

Manhattan Beach Sun

The Weekly Newspaper of Manhattan Beach

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Neptunian Woman's Club Donates to USO



November has been declared "Military Family Month," and, in recognition, the Neptunian Woman's Club of Manhattan Beach presented a check for \$2,000 to LAX's USO. The ladies also donated a large supply of toiletries to this organization that serves as a friendly way station for service people and their families at the airport. Pictured above are (left) Barbara and Bob Kurkjian (executive director of several Southern California USOs) receiving a check from Jan Fleming, Neptunian vice president of philanthropies, and President Elaine Trotter. •

Lawndale Council Renames Community Center in Honor of Harold E. Hofmann

By Nancy Peters

On Tuesday night, the Lawndale City Council held a meeting for the first time in more than 20 years without Harold E. Hofmann presiding as Mayor. After Hofmann passed away in the early morning hours of Nov. 16, the City has been dealing with the absence of their long-time leader.

As Mayor Pro Tem Pat Kearney handled the agenda with efficiency with a goal of getting to the final item, there were two ordinances introduced and a few business matters that all received unanimous approval. However, it was the evening's final item, during the elected officials' reports, for which everyone in the Council chamber was waiting to offer remarks.

During the elected officials' reports, Councilmember Robert Pullen-Miles had entered a discussion/action item to rename the Lawndale Community Center in honor of the deceased mayor. With his widow seated in the gallery, the Council agreed by consensus to name the building the "Harold E. Hofmann Community Center." The building, opened on January 21, 2012 after years of Hofmann dreaming that the project would become a reality as he sought grant funds from as many sources as possible including the federal government, is considered a hallmark of his administration.

The ordinances introduced will have second readings on Monday, Dec. 16. The latest street drugs that are sold as "bath salts" and "purple incense," but have nothing to do with those seemingly harmless names, will now be prohibited for sale and use in Lawndale. These are psychoactive synthetic drugs that cause hallucinations and harmful side effects that could potentially lead to death as with

any other illegal drugs. The ordinance will add a new chapter to Lawndale's municipal code. Violators will be charged with a misdemeanor and fined \$1,000, or will face six months in jail.

The other ordinance, read for the first time, will adopt the California Green Building Standards for energy efficiency and require all new buildings to comply with the standards. The additional cost will amount to an average of \$2,290, which will be recouped over the years of efficient use of energy in the home.

The Council approved the purchase of a new three-part sink for the Farmers Market in the amount of \$7,500. The consent calendar included the acceptance of the completion of the construction and all projects associated with the building of the renamed Hofmann Community Center in conformance with all specifications and plans as performed by Edge Construction and Liberty Mutual.

The memorandum of understanding involving the Environmental Charter High School and all attendant issues with buses and parking and ingress and egress of students onto residential streets has been continued until a future meeting. The Council requested that the school contact all residents around the perimeter of the school campus with a survey to answer what the issues might be in the neighborhood.

The sale of alcohol less than 600 feet from the elementary school in Lawndale that is across the street from the WalMart Grocery Store on Inglewood Avenue just south of Rosecrans Avenue and which is actually in Hawthorne, would be prohibited by ordinance if both locations were in Lawndale. The request for a permit to sell alcohol has

not been denied by the City of Hawthorne to the knowledge of those in the City of Lawndale. However, the Council agreed that even if alcohol is already being sold, the City Manager's office will send a letter to the Mayor and City Council of Hawthorne, as well as the Planning Commission, to prohibit the sale of alcohol at that store. The distance curb-to-curb between the store and the elementary school is 55 feet.

Doris Hofmann addressed the Council to express hers and the Hofmann family's sincere thanks for all the support offered following her husband's death, especially thanking the staff for the setup of the memorial service. She thanked the community for all the cards and emails she has received. She also expressed her thanks to the Council members for all their gestures during the days following Hofmann's passing.

The Council voted unanimously not to hold a special election prior to the scheduled municipal election on April 8, 2014, at which time the office of Mayor and two Council seats will be filled by those with the majority of votes. Until the election, Mayor Pro Tem Pat Kearney will act in the mayoral stead for all official City issues and matters and will conduct all meetings as the presiding chair.

The candidate statements for the election in April are limited to 200 words and will be printed in the candidate pamphlets. Anyone wishing to run for office can pick up the required materials in the office of the City Clerk to complete the paperwork for candidacy to be filed with the County Registrar.

The next meeting of the City Council will be held on Monday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. •

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Sunny

58°/47°



Saturday
Showers

57°/41°



Sunday
Sunny

57°/40°



Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

• 25th Annual Manhattan Beach Holiday Fireworks Festival. 3:30-7 p.m. Manhattan Beach Pier.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

• 27th Annual Family Holiday Crafts

Night. 5-8 p.m. Joslyn Community Center. For more information call (310) 802-5448.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

• City Council Meeting. 6-11 p.m. City Council Chambers.

