottery tickets. The clerk refused and the suspect lunged for the tickets and a struggle ensued. During the fight, the second suspect grabbed several boxes of lottery tickets and then both suspects fled the

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First-Ever Networking Evening Brings Alverno Alumnae Back to Campus

On a balmy November evening, more than 35 Alverno High School alumnae gathered in the school's Villa del Sol d'Oro to exchange career information. The first Alverno Alumnae Networking Evening was a complete success with people in attendance from a variety of careers. Alumnae met and mingled while enjoying a hosted bar as well as hors d'oeuvres served by Santa Anita Gardens catering.

The evening also featured five alumnae speakers. Each from a different field, the alumnae explained to the crowd what led them into their perspective careers and why they chose their fields. Finally, they ended their presentations with any career opportunities that might be available for interested alumnae in their fields.

The alumnae who were featured as speakers included Monica Tinker Shima '82, Emergency Room Nurse, Anne Bigley '91, Attorney, Sylvia Tarin-Brousseau '91, Forensic Chemist, Ria Richey '73, business owner of Cre-

ative Framing in Sierra Madre, and Maria Ioele '88, high school counselor. "I thought that the networking event was a great success. There was a broad representation of alumnae present and a great variety of speakers," said Monica Tinker Shima '82. "I had a great time and I'm really glad I came!"

Alumnae were encouraged to drop their business cards in the fishbowl for a chance to win fun door prizes. Among the items that were taken home by the lucky alumnae included a bottle of wine, an Alverno "gear" basket, a \$25 gift certificate to Islands Restaurant, a \$15 gift card to Starbucks, and a pair of gold heart-shaped earrings.

"The alumnae who attended the Networking Evening were impressed with the variety of careers and the amount of useful information that was available for them," said Summer Williams '95, Alumnae Coordinator. "Several contacts were made and this is definitely an event we intend to repeat next year!"



Left: Lesley Bautista '96, Susan Aprahamian Berberian '96, Anne Bigley '91, Andrea Bertolini '91, Ellen Behrens Hoffman '74, and Mary Woods Parlee '74 took a moment for a photo while learning about each other's careers. Right: Sylvia Tarin-Brousseau '91, Anne Bigley '91, Andrea Bertolini '91, and Jennifer Macias Rykert '91 enjoyed catching up during the Networking Event.



Westfield Works Wonders Fashion for a Good Cause

PHS Band and Orchestra Parents,

This is an easy sell! The Westfield Wonders Coupon books are on sale now for only \$5! The book has lots of great discount coupons for a number of establishments at the Santa Anita Westfield Mall. The sale is this weekend (November 15-16) so we only have until Friday. Start your holiday shopping early for the best selection and discount prices!

To order your coupon books, please contact Lee Ann or Chuck Broslawsky at 626-340-6112 or e-mail to cbroslaw@lausd.net. Please hurry and start selling. For every book sold \$2.50 goes directly into your student's account. The other \$2.50 goes directly to the IMC. Please support the PHS IMC with this fundraiser!



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Christmas Cheer Before Thanksgiving's Near?

Isn't it odd how the day after Halloween, stores all over the country begin setting out Christmas decorations? How the minute after Labor Day is over, stores are already taking out their Thanksgiving turkey displays? It always puzzles me, this untimely use of holiday décor. It's seems as though once one holiday is through, stores begin prepping you for the next one. As if a store is never without some sort of holiday-"ness". Everywhere I turn, there's some sign saying "Christmas Sale". In fact, while I was walking home the other day, I saw a fake Christmas tree in the window. Am I the only one still recovering from Halloween candy? It's not even Thanksgiving yet!

At first, I must admit, I was a little confused. It just seemed more logical to advertise for a holiday around the time the holiday actually is. That's logical for the consumer, but

not for the producer. You see, stores have to stay one step ahead of the game. By the time Christmas rolls around, it'll be too late to advertise for it.

It has also been said that the need for stores to prep for holidays in advance is a sign that it's going to be a rough year for retail. With the failing economy, it's possible that this Christmas might be a light one for many department stores and families. This means that not as many shoppers will be maxing out credit cards buying gifts for their loved ones this year. In this case, stores will be getting the short end of the stick, which is where the need to advertise in advance comes into play.

At this rate, they'll probably be hanging hearts and cupids in store windows before our Thanksgiving turkey is set on the table!

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

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

Arcadia High School

180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: David L. Vannasdal

Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

Barnhart School

240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 446-5588 Head of School: Joanne Testa Cross
Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.com

Bethany Christian School

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

Carden of the Foothills School

429 Wildrose Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016 626/358-9414
626/358-5164 fax office@cardenofthefoothills.com

The Gooden School

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

LaSalle High School

3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 351-8951 Principal: Patrick Bonacci
website: www.lasallehs.org

Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 471-2000, email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

Norma Coombs Alternative School

2600 Paloma St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 798-0759 Principal: Dr. Vanessa Watkins
E-mail address: watkins12@pusd.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: Dr. Derick Evans
website: www.pasadenahigh.org

Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981 website: www.pusd@pusd.us

St. Rita Catholic School

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

Sierra Madre Elementary School

141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428 Principal: Gayle Bluemel
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School

160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Gayle Bluemel
Contact person: Garrett Newsom, Asst. Principal
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Weizmann Day School

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

Wilson Middle School

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(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln
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Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009

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Susan Henderson**City Editor**
Dean Lee**Director Of Sales & Marketing**Ann Luke
(626) 32-3111**Art Director**

Allison Kirkham

PhotographyJacqueline Truong
Lina Johnson**Contributors**Teresa Baxter
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Advertising Inquiries
Contact:ANN LUKE
626-325-3111JULIE PUTERBAUGH
626-836-6524PATRICIA PLUNKETT
626-818-2698

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MountainViews - Observer
80 W. Sierra Madre Bl. #327
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
Phone: 626-355-2737
Fax: 626-609-3285
email: mvoobserver@aol.com

MountainViews-Observer**Mission Statement**

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



By Hail Hamilton

THE ECONOMY:NO QUICK FIX

We woke the morning after the election to more sobering news about the state of our economy. The 240,000 jobs lost in October marks the 10th consecutive month that our economy has shed jobs. In total, we've lost nearly 1.2 million jobs this year, and more than 10 million Americans are now unemployed. Tens of millions of families are struggling to figure out how to pay the bills and stay in their homes. Their stories are an urgent reminder that we are facing the greatest economic challenge of our lifetime, and that there is no quick fix to resolve it.

President-elect Obama says the economy is his number one priority after he becomes President. He promises to confront this economic crisis head-on by taking all necessary steps to ease the credit crisis, help hardworking families, and restore growth and prosperity.

Obama met immediately after Election Day with members of his Transition Economic Advisory Board, who will help guide the work of his transition team in developing a strong set of policies to respond to this crisis. They discussed several of the most immediate challenges facing our economy and key priorities on which to focus on in the days and weeks ahead:

First, the Obama Administration needs a rescue plan for the middle class that invests in immediate efforts to create jobs and provides relief to families that are watching their paychecks shrink and their life savings disappear. A particularly urgent priority is a further extension of unemployment insurance benefits for workers who cannot find work in the increasingly weak economy. A fiscal stimulus plan that will jump-start economic growth is long overdue – and they should get it done.

