

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO SIERRA MADRE ON CHRISTMAS EVE
 7pm - December 24th at the Sierra Madre Fire Station

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Sierra Madre — Arcadia — Pasadena — Altadena — Duarte — Monrovia

VOLUME 6 NO 51

Imagine Snow In Sierra Madre For Christmas!



Artist Sonny Salsbury created this painting depicting snow in Sierra Madre at Christmas. His caption, "Wouldn't It Be Nice?" reflects the sentiments of many a child and adult alike. Salsbury is also a Grammy nominated musician who was born in Pasadena. He is the brother of local businesswoman Judith Brandley, owner of Leonora Moss in Sierra Madre.

A Christmas Message **THE STAR FINAL**

By Craig Hakola

It was an ancient time when the world lived amongst the stars. The sailors of that age drifted upon pools of immortal blue, but their eyes left this earthly realm to fasten to the place of the sky. The sky was the tool they employed for navigation, and when the captain spied a cloudless night, he knew the highest stamp of fortune as the gift of a clear night meant a window of study -- and the compass of a heavenly map. It didn't materialize until the modern age that navigation by stars was made wholly obsolete. Prior to that novelty, a captain and crew often depended on the light above the world for safe passage. There must have been greater magic in that age. For the daunting glow of the city had yet to be known, and the light of stars were reckoned to the people as if the eyes of angels. Flickering in the sacred heights, the stars recited to earthly inhabitants in the philosophy of a timeless lesson, teaching of the one who framed the heavens. Some two thousand years ago, it must have been an unusually quiet night in the hills of Bethlehem when a baby's voice crackled in that first cry of birth.

There rooted a certain type of peace in the countryside on that evening. About the fields, men stretched under a night so clear that the stars appeared to be within their reach. They were a forgotten category of people -- outcasts -- and barred by the priests from the temple. They were said to be unclean, but the sheep they guarded were the pure offerings of the temple. The shepherds knew a common life and were a simple people. Their gentle hearts carried a form of humble love. In the quiet ceremony of a starry night, an angel appeared to these

meek shepherds and the glory of the Lord shone round the angel as he told the shepherds of the birth of a Savior. As the angel spoke, a company of winged agents appeared, saying, "Glory to God in the highest!" The shepherds gathered and went to Bethlehem as they had been told, found the baby, and praised Him with great love. While the shepherds went to Bethlehem, there were men in the East, known as wise men, and they saw a new star dancing about the night. In the star, they saw not the workings of the universe with its customary magic, but the complete hand of God. They deciphered the writing upon the star, for they lived upon the sky and had studied the prophets. It was on this night, that the wise men blessed their very eyes, beholding an event that stood above all revelations -- the star of God. So they collected themselves for a journey, gathered riches, and left their own land to follow the star. When they arrived at the place of the baby, they fell to their knees praising a king.

This year, amid the cheer of Christmas, as you stare into the eyes of a child and see the wonder of a promise, you will perceive the miracle of a season. How great and dear is the present laid before the world some two thousand years ago. For those that believe in the magic of the Christmas and understand the glory of the one true King, they are filled with song for the birth of the One that fell under the light of a star. So let it be known, that you are the captain, and the world is your crew; and as you voyage through life's great passage, may the star of Christmas always guide your course.

Merry Christmas!

SIERRA MADRE LOSES POWER TO HIGH WINDS Memories of 2011 Windstorm Resurface

When the National Weather Service issued an advisory on Tuesday warning of high winds, Sierra Madre residents braced themselves for a possible repeat of the 2011 Windstorm.

"I immediately made certain I knew where the candles and flashlights were and made certain all of my electronic devices were charged", said one Sunnyside Avenue resident.

By nightfall, those fears intensified as power failures popped up all over town. The outages ranged in duration from 10 minutes to as long as 10 hours, with portions of some streets

not losing power at all. Reports from Southern California Edison indicated at one point that as many as 650 residences were without power.

There were also downed power lines on East Highland and East Grandview, an area of town that just recovered from flooding due to a broken water main.

Southern California Edison was quick in their response to problems in the area and by day break all lights were back on.

In addition to electrical power outages, telephone and cable service provided by Time Warner were also out for various periods of time. Time Warner cable and telephone customers who did not experience electrical outages had to resort to using cellular devices to contact the company. According to TWC, most problems were resolved within a few hours.

Although the storm did not compare to 2011 by any means, debris from trees was clearly visible the next day.

S. Henderson/MVNews

THE NAUGHTY TAKE NO BREAK DURING THE HOLIDAYS Burglars, Scam Artists, Thieves, And Drivers Under The Influence Keep SMPD Busy

"Tis the season to be"...Cautious. That is the warning that police all over the San Gabriel Valley are suggesting that residents adhere to. "The holidays tend to bring out the very best and very worst in people", noted one law enforcement officer.

In Sierra Madre, there has been a noticeable increase in crime activity including auto theft, home burglaries. In less than a month, two homes within a two block radius were burglarized during the day. According to SMPD Sgt. Gonzales, it is believed that the burglars watched the residents leave and then forced entry into the home.

In an interview with Chief Gianone earlier this month, he noted that today's thieves are looking for more than just jewelry and other valuables. Information that will help thieves steal your identity are

also of interest to criminals.

As a result of the increased activity, Gonzales says the SMPD will have extra law enforcement on duty, but residents are reminded to secure their homes at all times. Never leave doors and windows open and never leave valuables in your vehicles.

On Tuesday morning, one resident was notified by the Pasadena Police Department that his vehicle had been stolen and was found crashed and abandoned. Apparently, the owner, who lives on West Highland, had left his keys in the truck the night before. It is estimated that the theft occurred after 10 p.m. when the owner parked it in his driveway.

Scams are running rampant this time of year as well. One resident reported what she believed to be a worthwhile fund raising effort by a young lady for a local High School

in front of Ralph's Grocery Store. However after attempting to confirm with the school and the store, the young woman's claims turned out to be false. The teenager was part of a 'revolving crew' from out of state soliciting donations under false pretenses.

Holiday Decorations have also become an 'item of choice' by thieves. Although there have been no reports of such items being stolen in Sierra Madre as of this writing, neighboring towns have been targeted.

DUI's also increase dramatically during the holidays with officer stops also finding guns and drugs in vehicles passing through town.

Law enforcement encourages everyone to be careful this holiday season and most importantly, DON'T DRIVE AND DRINK.

This Week's Highlights:

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Largest Public Art/Transit Infrastructure Project in California Completed
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Police Exonerated In Shooting

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Weather Wise



5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



THE SIERRA MADRE KIWANIS CLUB

A PROUD MEMBER OF KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL SINCE 1927. THAT'S 85 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE! WE MEET WEEKLY AT THE LODGE (FORMERLY THE MASONIC TEMPLE) AT 33 E. SIERRA MADRE BLVD. MEETINGS ARE EACH TUESDAY AT NOON, EXCEPT FOR THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, WHEN WE MEET AT 7:45AM. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! JOIN US, MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS, HELP YOUR COMMUNITY, AND HAVE SOME FUN!



Sierra Madre Rotary Club

Meets Tuesdays 7-8:30 a.m.
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
The Hart Park House



As part of our club's lively weekly meetings, dynamic speakers are scheduled on Rotary's service interests, local community topics and general appeal subjects.

Sierra Madre Rotary operates an active high school service group, the Interact Club, participates in Rotary scholarship, music and essay competitions, raises funds for local and Rotary Foundation causes, recognizes exemplary teachers, offers mini grants for worthy projects, hosts the yearly Elvis in the Park concert and donates hundreds of service hours to community events like the Wistaria Festival, Dickens Village and July 4th Parade.

Visitors are heartily welcomed to meetings. From more information, please visit our website or contact Peggy Beauregard at peggybeau@gmail.com and visit our Facebook page Rotary of Sierra Madre.

www.SierraMadreRotary.com

CITY OF SIERRA MADRE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING:
January 8, 2013 6:30 pm

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Sierra Madre Public Library will be open to the public on Christmas Eve day, Monday, December 24, and New Year's Eve day, Monday, December 31, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. City Hall and the Community Services Office will be open 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The City Hall, the Community Services Office, and the Library will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

- 12/23 Community Candlelight Walk
- 12/24 Congregational Church Christmas Eve Services
- 12/24 Volunteer Firefighter Association - Santa & Stocking Give-a-Way
- 12/22 Sierra Madre Playhouse Cinderella's Christmas
- 12/26 to 12/31 - ROSE FLOAT DECORATING WEEK

ROSE FLOATS BLOOM AT THE SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Creativity and fun are in store when children gather at the Sierra Madre Public Library to create mini rose floats on Monday, December 24, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. Children of all ages are welcome to storytime for stories, songs, play and, of course, rose float making. Sierra Madre Rose Float Association Bob Young will be our special guest.

Join the fun again on December 31, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., when the Preschool Story Hour craft will be New Year's party hats.

The Sierra Madre Public Library will be open to the public on Christmas Eve day, Monday, December 24, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and New Year's Eve day, Monday, December 31, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024, (626) 355-7186, www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us

1630 AM EMERGENCY RADIO & Free on-air publicity for local events

Sierra Madre's EMERGENCY radio station is now accepting scripts for Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about community events. PSAs will be broadcast on the air at no charge. The station operates 24/7 and can be heard at 1630 on the AM dial.

Any local non-profit or non-commercial organization can have their event information broadcast to the public on Sierra Madre Community Information Radio. The station covers the city of Sierra Madre, plus surrounding areas of Pasadena, Arcadia, and Monrovia. Your event must:

- Benefit a non-commercial or non-profit entity
- Be open to the public
- Be of general interest to local citizens

Just write a Public Service Announcement that describes your event and e-mail it to radio@cityofsierramadre.com.

RADIO FISHBOWL THIS WEEK



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

WEDNESDAY - Noon
Carol Canterbury's,
'CANTERBURY TALES'
December 26th Carol and Tina
present their Christmas show, with
great music and stories. And, of course, zany chat

THURSDAYS - Noon
OUR TRAVEL AFFAIR December 27th Catherine Adde celebrates with listeners a traditional British Christmas Trivia and Carols we Americans don't hear to often.

FRIDAY - Noon
VILLAGE INTERSECTIONS - December 28th
Gene shares his thoughts and reflections about holidays.

Set your smart phone and or computer browsers to www.RadioFishbowl.com.



Winter Session Begins

January 21, 2013

Creative Arts Group

108 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, CA 91024
626•355•8350 www.creativeartsgroup.org

SIERRA MADRE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the 2012 Citizen of the Year. To be eligible, a person must be a resident of Sierra Madre. The accomplishment(s) or project(s) for which they are being nominated must have been of benefit to the community of Sierra Madre and its citizens during 2012. They must have served without remuneration on the project for which they are being nominated, and members of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors are not eligible.

If you would like to nominate someone, please e-mail your nominee to Noah Green at nrgreen@ryanattorneys.com. You can also mail in your nominations to the Chamber of Commerce at 19 Suffolk Avenue, Suite A, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 31, 2012.

The winner will be selected by members of the Chamber Board of Directors, and will be honored at the annual Citizen of the Year/Board of Directors Installation Dinner to be held on January, 25, 2013.

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M-F 9:00 – 5:00 pm
Sat 10:00 – 2:00 pm
Dec. 24, 10:00 – 2:00 pm
Closed for the holidays
Dec. 25 – Jan. 1

Winter Session Begins

January 21, 2013

Creative Arts Group

108 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, CA 91024
626•355•8350 www.creativeartsgroup.org



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Legal Insights by Noah Green¹

AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

Having lived in Newtown, Connecticut from 1992-1996 and having spent my senior year in college researching and writing about gun control, I feel both compelled and able to speak out about last week's shooting. For years I made this cause my own, feeling it was unfair for those of us who do not own guns to live in fear and at the mercy of those who do. Aside from the fear of prison, the only thing stopping those with guns from slaughtering the innocent is their own self-control and morality. When individuals who own guns lose self-control, morality, or even the rationality to fear prison, the end result for the rest of us is death. We witnessed this not only last week on a vast scale but indeed suffer through it on smaller scale every single day in the form of a steady drip-drip-drip of gun violence.

Perhaps it is because I grew up in a city, but I just do not understand those who claim that there is a genuine need for individuals to own guns. What good do they do? Indeed, their intended purpose is to kill. Why should we be surprised when they are used as intended?

Some may argue that the "rights" of hunters and sportsmen who enjoy shooting should not be infringed. But does the right of this small and otherwise unburdened minority outweigh the rights of everyone else to be free from the fear and risk of undesired death? I for one do not think so.

For those of you who believe that guns are valuable tools of self-defense, I urge you to actually do the research on this point - they are not. For every person who successfully fends off a would-be attacker with a firearm, there are literally *hundreds* of innocent people that are shot. Gun owners' fantasy about using their guns for self-defense is just that - fantasy. I invite the gun lobby to provide empirical evidence (rather than a few unverified anecdotes) demonstrating that a substantial number of guns are successfully used each year in self-defense. Or just ask yourself how many people you know (other than characters in TV shows) who have scared off or shot an attacker with their gun?

Some may say that having a gun in the house makes them feel safer at night just knowing that it is there in case they need it. Guess what - it is again *hundreds of times more likely* to that the gun in your home will be used against a member of your family in a heated argument or accidentally discharged by a child who finds it. These gun owners are fooling themselves and the rest of us must pay the price.

Gun supporters love to point out the fact that many of these mass-shooters are themselves shot by bystanders carrying guns. They miss the point entirely. In each of these cases the murderer has already gone on his shooting spree by the time

they are shot. The idea is to prevent the shooting spree before it starts.

Others like to argue that "if you outlaw guns only outlaws will have guns," that the current supply of firearms will last for decades or that guns will still be available on the black market even if they are illegalized. The core of this argument requires one to believe that if a perfect solution cannot be found, one should not even attempt a good or partial solution. Those who adopt this logic must also cease trimming their finger nails (alas, they will only grow back). If a drastic reduction of guns on the streets results in a substantial reduction - but not complete - elimination of gun-related deaths, I will take it.

Aside from the policy, logic, and moral arguments listed above, there are of course those who say that the "right to bear arms" is legally protected by the Second Amendment. Those same gun supporters ignore the first clause of the amendment, which ties that right to the need to maintain a "well regulated militia." For more than 130 years the Supreme Court found that the two clauses, separated by a mere comma, were intertwined and co-dependent. More recently, the justices who gave us *Bush v. Gore* and host of other conservative opinions discovered a new meaning in the text and ruled that the amendment gives individuals the right to bear arms regardless of any state right to maintain a militia, thus making many gun control laws already on the books arguably unconstitutional and making the legal battle for gun control even harder. Nor are the judges alone. For decades the gun lobby has been one of the most powerful forces preventing even reasonable and minimal gun control legislation from seeing the light of day in Congress or the states. Perhaps most importantly, public opinion - though riled from time to time by outrageous stories like Columbine - typically moves on and shows no appetite for demanding meaningful change.

But then Newtown happened, and just maybe the dynamic started to change when the victims became young children. Perhaps the public has finally taken notice. I will probably wind up feeling like a fool again, but the sentiments that I have seen expressed by my fellow citizens over the last few days have given me new hope. After giving up on gun control for 15 years, I see a light. If the groundswell is strong enough perhaps our society can mature and advance to the level of our brethren in the United Kingdom or Australia, where guns licenses and firearms are few and far between, and handed out only to those with a "genuine need" above and beyond "self-defense." If this means we need to overrule the Supreme Court by amending the Constitution, so be it. It has already been amended 27 other times in our nation's history over issues as insignificant as congressional salaries. *The time to end the bloodshed and drastically limit or altogether eliminate guns from a society which has clearly proven that it is not capable of handling them safely is an idea whose time has come.*

¹ Noah Green lives in Sierra Madre and works as an attorney handling business litigation at the Ryan Law Firm in Pasadena, CA. He can be reached by e-mail at nrgreen@ryanattorneys.com, or by telephone at (626) 568-8808.

DISCOVERING THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS By Christopher Nyerges

[Nyerges is the author of "Self-Sufficient Home," "How to Survive Anywhere," and other books. He can be reached at Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041, or www.ChristopherNyerges.com.]

Sometimes we get so caught up in the problems of now and tomorrow that we simply disable ourselves to live in the moment and enjoy the miracle of life. I'd been so focused on solving my own and other people's problems, of growing older, of seeing friends die, of financial problems, that I'd barely realized I'd fallen down the rabbit hole of not seeing the incredible that is before me.

After a late night meeting, I drove home, nearly midnight, through the Arroyo Seco and along the Rose Bowl. The coolness of the night was refreshing, invigorating. I breathed deep and found myself looking anew at the enchanting hillside landscape that has always been hidden in plain view. I realized I'd been looking but not seeing. A lone coyote runs along the road. Further along, a skunk hides from view by swiftly descending into a storm drain. A melodic bird sings. The landscape is alive and bright, and I marvel at the late-night runners still engaged in their exercises.

Though my body aches with the scars of aging, I found that my mind was fresh, young, awakening again after a long sleep. I felt 17 again (or was it 14?) when I knew that I was immortal, eternal, a part of all things. I breathed deeply, and found great joy in the Eternal Now that was before me, the Eternal Now which always is. I experienced this same Eternal Now when running and motorcycling through the Arroyo Seco years ago, and when I would stand in the rain and feel its miracle.

I had been feeling anxious, worried, concerned, and though nothing had changed, I now felt free, hopeful, curious. I wanted to share, and I began to sing and think of poetry. But I quickly realized there is nothing that *needs* to be done. To experience the moment is sufficient, to go fully into the beauty of the moment, and to feel the past, and present, and future, all ripe with possibilities and discoveries, all in this moment.

I could now see the lights of the city and the peaks of the Angeles Forest with its occasional twinkling lights. I come by here every day, but somehow this was a new land, a magical land, the land of my mind. I began to wonder about the lot of man, working endlessly at jobs that are not enjoyed, to pursue more and better things, never defining real goals except maybe "retirement," which is not a real goal. I felt sad, and a gust of wind sobered me up, telling me to be concerned about my own choices, to refine my own daily actions and not to dwell on whatever it is that other people do or do not. The wind freed me of yet another pointless anchor—the thinking about what "other people" do or don't do.

Be here now. Wasn't that the title of an old hippie book? Be here now. Easy to say, hard to do. But it has become the main dictum in my inner religion, and though I have no church, the Arroyo Seco is the closest I've found. It is my homeland, my place of work and dreams, my place of endless adventures and ongoing discoveries. It is my Walden Pond, my Field of Dreams, my Golden Pond. It is simultaneously nothing and everything. It is a vehicle through which I continually find myself, still that same Self, still in that same body (for now), still eager to learn and to grow.

I finally got home and stood outside looking at the stars, feeling the cool evening wind. It felt good to be "up," and to know the fight is not over. I could feel the meaning of Bodhi-Dharma's insightful words: "Fall down seven times, get up eight! Life starts from NOW!"

And I began to realize, isn't that the Christmas message? To rise again from the darkness, to be reborn again from the depth of the winter, to rediscover our inner self and our neighbor in this darkest time of the year? I felt a deep inner appreciation for whatever it was that provided me with this insight, this knowledge that I am apart of everything and everyone. I realized then that to truly experience the real meaning of Christmas I needed to create the environment so that the Christ-within can be born again within my own soul.

