



# Mountain Views-Observer

Formerly the Mt. Wilson Observer® & The MountainViews Newsmagazine

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST

Special Edition Saturday, August 4 - August 9, 2007 Volume 1, No. 1

## Wall Street Journal Not Only Newspaper Changing Hands: Murdoch and Henderson Make Their Moves



Susan Henderson and Steve Tobia, shown holding Sierra Madre's flag over which they were once at odds. With the sale of MVN, Tobia says he will focus his time and talents promoting Tobia Enterprises' new venture, THE Magazine.

have disagreed on many political solutions and approaches. However, she shares with me the same goal of bringing local news and information to the public and to provide a forum for diverse opinions. This is the single overriding reason for her independent purchase of MVN. I encourage everyone to continue to read and support the MountainViews-Observer."

"This acquisition will strengthen my ability to deliver fair and balanced news to Sierra Madre and surrounding cities," said Henderson. "Readers will just notice an expansion of what the Mt Wilson Observer was, not a change in focus. This move will also allow me to publish legal notices and expand my advertising base."

There are plans, however, for Tobia to voice his opinions in a weekly column. "It is doubtful that Steve and I will be on the same side of any argument, but it is important that readers hear both sides," said Henderson.

The Mt. Wilson Observer began publishing in October, 2006 with Susan Henderson and Katina Dunn as its founders. Dunn left the paper in May of this year. The Mountain Views, formerly the Sierra Madre News, was acquired by Tobia from Beth Buck in 2003. It was the successor to the original Sierra Madre News that was started in the early 1900s. It is the same publication that was run for many years by Sierra Madre civic leader, Jan Reed.

The MV Observer will move its offices to 37 N. Auburn, Sierra Madre. You may contact Susan Henderson AT 626-355-2737 or email [s.henderson@mvoobserver.com](mailto:s.henderson@mvoobserver.com).

Sierra Madre - This week has marked a milestone in publishing history, both on the national and local levels. Rupert Murdoch acquired the Wall Street Journal and Susan Henderson acquired Mountain View News. While the Murdoch acquisition is a much larger transaction, the meaning of the Mountain Views acquisition is just as significant to readers of both MVN and The Mt. Wilson Observer. A new publication has been created by Henderson - The MountainViews Observer.

MountainViews-Observer (MVO) will be a merger of the two newspapers with weekly publication and distribution to every household in Sierra Madre and subscribers. It will also expand its coverage in Pasadena, Monrovia and Arcadia.

Henderson and Tobia, publishers and editors of their respective newspapers, have often been at odds over local issues, "Susan and I have a professional and personal respect for one another, yet, we



## Welcome Mrs. Aguilar Elaine Aguilar Selected As New Sierra Madre City Manager

Granting the Mayor's wishes, the Sierra Madre City Council unanimously selected our next City Manager, Elaine Aguilar. Currently serving as the Assistant to the City Manager of Glendale, she brings to Sierra Madre over two decades of public service in city management. This includes serving as the Assistant City Manager of La Puente and Executive Director of Arroyo Verdugo Cities, a sub-region of the Southern California Association of Governments.

A native of the El Sereno area of Los Angeles, Mrs. Aguilar is married with children. She has lived in West Covina for the past 23 years.

Aguilar comes to the city with the full support of the city council. Councilmen Zimmerman and Buchanan made statements in the official press release expressing their confidence in our new CEO.

She will not begin until August 27, 2007. That day will mark a milestone in Sierra Madre history. The four top officials - will all be women. (The Mayor, The Police Chief, The City Attorney and The City Manager.) - S. Henderson

## Public Health Alert Called

Pasadena Public Health Department officials said today they have narrowed down the source of 30 suspected or confirmed cases of Shigellosis, an infectious disease caused by a group of bacteria called Shigella, to customers who ate at the **Soup Plantation in Pasadena between July 22 and July 24.** The infection can cause severe diarrhea in humans, the department said. "All employees of the restaurant, located at 201 S. Lake Ave., are being tested for Shigella bacteria," said Dr. Takashi Wada, Pasadena's public health director and health officer.

Other symptoms include fever and abdominal cramps. Illness often occurs one to two days after exposure to Shigella and can last five to seven days or more. In most cases Shigellosis can be treated with antibiotics and most people recover completely. The easiest way to prevent or minimize the spread and impact of transmittable infections is to practice good hygiene habits such as washing hands health officials said. They are also asking people experiencing the symptoms of Shigellosis to contact their health care providers for evaluation. For more information call (626) 744-6012

## New Owners For An Old Standby



New Mary's Market owner, Henore Letourneau (Right) and Nathaniel Butler, both recently transplanted from New Hampshire to give their flavor to a Sierra Madre classic. Read the full story in One Of A Kind on page 14.

## Get-A-Way Moment



Thinking about a time out? We've been asking residents to share some of their vacation secrets and hideaways. If you know of a great spot, just drop us a line. Pictures are even better.

Sometimes the best way to "get away" is to take a long drive... a really long drive. Like, going to Mt. Shasta. It's only 600 miles (or 10 hours) from Sierra Madre; and once you get there, there's lots to see. The nearby surrounding lakes, water falls, and hiking areas are stunning, and Mt. Shasta attracts its own weather patterns, always cuddled by clouds. You can get a room with a view at the Best Western Tree Lodge and the rates averaged about \$145/night (including a small pet). The best place to dine is the Trinity Cafe, which is a bit pricey but the food was heavenly. And don't forget to bring a canoe!

-SM Resident Despina Arzouman



All Packed Up: Peloton cyclists riding in large formations around the Rose Bowl, between three and six riders across, allowing them to "draft" gaining great speeds found in world racing events. Riders move in and out of the lead numerous times during a ride. The Pasadena City Council voted Monday to adopt an ordinance banning the practice saying it's a danger to the public. Dean Lee/MVO



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# Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

Friday:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s
Saturday:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s
Sunday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Monday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Tuesday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



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### From The Desk Of Chief Diaz

I wanted to extend an invitation to each of you to visit any of the 6 neighborhood gatherings to celebrate

Sierra Madre's first National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7th. <http://www.nationalnightout.org/nno/about.html> Two caravans of police and fire officials will visit 6 participating neighborhood parties, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending by 10:00 p.m. Officers and firefighters will pass out child safety packs that include an inkless fingerprint kit, a wallet card, and DNA collection swabs, among other crime prevention materials. The Sierra Madre Police Officers Association paid for all of the administrative costs, including the safety kits.

You are welcome to meet the police and fire officials at either of the first two locations at 7:15 p.m.: **Memorial Park**, at the picnic benches (Mariposa/Hermosa neighborhood) or **Mary's Market**, 561 Woodland Drive (Canyon residents). If you go to Mary's Market, please remember that parking is at a premium, and you may need to park a block away and walk to the Market. Thereafter, you may accompany or follow either caravan to the other neighborhood parties on E. Laurel Ave., Vista Ave., E. Miramonte, and N. Lima.

Marilyn Diaz, Chief of Police 355-5247

## Summer 2007 Concerts in the Park Series

Every Sunday Night thru August 26, 2007  
6-8:00 pm  
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

### Event Schedule

**August 5:**  
Ken O'Malley & the Twilight Lords  
Civic Club

**August 12:**  
Pasadena Crown City Chorus  
Centennial Committee

**August 19:**  
Elvis and the Heroes of Rock  
Rotary Club

**August 26:**  
Fairytale & Fantasy III  
Southern California Lyric Theater

\*This concert series is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Recording Industries' Music Performance Fund through the assistance of the Professional Musicians Union Local 47.

For more information, please contact the Community & Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278

### August Best Used Book Sale,

Friday, August 3  
3 to 7 p.m.  
and

Saturday, August 4, 1  
0 a.m. to 2 p.m.,  
Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 West Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre.

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

### Farmer's Market

Every Saturday to 12:30 p.m.  
B-B-Berries. Lili's herbs, honey, menudo & tamale stand. Bring the kiddies. PHS parking lot  
2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



### Café 322

Sunday Nights  
Let's Sing Opera & Broadway  
Pianist Danny Guerrero & Friends  
322 Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

### Beantown

45 N. Baldwin  
Time for Ice Cream  
(626) 355-1596

### Lucky Baldwin's

21 Kersting Court  
(626) 355-1140

### Mary's Market

561 Woodland Drive  
(626) 355-4534

### The Harvey Hyde Show

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Hard-hitting, high impact sports talk radio  
KSHP Las Vegas - 1400 AM  
Live! from BURGER CONTINENTAL  
535 South Lake Avenue Pasadena



## FEATURED ESTATE

# SIERRA MADRE TREASURE

By Saul Torres

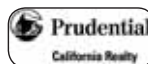
Known as part of "The Jameson Legacies," this 1996 custom-built Victorian Farmhouse will delight the most discerning buyer. Offering the highest quality amenities and appointments, this home exemplifies luxury with features such as nine-foot ceilings, custom milled moldings, as well as wainscoting and mantles.

On a 13,778 square foot lot, the home covers 3,844 square feet. Four extravagant bedrooms are accompanied by four and a half baths as well as a three car garage. Surround sound is installed throughout home, in addition to a convenient intercom system. A security system with surveillance monitor is complete with an in-floor safe.

Beyond the wraparound porch and through the formal entry, visitors travel to the dining and living rooms, adorned with statuesque columns and three fireplaces. A new kitchen as of 2003 contains a comfortable walk-in pantry, Viking stove, warming drawer, convection oven, microwave, Sub-zero refrigerator, trash compactor, Bosch dishwasher, wine refrigerator and double ovens. A sub-zero under-counter refrigerator is also deftly positioned in the fun family room.

Baldwin solid brass hardware, wood flooring, solid wood interior doors, Casablanca ceiling fans, quality tile, marble and granite are found throughout this exquisite home, which also contains an elevator, a central vacuum, and essential dual furnaces/air conditioning systems. Pella dual-glazed wood casement windows lookout over professionally landscaped lawns finished with mature trees, an automatic irrigation system, a romantic custom-built gazebo and a three-car garage.

Located at 465 West Highland in Sierra Madre. Listed for \$1,999,888 million by Prudential Realtor Reni Rose. Call (626) 355-8400 or logon to 465Highland.com.



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# Sierra Madre Mayor Has Strong Presence At Clear-Air Car Show

By Dean Lee

Although the recent clean-air car show in South Pasadena brought out hundreds of clean car enthusiasts, including Sierra Madre Mayor Enid Joffe, and despite the fact that the show focused on the future of alternatives to gas powered cars, the entire event seemed a little more like raising the dead by showing "Who Killed the Electric Car," before the event started.

Joffe said at the event she was part of GM's EV1 project working at Edison International and knew many, if not all, the people in "Who Killed the Electric Car." The movie is a documentary about the EV1 project.

"My business partner is one of the people featured in the movie," she said.

Joffe also said, regarding the film, that although most the cars were scrapped in the late 1990s the technology lives on in some of the patents used. "All those patents, as part of the making of the EV1, have been adapted like low rolling resistance tires, regenerative brakes. They are now being incorporated into the hybrid car."

Regenerative brakes feed electricity back through braking into battery electric vehicles and hybrid electric vehicles, the energy is then stored for later use. Joffe said she still drives an EV, a Toyota RAV4, which used the technology.

Joffe noted that the President of Tesla Motors also lives in Sierra Madre. "This is an all electric car that sells for over \$100,000." She said. "They have had four sets of people that want the car 'cash on the barrelhead' before they even saw the car. They are going to start delivering sometime in the fall."

Wally Ripple, formerly the head engineer of GM's EV1 project now works at Tesla Motors and said he had been tinkering with electric cars since 1968 when he first raced one across the country as a Caltech student against MIT.

"We went there and they came here," Ripple said, "We had a 1959 converted VW microbus and they had a Curvier from what I remember they were first but towed across the finish line.

Ripple said he thought GM originally funded the EV project by mistake through an unsolicited proposal to GM by AeroVironment to build the prototype. AeroVironment is located in Monrovia and makes electric aerial vehicles according to EV World's website.

"If they [GM] had vision and kept going they would have been king of the mountain," Ripple said. "As I said in the movie, they lack corporate vision and didn't see a profit or a pathway to get from here to there."

Joffe said, Chelsea Sexton, Executive Director of Plug In America was probably the most successful of

those laid off at GM and the demise of the EV1 down playing her own success as co-owner of Clean Fuel Connection, Inc., a clean energy business. She also said she knew Sexton all too well. Sexton is the main spokesperson in "Who Killed the Electric Car."

Joffe started Clean Fuel Connection, Inc with Jim Cahill in 1999 after the two worked at Edison. Her company focuses on the charging infrastructure for passenger vehicles but she said recently they had expanded into the market of installing photovoltaic systems by creating a new division - SolSource Energy.

