



Mountain Views-Observer

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST - Sierra Madre Arcadia Pasadena Altadena and Monrovia

Saturday August 25 - August 31, 2007 Volume 1, No. 4

Elvis Was In The House



The Sierra Madre Rotary Club sponsored this weekend's Concert In The Park featuring the King (or at least a decent imposter) himself. Harry Shahaian (left) performed to a packed house at Memorial Park along with Roy Orbison's stand-in, Mark Barnett (not pictured).

Trish Pitrzak (bottom left) sold Sierra Madre All American City attire while others like Pax and Tom (above) danced the afternoon away. Elvis also had time for a little mixing and mingling.

Photos by Patricia Carpenter



Ad-Hoc Finance Committee Meets

City Releases Police Initiative Impartial Analysis

By Dean Lee and Susan Henderson

One thing was certain during Thursday night's meeting of the city's ad-hoc finance committee: somehow, somehow Sierra Madre will have to self impose taxes if it plans to keep essential services such as police and paramedics. However, many residents made it very clear that frivolous city spending should be eliminated first. The committee, which consists of Council Members John Buchanan and Kurt Zimmerman; City Treasurer Richard Mays; residents: Mike Comer, George Enyedi, Scott Hood, Dennis Keegan, and Tom Janzen; and staff liaison: Administrative Services Director Karin Schneider are charged with finding solutions for the city's financial crisis. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

This Thursday's meeting ended with acting City Manager Bruce Inman releasing an Impartial Analysis on the pending Police Initiative. The analysis, conducted by Inman, Sandra J. Levin, (City Attorney), Karin Schneider (Administrative Services Director), Toni Buckner (Director of Library Services), and Michelle Keith, (Director of Community and Personnel Services),

was commissioned by the City Council immediately after the proponents of the Police Initiative collected enough signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Although it appeared that no one was prepared to discuss the analysis in detail, what seemed to be troubling to many was the determination that, as written, the initiative would cause increased costs for public safety anywhere from \$759,000 to just over \$1.4 million per year. Inman said the analysis looked at how other city services would be impacted and what sources they now have available for funding.

The City Council is expected to set a date for the ballot measure at its next meeting. The initiative would require the City of Sierra Madre to raise the salaries of its officers to at least the lowest level paid by other departments in the San Gabriel Valley. The funding for such an increase is expected to come from the General Fund.

According to Inman, "We looked at some sources folks considered non-essential like the library, community services and some of our maintenance" adding later, "This is really a reference for the ad-hoc committee."

Former City Attorney, Michael Colantuono outlined the city's options for "revenue enhancement" a phrase councilmember Kurt Zimmerman vowed never to use saying "If it's a tax I will call it a tax."

Colantuono explained every option available to the city including Mello-Roos assessment districts and special taxes - none of which are a good source of funding for programs such as police he said. Special taxes under that law are imposed on

(continued on page 3)

Giving Others A Real McDonald Break

Area Residents Sponsor Dinner For Families At Pasadena's Ronald McDonald House

When Sierra Madre resident, Chris Bertrand, gets an idea, she definitely knows how to run with it. Recently in her column, "One of a Kind", Bertrand showcased the Ronald McDonald House in Pasadena. The Ronald McDonald House provides a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at Huntington Memorial Hospital. Bertrand was so moved by the plight of the families and the dedication of the staff that she decided to call a few of her friends to see what they could do. On this past Sunday, her efforts paid off. With the help of family and friends from as far away as Chicago and as near as Sierra Madre, dinner



Volunteers serve families of critical or terminally ill children on Sunday

Photo By Chris Bertrand

was prepared for 30 people, including children who currently reside at the facility. In addition, the group raised enough money to sponsor the House for ten days. (Continued on page 3)

THIS SATURDAY, STOP BY KERSTING COURT AND HELP MISS JULIA HIBNER, 7, RAISE MONEY FOR THE LOS ANGELES MIDNIGHT MISSION.

Miss Hubner will be selling lemonade in front of Washington Mutual between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. as part of the "Take A Stand" charity program. Julia lives in Sierra Madre and attends Sierra Madre Elementary School.

Two Historic Pasadena Area Theatres Close



Sierra Madre and Hastings Ranch residents may feel the impact of the closing of this local movie house the most.

Story and Photos By Dean Lee

Within a week of the announcement that the historic Rialto Theatre in South Pasadena would close forever, after having sold their final movie ticket last Sunday night, so also goes the Pacific's Hastings 8 on Rosemead in Pasadena, set to close this Sunday, exactly one week later, and to be razed shortly thereafter. (Continued Page 4)



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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 90s	Lows 60s
Monday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Tuesday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



City of Sierra Madre August Events

20 - Healthy Family Fun 5-Park Environmental Challenge - 9:00 AM - Sierra Vista Park
26 - Concert in the Park: Nature and Pines - 6 - 8:30 PM - Memorial Park Bandshell
27 - City Flag Order Forms Due to Community & Personnel Services Office
28 - Summer Fun in the Park: Creative Arts Group - 9:30 AM - Memorial Park Bandshell
31 - City Flag Event

Save The Date

Thursday, September 6, 2007

The Wisteria Thrift Shop, run by the Sierra Madre Women's Club will have their grand re-opening.

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The shop is located at the rear of "Essick House" their historic clubhouse at 550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre.

The shop has been closed during the summer for a major renovation and enlarging to double its size. A bright, roomy facility will now greet thrifty shoppers. The club is celebrating its Centennial, has operated the shop for over 50 years. For more information call the shop at 626-355-7739

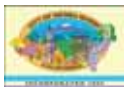
Please sign up!

The Fire Safe Council needs volunteers for the Red Flag Patrol.

Call 355-0741, 355-7135 or 355-9530

or email:

smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.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. Deadline to order: August 27, 2007. (626) 355-5278

Summer 2007 Concerts in the Park Series

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

FINAL EVENT

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



BARGAIN BOOKS
TABLE AT SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY
"Fall Into" A Good Book

Sponsored By
The Friends of the SM Library
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Th and Fr
Noon to 6 p.m., and

Saturday
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. please visit the Library's web site at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us or call (626) 355-7186

MountainViews-Observer	
THIS WEEK	
1	Police Initiative Targeting Bicycles Elvis Was Here
2	Weekly Highlights Community Notices
3	Thank You Rubber Ducky Caution: It's Hot Outside Rich Johnson
4	OBSERVER PASADENA: Bring St. Luke's Back
5	Police Blotter Fire Safe Council Tips SMEAC Did You Know?
6	Arts & Architecture Santa Barbara Museum
7	Miss Teen Achiever Trish's Truth
8	OPINION: Susan Henderson Sir Eric Returns
9	Legal Notices
10	TechKnowledge WorkForce Tech Daddy
11	Bob Eklund: Looking Up Wild, Wild West What's New At Google?
12	Peter Dills: Table For Two Vince Pirolli on Wine
13	Jeff's Pics Pat Birdsall Pat Ostrye
14	Chris Bertrand: One Of A Kind
15	Pros To Know
16	The Real Issue

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Pasadena 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
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California Realty

SIERRA MADRE - \$1,698,000

Possibilities abound! #1 - Owner Occupancy with income: live in the front home which features 3 bedrooms, 3 baths and a family room with 2,522 sq ft and rent the 2 units in the back. The unit downstairs is 1 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath with 1,156 sq ft and the unit upstairs is 1 bedroom, 3/4 bath with 1,020 sq ft. There is a 2-car detached older garage, two 2-car carports, a 2-story barn with parking for 2 cars and a workshop, a saloon and guest quarters upstairs with a 3/4 bath. #2 - Income Property: purchase as income property & rent all three of the units. #3 - Develop: there is a possibility of splitting the lot into three parcels - buyer to verify with the City. Reni Rose 626-355-8400

ALTADENA - \$1,298,000

Gracious 1919 Colonial with impressive detailing throughout and situated on a quiet street just 1 1/2 blocks from the Altadena City Club. This well maintained home offers a spacious FDR, Den, 5 bedrooms, 2 7/5 baths, a 2,958 sq ft home and a 15,747 sq ft lot. The kitchen has been updated with granite counters, new appliances and new flooring. There is a sports court as well as a spa in the back yard. Other amenities include: French doors and windows, new garage door, large attic storage, circular drive in front and back of home, lemon trees and new exterior paint. Reni Rose 626-355-8400

SOUTH PASADENA \$1,124,000

The 2,681 sq ft, charming traditional home features a spacious step-down LFR w/ fireplace, large bay window, crown molding, recessed lighting and dining area. There is a delightful, new kitchen w/ granite counters, new stainless-steel appliances. The gracious master suite offers a fireplace, his and hers closets, French doors that open to a large tiled patio with jacuzzi spa and an in-suit view. Other features include: den off the kitchen, 5 bdrms, 4 baths, 3 fireplaces, hardwood flooring downstairs, newer carpeting in bdrms upstairs and 1 bdm downstairs, dual CA & heat, updated windows, ceiling fans, new paint, surfaced patio deck. Easy commute to USC Medical Center. Reni Rose 626-355-8400

PASADENA - \$2,750

This charming Spanish home is in great condition and offers spacious rooms, covered ceiling in the living room and the formal dining room; the living room offers a fireplace and access to a large covered porch; there are beautiful wood floors in the hallway and bedrooms; French doors and windows; an updated kitchen with granite counter, stove and tile flooring; a charming breakfast room with built-in hutch; both bathrooms are new; a separate laundry room; central air and heat; manual sprinklers in the front yard; a detached 2-car garage and a basement. Landlord kindly requests: at least a 1 year lease, no pets and a non-smoker. Ideally located just across the street from Pasadena City College and just blocks from Cal Tech! Reni Rose 626-355-8400

SIERRA MADRE - \$1,999,888

Known as part of "The Jamison 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: 9 foot ceilings, custom milled moldings, wainscoting and mantles, formal entry and dining room with columns, 3 fireplaces, new kitchen as of 2003 with: walk-in pantry, Viking stove, double ovens, warming drawer, convection oven, imported refrigerator, trash compactor, Bosch dishwasher and a wine refrigerator, solid wood interior doors, 13,779 sq. ft. lot with romantic, custom built gazebo and 3 car garage. Reni Rose 626-355-8400

SIERRA MADRE \$699,000

Centrally located just blocks from downtown Sierra Madre, this home is situated on a large corner lot of 8,000 sq. ft. Home is 1952 sq. ft. with three bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. There is a screened in porch entry featuring a rock handscaped waterfall pond. The grand living room offers a Tudor inspired exposed-beam, vaulted ceiling and is open to the kitchen. There is a sauna with a spa and a wood stove and shower. Bonus room off garage has a half bath. Washer, dryer, refrigerator and stove, all included! 217 W. Montecito Ave. Reni Rose 626-355-8400

SIERRA MADRE \$749,000

Lovely traditional home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths in move-in condition. The newer kitchen offers double ovens, built-in microwave, decorative sink, terrazzo flooring and white tile counters. Other features include: new bamboo floors, crown molding, baths have been beautifully updated, central air and heat, updated electrical panel, all bedrooms have large closets with organizers, one bedroom currently being used as a den features French doors that open to the rear yard and the sparkling pool. Reni Rose 626-355-8400

Pet Peeves

By Rich Johnson

Have you ever counted the number of pet peeves that really bother you? For those of you who don't know what a pet peeve is, it's a "minor" annoyance that can instill great frustration in an individual. MINOR? Whoever wrote that definition really bugs me.