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LARGEST SINGLE, CALIFORNIA PUBLIC ART - TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT COMPLETED

Landmark Gold Line Bridge Features Distinctive Design by Award-winning Public Artist Andrew Leicester

MONROVIA, Calif. — The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority (Construction Authority) marked the completion of the landmark Gold Line Bridge by giving guests a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to walk across the largest, single public art/transit infrastructure project in California, the 584-linear foot sculpture that will serve as the Gateway to the San Gabriel Valley.



The Gold Line Bridge spans the eastbound lanes of the I-210 freeway north-east of Los Angeles and is the most visible element of the 11.5-mile Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension light rail project the Construction Authority is building between Pasadena and Azusa.

The Construction Authority completed the first ever artist-designed transit bridge in California, on time and on budget; and celebrated this milestone with a Dec. 15 ceremony honoring the men and women who designed and built the bridge. During

and commuters for generations to come," said Doug Tessitor, Construction Authority board chair and Glendora council member. "The Gold Line Bridge is representative of the rich and proud heritage of our region, and it will serve as a landmark for the San Gabriel Valley."

The project is the first to incorporate such intricate design, structural and architectural elements into transit infrastructure. The Construction Authority re-imagined the design process for the dual-track bridge, making it possible for the art to lead the design and engineering. This groundbreaking collaboration resulted in the creation of a sculptural light rail bridge built for the same cost (\$18.6 million) as was originally estimated for a typical light rail structure.



U.S. Representatives Grace Napolitano and Judy Chu Officially Open the Bridge at the Gold Line Bridge Completion

The Construction Authority brought the artist on early to lead the design process, before the design-build team was selected - the first time such an approach has been used on a Caltrans infrastructure project. In 2009, the agency issued a national call for artists. A committee of community stakeholders then selected Leicester from a group of 15 highly qualified public artists. Leicester spent several months developing design concepts for the bridge in advance of the architects, engineers and builders beginning their work.

As the design concept adviser, Leicester worked alongside Los Angeles-based design consultant, AECOM, and the bridge's builder, Skanska USA, to ensure the final design and construction were true to the overall vision.

"Ninety-two percent of the materials and products used on the bridge were from local sources," commented U.S. Representative Judy Chu, during her remarks at the ceremony. "That meant jobs for the area, and we are very pleased that the leaders of this project saw that this whole region could be involved and benefit from its construction."

the event, the more than 350 guests were given an opportunity to walk across the bridge before the tracks are laid. "The bridge is absolutely beautiful," commented U.S. Representative Grace Napolitano during the Completion Ceremony on Saturday. "I really have to thank the Construction Authority because they decided to make this a significant work of art. I believe this will be an icon of the San Gabriel Valley." Designed by award-winning artist Andrew Leicester, the Gold Line Bridge is anchored by two, 25-foot "baskets" that pay tribute to the indigenous peoples of the San Gabriel Valley and the oversize iconic roadside traditions of nearby Route 66. The distinctive bridge has a serpentine main underbelly featuring casted grooves and hatch marks that simulate the patterns found on the Western Diamond-back snake, metaphorically referencing the spine of the transit system.

"The Construction Authority is proud to have created a functional piece of art that will inspire travelers

"What's Going On?" News and Views from Joan Schmidt

A DAY AT THE CALIFORNIA SCIENCE CENTER: CLEOPATRA, THE ENDEAVOR AND A LOT MORE!

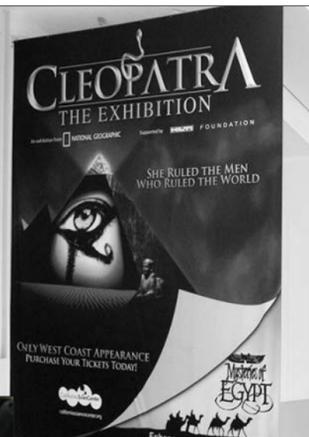


A few months back, when they began announcing the Cleopatra Exhibition at the Science Center, my daughter said it was a *Must* to attend. She really is into Egypt and Ancient History and thought it would be a great opportunity, so we went last week.

The Cleopatra Exhibition is at the Science Center and tickets can be purchased on line. I believe the afternoon times may be preferable. When we went in the morning, there were several classes on field trips so it was a little hectic.

However, just going to the Science Center for everything else would be well worth it. Parking is \$10 cash only. Admission to the Center itself is free. However special exhibitions like Cleopatra require a paid ticket. I also went on line and learned there is no fee for the Endeavor only, but you need a ticket for admission.

The California Science Center is the West Coast's largest hands-on science center. We went to the Endeavor first, located on the second floor. Then we had to go up to the third floor for Cleopatra. There were so many displays and simulators along the way. I kept telling my husband I wanted to return with our 11 and 13 year old grandchildren. They certainly would want to try out all the simulators and are old enough to enjoy the vast amount of knowledge provided.



On the way to the Endeavor, we saw a Mercury capsule. I remember the Space Program began in 1957 and still have the Life Magazine with the seven original astronauts. Then they narrowed it to three: Alan Shepherd, Gus Grissom and John Glenn. (I also have the magazine with their three pictures on the cover.) Alan Shepherd was actually the first American in space and he did a successful suborbital

flight-I believe only 10 minutes or so. It was in May. In July, Gus Grissom went up in a suborbital flight. However, he almost drowned and his capsule went under. But they got to him in time. Then John Glenn was the first American to orbit the earth and he did that three times. So I was thrilled to see the Mercury capsule!

We then proceeded to the Hanger where the Endeavor was. It was mindboggling to see it up close and think about its many journeys. Along three of the walls are posters of ALL the shuttles and of ALL their missions and crews! They also had simulators so you could really feel what it was like!

After the Endeavor, it was time for Cleopatra. That also was interesting. There were 16 stations and you were given a headset which was needed for the background information. There were artifacts to see and I enjoyed learning her family background, her role as pharaoh, her relationships and children and her role in history.

If you enjoy Ancient History and Egypt, Cleopatra is a must. However, if there isn't time, at least plan a trip to the Science Center with the children in the New Year. They'll love it. For must info, go on line and type in *California Science Center*.



Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

PCOC Appoints Gutierrez as Acting CEO



City officials remained silent again this week regarding the unexpected departure of Pasadena Center Operating Company Chief Executive Officer Michael Ross only saying that he is on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of a personnel inquiry. He was placed on leave during a PCOC Board of Directors Dec. 13 meeting.

Meanwhile, the board of directors has named Assistant City Manager Julie Gutierrez as Acting Chief Executive Officer for PCOC.

Gutierrez appointment was announced after a closed PCOC Board meeting Tuesday. She currently sits on the PCOC Board as a representative of the City Manager. Gutierrez will temporarily relinquish the Board seat while working as Acting CEO according to a statement released by Pasadena Public Information Officer William Boyer.

PCOC is a 501 (c) (4) nonprofit corporation wholly owned by the City of Pasadena that manages the Pasadena Convention Center, the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, the Pasadena Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Pasadena Ice Skating Center. PCOC was one of the first independent nonprofit organizations in the United States to combine its facility operations and destination marketing efforts.

Pet of the Week



Brian is a large, six-year-old, cream and white domestic shorthair cat. He lives in our communal cat room and gets along very well with other cats. He enjoys being petted, and loves taking naps. He'd love to find a loving forever home.

Brian's adoption fee is \$70, which includes his neuter surgery, a microchip, the first set of vaccinations, as well as a free follow-up health check at a participating vet. New adopters will receive complimentary health and wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals, as well as a goody bag filled with information on how to care for your pet. He also qualifies for our Seniors for Seniors program in which the adoption fee is waived for eligible adopters 60 years old or older. Ask an adoptions counselor for more information during your visit.

Call the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA at 626.792.7151 to ask about A236792, or visit at 361 S. Raymond Ave. in Pasadena. Adoption hours are 11-4 Sunday, 9-5 Tuesday - Friday, 9-4 Saturday. Pets may not be available for adoption and cannot be held for potential adopters from phone calls or email. Directions and photos of all pets can be found at www.pasadenahumane.org.

Report Concludes Officers Acted Lawfully in McDade Shooting

By Dean Lee

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Justice System Integrity Division released Monday the findings of its review of the fatal shooting last march of Kendrec McDade by Pasadena Police Officers Matthew Griffin and Jeffery Newlen. The conclusion of the eight page report states that "the officers acted in lawful self-defense and defense of others."

In a statement also released Monday, Pasadena Chief of Police Phillip Sanchez said, "The shooting of Kendrec McDade is tragic for everyone involved. These incidents bear a significant emotional impact on the community and the police department. It is my desire that those impacted by this event will continue to heal as we await the final reports from the Office of Independent Review Group (ORIG), the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Administrative Review by the Pasadena Police Department."

The report states that Griffin fired four shots at McDade fearing for his life. Newlen also fired four times at McDade.

"He left the sidewalk and he's running at me," Griffin told investigators. "This — scares the crap out of me. I don't know why he's running at me. He's still clutching his waistband. I think he's got a gun. I'm stuck in the car. I've

House Passes Schiff Bill 'Katie Sepich Enhanced DNA Collection Act'

The Katie Sepich Enhanced DNA Collection Act of 2012 (H.R. 6014), sponsored by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), passed the House of Representatives Tuesday by voice vote. Originally introduced in 2010, Katie's Law bears the name of Katie Sepich, a college student who was raped and murdered in 2003 in New Mexico. Her attacker was arrested several times over subsequent years but was never linked to Katie's murder, as his DNA was not collected until 2006.

"Katie's Law is an important step we can take that will save lives. Every improvement we make to our DNA system, means more violent crimes

Pacific Asia Museum 2013 Exhibition Schedule

Pacific Asia Museum announced today its exhibition schedule for 2013. In addition to the exhibitions currently on view, The Garden in Asia and The Art of Continuity: Revering our Elders, Pacific Asia Museum will open four additional exhibitions featuring both traditional and contemporary Asian art.

Beginning April 5, 2013, pieces from the famed Harari Collection will be featured in the exhibition Focus on the Subject: The Art of the Harari Collection in the Frank and Toshie Mosher Gallery of Japanese Art. Masterpieces from the collection will be featured alongside other objects from the Pacific Asia Museum collection for close study of themes in Japanese art, including landscape and writing.

Pacific Asia Museum will also present a series of exhibitions in the Focus Gallery of contemporary Asian art throughout 2013. Works by Japanese, Korean and South Asian artists will examine trends in contemporary Asian art and introduce lesser-known traditional art forms that are still practiced today.

"The wide range of exhibitions planned for 2013 really



Kendrec McDade

got nowhere to go."

Griffin fired through the open driver's side window as McDade moved laterally down the side of the patrol car. Newlen heard a gunshot and believed that McDade was shooting at Griffin. Newlen also believed that McDade was firing at him after he heard a gunshot and saw a muzzle flash. In fear of his life, Newlen also fired four times until McDade fell to the ground according to the report.

After a search no weapons were found. Officers removed only a cellphone from the front pocket of McDade's sweatpants.

According to an autopsy McDade died from three gunshot wounds to the left abdomen, middle lower abdomen and right arm. He was also shot in the left elbow, left hip, right leg and right forearm.

The toxicology report also revealed that McDade tested positive for marijuana and alcohol.

The report also states that during the investigation, it was determined, robbery victim Oscar Carrillo initially lied to the 9-1-1 operator

when he claimed McDade robbed him at gunpoint. No charges were filed against Carrillo.

Christmas, New Year's Closures & Reminders

Pasadena residents and businesses are reminded that City Hall and many City services will be closed on Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25, 2012 and New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1, 2013.

Pasadena Fire and Police Departments will continue to be staffed during the holidays. For any life-threatening emergencies, please remember to call 9-1-1.

Pasadena residents and businesses with any power emergencies should call the Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) Department at (626) 744-4673 and for water-related emergencies call (626) 744-4138. PWP's regular Customer Service Call Center will be closed for the holidays, but customers can still pay their bills by phone at (626) 744-4005 or on the Web at www.PWPweb.com.

Refuse and recycling collection for both Tuesday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day, and Tuesday, Jan. 1, New Year's Day, will be delayed by one day. All other routes will be serviced per schedule.

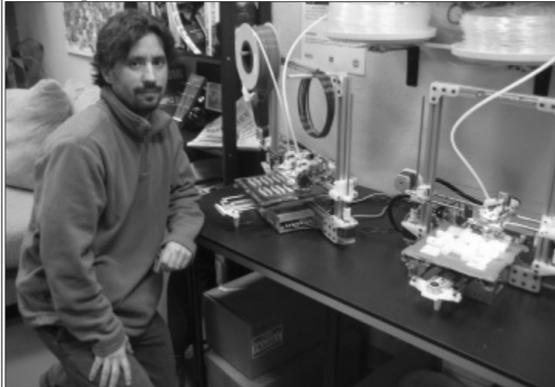
On Dec. 25, the City's Area Rapid Transit System (ARTS) and Dial-A-Ride transportation programs will not be in operation, but will resume regular service on Wednesday, Dec. 26. All parking meters not posted as a "No Parking" zone are free and time limits will not be enforced on Christmas Day, but all parking meter enforcement will resume on Wednesday, Dec. 26. Violations for red curb parking and blocking fire hydrants will continue to be enforced.

On Jan. 1, New Year's Day, the ARTS buses and Dial-A-Ride programs also will not be in operation, but will resume regular service on Wednesday, Jan. 2. All parking meters not posted as a "No Parking" zone will be free on Jan. 1 and time limits will not be enforced on New Year's Day. Parking meter enforcement will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 2. Violations for red curb parking and blocking fire hydrants will continue to be enforced.

All Pasadena Public Libraries, including the Central Library and all branches, will be closed Sunday, December 23, Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25. In addition, all libraries will be closed Sunday, December 30, Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1. The Villa-Parke Branch Library will be closed beginning Saturday, December 22 until Tuesday, January 1.

All Community Centers operated by the City's Human Services and Recreation Department will be closed December 24 through December 28. They will open for a half day on December 31, New Year's Eve, from 8:00 a.m. to Noon, but will be closed on Jan. 1. The centers will resume normal hours again on Jan. 2. All parks will be open for picnics, fun and play, but no site reservations are accepted for the holidays.

Hackerspace to Give Away 3D-printed Ornaments



Diego Porqueras, Photo D. Lee/MVNews

By Dean Lee

Deezmaker, one of only two 3D-printer stores in the country, is inviting people to celebrate the holidays in the most interesting way possible, learning how 3D printing technology works. It's all part of an open house this Sunday at their new store on North Hill Avenue near Pasadena City College.

Store owner Diego Porqueras said he started the 3D printer store, 90 N. Hill Ave. Suite #5, which opened three months ago as Kickstarter project rising over \$100,000. The store sells Porqueras' designed, Bukobot 3D printers.

"I started out buying one 3D printer kit," Porqueras said pointing to the machine in corner of the store. "That allowed me to make more 3D printers, yes they reproduce."

Porqueras said the original machine he bought was difficult to build, "it's a good machine and all, it's just that, whereas these [Bukobot] you can build

in a day, it took me two weeks to build."

Porqueras explained the 3D printer hardware is open source, meaning the technology is not copyrighted or patented making available to the community. Projects are created using popular 3D modeling software such as AutoCAD.

He said for those that show up Sunday, each guest will leave with a free 3D-printed Ornament.

When it opened, Deezmaker became the second 3D printer store in the country after New York's MakerBot. The open house will be from noon to 6 p.m.

Porqueras also said starting in January, every first Sunday of the month, the store will have meetups for 3D printing enthusiasts. For more information; deezmaker.com.

Kickstarter.com is a popular fundraising platform for projects such as art, design, and technology.

PCC Nursing Students to Ride in the Rose Parade



Pasadena City College nursing students Ariel Eby and Nicole Brown have been selected by Bare Root, Inc. to ride atop the "A Healing Place" float, which honors nurses of the past, present, and future for their tireless efforts, compassion, and care at the 124th Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day.

"Nurses create 'a healing place' with their presence, anywhere and under any circumstance," said Monica Weisbrich, RN, president of Bare Root, Inc., a non-profit corporation that was created to raise funds for the design and building of "A Healing Place" float.

The design of the float reflects the qualities of nurses and characteristics of nursing,

according to Weisbrich. The words caring, commitment, compassion, confidence, conscientiousness, and intelligence are inscribed on the base of the float.

"Our riders were selected because they are all highly respected individuals within their respective institutions and epitomize excellence for the profession. They provide an opportunity to recognize the immense contributions that all nurses make regardless of where they provide patient care," Weisbrich said. "Our riders represent the current excellence in our field and the future of the profession, and it provides a small look into the vast opportunities that nursing offers."

Take in the New Year with Peter Boyer's 'Apollo'

The Pasadena Symphony invites audiences to start the new year with a concert celebrating Brahms' First Symphony, Sibelius' Violin Concerto, and Composer-in-Residence Peter Boyer's "Apollo" on Saturday, January 12 at Ambassador Auditorium. Conductor Tito Muñoz returns to lead the orchestra in Brahms' First Symphony; arguably one of the greatest first symphonies ever written by virtue of its strength, lyrical power and triumphant landscape while Boyer's vibrant universe of sound takes center stage with "Apollo."

Nineteen-year-old violin prodigy Caroline Goulding makes her Pasadena Symphony debut performing the Sibelius Violin Concerto, which contrasts the dark, dreamy and reflective with an air of passionate urgency, gypsy dance and boundless virtuosity.

Goulding, who received her first Grammy nomination at the age of 17, is recognized as one of the most dynamic young performers on the scene. She has been profiled by publications ranging from Cosmo Girl to Gramophone, and has performed as soloist

with many of North American's greatest orchestras, including the Cleveland Orchestra, Toronto Symphony, Dallas Symphony, the National Symphony and more. In 2011, Goulding was awarded the highly prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant.

Muñoz last appeared with the Pasadena Symphony in 2011, and was praised by the Los Angeles Times as a conductor who "struck fire" and "was imparting character into each phrase, getting dialogues going between instrumental groups." He was recently appointed Music Director of the Opéra National de Lorraine and the Orchestre symphonique et lyrique de Nancy, and previously served a three year tenure as Assistant Conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra.

Brahms & Sibelius is the third concert in the Pasadena Symphony's 2012-13 Singoli Classics Series at Ambassador Auditorium. Tickets to the concert on Saturday, January 12 at 2:00pm and 8:00pm begin at \$35 and may be purchased by visiting www.PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org, calling 626.793.7172 or onsite day of concert.

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT SIERRA MADRE'S VILLAGE CHURCH - ASCENSION - All Are Welcome

Many special events take place at Ascension during Christmastide. You are invited to join us as we celebrate this glorious season through story, pageant, song, prayer, scripture, and candlelight. This year's schedule of special services for Christmas includes:

December 24th Christmas Eve - Family Service and Pageant at 5:00 p.m. This special family service features the Children's Christmas Pageant during which our youth inspire us with an adaptation of Charles Tazewell's classic story - The Littlest Angel. All children attending this service are encouraged to participate in the telling of the story. The service will also be filled with music provided by the children and a musical quartet.

