



Mountain Views-Observer

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

Week Ending November 30, 2007 Volume 1, No. 15

Sierra Madre Royalty Council Moves Forward With Plans To Settle Stonehouse - 1 Carter Lawsuits



The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association's Royal Court was presented to the City Council during its' last meeting. The 2008 Princesses and Escorts are Andrew Pirrone, age 17, Pasadena High School, Tim Crilly, age 16, St. Francis High School, Hanna Lisa Storlie, age 16, Alverno High School and Alexandra Flores, age 17, Maranatha High School.



Rose Float Volunteers Needed

We welcome volunteers at any time as float building is a year-round job. However, from December 26 to December 31, we will need and utilize approximately 500 volunteers. Though we will endeavor to provide work for all volunteers, there maybe times when we have more volunteers than tasks to be performed. Under these circumstances, we will attempt to reschedule your visit to when it can be more productive and enjoyable for you. It is recommended that you call the Float Barn prior to leaving home to hear our momentary volunteer needs. Call 626-355-7005. If you have a group we would be glad to schedule a time that would be convenient for you to all come and work together.

Please contact Bonnie Colcher at 626-355-7999 or email her at Sierramadrevolunteers@yahoo.com to secure a time.



Volunteers work diligently on the float in its' early development stages. With less than 30 days remaining, time is of the essence. Call 626-355-7999 to help. Photo by D. Lee/MVO

A Prayer Answered



By Virginia Hoge
on Special Assignment

Mae D. Ball worked at the CLIMB Activities Center for 10 years as an attendant to the blind and disabled children and adults there. You could often see her, walking her charges down Sierra Madre Blvd. - out for a bit of fresh air or to visit a local park or senior center (cont. pg. 3)

Council says the full extent of litigation would cost the city millions.

By Dean Lee

In an attempt to end costly litigation with two developers, the city council Tuesday night heard proposed changes to the Stonehouse project. The changes would reduce the number of homes to 22 and create more open space. They are not enough, however, for the council to fully accept a deal.

In addition to the reduction in the number of houses, the plans also protect a number of large oak trees adding more value to the property, the developers said.

City Attorney Sandra Levin commented a number of times that the law allows real property agreements to be discussed in closed season, something the council opted not to do. The public later thanked the council for allowing input. "Normally this is not done so I don't know how much we can disclose," she said.

The council asked the developers to hold another community meeting in January in which the public would tour the site. On behalf of Stonehouse Homes LLC and One Carter LLC, Cathy Teegarden and Elizabeth Watson both agreed to the meeting and also agreed to meet personally with the most affected homeowners adjacent to the property.

Mayor Enid Joffe said Sierra Madre does not want to move forward until, at least, a meeting with each resident is held. Levin also added that any compromise could only move forward if the judges allowed the most pressing case to be heard in January. "If he doesn't go for that, then we will just have to come up with another plan." She but did not discuss the issue further.

There are seven lawsuits total involving three judges according to Levin.

Sierra Madre is being sued for allegedly not processing the Stonehouse application in a timely manner and an accusation that the passage of the Hillside Management Zone was a way to block the project. The city said the application was incomplete at the time the ordinance was passed. According to Watson, passage of the ordinance gave them no option but to sue.

Both council members Joe Mosca and John Buchanan said the proposed changes were a good start but agreed it was premature to make any deal.

A number of residents indicated that they thought the city should continue the fight with both developers - no matter what the cost. Many of them recited why there was a need for the HMZ. Under HMZ guidelines the number of homes being built would have to change from 22 to 12.

Both 1 Carter and the Stonehouse are controlled by Dorn Platz and operate under the Stonehouse Homes LLC and One Carter LLC respectfully.

"From what I understand of the situation, what we are saying to the developer is that we are willing to forgo our hillside ordinance if you will drop your lawsuits," said resident James Morton. "You know how much you're going to save."

He then suggested the council get a real estate agent to appraise the values for the 12 two acre lots, something many said Dorn Platz had already done. Levin said if a compromise was reached the Hillside ordinance would only be amended to allow for the two projects but would stay in effect otherwise. She also said that if the HMZ was challenged and the city lost then the city could not apply them at all.

"The only way to truly be able to apply the HMZ would be to win every lawsuit," she said.

Council member Kurt Zimmerman spoke up saying there was no way to predict the outcome of any lawsuit. He said he was not willing to gamble with the HMZ. He also said all the lawsuits were in the early stages and in the end the city could spend millions. (continued on page 3)

Methodist Hospital's Holiday Home Tour
December 6 & 7
Celebrating Methodist's 50 years in
Arcadia & Sierra Madre's 100th Birthday
See One Of A Kind - Page 11

No Evacuations At Recent Pasadena High School Fire

Recording reveals administrator ignored alarm and instructed students to cover warning lights.

In an audio tape recorded last week during a well attended recognition ceremony at Pasadena High



School, a number of officials can be heard ignoring the school's fire alarms and giving instructions contrary to existing policies regarding fires, alarms and evacuations. The administrator is heard saying that the alarms were disrupting their event —meanwhile across campus a fire raged, gutting a science lab causing \$100,000 in damages. (Story on page 4)

Azusa Police Stop Leads To Arrest of Sierra Madre Burglary Suspects

By Susan Henderson

Observant Azusa Police Officers stopped a vehicle with four passengers for a routine traffic violation. The inhabitants of the vehicle, reported to be gang members from the Pasadena/Altadena area, were found to be in possession of a gun, drugs and goods taken from a Sierra Madre residence just a short while before. The stop led to the arrest of the suspects on numerous charges including possession of a controlled substance, receiving/concealing stolen property, burglary and weapons charges.

According to Police Chief Madeline Diaz and Lt. Dennis of the Azusa Police Departments, the suspects arrested were: Carl Taylor, 26; Marcus Mattox 22; Brian Jones, 30 and Reginald Thomas 26.

Each defendant has a prior criminal record. Jones has been charged with robbery in 2004 and burglary numerous forgery charges in 2005. Mattox, who was charged with possession of marijuana in 2006. Taylor, has a long list of prior vehicle code violations and marijuana charges and Thomas has been charged with obstruction of a police officer and narcotics possession.

It is alleged that the defendants burglarized a home near Canon and Sierra Madre Blvd. at approximately 5:30 p.m. while the Dickens Village celebration was taking place in Kersting Court. The residents were not at home at the time.

The defendants will appear in court on December 13, 2007 at the Pomona courthouse.

Memorial Park Stabbing Anniversary

December 1st will mark the one year anniversary of the brutal stabbing in Memorial Park. Three defendants have been charged with attempted murder of an unsuspecting minor. All defendants are in police custody while awaiting trial.

The next scheduled court date is January 15, 2008. It is anticipated that jury selection will take place, however, efforts to enter into plea bargains may be completed before the trial begins.

In the meantime, the victim and his parents will have to continue waiting for a disposition of this matter.

Howie's Market Project
Removed From Planning
Commission Agenda.
See Notice On Page 10

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Weather Wise

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

Saturday	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Sunday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Monday:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Tuesday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Wednesday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

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



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

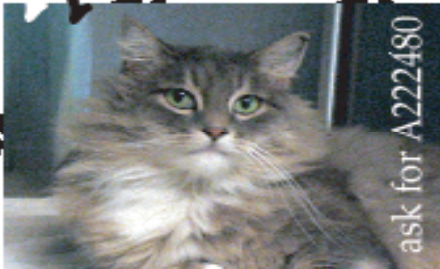
Beantown
45 N. Baldwin
Time for Ice Cream
(626) 355-1596

Lucky Baldwin's
21 Kersting Court
(626) 355-1140

Mary's Market
561 Woodland Drive
(626) 355-4534

New Day! The Harvey Hyde Show
Every **Thursday** 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Hard-hitting, high impact sports talk radio
KSHP Las Vegas - 1400 AM
Live! from BURGER CONTINENTAL
535 South Lake Avenue Pasadena

Adopt "Winston"



ask for A222480

Winston, a very handsome, year long-haired cat is ready for adoption. He came to the shelter with a fractured pelvis but has since recovered and needs a new home! Although he has healed, Winston would prefer an indoor only home where he will be safe and happy. Ask to see an adoption counselor for more information about this wonderful cat!

The regular cat adoption fee is \$65 which includes the spay or neuter surgery, microchip, vaccination, and a free follow-up health check with your vet. You can also adopt a 2nd cat or kitten for just \$10 more!

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A22480 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets up and hourly maintenance found at www.phsspsca.org

Sierra Madre Books is proud to present:

Robert Eklund, author of **First Star I See Tonight**, as its speaker on **Thursday, December 6th, at 7:00 p.m.**
"First Star I See Tonight" invites the scientist and poet to set aside their differences for a night -- to come outside, stand very still as the sun sets, feel the earth turning eastward, be dazzled by a moonrise, catch a falling star, walk with constellations, ride a rocket to Jupiter space, and finally look back at the Home Planet with new eyes. In poetry, prose, and picture, author/poet Robert Eklund and illustrator Virginia Hoge have created a unique mix of astronomy and art that asks you to join them in the billion-year mission of 'descrambling the wonder, outside and inside.' "

Mr. Eklund currently helps with education and public outreach at the Mount Wilson Observatory and writes the weekly Astronomy column in the Mountain Views-Observer newspaper. You can visit his website at www.bobeklund.com.

Please join us for a slide show, book reading & signing, and some night-sky viewing through a telescope!

Happy reading,
Jeff and Sally

Sierra Madre Books
18 W. Sierra Madre Blvd, Suite A
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
626-836-3200 phone
626-836-3230 fax

**The deadline to order
your All-America City
Street Pole Banner
has been extended to
Wednesday, Dec. 12.**

Banners may be sponsored by one entity or a group (families, neighborhoods, softball teams, businesses, etc.) can sponsor one together.

The proceeds from the banner sales will go towards new City signs and insignias as well as to organizations interested in adding the All-America City logo/status in their marketing/publicity efforts. To-date, no City funds have been used during the All-America City journey and through your banner donations we plan to keep it that way!

Please see the attached order form for more information or give me a call at 626-355-5278.

The First Church Of The Nazarene Of Pasadena

Invites you to.....

Come! Celebrate Christmas!

December 8 2:00 p.m.
December 9 6:00 p.m.

Rejoice! Ring in the Christmas Season With Beautiful Music
Featuring

The Full First Church Celebration Choir.....
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The Sonseeker's Children's Choir
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3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
626.351.9631 www.paznaz.org

OPEN SEATING

TICKETS NOT REQUIRED

CHILD CARE 0-4 yrs.

Shameless Plug, But A Free Dessert

By Rich Johnson

I got a few more responses from people interested in telling me what they liked about Sierra Madre. Thank you to those who responded. One rather savvy fellow wrote and said he discovered there were a number of “Good Samaritans” running around. At least that’s what his girlfriend discovered when she fell down in the middle of town. People came to her rescue with ice and towels (I wonder if that would happen in Pasadena). Another gal named Yolanda wrote and told me how wonderful the Creative Arts Group was to have in Sierra Madre. It is a great place to involve your kids in a variety of art experiences. It’s at 108 Baldwin across the street from Bethany Church. I have a couple of priceless ceramic plates made by my kids. My daughter also took painting lessons at Mission Renaissance right there in Kersting Court. What they taught her to do in just a few weeks is unbelievable. I have the paintings to prove it. Of course, the city became complete a few months ago when the Sierra Madre Book Store opened up. It’s on Sierra Madre Blvd. just west of Baldwin. I bought a couple of books and ordered a couple of books not in stock and in a day or two they arrived. Remember that place for Christmas. Just ask for Jeff or Sally. Fellow Nano Café addict Robyn commented on how quaint and friendly Sierra Madre is (politics aside). Seems you can’t walk further than a block down the street without running into someone you know. She also commented on how helpful the guys are at Arnold’s Hardware. I agree.

Speaking of Nano’s café, Robyn and I want the Nano Café to be annexed by the city of Sierra Madre. Sure it’s on the wrong side of Michillinda in the Albertsons shopping center. But it feels like a part of Sierra Madre. I know! We can sponsor a new measure in the next Sierra Madre election. We’ll call it Measure Y (for YUMMY). In the meantime if you haven’t been to Nano’s yet, you are missing out. Especially at dinner time.

I have an idea. If you go into the Nano Café after 4pm and order one of the following dinners I’ll convince owner Oscar to throw in a dessert for FREE. Yeah, even a cup of coffee too. But you gotta ask for the “Rich Special” and order one of the following dinners: Fillet of Sole, Ribeye Steak, Chicken Piccata, or Seafood Pasta. Oh yeah, and the “Rich Special” is only good through December 15th, 2007. And in case you wanted to know: the master chef’s name is Ernesto. Say hi if you get a chance.



Oscar, center, the new owner of Nano One Cafe, joins guests, left to right, Grandpa Martin Otto, Ruby and Piter Steenkamp all from Wrightwood; Riley Otto (13 months) and his dad, John Otto. Nano now features a kids menu that even little Otto enjoyed. S. Henderson/MVO



High School Expansion Plans Under Fire Alverno’s Leadership Speaks Up

By Susan Henderson

When Alverno High School’s Head of School, Ann Gillick, drives in or out of the school’s parking lot these days, she can’t help but notice the barrage of signs on neighboring lawns. “*Alverno Consider Your Neighbors - No Additional Use*” or *AlverNO EXPANSION - No More Noise and Nuisance*. The signs are posted in protest to the school’s plans to improve the facility.

