



Mountain Views-Observer

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

Saturday, September 8-14, 2007 Volume 1, No. 6

Water Abuse?

Residents Raise Concerns Over Water Use at 1 Carter Development

By Susan Henderson

With residents suffering through record heat and adhering to the City's water conservation policies, the



Acosta employee Huerava attaches meter
Photo by S. Henderson/MVO

sight of construction water tanks connected to local fire hydrants at 1 Carter was quite troubling for many. On Tuesday, a concerned resident took the photo on the right of construction crews at the development. The picture shows a water tanker being filled with water from a hydrant connected to the Sierra Madre's primary water supply, the same supply that delivers water to Sierra Madre homes and is used by the fire department.

The tankers, which have been seen filling up three, sometimes four times a day, use the water for dust control at the site. "Dust control is mandated at all

construction sites", according to Sierra Madre Fire Marshall Rich Snyder, "they don't have a choice. And, they actually pay for it. We rent meters to developers so that we can monitor their use of city water", said Snyder.

However, some residents feel that the developer should use reclaimed water rather than further deplete our drinking water supply, especially during a drought.

James Carlson of the Public Works Department confirmed that the meters are rented out. In this particular instance, John Laing Homes, current developer of the 1 Carter site, paid a deposit of \$1,716.00. They are charged the normal rate of \$1.79 per unit (100 cubic feet or 748 gallons). No estimate has been given as to the total amount of water Laing is expected to use.

A sub-contractor, Acosta Construction, is the firm actually working on the grading at 1 Carter. According to James Bon, site superintendent, the tanker pictured on the left, holds about 4,000 gallons of water. "It is never filled without being attached to the meter. Without the water, the dust would be unbearable for the people of Sierra Madre".

John Laing Homes, which currently is working on 27 luxury homes, has a cadre of professionals assigned to insure that the contractors do not violate their agreements with the city. According to Susie McConnell of Public Works, in addition to the standard construction



management inspectors, the 1 Carter project also has "an Arborist", who specializes in the care and maintenance of trees, "an Anthropologist, who visits the site daily, and during the tree removal phase we even had a Biologist."

Construction of this site has been a controversial subject in Sierra Madre for years. Prior to the 1 Carter project, the area was proposed for use by Maranatha High School. Many residents feel their concerns about the environment, including the destruction of the indigenous plants, trees and wildlife have been cast aside in order to accommodate developers.

New Bookstore Opens



Residents can now cross off "need a bookstore" on the list of things the town desires as, Sally Morrison, the new owner of Sierra Madre Books opened her doors Wednesday to the delight of many. "It's a soft opening. We didn't want to over do it just in case something didn't go just right."

The store, located at 18 W Sierra Madre Blvd Suite A, will have an official grand opening Sept. 22nd.

The store is large, bright and colorful and has a feeling of comfort when you walk through

the front door. "There are lots of places to sit and read. There are two levels: The main floor (lower) is an area for new arrivals, best sellers and classics such as the Harry Potter books. Upstairs Morrison said, they are starting a used book section.

"We are a smaller bookstore so what we do is frequent ordering," she said. "I place orders at least a couple times a week and the books come within a few days."

As the store grows Morrison said they will feature live music on weekends, book clubs, and author signings. "My husband is a musician and in fact Saturday he is going to play guitar here at about 7 p.m.

Morrison said she has always been an avid reader, has a background in education, and just plan loves books. "I think all that just came together and I was looking for a change by getting out of the corporate world. I think this was just a really nice way to bring some of my idea together," she said.

She lives in Sierra Madre with her family and said she has always wanted to support local business in town.

Sierra Madre Book Store is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday and Sunday's 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is closed on Mondays.

Heat Wave Brings Problems - Alert Residents & SMFD Mitigate Them All



Sierra Madre resident, Young Chang points to the damage to her lawn from a flying ember. At the height of last week's heat wave when temperatures in some parts of Sierra Madre were as high as 113 degrees, an electrical transformer exploded causing some damage to nearby homes and brief power outages. The incident happened on Mountain Trail, where the burning part fell onto two nearby homes. A small fire started on the roof on one home, however, it was quickly extinguished by the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department. Other damage on Mountain Trail included trees and plants.

The fire department, after extinguishing the flames, immediately cordoned off the area and monitored traffic until Southern California Electric arrived.

Many other parts of the city also experienced power outages.

Fortunately, according to SMFD Asst. Chief Steve Heydorf, "there were very few calls for assistance as a direct result of the record heat." During the period between August 26th and September 3, the Labor Day weekend, there were 27 calls to the Fire Department and of those only 10 were heat/fire related.

Outside of Sierra Madre, there were a total of 30 deaths attributed to the heat.



SM Volunteer Fireman Thurman Spicer watches for flare ups as he waits for Edison to arrive.

Just Call Him Tile Man



Pasadena man of all trades, Ralph McKnight discusses the Pasadena Collection with Teresa Baxter on page 6. Photo D. Lee/MVO

So Cal Lyric Theatre Closes Out Concert In The Park Season



SCLT Artistic Director Alison Kalmes. Review on page 6. Photo D. Arzouman

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5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.
Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

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Sunday:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 70s
Monday:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 70s
Tuesday:	Sunny	Hi 100s	Lows 70s
Wednesday:	Sunny	Hi 100s	Lows 70s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

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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) 355-3278

AUTHOR MICHELE ZACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPEAKER

From Phyllis Chapman

Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society invites you to their program meeting featuring Author Michele Zach, Friday, September 14, 2007 at the Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 W Sierra Madre Blvd. Her talk is entitled "Temperance and Townhood in Early Sierra Madre"

Zach is presently researching and writing a history of Sierra Madre, to be published by the Society. She has been a journalist and writer for 25 years. In the 1990s she lived in Thailand and wrote widely about Southeast Asia and worked as a speech for more than one Thai Prime Minister.

In 2004, she wrote her prize winning book, "Altadena: Between Wilderness and City." She is presently a resident of Altadena and was recently re-elected to their Town Council.

Refreshments will be served.

Please sign up!
The Fire Safe Council needs volunteers for the Red Flag Patrol.

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

or email:
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MountainViews-Observer

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Anita

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

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322 Sierra Madre Blvd.
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Time for Ice Cream
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Lucky Baldwin's

21 Kersting Court
(626) 355-1140

Mary's Market

561 Woodland Drive
(626) 355-4534

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Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, September 15 in Memorial Park. Breakfast will be served under the pergola, beginning at 7am, with service until 11am. There will be plenty of pancakes hot off the griddle, plus sausages, coffee, and orange juice served to hungry Sierra Madreans. The cost is only \$5 per breakfast.

Tickets are available at Webb-Martin Realtors on Baldwin Ave, from any Kiwanis Club member, or by calling Kiwanis Club President Hank Landsberg at 355-3656.

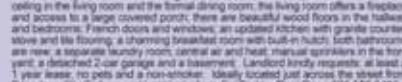
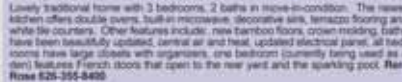


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What's In A Name Anyway?

By Rich Johnson

Your columnist was intending to write about the heat this week but decided to wait until it really gets hot. Besides, he has something really important to discuss with far greater repercussions.

A clue? Notice the new picture accompanying this column? It's called a headshot. Actors get them to send out to agents and casting directors. Hint, hint, nudge, nudge! That's right. Yours truly has been cast in a play called "The Good Doctor" at the Sierra Madre Playhouse commencing October 5th and playing through November 10th.

As an actor the first thing I am going to do is change my name. Why not? How many famous actors named Richard are out there? Still living that is? There are options when it comes to creating a stage name. First, some actors drop their first name and use their middle names. Gene Autry for example dropped his first name, Orvon. Warren Beatty's first name is Henry. Pat Boone and Robert Redford are both Charles. Farrah Fawcett is really Mary as is Mary Debra Winger. So let's see. I would stop being Richard Johnson and start being Otis Johnson. What do you think? How will that look on the cover of Teen Magazine? Maybe that's not the way to go.

What about those actors who completely change their name. Alan Alda was originally little Alphonso D'Abuzzo. That's kind of snappy. Anne Bancroft answered to the name of Anna Maria Louisa Italiano...Kaminsky after she married Mel Brooks, I mean Melvin Kaminsky. Pat Benatar enrolled in kindergarten as Patricia Andrzejewski (try putting that on a CD label). Robert Blake, most recently of Court TV fame went by Michael Gubitosi. Michael Caine was Maurice Micklewhite, Dyan Cannon was originally Samille Diane Friesen. Chevy Chase was dubbed Cornelius Crane Chase. If you add Maypothor, IV to Tom Cruise you have his full name. Some agent must have told Kirk Douglas that Issur Danielovitch Demsky wouldn't look good on a marquee. Even a president had a stage name: Gerald Ford was originally Leslie Lynch King, Jr. I don't want to shock you wrestling fans but Hulk Hogan isn't his real name. It's Terry Jean Bollette. Kind of a sissy name but maybe that's how he got so tough. Do you watch the Larry Ziegler show every night? You might know it as the Larry King show. I sort of like the name Meat Loaf. What? That's not his real name? It was Marvin Lee Aday. Remember Tonto, who was played by Jay Silverheels? Jay's real name was Harold J. Smith. Now that's just not right.

When you get famous you can also be more creative naming your children. Rocker Bob Geldof named his daughters Fif, Trixibelle, and Pixie. Elliot Gould named his son Sam Bazooka. Homer Banks is the name of the son (I presume) of Bill Murray. And Keith Richard of Rolling Stone fame named his child Dandelion (I have no idea if Dandelion is a boy or a girl).

I need help...about my new name that is. If you have any suggestions let me know. Write to me at r.johnson@mvsobserver.com

Coffee With Joffe

A FRESH START

It is hard to believe that summer is over especially with the temperature topping 100 degrees for almost a week. I can only dream of a nip in the air and the leaves turning colors while sitting right in front of the air conditioner and fanning myself at the same time. But even if the weather is not cooperating, there are plenty of other signs of autumn—the kids are back in school and the city activity level is starting to pick up. It feels like a fresh start.

On the theme of fresh starts, please join me in welcoming our new City Manager Elaine Aguilar. Elaine comes to us from the City of Glendale where she was Assistant to the City Manager for the past six years. There she worked on intergovernmental relations and many special projects. Prior to Glendale, Elaine was with the City of La Puente as Assistant Manager. She has lots of great experience working on city finances. By the time Elaine officially started on August 27th, she had attended the Ad Hoc Finance Committee meetings and met many of the staff. She also enjoys interacting with the community, and has already met with a number of community groups in the two weeks she has been on the job. Elaine grew up locally and currently lives in the City of West Covina. would be the last person to underestimate the challenges ahead but I know Elaine is up to them and has the unanimous support of the City Council. Thanks to everyone for their patience during lengthy selection process, but once you meet Elaine, you will know it was worth the wait.

Please join me at a reception to welcome our new City Manager on September

11, 2007, 5:30 PM at City Hall. Then stay for the City Council meeting. We'll be discussing the progress of the Ad Hoc Finance Committee and the Police Officers Association (POA) Initiative. Serious but very important subjects for the future of our community. And by the way, our hardworking staff burned the midnight oil to complete the analysis for the initiative. To save the city money, the work was done in-house without bringing in any consultants. Of course the staff all still had to do their day jobs. My thanks to the staff for the extra effort it took to get the report done during the dog days of August while most of us were relaxing by the pool.

We've got an action-packed Fall coming up—the grand finale of our Centennial Year, the Annual Halloween Happenings, the results of the Ad Hoc Finance Committee's work, the groundbreaking for Goldberg Park and the Sierra Madre Honors recognition dinner, not to mention a Congressional recognition as an All America City. Stay tuned for details or check the pages of the new issue of the Wistaria Vine newsletter—the one with our All America Cities award photos on it. And keep posted on city happenings by signing up for the city's email blasts and e-newsletter on the city website <http://cityofsierramadre.clm>. Meantime, now that August is over, THE MAYOR IS IN; just call me at 626 646 5458 or email me at cjoffe@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us



Sierra Madre Mayor Enid Joffe

East Coast Comes To Cool The West:

Carvels Ice Cream Opens In Pasadena

By Teresa Baxter

For those nostalgic for a childhood sweet treat from their past, or for anyone who simply needs the cooling pleasure that only an ice cream cone can bring, Carvel Ice Cream has quietly opened its doors for business at 766 E. Colorado Blvd. #103, in Pasadena.