Okay, Rich, calm yourself down. Take a deep breath. One more. Now repeat after me, "No, they are not all out to get me." Breathe! Okay? Feel better? Continue, but remember, I'll be watching you.

Your intrepid columnist was motivated to write this column because of two pet peeves that impacted me back to back within minutes. First one: On Sunday I received a severe verbal thrashing while listening to talk radio. No, not from the talk show host... from the commercials!! Are you familiar with the term "commercial load" in radio? It's the amount of time radio stations can hammer you with commercials in one hour of broadcasting. Tell me, has anyone you know actually ever got their mattress FREEEEEEEE from Larry and his accountant? Larry, your accountant isn't the only one you're killing. And television is no better. I remember watching television with my daughter one evening and counting 14 commercials back to back to back to back and so on between the programming. But I digress.

While I was getting an ear bashing listening to radio commercials I was also parking my car in a public parking lot in Studio City. This ushers in pet peeve number 2: Have you noticed how parking spaces are narrowing? If you haven't, rush outside and take a look at the sides of your car. This shows us how municipal government doesn't work. They pass building codes ordering builders to have X number of parking spaces to serve



the size of a building. This forces the builders to either build less office space or make the absolute smallest spaces they can get away with. (I secretly think builders are in cahoots with city officials who own auto body shops. Anyway that's my theory.)

Other pet peeves: shopping carts with one bad or loud wheel; people who pull their shopping cart into the check out line and continue shopping leaving the cart in the line; having a retail sales clerk who's taking care of me answer the phone and help a caller.

Oh, and the newest biggie: Commercials while waiting for the movie to start in the theaters. No, the slides on the screen don't bother me so much. It's the six or seven commercials prior to the previews. If the movie cost a buck to get in I'd live with it. But at \$8 or \$9 bucks and then to get the commercials represents the epitome of audacity.

I wonder: What if we started calling these companies who glut us with radio, TV and theater ads and tell them we are boycotting their products as a protest to the bombardment. By the way, if you have any pet peeves, I would love to hear about them.

Email me at Rich@versatape.com

Oh, and have a nice day, friend!

SCLT Bring More Family Fare to Sierra Madre



Another round of **FAIRYTALES AND FANTASY III**, denoting the third year of this family music entertainment, is coming to Sierra Madre's Memorial Park on Sunday, August 26, at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the City of Sierra Madre and by Southern California Lyric Theater (SCLT), the free concert of musical fun showcases selections from Broadway, plus operettas and several Disney favorites.

Alison Kalmus, founder and artistic director of SCLT, is also directing this production.

Bring your dinner, blankets and lawn chairs for seating on the green, and prepare to be entertained with this musical extravaganza.

Old Town Monrovia's Third and Final SUMMER ART WALK Local artists Live music Children's Art Walking Gallery Tour From 6:30-9:30 p.m. on August 25th, 2007

Art Walks will also feature a tour of Old Town Monrovia's Galleries, where local merchants will be providing complimentary food and beverages for patrons. Young artists, ages 4 to 18, will also be featured.

McDONALD (continued from page 1)

Donors to the House through Bertrand's efforts include:

Chris and Dick Bertrand	Sierra Madre,
Jana Cervanka	Sierra Madre
Paul Mansour of Best Buy Drugs	Sierra Madre
Susan Henderson	Sierra Madre
Mountain Views-Observer Newspaper	
Adela and Matt Lassen	Chicago, Illinois
Pat Birdsall	Sierra Madre
Ken Good	Sunland
Jeri Singer	Sierra Madre
Jan Thornton	Pasadena
Mary Thomas	Sierra Madre
Dr. Sharon Yee	Sierra Madre
The Ohlmeyer Real Estate Team	Danville
The Sherman Lee Family	Monrovia
Olivia Lee	Monrovia
Kim and Ron Beegle	Arcadia
Albertson's of East Pasadena	
Hope Smith	Sierra Madre

It is difficult to imagine the challenges these children and their families have to face. The Ronald McDonald House does provide, however, needed relief. Many of the children are from foreign countries and other states. The expense of living outside the home in order to be with their critically or terminally ill children would be unbearable. Currently at the House is a family who had a healthy two year old until May of this year when the child was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma, a cancer of the nervous system. Another child, 21 months old, has been in the hospital over a year.

There were only four children at the event, as many were confined to area hospitals. The Mexican buffet was also available for families who returned from the hospital later in the evening, or for lunches the next day. Since 1974, the program has helped over 10 million families around the world. The Pasadena House, adjacent to Huntington Memorial Hospital has been in existence since 2004 and has helped over 500 families. For more information on how you can help, contact director, Marchelle Sellers, at 626-585-1588 or go to www.PasadenaRMH.org.

-Susan Henderson/MVO

ANALYSIS (continued from page 1)

property owners within a district seeking public financing through the sale of bonds. Generally the purpose is to finance specific public improvements such as streets, sewage and schools.

Colantuono said not to think of bonds as a form of revenue but as debt. He indicated that Mello-Roos could be used for police but it is not the best option. It requires an approval by 2/3rds of the city registered voters. Colantuono favored options which only required a 50 percent plus 1 voter approval.

He was also very fond of city fees that need no public approval but said they unfortunately can only be used for special purposes and were limited to the amount of the need such as printing documents. "People usually don't feel they should pay a fee for police," he said.

He also suggested looking at home based businesses as a source to tax saying the Sierra Madre had a fair share of them but once again said it would not amount to much. He said by examining some of these alternatives the city would be

sending a message that it had explored all options before asking the residents for a vote.

Colantuono believes that general taxes such as property and utility user taxes are the most stable way to increase revenue. He feels they make the ideal source of funding for larger programs. Such taxes, however, are generally opposed by residents.

The public remarked on the amount of legal fees the city pays annually and the amount paid to consultants. Fay Angus asked who put the night's agenda together after a number of committee members said they were absent the meeting before. Residents claimed the prior meeting was also only about raising taxes.

Zimmerman said he would listen to anyone's concerns about wasted spending or philosophical arguments about taxes but said he did not want to hear people say they "just don't like to pay them." He then gave out his phone number 626 355-4395 and said anyone from the community could call.

Billy To The Rescue



Goats Begin Clearing Dry Brush from Duarte Hills)

DUARTE - Goats being released from a holding pen in the Duarte foothills to begin their 12-hour workday clearing tinder dry brush from the hillsides. The Duarte City Council hired Chino-based Ranchito Tivo Boer Goats to clear approximately 13 acres around homes adjacent to the open space areas of the city. Some areas have not been cleared or burned in 25 years. Brush clearance will continue through fall. More on Page 11

Officials Warn Residents About Heat

By Teresa Baxter

The continued heat wave, with temperatures expected to rise above 100 degrees in the surrounding desert, mountain and valley areas of Los Angeles County, has prompted the Pasadena Fire Department to remind residents to take precautions. Prolonged exposure in the current weather conditions may cause dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and in severe cases, heat stroke.

"Symptoms of dehydration and heat cramps include dizziness, fatigue, faintness, headaches, muscle cramps and increased thirst," said Pasadena Fire Marshall Mark Fasick. "It is recommended that individuals with these symptoms be taken to a cooler, shaded place and given water and sports drinks." If there is no such place to avoid the elements, Fasick urges residents to head to the Rose Bowl which offers a "cooling center that consists of large canopies and water misters made available to the public." More acute symptoms, such as diminished judgment, disorientation, pale and clammy skin, a rapid and weak

pulse, or fast and shallow breathing may indicate heat exhaustion or impending heat stroke and require immediate medical attention. Individuals with heart disease, asthma or other lung diseases should minimize outdoor activity, as poor air quality can make people even more susceptible to heat-related illness.

Fasick anticipates that there will be a slight dip in temperatures in the upcoming weeks, but warns that "a slightly cooler condition does not mean that it is acceptable to leave children or pets in closed vehicles." Children, elderly people, or pets should never be left unattended in closed vehicles, since temperatures can quickly rise to life-threatening levels and could possibly lead to a felony conviction in the state of California.

The Pasadena Health Department has also issued other advice to manage the heat: wear light, loose-fitting clothing, drink water often, avoid unnecessary exertion such as vigorous exercise if you are outside, and most importantly, stay out of the sun if you don't need to be.

Santa Anita Family YMCA Extends Thanks To Community

By Teresa Baxter

Despite soaring temperatures, the community united at the local Santa Anita Family YMCA swimming pool last Saturday for an afternoon of festivities that put the "fun" back in fundraising. The Santa Anita Family YMCA raised more than \$6000 at the annual Rubber Duck Dunk. The objective was for participants to adopt a duck that might possibly be selected for the grand prize of a vacation on the Colorado River, a prize won by the Monrovia Rotary.

"It was sunny and hot, but many people in our community came out to support our event," said YMCA Development Director, Cheryl Reynolds.

Reynolds felt that organizers were quite successful at "providing an opportunity to raise money that will go directly back into our programs." This year's organizers were led by a committee consisting of





MountainViews-Observer PASADENA

Citizens Want Unoccupied St. Luke Medical Center To Function Again



Stories and Photo By Dean Lee

No one disagrees that more medical emergency rooms are needed everywhere, with the closing of 11 in the last five years throughout Southern California, but a local group, Emergency Care Now, is advocating addressing a direct need in East Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre —more specifically to reopen St. Luke Medical Center as an Urgent Care Center. St. Luke's is located at 2632 East Washington Blvd.

"There is no question that as one hospital closes, even if it seems far away, it impacts the whole health system," said Takashi Wada, health officer for Pasadena. "There is definitely a domino effect."

Takashi also reminds us that opening a new emergency department, or expanding one such as Huntington Memorial Hospital's 22,120 square foot proposed addition to their department, is expensive. He said reopening St. Luke's as an emergency facility was not realistic. "It closed because of funding," he said. "So

it would cost even more now to operate."

Huntington officials said \$34 million was being set aside for the expansion of their new emergency department, set to open in 2013.

"There is a huge difference between Urgent Care and Emergency Care," said Roberta Marti, the Chair for Emergency Care Now.

Emergency care requires a license, where urgent care does not, she explained, implying Wada did not understand the problem. Wada said the only way to ease hospital overcrowding was with universal health care. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has been fiercely advocating universal health care by mandating that everyone be insured. Schwarzenegger has been calling overcrowded hospitals a "hidden tax."

Marti did not disagree with universal health care, but said the issue was a

lack of medical facilities north of the 210 freeway. Two-thirds of Pasadena's population lives north of the freeway, she noted.