December 24th Christmas Eve - Carols and Hymns at 10:30 p.m. and Mass at 11:00 p.m. Ascension's late Christmas Eve service features the traditional procession, incense, candles, prayer, sermon, and the great music of the season as the congregation joyously celebrates the birth of Christ.

December 25th Christmas Day - 11:00 a.m. the Celebration of the Feast of the Nativity.

Church of the Ascension is located at 25 E. Laurel Avenue (Laurel and Baldwin Avenues) in Sierra Madre. For more information, please call (626) 355-1133 or visit: www.ascensionsierramadre.com.

THE BEAUTY OF CHRISTMAS



Above: Mrs. Elby's pre-kindergarten class at Sunrise Pre-School enact the story of Mary and Joseph's arrival in Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. Sierra Madre resident Malania Thomas portrays Mary (center left). Below homes throughout the area are decorated to celebrate the season.

Below: The Mountain Views News pick for the Best Decorated Home in Sierra Madre. Snowmen welcome visitors to this elegantly adorned home on Alegria in Sierra Madre.



Above is the Mountain Views favorite from neighboring Upper Hastings Ranch. Snoopy greets visitors entering a neighborhood filled with decorated homes.

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

For The Period December 10-16, 2012

Monday December 9, 2012

A resident in the 400 block of San Gabriel Court reported that merchandise she had purchased on-line was removed from her porch after being delivered via the U.S. Postal Service. The investigation confirmed that the package had been delivered and placed on the front porch. The single box delivered contained a yellow metal ring with a turquoise stone and four Christmas ornaments.

Thursday December 13, 2012

An apparent vandalism to a vehicle was reported in the 100 Colony drive. At approximately 9pm, the owner of the vehicle was leaving the residence when they observed that the driver's side window was shattered. The investigation indicated that an unknown object was used to smash the window but there was no indication that the suspect(s) entered the vehicle and no property was reported missing.

The following morning, a similar crime was reported in the 300 block of North Canon Drive. The resident discovered that his driver's side window was smashed when he exited his residence at 7:15am. A small marble was discovered inside the vehicle suggesting that a sling-shot device may have been used by the suspect(s). Again, there was no indication that anyone entered the vehicle and removed property.

Friday 14, 2012

At 11:30 pm an officer observed a vehicle travelling east on Foothill Boulevard make a u-turn by driving over the raised center divider of the roadway. After making a traffic stop the officer observed that the driver displayed obvious signs of intoxication. The driver (female 50 years of age) failed to adequately perform the field sobriety tests and was subsequently arrested for DUI.

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

Contact us at: editor@mntviewsnews.com or www.facebook.com/mountainviewsnews AND Twitter: @mntviewsnews



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REMEMBRANCES

WILLIAM JOHN ZIMMERMAN, D.D.S.
June 9, 1922- November 10, 2012

Bill Zimmerman was the older brother of Monsignor Roland Zimmerman, Pastor of Annunciation Parish, Arcadia, many years. Our beloved Monsignor is still his residence and celebrates 8:30 am Masses on Saturday and 7:30 on Sunday.

What makes Bill so special? He was a Marine pilot and flew 83 missions over the Pacific and received the Distinguished Flying Cross, The Air Medal, Presidential Citation from F.D.R. and a Navy Commendation Medal from Admiral Halsey plus numerous citations. After active duty, he instructed Navy cadets in flying aerobics. He graduated from USC dental school in 1953 and began his dental practice while teaching at the Dental School. He opened a dental office on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and built a successful practice there for over thirty years.

He was the consummate family man- devoted to his parents and the ideal older brother to Roland as a friend and mentor while growing up. He married Nancy, the love of his life for fifty-nine years. They had five children, eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Bob and I attended the Memorial this past weekend at St. John Fisher Church in Rancho Palos Verdes and met his wonderful family. Monsignor officiated and concelebrating were Father Mike Callanan from Annunciation, Monsignor Gil, and Monsignor Carroll from Bishop Amat. There was a display table with a framed picture of Bill and the American flag. Two Marines stood at guard, and after Mass, the flag was folded and given to Nancy while Taps played. As we processed out of Church, the Marine Anthem played. Semper Fi.



DOROTHY WELLS UHL
February 26, 1920-
December 7, 2012

Dorothy Uhl was a parishioner at Annunciation Church, Arcadia until her recent death. She and her husband Jim are the parents of Nancy Sheehan. (Nancy's late husband, Chuck served on the Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte Town Council several years and were active volunteers in the community) Dorothy always was friendly and I knew that she and Jim had lived in China, but I had no idea of what a remarkable woman she was and how she touched other lives.

Dot grew up in Ohio during the Depression when times were tough. Her family was poor and her life hard. But the Dayton's Women's Club provided a scholarship to Ohio State. Two great things happened there. She pursued journalism and met the love of her life, Jim Uhl. He was the editor of the college paper and she was a writer! After graduation and marriage, they traveled to Washington DC, Omaha Nebraska, Cincinnati Ohio and finally Beijing China. They had five daughters: Pat, Judy, Nancy, Eleanor and Barbara; four sons-in-law Roger Howard (Pat), David Bliss (Judy), Chuck Sheehan-deceased (Nancy), Mike Silverman-deceased (Barbara) and three grandchildren, Laura, Tom, and Sarah.

What makes Dot so noteworthy? Dot spent her career as a journalist fighting discrimination against women's roles in the workplace. She was counted as a member of a very small number of women who reported hard news. She covered the Sam Shepherd murder trial for the Post in Cincinnati and eventually was promoted to Copy Editor. She and Jim ended their newspaper career in Beijing where they worked on the China Daily News.

Dorothy passed away on December 7th after twelve years of struggle with the effects of strokes and dementia. Jim never left her side for 71 years and will join her when it's his turn to go home to God.

Submitted by Joan Schmidt

FUN FOR KIDS THIS WINTER IN ARCADIA!

The Recreation and Community Services Department is offering a variety of winter activities this season. A Winter Kids Camp is held at Baldwin Stocker Elementary School, 422 E. Lemon Ave. The camp is open to elementary school age children in grades 1-5 and provides a safe, supervised, kid friendly retreat during winter vacation. The dates are December 26-28, 2012 and January 2-4, 2013 from 9am-5pm for a cost of \$20 per day.

Sign your child up for one day or all six. The camp is filled with fun group activities including crafts, cooking, board games, movies, snacks and more. Supervision is generally on a ratio of one Recreation Leader for each group of 10 children. Groups will be organized by age and grade level.

Kids Night Out held at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive is on Friday, December 21, 2012 (Winter Wonderland) and January 11, 2013 (Happy Penguins). Kids Night Out provides kids a night of fun and play so mom and dad enjoy an evening out or a quiet evening at home. Recreation Staff and Volunteers offer themed games, movies, dinner, snacks and supervision for children ages 4 and above. Accommodations cannot be made for special dietary needs. The cost is \$15 per child and is held from 6-11pm.

Pre-registration is mandatory for all of our activities and a \$2 registration fee is applicable for those participants not registered in any other winter classes. On-line, mail-in, walk-in and fax-in registrations have begun. Go to the city's website at www.ci.arcadia.ca.us under the Recreation and Community Services Department or come by our office, 375 Campus Drive. For more questions, please contact the Recreation Department at 626.574.5113.

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SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE FOUND AT SANTA ANITA MALL

On Thursday, December 20th, the Arcadia Police Officers responded to the report of a suspicious package at the Westfield Santa Anita Mall at approximately 9:52 am.

The package was located and a safety perimeter was established. The Los Angeles County Bomb Squad was requested for assistance and arrived on scene at approximately 1055 hours. A short time later the Bomb Squad rendered the package safe and determined it was not an explosive device. It was determined that the package contained what appeared to be marijuana.

No suspect(s) were arrested and there were no injuries to officers or bystanders.

The investigation into the origin of the package is ongoing by Arcadia Police Officers.

Any information refer to APD Case Number 12-5896. Robert T. Guthrie, Chief of Police

ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, December 9th, through Saturday, December 15th, the Police Department responded to 985 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, December 9:

1. At about 2:30 a.m., officers were dispatched to the area of Live Oak Avenue and Mayflower Avenue regarding several subjects loitering on the sidewalk in front of a closed business. A records check revealed one of the subjects had an outstanding warrant. The 35-year-old, Hispanic male was arrested for having an outstanding warrant and taken to the Arcadia City Jail for processing.

2. Around 9:20 a.m., officers responded to the McDonald's parking lot, 143 E. Foothill Boulevard, regarding a possible drunk driver. Upon contact with the driver, officers detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from inside the vehicle. An investigation revealed the driver was under the influence of alcohol and had two outstanding warrants for his arrest. The 25-year-old, White male was consequently arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Monday, December 10:

3. At approximately 11:00 a.m., an officer was dispatched to the Arcadia Police Department regarding a male suspect in the lobby with outstanding warrants. A records check revealed the suspect had five outstanding warrants for his arrest. The 59-year-old, White male was arrested and taken to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

4. Shortly after 7:45p.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for having a broken brake light on Huntington Drive near La Cadena Avenue. A subsequent investigation revealed the driver had a suspended license and an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The 23-year-old, White male was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Tuesday, December 11:

5. Around 9:45 a.m., officers were dispatched to the Arcadia Friends Community Church, 5705 Lenore Avenue, in regards to a commercial burglary. Investigation revealed that a storage container located in the parking lot had been forced open, and a pressure washer had been stolen. There were no signs of the suspects in the area, and there were no surveillance cameras or witnesses.

6. At about 6:12 p.m., officers responded to Arcadia Methodist Hospital, 300 W. Huntington Drive, regarding a boyfriend threatening his girlfriend who was hospitalized there. Investigation revealed the boyfriend became angry when the girlfriend refused to give him the keys to her apartment. The suspect closed the privacy curtain, broke a wooden stick in half, and threatened to harm her. The suspect was not at the scene upon officers' arrival, and is described as a 19-year-old, Hispanic male, 5 ft., about 120 lbs.

Wednesday, December 12:

7. At approximately 6:40 p.m., an officer responded to the 1000 block of Fairview Avenue regarding a verbal argument between a boyfriend and girlfriend that resulted in vandalism. Investigation revealed the girlfriend broke her boyfriend's cell phone and kicked and damaged the front door to his home. The boyfriend did not desire prosecution.

8. At about 11:38 p.m., officers were dispatched to 24 Hour Fitness, 125 N. First Avenue, in reference to a stolen vehicle. The male victim reported his car keys had been stolen from a secured locker while he was using the gym facilities. Upon exiting, he discovered his 2009 Toyota Corolla was missing. There were no surveillance cameras or witnesses.

Thursday, December 13:

9. Around 5:43 a.m., officers responded to Enerage Inc., 314 E. Live Oak Avenue, regarding a commercial burglary in progress. Upon arrival, the male suspect attempted to flee the scene and was detained by officers. Investigation revealed the suspect was attempting to steal copper wire from the location. The 46-year-old, Hispanic male was arrested for burglary, and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

10. Around 4:43 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 1500 block of S. Second Avenue in regard to a residential burglary. Officers discovered the suspect(s) entered through a rear sliding door and ransacked a bedroom. Investigation revealed there was no damage done to the home and it is unknown if anything was stolen. There were no witnesses or surveillance cameras at the location.

Friday, December 14:

11. At about 2:08 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle suspiciously parked in the area of Longden Avenue and El Sereno Drive. Investigation revealed the male suspects were in possession of two City of Arcadia street signs in the back seat of their vehicle. The 16-year-old, Chinese male and the 18-year-old, Hispanic male were arrested for possession of stolen property, and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for processing.

12. At approximately 7:05 p.m., officers responded to Sephora at the Westfield Shopping Town, 400 S. Baldwin Avenue, regarding two subjects in custody for theft. The subjects concealed cosmetic items and perfume bottles inside a shopping bag, and exited the store without paying for them. Further investigation revealed the subjects had stolen merchandise from several other stores in the mall. The 26-year-old, Filipino female and the 26-year-old, Filipino male were arrested for commercial burglary and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Saturday, December 15:

13. Around 9:03 a.m., officers were dispatched to the 500 block of W. Foothill, regarding a male subject disturbing the peace. Investigation revealed the subject was irate, verbally aggressive and emotionally unstable. The 29-year-old male was transported to Arcadia Methodist Hospital for medical treatment and a 72-hour evaluation.

14. Around 5:27 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the 1900 block of S. Santa Anita Avenue in regard to a residential burglary. Investigation revealed the suspect(s) entered through an unlocked front window and ransacked several rooms. There were no witnesses or surveillance cameras, and it was unknown if anything was stolen.



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CHIEF HUNT ADDRESSES MONROVIA CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR PRO TEM JOE GARCIA WON'T SEEK RE-ELECTION

By Joan Schmidt

This past Tuesday's Monrovia City Council Meeting offered reassurance and gave this reporter a great surprise.

Once again residents of Monrovia saw firsthand what a fine Police Department the City has. Monrovia Police Chief Jim Hunt addressed the City Council and related the steps his department has taken to ensure the safety of our children after the terrible tragedy in Connecticut.

Officers have begun visiting schools multiple times during the day. "We had extra patrols at all our schools over the weekend and we've implemented a process where our officers in each beat will visit the schools regularly, get out and go onto the campus several times a day, just so no one knows when an officer is going to be there, and they're showing an additional presence to provide some additional security at the schools."

Prior to the Connecticut shootings, the Monrovia Unified School District and Monrovia Police teamed up to prepare "cross response boxes" for each school in the district. The boxes contain logistical information like maps to help officers plan a crisis response should a major incident occur. Chief Hunt also noted that the Department trains on an annual basis to respond to violent incidents at schools. His address reassured the community that our children and their safety are the Department's top priority and a proactive program is in progress.

Tuesday's meeting had a surprise announcement. Mayor Pro Tem Joe Garcia revealed that he will not seek re-election in April.

"The Community has entrusted me with their support and given me the privilege to represent them...As my fourth term comes to an end, I have decided after considerable reflection and soul searching to not seek re-election in April."

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia felt "thankful for the opportunity to serve on the council". He also had praise for his colleagues and staff for their help to make Monrovia the "great city it is".

Mayor Lutz, eloquent as always thanked Garcia and wished him well, "You have served this community well with all of your heart and all of your being."

Council Member Tom Adams said he would miss Garcia and praised him for all his work on history preservation and establishing the city's "Art in Public Places Program". "Joe's done some incredible things in the City".

Earlier in the evening, I caught the Channel 7 News. They were giving an update on their wonderful Toy Drive, "Spark of Love". On the screen, I saw Monrovia Firemen collecting toys! The newscaster reported, "Monrovia Firemen collected toys and brought them over to the Foothill Unity Center." Then the next scene shows the Mayor, members of the City Council and Fire Department posing with Betty McWilliams, Foothill Unity Center Director, and holding a large check for \$6,000! The newscaster said that monetary donations had also been received! Well done, Monrovia! Thank you and many all of you have a wonderful holiday!

As we close out 2012, the City of Monrovia wishes you a very Happy Holiday and a wonderful New Year!

Things to keep in mind through this Holiday Season:

Take the Holiday Lights Tour around Monrovia, viewing all of our Holiday Home Happenings winners. It's guaranteed to put you in a festive mood.

Congratulations to our Holiday Home Decorating Contest Winners

Monrovia residents decorated their homes and entered the annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest. The contest judging was held on Monday, December

17 and the award winners were recognized at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 18. Each award winner received a decorative yard sign to display the winning award title. Self-guided tour maps are available at the Community Center, City Hall, Library, City of Monrovia website and Facebook page. The award winners are:

Best Still Display - 541 Valmont Drive
Best Outdoor Display - 149 North Alta Vista Avenue
Best Decorated Outdoor Tree - 308 West Lemon Avenue
Best Window Display - 208 South Mayflower Avenue
Holiday Spirit Award - 529 Val-

mont Drive

Most Effective Use of Lighting a House - 380 Norumbega Drive

Toyland Award - 309 North Madison Avenue

Children's Choice Award - 333 Norumbega Drive

Best Neighborhood Effort - Valmont Drive and Valmont Place

Snowman Award - 1416 South Alamos Avenue

Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) Festivities Award - 100 and 200 Block of Fig Avenue

Judges Award - 2500 Block of Rochelle Avenue

Tim McKeenan "Best of Season" Award - 550 South Park Rose

LOOKING FOR PLANS TO RING IN 2013? TRY NEW YEARS EVE IN OLD TOWN!

Head to Old Town Monrovia on Myrtle Avenue for the 2nd Annual Monrovia New Years Eve celebration! Ring in 2013 from 7p.m. to midnight with a live band, ball drop and a beer and wine garden. Bring the whole family!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR - MONROVIA HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Tuesday, December 18, 7:30 p.m. City Council Meeting

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24- CHRISTMAS EVE; CITY HALL, CORPORATE YARD, COMMUNITY CENTER & LIBRARY CLOSED

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25- CHRISTMAS DAY, CITY HALL, CORPORATE YARD, COMMUNITY CENTER & LIBRARY CLOSED

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31- NEW YEARS EVE; CITY HALL, CORPORATE YARD, COMMUNITY CENTER & LIBRARY CLOSED

MONDAY, JANUARY 1- NEW YEARS DAY; CITY HALL, CORPORATE YARD, COMMUNITY CENTER & LIBRARY CLOSED

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 CITY COUNCIL MEETING CANCELLED

Tuesday, January 15, 7:30 p.m. City Council Meeting

Monrovia Police Blotter

During the last seven-day period, the Police Department handled 410 service events, resulting in 76 investigations.

Possession of Methamphetamine for Sale - Suspect Arrested

On December 11 at 12:28 a.m., police received a call reporting suspicious individuals in the 300 block of West Palm. When officers approached, they saw a male subject hide something in a bush. Methamphetamine and cash was recovered. The suspect, who is currently on parole, was arrested and taken into custody.

Vehicle Burglary

On December 12 at 5:07 a.m., a vehicle burglary was reported by a resident in the 500 block of Date Court. The vehicle was parked on the second level of a parking structure between midnight and 5:00 a.m. The victim reported that he locked his vehicle. There were no signs of forced entry. Tools were stolen from the vehicle. Investigation continuing.

Hot-Prowl Burglary

On December 12 at 11:26 p.m., a hot-prowl residential burglary was reported in the 1300 block of South Primrose. The victim left for work at 8 a.m. She locked her bedroom door before leaving. When she returned at 11:15 p.m., she found her bedroom had been ransacked and her jewelry had been stolen. The suspect had removed the screen from an unlocked rear window to enter the bedroom. The victim's mother was in the house when the crime occurred, but did not hear or see anything suspicious. Another family member was in the rear house, which faces the point of entry. The family's dogs were heard barking at approximately 4 p.m., but no one checked to see what was disturbing them. Investigation continuing.

Driving Under the Influence - Suspect Arrested

On December 14 at 12:52 a.m., an officer observed a driver go through a stop light at Huntington and Magnolia. He conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle, and the investigation determined the driver was driving under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and taken into custody.

Driving Under the Influence - Suspect Arrested

On December 14 at 5:50 a.m., an officer observed a driver go through the stop sign at Mountain and Foothill. He stopped the driver and conducted a DUI investigation. The driver was determined to be driving under the influence and was arrested.