"We are currently in our soft opening phase, preparing and training our employees," said owner, Serjik Ghahramanians. "Look for our grand opening in a couple weeks, we'll be offering many specials." The grand opening promises to be full of festivities and there is rumor of a special visit by the famous "Fudgie the Whale". With temperatures in Pasadena consistently soaring past the 100 degree mark, there could not be a more opportune time to offer the community some cool, creamy, crunchy treats.

Ghahramanians previously scouted Glendale and La Crescenta as possible locations for his ice cream endeavor, but is very happy that he chose to be a part of the Pasadena community. "The people of Pasadena have responded unbelievably great," he stated. "Transplanted customers from the eastern coast of the United States remember us from their childhood and have quickly become our biggest fan base." Carvel Ice Cream has long been established in many other parts of the country, but just started appearing in the Los Angeles area in 2005. Other L.A. locations include stores in Thousand Oaks and Santa Monica.



my second trip."

Historically, the chain holds the Guinness World Record for the "Largest Ice Cream Scoop Pyramid" and the "Largest Ice Cream Cake". In 2004, the Travel Channel chose Carvel as the "Best Ice Cream Cake", and it is a little known fact that founder Tom Carvel was Oprah Winfrey's first talk show interviewee back in 1978.

Carvel Ice Cream was created in 1934, with its franchise headquarters currently located in Atlanta, Ga. The company has more than 570 store locations and also sells its famous ice cream cakes in over 8,500 supermarket outlets nationwide.

A Centennial Celebration for Sierra Madre

The Sierra Madre United Methodist Church extends a warm welcome to the community to come celebrate with us as we honor the city's Centennial.

We will be hosting an ice cream social in the Sierra Madre War Memorial Park on Sierra Madre Boulevard on Sunday, September 16th.

The celebration starts at 3:30 with ice cream, old fashioned games and activities. Live entertainment will be provided by the San Gabriel Valley Ole Tyme Banjo Band. Song sheets will be provided to encourage everyone to sing along. Antique cars will also be on display. Come take a stroll down memory lane.

Please mark your calendars and drop by the pavilion in the park to celebrate with us and enjoy the fun, fellowship and frozen treats.

Pasadena Women's Connection

invites you to a "Flair For Fashion" luncheon featuring Sharon Spencer with "Weekenders"—a unique clothing concept—presenting wardrobe building tips. Lisa Wells will sing with flair and special guest speaker Tracy Klehn will tell "How to put Shine in your Life". Wednesday, September 12, 2007 11:30a.m. at Brookside Country Club, Pasadena. Cost is \$18 includes lunch. All are welcome. Please call Kay for reservations at 818-248-7218.

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Bargain Books Table
at Sierra Madre
Library

Fall Into a Good Book

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will have a "Bargain Books Table" inside the Library from Monday, September 17, through Saturday, September 22, during the Library's public open hours. Featured titles will include Fiction, Mysteries, and Children's Books, all in good condition. All books will be sold at the bargain price of \$1.00.

The Sierra Madre Public Library, located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, is open Monday through Wednesday from 12 noon to 9 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 12 noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For further information on programs and services please call us at (626)355-7186 or visit the Library's web site at www.sierramadrelib.ca.us.

ALTADENA NEWS & NOTICES

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AT SCHOOLS

By Vivianne Parker

California Highway Patrol (CHP) will continue heavy traffic enforcement at selected schools the first two weeks of school to ensure child safety. The CHP will also be checking violations such as drivers being double parked or stopped in the road as they try to drop off or pick up kids at local schools. Of course, speeding and other violations in the school zones will also be enforced.

"We've had complaints from parents and neighbors everyday who are concerned about child safety because there's no specific pick up or drop off points," said Todd Workman, Public Information Officer, with the CHP, who has been working with the Altadena, La Crescenta and Temple City schools to address this problem.

This problem has been an ongoing one and the issue was discussed recently at an Altadena Town Council meeting over the summer. "My argument to them was we can handle traffic enforcement and we have no problem doing that," said Officer Workman, who sees the

challenge as one of education. "What we'd like to do with them is educate the parents and each school about setting up a system where it is easy to pick up and drop off, instead of everybody just showing up at the same time five minutes to eight and have their kids run to the front door," he added about the problem. Besides logistics, another element of the problem could be time management.

Since the meeting, Officer Workman has visited each school to find the best system for the pickup and drop off location. "I have personally spoken to each principal trying to develop a system because each school layout is different and what would be possible for one would not be possible for another one."

Through enforcement, education and visual presence, schools will start the new year with a better traffic plan.

* * *
Free Installations for Child Safety Seats

The CHP offers free child safety seat installations at the Altadena office located at 2130 Windsor Ave. Child safety seats are required for children under the age of 6 or 60 lbs. Parents must call the CHP to get on the list for the next installation date and then the CHP will set up a day for them to bring their child safety seat that they've purchased for a free installation. For more information call (626) 296-8100.

Sierra Madre Congregational Church
170 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. • (626) 355-3566
www.smcnet.org
Rev. Richard J. Anderson, Senior Pastor

Faster Service • 6 am Sunrise

Family Worship Service • 7 am • 8:15 • 9:45 • 11:15

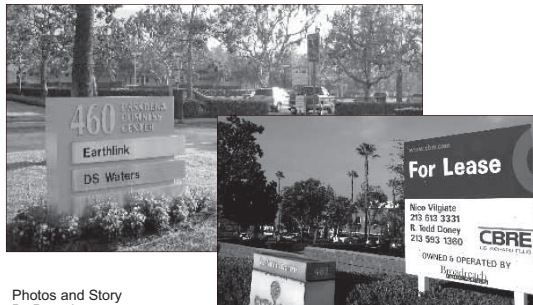
Free All Church Brunch • Pritchard Hall 8:15 am - 11 am

Child Care Available



MountainViews-Observer PASADENA

Earthlink Pulls the Plug on Planned Citywide WiFi Network



Photos and Story
By Dean Lee

Pasadena officials confirmed Wednesday that EarthLink Inc. will no longer move forward with a seven year, \$6 million project to build a 23 square mile citywide municipal wireless network in the city. Earthlink recently announced plans immediately to cut 900 hundred jobs company-wide—with over 200 of them eliminated by year's end in Pasadena alone.

According to the company, along with reducing its presence in Pasadena, they will close their Orlando, Florida; Knoxville, Tennessee; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and San Francisco offices. The 465 North Halstead EarthLink Pasadena office currently has a for lease sign in front of the building. However, company officials said they had no plans to move from Pasadena.

"While we recognize this is a difficult time for those affected individuals, this was a needed action for the company to better align our cost structure with our existing business," said Rolla Huff, EarthLink's President and CEO, in a prepared statement.

In 2005 the city issued a request for proposals to develop and maintain a citywide wireless network. Out of five offers EarthLink was chosen by the city council in July 2006.

"It was clear EarthLink was the company," said John Pratt, Pasadena's Chief Information Technology Officer. "We looked at other services, some free, but they did not seem as reliable for what we wanted. With some we tried but we could not even connect. Their technicians had problems as they were trying to show us their systems."

Under the proposed agreement, EarthLink would have made three types

of wireless services available to city departments: general city wireless accounts, mobile vehicle connectivity service and fixed location wireless service.

Pratt said EarthLink's pullout did not mean that Pasadena would not go wireless. He even said the original 2008 estimated date for completion of a citywide system was still conceivable although it was unclear to him just how the city would go about finding a new provider.

EarthLink would have paid \$918,078 for attaching approximately 750 routers to street lights, traffic signals and utility poles. Another 250 pieces of equipment would have been connected to other possible antenna sites such as the City's El Mirador tower facility.

The public rates for EarthLink would have been \$21.95 per month for a 1 Mbps broadband connection. Service would have also been offered on an hourly, daily, and weekly basis, something city staff said was reasonable for the speed. "For the speed that's not bad but I don't know what others charge," Pratt said.

Pratt explained that some of the problems both the city and EarthLink had with the planned wireless system including not having services available to areas like Linda Vista and San Rafael. This would have been a problem in areas not adjacent to main city streets. These are also landmark areas where placement of wireless equipment is prohibited on existing historic lightposts. He said a new bidder might better address some of these issues.

The Earthlink deal would have also given a reduced (cont. page 14)

New PCC President Greet Students



Pasadena City College president Paulette Perfumo greeted, faculty, staff and students back Thursday afternoon as hundreds lined up to shake her hand and just say hello. At times it was hard to tell who was welcoming who back to school. Honor student Sean O'Conner (pictured) was the first student in line, of mostly faculty, to personally meet Perfumo. O'Conner said he is in his fourth year at PCC studying environment science and plans to apply to UCLA this year. Perfumo now serves as 11th President of the college and is one of only two women to hold the office since the school's founding in 1924.

Before coming to PCC she served as Superintendent/President at Solano Community College in Fairfield. Perfumo guided that district's \$125.5 million Measure "G" Bond facilities project.

PCC is now going through a very similar situation with a \$150 million Voters approved Measure P to overhaul some of the existing buildings on the PCC campus. The current phase of the project will be completed in 2009 renovating the existing bookstore and campus center at a cost of \$28,139.

Top Mission Specialists Say New JPL Security Standards Don't Fly Right



JPL employees Scott Maxwell (l) and Thomas Starbird (r) hand out literature opposing a Homeland Security directive imposing new requirements on background checks. The order, HSPD12, is being challenged in court. Complete story on page 14.

The 75-year-old Civic Auditorium: A Fixer-Upper

Story and Photos By Dean Lee



demolished to make way for 1,030 new parking spaces in the area.

Mishima plaza once had a very large round popular water fountain that many area residents said they will miss. It also housed Pasadena's ice skating rink, one of the last surviving ice rinks in the San Gabriel Valley.

A new Pasadena Ice Skating Rink is planned in the Eaton Wash Park Master Plan area, on land designated parkland. Although recently the plans came under fire as open space preservation groups alleged the city was making deals with the land owner, Southern California Edison, that would have led to the closure of a number of long time family owned nurseries.

Both Pleasant Perfect and Persson's nurseries, on Edison's right-of-way, were spared demolition at the last minute earlier this summer by Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, after the group brought public awareness to the issue.

Edison had originally given the two nurseries eviction notices in an effort to utilize their utility corridors for a number of development ventures such as storage facilities and parking lots adjacent to city projects, including the new Pasadena Ice Skating Rink.

Efforts to expand some of the Pasadena Center facilities on east Green Street are in full swing, including renovation of the conference center east of the historic Civic Auditorium and the removal, and then relocation, of the city's ice skating rink. The 75-year-old Civic Auditorium and its forecourt will be restored to their original condition, according to city staff.

For years the Pasadena Civic played host to the Prime Time Emmy Awards and the People's Choice Awards. Many celebrities, including Tom Cruise and Tom Hanks, have walked Pasadena's own red carpet through a gauntlet of paparazzi in front of the hall. The Pasadena Civic has also hosted a number of world class Broadway musicals and other events, bringing the auditorium international recognition.

According to city staff there is also a second 25,000-square-foot ballroom and 85,000 square feet of exhibit space planned in what was the Mishima Plaza. This, along with renovation of the present underground conference space and administrative offices is scheduled to be completed by 2009. The existing parking garage was also



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

While traveling in Nova Scotia I am keeping up with the news of fire around the world. Fire hazard is low here and people are astonished to learn that water for snow making machines, in the wells and reservoirs in Idaho, is in limited supply because water everywhere you turn in this Province. Southern California's water supply is of concern in our current drought conditions for any fire fighting scenario. Altadena's small fire was suppressed swiftly last week conserving water and future watershed.

In Greece, the Canadian Super Scoopers are in full force, scooping water from the Mediterranean Sea, but the devastation is unbelievable. California is a Mediterranean climate, with plant materials adapted to long periods of drought. We cannot strip the hillsides of all flammable materials so you must create a defensible space around your home in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The best time to start brush abatement was last spring, the second best time is NOW.

The next Fire Safe Council meeting will be Monday, September 10, 2007, 7 P.M. in the City Council Chambers. For more information contact the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council at 355-0741 or 355-9350.

E-mail: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com



Environmentally Speaking,

"Did You Know?"

Liquid Gold

We have been trying to turn a desert into a forest for far too long, taking the water that has sustained us for granted. Humanity is on the march, development abounds, and bulldozers make way for more homes. Where will the water come from?

Sierra Madre is under mandatory water conservation implementation now, so perhaps it's time to rethink the water saving tips we have all heard so often. Here are just a few...