When the hospital closed in 2003, Marti said the emergency room was torn up and partly removed so any emergency care facility would have to start from scratch, which means having to be re-licensed, where an urgent care would not. An emergency care center also has to have operating rooms and beds available.

"An urgent care is a perfect match," Marti said. "They still have x-ray equipment and other things that would make the transition seamless."

Caltech, last week, officially announced plans for the outright sale or lease of St. Luke Medical Center. Caltech spokesperson, Jill Perry, said the real estate firm of Cushman & Wakefield is representing them in the transaction.

"This all comes down to what Caltech does; this is in their hands," Marti said. "It now depends on who they sell to, but I have always felt they are on our side."

Perry said the school did not want the property to lie fallow. The most likely potential uses for the property, Perry said, are as corporate and medical offices or as a continuing care retirement community, or a combination of these. Bids for the property will be taken over the next six weeks.

"We would like to see low income senior housing; in fact I was taking to an 85-year-old man and his wife who said they would love to live there," Marti said.

Emergency Care Now, as a group, is

asking that St. Luke house an urgent care center and/or other multi-purpose facilities, such as satellite nursing/dental classes, senior activities; a consortium of clinics or other human service facilities. Some said any use other than as a medical center would require a zoning change by the city, something they threatened to oppose.

Marti said the group had gathered 2,000 signatures showing support for the uses including support by a number of medical offices and pharmacies in the area.

Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department Battalion Chief, Steve Heydorff, said the paramedics in his department would not transport patients to an urgent care facility. Wada also said that laws define where a patient can go; anyone who calls 911 with an emergency is automatically sent to a hospital. Pasadena and other cities have said they would transport patients with minor injuries to an urgent care unit.

"We have always gone to Arcadia and Huntington," Heydorff said. "Although, the real impact here is the closing of Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center, even though that's far away."

Marti said ambulance diversions from Huntington Hospital to Glendale, Arcadia, or San Gabriel occur 40 percent of the time and five-hour waits at Huntington are common.

Perry said they purchased the 13-plus acre property and buildings in July 2003 as a potential location for stand-alone, large-scale research programs. Two research groups have been using the property she said. Caltech has also rented the building for filming purposes. Built in 1933 in the Art Deco style, she added that the costs of renovation have not made St. Luke as good a location as an addition to the Caltech campus as had been originally projected.

"Weak managed care reimbursements have made it impossible for a small community hospital like St. Luke to survive," commented Phyllis Bushart, former St. Luke Medical Center's chief executive officer, at the time the hospital originally closed.

THEATRES (continued from page 1)



Landmark's Rialto

The Rialto was about half full during the last movie showing at 9:30 p.m. "The Simpson's Movie," Pacific's Hastings 8 is playing the Simpson's as one of their last movie showings, as well.

With no official "last show" for employees at the Rialto, most of Sunday night's attendees were both current and former theater staff.

Christian Rosato, had not worked at the Rialto in the last two years but, having been an employee for eight years, she said she felt compelled to come for the last show, "I know everybody and so this is kind of sad."

"We had a lot of memories here," said, Steve Frazier, who had operated the two reel projectors and the now more modern single, "platter system," since 1980.

"The most fun, I think, we had was screening the movies with no one in the theatre. We would get a few beers and watch the movies," he said.

Built in 1923 as a movie palace, the theatre still had remnants of Hollywood's earlier "age of the silver screen," including the organ pipes used during that time. The organ itself had been moved to the Egyptian Theater in Hollywood for a few years before finally being placed in a local area museum.

The very rare WurliTzer Style 216 Theatre Organ was removed from the Rialto after the theatre was destroyed by fire in the 1970s. Employees were unclear, but said they thought the organ was now at the Meridian Iron Works Museum in South Pasadena.

They were also unclear of the future of the theatre, saying they hoped someone would buy and restore it, although the estimated cost for doing so would be well over \$1 million. There had been a number of attempts to restore the Rialto, including one by George Wright who made the theatre famous with a concert series in early 1970's, using the organ.

"It's not going to open to the public, that's the big difference," said Andrew Noice, a long time employee of the Rialto. "They haven't told us anything, except that it can now be rented out."

He also said his job ended that night. "We all found out about this two weeks ago, tonight, exactly," he said. Frazier said in recent years there has been a steady decline in ticket sales for all theatres.

Owned by Landmark Theatres, employees also said it was always known as the "redheaded step child," with no money ever invested in it. At one point they said the movie, "The English Patient," was shown for nine months straight just to keep the theatre open.

They also said they had only seen it entirely filled once, during a showing of "The Goonies" in the early 1990's. The theatre holds 1,200 people, when the balcony is open.

With all of the intricate carving of gargoyles and other dark creatures on the theatre's walls, the Rialto has been an almost surreal experience for Saturday midnight showings of the Rocky Horror Picture Show, a staple

diet of the theatre's existence. All showings of the cult classic had been canceled since the announcement, according to Noice.

Pacific's Hastings 8

Dupe Bosu, an account executive for JS2 Communications said, on behalf of Pacific Theatres, that it is common practice in the movie theater industry to close older locations due to declining attendance. Pacific Theatres had been operating the Hastings 8 since 1985 and decided not to renew the lease.

As with the Rialto, The Hastings 8 is also a historic building in its own right. It was one of the very first multi-screen cinemas in the area, after original single large screen was split into two smaller ones in the early 1980s, and another building with six more theatres was added later. Some said that, in its time, the single screen theatre was the largest around.

According to cinematreasures.org, the Pacific's Hastings 8, then known as the "Hasting Theater," was one of only a few "reverse" or "backwards" theatres in the world. As the audience entered from the front of the theatre, they faced the projection booth and found the screen to their backs. This construction, in some cases, was demanded by a site's topography.

Hastings was the only theatre of this kind in California, with only 10 reverse theatres ever built in the United States, according to the website. The Hasting Theater opened in 1972.

One longtime Sierra Madre resident said they remembered, back before the movie house was built, when the location was the Hastings Drive-in.

"It was a fun place to be," said one resident who asked not to be identified. "None of the shopping center was there. The drive-in had a playground to bring the kids to and the teenagers would stash their friends in the trunks of their cars to sneak in."

Another resident added, "If it wasn't for those drive-ins, half today's population would not be here."

They also said they remembered back to when the Sierra Madre Playhouse was also a movie theatre, lamenting that it's too bad the old theatres are closing.

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

Sunday, August 12th:

Tuesday, August 14th:

Wednesday, August 15th:Thursday, August 16th

Friday, August 17th:

Saturday, August 18th

Shedding Some Light

Time Magazine/ Sierra Club

Sierra Madre Police Put Cyclists on Notice



"There is no cost to the city for this," he added.



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Arts & Architecture

By Virginia Olive Hoge

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art

Santa Barbara has a beautiful art museum, right in the center of its historic downtown -- the Santa Barbara Museum of Art -- that is worth a visit! It is a very nice small museum with great care taken to display the art for excellent results. And something stands right next to the museum that is worth a trip by itself: one of the great Myron Hunt's masterpieces, his 1926 retail/office building "La Arcada" which (lucky for them) set the tone for the whole city's Mediterranean look. Hunt is memorialized there by a bronze plaque (hello, Pasadena city planners...), which was a nice touch, but the contemporary entry way signage ought to be replaced one day as it is not up to the quality of this great building.

The museum has some great paintings in its permanent collection by some of my favorite painters. They have George Bellows (1882-1925) there! Bellows' too-short life was bookmarked by his strong social conscience, fed by deep feeling, which shows up again and again on his canvases. I had never seen the great painting they have here - named "Steaming Streets" (1908). It shows a horse losing control of itself in the middle of a crowded, snowy and slippery lower-east-side New York winter street - suddenly a mortal danger to everyone standing nearby (a lot of people in 1908). A handler stands to the left and desperately tries to control the horse. No one has before or since painted the lower-east side as well as Bellows did, capturing its smokey-grey color and mood perfectly! And that is exactly what he does in this painting -- he captures a moment in time in its full blood and takes us back to that instant.

They have one of Monet's 1900 "Waterloo Bridge" series (painted when he was 60 years old). Enough said!

They have a beautiful painting by the inconsistent Georgia O'Keefe (1887-1986) who shows herself at her finest here (she lived for 98 years and so she is forgiven a few clunkers!). Named "Dead Cottonwood"



George Inness
"Morning, Catskill Valley", 1894
Oil on canvas, 35 3/8 x 53 1/4"
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Mrs. Sterling Morton to the Preston Morton Collection
1960.66

(she was an incredible painter of bark), it exhibits her extraordinary dexterity and clarity as a painter that is unrivaled at its finest.

But best of all, they have an Inness, and it is a great one. George Inness (1825-1894) is one of the greatest landscape painters of all time. Here they have a late work painted in 1894, the year of his death. His mature work is his best and in it he merged all of his considerable spiritual searching (he was very fond of the Christian mystic Swedenborg and wrote many of his own philosophical/mystical papers, most of which are sadly - and carelessly - lost) along with his years of development and experimentation as an oil painter (his use of linseed oil, for instance, is extraordinary). This too was his favorite landscape, to which he returned time and again, the Catskill and Pocano mountain regions of New York and New Jersey. The season of year (the fall) also speaks hauntingly of his own imminent death. This beautiful painting is a treasure and I urge you to visit it.

One day, I would also love to see more Inness works in our local museums - this is not a acquisition they will ever be "sorry" for!
Museum Hours: Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm,
Closed Mondays
Admission: Adults \$9, Seniors \$6, Students \$6, Under 6 free dmission free every Sunday

In My Opinion



Back-To School...Back-To-Blaming? Or Time To Make Parents Accountable

By Steve Tobia

The debate over the quality and effectiveness of our public education system has been taking place for more than a quarter century in almost every state and school district. Unfortunately, politicians and other advocates continue to sidestep the most fundamental problem of our urban public school system - parental responsibility and accountability.

Well-documented research over the past several decades clearly demonstrates the correlation between success in the classroom and parental involvement, however there is zero accountability or enforcement for parents.

Basically, *in my opinion*, we have abdicated parental responsibility and accountability to the government and teachers. Somehow, we have become a society where personal responsibility and accountability are no longer the prime reasons for personal failures. The illustrations of people failing to take responsibility continue to mount on a

daily basis, with people pointing fingers at someone else, rather than themselves. People and kids are getting fatter because they choose to eat greasy fast food seven days a week--not because of food makers. Kids are failing in schools and dropping out--not because of teachers.

The failure of educating and training our children is a complex set of issues and policies that we have allowed to develop over the past quarter century that now requires some radical changes.

Will The Pasadena School Board Assume True Leadership?

First, nowhere in our Constitution do we require people who choose to bear children to take full and complete responsibility of their children through the legal age of 18 or 21. Period. Yet, we hold people accountable for taxes, car registrations, Social Security registration, and swift legal action for breaking any law, even parking fines.