Commercial Burglary - Suspect Arrested

On December 14 at 6:29 p.m., a burglary was reported at a business in the 100 block of West Foothill. A male suspect entered the store, concealed alcohol under his clothing and fled the location. Loss prevention chased the suspect, caught him and called police. The suspect admitted to entering the store with the intent to steal alcohol as he had no money to pay. He was arrested and charged with burglary.

Weapons Violation / Warrants - Suspects Arrested

On December 15 at 3:20 p.m., officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle occupied by two male subjects in the 200 block of East Huntington. Both occupants had outstanding warrants, and the driver had a suspended driver's license. Upon searching the vehicle, the officers located metal knuckles beneath the center bench seats. The driver claimed ownership of the metal knuckles and was additionally charged for the weapons violation. Both subjects were arrested.



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PD TIP OF THE WEEK: PREVENT THEFT OF PACKAGES

Theft of packages is an easy crime to commit and can be perpetrated by even the least professional type of criminal. Below are some simple steps you can take to protect your package delivery:

Request a specific drop off time when you know that you will be at home to receive the package. Ask for your parcel to be placed on a back porch or even beside the front porch or anywhere that is not visible from the street.

Arrange to pick up your parcels at a package store, such as a UPS store that is convenient for you. Let a trustworthy neighbor know you are expecting a package delivery on a specific day and ask them to look out for it and bring it into their home for you.

Have your package delivered to your work address during daytime hours. Know when a package is scheduled to arrive and if it doesn't, contact the sender to track the transport status of the package.

And if you see mail theft happening in your neighborhood, be sure to call your local police at once to report exactly what you have seen. Time can be a decisive factor in the apprehension of mail thieves.

DUARTE CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PROGRAM COLLECTION FROM DEC. 26 TO JAN. 14

Extra Holiday Trash and Recycling Program Also Offered

DUARTE, CA, December 12, 2012 - The City of Duarte through its franchised trash hauler, Burrtec Waste, will provide a Christmas tree collection service for residential customers in conjunction with Sanitation districts of Los Angeles County annual Christmas Tree Recycling program.

Christmas trees will be collected on regular trash collection days from Dec. 26 through Jan. 14. All decorations, tinsel and stands must be removed. Flocked trees or trees coated with a fire retardant will be accepted. Trees over six feet tall need to be cut in half. Christmas tree collection will also be available in the county area of Duarte. The County of Los Angeles has contracted with waste haulers serving the unincorporated areas to provide Christmas tree recycling services to residences, multi-residential complexes and commercial, institutional, and industrial entities. This year Burrtec will collect excess holiday trash and recyclables beginning Dec. 26

through Jan. 4. Single-family residences may place excess holiday trash/recyclables in bags alongside their containers on collection day. Approximately 80% of holiday trash is recyclable including all gift boxes, wrapping paper, greeting cards and cardboard packaging. For more information about the Christmas tree recycling program in the City of Duarte, call City Hall at (626) 357-7931 or Burrtec at (1-800) 325-9417 or visit www.accessduarte.com.



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DAY ONE'S CHERISHING CHILDREN EVENT BRINGS SMILES TO HUNDREDS OF LOCAL YOUTH!



On Friday, December 14th the sounds of children giddy with laughter as they threw snow balls, waved their arms up and down to form snow angels and line up to receive a gift from the man in red himself filled the air during Day One's third annual "Cherishing Children" Holiday Celebration.

"We know that times continue to be difficult for many families," shared Christy Zamani, Day One Executive Director. "Cherishing Children is our effort to do what we can to make sure that ALL of our children experience the holiday spirit." With the help of Toys for Tots, Kaiser Permanente, Armory Center for the Arts, and countless community members and partners Day One was able to bring smiles to over 500 faces. This event has grown into a Day One tradition that we hope to celebrate for years to come. See more at: <http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.3641514491576.120297.1685740280&type=1>

If you would like to make a tax deductible product or monetary donation, please mail to or drop off at Day One, 175 North Euclid Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101. Online donations are also available at www.dayonepasadena.org/donate

Day One is a 24-year old nonprofit community based organization whose mission is to provide an organizational structure by which Pasadena and Altadena will reduce the problems associated with alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use. Day One convenes, develops, coordinates, and provides prevention services.

ALVERNO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RAISE OVER \$1,000 FOR GIRLS EDUCATION

Students held sold over 1,000 cupcakes to provide a year of education for a girl in India

Sierra Madre, CA Alverno students were recently given an incredible task— raise \$1,000 to help educate a girl in India through She's the First. The method? Selling cupcakes for \$1 a piece on campus, to friends and family, and around the community.

In August, Alverno was introduced to She's the First, a nonprofit organization that sponsors girls' education in the developing world, helping them be the first in their families to graduate. In the process, She's the First fosters leadership and global awareness in young Americans, by inspiring them to lead creative fundraisers and correspond with sponsored students.

Prior to the launch of the "Cupcake Craze," Alverno's Campus Ministry had chosen a school named Shanti Bhavan Children's Project in Baliganapalli, Tamil Nadu, India who would receive the proceeds from the cupcake sales on campus. Shanti Bhavan is a home and exceptional school located in rural Tamil Nadu, India, for the region's most socially and economically disadvantaged children. Admitting students at the age of four, Shanti Bhavan provides a holistic, high quality education until the age of 17 free of cost, and subsequently funds college education for its students. The total cost of a student receiving an education at Shanti Bhavan is \$1,600, which includes education, room and board, medical costs, clothing, and recreational expenses.

In order to help raise the funds to sponsor a girl to attend Shanti Bhavan, Alverno students started baking, creating dozens and dozens of cupcakes to be sold. More than 30 students entered a cupcake bake-off for \$5. Five faculty and staff members generously volunteered their palettes as judges and tasted over two dozen cupcakes before declaring three winners who each received a special prize. The flavors of the winning cupcakes were dulce de leche, maple and bacon, and pumpkin spice, respectively. After a week of selling and baking, Alverno students were not only able to meet but exceeded their goal by raising \$1,100 for a student at Shanti Bhavan.

"At Alverno, we teach our students about the importance of social justice and the difference that one person can make in the world," said Ann Gillick, Head of School. "I am proud to see them take the lesson and put it into action by helping a school like Shanti Bhavan. We share a very special and important mission with them of empowering each young woman to be exactly the person she wants to be."

About Alverno High School

Alverno High School is a Catholic, private, college preparatory school for young women dedicated to preparing them to function in a society as informed, knowledgeable persons, who have the requisite skills to make and implement mature decisions about complex problems. Enlivened by the spirit of its Immaculate Heart Community sponsors, and mindful of the Franciscan roots of its founders, Alverno's program—academic, spiritual, aesthetic, social, and physical—is shaped by the staff, trustees, and students in light of the world for which the students are being educated. Alverno's mission is to empower each young woman to be exactly the person she wants to be and since 1960, Alverno has empowered more than 4,100 women to meet that goal. For more information about Alverno High School, please call 626-355-3463 or visit www.alverno-hs.org.

PUSD NEWSFLASH WEEKLY

The schools of the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) will be closed for the annual winter break from December 24 through January 4, 2013. Classes resume Monday, January 7, 2013. Many central offices will be closed as well.

PUSD's Families in Transition has collected food, toys and clothing for homeless students and their families this holiday season. Donation drives were held at PUSD schools. Volunteers from John Muir High School and other campuses helped collect and deliver donations to the Families in Transition office for distribution to families.

Miracle-Gro and the Tournament of Roses are replacing an edible garden designed to help special needs students at Pasadena High School to learn about science, nutrition and the environment. The student-designed garden includes vegetables and herbs, as well as special features to accommodate the students' needs such as raised beds. The joint project supported by Miracle-Gro and its partner, the Tournament of Roses, is not only beautiful, but also a living, functional learning laboratory. Pasadena High School, which sits at the end of the Rose Parade route, will be the first of the gardens Miracle-Gro and its partners will create across the area to encourage neighborhood participation in edible gardening.

Looking for a last minute holiday gift or year-end donation? Give a gift to a teacher for PUSD classrooms! Donors Choose, a nonprofit website that allows teachers to post needs for individual classrooms, is a great way to support PUSD schools. For a limited time Horace Mann Investors will match any gift up to \$100 by entering the code horacemann12 at checkout. Horace Mann is donating \$250,000 through its "Imagine a Better Classroom" campaign, increasing its total contributions to DonorsChoose.org to more than \$1.5 million since February 2011.

After watching news on local television stations, students in special education teacher Stephanie Coese's class collected donations to benefit ABC7's annual Spark of Love toy drive and delivered the donations to the Altadena Sheriff's Station on December 18. Coese's students are ages 18-22 with moderate to severe disabilities in PUSD's Pasadena Adult Living Skills (PALS) program. "So often, students with disabilities go through life with many things done for them," said Coese. "Our students are learning how to give, which gives them purpose --- something that everyone strives to achieve."

PUSD Facilities Supervisor Shirly Barrett was honored by the California Urban Water Conservation Council on December 12 for her leadership role in the expansion of the Muir Ranch at John Muir High School. The water-wise and edible expansion of the 5,000 square foot ranch, including turf removal, soil preparation, irrigation systems and raised plant beds, was funded in part by Pasadena Water & Power. Using a project-based learning approach under the direction of certified master gardener Mud Baron, students grow and harvest vegetables on the campus farm and sell the produce through subscriptions and local farmers' markets.

The application period for 2013-2014 Open Enrollment begins January 23, 2012. Open Enrollment is PUSD's school of choice program. Applications will be accepted for admission in popular specialized programs such as:

- Dual Language Immersion - Spanish (now offered on two campuses)
 - Dual Language Immersion - Mandarin Chinese
 - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) middle school magnet
 - International Baccalaureate schools
 - College & Career Pathways in themed academies such as the new App Academy and existing academies such as Engineering & Environmental Science, Culinary and Hospitality and Business & Entrepreneurship.
- Please visit www.openenrollment.info to learn more about the open enrollment process.

Starting in January, college-bound seniors and their families can begin submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for state and federal grants, loans and work-study funds. For more information, go to www.calgrants.org. The filing period begins in January and ends March 2, 2013.

December 24, 2012 - January 4, 2013
PUSD schools closed for winter break. Many district offices will also be closed.

December 26-30
It's going to be a winter wonderland at Kidspace Children's Museum in Pasadena as 60 tons of snow is trucked in for the 5th Annual Snow Days winter celebration. Snow Days at Kidspace takes place from Wednesday, December 26 through Sunday, December 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends. 480 North Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena (Adjacent to the Rose Bowl).

Thursday, December 27
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Celebrate the joyous and festive occasion of Kwanzaa with music, stories, refreshments prepared by the Pasadena Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and a special appearance by Queen Vanessa Manjarrez and the 2013 Tournament of Roses Royal Court. La Pintoresca Branch Library, 1355 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena. For more information, contact Diane Walker at (626) 744-7268 or dianewalker@cityofpasadena.net.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

Clairbourn School
8400 Huntington Drive
San Gabriel, CA 91775
Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172
FAX: 626-286-1528
E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org
Foothill Oaks Academy
822 Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010
(626) 301-9809

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Walden School
74 S San Gabriel Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166
www.waldenschool.net

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

Wilson Middle School
300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln
E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981 Website: www.pusd@pusd.us

ARCADIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
234 Campus Dr., Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 821-8300 Website: www.ausd.net

MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016
(626) 471-2000 Website: www.monroviachools.net

DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010
(626)599-5000 Website: www.duarte.k12.ca.us

THE REEL DEAL: by Ben Show

Movie Reviews Especially for Teens & 'Tweens

THE HOBBIT - An Unexpected Journey



The next chapter of the "Lord of the Rings" movie franchise has started off strong. After reading the book, and hearing that "The Hobbit" would be made into three movies, I was skeptical at first, but when I saw the first preview, all of my doubt faded.

A long time ago, before Frodo and Sam embarked upon their quest to destroy evil, there lived a mild mannered hobbit named Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman). He lived a normal life, until the day that the great wandering wizard Gandalf the Grey (Ian McKellen) and a band of dwarves invite him to go on a quest with them to take back their home from an evil dragon.

While the beginning is slow and very dreary, the movie takes off and soars once the quest starts. With stellar directing (Peter Jackson), screenwriters who worked on the original "Lord of the Rings" trilogy (Fran Walsh, Philippa Boyens), and 3D that kicks butt, "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" is a great start to a new trilogy that will equal its predecessors in greatness.

We have just enough time before... ..the holidays to make our presents.

Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com Annimills LLC © 2012 V9-50

Chatter and I are making all of our holiday gifts this year. I'm using my computer to help. I will write stories and recipes, and draw pictures, then print out my work. Next, I will decorate my work and bind it into books or make other fun items. I can't wait to start!

The Gift of Giving

Fill in the missing vowels to name items that you can use to decorate or make your gifts:

ST _CK _RS Y _RN
R _BB _NS
SP _RKL _S B _TT _NS
C _L _R _D P _P _R

stationery scrapbook
stories coloring
journal recipe
frames bookmarks
calendar puzzle

I'm making all of my gifts by hand.

I make wrapping paper by decorating paper bags!

I'm going to paint, glue and make a big, fun mess on the kitchen table!

pen
glue
ruler
string
pencils
photos
scissors

Gifts to make - by computer or by hand:

1. if you have photos or postcards, you can make a travel _____
2. think of a theme (like "winter fun"), make a crossword or word search _____; roll it up and tie it with a ribbon
3. make _____ for photos, drawings, scrapbook
4. tie together some pieces of cardboard or buy a _____ in which to put photos, school papers
5. write tales and make drawings, print them out and make them into a book full of _____
6. decorate any plain paper to create writing paper or _____
7. make your own pictures for each month (or find printable forms on your computer) to make a yearly _____
8. paper or cardboard strips decorated with cartoons, stickers or poetry to help your friends keep track of their reading
9. write your family's favorites on index cards, put together in a small box or in book to form a _____ file or book
10. draw "outline" pictures to make a _____ book for younger brother or sister - add markers or crayons to this gift

LOBSTER ON A ROLL IN ALHAMBRA

Many years ago my dad, Elmer Dills, would take us all the way up to Oxnard to a little restaurant called Tuck's Point in the harbor for what he thought were the best Lobster Rolls Sandwiches this side of the Atlantic. A few years back I was in Boston for a wedding and made way to Faneuil Hall, an inside marketplace with shops and restaurants. It was more like counters I should say, and that is where I found a lobster roll sandwich which I thought was the end all. Teamed up with a Boston Beer (not Sam Adams), it was truly a sandwich from heaven.



Now, in 2012, I have driven past by Twohey's Restaurant on Huntington Dr. if not 1001 times, darn close. You know the place the cute sign with the guy with the clothespin on his nose, and the banners of 4th of July specials or Baby Back ribs now until then all you can eat specials. Sharing a parking lot with In n' Out must be a competitive nightmare or... well I digress. I just never felt like going in, maybe I had a preconceived thought of Marge pouring cold coffee or a patty melt that had seen better days. I know they are famous for serving breakfast all day and night, but I must admit a bowl of fruit for breakfast and I am golden.

TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills
thechefknows@yahoo.com

But one afternoon I stopped in and as I always try to do if I am at Hustons, Ruth Chris or now Twohey's, I sit at the bar or counter seating, since I have to be in the middle of the action. Twohey's has over 300 items on the menu, a big red flag for me! I think fifty is too many. After checking out the menu, hidden on the second column

of the sandwich selection was a Lobster roll \$10.95, nothing about world famous or house specialty, no fanfare, just a brief description of Maine lobster, diced and tossed with celery and house mayo. Could it be? Could something such as this bring back those memories of driving up to Oxnard with my dad, or my trip to Boston.? My answer is a big Yes! This sandwich, if not right on the mark, was so close that I have to do my best Paul Revere and let all my neighbors this sandwich, served with freshly cut potato chips is a winner. I found out that GM Charlie Cristos and family hail from Beantown and in fact owned Jimmy's Harborside Restaurant and they still import the hot dog bun from Boston. Now, that is authentic. I was sold the first time having the Twohey's Lobster Rolls sandwich, but thought I'd take advantage of editor Susan's generous expense account and go twice, so I changed things up a little and had the carrot salad, and yes thumbs up. What else can I discover here at Twohey's? Assistant Honcho John Beeman tells me that the onion rings being made every morning, and they make a pretty mean chili. I will return!



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INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound linguini
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling
- 1 large shallot, finely diced
- 5 cloves garlic, sliced
- Pinch red pepper flakes, optional
- 20 large shrimp, about 1 pound, peeled and deveined, tail on
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 1/4 cup finely chopped parsley leaves

DIRECTIONS

For the pasta, put a large pot of water on the stove to boil. When it has come to the boil, add a couple of tablespoons of salt and the linguini. Stir to make sure the pasta separates; cover. When the water returns to a boil, cook for about 6 to 8 minutes or until the pasta is not quite done. Drain the pasta reserving 1 cup of water.

Meanwhile, in a large skillet, melt 2 tablespoons butter in 2 tablespoons olive oil over medium-high heat. Sauté the shallots, garlic, and red pepper flakes (if using) until the shallots are translucent, about 3 to 4 minutes. Season the shrimp with salt and pepper; add them to the pan and cook until they have turned pink, about 2 to 3 minutes. Remove the shrimp from the pan; set aside and keep warm. Add wine and lemon juice and bring to a boil. Add 2 tablespoons butter and 2 tablespoons oil. When the butter has melted, return the shrimp to the pan along with the parsley and cooked pasta and reserved pasta water. Stir well and season with salt and pepper. Drizzle over a bit more olive oil and serve immediately.



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Looking Up

with Bob Eklund



GRAIL LUNAR IMPACT SITE NAMED FOR ASTRONAUT SALLY RIDE

NASA has named the site where the twin Ebb and Flow spacecraft impacted the Moon on Dec. 17 in honor of the late astronaut, Sally K. Ride, who was America's first woman in space and a member of the GRAIL mission team.