As part of the Alverno Master Plan, the school intends to upgrade the existing softball field to regulation size, and include a soccer field by expanding the field area to the existing parking lot facing Wilson Street. A new multi-purpose building on the property is also on the drawing board. According to Gillick, the site selected for the new building will have the least impact, especially for trees. The building is scheduled to be built where the current tennis courts are. The new building will include an auditorium and a regulation basketball and volleyball area. It will also provide an indoor area for assemblies, school dances and Mass. Currently, for many events, Alverno must rent the facilities at Sierra Madre Elementary School.

Plans also include an external beautification program. “There are old fences and bushes all around the perimeter of the school”, says Gillick. we are looking at new fences with columns and wrought iron. Other improvements include an outdoor amphitheatre and garden area for education.”



A traffic study said the planned improvements, which include expanding facilities onto an existing parking lot would make “no significant difference” for residents on Michillinda.

Those plans include a Tree Amendment, a plan for public outreach and the Master Plan. The school received a call on October 17th regarding the submissions and is currently waiting for a call from the Planning Commission.

Gillick is optimistic and hopes that the plan will be approved. “We are willing to work with the city”, she says. “We presented the Master Plan to the entire community in April 2006 and made changes in the configurations. We reduced the number of trees that would be eliminated and hired an outside consultant in 2005-2006 to assist us.”



Tennis courts show years of wear and would be removed to make room for a multi-purpose building.



in August, part of the process. Those plans include



In the 06-07 school year, the Alverno Student Body as a whole completed the following:

- Over 17,000 Christian Service hours
- Donated over 3500 cans of food to the Los Angeles Food Bank
- Donated over 100 blankets to Catholic Charities
- Donated over 200 inches of hair and 48 pony-tails to “Locks of Love” to make wigs for children with medical hair loss
- Donated thousands of diapers to Catholic Charities
- Marched in the Los Angeles AIDS walk and Sierra Madre Relay for life
- Donated over 2000 soda can tabs to the Pasadena Ronald McDonald house
- Sent 72 care packages to “Wounded Warriors” for soldiers hospitalized around the world
- And raised the money for and built one brand new home in one day for a family in Mexico

Principal In Action



Sierra Madre School Principal Gayle Bluemel is accompanied by members of her band as they performed for students and parents recently. The talented educator is also an accomplished musician.

Photo by D. Lee/MVO

Duarte Mountain Lion Attack Causes More Concern For Local Residents

By Susan Henderson

Less than a month after a Mountain Lion and her cub were spotted in the backyard of a home at the top of Sunrise Hill in Sierra Madre, the city of Duarte reported that a mountain lion entered another hillside backyard and attacked two German Shepherds. The attack took the life of one dog and severely injured the other in a search for food.

According to reports from Duarte, “The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Deputies along with the City of Duarte’s Animal Control Officer responded to the residence as a result of the attack. The California Department of Fish and Game which has jurisdiction and authority over these types of incidents was notified. The California Department of Fish and Game recommended public notification of this incident in order to advise the public of the dangers of wildlife specifically mountain lions. They recommended all pets be brought in at night and that children not be left unsupervised to play outdoors in residences that about the foothills.”

Sierra Madre resident George Enyedi confirmed the local sighting. “We’ve had bears, mountain lions and rattlesnakes, well not too many rattlesnakes this year, but definitely bears and mountain lions and coyotes have come down looking for food and water.”

Residents are encouraged to adhere to the advice of the CDFG regarding pets and children. In addition, those residents who walk in the hillsides should exercise more caution. Enyedi says he used to walk every day in the area where the mountain lion came from. While he used to carry pepper spray and other deterrents in the event of an attack, “I’ve decided that maybe I will start walking somewhere else.”

PRAYER (from page 1)

(where they would help with minor chores like cleaning up the tables) - often wearing low-heals, brown/ blond hair in a high ponytail, her head held high and eyes full of joy. Her spirit endeared her to many locals and civic workers in Sierra Madre, who came to look for her each day.

Mae hails from Tupelo, Mississippi - yes, Elvis Presley’s hometown - and she carries the Tupelo lyrical drawl still today. She began working at CLIMB while still living in Rosemead and the long bus commute made her move to Pasadena to be closer to her job. She held that job for 10 years and she really put her heart into it, doing extra things for her charges like bringing them over to her apartment for a home-cooked Thanksgiving turkey dinner (Mae is an amazing cook in the Southern style, and is known for her home-cooked Southern dinners she shares will all around her) or even on Christmas Day. “Some of them had no home to go to” Mae says “and so I took them to mine”.

Part of the working-poor (Mae never made more than \$9. an hour during her 10 years at CLIMB) she none the less managed to pay her rent and bills. And so she was emotionally devastated and thrown into a financial crisis, when her employer let her go in October in a cloud of suspicion and implied wrong doing. Mae has been fighting off bill collectors while she scrambled to find a new job (which she did recently in Pasadena for less than she made at CLIMB).

A fighter (“I was brought up in the South and knew of the Civil Rights movement of Martin Luther King” says Mae) she filed an appeal to the firing and denial of Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board and was given a hearing presided over by Administrative Law Judge, Ann Ansman. After hearing the testimony from the former employer and several witnesses, the Judge determined that there was no misconduct by Mae and that there was no basis for her termination.

According to the official hearing

documents, the dismissal was based upon allegations of a physical altercation between Mae and another employee. The allegations were found to be untrue. As a job coach with CLIMB, the judge determined that, “...In her ten years of employment the claimant had not been involved in any arguments, fights or confrontations.”

The decision will result in the payment of back compensation for Mae and the restoral of her good name in the community. Those she nurtured at climb, however, will still feel the loss of their friend and coach.

Editors Note: Since the time of Mae’s discharge from CLIMB there was widespread speculation that she was the person arrested for stealing from the patients at the facility. SMPD Officer Doyle was awarded a commendation for investigating the matter. According to Police Chief Marilyn Diaz, “Mae Ball was definitely not the person charged in this case, nor was she ever a suspect.”

www.mvobserver.com

LAWSUITS (cont. from page 1)

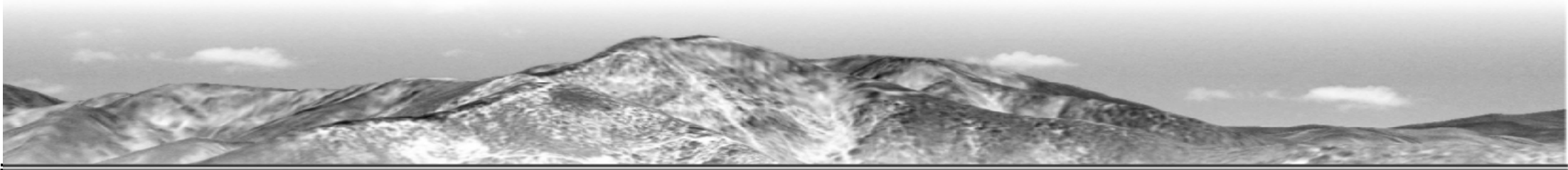
“There have been many times I have won a case when I thought I would lose and many times I know I shouldn’t have won,” Zimmerman said. “You just don’t know.”

Earlier this year at the time the HMZ was being discussed Zimmerman pushed for a five acre minimum which was later reduced to two. He is one of three lawyers on the council and practices environmental law. The five acre minimum would have allowed less than seven homes to be built.

A number of residents also said they thought exceptions to the HMZ for 1 Carter were more important than Stonehouse because lot sizes were already established and the only compromise would be height and visibility. Neither the community nor the developers are willing to compromise on those issues.

Zimmerman noted that not a week went by without someone calling him to complain about 1 Carter. Although important, Stonehouse had nowhere near the craze surrounding it as 1 Carter he said. Zimmerman called the site, “An open wound on the city.”

Before the discussion ended, resident Morton informed the council that information on a postcard mailed to homes within 300 feet of the project was inaccurate. The notice stated that 30 homes were to be built on the Stonehouse site. Levin assured him that it was only 22. The original plans submitted proposed 35 homes on the 100-acre property something Levin said the postcard also did not reflect.



MountainViews-Observer PASADENA

Holiday Tour at the Castle Green



Castle Green

Join us on Sunday, December 2nd for a special Holiday Tour at the Castle Green. One of Pasadena's last historic hotels is now the private residence of designers, musicians, collectors, artists, and others. Those interested in history,

creative interior design and cultural heritage will see the original old world charm of this city treasure. Built in 1898, the Castle Green is normally closed to the public.

While trained docents will be available, you may also walk at your own pace, through the corridors and visit 15-20 individual apartments, all differently interpreted, and many decorated for the holidays. On the ground floor, you'll see the Grand Salon, Palm Ballroom, Moorish and Turkish Rooms. Farther along, you'll visit the Bridge, 7th floor Penthouse, and various painters' studios.

A 12' Christmas tree in the Main Salon, decorated with thousands of lights and topped with peacock feathers, graces the entry as visitors enter the old

hotel lobby. Enjoy seasonal music, holiday Sweets, tea and coffee, which will be served throughout the day.

Some of the famous individuals associated with the Castle are Charles White, noted African-American artist who had his studio in the Bridge, and Marcel Duchamp, French artist closely associated with the Dada and Surrealism



Castle Green

movements. Among the many films shot

here are The Sting, The Last Samurai, The Little Rascals, Wild At Heart, We Were Soldiers, and television shows including CSI Miami, Cold Case, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Alias and the X-Files.

The Tour is sponsored by the Friends of the Castle Green, a nonprofit support group committed to the preservation of this landmark building. An exhibit of the recently completed roof re-tiling project funded by the Friends, and other projects, will be on display. All of the Tour proceeds go to the Friends of the Castle Green for the ongoing restoration of the building. All contributions are tax deductible.

Please call Patricia Hurley 626-577-6765 for more info.

It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas



This year's tree lighting at One Colorado drew the largest crowd ever with an estimated 1,500 people on hand to enjoy the show.

Photo and Story By Teresa Baxter

Old Town Pasadena was transformed into a winter wonderland last Friday during festivities that culminated with the lighting of a 35-foot tall Christmas tree located at the One Colorado Courtyard.

The celebration began on Holly Street, where children were able to frolic in 30 tons of real snow, see adorable live reindeer and ride a holiday train. The celebration then progressed to the tree-lighting ceremony with special guest speaker, Hall of Fame's Tommy Lasorda.



Tommy Lasorda.

Lasorda is a baseball legend who joined the Los Angeles Dodgers as Manager in 1977, and led the team to victory with two World Series championships, four National League pennants and eight division titles.

Arts Bus Bike Racks On Order



Arts Bus

The city last week confirmed early next year they plan to retrofit all Pasadena Arts Buses with bike racks ending the mystery as to why less than half of them had the racks and rest did not in a city that prides itself on being bike friendly

Pasadena's transit manager Cathi Cole said only seven of the city's 22 buses currently have bike racks. Those with the racks are the newer small hybrid e-buses on route 10 and compressed natural gas busses on route 20 she said.

"The racks have all been ordered and we hope to have them on the busses the beginning of next year," Cole said adding that the older buses did not come with bike racks. As there their fleet was updated the city gradually got more racks.

Liz Elliott Co-Director of C.I.C.L.E. (Cyclists Inciting Change thru Live Exchange) said Pasadena's move to make all buses bike equipped followed a current trend including a push by the MTA to retrofit their buses with racks to accommodate three bikes instead of only two currently.

C.I.C.L.E. has hosted numerous biking events in Pasadena and Elliott said the city was on its way to becoming a "true bike city." Cole said the larger buses in the city all run on bio-diesel a much less polluting form of fuel in compliance with the city's green action plan. She also said they planed to incorporate more of the hybrid buses into the fleet in the near future.

According to city staff 1.7 million riders took the Arts Bus this year boasting a 19 percent annual increase in readership over prior years.

D. Lee/MVO

Kids, PUSD Meeting Not Evacuated During Fire Gutting Pasadena High Science Lab

Board of Education says school had an obligation to keep kids safe under the California Constitution.

"We're so excited," said Jonathon Lyons, Assistant Principal of Activities and Testing. "We decided to add visual effects. That's what the strobe lights are for. I got to take a moment right now to thank my ASB [associated student body] for being really ingenious by hanging there really nice sweatshirts all over so that people could see."

According to reports Lyons was referring to students covering flashing fire alarms because there was no way to turn them off. The event was held Nov. 20 starting at 6:30 p.m. inside the school's auditorium.

In a report that night, at 7:48 p.m., Pasadena Battalion Chief Denis Imler said Engine 37 responded to a call at the school, finding heavy smoke and one PHS classroom involved in a fire. Backup was called and power was immediately shut off to the room. He said damage was limited to one science lab.

Fire investigators determined chemical soaked rags used earlier in a science experiment had spontaneously combusted.

Pasadena Fire spokesperson, Lisa Derderian said later after checking, that nobody in the fire department was notified about people on campus. She said school personnel had been on site until 2 a.m., and although the fire was contained to a small area, she said, "If the fire alarms did in fact go off it would have been up to those individuals there to evacuate."

