

COMMUNITY NEWS

PALMDALE

Free breakfast for veterans

The Palmdale Veterans of Foreign Wars, 38580 Ninth St. East, offers a free breakfast for veterans from 8 to 10 a.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

For details, call (661) 273-3204.

Get support from other moms

The MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support) Club of Palmdale will meet at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, at Neighborhood House #2, 1129 East Ave. R-4.

For details, call (661) 450-8041.

Support vets at bike night

VFW Post 3552 will present a bike night with music, dancing, food and games from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday at Color Guard Hall, 39463 10th St. East.

The event is held every Friday. For details, call (661) 267-3204.

Boy Scouts seeking members

Boy Scout Troop 76 is looking for boys ages 11 to 18 to join the troop. The group meets at 5 p.m. Tuesdays at Trinity Baptist Church, 2045 East Palmdale Blvd.

For details, call (661) 273-4473 or visit www.ptn.org.

Get ready for local pageant

The City of Palmdale Scholarship Pageant is accepting applications for contestants through Monday, March 7.

The age groups are Little Miss, ages 6 to 8; Junior Miss, ages 11 to 14; and Miss, ages 16 to 20.

Applications are available at the Palmdale Chamber of Commerce, 817 East Ave. Q-9.

For details, call (661) 273-3232.

LANCASTER

Bingo fundraisers

Delly's bingo offers play at 2 p.m. Sundays and 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at 43145 Business Center Parkway, Suite 105.

Tuesday games include a \$250 guaranteed payout.

Proceeds support area charities. For details, call (661) 945-1570.

Sunday Night Dance set

The Sunday Night Dance meets from 6 to 10 p.m. Sundays at 240 East Ave. K.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Proper attire is required, and the suggested age group is 40 years and older.

The dance is \$5.

For details, call (661) 943-4296.

Animal shelter donations

The Lancaster Animal Shelter, 5210 West Ave. I, is accepting donations of pet food, toys, brushes, shampoo, beds and clothing from noon to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

For details, call (661) 940-4191.

SUN VILLAGE

Happy people welcome

The Jolly Seniors Club for those 55 and older will meet at noon Tuesday at Jackie Robinson Park, 8773 East Ave. R.

The group meets the first Tuesday of the month.

For details, call (661) 944-2880.

Still time to become royalty

The Sun Village Chamber of Commerce will be accepting applications for 2011 Sun Village pageant contestants through Friday, March 25.

The age groups are Little Miss, ages 6 to 8; Junior Miss, ages 11 to 14; and Miss, ages 16 to 19.

Contestants must live in Sun Village or Littlerock, and applications are available at Jackie Robinson Park, 8773 East Ave. R.

For details, call (661) 944-2880 or (661) 878-0024.

To get your news on this page, send e-mail to valleylife@avpress.com or call (661) 267-4230



Riders move along the elevated 765 feet Aqua Duck "water coaster," above the Disney Dream ship. High powered water jets pump 10,000 gallons of water per minute to propel riders along. *SHNS*

Disney Dream not just for kids

By JANET K. KEELER *St. Petersburg Times*

Little Lucy Silverthorne of Toronto, just 3 and bedecked in a floppy pink sun hat, looks into the eyes of Cinderella and people melt. Cinderella and Lucy pose for pictures and then, with her mother's prodding, Lucy moves on to her next photo op.

She stops for a heart-to-heart with Snow White, then Ariel, then Belle and finally Princess Tiana, who sits on the ground, arranging her pale green gown into a blanket of sorts. Lucy is invited to plop down on the fabric and cozy right up to the princess. They blow kisses. They hug. People watching the character encounter in the grand atrium of the new Disney Dream actually get weepy. Those who aren't welling up are smiling wide. Honestly, it's that cute.

One little boy, so enamored of Princess Tiana, can hardly be

coaxed to face the camera. How can he look forward when there is an actual princess behind him?

Lucy reminds us of another pastel rendezvous on our agenda, one deck up and at the back of the ship. It's all about pink drinks — and no kids, no matter how adorable, are allowed.

Pink is the name of a small, sophisticated cocktail bar dedicated to all things bubbly. Once inside, we feel as if we're swimming in a cotton-candy sea of Champagne. Behind the bar is a bank of glass dewdrops, meant to mimic bottles bursting with effervescence. The leather-tufted bar is accented with corseting, evoking a Moulin Rouge cancan dancer.

Backlit glass "bubbles" are imbedded in the walls. A

See **DISNEY DREAMS** on D2



IF YOU GO ...