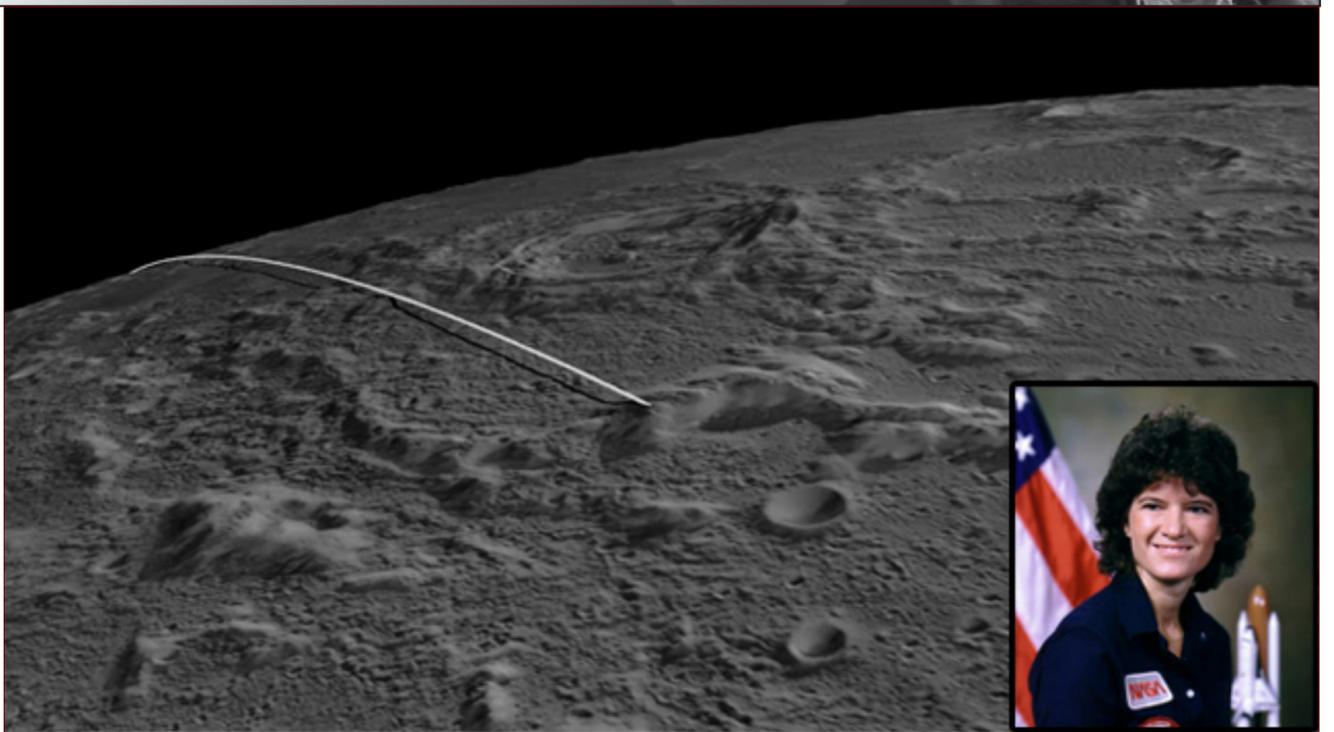
On Dec. 14, Ebb and Flow, the two spacecraft comprising NASA's Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory (GRAIL) mission, were commanded to descend into a lower orbit that would result in an impact three days later on a mountain near the Moon's north pole. The formation-flying duo hit the lunar surface as planned at a speed of 3,760 mph (1.7 kilometers per second). The location of the Sally K. Ride Impact Site is on the southern face of an approximately 1.5-mile high mountain near a crater named Goldschmidt.

"Sally was all about getting the job done, whether it be in exploring space, inspiring the next generation, or helping make the GRAIL mission the resounding success it is today," said GRAIL principal investigator Maria Zuber of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge. "As we complete our lunar mission, we are proud we can honor Sally Ride's contributions by naming this corner of the Moon after her."

The impact marked a successful end to the GRAIL mission, which was NASA's first planetary mission to carry cameras fully dedicated to education and public outreach. Ride, who died in July 2012, led GRAIL's MoonKAM (Moon Knowledge Acquired by Middle School Students) Program through her company, Sally Ride Science, in San Diego.

Along with its primary science instrument, each spacecraft carried a MoonKAM camera that took more than 115,000 images of the lunar surface. Imaging targets were proposed by middle school students from across the country, and the resulting images were returned for them to study. The names of the twin spacecraft were selected by Ride and the mission team from student submissions in a nationwide contest.

"Sally Ride worked tirelessly throughout her life to remind all of us, especially girls, to keep questioning and learning," said Sen. Barbara Mikulski of Maryland. "Today her passion for making



The final flight path for NASA's twin GRAIL mission spacecraft to impact the moon on Dec. 17. GRAIL's MoonKAM is the signature education and public outreach program led by Sally Ride Science-founded by Dr. Sally Ride, America's first woman in space.



students part of NASA's science is honored by naming the impact site for her."

Fifty minutes prior to impact, the spacecraft fired their engines until the propellant was depleted. The maneuver was designed to determine precisely the amount of fuel remaining in the tanks. This will help NASA engineers validate computer models to improve predictions of fuel needs for future missions.

"Ebb fired its engines for 4 minutes, 3 seconds and Flow fired its for 5 minutes, 7 seconds," said GRAIL project manager David Lehman of JPL. "It was one final important set of data from a mission that was filled with great science and engineering data."

The mission team deduced that much of the material aboard each spacecraft was broken up in the energy released during the impacts. Most of what remained probably is buried in shallow craters. The craters' size may be determined when NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter returns images of the area in several weeks.

Launched in September 2011, Ebb and Flow had been orbiting the Moon since Jan. 1, 2012. The probes were intentionally crashed into the lunar surface because they did not have enough altitude or fuel to continue science operations. Their successful science missions generated the highest resolution gravity field map of any celestial body.

You can contact Bob Eklund at: beklund@MtnViewsNews.com.

JUST FOR BEST FRIENDS

Happy Tails
by Chris Leclerc

CANINE COMFORT IN A CRISIS

I'm sure that anyone reading this article has by now been made aware of the horrific course of events that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut on Friday, December 14, 2012. I, myself was rendered numb with shock after hearing the news that yet another gunman had randomly opened fire on a crowd of unassuming citizens in a public place. Although unfortunately I find myself no longer surprised by these repeated outbursts of crazed gun-running nuts taking random aim at innocent people, what made this particular case extremely difficult for me to wrap my mind around was the fact that 20 of the victims were young children between the ages of 6 and 7 years old, and they were attacked in their own elementary school classroom.

My response to the news of this tragedy was intense sadness for the victims and their families, mixed with pure rage toward the gunman, and toward a system that continues to allow this type of thing to happen by making military-grade assault weapons available to any "average" citizen who happens to have the money to purchase them. Perhaps we as a nation will eventually figure out a way to stop the madness, but until then it seems we must expect to hear such tragic news and only hope it will not occur in our own home town. After all, the size and demographics of Newton, CT are relatively similar to those of Sierra Madre. Clearly, I wasn't there when the nightmare occurred, yet I was enraged and absolutely dumbfounded by what I heard, so I can't imagine how it must have felt to have been a witness to such a dastardly experience, especially the children.

As do most tragic events, last week's mass killing in Connecticut caused an enormous ripple in headline news both here in the United States and throughout the entire globe. If there can be a good side of a story such as this, it is that it brings out the good in many citizens who feel compelled to respond in a positive manner. They come "out of the woodwork" to assist and comfort; they volunteer their efforts in whatever ways possible, to help ease the pain and get the victims through an extremely difficult time. Among those

who reached out to assist the saddened citizens in the small village of Newtown last week was a group of kind canines, specially trained to respond to crisis situations. They were accompanied by their handlers and other volunteers with the purpose of bringing comfort and support to the families and young survivors of that devastating disaster. One little girl was among the many who had witnessed the shooting at her school, and was pleased to meet the five gorgeous, gracious golden retrievers that came to her town the following morning. She expressed her appreciation in very simple terms; "They help you get over the sadness", she said while petting the ears of one of the affectionate friendly, furry four-footed volunteers.

The K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry is a Lutheran Church Charity based out of Chicago, Illinois. Their mission is to go wherever people are experiencing the emotionally overwhelming circumstances that come with a crisis. When they heard the news of what had happened in Connecticut they immediately began planning their deployment to visit Newtown and help support the shocked and distressed citizens there. They arrived with five comforting canines on Saturday, the 15th and by Monday the 17th they had nine dogs and fourteen handlers on site to help serve the bereaved community with what they describe as "The Mercy, Compassion and Presence of Christ." The reaction to their kind gesture was overwhelming. Children and adults alike were seen smiling for the first time in days, as they reached out to pet or hug a dog. The presence of the comfort dogs allowed many of them to relax and share their feelings, their fears and their pain with the handlers, and that is indeed the very purpose of this wonderful ministry.

I have always said that God created dogs for a very specific purpose, so when I heard about how the Lutheran Church Charity's K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry came to the emotional rescue for the citizens of Newtown, it warmed my heart and brought tears of joy to my eyes. We humans do our best to comfort each other, but I believe that when God created the dog, he instilled a unique ability to show unconditional love and bring unprecedented warmth to the hearts of those in despair.

My heart goes out to the families, friends and survivors of the victims at Sandy Hook Elementary School that fateful Friday. May we all take a lesson from the canines who comfort the weary and distressed in this world. I continue to pray for healing in their hearts, and thank God for creating the dog who seems to know how to show His love without condition. I also thank God for people who take time out their own lives to train dogs for the purpose of comforting others. When I look back to this horrific event in the future, I will always remember how those comforting canines lent their support by showing unconditional love to a town of perfect strangers in need, as they carried out their God-given mission.

If you feel the same way and are compelled to help support such a worthy cause, please visit their website at <http://www.lutheranchurchcharities.org/> and do what you can to contribute. You never know when you might be on the receiving end of the loving support they have to offer.

PET OF THE WEEK: JOLENE: #A4519720

Meet a lucky penny, little Jolene (A4519720). Jolene is a kind, gentle, sweet, timid one year old white and black spayed female Chihuahua puppy who was found in South El Monte on December 5th and brought to the Baldwin Park Animal Care Center. Weighing eight pounds, this sweetheart does not have any leash skills yet, and would far rather be carried. Jolene is quite shy in the shelter environment and would prefer to be invisible as she just is overwhelmed. However, once you get her out of her kennel into a calm place, she becomes the perfect lapdog and you can see she has the classic Chihuahua personality - of wanting to have one person to love and bond with. Jolene will make an outstanding lapdog and pet for an individual or adult family living in an apartment. To watch a video of Jolene please visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPIJ3CHXr_U



To meet Jolene in person, please see her at the Baldwin Park Animal Care Center, located at 4275 N. Elton St., Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (Phone: 626-430-2378 or 626-962-3577). She is currently available now. For any inquiries about Jolene, please reference her animal ID number: A4519720. The shelter is open seven days a week, 12 pm-7 pm Monday-Thursday and 10am-5pm Friday-Sunday. This is a high-intake shelter with a great need for adoptions. For more information about Jolene or the adoption process, please contact United Hope for Animals Volunteer Adoption Coordinator Samantha at Samantha@hope4animals.org.

To learn more about United Hope for Animals' partnership with the Baldwin Park Shelter through its Shelter Support Program, as well as the many dogs of all breeds, ages, and sizes available for adoption in local shelters, visit <http://www.unitedhope4animals.org/about-us/shelter-support-program/>.

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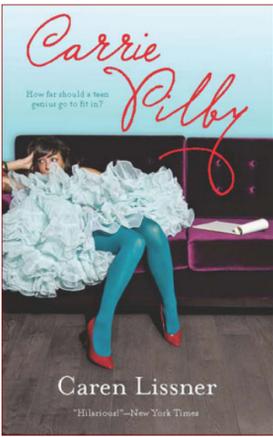
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JASMINE'S CORNER

Book Reviews by Jasmine Kelsey Williams

CARRIE PILBY By Caren Lissner



Our next selection is another wonderful pick for the upcoming holidays, which makes for a very quirky and charming gift for any readers in the family; 'Carrie Pilby' by Caren Lissner will be an even better choice if this is given to any teens or young adults who enjoy a good read. The tagline alone of "How far should a teen genius go to fit in?" should immediately hook the reader's attention, which will make them question just how teenagers of all ages feel when searching for new experiences outside of their comfort zone. This is the dilemma of the main protagonist and title character Carrie Pilby, a nineteen-year-old introvert who would rather quietly observe life and enjoy the simple pleasures it can bring. The entire story is narrated through Carrie's eyes which gives the reader the opportunity to also get into her mindset and to understand who she is. According to Carrie's own thoughts, along with those of the summary, Carrie is introverted not just because she is a self-described teen genius (it is revealed that her intelligence allowed her to skip three grades and complete college early), but also because she feels out of place in her hometown of New York City. She is an introvert, shy, and because of her age, feels awkward

when trying to break out of her shell to experience what she may be missing in her life. A minor character that does make a strong point on Carrie's shyness is her therapist Dr. Petrov, who sets the wheels in motion for Carrie to get out more often, such as joining a club, going on a date, her hobbies, telling another person you care for them, and celebrating New Year's with others.

Lissner works wonders with her words, and 'Carrie Pilby' has received the same praise from sources such as Buffalo News, Booklist, and New York Times, making this choice not just a recommended read, but one that is beneficial to teenagers to try to help them understand themselves better from all walks of life, be they introverts or extroverts. Copyrighted in 2010, 'Carrie Pilby' is not just a fresh read for generations of today, but one that shows that there is no rush in finding new experiences in life at your own pace.



SEAN'S SHAMELESS

REVIEWS:

Review By Sean Kayden

MY FAVORITE ALBUMS OF 2012

Another year, another top 10 list. They're never easy to compile. With a plethora of favorite songs this year, it was very difficult to come up with my personal favorites. Quite a few records fell short of the eclectic list, but in the end the following ten bands released indelible, powerful, and thrilling albums.

10. The XX - "Coexist"
9. The Rest - "Seesaw"
8. Japandroids - "Celebration Rock"
7. The Gaslight Anthem - "Handwritten"
6. Twin Shadow - "Confess"

5. **LORD HURON - "LONESOME DREAMS"** - The aptly titled Lord Huron's debut album really strikes a cord with the American people. In the age we live in, lonesome dreams are ever so apparent. "Lonesome Dreams" is a vast, ambitious, poignant piece of music. It echoes along the borders of Fleet Foxes with its harmonies, but they shouldn't be restrained to just sheer comparisons. While Lord Huron may not be completely treading new ground, they're at least carving their own path. It seems we're all figuring how to do so and "Lonesome Dreams" may just be the soundtrack that leads you down it. There is this alluring attribute, a wistful sound that magically spans over the course of the 10-track album. The dreariness of long days and sleepless nights are alleviated through this tranquil resonance. It's the epitome of a true American album and while the revelations exposed may not be all that new, it doesn't mean they are any less true. The themes of immortality, impending doom, and helplessness blues can be discovered here, but also the whimsical cheerfulness in songs such as "Time To Run." The record, an even keel of optimism and perennial caution, remains embedded in the blood that pumps out the veins of this album. "Lonesome Dreams" debuted back in October, but it still hummed along to a buoyant summer resonance, but also unequivocally finds itself in the melancholic autumn season. With this hovering layer of hope and idealism on "Lonesome Dreams," it becomes a place where the heavy hearts, dreamers, and un-conformists can meet and unite as one.

4. **TANLINES - "MIXED EMOTIONS"** - Jesse Cohen and Eric Emm, the dynamic duo behind Tanlines, have already been on the scene for a couple years. However, it's not until now that the boys from Brooklyn have released their debut LP, "Mixed Emotions." The influences range from pop, indie, dance and even world music. The aptly titled record is exactly what the record feels like—a collection of mixed emotions developed into one of the most vivacious sounding records thus far this year. Despite the customary lyrics, the real attraction is the band's overall sound and how Emm's sprightly vocals oscillate with each line. The music absolutely brings the listener to a completely new emotional elevation. The bending of genres is both brilliant and utterly alluring. There is something naturally genial about "Mixed Emotions." The songs are constructed in such an effervescent, expressive, and earnest manner. I'm not sure if another album this year was filled with so much raw passion, vitality, and ebullience. It's amazing how everything feels perfectly executed. Tanlines have composed a record with songs that will either have your feet moving to the beats, your mind contemplating whatever troubles you, or your heart finding much needed relief. In the end, "Mixed Emotions" is an outstanding achievement that ultimately makes for a truly incredible debut presentation.

3. **PASSION PIT - "GOSSAMER"** - Hailing from Cambridge, Massachusetts, electropop darlings Passion Pit find themselves bursting back onto the scene with "Gossamer," the successor to their 2009 breakthrough album, "Manners." Simply put, "Gossamer" is pure awesomeness for the summer season. It's glorious, beautiful, amazing in every aspect. It's brighter and bubblier than their last outing, which is saying a whole lot if you're already familiar with their previous material. Passion Pit mixes synthesizers, tweaked post-production vocals, funky beats, the occasional R&B vibe and an overall pop sound that is exceptionally revitalizing. "Gossamer" is a smashing high-quality record that should cater to both indie and mainstream fans equally. The fun seriously never stops for its 48 minutes of length. While some people may mistake the album for being grandiloquent in nature, I absolutely love the overblown sound. The high flowing energy "Gossamer" brings to the table is not only mind-blowing, but also commendable on Passion Pit's part. They slow down a bit in the R&B inspired tune, "Constant Conversations." It's a welcoming small departure that's smooth, sexy, and is easily superior to anything that's been released by artists who are confined to that genre as their dominant stomping ground. Credit is due for Passion Pit for their tremendous efforts of not only expanding upon their artistic abilities, but also pushing the envelope even further. The record outdoes its predecessor in every imaginative way possible and ends up being the closest thing to a pop masterpiece in quite sometime.

2. **BEACH HOUSE - "BLOOM"** - Dream-pop aficionados, Beach House, have somehow managed to stay within the margins of their genre of expertise, but further expand their dreamy and hauntingly immaculate resonance on their latest record. "Bloom," comes off the heels of their acclaimed 2010 opus, "Teen Dream," which wowed critics and fans alike. "Bloom" dazzles and hypnotizes with its atmospheric haze that embodies the ten glorious tracks. The innately organic tone Beach House offers is a marvel to become fully immersed with. There is something truly remarkable to the weightlessness each track plays off. That's not to say they don't provide any substance because they do, but attempting to discover this kind of utter beauty anywhere else may as well be a futile task. Darkly layered rhythms and immensely personal, "Bloom" takes you on an ethereal journey. Composed of stunning melodies and a deep complexity of arrangements, the album is a passage to an unearthly reality. Seemingly flawless from start to finish, "Bloom" is exactly what it's named after—a period of time which sparks the utmost exquisiteness and imagination. The real treat with "Bloom" is the voyage from beginning to end—one I may add, will stay with you far after your return back.

1. **MOTORAMA - "CALENDAR"** - Motorama are a band hailing from Rostov-on-Don (Southern river port), Russia. Their sound is considered to be post-punk rock, but you'll unmistakably notice the '80s new wave style blended into their unique style. However, to lump them into any genre isn't fair. "Calendar" features ten remarkable tracks. The consistency of the album is astounding. That's not to say the band plays anything too safe because they hardly ever do. Their talent of crafting soothing and peaceful melodies is rather astonishing. Rarely can a group put you in a perpetual reverie state like the way this five-piece band does. There is no denying how their sound induces a strong presence, one that needs not to be ignored or freely dismissed. If you're looking for some of the best music offered in any country, look no further than Motorama. These guys will shock you on how great they are. Motorama will completely surprise you on every track. Their sound is sweet and while it gallops fluently, it will draw you in like a strong vortex. Listening to their sophomore album, "Calendar" is like heading to unknown terrain. You don't know what you'll discover, but when you do find that something, you'll realize it's exactly that very thing you've been missing all along. "Calendar" brings you an arsenal of pensively twee pop tunes. There's no lack of warmth, heart, or soul. Everything found on the album was unexpected pleasure matched with unparalleled beauty. With some of the best sounding arrangements I've ever heard, Motorama's follow-up album, "Calendar," is an extraordinary accomplishment on all levels of production. This isn't just the best album of the year, but one of the greatest albums in quite sometime.



