



Monthly Contest Pomegranates, the stain masters of the fruit world, were Cleopatra's choice of lip stain. A huge number of correct answers this month, but in the end, there can be only one. Congratulations to John Magdaleno of Arcadia, who rides line 184. This month's category is The ROSE PARADE. Good luck!

Remember that all correct answers received by the last Friday of the month will be placed in a drawing for a free Foothill Transit 31-day pass!

As always, employees of Foothill Transit contractors and their families are not eligible. Please limit entries to one per customer.

The early days of the Tournament of

Roses included local games and races. The games on the town lot (which was re-named Tournament Park in 1900) included a race between a camel and an elephant.

Who won?

Answer: _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City & Zip _____
 I ride Line # _____
 Daytime phone _____
 Evening phone _____

Send your answers to Footnotes, c/o Foothill Transit, 100 N. Barranca Ave., Suite 100, West Covina, CA, 91791. Please include your personal information, so we can let you know if you've won.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

From all of us here at Foothill Transit, we wish you a safe, happy, and fruitful holiday season. We'll see you next year! In FULL COLOR!

Published for the customers, board members, friends, and staff of Foothill Transit. Articles may be submitted to Felicia Frieseema, editor.

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Foothill Transit contracts with ATC for management and administrative services, and with First Transit for operations.

Spring 2005 Schedule Changes

It's never too early to SPRING into action!

Last month, Foothill Transit held public information meetings and fielded numerous faxes and emails that yielded valuable customer input about upcoming service changes. Adjustments were made after extensive review, and final approval by the Executive Board was reached on December 10th. Here are the final changes scheduled to take effect **Sunday, February 27, 2005.**

The Chino Transit Center and Park and Ride Extension

This is new commuter express service on Line 497 to serve Chino. Customers will be able to transfer from Omnitrans service at the Chino Transit Center or park at the Chino Park and Ride. Line 497 will then continue on to the Industry Park and Ride, and then zip into downtown. **To promote this service, we're offering Line 497 customers one free month of rides during the month of March.** We'll also be adding more trips to the 497 to accommodate an anticipated increase in popularity.

Faster Fairplex Express Service

The streamlining of Line 699 has been a long standing customer request. We heard you loud and clear. Line 699 will no longer detour to the Via Verde and Lakes Park and Rides and will instead head straight into downtown from Fairplex. This adjustment shaves 24 minutes off the daily commute time for our customers. **To celebrate this change, Foothill Transit will be offering Line 699 customers the same promotion as we are for Line 497 customers: free rides during the month of March.**

More Trips and Travel Tips

When we proposed these changes at our public information meetings, we fielded many helpful and constructive suggestions about how we could better accommodate our customers. We always appreciate customer feedback, especially when that feedback *cont. on page 2*

Holiday Hours

In observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays on December 24th, December 25th, December 31st, and January 1st, the following Foothill Transit lines will be operating on a Sunday schedule:

178, 185, 187, 190, 191, 193, 195, 269, 272, 274, 280, 281, 283, 284, 285, 289, 291, 292, 480, 482, 486, 488, 492.

No other lines will be running.

All Foothill Transit Stores will be closed except for:

Puente Hills Mall Transit Store
 Dec. 24th: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Dec 25th: CLOSED
 Dec. 31st: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Jan. 1: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

El Monte Station Transit Store
 Dec. 24th: 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Dec 25th: CLOSED
 Dec. 31st: 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Jan. 1: CLOSED

// Your Ride

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opens our eyes to great ideas that we hadn't previously considered.

Line 699 customers who used the Lakes Park and Ride were quick to let us know that while the West Covina City Hall Park and Ride had ample parking, the buses didn't have the seats. We're adding trips to Line 498 to help lighten the load.

Sunday service on Line 187 currently runs on an hourly schedule. We've been monitoring customer usage of the line and have determined that demand has significantly increased. That increase in ridership merits an increase in frequency so we'll be changing Sunday service on Line 187 to every 30 minutes. This switch was investigated because of customer input.

All of these changes will go into effect on Sunday, February 27, 2005.

For more information about maps and schedules, stay tuned to our website at www.foothilltransit.org.