Early broadcast news reports said the school was empty based on Derderian's information. She said the new reports of a PUSD meeting at the same time were disturbing.

Exactly four minutes after students are heard covering the alarms, Lyons said "Unfortunately Mr. Calafat was supposed to give this part of the presentation but he's trying to figure out why our fire alarms are on."

Assistant Principal Phil Calafat's administrative duties include overseeing the site facilities and the science department, among other things, according to the school's website.

Sirens from three fire engines, a rescue ambulance and the Pasadena police can be heard on the audio. At one point the sirens were so loud they drown out a speaker and so he stops. A total of 15 minutes go by without any evacuation and the event can be heard ending normally after everyone spoke.

According to the official PUSD School Board agenda the special meeting included recognitions of the Tournament of Roses Princesses, the Red Ribbon week award winners and recognition of new 2007-2008 PUSD

administrators.

Those honored were Phyllis Keithly and Tammy Jenkins, PTSA president and vice president; Diana Costa, student bookkeeper; Jeanine Foot, librarian and Harriet Hammond, math department chair.

Superintendent Edwin Diaz and Board President, Steve Lizardo, were also among those who attended. It was not immediately known if all other board members were there.

"Now that I look at it, we should



Map of Pasadena High campus showing the location of the fire in relation to a PUSD meeting.

occurred during the day the whole school would have been evacuated.

"If one of the fire alarms goes off we don't know where the fire is, so all the kids would be taken to a safe location such as a field," she said.

California Department of Education



Damage estimated at \$100,000 done to a science class at PHS Photo Courtesy of Pasadena Fire

have evacuated," Diaz said the next day. "We all truly thought it was some glitch in the system."

Diaz said when he walked outside after the event he could smell smoke. Only later did he find out the fire had been across the campus. He also said that no one had been in any immediate danger.

Diaz also said the five-day Thanksgiving break would give them a chance to "get things back to normal." That Wednesday also happened to also be a "no school day," he said.

Michele McCowry, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, said last week seven surrounding classrooms were to be scrubbed down and deodorized with ozone to get rid of any smell.

"I know there's never a good time for a fire," Diaz said the same day. "But that's the good news in this. We notified everyone and so the work to restore the classroom is underway and the holiday should give us time."

McCowry said that if the fire had

school safety consultant Stephanie Papas said state education code mandates that each school have a school safety plan. A written evacuation plan should be part of that she said, "Everything must follow the SEMS [Standardized Emergency Management System] guidelines."

She said the California Constitution guarantees student safety with the right to attend campuses which are safe, secure and peaceful.

"California schools are portal to portal which means they are all responsible for students from the time they walk out the door until they get home," she said. "If there is some kind of alarm going off, and there are students, no matter where or what time it is, you respond."

McCowry said each April the district holds drill at each school for all emergencies and that the Pasadena fire department regularly helps with school safety awareness including fire drills and evacuation plans.

McCowry also said PHS has an updated evacuation plan as required by law.

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

Another Thermo-gel demonstration will be given by Fire Marshal Richard Snyder on December 11 at 12:30 Noon at the Kiwanis Club meeting, East Sierra Madre Blvd., parking lot. This is a regularly scheduled lunch meeting for the Kiwanis members and their guests, but the public is invited to the demonstration. Please call for exact information on the location: 355-9350.

The Thermo-gel demonstration at Mary’s Market in the Canyon in November was attended by over 60 people. The news media has reported on many southland homeowners’ use of this and other fire prevention home applications. For more information: www.thermo-gel.com

Will your home withstand the windblown embers that may converge on Sierra Madre miles ahead of the fire front in the hillside to the north? To answer that question look at the information by UC Berkeley fire researcher Steven Quarles at www.firecenter.berkeley.edu where you can evaluate your home. You link to the “toolkit” for “home assessment,” answer a questionnaire about your home, get a score and directions on how to reduce the vulnerable parts of your home. You may decide to make some important changes to protect your home.

The will be no regularly scheduled Fire Safe Council meeting in December. We will resume meetings in January and begin meeting every other month. For more information contact us at 355-0741 or 355-9350. E-mail: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com

We have Thermo-gel fire protection system kits available. Call 355-0741.



Environmentally Speaking,
“Did You Know?”
Deck The Halls.....

Time-honored traditions are hard to change much less break, but there are ways to celebrate and enjoy the holidays in a more environmentally friendly way. Our articles this month will offer suggestions and alternatives to celebrations and gift giving. The ultimate result will be a gift to this, our plundered planet.

*** Low-impact Holiday Lighting**
Electricity drains natural resources so consider the following suggestions--

***Reduce the size of outdoor lighting displays,** a smaller presentation can still be attractive and more appropriate for the season of “giving.”*Use LED lights for house and Christmas tree lighting. They use 95% less energy than larger, traditional holiday bulbs and last up to 100,000 hours when used indoors.*Outdoor-mini lights will also save energy. A 100-light string uses only 40 watts. * Turn tree lights and outdoor house decorative lighting off at bedtime. It’s simply a waste of energy to leave the holiday lights on at night after everyone has gone to sleep.

***Homemade Cards**
Store-bought Christmas cards are rich, elegant and expensive. They also consume a huge amount of natural resources for a throw-away item. The amount of cards sold in the US during the holiday season would fill a football field 10 stories high, and requires the harvesting of nearly 300,000 trees. (Source: Use Less Stuff) Homemade cards might not be as professional, but they are more personal and just as appreciated, if not more so. Making cards is also a fun family activity. Last year’s calendars and children’s artwork are just a couple of wonderful sources for your homemade cards. Use your imagination.
Garnered in part from eartheasy.com

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(SMEAC)
P.O. Box 85
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025-0085
Your thoughts and comments are welcome...

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SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, November 18th, to Saturday November 24th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 222 calls for service.

Sunday, November 18th:

2:03 AM – DUI arrest, Mountain Trail Ave and Grandview Ave. Officers stopped a car for speeding. During the investigation, the driver was found to be under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

6:38 PM – Arrest, Michillinda Ave and Sierra Madre Blvd. A driver was stopped for a minor traffic violation. A records check revealed the driver, a resident, was unlicensed. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

9:53 PM – DUI arrest, North Baldwin Ave at Highland Ave. Officers stopped a car for a traffic violation. During the investigation the driver was found to be under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

Monday, November 19th:

3:29 AM – Commercial burglary, 50 South Baldwin Ave. Officers responded to alarm activation at the Valero Gas Station. Upon arriver officers found the glass front office door smashed and the office ransacked. The owner reported \$2,153.00 in cash stolen and \$400.00 damage to the door.

6:19 PM – Residential burglary, 600 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. A resident reported two bicycles stolen from her unlocked open garage. The crime occurred between 7:45 am and her return home this afternoon at 6:00 pm. The bicycles were both Trek brands. One was a gray 4300 Alpha mountain bike with reflective tape on the spokes; the second was a purple Hard Rock Ultra mountain bike with reflective tape on the spokes. The total loss was estimated at \$632.00.

Wednesday, November 21st:

10:53 AM – Grand theft from auto, 500 block West Montecito Ave. A resident called to report his golf clubs (Cobra, Callaway and Taylor-made brands) and sunglasses (Ray Ban) were stolen from his car. The loss occurred between 6:30 pm, 11/20 and discovered 11/21 at 10:30 am when both the drivers and passenger doors were discovered ajar. The total loss was estimated at \$2140.00.

1:18 PM – Business license violation, 600 block Oakcrest Drive. A resident called to report door to door sales men. Officers were dispatched to the area and found two persons selling magazines without a city business license. Both parties were cited and issued written promises to appear.

Thursday, November 22nd:

11:46 AM – Petty theft, 600 block West Montecito Ave. A resident called to report an inflatable Santa Claus was missing from the front yard. The resident said that the Santa Claus was last seen on 11/21 at 9:00 pm, and was gone by 8:00 am. The Santa was described as 7’ tall, with a red suit, white beard and rosy cheeks. The loss was estimated at \$50.00.

Friday, November 23rd:

1:35 AM – Arrest, 210 Freeway and Sierra Madre Villa. A driver was stopped for expired vehicle registration. A records check revealed the driver lived in Altadena and his driver’s license was expired. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

8:05 PM – Auto burglary, 100 block West Orange Grove Ave. A resident reported his driver’s side window was smashed. The loss included an IPOD and a Magellan GPS. The crime occurred between 3:00 pm Saturday, 11/17 and 7:50 pm Friday, 11/23. The loss was estimated at \$1150.00.

A Message From Our Fire Marshal Rich Snyder.....



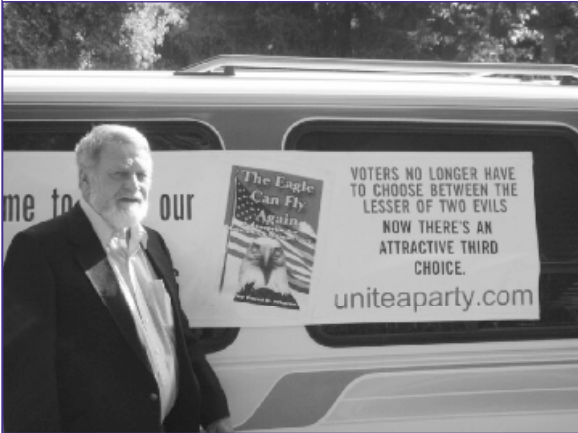
A house fire on any day is bad, but a fire at Christmas time seems to be the worst. Each year, hundreds of homes and families are destroyed during the holiday season from Christmas tree fires. Don’t let it happen to you. The Sierra Madre Fire Department wants to remind residents to be safe this holiday season and offer these simple safety tips to make sure a mishap doesn’t spoil your holiday season.

1. When shopping for a tree, try to select a fresh one. To check for freshness, loosely grip the end of a branch and pull your hand over it. Only a few needles should fall off. The needles of pines and spruces should bend and not break and should be hard to pull off the branches. On fir species, a needle pulled from a fresh tree will snap when bent, much like a fresh carrot. Also, look for a trunk sticky with sap.
2. When buying your tree, have the tree lot make a fresh cut an inch or more from the bottom; this will help the tree drink.
3. It’s best to buy your tree early so you can keep it watered longer. If you buy your tree early and keep it outside, store it away from wind and sun, and keep the bottom in a bucket of water.
4. Make sure your tree stand holds plenty of water, and don’t let it run out. If your tree seems wobbly, center it in the stand more securely and redo the bolts or screws.
5. Place your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.
6. Only use indoor lights indoors (and outdoor lights only outdoors). Look for the UL label. Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Replace or repair any damaged light sets. (They’re inexpensive.)
7. Don’t connect more than three light sets to an extension cord. Try to position the tree near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards. Don’t run cords under rugs.
8. Turn off all lights on trees and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.
9. Don’t use electric lights on a metal tree.
10. If you buy an artificial tree, make sure it is fire-retardant.
11. Keep a close eye on small children when they are around the tree; many small decorations and ornaments are sharp, breakable and can be swallowed.
12. Recycle your tree. Burning Christmas tree clippings in a fireplace may result in a chimney fire; pine and fir trees produce a lot of creosote when burning and may lead to deposits on the chimney.

Arts & More

Author Says It's Time For Another Tea Party

By Teresa Baxter



Author David Whalen

Eagle Can Fly Again: A Blueprint for Rebuilding Democracy.

Author and San Gabriel native, David Whalen has lived an illustrious 70 years, serving time in the military, starting his own boat manufacturing business and then retiring into the life of a professional poker player. Not content to see the polarization between the two political parties that seem to ignore the middle class, Whalen decided it was time to stand up for the underdog by masterminding the formation of a third political party. His Uni-Tea Party is meant to unite the voters to hopefully incite a symbolic revolution along the historic proportions of the Boston Tea Party. Whalen recently shared his political thoughts during an interview with the MountainViews-Observer.

What have you witnessed politically in your life and how do you feel about the current state of the country?

“During my lifetime I have observed what was intended to be a government of the people, by the people, for the people turn into a government of the government, by the government, for the special interests that fund political campaigns. One major party has gone to an end of a political spectrum; to compensate the other party went to the other end. A history of how this happened is covered in the book. By both major parties going to opposite ends they have left a large void in the middle. The working class producers of this nation have been left with no representation under the current system.”

Where does the Tea Party theme fit into your plan?

“Since the poor pay no taxes and the rich who use loopholes pay very little, that leaves the middle class paying for 94 percent of the cost it takes to run our government. Isn't that taxation without representation? Isn't it time to check the history books and see why we fought the Revolution? If the founding fathers were alive today they would probably ask where to dump the tea in the harbor? It just might be time to have another Tea Party.”

What compelled you to write “The Eagle Can Fly Again”?

“The solutions to most of our major problems are simple and pointed out in the book. The ‘sitting’ politicians do not want them to be solved. This way they can keep our society polarized and continue to be elected for the purpose of milking great personal wealth from us. They are treating voters like mushrooms—keeping them in the dark while feeding them compost. After spending a career in the military defending the Constitution and Bill of Rights, I find it unacceptable to sit back and watch what's happening without doing something to try and change it. The purpose of the book is to inform and educate in the hopes of getting our once great nation back on track.”

How can people become involved in your movement?