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When we are gorging on food and drink, we forget. But when we spend time quietly reflecting, we remember. When we walk in nature, do yoga, worship and have a peaceful loving meal, we remember. If we remember every day, we can make a change. We can be powerful in our peace. Making this time to remember is the most important thing we can do for ourselves and the world right now. The world hasn't ended and it is up to us to spread the peace and love - starting with ourselves. It's the perfect time to begin, don't wait for the new year. Begin the journey inward to peace. It's a beautiful place.

Love and Light to you for the Holidays.
Namaste,
Rene

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One Of A Kind: *Featuring unique homes and gardens and the people who create them*

Story by Chris Bertrand



ARCADIA HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AWARDS 2012 RESIDENTS AMP UP THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WITH YULETIDE DECORATIONS!

This week, we feature beautiful, lighthearted, kitschy and sometimes just plain fun Christmas decorations from the city of Arcadia's holiday decorating awards. Many make it an annual tradition to slowly tour by car or by foot through these areas. All our nominees and winners share a wish to bring delight to a child, a smile to a harried adult, and invite us to pause and admire their joyful work. Join in the festivities! Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

This year, as is tradition, the City of Arcadia took nominations for exemplary holiday decorations in December. City staffer, Connie Schacatano, Executive Assistant/City Manager's Office, assembled the list and checked it twice, releasing the list of award winners last week.

Schacatano says this kind of program is contagious, building civic pride neighbor by neighbor. Residents see their neighbors making efforts to decorate their homes for the Christmas season and beautify the landscapes. Volunteer commissioners selected the winners, looking for exemplary lighting and decorations to make the season bright. They make their lists and check them twice. From that list, the winners are chosen.

The city's Santa Squad, including Arcadia Mayor Harbicht, Santa Claus, played by former City Clerk, Jim Barrows & members of the Arcadia Beautiful Commission, Richard Cordano, Jan Shimmin and Victor Sy, made the presentations at each winning home. City staffer assistants, Linda Garcia and Mary Buttice from the City Manager's staff, were also invaluable, assisting at the mood-enhancing event. The Santa Squad joined the motorcade of lighted sleigh complete with snow machine, a bus of volunteers, staffers and officials and the official "support" vehicle on its joyful duties. The sleigh was designed by Schacatano six years ago and built by Kip McClain from the Arcadia Public Works department. "This year, our fire department accompanied us complete with their fire engine," said Schacatano. Award winners received a certificate from Mayor Harbicht, yard sign and goodie bag from the city, as well as an official photo.

Here at Mountain Views, special kudos go to James Val, owner of the home at 411 San Luis Rey Road, whose distinctive handmade decorations warmed the hearts of many! Drum roll. And the winners are:

In no particular order... just like *American Idol*, Arcadia's Holiday Decoration awards go to:

1. 701 S. Old Ranch Road
2. 872 Palo Alto Drive
3. 435 Cortez Road
4. 1055 Panorama Drive
5. 830 Singing Wood Drive
6. 1320 Santa Margarita Drive
7. 1610 Rodeo Road
8. 411 San Luis Rey Road
9. 1811 Grace Avenue
10. 2334 S. Second Avenue
11. 2812 Holly Avenue
12. 239 W. Longden Avenue

Enjoy... and happy viewing! It's guaranteed to put you in the holiday mood!



Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed

by Luther Tsinoglou Realtor®

BENEFITS ON BOTH SIDES

There are new rules regarding short sales meant to improve the experience for both sellers and buyers, but the legalities and legwork can overwhelm even the most savvy. Of course, that's where the real estate agent shines, handling the paperwork and the phone calls, leaving you to focus on your move.

Keep in mind that if you're expecting to buy a home on short sale, you can get a great deal, but don't expect miracles from a bank that has agreed to accept a price lower than what the sellers owe on their mortgage. These short sales often generate multiple offers, and if a home has been approved to sell for \$200,000, don't expect to waltz in and offer \$125,000.

The real advantage of a short sale deal is that the home will likely be in much better physical condition than its foreclosure counterpart. Often, a foreclosed home will have been abandoned for months, and perhaps trashed before being vacated. A short sale property in better condition is in and of itself a benefit with real value that offsets any lower price you could offer on a foreclosure.

And for sellers, a short sale preserves your dignity, reduces some of the stress, and won't damage your credit history as much as a foreclosure. Whether selling or buying, consult an agent for the best results.

Luther has been licensed and practicing real estate since 1992. He specializes in residential and income property in the Greater San Gabriel Valley. Luther Tsinoglou has again been named a top producing sales agent with Podley Properties for 2011, making the top 10% at the company overall. Luther can be reached at his direct line (626) 695-8650 or at luther@tsinoglou.com



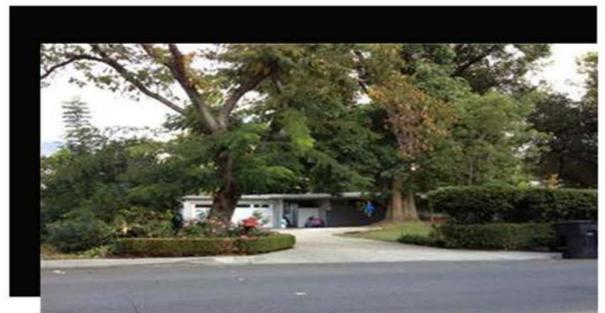
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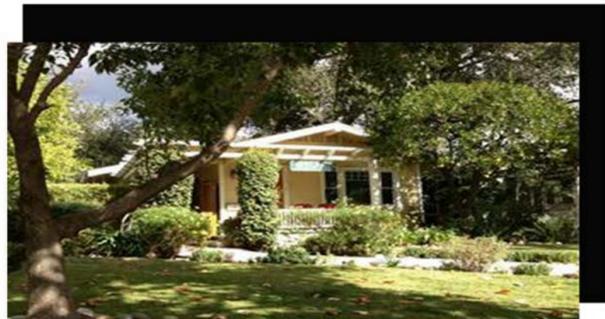
615 E. Orange Grove Sierra Madre



\$859,000

This home is in need of some 2013 pizzazz! The lot is tree lined with mature landscaping. There is a pool in center of yard with a fully permitted over 600 square foot guest house/maybe office! You also have a large garage and a driveway that can hold many cars. The main house is 3 bedroom 2 bath, there are hardwood floors and some vinyl flooring. This would be a great project for the right Buyers!!!

373 W. Sierra Madre Bl. Sierra Madre



\$775,000

Perfect for live work BUYERS!! Zoned Residential Professional! Adorable craftsman type cottage with newly built addition that has 2 master suites and a den (all built in 2007), there is also a 3rd bedroom with a another bath. Porch surrounds the front yard with pretty garden; back yard has private garden setting.

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RESOURCES FOR MAKING A HOME SENIOR-FRIENDLY

Dear Savvy Senior: My husband and I are both in our 60's and are interested in making some modest changes to our home to make it more practical and senior-friendly, but aren't sure what to do. What resources can you recommend to help us figure this out? Homebodies

Dear Homebodies:

Most seniors, like you and your husband, want to stay living in their own home. But being able to do so often depends on how easy it will be to get around the house if you develop physical limitations. Here are some helpful resources you can turn to, to get an idea of what types of improvements you should make that will make your home safer and more convenient as you grow older.

Get Informed

A good first step in making your house senior-friendly is to do a home assessment. Go through your house, room by room as if you've never set foot in it before, looking for problem areas like potential tripping or slipping hazards, and areas that are hard to access. To help you with this, there are various organizations that offer published lists of questions to ask, and things to look for to identify problems.

The Fall Prevention Center of Excellence (see homemods.org), for example, offers a number of on-line checklists including one called "How Well Does Your Home Meet Your Needs?" that you can access directly at homeneedschecklist.org. Or, download and print off the National Caregivers Library "Home Modification Checklist" at caregiverslibrary.org - click on "Checklists & Forms," then on "Housing" to get there.

AARP also has an excellent resource called "The AARP Home Fit Guide" that provides a checklist and tips to keep your home safe and livable as you age. You can access it at homefitguide.org, or if you're an AARP member, call 888-687-2277 and ask them to mail you a free copy.

Personalized Advice

If you want more personalized help, consider getting a professional in-home assessment with an occupational therapist.

An occupational therapist, or OT can evaluate the challenges and shortcomings of your home, make modification recommendations and refer you to products and services to help you make improvements. Ask your doctor for a referral to an OT in your area. Your local Area Agency on Aging (call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 for contact information) can also help you find nearby therapists.

Many health insurance providers, including Medicare, will pay for a home assessment by an OT if prescribed by your doctor. However, they will not cover the physical upgrades to the home.

Another good option is to contact a builder who's a Certified Aging in Place Specialist. He or she can suggest ways to modify your home that will fit your needs and budget. To find one, go to the National Association of Home Builders website at nahb.org/hireacaps where you can search by state and zip code.

Home Modifications Ideas

There are dozens of small, simple things you can do to make your home more user-friendly as you age, such as securing throw rugs with double-sided tape to avoid tripping, installing brighter full-spectrum bulbs in existing light fixtures to improve visibility, and adding grab bars to the bathroom for support. There are also a number of bigger more extensive projects like installing a stair-lift or elevator for multi-floor access, and replacing the tub with a walk-in shower for easier entry and exit.

To get a list of more senior-friendly home improvement ideas and illustrations, see the National Aging in Place Council website at ageinplace.org - click on "Practical Advice" then on "Making Your Home Senior Friendly."

Another good resource that's loaded with tips and universal design ideas is the "AARP Guide to Revitalizing Your Home." It's available in book stores nationwide as well as online at sites like amazon.com for around \$16.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



SENIOR HAPPENINGS

By Pat Birdsall

FYI: AN UNIMAGINABLE TRAGEDY AFFECTS US ALL

As we all know, on December 14, a gunman entered an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, and killed 20 first graders and 6 adults. The seniors in our community and elsewhere are deeply moved as is everyone by this horrendous loss. They have raised their own children, seeing them grow into adults and become parents themselves. Then hopefully, the cycle would start again and grandchildren and great-grandchildren would follow. The poor families in Connecticut are denied any of that. One mother, when she was interviewed, expressed her grief with a positive attitude and a wide smile on her face, recalling how her daughter had already *made a difference* in her short life due to her outstanding outlook of the world. That same phrase was said to me shortly after this tragedy by a good friend who lost her son when he was just a young man. She said, "I want to talk about him, not pretend it didn't happen because, *he made a difference.*"

As I write this on Friday, December 21, some people believe that the 5,125 year old Mayan calendar is correct and the world *as we know it will end*. The world *as we know it* is just not acceptable anymore... Only if we learn from this travesty and do something tangible to change many aspects of our society, beginning with our laws and our attitudes, will the world change. It has to... This can't happen again, anywhere.

There are many spaces left for new plaques at the Veteran's Memorial Wall. If you or a friend, family member or neighbor served in any of the United States military branches the criteria for inclusion is simple: You must have lived in Sierra Madre for at least one year sometime in your life and have a picture of yourself in uniform. **Please call Dave Loera, Commander of VFW Post 3208, to be included and for more information: (626) 355-3382. We'd be proud to have you!**

You can help: This week the Veteran's group is: Fisher House Foundation. They provide comfortable and pleasant temporary housing to families of wounded soldiers while they receive treatment and rehabilitation at military medical centers. Visit them at: www.fisherhouse.org

HELPFUL HINT: ~ The electricity goes out so often in Sierra Madre, candles are a must... here's a hint for removing the wax from wood. Soften the wax with a hair dryer, then remove it with a paper towel and wash with a solution of vinegar and water.

FOR YOUR FUNNY BONE

Do you know what would have happened if it had been Three Wise Women instead of Three Wise Men? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole and brought *practical* gifts.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ... December Birthdays...

Pat Karamitos, Joan Hufnagel, Marie Pedersen, Mary Alice Cervera, Carole Horejsi, Shirley Anhalt, Mignon Grijalva, Helen Reese, Levon Yapoujian, Toni Buckner, Bonnie Garner, Lottie Bugl, Pat McGuire, Sheila Woehler, Arlie Hahn, Nan Murphy, Eleanor Hensel, Sylvia Curl, Elizabeth Levie and Gayle Licher. *To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required.

Quote of the Week: *Hope smiles on the threshold of the year to come, whispering that it will be happier.* ~ Alfred, Lord Tennyson

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

YMCA San Gabriel Valley Intervale Senior Café: Monday-Friday at 12:00 Noon

(Participants are urged to arrive no later than 11:45 A.M.) All seniors 60 and up can take part in the lunch program. There is a suggested donation of \$2.00 for those 60 and over and \$3.75 for non-senior guests. Daily reservations are necessary as space is limited. Please call 24 hours in advance...626.355.0256

LUNCH CAFE CLOSED
The Intervale Lunch Cafe will be closed for the holidays on the following days:
Monday, December 24th
Tuesday, December 25th
Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Free Blood Pressure Testing: On the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 11:00 am-12:00 pm: A nurse from Methodist Hospital, Arcadia volunteers to do the readings. No appointment necessary.

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

Free Chair Yoga: Every Wednesday morning from 11:00 am-11:45 am Volunteer Teryl Willis offers this class that focuses on senior yoga techniques. It is geared toward gentle movements, breathing techniques and balance improvement. No reservations are necessary.

Free Legal Consultation: Pasadena attorney Geoffrey Chin volunteers on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. He focuses on estate planning, trusts, wills, probate, conservatorships and business law. ***Appointments are a must!** Please call: 626.355.7394 to make yours. **Conflicting court schedules can occasionally cause cancellations.*

Birthday Celebrations: The 2nd Thursday of the month the Senior Center celebrates the birthdays of our patrons at 12:30 pm. Please join us for free cake and ice cream and "celebration." (The cakes are provided due to a generous donation from the Sierra Madre Civic Club.)

Game Day: Every Thursday at 1:00pm. Poker is usually the game of choice, or should I say chance? Board games and other card games are also available. Outside, on the patio, a beautiful, one-of-a-kind chess table is anxious for players.

Free Strength Training Class: Every Friday from 1:00 pm -1:45 pm Conducted by long-time volunteer Lisa Brandley. The class utilizes light weights for low-impact resistance training. Weights are provided by the Sierra Madre Senior Center. It's a great way to stay in shape and to socialize with your peers. (Gossip included)

Senior Citizens Club: Every Saturday at the Hart Park House (Senior Center) Brown bag lunch at 11:30am; Club meeting at Noon; Bingo 12:30- 3:30 pm Only .25c per card... For more information call Pat at 626.355.7290

NEW! On the Move Physical Therapy- Join local physical therapist, Shannon Vandeveldt, at the Senior Center on **Monday, December 17th from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM for a free consultation.** Shannon will be volunteering her time once a month to help seniors identify any possible physical therapy needs as well as providing basic tips. To make an appointment call the senior services desk at (626) 355-7394.



Senior Movie Program: Free Movies are shown on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. The films, one contemporary and one vintage, are chosen by the seniors themselves. **This month's selections are:**

December 26- Mamma Mia (2008) a musical/romantic comedy film adapted from the 1999 Broadway musical of the same name; based on the songs of pop group ABBA. Meryl Streep heads the cast, playing the role of single mother Donna Sheridan. Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth and Stellan Skarsgard play the three possible fathers to Donna's daughter, Sophie (Amanda Seyfried). **Start time: 1:00 PM** in Sierra Madre's City Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



KATIE TseThis and That

DECK THE HALLS... LIVING ROOM, FRONT YARD, AND CAR

Merry Christmas! If you're reading this, it means we didn't get annihilated in a world wide apocalypse. Woo hoo! What better way to celebrate another day of life than to decorate your tree, yard, and car with Christmas motifs and other symbols of merriment?

This week's topic came from my friend at the Bottle Shop (you know who you are, and thank you!) He asked, "Where is the line between enough decorations and too much?" When does tactful spill over to tacky? If you live in some uptight city, they probably have detailed rules concerning the number and wattage of lights you can put up. But if you're privileged to dwell in the land of the free and the home of the bravely festive, your Christmas decor is limited only by your budget and your energy for decorating your roof with a portly Santa and a full team of reindeer.

To maintain neighborly harmony, a good rule of thumb is that, as long as your neighbors aren't complaining to you or the cops, your decorations are all right. Not having conducted a full search of all the Christmas decorations in Sierra Madre, I can't confirm that there are no gaudy displays among us. Over the years I've come to view my ride to work through Alhambra and East L.A. as the hometowns of tacky Christmas decorations.

Some of these properties are so festooned with inflatable displays that the the few unadulterated houses grab your attention more than those covered with snowmen, elves, and candy canes. After Christmas, large patches of dead grass and squashed plants show where the large contraptions rested for a month or more. For these families, it's a never-ending cycle between Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and the other, lesser holidays. Some St. Patty's displays boast giant pots of gold and leprechauns creepy enough to induce childhood phobias. Which brings up another point --have you noticed how people seem to decorate more for Halloween than for any other holiday? I'm not a big fan of Halloween because of its occult connotations. It's fine to pass out candy to the kiddos, but that's where my Halloween interests begin and end. So, why does it seem houses are more decked out for Halloween than Christmas (or any other holiday, for that matter)? My uneducated guess is that, for Halloween, people KNOW they'll have guests, whereas for Christmas, it's a toss up.

Another probable reason behind Halloween's decorative "edge" is the amount of daylight and general warmth in October versus December. I can imagine tacking up a neon spider and sticking a few zombie heads in the lawn when the weather's a comfortable 70 degrees. But let me tell you, when it starts getting dark at 4:30 P.M. and my fingers immobilize due to the cold, I could care less whether my house looks like something worthy of a Christmas village.

There's also so much stress around Christmas that it's hard to find energy to do more than the bare minimum. Shopping, wrapping, and all the gatherings of family and friends leave me pooped. Others might get a rush of adrenaline from battling crowds at the mall, attending two parties a day, and hosting others. But I'm happy to just sleep in on Christmas Eve and appreciate God's willingness to leave heaven and share in our humanity. I may not have a nativity set up in my living room, but it's in my heart. And I don't think God minds that I didn't put up any lights. *Merry Christmas!*



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EXTRAORDINARY CUSTOM FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

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By PJ Carpenter

UPDATE YOUR SOFTWARE*

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(NAPSI)—Viruses, worms, Trojans—you've likely heard or read about them. They're the nefarious "creatures" that can take advantage of vulnerabilities in the software applications you have installed on your computer—but you can defeat them. That's good news, because if they find their way into your computer, they can wreak havoc, destroying your files, stealing your personal information, even taking control of your computer to help with other insidious cybercrimes. Chances are, if you haven't already been a victim of some kind of malware, you could be soon, especially if you don't keep your software applications current by installing the security updates that software vendors provide.

Staying up to date on the latest security patches is critical given today's threat environment. In addition to the many security initiatives that software companies engage in to keep their products and users safe, the single most important advice they give is to always stay up to date. "Research shows that up to 99.8 percent of successful cyberattacks today exploit software that is not current with the latest security updates," says Brad Arkin, senior director, security, Adobe products and services. "We strongly recommend that users install the latest security updates."