Second, parents are not required by law to provide and guarantee each of their children a complete and full education with personal sanctions against parents for failure to maintain their children's educational progress. Yet, we have sanctions for not mowing lawns, maintaining car insurance or completing IRS tax forms.

Third, parents are not required to allocate a specific amount of time and resources at their children's school and extra-curricular activities. Parental involvement is not a luxury but a requirement to complete the bond between home and school. Yet, we are required to go

(continued on page 8)

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The Gingerbread Lady

Now Playing at the Sierra Madre

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Evy Meara, a cabaret singer and recovering alcoholic, returns home from rehab, to her loyal, but oddball, friends and teenage daughter, Polly. Polly, a child of divorce who has been living with her Dad, wants to "come home." At the brink of womanhood, she needs her mom. But as the play evolves, Polly finds herself giving more care than she receives.

Directed by Linda Rand, Neil Simon's fans need not worry. Beyond its substantive content, The Gingerbread Lady has plenty of Simon's humor and iconic one-liners to keep us engaged throughout. The play runs from August 17th through September 22nd.

You can reserve your tickets by calling 626-256-3809, then pay for and pick up no later than 15 minutes before the play, or buy your tickets online at www.sierramadrepayhouse.org so you can wait serenely past both line and box office. Adults: \$20, Seniors (65+) and Students (12-18): \$17; Children 12 and under: \$12

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TRISH's TRUTH

What Goes Around Comes Around

By Trisha Collins

With the upcoming school year around the corner, many teens are doing what they do best: shopping! In high school, clothes classify you before anyone even knows your name, so naturally you want to make a good first impression. That's why back to school shopping time is the most crucial time of the summer. Sure, it's mostly the girls that stress out about this type of thing, but I can name a few guys that care just as much.

Fashion. One teenager says fashion is: "Ever changing and always up on the 'latest.'" I wouldn't exactly call it the "latest." Check any Seventeen magazine and you'll be updated on exactly what's "in" and "fresh" in today's clothing. Turn on any '80s episode of "The Cosby Show" or "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air" and you'll see the same thing. And yes, that was over 20 years ago, yet that attire is on the runway as we speak. The inspiration for the future had to come from somewhere, and so designers look in the past.

Many styles are coming back from when our parents were teenagers like us. All kinds of items such as retro sneakers, leggings/tights, skinny jeans, and over-sized belts can be found in any 1985 high school yearbook, from "back in the day." The other day I was looking in my aunt's high school pictures; she had a shirt that was like one that I had! That just goes to show how what you think is original, was actually original 20 years ago.

Music also goes back into the past for inspiration, too. Many rappers use clips and beats of old songs to make new songs or remixes. Many of them become hits, and few know the artist of the original, or even that there ever was an original.

When Justin Timberlake sang "What Goes Around", he wasn't lying. Everything goes in one big circle, so it's only a matter of time until today's fashion becomes yesterday's fashion. By the time this generation has grown up, this retro 80's style will be what all the teens will be wearing. So save those orange and pink converse, and store the plastic jewelry, because it will be back!

Miss American Teen Achieve & Miss California Teen Achieve Pageant 2007

By Rudy Lira Kusuma

Arcadia, CA - The Miss American Teen Achieve and Miss California Teen Achieve Pageant were held on August 10 - 12, 2007. The 700 Huntington Hotel hosted both the orientation and the entire Sunday Pageant. The Embassy Suites Hotel hosted the Coronation Dinner and Leadership Breakfast. ERA Oasis Real Estate & Mortgage Company was the venue for interviews, where the contestants met the judges on a personal one-on-one basis.



The Miss American Teen Achieve and Miss California Teen Achieve Pageant is dedicated to promoting self-esteem in each of our Honor Court delegates. Each young lady has been gifted with so many wonderful qualities. These pageants endeavor to foster personal growth, academic and community involvement, as well as talent development among our contestants. We hope each contestant makes lasting friends, develops self-confidence, and learns valuable interviewing and presentation skills through her involvement in our program. "Every young lady is a 'winner' in our book and we hope that shows in our program," added Miss Marlene Martin, Director & Pageant Organizer.



The judges for The Miss American Teen Achieve and Miss California Teen Achieve Pageant 2007 include: The Honorable Mayor Judy Wong from the city of Temple City, Acting Coach Mr. Ken Mulroney, Talent Agent Ms. Stacy Reyes, Associate Producer of Rick Dees Weekly Top 40 Ms. Cecilia Jativa, Miss America International 2007 and recipient of 2007 President George Bush Gold Medal Volunteer Service Award Ms. Tram Ho, and Miss Teen Asia USA

2007 Ms. Jessica Cynthia Mogi. Also appearing during the interview session in ERA Oasis Realty office was the holder of the dual titles of Miss Asia USA 2007 and Miss Thai New Year USA 2007, Ms. Katherine Siteri.



The contestants for 'Miss American Teen Achieve' and 'Miss California Teen Achieve Pageant' 2007 were: Miss Jr. Teen La Puente Yesenia Cervantes, Miss Jr. Teen San Gabriel Annee Vong, Miss Jr. Teen Ohio Corri Camp, Miss Jr. Teen Los Angeles Alexis Ilene Franco, Miss Jr. Teen Corona Londonn Winters, Miss Teen Montebello Jessica Castro, Miss Teen Los Angeles Marilyn Martinez, Miss San Gabriel Teen Jenny Tran, Miss Regional California Teen Lisa Duong, Miss Pasadena Teen Byanca de Aguiro, Miss Hollywood Teen Summera Howell, Miss Teen Wyoming Jennifer Martoglio, Miss Teen El Monte Elizabeth Garcia, Miss Teen Temple City Tiffany O'Leary, Miss Teen Texas Sara Sandoval, Miss California Teen Achieve Janae Lynn Blackwell, Miss San Francisco Teen Lena Ren, Miss Teen San Diego Carolyn Tremaine.



Miss Teen Temple City Tiffany O'Leary is not only a beautiful young lady, but is also a firm, soft-spoken, intelligent, very friendly and polite person; with Rudy Lira Kusuma, at ERA Oasis Realty.

Rudy Lira Kusuma is the VP-Marketing with ERA Oasis Realty & Oasis International Mortgage in Arcadia. rudyk@eraoasis.net or 310-597-9488. More photos from 'Miss American Teen Achieve' and 'Miss California Teen Achieve Pageant' available at <http://photos.rudylikusuma.com>



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MountainViews-Observer

OPINION

MountainViews-Observer

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MVN (Mountain Views) now known as MountainViews-Observer has been adjudicated as a newspaper of General Circulation for the County of Los Angeles in Court Case No. C5004724, for the City of Sierra Madre, in Court Case C5005940 and for the City of Monrovia in Court Case No. C5006089 and is published every Friday at 37 Auburn Avenue, Suite 8, Sierra Madre, California, 91024. All contents are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without the express written consent of the publisher. All rights reserved. All submissions to this newspaper become the property of the MountainViews-Observer and may be published in part or whole. Opinions and views expressed by the writers printed in this paper do not necessarily express the views and opinions of the publisher or staff of the MountainViews-Observer. MountainViews-Observer is wholly owned by Grace Lorraine Publications, Inc. and reserves the right to refuse publication of advertisements and other materials submitted for publication.

All letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to: MountainViews-Observer, 280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. #327, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024. Phone: 626-355-2737. Fax: 626-604-4548. email: mvnobserver@aol.com



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.



Around The Town With Sir Eric Maundry

happened. To a person every one of the 400 people in that room rose to their feet and applauded. Think that attitudes in this country haven't begun to change after 6 and a half spiteful years of George W. Bush? ...

"The demagogue is one who preaches doctrines he knows to be untrue to men he knows are idiots."
Henry Louis Mencken

On my desk are lots of small scraps of paper filled with things I keep meaning to discuss, but never quite get around to writing about. Here's a few of them ...

Occasionally something can show up in your reading that will remind you of a situation close to home. Consider this from a recent editorial in the NY Times dealing with the newly appointed chief executive of Chrysler, Robert Nardelli: "The executives at Cereberus, many of whom worked with Mr. Nardelli at General Electric, believe he has the right stuff. At Home Depot, however, he alienated stockholders with his imperious style, even limiting comments at the annual meeting to one minute and one question each, and enforcing that with digital timers." Does the technique sound familiar to you? Reminds me of the public comments portion of our Sierra Madre City Council meetings ...

In my work I answer directly to an Executive VP. Great guy, brilliant at what he does, widely respected in the field, and proudly Gay. His partner of nearly 20 years was invited to a family reunion in his native North Dakota, and after some discussion they decided to both go. As part of this reunion his partner, who comes from a family of a remarkable 12 kids, was expected to get up on stage and speak a few sentences about his life, just like his many brothers and sisters. And he was very nervous about it. This being a decidedly Red State rural and conservative setting, he wasn't sure that standing in front of a room with hundreds of family and community members and discussing his lifestyle would be a completely pain free experience. There had been unpleasant incidents in the past. The big night arrived and one after another all got up and discussed their marriages and children. Then it was his turn. "My partner and I have been living for 18 years. In this time we have both enjoyed considerable professional success and the joy that comes from a stable and caring relationship." When he finished the most remarkable thing

I've used Enid Joffe's "State of the City" report several times in my recent discussions regarding the robust spending of our city government. But there is something else there I wanted to mention, something that I found amusing. She quotes from what is probably one of the most misunderstood songs ever, John Lennon's "Imagine." Enid's version: "You may say that I'm a dreamer/But I'm not the only one/I hope someday you'll join us/And Sierra Madre can live as one." Hippy dippy and harmless, right? But how many of you realize that when John Lennon wrote this song his intent was to promote what he believed were the healing powers of one world government and atheism? Written at the height of the Vietnam era, "Imagine" was meant in part to be a broadside against the religious community here in America, people Lennon felt were somewhat responsible for that unpopular war. Consider this passage: "Imagine there's no countries/It isn't hard to do/Nothing to kill or die for/And no religion too." Politicians need to understand what it is they are quoting from ...

And from the Schaudenfruede Desk comes the following: Failed Local Pornographer

Jim Snider Reduced To Seeking Underwear Models." Downtown barely and chronic uninvited party guest, Jim Snider recently set out to establish Sierra Madre's first ever porn site. Things did not go as planned as few women proved amenable to his offer of \$100 stipends in exchange for appearances in filmed sex scenes. A development that has seemingly left Mr. Snider with no choice but to abandon his dreams of XXX infamy. However, it would appear that Jimmy has not completely given up on his quest. Currently posted on his Cumquat site is a plea directed at local women to send him pictures of themselves dressed in nothing but their skivvies. As of this printing there is no indication that any former Sierra Madre mayors will be voicing approval for Jimmy's sudden penchant for feminine undergarments ... Imagine! ...

You can write me at eric.maundry@yahoo.com ... Cheers!