Second, they must address the spreading impact of the financial crisis on other sectors of our economy: small businesses that are struggling to meet their payrolls and finance their holiday inventories; and state and municipal governments facing devastating

budget cuts and tax increases. They must also remember that the financial crisis is increasingly global and requires a global response.

The news coming out of the auto industry this week reminds us of the hardship it faces – hardship that goes far beyond individual auto companies to the countless suppliers, small businesses and communities throughout our nation who depend on a vibrant American auto industry. The auto industry is the backbone of American manufacturing and a critical part of our attempt to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. As a result, a high priority for the transition team is to work on additional policy options to help the auto industry retool, weather the financial crisis, and succeed in producing fuel-efficient cars here in the United States.

Third, they will review the implementation of this Administration's financial program to ensure that our government's efforts are achieving their central goal of stabilizing financial markets while protecting taxpayers, helping homeowners and not unduly rewarding the management of financial firms that are receiving government assistance. It is critical that the Treasury work closely with the FDIC, HUD and other government agencies to use the substantial authority they already have to help families avoid foreclosure and stay in their homes.

Finally, as they monitor and address these immediate economic challenges, the new administration will be moving forward in laying out a set of policies that will grow our middle-class and strengthen our economy in the long-term. They cannot afford to wait on moving forward on the key priorities that candidate Obama identified during the campaign, including clean energy, health care, education and tax relief for middle class families.

Fixing the economy will be no easy matter. After eight years of mismanagement by the Bush Administration, the economy is in a shambles, the current recession deepening daily. President Obama will have much to do when he takes office and little time to do it. One thing is certain: There will be no quick fix as far as the economy is concerned.



Greg Wellborn

What's Love Got To Do With It? why Gays And Straights Misunderstand Marriage

The continuing protests against the Mormon Church because of their support for Proposition 8 should focus our attention on how misunderstood the notion of marriage is. Gays are quick to claim that proposition 8 denies them a civil right because it denies them the right to marry the person they love. Even though the vast majority of Californians still voted for proposition 8, and thus supported the traditional concept of marriage, it's my belief that most supporters and opponents of the proposition misunderstand the meaning of marriage. Simply put, love has very little to do with it.

I want to be clear at the outset that I don't doubt for a moment the depth of the love gays can feel for another. There are several men in my life for whom I have a deep and abiding love. They've been through a lot with me, both profound sadness and great joy. So as a heterosexual, happily married to my wife of 20 years, I would be dishonest to claim that gays can't have a profound love for one another, and that's without even factoring in the sexual element which only compounds those feelings in gays.

However, even granting the depth of these feelings, love shouldn't be the sole basis for marriage. If it is, then how do we prevent one man and several women from marrying if they claim to all share a common love? How do we prevent a brother and sister from marrying if they claim to be in love? If love is the only criteria, then of course we should allow gays to marry, multiple men and women to marry, and siblings to marry.

Allowing love solely to define the appropriateness of marriage weakens marriage. For several millennia, marriage has been more important than simply an expression of the love between two people. Marriage between one man and one woman has been, and should continue to be, society's ideal for raising a family and for fully maturing a person.

Traditional marriage is better for children. A mother and a father each give something different to a child. There's simply no way for either to be an

equal substitute for the other. Numerous studies have confirmed what common sense tells us all is true: that children grow up healthier and better able to maintain intimate relationships when they have had a mother and a father in a stable marriage.

Traditional marriage is also better for men and women because each compliments the other, making them whole, in a way that a relationship with the same sex cannot. As much as I've grown through the support, encouragement and accountability of several men, I am an even better person because of my relationship with my wife. Something about coping with our differences forced me to deal with issues which didn't arise in my relationship with other guys.

Society has the right and the obligation to uphold this institution and to give it privileges other unions don't have. That isn't discrimination. It is acknowledging a higher good.

Gay activists point to the high heterosexual divorce rates and the growing number of children raised by single parents as evidence that traditional marriage isn't all that ideal in our society. This is twisted logic at its worst. Are we supposed to abandon a goal simply because some fall short? I thought it was self evident that there would be failings in the pursuit of any goal. In fact, I would argue that the higher, the better, the more lofty the goal, the higher will be the failure rate. Failure has nothing to do with worthiness.

The lesson I take away from today's marriage statistics is that society isn't doing enough to support traditional marriages. Rather than throw in the towel by allowing marriage to mean anything at all, we should reinforce it, emphasize its importance to our youth and make divorces more difficult to obtain than today's "quickie" divorces. Perhaps couples should be made to think a tad longer about an action that will disrupt their children's lives well beyond childhood.

If You Can Read This Column..... Forget Google

You probably have read a book sometime in your life. I have. I may have colored more books than I have read. I'm not sure. In any event it's close.

I disclose this fascinating personal information to share with you my discovery of the Sierra Madre Library (or library as I grew up calling them). This library is full of books and really nice people. (Not one person told me to shsssh while I was there) Out in front there is a nice new park-like setting with park-like benches. They actually invite people to stop by and enjoy the little park-like setting. You're even welcome to come, sit and read a book.

And get this: They even let you take books home for three weeks. What's more they have a variety of CDs and Movies they loan out for a week at a time.

Now for the major secret discovery!!! Did you know you can actually go to the library without going to the library? Yep. If you have a library (or library) card and a pin number (they give it to you at the library) you can access the following online resources:

Tutor.com. HOMEWORK HELP for kindergartners through adults. College kids probably don't need it as much cause they already know everything. Just ask them.

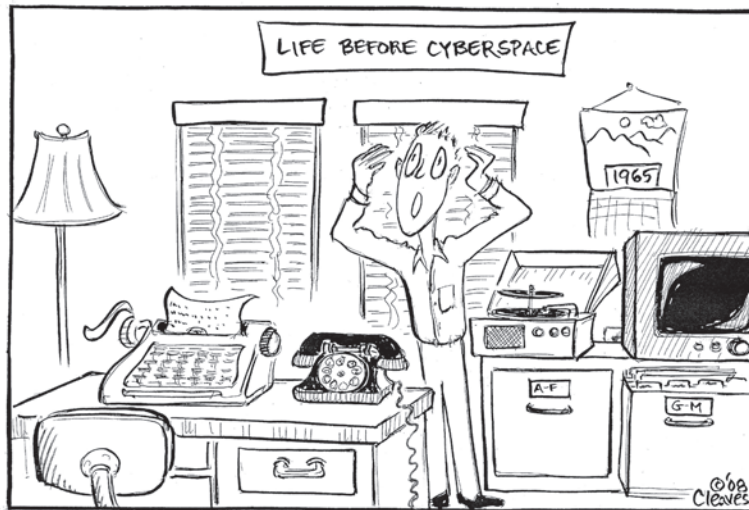
General Reference Center and WorldBook Online. Oh my gosh. More information you can access to use for homework or winning arguments with your spouses.

