



It's Almost Showtime!

Sierra Madre Float Will Head To Parade Earlier Than Usual - Volunteers Still Needed

The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association is almost ready to roll! Volunteers working on *Bollywood Dreams* this year's float, the largest and most expensive ever, are down to the last stages of construction and decoration in preparation for the 2009 Rose Parade. More than 21,000 Roses will adorn the most extravagant float the association has ever built and volunteers will work well into the new year, making certain everything is perfect. The float will leave the barn on Thursday morning, January 1, 2009 between 3-3:30 am. on its way to the parade. There is a possibility of a brief stop in Kersting Court between 4 -4:30 am. The float will then proceed to the Rose Parade where it will be Entry No. 32.

After the parade, *Bollywood Dreams* will be on display at the viewing stands on Sierra Madre Blvd. in Pasadena until January 3rd. On January 4th, the float will be on display in Kersting Court from 8am - 5 pm. Flowers from the float can



Rev. Dick Anderson and members of the Kiwanis Key Club from Arcadia High School pose with Sierra Madre Rose Float Princesses Laurel Cipolla and Gail Gutierrez, SMRFA Spokesperson Donna Sutcliffe and SMRFA President Robert Young with the artist's rendering of *Bollywood Dreams*. Photo and Story by S. Henderson

be purchased at that time.

The float, which is 35 feet high, 18 feet wide and 55 feet long, will carry not only the princesses, but also the bride, Asst. Deputy Administrative Manager for the City of Sierra Madre, Veenita Singh. Singh will ride on a Dohli that will be carried primarily by members of the SM Volunteer Fire Department - T.K. Hamada, Todd Conrad, Mario Naranjo, Hardeep Johar, David Padilla, Matt Gaydosh, Corey Lee, Thurman Spicer, Mike Kefaias, Chris Egebjerg, Luis Ornelas, and Robert Newton. Johar and Gaydosh are not membes of the SMVFD. The Groom, who rides atop the elephant, will be Nakul Dev Mahajan. Mahajan is the Artistic Director and Founder

of the NDM Bollywood Dance Studios whose dancers will perform authentic Bollywood dance beside the float. There will also be five crew members on board, Dave Gaydosh, Dick Sappington, Dave Colcher, Mike Dolce, and Mary Beth Gaydosh.

There is still much to do in the final stages of decorating the float. Additional volunteers are welcome. Contact the association at 626-355-7005 for updates on hours and other pertinent information. The association is also still selling t-shirts, coupon books and pins to defray the expense of the float.

SMRFA BARN
587 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre

9 Year Old Sierra Madre Resident Protests Grandmother's Treatment

Well known Sierra Madre Resident, Diane Emerson, passed away last year at Arcadia Methodist Hospital, the alleged victim of elder abuse.



The family of Diane Emerson wants the world to know how she was treated. Many residents knew Diane as the 'mother of Neal the pig'. Neal lives on West Montecito and has delighted neighborhood children for years. By Photo and Story Dean Lee

You could hear it in her voice -Kate Emerson was angry Monday as she stood protesting outside Arcadia Methodist Hospital claiming the hospital mistreated her mother last year —just days before Christmas— mistreatment that allegedly led her to fall into a coma and later die.

"I thought this would be the best way to honor my mother," Emerson said. "So that no one forgets that abuse occurs. Just because she was a dependant adult, 63 years old and had a terminal illness does not mean she has the right to be abused. The vice president of the hospital told me that it did not matter, she was terminally ill anyway."

The idea for the protest came from Emerson's 9-year-old granddaughter, Payton Emerson-Pinawhomade protest signs that read, "Methodist abused my Grandma" and "Methodist covers up abuse." Payton Emerson said she wanted to remember her grandmother, and this was the way she wanted to do it.

Diane Emerson fell into a coma from complications of

pneumonia and later died Dec. 22, 2007 while under the medical care and supervision of the staff at Arcadia Methodist according to her daughter, Kate.

Although the protest consisted of just seven close family members and friends it gained lots of attention as people honked in support. At one point an Arcadia police officer showed up advising them of their rights. "I just want you to know you have the right to be here," he said. "If you have any problems I want you to call the watch commander immediately." He also asked that they stay off the hospital property something Emerson said she had no problem with.

Emerson delivered a letter that afternoon to Arcadia Methodist President and CEO Dennis Lee outlining her side of the story and noting a number of still open investigations. The hospital did not comment on the matter she said.

"I filed a formal complaint with the Arcadia Police Department on December 16, 2007," she wrote in the letter. "I gave the hospital enough time to act and

due to their failure I reported the abuse. The police immediately came to the hospital and took our statement. An additional complaint was made to the Department of Justice." The letter states, "...this letter serves as my Notice of Intent to Sue."

Emerson alleged that her mother was verbally abused, threatened, and assaulted by her respiratory therapist, who she said at one point, left her mother off oxygen. She also alleged that during treatment the therapist ripped the breathing treatment mask from Diane Emerson's face, causing her unnecessary pain. The therapist is alleged to have prevented the patient from calling for help with the use of threats and intimidation. Emerson said the hospital confirmed to Steve Perez, a Special Agent with Department of Justice, that Diane Emerson was left without oxygen for 30 minutes.

Although the names of the hospital staff and therapist were given in the letter, it was decided to leave them out at press time as there was a lack of verification due to the holiday schedule.

Walking In Unity

Hundreds Participate In Annual Candlelight Event



Peace, Harmony and Unity. Photo by Dick Bertrand

By Dean Lee

Hundreds made the annual trek down Baldwin Avenue Sunday as part of this year's annual Community Candlelight Walk, reading scriptures and singing songs, including "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "Silent Night."

What made this year different than the 39 before it was the fact that the procession was not led by former Reverend Dick Anderson of the Sierra Madre Congregational Church but instead by Father Michael Bamberger of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

"About 39 years ago the Pastor at Bethany Church, Bob Vander Zaag and I got together and decided it would be great to have a candlelight walk starting at St. Rita's Catholic Church, going down Baldwin led by all the clergy," Anderson said adding that this was his first year as, "just a participant." He explained that every year people brought candles and made the walk although this year they dodged the rain which had been expected all day. "We're very thankful for that," he said. "I can't remember any year that it rained?"

Anderson also said that a fair amount of preparation had gone into the event, "Eight or nine scripture readings are assigned to each of the clergy, along with sending out



Local Clergy display the true spirit of the season. Photo By Bill Coburn

mailings, getting a permit from the city, that sort of thing." Anderson everyone including the Sierra Madre Police and Fire departments.

The glimmering candlelight moved participants and those just observing, reminding all of what can be accomplished when we all work together. There was also hot cider and other refreshments served to people from a wide variety of religious beliefs and backgrounds. The event truly reflects the spirit of Christmas.

Former Mayor John Buchanan was one of the many participants. "This is one of the great traditions of town," he said. "Just one more instance where the town comes together across denominations. I look forward to it every year."

After the walk, a baby Jesus is placed in the manger at Kersting Court. Two young residents are selected each year to play the part of Mary and Joseph walking down the hill in the dress of the era.

Officers Spread Holiday Cheer

Sierra Madre Police Officers John Ellins and Jeanette Dabney prepare baskets of food for distribution to local seniors just in time for the holidays.



Ellins, President of the SM Police Officers Association says that they are very concerned with the plight of many Sierra Madre seniors, some whom don't have families or are not able to get out easily. The group worked with Senior Coordinator Susan Clifton in order to identify those who would benefit most from the baskets.

Photo by S. Henderson

RESTORATION PROJECT CLOSES MT. WILSON TRAIL Access Limited

The Skyland Slope Restoration Project on the Mt. Wilson Trail will cause the trail to be closed weekdays for the next two months. The Mt. Wilson Trail will be accessible on the weekends and holidays. The public is urged to please use alternate trails out of Chantry Flats or Bailey Canyon during closures.

The Best Seat in the House
Up to the Minute Coverage
New Year's Day

roseparadelive.com
or click on mvobserver.com

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast
Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon: Sunny Hi 70s Lows 50s
Tues: Sunny Hi 70s Lows 50s
Wed: Sunny Hi 70s Lows 50s
Thur: Sunny Hi 60s Lows 50s
Fri: Sunny Hi 60s Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!
Buy A SMRFA Coupon Book!

The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association is still selling the 2009 Entertainment Book in memory of our wonderful volunteer "Knarik Tufenkian". Dine. Shop. Travel. Save! This is really a perfect gift. The localized Entertainment Book is a paperback which contains coupons and discounts to local restaurants, entertainment venues, retail shops, rental cars, sporting events, and vacation deals and more. For a small contribution, you can get a book that will save you hundreds! Don't want the San Gabriel Valley Book? You can purchase one for almost any area. Call Ann Durgerian at 626-574-1331 or SMRFA at 626-355-7005 for more info.

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December



Annual Best Used Book Sale
 Friday from 3pm to 7 pm
 Saturday 10 am to 2 pm



Flu Shot Clinic
 1:30 to 3 pm
 Sierra Madre
 Recreation
 Center

9

Arts Commission
 6:30 p.m.
 Council Chamber

10



Community Services Commission
 6:00 p.m. Council Chamber



15

16

Tree Advisory Commission
 7:00 p.m. Council Chamber

17

Planning Commission
 7:00 p.m. Council Chamber

18



Christmas

25



Happy Holidays From the Mountain Views-Observer

Christmas Tree Recycling

Sierra Madre - Athens will pick up your Christmas Tree for recycling from December 26, 2008 until January 17, 2009. Please put your tree at your curb side or next to your bin on your pickup day. Please be sure all ornaments, stands, tinsel, popcorn etc. are removed leaving only the tree. (Plastic trees may be placed within recyclable containers.) For more information or questions, please call Athens Services at 888-336-6100 or the City of Sierra Madre Public Works at 626-355-7135

Pasadena - City of Pasadena residents have several options for disposing of their holiday trees, compliments of the Department of Public Works. Participants are asked to remove all stands, ornaments and lights so that the trunks and branches may be recycled as compost. Residents may drop off their holiday trees for recycling Monday, Dec. 29 through Saturday, Jan. 3, at: *Eaton Blanche Park, 3100 E. Del Mar Blvd., parking lot on Millicent Way; or *Robinson Park, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave., parking lot on Morton Street. Residents with trash pickup services from city of Pasadena may place their trees curbside, to be picked up on their regular trash pickup day. Trees will be picked up January 5 through 16. For more information call Street Maintenance & Integrated Waste Management Division at (626) 744-4087.