“Our movement supports this with a complimenting website and online magazine at www.uniteaparty.com and we maintain pages on www.youtube.com/uniteaparty and at www.myspace.com/uniteaparty”

Relay for Life of Monrovia 2008 To Honor Cancer Survivors At Monrovia Christmas Parade on Thursday, Dec. 6th

All are invited to join Relay for Life of Monrovia 2008 committee to cheer & honor Cancer Survivors and support volunteers on Thursday, December 6th at 6:00 PM at Monrovia popular Christmas Parade.

Survivors will be on riding two cars and volunteers will be handing out over 1000 candy cane pencils as a reminder of the event.

Visitors to the event can get information about the event, take coupon for free bracelets to be redeemed at the event, enjoy interesting fundraising events, sign up to start a team or be part of a team or for survivors events.

Relay for Life is American Cancer Society's signature event to raise funds for its research, education, advocacy programs and services to the community including support for the patients and their families. Monrovia 2008 event will be held at Boys and Girls' Club locate at YMCA Recreation Park on Saturday & Sunday, April 26th & 27th.


Survivors who want to be a part of the Christmas Parade, please contact Ryan Asao at (626) 253.4557

THE MUSICAL “NARNIA” IS THE HOLIDAY SEASON SHOW AT SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE - OPENS NOVEMBER 23

OPENS NOVEMBER 23

The Sierra Madre Playhouse

and the Southern California Lyric Theater Present



Book by Jules Tasca – Lyrics by Ted Drachman – Music by Thomas Tierney

Directed by Alison Kalmus

WHAT: “Narnia”. A musical.
WHO: Book by Jules Tasca.
Lyrics by Ted Drachman
Music by Thomas Tierney. Based on the novel “The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe” by C.S. Lewis.
Directed by Alison Kalmus.
Musical director: Lance Merrill.
Musical director: Dianne Harmel.
Produced by Ward Calaway and Alison Kalmus.

Presented by Sierra Madre Playhouse and Southern California Lyric Theatre.

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Co.

WHERE: Sierra Madre Playhouse
87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.,
Sierra Madre 91024.
Abundant free parking behind theatre.

WHEN: November 23- December 23, 2007.
Fridays and Saturdays at 8
Sundays at 2:30.
Saturday matinees at 2:30 on
December 8, 15 and 22.
Sundays at 7 p.m. on December 16
and December 23
Tuesday, December 18 at 8 p.m.
Wednesday, December 19 at 8 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 13 & 20 at 8 p.m.

ADMISSION: All seats \$20
RESERVATIONS: (626) 256-3809
ONLINE TICKETING:
www.sierramadreplayhouse.org

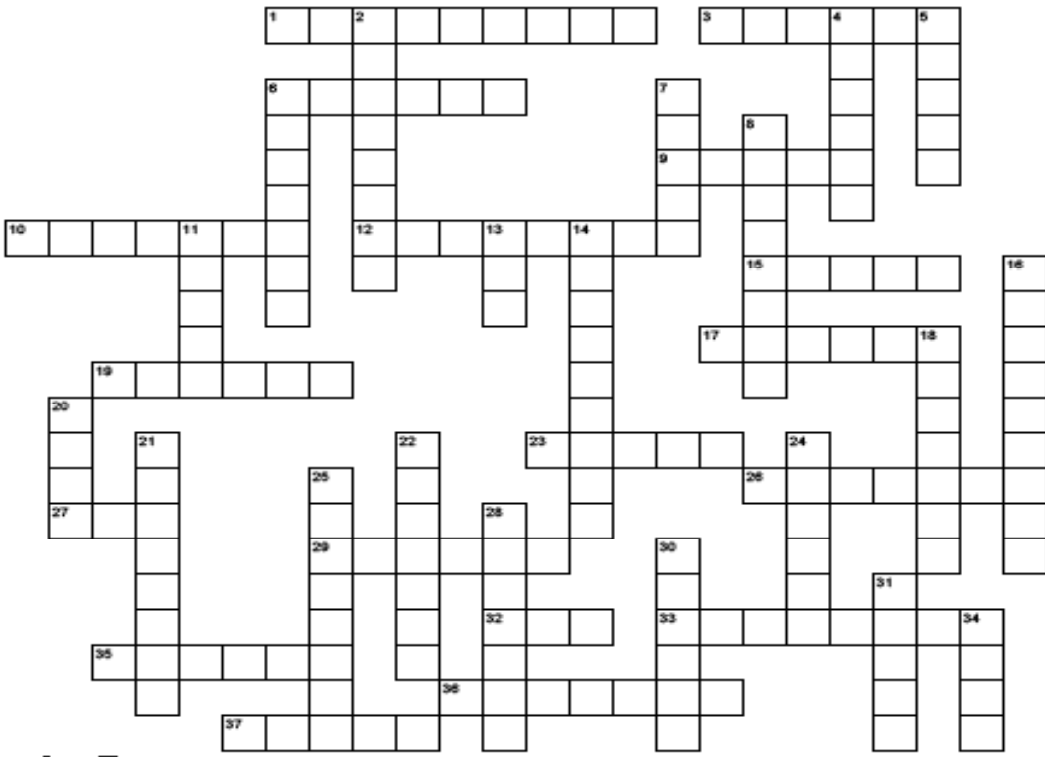
Photo Of The Week



As the writers strike prepares to enter its' fifth week, MVO City Editor Dean Lee snaps this photo in front of The Tonight Show offices.

A Hanukkah Puzzle For Everyone

The more we learn about each other, the better people we will become.



ACROSS

- 1 The family that lead the Jewish revolt of 166 B.C.
- 3 low walls are the best walls
- 6 glorify
- 9 unmerited divine assistance
- 10 an extraordinary divine event
- 12 An ordered set of graphics
- 15 something used for religious ceremonies
- 17 Relating to this culture or religion
- 19 Ninth Month of the Jewish ecclesiastical year
- 23 3rd letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 26 maled in Hebrew and spun like a top

- 27 a woman under solemn vows
- 29 potato pancake
- 32 an unclosed combustible substance
- 33 grace said at a meal
- 35 the authoritative body of Jewish tradition
- 36 a waxy light
- 37 The Pentateuch

DOWN

- 2 a variant of Hanukkah
- 4 Psalms 113–118 when chanted
- 5 a musical composition
- 6 A petition to God
- 7 follows seven
- 8 cooked on a griddle

- 11 money you can hear
- 13 used to get your attention or announce Yogi Bess
- 14 starting point
- 16 Northwest of the Dead Sea
- 18 a day you don't have to go to work
- 20 You forget about this part of your leg until you hit it
- 21 An 8 day holiday for some
- 22 overcoming an enemy
- 24 inhabitants of this country or members of your fraternity
- 25 a register of days
- 28 seven or nine light candle holder
- 30 An Old Testament language
- 31 an endorsement
- 34 aka "cheddar" or "bark"

Answers To Last Week's Puzzle

A Thankful Thanksgiving

Sierra Madre: 2007



A to Z

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Ed

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

TRISH'S TRUTH

“The Early Bird Gets the Worm”

By Trisha Collins

If you're not a morning person, it can be pretty difficult for you to have to wake up early for things. Things like work, school, and early flights can become hassles, and dawn to be flat out unnecessary for that time of day. Nonetheless, on November 23, 2007, you can bet that all those people that groan at the sound of their alarm clock around 7 am, were standing in line at the nearest retail store at around 4:30 in the morning. Why? Why would they all of a sudden feel an urge to want to wake up early for something when they didn't have to? Well, getting 40% off an iPod would probably make you want to get up a little extra early too.

Black Friday. The day right after Thanksgiving that is traditionally known as the first official day of the Christmas Shopping Season. Also known as the day where “the early bird gets the worm”. Stores all over mark down their prices on items much, much lower than usual. So you've got to get there early and first to get the items you want. Chances are, someone else wants the same thing just as bad as you, and isn't afraid to stand in line in the wee hours of the morning to get it. So which would you pick? Unbelievable sales on the things you want, or a few more hours of well deserved sleep?

After watching a video on YouTube.com of what happened a local Best Buy at 4:59 in the morning, I question whether it was all really worth it. People had been waiting in line since one in the morning, bundled up in blankets against the outside of the store, fighting to keep their place in line. At around 30 seconds to 5:00 am, the doors opened and immediately after, a stampede of people flooded into the Best Buy, running. And more and more people kept coming, nonstop. All sprinting into the store with hopes and dreams of finding the best gifts while saving more than just a few dollars here and there. This wasn't just at Best Buy, but at malls, Targets, and Wal-Marts across the country.

My cousin in Virginia told me that she and her friend woke up at 3 in the morning to stand in line at Circuit City for “...the crazy sales that were going on.” This shocked me greatly. Not that there were “crazy sales”, but that she actually woke up that early. Coming from the girl who never wakes up for anybody before 10 am, really gave me the full realization that Black Friday was serious business.

Whether you're an early bird or not, whether you made the Black Friday sales or you slept in like me, know that no matter what gifts you bought or how much they cost, nothing can compare to the greatest gift of all: Love. And it doesn't cost you sleep or a dime.

PASADENA YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OPENS 35TH SEASON

The performance will mark the debut of the PYSO Wind Ensemble

PASADENA, Calif. Most often it's a new car, new hair do or new outlook that accompanies the arrival of middle age. But the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra (PYSO) has opted to celebrate its 35th birthday by treating itself to the luxury of presenting a brand new ensemble to the community this season: the PYSO Wind Ensemble, under conductor Dr. Victor Aguilar.

On Tuesday, December 11, music lovers will have their first opportunity to hear this ensemble perform when PYSO presents its annual Winter Concert at the Pasadena High School Auditorium. Joining the Wind Ensemble are the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of PYSO Music Director Jack Taylor, and the PYSO String Orchestra, conducted by Anna Lim. All three ensembles attract talented musicians in grade 6 through grade 9 from throughout Southern California.

The program, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. and is offered free to the public, will include works ranging from standard classical repertoire by Beethoven, Rimsky-Korsakov, Holst and Dvorak to holiday classics such as In a Christmas Mood and Sleigh Ride.

“Although every moment of the performance will be wonderful, the evening's highlight is sure to be the debut of the PYSO Wind Ensemble,” says Orchestra Manager Jean Severson. “Dr. Aguilar is one of the southland's most accomplished wind ensemble specialists.”

Adds Aguilar, who is on the faculty at the California State University at Los Angeles and the University of California Irvine, “I am thrilled to join the PYSO

team, and to have the unique opportunity to create this much-needed ensemble from the ground up. If rehearsals are any indication, the PYSO Wind Ensemble promises take Pasadena by storm!”

PYSO, which is sponsored by The Pasadena Symphony Association, is offered free to the public as part of the orchestra's education and community engagement program. For more information about the variety of programs offered for students of all ages – from toddlers to seniors – visit the orchestra's website at www.pasadenasympphony.org.

The Pasadena High School is located at 2925 East Sierra Madre Blvd in Pasadena. For more information about PYSO, its programs for middle school aged musicians, and upcoming tour



Photo by PSO

in 2008 to Vienna, Austria, visit www.pasadenapyso.com or call 626.793.7172 Extension 23.

The mission of the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra is to foster the musical education of middle school orchestral musicians and provide opportunities for them to create and appreciate excellence in music.

PYSO is a community of students, parents, volunteers, artists, administrators, and board members dedicated to this goal. Together, they strive to foster the musical and personal growth of every musician and to provide an integrated program of musical education designed to enhance every student's preparation for opportunities beyond the PYSO Chamber Ensemble, PYSO Wind Ensemble and PYSO.

Alverno Students Test Econ Theories

Delicious scents floated across Alverno High School's central terrace recently as the senior economics class tested the concepts of supply and demand in its annual bake sale.

The bake sale is the culminating project for the unit on microeconomics. “We use it as a hands-on application of the concepts of supply, demand and prices,” says teacher Mike Sifter. “The purpose of the project is to get the students to experience the variables and uncertainties of a market economy.”

The point of using food in a sale is to have students think about the input costs of creating the item and then how to price it within a competitive market. Finally, students gauge how demand be affected by elements such as price, choices, and advertising.

“I felt like we were running a Starbucks,” says



senior Gillene Gutierrez, whose group sold popular blended coffee drinks. “We took into consideration who would like to buy our product, what would be a reliable product to sell, and how we would sell it. In the end, our total profit was about twenty dollars more than what we spent on supplies for the sale.”

Each student was reimbursed up to ten dollars. All profits will be donated to Corazón, Alverno's spring trip to Mexico when students build a house for a needy family in one day through the organization.

The project concluded with a 4-6 page paper on discussing each group's outcomes. “They are graphing supply and demand based on the data from the bake sale,” says Sifter. “They then have to draw conclusions about certain events in the “marketplace” of the Alverno Bake Sale.”

A delicious assignment!

Pasadena Christian School Campus Tour

On Thursday, December 6, from 9:00-10:30 a.m. for prospective parents interested in preschool (2-5 years old) through eighth grade. Those who attend will have an opportunity to meet the school administrators and to learn about the curriculum and programs offered. Guests may briefly observe in the classrooms and will be taken on a special tour of the campus. For reservations, please call (626) 791-1214.