NoveList Plus and Literature Resources from Gale. You can actually read books online, access reviews and author information, advisories etc. Good for readers of all ages.

And there is a lot more. Okay, now for the best part. Parents, you can go online after the kids have gone to bed, research the tough questions they have been asking you all day. Then in the morning you casually tell them you have been thinking about their homework assignment and rattle off all this information. Hah!

But you gotta get a library card and a pin number. Believe me you and your kids will grow to love it. You can get to the library site by going to CityofSierraMadre.com and clicking on the library link. The link is where it says "library." Or call the library at (626) 355-7186.

Okay, now for the commercial. There is a group called the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library. They have fund raisers raising funds for the library (Is that redundant or what?) This upcoming February 20, 2009 is their Annual Wine and (Gourmet) Cuisine Tasting Affair at Alverno High School. I've been asked to help with the PR function. Last year the wine was great, but (to tell you the truth) the snacks were phenomenal. All these restaurants offering up their best tasting delights. After sampling all these treats you can really tell your friends where to go...for dinner that is. The donation is \$60 but it is so worth it. So write that date down (February 20th) and join me at the villa Alverno. More later.



Clearly, Europe is "ahead" of us in this matter, but they are simply further along on a deteriorating course. Statistics out of Scandinavia, as chronicled by noted scholar Stanley Kurtz, indicate that increases in gay marriage have ultimately translated into the separation of child rearing from marriage – any marriage. Gay marriage in Scandinavia has led to a devaluation of all marriages to the point where the vast majority of children are now birthed and raised by unmarried individuals.

Love is an important value in any society and in any person's life. We are all better off for the love we share with others close to us. But there are higher values, and marriage is one of them. The basic building block of society is torn apart when Gays are allowed to marry. They should be allowed civil unions and all the other rights and privileges heterosexuals enjoy, but the privilege of marriage should be reserved for those who will practice it as one man committed to one woman until death do them part.

Greg can be reached at gwellborn@mvoobserver.com.

Stuart Tolchin On...LIFE Who's Really Dumb?

All right, the election is finally over and the good-guys won; so, now maybe we can all sit down and

honestly look at what's right in front of our noses and try and answer some very difficult questions without worrying about political correctness.

QUESTION : Why is it said that Asian high-school students are academically superior to other students? Newspaper stories consistently describe the situation in many schools wherein Asians are a small minority and yet every year the valedictorian is Asian and most members of the Advanced Placement classes are Asian. How come??

POSSIBLE ANSWERS: I have discussed this phenomenon with quite a number of Asian friends, neighbors, and colleagues and have heard a number of theories. Most of the answers involve respect for parents. The usual answer explains that Asian kids know that their parents work hard and understand that this hard work is for their benefit, such that the kids attempt to please their parents and work hard. One lawyer took the time to explain to me that in the Chinese Language the ideogram "China" is synonymous with "Center" and speculated that this ethnocentric view of the world helps to create a confident

attitude such that each individual Chinese student expects to do well.

Frankly, I don't buy any of this. Lots of us have parents who work hard and who have high expectations and yet very few of us are valedictorians even though we think that America is the greatest and most powerful country in the world. I think there's more to it than hard work, high expectations, and confidence. My Chinese scientist neighbor theorized that the study of the Chinese Language combined with the use of - chopsticks, somehow prepares the brain to become a more efficient and effective tool. She explained that the Chinese written language requires a specific focus and meticulous attention and further the actual writing of Chinese characters requires a specific kind of attention to the pressure involved in each stroke. I like this kind of theorizing. First of all, it reminds me of the Wax On-Wax Off exercises contained in the first "Karate Kid" movie which makes success and cute girl-friends so attainable. Secondly, this kind of theory is testable. Let's have a group of kids learn Chinese and use chopsticks and see what happens. Such an attempt is infinitely preferable to some unstated belief that Asians are just smarter than we are and nothing can be done about it so let's just stick our collective heads in the sand and pretend we don't notice.

PROBLEM: Of course, the real problem is that our society is reluctant to study the differences between various racial groupings because if we define one group as smarter than we will have to define another group as dumber. There is an unstated fear, I think that if we look at performance to closely we will learn that African-Americans, or Mexicans, or Indians, or some other ethnic grouping is really dumber than some other grouping. This is all nonsense and complacent ignorance and, in itself, is a kind of paternalistic racism. It is true that the living conditions which face a great many non-Caucasians are really intolerable. To live in the ghettos of America's large cities is often comparable to living within war-zones and I doubt that much learning can actually take place in the midst of such continued stress.

Sure, something must be done to make life more liveable for economically disadvantaged people regardless of race or ethnicity. I sincerely doubt that the answer is more prisons or more armed police. It is a complicated problem, which requires thought and analysis. If our society continues to pretend that the question is too politically sensitive to allow for proper study and solutions, then it will not be necessary to worry about which particular group is the least academically able because our whole society will be moving toward a collapse caused by a continuance of chronic social ignorance and denial. NOW IS THE TIME FOR CHANGE!!

Talk To Stuart: s.tolchin@mvoobserver.com

LOOKING FOR OUR PAPER? (Partial Listing)

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Canine Couture Comes to Sierra Madre

By Chris Bertrand

Sandy Lewis-Duvall brought her newest business online this week with TheShabbyDog.com. The retail and wholesale website now offers the latest fashion statements for dogs and their devoted owners. Well known in the San Gabriel Valley as owner of Sierra Fitness, Sierra Madreans are also well aware of Duvall's love for all creatures and things canine.

Duvall has been a dog breeder for years, and frequently brings her favorite pooches to the gym. For a couple of years, she's been toying with adding a dog accessories business to her portfolio. After attending New York's Dog Fashion Show, Lewis decided she had enough great ideas to start her own line of doggie doodads, named "The Shabby Dog," in addition to carrying others' lines.

The most excitement stems from her hands free cuff (for the owner), which attaches to the wrist like an oversized watchband. The cuff design allows you to walk your dog hands free. Created in bold and bright, Italian patent leather, the cuff (\$25) is so stylish that some wear it as a fashion accessory, sans the dog! Matching leads (\$60) and dog collars (\$25) can be connected for a coordinated dog and owner look. She says it's great for bringing your dog to Sierra Madre's many outdoor restaurants and coffee shops, or for a stroll in town with your favorite poodle.

Duvall designed her line of products with a friend, and is having them manufactured in the United States, currently in LA. Doggie dresses in-

clude my favorite, the Suri Dress, picture here, in the year's hottest fabric, black and white hound's-tooth check (\$50).

Duvall is keeping it all in the family, with help from her niece, Ashley, known as the Swarovski crystal "queen" around here. You'll find her meticulous handiwork on Tarina Tarantino bows, which can adorn your favorite dog in a wide array of colors and Swarovski crystals.

Ed Hardy became famous transforming tattooing into a fine art during the last three decades. Now that art has been expanded through licensing to fashion bedding, bath accessories, and, yes, dog-wear. You'll find the Ed Hardy signature look here in dog scarves, tees and hoodies.