Disney Cruise Line's newest ship sails three-, four- and five-night itineraries from Port Canaveral, Fla., to the Bahamas. The three-night cruise stops at Disney's private island, Castaway Cay. The other two cruises stop in Nassau, plus Castaway Cay.

The Disney Dream has 150 inside staterooms and 1,100 outside rooms (199 with ocean views and another 901 with verandahs).

Prices depend on when you want to go and if you book through a travel agent, Disney or an aggregate travel website. On Expedia, prices for an inside stateroom for the three-night cruise start at about \$400 per person for departure dates in March. A balcony room is about \$480 per person.

The four-night cruise in February and through the spring is about \$520 for an inside room and \$670 for a balcony. The longest cruise is \$720 and \$925 per person starting in March. These prices are a starting point, and you may be able to get better deals with the help of a travel agent.

Generally, the first two people in a room are the same price, and the fees are lower for subsequent passengers in the same room.

Meals are included, but you'll pay extra for alcohol and specialty dining in the adults-only Remy and Palo.

The ubiquitous soda program doesn't exist on the Dream, though there are free soda fountains in several spots on the ship.

Get more information about the Disney Dream at disneycruise.disney.go.com.

Get away from it all in luxury

By LIANE M. ROTH *Valley Life Editor*

Backyard camping, day trips to the beaches, museums and galleries, picnics at the park, barbecues by the pool — all these are activities folks have been enjoying as part of "stay-cations," budget-friendly getaways that have replaced expensive vacations since the economy took a turn for the worse during the past few years.

If you've been economizing for far too long and are yearning for an extravagant family getaway complete with luxurious pampering and amazing amenities, here are two stunning hot spots you might want to check out.

Set amidst opulent surroundings and providing the ultimate experience in travel adventures, these resorts are offering family-friendly deals to ease the financial burden and ensure a vacation your family will remember for a lifetime.

Children are in charge this spring at Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes, said representatives, with a special Kids Rule Vacation Celebration Package that will make kids feel like royalty, while offering parents tremendous savings on dining and fun as children ages 12 and younger eat free.

Families will unwind in luxurious and spacious villas or casitas, and venture out for an exciting lineup of new activities and camps offered through the resort's popular inlet for imagination, The Tide Pool Kids Club.

Spacious, comfortable and residential-like villas and casitas set the stage for the ultimate family getaway, representatives said, with private entrances, full kitchens, living areas, laundry facilities and fireplaces.



Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Contributed

The package includes a \$100 resort credit per night, good for golf, spa, dining, or recreation. It also includes a Kids Rule welcome back sack for each child 12 and under that is loaded with goodies including: a colorful Kids Eat Free wristband good for unlimited gelato at Sea Beans coffee shop and free kids meals (with each paying adult) throughout the resort with the exception of mar'sel; disposable camera for capturing fun vacation memories from a kid's viewpoint; resort

See **LUXURY GETAWAY** on D4

ATTIC TREASURES

Royal canine channeled

By HELAINE FENDELMAN and JOE ROSSON *Scripps Howard News Service*



Dear Helaine and Joe: I acquired a Steiff animal a few years ago from a relative and wondered how much it might be worth. It is in fair condition and still has the yellow collar tag that reads "Zwergspitz." It also has the Steiff button in its ear. Thank you. — S.D.

Dear S.D.: A "Zwergspitz" is more commonly called a "Pomeranian," "Pom" or "Pom-Pom." This dog breed is descended from the larger German spitz, and the Pomeranian name is derived from Pomerania, a region on the south shore of the Baltic Sea that is now divided between Germany and Poland.

Britain's Queen Victoria became the most important proponent of the Pomeranian breed; she bred them in such a way that their size was reduced to something like 12 pounds. She tried to import the smallest Pomeranians she could and also tried to acquire these animals in a variety of colors.

We have covered the story of Margarete Steiff and her stuffed toys in the past, so we will only briefly touch on it here. Born Appolonia Margarete Steiff in Giengen, Germany, in 1847, she developed polio as a toddler, but survived and lived her life in a wheelchair.

"Gretle" — as her family called her — attended grade school and learned to sew from her two older sisters. Margarete learned to operate a sewing machine and, along with her sister, Pauline, established a home-based enterprise making women's clothing.

By age 32, Margarete was making felt clothing and outerwear under her name. In 1880, she crafted elephant-shaped pin cushions as gifts for family and friends. These were so popular that they became the basis for the later toy business.

