



Mountain Views-Observer

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

Week Ending December 14, 2007 Volume 1, No. 17

Local Merchants Raise \$40,000 2nd Annual Wine & Jazz Walk Gives City Of Hope A Big Check!



At Tuesday's city council meeting, the City of Hope was presented with a check for \$40,000 raised at the Wine and Jazz Walk this year. The Committee, in their recap of the event, offered thanks to supporters and advertisers and committee members who worked so hard. They include (partial listing): Steve Sommers for all his support and also for hosting them at the City of Hope for a tour and luncheon. Sindee Riboli of the San Antonio Winery/Riboli Family Wine Estates, Donna Rey of Casa Del Rey, Mario Lali of Cafe 322, PCC and La Salle volunteers, Karen Keegan of Savor the Flavor and Bob of Once Upon a Time.

Utility Tax Will Be Phased In By 2010

If Approved, Measure Would Allow Low Income Exemptions

By Dean Lee

The city council approved Tuesday night, the draft version of the Sierra Madre's User Utility Tax Measure. It is set to go before voters on the April 2008 ballot. If passed, the new tax would be phased in two percent a year, until 2010 when it is expected to max out at 12 percent.

City Attorney, Sandra Levin went through a list of items the council needed to resolve in order for the Measure to move forward. Most went smoothly including adding a sunset clause and exempting low income families. The tax would also add new sewer, cable and technology to the UUT.

"The User Utility Tax would be broadened to include all utilities such as video, water, waste water, electricity, gas and sanitation," she explained. "The definitions have all been updated to include emerging technology, to anticipate what new technology might be marketed and to make sure that everything that looks, smells, and acts like a communication is taxed..."

The only sticking point was a quick debate over whether the UUT would tax internet access, a heated topic in some surrounding cities. Before answering what "taxing the internet" meant, Levin explained what the intent was not - the tax is not intended to tax such items as digital downloads, books, music, ringtones and games.

The measure would also create a citizen oversight committee. Council member John Buchanan said the committee would probably only need to meet once or twice a year. They then decided on a five member committee with each council person appointing a single member.

Mayor Enid Joffe did not think a sunset clause was a good idea. She said she thought it was only "handing off the problem to a future council."

Buchanan indicated that he did not want to follow in the shadows of the city's failed Measure F. He noted that he had heard time and again that the single reason people did not vote for Measure F, a special parcel tax to fund public safety, was the omission of a sunset clause. Measure F also needed 2/3 voter approval unlike the upcoming (cont. pg. 3)

Annual Candlelight Walk Celebrates Christ's Birth

Planning for the annual Candlelight Walk, a Christmastime fixture in Sierra Madre for almost the past three decades is nearly complete and organizer, Senior Pastor Dick Anderson of Sierra Madre Congregational Church believes the December 16 event will be extraordinary.

The Candlelight Walk is held each Christmas season to celebrate the journey that Joseph and Mary made to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born some 2,000 years ago.

Walkers from the whole community carrying candles will begin the procession at 7:00 p.m. at St. Rita's, located at 318 N. Baldwin in Sierra Madre. Participants in the walk will sing traditional Christmas carols. Costumed participants dressed as Joseph and Mary will lead the celebratory procession into Kersting Court in the center of town, where the Christmas Story will be read from scripture found in the biblical Old and New Testaments.

This will be a journey back into an understanding of the pilgrimage that Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem. Participants should bring their own candles and arrive at St. Rita's Catholic Church ready to begin at 7 pm Hank Landsburg, who operates a small FM radio station, 104.7 FM, here in Sierra Madre, will broadcast a pre-recorded tape of the Christmas carols that will be sung during the processional down Baldwin Avenue.

Sierra Madre Mourns John Grijalva "He Was A True Leader, A Genius"



John Grijalva, left, shared this picture taken by an unknown photographer last year engaging in one of his favorite pastimes - 'coffeehousing' in Kersting Court. Also pictured is Sierra Madrean Bill Schlote. Grijalva passed away last Sunday in his home.

By Susan Henderson

Sierra Madre has lost one of its' most prominent citizens. The man who epitomized the spirit of good citizenship, volunteerism, commitment, dedication and conviction, John Grijalva, passed away quietly in his home on Sunday. He was an important part of the fiber of Sierra Madre. He was 78 years old.

Born in Los Angeles, John arrived in Sierra Madre with his mother and three siblings when he was somewhere between 7 or 8. "He couldn't remember", says his wife of 57 years, Minion. "Sierra Madre was his home, it was in his blood, he couldn't even think of moving or living anywhere else". He first spotted Minion when she was 15 (she's 76 now) in Sierra Madre, and told a friend, "I'm going to marry her."

John and Minion raised two sons in Sierra Madre, Steve and John. They also have five grandchildren Stacy, Steve, Tim, Jamie and Samantha, and 4 great grandchildren Cole, Gavin, Nathan and Jared.

In addition to his love for the city, John was dedicated to the plight of veterans, especially those who served from Sierra Madre. One of his dreams, over which he toiled more than 10 years, came to fruition in 2003 when the Sierra Madre Veterans Wall was dedicated. There are more than 550 photos and another 1,000 names of servicemen who lived in Sierra Madre for at least a year. It has been estimated that the Memorial cost more than \$80,000 and John was the driving force in raising those funds. "John had a way of asking people to do things and people were happy to oblige", said longtime friend Buddy Switzer. "He was a genius - a great organizer. He could pick good talent - he was a visionary", Switzer added.

Another passion of Grijalva's was the city's history. He worked tirelessly to preserve the history of Sierra Madre through the preservation of historic photos and documents. "He used to gather the old timers in the park and we would sit around and swap stories", Switzer recalled. Grijalva has taken the lead in preserving the annual Pioneer Days where people can view Sierra Madre history in pictures from as far back as the early 1900's.

Currently on display at City Hall is a model of Sierra Madre as it looked in 1944 that Grijalva created.

One of the many reasons that John Grijalva was held in such high esteem is because he managed to accomplish so much despite physical limitations brought on by illness. By profession he was in the Precision Optical Business. He made projection lenses for "Star Wars" and "Friday The 13th" as well as making lenses for Epcott and instruments for the spacing of tiles for the Columbia and Enterprise space ships.

That all came to an abrupt halt seventeen years ago when he was diagnosed with a debilitating brain condition. After life saving surgery, he was left with physical challenges that affected his speech, balance and movement. However, none of those things ever stopped him from giving back to the community. He never stopped loving and caring about his beloved Sierra Madre.

John was the recipient of many honors including Sierra Madre Civic Club's *Older American of the Year* in 2004 and Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce's *Citizen of the Year* in 2005.

A memorial service will be held in January to celebrate and honor the life of one of Sierra Madre's "True Citizens".

SPECIAL NOTICE: SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Closed Session: 7:00 p.m.
Open Session: 7:30 p.m.

For complete agenda go to: www.cityofsierramadre.com




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Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

Saturday	Rain	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Sunday:	Cloudy	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Monday:	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Tuesday:	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Wednesday:	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



MountainViews-Observer

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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.
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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

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Lily, Piloux and Santa



Santa stopped by early to see Lily and Piloux of Altadena. Santa paid a visit to Foothill Veterinary Hospital last week.
S. Henderson/MVO

Garage Sale

Saturday & Sunday,
Dec. 15 & 16
8 am - 5 pm
1996 North Pepper Drive
Altadena
Clothing, toys, electronics and more
All good quality

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Women's Clothing, Jewelry and Gifts
by
Heather Sheets Ann Henken
Anne Lutzow
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Sierra Madre, CA 91024
ph: 626-355-1427
fax: 626-355-0932

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Sierra Madre, Ca.