Some of the "jeweled" dog collars offered at TheShabbyDog.com have already been purchased by JLo! Since every day brings us more and more green conscious, Duvall chose a great, green line of dog treats. "A Dog's Life" organic and natural treats are available in eight flavors at \$7.99 a package.

Dogs can be comfy as well as fashionable in their custom designed and washable beds. The black denim circular beds detailed with a choice of colors, available in two sizes.

For your next canine accessory purchase, contact The Shabby Dog at 626- 836-5452 or email them at Info@TheShabbyDog.com. Or stop in to see Sandy Lewis-Duvall at Sierra Fitness, 20 N. Baldwin in Sierra Madre.

Vacationing With Pets

"How I spent your summer vacation." If your furry companion wrote this at the end of summer, how would it read? As summer approaches, and you make plans for your summer escape, have you considered the options available to your pets?

Some, especially most cats, are best left in their own home. They are most comfortable in their regular surroundings, and are more likely to eat, drink, and act normally. Options to provide for home care include pet sitters, friends, or even the adult children of friends [often, responsible college students living at home will welcome the opportunity to have a place of their own for a few days]. Having someone live in or visit your house regularly in your absence also provides extra security for your home from vacation bandits. Always ask for references, and it is a good idea to introduce these people to your pets days before leaving.

Boarding is another option. This is especially suitable for those pets with special needs. Some dogs can be destructive, or even seek escape when their family is absent. This is a sign of separation anxiety. While this is manageable with training and adjunct medical therapy, such treatments can take months. Facilities range from the mundane to extravagant. Do your research, and tour the premises. Make sure you're paying for care, not hype. Pets with medical needs such as those with diabetes, heart failure, or other infirmities may do best in a facility that provides veterinary supervision. This can also be a good time to pair any needed medical care, ie. Dental Prophylaxis and complete oral examination, with the stay. Be sure to ask about vaccine requirements in advance, so you won't have to vaccinate unnecessarily if you don't have records. Also, given our evolving knowledge of vaccines and immunity, be sure their requirements are reasonable. Generally, it is a good idea to get dogs a booster vaccination for Bordatella 2 weeks prior to the stay. This helps prevent or lessen the severity of kennel cough.

How about bringing them along? Most campsites allow companion animals, and more hotels are catering to the pet owning population, even luxury

resorts. Be sure to look into this early, as most facilities have limited rooms set aside for these special families. It's also a good idea to find a veterinarian in the area, should you pet need medical care or you just need to board your pet for a night or two for that rafting trip.

Will you be flying? Check with your airline early, as requirements for flight vary among airlines. You'll generally need a USDA health certificate within 10 days of your flight. If your pet is small enough, they can travel in the cabin. Typically collapsible carriers are best for this. Many airlines allow a limited number of pets per cabin, so be sure to book well in advance. If you need to fly him/her in the baggage compartment, be sure the kennel is rigid and secure. You may even be wise to fasten the door closed with a zip-tie after passing through security. Flying non-stop or direct is best. If you have to change planes, be sure to get assurance from the crew that your pet has made the connection before take-off. Many airlines even have special tags for this purpose.

Some dogs are left at home due to a malady that, while a great nuisance, is no fault of their own. Motion sickness. Good thing we're more tolerant of this with our 2 legged family members, or I would have been boarded for most of my childhood family vacations! While natural herbs like ginger can be of some benefit, there is a new medication available which greatly curbs the nausea without significant sedation. Talk to your veterinarian if you think this may allow you to include your best friend in your best plans.

If you're bringing your pet along, it's also a good idea to meet with your veterinarian who may be able to advise you of special precautions to take relative to where you're visiting. Examples include heartworm, ticks, poisonous plants, parasites, and rattlesnakes.

In all, I hope you all have safe, relaxing vacations, knowing that your furry companions are safe and happy too. Regardless of your choice of accommodations, be sure to provide your pet's regular food.

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"Hi, my name is Wilson"

An Environmental Leader Who Lives What He Preaches - In The City

By Christopher Nyerges

[Nyerges is the editor of Wilderness Way magazine, and co-author of "Extreme Simplicity: Homesteading in the City," who regularly teaches survival skills. He can be reached at www.ChristopherNyerges.com]

Ed Begley Jr. is showing us all that "living country in the city" is not only the wave of the future, but is also the solution to our many modern woes.

Though born in California, Begley's early interest in environmentalism began in his youth as a Boy Scout living on Long Island.

"Being in the Boy Scouts set the stage for my appreciation of the outdoors," says Begley. He moved back to California, and he recalls the terrible smog of the late 1960s and early 1970s, and the desire to somehow be a part of the solution.

"Perhaps the seminal moment for me was seeing that famous photo of the earth shot from the Apollo spacecraft. I saw this beautiful, blue, watery planet, and I saw the earth as a unique place. I saw the earth as a system. That picture moved me, as I'm sure it moved a lot of people," he explains.

Driven to take personal action to nurture this planetary system, Begley got his first electric car, and began to make compost from his kitchen scraps, in the 1970s.

"I was living in an apartment at the time, and I would actually take kitchen scraps in a bag to a vacant lot nearby. I would bury my scraps there in my own little compost pile. As I returned again and again, that little spot where I buried my compost became green and lush," says Ed with a big smile.

Today, Begley has become a spokesman for environmental issues, both officially and unofficially. He shares his environmentally conscious lifestyle on his "Living with Ed" TV show. He's also produced a guidebook to environmental living called "Living Like Ed." In this book, he and his lovely wife Rachelle share their easy and some not-so-easy ways to live an environmentally-sound lifestyle. The book covers the six areas of our lives where we can save money, help the environment, and save energy: home, transportation, recycling, energy, garden and kitchen, and clothing and skin care. (The excellent book is available at www.edbegley.com, or at any bookstore).

He lives in an average, well-kept, tree-lined street in Southern California suburbia. The house on the corner is barely visible through all the greenery. Once you enter, you realize something is a little different. Each bush, shrub, tree and plant is something edible, medicinal, or fragrant. In the back yard, Begley adjusts his solar oven, and then sits back down to enjoy his fresh-picked mint tea.

Above him, on

the roof, is an array of 117 solar panels that produce all his household's electricity. Behind him is a greenhouse, and a small herb and vegetable garden where he grows his produce for himself and his family. In the garage beyond is the power station where the batteries are kept which are charged by the sun. His electric car sits next to the batteries.

One cannot help but be struck by the fact that here in this smallish yard and average-sized home, Begley and family have demonstrated how much you can do to live lightly on the earth, even in the city, even if no one else is doing it.

"Everything we do here makes economic sense," he says with great enthusiasm. "Everything including the solar oven, the composting, the garden, the fruit trees all over, the energy-efficient thermostats, the fluorescent light bulbs, the insulation in the attic, the blanket on the water heater, the solar water heaters. It is completely economic to live this



Ed Begley Jr. at the Natural Food Expo

way and it's mistaken for people to think that this is not cost-effective."

Begley comments on the insanity of city folks driving their SUVs to the gym, where they pay a membership fee, and then go inside and exercise on a bicycle machine. "How could you ever explain that to someone from another planet?" laughs Begley, who occasionally rides his bicycle to work.