- 1) Keep your shower time under 5 minutes and you will save up to 1000 gallons a month.
- 2) Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save 4 gallons a minute.
- 3) Turn off the water while you shave and you can save more than 100 gallons a week.
- 4) Wash clothes only when you have a full load and save up to 600 gallons each month.
- 5) Instead of putting ice cubes in the sink, put them in a plant instead.
- 6) Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks.
- 7) Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
- 8) Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost instead and save gallons every time.
- 9) Install an instant water heater on your kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up.
- 10) Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water use plant and save up to 550 gallons a year.*

*To create your own watering schedule go to: bewaterwise.com

"We never know the worth of water till the well is dry." ~ Thomas Fuller, Gnomologia, 1732

Brought to you by:

Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council

(SMEAC)

P. O. Box 85

Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025-0085

Your thoughts and comments are welcome.



SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, August 26th, to Saturday September 1st, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 277 calls for service.

Sunday, August 26th:

4:08 PM - Arrest, driving on a suspended or revoked driver's license, Foothill Blvd and Michillinda Ave. A driver was stopped for a minor traffic violation. A records check revealed her driver's license was suspended resulting in the storage of her car for 30 days. During the inventory of her car a small quantity of marijuana was found. The driver was issued a written promise to appear and released.

Monday, August 27th:

10:07 AM - Vandalism, 708 West Sierra Madre Blvd. A car window was reported smashed in the carport. Per the car's owner it was parked Sunday, 8/26 at 9:30 PM and the damage was discovered at 9:40 AM. No property was missing. The damage was estimated at \$300.00.

Tuesday, August 28th:

1:10 PM - Arrest, unlicensed driver, 200 block North Lima Street. A driver was stopped for a minor traffic violation. A records check revealed he had no driver's license and a \$10,000.00 warrant for his arrest. The driver was cited for being unlicensed, speeding and no insurance. He was issued a written promise to appear for the warrant and released at the scene.

Wednesday, August 29th:

7:06 PM - Vandalism/graffiti, 695 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Methodist Church. Graffiti was reported sprayed on the Montecito Ave perimeter wall. No damage estimate was available.

10:02 PM - Armed persons, Santa Anita Canyon Road. Four men armed with rifles were found target shooting. The rifles were determined to be "AIR SOFT" guns, a violation of the city's municipal code. The men were cited and released.

10:11 PM - Residential burglary, 100 block Adams St. A resident reported that his home was burglarized between Tuesday, 8/28 and Wednesday, 8/29. The loss was a 52" Samsung HDTV and a Canon digital camera. The value was estimated at \$4900.00. No force or point of entry was found.

Friday, August 31st:

1:24 AM - Recovered stolen vehicles, 00 block Manzanita Ave. Officer Williams saw two Honda cars driving at a high rate of speed with their headlights off in the vicinity of Baldwin Ave. and Orange Grove. Officer Williams pursued the cars until the drivers abandoned them on Manzanita and fled. A records check revealed that one car was stolen from West Covina. The FAST helicopter and patrol officers from the Arcadia and Pasadena PDs assisted with searching for the suspects. The officers did not find the suspects. Police determined that the second Honda had been stolen from the driveway of a home on Gloria Road in Arcadia earlier that evening.

ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, August 26, through Saturday, September 1, the Police Department responded to 1,022 calls for service of which 126 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, August 26:

1. Loss prevention personnel from JC Penney advised that they had detained a man for theft around 2:26 p.m. The suspect was seen concealing two pairs of jeans in a bag and then left the store without making payment. A private person's arrest was made, and he was taken into custody for petty theft. While at the station, his fingerprints returned indicating a different name and he was also on active parole. The 19-year-old Hispanic was charged with petty theft, false identification to peace officer, and felony parole violation.

2. Shortly after 9:00 p.m., units were dispatched to the 00 block of Lemon regarding a domestic disturbance. Investigation revealed that during an argument, the suspect pushed, choked, and struck his wife's face. The 32-year-old male Caucasian suspect also violently resisted detention and the Taser was deployed to gain compliance. The man was arrested for inflicting corporal injury to spouse.

Monday, August 27:

3. Officers stopped a bicyclist at Colorado and Michillinda around 6:39 a.m. after the man committed several violations on his bicycle. A record check of the 44-year-old Caucasian revealed that he had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant and was arrested at the scene. A search of his person revealed numerous female jewelry items, large number of gift cards, and a credit card belonging to a different individual. His backpack also contained CD's, jewelry, clothing items, miscellaneous electronic equipment, and a piece of mail belonging to an unknown person. He was also charged with receiving stolen property.

4. A commercial burglary occurred in the 11700 block of Goldring between 2:00 p.m. on August 25 and 8:30 a.m. on August 27. Unknown suspect(s) forced open a bathroom window to gain access into the business and stole a computer and numerous clothing items.

Tuesday, August 28:

5. Between 5:30 p.m. on August 23 and 10:00 a.m. on August 24, a commercial burglary occurred in the 800 block of Fallen Leaf. Unknown suspect(s) made forced entry in a residence that is under construction. The suspect(s) stole a sauna, steam pump, and sink fixtures for a total reported loss of about \$8,700.

6. Around 5:26 p.m., officers conducted a record check on a vehicle and discovered that there was a no bail warrant attached to the registered owner of the vehicle. A traffic stop was made at Huntington and Fifth, and the 46-year-old male Hispanic driver was arrested for a no bail felony warrant and a misdemeanor warrant.

Wednesday, August 29:

7. A victim came to the station around 1:46 p.m. regarding a forgery report. The victim discovered that unknown suspect(s) had acquired her credit card information by unknown means and made \$1,800 in unauthorized purchases.

8. A residential burglary occurred between June 1 and August 29 in the 100 block of West Sandra. The victim was away at his vacation home in Oregon, and he returned to find that several windows to his house were broken. It appeared that unknown suspect(s) used the location to live and sleep. There was some ransacking but no property appeared to have been taken.

Thursday, August 30:

9. A victim came to the station around 7:25 a.m. to file a grand theft report. He indicated that he had hired a 26-year-old female Hispanic acquaintance to help him move some items from his home in Hesperia to a storage unit in Monrovia. While they were staying at Santa Anita Inn, 130 West Huntington, the woman stole his firearm, ammunition, and digital video camera.

10. Around 5:39 p.m., loss prevention personnel from Nordstrom advised that they had detained two female adults and one female juvenile for theft. They selected clothing items, went into fitting rooms, and then concealed about \$500 in merchandise. Private persons' arrests were made, and the 17, 18, and 20-year-old suspects were taken into custody.

Friday, August 31:

11. Around 4:00 a.m., units responded to the 800 block of West Huntington regarding two male suspects breaking into parked vehicles. As officers were responding to the scene, the two suspects ran across the center median and jumped in front of one of the patrol units. A 21-year-old male suspect was detained and arrested for auto burglary. The second suspect fled on foot, and he was not found during a perimeter search. Around 6:30 a.m., a resident heard snoring outside and the suspect was found sleeping on top of a garage. The 30-year-old Caucasian was arrested at the scene without incident.

12. Between 10:00 p.m. on August 30 and 8:00 a.m. on August 31, a vehicle theft occurred in the 600 block of North First. Unknown suspect(s) stole a 1994 maroon Honda Accord.

Saturday, September 1:

13. Two fights broke out shortly after 1:00 a.m.; one occurred at First Cabin Bar, 46 East Huntington, and the other at Peanuts, 60 East Huntington. No party was desirous of prosecution so reports were taken for documentation purposes.

14. Shortly after 7:30 a.m., two juveniles were seen walking slowly near Colorado and Baldwin, and the male was supporting the female by the arm. Officers conducted a welfare check and the individuals were contacted. Investigation revealed that they were reported as missing juveniles from Pasadena and Los Angeles. Consent searches were made and a baggie of a green leafy substance resembling marijuana was found on the 15-year-old male African-American, and he also a large sum on money. The 17-year-old female African-American also had about 8 small baggies of the green leafy substance in her purse. Both individuals were arrested for possession of marijuana for sale and were placed in non-secure juvenile detention cells. While in the cells, they scratched graffiti on the walls so they were also charged with vandalism. The male juvenile was later cited and released to his mother, and the female juvenile was cited and released to the Department of Children and Family Services.

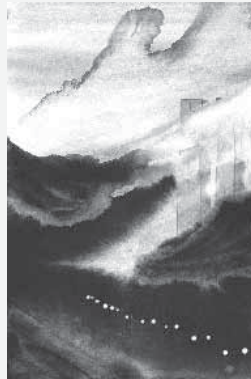


Arts & Architecture

By Virginia Olive Hoge

9/11 Reflection

After 9/11, the New York Times ran a beautiful column called "Portraits of Grief" which gave an obituary of every single person who died in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. There weren't a lot of artists working in the World Trade Center towers that day, but there were some. A notable number of firemen were artists. The profession attracted "free spirited" types (the very definition of many – not all - artists), but mostly they were freelancers doing their "day jobs". Their misfortune is palpable, trapped in an inferno, in an office where they didn't know one person. I was once one of them myself and had worked at the WTC on a couple of different assignments. In my case, they were miserable jobs. The trade center was very "uptight" in general and, ironically, the security alone to enter the building for people who weren't on staff was humiliating. You had to stand in a special line with all of your paperwork ready and then stand in a glass room, waiting for a call from "upstairs" to approve you, something that could take up a half hour of unpaid time. Forget going out for lunch, if you did you would have to stand in the same line again. The dress code too was always rigorous for the financial firms, and the uncomfortably dressed freelancer would be placed at some unused cubicle in the least inhabited part of the office, given some drab assignment no one else on staff wanted. The view, however, was incredible! I had a "birds-eye" view (I was actually standing far above the normal flight height of birds which is 500 ft., the tallest tower was 1,368 Ft. high) of the New York Harbor, where the East and Hudson rivers meet at the base of Manhattan, a view which I will never forget. You could watch the big freighter ships coming in all day, the color of the light changing hourly in glass reflection on the water and each phase, beautiful. In the summer they hosted great musical events at the plaza and I will never forget a night of salsa music with the whole plaza filled with people dancing, the music reverberating against the gigantic



"church organ pipes" (the proper name is framed tube structures) walls of the impossibly tall towers vanishing into the clouds above them.

Sheer "height" defined the towers architecturally, dedicated in the abysmal (for architecture) year of 1973, and they were sneered at by architecture critics as out-of-scale for the neighborhood (it is hard to imagine any neighborhood something 110 stories high would "fit" into). But afterward, this was exactly what was missed. The towers anchored the skyline, they were its base and now, it will never look "right" again.

One artist who died in the towers that day, however, wasn't a freelancer. The Trade Center had an "artist-in-residence" program, which gave artists free studio space in the towers for one year. You, of course, weren't supposed to sleep in your studio, but that is exactly what happened. Michael Richards, a sculptor, had worked all night on his work and was sleeping when 8:46 a.m. came the next day. It was "what" he was working on that is so haunting - a statue of a man with tiny airplanes all over it, crashing into his body.

v.hoge@mvobserver.com

Calling All Lady Golfers! Altadena Guild Seeks Women Golfers for Fundraiser

The Altadena Guild of Huntingdon Hospital will be sponsoring the 15th annual Lynn Smith Memorial Golf Tournament on October 15th at Brookside Golf Course. The Guild is hoping there will be more ladies participating in this year's tournament.

"We know there are some great lady golfers throughout the Pasadena area and we would love them to play for such a worthy cause," encouraged event chair Suzzy Burkhard.

The yearly tournament benefits Huntingdon Medical Research Institutes (HMRI) and honors the memory of Lynn A. Smith, a dedicated HMRI board of director's member and generous benefactor. HMRI is an independent,

nonprofit, public-benefit organization dedicated to improving health and prolonging life by enhancing knowledge of life processes and disease, and by developing technology to diagnose and treat diseases. HMRI represents a world-renowned gathering of scientists, physicians and researchers committed to cutting-edge medical research.

The shotgun tournament schedule includes check-in at 10:00 a.m. and lunch at 11:00 a.m. with golfers on the 18-hole course at 12:30 p.m. The event festivities continue at 5:00 p.m. with a lovely reception including a sit-down dinner, silent auction and an opportunity drawing in Brookside's Mediterranean room.

Entries received by September 17th will be eligible for a reduced rate of \$200 per player. The reception cost is \$35 per person. For further information, please contact Marguerite Duncan-Abrams, HMRI Director of Development, at (626) 297-5804.

Local Artist's Colorful Past Brings Vibrancy to Modern Art

By Teresa Baxter

Upon viewing the bright and colorful abstracts created by local artist Ralph McKnight, one would need to understand the path that fueled his passion, leading to his digital mastery of a new artistic form. The artistic process is a creative one, influenced by many aspects of life experience.



The Collection's
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McKnight shares that his father was his greatest influence, artistically, by exposing him to oil portraits, landscape paintings, and photography.

"I am fortunate that my father inspired me," he said. "He also introduced me to my other passion, music."