Breakfast Items

Breakfast Burrito:
Eggs, Cheese, Country Potatoes, Onions, Bell Peppers & Bacon Or Sausage in a Warm Tortilla with Fresh Salsa & Small Coffee or Juice
\$6.95

Breakfast Bagel:
Eggs, Cheese, Bacon or Sausage with Tomato on a Fresh Toasted Bagel & Small Coffee or Juice
\$5.95

Served Daily 6:30am-11am

Bean Town's Second Annual Christmas Benefit
Come get your photo taken with Santa!!!!
On Dec 22, from 1pm-4pm all proceeds raised will be donated to Y-SPIRIT Adventures a local chapter of the YMCA in Sierra Madre. Y-SPIRIT provides after school programs and activities for Developmentally Disabled Children in the Community. We welcome all ages, you can even bring the whole family!!!
All photos will be printed on site while you wait and enjoy a warm cup of coffee or hot chocolate.
Donations by Check or Cash Will Be Accepted

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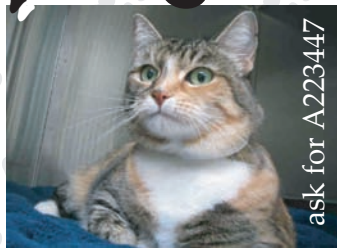
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Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A223447 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at www.phsspc.org

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You are Invited to:
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WHEN: Sunday, December 16, 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Wednesday afternoon / evening, December 19 from 4:00pm - 8:00pm

WHERE: 243 N. Hermosa Avenue in Sierra Madre

RSVP: Despina - (626) 355-3414

2008 Presidential Candidate Research

By Rich Johnson



Well, your intrepid reporter is finally ready to move into presidential politics. Always striving to bring well rounded media coverage, the editor of the MountainViews-Observer has commissioned us to dig for the lesser known facts regarding our current stable of candidates. (So, watch where you step.)

Hold onto your hats. After a great deal of painstaking research this newspaper's crack investigative team has uncovered evidence proving beyond a doubt that one of our major candidates is a... woman. Yep, no doubt about it. It's Hillary Clinton.

But let's move on and look at some other statistics. Two of our candidates were born in the 1930's: John McCain (1936), and Ron Paul (1937). Six of 'em were born in the 40's: Fred Thompson and Joe Biden (1942), Rudy Giuliani (1944), Dennis Kucinich (1946), Hillary Clinton and Bill Richardson (1947). One candidate was born in the 50's: Mike Huckabee (1955) and one in the 60's: Barack Obama (1961).

Actually, since you have to be 35 to be president we could have candidates born right up to 1972. Where are all of those Americans born in the early 70's? Why isn't Lance Armstrong running? Yeah I know he is into cycling, but he should be into running...for office. He was born in 1971. Queen Latifah, Matt Damon, and Uma Thurman were all born in 1970. Where's their patriotic spirit? Not to mention The Rock, Ben Affleck and Gwynth Paltrow. They were born in 1972. Someone give them a call. They qualify.

It might be interesting to know where our major candidates were born. John McCain was born in Panama. Mr. Giuliani calls Brooklyn home. Mike Huckabee's birthplace was Hope, Arkansas. Ron Paul sprung up to life in Green Tree, Pennsylvania. Fred Thompson came by way of Sheffield, Alabama. Joe Biden, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Hillary Clinton started life in Chicago. Barack Obama, Honolulu. Dennis Kucinich was born in and stayed in Cleveland. Bill Richardson rose up in Pasadena.

Anecdotes

Barack Obama said people used to call him "Alabama" or "Yo Mama". Dennis Kucinich was the target of a mafia hit man but they couldn't get their schedules straight. Not to mention his wife is 31 years younger than him. Bill Richardson was a very good baseball pitcher in high school and was drafted in 1966. He chose to go to college instead. And from the believe it or not file, Hillary was the president of the Wellesley College Young Republicans Club in her freshman year. Joe Biden was the youngest person ever elected to the United States Senate. You have to be 30 years old to be a senator. He was 29 when he won the election but turned 30 before he was sworn in. Whew, that was close. John McCain drove a Corvette and dated an exotic dancer named "Marie, the Flame of Florida." (I think I like him). Rudy Giuliani's father was a dispute resolution specialist with a major American organization: The Mafia. Fred Thompson was actually named Freddie and later changed it. Ron Paul is really a doctor. And Mike Huckabee's wife's maiden name was "McCain". Hmmm.

Finally, a special note to Jeff: I didn't mention the Nano Café once...DOH!

Sierra Madrean Wins Motor Press Guild Award

**DEAN BATCHELOR BEST OF 2007 AWARD
PRESENTED TO ED JUSTICE, JR.**



Los Angeles, CA: In the world of automotive related Articles, Audio/Visual, Books and Photography, winning the coveted Motor Press Guild's Dean Batchelor Best of 2007 Award is the equivalent of winning an Oscar. It is the highest tribute, within the motor press industry, that any nominee can attain. The 2007 winner in the Audio/Visual category, which includes Radio, Television, DVD

and Film, is Ed Justice, Jr. for his interview "Insights to Car Branding with Charlie Hughes", broadcast in January '07 on Road & Track Speed Radio. Ed is the host of Road & Track Speed Radio, a popular nationally syndicated weekly automotive talk show.

MPG's John Dinkle read the statement from the judges, before the award was announced. "Ed Justice Jr. carries within his voice the authenticity and awareness of the world of cars. Such sensibility is clear as he leads us through an engaging interview that takes one firmly to the inside of the American automobile manufacturers' mindset. This radio piece was real reporting", Dinkle then presented the award to Mr. Justice. Mr. Charlie Hughes is the former CEO of Mazda North America, founder and former CEO of Land Rover North America and has decades of experience in building and growing automotive brand identity. A shocked Mr. Justice, one of three finalists, personally accepted his award and profoundly thanked the MPG judging panel and his family for their support.

Ed Justice, Jr. is President and CEO of Justice Brothers, a family owned company providing automotive lubricants, additives and professional tools to the consumer and automotive industry for over 70-years. His vast knowledge of automotive history, racing, both past and present, as well as the contemporary automotive scene, position him as the ideal host of Road & Track Speed Radio. Photo by Pete Lyons/MPG.

Columnist Bob Eklund Comes To Sierra Madre Bookstore



Eklund, seated, chats with residents about the stars above after a brief lecture. Photo by D. Lee/MVO

Bob Eklund, author of the weekly column, *Looking Up* that appears in this paper, introduced his new book, *First Star I See Tonight*, at a book signing held at Sierra Madre Bookstore last week.

The paperback is quite popular with Astronomy lovers. It is illustrated by Virginia Hoge, also a contributor with The MountainViews-Observer.

Bringing The Float To Life

Work continues on the 2008 Sierra Madre Entry into the Rose Parade. The float will go on its first test drive this Sunday. Deco week is December 26 -31, and utilize approximately 500 volunteers will be needed. We will endeavor to provide work for all volunteers. It is recommended that you call the Float Barn prior to leaving home to hear our momentary volunteer needs. Call 626-355-7005.



Deco Week (After Christmas):
Wednesday-Sunday, 12/26-12/30
9am to 11pm or later.
Monday, 12/31 9am till 3pm;
Noon till 9pm (Barn Clean Up)

TAX (cont. from page 1)

UUT Measure that only requires 50 percent plus one.

Council member Kurt Zimmerman, who sat on the Ad Hoc Finance committee said he supported a sunset clause and said he did not think it would pass without it. Buchanan also sat on the committee and agreed with Zimmerman. The two of them will write the arguments in favor of the measure.

Levin will draft the Impartial Analysis which needs to be approved at a special council meeting set for Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. in city hall. The agenda, released Thursday also includes a discussion for consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sierra Madre Police Officers Association.

The council also amended language in the draft version to phase out the tax if not extended by voters which would be the reverse, two percent a year until 2014 staff said.