Recently, Skype, the popular service that lets you make phone calls using the Internet, commissioned a survey that revealed:

- 40 percent of adults don't always update software on their computers when initially prompted to do so.
- Approximately 25 percent of those surveyed said they don't clearly understand what software updates do and an equal percentage don't understand the benefits of updating.
- While 75 percent of adults receive update notifications from their software, more than half admitted that they needed to see a prompt between two and five times before downloading and installing the update.

For most people, then, updating software is more often than not an afterthought. Many complain that the process is intrusive and bothersome. It's just easier to click the "remind me later" button when you're busy finishing up the weekly sales report or adding your latest vacation photos to your online album. If you do, however, you leave yourself vulnerable to threats that could take you off-line for a long time-or worse.

Making Updates Easier

The good news is that times have changed. Companies continuously look for ways to make the update process less cumbersome for users. For example, the very widely used Adobe Reader—which lets you open and read ubiquitous PDF documents—uses a new update mechanism designed to keep you current in a much more streamlined and automated way. With the new updater, Windows users have the option to choose to download and install updates automatically. You can literally "set it and forget it." Once your update preferences are set to update your software automatically, Adobe Reader and Acrobat will automatically check for new updates and download and install available updates—you won't have to think about it again.

So the next time you get a pop-up window telling you to update that software application, your best move is to do it right then. If your software offers an automatic update option, enable it. Don't wait. It's too easy to forget and it's too easy for cybercriminals to get to you.

If your software reminds you again a few days later (and maybe again a few days after that), it's just doing its job, reminding you to do yours. It's not another update, just a friendly way to tell you how important it is to stay up to date.

**I'll be back next week with an original scoop for you. Merry Christmas - P.J. Carpenter*



SOME HELPFUL COOL TOOLS

As you work more and more with social media and email marketing platforms, you might find that these simple tools can make your life easier:

- **Screen Capture tools:** A screen shot is a way of taking a snapshot or picture of your computer screen. It basically creates an image that you can use in graphic programs, email campaigns, posts on Facebook etc. If you are on a MAC, simply push Shift + Command + 4 and drag your mouse over the area of your screen you want to capture. PC users can download a free tool at screenhunter.com.
- **Color Pickers:** The best way to get a color value from something you see on your screen is to use a color picker tool. This is handy when you

need to match a color in a logo, web page or photo. Mac users have a built-in tool called the "Digital Color Meter." For PC users, there is a free tool called "Color Cop" which can be downloaded at colorcop.net.

- **Photo Editing tools:** If you're not a Photoshop guru but want to create a cool image, crop a photo or take out a wrinkle on your head shot, try these free tools: PicMonkey.com or fotoflexer.com.

- **Nutshellmail.com:** To easily track your social media activity, Nutshell Mail is a free tool from Constant Contact that will deliver a summary of all your activity directly to your email inbox. You can tell it how often you want to receive these updates.

- **PLR: Private Label Rights articles:** Sometimes coming up with good copy is a challenge. Did you know that you can purchase affordable articles that you can change, add to, re-title and call your own. A great site for these articles is <http://www.plrprivatelabelrights.com>.

About MJ: MJ and her brother David own HUTdogs, a creative services business that specializes in Social Media Education for business owners. Join their conversation on Facebook and get good tips and tricks about social media, www.facebook.com/hutdogs. Sign up for their upcoming classes and presentations at: www.hutdogs.com/workshops/schedule

BUSINESS TODAY

The latest on Business News, Trends and Techniques

By La Quetta M. Shamblee, MBA



WALKING THROUGH THE DOOR OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurs and small business owners are the engines that drive the economy. The list of successful ventures and contrasting business failures continues to grow each year. New businesses open in cities across America everyday. Some are able to weather all of the unforeseen challenges of starting a new venture, and others watch their dreams fizzle before their eyes. One of the primary factors that distinguishes the two outcomes is summed up in the following quote:

"Do more than is required. What is the distance between someone who achieves their goals consistently and those who spend their lives and careers merely following? The extra mile." - Gary Ryan Blair

Aside from raising children, starting and running a successful business is one of the hardest things anyone will ever do. Dreamers only dream, but the dreams of entrepreneurs give birth to ideas that drive the economy. Whether it involves purchasing a franchise or existing business, or starting a business from scratch, entrepreneurs give birth to ideas that create revenue, jobs and economic activity.

People who work for themselves often work much more than a typical forty hour work week, but the tradeoff of being one's own boss is the satisfaction that can turn hours into minutes. Entrepreneurs don't have the Monday morning dread of starting the preverbal countdown to Friday afternoon as soon as the workweek begins. When you love what you do, it's just doesn't feel so much like work.

In recent years, I've met a growing number of professionals who have been "displaced" from their full-time careers as a result of corporate downsizings and mergers that have resulted in wave after wave of layoffs. Those that embrace this major change with a "glass half full" perspective are sometimes drawn into the entrepreneurial arena. They view their job loss as part of a grander plan of "one door closing for another to open" and more and more of them are realizing they have interest in walking through the newly opened door.

Your idea or product may become the next million-dollar feature story, or it may at least result in a secondary income source that pays for the kid's college tuition or family vacation.

Thousands of Americans who survived the past year as entrepreneurs are poised to make bigger and better things happen in the upcoming year. Those who have continued to sit on the sidelines dreaming, contemplating and procrastinating are no closer to realizing the benefits of answering the inner call to "do one's own thing". If the call to try something daring and different continues to ring in your head, it may be time for you to move beyond your fear and give it your best shot.

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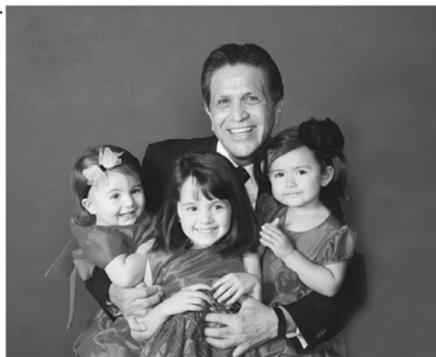
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HOWARD Hays As I See It



*"I'm not going to have anyone to play with."
- Student at Sandy Hook Elementary after being told he'd lost his sister*

On Friday morning a demented man invaded an elementary school, and his targets were the students. 22 became victims, with four rushed to the hospital for intensive care. But nobody died. There were no dead children.

This took place in Xinyang, 360 miles south of Beijing. The weapon was a knife – the weapon of choice because, according to the L.A. Times, "China has strict gun laws".

In his column last week, Greg Welborn blamed high federal taxation for the fact "\$1.7 trillion that could otherwise be put to use employing people, expanding businesses, starting new product lines, etc., is sitting in some foreign bank account . . ."

I have a response:

If it were indeed "put to use employing people, expanding businesses, starting new product lines, etc.", it wouldn't be taxed. Taxation comes when it's taken as salary, bonuses and dividend checks. And, as I see it, dividends and capital gains should be taxed as high as income earned by those who work for it – as it was under President Reagan.

I read other comments last week. Responding to the Newtown, CT slaughter, former Gov. Mike Huckabee (R-AR) blames us for having "systematically removed God from our schools." Rep. Louis Gohmert (R-TX), referring to Sandy Hook's slain principal, commented, "I wish to God she had had an M-4 in her office."

I have a response for these people, too:

Just shut up.

Piers Morgan on CNN also had had enough. As a gun proponent asserted, "the only way to stop an evil person . . . is to shoot him", Morgan interrupted: "This is exactly the argument that I've been hearing ever since I joined CNN ... about a week after Gabby Giffords, a congresswoman, was shot in the head. Why, since then we've had the Sikh temple, the Aurora incident, we had the shopping mall last week ... the argument I keep hearing is, 'Well, if everybody else was armed, it wouldn't happen.' It's a load of total hogwash . . ."

"There are nearly twelve thousand murders a year from guns in this country. When are you guys going to focus on that? And stop telling me, the answer is more guns ... How many more kids have to die before you guys say, 'we want less guns, not more?' ... I'm so frustrated, I'm so furious, that these kids have been blown away - again with legally acquired weapons. Some boy who's got problems takes his mother's three weapons, including this ridiculous assault rifle, and goes into this school and kills these kids, and you guys in the gun lobby still want to tell me the answer is more guns!"

The "ridiculous" weapon is the .223 cal. Bushmaster semiautomatic used to kill the children. The gun had been prohibited, but became legal again after the 1994 assault weapons ban was allowed to expire under President Bush.

Nancy Lanza was apparently a decent, law-abiding mother living comfortably on her \$289,000 yearly alimony, was devoted to her sons, and was really into guns. Had it not been legal to do so, she probably wouldn't have owned a .223 Bushmaster, it wouldn't have been there for her son Adam to grab and take to Sandy Hook Elementary, and there wouldn't have been as many first-graders' lives to grieve over.

Bushmaster is part of Freedom Group, which includes Remington and DPMS Firearms - the country's largest manufacturer of military-style semi-automatics, or, as they refer to them, "modern sporting rifles".

Freedom Group boasts a market increase of 27% between 2007 and 2011: "The continued adoption of the modern sporting rifle has led to increased growth in the long gun market, especially with a younger demographic of users." Ads for the Bushmaster proclaim that with its purchase, you can "Consider Your Man Card Reissued".

Any sleep lost by company execs is not over the roadkill of dead children, but the impact on sales. Freedom Group took in \$775 million from guns and ammo last year, but warns, "No assurance can be given that more restrictive regulations, if proposed or enacted, will not have a material adverse effect on us in the future."

Lobbyists manufacture myths and purchase politicians to ensure no schoolroom slaughter interferes with profit projections. The NRA took in \$227 million in 2010; \$100 million from 4 million members, but most from gun makers relying on it to promote talking points convincing us that more guns equals less crime, the 2nd Amendment guarantees the right to superior firepower over local police, and President Obama's determined to leave us defenseless facing the coming apocalypse.

The NRA spent more than \$18.6 million last election cycle to convince us guns are not the problem. Polls, however, show that Americans no longer believe redistributing our nation's wealth to the top 1% leads to "trickle down" for the rest of us; they no longer believe global warming is a "hoax" perpetrated by liberal academics; they no longer believe (if they ever did) that making it more difficult for crooks and crazies to access lethal firepower infringes on Constitutional rights.

In his comments in Newtown, President Obama said, "all the world's religions" ask, "Why are we here? What gives our life meaning? What gives our acts purpose?" He answered his own question earlier in his remarks when he said, "caring for our children. It's our first job. If we don't get that right, we don't get anything right. That's how, as a society, we will be judged."

It's whether to protect our children or protect the profits of the makers of the .223 Bushmaster "modern sporting rifle". If the lives, as the president described them, of "twenty beautiful children and six remarkable adults" don't lead us to the right decision, then I don't know what will.

**GUN ADVOCATES
AND POLITICIANS
HAVE COME UP WITH
A SOLUTION FOR
SCHOOL VIOLENCE**



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BACK TO PLAN A PHIL Kerpen



There is not a majority in the House of Representatives to support a tax plan that would raise taxes on any taxpayers – not even the much-maligned "millionaires and billionaires." But that does not mean the House has acquiesced to the automatic tax hikes on every taxpayer slated for January 1. In stark contrast to the failure of "Plan B," the House already succeeded in passing its "Plan A" back in August: H.R. 8. That bill would extend all current tax rates for one year, while committing to comprehensive tax reform in 2013. It passed the House on a rock solid 256-171 vote, with 19 Democrats joining 237 Republicans.

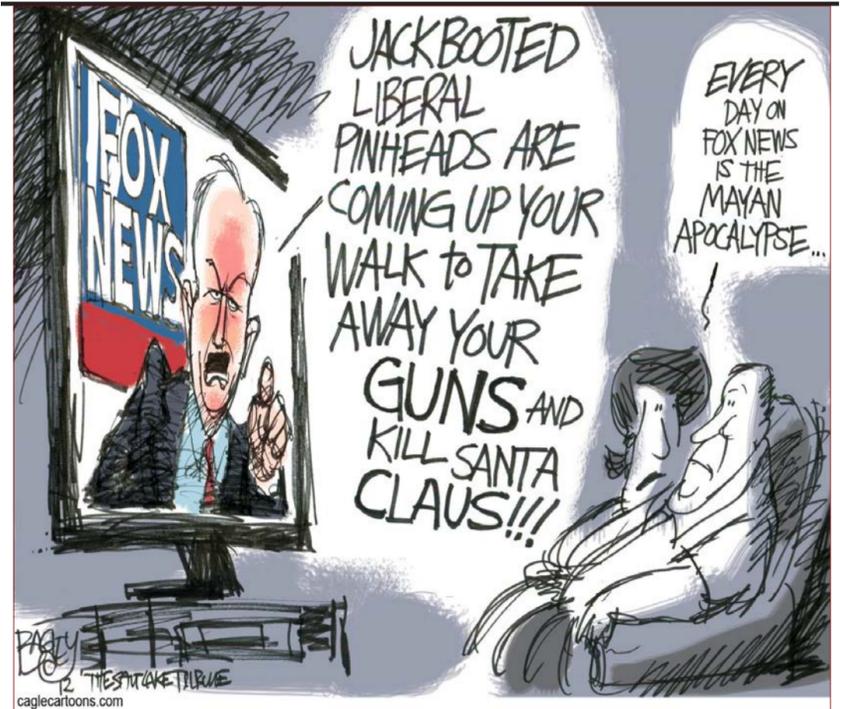
The Senate has taken no action on the bill. Harry Reid did, for show, pass a Senate bill to raise taxes above \$200,000 only, as favored by President Obama. But that bill, S. 3412, violated the Constitution's requirement that revenue bills originate in the House. It would be legally void even if it did pass the House, which it won't. So now the ball is in Harry Reid's court. H.R. 8 is the bill that passed the House. It's the only duly-enacted bill to pass either chamber. He should call it up, amend it – if he can – and appoint conferees to reach a final agreement. President Obama will almost certainly sign any deal that can pass the House and Senate.

The economic stakes are huge. Boehner's Plan B millionaire tax would have done significant damage to the U.S. economy. The Tax Foundation estimated the long-run impact of Plan B and found it would knock 0.92 percent off of GDP. That's less than a third of the 2.88 percent that Obama's plan would shave off the U.S. economy, but it's still considerable. The do nothing option? That's really ugly. Allowing taxes to rise on all Americans as contemplated under current law would mean a 9.61 percent hit to GDP, along with a 7.35 percent decline in wages and a 23 percent drop in private business stocks. Now the insistence of House Republicans to make this all-or-nothing must infuriate Democrats, especially President Obama, who famously explained he would support higher taxes on capital even if they hurt the economy so much that they resulted in lower revenues. He said "fairness" was more important.

But like it or not, the American people elected a House of Representatives that is committed to stopping all tax hikes. They are so committed that they refuse to put their fingerprints on a deal to raise taxes on some even if it means risking automatic tax increases on all. Speaker Boehner tried his best to alter this reality for the sake of compromise. He couldn't. So this is the reality Obama and Reid must deal with.

Why would Reid and Obama insist on tax hikes for everyone in this context? The economic suffering would be serious and widespread. They have repeatedly claimed that current rates should be extended for 98 percent of Americans. The intransigence of House Republicans has set up a scenario in which we'll either have economically destructive tax hikes on every American, or we'll postpone all the tax hikes for a year while we move forward on comprehensive tax reform. Democrats should do the right thing for the U.S. economy and choose the latter option.

Mr. Kerpen is the president of American Commitment and the author of "Democracy Denied." Kerpen can be reached at phil@americancommitment.org.



WILL Durst Raging Moderate QUADRIPLEGIC PLATYPUSES



And now let us speak of the current lame-duck session of the 112th Congress. Daily we witness the death throes of the final assemblage of this particular group of elected representatives on Capitol Hill, and of course they're spending these last precious moments together marshaling all their skills to put the American ship in order. Hahahahahaha.

Yeah. Right. Dream on, big river. Mostly what's happening is just your typical frantic running around with waving arms and high-pitched wailing about an impending catastrophe. Looming doom. Again. Specifically, this time, the imminent approach of that dastardly dreaded fiscal cliff. Congress has turned into the Little Boys & Girls Who Cried Ruin.

Calm yourselves, kiddies, it's not really a cliff. More of a slim slope or bit of a ditch. A minor incline. Slight slant. Not even close to a chasm. Nor a gorge. Shall we say a term berm. A shallow gully beribboned with a multitude of dirt walking paths. Unlike what they've led us to believe, it's less a screaming plunge off a sheer precipice and more of a stroll on a knoll with a coal-colored foal.

Do not be alarmed. America isn't looking at a financial Thelma and Louise here. Although you can bet Grover Norquist would be willing to sit in the driver's seat and steer straight for the bottom of the Grand Canyon as long as he could hold hands with his "no tax ever" pledgers. And all of America would bemoan the loss... of the '66 Thunderbird.

You got to hand it our representatives. The way they make every calamity seem fresh and new and calamitous. Everybody in D.C. has memorized their moves in the Washington Waltz. John Boehner complains the president won't budge. The president counters that Boehner is beholden to a radical fringe. Liberals wait for conservatives to put entitlements on the table so they won't be the bad guys. Republicans man the barricades to protect their donors. One step forward. One step back. Cha-cha-cha.

It's an artificial crisis. Something our country's politicians specialize in. If the Bush tax cuts do expire on December 31, they can always be voted back in. Even if it takes till February, it can be done retroactively. For everybody. Or for those making less than 250k. Or a million. Whatever. Problem is, they'd rather be photographed slapping a baby than go on record voting for or against any sort of compromise, and are more than happy out in the yard playing kick the can until it gets too dark to see. Preferably, kick it through the open portal of a time machine into the distant future.

These folks are as useless as a Viagra dispenser at a eunuchs' convention. Lame duck doesn't do them justice. Comatose vultures perhaps. Brain-damaged geese. Biologically deformed Pterodactyl fossils encased in an amber pool of irrelevance, obsolescence and guilt. Whoa! OK. We're done. Wait, one more. Quadruplegic platypuses.

Then, on January 3 a new Congress will swagger into town, and before they're finished redecorating their offices, it'll become patently obvious the onus is on their anus to put the deficit can back in play. And if they need some ideas of where to place that can, we, their constituents, have more than a couple of choice locations in mind.

Five-time Emmy nominee Will Durst's new e-book, "Elect to Laugh!" published by Hyperink, now available at Redroom.com, Amazon or any fine virtual book retailer near you.

And don't forget the 20th Annual Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show, Dec. 26-Jan. 1. 6 comics. 7 cities. 8 shows. Details at facebook or willdurst.com. 20th Annual!

Will Durst is a political comedian who has performed around the world. He is a familiar pundit on television and radio. E-mail Will at durst@caglecartoons.com. Check out willandwillie.com for the latest podcast. Will Durst's book, "The All-American Sport of Bipartisan Bashing," is available from Amazon and better bookstores all over this great land of ours. Don't forget to check out his rooftop comedy minutes at: <http://www.rooftopcomedy.com/shows/BurstOfDurst>.

We'd like to hear from you!

What's on YOUR Mind?