McKnight was born in Washington, D.C., and majored in electrical engineering at Howard University, after which he went on to a career as an air traffic controller for the Federal Aviation Administration. He worked in the Republique du Congo, in Africa, as a technical assistance liaison for the United Nations Civil Aviation Organization, but it was during his off time that he pursued his love for jazz music by performing with several notable musicians.

"My mind set has always been around creative people," he said. "So in the 1950s and 60s I would always hang

out with artists, writers and the bohemians of the time."

Initially, this creative spark also led to his artistic expression of finger painting on lampshades and the use of spatulas to form his pieces of art. He admits that when he first moved to California he lost a bit of his creative edge. At the time he felt that his new environment had dimmed his imagination, making his art and music suffer.

Luckily, one day about four years ago, he went along with his wife and her friend to Santa Monica for a shopping excursion. Normally he would have waited outside on the sidewalk, but when the ladies went in to a furniture store he decided to follow. He quickly noticed the beautiful painted lampshades on display.

"They were very expensive and I felt that I could do better than that," he said. "But I didn't want to break out my oils, so I thought I should see what I could do with my computer."

For months he spent every waking moment on his idea, working on computer programs to see what he could do with colors, layers and opacities. Finally, things began to take the shape and form of his vision, but he didn't know how to transfer it into a medium. After intense research he found a way to transfer his digital art on to tiles. McKnight has since expanded this process to apply his designs to fabric, posters and album covers.

McKnight's interest in abstract design has led to creative alliances with architects, developers and art collectors. He has been exhibited in the Art College of Design of Pasadena and the African American Museum, in L.A.

Fairy Tales and Fantasies III

A Review by Despina Tsiknas-Arzuoman

On Sunday, August 26, at the Memorial Park band shell, the members of the Southern California Lyric Theatre, under the direction of Alison Kalnus, sang their hearts out in a concert of song, dance, and sheer joy. The pieces included songs from musical theatre, opera, Disney, and Americana. What a lovely way to usher out the summer.

It was a good opportunity to see artists of all ages come together and exercise their vocal talents and theatrical skills. Every song performed seemed well suited to each individual. As I listened, I saw before me a show of the personal achievements of the entire cast; and thought that this should be a reminder to everyone that just because they are "not famous" (and maybe never will be) does not mean one should give up their passion for singing and engaging in performance. After all, honing one's talents is all about engaging in a p-r-o-c-e-s-s of discovery, and where better than to practice amongst people in their community. And we were all out there supporting them.

Meanwhile, from my personal observation, there were a few singers who seemed to have the potential to be world-class performers. And to them I say: the keys for success would be to never give up. Even if life side-tracks you, staying focused and purposed at serving your respective art is the greatest achievement of all (even without the world's recognition). However, and generally, and based upon what I learned in my years of experience as a dancer and in the field of entertainment, the greatest lessons to learn are to (1) strive to be relaxed in whatever you're doing; (2) seek to per-FECT your art (i.e. that is different than "being perfect"); (3) "drop" your concern about mistakes you made during rehearsals; see yourself getting it right; (4) never try to repeat something the same exact way twice. Remember, "now" is NOW - not yesterday, not tomorrow. Being comfortable and centered in who you are and what you are doing "now" is the way to master your art. It is not what you do, but HOW you are doing it. That quality of mind is just as important as what it is you are endeavoring to accomplish.

The City of Sierra Madre and the Community Services and Arts Commissions, have contributed by providing a free space for the So. California Lyric Theatre to practice.



Kate Maloney singing "Popular"
Photo by D. Arzuoman

Gratitude should be given to Alison Kalnus for not only investing her time, energy, and love in this Theatrical endeavor, but because she also stepped in the last minute to fill in for someone who called-in sick. Everyone worked hard and hopefully will continue to practice and grow, and "blow-us-all-away" next year!!! Thank you.

The Southern California Lyric Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicating to fostering appreciation for fine musical theatre and providing professional training and mentoring for talented youth in the So. Cal. community. Donations are always welcome. 280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. #175, Sierra Madre, CA 91024, (626) 398-7696, www.socal-lyrictheater.org

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To truly appreciate McKnight's innovative approach to artistry one must first understand his philosophical perspective. Everyone should create something before they die, he said. "No matter if it is only a strain of music, a sentence of prose, or a speck on canvas. Otherwise, one's life can not have mattered."

His style has been compared to the famous abstract artist Paul Klee, a 1920s innovator that was involved in the Bauhaus movement, noted for its architectural modernism. The modernism of times past continues to influence McKnight today.



McKnight also creates murals with the tiles to adorn any room in the house

For more information about the artist, please visit www.thepasadenacollection.com

Ed

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

TRISH's TRUTH



Tips & Tools: A Guide For School

By Trisha Collins

For most students like myself, school started earlier this week. During the first day, there's the typical introduction to your classes by your teachers. They let you know what is expected of you, and what their class specifically requires. The teachers warn you of a few things, like not to be late to school, and to turn your assignments on time. This is all good and well, you should abide by these rules always and respect them. But what they don't stress on are tips that you need to keep in mind all year long. That's where I come in, to make sure that you know (if you don't already) the tips and tools that I use to get the best grades possible.

Tip#1: Try and sit in the front row of all your classes. This tip is very important and useful in many ways. When you sit in the first row, you practically force yourself to pay attention. Usually, it's the slackers that choose to sit in the back rows, and they are the ones that can distract you from your task. Not only that, but most of them don't make the best grades, and you don't want to end up like them. Also, the front row of the class is usually where the teacher is, and you'll be able to see and hear him better. (If you're embarrassed because you're practically the only one in the front, blame it on bad eyesight!)

Tip#2: Always keep track of your schoolwork in a notebook.

This tip (or tool) can help you remain organized with your classwork and homework. I know that I have a separate notebook with a calendar in the front where I keep up with all my assignments, test dates, and other important dates. Having all that in one place makes my life so much easier. The only thing is, if you lose it, you also lose all of your information too. So you want to make sure that you always know where it is.

Tip#3: Participate during class!

This is another important and simple tip that can help you achieve academically. Don't be afraid to raise your hand and ask questions about things you don't understand. It shows your teacher that you are paying attention and that you are interested in the subject matter. Also, some teachers give out participation points, so you definitely want to contribute something to your class. And it's okay if your teacher doesn't know your name yet. You've only been in school a few days. So help him out a little and remind him of your name. If you do that, and you participate in class, he'll definitely be impressed that you are concerned with your schoolwork.

It's Back To School Again: Everywhere you look you will see students getting back into the swing of things

Photos By Jacqueline Truong/MVOObserver



Top: Dominique 16, Taylor and Rebecca, 15 look for class information; Middle: Forgot your pencil? Don't worry, there's always an adult around to help you out! Bottom: Nikki, 9, is starting his year at St. Rita's out right. Study, study, study.

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT HELPS BEAUTIFY PHS

The first is that PHS PTSA received a \$5,000 grant from Lowe's Toolbox for Education to be used for campus beautification. We are having a campus work day on Saturday, October 20th to plant trees, shrubs & flowers. This is a school, neighborhood and community event. The planting will be done in the front & back of the school visible to the community. An effort to use drought tolerant plants, etc. is our focus as well.

Got School News? Call 626-836-5100

WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOUTH FINANCIAL LITERACY

Pasadena based Credit Union Sponsors L.A. Basketball Team's Financial Education Program

LA Financial Credit Union is partnering with the NBA basketball team, L.A. Clippers, this season for a program that will teach area young people about finances. The Pasadena, CA-based credit union is sponsoring the Clippers' new "Kids Read To Achieve for Financial Literacy Program."

The L.A. Clippers has run a successful Read to Achieve program for five years; with more than 40,000 children from 19 Los Angeles school districts enrolled last year. The program challenges children in elementary, middle and high school to read by offering various incentives. This year, the organization wanted to add a financial literacy component. In their search for a program sponsor, the organization discovered LA Financial Credit Union's community involvement focus on children and financial literacy.

"LA Financial is proud to partner with the LA Clippers," said Renee Mackanin, the credit union's vice president of marketing. "We would never be able to deliver financial education to so many children on our own. This partnership will help us to achieve our goals and educate thousands of children in L.A. County."

Through the program, elementary and middle school students will learn about earning, saving, and spending through reading. They will be

encouraged to read to earn "Read to Achieve Dollars." At the end of the program, 10 students (five from elementary and five from middle school) with the most "Read to Achieve Dollars" will become members of the Clippers Financial Bank Shot Board and receive a \$200 scholarship courtesy of the credit union.

High school students will participate in an essay contest to express their knowledge of how earning, saving, spending, and borrowing can affect their financial future. Students of the five winning essays will round out the Clippers Financial Bank Shot and receive a \$200 scholarship.

The members of the Clippers Financial Bank Shot Board will serve as a focus group to assist the LA Financial in developing products and services for members under 18 years of age.

The Financial Literacy Program has many additional benefits for the children. From classroom visits by L.A. Clipper players, to game tickets, to Clipper merchandise, the program offers many incentives to encourage students to learn about financial matters.

The Clippers traditionally sponsor three Reading and Learning Centers throughout the county, providing the community with hundreds of books, resource guides, and reference materials. As part of the partnership, LA Financial will offer financial education workshops to adults and children at these centers.

LA Financial Federal Credit Union was founded in 1937 and is headquartered in Pasadena, California. Credit Union membership and is available to anyone who lives, works or worships in Los Angeles County. For more information about the Credit Union, call (800) 894-1200 or visit the Web site, www.lafinancial.org.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

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41 W. Santa Clara St.
Arcadia
(626) 294-0661

Alverno High School
200 N. Michillinda
(626) 355-3463

Bethany Christian School
93 N. Baldwin Ave.
(626) 355-3527

The Gooden School
192 N. Baldwin Ave.
(626) 355-2410
www.goodenschool.org

LaSalle High School
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena
(626) 351-8951

Odyssey Charter School
725 W. Altadena Dr.
Altadena, CA
(626) 229-0993
www.odysseycharterschool.com

Pasadena High School
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena
(626) 798-8901

Sierra Madre Elementary School
141 W. Highland Ave.
(626) 355-1428

Sierra Madre Middle School
160 N. Canon
(626) 836-2947

St. Rita's Catholic School
322 N. Baldwin Ave.
(626) 355-9028

Weizmann Day School
1434 N. Altadena Drive
Pasadena, CA 91107
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Lisa Feldman Head of School

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Mountain Views-Observer Mission Statement

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



Around The Town With Sir Eric Maundry

"When I entered politics, I took the only downward turn you could take from journalism."
- Jim Hightower

The continued destruction of one of Sierra Madre's most beloved wilderness areas continues to kick up a lot of dust (so to speak) here locally. One Carter, now owned by an entity operating out of the Emirate of Dubai, might turn out to be a housing project designed to comfort homesick expatriates of the Saudi Arabian Peninsula. What other explanation can there be for turning the old growth groves and grasslands of One Carter into the empty desert it is now? ... Dust is always a problem when massive building projects are being executed, particularly in the semi-arid environment we live in. Construction crews often bring in what is known as "gray water" (water not suitable for household use) in 2,500 gallon tanker trucks so that they can dampen the ground to keep it from turning to dust and drifting about the neighborhood. Which is what the crews demolishing One Carter are doing. However, according to photographs that I've been shown, the water that they are using is apparently coming straight out of the pipes of Sierra Madre! Several of these photos show workers connecting a large hose to a fire hydrant, with the other end running up into the 2,500 gallon tank of their truck. Now I don't know about you, but I have been cutting back on my use of water during the severe drought we are experiencing, as the large burned out sections of my front lawn vividly attest. After all, the City of Sierra Madre has declared a water emergency and imposed some pretty tough restrictions on its use. When you consider the amount of water these tankers hold, coupled with frequency of use, we could be talking about 10s of thousands of gallons of fresh drinking water being dumped on the dust of One Carter every week. So why have the people doing construction work at One Carter been authorized by the city to tap into our vanishing potable water supply? Was this one of the infamous "concessions" our City Council granted the Guys From Dubai when they signed off on this mess?

Note from the Editor: This column was originally scheduled to run last week. However, because of the import of the message and its' everyday applications, it appears in this week's edition.

Labor Day and American Labor

By Hail Hamilton

Labor Day has largely been forgotten in our national conscience. Oh, it is celebrated, to be sure! But do we know really why it is such an important national holiday? Do you understand the blood, sweat and tears that went into establishing Labor Day? I have my doubts. Like so much of history, certain times and events must be experienced in the heart rather than learned in the mind. Labor Day is one of those times.