Arcadia - *Single-family Residential:* Holiday tree recycling begins December 26 and ends January 12, 2009. Trees should be placed at the curb on your regularly scheduled trash collection day. Waste Management will pick up the old trees and recycle them in an environmentally sensitive manner. All tinsel, ornaments, stands, and nails must be removed. A separate truck will collect holiday trees, so please do not place your holiday tree in front of your regular refuse/recyclable carts. *Multi-family Residential:* . Please call Waste Management Customer Service at (800) 266-7551 to arrange for your holiday tree to be picked-up and recycled.

Monrovia - The City of Monrovia has franchised residential waste hauling to Athens Services. Athens may be reached at (626) 336-3636.

Duarte - *Collection from Dec. 26 to Jan. 17* The City of Duarte through its franchised trash hauler, Burrtec Waste, will provide a Christmas tree collection service for residential customers in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Sanitation District's annual Christmas Tree Recycling program. The trees will be ground up for composting or used for the County Sanitation Districts' landfill Cover Project. Christmas trees will be collected on regular trash collection days. All decorations must be removed. Flocked trees are acceptable. For more info call Burrtec at (1-800) 325-9417

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 and Deserts

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 all your holiday bakery
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We are baking daily :
 Pumpkin pies
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 Specialty cupcakes
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 Pastries
 Cookies
 and more

Breakfast Items

Breakfast Burrito:

Eggs, Cheese, Country Potatoes,
 Onions, Bell Peppers &
 Bacon Or Sausage in a Warm
 Tortilla with Fresh Salsa
 & Small Coffee or Juice
 \$6.95

Breakfast Bagel:

Eggs, Cheese,
 Bacon or Sausage
 with Tomato on a
 Fresh Toasted Bagel
 & Small Coffee or Juice
 \$6.50

Served Daily 6:30am-11am

bean town
 coffee house & bakery
 Sierra Madre, Ca.

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 \$6.95

Breakfast Bagel:

Eggs, Cheese,
 Bacon or Sausage
 with Tomato on a
 Fresh Toasted Bagel
 & Small Coffee or Juice
 \$6.50

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Altadena

FIVE ACRES ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER



Danny's Shoes Foundation brought 90 gifts to the holiday dinner for the kids at Five Acres.

In what has become an annual tradition, the abused and at-risk children at Five Acres' residential treatment center were treated to a holiday party and dinner served by agency board members – a gathering made more special by an outpouring of gifts donated by Danny's Shoes Foundation.

Danny's Shoes Foundation is a three-year-old nonprofit organization that raises money to provide gifts to children in need and was conceived by Andrew Macias of Winnetka, Calif., and his daughter Stephanie to honor Andrew's father Danny and his compassionate life of giving and generosity. This year they brought 90 gifts to the Five Acres children, purchased by Foundation funds.

The Foundation has become a family enterprise with the addition of friends and family of Julian and Alicia Sandoval, Ted Galvan Jr., and Enrique Cadena and has provided them with a way of having their

children appreciate the importance of giving to others.

Five Acres, founded in 1888 as one of Los Angeles' earliest orphanages, is a child and family services agency providing therapeutic prevention, treatment and education programs to strengthen families and prevent child abuse. Services include residential care and education, mental health services in homes and schools, deaf services, foster care and adoptions and domestic violence prevention. The agency serves more than 5,000 children and families throughout Southern California annually.

Donations of toys, money and time are needed year 'round by Five Acres. For more information or to make a donation, contact Susan Silverman at (626) 798-6793 ext. 2279 or ssilverman@fiveacres.org. Visit Five Acres' website at www.fiveacres.org.

Duarte

Margaret Finlay Named to Top NLC Leadership Post

Duarte Council Member Margaret Finlay, has been appointed as chair of the International Council of the National League of Cities (NLC) in 2009. Council Member Finlay's appointment was announced recently by NLC President Kathleen M. Novak, Mayor, Northglenn, Colo. NLC's International Council helps develop recommendations on policy and advocacy strategies that address international issues significant to municipal governments in the United States.

The year ahead will be critical for the future of this country and for our cities and towns, said Novak. In light of the economic crisis, we must work with the new administration to ensure that the needs of our hometowns are part of the conversation. Issues such as infrastructure investment, housing and workforce development, along with reliable sources of funding for municipalities are critical to building a stronger America. I will look to Margaret's leadership on this important committee to help define our expectations and sharpen our message on behalf of cities and towns.

Working with Finlay as committee vice chairs are Milwaukee, Wis., Alderman, Joe Davis Sr. and Commerce City, Colo., Mayor Paul Natale.

The International Council provides advice, direction and support to NLC's International Programs. The Council has a lead role in efforts to educate municipal leaders about the opportunities and challenges of globalization.

The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans. To learn more about the National League of Cities, go to www.nlc.org.

Pasadena

In Giving, We Receive...

La Salle's 12th Annual Adopt-a-Family Christmas Party



La Salle students, from left, Daniella Laset, Jose Robleto, Nick Sonnenberg and Heather Marsh, prepare to deliver gifts to needy families at the La Salle Adopt-a-Family Christmas Party. Photo Courtesy LaSalle High School

Getting a jump start on Christmas, on December 13, 2008, La Salle High School hosted its 12th annual Adopt-a-Family program benefiting the families of Hillside and Bienvenidos Family Services. Nearly a hundred smiling children and their parents enjoyed the La Salle Christmas party. Santa arrived early as families with Bienvenidos and foster children from Hillside, took home Christmas gifts from Santa. Hillside and Bienvenidos Family Services are local groups working with children and families in need.

This Christmas season the entire La Salle community participated in the Adopt-a-Family Christmas Party. Mr. Brandon Birr '03, Service coordinator, with the assistance of the Student Life team, orchestrated the efforts of La Salle students, faculty, staff and parents who contributed countless hours preparing for the event. The Adopt-a-Family project encourages each classroom to "adopt" a family and provides donated gifts, toys and clothes for these families in need. These efforts culminate in a family dinner, a visit from Santa, bingo and games and sports contests for the children all at La Salle. This year the Alumni Association and the faculty also sponsored families.

As temporary as the food, gifts and party may be, the happiness and goodwill lasts well beyond the holiday season. "The experience of making a difference in people's lives around the holidays continues to have an effect on faculty and students as they spend time with their own families," commented Brandon Birr.



Santa visits La Salle at the Adopt-a-Family Christmas Party.

120th Annual Tournament Of Roses Parade - Thursday, January 1, 2009

PARADE FAQs:

How long does the parade last? 2 1/2 hours from any given point. What time does the parade start? 8:00 a.m.

Where does the parade start? Ellis Street & Orange Grove. It then continues North on Orange Grove then East on Colorado Blvd. to Sierra Madre Blvd., then north on Sierra Madre Blvd. to Paloma Street – a total of 5 1/2 miles. See map

How soon can I arrive? Curbside camping on the parade route is allowed beginning at noon the day before the parade.

What are the rules and regulations along the Parade route? For information about rules and regulations along the Rose Parade route call the Pasadena Police Department at (626) 744-4598 or visit their website. Following are some of the rules all spectators should know:

Grandstand ticket holders will not be allowed to bring backpacks, coolers or large bags.

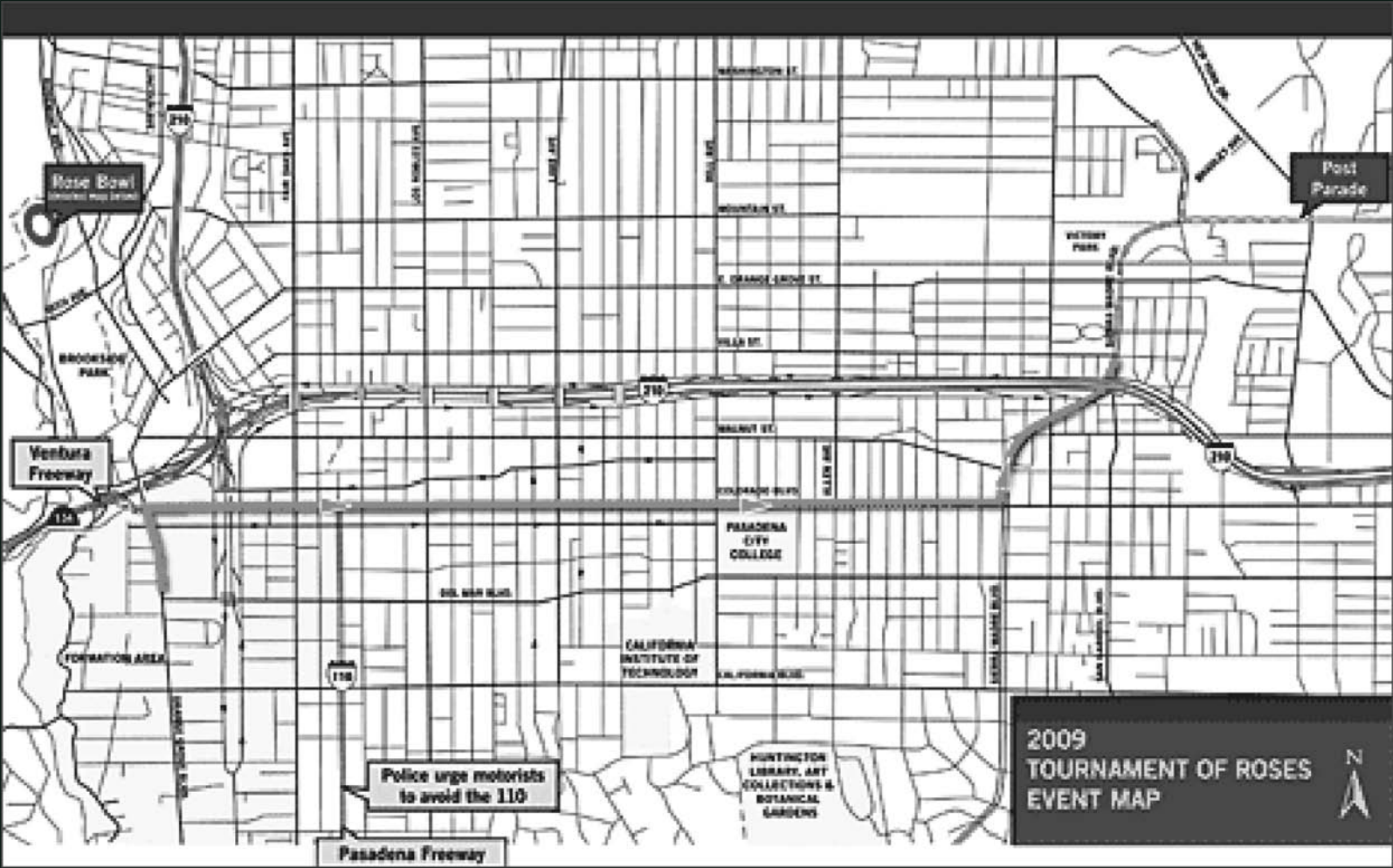
There is a curfew law for those under 18 in effect from 10 pm to 5am. There must be a parent or guardian present.