Community Briefs

17TH ANNUAL FIREFIGHTERS' SPAGHETTI DINNER

Come join the Manhattan Beach Firefighters Association on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 4 – 6:30 p.m. for an all-you-can-eat dinner before

the fireworks at Fire Station 1, 400 15th St., Manhattan Beach. Cost: \$10.00. Proceeds will go to local charities. •

Classifieds

The deadline for Classified Ad submission and payment is Noon on Tuesday to appear in Thursday's paper. Advertisements must be submitted in writing by mail, fax or email. You may pay by cash, check, or credit card (Visa or M/C over the phone).

Errors: Please check your advertisements immediately. Any corrections and/or changes in an ad must be requested prior to the following Tuesday deadline in order to receive a credit. A credit will be issued for only the first time the error appears. Multiple runs will only be credited for the first time the error appears. No credit will be issued for an amount greater than the cost of the advertisement.

Beware: Employment offers that suggest guaranteed out-of-state or overseas positions may be deceptive or unethical in nature. If you have any doubts about the nature of a company, contact the local office of the Better Business Bureau, (213) 251-9696. Herald Publications does not guarantee that the advertiser's claims are true nor does it take responsibility for those claims.

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1BD/1BA. Large Apt. In ES quiet gated building. W/swimming pool, laundry facility, pond w/ water fall \$1,275/mo. No pets. Call Mike at (310) 322-7166.

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EMPLOYMENT

Display Ad Sales Position. We need an experienced Display Ad Salesperson for Herald Publications. Territories include Torrance, El Segundo and Hawthorne. Full or part-time positions are available. 20% commission on all sales. If interested please email your resume to management@heraldpublications.com. No phone calls please.

GARAGE SALE

Holiday Boutique Sat Dec 7 9-4 317 W. Maple Ave. Jewelry, candles, scarves & more.

GARAGE SALE

Saturday Dec 7. 7am-noon. 711 W. Sycamore Ave. Fashion clothes, large pieces of furniture and household items.

HOUSE FOR RENT

1BD/1BA. Cozy Cottage house for rent, w/beamed ceilings, updated kitchen cabinets, hard wood floors in living room, small yard and patio, laundry facility, includes water and power. \$1,500/mo. No pets/ No smoker. Call 310 335-6099 or 310 343-8654.

TUTORING SERVICES

Former teacher available for math tutoring. www.caseys.org Call Terry @ (310) 322-2223. \$25/hr.

To appear in next week's paper, submit your Classified Ad by Noon on Tuesday.

Police Report

FROM OFFICER STEPHANIE MARTIN:

Are you leaving town for the Holiday? If so, here are some crime prevention tips:
 -Let your Block Captain and neighbors know
 -Encourage neighbors to park in your driveway

-Do not stop mail or newspaper delivery
 -Use timers on porch light, interior lighting and a radio
 -Secure all doors and windows and if you have one, set your alarm system

NOVEMBER 25

1300 Block of 19th St. (Theft) Unknown suspect(s) entered an unlocked vehicle, which was parked in the driveway and stole surfing equipment, a watch and GPS unit.

NOVEMBER 24

17th St / Magnolia (Attempted Vehicle Burglary) Officers responded to a call of a vehicle burglary. The reporting party was following two males who attempted to break into his vehicle. Although both subjects attempted to flee when officers arrived, they were subsequently captured and arrested.

1400 Block of 10th St. (Theft) Unknown suspect(s) entered an unlocked vehicle, which was parked in the driveway. The suspect(s) stole a fuel card and other property.

N. Alma Ave / Rosecrans Ave. (Stolen Vehicle) An MBPD Officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a vehicle code violation. During the investigation, it was learned the driver of the vehicle had a no bail warrant for his arrest and the passenger in the vehicle was a parolee at large. Upon further investigation, it was revealed the vehicle being driven by the suspect was an unreported stolen out of Huntington Park. Both suspects were subsequently taken into custody.

NOVEMBER 23

1400 Block of 10th St. (Vandalism) An MBPD Officer was flagged down by a passerby regarding graffiti. Investigation revealed 10 locations were spray painted in the area of the 1400-1600 block of 10th St. (including the fire station) and the 1400 block of 11th St.

NOVEMBER 21

1100 Block of Magnolia Ave. (Attempted Residential Burglary) Two male subjects attempted to force entry into a residence through the front door. When confronted by a neighbor, the subjects fled the area. After exchanging information between law enforcement agencies, it was determined that the above subjects were taken into custody later the same day by LAPD for an unrelated crime.

NOVEMBER 19

2200 Block of Harkness St. (Attempted Residential Burglary) Unknown suspect(s) attempted to break into the victim's home. There were pry marks on the door frame and gouges on the lock.

2400 Block of Poinsettia Ave. (Fire) Officers responded to the location to assist MBFD with a single residence fire. Investigation revealed contractors were soldering a pipe when the stucco paper caught fire.

1300 Block of 12th St. (Theft/Vandalism) Between listed dates, unknown suspect(s) cut the wire and stole the driver's side mirror of a vehicle. Then the passenger side mirror was partially removed and was found dangling next to the door. The victim stated the mirrors had been stolen previously, but was not reported.