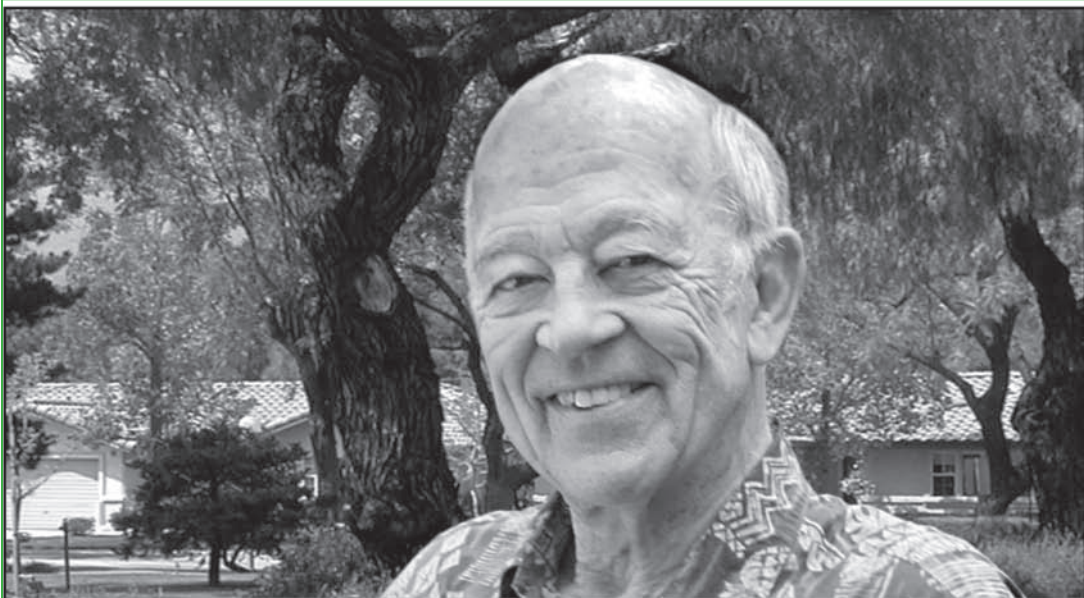
After being given a choice of whether an exception should include only low income seniors or all low income families, Council member Joe Mosca, said he thought they should not single out a certain group. Mosca said that any family, regardless of age needed the same help and the exemption was set for all families with an income less than \$24,000 a year. Many residents thanked the council for this single act.

Resident Fay Angus read part of a letter written by former city Michael Colantuono —Levin's law partner— that clearly states Pasadena's Measure D, also a UUT tax, did not tax internet access although many in Pasadena have said this is simply not true. She then asked Levin for clarification, so not to confuse Pasadena with Sierra Madre.

"If you want this to be a reliable revenue source you are going to have to tax the modern technology," Levin said. "If you want this to be an equitable tax, taxing those with older technology as well as those that can afford newer technology, then you are going to have to broaden the definition to include all those technologies."

Levin then added, "The idea you can tax almost anything in today's society without touching the internet in some way, is just not very realistic. Everything touches the internet."

Concerned, Joffe later asked if they could amend the measure to make sure it was clear that this was not going to be an Internet tax. After a slight hesitation, Levin said they simply needed to add in the exemptions that the tax could not be applied to Internet Access. Curious, the council later asked if the same exemption was in Pasadena's Measure D? Levin said, "no." then explained this was what got them into trouble in Pasadena and in the news.



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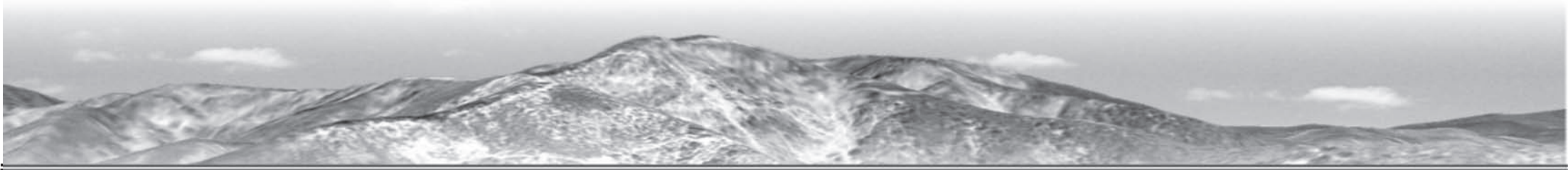


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MountainViews-Observer PASADENA

Mayor Declines Request For Letter Denouncing Human Rights Violations

December 10th Declared “Human Rights Day”

By Dean Lee

Protesting human rights violations in China, a number of activists with family members currently jailed in labor camps, ended Monday night’s city council meeting by giving a face to what they say were the people Mayor Bill Bogaard, “declined to help.”

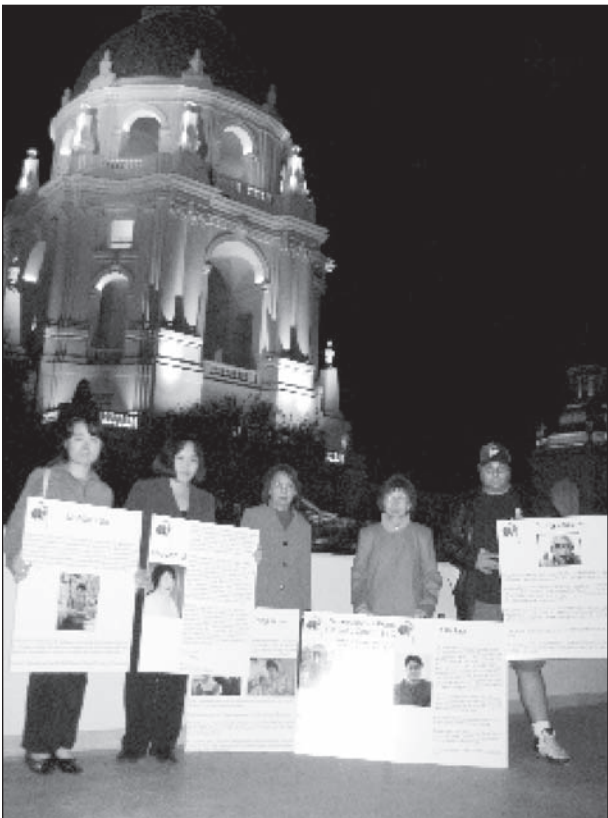
Although the meeting started with a ceremonial event giving Shari Simpson-Dean, Executive Director of the United Nation Association of Pasadena, and others a proclamation recognizing the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the meeting ended on a rather somber note.

After the proclamation was given he declared Dec. 10 “Human Rights Day.”

He also further stated, “Pasadena celebrates the expansion of freedom, democracy and individual rights in this county and around the world and recognizes human rights are the right of human kind in the proper future of every nation,”

Simpson-Dean said 193 nations have supported the universal declaration.

Later Visual Artists Guild chair Ann Lau and residents Yaning Liu



Sign of the Times: After rejecting sending a letter critical of human rights violations specific to China activists have now taken to city hall to be heard. Photo by D.Lee /MVO

City primarily to address the needs of the City and its constituents.”

Liu had asked for a letter from him on behalf of her jailed mother Shuying Li. She had been arrested in 2006 for practicing Falun Gong, a mediation practice illegal in China.

The email went on to say, “In the end, after thinking long and hard, I have decided to decline your request and in the future to act in a similar fashion when questions of this kind come up.”

Liu and others said it made them wonder what human rights Bogaard supported?

Bogaard said in the past he had written letters for humanitarian purposes but gave no further details other than they had been similar to Liu’s request.

Lau thanked the city for declaring Human Rights Day, but not before showing them the faces of a jailed Chinese Christian, a Bishop and two Chinese journalists, including, Shi Tao who was jailed after Yahoo gave up his IP address to Chinese authorities for emailing information about the 15 year anniversary of Tinamin Square, Lau said.

The group also said they sent Bogaard a follow-up letter to the email but he said he never received it. Liu said other emails to him had also gone unreturned.



Activists wait long into the night.

“The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 59 years ago on Dec. 10 1948,” Bogaard read, “which calls upon individuals and institutions to promote respect for inalienable human rights and fundamental freedoms... it is critically important that we do not forget that there are people suffering, struggling and even dying, here and elsewhere in the world because human right are denied.”