No public, curbside parade viewing on Orange Grove Blvd. from Del Rosa to Colorado Blvd. and on Colorado from Orange Grove to Terrace. Grandstand ticket holders only.

Overnight camping is permitted only on the night before the parade. Do not arrive before noon the day before the parade.

All persons and property such as blankets, chairs, etc., must remain on the curb until 11 p.m. on the night before the parade. At that time spectators may move out to the blue honor line.

Small, professionally manufactured barbecues elevated at least one foot off the ground are allowed on the parade route.



Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Roes Parade Goes Smoke Free

By Dean Lee

Pasadena Public Information Officer Ann Erdman did not send out a press release this time regarding the city's new smoking ban but instead posted on her blog Monday that those that wish to smoke at this year's Rose Parade are just not welcome, or at least along the 5.5 mile parade route.

She writes, "Fair warning to smokers who light up along the parade route on New Year's Day: You'll be asked by a police officer to either put it out or go a block or so away from the route to enjoy your cigarette, pipe or cigar. The fine for ignoring the officer: \$100 for the first violation (it goes up from there)."

Erdman also points out that, the law which took effect Nov. 30 now prohibits smokers from lighting up at outdoor shopping malls, outdoor patios at bars and restaurants, outdoor public gatherings like parades and festivals, or outdoor areas of private smokers' lounges and tobacco shops.

She also said "Smoking is also prohibited in or within 20 feet of an outdoor waiting line, such as a bank ATM or movie theater ticket booth, or within 20 feet of a doorway or window of a building where smoking is prohibited."

According to Pasadena Public Health Department staff, enforcement of the proposed policies would be built into an existing enforcement mechanism operated by their department. This mechanism is a complaint-driven process.

The health department is spreading the word about the new law with public education and new signage she said.

For more information or to report a violation of the new law, call the Pasadena Public Health Department at (626) 744-6014.

Erdman's blog is pasadenapio.blogspot.com.

Free Winter Break Activities Offered At Robinson Park Center

Children and teens ages 4 to 14 can enjoy arts and crafts, sports and fitness, table games, movies and more during Winter Break at Robinson Park Center, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave. Activities are scheduled Monday, Dec. 29; Tuesday, Dec. 30; and Friday, Jan. 2. This program is free. For more information call Yuriko Montes at Robinson Park Center, (626) 744-7305.

Looking Back; 2008 in Headlines



This year will go down in history for some of the biggest news stories in history obviously starting with the election of Barack Obama, the collapse of Wall Street, the U.S. bank failures, including IndyMac here in Pasadena, all the bailouts, scandals, etc. The editors of



this paper decided to look back at some of the "not so big" headline that may have been skipped over by some although had profound changes in local day to day life. All stories are dated when first published and partly reprinted as they appeared.

A Bridge Over Troubled Waters

March 10, Volume 2, No. 9

City officials confirmed in March that the long awaited redesigned of the La Loma Bridge in the Arroyo Seco was put on hold after geologists said a semi active fault may lie directly underneath the bridge. Project Manager Roubik, said they now know the Eagle

Foothill's Study Looks at New 'Rim of the Valley National Park'

May 23, Volume 2, No. 18

Looking over park of the San Fernando Valley in 100 degree heat last May, Congressman Adam Schiff told a local group of environmentalist supporters that the next step after President George Bush's signing of the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study legislation was to tell the federal government exactly what they wanted to see

Audit Says Parsons and Pentagon Wasted Millions of U.S. Tax Dollars

August 1, Volume 2, No. 28

A new round of audits confirmed Pasadena based Parsons Corp. failed to complete numerous projects in Iraq that would have amounted to \$900,000 million. Instead the audit points to wasted funds on substandard construction only completing 34 percent of all jobs that, included, among other things, police stations, border control

High-tech Bus Arrival System Funds OK'd

Dec. 5, Volume 2, No. 46

Soon bus riders in Pasadena will be able to retrieve real-time local ARTS Shuttle arrival data on their cell phones and/or on signs at bus stops. The over \$1 million Intelligent Transportation System project includes \$834,077 in federal funds with a required local match of \$208,520. The city council last month approved an agreement with the Los Angeles

Traffic Signals To Be Altered For Parade

As an annual prelude to the Rose Parade, 14 traffic signals are altered so that a week prior to the parade tall floats that need extra clearance can safely make their way through Pasadena intersections.

The Pasadena Transportation Department urges motorists to drive safely during this period of traffic signal changes and increased pedestrian activity.

Each year for the parade, signal mast arms that

Rock Fault lies between two of the pillars underneath the bridge. "Any redesign will have to work around that," he said, but assured the project would still continue. He said that having to redo some of the bridge design has set the project back to, at least, early next year. Currently there is no completion date he said.

done. The legislation was included in the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 and signed by Bush May, 8. Schiff said the study was a seven year effort which began in 2001. The estimated \$500,000 study will take three years to complete. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Director, Joseph Edmiston, called Bush's signing "the first step toward a new national park."

stations, fire stations, fire stations, courthouses and prisons. The contract for security and justice work in Iraq was awarded in 2004 for two years with three one-year options. The report said Parsons received \$333 million for individual jobs and task orders. It also said 66 percent of jobs were canceled leaving \$142 million unaccounted for. The contract was canceled in August 2006.

County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to act as the pass-through agency for the funds charging the city \$41,704 for the service. Staff said Metro would only manage the funds. Assistant City Manager Julie Gutierrez said Thursday the system would work similar to train stations with a digital display. She said similar cities have the arrival system including Portland and Glendale. Buses would use GPS and the data would be sent through an internet interface staff said.

extend over the travel lanes are removed, or replaced with shorter signal mast arms or poles having no mast arms.

Signals with left turn arrows will be removed Dec. 27 to 31 at locations along Colorado Boulevard, Orange Grove Boulevard, Green Street, Sierra Madre Boulevard, Orange Grove Boulevard, Washington Boulevard and Del Mar Boulevard.

For more information call 744-6900.



San Gabriel Valley MTA Board Discusses Massive Service Cuts

February 15, Volume 2, No. 6

With a room full of heated bus riders, the Metro San Gabriel Valley Service Sector Governance Council met Feb. 11 in El Monte, and to take public input on cutting seven local area bus lines, including the 177 connecting Caltech to JPL and the 256, clinical to those living in Altadena. Metro San Gabriel Valley Service Development Manager John Hillmer, said

the cuts were a major change, but necessary to make other lines more productive by streamlining buses and services. He also said in Pasadena they were adding a new rapid bus service, 260, along Fair Oaks Avenue from Colorado Boulevard to Imperial Highway. About 50 riders spoke, all opposed to the cuts, most of them focused on line 177 from Sierra Madre Gold Line to JPL. Hillmer said about 400 people take the line daily. Update: as of this week MTA officials have said the 177 has not been cut.

Predevelopment" Monty's Steakhouse Site Considered

April 29, Volume 2, No. 16

The city council heard in April the beginning of a proposed 113,200 square foot office building to be built off California Boulevard, but not before first demolishing the landmark Monty's Steakhouse restaurant that now sits in the way, including

the scripted neon "Monty's" sign once designated a historic landmark. The sign sits broken, with part of the letter "M" missing. The restaurant first opened in 1941 and closed last June. The popular "old money" hangout made news after some 25 employees were given less than a week's notice before its closing.

Speeding Ahead To Gain Local Control

June 13, Volume 2, No. 21

What essentially would boil down to simply changing a word in the state vehicle code could in fact give older cities like Pasadena the ability to set some speed limits locally the city's Department of Transportation told the Legislative Policy Committee in May. That word is "or." Although it may sound simple, city staff said the process would require getting a state representative to author a bill,

then rallying support from other cities, and lobbying as many people in Sacramento as possible to get the job done. "we are suggesting a language change in the vehicle that would allow us the option to apply either the definition under the prima facie laws 'or' the option of doing an engineering and traffic speed survey should we chose to for monetary reasons," said Frederick Dock, Director for the city's Department of Transportation.