Arroyo Pacific Academy Presents:
HYRONOMOUS A. FROG THE FROG PRINCE



Hyronomous, an inept and lonely frog prince, lives in a bog in the kingdom of Spamelot. Hyronomous is agitated and unhappy as a frog. He's larger than the other frogs and hates the taste of flies. One day, the good witch Gloria appears to tell him he was once a human prince and it was a spell that turned him into an amphibian. The comedy begins as the prince frog proceeds to break this nasty wizardry. To do this, Hyronomous must be kissed by a maiden. As this story unfolds, you will find yourself hysterically laughing and totally involved as the cast, starring Elizabeth Perez, Jennifer Bayard, Kathryn Duncan, Daniel Wheeler, Alireza Mosallaie led by Hyronomous, student Galen Harrill, taking the lead. With rich humor for adults and children as well as delightful physical humor for even the youngest theatre goers, this play is a proven winner. Arroyo Pacific Academy Drama students will perform Hyronomous A. Frog, Friday, December 7, 2007 @ 7pm Santa Anita Church 226 W. Colorado Blvd., Arcadia 91007. General admission is \$8.00 and student admission is \$6.00. All proceeds benefit the Theatre Group of the high school.....a wonderful performance for any age!

Script by:
Edith Weiss

Direction by:
Ms. Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School
200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3463
Head of School: Ann M. Gillick
E-mail address: agillick@alverno-hs.org

Arroyo Pacific Academy
41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca.
(626) 294-0661
Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org

Bethany Christian School
93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527
Principal: James Lugenbuehl
E-mail address: jml@bcsllions.org

The Gooden School
192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-2410
Head of School: Patty Patano
website: www.goodenschool.org

LaSalle High School
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 351-8951
Principal: Patrick Bonacci
website: www.lasallehs.org

Norma Coombs Alternative School
2600 Paloma St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 798-0759
Principal: Dr. Vanessa Watkins
E-mail address: watkins12@pusd.us

Odyssey Charter School
725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001
(626) 229-0993
Head of School: Lauren O'Neill
website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 798-8901
Principal: Dr. Derick Evans
website: www.pasadenahigh.org

Pasadena Unified School District
351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981
website: www.pusd@pusd.us

St. Rita Catholic School
322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-9028
Principal: Joanne Harabedian
website: www.st-rita.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School
141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428
Principal: Gayle Bluemel
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Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947
Principal: Gayle Bluemel

Contact person: Garrett Newsom, Asst. Principal
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Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 797-0204
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

Wilson Middle School
300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 449-7390
Principal: Ruth Esseln
E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

Pasadena Unified School District
351 S. Hudson Ave.
Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981
Website: www.pusd@pusd.us



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MountainViews-Observer

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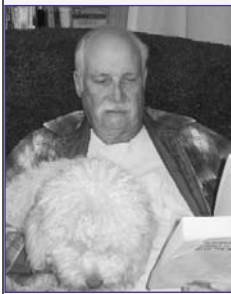
MountainViews-Observer

Mission Statement

The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. 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.



OPINION



Stuart Tolchin On.... LIFE Paper Or Plastic?

One of the best things about writing this column is that I am now encouraged to notice my reaction to even the most trivial seeming occurrences. These examinations are leading me to some surprising discoveries.

For example, the night before Thanksgiving my dog, Milo, and I joined a group of neighbors for a night-walk near JPL. Off we went, fully prepared with flashlight and plastic bag, ready for everything. I used to feel weird about picking up dog poop; but now, reluctantly I have assumed this responsibility. As expected, Milo heeded "nature's call" and relieved himself on the trail. I sprang into action and removed the doo-doo with the bag. Later in the hike I discreetly placed the plastic bag under a rock so that I could use both hands to help me balance myself as I inched my way across a log bridging a pool of water. I sensed the other hikers watching me disapprovingly. A few minutes later one of the hikers with seeming innocence pointed out a trashcan. I told this person that I did not need the trashcan as I had left the bag under a rock. "Aha, I knew you never picked up after your dog and, even if you did, you certainly would not carry the bag for any distance." (Maybe, I just imagined it, but even in the dark I could see the neighbor's disdain.)

The incident bothered me and I was reminded of it again while driving in the car with my daughter and listening to the news. We heard that the City of San Francisco had passed an ordinance banning the use of plastic bags. What's that about I asked. (I knew my daughter would know because she had just recently moved down from The City and was a devoted environmentalist.) I thought plastic bags were of vital use in the war against encroaching dog poop. My daughter explained that San Francisco was joining a global movement against petroleum based conveniences that have become an environmental scourge blocking street gutters, being left on trails killing wild life and providing a breeding ground for mosquitoes carrying malaria.

The hiker's disdain became clearer to me now.

Maybe, if we can stop trying to protect our old habits and attitudes and ignorance then maybe we might actually learn something. We might even make more informed choices that will be of actual benefit to everyone.

NEXT TIME I AM FACED WITH THE DREADED QUESTION "PAPER OR PLASTIC?"—at least I'll be able to consider the when and where and why and have a reason for my answer—rather than my usual shrug.

YEP, THERE'S AN ELECTION COMING UP and it's important to be as informed as possible before making our choice—otherwise, it's not a choice but merely an echo of our continuing ignorance.

Try a daily tablespoon of hempseed to fulfill Omega 3 requirements or not—it's always your choice.

Letter To The Editor

I write this letter to correct some of the statements in your recent article concerning Alverno High School's expansion plan. For the last several years, Alverno High School has been floating the idea of a proposed new Master Plan with neighborhood residents through various community meetings, the last of which were held on March 22 and October 24, 2005. The overwhelming response from interested neighbors has been vehement opposition to the School's proposal to build a massive multi-use building (or gym) and a regulation soccer field on the existing campus. Much of this opposition stems from the fact that the School is seeking permission to build additional facilities, when for many years it has been violating the conditional use permit under which it currently operates, and, in the process, causing annoyance and disturbances in the surrounding neighborhood. The neighbors rightly fear that allowing the School to expand its facilities would only exacerbate these problems.

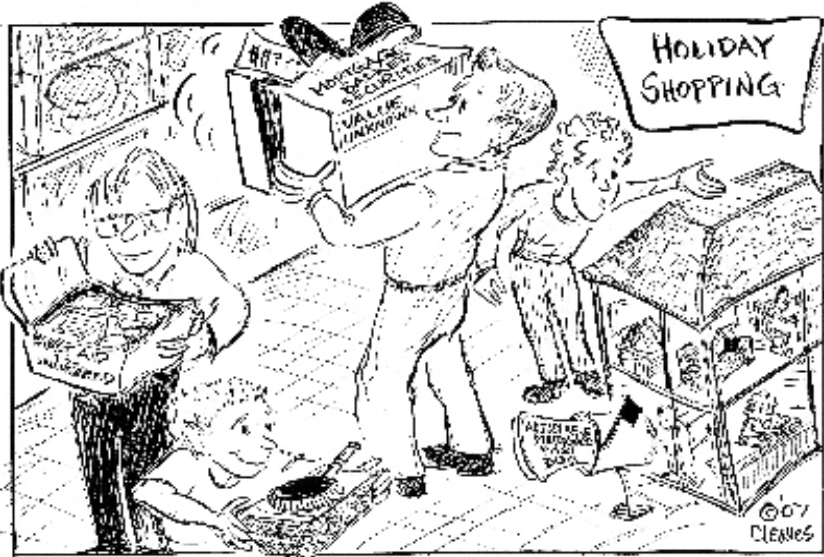
The original conditional use permit, issued in June of 1959, described the permitted use as a "day academy or high school for girls." No other uses were permitted. Specific conditions of approval included that there be no "competitive night athletic events" and "no night swimming," which reflected the neighbors' concerns regarding noise and lighting on campus after normal school hours. However, at some point the School began operating a different business on the premises: an event and filming location business. Thus, the School rents out the Villa located on the campus for weddings, other events, and filming activities. None of these activities are allowed under the current conditional use permit. Over the years, there have been numerous complaints from neighbors due to excessive noise, activities lasting till long after 10 p.m., public drunkenness, littering, lights shining into homes at all hours of the night, etc. In 1998, the School was sued by two neighbors along Michillinda and ultimately entered into a settlement agreement pursuant to which it agreed to various restrictions in connection

with the School's event and filming activities. The School failed to abide by these restrictions and complaints by neighborhood residents went unheeded.

Your article suggests that Alverno abandoned its expansion plans in 2005 in the face of neighborhood opposition, but just the opposite occurred. After hearing an earful about all the noise and nuisances caused by the school's rental business, and vehement opposition to the expansion plan, the School engaged the services of a facilitator to work with representatives of neighborhood residents on the issues presented by the proposed Master Plan. I have been involved in each of the meetings with Alverno representatives, the facilitator, and other interested persons. The major effort in these meetings has been to deal with the neighborhood residents' complaints and getting the School to take responsibility for complying with existing legal requirements and its agreements with its neighbors. Neighborhood residents were taken by surprise when Alverno's application came before the Tree Advisory Commission on October 17, 2007, since the application submitted to Development Services had not been announced and the submissions have not been made public. With regard to the Tree Advisory Commission's recent action, your article is also inaccurate. The Commission made recommendations that, in the event the Planning Commission approves the Master Plan Amendment, various mitigation measures be required, including mitigation for the removal of the large oak tree near the softball field. In addition, the Commission recommended that the School be required to come back before the Commission for review of each of its project phases with more complete development plans. While the neighborhood residents are disappointed that there was not a greater effort to save the century old oak tree, we are pleased that the Tree Advisory Commission will be providing additional oversight for this unwise expansion plan.

I hope this information is helpful.

Efren Compean, Sierra Madre



SPEECHLESS

Speechless (adj.): *not capable of being expressed in words*

For once, I don't know exactly where to start writing, and for me that is amazing. I have been writing since I was four. I used to write my Aunt letters and save my pennies for stamps. The first and only negative thing on any report card from K-12 was the word 'talkative'. It appeared in cursive on the back of my first report card, so being at a loss for words has never been an issue until this week.

However, as I tried to gather my thoughts for this column, I was 'wordless'. I could not find the words to articulate what I wanted to say for quite a while. Finally, another event jarred my consciousness and I found my pen.

In a letter to the editor about six weeks ago, something was brought to my attention that was really bothersome. I even wrote a column touching on the subject briefly. The issue was abuse and the subjects of that abuse were seniors and children. It is a subject that, to put it very mildly, I have very strong feelings about.

Shortly after the column appeared in the paper, I saw one of the three registered Sierra Madre sex offenders. This person was sitting, with impunity, at a table in Memorial Park during the Centennial festivities. He was surrounded by what appeared to be friends and acquaintances, and even, at one point engaging in a conversation that included the word 'kids'. The predator is listed as a child molester and yet he walks among us unnoticed. To make matters worse, he looks like an ordinary grandfather. He is in his 80's. What nags at me is whether or not any of his close friends and acquaintances have any clue what this man has done. And, personally, I don't care if it was something he did 65 five years ago, the damage has ruined at least one person's life forever. (go to <http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov> and enter 91024 – the predators will be disclosed to you.) My discomfort is not about being judgmental, it is about being concerned for the safety of unsuspecting children.

And that brings me to the second incident this week that reminded me how remiss this society is in protecting and defending the young and the old. I received an email from a friend, a Sierra Madre resident and breast cancer survivor, who was about to leave for the funeral of one her friends who also had breast cancer. Before she had the chance to leave, she asked her 'e-buddies' to pray for her regarding something that happened when she was a child and was just going before the courts in the Midwest. When I read that message, I really felt that our long postponed coffee chat was due so we met before her journey to Northern California.

I was saddened to learn that this remarkable woman had been the victim of child



Susan Henderson

abuse by a nun and the matter had been ignored by the church, shoved under the rug and denied for so long that the nun was now dead and yet the victim is still living, left to manage the scars and memories left behind.

Like our Sierra Madre 'perp', this nun was allowed to continue living her life free from the impact of the life altering damage to their victims and the collateral damage inflicted upon the victim's friends, families and associates. They are able to basically abuse with a license and continue participation in our society masquerading as fine, upstanding citizens. And, to make matters worse, they often get protection from institutions that we thought were established to protect those not capable of protecting themselves.

And, to add insult to injury, I received information on another story reported about elder abuse. (all in the same week.) According to the informant, the abused senior has moved out state, leaving her home in the hands of the person accused of abusing her. It has been stated that she dropped the criminal charges and went to stay with relatives, leaving her home behind. If you walk around town, you will pass this person on the street.

At some point, we have to stop walking around with rose colored glasses and make the abuse of children and seniors our top priority. We are quick to write our elected officials about development issues, traffic lights, and civic citations, but where are the letters of outrage against the way the system too often lets predators mix and mingle among their next victims? Why don't we have more laws that protect our children and seniors. It is possible to make the penalties for such crimes so severe that a perpetrator would think twice before so doing.

I am not advocating any kind of vigilante justice, but don't you think it is our civic duty to start paying attention? When you see that nice lady next door react with fear to her caretaker, or that guy across the street paying disturbing attention to a child, don't you think that you should bring it to the attention of someone?

Who knows what the most effective deterrent prevent such abuse. However, predators are just like fungi. The circumstances have to be just right in order for them to flourish. If our community had more eyes and ears and quit embracing these predators, maybe, just maybe, the fungus would stop growing.