South Pasadena Mayor Michael Cacciotti said the car show's sole purpose was to raise awareness. "We need to go out and educate the community, our fellow citizens, about the harmful effects of vehicle emissions," he said.

Cacciotti said by using zero emission vehicles, "We are not only breathing better air but reducing our dependency on foreign oil and improving national security." Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard upped the ante a notch by saying "Sometime it's not always the newest technology we need to look to for answers," wearing a

t-shirt and bicycle shorts. He had just rode three miles from Pasadena to South Pasadena on his bike.

Cacciotti said he put the event together after thinking about how unaware people are of the dangers of pollution.

"People sit at stoplights and stop signs idling in front of schools never thinking about it," he said. "When I first bought my Toyota Prius I would roll up the window in traffic thinking I have to still breathe this stuff but its not mine."

The clean-air car show brought out a host of well known local politicians including Congressman Adam Schiff

and State Assemblyman Anthony Portantino.



Most agreed with Cacciotti that the country needs a better energy plan saying it was cities like his that lead the way.

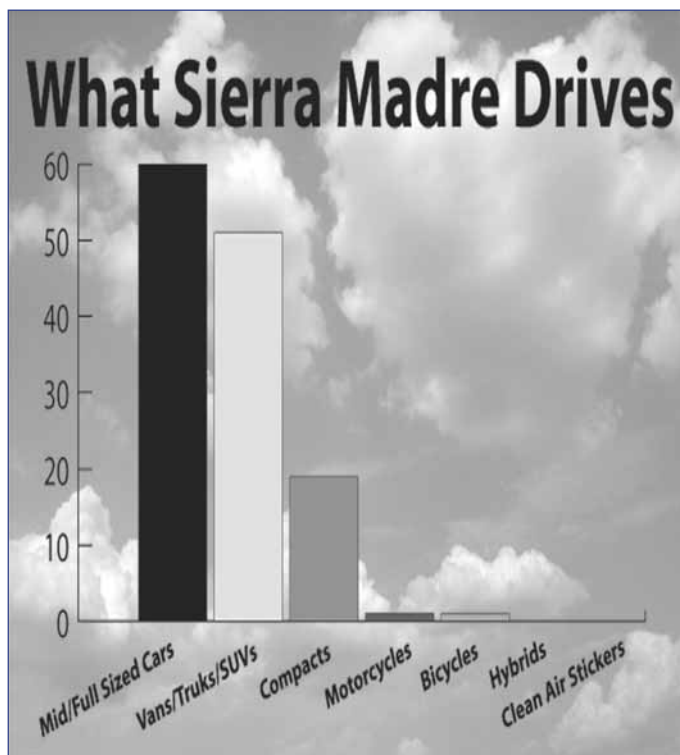
"I think in a post 911 world a call should have gone out to have a project to wean ourselves off foreign oil and dramatically reduce our lines of fossil fuels," Schiff said.

JPL Climatologist, Bill Patzert, a longtime Sierra Madre resident said NASA had been interested in battery technology from the beginning. "We don't put nuclear power in orbit above the planet for obvious reasons," he said.

Patzert said some space missions have outlasted the expected life using these batteries. NASA also leads the way in solar power that could be used to fight global warming he said. During a talk show in which he participated, Patzert informed the guest and viewers that 40 percent of cars on the road are SUV's. Until that changes, "the future isn't so bright."

South Pasadena and Sierra Madre both have city ordinances that require the purchase low emission vehicles when possible. Although Sierra Madre has not made any such purchases yet, South Pasadena has.

"We just bought a fire vehicle with low emissions," Cacciotti said. "They first came to us with this saying there were no low emissions vehicle in this class, I said, wait a minute a saw one the other day, and they bought got that." Sierra Madre's clear-air ordinance was passed in January of this year.



At the request of a long time Sierra Madre resident at Sunday's clean-air car show in South Pasadena, this simple study was done on a typical Wednesday night in Sierra Madre. The observation shows what types of vehicles were parked along Sierra Madre Boulevard and Baldwin Avenue covering the downtown area. Unfortunately if the city was rated for low emission clean vehicles it would be given an F. We counted 130 vehicles of which 51 were SUVs, large trucks and vans. Some vehicles, such as the Volvo station wagons, did not fit into a given category so we put them under 'mid-sized cars' having a larger than four-cylinder engine. Graphic by Dean Lee

Sierra Madre Civic Club invites you to the concert in the Park Sunday, August 5, 6 - 8 p.m. featuring Ken O'Malley and the Twilight Lords. O'Malley, a talented musician and showman and his band, belt out a feisty blend of traditional and new Irish folk music. Along with the entertaining appeal of these musicians the Civic Club will be serving up incredibly decadent pie and water. Bring a picnic supper, save room for dessert and plan to make this evening an important one on your summer concert calendar.



## Inspections Set for Los Angeles County Bridges

In wake of yesterday's collapse of a span of Interstate 35W into the Mississippi River, injuring dozens and killing nine commuters, Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich is calling for inspections of all Los Angeles County bridges to ensure they are periodically inspected and analyzed. "The collapse of a bridge in Minneapolis was a horrific event resulting in both fatalities and severe injuries," said Antonovich. "The video and eyewitness accounts remind us how often we travel over bridges on a daily basis."

There are more than a thousand bridges in Los Angeles County, which includes 88 cities and 134 unincorporated communities. "Los Angeles County is earthquake territory and we must be vigilante to ensure that our motorways and bridges are safe for commuters," added Antonovich.

Supervisor Antonovich's motion on Tuesday, August 7, 2007, will direct the Department of Public Works to:

- Provide a description of the County's program for inspecting bridges in Los Angeles County;
- Identify any special requirements for bridge construction due to the high levels of seismic activity in Southern California;
- Determine whether there are any bridges that are at risk and may require modification and, if so, identify a work program and potential funding sources;
- Determine if the County's existing procedures for bridge inspection are adequate or whether changes should be made; and
- Report back to the Board of Supervisors in 60 days.



# MountainViews-Observer PASADENA

## Rose Bowl Weekly Bicycle Training Rides Deemed Dangerous

By Dean Lee



**All Packed Up:** Peloton cyclists riding in large formations, between three and six riders across, allows them to "draft" thus gaining great speeds found in world racing events. Riders move in and out of the lead numerous times during a ride. The city council voted Monday to adopt an ordinance banning the practice saying it's a danger to the public. Dean Lee/MVO

World-renown cyclists clashed with Pasadena city officials Monday night during an awkward city council meeting. Only a few days after Mayor Bill Bogaard announced that it was a great thrill to have Pasadena serve as end-point hosts to the 750 mile Amgen Tour of California professional cycling race, starting February 17 in Northern California, the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC) requested a city ordinance banning the "peloton" biking formation around the Rose Bowl.

A "peloton" is a group of cyclists riding in a large formation, with between three and six riders riding almost side-by-side. This "pack" formation, in which all racing riders train, allows those behind the leaders to "draft" (ride in another's wake), thereby helping gain the great speeds found in world racing events. If the ordinance goes into effect, bicycle formations with more than two riding abreast within Pasadena city limits will not be permitted.

The ordinance, passed unanimously by the council, came as the result of Rose Bowl personnel presenting a two page complaint, summarizing the numerous issues received over the years from golfers and staff of the nearby Brookside Golf Course, as well as local residents in the area.

The RBOC complaint states that group rides create pedestrian and vehicular traffic problems, "which arise when cyclists indiscriminately block traffic and use vehicle and pedestrian traffic lanes," something the riders present refuted. "They also seem to disregard walkers, including parents with strollers and young children on bicycles."

Police Chief Bernard Melekian, who also sits on the RBOC board, said his department has tried to contact riders through personal contacts, phone calls and their website, [socalcycling.com](http://socalcycling.com). "The official position, from anyone we have talked to, is that there is no official group of bicycle riders responsible. That, in fact, it is just a group of individuals who come together on certain evenings and ride their bikes."

Melekian noted that during daylight savings time, at any given moment between 5 pm and 7 pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, you can find from 75 to 150 cyclists riding around the Rose Bowl.

Melekian's concerns about bikers were heightened since he found their website alerting potential bikers that, "of course, you do have to dodge the joggers, walkers, roller-bladers and cars constantly on each of the three mile laps."

Seven-time national champion, Rafael Gomez, and his brother Vincente Gomez, offered to be the spokespersons for the Rose Bowl group. Each has represented both Pasadena and the state of California in bicycle racing. Rafael Gomez also

has one world championship to his credit, and both have been active participants in the Rose Bowl rides since 1973.

"We have worked hard, even though we might not have been totally successful, to police ourselves," Gomez said. "As riders, all of us understand the potential of injury on our own. We all have kids and know how to be safe."

"We are not fully part of it [peloton] without knowing [danger] it's an inherent part of the activity itself. There are incidents, they do occur."

He also said the city has only gotten complaints from the one side, implying the cyclists have not said anything about the behavior of pedestrians or golfers.

Dorothy Wong, a 10-time state champion cyclist, said Monday night's report on the group bicycling ban did not accurately reflect what cyclists do. She also noted that so far this year, not a single crash involving a pedestrian, has occurred. "I don't understand. Why the rush to ban this [peloton formation]?"

No one from the general public made a show Monday in support of the ban.

Local resident Rick Olivarez said Sunday, while riding with his 4-year-old son Santiago, he understood why there would be a concern but, as a cyclist, thought the peloton cyclists were very safe. "Living up the street, I also ride around the Rose Bowl at least four times a week and the groups don't bother me."

"There is a reason they put the buffer zone between [cyclists] and the pedestrians," he explained, "the cyclists are screaming and yelling at traffic for their [the cyclists own] safety."

Olivarez also sits on the city's Human Relations Committee and knows all too well the importance of the city being a bike-friendly city. He is also part of a cycling group that rides from the Rose Bowl to Sierra Madre, down to Arcadia and then back up through South Pasadena. "It's about 25 miles and a fun ride."

Councilmember Steve Madison observed that the issue reminded him of the fear of "dangerous golf balls flying over the fence and of a child being struck." He also referred to the cycling group as a "mob," but admitted he did not know that much about the sport.

Councilmember Victor Gordo asked what options were possible, other than the ban. The suggestion of a barrier between cyclists and pedestrians was promptly declared cost prohibitive by staff. Other ideas include reinstating stop signs and squaring off street corners.

Bogaard said little Monday night, besides asking if the ordinance could be put on hold while the police and cyclists discussed options. City Attorney, Beal Bagnieris, said she would rather not, and planned to have a draft back to the council next week. The ban could go into effect as early as mid-September.



## More Troubles Surface for Local Developer

By Dean Lee

Reports received today from the California Department of Real Estate show that Donald Platz, founder of Dorn Platz & Company voluntarily surrendered his real estate broker license earlier this year to avoid more troubles involving an investigation that alleged dozens of violations of state regulations.

An audit done last year showed that Dorn Platz & Company had electronically transferred nearly \$600,000 in funds through seven separate accounts at East West Bank in Alhambra creating a money loop of their 48 property owner client's trust funds.

The report alleged, Dorn Platz directed Jackie Najarian, an unlicensed and unbonded accounting supervisor to make the transfer in violation of state regulation.

According to reports, the money loop was used to give the impression the company maintained a positive balance when in fact Dorn Platz had negative balances without the knowledge or consent of the owners of the said trust funds, the report referred to the actions as, "fraud and dishonest dealing."

Department records also show that the company only held a single license under Donald Platz and that acting president, Greg Galletly's license expired in 1998.

Tom Pool, spokesperson for the Department of Real Estate, said that under the Business and Professions Code "the voluntary surrender of a license by a licensee shall not deprive the department of jurisdiction to proceed with any investigation of or action or disciplinary proceeding against such licensee, or to render a decision suspending or revoking such license."

The reports say violations by Dorn Platz & Company all took place in Pasadena. The company is involved in a number of projects including the Ambassador West project and Lincoln Crossing, a mixed-use redevelopment of 22 acres in West Altadena. In Sierra Madre their projects include 1 Carter and Stonehouse.

Neither Galletly nor Pasadena City Attorney Michele Bagnieris, returned phone calls Friday seeking comment.

Galletly emailed another newspaper, the Beaverton Valley Times in Oregon, this week in response to their efforts to contact him. He said Platz had retired and was no longer in the business so he did not need the license. Galletly is set to be in court Monday on other accusations that it has defaulted on a \$31.5 million loan agreement on properties owned in Oregon.

## PCC Trustees Pick New President

By Dean Lee

The sounds of alarm, not joy, rang out Wednesday night as Pasadena City College's Board of Trustees announced that the former superintendent of the Solano Community College District, Dr. Paulette Perfumo — someone not on any committee's final list — was to become PCC's 11th and next president.

"I hope you all heard the shock... the shock," said Susie Ling, an instructor in the school's Social Sciences Department, within minutes of the announcement. "That was a negative shock that we heard in the room not a positive one, I'm here to verbalize my disgust at this situation."