American labor history is rich in drama and tragedy. It is also one of progress and hope. It is a rich social, economic and political history of a nation emerging from an agricultural to an industrial-based nation following a terrible and divisive Civil War. It is a story complete with heroes, martyrs and villains. It is a story of massive immigration and intensive struggle by immigrants from all parts of the world to have a collective voice in the workplace and to get an increased share of the American economic pie.

The observance of Labor Day began over 100 years ago. Conceived by America's labor unions as a testament to their cause for better, more humane working conditions and pay for the work their members performed. The first observance of Labor Day is believed to have been a parade of 10,000 workers on September 5, 1882, in New York City, organized by Peter J. McGuire, a Carpenter and Joiners Union secretary. By 1893, more than half the states were observing a "Labor Day" on one day or another, and Congress passed a bill to establish a federal holiday in 1894. President Grover Cleveland signed the

bill soon afterward—designating the first Monday in September as Labor Day.

Much has happened since Peter J. McGuire's time. Beginning with the Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt, a multitude of federal and state legislation has been enacted to guarantee workers certain rights and to protect their health on the job. Although TR's "Square Deal" gave credence to the plight of labor, it was his cousin, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "New Deal" which made the labor movement a national force, both economically and politically. In 1933, when FDR took office, the country was at the bottom of the Great Depression. He understood the importance of labor. He understood, more than most, that wage earners are consumers and consumers create jobs.

Henry Ford recognized this fact 20 years earlier. Then there was no income tax and the rich kept every penny they "earned." According to the story, Ford was lounging in an exclusive club in New York City near Wall Street. Surrounded by the other tycoons of industry, he was asked why he paid his worker twice the going wage rate. The room went dead silent as Henry thought to himself. Henry's answer was simple and to the point. Narrowing his steel blue eyes, Henry said, "I pay them enough so that they can buy what they make."

Good advice to a nation that exports its skilled labor, imports its unskilled labor, and lives on credit. Good advice to a nation that imports nearly all the goods it consumes. Good advice to our leaders to stop borrowing and spending.

So this Labor Day be happy if you have a job and be happy if it pays well. Be happy if your job is close to Sierra Madre and comes with a good pension and medical benefits. Be especially happy if it's a job you enjoy. After all, if you enjoy what you do for a living then it's not work!



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Meet Sierra Madre's New
City Manager:

Elaine Aguilar

Tuesday, September 11th
5:30 - 6:30 pm

Followed by
the regularly scheduled
City Council Meeting

LEGAL NOTICES

City of Sierra Madre

COURTESY NOTICE

To: City-wide
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: Congestion Management Program (CMP)
Applicant: City of Sierra Madre

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the City Council will conduct a public hearing to review the City's compliance with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Congestion Management Program (CMP) pursuant to California Government Code Section 65089.

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING

City of Sierra Madre
 City Council Meeting
 Tuesday, **September 11, 2007**
 (meeting begins at 6:30 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 City Council will hear them with respect thereto.

PROJECT LOCATION: City-wide

APPEAL: If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the City Council in court, one may be limited to raising the issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the City Council 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 City Council

Donna Butler, 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 deceased, 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. Attorney for Petitioner: MICHAEL R. AUGUSTINE, AUGUSTINE & SEYMOUR, 741 S. GARFIELD AVE., ALHAMBRA, CA 91801, 8/30, 9/6, 9/13/07. CNS-1186167#

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: IAIN COLOUHOON CASE NO. GP013198

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL, or estate, or both of IAIN COLOUHOON: A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by DOUGLAS J. FARRELL in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that DOUGLAS J. FARRELL be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. 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 09/21/07 at 10:00AM in Dept. A located at 300 E. WALNUT ST., PASADENA, CA 91101. 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

deceased, 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. Attorney for Petitioner: DOUGLAS J. FARRELL, P.O. BOX 183, 37 W. SIERRA MADRE BLVD., SIERRA MADRE, CA 91025, 9/1, 9/8, 9/15/07. CNS-1191749#

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ms. Henderson;

Taking a break from all I'd intended to do over the Labor Day weekend, I read through the current Mountain Views-Observer and, as always, took special interest in your own column and those of Mr. Tobia and Sir Eric. The overall message was clear: There must be planning to accommodate inevitable changes in our own and surrounding communities, services we've come to expect and rely upon must be preserved, and spending priorities must be established within the context of limited resources.

With this in mind, I reflected on how issues were addressed in a rather large organization I used to work for (the State of California). The procedure was clear and predictable: First, a committee would be formed. The committee would then hire consultants (often individuals with personal/financial ties to a committee member and/or a vested interest in the outcome). If someone higher up in the bureaucracy were to later ask for tangible results, an impressive-looking report might be offered. In the unlikely event questions arose as to how the recommendations contained in this report were to be implemented, the response would be that first, a committee would be formed. The committee would then hire consultants . . .

I have my own suggestion for how to deal with the issues mentioned above. How about electing to the City Council individuals who are able to listen, evaluate, and make decisions on their own – without having to hire people to tell them what to do? If they feel advice is needed, they should seek it from constituents – not consultants. Talent, expertise and civic dedication are abundant in Sierra Madre.

It's not only the right thing to do – it's a lot cheaper.

Sincerely,

Howard W. Hays
 Sierra Madre

FREE ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION

Pasadena residents and businesses will have the opportunity to safely dispose of electronic waste conveniently and free of charge at the city's electronic waste collection event – Saturday, Sept. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Parking Lot 1 at Brookside Park south of the Rose Bowl Stadium.

E-waste that qualifies for this special collection, provided by the Pasadena Public Works Department, includes computer monitors and parts, circuit boards, disk drives, TVs, printers, laptops, cell phones, VCRs, DVD players, fax machines, small household batteries, floppy disks, computer keyboards, satellite TV equipment and answering machines.

Microwaves will be accepted with a \$5 fee. Many of the products have parts that will be recycled.

For more information go to www.cityofpasadena.net (click on Electronic Waste Collection Event), call (626) 744-4087 or email recycle@cityofpasadena.net.

Ann Erdman Public Information Officer City of Pasadena Public Affairs Office

100 N. Garfield Ave., Room S228 Pasadena CA 91109 (626) 744-4755
www.cityofpasadena.net/publicaffairs/citynews.asp

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WorkForce with Madeline

The following are three of the stories I received in response to my last column on gender issues in the workplace. Thank you so much.

Recently, my supervisor took me aside and asked me if I wouldn't mind buying his wife a birthday present for him. He said he had no idea what to buy and that since I was a female and had such good taste, I would make a great selection. He told me I could take time off from work to do this. I felt this was an inappropriate and unprofessional request. To resolve the issue, I suggested that he go to our nearby mall and get a gift certificate. He liked that idea and I was "off the hook."

When I was hired for my first teaching job in the early 1970s, a young male first-year teacher, George, was hired at the same time. It soon became apparent among the staff that George was not a very good teacher, and that I was exemplary - creative, energetic, and passionate about teaching. Two years later, the sixth grades were downsized from 5 to 4 which meant that either George or I had to go. The principal, Mr. Smith, approached me with this news and gave me the option of moving to a sixth grade at another school or changing to a lower grade at the same

school. I heard through several sources that it was assumed by Mr. Smith that since I was young and newly married, I would probably soon get pregnant and leave anyway. I didn't say anything and decided to stay at the same school, but quietly fumed. Sometime after, I earned a degree in administration and became an elementary school principal. It's been 35 years, and I'm still in the education field and loving it. I heard that George quit teaching a year or so after the downsizing incident. He said he had become tired of children.

One of my favorite successes was my issue with another employee, male, although not a boss. He kept calling me "Doll." I didn't like it. Then one day, he came down the hallway and, as he reached me, once again said, "Hi, Doll." I looked up, flashed him a smile, and wickedly replied, "Hi, Buddy Boy!" His stride broke and his eyes widened as he got the zinger. Then out popped this huge grin as he recognized the appropriateness of my response. We both laughed, and we've been "Doll" and "Buddy Boy" for the past 18 years.

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

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Tech Daddy

Email 101 More on email privacy

By Ken Gruberman, the Tech Daddy™



Last week we discussed issues related to email privacy... and the fact that email is not a private medium. Here are a few more tips regarding privacy:

While you may not always know who is reading (or forwarding) your emails after you send them, if you use email in a workplace environment it's almost guaranteed your messages are being scanned before they are allowed to be sent over the network. This can be done with the use of special software, or actual human interaction. Businesses generally own the equipment and the networks they are attached to, and therefore have the right to read, delete and even censor messages employees write. The Electronic Frontier Foundation has a great page on the topic of worker rights and email privacy issues; read their "Frequently Asked Questions About Email Privacy" here: <http://tinyurl.com/35ftoa>. The next time you fire off a scathing attack on your boss to all your fellow co-workers (or "cow-orkers" as Scott Adams calls them), think twice before hitting the "send" button. Especially if you've accidentally put your boss' name in one of the address fields! (It happens all the time.)

Another good rule of thumb: never answer emails when you are tired or angry. Just go to bed and try it again in the morning. How many of us have fired off a "flame" message (an angry reply designed to antagonize) late at night, only to regret it the next morning? I certainly have.

If you're an AOL user, this is one of the only times when you'll have an advantage over others when it comes to email: AOL has the ability to "unsubscribe" an email as long as the recipient hasn't read it yet. Here's how to do it, courtesy of About.com's page on the subject at:

<http://tinyurl.com/34qtc>

AOL uses a special, proprietary email system, which makes it possible to take back an email you have already sent.

Here's how:

- Select Mail | Sent Mail from the menu in AOL.
 - Highlight the message you want to take back.
 - Click the Unsend button.
- Note that you can (effectively) unsend an email only if:
- The message was sent to AOL recipients only.
 - You sent the message from AOL itself, not from an email client using IMAP and SMTP to access an AOL email account.
 - The message has not yet been read by any recipient.
- You cannot unsend a message if it also has been delivered to internet recipients in addition to AOL members.

Microsoft Outlook users may also be able to recall a message by opening the message in the Sent Items folder and then clicking on Actions -> Recall This Message. While this is "iffy," the chances increase if you're using a Microsoft Exchange email account.

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.



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The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

Butterfly Pavilion

The idea was to drive to the LA County Natural History Museum, spend \$6 to get the entire family into the Butterfly Pavilion, and sit quietly in the shade as Monarchs, Swallowtails and Sulphurs flitted around our heads, landing periodically on our outstretched hands as we sang folk songs in harmony. Also, my wife would take a boatload of pictures. It was a first class idea. There were only a few small impediments in our way.

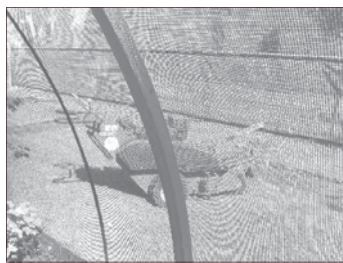
Impediment Number One: the college football season, which cannot open without a Bedouin camp of red and yellow USC Trojan Easy Up canopies being erected throughout Exposition Park, a locality that apparently is not best known as the place to go during the summer months to spot a Luna Moth chrysalis, but instead is celebrated as the home of a well-known team of young men who engage in partisan, school-sanctioned acts of violence surrounding an oblong ball sewn from bacon. We, um, didn't consult our Trojan football schedule and were disoriented when we arrived on our soap decorated station wagon (Yay Butterflies!), waving appropriately shaped flags, and found what seemed to be a USC merchandise swap meet. Only no one was swapping. Then we noticed the satellite dishes connected to the tinted SUVs connected to the flat screen TVs connected to the surround-sound systems in front of which were arrayed a multitude of "casually" dressed males drinking beer at 9:30 am. Then we understood. This is how you tailgate if you are a USC alumnus - in Hi Def.

But I am not sure I can so easily begrudge the consumption of ice-cold alcohol in these circumstances, even Impediment Number Two.

Impediment Number Two: impossibly high temperatures. It was, you probably noticed, 8,000 degrees, which, you may or may not realize, is slightly less than comfortable. Even in the Butterfly Pavilion. Although, the butterflies themselves didn't seem to mind. Fun fact: many butterflies are "baskers." They need to acquire heat from the sun in order to reach their optimal body temperatures. And, according to my "Pavilion of Wings" brochure, these butterflies may be "resting on the path as you stroll about" (Which is the only mode of ambulation permitted when surrounded by butterflies. No slinking or lurking allowed for sure. Children under five may skip for a few steps, but then must immediately resume strolling about). These beautiful creatures may also be found

in large numbers on the soles of my 16-month old daughter's shoes. They are slightly flattened and a bit oozy. But butterflies are basically two-dimensional anyway and their colors remain as vibrant as ever. Peel them off and enjoy them, in spite of Impediment Number Three.