NOVEMBER 18

1700 Block of 6th St. (Fire) Officers responded to the location regarding a fire alarm sounding and smoke emitting from the vents. The location was evacuated and the fire department extinguished the fire.

NOVEMBER 17

N. Ardmore Ave. / 17th St. (Arrest) An MBPD Officer conducted a traffic stop in the area. The investigation revealed the subjects were in possession of items which were stolen from a vehicle parked at Ross Manhattan Terrace. Both subjects were ultimately arrested for possession of stolen property.

1800 Block of Wendy Way (Theft) Unknown suspect(s) stole two skateboards from the front yard.

80 Morningside Drive (Arson) Unknown suspect intentionally set several fires on the school grounds.

NOVEMBER 16

(Arrest) An MBPD Officer stopped two bicyclists for a traffic violation. During the investigation, item's found in the subjects' backpacks included bolt-cutters and two way radios. The subjects were subsequently arrested for possession of burglary tools.

400 Block of 21st St. (Burglary) Unknown suspect(s) stole a bicycle from an open garage.

3100 Block of N. Poinsettia Ave. (Theft) Unknown suspect(s) entered an unlocked vehicle, which was parked in front of residence. The suspect(s) stole two headphones from the glove compartment.

2900 Block of N. Poinsettia Ave. (Theft) Unknown suspect(s) entered an unlocked vehicle, which was parked on the street. The suspect(s) stole an iPod and wallet from the center console.

NOVEMBER 15

3600 Block of Oak Ave. (Residential Burglary) Unknown suspect(s) pried open a window and attempted to enter the residence, but triggered the alarm. No entry was made into the residence.

3100 Block of Pine Ave. (Residential Burglary) Unknown suspect(s) entered the residence through an open window and ransacked the bedrooms. Unknown loss at this time.

NOVEMBER 13

1400 Block of 5th St. (Theft) Unknown suspect(s) stole a package from the victim's porch and then returned the item to Target for a gift card.

NOVEMBER 12

2800 Block of Palm Ave. (Residential Burglary) Unknown suspect(s) stole miscellaneous items from the victim's home during a renovation.

NOVEMBER 6

3500 Block of Bayview Dr. (Residential Burglary) Unknown suspect(s) entered the residence through an open window and stole a box containing a watch, wallet, cash, and sunglasses. •

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Police Alert

On Nov. 17, between the hours of 12:24 a.m. and 1:15 a.m. a male subject was captured on surveillance cameras at the campus of Robinson Elementary School (80 Morningside Drive) setting approximately 6 fires.

Manhattan Beach Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in the identification of the suspect shown in the surveillance video. Although most of the fires set, burned for a short amount of time, the subject can be seen attempting to start a large fire on the school grounds. In addition, the subject successfully set fire to a bulletin board just outside a classroom, which burned for approximately five minutes. In the video, the subject is seen sitting on a

school bench, watching the fire burn. Once the fire burned out, the subject exited the school campus.

The Manhattan Beach Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in the identification and capture of the suspect involved in this crime. Any information regarding this crime should be directed to Detective Shawn Thompson (310)802-5124.

Suspect Description: Male, White or Hispanic, 18-35yrs, 5'5-6'0, medium build, with dark hair, wearing unknown colored clothing. No vehicle seen.

Surveillance video footage of the suspect is available for viewing and download at: www.citymb.info/RobinsonElementaryFire •

Looking Up

Hubble Sees Asteroid Spouting Six Comet-Like Tails

By Bob Eklund

Astronomers viewing our solar system's asteroid belt with NASA's Hubble Space Telescope have seen for the first time an asteroid with six comet-like tails of dust radiating from it like spokes on a wheel. Unlike all other known asteroids, which appear simply as tiny points of light, this asteroid, designated P/2013 P5, resembles a rotating lawn sprinkler. Astronomers are puzzled over the asteroid's unusual appearance. "We were literally dumbfounded when we saw it," said lead investigator David Jewitt of UCLA. "Even more amazing, its tail structures change dramatically in just 13 days as it belches out dust. That also caught us by surprise. It's hard to believe we're looking at an asteroid." Jewitt leads a team whose research paper appears online in the Nov. 7 issue of *The Astrophysical Journal Letters* (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1088/2041-8205/778/1/L21>).



P/2013 P5 has been ejecting dust periodically for at least five months. Astronomers believe it is possible the asteroid's rotation rate increased to the point where its surface started flying apart. They do not believe the tails are the result of an impact with another asteroid because they have not seen a large quantity of dust blasted into space all at once.

Scientists using the Pan-STARRS survey telescope in Hawaii announced their discovery of the asteroid Aug. 27. P/2013 P5 appeared as an unusually fuzzy-looking object. The multiple tails were discovered when Hubble was used to take a more detailed image Sept. 10.

When Hubble looked at the asteroid again Sept. 23, its appearance had totally changed. It looked as if the entire structure had swung around. "We were completely knocked out," Jewitt said.

Careful modeling by team member Jessica Agarwal of the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research in Lindau, Germany, showed that the tails could have been formed by a series of impulsive dust-ejection events. She calculated that dust-ejection events occurred April 15, July 18, July 24, Aug. 8, Aug. 26 and Sept. 4. Radiation pressure from the Sun stretched the dust into streamers.