Ling also said she could not understand why the board put together a 15 member hiring committee, took six months, then chose a candidate outside the four they called, "finalists."

The list according to school officials included, Thom Armstrong, Copper Mountain College Superintendent/President; Gari Browning, Vice President of Instruction for the College of the Desert; Monte Perez, vice president of Student Services for Golden West College; and, Lisa Sugimoto, PCC Vice President of Student and Learning Services. The four had advanced to a second round of interviews conducted in June.

"I think the process was very deliberate and fair," said, Connie Rey Castro, President of the Board. "The board reserves the right to interview candidates that were not recommended."

Castro said they looked at the original four and then went back and interviewed four more. They also asked for more candidates after realizing they had no clear winner. "All applicants were highly qualified," trustee John Martin said. "We had so many good candidates we wanted to go back and look at a few more. I think if you went through the process we did you would understand why we made the decision we did."

Sugimoto said, after the meeting, she thought the process was also fair. Most college staff said they expected her to be appointed. "I have worked with Dr. Perfumo in Long Beach," Sugimoto said. "It's been awhile but I look forward to working with her again."

Sugimoto also said, even though the president was to be announced in July, having the transition between school years was good. "This way she will get a good start," she said.

Natural Sciences Division Secretary Glenna Watterson said rumors had already spread through the college that Perfumo had been fired from Solano Community College as president. Castro said they had assembled a team and went to Solano after interviewing her and hearing of the possible firing. Castro said



Dr. Paulette Perfumo.

Perfumo's contract was bought out by the Solano Community College District. "We found after interviewing a number of people on both sides that in fact she was not a good fit," she said. Martin added, "The more we investigated her and got to know more about her, I think we all liked what we found."

Martin called Solano "a kind of Mayberry," saying the "city" and Perfumo were not a good fit. "I think Pasadena is very different and I can see her fitting in here."

Trustee Hilary Bradbury-Huang said she thought Perfumo had well researched PCC and was the most knowledgeable candidate. She also stated that Perfumo was an excellent communicator. "She knew all our names and had them memorized. I thought she was amazing."

Castro made a plea asking the campus community to please come together and welcome the new president. Perfumo will become the second female president in PCC history. PCC's current President Dr. James Kossler announced in January that he was retiring after holding the position since 1995. Kossler has stayed out of the selection process. His last day will be Aug. 17.

At the end of Monday's meeting Trustee Jeanette Mann said she wanted the college to review the hiring process of all employees and requested the item be placed on an upcoming agenda. Kossler said state law required they have a formal hiring practice for the president. "Now that you have been through the process you might want to formalize it."

Perfumo's actual appointment will take place at the next Board meeting pending approval of a contract. Prior to her tenure as President of Solano, she served as Deputy Superintendent/VP of Educational Services for the Ohlone CC District and as the Assistant Superintendent/VP of Instruction Lassen CC District.



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**Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council**  
**TIP OF THE WEEK**  
From Caroline Brown

**Fire Safe**  
COUNCIL

Wildfires in the 19th Century burned almost 10 times as much forested land than is lost today. Up until the 1940's more than 20 million acres of forested lands burned annually. This has been reduced to an average of 4 million acres annually due to advances in fire fighting techniques and control of forest structure. Some forested lands have been lost to urbanization. Residential areas where there were once forests add to the difficulties fire fighters face today.

Notable fires in recent history have been devastating in other ways: The 1970 Laguna Fire burned 175,425 acres AND 382 structures. The 1991 Oakland Hills Fire burned 15,000, acresm 2,900 structures AND there was a loss of 25 lives. The Rattlesnake Fire in 1953 killed 15 fire fighters and last October five firefighters lost their lives in the Esperanza Fire working to protect a structure.

The homeowner living in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone has the obligation to provide a defensible space around their homes with brush modification according to the fire code. If you have any questions call the Sierra Madre Fire Marshall, Richard Snyder, 355-7135.

The next Fire Safe Council meeting will be August 13 in the City Council chambers at 7 P.M. Red Flag Fire Patrol teams are forming and we need your participation. Call to volunteer.

Contact the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council at: 355-0741, 355-7135 or 355-9350, or: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com

## Angeles National Forest Use Restrictions Increased

From "Very High" to "Extreme" - Effective August 1, 2007



Angeles National Forest will be raised from today - August 1, 2007 as the moisture level is normal. This increase is based on local Wildfire Preparedness level which was 7 as fires continue to burn throughout the

The increase is intended to raise public awareness that conditions are worsening and the risk of wildfire in the Forest is steadily increasing. With the increase to "Extreme" the Forest is taking additional precautionary measures such as restricting all wood or charcoal fires and the use of liquid fuels for stoves and lanterns anywhere on the Forest and limiting smoking to enclosed buildings or vehicles.

The following is effective August 1, 2007:

- Wood or charcoal fires are not allowed anywhere on the Forest.
- Propane or jelled gas stoves will be allowed with a valid California Campfire Permit.
- Smoking is allowed only in enclosed building or vehicle.
- No fireworks.
- No shooting of tracer, armor piercing, Teflon or steel core ammunition.
- Forest Service approved spark arrestors are required on off-highway vehicles, chainsaws, and other internal combustion engines.
- Welding, grinding, cutting and use of explosives allowed only with permit.
- Geographic areas may be closed due to special circumstances.

Fire Use Restrictions on the Angeles National Forest are determined by a graduated system that becomes more restrictive as fire danger levels increase and decreases when the conditions change. The "Extreme" fire danger level is the fifth in this six-level rating system which is used by the Angeles as a tool to convey current fire danger levels to Forest visitors. These levels each convey an intended use restriction to inform the reader of the limits of fire use under the cumulative fire danger for the Forest. A variety of criteria is used to determine when the level should be increased including vegetation moisture, weather conditions and firefighting staffing/equipment needs.

It is important that everyone remains "situationally aware" of their surroundings and the responsibilities associated with that when visiting the Forest. We want to ensure that everyone has safe and enjoyable visit while increasing their awareness and understanding of the current situation and the potential for wildfire.

For more information on the status of specific recreation sites within the Angeles, please contact the corresponding Office listed below or visit the Forest website at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles).

Los Angeles River Ranger District	(818) 899-1900
San Gabriel River Ranger District	(626) 335-1251
Santa Clara-Mojave Rivers Ranger District	(661) 296-9710
Arcadia, Supervisor's Office	(626) 574-1613

## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, to Saturday July 28<sup>th</sup>, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 263 calls for service.

### Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>:-

5:40 PM - Auto burglary/grand theft, 400 block Ramona Ave. A resident reported \$4,000 in cash stolen from the center console of his parked car. The resident said he believed his car was locked when he parked it around 12:00 AM, 7/23. The resident said he discovered the 5:30 AM, 7/23.

9:30 PM - Prowling, 00 block Monterey Lane. Officers were dispatched to a prowler reported running westbound through the rear yard of a house. The homeowner reported seeing a silhouette of a person wearing a white top. The area was contained and a yard to yard search conducted. The Pasadena Police Department helicopter arrived to assist. No prowler was found, but evidence indicated that someone had been in the yard.

### Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>:-

6:54 PM - Vandalism, 300 block East Laurel Ave. A contractor working at the residence reported damage to a storage door lock and hasp. The hasp was pried off between 5:30 PM Tuesday, 7/17 and 3:14 PM Tuesday 7/24. No loss was reported.

4:39 PM - Petty theft, 800 block East Sierra Madre Blvd. A resident reported her mail box stolen from the front yard of her house. The aluminum Victorian style mail box was last seen at 6:00 PM Monday, 7/23 and discovered missing 12:00 PM Tuesday, 7/24. The mail box was valued at \$200.00.

### Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>:-

4:17 AM - Abandoned vehicle, Orange Grove and Baldwin Ave. Officers were dispatched to a reported abandoned vehicle in the roadway. The car was found with one occupant asleep in the driver's seat. The driver was arrested for possession of marijuana and a glass smoking pipe.

8:00 AM - Vehicle tampering, 100 block Park Ave. A resident called to report someone rifled through her unlocked car. The car was parked in the driveway unlocked at 7:00 PM Tuesday, 7/24 and the tampering was discovered 7:00 AM Wednesday, 7/25. The owner reported no loss.

### Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>:-

7:00 AM - 11:00 AM - 100 block South Baldwin Ave. The Sierra Madre Police Department conducted a seatbelt belt/driver's license check point. The following statistics summarize the enforcement activity which took place during the checkpoint: 675 VEHICLES SCREENED, which accounted for the following enforcement: 29 courtesy/warning notices, 13 citations, 4 impounded vehicles, 3 suspended or revoked driver's licenses, and 1 unlicensed driver.

### Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup>:-

9:00 PM - Theft from vehicle, 00 block Monterey Lane. A resident reported several items were stolen from her unlocked car: Ray Ban sunglasses, Casio EX-S500 digital camera, Blue Tooth headset, and cash. The total loss was estimated at \$1860.00.



Environmentally Speaking,

"Did You Know?"

## HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUNDUP

The Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up will be coming to Sierra Madre on Saturday August 18, 2007 from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Mariposa Avenue Parking Lot (just west of Baldwin Ave.) and is open to all Los Angeles County residents. Bring items in a sturdy box, preferably in their original labeled containers and do not mix items together. Be prepared to leave your containers and boxes, making sure to remove all other items from your trunk.

What you CAN bring:

- \*Brake fluid, paint, paint thinner, cleaners with acid or lye, pesticides or herbicides, household batteries and car batteries, pool chemicals, motor oil, oil filters, expired pharmaceuticals, anti-freeze & fluorescent light bulbs.
- \*Computer monitors, televisions, computer CPUs, keyboards, printers, cellular phones, etc.

What you CAN'T bring:

- Hazardous waste and electronic waste from businesses.
  - Explosives, ammunition and radioactive materials.
  - Trash and tires
  - White goods such as refrigerators, stoves and washing machines, etc.
- For a complete list of what you can and cannot bring or information on events, contact: 1(888) CLEAN-LA [www.888cleanla.com](http://www.888cleanla.com) or: 1 (800) 238-0172 [www.lacsd.org](http://www.lacsd.org)

\*There is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste per trip.

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## Arts & Architecture

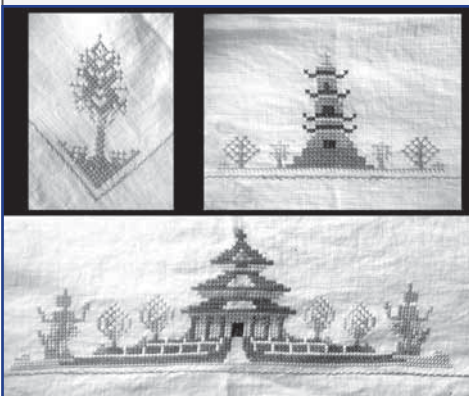
By Virginia Olive Hoge

### Anonymous Needle-work Embroidery

One of my favorite things to come across in yard sales are fine, hand-embroidered linens. Whether representational or abstract, the patterns and hand-work are so beautiful. The going "story" is that there were very few women artists before 1950. Well, I take issue with that! In fact there were countless women artists and we have their needlework art pieces left with us to "prove" it.

Truly fine hand-worked needle pieces are artworks created by women artists for generations. Yes, their identities are now unknown to us, but to my mind, this is an effervescent factor that adds to what it is that makes them great. In other words, knowing the name of an artist is not determinative in how good the piece is. The work stands as a credit to its maker, whether we know who she was or not. And I do not make the distinction between "art" and "craft" as many do.

Saul Steinberg, the great New Yorker illustrator, lists "Embroidery" as one of his top artistic influences. For lovers of drawing, embroidery is "Line", pure and simple – well, not so simple! The craftsmanship (and math) in these pieces is always extraordinary and sometimes "super-human".



1930's (approx) Artist Unknown

Take the intricacy of the piece in the photograph. It is done in needle-point embroidery on cotton stitched in tiny cross-stitches (four stitched crosses per every .25 of an inch). The piece is intricately crafted and technically "perfect", not one tiny stitch is out of place. But in that minute scale, an entire fantasy world is expertly represented in skillful use of the cross stitch.

Many people have pieces such as mine in their collections and I would love one day to see the best of these artworks displayed by museums, and given credit as the fine art they are.

# The Arts

**BARBARA MORRISON AND FRIENDS:**  
Four Saturdays of Music & Dance with Jazz and Blues Legend at One Colorado

Old Pasadena, Calif. (August 2007) -- Fresh from her European tour, international jazz and blues vocalist Barbara Morrison will spend a month of Saturdays in the Courtyard at One Colorado. Morrison has one of the most distinctive voices in the music world. Her cool, elegant and passionate interpretations of American classics are delivered with high-class polish and grace. She and her variety of guests will bring back an era of sophistication that evokes Ella Fitzgerald, Etta James and Dinah Washington, with whom Morrison has been compared. Concerts begin at 9:00 P.M. and are free and open to the public.