Impediment Number Three: the large excavation machine located four feet away. Construction is underway in Exposition Park. High-tech adhesive polymers are being poured into shafts cut through historic structures that will likely fall over the next time someone serial sneezes next to a large T-rex skeleton. Our Los Angeles heritage is being preserved. Also, they are installing sprinklers on the lawn. Sprinklers require ditches, even those that are to end up immediately adjacent to the Butterfly Pavilion. Never mind that we are in here trying to coax these delicate insects to land in our hair. They only live a few weeks! On a liquid diet of nectar! Some will eat sap, fruit, moist sand, urine and dung but we don't need to bring any of that up for the purposes of the point I am trying to make here. The machine was so loud that it was drowning out our chorus of "This Land is Your Land!" It turns out that plastic butterfly enclosure mesh does not insulate effectively against the high decibels of an internal combustion engine. The exhaust pretty much travels right through as well.



But, you know, other than all of that it was a great trip. First class. And we got some good pictures, too. k.mcclure@mvoobserver.com

The Mountain Clymer

Photos and Story By Kim Clymer-Kelley

Desert Survivors

It was hot in the Utah desert in August...I guess that comes as no surprise. Very hot. Not many make it a vacation destination that time of year, but circumstances put us there then and it was definitely a learning experience. I figured since I have been on the topic of wildlife encounters, that I would share with you the amazing things we stumbled upon in the desert of Southern Utah.

We camped for three nights along the Paria River. The campground was deserted except for one other camper who was on the far side of the campground the first night we were there. Upon our arrival, the desert seemed totally void of life...with the exception of the hundred of ants that swarmed the ground where we pitched our tent. There were two varieties...small black ones and larger red ones...fortunately, neither seemed to be biting ants...much to my surprise. A late afternoon hike down the river bed revealed no other signs of life. However, we arrived back at our campsite after the sun had dropped behind the cliffs on the west bank of the river, and one other sign of life emerged. We were greeted by a jack rabbit who was exploring the campground when we returned. Later he was joined by another jack rabbit and several smaller cottontails who all darted in and out of site as the sun began to set. I was amazed there was so many of them around.

The night yielded no other signs of life...no coyotes howling...no critters of the night scampering in the campground...and no mosquitoes buzzing or biting (yeah!!!) We saw nothing but ants as we got ready in the morning to leave for the day's adventures. Our first stop was the ranger station where they had photos and information on all of the wildlife that was supposed to be in the area. There were photos of coyotes, gray foxes, toads, rattlesnakes, rabbits, deer, birds of all kinds, mountain lions, sheep, bobcats and scorpions (yikes!!!). Apparently none of whom were as interested in meeting us as we were in meeting them.

The first day of hiking yielded nothing other than what we had already seen. The only thing surprising were the sunflowers that we encountered here and there adding



As we crossed the beautiful landscape on the way to our destination, we came upon a small pool on the

slick rock. It was left over from a storm a couple weeks prior to our finding it. In the pool were larvae of different shapes and sizes...mostly insects, but some of them looked very much like the brine shrimp that we raised as kids and called "sea monkeys". I dipped my shirt in the pool to get it wet for the rest of the trip...checking it carefully to make sure none of the pools inhabitants decided to hitch a ride with me. We both did the same with our hats. The coolness of the water on us gave us a needed boost in energy for the rest of the hike across the hot desert.

When we arrived at "theWave", we found another pool...a much larger one...just inside the entrance to the formation. We were surprised to see it there and were fascinated when we noticed some tadpoles swimming in it, but we did not look closely until after we explored some more of the area. Just before leaving the area we stopped to examine the pool more closely. We discovered that there were not one, but three types of tadpole in it: little dark colored one, much bigger bulbous green ones, and a hideous looking thing that was, upon closer examination, not a tadpole at all, but rather something



even under the sandy bottom. Each time one of them tried to bury itself, it seemed that it would be right where one was already buried. The one who was disturbed would turn on the one who was digging and they would fight...sometimes resulting in one of them eating the other. It was a dog-eat-dog world in that little pool...a fight for survival in their ever shrinking home.

When we returned to the ranger station later that day, we asked about the strange species we had found. It is called a tadpole shrimp...a remnant of prehistoric times. They live only 2 weeks during which they are hatched, reach adulthood, lay their eggs and die just as the last water of the pools evaporates. The tadpoles are also in a life or death struggle to reach maturity before the necessary environment disappears. They are the first stages of the Great Basin Spade Foot Toad and the Red Spotted Toad...both who live mostly underground and under rocks in the summer, but come out when pools form to lay their eggs. They all feed on one another and on plant life that grows in the pools. It is an amazing little niche in this huge universe...a fascinating example of how adaptable life is.

Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

Much Ado About... Nothing!



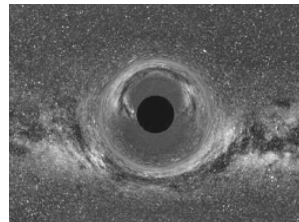
Last week's column, which talked about a corner of the Universe where there is nothing at all in a void nearly a billion light-years across, set me to thinking about the word "nothing." It's an odd word and an odd idea. One university (LMU) actually offered a course in its English Department titled "Course on Nothing: A writing and theory class that explores the concept of nothingness from an interdisciplinary perspective." When you look at the Universe, it seems to be mostly nothing. The empty space through which Earth moves contains very little that could be called "something," except a few scattered molecules of gas, and occasional bits of dust seldom larger than grains of sand—usually left over from the tails of comets—that sometimes fall into Earth's atmosphere as meteors.

However, the view of the vacuum of space as either "empty" or "nothing" is misleading. It is filled with different forms of electromagnetic radiation, from gamma rays to light to heat to radio waves, all of which can be detected and measured; but astronomers are now reasonably sure that it is also permeated with "dark matter" and "dark energy," which cannot be seen or measured directly but are inferred by their effects. Dark matter is proposed to explain, for example, the observed rotation of galaxies; and dark energy to explain the accelerating expansion of the Universe. In the huge void discussed in last week's column, even dark matter seems to be missing.

In addition to the nothingness of empty space, there is a more intense form of "nothing," so to speak, and that is found in the remnant of a massive star at the end of its normal lifetime, called a black hole. Black holes, like dark matter and dark energy, cannot be observed directly but are known by their effects on their surroundings. They are extremely strange in that all their original mass is concentrated in a space infinitely small, yet retaining all the gravity of the original star. Physically, the matter making up the star has disappeared, yet the gravitational effect left behind is extreme. As renowned physicist John Wheeler described it, "The star, like the Cheshire cat, fades from view. One leaves behind only its grin; the other, only its gravitational attraction."

"Nothing comes from nothing, nothing ever could," goes a song from The Sound of Music. Yet in the Big Bang that gave birth to our known Universe some 14 billion years ago, something—in fact, everything we know as the material world—apparently did emerge from nothing. Just how that could have happened continues to baffle astronomers, physicists, philosophers, and theologians. Some physicists propose that, according to the Quantum Theory, even in a perfect vacuum particles of "something" could occasionally emerge from the vacuum's "nothing" by a sheer randomness inherent in natural law. Perhaps a future Einstein in today's new generation of students will give us an answer.

Thinking about "nothing" led me to also think about the number zero (which might be considered the same as nothing, depending on how you look at it, I suppose.)



The idea of "zero" was resisted for a long time by the western world, as author Charles Seife points out in his book *Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea*. Seife describes how the Roman world, with its system of Roman numerals, had no concept of zero. The Arabic numbering system, which included zero, was first introduced to the West by Italian traders in the early Renaissance. In response, the City of Florence banned Arabic numerals in 1299—they seemed to conflict with Aristotelian teaching and so offended the Church. By the 1400s, however, the Arabic system with its supposedly "dangerous" idea of zero was permeating European thought, bringing with it an infinity (try dividing any number by zero) of new intellectual puzzles that still challenge physicists and mathematicians today.

MEANWHILE, CLOSER TO HOME, you have an opportunity this month to hear firsthand what astronomers are thinking today about dark matter and dark energy. Timothy Thompson, a JPL scientist who specializes in studying invisible forms of matter and energy, will speak on "Dark Matter and Dark Energy" at the Altadena Library, Sunday, September 23, at 2:30 p.m. in the library's Community Room. All are welcome to this event, sponsored by the Mount Wilson Observatory Association (MWOA). There is no charge. Come at 2:00 and enjoy free refreshments while chatting with MWOA members. The Altadena Library is at 600 E. Mariposa Ave. in Altadena, two stops signs west of Lake Ave, at the corner of Mariposa and Santa Rosa Ave. ("Christmas Tree Lane").

If you'd like to learn more, contact Bob at beklund@mvoobserver.com.

www.mvoobserver.com

TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS



Okay Trojans and Bruins . . . it's tailgate time. The great debate starts? No! We all know that the "Bruins" own this town. The real debate is, is it charcoal or propane? For Backyard Q'ing and tailgating I prefer charcoal.

Here are a few tips to get you going in the right direction for this Football Season

Q: How do you know if your coals are ready?

A: My way is if you can put your hand over the fire for more than five seconds your coals aren't ready.

Q: My sister always wants her burger rare. How do I get that done?

A: First of all the easiest way is to keep the meat off the flame; I put an ice cube right on the middle of the burger and that keeps the inside juicy.

Q: When do I put the sauce on the meat? Sometimes I like to have the meat marinate overnight.

A: Putting the sauce on too soon is a sure fire way to burn or to singe the outside of the meat. I suggest using a seasoning salt like Lawry's and then putting the sauce on about 20 seconds before you take off the meat from your Bar B Q.

Q: Should we have coals extremely hot?

A: The one advantage that propane has is that you can control the temperature; I really believe in the low and slow method for cooking. Always have a spray bottle of water handy to keep the coals from getting too hot!!



Remember to bring plenty of ice and always bring your sun-screen, wear your team colors and always leave your area clean!!!

Here are a few places that offer you assistance with all of your needs for tailgating:

Robin's - 395 N. Rosemead Pasadena (626) 351-8885 offers BBQ in trays for easy pick up.

Smart and Final - three locations in Pasadena - a true friend to every tailgater, plenty of ice on hand.

Chick's Sporting Goods - 3359 E. Foothill Blvd Pasadena - Team Blankets, T-Shirts, flags and hats, plus other fun favorite-team stuff.

Join me this Sunday Night at 8 PM on Channel 57 KJLA TV for a visit to a real deal breakfast spot.

Heads Up: Christine writes in that she had a birthday dinner at Vertical Wine Bar. The restaurant charged them \$5 for each slice of their own cake. Talk about corkage.

Email me your funny restaurant stories and /or your tips on tailgating.

thefirstknows@yahoo.com.

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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

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IN THE COMMONS Napa Lifestyle Live It Now In Pasadena

Michael Chiarello has brought his Napa Style retail store to us on south Lake Avenue in Pasadena. In The Commons, next to William Sonoma, this upscale store is like no other, with more than 50% of the store's goods designed specifically by Napa Style.

The 45-year old St. Helena entrepreneur brings the essence of Napa Valley living, and of course some of his southern Italian heritage, to his retail stores.

The shop features many gourmet food items, olive oils, olives, food spreads, sea salts, cookware designed by Michael, beautiful glassware, beautiful signature dinnerware, mostly imported from Italy, some furniture pieces, an assortment of Michael's cookbooks, and many unique items not found in other stores. The Consorzio line of flavored olive oils was founded by Michael and he was named Chef of the year by Food and Wine Magazine.

The first of two special things that caught my eye was a Lampadina Chandelier, an elegant floating shelf chandelier that utilizes special hardened wax cylinders to perfectly match the look, feel and glow of candles using light bulbs. Each hollow shade is arranged at various heights on the shelf. This piece would be perfect with any décor from rustic to contemporary.

The second was the NapaStyle Oliveto Dinnerware, an olive branch with a traditional braided edge, hand rubbed in rose and overlaid on ivory for a modern look with old style comfort. Skilled ceramicists in Montelupo, Italy's legendary ceramic region helped create this design.

Michael hosts two television shows. "Easy Entertaining with Michael Chiarello," on the food network, is filmed in Napa Valley and showing Michael cooking and throwing parties, while "Napa Style," on the Fine Living Network, visits wineries, restaurants and meets and introduces you to the influential people in the wine region.

Michael has founded, or served as executive chef, at 15 leading restaurants including, the very popular, Tra Vigne in Saint Helena.