Campaign Disclosure Statements to Go Online

Dec. 12, Volume 2, No. 47

Anyone that now wants to know detailed accounting information on money spent or contributions received in support or opposition of a candidate, campaign, or measure will be able to do so with the click of a mouse. The city council voted unanimously Monday night in favor of posting campaign disclosure statements on the city's website. The statements will include those related to Pasadena local elections for city council, PUSD, and local measure. Councilmember Steve Madison, who proposed the idea, said he was surprised the idea had

not already been done. "It was something in this computer age, one would expect, could be easily done," he said later adding, "I think all of us probably fell as though transparency is a good thing, it should be." e went on to say that people needed good information especially in an age where they have to deal with blogging something he said was notorious for giving out bad information. Madison explained this was in part because of a system where an individual had to go through the city clerk to get the information, "that could be cumbersome," he said.

Tips for Staying Safe along Rose Parade Route

WHAT YOU CAN'T DO:

Smoking is prohibited along the parade route. Tents, sofas and boxes of any type that can be used as stools or seats are prohibited along the route. Unoccupied chairs are not allowed. Bonfires are prohibited and considered "illegal burns." Fireworks are prohibited except as part of scheduled official events. No items may be sold along the parade route without a permit. No public areas (sidewalks, curbs, gutters, streets) may be cordoned or roped off. No ladders or scaffolding may be used as elevation for viewing the activities. It is illegal to buy, sell or give away horns on the parade route. Pets are not recommended along the parade route because they are easily frightened by sudden, loud noises. Selling space along the parade route, other than grandstand seating, is illegal. Throwing any projectile into the parade, including seemingly harmless items such as tortillas, marshmallows and flowers, is prohibited. Vehicles obstructing emergency lanes will be towed. Walking in the street is not permitted during the parade. Open containers of alcohol are illegal on public streets, sidewalks and all other public areas. Sale, possession and use of illegal drugs will not be tolerated.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Camping is permitted only on the night of Dec. 31. A permanent position on the sidewalk may be maintained along the parade route beginning at noon on Dec. 31. The "Blue Line" is the honor line. All persons and property such as blankets, chairs, etc., must remain on the curb until 11 p.m. on Dec. 31. At that time spectators may move out to the honor line. Small, professionally manufactured barbecues elevated at least one foot off the ground are allowed on the parade route, 25' from buildings or other combustibles. A fire extinguisher must be readily available. Minors under the age of 18 may be on the parade route from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. only if they are under the supervision of adults. Dress for cold weather. Children and senior citizens may need extra layers of clothing to avoid hypothermia. Stay hydrated and consume nourishing meals to avoid dehydration. Report any suspicious activities and packages to emergency authorities along the parade route. In case of emergency call (626) 744-4241 from a cellular phone or 9-1-1 from a landline phone; know the cross streets from which you are calling.

AT&T Not Playing Fair Board Says

August 8, Volume 2, No. 29

It was hard to tell who was "in compliance," at the city's Community Access Corporation monthly board meeting in August as everything they discussed was about being "out of compliance," including AT&T's new U-Verse —television that uses internet protocol for delivery. They went so far as to adopt a draft resolution to implement a campaign educating the public about channel quality, channel placement, and channel functionality provisions. There was also talk about producing a public service announcement to air on the Pasadena Community Network although they were careful not to single any particular cable provider out.

Old Town Hooters no Longer a Hoot

Oct. 3, Volume 2, No. 37

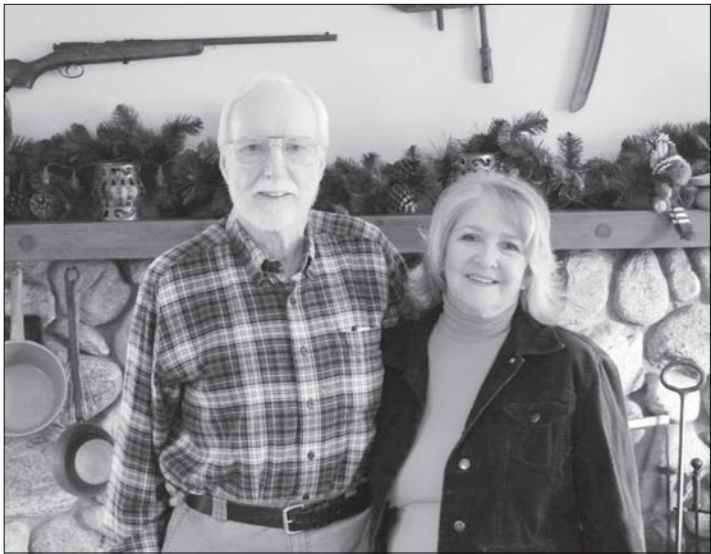
The party had ended for those that frequent old town Hooters as they quietly closed for good in September, sending those that want burgers, buffalo wings and beer — or, um, well? — to either Hooters of Burbank or West Covina, according to a sign on the door of the still vacant restaurant. Jeff Wineman, Hooters' Vice President of Human Resources, blamed the closer on the failing economy saying the store had always done "marginal." He also said a denial for a full liquor license by the city council had nothing to do with closing something some said is not entirely true.

A Weekly Spotlight on
Sierra Madre Volunteers

focus

BEN & JUDY MARTIN

Pair of Volunteers Equal Total Assemblage



Benn & Judy Photo By Bill Coburn

Geographers tell us that cyclones swirl on the earth daily. Sierra Madre has its own whirlwind -- Judy Webb-Martin. This 30-year Realtor is also a volunteer, par excellence, having been president, co-chair, director of many local entities. Sierra Madre Elementary School PTA President; S.M. Chamber President; Chair of the Cultural Heritage Commission; Pioneer Days Co-chair; 2007 Centennial Committee Co-chair. She was on the Economic Development Council, Senior Citizen Commission, Zoning Committee, Sierra Madre

Master Plan Committee; and on the Board of Directors of American Cancer Society. And Judy was 1998 Sierra Madre Citizen of the Year.

But that's not all. She's a member of Kiwanis Club and Civic Club, and Webb-Martin Realtors was the first recipient in 2006 of the Sierra Madre Wistaria Award. Judy was on the Founding Board of the Community Foundation, and now Benn, her husband, is Treasurer of the group.

Judy has been a member of the Arcadia Board of Realtors since 1977, serving as its president in '94. She was Realtor of the Year in 1995 and received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003.

In a recent interview with Benn and Judy, the conversation about volunteerism went like this:

Judy: "You have to have commitment to the community where you live. It's your responsibility."

Benn: "I never felt that compulsion early but I did take job-focused initiative seriously at JPL. However, I've been a member of the Foundation Board since its formation in 2000, and I've come to appreciate how rewarding volunteering can be."

Judy: "Volunteering is the core in Sierra Madre. You come here, you need to participate whether it's doing the Dog Park or political issues or whatever."

Benn: "You need to be willing and able to spend the time."

Judy: "Because of the size of the town, you can make a difference."

Judy comes from Miami, FL and Benn from Northeastern United States. She was owner/broker of Webb-Martin Realtors until this year, when she merged with Dickson Podley Realtors and now continues in the position of Broker/Agent.

When Judy first saw Sierra Madre on the Fourth of July in the '70s, she thought, "I want to live in this town that's so hokey. There were more people in the Fourth of July Parade than on the sidelines, watching." So she moved here in 1971.

Benn originally came to California in 1957 to accept a job at JPL and from 1984 - 2000 was responsible for JPL earth remote sensing instruments. This math-engineer major also plays the trumpet on good days.

Benn and Judy met at a party at her house on Aug. 8, 1980 and that was pretty much it. When they were married in 1987, they still had four of their combined family of five living with them. Now all have gone on to their careers.

Judy and Benn live in an 1882 structure that was the Ocean View Hotel, and in 1986 they converted it into their home, now full of antiques and curios.

Judy said, "Without Benn's help shopping, cooking, communicating with family and friends, planning vacations, I couldn't have been as heavily involved as I have been. He's now recovering from double hip replacement surgery and I've had to temporarily do 'his job,' and I never realized how much I depend on his help for my volunteering until now."

Benn: "I have supported Judy's daunting volunteer (and business) activities by keeping the home fires burning." He also keeps the "Whirlwind" grounded.

Volunteers are needed to help in a wide range of activities in Sierra Madre. Please contact De Alcorn at 626-355-4793 or dalcorn@cityofsierramadre.com for more information.

Fire Safe Council
"Announcements and Observations"

The January 5, 2009 Fire Safe Council meeting in the City Council chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. will have a special guest speaker from the Silverado-Mojeska Canyon of Orange County (Fire Safe Council representatives) to speak to the residents of Sierra Madre canyons and foothills about this area's long-term activity protecting their homes from the brush fires of October 2007 and the subsequent mud and debris flows in the winter months of 2007 and 2008.

We have had both natural disaster events to contend with as well: Fire--April, 2007. Mud--May, 2008, October, November and December 2008.

It is very difficult to predict the exact time of arrival of the Pacific storms that bring a concentration of rain to our fire denuded hillsides and to prepare the neighborhoods for evacuation and property protection. Some neighborhoods will be hit more heavily than others with the inconvenience of having to move cars, pets, people, etc. to stay out of harms way.

Please attend this very important meeting and learn of how the neighborhoods have to work together and volunteer to help their neighbors through these very difficult years. The dangers cannot be ignored. The fire is over, the mud keeps coming. For further information, call Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council: 355-0741.

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, December 14th, to Saturday December 20th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 277 calls for service.

Sunday, December 14th:

6:37 PM – Residential burglary, 300 block East Highland Ave. A beige 2000 Toyota Camry was stolen from the garage. The side garage door was unlocked and used to gain entry. The crime occurred Sunday, 12/14 between 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm. No loss estimate was available.

Monday, December 15th:

7:17 AM – Arrest, Trespassing, 621 East Sierra Madre Blvd. A transient, sleeping in a tent was discovered camping inside the city's fenced maintenance yard. The man was arrested and issued a citation for the violation and released on a written promise to appear.

6:22 PM - Arrest, Kersting Court. An intoxicated man was reported refusing the leave Lucky Baldwin's. The man was found seated on the sidewalk, intoxicated and unable to care for himself. The man was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

Tuesday, December 16th:

8:17 AM - Arrest, Felony false evidence of registration, Unauthorized access to computers, 600 block Mariposa Ave. A Sierra Madre motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed his driver's license was suspended/revoked. The car he was driving had stolen current registration tabs, but per DMV the registration was expired. Further investigation led the officer to believe that the motorist's mother, a DMV employee who was the passenger in the car, had given her son the fraudulent registration. The driver and passenger were arrested and transported to the Pasadena Police for remand. DMV investigators responded to handle the entire investigation.