Begley believes that the greatest problem facing the planet today is the rampant consumerism driving everyone. "We worship things so much that we've lost track of what life is really all about. The pursuit of obtaining things is not the answer - it's the problem."

He thinks of himself as a religious person, though not a church-goer. "Science and technology bear out the fact that all people are the same. I believe in the oneness of us all. Recognizing this oneness has to be at the basis of choosing to live in a way that doesn't do further harm to the planet," he tells me.

Begley says he's not a proselytizer of environmentalism nor does he make any demands of others. He's just one person who is committed to take responsibility for the way his life affects the environment. In this sense, Ed Begley Jr. is a true environmental leader.

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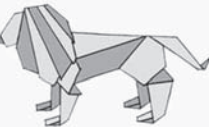


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TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

Head To Robin's For An Economic Relief Package

The economy is down but Robin Salzer stands firm in his astonishing offer.

So you lost your wallet in the Stock Market, you had to cut up all of your credit cards and now you must avoid the bill collectors. What to do, where to go? You can't hide at home forever, they will find you there. Times are tough across the globe and my friend Robin Salzer of Robin's Woodfire BBQ is doing everything he can to guarantee a family can still enjoy dining out. He may be a "Maverick" or maybe he is "Hope" and "Change." He may be the one person that promises the moon though and delivers it in this political season. Do you have kids? I do, anyone need one until the economy picks up again, she is well mannered? Just kidding honey, but I will need that iPhone back, with the receipt.

A certifiable winner on every Wednesday and Sunday Night is Robin's where the Kids eat for free!! I have a feeling we can all afford and that one. With each adult entrée your child can eat for free from the kids menu. No kids, you say, well they also offer all you can eat Rib Tips for (\$12.95). Wow!!!

Now let's review an American favorite!!! It is also one of my personal favorites, BBQ, not the oven roasted version which Tony Roma's panders. No, Barbeque is made low and slow. Low heat and slowly cooked. There is only one authentic BBQ in The San Gabriel Valley; you guessed it, Robin's Woodfire BBQ and Grill in Hastings Ranch.

Owner and head politician Robin Salzer has perfected the BBQ at his name sake. Robin, will readily admit it took a few months to perfect the BBQ at Robin's. Robin hails from Milwaukee and opened Robin's 25 years ago this month. The original menu had everything from breakfast, to pizza, nachos and little bit of the BBQ. About five years ago Robin made the decision to go strictly BBQ. "Everyone in the neighborhood, thought I was crazy," Robin recalled. But, "I decided to stay the course." The result is some of the best BBQ in all of Southern California. The awards in the past five years include: Best of City Search, numerous Best of Awards by local newspapers, write ups in the LA Times and a feature in Westways Magazine.

Depending on the meat, each entrée is cooked between 4 to 6 hours on wood. The sauce is then put on the meat about twenty seconds before meat is done. This is done to avoid burning the outside skin of the meat.

Prices range from (\$8.95) for salads to (\$29.95) for the ultimate Garbage Can Combo. The combo includes chicken, beef ribs, tri tip, baby back, spare ribs and a beef link. The garbage combo is big enough for two people

What to order: The Beef Ribs are a must!! Four rib dinner (\$17.95) and the seven Rib dinner is (\$21.95). Robin tells me the ribs are notched, thus insuring extra meat. For dessert order the peach cobbler, its house made.

What to avoid: Mondays, the restaurant is closed. They don't take reservations on the weekends, so I suggest making the visit on a Thursday Night. No separate checks.

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Looking Up With Bob Eklund

Cosmic Lens Reveals Distant Galactic Violence



Photo by Aaron Dominguez

By cleverly unraveling the workings of a natural cosmic lens, astronomers have gained a rare glimpse of the violent assembly of

“Nature provided us with a magnifying glass to peer into the workings of a nascent galaxy, providing an exciting look at the violent, messy process of building galaxies in the early history of the Universe,” said Dominik Riechers, who led this project at the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Germany and now is a Hubble Fellow at Caltech.

The new picture of the distant galaxy, dubbed PSS J2322+1944, shows a massive reservoir of gas, 16,000 light-years in diameter, that contains the raw material for building new stars. A supermassive black hole is voraciously eating material, and new stars are being born at the rate of nearly 700 Suns per year. By comparison, our Milky Way Galaxy produces the equivalent of about 3-4 Suns per year.

“This whole picture, of massive galaxies and supermassive black holes assembling themselves through major galaxy mergers so early in the Universe, is a new paradigm in galaxy formation. This gravitationally lensed system allows us to see this process in unprecedented detail,” said Chris Carilli, of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

In 2003, astronomers studied PSS J2322+1944, finding the Einstein Ring by observing radio waves emitted by molecules of carbon monoxide (CO). When astronomers see large amounts of CO gas in a galaxy, they

present, and thus a large reservoir of fuel for star formation.

Gravitational lenses were predicted, based on Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, in 1919. Einstein himself showed in 1936 that a perfectly-aligned gravitational lens would produce a circular image, but felt that the chances of actually observing such an object were nearly zero. The first gravitational lens was discovered in 1979, and the first Einstein Ring was discovered by researchers using the VLA in 1987.

For graphics, animation, and audio scientist interview, go to: <http://www.nrao.edu/pr/2008/ringlens/> ***

NOT TO BE MISSED: THE JOURNEY TO PALOMAR AIRING ON KCET SATURDAY EVENING, NOV. 15 — The full-length documentary film, “The Journey to Palomar,” will be shown on Los Angeles public television station KCET (Channel 28) on Saturday, Nov. 15, 9:00–10:30 p.m.

Produced by Los Angeles filmmakers (and good friends of Mount Wilson Observatory) Robin and Todd Mason, “The Journey to Palomar” is the story of Mount Wilson founder George Ellery Hale's dramatic public and private struggle to build the four largest telescopes in the world, which set the stage for astronomy and space exploration throughout the 20th century.

More than five years in the making, this documentary traces Hale's lifelong struggle to build these great instruments, including the Mt. Wilson 100-inch telescope, culminating with the million-pound 200-inch on Palomar mountain.

If you'd like to learn more, you can contact Bob at b.eklund@mvoobserver.com



Noted Solar Expert Updates Caltech Associates on Renewable Energy

Pasadena, Calif-What energy solution could possibly come close to providing the 14 terawatts of power that the world consumes? Nathan Lewis, the George L. Argyros Professor and professor of chemistry at Caltech, described one possible solution at a dinner for Caltech Associates at Caltech's Athenaeum.

From coal to windpower, dams to geothermal energy, almost all potential energy sources yield too little power or generate high levels of greenhouse gasses. Lewis demonstrated to guests that nuclear power has its issues: in order to keep up with current and future demand we would need to build 14,000 nuclear power plants, or one per day for 39 years. He also ruled out exclusive reliance on fossil fuels such as coal, even if adequate supplies were available. Burning fossil fuels raises carbon dioxide (CO2) levels in earth's atmosphere, contributing to global warming and impacting life on earth. At current rates of CO2 production, temperatures could rise about 5-10°F in 30-50 years, possibly radically affecting human life.