His many awarding wining wines can be ordered from the Chiarello Family Vineyards at www.chiarellofamilyvineyards.com. He also has the NapaStyle wine club at www.napastylewineclub.com. Chiarello's summer releases, that you must add to your wine collection are, 2006 Chiarello Rose, 2005 Bambino Cabernet Sauvignon, the stunning 2005 Old Vine Petite Sirah and the 2005 Old Vine Zinfandel.

For his NapaStyle Catalog, call 1-866-776-1660.

Michael said that he created Napa Style "for customers to be able to experience Napa in their own homes." That he has done, with this beautiful decorated and well stocked store, with its rustic décor and lighting. He strives to be earth friendly and uses reclaimed materials as much as possible.

Welcome to Pasadena Michael, we love having you here and what a success you will have here at 146 South Lake Avenue.

Wine quote for the week: "Serve your steak rare, your cheese weepy, and your red wine at cellar temperature." Michael Chiarello.

Till Next week, good health and peace to all, Salut.

Vince Pirolli, The Wine Guy

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Jeff's Pics

The Book Reports

Where War Lives by Paul Watson (2007)

This is Canadian journalist Paul Watson's new memoir. He won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for his photograph of a dead American soldier who was dragged through the streets of Mogadishu. His war zone work leaves him suffering from chronic post-traumatic stress, and the Mogadishu photo still haunts him. He says, "It seems to me the wars in the human heart are connected to the larger wars we see on TV. Where does war live? It lives in all of us." Amazing inside and deeply personal look at the world of war reporting!! Watson has been a correspondent for over 20 years and reported from Rwanda, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq; he received 3 National Newspaper Awards for foreign reporting and photography and is currently chief of the Los Angeles Times' Southeast Asia bureau.

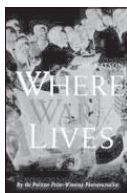
100 Greatest Science Discoveries of All Time
by Kendall Haven (2007)

The book focuses on the 100 scientific breakthroughs that have had the greatest enduring impact, from the discovery of the lever to the theory of evolution, relativity, atomic bonding, dinosaur fossils, etc. Listed chronologically it's full of fun and fascinating facts, it presents the true stories behind the history of science, and also gives us a panoramic overview of the history of science and an introduction to some of the most important scientists in history. For adults and kids 12 and up!!

Recommended by Dan Smith:

Commander in Chief: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, His Lieutenants and Their War, by Eric Larrabee (1987)

This immensely readable military history is about the intangible quality of leadership displayed by Roosevelt and the men he picked for high command during World War II: Marshall, King, Arnold, Vandegrift, MacArthur, Nimitz, Eisenhower, Stilwell, LeMay. One of the all-time great books about WWII. The description of the air attack of Hitler's oilfields in Ploesti, Romania is one of the most action-packed pieces of English prose you will ever read!!



Scene One - Take One DVD Review

Keeping Mum

This is a fun British black comedy!

In the opening scene we see a pregnant young woman, Rosie Jones, traveling by train and her very large suitcase begins leaking blood. As she is questioned by the police, she explains that the two bodies inside are her unfaithful husband and the mistress.

She is sentenced to a facility for the criminally insane.

Forty-three years later, in the village of Little Wallop, the new housekeeper, a charming, efficient and very kind lady Grace Hawkins (Maggie Smith), arrives at the Goodfellow vicarage. She finds (Rowan Atkinson, Mr.Bean) who is a clumsy but well respected priest who has allowed his marriage to go stale and is too busy for sex, and his wife (Kristin Scott Thomas) who is having an affair with her golf instructor (Patrick Swayze), a precocious and promiscuous

17-year old daughter and a son who's been bullied by a bunch of kids from his school. Little does the family know that this Mary Poppins starts tending to the family problems with diabolical precision as well as having a big secret of her own. A great cast and a delightful romp in the British countryside. Enjoy!

Amelie (2001)



Impish Amelie, Audrey Tautou, lives alone and works in a café. When she finds a box of toys hidden for 40 years behind a baseboard in her apartment, she's inspired to find the owner of the items, a move of generosity that sparks more benevolent acts as she appoints herself as a behind the scenes guardian angel to friends and neighbors and discovers that the smallest of acts can make a big difference to people. It's a celebration of life and Amelie reminds us that small wonders abound around us. A delight! Set in Paris with wonderful views of the city and its little shops along cobblestone streets. French with subtitles.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Flew The Coop. She'll Be Back Next Week

A Quote worth repeating and A Thought worth remembering

"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die life is like a broken winged bird that cannot fly" Langston Hughes

...Your dreams have the power to take you farther and higher. Allow no one to steal them from you. Regardless of where you are on life's road your dreams will always illuminate the possibilities and offer you hope. If you have the power to dream it you have the power to make it come true – believe. Patricia J.



From the Inside Out

An Ongoing Series of Personal Points of View on Health ... By Mary Carney

Who's In Charge?

As a certified practitioner in "healing" energy processes, I share my information, skills and understanding under the guidelines of California's SB 577, ensuring everyone knows I'm not practicing any kind of medicine. And I'm not. But, as I mentioned last week, I've spent 35 years on the "other side of the fence," learning how to take care of myself, and being more (or less) successful at it.

For me, and increasing numbers of people like me, we have found that something is missing in the culturally, legally, medically and governmentally approved sources of information and guidance. We have a problem, yet our appointment lasts seven minutes? We've taken the pills, followed the rules, and nothing changed? Except to get worse over time? Something's not right ...

I'm involved because I wanted something I wasn't getting. Like most of us, I kept looking for the one-size-fits-all, one-time-only "fix," and being increasingly frustrated that "those who were supposed to know," didn't. After all these years (sigh!) I am finally accepting that health is an ongoing process. I truly am in charge of my own health (shudder). So this week I wanted to look at that concept a bit more deeply.

At first glimpse, this concept might be a shock. "Oh dear, I'm in charge? My health is my responsibility?!" Well, of course I am! And, of course, it is! And yet, all through our lives, seems like someone else has been "in charge." Parents, teachers, counselors, advisors, coaches, bosses ... God ... everyone else seems to have more authority to tell me what to do (grumph), and without alert and conscious mindfulness, this continuous external din can override our own very personal inside knowledge of what is right (even essential) for us. Instead of being urged to learn to "listen inside," we are programmed by our parents (do as I say), the doctor (knows best), the media (just this little "pill"), and pharmacies everywhere to pick up an over-the-counter preparation and/or a special (expensive) prescription, preceded by an often-expensive consultation and batteries of "tests." If we just do that, and follow the directions in the privacy of our own home, all will be well. Right?

Well, it's that one phrase that is the kicker. It's what you do "in the privacy of your own home" that is often the determining factor in your health. Many of us consider "home" as our final and private refuge from

everyone else telling us "what to do and how to do it" where we can "let down our hair, kick back and relax." And then 'they' say, "when you're home, you gotta do this? Gotta do that? I gotta change what I'm doing?" Get out of here! No one's going to tell me what to do when I'm home, but me!! (Doesn't sound familiar to anyone else but me, right?)

Yes, legally, once you become an adult, you are totally in charge of you ... except, of course, if you become unable to make a choice that can be communicated in the way our "professionals" expect those choices to be communicated. After a major accident (in shock, smashed up), or if you suddenly become incapacitated (fainting, heart attack, seizure, stroke), you may be in no state to clearly verbalize how you want to be treated. So, are the protocols and standards you know about the ones you want if (heaven forbid) something should happen to you?

Do your nearest and dearest know the kinds of support you want? Does your doctor? Chiropractor? Who, of the legally approved professionals on your team, has primary "pride of place," and what is the hierarchy on your health team? (Maybe your nearest and dearest is in Swaziland during an "event.") Who's next in line? Have you even thought about it? Do you have your Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care in place? Do you have legal services available "just in case"?

Finding trusted, and useful, sources of information to help us understand, to look at available options, to spark our own willingness to make daily lifestyle changes, including in the privacy of our own homes, is an integral part of becoming an adult who is truly "in charge" of his/her life. As a searcher, myself, I can only say ... this is what I've learned, this is where it and more info can be found, and steering that rebellious "I don't wanna ..." energy into being supportive is an interesting journey through time.

© 2007. Mary Carney is a Certified Practitioner offering holistic "Integrative Development Services," including Polarity, Reiki, Onnetu Life Force FarInfrared Energies and more, for stress reduction and energy enhancements that support innate healing capabilities. For more information, 626-355-6225 or m.carney@mvsobserver.com

Pat Ostrye on.....

'The Way It Was' in 1885

By now all youngsters are back in school for another year of learning and they're probably as happy as their parents are to resume a regular routine. The eagerness may not last more than a few weeks, but, compared to 'the way it was' one hundred plus years ago, it will be a walk in the park!

Among my research stuff, I have an original eighth grade final examination from February, 1885. Each test in the exam stated that the use of slates is not permitted and everything written by scholars is to be collected. The Spelling-Composition test, Wednesday, 9:20 am to 12M was to be dictated by the teacher with certain preliminary rules stated: First, inform the scholars that any change in a word, after it is written, will be counted as an error.

Second, the passage is to be read twice in order to catch its general import. Third, it is to be dictated slowly giving them ample time to write it down. Fourth, they are to read over and punctuate what they have written. Following that, they are to write a 237-word excerpt on "Robinson Crusoe".

This was followed by a 20-word spelling test, with words such as Ishmael, clothespress, erelong, assail, echoed and sycamore. Then they were required to write four short paragraphs telling how Rip Van Winkle fell into his long sleep and give their story a title.

In another four short paragraphs, they were to tell how Ichabod Crane was pursued by the headless horseman. Also give it a title. Five additional credits were to be given if penmanship was conspicuously good. (Even in a more modern era, in the seventh grade, I was kept in at recess to improve my

penmanship, so when the day came, before computers, that I had to sign 450 checks at one sitting as City Treasurer, it all paid off. I might add that the city finally joined the 21st century and I had a signature card that whipped them out in about 90 seconds.)

On Monday, 9:20-12M, the scholars were allowed two hours and 40 minutes to answer 10 mathematics question and no credit was to be given for an answer unaccompanied by all of the work that produced it.

Wednesday, 9:20-12M, grammar and reading, a four-line verse: followed by 11 questions (not easy ones either). Then there was a short paragraph which the scholar was to write in poetic form inserting necessary capitals and punctuation marks, also giving the rules for such. You get the picture; they just didn't fool around! There was a day devoted to civil government and another to the constitution.

At the end of each exam, the examiner was to mark with red ink all mistakes in spelling. If there were no such mistakes, five credits were added to whatever mark was given for answering questions correctly. In every case where credits for spelling were given, that fact must be stated at the top of the first page of the pupil's manuscript.

Is it any wonder that so many quit school after the eighth grade?! By then they really knew it all!!

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Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

History Lovingly Maintained In Arcadia

Since my personal experience in LA extends back only to 2006, when I wanted to find out more about the city of Arcadia's history, I went right to the source, the Historical Society. Arcadia maintains its own little museum right here in our midst, with permanent and short term exhibits of all things Arcadian, supported by the local historical society. What a delightful place to spend an hour!



Arcadia Historical Museum curator, Alycia Wood, and Society president, Carol Libby show off one of the many peafowl memorabilia in the museum.

Their mission (and funding) allows them to offer all their programs and museum admission free to the public due to the generosity of the city fathers and history-minded donors. The museum building was completed in 2001, with funds bequeathed by the Gilb family, replacing the former quarters described as a decrepit old modular bank building by society president and 50+ year resident, Carol Libby. The current building provides a legacy and priority of preserving Arcadia's history for the enjoyment and education of school children to senior citizens.

The permanent exhibits are mostly chronological, starting with Tongva tribe (known in American/Mexican circles as the Gabrielinos) period tools, garments and footwear accurately created by current

Tongva tribe members. The Rancho era exhibit offers garments, tools, photographs and documents from famous and sometimes infamous Arcadia names like Hugo Reid and Lucky Baldwin.

Baldwin gets a fair amount of press here, as a land owner of thousands of acres at one time, a breeder of all types of animals, a horse racer with his own racetrack, and a real estate tycoon of renown. Libby quips that his sales pitch to would-be purchasers back East tell that he was not selling land, he was selling the climate. Baldwin apparently had quite a love life, the likes of which he passed on to one of his daughters, with each taking on four spouses.

Another daughter, Anita Baldwin, referred to as the "good daughter", acquired her father's talent for animal breeding, creating a stud farm for the finest of all kinds of animals and creatures. Both she and her father also imported peafowl, inaccurately referred to as peacocks from India and Java. Today the showy birds and their feathers now symbolize Arcadia in its logo and as a mascot of sorts. Peafowl do have their downside, though, known for causing traffic hiccups on Baldwin, local garden



Rancho-era horsehair coat protected ranchers from prickly and poisonous plants.

havoc and loud birdcalls. One of the exhibits shows dozens of her representatives at the World's Fair with exemplary horses. When the time came to end this chapter of her life, she donated her valuable menagerie to Dr. Davis, of UC-Davis animal husbandry fame.