**Saturday, August 4**  
Morrison brings you the big band sounds of the acclaimed "Evan's Mixed Bag" 9-piece orchestra led by trombonist Evan Pigford in this salute to the days of Count Basie and Duke Ellington. This full-on concert of jazz standards will have you swinging in your seats.

**Saturday, August 11**  
Barbara Morrison and "The Bu Crew" will take you to the days of Motown with the Motown Sounds and special guests Charles Small, Ronald Bishop, Richard Taylor and Peter Buck. Get ready for a night of songs by Smokey Robinson, The Temptations, The Supremes and Marvin Gaye.

**Saturday, August 18**  
A Tribute to The First Lady of Song, Ella Fitzgerald. In honor of the 90th anniversary of Fitzgerald's birth, Barbara Morrison & "The Bu Crew" will present an evening devoted to one of the most influential vocalists of the 20th century with songs like *Mac the Knife*, *Everytime We Say Goodbye* and *We'll Take Manhattan*.

**Saturday, August 25**  
Momma Blues. Five swingin' blues mommas will burn the night away. Featured will be some of California's top female blues artists.

The One Colorado Courtyard is located center-block between Colorado Boulevard, Fair Oaks, Union and Delacey in the heart of Old Pasadena. Designed in the tradition of European town squares, the Courtyard is Old Pasadena's main public space for film festivals, live music, high-quality fine art markets and site-specific art installations curated by the Armory Center for the Arts. [www.onecolorado.com](http://www.onecolorado.com)

## JULIAN'S PROSE

A chance meeting in the grocery store lead one reader to submit the writings of an up and coming 18 year old young poet. Julian is a graduate of John Marshall High School and plans to attend San Diego State University. His work has been submitted for publication. Below you will find two of his favorite poems. Enjoy

### "Home Life"

Eighteen years of silence  
Closed eyelids from home violence  
The man I reflect displays nonsense  
Still lungs and a beatless heart  
The womb I was created in  
ripped apart  
There is no home life no salvation  
My hunger for more suffers starvation  
No will to continue just constant plummet  
Try and rise but my pride just hides from it  
What is left for me  
Timid soul makes for my destiny  
In this glass box where I was left to see  
What kinda home life is left for me

### "If My Heart was ready"

If my heart was ready  
my thoughts of you would be steady  
cuz my mind says yes  
but my heart still hides behind my chest  
If my heart was ready  
i would not cry, it would not let me  
but i do and my heart dont beat for two  
cuz im not ready to love you since the day i walked away  
or even when i begged you to stay  
i could be yours, you could be mine  
oh but since my heart isnt fine  
i must not say i let it get me  
cuz we could love



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# Ed

Alverno, Arroyo Pacific Academy, La Salle, Maranatha, Pasadena High School, St. Francis, Sierra Mesa Middle School, The Barnhart School, The Gooden School, Field Elementary, Sierra Madre Elementary School, Bethany Christian, St. Rita's, Wilson Middle School, Odyssey Charter School, Norma Coombs Alternative School, Weizmann Day School and the PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Diaz: PUSD's 5-Year Action Plan: Science, Math and Art Starts Now

By Dean Lee

Pasadena Unified School District Superintendent Edwin Diaz recently outlined "a five year plan," but also, an outline for immediate action plan for the district. He calls the strategic process an "Approach to Excellence."

"After three months in the district visiting a number of schools," Diaz said. "In fact all schools, and meeting with a number of community agencies, groups and members, I have put together some initial thoughts on how to move the district forward."

Diaz said through a series of workshops in June, they came up with a seven step plan that starts with a focus on student achievement in high schools and middle schools starting with John Muir High School.

"So here is an identifiable approach in the district, that includes a district wide 'standards based curriculum,' using data assessments in order to drive improvement and instruction," he said.

He also said there was a need for student/teacher collaborations and a focus on individual student needs.

"Another component of student achievement is aligning resources," he said using even more broad language, "Support the schools with the greatest needs for the student populations."

He said this could be done by looking at "clusters of schools."

"We want the high schools to be more identifiable, smaller, learning communities," Diaz said.

He also said they would push for more partnerships with higher education such as Pasadena City College and vocational technical training.

Diaz said other steps in the plan included accountability, communication, system capacity and human capacity, guiding coalitions and strategic planning.

"These will address effectiveness and efficiency as an organization," he said added that the process would define the direction of the district.

Diaz also said, the idea was to "capitalize on the unique opportunities within the Altadena, Pasadena and Sierra Madre areas."

Diaz said communication was his biggest concern

as he visited schools throughout the district.

"What I suggest we do is go back and look at your Communications Department," he said. "This is especially a problem internally."

Diaz said this all starts with the Elementary and Secondary school transitions, how the grades are configured, choice/neighborhood, declining enrollment, funding, resources, compensation, facilities and accountability. He outlined the 5-year plan starting immediately as follows,

- Engage the community in creating a clear articulation of what a successful PUSD graduate looks like and additional questions related to this reform.

- Embrace concept of smaller learning environment with design to be more personal and aligned around resources in community (higher education, business, technology)

- Lead with John Muir High School

- Redesign the continuation high-school program

- Develop alternative programs for at-risk students and drop-out prevention

- Focus on creation of a consistent, comprehensive middle-school program

- Keep track of long-term strategic decisions that need to be made, and make those decisions at the right time using the right processes

- Use the Current Condition Assessment process to begin a process to produce a master facilities plan

Part of this plan will also implement more effective and rigorous application of "new adoptions" in math, science, arts he said.

Diaz's plan will be voted on at the next PUSD meeting at the end of this month, possibly Aug. 27, but not confirmed.



Diaz and parent discuss PUSD.

## Latino Home Improvement Show Donates New Telescope and Renovations to Monrovia High School Observatory



Escano and Production staffer, Tanya Bermudez open telescope

Home improvement television's first venture into the Latino market is well underway restoring, updating and upgrading a city block of early 20's homes near Violet in Northwest Monrovia. Juan Escano, "De Casa A Hogar" or "From House to Home" producer at Dream Space Productions, sought out nearby Monrovia High School

staff to identify a school-based project to complement this nearby home renovation project, to add something positive for the entire community, after the individual home renovation, filming and hubbub are over.

School officials including Principal Louise Taylor, Science Department head Kristin Ford and science teacher Pamela Gonzales, decided to focus on a poorly utilized astronomy observatory at their high school campus. Escano arranged for donation of a computerized Meade telescope, delivered with all due ceremony Monday, July 30, to replace the decades old one currently in place. He will also coordinate installation of new hardwood flooring, paint and a window replacement for a newly created data room below the telescope. The data room will allow computer work related to the study of the stars and the sky.

For more information about either the housing restoration and filming project, or Monrovia High School's "Observatory Wish List" that's longer and larger than the donation budget, contact Escano through the show's website, [www.DeCasaAHogar.tv](http://www.DeCasaAHogar.tv), or call 908-489-9278. Filming for "De Casa A Hogar" will begin shortly, and will also include segments showcasing Latino celebrities and their homes. This premiere season is scheduled to run in LA, New York, Dallas, Houston and Miami on a major network.

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# MountainViews-Observer

## OPINION

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**Mountain Views-Observer**  
**Mission Statement**

We honor the traditions of the community newspaper and place our readers above all other concerns. We deliver local, state and national news every week. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.

### FAQ's

**FAQ - Phrase meaning Frequently Asked Questions**

By Susan Henderson



In the days since word of my acquisition of MVN hit the airwaves, I have received numerous faxes, calls, and emails. I really appreciate all of you who sent congratulations. I hope I can live up to the task at hand.

There have been a number of questions that have been asked repeatedly, so rather than my usual pontificating in this spot, I will answer those questions that I have heard most often:

**Will there be changes in the MountainViews-Observer (MVO)?**

Yes and No. Yes, there will be changes in the new paper. Changes that are different from MVN and different from The Mt. Wilson Observer. The biggest change, and I must say a welcome one, is that Steve Tobia, former publisher/editor of MVN Newsmagazine will publish his column, "In My Opinion". We welcome diversity of opinion among our columnists.

On the other hand, the answer is also No, there will not be any changes. That is because my commitment to delivering the news in the most professional manner possible will remain intact.

**I was a "Friend/Subscriber" of the MVO. Will that continue?**

Yes. You will continue to receive your paper delivered to your door as well as invitations to planned events.

In the very near future, The MVO will sponsor a private tour of the Mt. Wilson Observatory.

**How will my paper be delivered?**

MVO will be delivered to all residents of Sierra Madre and subscribers weekly. In addition, you will find copies of the paper at various locations throughout Sierra Madre, Pasadena, Arcadia and Monrovia. ....and now....Roy Roams as usual!

**Will there be an online version?**

Of course. You can access this paper online by going to: [www.mvobserver.com](http://www.mvobserver.com).

**What if I want to look at an old edition of MVN online?** The archives for both papers can be accessed from the new website.

**What Else Is New?**

The MountainViews-Observer will soon begin accepting legal notices for publication. This includes Fictitious Business Statements and other legal documents that require publication. Contact our offices at 626-355-2737 for additional information.

**By the way...we'd like to hear from you.**

The staff of MVO are always interested in what is on your mind. Please don't be shy. Feel free to contact any of our writers at the e-mail address provided in their columns.

Thank you for your continued support.

[s.henderson@mvobserver.com](mailto:s.henderson@mvobserver.com).

### Interview With a Cumquat

By Rich Johnson



As an unauthorized representative of the MountainViews- (formerly of the Mt Wilson) Observer, this columnist would like to personally thank the Cumquat Kid, AKA Jim Snider. Why ask? Well, he obviously holds this publication in high esteem. At the very top of his web site is a link to the Mt. Wilson Observer. Thanks, Jim. You had us fooled.

I think the Cumquat Kid is redeemable. On my own initiative yours truly, the drivemeister, has engaged Mr. Snider. What makes him tick? And tock? How can we help him clean up his act? We need to empower him to re-enter society; to become a thriving, productive member devoted to all that is good and right. To that end I took the initiative and sat down with "jimbo" the other night asking him some pointed questions.

**MWO: So, Cumquat Kid, roughly, how many citizens of Sierra Madre actually know who you are?**

**JS: I figure 6 or 7. It might have been as high as 8 but I know of one person who left town. I might add it was because of me they left town.**

**MWO: Who would you say is mostly responsible for you aberrant and childish behaviour?**

**JS: Well, Rich, you're pretty high up on that list. Not number one, but you are a "large" part of it, if you catch my drift. Number one, would have to be Lisa Brandley (bartender at the local pub.) Actually, she's high up on several other lists of mine.**

**MWO: How did you come up with the name Sierra Madre Cumquat?**

**JS: Next question. (He made a zipping motion across his lips so I moved on.)**

**MWO: Is it true you've been rejected by more than half of the available women in town?**

**JS: Analysis computed on my JPL friend Tom's iPhone put the figure closer to 42%. Not quite half yet, Rich! May I add that there are several possibilities currently in the pipeline which could put rejection closer to 50%.**

**MWO: It seems you've stopped this insane notion of a XXX website. Is that true?**

**JS: Yes, because the city wouldn't let me bump it up to a XXXXX website. You're familiar with the term 5x aren't you, Rich? XXX is hardly worth the effort.**

**MWO: Finally Jim, have you ever considered writing for the Observer?**

**JS: Actually I do. I am Sir Eric Maundry. That's my great grandfather's picture on the column. He was a member of British royalty. He was the Earl of Cumquat. Oh my God, did I say that? Edit this out. Please. This is off the record. I'll be disowned.**

**MWO: Rest assured Jim, you're secret is safe with me. (He then ran off into the alley behind the pub.)**

Well folks, I have been played. I'm almost certain the Cumquat Kid is not Sir Eric Maundry. And for goodness sakes, don't go to [www.thesierramadrecumquat.com](http://www.thesierramadrecumquat.com). Its crude, rude and lude.

If you spot him, let me know. But keep a safe distance.

I can be reached at [rich@versatape.com](mailto:rich@versatape.com)



### Around The Town

**With Sir Eric Maundry**

*If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.*  
- Earl Wilson

More this week on our city's current fascination with its fiscal woes. In the last column we raised the apparently radical notion that the cash deficits here in Sierra Madre might actually stem from the robust spending practices of our city government. Not lawsuits, not our remoteness from the 210 or the unwillingness of some to buy their ice cream cones here in town, just big old cash outlays on things we don't really need. In an exercise known as "bringing the elephant out into the open," we used treeless and weedy Goldberg Park as a striking example of unnecessary and poorly considered city spending. A small 6,500 square foot lot brought under civic control at a very lusty initial cost of \$550,000 (with the large additional costs of turning it into a "recreation area" looming just down the road), to me this seemed the very epitome of wasteful spending. I mean, whatever could this park provide for this city that most of us can't find in our own backyards?...