In 1889, she moved her operation to a toy factory. Brother Fritz joined the firm as a sales representative in 1893, and many of the later animal toys were based on sketches that her nephew Richard made at the zoo.

Margarete Steiff GmbH is still in business, but collectors tend to prefer the items made before 1950. Steiff manufactured many versions of the Zwergspitz over the years, but this standing version, with its white mohair coat, brown and black eyes, and black stitching, appears to come from the 1930s.

We are concerned about S.D.'s description of the condition of her Steiff Pomeranian as just "fair." Condition is everything in these pieces, but we cannot see what the problems with this particular example might be, if any.

On Oct. 13, 2010, a Steiff dog exactly like this one sold for \$395 at Christie's in London. If S.D.'s dog is in a similar condition, it should have an insurance-replacement value in the \$500-\$600 range.

Helaine Fendelman and Joe Rossan are the authors of "Price It Yourself" (HarperResource, \$19.95). Send photos and inquiries to: *Treasures in Your Attic*, P.O. Box 18350, Knoxville, TN 37928.

treasures@knology.net

Coming Up

MONDAY: Health & Fitness

American Heart Month

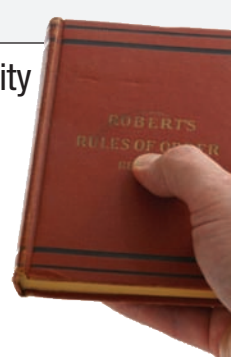
Wrapping up with heart-healthy tips



TUESDAY: Focus on Community

Proper procedures

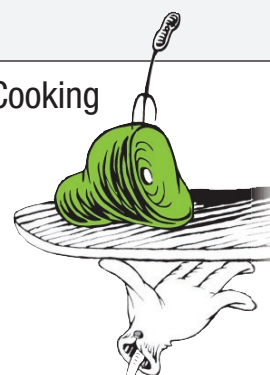
Parliamentary Law club takes on Roberts Rules of Order



WEDNESDAY: Food & Cooking

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss

Celebrate with tasty green eggs and ham



THURSDAY: Young AV

Award-worthy

All Valley Federal Credit Union art show winners





Spacious, comfortable and residential-like villas and casitas set the stage for the ultimate family getaway.



Contributed photos

LUXURY GETAWAYS FROM PAGE D1

scavenger hunt booklet; and a kids-size Terranea Kids Rule cup for unlimited lemonade refills.

While at the resort, families can have endless fun through Terranea's Tide Pool Kids program. Kids and parents will discover and explore Terranea's unique setting and history through creative activities, science experiments and locally inspired art projects. Daytime and evening half-day adventure camps (\$50 per child) are one of the most popular programs offered through the Tide Pool Kids Club. Camps are designed around a daily theme such as Big Top Fun, where campers create a parade of circus animals, or Pirates of the Peninsula, which has participants searching for buried treasure. Another popular activity is the Tide Pool Fun Hours. For \$15 per child, per hour, kids and parents can participate in a variety of scheduled arts, crafts and science experiments. Children in Terranea's programs have access to the Kids Club that includes a big screen HDTV, full Wii entertainment system with popular video games, dancing and karaoke, digital microscopes and iMac computer stations. Teens even have a place of their own at the Teen Lounge that includes computers, board games, video games and, of course, other teens.

Rounding out the family experience is the popular resort pool where families gather for fun in the sun. The Resort Pool offers a thrilling water slide and splash zone, as well as a large pool for swimming, two Jacuzzis, a fire pit and private cabanas with 22-inch flat screen TVs, iPod docking stations and poolside dining service. Next to the pool is a large grassy area where everyone is invited to take part in old-fashioned lawn games including beach blanket bingo, croquet and bocce ball. Each week, the Resort Lawn is host to Friday Family Night where the fun ranges from hermit crab races and bubble blowing contests to glow-in-the-dark bocce ball tournaments.

Located just 20 miles from Los Angeles International Airport, this oceanfront resort is magnificently poised above the Pacific Ocean on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, resort representatives said.

The property boasts a 582-room resort including a 360-room hotel with 32 suites, 20 bungalows and 50 villas overlooking the ocean.

Resort officials said amenities include The Links at Terranea, a 9-hole par 3 golf course; The Spa at Terranea; and three unique swimming

pools — one with a children's play area featuring a 140-foot waterslide.