15:30 PM – Arrest, The Altadena Sheriffs' Department recovered the beige Toyota Camry that was stolen last Sunday. The two female juveniles were in possession of the car and taken into custody. Det. Gonzalez followed up and identified an additional burglary in Altadena. The case is currently under investigation.

Thursday, December 18th:

11:15 AM – Vandalism, 82 West Sierra Madre. The glass window on the east side of the business had 1 ft x 2 ft swirls scratched into the glass. The damage occurred between Thursday, 12/11 and Thursday, 12/18. No dollar loss estimate was available.

10:40 PM – Arrest, 232 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Memorial Park. A man was arrested for theft of utility (electricity) services and loitering in the park after closing time. The man was arrested and transported to the Sierra Madre P.D. Jail. The man was later released on a citation.

Friday, December 19th:

3:22 PM – Arrest, Baldwin Ave and Arbolada Ave. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed his driver's license was suspended/revoked. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

Saturday, December 20th:

3:22 AM – Arrest, 80 East Grandview Ave. A motorist was stopped for traffic violation. During the investigation the driver was determined to be driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI. The Pasadena resident was arrested and transported to the Sierra Madre Police Department.

11:15 AM – Vandalism, 200 block South Canon Ave. A mail box was struck with a baseball bat. The crime occurred between Friday evening and Saturday morning. No loss estimate was available.

Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know?



Sending and Saving Green

By Pat Birdsall

Americans toss out an extra 25 million tons of trash over the holidays, largely due to the packaging!

That's really astonishing, and I'm certainly going to make a concerted effort to do better next year. I found some good suggestions that I thought I would share with you...

1- When mailing gifts, consider reusing *older* boxes. As long as they are free of markings and well sealed, almost any box can be used as a shipping container.

2- Due to the environmental problems associated with polystyrene, don't use packing peanuts or bubble wrap unless they are cornstarch-based. If you already have the polystyrene peanuts, reuse them or recycle them locally at Mail Box & Postal, 80 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. -- Companies have also begun to tap into the paper recycling industry to create packaging from recycled paper.

3- When it comes to shipping, where costs are directly related to the weight of your items, it is in your best interests to reduce. Ship your items in the smallest possible containers, and do not over-pack with filling, using only enough to secure the item that you're sending. You can shred discarded mail or circulars to use as filler instead of foam peanuts.

4- In order to increase the ease of recycling, the USPS now allows you to print shipping labels at home (on recycled paper), and their stamps are made with inks and adhesives that are biodegradable and will not interfere with the recycling of envelopes and boxes.

With a little creativity and resourcefulness, it is possible to save money and resources this holiday and those in the future.

Happy Holidays to one and all...from the Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

Brought to you by:

Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council (SMEAC)
P.O. Box 85
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025-0085



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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.



Rich Johnson

undoubtedly ended up in one of those forward combat areas.

And the first New Year's resolution for many of us is to buy our presents early and avoid the pre-Christmas combat. Do we ever honor that resolution? What do you think? Of course not.

So, as a service to the community I love and cherish, I thought I would tender some suggestions for next Christmas' purchasing frenzy. No, I'm not going to tell you where to get socks or ties, CDs or video games. After all, we all hope to amaze and delight the gift recipients with the cleverness of our selections. Before I begin, I must tell you the resources

2009 Christmas Purchasing Tips

Well, Christmas is now behind us. Most of us tried to avoid the shopping malls during the last remaining days leading up to Christmas but

I am using for the pricing of these following items is eleven years old, so account for inflation. You do the math ('cause math is not my strong suit).

You can rent Disneyland for a private party. The park will only charge you \$19 per person. However, they do have a minimum. So, get out your phonebook as they insist you bring at least 7,000 friends with you. In 1997 dollars, that would be \$133,000.

Who wouldn't like to have an El Toro mechanical bull in their den or on the back patio? A unit just like the one John Travolta rode in Urban Cowboy can be purchased for only \$7,500 plus shipping.

For a mere \$1,300 you can purchase a complete, authentic natural bone skeleton. There is some assembly required. Although, I'm fairly certain you don't need 4 "D" batteries. If that's a little pricey, for \$430 you can purchase an already assembled life-

size plastic human skeleton. Whew, I just heard a sigh of relief.

If you are looking for something that comes installed, a roller coaster can be yours for only \$8 million dollars. An 18-passenger model for children can be picked up for a mere \$180,000. Email me if you want the address of where to write.

You can send your dog away for an 8-week course of acting lessons. It includes room and board and is only \$4,150 bucks. There is a catch. He or she has to have completed the \$2,800 Advanced Obedience Course before the acting lessons. There's always a catch, isn't there?

If you're tired of driving the same old sedan, truck or SUV, how about one of these rigs: Garbage truck, \$99,000. Cement truck, \$96,000. Greyhound bus, \$260,000, 3-passengersubmarine, \$39, 750 (48 passenger unit is \$3.5 million).

If home improvement is on your list

**Stuart Tolchin On..LIFE**

Yes, back by popular demand, here is my second annual recounting of a few of the more powerful images from the

past year that are still rattling around in my brain.

1) One would expect that the most powerful image would be connected with the election of Barack Obama as our next President. After all, a significant percentage of my writing was connected to the Presidential election, but as I close my eyes what image do I see? What I see is that Hank Paulson character telling us that we have to give him 700 billion dollars or we will all be living on the street. I remember him acting like some car salesman telling us we had to act now and should not ask too many questions. I wrote a column on how this request was more like a demand at gunpoint and that I now felt really scared about the economy and wondered what was going to

happen to all of us. I still feel that way even though it seems like our President-elect is appointing what passes for competent people; it still feels to me as if there is this giant snowball rolling downhill getting larger and larger and gathering more and more momentum and LOOK OUT!!!! A rather bothersome image.

2) The Fire. I can still see in my mind that arrow of flame coming right down the mountain seemingly pointed directly at our house. It was my birthday, April 26th, right before midnight and it was necessary for us canyon-dwellers to gather up our valuables and get out of town. As we stalled in traffic on our way down Mountain Trail we observed the flatland Sierra Madreans sort of bemusedly videoing the potential destruction of our homes. It was a strange experience, made even more surreal a few days later as my wife and I watched ourselves on Channel 4 re-entering our home. My mind's eye can still see my wife calmly describing for the world the destruction of

IMAGES OF 2008

the hillside all around our home. Waking up the next morning and viewing the scorched hills was a devastating experience and yet now it all seems like it was for the best--I guess the hills needed a good burning to get rid of excess growth and Sierra Madre is now aware of the potential harm caused by fire and mud slides and we are all much better-prepared. SURPRISE- so maybe it was all for the good.

3) The last image I have space to discuss is the spectacular but highly disturbing Olympic Opening and Closing Ceremonies. I think most everyone saw at least a portion of these events and probably had a similar experience of being awed by the sheer numbers of people involved and the incredible expense of producing such an event. As entertaining as this spectacle was, the lasting feeling that I have is a fear of some authoritarian government telling its inhabitants to jump through hoops of fire and smile as if it's an enjoyable experience. It somehow portends to me a future

in which we are not only told what to do but are also told how to feel about doing it. Maybe that future is already here. Service with a smile, you know.

Okay, that's my feeling about our recently departed 2008. I have a certain feeling of being a viewer, an uninvolved observer of our own destruction watching the disaster on television and occasionally hearing my friends and family interviewed as jobs are lost and homes are foreclosed. Maybe, in the end it will all be for the good or maybe not. Maybe, like China, we are trying to sell an illusion to ourselves and to the rest of the world. Are Secretary Paulson and the Obama appointees merely posturing or is there still time to prevent complete disaster? Well, as usual, only time will tell.

Until then HAPPY NEW YEAR and BEST WISHES FOR THE COMING YEAR

From The Desk Of.... Glenn Lambdin Saving A Part Of Our Forgotten History: Part 1

Today, I sent a certified letter to the City Clerk giving notice that I am nominating the City owned property at 186 W. Highland to the State of California's list of historical properties.

One of the things that I've grown to learn about myself is that I don't do well not getting the things that I want. Having taken the word "can't" out of my dictionary as a young man, and just being plain "thick-headed," I don't easily take "no" for an answer. Such is the case with my attempts to get the City Council to list the old Christian Science Church in our local register of historical properties.

Last October, I went before the City Council with a nomination application in hopes of adding the City owned property at 186 W. Highland to our register of local historical landmarks. Built in 1921, this property originally was a Christian Science Church but has sit vacant for many years, with the exception of a few years when the City used the old church as a temporary Youth Activity Center (YAC). The City bought the property

about 12 years ago and now intends on turning the property into multiple affording housing units.

This was not my first attempt to preserve the property. In 1999, I submitted an application for the same but was told that the City needs to wait before making a commitment. In my mind, I guessed 9 years was a reasonable and adequate amount of time to wait. Was I ever wrong. This time, I was again told that the City needs to wait. Of course, I am not really sure what it is we are waiting for, but then again this is government and government doesn't always make sense.

So instead of venting my disappointment and frustrations in this newspaper against members of the City Council that claim they want "conservation not construction" and claim to be pro-preservation yet voted against preserving this property, I decided that I'll share the history and significance of the property with the public. Since the City appears more interested in the development than preservation of this property, I decided to nominate the



property to the State Register of Historical Properties. If the State declines, I'll try the National Registry. Like I said, I don't take "no" very well. The bottom-line is that I don't really care how it's preserved or who preserves the property, I just want it preserved.

In my research, I stumbled on an incredible forgotten history of Sierra Madre and how local events from the late 1800's tie into California and national histories and persons considered pioneers in these events. Over the next few weeks, I'll be sharing some of the actual historical data that went into the State application. I welcome any comments and can be reached by email at g.lambdin@mvsobserver.com.