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Mountain Views News

PUBLISHER/ EDITOR
Susan Henderson

CITY EDITOR
Dean Lee

EAST VALLEY EDITOR
Joan Schmidt

BUSINESS EDITOR
LaQuetta Shamblee

SENIOR COMMUNITY
EDITOR
Pat Birdsall

SALES
Patricia Colonello
626-355-2737
626-818-2698

WEBMASTER
John Avery

CONTRIBUTORS

Chris Leclerc
Bob Eklund
Howard Hays
Paul Carpenter
Stuart Tolchin
Kim Clymer-Kelley
Christopher Nyerges
Peter Dills
Hail Hamilton
Rich Johnson
Chris Bertrand
Ron Carter
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Letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to:

Mountain Views News
80 W. Sierra Madre Bl.
#327
Sierra Madre, Ca.
91024

Phone: 626-355-2737
Fax: 626-609-3285
email:
mtnews@aol.com

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HAIL Hamilton **My Turn** MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



I remember as a child how my brother and I spent Christmas Eve. Before going to sleep we would carefully hang our most colorful stockings from the mantle above the fireplace in hopes that they would be filled with presents the next morning. We would also leave an assortment of our favorite cookies and a glass of milk for Santa Claus in case he was hungry when he came to our house. Then once we were tucked into bed, my mother would read to us Clement Clarke Moore's 1822 poem, "Twas the Night before Christmas", just as her mother had read it to her each year as a small child.

T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;*

*The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;*

*The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.*

*Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.*

*The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.*

*More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;*

*Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!*

*To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!..."*

But if Moore's poem about jolly St. Nicholas delivering presents to children everywhere Christmas Eve is a fairy story directed at children, then Charles Dickens *A Christmas Carol* (1843) is a cautionary tale directed at adults who have somehow forgotten the true Spirit of Christmas. At one point, the Ghost of Christmas Past tells Scrooge:

"I wear the chain I forged in life...I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it."

"Oh! captive, bound, and double-ironed," cried the phantom, "not to know, that ages of incessant labour, by immortal creatures, for this earth must pass into eternity before the good of which it is susceptible is all developed. Not to know that any Christian spirit working kindly in its little sphere, whatever it may be, will find its mortal life too short for its vast means of usefulness. Not to know that no space of regret can make amends for one life's opportunity misused!"

But Dickens was never one to leave his readers glum. Near the end of his Christmas allegory he has Scrooge telling us he has redeemed himself:

"It is a fair, even-handed, noble adjustment of things, that while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour."

"I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school-boy. I am as giddy as a drunken man."

And finally Dickens leaves us on an especially happy note with Tiny Tim, crippled but joyous, surrounded by family and friends, full of the Spirit of Christmas, saying simply,

"God bless us, everyone!"

I hope you will accept this humble offering as my Christmas gift to all of you. I pray that each and every one of you will be blessed with a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

RICH Johnson CHRISTMAS 2012 (MAYAN FREE)



This first paragraph was reprinted from my 2008 Christmas column. Amazingly similar. I reprint it purposely

because, if you are reading this now, you've somehow managed to survive the last four years. And I am certain we will survive the next four (that is if the Mayans are wrong):

"I hope you are having a wonderful holiday season. Yes, I know the economy is tanking. And we can certainly come up with a lot of reasons why we shouldn't bother celebrating Christmas this year. It makes perfect sense. However, I'm hoping we can enjoy Christmas through the eyes of a child. It certainly was easier to celebrate in our youth when we didn't have to be concerned about the mortgage and all the other bills. Not to mention health issues accompanying our middle age and later years. If you can't find that place to celebrate the holiday as a child, try celebrating it through the eyes of young children you know. Rent 'em if you have to."

Here's a current Christmas message from me. Many of you who know me personally, or through my columns, would surmise that I am not particularly religious. If that is your perception it is accurate and exactly what I hoped you would think. That being said, let me point out that I am a believer in Jesus Christ. And no, not simply a believer in Jesus' good and moral teaching. I believe he is exactly who he claims to be. What's more, I believe he is out there keenly and actively interested in the quality of anybody's life who is interested in his participation. It's not a turn or burn philosophy, nor is it a pie in the sky. Nor did I suspend my intellect in arriving at my belief (Ray, who was instrumental in my becoming a Christian, earned the first Ph.D with

distinction ever bestowed by UCLA in physics).

Although Christmas is not exactly the same to me without the blanket of snow often accompanying the holiday in my native home of Minneapolis, it is still joyfully celebrated by me and my family. Whether you are a believer or not, you should celebrate the holiday with the same vigor. Share the joy with your family and do your best to reconnect with those estranged from you for one reason or another.

Remember the three stages of man: 1. You believe in Santa Claus. 2. You don't believe in Santa Claus. 3. You become Santa Claus.

Special Johnson smart tip to parents: My parents would never let us open gifts until Christmas morning. And I think morning is a wonderful tradition. When I could convince my parents to let me open a gift on Christmas Eve invariably it would be socks or a bathrobe. BIG MISTAKE! There is a very good reason to let your kids open a toy. It will keep them up late. And since what goes around comes around, you will find your children will not be waking you up at 5:30 to open presents. You will be waking them up at 8:30 to open presents.

In conclusion, if you've ever wondered whether Jesus is who he says he is and is really out there or not, there is an easy test: In bed tonight, before you doze off, address the ceiling with this question (I suggest asking it out loud (but not too loud)). "Jesus, if you are really who Rich claims you to be, please let me in on it." Now you're covered. If he is really out there, you have just made it his obligation to make himself known to you.

Merry Christmas to you all.

STUART Tolchin.....On LIFE AKRASIA



Acting Against One's Better Judgment

I went to the dentist yesterday for a cleaning yesterday and he told me that my gums were in pretty bad shape. I told him that my gums were just trying to go along with the rest of my body and the rest of the world. I got no laugh. My barber would have laughed but my dentist doesn't. Maybe the reason for the difference is that it is so much easier to change barbers than to change dentists. Speaking of change: I assured my dentist that I would change my dental hygiene procedure and begin flossing daily. I reminded him that I had purchased a water pic and that I would begin to use the pic immediately. I told him I would do it and when I said it really meant it.

I drove home intending to immediately sit down and write my article. I didn't do it nor did I attack the pile of legal billing that was waiting for me. Instead my son and I watched meaningless basketball and football games for awhile. My son's vision is returning gradually after his operation and I felt pretty relieved after he went to bed. I went upstairs to write my article, but instead procrastinated some more and continued reading the novel "Sweet Tooth", which I began reading while waiting for the dentist. Strange juxtaposition, don't you think? Anyway, as usual, I read until I was about to fall asleep and then made a mad dash to the bathroom, brushed my teeth, rinsed my mouth, changed into a comfortable sleeping suit and kind of slid into bed. Yes, to answer your impertinent question I did go to the bathroom and no, I didn't floss.

I wasn't able to fall asleep. Part of my mind was bothered about the fear of losing more teeth and another part wondered why I hadn't even tried flossing or using the water pic. So what did I do? Of course, I got up, walked into the adjoining room, eased down on my recliner and started reading "Sweet Tooth" again. Anyway, almost as soon as I pick up the book I come across the term *akrasia* written in italics. This term is my intended subject for this article and it is about time for me to tell you about it. *Akrasia* is mentioned in the novel as the state of acting against one's better judgment. I googled the word and learned that it was linked to the concept of procrastination and it is further defined as acting in a way contrary to one's sincerely held moral values. Why, that is the story of my entire existence. I put everything off until the last minute. It's not that I forget about the task; rather, it's just that until my fear of failing to do what must be done overcomes my distaste at actually doing it, I am almost paralyzed.

The concept of *akrasia* connects not only to procrastination, but also refers to an individual's inability to act in accord with his own recognized best interests. Certainly this includes the behavior of an addict who sincerely asserts that he will no longer use drugs or smoke or fail to conform to a healthy diet, only to immediately go back on those promises. It includes the many of us who buy gym memberships or purchase expensive exercise equipment and never go to the gym or exercise. The concept includes the many women who find themselves in abusive relationships from which they barely escape, only to soon enter into relationships that are even more damaging. Of course the term also applies to individuals such as myself who do not follow doctor or dentist recommendations despite their promises.

Socrates argues that the whole idea of *akrasia* is nonsense. He asserts that one can tell what a man wants only by what he does. If one procrastinates or fails to do what he says he wants to do, it is because he enjoys procrastination and does not fully understand himself. Aristotle took the term more seriously and concluded that there is always a conflict between a person's mental opinions and his physical appetites.

At this very moment the wind is blowing so strongly that the shingles are blowing off our roof. *Akrasia* may perhaps be very interesting, but right now I have to do something to try and keep the house together. That may be part of an answer. Times change and our needs change from moment to moment. The only quasi-effective course of conduct is to learn to know oneself. Do what you can do when you can do it. Preplan and make things easier for yourself and allow your expectations to conform to who you know you are rather than who you would like to become.

Sound easy, it probably isn't. I've got to bring in things from the deck. Now is the time. Maybe I can floss tonight. Maybe you can also do something you want to do but have not done.

Let that be my Christmas present from me to you.



OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

SO THIS IS HOW THE WORLD ENDS?!

Since the election, there has been a lot of jibber-jabber by the kings and queens of jibber-jabber about some financial cliff we are facing. I have no idea what they are talking about, and I have a suspicion they do not either, but if I am to guess I would say, it is not a great leap of faith.

The great thing about being a jibber-jabber is you do not have to know what you are jibber-jabbering about. In fact, the less you know the more you can jabber your job.

As one great American consumer and I only speak for myself, I am tired of all of this nonsense.

In the light of this, I bring good news concerning this ominous financial cliff. I am always happy to bring a little bit of good news in the midst of all of the twaddle and idiotic jibber-jabbing that goes on in our country. I know good news does not make the front page but I think it helps those of us who are tired of the bad news.

The good news concerning this financial cliff is that we do not have to worry about it at all, thanks to the Mayan's calendar. Wherever they are, somebody needs to congratulate them on saving not only our world but also our country from a financial disaster. If we had the time, I would recommend that they be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

According to the Mayan's calendar, the end of the world, whatever that means, is to take place on December 21. How they had the foresight to come to our rescue at such a portentous time we will never know. Thanks to them, we do not have to worry about any financial cliff that might be looming ahead of us.

I think this should be enough to silence all of this political jibber-jabber the rest of us are tired of hearing.

As grateful as I am to the Mayan calendar, I do have a little bone to pick with them.

I do not mind people predicting the end of the world. Really, they have nothing on me. For years I have predicted the end of the world at the end of every month. Believe me, some months I really came close to the end of the world. At least the end of my world.

Now the bone I have to pick is simply this. Why did they pick December 21, which is four days before Christmas? This is very frustrating to me. If they would have consulted with me, I would have suggested maybe the end of the month. After all, give everybody a few days to enjoy his or her last Christmas.

Personally, I do not mind missing New Year's Eve. In my opinion, it is all hype and nothing else. After all, Dick Clark is gone, so what is the use of celebrating

New Year's Eve? In my lifetime, I have seen enough people drop the ball; I do not need to stay up to midnight to watch everybody drop the ball. But, Christmas Day, that's a whole different ballgame.

The problem I face is simply this, if I buy a Christmas present and the world actually does end on December 21, I have wasted my money. Being a tightwad such as I am, that is a most blasphemous thing to do. On the other hand, if I do not buy Christmas presents, assuming that the world will end on December 21, I am going to be redder in the face on Christmas day than Santa's suit. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will not accept some lame excuse that I thought the world was going to end on December 21.

This whole thing has put me in quite a quandary. I know there have been hundreds of people down through the years predicting the end of the world. The problem I have is, what day is going to be right, and who is to say when?

Many people are putting a lot of credence on this Mayan calendar. Some are pointing out how brilliant these people were. However, I have one simple question to ask is.

If the Mayans were so smart, where in the world are they now?

I am rather suspicious of their disappearance, especially when we come to the end of the world according to their prediction. If they can predict the end of our world, why were they not able to predict the end of their world?

So, let us say December 21 is the end of the world. What I am doing to prepare myself for that is stockpiling Apple Fritters. I do not know what the end of the world means, I do not know the condition I am going to be in, but I do know that an Apple Fritter is the panacea for all ailments. If I just have enough Apple Fritters, I know I can face anything, even the end of the world.

It would be nice that the last thing I do before the world ends is savor a delicious Apple Fritter.

Actually, I have something much better.

"But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (1 Peter 1:25 KJV).

I do not know how the world is going to end, but I do know who is really in charge.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. E-mail jamessnyder2@att.net. His web site is www.jamessnyderministries.com

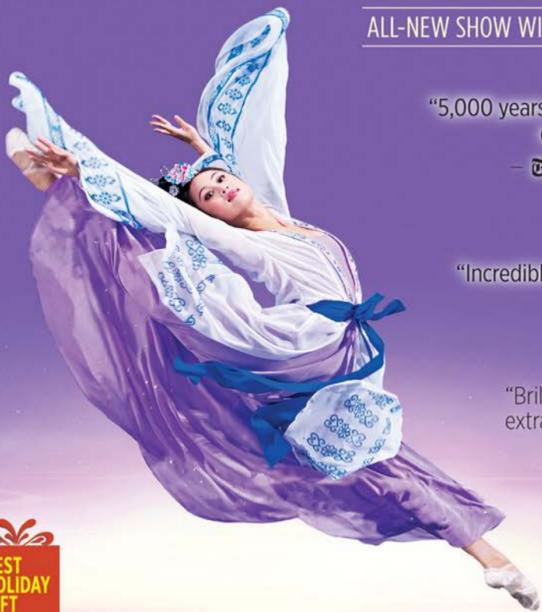




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(are) THE ONTIVEROS GROUP LLC., 261 S. ORANGE DR., L.A., CA 90036. This Business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. Signed: DESIREE ONTIVEROS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/20/12. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec. 22, 29, 2012, Jan. 05, 12, 2013

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2012-249851 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: TRANS ATLANTIC TRANSPORT, 794 1/2 SAINT LOUIS AVE., LONG BEACH, CA 90804. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) GUADALUPE Z. REYES, HUGO PEREZ SANCHEZ, 794 1/2 SAINT LOUIS AVE., LONG BEACH, CA 90804. This Business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. Signed: GUADALUPE Z. REYES. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/17/12. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec. 22, 29, 2012, Jan. 05, 12, 2013

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2012-249144 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

VASQUEZ TIRRES, 4479 E. OLYMPIC BLVD., L.A., CA 90023. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) LAURA N. VASQUEZ, 12072 HALCOURT AVE., NORWALK, CA 90650. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: LAURA N. VASQUEZ. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/17/12. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec. 22, 29, 2012, Jan. 05, 12, 2013

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2012-249682 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: VIC'S TRUCKING, 9007 MULLER ST. #J, DOWNEY, CA 90241. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) VICTOR MANUEL MEJIA, 9007 MULLER ST. #J, DOWNEY, CA 90241. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: VICTOR MANUEL MEJIA. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/17/12. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/17/2012. NOTICE: This Fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec. 22, 29, 2012, Jan. 05, 12, 2013

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2012-249691

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: XPRESS MOBILE, 5414 COMPTON AVE., L.A., CA 90011. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) JAIME FLORES SANCHEZ, 945 KENWOOD ST., INGLEWOOD, CA 90301. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JAIME FLORES SANCHEZ. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/17/12. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec. 22, 29, 2012, Jan. 05, 12, 2013

FILE NO. 2012-249630 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME The following person(s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: BEST NAILS, 12126 SANTA MONICA BLVD., L.A., CA 90025. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 10/27/2011, in the county of Los Angeles. The original file number of 2011123494. The business was conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 12/17/2012. The business information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) SIGNED: PHUONG THUY TRAN OWNER. Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec. 22, 29, 2012, Jan. 05, 12, 2013

FILE NO. 2012-250539 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME The following person(s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: CLASSIC TOUCH BODY & PAINT, 2429 E. ARTESIA BLVD., LONG

BEACH, CA 90805. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 08/17/2012, in the county of Los Angeles. The original file number of 2012166437. The business was conducted by: A CORPORATION. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 12/18/2012. The business information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) SIGNED: S. LAGUNAS/PRES. Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec. 22, 29, 2012, Jan. 05, 12, 2013

FILE NO. 2012-251436 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME The following person(s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: MY LIFE WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN, 9936 RAMONA ST. #19, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 11/26/2012, in the county of Los Angeles. The original file number of 2012243466. The business was conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 12/19/2012. The business information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) SIGNED: CARLOS E. CASTILLO/OWNER. Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec. 22, 29, 2012, Jan. 05, 12, 2013

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2012-243925 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 99CENT UP MINI MARKET, 9011 GARVEY AVE., ROSEMAD, CA 91770. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) TUNG LAI FONG, 34 E. WINNIE WAY, ARCADIA, CA 91006. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: TUNG LAI FONG. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/07/12. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the

office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec. 15, 22, 29, 2012, Jan. 05, 2013

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2012-247895 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: A CUSTOM WOOD FINISHING, 6144 FALLBROOK ST., WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) MARK FARHADI, 6144 FALLBROOK ST., WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: MARK FARHADI. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/13/12. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec. 15, 22, 29, 2012, Jan. 05, 2013

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2012-246333 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: A&M CATERING, 5261 MAYFLOWER AVE., MAYWOOD, CA 90270. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) ALE TUA, 5261 MAYFLOWER AVE., MAYWOOD, CA 90270. MARK ULAGA/LELEI, 5255 MAYFLOWER AVE., MAYWOOD, CA 90270. This Business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. Signed: ALE TUA. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/11/12. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious

business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec. 15, 22, 29, 2012, Jan. 05, 2013

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2012-245318 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ACS AFFORDABLE SENIOR CARE SERVICES, LLC, 2930 DE FOREST AVE., LONG BEACH, CA 90806. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) ACS AFFORDABLE SENIOR CARE SERVICES, LLC, 2930 DE FOREST AVE., LONG BEACH, CA 90806. This Business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. Signed: DANTE L. RUIALO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/10/12. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE: This Fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News Dates Pub: Dec. 15, 22, 29, 2012, Jan. 05, 2013

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2012-246518 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ALL CLEAR HOME INSPECTIONS, 2830 E. GARVEY AVE. SOUTH, WEST COVINA, CA 91791. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) JESUS G. GARCIA, 4027 N. GIBSON RD., EL MONTE, CA 91731. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JESUS G. GARCIA. This



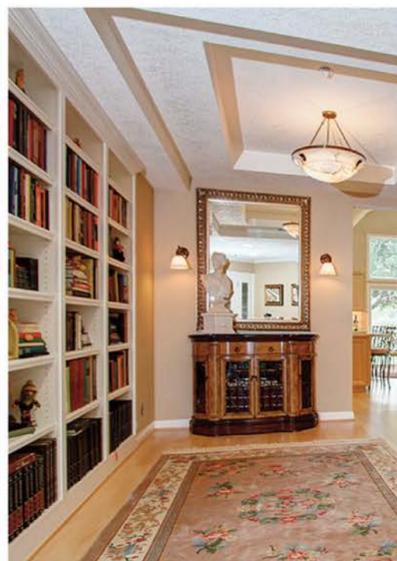
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