Speechless is okay when you are trying to collect your thoughts. It is not okay when you fail to speak up about abuse.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 11/10; 11/17; 11/24 and 12/01, 2007 450702AU

450703AU File No. 06-20072513058 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: HI QUALITY CLEANING SERVICE 14156 E. Firestone Blvd Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Theresa E. and Willie Gurbule 14156 E. Firestone Blvd Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. The business is conducted as: HUSBAND AND WIFE. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 08, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

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450704AU File No. 06-20072512945 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: RENOVATION CLOTHING 503 N. Sage Ave Rialto, CA 92376. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Renato Ruiz and 503 N. Sage Ave Rialto, CA 92376. The business is conducted as: CO-PARTNERS. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 08, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

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450705AU File No. 06-20072431536 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: CLASSIC HIT REC 4455 Van Horne Ave Los Angeles, CA 90032. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) David Novoa and Oscar Guerrero 4455 Van Horne Ave Los Angeles, CA 90032. The business is conducted as: CO-PARTNERS. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 08, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

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450706MG File No. 06-20072513882 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: SAILES CONSULTING GROUP 4253 Kestone Ave Culver City, CA 90232. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) MAX DEVELOPMENT, LLC, 12501 Wagner St Los Angeles, CA 90066. The business is conducted as: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 08, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

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450707MG File No. 06-20072514189 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: H.M. POOLS 8119 Grimsby Ave Westchester, CA 90045. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Linda I. Martinez 8119 Grimsby Ave Westchester, CA 90045. The business is conducted as: AN INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the

County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 08, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

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450708MG File No. 20072513803 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: RED DRAGON INVESTMENT 1333 Light View St Monterey Park, CA 91754. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Eugenio Duran 1333 Light View St Monterey Park, CA 91754. The business is conducted as: AN INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 08, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

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450709MG File No. 20072514562 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: SHARP EYE PHOTOGRAPHY 3677 Louise St Lynwood, CA 90262. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Rodolfo A. Lopez 3677 Louise St Lynwood, CA 90262. The business is conducted as: AN INDIVI-DUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 08, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

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Code) First filing: 11/10; 11/17; 11/24 and 12/01, 2007 450709MG

450710AU File No. 20072501368 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: THE COMMUNITY GROUP 9541 Flower St Bellflower, CA 90706. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Ricky Deren Jones 9541 Flower St Bellflower, CA 90706. The business is conducted as: AN INDIVI-DUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 07, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

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450711AU File No. 20072504235 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: C.E. F.1840 E. Artesia Blvd Long Beach, CA 90805. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Loc Quy Nguyen 1840 E. Artesia Blvd Long Beach, CA 90805. The business is conducted as: AN INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 07, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

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450712AU File No. 20072504325 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: LA PROMESA 339 w. 77TH St Los Angeles, CA 90003. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) David A. Palocios 339 W. 77th St Los Angeles, CA 90003. The business is conducted as: AN INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 07, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/07/2007.

NOTICE-The Fictitious Name

Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 11/10; 11/17; 11/24 and 12/01, 2007 450712AU

450713AU File No. 20072504484 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: AMIGO CONSTRUCTION 3200 Child Ave South El Monte, CA 91733. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Carlos E. Santana 3200 Child Ave South El Monte, CA 91733. The business is conducted as: AN INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 07, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/03/2002.

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450714AU File No. 20072492878 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: GEAR FOR TODDLERS 12813 Alburts Ave Artesia, CA 90701. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Frank Arriola, Jr. 17813 Alburts Ave Artesia, CA 90701. The business is conducted as: AN INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 06, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

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450715AU File No. 20072504484 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: SPACE DESIGN USA CO 3115 W. 168th St Torrance, CA 90504 Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Katsumi Haituka 3115 W. 168th St Torrance, CA 90504. The business is conducted

as: AN INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 06, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 2004.

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

KATHLEEN D. PENNY CASE NO. GP013396

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL, or estate, or both of KATHLEEN D. PENNY.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by GEORGE C. PENNY in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that GEORGE C. PENNY 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 12/21/07 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
JAMES R. HELMS JR.
HELMS & MYERS
150 N. SANTA ANITA AVE., #685
ARCADIA, CA 91006
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City of Sierra Madre

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

To: Mountain Views - Observer Newspaper
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: Vesting Tentative Tract Map 06-03, Conditional Use Permit 06-26, Variance 07-01, and Joint Use Parking Agreement 07-01

Applicant: Montecito Development Group
412 Olive Avenue #165
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

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 to develop a mixed-use project consisting of 72 residential dwelling units and approximately 8,200 square feet of commercial/retail space with 194 parking spaces, along 14 East Sierra Madre Boulevard. All existing structures on the site will be demolished. It will be recommended that the Planning Commission deny this application as the project relies on the use of a City parking lot as part of the project and the City does not intend to participate in this development proposal as submitted.

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING

City of Sierra Madre
Planning Commission meeting
December 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: 14 East Sierra Madre Boulevard; in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

APPEAL: The decision of the Planning Commission is subject to 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

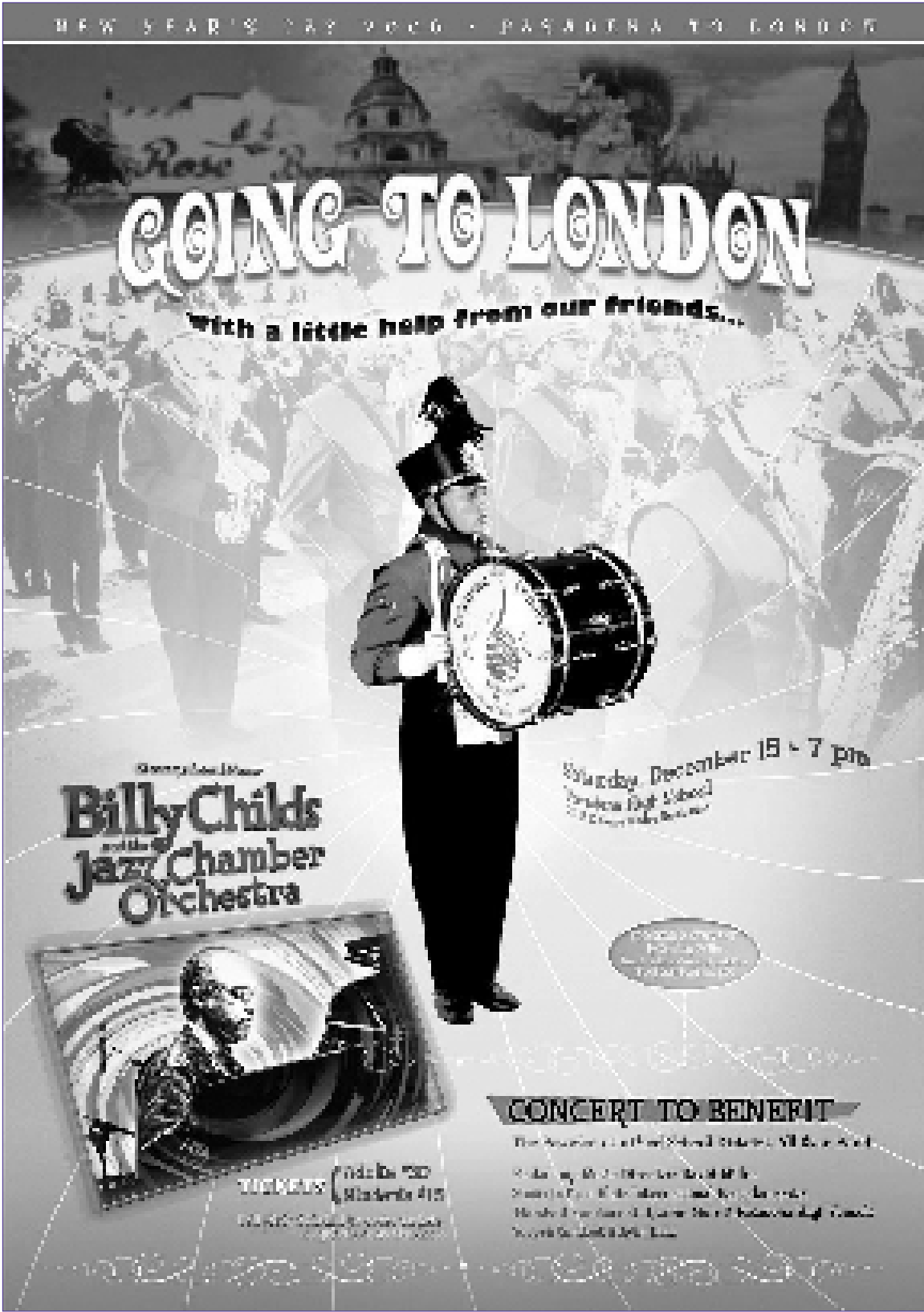
Anne Browning McIntosh, AICP
Interim Director of Development Services

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA CHANGE:

A public hearing notice appeared in the November 23, 2007 Mountain Views-Observer regarding a Vesting Tentative Tract Map 06-06, Conditional Use Permit 06-26, Variance 07-01, and Joint Use Parking Agreement 07-01 for the Montecito Development Group for a proposed project located at 14 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., the current location of Taylor's Meats, and formerly Howie's Market.

Although the City determined that the state-mandated deadlines for this project were extended pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act regulations, the City had not yet received confirmation that the developer agreed with this determination before the newspaper publishing deadlines. Accordingly, the City published a Planning Commission Public Hearing notice in the November 23rd edition of the newspaper, which indicated Staff's recommendation to the Planning Commission, would be for the Planning Commission to deny the application as the project relies on the use of a City parking lot as part of the project and the City has not agreed to participate in this development proposal. The development proposal, as submitted, included 72 dwelling units and approximately 8,200 square feet of commercial/retail space. However, the developer subsequently provided written confirmation that the state mandated deadlines were extended, so the project will not be considered by the Planning Commission at their December 6, 2007 meeting. The disposition of the City parking lot has been placed on a November 27th City Council/Redevelopment Agency agenda.

If you would like to receive notice of any public meetings regarding this project, or if you have any questions, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135. *Courtesy of the City of Sierra Madre*



Looking Up



Photo by Aaron Dominguez

With Bob Eklund

Looking Down On, And Up At The Red Planet

The High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment, or HiRISE, camera on board NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter has taken a new color image of the feature dubbed "Home Plate" in Gusev Crater on Mars.

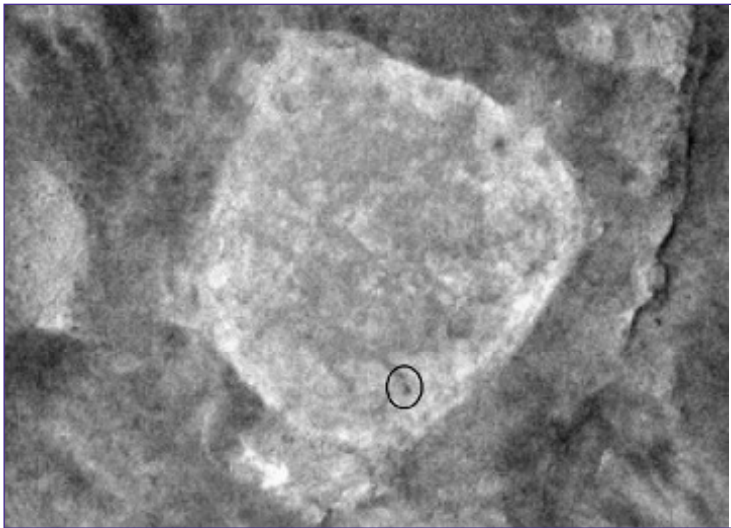
The Mars Exploration Rover "Spirit" shows up inside the perimeter of Home Plate, where it was when HiRISE took the image on Sept. 27, 2007, at 2:19 p.m. local Mars time, said HiRISE team member Ken Herkenhoff of the U.S. Geological Survey at Flagstaff.

Spirit is driving toward the safe, north-facing slopes on the north side of Home Plate, which is toward the top of the image. Why safe? Because there it will be positioned to tilt its solar panels toward the sun for the long Martian winter. Home Plate is a flat, raised feature that is probably a remnant of a deposit placed there by an ancient volcanic eruption, Herkenhoff added.

The new color image of Home Plate was created using the camera's blue-green and red channels, Herkenhoff said. At the time, the camera was flying about 270 kilometers, or about 168 miles, over the surface. At that distance, the camera could resolve objects about 81 centimeters, or about 32 inches, across. The sun was about 56 degrees above the horizon in the winter afternoon sky.

The HiRISE image of Home Plate and others are on the HiRISE Website, <http://hirise.lpl.arizona.edu>. HiRISE operations are based at The University of Arizona in Tucson. Professor Alfred S. McEwen of the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory is principal investigator for the experiment.