PS. On a side note. I just went and checked today's mail and found a Christmas card from Mrs. Manley, my second grade school teacher from Sierra Madre Elementary School. Forty five years later and she still remembers. I ask ya, where else but Sierra Madre would this happen?

Happy Holidays to all.

Trish's Truth by Trisha Collins

Trish's Teen Top 8 of 2008

By Trisha Collins

Wow. Can you believe it? The year of 2008 is over, and what a memorable year it was! Is it just me, or did it go by so fast? I'm here to bring you my view of the best of 2008:

Best Movie: In my opinion (and the opinion of thousands of other teens across the nation), Twilight was the best movie of 2008. This new release captured the hearts of numerous fans of Meyers' books. I, myself, have been pulled into the thrilling love story. Who knew vampires could be so romantic?

Best Song: At one point, I know we all were found guilty of humming one of rapper, Lil Wayne's songs. I must say, his two hits "Lollipop" and "A Millie" come in a tie when it comes to the best song. The lyrics might not be squeaky clean, but we can all agree his rhymes are top notch. For a guy who quit school after the 6th grade, his use of metaphors and similes could impress any educator.

Best Trend: This year, you didn't just find plaid on picnic tables. Plaid jumped off in a whole new direction in '08. Girls were sporting plaid dresses and guys were rockin' plaid flannel shirts. Then, as the year progressed, plaid escalated towards appearing on shoes, handbags, headbands, and jackets. I have a good feeling that this plaid trend will continue through 2009.

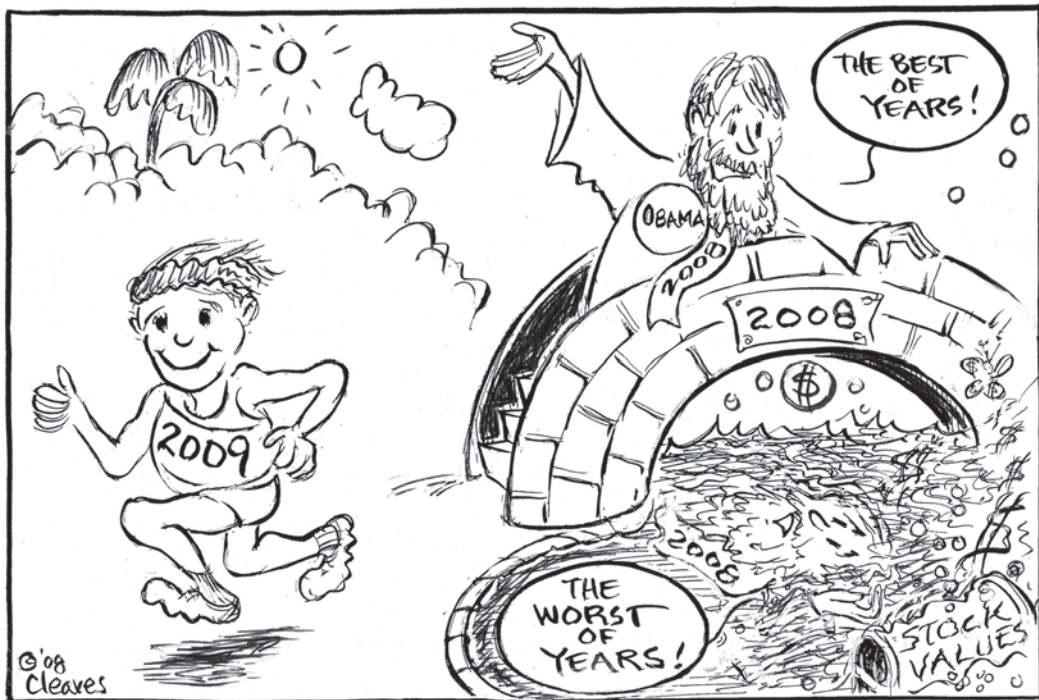
Best Phrase: Whether you text or not, everyone is familiar with the phrase "OMG". But to me, that was the phrase of 2007, and "LOL" has definitely taken its place. That's a saying that definitely lightens and defines any mood. Sure you can text "I hate you", but if it's followed by a casual "...LOL", you know that it's all good.

Best Gadget: The iPhone raised the bar for all other phones to come. You could say it's the best gadget since, well, the iPod.

Most Embarrassing Moment: Bush almost getting hit by a shoe. We all saw this moment either on the news, by e-mail, and thank God for YouTube. This must have been a pretty embarrassing time for our "soon-to-be-former" president.

Best President: Barack Obama! Well, he's not president yet, but it looks like he's been making more progress since Election Day than Bush has all term.

What's the #8 "Best of '08"? I'll let you decide that one for yourself. Good Luck in the new year!



Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

U.S. Naval Observatory To Add Leap Second To Clocks

WHAT! The powers-that-be are tampering with time! Is nothing sacred?

We all know about leap year—adding an extra day to February every fourth year (it happens the same year as Presidential elections, so it's easy to remember). Well, at the end of 2008, as the clock strikes twelve on New Year's Eve, the time gurus are adding a "leap second" to everybody's clocks. As though 2008 weren't already long enough!

On December 31, the leap second will be added to the world's clocks at 23 hours, 59 minutes and 59 seconds Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) (3:59:59 pm Pacific Standard Time), when the extra second will be inserted at the U.S. Naval Observatory's Master Clock Facility in Washington, D.C. This marks the 24th leap second to be added to UTC, a uniform time-scale kept by atomic clocks around the world, since 1972.

Historically, time was based on the mean rotation of the earth relative to celestial bodies and the second was defined in this reference frame. However, the invention of atomic clocks defined a much more precise "atomic time" scale and a second that is independent of the earth's rotation.

In 1970, an international agreement established two timescales: one based on the rotation of the earth and one based on atomic time. The problem is that the earth's rotation is very gradually slowing down, which necessitates the periodic insertion of a leap second into the atomic timescale to keep the two within 1 second of each other. The International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS) is the organization that monitors the difference in the two timescales and calls for leap seconds to be inserted or removed when necessary. Since 1972, leap seconds have been added at intervals varying from six months to seven years, with the last one being inserted on December 31, 2005.

The U.S. Naval Observatory is charged with the responsibility for the precise determination and dissemination of time for the Department of Defense, and maintains its Master Clock. The U.S. Naval Observatory, together with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), determines time for the United States. Modern electronic navigation and communications systems depend increasingly on the dissemination of precise time through such mechanisms as the Internet-based Network Time Protocol (NTP) and the satellite-based Global Positioning System (GPS).

The U.S. Naval Observatory is the largest single contributor to the international time scale (UTC), which is computed in Paris, France, at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures.

Information about the U.S. Naval Observatory and its mission, history, and programs is available at <http://www.usno.navy.mil>.

WAITING FOR MIDNIGHT

Twilight, New Year's Eve...
One cricket stayed behind to count
The last slow seconds.

Waiting for midnight...
So much passing or passé
Or just déjà vu.

At this midnight hour
All Earth's clocks stand still for the
Sixty-first second.

If you'd like to learn more, you can contact Bob at beklund@mrvobserver.com (Unless otherwise noted, poems used in this column are by Robert L. Eklund and are copyrighted by him.)



From the Inside Out: Simple Eating

By Mary Carney



In all that's being written about the economy, and finding ways to save money, and learning how to maximize the wise use of every resource, remember that the general health of the British civilian population improved during WW II years. Why? Food rationing. Huh? Yes, in order to feed their (and our) troops, the governments rationed food, and demanded that everyone who had land grow as much food of their own as possible. Each person was given a ration book that permitted them to buy only so much sugar, flour, butter, and sometimes meat per month. When your coupons were gone, they were gone.

Reducing access to sugar and refined flour food stuffs meant that only real food was available. Whole grain breads. Fresh, home canned or dried veggies and fruits, with enzyme values intact. Less meat. Fewer fats. Herbal teas. Home gardens - tomatoes, herbs, squash, turnips, potatoes. Irish, Scottish and British recipes feature rutabagas, turnips, potatoes, onions, cabbages, carrots, beets - mostly easy to grow root vegetables with a good storage life in the "root cellar" - a cool place under the house or in a hillside, where they were stored nestled in straw until needed, since refrigeration was limited at that time. Earlier than that, country people used to have a "spring house" - a small building over the place where a spring of water emerged from the ground and flowed out ... inside the spring house was the place to store butter, and other perishables.

November was butchering time - the time to kill pigs and cattle that would not make it through the winter because there wouldn't be enough food available to feed them until spring. The smokehouse was used a lot. Meats would be cut into sizes that made sense, and cured or dried to the greatest extent possible so that there would be protein during the non-growing seasons. (Lent was the formal recognition that edible animal protein had been eaten, and there was no more meat until lambing in the spring.) Sausages were made of the various leftover bits with seasonings, stuffed into intestinal "casings", and hung in the smoke to dry and be sterilized by the heat and smoke until they were "cured". Every

part of every pig or cow was used - skins to make leather for shoes, jackets, belts and other things. Slabs of fat were "rendered" - cooked slowly until all the liquid fat melted out of the fascia matrix and stored in crocks for use through out the year - lard came from pigs; suet came from beef. Every part of the animal was used - and at the last, everything that didn't have a specific use could be boiled up with bones and vinegar to make broth, or, when cooled, an aspic or savory "jello" full of dissolved minerals and proteins.

Yes, for our "young" folks out there, hard economic times encourage and require us to "ration" our resources. Save to the greatest extent possible. Become brilliantly creative in using what we have, rather fuss for the latest and greatest and newest and shiniest. Leftovers require great creativity - For example, every time there are leftovers, save them in "gather bags" in the freezer. Chicken bag, beef bag, veggie bag, etc. Keep the bones, as well to make hearty soup stocks. Bones, a bit of vinegar; later an onion, some barley, rice or beans, leftover frozen veggies, shreds of meats ... some seasonings, a whompf of salsa makes a soup. Add a bit of thickening to make a stew. Or pour it in a baking dish and either top with left-over mashed potatoes for a shepherd's pie or put biscuits on top and bake in the oven. Or leave the hot stew in the pot, drop balls of biscuit dough on top and cover with a lid to make dumplings.