Museum curator, Alycia Wood, joined us on the tour, as well. We chatted about the Arcadia time capsule created for the city centennial in 2003. Proud of the fact that their capsule is NOT buried, they're happy future generations won't forget where it is buried like another local time capsule. A quarter of it is already filled

with 2003 memorabilia, with space reserved for future years.

When we approached the military exhibit, Wood pointed out that every Arcadian serving in the military has the opportunity to have a page in the military history exhibit. She noted that when the soldiers themselves fill out the biography and highlights, it's always with humble, short description. Only when the family gets a chance to fill in the details do the expanded stories of heroism and selflessness appear. She mused that if left to the soldiers, the biography area would usually read, "I served."

A large photograph caught my eye (reproduced here with Historical Society permission) with an open air rail car high above the Los Angeles Basin. Libby filled me in on the details, indicating that Thaddeus Lowe constructed a unique incline railway just West of Mt Wilson, attracting adventure seeking

visitors, who considered it a Disneyland of sorts for the turn of that century. Libby noted that a fire, flood then a world war stopped the operation, then after the war, the Angeles National Forest operations prohibited such commercial endeavors. A little further research on www.MountLowe.org showed that in its 40 years of operation, nearly four million passengers took this wild ride on the steepest incline railway in the world with a 63 per cent grade. The unique train had two counterbalancing cars connected by a steel cable, running opposite directions. The last 3.5 miles crossed 18 bridges and 127 curves, with the longest straight run of only 225 feet. It offered four hotels, a zoo, golf, bowling, tennis, spectacular views of course... and a one million candle power searchlight seen regularly by Arcadia residents.

I was a bit shocked by an exhibit called "Cesspools and Sewers" but apparently this was a very hot topic of debate for years, keeping Arcadia residents using cesspools for treating sewage. Interestingly, this also kept manufacturing out of Arcadia in the development years, because that industry required sewers. Probably most current is a display about Football Hall of Famer and Arcadia High School graduate, Bruce Matthews.

Wood is now preparing the next short term exhibit, honoring the centennial of First Avenue School on September 4. For information on the society, a full list of events, exhibits and tour information, visit museum.ci.arcadia.ca.us

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EARTHLINK (continued from page 4)

\$12.95 per month rate for up to 500 low income customers and offer free service in city parks and public spaces, covering up to five percent of the city. The contract also would have provided the city government 650 accounts at \$10 per month, or at "no cost." Pratt said something similar would also be included in the next, or any other, bid. Some calculated EarthLink loss of

generating more than \$247 million over the full seven years of the contract. EarthLink announced they expect to end this year with approximately 3.9 million subscribers with total revenues of \$1.190 - \$1.210 billion.

Last month a two square mile test area for the project was set to be completed although Pratt said it been delayed. He said the holdup had nothing to do with the troubles facing Earthlink.

"It wasn't really anything, it just didn't happen yet and now we're kind of glad

that nothing was installed that would have had to come down," he said holding one of the MetroMesh Wi-Fi routers. "They'll have to come pick this up."

The contract required EarthLink provide the city a \$35,000 letter of credit to reimburse the city for removal costs in the event EarthLink fails to take down any equipment itself city staff said. Or stop operating the wireless network or breach the major default provisions in the contract.

EarthLink was founded in 1996 and moved to Pasadena a year later. The company is now headquartered in Atlanta Georgia which will also be severely affected by cuts said Huff.

EarthLink will continue maintaining wireless service in only four U.S. cities, Anaheim, Philadelphia, New Orleans and Millipitas, "unfortunately Pasadena is not one of them," Pratt said. Earthlink currently has over 400 employees working in Pasadena.

Top Mission Specialists Say New JPL Security Standards Don't Fly Right

Story and Photos by Dean Lee
Theresa Baxter, Contributor

As one of Pasadena's Jet Propulsion Laboratory drivers for the Mars rover missions, Scott Maxwell said he has the best job on two worlds.

He also said it's not too often someone tells you they get up every morning, drive to work to put in a full 14 hour day driving around on Mars, but Maxwell, along with 27 other JPL employees with similar job descriptions, is willing to put that all on the line going up against what he and they believe are new JPL re-badging mandates that invade their personal private lives. So much, so they are taking the aerospace giant to court.

"Our objection is not about the directive itself," Maxwell said, "It's about the way NASA is going about implementing it. They have chosen a way that goes well beyond what the directive says and goes into the background of people's sexual habits, drinking habits, nothing that establishes you are who you say you are."

According to Maxwell, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) requires a Federal standard to secure and regulate forms of identification.

Thomas Starbird, a flight software engineer, said in his 30 years working at JPL nothing like this has ever come up. He also said it was interesting that none of the people at Caltech had to submit to the checks, although JPL employees are paid through that institution.

Veronica McGregor, a JPL spokesperson, said the new regulations only applied to

NASA contract workers, which Caltech employees are not. Some JPL grounds keepers will also be subject to the checks. One protester outside of JPL Thursday then asked why people without high clearance are also subject to this invasion of privacy.

The lawsuit states JPL employees are researchers and therefore shared results are published and communal within the scientific community as a whole.

Starbird said he was not sure what he is going to do come Oct. 5, the deadline given by JPL to have the re-badging paperwork filed.

He said, as did others, that JPL would consider anyone who had not filed by Oct. 5, to have voluntarily resigned.

"They said no one will be permitted after Oct. 28 without the new badge," Starbird said. "What's interesting is who will have to have it; students coming up here for a short time don't, as well as interns and foreign nationals."

He added that, although shocking, the reason given for foreign nationals was that they usually do not have U.S. records to look at.

Maxwell said the lawsuit, filed in U.S. federal court in Los Angeles, names NASA, Caltech and the Department of Commerce. The case will be heard Sept. 24 asking for an injunction.

"JPL is based on morale," he said. "If the lawsuit does not move forward I think JPL will lose a lot of great people and the ones that do stay won't have the same enthusiasm in doing their jobs."

Somehow more than 5,000 people work at

JPL, according to McGregor.

The lawsuit is not based on monetary gain, but focuses on a person's right to privacy outside of the workplace. More importantly, it is based on the constitutional rights that have been violated in order to enact HSPD-12, said Dan Stormer, attorney representing the 28 JPL employees.

"This representative government attempts to invade the privacy of law abiding citizens without a need shown for their intrusive demands," Stormer said. "The people at JPL have worked for years without having to reveal private information."

The suit claims violations of the U.S. Constitution's 4th Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure, 14th Amendment protection against invasion of the right to privacy, the Administrative Procedure Act, which prevents the promulgation of regulations that affect rights without following proper procedures, The Privacy Act that states the Federal government can't pass legislation that invades the privacy of a citizen, and the rights of privacy secured under the California constitution.

"This is just another example of a host of other unlawful procedures enacted by President Bush, including domestic spying and surveillance, the loss of right to council and the denial of habeas corpus," Stormer said, adding, "It's just another step in the destruction of the Constitution."

McGregor said, to be accurate, she was asking people to get information directly from NASA's website "hspd12.nasa.gov."

"We are following federal law and, although

I can't talk about the lawsuit, the website has a lot good information," she said.

The website advises that Presidential Directive 12 "requires a Federal standard for secure and reliable forms of identification."

The goals listed for HSPD-12 seek to: enhance security; increase Government efficiency; reduce identity fraud; and to protect personal privacy, something the 28 employees said they were not disputing.

Regarding benefits of the directive, the Website also reads, "The successful implementation of HSPD-12 will increase the security of Federal facilities and Federal IT systems. This will provide better protection for the employees, the information systems and the employee's work products."

Some protesters simply scoffed at the idea of increased IT security, saying, "We are the computer programmers."

Supplemented information on the website from president George W. Bush says, "to reform government, we must rethink government."

It also states, "The need for reform is urgent. The General Accounting Office (GAO) 'high-risk' list identifies areas throughout the federal government that are most vulnerable to fraud, waste, and abuse. Ten years ago, the GAO found eight such areas. Today it lists 22. Perhaps as significant, government programs too often deliver inadequate services at excessive cost."

The names of the 22 "high risk" areas were not listed but the full report can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2002/mgmt.pdf>

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SPORTS

Cushy Footn'

MILLIONAIRE LAVA MAN CHRISTENS SANTA ANITA'S ALL-NEW CUSHION TRACK

By Mike Williams



Thoroughbred racing's leading active money earner Lava Man and his trainer Doug O'Neill are all smiles early this morning as they christened Santa Anita's new Cushion Track with a sharp two-mile jog and gallop. Photos By Benoit

Two-time Santa Anita Handicap winner Lava Man became the first horse to set foot on Santa Anita's all-new Cushion Track surface this week.

Installed at a cost of more than \$10 million, Cushion Track replaces the traditional dirt main track and is composed of silica sand mixed with synthetic fibers, elastic fiber and shredded rubber. The material is coated with a blend of wax.

Closed since July when Santa Anita's main track reopened for training, Lava Man, Thoroughbred racing's leading active money winner with more than \$5.1 million in earnings, had the track all to himself for 10 minutes.

"We vanned him up from Del Mar yesterday and he seemed real comfortable on it," said trainer Doug O'Neill, who led the horse from Barn 88 to the main track under cover of darkness. "Tony Romero, his regular exercise rider was on him and he kept saying to me 'Very kind, very kind patron' (Spanish for boss), and Lava Man just skipped over it. This is truly an historic development for Santa Anita and it's going to be great for the game. It's all about the safety of the horses and credit to the Santa Anita people for putting the safety of the horses first," he added.



Tony Romero with Lava Man on the new track

Due to safety concerns, Santa Anita, which opened in December of 1934, was mandated along with Hollywood Park and Del Mar to convert to a synthetic surface by the California Horse Racing Board. "We're excited, this is an historic date," said Santa Anita President Ron Charles. "To have a horse of Lava Man's magnitude throw out the first pitch so to speak, is truly an honor for us.

Cushion Track will make its official debut with the racing world on Sept. 26, opening day of Santa Anita's 39th annual Oak Tree meeting.



View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

It's Pigskin Time!

College football is always associated with autumn. However autumn does not officially arrive this year until September 23, 2007 and, based upon our weather of late, it does not appear that fall temperatures will arrive by then either. Regardless, the first week of college football has started with a bang. Once again the Pac Ten is not getting the respect that it deserves. All of the sport commentators sing the praises of the SEC and the Big Ten. Yet on this first weekend of college football the Pac Ten did quite well. Michigan, the Wolverines, the Big Ten powerhouse with the most wins in the nation, rated number five nationally, got their clocks cleaned by Appalachian State Division 1 AA champs. The game that was to be a tune up for Michigan turned out to be one of the biggest upsets in college football history. David truly conquered Goliath on last Saturday afternoon and added insult to injury by doing it at Goliath's house, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Wow. Can you imagine what the ride home to North Carolina was for the students from Appalachian State? They were on cloud nine and beyond I am sure.

This week coming up the Ducks of Oregon State should protect the ball because there will be some mad Wolverines on the field. They will attempt to show the world that the 34 to 32 loss to the much smaller school was a true aberration, that is, a small periodic change of apparent position in celestial bodies due to the combined effect of the motion of light and the motion of the observer.

But that's what happens in college football. Any team that schedules outside of its conference is taking a

chance that it will be embarrassed by a lesser program. Unlike the professionals where the talent is analyzed, rated, and compared, college can be an unknown factor. A kid who a year ago was lucky to be playing in front of two thousand fans may suddenly find himself playing in a stadium filled with a hundred thousand fans. How this will effect a player is an unknown, which can only be realized on the day that it happens. For instance, Notre Dame has announced that it will start a true freshman from western Ohio as quarterback against Penn State this week. Could it be, because in case you did not hear, Norte Dame also lost it opener? How this young man will respond is of interest; everyone says he is the real deal and should be able to handle the pressure.

And so it is with college football. Emotions rule! It is played with a passion lacking in most endeavors. As fans, we are more tuned into our college team than any professional team. Our loyalties to our schools never leave whether we are Bears, Bruins, Trojans or Buckeyes. We are there to the bitter end. When I was in college we used to laugh at the old heads that turned up to cheer the home team along with the same passion we had as youngsters. (Who knew that I would become one of those old heads wanting to cheer my team on to victory).

So here I am, on the couch, remote in hand, blood ready to boil, waiting for the game!

(Confidential note to my Trojans: Be careful tip toeing around all those corn kernels and husks in Lincoln!)

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