Lost In Space

By Susan Henderson

Lost - (adj.): *obscured or overlooked during a process or activity; space* - (n): *a period of time*

Imagine that during your lifetime, there have been numerous occasions when your ordinary existence has been turned upside down. Sometimes it was for the good and sometimes it was for the bad. Regardless of what the reason, a wedding, a funeral, work problems, financial problems, a really bad hangover, one of the consequences is that we become a little disoriented, or as my grandfather used to say, 'discombobulated'. In that state, we don't function well. We tend to walk around disconnected from reality, which often causes problems for others.

In case you're wondering where I am going with this, you may be surprised. No, I am not speaking of myself, although stress and transitions have made me a little air headed of late. And no, I am not focusing on any politician, elected official or activist. This column is directed towards those ordinary people with ordinary lives who get so distracted that they lose their way.

Yesterday, on two different occasions, we encountered people who actually put their lives in danger because they were hopelessly lost in their conversations or thoughts. Whatever they were lost in, they almost got found by an ambulance. And, what made their behavior so disturbing is that each was with a child and each put that child at risk because of being so obviously 'lost'.

Thirty years ago, when traveling and working in Africa, I noticed in the rural areas that there was still a big fear of motor vehicles. Many indigenous people wouldn't walk near a car that had its engine running and others would wait until the vehicle was out of sight before they attempted to cross the same road. Of course, Americans and Europeans who observed such behavior didn't always understand and were sometimes critical.

What the natives did understand, and what we seemed to have forgotten, is that motorized vehicles can kill. Fast forward to 2007. Despite the constant news reports of car accidents and mishaps, for the most part we don't pay attention to vehicles in our immediate surroundings and we certainly forget that one wrong move could mean the end of our lives, even in parking lots. In the first incident, a clearly excited adult (we shall assume it was mom) had her teenage son with her in a coffee shop. She introduced the young man to an adult male - probably a coach or a teacher and they began conversing. They were in front of us in line and soon forgotten. That is, until we got into our vehicle. There the three of them were standing between two parked cars, facing ours with their backs to the other vehicle. After we buckled up in our vehicle we waited a moment for them to move so we could start the car. They looked up and kept talking. Now, I'm not talking about a lot of space between them and the cars. The sensors on our car were going bananas. The rapid beeping of the sensor was screaming, 'don't move there

TOBIA from page 6

to work to get a pay check. We are even required to go to the DMV for licenses. Fourth, parents are not required for the behaviors of their children. We have dress codes for work, restaurants, and other public places, yet, some parents allow their children to go to school in gang clothes with weapons, without textbooks and supplies, and without feeding them in the morning. Fifth, parents are not required to guarantee that their children read and write at home to master the English language. Despite all of our efforts to accommodate new immigrants, the biggest anchor holding down people from progressing within our society rests

is something in front of you'. When we finally got their attention, they appeared annoyed that we had interrupted their conversation. I don't think this woman was saying, 'go ahead start your car and if it lurches forward or you make a mistake and drive forward and run me and my boy over, it's okay because we don't want to stop talking.' I don't think that's what she was saying. (By the way, the car that she had her back to was not either of theirs and she never noticed what that other driver was doing.)

But that wasn't the worst incident of all. Several hours later the entire family was in the car with my 16 year old driving. When we came out of the grocery store, we got into the car (by the way - considering this paper's chart a few weeks ago about what we drive in Sierra Madre I am ashamed to say that the car we were driving is an SUV). Anyway, after all of the required safety checks, he begins to slowly back out when we hear this angry voice say "Excuse me, can't you see us?". Of course he stopped immediately and to all of our surprise, there was a woman with a child that could not have been more than 4 years old, and a cart full of groceries. She apparently had walked behind our car and stood between her vehicle and ours. Now I can tell you, this woman was no where in sight when we got into the car, nor was she visible when we started to back up. How do I know? Well, no one who was sitting in that car trusts any 16 year old's driving enough to just sit back and ride. We all were looking out for him.

What apparently happened is that the woman (assumed to be the mother) just walked behind the car, not looking to see what was going on, not considering that she may have been in the car's blind spot and really not considering her and her child's safety. For, even if she was so preoccupied that she didn't notice people sitting in the car in 100 degree heat, even if she didn't notice the brake lights on, even if she didn't hear the 500 liter engine, surely when she walked between her car and ours, she must have noticed the young man behind the wheel. But, she was so absorbed in her own world that it was only when she opened her car door that she noticed anything.

No one got hurt in either incident, but that is not the point. The point is that we are often so absorbed with life and its challenges, that most of us are walking around 'lost in space'. We go through the motions of our day-to-day activities and really aren't 'there'. We literally walk into traffic, and engage in a lot of other potentially deadly behavior. That's scary. What if the drivers of the vehicles mentioned here were also walking in space? The outcome would certainly have been different.

We can't become so obsessed with getting to our destination, worrying about what is waiting for us and fantasizing about what's going to be, that we forget to pay attention to what is going on now. We must learn to live 'in the moment' as it relates to paying attention at all times. Walking around 'lost in space' doesn't work on the planet earth. Will Rogers won't be there to save us.

* *discombobulated* - a transitive verb that means confused or upset

with their inability to mainstream. Parents must require their children to read and write at home if they are to succeed. My father did not speak the English language until he was five years old, yet his parents made him master the English language and he eventually graduated college and instilled the discipline of mastering the English language with his six children.

In *My Opinion*, it is time to stop the narrow path of blaming teachers for the failures of parents. Hopefully, the Pasadena School Board will rise above the rhetoric and ask and demand accountability from parents before they seek accountability from all others.

LEGAL NOTICES

City of Sierra Madre

COURTESY NOTICE

To: Property Owners within a 300-foot radius
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 07-07 (375 DEODAR CIRCLE)**
Applicant: Jimmy Chiu
 375 Deodar Circle
 Sierra Madre, CA 91024

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to construct a second floor addition at 365 Deodar Circle. The existing residence measures approximately 3,510 square feet and the second floor addition will measure approximately 1,008 square feet, for a total of 4,518 square feet. Pursuant to Section 17.20.135.A of the Sierra Municipal Code, new construction and additions onto existing structures where the gross floor area of all structures is greater than four thousand square feet, approval of a Conditional Use Permit by the Planning Commission shall be required.

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING

City of Sierra Madre
 Planning Commission meeting
 Thursday, **September 6th, 2007**
 (meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.)

PLACE OF MEETING

City of Sierra Madre
 City Council Chambers
 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
 Sierra Madre, CA 91024

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the Planning Commission will hear them with respect thereto.

PROJECT LOCATION: 375 Deodar Circle is in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

APPEAL: The decision of the Planning Commission is subject to a 10-day appeal period to the City Council. If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the Planning Commission in court, one may be limited to raising issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or before, the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135.

By Order of the Planning Commission,
 Anne McIntosh
 Interim Director of Development Services

City of Sierra Madre

COURTESY NOTICE

To: Property Owners within a 300 foot radius
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: **Tentative Parcel Map #07-02 (115 & 125 Lowell Avenue)**
Applicant: James Coane
 30 N Raymond Ave, #611
 Pasadena, CA 91103

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider a request for Parcel Map 07-02 at 115 & 125 Lowell Avenue. The proposed Parcel Map would create a total of three lots (measuring approximately 8700, 8845, and 10,092 square feet) from two existing lots (measuring approximately 13,335 and 14,284 square feet).

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING

City of Sierra Madre
 Planning Commission meeting
 Thursday, **September 6, 2007**
 (Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.)

PLACE OF MEETING

City of Sierra Madre
 City Council Chambers
 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
 Sierra Madre, CA 91024

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the Planning Commission will hear them with respect thereto.

PROJECT LOCATION: 115 & 125 Lowell Avenue Avenue; in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The project qualifies for a Class 15 Categorical Exemption, pursuant to Section 15315 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

APPEAL: The decision of the Planning Commission is subject to a 14-day appeal period to the City Council. If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the Planning Commission in court, one may be limited to raising issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or before, the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135.

By Order of the Planning Commission

Anne Browning McIntosh, AICP
 Interim Director of Development Services

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

JOHN J. NORRIS
CASE NO. BP106180

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of JOHN J. NORRIS:

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by SAMUEL R. NORRIS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that SAMUEL R. NORRIS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 09/17/07 at 8:30AM in Dept. 9 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

MICHAEL R. AUGUSTINE
 Attorney for Petitioner
 AUGUSTINE & SEYMOUR
 741 S. GARFIELD AVE.
 ALHAMBRA, CA 91801
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 Email: city@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us

Company Name: City of Sierra Madre
 Telephone Number: 626-355-5278

Headline

Sierra Madre, CA. August 15, 2007 -

Sierra Madre Improves Local Transit Program

After 18 months of studying the City of Sierra Madre's Gateway Coach transit system, the Transit Master Plan Committee submitted their final report to the City Council, which was adopted at the last City Council meeting in July. As a part of this adoption a number of improvements have been made to both the Dial-A-Ride and Gateway Coach, including extended hours for Dial-A-Ride and a new route to the Gold Line for the Gateway Coach.

Dial-A-Ride

Sierra Madre Dial-A-Ride program is a curb-to curb transportation service for elderly and disabled residents of Sierra Madre. Out-of-town trips can go no more than two miles beyond the City, but may travel to a variety of the medical facilities in Pasadena, Arcadia, or Duarte. Riders must be residents of Sierra Madre and must be 65 years of age or older, or must have a form, signed by a physician, attesting to a disability which hinders mobility and the use of MTA buses. All patrons of the service must first register with the City's Community and Personnel Services Department, and present proof of residency and age or disability. Rides are paid for by the use of vouchers, which are \$1 for in-town trips / \$2 for out-of-town. Dial-A-Ride operates Monday – Saturday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (no service Sunday and Holidays). **For reservations please call 626.355.3873**

NEW On Tuesdays, Dial-A-Ride will travel East as far as Duarte's City of Hope, but not in the Westerly direction. On Thursdays, Dial-A-Ride will travel West as far as Pasadena's Huntington Hospital, but not in the Easterly direction. On Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays Dial-A-Ride will travel in both directions for scheduled appointments.

NEW Medical trips will continue to receive priority only if they are reserved a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the date of service. Existing non-medical trips reserved within 48 hours of the requested time will not be bumped by last-minute medical trip requests. Last-minute medical trips will be accommodated as much as availability allows.

Upon making a reservation please provide the address of the destination, number of persons traveling, whether a wheelchair-accessible vehicle is needed and your telephone number. The dispatcher will advise travelers of the approximate pick-up time. Please allow for a 20 minute window. At pick-up drivers are not required to wait more than 10 minutes. Passengers requesting a wheelchair accessible vehicle must make their request at least one hour in advance.

Drivers may assist upon request in loading and unloading of senior citizens and disabled riders' packages not exceeding twenty-five (25) pounds.

Gateway Coach

The Gateway Coach travels a loop through town Monday – Friday. The Commuter Loop operates 7:00 – 8:00 am and 5:00 – 6:00 pm. The Round-A-Bout runs from 11:00 am – 3:30 pm. Each loop takes 30 minutes. The fare is 50¢ - however, some riders qualify for free services including seniors (65 or older), those who are disabled and youths who are 16 and younger. To qualify, riders must have obtained an ID from the Community Recreation Center, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.