Solar power, Lewis says, is the solution. The

sun gives us 120,000 terawatts of power and more energy in one year than humans have consumed in total.

Lewis' research group may be close to solving a longstanding problem with solar energy: solar cells don't yet store energy effectively for distribution after sunset. Using artificial photosynthesis technologies, they are developing solar cells built from inexpensive materials that can both absorb and store energy.

“I was surprised to learn that all the approaches to supply renewable energy that I was familiar with were so inadequate as a percentage of the current energy usage,” said Caltech Alumnus Don Pinkerton (BS '57). “Lewis made it clear that solar energy is the only source large enough to do the job, and that we have to have energy storage along with energy capture.”

“We have a long way to go to solve the energy problem, so we better do all the conserving that we can-now-so we do not run out of energy before they come up with the solution,” said Pinkerton.



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From the Inside Out: “Know Thyself”

Have you ever wished for a “Personal Owner's Manual” to help you figure out how to live your life better? We're all told to “Know Thyself”, and we're told to anchor ourselves in the omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient (everywhere, all-powerful, and all-knowing) God. And we try, but sometimes things seem to fall through the cracks, or we get tired. Maybe if we understood a bit more???

For example, you KNOW you know how to do something, yet when you do a fabulous job of it, everyone around you gets mad at you for doing it? You may be one of the 8% of folks who are “Manifestors” - and there's a strategy for reducing other's anger at you.

When someone asks you if you want or need to do something, do you get a “gut” reaction that says “Yes!” or “No!”? And if your mouth says “Yes” but your gut says “No!”, do you find yourself pushing to do it, and being frustrated? Do you feel as though there's an ever-running motor inside that keeps you busy all the time? Once you get started doing something, do you find it's hard to stop? And you really appreciate it when someone says, “Want to come to lunch?” You may be one of the 35% (or so) who are Generators.

If you do both of the above, you know you can do something, and you're busy all the time, but you can still by yourself and say, “that's enough”, or - “something's not right, let me -re-evaluate and change what I'm doing”. There's about 35% of folks who are both - “Manifesting Generators”, which means about 70% of the world is “busy” all the time.

Do you seem to need invitations to join with others? In meetings, do you have to wait to be asked for your opinion before they listen to what you have to say? You've developed a deep resource and skill base, but it stays “inside” until someone asks you to share? Do you need repeated invitations before you respond? You may be one of the 21% who are “Projectors”, whose wisdom helps coordinate and direct the others.

Or, does it take months or years to make an important decision? Do you feel like a confused “observer” of life where not much makes sense? Yet those around you get frustrated because you “can't make up your mind”? Yet if you get sucked into doing it “their way” it's often an disaster for you? You may be one of the 1% who

are “Reflectors”, who takes in, amplifies and reflects back to the world what is going on around you.

I became a “Beta Test” participant in exploring the above ideas that are supposed to integrate ancient wisdom from the Chakra System (India tradition), the I Ching (Chinese tradition) and the Kaballah (Jewish ‘Tree of Life’ tradition) with modern day genetics and biochemistry.

This point of view says we're all souls living inside a unique “electro-magnetic” energy pattern that has a core stability, yet is also flexible and changeable within boundaries. The information is organized into nine energy centers (charkas) that are connected to each other by channels (Kaballah's Tree of Life), and that the energy information for each half of a channel comes from the I Ching, and matches the protein structure of our modern scientific genetic code.

Having been exploring this system of information and point of view for 10 years now, I feel comfortable sharing it. My experience is that those I've shared with also find it helps with self-understanding. It's a great way to “see” and really understand the “old wives’ tale” that you can't change someone to be other than s/he is. When you look at your pattern, and that of someone close to you, it makes it real in a whole new way.

Coming to understand our own individual energy pattern is answering the constant call by all our religious leaders, the psychologists and psychiatrists and teachers to “Know Thyself”. Who are You? What is important to You - and how well are you following God's pattern and plan? How well are you developing the talents that you have been given, while you are here? Are you wisely investing your talents? Or are you burying your God-given talent until the Master returns, because you don't trust yourself to use your talent wisely? In the final analysis, as we walk off the stage, and report at the Pearly Gates, it is who we are, the choices we have made, the learning and wisdom that we have gathered, that we offer up as our harvest of life.

Explore www.humandesignsystem.com or www.simplyyourself.com. Or we can sit together over tea or coffee, and explore possibilities. m.carney@mvoobserver.com.



Mary Carney



The Senior Spot

By Bruce Lamarche

Be An Explorer: Go Online

Picture yourself starting your day by making a pot of coffee and turning on the computer. Three or four emails have arrived during the night with the latest reports from your children scattered across the country. Daily updates about the weather and the latest antics of the grandkids keep you feeling connected to family members as if they lived down the street.

Staying connected with family and friends is just one of the many benefits of this technology. Seniors the world over are finding old friends, new flames and opportunities to connect to others. Need a recipe for leftover chicken? Want to investigate stocks or mutual fund options? Interested in learning more about your family tree? All this and more can be readily found on the information superhighway.

Health benefits?

And that's not all. Research indicates that older adults taking the cyber plunge are actually promoting good mental health by learning something new and communicating with others. Furthermore, seniors have available at their fingertips a virtual library of online resources to further promote good health – from the latest ways to lower cholesterol, to online support groups, to the latest breakthroughs in cancer treatment.

Getting started

Even if you don't own a computer there are still many ways to get on the Internet. Public libraries, senior centers and community centers are just a few of the places you can get Internet access for free. Many of these places offer seniors an opportunity to learn how to navigate for free. A 73 year old grandfather took advantage of free Internet access at his public library. In addition to reading newspapers from overseas and checking his stock, he now communicates regularly with relatives in Israel and Poland, all without running up huge phone bills.

Where to go first

Just about any place you can imagine! Websites specifically designed for seniors, grandparents, caregivers and numerous other topics are plentiful – just type in the topic of interest in the search engine window and be amazed at how many Websites are listed! Below are some popular sites that many seniors find useful and interesting.

SeniorNet.com is a nonprofit membership organization of seniors 55 and older who share an

interest in computers. SeniorNet specializes in seniors teaching seniors how to navigate the Internet. They have over 200 learning centers across the nation as well as tutorials and software available from their site at www.seniornet.org

AARP has a comprehensive, senior-friendly site at www.aarp.org. Easy to read and to navigate they offer seniors a variety of topics to explore. Beginner tips on how to use a computer and a list of frequently asked questions about computer technology are quite helpful for the novice. AARP also simplifies the overwhelming amount of information available on the Internet by providing links to other Websites and best-of lists, such as the 100 best health Websites.

For those who have a question regarding Social Security, Medicare or any other government program, check out FirstGov for Seniors at www.seniors.gov

Part of the official U.S. gateway to all government information, this well-organized site provides one-stop shopping for information on senior services and agencies. It is designed to help you find out which government office can address your concerns and provide you with direct links to relevant information and services.