They once again asked for the Mayor’s help after previously being denied.

In an email sent to Liu last month, after asking for a help to free her mother, Bogaard wrote, “It is an honor to realize that you have confidence in my ability to make a difference. But one of the considerations in my response to you is that the voters have elected me —they have made me a public official— to deal with issues local to Pasadena. They expect me to use my time and the resources of the

activists quietly filled the council chamber with four foot signs each with a picture and a story of an alleged wrongly jailed person by the Chinese Communist Party.

Have Yourself A Little ‘Conscientious Christmas’

By Teresa Baxter

Christmas is the time for giving, but more so it is also a time to reflect on what the spirit is behind the giving. To be conscientious is defined as showing great care, attention, and industriousness in carrying out a task or role. In a sense everyone would hope that the gifts they receive have been that well thought out.

A “Conscientious Christmas” involves thinking through every gift carefully: where it came from, how it was made, how much packaging it uses and where it will be a year from now. It is the opposite of the crazed shoppers fighting over mass-produced products with little care of where the items were produced and the impact on human lives. Many countries that import some of our favorite products have been known to exploit child labor laws and recently many toys supplied from China have proven to be poisoned with lead.

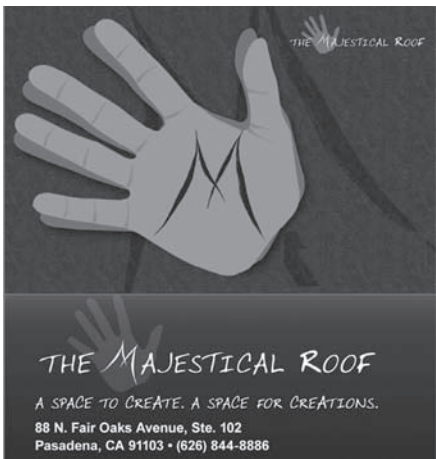
Locally, there are options that take a more personal approach to finding the perfect gift. In Old Town Pasadena, The Majestical Roof located at 88 N. Fair Oaks Ave., touts the morality of a sweat shop free inventory.

“The concept behind the products we choose is that everything is made in the USA and nothing is mass manufactured,” said co-owner Christina Bernal. “This is how we are able to offer our customers one of a kind handcrafted and custom merchandise.”

Describing the inventory at the Majestical Roof is like opening a box filled with imagination, beauty, color and fun. The store has the most eclectic array of art, apparel, accessories and unique gifts.

Ten Thousand Villages, located at 496 S. Lake Ave., is a store that is mainly staffed by volunteers working to end global poverty by creating long-term relationships with artisans from around the world, assuring that they will receive a fair wage for their product. Ten Thousand Villages is a non-profit, fair trade store that sells handcrafted items made by artisans in more than 30 countries. Products include home and garden decor, jewelry and personal accessories, musical instruments, toys, coffee, and tea.

“What we see happening in the store during the holiday season is that people are beginning to appreciate the tremendous power that the purchases that we make this time of year have,” said Sam Bills, store manager. “Our customers



are very smart and informed people, and they want to know how the power of their purchase is being used. Is it creating economic opportunity – is it going to help people? Or is it a gift given at the expense of the person who worked to make it – working in sub-par conditions for a wage that keeps them in a position of struggling just to survive.”

Our customers know the impact of their purchase and they find that reality for some workers unacceptable. We are here to offer them an alternative. Stores like ours are trying to encourage people to take command of their gift purchasing and use it to change someone’s life, he said

Another example of purchasing a gift with global impact can easily be accessed online at www.heifer.org Heifer International offers the opportunity to “Pass along the gift of a better world.” Giving a unique gift of chicks, water buffalo, trees and more supports Heifer’s work across the globe – offering livestock, training and other resources to hungry families so that they can feed, house and clothe themselves.

“Giving through Heifer International is conscientious because it empowers the recipient and enables them to pass on their gift when their animal has offspring,” said volunteer, Frances Hale. “This makes them a partner in working to end hunger and poverty.”

So, this Christmas may be the time to create more thoughtful traditions. Instead of worrying if your gift will be returned or re-gifted, take the time for family and friends to find something they absolutely love, then tell them it’s hand-made, or recycled or supporting a local or global business, and why.

‘No Internet Tax’ Ordinance Passed To Comfort Voters On Measure D

Exemption Threshold From Utility Users Tax Increased

By Dean Lee

With a lawsuit over Measure D looming in the background, the Pasadena City Council voted unanimously Monday night, to amend the Utility Users Tax in the city’s existing municipal code to state the intent was not to tax internet access

Without any discussion the council approved the ordinance, but not before Wayne Lusvardi, founder of Citizens for Responsible Government, criticized the need, calling it an embarrassment to the city.

Lusvardi also called for an immediate withdrawal of Measure D before the ballots are printed Monday. He said this would save the city unnecessary costs for litigation and would also save the city \$432,000 for the coast associated with the emergency election itself.

Last week the law firm of Colantuono & Levin filed a lawsuit on behalf of city clerk, Jane Rodriguez, over statements made in the rebuttal to the argument in favor of Measure D, written by Lusvardi.

In a press release the city claims the “The rebuttal states that the Measure would ‘force’ a tax on Internet access.” They said this is false and misleading and that Measure D does not “compel” the city to do anything.

Lusvardi said he not only disagreed, but that Measure D is a dishonest attempt to tax anything related to the internet, something he pointed out is stated in the lawsuit filed against his group.

The issue is set to be heard Monday in Los Angeles Superior Court. Colantuono is asking that the word “force” be changed to “allow” or “permit.” Lusvardi said this proves Measure D is an Internet tax.

Others associated with Citizens for Responsible Government said it was also not what Colantuono’s law firm objected to, but what it did not, that shows the measure is truly an internet tax.

At a court hearing Tuesday, in downtown, Colantuono’s law firm objected to the rebuttal’s statements, “Measure D

could even result in you being taxed for the junk email other people send to you,” and that “Measure D gives the City the right to audit’ your private phone and Internet records at any time.”

Political consultant Martin Truitt said what he thought was interesting Tuesday was that the statement, “Taxes could be applied to email, web surfing, computer gaming, file downloading, text messaging and any other activity resulting from a transmission of voice, data, audio, video or any other information,” was left alone. This he said shows the true intent of the tax.

Lusvardi also said that junk emails cannot be singled out as somehow different and not taxable. The city said junk email can not be taxed, because Measure D is not an Internet tax, confusing the situation even more.

The council Monday night also voted unanimously to further amend the Utility Users Tax, raising the current exemption for seniors over 62 from \$12,000, for a household with only one qualifying individual, to \$25,900, the same eligibility criteria for the city’s Water and Power Department’s low income assistance program. The exemption goes up \$3,700 for each additional household member. City staff said this would have a minimal effect on the \$10.4 million in revenue they collect from the tax.

The changes made were demanded in a letter dated Nov. 5, sent to Mayor Bill Bogaard and the city council members, by Lusvardi.

Part of the letter reads, “We demand that in the ballot label you cease to refer to the seniors that are exempt as low-income. The income threshold of \$12,000 is below what a reasonable person or your own criteria used for other purposes (Zoning Code Section 17.80.020) would define as simply low-income. We demand that instead you replace the term low-income with very low-income. If you insist on using the phrase low-income then we demand that the amount of the threshold be changed to meet the definition of low-income contained in the Zoning Code, and that it be subject to annual cost of living adjustments.”

Lusvardi said he only wished they had applied it to all low income persons and not just seniors.

Pasadena Rosebuds

It did not attract millions but this year’s Pasadena Rosebud Parade, a pint-sized Rose Parade, was just as much fun as kids strolled down South Lake Saturday. There was also no shortage of classics or hand waving.