Radiation pressure could have spun P/2013

P5 up. Jewitt said the spin rate could have increased enough that the asteroid's weak gravity no longer could hold it together. If that happened, dust could slide toward the asteroid's equator, shatter and fall off, and drift into space to make a tail. So far, only about 100 to 1,000 tons of dust—a small fraction of P/2013 P5's main mass—has been lost. The asteroid's nucleus, which measures 1,400 feet wide, is thousands of times more massive than the observed amount of ejected dust.

Jewitt's interpretation implies that rotational breakup must be a common phenomenon in the asteroid belt; it may even be the main way small asteroids die. "In astronomy, where you find one, you eventually find a whole bunch more," Jewitt said. "This is just an amazing object to us, and almost certainly the first of many more to come."

Jewitt said it appears P/2013 P5 is a fragment of a larger asteroid that broke apart in a collision roughly 200 million years ago. There are many collision fragments in orbits similar to P/2013 P5's. Meteorites from these bodies show evidence of having been heated to as much as 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit. This means the asteroid likely is composed of metamorphic rocks and does not hold any ice as a comet does. •

Entertainment

Reel Review

A Handful of Not-Horrible Holiday Movies on Netflix

By Liana Whitehead

If you're an avid Netflix viewer like me, you know that the wonderful world of cheap, in-home moviegoing isn't without its cheesy moments. It's probably less tedious to list the movies on Netflix that *don't* completely insult Christmas. Most Netflix holiday features are unbearable and must be stopped mid-watch—titles like *Christmas Cupid*, *Black Christmas*, *A Halfway House Christmas*. The curiosity often gets the best of us, and we unknowingly welcome into our homes these horrendous, wannabe holiday hits.

So, I took it upon myself to weed through the unbearable movie mishaps and compile an unfortunately short list of films that won't bore you into a pre-Christmas death or cause you to regrettably reach for the remote. They also happen to be some of my all-time favorites. Click and enjoy.

The Polar Express (2004): So many emotions. This movie is a living portrait of computer-animated colors, characters and Christmas spirit. I remember seeing *The Polar Express* as a recently turned 16-year-old, though I was as excited as the toddlers beside me. I remember a magical experience detailing the adventure of child in danger of losing his Christmas imagination—a film that would make your grandpa believe in Santa again. Tom Hanks, who assisted in producing the film and did voices for six characters, was the man for the job. It seems he can pull off any role he's given, even if the entire movie features Hanks screaming at a volleyball on a deserted island. A film that shows just how technologically advanced we were in far-back 2004, the *Polar Express* will not disappoint. And make your kids watch it -- they'll be glad you did.

Elf (2003, Netflix DVD): Hilarious -- I don't care what its critics claim. Elf is nothing

short of cheerful and comedic and is crafted to cater to adults and children, which is done wonderfully. Buddy the elf was born among humans and lives the life of a Christmas elf -- until he suddenly realizes that the North Pole isn't his birthplace. Thus begins his journey to New York City. Former Saturday Night Live star Will Ferrell plays the endearing elf man, and I think his over-the-top style of humor is fitting. Unless you have issues with a man in electric green tights, roaming the streets of the Big Apple, it's a must-watch family movie.

Love Actually (2003): Such a breath of fresh air in the romantic comedy genre. Unlike any movie before its time (and so much better than copycats created after), *Love Actually* presents 10 separate love stories, in one film, between friends, family and couples. Although separate, each of these stories meets in the middle at some point, and everybody is intertwined in this lighthearted, witty comedy starring some of England's most endearing actors -- Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson and Colin Firth, to name a few. Each love story within the story has its own joys and sorrows. And all of them have issues. Hilarious.

Jack Frost (1998): OK -- so this one is a tad cheesy, but a heartwarmer despite its title. I sniffled during several scenes, and I'm not a crier. It's not your everyday nose-nipping tale of Jack Frost, nor is it related to that hideous horror remake released the year before. In this version, the likeable Michael Keaton plays a harmonica-toting musician who finds himself disconnected from his family at Christmastime. His wife (Kelly Preston) and son can only reconnect with Jack *after* a fatal car accident. Although it'll never live up to holiday classics, like "A Christmas Story," it does tug at the heartstrings and puts you in the dreaded shoes of a family at loss at Christmas. •

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Sports

The Battle For Los Angeles

By Adam Serrao

For the second year in a row, the battle for Los Angeles runs blue. Perhaps no one person deserves more credit for the second consecutive win by the college from Westwood than head coach Jim Mora. Since he has taken over the regime, the UCLA Bruins have been a completely different team than in years past. For USC, the days of Pete Carroll, Matt Leinart, Reggie Bush and the great recruits that have come and gone has seemingly come to an at least brief halt. As athletic director Pat Haden and the rest of the staff begin to figure out if

Ed Orgeron, or some other highly-touted name with coaching experience, should lead their team into the future, the UCLA Bruins take solace in the fact that they have found a leader of their own. Jim Mora is the new face of the Bruins and his "Bruin Revolution" is giving recruits all around Southern California and beyond something to stop and think about before they commit to play the game of college football.