Home made macaroni and cheese. Rice and Beans. Barley. Whole mixed grains. Mixing grains can result in creating whole proteins without animal protein.

Yes, flavors may be different. Yes, there's not as much "fat" as we've been used to. Yes, it's not as "sweet" as it was. Yes, it's different. And healthier - and over a long enough period of time, we get healthier from the inside out. It's choosing to do this, even when it's not necessary, that is the challenge. May the Happy New Year of 2009 bring you the ability to make healthier choices from the inside out for you and your families, whether the economy declines or soars!

Paul the Cyberian: What? No More Lawsuits?!

The RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) announced that it no longer intends to pursue its previous strategy of filing suit against individual file sharers in order to stop illegal downloading and distribution of copyrighted material and has instead decided upon a new strategy of enlisting the aid of ISP's (Internet Service Providers) to act as sentries and discourage users from pirating copyrighted media content (movies, music, etc). Under its previous efforts to end illegal downloading the RIAA had filed suit against approximately 30,000 individual users. It now appears that the recording industry would like to use its considerable resources to convince ISP's that in its role as a facilitator of P2P (Peer-to-Peer) network traffic they are acting in a criminally contributory manner. In the RIAA's view, downloading and distributing copyrighted material is not an anonymous activity and that ISP's know exactly which of their customers are engaging in the activity in question.

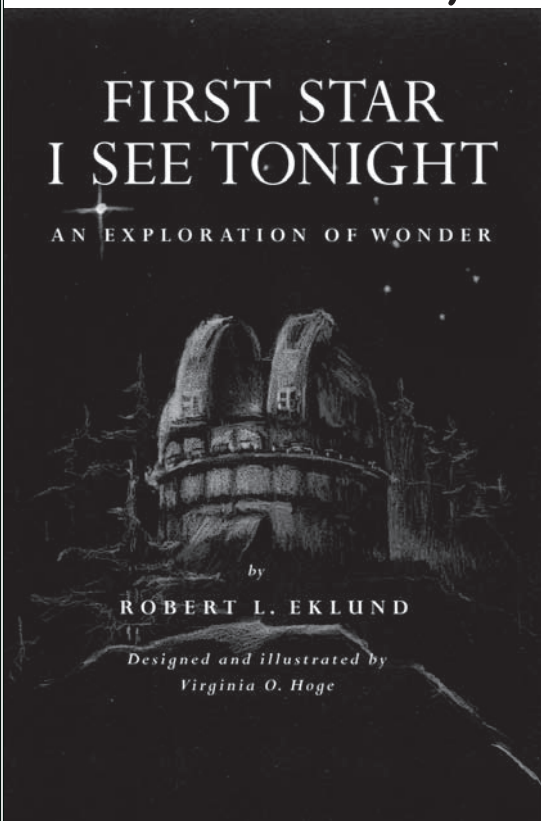
P2P networks are distributed computing models where there are no central servers and each client (or peer) acts as both client and server by both downloading content and sharing content on their machines that can be downloaded by other peers on the network. Usually P2P services (Napster, Limewire, Gnutella) have indexing servers that track clients and resources available for downloading. If the name 'Napster' sounds familiar it should. Napster, in its original incarnation, was one of

the most popular P2P services in the mid- to late 90's and was the subject of one of the many lawsuits initiated by the RIAA in order to protect its copyrighted material. Since that time Napster has become an official pay-to-download, mainstream online music service that pays royalties where they are due for the use and sale of copyrighted material. In Australia, ISP's have taken the step of filtering unauthorized P2P protocols and traffic from their networks in order to put a stop to illegal downloading in a nationwide trial to see if this is an effective strategy. Internet watchers of all stripes and interests will be very interested in the outcome to see if this type of traffic filtering will be coming to an ISP near them anytime soon.



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2007



The City Council is seeking volunteers to serve on the upcoming General Plan Steering Committee!

The City is looking for motivated, enthusiastic, creative, and friendly volunteers to serve on these important committees which help plan for the City's future

General Plan Steering Committee (GPSC)

The GPSC is a five-member committee, appointed by the City Council. A City Councilmember and a Planning Commissioner will attend meetings to act as liaisons to report the progress of the GPSC to their Council and Commission. The GPSC will be staffed by the Development Services Director and legal counsel.

What is the role of the GPSC?

The role of the GPSC is to meet on a regular basis to review the work products of City staff and consultant, provide input on those products, and provide the policy direction necessary to advance the update process. As initial tasks, the GPSC will be asked to provide staff direction as to the overall vision for Sierra Madre, priorities for development within the community, and more specific land use policies on which the GPSC will focus its efforts. The GPSC's role is solely advisory. Final approval of the updated General Plan can only be granted by the City Council acting upon the GPSC's and Planning Commission's recommendations.

How much time is involved?

The General Plan Update process is expected to take approximately 18 to 24 months to complete. Participation on the GPSC will require a commitment to attending monthly meetings for an approximately two-year period. If necessary, there may be occasions when the GPSC meets twice per month. There will also be occasions when GPSC members are expected to attend public workshops on Saturdays. All regular GPSC meetings will occur at pre-set meeting dates and times (pursuant to Brown Act requirements), and would be expected to last approximately two hours.

For an application, visit www.cityofsierramadre.com look for Commission application

For more information please call (626) 355-7135 and ask for Danny Castro, Development Services Director.

New Program Changes TV

(NAPSI)-Regardless of your favorite TV show, odds are you'll want to tune in to the details of a federal law that is soon to take effect.

At midnight on Feb. 17, 2009, all full-power television broadcast stations are required to stop broadcasting in analog format (a transmission that can be picked up for free by older-model analog TVs with antennae) and broadcast only in digital. Congress called for the switch to all-digital television (DTV) broadcasting in an effort to free up frequencies for police, fire and other public safety communications, among other things.

According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), people who have analog televisions will need to purchase a digital-to-analog set-top converter box to be able to view over-the-air broadcasts once the switch occurs. Consumers who have digital televisions but don't subscribe to a cable or satellite service will not need converter boxes to continue to view local broadcast stations.

Consumers who receive their local broadcast channels through a cable or satellite television service, such as DirecTV (which has been delivering 100 percent digital signals since its inception in 1994), will not be affected by the transition.

Consumers should know that the digital transition does not mean they

will automatically get HD. They must have an HDTV set and an HD receiver and subscribe to an HD programming package. DirecTV, for example, offers more than 130 HD channels and provides both HD and digital video-recording technology in one set-top box.

The digital transition will open the door for many consumers to the latest advances in TV technology, like digital video recording. DirecTV's DVR, for example, includes an easy-to-use search function that allows viewers to locate exactly what they want to watch and record, and record one show while watching another.

There's even a series link feature that enables the viewer to record every episode of a show and an interactive feature that provides access to personalized information such as horoscopes, local weather and lottery results.

As a final tip, keep in mind that any TV set sold after May 25, 2007 should have contained a digital tuner-meaning it would likely not need modification to accommodate the broadcasting switch-or should have been identified at the store as not having one. Be sure to look for this label if you're in the market for a new TV.

People who have analog televisions will need to purchase a digital-to-analog set-top converter box to be able to view over-the-air broadcasts once the switch occurs.

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TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

Burgers.....'n Pie

"The Day the Earth Stood Still." The original movie opened about forty years ago, and that must have been the theme when Pie N' Burger seized their inspiration to open. This place will remind you of the classic Hamburger Stands of a bygone era. From my memory they tried a few other locations, but the Pasadena location has stood the test of time. Why? The clean, wholesome grub, coupled with a country attitude. The darling service is very engaging. The owner Mike, started working there as a cook and is a Trojan fan, so he'll go right in step with manager Norma, sweet lady, who treats the place as if it were her own. They tell me that Norma drives up to Sierra Madre at least three times a week to Taylor's meats and buys the trimmings for those delicious burgers (\$6.50). Is it the best burger in Pasadena? This restaurant is certainly in the photo for first, after all the running is done. The burger is swimming in juices, which delightfully leave their mark with each mouthful, unlike the over ten dollar burgers I've fallen for out of love and obligation for another restaurant on Lake. This one is consistently - consistent!!! Although the cheese could be upgraded just a tad.

Pie N' Burger is like the old couple that's lived in the same house for years; you just know you should stop in and see them, but you somehow continue passing by. I'm not a real big breakfast fan but I've been told (in the industry we do have our secret sources) by more than one person (affirmed with multiple secret contacts) that when Orel Hershiser is in town, he and Fred Claire (Ex Dodger player and Manager - both very likable) make this their breakfast stop. If Orel likes it, it must be good; he can afford to eat anywhere. The dessert menu has pies, well duh --- Pie n' Burger. I ordered the Pecan Pie (my lovely server forgot to warm it up) but no runs taken off the scoreboard, it as it was still top shelf. They even have the old-school type of Coca Cola, hard to explain, but they still mix the syrup with the soda. Give it a whirl.

On the side billboard it mentions chili, hmm. Better order that next time. Yes, if you are looking for a good burger, I do recommend Pie N' Burger for sure!!!! I have read a few complaints about the price of the burger, but I think here you get what you pay for. Sure you can get a (\$3) burger somewhere else, but have you ever had a good (\$3) burger? OK, maybe In-n-Out. The only thing I would change is the French Fries; this would be the perfect restaurant if they made their own fries. Ahhh, one can only dream.

Here are a couple of other burger suggestions:

Tops, on the corner of Allen and Walnut. The Langham, poolside. Oh yes, it's expensive, but good. Smitty's, on South Lake is perfect with a pint of beer.

I would like to close 2008 by saying, "Thank You All!" for your great insights and the many fantastic suggestions you've made throughout the year. I know if Elmer Dills were here, he would tell you this: "Have a great New Years and make that last kiss last a little longer this year, we all need it!"