According to representatives, three oceanview restaurants offer a variety of food and beverage experiences including Catalina Kitchen for casual, all-day dining; mar'sel, the free-standing signature restaurant; and Nelson's, a cliff-side restaurant and bar with spectacular vantage points for whale watching. Also available are a children's center with interactive programs and several miles of scenic bluff-top trails that connect miles of off-property coastal trails. A secluded beach cove adds to the unique experiences at Terranea Resort, company representatives said.

The Kids Rule Vacation Celebration Package is available through Dec. 31, with rates starting at \$625 per night for a Casita Suite, including the daily resort fee.

For reservations and information, call (866) 802-8000 or visit www.terranea.com.

Nestled within the shadows of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain on 450 verdant acres in the Tesuque Valley Of Northern New Mexico, surrounded by the Santa Fe National Forest, lies The Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort & Spa.

This premier Southwestern destination spot, celebrating its 93rd year, offers visitors a wide variety of activities, including horseback riding; skeet shooting; outdoor games such as badminton, tennis and croquet; swimming and hiking. The lodge is also located within minutes of world-class golf, skiing and fishing.

According to resort representatives, this legendary ranch resort located in Santa Fe has deep roots tracing back hundreds of years to the Anasazi, the Pueblo Indians who inhabited the region so long ago.

"We're surrounded by eight pueblos and the views are just stunning," said Rich Verruni, managing director for the resort. "This is a place where people have a feel for the customs and traditions of the ancient people who came here first."

"For those looking to experience the Native American culture, there's just no better place."

With miles of hiking and horseback-riding trails stretching deep into the woodlands, energetic guests can spend a few hours or days exploring the natural surroundings while observing the native wildlife, flora and

fauna that thrive in the clear mountain air.

"We have 20 horses available and we're right up against the National Forest. We have five clearly marked trails so riders and hikers can go up to the National Parks," Verruni said.

Experienced wranglers with extensive training in all levels of riding are on site, officials said.

Guests can choose from several packages, including guided trail rides into the Sangre Cristo Mountain range, horsemanship, a BBQ dinner ride, children's rides and rodeo, representatives said, with on-trail instruction provided featuring Parelli Natural Horsemanship techniques.

Child-friendly programs offer families a respite from the hustle and bustle of jampacked school and sports schedules for guests ages 5 to 11, such as pony rides, playground activities, arts and crafts or sun-splashed days by the pool.

Evening movies carefully supervised by trained staff give parents some cherished time alone with the comfort of knowing little ones are having their own good times including lunch and dinnertime.

For those wanting to explore the rich cultural and artistic history of Santa Fe, the lodge offers a free shuttle service to areas of interest, Verruni said.

"We're located three miles out of the city. The historic downtown Plaza center is only five minutes away, where you'll find incredible museums, 400 art galleries in August is the Indian Market shopping, walking tours," he explained.

Hungry guests can dine on Chef Carmen's Southwestern-inspired menu, with an emphasis on local ingredients served in ranch-hand portions, representatives said.

Whether you want to bask in the warm glow of magnificent sunrises, take advantage of trailrides beneath azure blue skies filled with the soft scent of Pinon pines, or sit back and relax as a blanket of stars put on a nightly show, The Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort & Spa offers guests the perfect Southwestern adventure.

For details, call (800) 732-2240 or visit www.bishopslodge.com.

lroth@avpress.com

Bridal

WEDDING PLANNING: LESS EXPENSIVE DAYS FOR WEDDINGS

COURTESY OF THEKNOT.COM

If there were a popularity contest for days of the week, Saturday would win. Most likely when you were a kid, Saturdays meant watching cartoons, playing in Little League ball games, or going to the pool. Now that you're one of the adults (yes), Saturday means sleeping in, shopping, and barbecue on the deck. Not surprisingly, Saturday is also the most popular day to get married. But more and more couples are choosing off days, like Friday, Sunday, or even midweek days, for their weddings — and finding that being flexible about the day of the week can make a big dollar difference.

Some reception locations may offer the same sit-down dinner on Sunday for a lot less cash than it did on Saturday.

Why Snub a Saturday Wedding?

Practical considerations are the big draw: At many wedding ceremony and reception sites, Saturdays are booked a year or more in advance. If you have your heart set on one of these venues, an off-day wedding can be an event-saving alternative. Religious considerations also can come into play. For example, many Jewish weddings take place on Sunday in deference to the Jewish Sabbath, which lasts from sundown on Friday until sundown on Saturday. Officials of many denominations often are more readily available for an off-day wedding. For some couples, having their wedding on a specific date — say, their parent's wedding anniversary, for example — is more important than having it on Saturday. Other couples have a midweek event so they can take advantage of lower airfares for out of town guests (and for their own honeymoon flights). Off-day weddings seem especially appealing to brides or grooms who have been married before and who know that a wedding is a wedding, any day of the week.