The Bruin Revolution that Mora speaks of became more than real last Saturday night at USC's Coliseum as the Bruins basically dominated the entire way through and ultimately

defeated the Trojans by a final score of 35-14. The win over SC was Mora's (and the Bruins') second consecutive victory over their cross-town rivals and marked a changing of the tides of sorts. "When you win two in a row in this town, things start to change," Mora explained. "That's going to help us in recruiting. If I'm a high school player, I want to play at UCLA right now. I don't know if that's legal. Is that legal to say?" Whether it is or it isn't, Mora has said it both literally with words and figuratively with actions as he has certainly begun to catch potential recruits' attentions. Two wins in a row may not be enough to capture complete dominance and overtake a decade of USC supremacy, but it certainly is a start and it has the high school players that Mora speaks of at least scratching their heads before they make any decisions.

Mora's exuberance is certainly understandable considering that the Bruins have not won a game at the Coliseum since the 1997 season. Nowadays 1997 seems just like yesterday, but in actuality that was a long 16 years ago. Likewise, it has also been since 1998 that the Bruins have won consecutive games against their rivals from the same city. To put things in perspective, the Bruins had beaten the Trojans only once since 1999 before Mora's tenure. Since Mora has taken over, however, the team has not lost in the series. "It's nice to have it now for two years in a row," Mora stated. Those two years haven't just been your run-of-the-mill victories—they have both been victories by double-digit margins. "It tells you what's going on at UCLA," Mora continued. "It's an exciting time at UCLA. It's an exciting

time to be a UCLA Bruin. You want to play for a fun, tough, hard-nosed football team that can go and win games everywhere? Come to UCLA because it's brewing over here."

Some might say that Mora could be getting ahead of himself with that quotation. After all, the Bruins have lost three times this year already to powerhouses in the BCS standings. If UCLA wants to be a team that can go anywhere and win, they will have to first turn the losses against Stanford, Oregon and Arizona State into Ws. But Mora is certainly right that he has a winning formula brewing and in the works.

More than anything, the second consecutive win over USC validated a turnaround of fortunes for the UCLA Bruins. One victory over their rivals last year meant a lot in the moment, but didn't mean much in the grand scheme of things. Two wins in a row, however, proves that this revolution, as Mora puts it, is not a fluke. "Last year after the win over SC, nobody gave us credit for it," Bruin starting quarterback Brett Hundley explained. "This win really validated what we did last year and what we're doing this year. The one thing that's funny to me is that I've never thought of this as a battle. I thought of this more as a takeover. UCLA runs L.A., and let's have some fun saying it because we have another year to say it."

Perhaps Hundley is right, but for his sake and for his school's sake, he had better hope that the winning ways continue with such lofty comments. Before Mora arrived in Westwood, however, nobody on the team could even fathom making comments like that. Since he has arrived, all of a sudden such confidence doesn't necessarily seem so far-fetched. •

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PHILIPPINES TYPHOON HAIYAN RELIEF

Through a special board meeting the Torrance Kiwanis Foundation has approved the collections of funds to be sent directly to the Philippines to assist the families that have been devastated by Typhoon Haiyan.



Tony Molino is chair of this committee. He has already set up communications with Juan "Ito" Torres, MD past president of Kiwanis International and the Kiwanis Club of New Manila to assist with the distribution of funds. Dr. Torres and his wife Alice are already working through the Kiwanis Clubs in the Philippines to get supplies and assistance to the families that were hit the hardest in the southern part of the Philippines.

If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to the Torrance Kiwanis Foundation, in the memo write "Typhoon Haiyan Relief"

For more information contact Tony Molino 323-692-4010 or molino@molinolawfirm.com

Get Crafty with Edible Holiday Appetizers

(BPT) - Don't worry, Mom. In this case, it's OK to play with your food. The latest online social media craze features awe-inspiring galleries of edible art, showcasing everyday ingredients transformed into munchable holiday masterpieces.

This season, whether you're looking to revamp the relish tray or simply keep the kids occupied with a fun project, a few holiday-friendly staples are all you need to let your creativity take flight.

Take, for instance, California black ripe olives. Known for their versatility and mild

flavor, black olives are a party favorite for a reason. And with 95 percent of the nation's ripe olives grown on family farms in California, they're truly an all-American ingredient. They're also the perfect building block for edible holiday treats.

Get in on the fun with an easy and adorable-to-look-at recipe that uses black olives, cream cheese, pretzels and a few other common ingredients to create an unforgettable herd of holiday cheer. In fact, this is one reindeer game anyone can play.