However, having kicked this around over drinks with friends during the last week, I've come to the conclusion that there just might be a method behind the madness of this city's most expensive collection of weeds and spotted lizards...

Goldberg Park is described as being a "pocket park," a concept with some very urban overtones. In my free-spirited youth I spent a decade or so living in some of the more desperate neighborhoods of New York City. I didn't have a lot of dough, my entertainment options were few, but there in the middle of that urban jungle of skyscrapers and apartments you could always count on finding a small patch of green. Take your lunch and a good book to one of these little oases during lunch hour and you might actually imagine yourself having escaped a bricked in fate, if only for a little while.

But why would we need a "pocket park" here in Sierra Madre? The whole town is a park when you compare it to, let's say, Flatbush ...

Those who have followed the meandering paths this column has taken over the last few months might recall the conversation we had about SCAG. A vast quasi-governmental regional bureaucracy with some very ambitious housing designs on little towns such as Sierra Madre, SCAG, for reasons known only to itself and the Real Estate Development Lobbies in Sacramento calling the shots, decreed that we must allow the building of 138 "units" (read: condos)

here in town or risk losing some sorely needed state funding. Now it should be obvious to everyone that in a town as built-out as this one there really isn't a place to put 138 condos, and that some existing single family homes will have to be seized and razed via eminent domain to make room for them. And once these 138 condos are built, won't that neighborhood take on a decidedly more urban feel? And actually have need of a "pocket park"? If I lived anyway near 171 S. Sunnyside I think I'd start attending city council meetings rather religiously. You might very well be living in a SCAG targeted neighborhood ...

Anyway, as a public service I, Sir Eric Maundry, have decided to save Sierra Madre. Google "Proposed 2007-09 Budget" + "Sierra Madre."

Scroll down through all of Enid's happy talk until you get to the page called "Major Projects 2007-09." These are all the big money projects poor and impoverished Sierra Madre is expected to pay for over the next year or so. And get out your axe, we're going to do some chopping.

- Library Landscaping .... \$65,000. Way too much. Libraries are for books. Grow cactus and save some water. *Chop!*

- Senior Center Renovations .... \$220,000. I like seniors. They're smart, they voted overwhelmingly for Measure V, they read my column and the Development Fanatics resent them. We'll keep this one.

- Goldberg Park .... A \$380,000 balance. Sell it. Maybe we can get the \$550,000 back and use it to pay our cops a living wage.

- Sierra Madre Room .... \$920,000! I don't even know what a "Sierra Madre Room" is. Are we opening a bar and grill? A strip club? *Chop!*

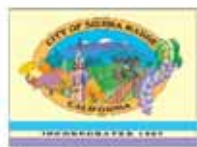
- CNG Fueling Station ... \$370,000. Let Arco build it. What are we, Exxon?

- General Plan Update and Housing Element Update ... \$350,000. We're paying over a third of a million dollars for plans that will turn this town into a So. Cal. McCondo version of East Berlin? We don't need to change anything, and the first place to stop this insanity is right here. *Chop!...*

Now let's get out the calculator and add 'em up. OK! I just saved this town \$2,085,000 big ones. Add the additional \$170,000 we'd get from the sale of Goldberg Park and we've put \$2,255,000 back into our hungry city kitty. Fiscal crisis over, gang. And yes, you're very welcome. Let's pretend that the world is a wonderful place, vodka flows freely from mountain streams, and candy only costs a nickel.

[eric.maundry@yahoo.com](mailto:eric.maundry@yahoo.com) ... Cheers!





## City of Sierra Madre August Events

- 3-4 - Friends of the Library Best Used Book Sales - Library  
5 - City Hall Closed
- 6 - Midsummer Night's Dream - 7:00 PM - Memorial Park Bandshell  
7 - Concert in the Park, Ken O'Malley and the Twilight Lovers - 6:00 PM - Memorial Park Bandshell  
8 - Community Arts Commission Trip to Laguna Festival of the Arts & Pageant of the Masters  
9 - Summer Concert Series Fire Angels  
10 - Summer Fun in the Park Recycling - 9:30 AM - Memorial Park Bandshell  
11 - Ad Hoc Finance Committee Meeting - 7:00 PM - City Council Chamber  
12 - Concert in the Park, Pasadena Crown City Chorus - 6:00 PM - Memorial Park Bandshell  
13 - Fire Safe Council - 7:00 PM - Council Chamber  
14 - Summer Fun in the Park Kickapoo - 5:30 AM - Memorial Park Bandshell  
15 - City Hall Closed  
16 - Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Roundup - 9:00 AM - Mariposa Parking Lot  
17 - Concert in the Park, Elvis and the Horses of Rock - 6:00 PM - Memorial Park Bandshell  
18 - Summer Fun in the Park, SCOT - 9:30 AM - Memorial Park Bandshell  
19 - Ad Hoc Finance Committee Meeting - 7:00 PM - City Council Chamber  
20 - Community Arts Commission Art Show Open in City Hall  
21 - Healthy Family Fun 3-Park Centennial Challenge - 9:00 AM - Sierra Vista Park  
22 - Concert in the Park, Parity and Fantasy II - 6:30 PM - Memorial Park Bandshell  
23 - City Flag Order Forms Due to Community & Personnel Services Office  
24 - Summer Fun in the Park, Creative Arts Group - 9:30 AM - Memorial Park Bandshell  
25 - City Hall Closed

For more information on these and other City programs, call 255-7225 or visit [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com).



## Sierra Madre City Flag Sales

The Community Arts Commission has Sierra Madre flags available for sale. The flags are nylon 2 ft by 3 ft, with grommets or pole sleeves. They are appropriate for indoor or outdoor use. Flags are \$40 and can be ordered by pre-sale only. You can order a flag at the Sunday evening Concerts in Memorial Park or at the Community and Personnel Services Department, 611 E. Sierra Madre

Blvd.

The deadline to order flags is August 27, 2007. Flags will be mailed in the middle of October. Show your Sierra Madre pride and order your flag now!

For further questions call the Community and Personnel Services Department at (626) 355-5278

## Sierra Madre Senior Happenings

We will be starting a monthly section devoted to activities and items of special interest to seniors. It will be called "Senior Happenings," and it will garner information from the Sierra Madre Senior Community Commission's monthly newsletter entitled, "Senior Moments." We would also like to introduce a different senior each month in "Getting to know..." beginning with next month's issue.

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

**Lunch Program: Monday-Friday** at the "Intervale Senior Café"

Call day ahead for reservations-355-0256- Suggested donation- \$2.00 for seniors- \$3.75 for all others

**Monday:** Strength Training-Volunteer instructor Lisa Brandley 1:00-1:45 PM

**Tuesday:** Bingo 1:30-3:30 PM - 25c per card

Yoga 5:00 PM- Instructor Andrea Walsh- cost \$5.25 for seniors

**Thursday:** Poker 1:30 - 3:30 PM \* Call Pat for more information 355-7290

Yoga 5:00-6:30 PM- For seniors or others who want to go slow

(can be done in a chair) Instructor Andrea Walsh \$5.25 for those 50 & over \$7.00 for those under 50. To register call: Rosemary Garcia (626) 355-5278

**Friday:** Ping Pong - 2:00PM-4:00PM - **Not** tournament, for fun only

Aerobics for Active Seniors- 3:00-4:00PM at the Community Center-

8 week course \$34.00 taught by Bonnie Smithson- Call Rosemary Garcia to enroll - (626) 355-5278.

**Saturday:** Senior Club (For those 55 and over) Brown-bag lunch at 11:30 AM.

Bingo begins at 12:30 - Dues \$5.00 per year

**Meals-On-Wheels-** Meals are delivered to homebound seniors through the YWCA Intervale Lunch Program M-F with frozen meals for the weekend. \$2.00 suggested donation per day. Call Susan Garcia at (626) 960-3773

**Monthly Excursions** \*Registration can begin after trip flyer is received, not before \*

**August 16-** Malcof Museum in Rancho Cucamonga, lunch at Vince's Spaghetti House- \$31.00

**September 20-** Griffith Observatory- Planetary show, movie & displays \$15.00- Lunch on your own in the Wolfgang Puck Kitchen

**October 20- (Saturday)** Oktoberfest in Big Bear- Bus, entrance, German dinner w/ dessert, choice of beer or wine. \$40.00

For more information and reservations call Lisa or Alexis at 355-5278

\*All trips subject to change/Scholarships available.

**Free Consultation** with Pasadena attorney Geoffrey Chin- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, 10:00 am- Noon. Call Lisa or Alexis at 355-5278 for an appointment.

\*Conflicting court schedules can occasionally cause appointment cancellations.

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Condo has 1 Rm. with 2 Beds, Living Rm., with Sofa Bed, the Kitchen is full equipped, 2 Bathrooms, Dining Rm, each room has TV & Phone, it accommodates 6 people also has nice Swimming Pool and nice Restaurant

#### 7 Days in Ixtapa, Mexico

Condo has 1 Rm. another room has 2 Beds, 2 Bathroom, the Kitchen is full equipped, with nice Dining Room, also has Jacuzzi, each room has TV & Phone, and a Landry Room. also has very nice Swimming Pool, and a very nice Restaurant. Condo has a beautiful ocean view that overlooks Ixtapa

Contact Nick @ 714-662-5563 or 714-654-8105

## CITY OF SIERRA MADRE, CALIFORNIA - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Management Analyst \$3,808 - \$4,761 monthly  
Application Deadline: Wednesday, August 8th at 4:00 pm

### Position

The City of Sierra Madre is seeking an enthusiastic team player to work in the Public Works and City Manager's Office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the complex administrative, entry-level budgetary, legislative, financial, administrative and analytical support duties for an assigned department and/or division; oversees assigned administrative processes, procedures and programs; coordinates assigned activities, program and special projects with other City departments, outside agencies and the general public.

### The City of Sierra Madre

The City of Sierra Madre, a 2007 All-America City, is a unique foothill village located in Los Angeles County at the base of the San Gabriel Valley Mountains with a population of approximately 11,700. The City is a full service municipality operating under the Council/Manager form of government. The City has 65 full-time employees assigned to eight operating departments. The dedicated City staff provides excellent service to the community. The City was incorporated in 1907 as a General Law City. It has its own Water Department, Library, and Police Department. The City is proud of its Volunteer Fire Department.

### City of Sierra Madre Mission Statement

The City of Sierra Madre provides quality, cost-effective public services that preserve the small downtown character and enhance the health, safety and welfare of the community.

### The Public Works Department

The Sierra Madre Public Works Department is responsible for production and distribution of potable water to the community, maintenance of all city infrastructure, including street, sewer, storm drain and water systems, maintenance of all city buildings, parks, landscaped areas and city owned trees. The Department also maintains the City's vehicle fleet. Department staff administers the City's contract solid waste disposal, street sweeping and tree trimming services. Staff serves as liaison to the Tree Advisory Commission, administers the City's capital improvement program, and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs.

### Essential Duties and Responsibilities

The following duties are normal for this position. These are not to be construed as exclusive or all-inclusive. Other duties may be required and assigned.

Assist in the development and implementation of goals, objectives, programs, policies and procedures for assigned work areas, program and special projects;  
Continuously monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of work areas, programs and operations as assigned;  
Develop programs and implement projects to improve service delivery efficiency and effectiveness in conjunction with the City Manager;  
Interpret regulations, ordinances, codes and laws to ensure compliance;  
Represent the City to outside agencies;  
Explain and interpret City programs, policies and activities;  
Prepare and present staff reports and other necessary correspondence; conduct organizational and operational studies and investigations; recommend modifications to programs, policies and procedures as appropriate;  
Review and analyze reports, legislation and related matters;

In conjunction with the City Manager, participate in the preparation and administration of assigned budgets and special projects; maintain proper budgetary controls;

In conjunction with the Director of Public Works, participate in the preparation and administration of assigned Public Works projects; maintain proper budgetary controls; Collect, compile and analyze information from various sources on a variety of specialized topics including financial, budget or administrative issues or questions

Prepare technical records and reports on grants and special projects;  
Identify problems, opportunities for improvements, alternatives and make and justify recommendations regarding same;  
Administers facility improvement or environmental projects as assigned by the City Manager or Director of Public Works;  
Serve as liaison with employees, public and private organizations; represent the City on a variety of community groups, boards, commissions, with State and federal agencies and to other private and public entities;  
Provide information and assistance to the public regarding assigned programs and services;  
Receive and respond to complaints and questions regarding assigned areas of responsibility;  
Assist in contract negotiations; monitor contract compliance;  
Prepare and monitor program grants and related proposals;  
Prepare and maintain necessary records, files and documents;  
Perform other related duties as required.