232 W. SIERRA MADRE BLVD. SIERRA MADRE, CA 91024 T.626.355.5278 F.626.836.6656

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Tech Daddy



Learning The Ropes

By Ken Gruberman,

Dear Tech Daddy,

Why do all these computer geeks talk down to me? I tried some "live" lessons and felt stupid the second I walked in the door of the workshop. And community college courses are too drawn-out and dated, which makes me lose interest. I know how to go online: is there a good place I can take basic lessons on the web? — Agitated in Altadena

Dear Agitated,

Computer geeks talk down to you because they typically have no social skills... or a life. If you can get online, as you say, the Internet can provide a wealth of free lessons and support, and you can take all the time you need. No one will insult your intelligence or raid your wallet!

For Windows users, you can start with Microsoft's own step-by-step illustrated documentation for

Windows XP: <http://tinyurl.com/qqvve> and then click on the subheading you want, such as "Windows Basics" or "Core Windows Tasks." You'll find this list of topics on the left side of the page.

If you find that too intimidating, you might want to try "Jan's Illustrated Computer Literacy 101" — it's very easy to understand and best of all, free! Lessons are included for Windows 95, 98 and XP at <http://tinyurl.com/2zgu5> and each lesson takes about a half-hour to complete.

Users of Windows Vista, Microsoft's latest version of the Windows operating system, can learn more about it — plus pick up some valuable tips — by visiting the Vista overview site at <http://tinyurl.com/2wu9cy> and then clicking on various subjects. Also of interest is the "Using Windows Vista — The Step By Step Guide" site at <http://tinyurl.com/yrycta> which features a photograph-based tutorial.

For Mac users, Apple provides the "Learning Center" for subscribers to its .Mac service. It may be the best reason yet to subscribe. Interactive lessons, complete with voice narration and movies, cover topics such as how to use the Mac

OS and the various iLife applications, including the just-released iLife 08. Check out <http://www.apple.com/dotmac> for more details.

For non-subscribers, Apple offers their own "Mac 101" page at <http://tinyurl.com/267qvk> that covers a wide variety of topics in an easy to understand format.

Finally, there's nothing like a book to give you the answers you seek, and there's none better than the "Missing Manual" series from O'Reilly & Pogue Press. As they say on the cover, they are "The book that should have been in the box." Most of the books are encyclopedic in nature, and are crammed with easy to understand information and tips. You can find them on topics such as the Windows and Mac OS, Microsoft Office, Photoshop, Internet and Email software and more. You can find them in most major bookstores and, of course, on Amazon.com.

If you have questions about personal technology, please email them to me at ken@thetechdaddy.com and be sure to put "Tech Question" (without the quotes) in the subject line of your email.

WorkForce

with Madeline



Q: My question refers to your response to the young female employee whose older female boss calls her "honey." You suggested that since the employee really likes her supervisor, simply to tell her once or twice that she wants to be called by her first name, and if the use of "honey" continues, just to let it go. What would you recommend if the situation were between a female worker and a male manager? Let's assume that the employee loves her job and her boss is a great coach and mentor but she is so bothered by this that it is interfering with her work.

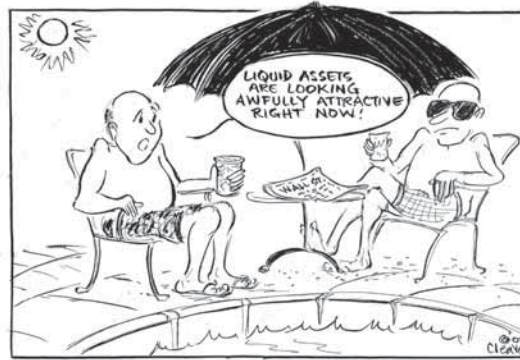
A: I like to think this would not happen. Managers are very well aware of all aspects of sexual harassment and certainly would not want to be involved in a lawsuit. According to Equal Rights Advocates, a California based organization, sexual harassment is "unwelcome verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is severe or pervasive and affects working conditions or creates a hostile work environment." Many companies orient associates at all levels on such issues.

Although in the realm of what a sexual harassment situation could be, the use of "honey" is generally not a major offense, the worker should nevertheless insist on changes if this bothers her. I personally think such words used especially by a male boss when addressing a female team member are condescending and should definitely be eliminated.

The employee needs to tell her boss once, twice, three times that she feels uncomfortable with his terminology and wants to be called by her first name. If her preference does not become firmly ingrained, she might say in a light-hearted way that she's going to tell the boss's wife or girlfriend about these words of affection or that she's going to have to consult her lawyer.

I feel certain that the boss will get the message and will not be insulted or attempt to implement a reversal in an otherwise excellent supervisor/employee relationship.

Madeline Miller is owner/manager of Compu-Type Résumé Service. She would love to hear from you with questions at comptype2@aol.com. Her website is computype.bizland.com.



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The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

Mr. Ellie Pooh

Right. So, there is no escaping poop jokes. That is what I have figured out. Just when you think you are ready to leave them "behind" or to "let them go" (see, because you are thirty years old and it is kind of sad and pathetic, this fixation on scatological humor) that is when your mother-in-law discovers a certain kind of paper that is manufactured in Sri Lanka. She saw it on the "The View," which is a really popular television show aimed directly at the hot-flashing, morning free-time, disposable income demographic (which definitely does not NOT include your mother-in-law. Unless she wants it to. Then... OK). Your mother-in-law is generous. She has a sense of humor and enjoys saving planet earth, so she buys you some of this paper. You are completely blown away. It is the best paper you have ever owned, seen, heard about or imagined. It is made out of elephant poop.

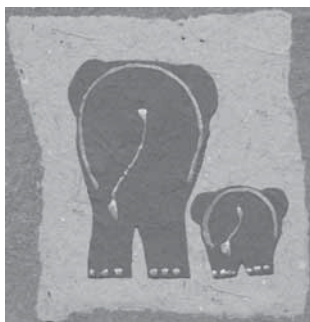
Apparently, there is recycled paper. And then there is recycled paper. It is called Mr. Ellie Pooh Paper, and it comes with quite a bit of information. This is not surprising because (did I mention this?) it is made out of poop. And, ignorant people may be hesitant to pay money for elephant poop that they are supposed to use to jot down phone messages or to decorate their scrapbooks. The "product" comes with a whole page on the plight of the Sri Lankan elephant, and the role of Mr. Ellie Pooh in alleviating elephant strife. Also, there is a small card that illustrates the paper-making process. It has a silhouette picture of an elephant sitting on a toilet. And another of a bubbling pot of dung ("boil and sanitize!"). The result is "clean, odorless, eco-friendly, acid free paper." It is 75 percent former elephant poop and 25 percent other stuff like rosin and alum and dyes. Nothing toxic. The paper does look pretty nice. And I have to admit that my hands smell no worse than usual.

Apparently, there is a problem with elephants in Sri Lanka. In Southern California, we have raccoons and rats and skunks that eat our cat food and throw rocks at our windows and tag gang graffiti on our trash cans. We also have feral parrots that eat the apples from our trees and steal our lunch money. In Sri Lanka they have poor television cable options and spotty internet access. They also have gigantic land mammals with hoses growing from the front of their faces and large white spikes protruding from their mouths (!!) that eat all of their crops and make 500 pounds of dung per day. You can see how it would be problematic to have a herd of these guys hanging out in your subsistence farm backyard. You might even take drastic measures. You might kill them.

This is where Mr. Ellie Pooh (whose real name is Karl) comes in. To help resolve the "human-elephant" conflict in Sri Lanka, he came up with this way to turn the elephants and their by-product into a valuable economic resource. Here is what he says, "Since an elephant's diet is all vegetarian, the waste product is basically raw cellulose. Thoroughly cleaned and processed, the cellulose is converted into a uniquely beautiful textured product"... umm that would be paper.

There are lots of different kinds. Check them out at mrelliepooh.com. You can choose from wire bound notebooks, stationary, cardstock in many different colors, and "to do" pads. You can even have your business cards printed on "pachyderm paper," which would make a real nice impression on your potential clients.

Citizen of the first world, you have many choices when it comes to saving planet earth. There are light bulbs and hybrid gas-electric vehicles you can purchase. You can walk or hitchhike or carpool, drink tap water, avoid meat, buy organic, set your thermostat to 84 degrees or use your shirtsleeve instead of a Kleenex. But, really, is there anything more fantastic than using recycled elephant poop for paper? According to the website, it is "100% recycled, 75% pooh, and 100% fun." Go ahead, try and argue with those statistics.



The End. (Sorry).

If you want to learn more about Mr. Pooh, go to: www.mrelliepooh.com

"Google: Earth and Sky"

By Paul the Cyberian

Astronomers of all stripes received yet another tool to add to their stargazing repertoire. Google has just released an add-on to their Google Earth product that allows star trekkers to extend the reach of their computer desktops to the very stars themselves.

Google Sky allows armchair stargazers to browse through 100 million stars and 200 million galaxies. This program is a wonderfully-constructed, visual intergalactic playground that lets users interact with the countless wonders of the night sky—all from the comfort of their keyboards.

The program(s) (Google Earth and Google Sky) are available for download at <http://earth.google.com/>. After downloading and installing both programs, the user must launch the Google Earth program and select "Switch to Sky" under the "View" menu item. This will toggle your view between the default "Earth View" and the newly installed "Sky View". The program is divided into layers (Constellations, Backyard Astronomy, Hubble Showcase, The Moon, The Planets, Life of a Star and a Users Guide to the Galaxy) that allow the user to select the focus of their particular area of interest. After selecting a particular layer, the highlights of that selection are indicated on the view screen, and further information can be obtained by double-clicking on any object in range.

Those already familiar with the Google Earth product will find that this special add-on offers the same ease of navigation and the 'Superman' travel-motion graphics. Those two features combined with the spectacular views provided by Hubble Space Telescope photography combine to make this a product worth exploring.

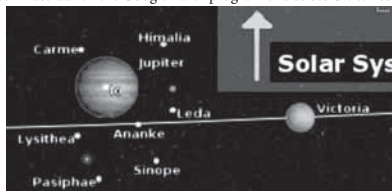


Image Courtesy of Google Earth

Goats Provide a Greener Solution for Foothill Fire Hazards

By Teresa Baxter

The role of goats as biological control agents has become increasingly popular due to environmental concerns and elevated costs of other methods not considered earth-friendly, such as mechanical cutting and herbicide application. Most recently, Duarte has joined the City of Monrovia in utilizing this greener way to land management and elimination of potential fuel for hazardous hill fires. The use of goats to clear slopes of tinder dry material in the four areas of the Duarte foothills has been implemented.