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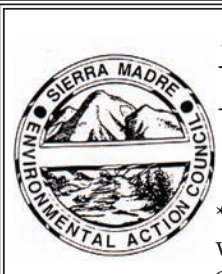
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Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council


TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown

Brush fire danger still exists in December and in fact there have been three December brush fires that come immediately to mind, with the most immediate being the one of December 26, 1999, that started on Chantry Flat Road. A stolen car was abandoned while being driven down hill when the breaks caught on fire. No structures were lost in the fire but after the acres of burn cooled and the normal rains came there were mud slides that threatened homes in the Highland Oaks area of Sierra Madre and Arcadia to the east of the gate. The mud and debris took out sections of the road leading into the forest and it was closed for four years while the adjoining jurisdictions of Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia and Los Angeles County debated on how to finance repairs.

This past year Malibu experienced three different fires over a 10 month period, but on December 11, 1958 the Malibu-Zuma Fire burned 18,000 acres and 103 structures were lost. On December 4, 1993, 1,800 acres burned in the Los Angeles County Towsley Fire. No structures were lost in that fire and hopefully none will be lost in the future in Sierra Madre if all the residents of the "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone" will keep up the effort to make a defensible space around their homes and keep working to reduce the vulnerable parts of their homes. Information is available at www.firesafecouncil.org and www.firecenter.berkeley.edu.

The will be no regularly scheduled Fire Safe Council meeting in December. We will resume meetings in January. 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?

Changes

By SMEAC Board Member, Marge Koch

Have you ever made a decision to change for convenience and find that you have made a change that is beneficial in ways you did not anticipate?

When we found that we were out of our supply of paper napkins a few years ago, we took out cloth napkins that were kept for special family or company dinners. They felt nice on our laps; they looked nicer than paper and added to the ambiance of the meal. We decided to delay purchasing paper for a while. Well, that while has extended to this very day. We have found that there are great sales on napkins almost any time, so it was easy to build a small supply to ease the necessity of laundering too often. We also now realize that saving paper from the landfill, benefits the wider world.


When we decided to take our forty year old ivy and twenty five year old St. Augustine grass from the yard we pondered what to replace them with. Having a fondness for stones and decomposing granite we used them extensively in the landscape. With native bushes, prairie grasses and succulents we have an easy to maintain landscape. We also realize that we use gallons and gallons less water and benefit the wider world.

When the light bulbs through the house seemed to burn for shorter and shorter periods, we decided to try the new "curly cue" florescent bulbs. At first they seemed not so bright but, by mixing them in multi-bulb fixtures with regular bulbs and using them in lights that are mainly decorative, they are now our predominant bulb. We have less frustration with quick burnout of bulbs, and we benefit the wider world.

~REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE~

Brought to you by:
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SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, December 2nd, to Saturday December 8th the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 373 calls for service.

Sunday, December 2nd:

12:21 AM – Arrest, 00 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. A driver was stopped for excessive speed. A records check revealed the driver, who lives in Riverside, was unlicensed and unable to prove evidence of insurance. The driver was issued a citation for excessive speed, no proof of insurance and arrested for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license. He was released in the field on a written promise to appear.

Monday, December 3rd:

8:57 AM – Vandalism/Graffiti, 232 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Memorial Park. A city employee reported damage to the men's restroom, black spray painted letters. No estimated cost of repair was available.

Tuesday, December 4th:

12:55 AM – Arrest, 400 block Sturtevant Dr. A pedestrian was stopped in the lower canyon, Woodland Dr and Sturtevant. Due to the time of day and man's behavior the officer had the man perform several tests. The officer determined him to be under the influence of a controlled substance. The man was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

Wednesday, December 5th:

1:50 AM – Arrest, Baldwin Ave and Foothill Blvd. A driver was stopped for an improper left turn. A records check revealed the driver lived in West Covina and his driver's license was suspended/revoked. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

Thursday, December 6th:

1:20 PM – Vandalism, 700 block Alta Vista Dr. A resident reported the drivers' side tire sidewall was punctured and the tire was flat. The car was parked 5:00 pm Tuesday, 12/4 and discovered 10:55 am Wednesday, 12/5. The loss was estimated at \$115.00.

3:30 PM – Business license violation, 400 block Sturtevant Drive. A resident called to report a solicitor. Officers were dispatched to the area and found one person selling magazines with out a city business license. The solicitor was cited and issued written promises to appear.

11:10 PM – DUI arrest, 900 block Foothill Blvd. Officers stopped a car for a traffic violation, failure to stop at a red traffic light. During the investigation the driver was determined to be under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

Friday, December 7th:

5:22 PM – Residential burglary, 300 block Mariposa Ave. A resident came to the police station to report the front door of her apartment open and the bedroom light on. Officers found the front door open and the jamb broken. An interior check revealed the apartment was ransacked. The loss occurred between 7:00 am Friday, 12/9 and 5:22 pm Friday, 12/9. The loss included a MAC desktop computer, Sony DVD, two wooden jewelry boxes and a Canon digital camera. No dollar loss estimate was available.

Saturday, December 8th:

7:32 PM – Arrest, 700 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. A driver was stopped for a modification of the car's exhaust system. A records check revealed the driver lived in Covina and his driver's license was suspended/revoked. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

Crossword For You

Somewhere In This Puzzle Is A Sierra Madre Treat

ACROSS

- Hovercraft
- ___ Lanka
- Decameter
- Trash
- That woman
- Gets smaller (with "down")
- Painting prop
- Government agency
- Ornamental edge
- Now Playing At The Playhouse*
- Hunts
- Facial twitch
- Trinitrotoluene
- Picnic visitor
- Departed
- Foreign Agricultural Service
- San ___ (CA city)
- Shaft of light
- Pour
- Inflammatory disease
- Tax agency
- Continent

- What a camera takes
- Cow sound
- Salaam
- Decade
- 100 ___ = 1 DM
- Aye
- Attack
- Bullfight cheer
- Curtsy
- Deep-seated hostility
- Prejudiced person
- Still
- Master of ceremonies
- Mud brick
- Negative
- Revive
- Cozy room
- One of these
- Lager

DOWN

- Snacked
- Ocean Spray's drink starters

- Permission to enter a foreign country
- Popular stadium
- Representative
- Iran's neighbor
- Dictation (abbr.)
- Famous cookies
- Clock time
- Saucy
- Annual storm causing current
- Uses money
- Shoppers need
- Winter hazard
- North American Indian
- Accommodate
- Recess
- Wodden projection
- Dirtiness
- Baseball player Hank ___
- Chicken brand
- Old-fashioned conservative
- Mutiny
- Corset
- Gain
- Standard or average
- Narcotic
- More unattractive
- Farm credit administration (abbr.)
- Cation
- Pig
- Austin novel
- Flank
- Competition at the Greek games
- Asian bird
- Lawyer (abbr.)
- Ca. University
- Exchange for money
- Not good
- Billion years
- Sight organ

Answers To Last Week's Puzzle

Solution:

E	R	R		H	U	M	P	H			P	I	N	
S	O	A	R		A	T	S	E	A		C	O	D	A
E	D	G	E		R	E	G	A	L		H	O	L	Y
	S	E	I	S	M					S	M	I	L	E
			C	O	S	H		R	A	I	N			
I	T	C	H	Y		O	B	I		N	A	V	A	L
R	Y	E		A	R	T	I	S	A	N		I	C	E
A	P	R			U	N	B	O	X			A	H	A
T	E	E		S	M	E	L	T	E	D		N	O	R
E	S	S	A	Y		S	E	T		R	A	D	O	N
				I	N	K	S		O	M	I	T		
	D	I	S	C	O				A	P	T	L	Y	
B	O	L	L		R	A	C	E	R		I	O	W	A
O	G	L	E		A	L	I	A	S		C	O	C	K
Y	E	S			N	E	A	T	H			M	A	C

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

Photos and Story By Chris Bertrand

GOODEN SCHOOL

Wow! Wish They'd Been In Chicago In The '60's!

Just before Thanksgiving I received an invitation to attend an event at Sierra Madre's Gooden School. The kindergarten through eighth grade private school was juggling the filming for a Hallmark television movie with Marlee Matlin with regular and holiday school activities. Yet both students and staff seemed comfortable and unfazed. A few things did stand out to us visitors.