Wedding Budget Boosts

Off-day weddings can save you some serious money. Some reception locations, in a quest to book venues that would otherwise remain empty, may offer the same sit-down dinner on Sunday for a lot less cash than it did on Saturday. It's a simple case of supply and demand: You'll have better luck negotiating lower rates with vendors if there aren't five other couples lined up behind you, ready to take your spot. Also, you may be able to make things work with fewer guests, because some establishments loosen minimum guest requirements on off days. You're also likely to get better service because you'll have management's undivided attention on a less busy day.

Depending on the specifics of your location, you also may be able to get your guests better hotel rates. Keep in mind that a hotel that hosts conventions or caters to business people probably won't offer lower rates during the week. At some establishments, you can reserve a block of rooms for Friday night with a lower number of guests because, by then, business travelers have gone home.

The Weekend Wedding Allure

Three-day holiday weekends like Memorial Day or Labor Day are popular for Sunday weddings because out-of-town guests have a full day to return home; and because for most guests, these weekends come with a built-in day off from work. (If you choose a holiday weekend wedding date, be sure you give your guests plenty of notice before they make other plans. This is the perfect excuse to buy those cute save-the-date cards.) Other holidays like Halloween, New Year's Eve, or even Father's Day are perfect for creative types looking to build a wedding with a theme (and to celebrate their anniversary on a holiday every year!). Remember, however, that some vendors are in great demand for certain holidays. For example, florists are swamped on Valentine's Day and Mother's Day; and bands are tough to book for New Year's Eve.

Off-Day Wedding Guest Care

Okay, no doubt it's a little more difficult for your guests, especially those traveling from afar, to manage a Friday or Sunday wedding. They may have to take an extra day off from the office or school. Be prepared for a higher-than-average rate of regrets, because those who aren't especially close to you aren't likely to accept your invitation. The good news: You end up with a core group of die-hard fans at your wedding, which makes the event a bit more cozy and a lot of fun.

These days, with so many guests traveling great distances to attend weddings, lots of couples plan celebrations that last several days or longer; couples with off-day affairs will find themselves in the same situation. Your weekend may begin with a bang: a Friday wedding followed by Saturday or Sunday activities and outings. Another option is Friday and Saturday group activities with a Sunday ceremony as the finale. In consideration of guests' schedules, a Friday wedding should be an evening affair, and a Sunday celebration should be planned to wrap up fairly early.

Timing Is Everything

Thinking that maybe off-day means off-base? No way. Just because it's not a Saturday night doesn't mean that it's not a party. Friday evening or Sunday morning weddings can be just as elegant as Saturday celebrations. Consider a Sunday reception in the form of a champagne brunch. These tend to begin with a ceremony between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., followed by a reception that wraps up around 5 p.m. A Friday wedding can be a sophisticated, stary-night soiree that goes far into the evening.

MONEY-SAVING STRATEGIES

No matter what your budget, a chic, high-end wedding can be yours without sacrificing a single iota of style. We've come up with five basic planning strategies and a multitude of specific tips to help you.

1. Cut Down

Have two bridesmaids instead of 10 (save on gifts). Serve three courses instead of five (save on price-per-head). Invite 100 guests instead of 150 (save on everything). Do the math: If your wedding comes to \$100 per person for food and drink, cutting your list from 150 to 100 saves \$5,000.

2. Loosen Up

The less formal the affair, the more affordable. Instead of a sit-down dinner, go for a casual brunch or barbecue. Get rental cars in lieu of limos.

3. Pick and Choose

You don't need top-of-the-line everything. Ditch your food budget on exquisite entrees. Serve a great cake, but skip the dessert table.

4. Put it off

Get silver or white gold wedding bands now, and upgrade to platinum on your first anniversary.

5. Do It Yourself

Never underestimate the penny-pinching power of elbow grease. Coordinate the alcohol yourself, make the favors, address your own envelopes, do your own hair or makeup, playing at your ceremony and then at your reception. Alternatively, opt for a DJ — they almost always cost less than a band. The best DJs and bands are in highest demand on Saturday nights, so try Friday or Sunday for a slightly discounted rate.

Regarding advertising information on this page, please call 940-5373.

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