"Some of these areas have not been cleared or burned in 25 years," said Duarte City Manager, Darrell George. "Our goal is to stop the spread and reduce the overall amount of brush in and around homes adjacent to open space areas of our community." In the past, the foothill communities have primarily relied on the use of non-

green means to clear and maintain fire breaks. It seemed to be a natural progression to utilize a more economical method. Rancho Elivo Boer Goats has promised not to exceed the \$9,900 budgeted by the foothill community to eradicate the potential problem.

In hindsight, the citizens of Echo Park and the Hollywood Hills have initiated a petition pleading for goat grazing to prevent future devastation after a blaze that made national headlines this last May, sparked when tourist teenagers playing with fire almost eliminated the iconic Griffith Park. The petition states, "We, the undersigned, demand that the City of Los Angeles and the L.A. Department of Recreation and Parks respond to this continued threat by bringing in...goats to graze on the dry hills, a plan previously implemented with great success by UC Berkeley in the aftermath of that community's devastating 1991 fire. Goats are economical, ecological fire-fighting machines that produce fertilizer as they clear hills and canyons of weeds, poison oak and dry chaparral. Additionally, the animals are charming, newsworthy ambassadors for fire safety, a subject that needs to be more widely discussed. We want to save our parks and mountains. We want goats!"

Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

Stars Shine on Monrovia (and the Moon Unshines Everywhere)

In a 1923 poem called "The Star-Splitter," Robert Frost writes,

"The best thing that we've put here for's to see;
The strongest thing that's given us to see with
A telescope. Someone in every town
Seems to me owes it to the town to keep one..."

Frost would have been pleased with what's happening in Monrovia. As reported in this newspaper's August 4-9 edition (page 7), Monrovia High School (MHS) is the proud recipient of a Meade 12-inch LX 200 RC telescope, complete with high-end accessories. MHS is one of the very few secondary schools to have its own observatory dome, which was installed in the school's roof some 25 years ago. Clyde Tichenor, a founding member and past president of the Mount Wilson Observatory Association, designed the dome and, together with MHS physics teacher Jim Glaser, oversaw the installation of the school's first telescope—a Cave 8-inch Newtonian reflector.

Over the years, with changes in school personnel after Glaser's retirement, the school's astronomy program faltered and the dome fell into disuse. When astronomy again began to be taught at MHS, teacher Pamela Gonzales found the telescope in storage and the dome "waist-deep in trash," as she recalls. Last year a local Boy Scout volunteered to clean up the dome for his Eagle Scout project, the 8-inch telescope was re-installed, and by spring of this year the MHS observatory was again functional.

The observatory was officially rededicated at an April 2007 "Second Light" public ceremony. (The term "First Light" is typically used by astronomers to describe an observatory's initial opening, so "Second Light" implies a reopening.) One of those who read the newspaper account of this event was Juan Escano, producer of a home improvement show series at Dream Space Productions. Escano was working on a home renovation project in Monrovia just a few blocks from MHS, and conceived the idea of a school-based program that would complement his organization's home renovation efforts. He arranged for donation of the 12-inch telescope—plus a high-end camera, other accessories, and dome improvements—as the inauguration of what he hopes will continue as a long-range project of community (and regional) cooperation with the school.

"When I read about the April rededication event, I sat down and gave some serious thought to the question of what we could leave behind in that observatory that would not only impact



Photo by Jean Boenish

the students, but would give Monrovia a 'legacy project' that could attract astronomers, researchers, and enthusiasts from all over the area," says Escano. This "legacy," he hopes, will be a facility that "may not be the largest high-school observatory anywhere, but will be the best equipped and most efficient, giving its users the most choices."

What those choices are will be spelled out more in a future column, timed to coincide with an Open House next month to celebrate the installation of the new telescope in its dome. For starters, one brand-new capability that Gonzales plans to give her astronomy class this fall will be remote, hands-on operation of one of the Goldstone radio telescopes by MHS students during class hours. Don't you wish you were back in high school now?

For more information on how you can participate, including the MHS "Observatory Wish List," see Escano's web site, www.DeCasaAHogar.tv, or call (908) 489-9278. For more on the school's astronomy program, contact Pamela Gonzales at PGonzales@monrovia.k12.ca.us.

A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON.

If you're willing to get out of bed and look out your window around 3:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning, August 28, you'll be rewarded by the sight of a moon you won't soon forget. During the night of August 27-28, there'll be a total eclipse of the moon—a time when the full moon's light is temporarily blocked by the earth's shadow. The darkened moon will be in the southwest, 31° up from the horizon, at mid-eclipse—3:27 a.m.

This is a rare event, and one not to be missed. Unlike a solar eclipse, where totality only lasts for minutes, a lunar eclipse is a slow, hours-long event. As the bright full moon gradually moves into the earth's shadow, it often takes on a dark reddish shade—red because any sunlight that does reach the moon is filtered through the earth's atmosphere, which absorbs the blue light and allows the red to pass through. Here are the times (PDT) for the main events of the eclipse:

Partial eclipse begins 1:51 a.m.
Total eclipse begins 2:52 a.m.
Maximum eclipse 3:27 a.m.
Total eclipse ends 4:23 a.m.
Dawn 4:56 a.m.
Partial eclipse ends 5:24 a.m.
Sunrise 6:24 a.m.
Moonset 6:35 a.m.

TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS

Hurry for Some Curry

What comes to mind when you think about Japanese food? If you're like me, Sushi and Tempura come to mind. Well, did you know that 'curry' is actually the 'Comfort Food' of Japan?

I found a restaurant that offers Japanese 'Comfort Food' right here in the southland. Hurry Curry started in Jakarta Indonesia and has opened a location in Old Pasadena. It is one of my favorite restaurants to dine at. Why? It is relatively cheap, it is clean and the food is above average and out of the ordinary.

Hurry Curry was given an impressive 9.3 by citysearch.com. and is a favorite of yelpers. When I go to an ethnic restaurant I am always comforted that I am in the right place when I see natives at the restaurant.

What to order at Hurry Curry? A must is the Fried Chicken (\$5.75) - it's my favorite and is served with a chicken dressing on the side. I could eat these non-stop!! Some additional suggestions are the Fried Shrimp Curry with Spinach (\$9.50), the Japanese staple Chicken Curry (\$8.50) and the very colorful Tarako Ika (\$8.95). Also a must is the Lobster Bisque - one of the better soups that I have had anywhere - this must come from the owners' origins in the seafood industry.

The restaurant has a happy hour from 3 PM to 6 PM where there are Sake Martinis for \$2, \$2 appetizers and \$2 beer. If you are a beer drinker, like I am, this is a good deal. Something unique here is that they have curbside-to-go service available.

There is no sushi on the menu just heart warming and filling 'Comfort Food'.

Plus: Low prices, happy hour, usually immediate seating.

Minus: Parking is a hassle and the Pomegranate Martini is out of season - next time

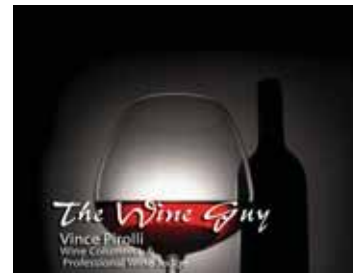


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ENJOY SUMMERTIME'S SIPPABLE SHERRIES

Well, maybe it isn't technically a table wine, but Sherry is made from grape juice (in this case the Palomino Fino grape) that has been fortified with wine alcohol.

It seems to me that a wine is a wine is a wine, and Sherry, although it tastes differently, has a lot in common with what we regularly refer to as table wine. But really who cares how it is categorized?

Sherries from Spain are wonderful, unduplicated by others, (even though many have tried) and make great summertime sipping and they are extremely food friendly. If you haven't had a glass of Spanish Sherry lately, now is the time to get reacquainted.

Spain also makes some excellent sweet sherries. These dessert wines certainly deserve some attention, but for summertime fun, its dry sherry that really fits the bill.

The best summer Sherry choices are those that are thirst quenching, all by them selves, as well as being compatible with light summer fare. Sherries are a perfect match with cold baked ham, cold sausages, hard cheeses, crusty breads and Mediterranean olives.

There are fundamentally only two types fino, and oloroso, the difference being the level of alcohol in each one.

The Oloroso sherries are deep gold to deep brown in color with aromas and flavors rich in nutty-rainy characteristics. They are usually more expensive, as they are aged longer than other sherries.

The fino sherries are pale, delicate, very tangy and considered by many to be the worlds finest sherry. Finos are at their best consumed young, and freshness is the key to a great sherry. If they sit too long on a wine shop shelf, they will lose that fresh quality for which they are famous. Once you have opened a bottle of Fino, keep the recorked bottle in the refrigerator and consume it within a week.

There are many excellent Finos on the market and your wine merchant should be carrying those produced by Pedro Domecq, Emilio Lustau, Osborn, Sandeman and Gonzalez and Byass.

Finos are also a great substitute for the traditional vodka or gin cocktail. Once you have sampled the unique taste of a Fino, you will realize why these special fortified wines, from southwest Spain, are treasured the world over for their special qualities.

We are lucky that there are so many new wine bars in our community, as this is the perfect place and time to try some different sherries by the glass and compare them.

Sherries are great drink choices anytime, but no time is better than the summertime.

Wine quote for the week:

"I am certain the good Lord never intended perfectly good grapes to be made into jelly"

- Fiorella La Guardia

Till next week, Good Health and Peace to all, Salut

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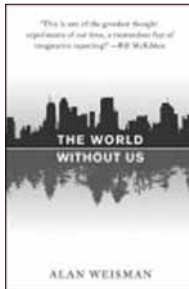
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Jeff's Pics

The Book Reports

The World Without Us by Alan Weisman (2007)



Imagine if humanity was wiped off the earth like the dinosaurs long ago. How long would it take for our city jungles to turn into real ones? In this book, the author, Alan Weisman, a well known award-winning science writer looks at what the planet would be like without human intervention anymore. He has covered many environmental issues through the years and has specifically talked to many scientists, building experts, engineers, city maintenance workers who hold cities together and visited many key world sites to gather information for this book. From the unpopulated demilitarized zone in Korea to the last primeval forest in Europe.

The World Without Us analyses man's sizeable influence and how quickly earth would recover and change after human existence. The world has gone thru incredible extinctions before. 250 million years ago an event wiped out 90% of all living things and out of that came the dinosaurs and then they disappeared and then came the age of mammals. If we were all suddenly gone how will cities fair, buildings, art, nuclear plants, plastic, etc. What kind of trees will dominate? How will bugs and animals fair. As long as there is a functional eco system nature will last. Of course the book is conjecture but a well written fascinating read which helps us see the planet more clearly by removing us from the equation. Enjoy!!

Recommendations by Joan Schrage:

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini - the author weaves together another beautiful story spanning three generations of women in Afghanistan.

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen - poignant story as an elderly man reflects upon his past life as he grows old in a nursing home, story has a touching surprise ending.