### Supervision Responsibilities

Exercises direct supervision over professional, technical and administrative support staff.

### Minimum Qualifications

A Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration or other related field. Master's Degree is desirable and/or an equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required skills, knowledge and abilities. Must be able to successfully meet and deal with the public and other employees. One year of administrative and analytical experience involving research, analysis, and recommendation of policies, procedures and actions on a variety of administrative issues.

### License/Certification Requirements

Possession of a valid California driver's license; Class "C" or higher.

### Compensation

Salary range: \$4,206 to \$4,761 per month. Salary will be negotiated based on qualifications.

Fully paid medical, dental, and vision insurance for the City for the employee and eligible dependents.

Death & disability, life insurance policies, short term disability & PERS level II survivor benefit is provided.

PERS retirement - City participates in the CalPERS retirement system at 2% @ 55. City pays full employee share and counts toward final retirement compensation. No participation in social security.

EPMC: 7% paid by the City is reported as employee's income for calculating retirement benefit.

Deferred Compensation programs are available with ICMA. City contributes \$1,300 annually.

Annual paid leave of 88 vacation hours (for first four years), 14 paid holidays, 80 administrative leave hours and 96 hours of sick leave.

Alternative work schedule 9/80.

Flexible spending accounts for medical and child-care expenses.

Tuition reimbursement and computer loan programs available

Application process

Application deadline: Wednesday, August 8, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

Candidates should send a completed application and current resume to Miguel Hernandez, Personnel Analyst, Sierra Madre City Hall, 232 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre CA 91024. Applications can also be faxed to (626) 355-2251.

Applications must be completed and demonstrate that the minimum qualifications are met. All statements made on the application are subject to investigation and verification. Resumes may be attached to completed application forms as supplemental information, but will not be accepted in lieu of an official application form.

The most qualified candidates will be selected to participate in an interview process. All candidates who meet the minimum qualifications will remain candidates until a final offer is accepted by the candidate who most closely meets the requirements of the City. The City may conclude that none of the candidates, even those who meet the minimum qualifications, are appropriate for the position. The position is open until Wednesday, August 8, 2007 at 4:00 p.m..

### The successful candidate must pass:

Pre-employment medical exam, including a drug/alcohol screening; and  
Reference and background verification, including a credit screening. References will not be contacted until a mutual interest has been established.

### Immigration and Reform Act of 1986

In compliance with the Immigration and Reform Act of 1986, all new employees must demonstrate eligibility to legally work in the United States by providing required documentation.

### Equal Opportunity Employer

The City does not make employment decisions based on sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status or physical handicap, except when such qualifications are appropriate occupational qualifications

### Employment Standards

Employment with the City of Sierra Madre is contingent upon meeting the medical standards of the position. A candidate must pass a pre-employment physical examination, including a drug/alcohol screening and a reference and background check.

The City of Sierra Madre makes reasonable accommodations for disabled persons, considering each situation on an individual basis. Please make direct requests for accommodation to City Administration - Personnel.

The provisions of this job announcement do not constitute an expressed or implied contract. Any provision contained in this job announcement may be modified or revoked without notice.


Questions may be directed to Miguel Hernandez at (626) 355-7135 or at [mhernandez@ci.sierramadre.ca.us](mailto:mhernandez@ci.sierramadre.ca.us). Applicants may wish to visit the City's official website - [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com) - for further information.

# TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business

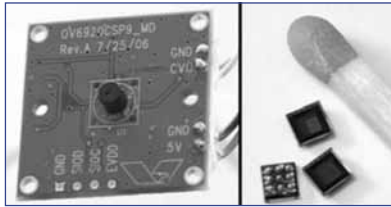
## "Smile"

By Paul the Cyberian

Say 'Hello' to the World's smallest, fully functioning hidden camera. The Digicam from TDC measures just (1/18 of an inch) is practically invisible to the casual observer and the entire camera could fit in a package the size of this square:  (Follow this link to see the actual camera - <http://www.switched.com/2007/07/31/worlds-smallest-digicam-is-the-size-of-a-pin-head/>).

Although we have become increasingly accustomed to technological breakthroughs such as this one, it sometimes seems as if some of these technical marvels outpace other important sociological issues in the very society where they are to be used.

Unless you've been living in a cave it cannot have escaped your notice that cameras, in some form or another, have become as common as stop signs, and in some cases the stop signs themselves have a camera attached. The reasons given for the increased number of cameras range from the tragic events of 9/11 and a need for better security to a needed crime-deterrent effect in high crime areas. Add to this number of ever-watchful eyes the cameras that come embedded with just about every cell phone sold after 2005 or so and we now have a society where one is better off minding that one is being watched all day and everyday. One would think that issues of personal privacy as interpreted by various legislative bodies would form an automatic



Bulkhead against such an invasion, but that has not been the case.

It might be a good thing if we stopped and thought about why we feel the need to have a mechanical eye on every corner, recording the comings and goings of all who stray into its field of vision. Maybe it makes us feel safer in some way, like a night-light helps to comfort a child who's afraid of the dark. The truth of the matter is we probably just feel like we need to do something, anything, to make the dark less scary.

Pro-surveillance types are likely to say that those with nothing to hide have nothing to fear from being secretly viewed from time to time in the name of safety and security. In reality these cameras do absolutely nothing to prevent crime or acts of terrorism. With a little effort (Google) one can find stills taken by security cameras of Mohammed Atta and his cohorts as they went about their deadly business that day and the security cameras did everything that they were designed to do. They took pictures.

## Who's Your Tech Daddy?

By Ken Gruberman, The Tech Daddy™

In today's world, we find ourselves inundated by technology, yet more of us feel intimidated by it rather than empowered. We become frustrated when the gadgets that are supposed to make our lives easier turn out to complicate them instead. Most people today feel things like computers, cameras and cell phones are simply too hard to learn and have too many features, so they give up on them.

To help alleviate this problem, I have created this column. I'm using a Q&A format; for this initial outing I'm starting the ball rolling by using a few questions based on ones I often receive. But I want to hear from you, and I would love to answer your questions in future columns. If you want to know more about computers, cell phones, digital cameras, TiVo's, High Definition television and DVDs, camcorders — you name it — please email me your question to [ken@thetechdaddy.com](mailto:ken@thetechdaddy.com) and be sure to put "Tech Question" (without the quotes) in the subject line of your email. That way I'll be sure to receive it and my email program won't mistake it for "junk mail"... which sounds like a good topic for a future column!

### Take A Bite Of The Apple Dear Tech Daddy:

My son in California is driving me bananas with his insistence that I switch from PC to Apple. Is he in some kind of nut and fruitcake cult or something? I just became a little bit accustomed to my computer and I'm afraid to switch. Why is he such an ardent Apple lover? And how easy is it to switch over if I decide to go Apple? — Confused in Covina

### Dear Confused:

While fans of Apple's Macintosh computers may seem cult-like at times, the truth is they really love their machines. Most PC users don't really love using their computers; rather, they put up with them. What is it about Macs that engender such feelings?

To fully answer that question could easily take the entire column, so I'll try to be brief. First, however, I'd like to give you a little clarity on some of the terms I'll be using. The letters "PC" originally stood for "Personal Computer" but these days specifically refers to computers that run Microsoft's Windows operating system, while "Apple" is the company that makes Macintosh computers running the Macintosh operating system; most people simply call them "Macs". Until recently, PCs used chips from Intel or AMD inside, while Macs used PowerPC chips from Motorola, which meant the two operating systems — Windows and Macintosh — could never meet. But things got more interesting last year when Apple switched over to the Intel chip, so now their computers can run both the Mac and Windows operating systems if desired — even at the same time. How's that for value? It's like having two computers in one box! By the way, Macs are the only computers that can do this; PCs still can't run the Mac OS.

One reason people love their Macs is due to their long-standing reputation for power, ease of use, beauty and simplicity. Based on surveys by companies such as J. D. Power and Associates, Apple

itself delivers a high level of customer satisfaction, from sales to customer support. Even their packaging is aesthetically pleasing. The Apple Store continues that blend of practicality and aesthetics. Created by the same team behind stores such as the Gap and museum stores, they give customers a great, hands-on experience in a chic atmosphere. The nearest store is in the West Farms mall in Farmington; if you haven't been in it, you're in for a treat.

The one Mac advantage that gets the most press is the virus issue: Macs simply don't have them. There are over 114,000 known viruses, worms, Trojans, and other kinds of "malware" in the PC world that Macs are blissfully immune to. That's because the Macintosh operating system is based on UNIX, a powerful programming language that has been rock-solid for decades. Windows often becomes compromised because of something called the Windows Registry, also known as The Sargasso Sea of computer programming; once a virus gets in there, it's almost impossible to get it out. Now that the average PC user is expected to devote 40 minutes of his or her day to security issues such as updating virus definitions and running scans of the hard drive, it's easy to see why so many people have become fed up at this sad state of affairs and switched to the Macintosh.

Another great Mac advantage involves the "out of the box" experience: what happens when a PC or Mac is turned on for the first time. The average startup sequence with a new Windows machine takes almost an hour, and involves a process called "Windows Activation." Macs require no activation of the operating system, and the average first-time startup sequence takes only 10 minutes, if that. This fact was well documented in a "shoot-out" hosted by PC Magazine some years ago.

Then there's the "bloat" issue. PCs come loaded with "value added" software, most of which aren't really needed by the average user, and many of which are trial or demo versions. Worse, many of these starter programs conflict with each other, often slugging it out to see which one will control certain functions such as music playback or displaying photographs. Macs, on the other hand, all come with Apple's award-winning "iLife" suite of applications that work seamlessly with each other.

One of the enduring myths regarding Macintosh computers is they are more expensive than PCs. Apple handily exploded that myth some years back when they introduced the Mac Mini, which retails at only \$599. Their sleek, all-in-one iMac (a desktop that looks like a monitor) and MacBook (a state of the art laptop the Wall Street Journal dubbed "super sexy") both come fully loaded and retail for only \$1199 — less if you can get an educational discount.

I could go on, but you get the idea. For more info, check out Apple's "Get A Mac" page at <http://www.apple.com/getamac/> and see for yourself how cool the Macintosh really is. It's the perfect accessory for your iPod! You can take it with you

## Pros To Know


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# The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

## Tap Water

Poor bottled water. Banned in city buildings by the San Francisco Mayor, prohibited from use at public events by the city council of Ann Arbor, slated for elimination by department heads in Salt Lake City; it's under attack from all sides. The non-profit Food and Water Watch has launched a "Take Back the Tap" campaign. "Think Outside the Bottle" and "The Bottled Water Blues.com" are also working to convince consumers to stop buying the stuff. What is with that? What's to hate about the handy little ridged cylindrical containers wrapped in pictures of jagged mountain ranges and filled with cool refreshing goodness?

Fear not, dear reader, I have done several minutes of internet research and I am here to inform you that there are at least two good reasons to "ban the bottle." Are you ready for them?

### Reason Number One: Environmental Impacts

According to the Pacific Institute, the process of making the plastic for water bottles consumes about 20 million barrels of oil per year. 20 million barrels of oil is a lot of oil. Eyes glazing. Statistics being employed. Systems shutting down. Nap time imminent. Wait! Wait! Don't go to sleep yet. Here is another way to think about it. The energy cost required to make a bottle, transport it, and deal with its disposal (also according to the Pacific Institute) would be like filling 1/4 of each bottle with oil (eww).

It also takes a whole lot of water to make a plastic bottle for you to inflate and deflate with your mouth, making loud cracking noises and irritating your cubicle-mates to no end. For every one-liter bottle, five liters of water are required to make the thing. So, if we use the Pacific Institute metaphor as a model, that would be like filling up every bottle with five more bottles of itself... umm never mind. Anyway, what other environmental impacts are there? Oh, just the usual: aquifer depletion, saltwater intrusion, habitat destruction, melting ice caps, tsunamis, incontinence, and restless leg syndrome. Plus the kajillions of empty bottles that end up in the trash. Many of them are floating around in your oceans right now. Maybe they will be occupied by hermit crabs who are looking for new digs with a better view.

### Reason Number Two: Health

Bottled water is not, by definition, healthier than tap water. In fact, it may be less so. OK, OK granted there

have been no recent stories about horrible bacterial contamination in bottled water. And, true enough, not all public water sources are completely trustworthy. Nevertheless, the idea that bottled water is more healthy or safer than the water from domestic sources is a scam perpetrated by people who want your money. In fact, up to 30 percent of bottled water is tap water (as opposed to, like, "natural spring water," which comes from some specific, supposedly cleaner/ better top secret location).

You may have heard that Aquafina (tap water, bottled by Pepsi... Coca Cola owns Dasani, also tap water), will begin printing the words "public water source" on its labels thanks to pressure from advocacy groups and politicians.