The multipurpose room was set for the production of "The Wizard of Oz" in the movie's Pinewood school. A production truck with crew was discreetly working out front. Mounds and mounds of oak tree trimmings created fake shrubbery, more intimate filming spaces and hid some fencing. None of that mattered this morning. The focus of the moment was showing off the school and the students to grandparents and special guests. The Hollywood stuff just faded quietly into the background.



8th grader, Olivia Lee, points out the Celtic cross in a new garden by Lew Watanabe.

We were greeted by a well prepared, student tour guide who skillfully steered us throughout the upper school campus with history, anecdotes and information about the school. Founded in 1975 by Spencer and Betty Edwards, the school evolved after an earlier Episcopal parish school closed. Named after a 1930's Episcopal bishop from Los Angeles named Robert Gooden, dedicated to the belief that all children should receive a quality education and he fervently believed that the unique nature of every individual should be known and developed.

Though still rooted in Episcopal tradition according to its website, "The Gooden School welcomes students of all faiths and we respect the religious traditions of all members of our school community. The school is

inclusive by respecting all faith traditions while being clear about its Episcopal identity. Rooted in the Episcopal tradition, the school strives to nurture in each student an awareness of God and a sense of moral responsibility. It is our hope that all students find a voice for their spiritualities, beliefs and values as members of the school community."

Gooden's curriculum is classical, with an emphasis on fine arts, and Latin is still proudly taught here. They call their environment nurturing. I call it fabulous. I certainly wish Gooden was around in Chicago when I was in elementary school! We enjoyed string music from accomplished students wafting to our ears, and a band with wind instruments played later in the morning. Most of the campus is fairly hidden from street view by landscape, topography and a new wrought iron fence, so the large campus size and number of buildings surprised me.

Our first stop was the recently completed garden, designed by noted local, Lew Watanabe. This peaceful space was dedicated in May, 2007 to Sandy Towner, a devoted teacher and school administrator who recently passed away. After her death, the school community established a fund that helped create the Baldwin-Laurel corner of the property into a beautiful memorial garden to commemorate her warmth and welcoming spirit. Watanabe is known for his work with stone and light, and really shines here.

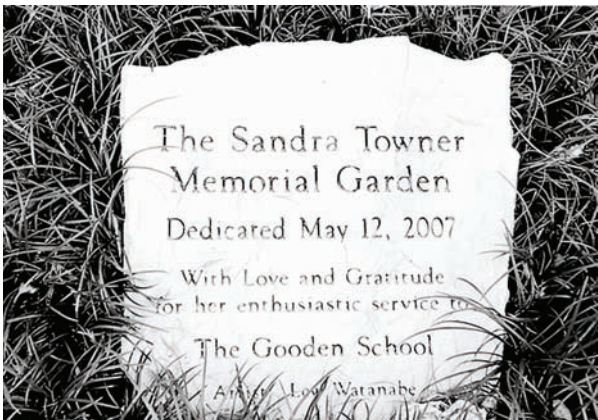
This garden interplays texture and shades of green most times of the year. Camellias will soon bloom along the perimeter, and a walkway arbor will bloom with wistaria in the spring. Prior to the garden's dedication, each school student planted a flower in the garden. During pleasant weather, chapel services are sometimes held here in the garden.



Patty Patano, Head of School, addresses guests amid props from a Hallmark movie in production at the school.

Watanabe utilized the Anglican walking rosary to highlight the rosary Towner carried while undergoing treatments during her courageous battle with cancer. A beautiful, stone Celtic cross begins the rosary in the northwest corner, with round stones representing the rosary beads. One can walk the rosary, praying the specified prayer in an outdoor meditation amid this shady, beautiful respite from life's busy noisy intrusions.

Adjacent to the garden, a small white 1910 farmhouse, from the Sierra Madre's era of orange orchards, holds the school's administration. We were



The new garden was dedicated in May, 2007 to beloved teacher, Sandy Towner.

proudly directed to another home named Buchan Hall, named for the handyman who helped convert it to expanded classrooms and library facilities in 1989.

Even more beautiful spaces abound for science, art, music, gatherings and more. Yet what captured my attention was the spirit of the people here, both staff and students. Everything and everyone is so obviously cherished and cared for here, it's a pleasure to know this school bejewels little Sierra Madre.

The Gooden School
192 North Baldwin Avenue Sierra Madre, CA 91024 (626) 355-2410
GoodenSchool.org

Know of an interesting home, garden, building or person who helps create them? Contact
Chris Bertrand at C.Bertrand@MVObserver.com.

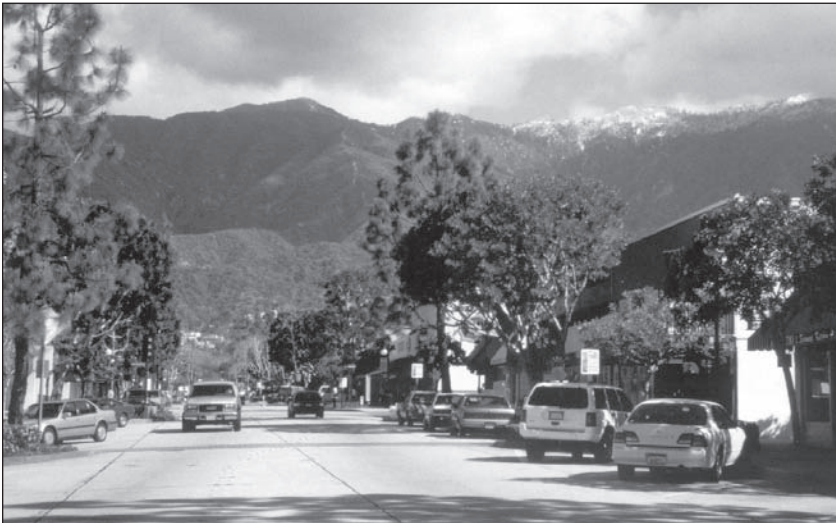
Arts & More

It's Just BUSINESS

A New Weekly Column covering business in Northwest San Gabriel Valley

By La Quetta M. Shamblee

Approximately 300,000 people reside in the sixty square miles that include the cities of Altadena, Arcadia, Monrovia, Pasadena and Sierra Madre. Each has an interesting and unique history and continues to contribute to the character of stretch along the foothills from the Glendale (2) freeway to the west and the 605 freeway to the east. Pasadena is home to about half of the stated population, and as the largest, it clearly has the largest number and array of businesses and organizations. However, the Arboretum and the Santa Anita Race Track in Arcadia represent some of the unique community assets in other cities that contribute to the vibrant nature of the local economy.



It's Just Business will focus on business development and growth in Northwest San Gabriel Valley.

A bustling restaurant row spans across city limits of Arcadia and Monrovia in either direction off the Huntington Drive exit of the 210 freeway. Corporate franchises with household names are alongside a healthy mix of independent eateries offering menu items representing cultures that span the globe. Convenient freeway access and a growing number of light rail public transportation options have contributed to the success of the cluster of mid-sized hotels along the same stretch.

Those who have lived in or visited these cities over the course of the past forty years have witnessed a transformation right before their eyes. The change has been monumental and some of it has been beneficial. All in the name of progress, it has been welcomed by some and despised by others. One thing is certain, each day brings with it additional changes. It has been said, "There are those who make things happen, those who watch what happens, and the rest simply wonder what happened." To ensure that readers of this publication aren't needlessly included in the latter group, this column in the *MountainViews-Observer* will be devoted to presenting and addressing matters related to the interplay of commerce, civic and community-based entities as it relates to this region.