Cautions:

Unless you are comfortable and experienced at the use of computers and internet access, avoid submitting personal information that would compromise your finances or identity. Your bank will never ask you to update your files by providing information they are supposed to have, be cautious about answering e-mails that ask you to click on links that you do not recognize . . . and, no, you didn't win a million dollars.

No matter what your hobbies, interests or desires are – there is a good chance that you can learn more about it or meet others who are also interested in the subject on the Internet. So shake those new-technology jitters and get online. You will be glad you did!

Got a question? Ask Bruce by phone - (626) 335-3412 or e-mail: blamarche@verizon.net

This article is provided by Bruce Lamarche, a member of Society of Certified Senior Advisors®, www.csa.us. Bruce's company, R & B Reverse Mortgage Services (Glendora) helps seniors make an informed decision about obtaining a reverse mortgage. www.LASeniorMortgage.com

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See the "Senior Spot" column weekly

Greetings

The holidays are around the corner!

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall



FYI:

In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated. After four years of bitter war, an armistice was signed. The "war to end all wars" was over.

On Sunday, November 9th at 1:00 PM, please help commemorate Veteran's Day with the Sierra Madre VFW-Harry L. Embree Post # 3208, at the Sierra Madre Veteran's Photo Wall in Hart Memorial Park; 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Sharing their war-time experiences will be VFW members Gordon Caldwell and William Newbery.

~Helpful Hints~

Sharpen your scissors by cutting through a sheet of fine-grit sandpaper to finish off the edge and keep your cuts clean.



Happy Birthday

Lena Zate, Carmella Frontino and
Alberta Curran

For Your Funny Bone - From the Military

Army-Shortly after joining the Army, I was in line with some other inductees when the sergeant stepped forward with that day's assignments. After handing over various tasks, he asked, "Does anyone here have experience with radio communications?" A long-time ham operator, I shouted, "I do!" "Good," he said. "You can dig the hole for the new telephone pole."

Navy- The new ensign was standing his first night watch on the bridge of a destroyer. Far out on the horizon, the USS New Jersey was conducting a night gunnery exercise. The ensign, seeing the flashes of light from the battleship, ran excitedly up to the signal bridge and pointed out the "Morse code" coming from the other ship. Ensign: "What are they saying? What are they saying?" Signalman: "Boom. Boom."

Air Force- An Air Force fighter pilot ejected from his jet and wound up on a deserted island. There he stayed, unfound for 11 years. One day, there appeared a beautiful woman, who simply walked out of the surf. "How long have you been here?" She asked. "11 years," the fighter pilot replied. "When is the last time you had a cigar?" "11 years." She opened a pocket and gave him a cigar. The fighter pilot took it, and puffed in delight. "When was the last time you had a drink? the maiden asked. "11 years." She opens another pocket and pulled out a beer. The pilot drank the whole bottle in one gulp. "When was the last time you played around?," the lady asked with a gleam in her eye. "11 years," the deprived pilot replied. The woman started to unzip the front of her wet suit. "YOU'RE KIDDING ME?" said the pilot. "You got golf clubs

Recipe of the Month: Roasted Acorn Squash with Cinnamon Butter

2 acorn squash (about 1 ½ pounds each), unpeeled, quartered lengthwise and seeded

1 Tbs olive oil

Coarse salt and ground pepper

4 Tbs butter

1/8 tsp cinnamon

1- Preheat oven to 450. On a large rimmed baking sheet, toss squash with oil; season with salt and pepper. Arrange on sheet, cut side down, and roast until easily pierced with a paring knife. 35 to 45 minutes.

2- In a small saucepan, melt butter over medium, stirring, until golden brown. 4 to 6 minutes. Immediately pour into a small bowl; stir in cinnamon. Place squash on a serving platter, cut side up, and top with cinnamon butter. Serves 8
Everyday Food



in there!!!!?"

Marines- Two airmen were driving across country on leave. They come to a Marine Corps base and decide to visit. They approach the gate and the Marine Guard walks up to the driver's window and taps on it with his nightstick. The driver rolls down the window and the Marine smacks him in the head with the stick. The driver says, "Why'd you do that?" The Marine says, "You're on a United States Marine Corps Base, son. When I come up to your car, you'll have your ID card ready." The driver says, "I'm sorry, we're in the Air Force and we didn't know." The Marine examines the card and gives it back to the driver. The Marine then walks around to the passenger side and taps on the window. The passenger rolls his window down, and the Marine smacks him with the nightstick. The passenger says, "What'd you do that for?" The Marine says, "Just making your wishes come true." The passenger says, "Huh?" The Marine says, "I know that as soon as you pull away you're gonna say, 'I wish that sucker would've tried that stuff with me!'"

Coast Guard- A friend, driving home from a fishing trip in northern Michigan with his boat in tow, had engine trouble a few miles inland from Lake Huron. He didn't have a CB radio in his car, so he decided to use his marine radio to get help. Climbing into his boat, he broadcast his call letters and asked for assistance. A Coast Guard officer responded, "Please give your location." "I'm on Interstate-75, two miles south of Standish." The officer paused. "Could you repeat that?" "I-75, two miles south of Standish." A longer pause. Then an incredulous voice asked, "How fast were you going when you hit shore?"

Quote:

In war, there are no unwounded soldiers. ~Jose Narosky~



Activities:

Unless listed differently, all activities are at the Hart Memorial Park (Senior Center) Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre

Lunch Program: Monday- Friday at the Intervale Café -12:00 Noon-Call (626) 355-0256 to make your daily reservation. Suggested donation \$2.00 for seniors (60+) and \$3.75 for visitors

Monday: Free Strength Training Class with volunteer Lisa Brandley 1:00- 1:45 PM

Tuesday: Bingo: 1:30-3:30 PM .25c per card. Yoga- 5:30 PM- 7:00PM Instructor Andrea Walsh- \$6.50 for seniors (50 and over.) Call 355-5278 for more information

Wednesday: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays-Community Lunch & Learn Program

Thursday: Game Day- 1:00- 3:30 PM Poker, UNO, Scrabble, Cribbage, Chess, Checkers, Backgammon, Pinochle...you name it.

Yoga- 5:00 PM- 6:30PM \$6.50 for seniors (50 and over) Call 355-5278 for more information

Friday: Ping-Pong- 1:30 PM

Saturday: Senior Club for those 55 and older- Brown bag lunch at 11:30AM. Meeting at Noon- Bingo at 12:30 PM -Only .25c per card

Can you donate one hour of your time per month? Local volunteer drivers are desperately needed for the Sierra Madre Meals-on-Wheels program. Please call Darlene Traxler at 626.355.6220. You can make a difference in someone's life.

Monthly Excursions:

*For reservations and further information call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394 or stop by and see her at the Hart Memorial Park House- 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM

The December excursion is in the planning stages. Will publish information as soon as it becomes available.