Federal regulations require only that bottled water be as good as tap water, not better, safer, or healthier. And, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council, bottled water is "subject to less rigorous testing and purity standards than those which apply to city tap water." Additionally, there are many requirements for municipal tap water that are more stringent than those imposed on bottled water. For example, tap water can have no (zero, none, zilch) confirmed E. coli or fecal coliform bacteria levels. Whereas, the US Food and Drug Administration rules for bottled water allow for some E. coli and human poop contamination. Drink up!

Also, cities are required to send annual drinking water quality reports to residents. These reports (you get them in your bill) provide sample dates and detection ranges and explanations of the various contaminants cities are required to monitor. They tell you exactly how many parts per million there are of lead and nitrates and perchlorate in your water. Has Pepsi ever sent you that information? And apart from the contaminants in the water, there are the chemicals that can leach from the water bottles themselves, especially when they are re-used.

So, good citizens of the San Gabriel Mountain foothills, be healthy, save energy, conserve water, stop global warming - drink the water from your pipes. It comes from wells and natural springs. It is filtered and monitored and tested. It is good enough to bottle. Better even.

## The Mountain Clymer

By Kim Clymer Kelley

### ....and Baby Makes 13

It was 3 a.m. and we were both sound asleep when all hell broke loose in the donkey world. I awoke to an incredibly loud commotion in the upper corral. The day before, a Forest Service ranger had reported sighting a baby bear in the picnic grove...apparently an orphan...so I feared that the poor thing had inadvertently entered the upper corral and was having a run-in with animals. A baby bear does not stand much of a chance against a herd of angry donkeys. I threw on my sweats and my garden clogs, grabbed a flashlight, and ran out the door as the noise continued to rise to a higher and higher level of excitement. As I passed the barn, I reached inside the door and flipped on the lights in the lower corral. It was a very dark night...no moon and foggy, so once I reached the ramp to the upper corral, I was going pretty much on the whatever light my flashlight provided. As I rounded the curve in the ramp, I shined my light on the gate where the noise was coming from.

"What on earth is all this noise about?" I asked the animals who were at the gate, as they continued carrying on. I strained to see well enough to identify the animals. It was Bonnie who was at the gate yelling and kicking at the other animals, who were all yelling back at her and making an effort to stay a safe distance from her angry hoofs. I took a few steps closer to see if I could determine what the problem was. As I moved something caught the corner of my eye...something standing just to the left of my feet. Thinking that it was the baby bear, my heart skipped a beat as I turned the light toward the object. The light hit a frail, spindly little being at my feet. "Not a baby bear," I



Meet SweetPea, a newborn donkey

thought in the first split second, "it's a baby deer!" Then it dawned on me, "No, you're the baby...oh, my god, Sweetie come here...welcome to the world!!!" I scooped it up and held it close. It was a mess! Still wet from birth, it had rolled around in the powdery dried manure that covered the ground on the ramp until it was strong enough to stand. It was caked with a damp manure paste.

Bonnie stood at the gate, still snorting, but starting to settle down a bit. With the baby in my arms, I approached her and showed her the newborn. I unlatched the gate and allowed it to open just far enough for her to slip through before I slammed it on those who were trying to follow. As I turned to descend the ramp, Bonnie followed close behind, nudging my back with her nose as I led her into the barn and then into the back stall where we planning on set up house for her and her baby. I placed the baby on the floor next to its mother and sat down to watch mother and baby become acquainted with one another.

### Plastic (Paper) Bags Needed

Why not recycle your leftover clean (no holes) Plastic & Paper Grocery and other Shopping Bags to organizations that really need them?

Higher oil prices mean grocery stores don't donate bags as often. Sending your clean, no holes, good used bags directly to the trash or store recycle bins, when others really need them is clearly a waste.

Foothill Unity Center (Monrovia & Pasadena) needs over 2,500 good bags a week, and surely your favorite thrift shop would love to have some of your good bags. Folded neatly or wadded up in another bag, these organizations will bless you!



## Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

### Phoenix Set for August 3 Departure for Mars



Photo by Jean Boenisch

Phoenix, the first in NASA's Scout program of low-cost Mars missions, is set for launch from Florida as early as August 3. The Phoenix spacecraft will land on the planet's northern arctic plains, analyzing soil and ice to see if it could support microbial life. An 8-foot robotic arm will scoop up the soil and dump it into onboard science instruments.

It is only in the last 200 years that explorers have reached the Earth's poles. Now, for the first time in human history, we will be landing in a polar region on another planetary body. Phoenix will complete its approximately 9-month-long voyage and touch down in the northern arctic plains of Mars in May 2008, prepared to hunt for water ice.

NASA's Phoenix mission is led by Peter Smith of the University of Arizona, with project management



at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and development partnership at Lockheed Martin, Denver. International contributions are provided by the Canadian Space Agency; the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland; the University of Copenhagen, Denmark; the Max Planck Institute, Germany; and the Finnish Meteorological Institute.

Nilton Renno, a University of Michigan atmospheric scientist who leads the Phoenix science teams atmospheric sciences theme group, notes that a major research goal of the mission is to better understand the water cycle at the landing site. Mars is a frigid desert, and liquid water can't survive at the surface. But subsurface ice exists in the Martian arctic. Some scientists suspect that near-surface ice periodically melts, during warmer parts of long-term climate cycles.

Since liquid water is required by all known forms of life, the melted ice could provide a home for hardy, opportunistic microorganisms. The Phoenix spacecraft is not equipped to detect current or past life, but it can determine if the prerequisites for life are present.

"The main goal of the mission is to see if there are conditions that could allow life to evolve on Mars," Renno says. "Understanding the water cycle will help us answer that question."

You can follow the mission at <http://planetary.org>.

"VISIONS OF MARS" TO ACCOMPANY PHOENIX — The Planetary Society's silica-glass DVD is ready to launch to Mars on board Phoenix with the names of over a quarter million inhabitants of Earth, along with "Visions of Mars," a collection of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century stories, essays and art inspired by the Red Planet. Once Phoenix lands, we will be able to actually see the disk on the surface of Mars, as it will appear in some of the calibration images that Phoenix sends back to Earth.

"Visions of Mars" contains materials that represent 20 nations and cultures—including works by The Planetary Society's co-founder Carl Sagan, Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, Arthur C. Clarke, Percival Lowell, and many more.

To read more about the "Visions of Mars" DVD, see <http://planetary.org/phoenixdvd>.

### SAVE THE DATE!

### David Lynch To Speak on "Color & Light in Nature" At Altadena Library Sunday, August 26

The public is cordially invited to a free public lecture, "Color and Light in Nature," on Sunday, August 26, 2:30 p.m. at the Altadena Public Library. The speaker is David K. Lynch, an astronomer and atmospheric physicist. There is no charge, and refreshments will be served beginning at 2:00. The lecture is sponsored by the Mount Wilson Observatory Association (MWOA).

## TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS



Hi Friends, I am in Hawaii finding you the top ten restaurants to dine at, the article will appear in next weeks Mt. Wilson Observer, so I updated an article I wrote almost six months ago. Aloha!

I have friends that own restaurants - - Jamie from Rancho, Robin from Robin's BBQ, and Tommy from Mijare's, just to name a few. So writing about Central Park in Pasadena could be a little touchy. After all, owner Dave Yost and I have been together at many a UCLA football game at the Rose Bowl. When Dave told me about his plans to open Central Park he suggested that it was going to be a little of this and a little of that - a little of Marston's, a little of Crocodile and a little bit of Houston's. I just hoped it wasn't a little bit of the Shakers. No, now don't get me wrong! Shakers has made many people very happy for years. But, I was eager to see Dave follow through on his promise. Sure Dave, pretty label but Shakers food?

I waited a few weeks for the paint to dry, and then made my way to Shakers/uh ah I mean Central Park named right after the park across the street.

Without further delay this is probably one of the best newcomers to the dining scene in Pasadena in the past four or five years. I put it into the category of the aforementioned restaurants without hesitation. And "tell you the truth of the matter" (my ex boss used you to say that and I hated it) is that Central Park might just be a cut above. Often I think that the lunch scene in Pasadena is just that - a scene - to be 'seen' and yea the food is OK; guess who I saw at lunch? Back to reality!

My wise old mentor once said to try the soup first and if the soup passes, continue on. I ordered the Crab Bisque (\$4.95), it was good! Move on from there. Here are a few recommendations from Central Park - Caesar Salad (\$4.75), make sure you ask for the croutons tossed with the dressing; The USDA Prime Flat Iron Steak (\$16), The Braised boneless short ribs (\$16). I have enjoyed the Eggplant Sandwich for lunch many times and being that creature of habit I will order it again (\$7.75). Other menu items - pizza, pasta salads, and fish - are all in the medium price range. Serving size is enormous - like the Claim jumper, but not as small like Spago - Just right!

All in All a good experience - wines by the glass, and wine-specials by the glass and bottle. One complaint that I have and other friends have agreed is the wine prices; although they seem to be fair, the 'special of the day' might be priced over the average on the menu. Make sure you ask the price before agreeing to a Pinot or Merlot by the glass.

Central Park  
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# Jeff's Pics

## The Book Reports

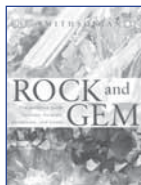
**Where the Birds Are:**  
**A Travel Guide to Over 1,000 Parks, Preserves, and Sanctuaries**  
by Robert J. Dolezal

From the Editors of Reader's Digest. This illustrated travel guide presents 35 driving tours to more than 1000 prime birding and wildlife destination across North America. Maps, phone numbers, Web sites, and other great information are provided for each location. Following a table of contents that presents city starting points like San Francisco, Cape Cod, Boston, etc. on a regional map, the book focuses on urban centers across the U.S. and southern Canada with a user friendly approach. Scenic photographs and maps accompany each stop. A handy and exciting book for the traveler and bird enthusiast.



**Rock and Gem:**  
**The Definitive Guide to Rocks, Minerals, Gemstones and Fossils**  
by Ronald Louis Bonewitz

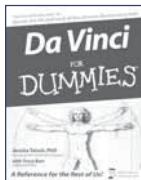
From the Smithsonian Institution, Rock and Gem is a celebration of Earth's buried treasure in this exceptionally beautiful coffee table book. It includes information and specially commissioned photographs of over 450 specimens, that explores the classification, identification, and folklore about Earth's rocks, gemstones, minerals, and fossils. It illustrates each stone's unique characteristics and its relationship to humankind through the ages. The book is divided into 4 sections:



1.Origins, focusing on the evolution of the Earth and the universe, and how and why minerals are formed. 2.Rocks, a species-by-species guide to the major sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks. 3.Minerals, a species-by-species guide to the key minerals. 4.Fossils, showing fossils of the major taxonomic groups. Rock and Gem is a celebration of the Earth's buried treasures

**Da Vinci For Dummies**  
by Jessica, Ph.D Teisch & Tracy Barr

This is an easy to follow informative introduction to Leonardo's life, works, and modern day influence. It includes the story behind his celebrated paintings such as the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper, the lowdown on his inventions, such as the helicopter and bicycle, and easy to understand explanations of his breakthrough scientific discoveries in anatomy, botany, geology, zoology, optics, hydrodynamics and aerodynamics. The book also discusses his famous notebooks, his relationship to the Catholic Church, and information about The Da Vinci Code. This is a fun and easy way to understand his work, his mind and his methods.



**Book Recommendation by Joan Schrager.**  
**Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral,**  
by Kris Radish. This is fiction about women and friendships, in the spirit of the Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood. A fun, fast summer read.

If you have any book recommendations please email them to [Jab33jab@yahoo.com](mailto:Jab33jab@yahoo.com)

## Scene One, Take One: DVD Review

Jean de Florette(1986)

An epic set close to the land, specifically the farm country of Provence. Land is the central issue around which the action flows. In the French countryside, Cesar, Yves Montand, and his nephew Ugolin, Daniel Auteuil, scheme to take over a neighbor's farm by preventing its natural spring from flowing, a water source that the new owner, Jean de Florette, Gérard Depardieu, requires for his crops. Their act of sabotage causes Jean, a sensitive dreamer, untold despair, but they persist with their plan to drive him out until events take a tragic turn in this timeless, and award-winning drama. In French with English subtitles.



Manon of the Spring(1987)

In the sequel to Jean de Florette, Manon, Emmanuelle Beart, the young daughter of Jean de Florette has grown up to be a beautiful young woman, discovers a way to get revenge against the men responsible for her father's death. She goes after them with a fierce vengeance worthy of her proud and courageous heritage. This is deeply compelling French drama and its visual beauty makes this a motion picture to savor. A fascinating tale of unrequited love and revenge. In French with English subtitles.