This is Peter Dills turning off the monitor, but not the desire to locate the best restaurants for you, until 2009 when we meet again!

Happy New Years, my Friends.

thechefknows@yahoo.com

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Check out the website for all the pies, history and hours @ www.pienburger.com



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The Senior Spot

By Bruce Lamarche

WHAT DO YOU REALLY OWN & LEAVE BEHIND?

Our society is built around the concept of ownership and certainly we know that our home is “ours” as is our cars and other possessions. In this vein we are a consumer society that emphasizes the mantra of “more”. We are possessive about our land ownership as though it is real. Our legal system supports this as just as consumer advertising encourages us to establish our identity by the car we drive.

Yet, we must look at the words of Chief Seattle from long ago when he asked, “How can anyone own the land?” I think we lose sight of the reality that the land owns us and we are but small creatures on a large planet. It is a sobering thought that our homes were owned by someone before us and will be owned by another after we leave it. We are but travelers in life.

Getting to the point, I would ask what it is that we are leaving as the legacy of our life. How do we want to be remembered? This is determined by how we have lived our life and have impacted those around us.

I think that the only thing we really own is *our story*. What is your story? Will your children and grandchildren tell of your life? This doesn't have to consist of tales of daring and adventure. It should, however, tell of the heroism of being a source of wisdom and steadiness during times of trouble. Will they speak of your compassion and the lessons you taught younger ones? What living lessons are you showing them?

My 85 year old father has recently taken the time to tell me of his time as a child, as a struggling new husband, of his time at war, of his fears and failures. These lessons help me to understand him better in his role of father. They also provided me with lessons that I can draw on as I live my life. I am so glad he has opened up to me. I have come to love him more than ever, warts and all. Seeing him at the end of his long life has given me courage to deal with my own daily struggles and to realize that things do tend to work themselves out.

I can say that he does truly own *his story*. It is unique and has much value as a life lesson to me and as a source of identity for who I am also. All the rest of “stuff” he has; cars, real estate, possessions, are really not owned but are on loan for a time. Eventually they end up as the property of someone else, sold, or in a junk store. His story is what he owns and in sharing it, he has given me something priceless.

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!

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

By Dorothy White

(Rated PG- Contains some violence)

Little Red Riding Hood came to her grandmother's door with a basketful of lotions and fragrances which her grandmother had ordered. (Little Red sold cosmetics)

In the bedroom, she found this strange creature (actually a wolf) with straggly gray hair and wearing a long-sleeved, flower-sprigged flannel nightgown, who claimed to be her grandmother. Of course, Little Red was not fooled for a minute because Grandma was a doll pajamas, but she played the wolf threatened to eat her. however, Little Red had a as soon as he raised a paw, that he did a complete flip- outside the door.



At that moment Grandma, who had been doing her yoga exercises in the garden, appeared, and after drinking a cup of herbal tea with Little Red, jumped on her motorcycle and hurried off to Palm Springs where she was doing a gig with her boyfriend. Little Red, well satisfied with her morning's work, went off to deliver more beauty products. After her triumph over the wolf, she became famous and was deluged with orders.

As for the wolf, he hobbled painfully back to his red convertible and, after thinking things over, decided to turn his life around. He then opened a chain of fast food restaurants which he named “Wolf It Down.” Had he completely reformed? Not entirely as he always found a little something under the table (or to put it more plainly-extortion.)



SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

FYI:

Make 2009 the year that you make a scrapbook or a journal about your life. You have a great story to tell and your family and friends would love to experience it with you. For example: Where were you born, who was in your family, what happened to you as a child, when and whom you married, etc. Include pictures and other mementos. Getting started is the hard part but once you do, you'll find the journey rewarding.

~Helpful Hints~

Tin cans--The Afterlife...*When you're having a large dinner party. Lock card tables together by setting adjacent pairs of legs into empty cans. You won't have to clean up any spills caused by the tables moving this way and that.* Make a birthday keepsake by decorating the outside of a small candy tin, line it with felt or silk, and insert a penny or, if you can find one, a silver dollar from the birth year of your friend or loved one.

Recipe of the Month:



Easy Slow Cooker Pot Roast- The Ultimate “Comfort Food”

4 pounds chuck roast
Salt & pepper to taste
1 packet dry onion soup
1 cup water
3 carrots, chopped
1 onion, chopped
3 potatoes, peeled & cubed
1 stalk celery, chopped
* Season roast with salt & pepper to taste. Brown on all sides in large skillet over high heat. Place in the slow cooker; add soup mix, water, carrots, onion, potatoes and celery. Cover and cook on low setting for 8 to 10 hours.



Happy Birthday!

December Birthdays: Rose Fafach, Levon Yapoujian, Bonnie Garner and Helen Reese

For Your Funny Bone

Jack wakes up with a huge hangover after attending his company's Holiday party. Jack is not normally a drinker, and he didn't even remember how he got home. As bad as he was feeling, he wondered if he might have done something wrong. He forced himself to open his eyes, and the first thing he sees is a couple of aspirins next to a glass of water on the side table. Next to them, a single red rose! Jack sits up and sees his clothing all clean and pressed. He looks around the room and notices that it is in perfect order; spotlessly clean. He takes the aspirins and cringes when he sees a huge black eye staring back at him in the bathroom mirror. Then he notices a note hanging on a corner of the mirror written in red and a kiss mark from his wife in lipstick: “Honey, breakfast is on the stove, I left to get groceries to make your favorite dinner tonight. Love you! Jillian.”

He stumbles to the kitchen and sure enough, there is hot breakfast, steaming hot coffee and the morning newspaper. His 16 year old son is also at the table eating. Jack asks, “Son, what happened last night?” “Well, a taxi brought you home after 3 A.M., drunk and staggering around. You fell over the coffee table and broke it; you puked in the hallway, and got that black eye when you ran into the door.” Confused he asked his son, “So why is everything in such perfect order around here? I have a rose, and breakfast is on the table waiting for me?” His son replies, “Oh *THAT*...Mom dragged you to the bedroom, and when she tried to take your pants off, you screamed, “Leave me alone, I'm married!!” Broken Coffee Table: \$239.99- Hot Breakfast: \$4.20- Two Aspirins: \$.38 Saying the right thing at the right time: PRICELESS!

Quote: An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves. ~ Author Unknown~

Activities: Unless listed differently, all activities are at the Hart Memorial Park (Senior Center) 222 W. Sierra 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

Tuesday: Bingo- 1:30PM- 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 Wednesday- Community Lunch & Learn Program

Thursday: Game Day- 1:00PM- 3:30PM- Poker, UNO, Scrabble, Cribbage, Chess, Checkers, Backgammon, Pinochle...you name it.
Yoga- 5:00 PM- 6:30 PM \$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

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

January 15, 2009- Senior Day at the Races- Santa Anita Park- More information to follow.

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

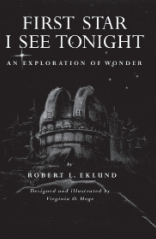
Financial Consulting- 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Hart Memorial Park House from 10:00AM- Noon. Please call (626) 355-7394 for an appointment.

Meals-on-Wheels:

Meals are delivered to homebound seniors by volunteer drivers 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 for more information.



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One Of A Kind:

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O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree...and lights and animation...



This week, we feature beautiful, lighthearted, kitschy and sometimes just plain fun Christmas decorations from Pasadena, Monrovia and Arcadia. The two busiest tour areas around are Pasadena's Hastings Ranch (actually noted in last year's Sunset magazine!) and Madison North of Foothill in Monrovia. Many make it an annual tradition to slowly tour by car or by foot through these areas. Join in the festivities! Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night! Know of an interesting home, garden or person who helps create them? Contact Chris Bertrand at Chris@BertrandOnline.com

Right: Two Homes from Madison in Monrovia; Left top, Trees on Michillinda and Bah Humbug, Hastings Ranch; Bottom left - Highland Oaks in Arcadia.



View all of Chris Bertrand's Sierra Madre Christmas homes (yes, there are more) in full color online. Go to: www.mvobserver.com

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Divine Performing Arts is a non-profit entity based in New York state which seeks to rediscover the true cultural heritage of traditional China, and to share this culture and its beauty with the world.

Michelle Ren To Dazzle Audiences

During the Global Classical Chinese Dance Competition, many audience members and competitors felt the extraordinary depth of "The Lotus Dance," performed by Michelle Ren, who was the champion of the female youth group. Michelle is a dancer from the Fei Tian Arts School and she is a lead dancer for the Divine Performing Arts' Chinese New Year Spectacular.

what is the most beautiful, most compassionate, and the best thing. I only want to pass these virtues to the audience. Divine Performing Arts' Chinese New Year Spectacular has already embarked on its 70-city worldwide tour and will perform this holiday season at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium thru January 4.

There are many highly technical movements in her dance. Michelle feels, however, that techniques are only a part of the elements for a successful dance. "Acrobatics or martial arts performers can perform difficult techniques too. A true dancer's appeal comes from artist's experience and inner energy." She elaborated, "Even performing the same movements with the same techniques, the difference between an experienced and inexperienced dancer can be told. It's like how two similar paintings may bring different feelings to people, depending on the painters' experiences. If a painter painted an egg thirty years ago, it would be different than his painting of an egg now since this recent painting would contain his experience from thirty years."

All artists know that art has no limit. But they usually discover that it is very hard to raise their standard once they reach a certain level. "Cultivation can help an artist to reach higher levels, both mentally and technically," said Ren.

Having won numerous awards at national and provincial competitions in China, Michelle feels that she is different as a person dancing now in the Chinese New Year Spectacular. In the past she was more focused on herself, whereas now she thinks only of the audience.



Ms. Michelle Ren of the Fei Tian Arts School was champion of the female youth group.

She point out, "In the past, I only paid attention to how to make the audience like me. I would do what made me look pretty to make the audience like me. During cultivation I came to understand

*They came from two different origins, but found they shared
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