CELEBRATE ARE WE THERE YET?
FAMILY NEW YEAR'S DAY, AND THE GRANDDADY OF THEM ALL (WELL, BEFORE THE BCS CAME ALONG) ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER. WE'LL GET YOU TO THE ROSE BOWL IN STYLE. IF YOU STILL WANT TO GO.

The theme for this year's Rose Parade is "Celebrating Family". What better way to do that than avoiding the inevitable tantrums and sighs of exasperation coming from the passenger seat by using Foothill Transit to get to the game?

Like all of our previous Rose Bowl service, Foothill Transit buses will be leaving from the west side of the Parsons Park and Ride lot on Pasadena Ave. starting at 9:00 a.m. (Sorry, UCLA fans, we thought our new uniforms would bring good luck). We'll take you to the front door of the Bowl and we'll be there to wisk you back to your car. If your team eats more grass than goals, we'll be there with the tissue. At least it was a free ride.

For more information about the Rose Bowl Shuttle, call us at 1-800-RIDE-INFO.

WEST COVINA PARK AND RIDE? Faith Community Church steps up to the plate with a solution for everyone.

First Eastland, then Lakes? The West Covina park and ride options seem to be shriveling up like dishpan hands. The problem is a common one throughout the southland: sky-high property values provide little incentive for owners to give up more lucrative options on their investments. In other words: park and rides play second fiddle to development dividends. Foothill Transit has made West Covina's need for a park and ride a primary focus of the agency. And it looks like the end may be in sight.

Faith Community Church in West Covina has agreed to explore the possibilities of participating in a joint venture that would allow the construction of a 1,000 space parking structure on church property for weekday use as a Foothill Transit Park and Ride. The structure would be used during evenings and weekends by church patrons.

This could be the permanent park and ride solution that West Covina residents have been hoping for. We don't want to jinx it, but we didn't want to leave you in the dark either. In the coming months we'll be updating you on our progress and on a possible timeline for completion.

// Foothill News

Flashing Back and Looking Forward The Metrocard gets a money makeover

Ah! The end of another year... Goals? Accomplished. Well, minus dropping that extra 20 pounds. But now we look forward to another year of ideas and changes. The theme for 2005? The simple solution is always the best. So we're starting with the Metrocard.

Regular users of the Metrocard are familiar with its advantages. It's a stored-value card that you run through the farebox reader every time you board. The reader deducts your discounted fare automatically.

Regular cash fare, as you know, is \$1.10. If you use a Metrocard, your fare is only \$0.95. They've been a popular way to ride the bus, allowing for greater flexibility while still providing a discounted fare.

That won't change. What will change is that from now on when you buy your Metrocard, you'll have the option of purchasing it in \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 increments. The advantage? A big time savings when purchasing your card. No more waiting for the Metrocard machine to add value to your card. Just choose your amount and go. When the value of your card is used up, simply get a new one. Easy. Simple. Same great discount, but with half the calories. Serve it up!

For more information about the Metrocard, or any of our other fare options, give us a ring at 1-800-RIDE-INFO.

Helping Hands

How our drivers are making Foothill Transit a family

Foothill Transit drivers are the cream of the crop, the sparkle in our eyes, and the smile on our faces. You know them like you know family. They're there for you everyday, getting you where you need to go, and almost always with a smile and a helping hand.

You trust them with so much. And at the end of the day, you'd think they'd like nothing more than to sit back at home with their families and relax. The last thing you'd expect is for them to strap into another bus.

But like we said, you know them like family.

And the communities they work in are part of that family. Never was that more evident than on November 19th, when Foothill Transit drivers, using borrowed school buses, shepherded hundreds of needy families from all over the San Gabriel Valley to a Thanksgiving feast being provided at Pomona First Baptist Church.

The caravanning buses wound their way through the valley, picking up faces both young and old to enjoy a hot meal with all the trimmings and good, friendly company.



Needy families were also presented with optional free tickets to the Billy Graham Crusade at the Rose Bowl.

"It's the right thing to do," said Ernesto Gamez, the Foothill Transit Bus Operator who represented the agency at the

National Bus Rodeo in Atlanta earlier this year. "I wouldn't be anywhere else."

Kudos to Tona Baez, Kenley Cooper, Sandra Morrison, Lucille Ruiz, Tanya Adams, Artura Ramirez, Ernest Gamez, Gerald Feria, Elouise Evans, George Alcacia, and Sandy Brands for all their hard work and generosity.