Any DVD recommendations please email them to [Jab33jab@yahoo.com](mailto:Jab33jab@yahoo.com)

# Just For You

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

### Who Ate the "S"

Last week I wrote a piece entitled "What's in a Number?" about my faux pas in my previous week's column about Catalina. As if my mistake wasn't enough in the Catalina issue, I noticed that the title read, "Tough Times Call for Drastic Measure." Measure??? Of course it should have read "Measures," which in fact, I had written. When I asked the Editor about it she said, "I wonder who ate the "S"? Wonder I did...

So many things in life just don't have logical explanations. Why is it that:

- The dryer sheet only works its way out of your slacks in front of total strangers, never when you are home alone.
- One or two socks go missing while doing the laundry. Never from the same pair, of course.
- When you're running late, your car keys are not in the spot where you usually put them.
- You sneeze just as you're applying mascara.
- The slice of bread you've just buttered and dropped lands on the floor butter-side down.
- The new box of tissues that you just brought home from the market lands in the toilet bowl instead of on the shelf above it.
- You accidentally tuck your skirt in your underpants when leaving a public restroom, never in the privacy of your own home.
- You realize the cement is wet only after you've taken several steps in it.
- And finally, how come the car horn only gets stuck in rush hour traffic? It's amazing how many one-finger salutes that elicits! Lip-reading isn't necessarily a plus in this case.

So, who in fact did eat the "S"? If I had to choose between: a) a total enigma, b) a mischievous Leprechaun, or c) human foibles, of course I would pick b), the wee lad who used to pitch Irish Spring soap. It makes for a more interesting story, sure 'n begorrah.



Pat Ostrye on.....

## Sounding Smart

I know very little about surfing the internet, an activity that certainly gets lots of attention these days, particularly if one is knowledgeable. However, recently I experienced a recurring and most frustrating sleepless night, common to many of us once in awhile: you know, the wheels keep going round producing reruns of the day's activities or concerns about what tomorrow's earth-shaking decisions might be.

What better time to get an education via the internet, noiselessly, as opposed to TV-watching! Although I'm familiar with the Home Page, I've never investigated any subject mentioned there, nor have I been curious enough about such intriguing things as "What's New Today" or "Recent What's New Stories", but "5 Words That Make You Sound Smart" - how intriguing is that!!! So that I don't get in trouble, this enlightening information is presented by Netscape Internet Service. I think I'm safe in quoting the first paragraph, just in case you missed this:

"Some of us are really smart, but many of us have to fake it. Faking it just got easier, thanks to a new book from the editors of the American Heritage Dictionaries called, "100 Words to Make You Sound Smart." Here are their five words: Epitome, Finagle, Gregarious, Panacea, Perfumery. They give the definition of each and ask you to check under which category you fall: 'All five were new to me' or 'I already sound smart, I knew all five of these words.' My



take is that any High School graduate would know these words, although sometimes we know the meaning but have difficulty putting the meaning into words.

Having felt so newly educated, I explored the same What's New Page from Netscape the next day. It seems that they only produce one such piece of enlightenment each day. This one was "What Word is Now in the Dictionary?" Again I quote the opening statement: "The editors at Merriam-Webster have added a very unusual word to the dictionary, ginormous". It is so unusual that it came out as misspelled on my computer. They go on to say that what makes it so unusual is that it isn't a real word, but an adjective meaning bigger than gigantic, bigger than enormous and ultimately praised as the best made-up word by Merriam-Webster in 2005.

I had never heard the word before but it isn't too hard to figure out what it would mean. On that same day, really, I heard it used by a TV journalist, proving that I'm probably the only one who is new at this kind of "surfing".

Pat Ostrye [postrye@netscape.com](mailto:postrye@netscape.com)

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## One of a Kind:

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Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

### Mary's Market in "The Canyon"

Apparently, you're just supposed to know. Perhaps it's a badge of residency, or seniority. When someone in Sierra Madre refers to "The Canyon," you're supposed to know where that is. It's not on any map I've seen of Sierra Madre. In fact, I can remember seeing an ad for Mary's Market when we first visited here in 2005, with the only address listed as "The Canyon." Now that a knowledgeable friend took me on her personal tour of favorite Sierra Madre locations, including "The Canyon," I can now find it and refer to it casually like one of the long time residents, too.

"There is no sign saying you've arrived in 'The Canyon,' so I'll start with directions for the twelve of us who have moved here in the past year or two. Take Mountain Trail North toward the mountains. Turn right at Sturtevant. Turn left at Woodland Drive. Drive SLOWLY around the tight curves to 561 Woodland. You've arrived at Mary's Market!

Now a bit of history. From 1906 through the 1950's, thousands of enthusiastic hikers and campers enjoyed area trails up to Mt. Wilson by vacationing in "The Canyon" and nearby. Eventually, quite a few cabins were built along Little Santa Anita Canyon and its creek. During this "great hiking era," the Red Car would bring tourists to town, and mule packers would assist them up to their camps. Apparently, a naturally filled swimming pool was created in the creek bed near the market. In 1922, a small store was built to serve these avid hikers and the cabins built along the creek. It became Mary's Market, after Mary Perkins, the Irish immigrant proprietor who spent 25 years tending to the needs of area tourists and those who eventually became full time residents by making the cabins year-round homes. Much of Mary's Market appears to be charmingly caught in a time warp. A true step back in time. The round stools at the counter are original, I understand. So are the early 1900's pictures of campgrounds and cabins from 60-80 years ago, as well as the old metal beverage signs.

For several years, Sally Follett owned this little store. Then her husband passed away earlier this year. Back in New Hampshire, Sally's nephew, Honoré Letourneau, prepared to attend the funeral. In the midst of preparations for the cross-country trip, conversation ensued between nephew and aunt about the status of the store. Sally planned other business ventures that would keep her from continuing on at Mary's. Within a few days, Letourneau's trip turned from a short-term quick trip to packing for the long-term and taking over Mary's Market.

This energetic, gregarious twenty-something young man seems to thrive on the 75 hours a week he spends here, with perhaps a little help from caffeinated coffee. After a short time here, he recruited another, equally engaging New Hampshire native and friend, Nathaniel Butler, to join him here. They've painted, reorganized and tweaked the menu offerings to reflect Letourneau's taste and experience.



New Mary's Market owner, Honoré Letourneau (Right) and Nathaniel Butler, both recently transplanted from New Hampshire to give their flavor to a Sierra Madre classic.

"My [Letourneau's] conception of LA was big city, no trees and lots of people. I found the opposite here. It's a quaint country setting. 'The Canyon' seems like a giant extended family. I came from a town where most everybody knew each other, so it feels very comfortable here. Both of us love the outdoors and hiking opportunities, though the hours we're putting in now don't allow for much free time. We're giving our all to the place."

Letourneau comments he was lucky enough to grow up with a stay-at-home mom who did a lot of baking. He brings that love

of baking to Mary's with FABULOUS scones and several cookie varieties (not at all on my diet but I had to try them). He often offers a World War 2 recipe of a fluffy chocolate oil cake without the eggs or butter that were rationed during that war. His two years in Hawaii working at a vegan grocery afforded him a real appreciation of the salad and veggie lifestyle, which he reflects in his menu. Saturday evenings feature what he calls the Smokeout. Pork

slow-cooked all day long becomes pulled pork sandwiches starting about 5:30 p.m. Steaks or chicken appear on Saturday night, too, with grilled vegetables filling out the plate.

Yet a lot remains the same. Busy breakfasts. Taco Tuesdays, of course, with a menu expanded to carne asada, chicken and beef tacos plus burritos at VERY affordable prices. Board games in the cabinet. The sound of the creek at the outdoor tables. Camaraderie and a small town feeling. Just come on up to "The Canyon." The secret's out.

Mary's Market The Canyon 561 Woodland Drive Sierra Madre 626-355-4534



Inside is a charming step back in time with old style counter and stools, board games and walls hung with historical photos and trail maps.

### A TRULY SECURE TRANSACTION!

By Donna Baker

If there were a health issue in your family, you would turn to your doctor with questions. Likewise, you would consult an attorney if you were facing a legal problem. Chances are, however, that you would first go online to any number of medical or legal websites to familiarize yourself with the issues and get enough information to begin an informed discussion with the professional.

Those websites won't illustrate how to perform surgery, or advise you how to conduct your case in court. That's up to the professional. The Internet plays a similar role in real estate. It's a place to discover information, but it doesn't replace the trust and service provided by an accomplished agent.

Nearly three-quarters of buyers these days use the Internet to begin their home search, and most of them eventually seek the assistance of a living real estate agent to consummate their purchase. They're not about to take a virtual tour of 264 Elmwood Drive, add it to their "shopping cart," and proceed to "secure checkout" to complete the sale.

Buying a home is not the same as buying airline tickets or DVDs. Real estate agents provide essential services to both buyers and sellers, marketing properties as unique as their owners. Don't short change yourself on the biggest transaction of your life. Seek the representation of a knowledgeable and experienced professional.



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# SPORTS

## Rotary Club of Monrovia Makes a BIG SPLASH

At SAFYMCA, Helps 135 Kids Learn Water Safety



The Rotary Club of Monrovia knows how to make a splash, and help save children from accidental drowning accidents. As sponsor of the Santa Anita Family YMCA's Summer SPLASH program, the Monrovia Rotary helped 135 third grade students from the Monrovia Unified School District, and their parents, learn how to be safe in and around water. At its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 31, Monrovia Rotary President, Dennis Franklin presented SAFYMCA CEO, Damon Colaluca with a SPLASH program sponsorship check of \$2,940.

### PCC Names PE Division's New Acting Dean/Athletic Director

Pasadena City College named Beverly Tate as its interim Dean/Athletic Director of the school's Physical Education Division. Tate took over for Skip Robinson who will continue as coach for the school's '07-'08 Cross Country and Track field programs.



## View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

## SOMETHING GOOD

There was a smile on the face of major league baseball this past week. The league finally had something to cheer and boast about. As articles were being written and commentators were pontificating baseball stood tall and strong, once again proclaiming it is America's past time. What caused this turn about? Two men one black, the other white, one an outfielder, the other an infielder, one played for the National League, the other the American League. Two of baseball's finest Tony Gwynn and Cal Ripken Jr were inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame as the class of 2007. Each was selected at their earliest possible year of eligibility. It has been said that they were selected as much for their character as their playing ability. And, playing ability they had boatloads.

Cal Ripken Jr. played in 2632 consecutive games, breaking the record that most thought would never be broken. When illness took Lou Gehrig out of the game he had played in 2130 consecutive games. When the number of games is stated at 2632 sounds impressive, but when you know that the number represents sixteen years of not missing a game then it becomes mind boggling. Then you have some concept of what this man did, and he did it for the same team year in and year out, the Baltimore, Orioles. However, Cal did not just have the streak he had over 3000 hits, 400 home runs, and he played shortstop with sure handed defense, not flashy just steady. Remember before Cal shortstops had to be short, it was thought that he was too tall (six - four) for the position. But his height gave him range

and depth not known to anyone before him. The modern day tall shortstop such as Jeter of the Yankees has Ripken to thank for he was the first.

Tony Gwynn was the San Diego Padres. He played for the same team for twenty years. Good years or lean years Gwynn was always the same, never demanding to be traded, never demanding simply day by day going about the business of playing baseball. He had over 3000 hits, and eight National League batting titles. He could hit, he seemed to be most dangerous when he had two strikes on him, and I sat at Dodger stadium many a night while Tony broke our hearts. During the strike shortened season of 1994 he flirted with that elusive 400 batting average. I once heard an interview with Tony where he spoke of seeking out Ted Williams, the greatest hitter of all times and the only man to hit 400 for a season. Tony spoke of Williams with such respect and difference. He said that Williams gave him a quick tip that made him a better hitter. As Gwynn spoke I got a small inkling of the bond that exist between hitters for as he spoke the respect that he felt for Ted Williams was evident.

But it was the character of both men that was cause for celebration. These men represent what it means to be a major leaguer; they receive over 97% of the vote to be in the Hall. One eligible voter said he was not going to vote for anyone during the steroid era. What a shame he missed an opportunity to acknowledge two that did it right, the chance to say Thank you Mr. Gwynn and Mr. Ripken for giving us two decades of fair play.

## Annual Passes May Be Pool's Winter Salvation

The Sierra Madre City Council approved the keeping the Sierra Madre Aquatic Center open during the off-season months between Labor Day and Thanksgiving contingent upon the sale of 60 (\$100) seasonal passes. The sale of these passes ensures that the pool would be sustaining itself during the off-season. The Aquatic Center has not been open in the off-season since 2003-2004 due to City budget cuts.

If the 60 passes are sold by September 3, 2007 the pool will be open Monday - Friday from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 - 2:00 pm. Swimmers will also be able to purchase daily admission for \$2.50 / person regardless of age.

Those interested in purchasing a pass should visit the Community & Personnel Services Department at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. For more information, please contact the Community & Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278.

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