California Olive Reindeer

Makes 8 reindeer



Supplies

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 2- 4 Won ton wrappers | 1 bamboo skewer |
| Cooking spray | 16 pretzel sticks |
| 2 Sandwich-sized re-sealable plastic bags | Paring knife |
| 4 ounces cream cheese | Tiny pieces of carrot and raisins |
| Scissors | Powdered sugar (optional) |
| 8 colossal California Black Ripe Olives | Kale (optional) |
| 8 large California Black Ripe Olives | Mushrooms (optional) |

Directions

With a small, sharp knife, cut wonton wrappers into "antlers." Place on a baking sheet and coat with cooking spray. Bake for 3 to 5 minutes at 350 F, or until lightly browned. Place cream cheese into two sandwich-sized resealable bags. Snip 1/8-inch off the corner of one and 1/16-inch off the second. With the bag and the 1/8-inch hole, squeeze cream cheese into colossal olives. Using a bamboo skewer, make a hole in the large olives. Break a pretzel stick in half and press into hole and into colossal olive. Press together to form the head. Make four holes in the colossal olive with a bamboo skewer and push four broken pretzel sticks in to form legs. Squeeze cream cheese with the small-hole to form eyes. Make tiny slits with a paring knife in the top of the head and insert wonton antlers. Make a hole in the large olive (head) and insert a small sliver of carrot for the nose. Use a small piece of raisin to create pupils.

To create a winter setting, dust kale leaves with powdered sugar and snip the tops off mushrooms to simulate large boulders. •



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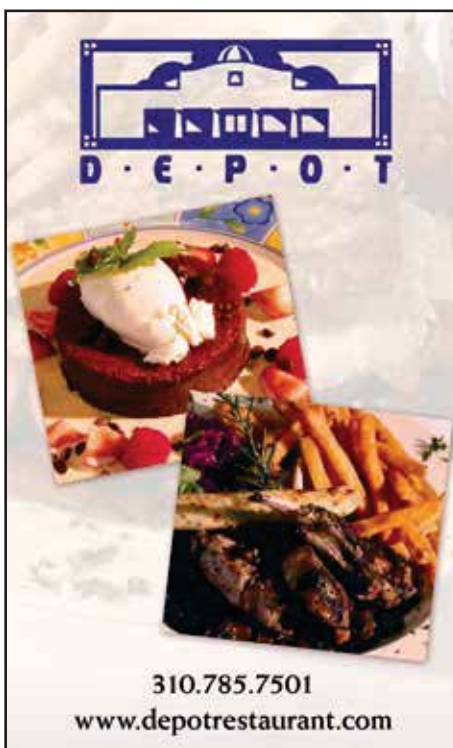
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Politically Speaking

One Man's Opinion

By Gerry Chong

Somewhere in The Cloud, they held the annual Dead Dictators' Reunion (DDR). The gang was all there...Hitler, Mao, Tojo, Khrushchev, Kim, Mussolini...all the boys. Cognac and Cuban cigars were the lubricating

been starving the way Iran is now, but no one rescued us the way Obama is rescuing the Ayatollah's regime in Iran. He's giving the dictator's economy a six-month reprieve from the impact of severe economic sanctions. The Ayatollah got \$8 billion in assets returned

"What if FDR had said the U.S. was sick of war and gave us a date for withdrawal of his troops from Europe."

medium, reviving and revising stories of past victories and lamenting past defeats. "If only..." seemed to be the wistful theme of the night.

"If only we hadn't faced the America of prior years, but had faced Obama's America instead, the world would be a different place. Ahhh, that disappointment just breaks our hearts."

"What if FDR had said the U.S. was sick of war and gave us a date for withdrawal of his troops from Europe," dreamily envisioned Hitler and Mussolini in tandem. "We would have sat on our hands like the Taliban are doing, waiting for the American armistice. What a gift Obama would have been to us."

"Huh," said Tojo, "Japan sucker-punched America at Pearl Harbor and got our heads handed to us on an atomic platter, but when Libya sucker-punched America at Benghazi, Obama made up lies and left his people to die."

"Speaking of Syria," said Kim, "when Korea engaged in its civil war, America reacted and saved the South from North Korea and China. But in Syria, the Americans hid behind the Russian skirt and skulked away. What would the map of Asia look like today without American strength?"

Mao spoke and said, "Our country had

to them and an additional \$7 billion in trade agreements, rescuing their economy and squelching demands for democratic reform. In exchange, Iranians did not have to stop enriching uranium, nor did it have to dismantle centrifuges. They only promised to work toward a longer-range agreement within six months. Fifteen billion dollars in real money was given in exchange for a six month's efforts at negotiating a better agreement? 'If only' we had Obama to negotiate with."

Khrushchev said, "With us, America built up its military forces in a non-shooting Cold War, but in a hot-shooting series of wars in the Middle East, it built its defenses down. This year alone, Obama has fired nine commanding generals and admirals in every branch of the service."

"If we had been in power in the Age of Obama, we would have brought him to this reunion as a guest of honor. We would have given him a Nobel Prize. We would have built a Parthenon with faux Greek columns in his honor. We would have...oh...if only..."

As the reunion wound down, all the celebrants stood and raised a glass, bowing to a giant mural of Obama--and in a cynical burst of admiration sang, "Oh, what a friend we have in Jesus." •

Another Man's Opinion

Agreement with Iran is First Step in Right Direction

By Cristian Vasquez

The issue of Iran's nuclear program has been a lingering concern for Washington for years. Nuclear-related sanctions were the primary response when dealing with the Middle Eastern country's reluctance to cease the development of its nuclear capabilities. However, the new deal reached is a huge step in what hopefully will be a turning point in the relationship between Iran and America.