For any book recommendations please email them to jab33jab@yahoo.com

Scene One, Take One: DVD Review

House of Games by David Mamet (1987)



This is a great suspense and clever thriller about an uptight female psychiatrist (Lindsay Crouse) who becomes involved with a slick talking confidence man (Joe Mantegna) and his team in order to help one of her patients out of a gambling debt and quickly gets involved into a world of mirrors where nothing is what it seems. This was Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Mamet directorial film debut of his own screenplay. Fascinating tale in the spirit of Hitchcock! Some profanity and violence.

JAG (1995-2005)

This was a long running Emmy Award-winning TV drama series starring David James Elliott as Lt. Cmdr. Harmon

Rabb Jr., a former U.S. Navy fighter pilot who now works for JAG (Judge Advocate General) which is an elite Navy wing of officers trained as lawyers who provide legal and policy advice to the Secretary of the Navy and investigate, prosecute and defend military personnel accused of crimes. Great action, stories and locations with lots of courtroom drama also. Also starring Catherine Bell as Marine Major. Sarah "Mac" MacKenzie starting in season 2. Many other excellent supporting cast members also. Created by Donald P. Bellisario who now produces NCIS.

A wonderful series great for guys and gals.

For any DVD recommendations please email them to jab33jab@yahoo.com



BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

Seeking Stars And A Bird Named Walter

I was reminded of an old joke yesterday. The doctor asks the man why he is banging his head into a wall, and the man says, "Because it feels so good when I stop." Yesterday, I had been complaining about a nagging pain in my back to the point where I was becoming a "nagging pain" myself. And then....

While my son has been in Philadelphia, I've been taking care of his peach-faced lovebird, Walter. His species originated in Southwestern Africa, so hot temps are his cup of tea. I leave him outside in a shady spot until he's ready to retire at about 6:30 or 7:00. (You know the story about the early bird.) Last night I picked up his cage, or as my son prefers to call it, his "house", to move it into the hobby room where he spends the night. The doorway and the width of the cage are about the same, so I have to be very careful when I make the move. I don't know what happened, but I missed... I smacked the cage into the doorway very hard and it bounced back hitting me on the bridge of my nose. I couldn't drop Walter, so I carried him safely inside while counting stars. My nose hurt so badly it took my mind off whatever else was bothering me. I don't recommend that as a cure for what ails you, however.

My son, Chris, picked Walter up this evening to take him back home. My son was happy, Walter was happy, I was happy, and boy, were my neighbors happy. A couple of them even stood in their driveway waving goodbye to the wee little bird. Why were they happy you might ask? Well, I'll tell you... The lovebird has a sweet little face, beautiful green and turquoise feathers capped by a peach-colored hat. But, to balance the scales, he has a squawk that could only come from the bowels of hell. Picture a mini-version of the wild parrot, and that would be little Walt. I'm sure people a block away can hear him.

My son is going back to Philadelphia for a few days at the end of September. The scab on my nose should be healed up by then, and it gives the neighbors plenty of time to replenish their supply of earplugs. I never thought I would miss that darned hamster that he had....

Pat may be reached at: p.birdsall@mviews.com

Pat Ostrye on.....

Betsy Ross

Did Betsy Ross really handcraft the original Stars and Stripes?!

Labor Day is coming up, as expected on every first Monday of September - definitely a day for displaying the flag. Since I have quite a collection of booklets and miscellaneous information about the flag, here are a few interesting but debatable quotes: First off, "It is generally believed that in June of 1776, a committee consisting of George Washington, Robert Morris and George Ross commissioned Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia Quakeress, to make a flag from a rough design they left with her. It is said that she is the one who suggested that the stars should have five points, rather than six."

Now, it depends upon which historian one wants to believe. Many years ago I read in one of my research projects that George Washington claimed he had no memory of any of it and didn't know Betsy Ross.

But to continue: "This starry banner was first flown at Fort Stanwix, called Fort Schuyler at that time, near the city of Rome, N.Y. on August 3, 1777, and was under fire three days later at the Battle of Oriskany, August 6, during a British and Indian attack."

How about this: "The first official salute to the Stars and Striped was given in February, 1778, by France, on the French coast when the "Ranger", under command of John Paul Jones, was saluted by the French fleet. This flag, then carried by the Ranger, was made by the young women of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, from stripes of their best-colored silk dresses and the white wedding dress of a recent bride."

This one sounds pretty authentic: "The original 13 Stars and Stripes represented the original 13 colonies. In 1795, two



additional Stars and Stripes were added to represent admission to the Union of Vermont and Kentucky. Under this banner of 15 Stars and Stripes, was fought the Battle of 1812. It was the sight of it flying over Fort McHenry on September 14, 1814, that inspired Francis Scott Key to write what was to become our National Anthem, The Star-Spangled Banner. Miss Margaret Young, who cut out the stars for that particular banner, became the mother of Henry Sanderson, the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Order of the Elks, in 1884."

"The Congress, on April 14, 1818, adopted a resolution that on and after July 14, 1818, the number of stripes should be 13 and the blue field should carry one star for each of the 20 states in the Union and that a new star should be added for each state thereafter admitted"

"In July, 1908, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks provided for the annual nationwide observance of Flag Day, on June 14 of each year."

Before you take off to get your encyclopedia, let me tell you what mine has to say about the flag: "Stars and Stripes of U.S. officially adopted by Congress on June 14, 1777 (now flag Day). Betsy Ross "supposedly" made the first Stars and Stripes."

We'll never know!!

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Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

Making Historic Ascension Church Accessible And "Present" To The Community



Historic Ascension Church is the oldest public building in Sierra Madre.

Register of Historic Places. The true challenge, however, is that the campus sits on a steep property, sporting a 17% grade from North to South on a relatively small site. This topography required that the ramped walkways travel east to west, without appearing to be a front yard with half dozen switch backed ramps.

Ascension pastor since 1985, Fr. Michael Bamberger commented that "presence" is one of the defining precepts for the parish, connoting being there "in" the community as well as "for" the community. The steep slope and the time period building style when the church was built, has excluded those less than able-footed and spry. As a voting place or meeting venue, it was a perilous journey up and into the parish hall, particularly in the evenings. As a resting spot for Sierra Madre residents out for a walk, it was not a welcoming place. When I myself was on crutches last year, I realized how challenging even our city sidewalks can be when a slope factor is added in.

With the opportunity to begin again with an almost blank, though sloped slate, Ascension leaders decided to incorporate several outdoor needs of the parish community, as well as the town community. Several retaining walls will become seating spaces for shaded and sunny fellowship after services. Tying vestiges of the past to the present, granite cobblestones will delineate the original path from horse-drawn carriage days. A water feature will double as an outdoor baptismal font. A large piece of polished granite inscribed with "Do this in remembrance of Me" will

If you drive through downtown Sierra Madre, you've probably noticed all the hubbub at Baldwin and Laurel lately. Much more than just a cosmetic facelift, contractors have been hard at work this month making the Ascension Episcopal Church campus wheelchair accessible, both inside and out.

A tricky proposition for a historic church in the National



Sierra Madre resident, Lew Watanabe, tests out the new accessibility to the church campus with Fr. Bamberger.

the church. The time window also narrowed their contractor choices, but they are extremely pleased with landscape architects, Armstrong and Walker of Monrovia, and landscape contractors DKA. Bamberger notes that it is important to the parish to know that contractors' workers on their property are paid a living wage and are treated well. Ascension drew from parish reserves to accomplish the project this summer, but needs to raise considerable funds to replenish those reserves. Bamberger extends his public thanks to the Civic Club, Friends of the Library and other local groups, who use the Parish Hall for events, and have helped defray a bit of the project's considerable cost.

Ascension plans an official opening and dedication in mid-September, during their Ministry Fair weekend. Upon completion, they welcome pedestrians and wheelchairs to the new public outdoor spaces. Meander through, enjoy, meditate or just rest a while as Ascension extends its new "presence" to Sierra Madre.



Pastor points out where the original horse and carriage path will be lined with stones.

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension
25 East Laurel Avenue
Sierra Madre
Ascension-SierraMadre.com

Don't Over Do It!

By Donna Baker

Homeowners who are preparing to sell realize there's still quite a bit of competition out there. While presenting your home in model condition is one of the best ways to win the attention of potential buyers, be careful to avoid the pitfalls of improvements that may not produce the full-price offer you are seeking.

First and foremost, do not try to out-do the other homes on the block. Yes, you want your home to stand out, but not so far out that your asking price will have to be significantly higher than those of the homes around you. You'll price yourself out of your own neighborhood while waiting and waiting for those offers.

Second, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it!" Don't waste your time and money on improvements that may not pay off. You can't know for sure if buyers will respond positively to your idea of "improvement." Why put in \$3,000 worth of new carpeting when your buyers might want hard wood floors? Just stick to the basics.

Speaking of basics, the most important rule to follow is that of regular upkeep on your home. Keep your gutters cleared, apply fresh paint to the exterior, and trim your yard. Buyers have plenty of imagination, and if you just present them with a clean and functional canvas, they'll easily envision the home of their dreams.



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View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

The Real Issue

The word is out that Michael Vick will be pleading guilty to the federal charges this Monday. Until now, I have resisted commenting on the dog fighting case of Mr. Vick. The reason that I have not commented is because it is difficult for me to imagine that someone so young could have the world on the proverbial string and throw it away for no real reason. Yet that is precisely what Mr. Vick has done. However, when the focus is only on the dog fighting aspect of this case and the deplorable treatment of the animals we lose sight of another important issue facing all sports on both the college and professional level.

Illegal gambling is an issue which must be addressed. Michael Vick was the bank roll for the dog fighting which took place on his property, but that is only the tip of iceberg. Dog fighting is an illegal multi-million dollar enterprise taking place throughout this country. The difficult questions of who controls this enterprise must be asked and answered. What person or persons controlled these businesses? For this is not an illegal home poker game. This is big business with matches across state lines, with large sums of money being wagered, and paid out.

This type of activity has long been a mainstay of organized crime. Up to this point the presence of organized crime has not been discussed. That is also the problem which Vick faces when, after he has served

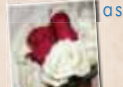
his time, he turns to the commissioner and says, "I would like to get back to football." The commissioner is faced the question of who Vick associated with while engaged in this illegal enterprise. There are many things that Vick has not had to answer while dealing with the criminal case. Will something come to light which Vick has not yet expressed to the commissioner? Has Vick been dealing with organized crime bosses? Another dirty mess for pro sports.

Professional athletes must be clean for the game to have any integrity. This endeavor has placed an engaging, electric, dynamic, super athlete in a no win, no come back situation. For you see, dog fighting has caused Vick to become a part of, and associated with, the dark side - organized crime.

Everyday millions of otherwise law bidding citizens place illegal bets on sporting events all over this nation. These wagers have odds, over and under, and all of the other trademarks of a legitimate wager. If you wager in New York the odds are the same if you wager in Los Angeles. This type of consistency does not just happen. Who controls it, what entity handles the money? The sporting leagues can not solve the problems of illegal betting, but it cannot condone an athlete or an official that has participated in illegal gambling, so sorry Mr. Vick. You have to go.

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