Projected growth in population over the next couple of decades presents opportunity for existing businesses, as well as the development and launching of new endeavors. The addition of more people will inevitably present more challenges; however, those challenges will also translate into tremendous economic opportunity in a number of areas, particularly housing and transportation. The current writer's strike in Hollywood provides a timely example of the interconnectedness of seemingly non-related industries. A temporary work stoppage or drastic decrease in productivity in any sector that represents a large number of employees or sizeable revenues in the local economy is accompanied by a swift, adverse impact. A basic understanding of this type of economic-interdependency is fundamental to engaging in meaningful dialogue and participation in the policy-making process at any level.

The Business Of Business and how it impacts wealth, health and well-being encompasses the private, public and nonprofit sectors. Interviews with key leaders and executives in prominent industries and popular franchises will be highlighted alongside stories about CEO's and other entrepreneurs engaged in building and maintaining local enterprises that provide employment, contribute to the local tax base and support community programs. Each week will include information tailored to the needs and interests of stakeholders here in the foothills.

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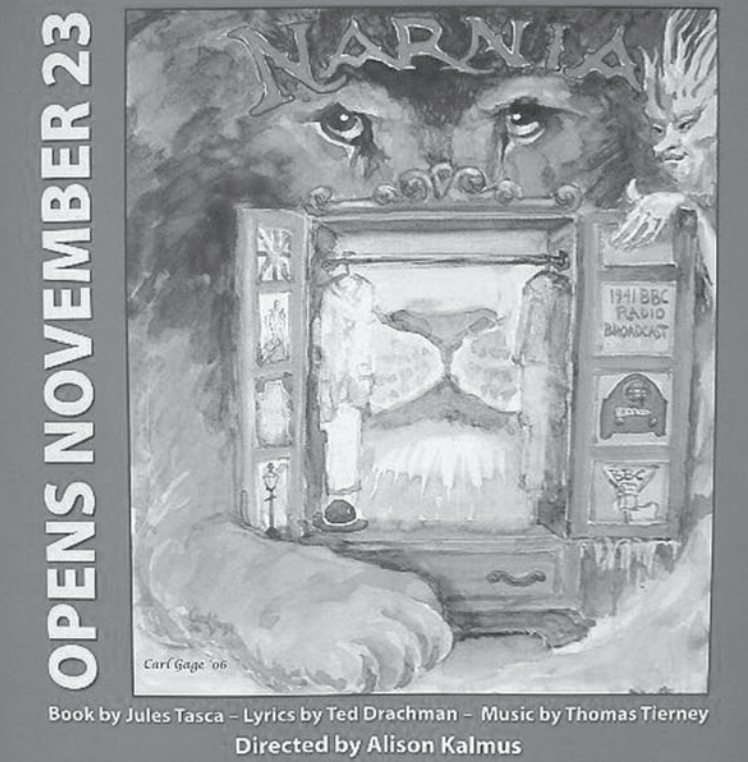
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Directed by Alison Kalmus

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Music by Thomas Tierney. Based
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Directed by Alison Kalmus.

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Musical director: Dianne Harmel.
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Paying For Success Pasadena City & School Officials Need To Work Together On A ‘Youth Master Plan’

By Karen Aydelott and Peter Dreier

A grassroots movement is growing in Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre to support our public schools. There's a new school superintendent, Edwin Diaz, a new interim Pasadena city manager come January in Pasadena Police Chief Bernard Melekian, a new spirit of cooperation between the Board of Education and other local officials, and, most important, a growing sense of both possibility and urgency among parents, teachers and community residents that strengthening our public schools is vital to having a vibrant community.

This was clearly evident on Nov. 4, when more than 220 people — almost twice the number that organizers expected — packed the Pasadena Senior Center for a forum called Civic Investment in Our Public Schools. That same spirit of collaboration was clearly present at a joint meeting of the Pasadena City Council and the school board on Nov. 13. Once again, there was a big turnout among parents, teachers and community residents. But there was also a growing understanding by the council and the board that it is time to put the “us and them” attitude behind and begin talking (and acting) as “we” — the entire community.

As Diaz noted at both events, PUSD lacks the resources to provide every student with a first-class education. This is due in large measure to the fact that California, which once ranked near the top in per-student spending on public schools, now ranks 42nd in the country. But, as Diaz also pointed out, with the wealth of talent, resources and institutions in our three communities, there's no reason why PUSD can't be one of the best school districts in the state. We just need the political will to make it happen.

The Nov. 4 forum built on the momentum already underway to create a strong political constituency for public schools among parents, teachers, residents, religious institutions, employers, colleges, cultural institutions and nonprofit groups within our three communities.

There is no more important investment to make than one that helps assure that all children have access to a quality education, which means they have the support and resources they need to succeed. It is the basis on which our democracy was founded and it is the responsibility of our entire community.

At the forum, three speakers — Burbank City Manager Mary Alvord, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education member Ralph Mechur and San Francisco Unified School District Board member and education adviser to the mayor Hydra Mendoza — described how they built effective and ongoing partnerships with their public schools that have become win-win situations for the cities and the schools.

Burbank has made significant financial investments in major capital projects with the school district, including school remodeling, a new athletic stadium and installation of a synthetic surface for the field. The city also provides major utility subsidies to the school district and installed solar heating panels for the high school pools. At the behest of the Mayor's Youth Task Force, the city funds counseling services for at-risk youth.

San Francisco provides \$40 million annually for a variety of programs that are based at school sites or target school children. Half of those funds are reserved for libraries, sports and art and music programs. The city also funds 11 wellness centers at high schools.

Santa Monica, whose school district is half the size of PUSD, allocates more than \$13 million a year to its school district, half of it in unrestricted funds. That

would be comparable to Pasadena contributing more than \$25 million to PUSD, more than three times what it now provides.

In Santa Monica, the city and school district share city and school facilities — parks, playgrounds and athletic fields — as community resources. The city helped the school district remodel the high school's historic auditorium.

In those three cities and dozens of other communities across California, cities save money by purchasing equipment and supplies jointly with the school district, run after-school programs, support school libraries and provide transportation for students to and from school. They also work collaboratively on such issues as public safety and gangs, job training and internships, health-care services, art, music and science programs and affordable housing for teachers and key city employees.

A key element in successful city-school collaborations is having an ongoing commission on schools and youth that includes representatives of the schools, the city, the business community, local foundations, nonprofit and community organizations and other institutions, as well as young people themselves. This provides a venue to put together a “youth master plan” so that the entire community has a clear roadmap for moving forward, with short-term and long-term initiatives, and clear benchmarks to evaluate whether they are making progress.

Fortunately, there are many positive signs in the Pasadena district to give our business, civic and political leaders confidence. For example, in 2001, 14 PUSD schools had API scores below 600. Only three schools had API scores higher than 700. This year, 20 of our schools have API scores over 700, five have API scores over 800, and none have API scores below 600.

Our schools have incredible teachers and programs. Recent graduates of PUSD high schools have been accepted at some of the nation's top colleges and universities.

But there are still too many PUSD students performing below grade level, too many dropping out before graduation and too little money to provide every student with smaller classes, lab equipment, computers, language instruction and other basics.

Should California increase funding for public schools? Of course it should. But can we wait until that happens? No. We have to act now at the local level to make a difference for every PUSD student.

PUSD can be a great district. With Caltech, JPL and several major science-based businesses located here, PUSD should have a world-class science and math program. With Huntington Library, Pasadena Playhouse, Art College Center of Design and the Norton Simon Museum, PUSD should have a world-class performing and visual arts program.

Businesses and nonprofit institutions should be working with PUSD and Pasadena City College to provide our students with internships and job training opportunities. We have many talented people in our community — artists and musicians, scientists, businesspeople, actors, architects, librarians and many other professions — who should be recruited to mentor our children, provide internships, and volunteer in our schools.

As the African saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. Our cities cannot thrive if our schools aren't working for every child. We expect our civic and political leaders to join the movement to make PUSD the best school district in California.

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
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School
160 N. Canon
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947
Principal: Gayle Bluemel
Contact person: Garrett Newsom, Asst. Principal
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Weizmann Day School
1434 N. Altadena Dr.
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

TRISH'S TRUTH Mirror, Mirror On the Wall, Who Has the Most Important Job of Them All?