While there are concerns about the agreement, the United States, the UK, Russia, China, France and Germany all reached this consensus in the short term with hopes of establishing a more long-term deal. Despite Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's "it's a historic mistake" comments, the deal is a benefit to all involved. There are three significant areas in the agreement that reinforce the argument that this is a good deal.

For one, Iran has agreed to stop enriching uranium beyond five percent, while neutralizing its stockpile of uranium enriched from this point forward. This alone makes the deal something to celebrate. For years Iran has refused to even consider reducing its nuclear capabilities, let alone ceasing the program and neutralizing its current stockpile. Arguing that Iran's leadership can easily ignore the agreement is a legitimate concern, but every other nation involved has the ability to do the same. Deals only work when all parties act in good faith and rather than bashing this agreement from the start, people should give all sides involved a

chance to fulfill their promises.

The second reason to be hopeful about this agreement is the fact that Iran has also agreed to provide greater access to inspectors. This will include daily access at the Natanz and Fordo nuclear sites. Again, this is a huge sign that Iran is willing to play by the terms of this new deal. It is easy to assume that the historically reclusive and secretive nation will back out on this part of the deal, but the truth is it has six months to agree to these terms while a more permanent and long-term agreement is reached. The fear from world powers that Iran was developing its nuclear program to secretly develop a nuclear bomb has always been denied by the nation's leaders. Allowing inspections is an encouraging sign that there is nothing to hide.

Lastly, the elimination of new nuclear-related sanctions for six months if Iran sticks by the accord is a token of good will from the superpowers. The truth is that the United States and all the other superpowers involved with this agreement are giving up very little in exchange for a whole lot. Iran is agreeing to reduce production and neutralize stockpiles in exchange for no sanctions. If these leaders were able to convince Iran's leadership to these terms in the short run, then there is a very good chance that the long-term agreement reached in six months can be just as favorable. It is early in the process and there is still much that can go wrong, but for once in a long time things seem to be going in the right direction. •

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Iris

precious pet at the seventh annual Home for the Holidays pet adoption fair at the Irvine Animal Care Center on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 10 am to 3 p.m. Admission is \$1 and parking is free. Adopt a "pet without a partner" and receive unconditional love when you give a homeless pet a second chance in life.

Beautiful **Shilo** is two-year-old Spaniel mix who weighs 13 pounds. Shilo is a very soulful and sweet boy. He has a beautiful golden coat with a white blaze down his chest and dark brown eyes. He loves his toys, as you can see in his video on our website, and loves to fetch whatever you throw for him. Shilo has great play manners with all the dogs at



Zoey

the rescue and loves the other little dog in his foster home. He's a professional lover and snuggler who loves to sit with you. With his tenderhearted personality, Shilo is sure to make a great connection with all the females in the family. For his comfort, it would be best that children in the household be over the age of 10. Shilo is neutered, current on vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped and fine with other dogs.

Two adorable kittens snuck into our all-dog rescue. **Zoey** is a sweet, 12-week-old, long-haired, brown Tabby with white bits who

will make an excellent addition to any family situation. **Iris** is a darling eight-week-old kitten who is extremely well-socialized and quite loving. Please help them each find a good home. Both are vaccinated, de-wormed and will be spayed when of age.

Tanner is a beautiful little Basenji pup--he might even be a purebred. He is a ball of laughs, loves to play with other dogs and is perfectly content on your lap. Tanner rides well in the car and is just the cutest little guy. Thus far, he's your normal little playful puppy. Tanner is neutered, current on vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped, fine with other dogs and cat-safe.

To learn more about these and other wonderful dogs, visit our website at www.animalsrule.org.



Shilo

If a dog is on our website, it's available. Or come to our Saturday adoption events from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 305 North Harbor Boulevard in San Pedro (just off the 110 near the cruise port). We are always in need of donations for veterinarian bills and our senior dogs. Donations can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to: Animals Rule Placement Foundation at 305 North Harbor Blvd., San Pedro, CA 90731. All donations are tax-deductible. We are a registered 501©3 non-profit organization.

Saving one animal won't change the world, but the world will surely change for that animal. •



Tanner

bunnies or one of their friends.

Powder Puff is unbelievably cute, weighs less than two pounds, was about three months of age in early October and has a friendly disposition too. With her beautiful coat, be aware that she will require daily combing and summer haircuts.

Alice is a petite girl with chocolate eyeliner. As she warms up to you, she is an all-around good girl with excellent house habits! Alice prefers cats and humans to other rabbits.

All these orphaned bunnies are available for adoption through Los Angeles Rabbit Foundation. To see more of their rabbits, please visit www.larabbits.org. The group holds weekly adoption events on Saturdays from 12:30-3:30 at 3860 S. Centinela Avenue, Los Angeles 90066 (two blocks south of Venice Boulevard). All the rabbits are neutered and box-trained prior to adoption. Adopters receive a care packet, a bag of oat blend hay and advice for the life of the rabbit. If you can't adopt, the organization always needs



Powder Puff

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Tristan

and older in our "Home for the Holidays" adoption drive. Bring a little love into your holidays when you adopt your purr-fect partner.