MEANWHILE, BACK IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Laura and I were looking up, not down, at Mars. We were driving eastward at around 8:00 p.m. (local Earth time) on Nov. 26, when we spotted the Red Planet low in the sky, very close to the just-risen, bright yellow moon. The moon, two days past full and slightly squashed in on its upper right edge, was bigger than usual—or at least it looked that way. (Astronomers assure us that the moon near the horizon is no larger than when it's high overhead, but I have a hard time believing them.) Anyway, seeing Mars reminded me that it is getting brighter now and will reach its maximum brightness on Dec. 24—when it's at its closest approach for the next couple of years. Mars' orbit around the Sun takes



the planet two years and two months to get to the point where Earth, in its year-long (by definition) orbit, approaches and passes it. "Close," though, is a relative term. This year, we pass Mars at a distance of 88 million miles. On Aug. 27, 2003, at the closest Earth-Mars encounter since the year 57,617 B.C., that distance was 35 million miles. So Mars is always at a safe distance and will never look "as big as the full moon," as some hoax e-mails have said.

None the less, this holiday season Mars will glimmer and glower in a deep-red way that can incite denizens of the night to write poetry, as happened to me at the time of its close approach in the fall of 2003:

As the city burns,
Red Mars shines a brighter red...
Hot winds continue.

While red Mars glowers,
Grey possum and black cat run...
Orange spider waits.

To hear more about experiences under the night sky, join me Thursday evening, Dec. 6, at 7:00 p.m., when I'll be reading and signing my new book, *First Star I See Tonight*, at Sierra Madre Books, 18 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. (just west of Baldwin Ave.). I'll be joined there by illustrator/designer Virginia Hoge, who writes an art and architecture column in this newspaper. Virginia will tell about the book's illustrations and how she created them.

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

(Unless otherwise attributed, poems appearing in this column are copyrighted by Robert L. Eklund.)



The Mountain Clymer

By Kim Kelley

FIRE!!! (Part Two)

Many of the canyon's weekend visitors are the gang-banger type and have absolutely no respect for or appreciation of the forest. They haul their beer into the canyon in large coolers and almost always head to Hermit Falls...tagging and littering all the way. They go there to get drunk and jump from the high rocks above the falls into the deep pool below. When they leave, they leave behind the coolers and all of their bottles and cans...frequently shattering the bottles on the rocks before they go. If I had to guess, I would say that once every two or three weeks, someone has to be hoisted out of the canyon on a stretcher...either by helicopter or on foot by Sierra Madre Search and Rescue. They have no idea how dangerous the mountains can be...to them it is like a day at Raging Waters. It was because of this ignorance and stupidity that our canyon was put in grave danger one evening. In retrospect, because the outcome was favorable, it was really pretty funny, but it could have just as easily been disastrous.

One Saturday afternoon in September, two such boys, probably in their late teen or early twenties, headed to the falls on their way-too-small-for-them-BMX bikes. They took the "First Water switchbacks" (a trail that is winding and treacherous even on a good mountain bike) down to the creek and headed south on the trail to the falls. They were apparently too drunk and having way too much fun to notice that the sun had disappeared from the sky. When they finally realized that they could no longer see, they hopped on their bikes and headed back up the trail in the dark...since they had come with no flashlights or anything else for that matter (except for matches apparently). They stopped several times and tired to use the matches for illumination so they could determine their location and the direction they needed to go. Needless to say, they missed the cut-off where they had to cross the stream to pick up the trail that they had used on their way into the canyon. Instead, they continued down the trail heading to an area called Robert's Camp, a large heavily trafficked area with outhouses where the trail meets the fire road. About fifty yards from that area, they stopped and began to panic. I am sure that their imaginations got the better of them and that thought that they were miles from any form of humanity and lost beyond all hope...and no doubt being stalked by every long-fanged, sharp-clawed creature in the San Gabriels. They began to cry for help. Getting no reply, and no doubt inspired by a recent headline about a man who went over the edge of the Angels Crest Highway in his car and starting a fire to signal for help, the boys decided to build themselves a signal fire right there in an open spot on the trail...and surely it would take a big raging bonfire to be seen by anyone so far out in the wilderness. Once they had it started and big enough they continued their cries for help.

That evening, just shortly after dark, my oldest son, Patrick went out to take care of the evening chores...cleaning the stalls and corrals and feeding the animals. I was inside fixing supper when Patrick came back inside in a panic.

"Mom!!!" he called to me, "I think I hear someone yelling for help outside... its real soft and far away, but I think they are saying "HELP!!!" I dropped what I was doing and ran outside with him. We stood in the parking lot silent for a few seconds.

"HELP!!!" we heard the distant voice plead again.

"That definitely sounded like "Help", I said. We stood silently listening again, hoping to determine the direction of its source...difficult to do sometimes because of the echoes.

"HELP!!!" we heard again. It seemed to be coming from the canyon below.

"WHERE ARE YOU?" I yelled back at the top of my lungs.

"HELP!!! GET US OUT OF HERE!!!"

they replied.

"WHERE ARE YOU?" I repeated, hoping to make it clearer so they could understand.

"I DON'T KNOW!!!" they answered.

"Go grab some flashlights, a first aide kit, and some rope," I told my son. "WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE." I yelled to voice again, as I ran inside to get my car keys and the keys to the gate on the fire road into canyon.

We jumped in the car and tore down the drive way and through the upper and middle public parking lots. As we turned into the gated road, we noticed through the shrubs along the road, an ominous glow coming from somewhere along the "First Water Trail". We ran to a spot where we could get an unobstructed view of the source of the glow. Flames could be seen leaping from the canyon floor. "Oh, my god!" we both gasped. We ran back to the car, jumped in and tore back to the pack station. "Get the fire extinguishers and whatever buckets you can find from the barn, I'll call Forest Service dispatch and Sierra Madre police. Patrick ran to the barn and I ran to the house to get the phone. I called both agencies and described to them what we had seen and where the fire and the people were located. Again we got in the car and headed into the canyon. We had a pretty clear view of the fire here and there as we drove the fire road to the bottom. When we reached the bottom, Patrick left the car and headed down the First Water Trail which went south out of the clearing at the bottom of the road known as Robert's Camp. He kept me updated by shouting back to me as he walked and I could hear him yelling to the people and them yelling back. "The fire looks pretty big," he yelled to me.

"Tell them to put it out." I yelled back. He relayed the message to them several times. "Is anyone hurt?" I asked. Again he relayed my message to them.

"They said 'NO'," he answered.

"Come on back," I told him. "Tell them help is coming soon." I heard him pass the message on and then tell them once again to put the fire out. He returned to the car. "There is no telling what will happen if you get in there and that fire gets out of control," I told him when he got back. "I don't want you getting trapped in there trying to get them out. It's too dangerous." We got in the car and headed out to meet the emergency vehicles. At the top of the road we ran into one of the other Chantry residents and together we stood and kept an eye on the fire and continued to tell them to put it out. The first to arrive was Sierra Madre Search and Rescue. They headed directly into the canyon, parking their vehicles at Robert's Camp and hiking into the area where the fire was. A short time later, county fire trucks arrived...along with the usual onslaught of emergency vehicles, this time with some press people, including a news truck. Sierra Madre Search and Rescue had already gotten the fire out. They had used the tools they had with them to push the fire over a check dam and into a pool that was at the base of it...fortunately little or no grass in the area had caught on fire, and the fire was easily extinguished. We waited at the top of the road for all of the vehicles to return. Perched on the back of one of the trucks were the two young men with their bikes. They were taken and questioned and lectured harshly by the police, and then had to answer to the press people who had some questions of their own. You could tell that they were totally humiliated. The macho swagger that was the usual demeanor of such youth was replaced by a sheepish, apologetic and very humbled one by the time each of the parties involved (including a few of us residents) was finished with our reprimand. It was somewhat of a consolation to get to see these "tough city guys" reduced to total panic by the darkness in the canyon. If they had just hiked another 50 yards, they would have been out in the open at the base of the wide-open road that lead out of the canyon. I am sure they left with more respect for the place than when they entered.

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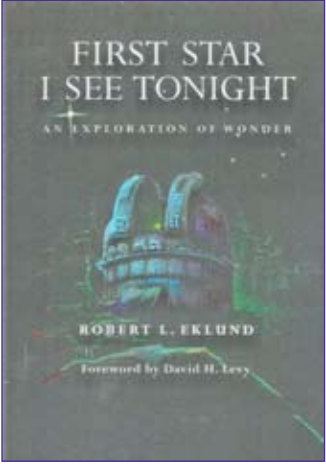
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Jeff's Pics

The Book Reports

First Star I See Tonight: An Exploration of Wonder
by Robert I. Eklund(2007)



In this brand new publication Amateur Astronomer Robert Eklund invites the scientist and poet to set aside their differences for a night- to come outside, stand very still as the sun sets, feel the earth turning eastward, be dazzled by a moonrise, catch a falling star, walk with the constellations, ride a rocket to Jupiter and finally look back at the Home Planet with new eyes. In poetry, prose and picture the author along with illustrator Virginia Hoge has written about his love for the heavens. David Levy, co-discoverer of the Comet Shoemaker-Levy writes, “In his marvelous book, Bob Eklund follows the tradition of those few writers who don’t tell us how to appreciate the sky, but why we must.” As to why Mr. Eklund wrote this book he states, “I write for all who love the starry night. And even the stormy night full of raindrops and snowflakes. The beauty of these things is never far from us.” Mr. Eklund was raised

among astronomers on the Yerkes Observatory grounds as both his Grandfather and mother worked there. He currently helps with education and public outreach at the Mount Wilson Observatory and writes the weekly Astronomy column in this paper. This book is for anyone who loves the night sky and it’s wonders. Robert Eklund will be signing and discussing his book at Sierra Madre Books on Thursday Dec.6 at 7 P.M.

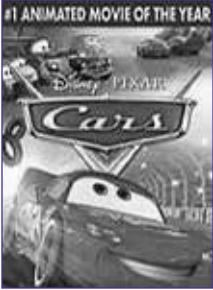
Recommendations by Holden Caulfield:

- Six Frigates: The Epic History of the Founding of the U.S. Navy**
by Ian W. Toll (2006)
- Blackwater: The Rise of the World’s Most Powerful Mercenary Army**
by Jeremy Scahill (2007)
- Conversations with Woody Allen: His Films, the Movies, and Moviemaking**
by Eric Lax (2007)

Scene One - Take One DVD Review

Pixar: Short Films Volume 1(2007)

Some of the most amazing entertaining animated short films ever made are in this comprehensive Pixar Studios collection. Many wonderful features with great characters, from a rambunctious bumblebee to an unwanted unicycle. Academy Award winners “For the Birds,” “Tin Toy,” and “Geri’s Game” are presented, as well as a look behind the scenes at Pixar with John Lasseter. Wonderful!!



Cars (2006)

In this very enjoyable Oscar nominated animated adventure also by Pixar there are wonderful classic automobiles, desert locations, races, fender benders, amazing animation,a great story and a Route 66 road trip . The star studded voice cast includes Owen Wilson, Paul Newman, Bonnie Hunt and Cheech Marin Cars won Best Animated Film at the 2007 Golden Globes. If you like animation this is a must see!

Recommended by Brad Brown:

Wicker Park (2004) A very good drama and mystery!!!!
I was given the home tour press release photos to use, which are uploaded for my article on the Methodist Home Tour.

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BIRD’S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

From Blue Monday to Black Friday

On Thanksgiving morning I went out to get my newspapers as I always do, forgetting that on this day they would be chock-full of advertising inserts from all of the retail stores within a 50-mile radius. They were so heavy that I felt like Quasimodo by the time I got them inside. The shopping opportunities were literally endless but the directives complicated. One would have to have a game plan, a map, elbow pads, a crash helmet and of course, a family history of mental illness to try to do it all. Where to begin? Well, one store didn’t want us to wait until Friday-- they opened on Thanksgiving Day. The rest of them weren’t far behind, opening in the wee hours of the morning--like 4:00 A. M. Good grief! If the Second Coming was at that hour, I still wouldn’t go. All of this hype has been building to a crescendo that is referred to by the Madison Avenue folks, as “Black Friday.” I had never heard of it and, since the Reverends Sharpton and Jackson didn’t protest, I figured it wasn’t an ethnic reference. I found out that the contemporary explanation of the term refers to accounting practices. Retailers supposedly operate at a financial loss from January through November, using red ink to show negative amounts. “Black Friday,” is the beginning of a period where retailers take in profits which are signified with black ink. Until stores combine savings with quality customer service, I will not be rushing out to shop, regardless of the discounts and coupons proffered. In many stores it’s getting increasingly difficult to find someone to wait on us and when we do, they seem to be annoyed at having to do so. The concept that we are customers and the reason that they have jobs in the first place seems to elude them. For that alone I have, for the most part, been ordering online. The service is always fast, always courteous, with the added bonus of my not having to contend with crowds and long lines. Plus, I can be in my robe and slippers. You know, on second thought there is something that would make me get up early and hit the sales... That would be if the labels on all of the products said “Made in the U.S.A.”

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From the Inside Out

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

Oh, Those Pesky Bites.....