Fall Swim Pass- The Sierra Madre Pool is open as of September 2nd for lap swimmers and water walkers. For more information call 355-5278.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic- Second Tuesday of each month 11:00 AM- Noon. No appointment necessary

Free Homeowners & Renters Assistance Program

- Don Brunner is volunteering again this year from 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM every Wednesday from July 2nd to October 15th by appointment only. If you are 62 or older or disabled and have income less than \$41,000 you may be eligible for money back from the State of California. For reservations and more information call (626) 355-7394.

NEW Program- Financial Consulting

Joohee Lee, MBA, an Arcadia resident, is a financial service professional with New York Life Insurance Company in Pasadena. She will assist you with repositioning your assets to maximize income, and return benefits your heirs. She will be volunteering on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Hart Memorial Park House from 10:00AM- Noon. Call (626) 355-7394 for an appointment.

Lions Sight Program- Arcadia Community Center- Free vision care for low-income seniors

2nd Wednesday of each month 2-4 PM. To qualify for the program, interested parties must be 62 and over, have a yearly income below \$25,900 and must live in Arcadia, Temple City, Monrovia, Duarte or Sierra Madre. Limited appointments are available per month. Call 626.574.5130 to make an appointment for November 12.

Meals-On-Wheels:

Meals are delivered to homebound seniors through the YWCA Intervale lunch program M-F with frozen meals for the weekend. \$2.00 suggested donation per day
Call Susan Garcia at (626) 858-8382

One Of A Kind: *Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them* Is It A Fire and Earthquake Resistant House That's A Gorgeous Traditional Estate?



Chris Bertrand

all of which is then plastered with a quarter to half inch of plaster on each side.

This year, the Lippincott's home garnered media interest during the April Sierra Madre fire. AnnaMarie Reynaud, a general contractor using and selling this little known construction method, accompanied interested film crews to this example of fire resistant construction, one with twenty three years of "experience" and proof. The news coverage offered viewers insight into non-traditional alternatives to wood framed structures in this fire AND earthquake sensitive community.

If you drove down Windwood Lane, you'd be hard pressed to determine, at first glance, which home was built with GPSI panel construction. This steel and insulating panel system has attracted quite a bit of attention lately in the construction community, with the groundbreaking of the nearby Pasadena Eco House this past summer on Pleasant Lane.

A beautiful fire and earthquake resistant is "normal looking" home inside and out.

According to Reynaud, Director Global Panel Solutions, Inc., this type of construction offers many benefits in addition to the "hot" topic of green building. With superior energy and acoustical efficiency, the home has low energy bills compared to similar sized homes. The quiet in the home is incredible. Reynaud points out how nice it is for those households that function on differing sleep and work schedules. The non-combustible nature of the steel, insulator, plaster and concrete panels offers worry-free living in a town with year round, brush fire concerns.

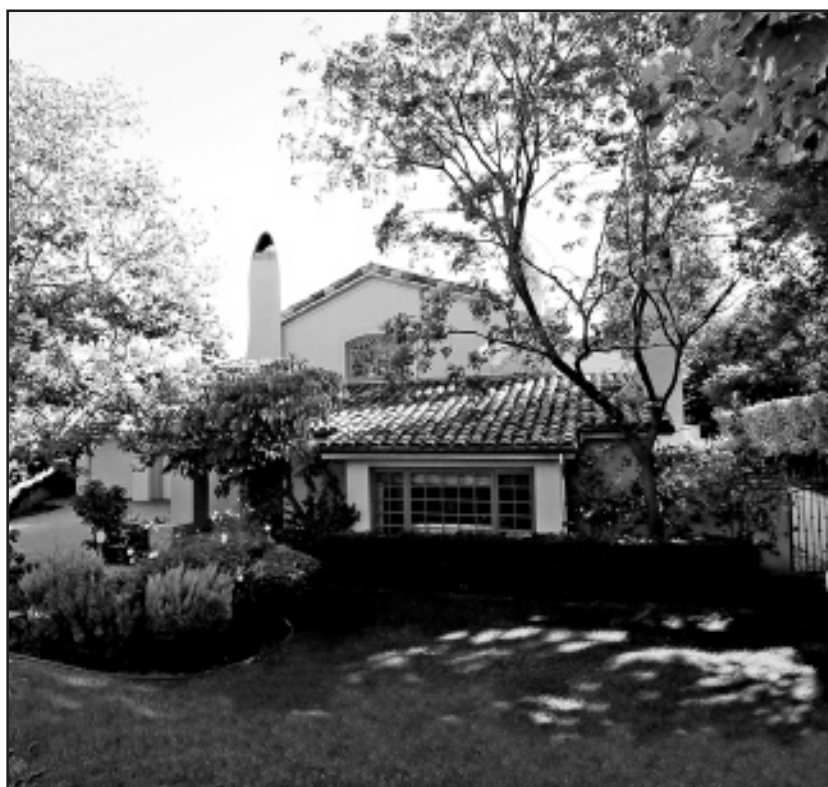
Owner, Dr. Peter Lippincott, demonstrates the strength and sound absorbing qualities of this construction, as he pounds on a living room wall.

This type of construction has also proved resistant to earthquake, hurricanes and floods, with no food or host value for mold, fungus, dry rot, termites and rodents. Since panels are delivered onsite prefabricated, home assembly can be up to 50% faster than conventional construction, thereby adding to construction & development cost savings. Many components of the installation require much less skilled labor, again lowering construction costs. This construction method literally eliminates the use of structural wood, even in floors, roofs, eaves, inset ceilings, etc., the flexibility of design and usage is literally unlimited. No wood framing was used for the ceiling soffits, in the dining room, for example. The eaves are completely enclosed, again increasing the fire resistance of the home. If an ember is sucked into the air vents during a wildfire, there are no wood rafters or flooring in the attic to burn.

Both Lippincott and Reynaud are particularly pleased with the longevity of this construction method, as well. Their Realtors, now family members Katherine Lippincott and Barbara Wheeler of Prudential in Pasadena, also speak highly of the increased resale price potential due of the GPSI construction. The maintenance is extremely low, as no cracks, flaking or stucco/plaster repair has been required in the 23 years since it was built. Reynaud comments, "It still looks new!"

After 23 years, no cracks show on the construction at all, as evidenced here in the utility room.

For more information, contact Global Panel Solutions, Inc., in Canoga Park at www.GlobalPanelSolutions.com or at 818-332-1440.



Clockwise from top: The lovely living room is a comfortable and safe family space, Annie Reynaud with GPSI panel, and the front of the house is a stately façade with a comforting and homey air.

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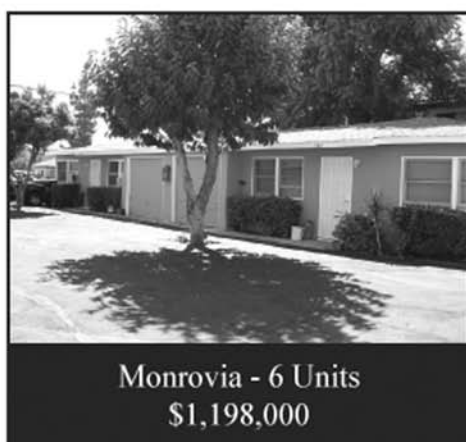
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