Carmen is a beautiful ginger cat who found herself at a high-kill shelter along with her beautiful ginger kittens. Carmen was lucky she got out alive, but not until after the trauma of having her five-week-old kittens taken and killed a day before Kitten Rescue was able to save her. Carmen is now safe in a foster home and would love a home of her own. She is a bit reserved, yet she loves to strut around and play with her toys or lounge about decorating the room with her majestic presence. If you're looking for a cat to keep you company but don't desire a clingy one, Carmen is the girl for you.

Tristan is a handsome two-year-old boy who is harness and leash trained. He is very easygoing, loves belly rubs and can't get enough petting. With his loud purr and adorable soft green eyes, Tristan would be perfectly happy as a single cat or in a home with another kitty. He is good with dogs once he gets to know them, other cats and gentle children.

Arwen is a gorgeous little brown Tabby and white girl with soft, golden eyes. This sweet girl was rescued from death along with her four newborn kittens. Time brought healing and as Arwen began to put on weight, she also began to take an interest in life once again.

This poor girl wants so desperately to be loved, but at the same time her trust had been broken and she was afraid to accept love. Arwen will rub against your legs, winding about your feet with a playful youthfulness that is extremely endearing. She adores playing with toys that she can bat and swat at, nuzzling her face against them from time to time as well. Arwen would be best suited in a calm, quiet adult household where she can feel secure and safe.

These kittens/cats are available for adoption through Kitten Rescue, one of the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All of our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, de-wormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see our other kitties, please check our website at www.kittenrescue.org, or email us at mail@kittenrescue.org. Your tax-deductible donations for the rescue and care of our cats and kittens can be made through our website or



Arwen

by sending a check payable to Kitten Rescue, 914 Westwood Boulevard, #583, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

On Saturdays, we have adoptions from noon to 3 p.m. in Westchester at 8655 Lincoln Boulevard, just south of Manchester Avenue, and also in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela Avenue, just south of Venice Boulevard. Our website lists additional adoption sites and directions to each location.

Be kind. Save a life. Support animal rescue. •



Lucy

Bunnies Without Homes

Bunnies aren't just for Easter. They're ready to share their love the whole year through. Rabbits are wonderful companion animals. They're clean, sociable, and once neutered can easily be litterbox-trained. Want to give a bunny a "hoppy" holiday? There is a wide selection of rabbits waiting for homes, so please don't shop--adopt one of these beautiful

foster homes, volunteers and, of course, donations. Make this year a positive one for a rabbit in need. •



Alice

Lost Dog

Long Hair Chihuahua, male, ten-years old, 6 lbs 5 oz. Last seen Thanksgiving night on 600 block of Center St. wearing zebra print body leash. Dog named Mickey. Needs surgery. REWARD offered. Please contact (310) 956-2562 or (310-322-0098. •



Real Estate

Tips to Spruce Up Your Home for the Holidays

(BPT) - Holidays are when most people open their homes for friends and family. Sharing the season's greetings is always the priority but these gatherings are also an opportunity to show off improvements made during the year.

This is one of the reasons that autumn is a popular time for home improvements. Fifty-two percent of homeowners plan to make home improvements this fall, according to the leading real estate website Zillow. It is also a great time of year for deals as retailers unload inventory to make room for new styles.

Creating a warm and inviting atmosphere includes much more than just poinsettias and Santa Claus centerpieces. There are a number of affordable steps homeowners can take to add a real "wow factor" to their holiday entertaining.

Kitchen Updates

The kitchen is commonly one of the busiest rooms during the holidays. Since guests often gather there, it makes sense to make the space the focus for a few improvements before the holidays. Simple and inexpensive updates, such as adding new knobs and handles to cabinets or installing a new backsplash, will make a big difference. Stylish new light fixtures can also give your kitchen a quick facelift that will impress your guests.

Install Hardwood Floors

The warmth and beauty of hardwood floors can transform the look and feel of your home to create a space that will stun your guests. And unlike carpet, hardwood floors do not



stain or wear as easily from inevitable spills and foot traffic that the holidays bring. - Moreover, carpet traps dust, pollen and other particles that can cause allergies and respiratory issues. Visually unique flooring options bring together both the aesthetic and practical advantages of hardwood flooring.

De-clutter

It's important to create inviting open space

for guests to enjoy. De-cluttering bookshelves and removing miscellaneous furniture can help make a room feel larger and more open, and will allow room for festive seasonal decor. Spending time to organize the refrigerator will make space for any holiday dishes a guest brings.

Improve the Entry

The front entry provides the first impression

of a home, so it's important to create a stylish, cared-for and welcoming look. Homeowners can complete small projects outside, such as updating house numbers, painting the front door and creating holiday-themed arrangements. Simple decor updates just inside the door - such as adding family photos and new rugs - will add a warm and personal feel. •

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