While balancing high on a ladder, holding 2 pieces of precisely aligned very heavy lumber in a critical time and position, I got bitten - hard - on the top of my right hand. I couldn’t see my hand - so have no idea what it was. In the three minutes it took to get that lumber fastened, my body’s self-protective histamine response created a white, hard triangular welt 1/2” per side, and 1/4” high. As I dropped off the ladder and raced inside, I checked for hole punctures - all I could see was one. Whew! Two holes indicates spider bite. I’ve had several experiences with spider bites, none of them happy, all of them educational. After one on the outside of my right hand morphed within three months into swelling and pain up to my elbow. Needless to say, spiders and I are not best friends. While beelining for my handy-dandy, never-be-without it Immuno-Plus Echinacea herbal tincture mix, an atavistic memory of childhood bee stings arose, so I detoured and grabbed my also handy-dandy, never-do-without it baking soda to neutralize the (acid?) toxin. I spread baking soda/ water slurry over and around the visibly growing welt, covered it with a wet paper towel, wrapped masking tape over that, and then squirted and spread the Immuno-Plus over my fingers and hand, including a 3” wide ring around my wrist to get this support directly to the site. And then I shot two full squirts on my tongue for the more slow-acting internal support. In the Pasadena area there are only two health professionals carrying Nutri-West’s Immuno-Plus; it’s usually used squirted into water and drunk internally during cold and flu season. I ensured my skin, blood and lymph around the bite had the strongest possible immune capabilities and hoped to reduce the distance the unknown poison could spread as much as possible. I repeated the process regularly over the next 2 days, keeping the soda damp, inside a plastic glove. This skin surface (spider) bite fighting properties I discovered at a family reunion’s end. In our family, everyone sleeps in puppy-piles all over the house, and I drew a sofa. Next morning I had 5 double-puncture spider bites on (again) my right hand! When it started swelling, no one had any suggestions, and, of course, it was Sunday. In desperation I remembered I had this immune stuff with me (it wasn’t as “handy-dandy” then as it is now) and, during the five-hour trip home I dribbled and spread it over my hand and forearm. In about an hour the swelling was down, by the time I got home, all was well. IP has lived at the top of my self-care list since then. So, I expected a somewhat similar response. Things went well. Monday brought unexpected change - histamine response morphed into a large “hive”. I was surprised and alarmed, so called my health professional to inquire if there was a salve to help remove more toxin while supporting my immune response. What I got was an appointment to get checked out. I outlined my self-treatment - she approved. Muscle checking revealed lingering bacteria. Of four options, I muscle checked most powerfully for, yes, Immuno Plus, and was advised to increase internal consumption to 2 squirts 4-5 times a day, plus use Prid, a black salve from Phoenix Pharmacy, to draw the toxin out. That helped, too. It now looks and feels like a mosquito bite on its way out. While you don’t fool with bites, there are fabulous tinctures, salves and homeopathic remedies out there that simultaneously support your body’s ability heal itself from the inside out. Seek and ye shall find ...



One Of A Kind: *Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them*

By Chris Bertrand
Photos By Susanne Hayek

Methodist Hospital's Holiday Home Tour December 6 & 7

*Celebrating Methodist's 50 Years In Arcadia &
Sierra Madre's 100th Birthday*

It seems we have much to celebrate and be grateful for as the holiday season is upon us. The Auxiliary of Methodist Hospital hosts its 53rd home tour with three very different Sierra Madre estates and one in Arcadia's prestigious Lower Rancho. Carmen Thibault, member of this year's Executive Tour Committee, shared some of the new features of this year's event. Many generous corporate sponsors have underwritten more of the costs of the affair including the December 6 premier night function by "The Magazine", bus transportation for premiere night, printing costs, home sponsorship, etc., thus freeing up more proceeds for use toward



Sierra Madre Craftsman home will feature a traditional, old fashioned Christmas theme by Kristina Spencer.



Mia Italia, in Sierra Madre, will be decorated by Los Angeles' David Dalton Associates.



Tuscan elegance arose from a run-down Sierra Madre home, decorated by Leonora Moss.



Lower Rancho estate in Arcadia features brand new landscape, and holiday décor by Troup and Eldem's The Alternative.

exterior landscape for your viewing pleasure. Holiday decorations are by Sandra Troup and Jennifer Eldem of The Alternative, a Pasadena area interior design and general contracting firm offering design innovation since 1977. Troup is president-elect of Pasadena's ASID chapter. Carmen Thibault, of Sotheby's International Realty in Pasadena sponsors this home.

The last home is a 1910 Craftsman on one of Sierra Madre's most charming tree-lined streets. The owners, who purchased in 1989, spent a year renovating and expanding the home to its current 5310 square feet. While many of the original Craftsman details were already obliterated, many of the original floors, windows, the fireplace and wood moldings were preserved. Tom Brady of The Destination Group sponsors this home.

Kristina Urbanas Spencer is my featured designer of this year's tour. I first saw her green design-focused work in La Canada, at this year's Pasadena Showcase of ASID Home and Kitchen Tour. Spencer specializes in "restorative living spaces, designed to be true sanctuaries: healthy, non-toxic, durable and beautiful." She displays her versatility here, flowing easily from contemporary to traditional. The key, she insists, is listening to the house "tell" her what it wants and needs. She immerses herself completely in her projects, bubbling with as much enthusiasm at this project as she did with the contemporary, her previous mid-century effort, a study in straight lines.

This Craftsman home falls on the other end of the style spectrum. She is delighted to be creating an old fashioned Christmas in keeping with the period, utilizing the Craftsman sensibility and vocabulary, and honoring the traditions and style of the owners. Employing natural elements like pine cones, live garlands and peacock feathers (dropped not plucked from the birds), she salutes the Arcadia peacock symbol and tradition. Dramatic silk spheres encrusted with crystal and beads, created by artist, Thomas Mc Kinney, will continue the peacock color palette. Fragrance will be incorporated into your enjoyment of the holiday décor as well, with the smell of chocolate emanating from Christmas trees in the kitchen. Spencer stresses she is only as good as her resources, and was delighted when local Sierra Madre florist, Donna Embree, an all occasion florist specializing in weddings, agreed to work with her on this Craftsman's decorations.

Design is a second career for Spencer, who began as a mobile acute dialysis nurse, who actually performed some of her work at Methodist Hospital. When she put her own home on the market in 1991, her Realtor told her to make it "pretty and look bigger." In a tough real estate market, she did it that first home so well, she was asked to repeat her magic on other homes for sale, becoming a successful stager when that industry had barely begun. From that, she gained confidence and trained her eye in space planning, learning the techniques to give the homes more "visual" square footage. A design degree with honors from Cal State Northridge followed, and today she draws from 15 years experience and a passion for each project, no matter what the style.

For more information please visit HolidayHomesTour.org or call 626-821-2353.

ER services and expansion plans at this not-for-profit hospital. The premiere night event on December 6 will be held at Santa Anita Race Track for the first time, with over a dozen restaurants donating a wide array of culinary delights. The main event is December 7.

Mia Italia, a 5770 square foot Sierra Madre residence, was recreated in 1977 on the site of the original estate, and has just undergone a major reconstruction. The new owner, who fell in love with the property at first sight, made an offer just two hours after first setting eyes on the estate. He comments, "I don't really regard myself as the owner, more as just the present custodian." David Dalton Associates, Inc., interior design firm on Fairfax in Los Angeles, is both the decorator and the sponsor of this home's holiday presentation. Dalton, an acclaimed contemporary design guru is known throughout the area for his creative inspiration and custom furniture collections.

The Sierra Madre Tuscan-inspired home was just completed two years ago. The recently married owners transformed a run down home atop a gorgeous homesite overlapping two cul de sacs, into a view oriented dream space to start their family. The spectacular outdoor living spaces expand the already spacious 4360 interior square footage. Holiday decorations will be by Sierra Madre's Leonora Moss, the full service floral boutique known for their exquisite custom floral creations, and are sure to be both creative and inventive. Owners Judith Brandley and Lorie Westmoreland have established a signature style for their designs and shop, blending a love of nature, vintage antiques seasonal home décor and unique gifts. Mur-Sol Construction is sponsoring this home.

The 5964 square foot, 1998-built Lower Rancho estate in Arcadia, was without landscaping when purchased four years ago. The buyer, an accomplished artist, is also the decorator and landscape designer. The Tuscan style estate offers a newly completed

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TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

The Old School Revival



The Derby Restaurant in Arcadia is full of history. Just walking into the restaurant I was impressed with all of the 'Old and New' pictures of Santa Anita race track heroes of yesteryear and today. Sure, it is of interest to me because of my fascination with the race tracks but, even if you're not big into the "Sport of Kings," the Derby is a gallery and a restaurant. A brief history: The restaurant was made famous by its purchase by Hall of Fame Horse Jockey George Woolf in 1938. George wanted a place to gather with his friends in the horse racing industry. At that time, there was no competition for Super Bowls and TV. Racing was appropriately then named the "Sport of Kings".

Today the restaurant is in the able hands of two young entrepreneurs ... and really they haven't changed the restaurant much. Jason and Ed, like any good jockeys, have let the "horse" - the restaurant - do the work.

What to order? The signature dish at The Derby is the Bacon wrapped Filet Mignon. They tell me millions have been served. Okay, I will guess some few thousands. On my last visit I started with the Fried Calamari; my main entrée was the Crab Louie salad. Now, there are many steak houses in the area, you know the ones... but, the Derby is a true institution. My date ordered the French Onion Soup and she gave me the thumbs up!

Cheeseburger? You bet!!! The meat used is from the trimming from the filets, and it's one of the better burgers around. Are you a steak fan? Well, again you are at the right place. I can recommend the Chateaubriand for Two. It's a center cut tenderloin served with fresh grilled vegetables and tomatoes. Desserts, many are on the list, but for a special occasion I would go for the Baked Alaska.

Again, there are many restaurants in the area that feature prime and choice cuts. But, for the atmosphere and food, I can recommend The Derby

Note: Now open for Lunch

Heads Up: It can be crowded during the weekends especially during racing season.

★★★★★ 3 ½ stars
Price Range: Moderate
For complete menu details and hours go to: www.thederbyarcadia.com

Reservations are suggested. California Casual.

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SPORTS



View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester
MORE THAN A GAME

The day is almost here, "Big Game Day". This year the meeting place is the LA Coliseum and once again USC Rose Bowl hopes must pass through Westwood where those mighty Bruins play. And, we all know that the Bruins are up to the task of derailing Trojans hopes of playing in Pasadena on New Years Day. This game has an added bonus for, not only could the Bruins beat USC and keep them out of the Rose Bowl- with a win they have the outside possibility of playing in the Rose Bowl themselves. I am so excited, I can hardly wait. This is one game that never disappoints, but there is a cloud that hangs over our group.

Our group has gotten together every year for over twenty-five years. This year the meeting place will be our humble abode. The friends that gather for this game have all known each other since under graduate days. Some of us went to UCLA, others attended USC. We have been friends for years. This Game represents that time of year when we all get together. We catch up on what the different families are doing and where the offsprings are in their lives. In short, it is our homecoming.

The game of 2007 will not have all of the banter of other years, however. There is sadness in the group for our leader has lost his wife of forty years. This loss has had an effect upon all of us. We have seen our friend slip into that place of, 'why stay here on this earth?' This man who had been so effervescent has slipped into a place of not being involved in life. We are searching for ways to have him return to that space of involvement with life. The death of a friend causes many responses. We must come face to face with our own impending death. This is the first time that death has struck our tight knit group and we all feel our friends loss, for we too miss his beloved. She was the only person in the group that did not attend either school. So our foolishness and pranks on one another were always a source of amusement to her. She called us rank amateurs for she attended the University of Texas where they know how to pull a prank. I have it on good authority that everything in Texas is done in a big way.

This year the Big Game represents more than who wins or loses. It is a time when we will acknowledge the love and true appreciation that we have for one another. We will greet one another with a extra hug, but do not for a moment think that the winner will not go to. After All, This Is The Big Game.

SIERRA MADRE LITTLE LEAGUE 2008 SPRING SEASON



WHO: All Sierra Madre boys and girls who will be between 5 and 12 years old on April 30, 2008.
MUST BE A CITY OF SIERRA MADRE RESIDENT

COST: \$75 registration fee; \$70 for siblings. Registration taken after December 8 includes \$15 late fee, except Tball. The registration fee includes a jersey & hat; parents will purchase pants, socks, & belt. (Major & Minor division players return league jerseys at season's end.) A diner deposit check for \$75 is required for each player. Diner duty consists of two 2-hour shifts per player--maximum of four shifts/two diner deposits per family. Deposit checks will not be cashed if all diner duties are met.

WHEN: Wednesday, December 5, 2007 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 8, 2007 9 a.m. to noon

WHERE: Sierra Madre Recreation Center - 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.

BRING: 1) Original or certified copy of birth certificate (new players only),
2) PROOF OF RESIDENCY (parent's driver's license or utility bill)
3) Insurance, tetanus, & pediatrician information, and
4) TWO personal checks (one for registration fee and one for diner deposit).

Registration cannot be accepted without the items described above. They will be inspected and returned at registration. Proof of residency is required for all players, including returning players.

QUESTIONS: Go to www.sml.org or contact Jay Heefner, Player Agent, jay@ligo.caltech.edu or 355-5974. For registration questions, call Linda Sparks, Secretary, 836-4054. If you are interested in coaching, call Tim McKiernan, Coaching Coordinator, 836-3680. SML will not deny any child a chance to play baseball due to financial hardship; scholarships are available at registration.

SIERRA MADRE GIRLS SOFTBALL SIGN UP

Saturday, December 8, 2007 - 9 am to noon

Wednesday January 9, 2008 6-9 pm

Saturday, January 12, 2008 9 am to noon

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For additional information go to: www.smgsa.org

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