By Trisha Collins

Who would you say has the most important job of all? The president, maybe? Well, he does have a substantial amount of control over the government, the economy, and the military. But I was thinking of more along the lines of people that we actually associate with in everyday occurrences. Ordinary people with ordinary lives, these people have the power of influence over hundreds everyday. Power that I feel is even greater and more important than our trusty president, George Bush. These people hold in the palm of their hands the future; these are our teachers.

What do Oprah, Donald Trump, and Russell Simmons all have in common? They are all successful people, making a difference in our world, shaping the future. In their school years, there was probably a teacher that strongly believed in them, a teacher that told them they could achieve anything they wanted in life. Or maybe it was a teacher encouraging them, telling them not to give up and to keep pushing. It was that teacher that got them where they are now. If it wasn't for teachers supporting them as they grew up, who knows if there would be an Oprah Show, Trump Enterprise, or the clothing company, Phat Farm.

There are teachers out there everyday, working hard educating today's youth. That's why their job is so important. Today's youth, my generation, is going to be the next generation of new scientists, presidents, and doctors. We will be the ones responsible for taking care of our earth and its people. But before we can go off changing the world, someone's got to show you how. You can't become a lawyer without an education, there's no way you could become an architect without learning mathematics. Teachers are like the building blocks of the whole world, practically. All professions start with having some kind of great teacher to lead, guide, and inspire.

Since teachers have the most important job of all, you would think their salary would be extraordinary.

Money would be overflowing for all the teachers of the world, right? Wrong. The average grade schoolteacher only makes about \$45,000 a year. That's not much compared to the president's whopping salary of \$400,000 a year. I personally feel that teachers' jobs are just as important as the president's job, therefore their salary should be just as much.

Last Friday at my high school, Harbor Teacher Preparation Academy, my science teacher was awarded \$25,000 from the Milken Foundation. They grant large sums of money to teachers that have dedicated their lives to educating and enhancing the lives of their students. Ms. Finnie, my science teacher, used to work at NASA, but found that she was unhappy there. She decided to go into teaching because it was a profession that she loved and was happy with. Knowing that she came from a high paying job at NASA to working as a high school science teacher, really gave me an understanding that making a difference in a child's life could be all the pay needed. The experience could make up the \$350,000 difference between her salary and the president of the United States' salary. Then again, maybe it's good that teachers get paid what they do. If they got paid a lot, more people would probably go into the profession of teaching just for the money. The child's learning might not be as much of a priority.

Either way, I think we can all agree that teachers have extremely important jobs that affect our future. It seems as though everyone gives out awards like, “Most Valuable Player”, to everyone else but the teachers that actually helped get the valuable player where he is today. We may not all have \$25,000 to give a teacher you feel deserves it, but you can do one thing: show your appreciation with a few kind words. They say you should never forget where you came from and who helped you there. And I'm sure that all that teacher who believed in you wants, is a simple hug and a “thank you for being a teacher.”



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Photography
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Chris Bertrand
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Stanley J. Forrester
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Student Correspondents
Pasadena High School
Alverno High School
Oak Crest Institute
of Science
Trish Collins

Editorial Cartoonist
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John Avery

For Advertising Inquiries contact:

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626-836-6524

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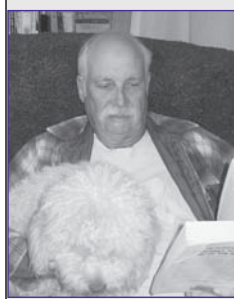
Mission Statement

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.



Member

OPINION



Stuart Tolchin On....

LIFE Beauty Is In The Eye Of The Beholder: *We Do Make A Difference*

Generally, I wake just before dawn, look at the clock and jump back under the covers. No, that was the old me. Now I get up, weigh myself and check my blood sugar. These numbers are a reflection of the entirety of the previous day or couple of days. The blood sugar is influenced not only by the number of calories that I ate the day before but also is influenced by stress, anxiety, exercise, amount of sleep, glycemic index of the food I ate and everything else that took place in the last couple of days. Similarly, the number on the scale is influenced not only by what I ate, but also how much water I drink and what kind of exercise and how intense it was. I'm sure you get the picture – in a way everything with which I am involved is reflected and contained in these measurements.

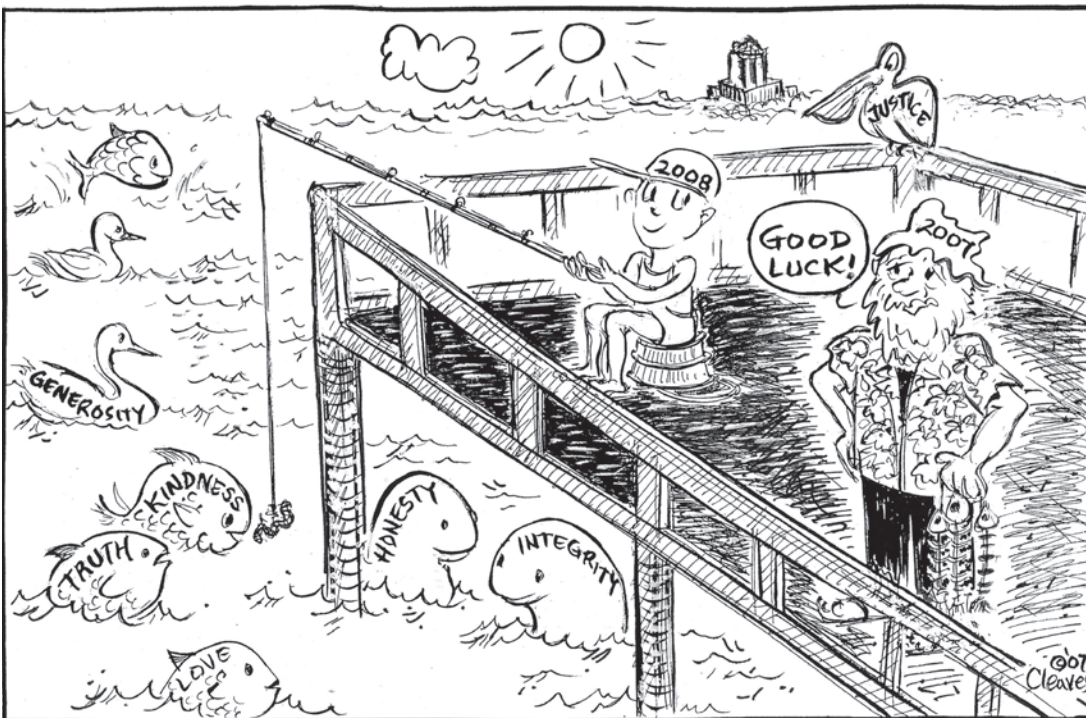
I thought about this interconnectedness after viewing an installation by the art and space artist James Turrell at Claremont College. In order to view one of the exhibits it is necessary to put on booties because any dust or reflection caused by the shoes would effect the perception of the work. My experience was very other-worldly involving perceptions of walls where there were no walls and experiencing fog where I was later told there was no fog and becoming altogether disoriented as to my place in the room.

The permanent installation consists of benches around a pool of water in a structure which is open on all four sides

beneath a roof with a large square or open space in it's center. As the sun sets the color of the sky and the color of the roof seem to change colors from grey to rose to orange to blue to green to yellow to white to black (and various other colors I have forgotten to mention. It's an extraordinary experience and definitely worth seeing.) In reading about the installation I learned that the effect is achieved through the effect of light upon other light. Mr. Turrell has discussed the effect upon the observer of being in minimal light which cause the eye to fully open and obtain information that could not have seen otherwise. In interviews he discusses his belief that in minimal light the eye can actually feel (feel rather than see) objects – pretty amazing.

The point I am reaching for is that what we see or feel or even weigh is not something that happens out there, rather it is the unique momentary result of the interaction between all parts of us (even affected by the past) between what is ourself and what is not ourself. I believe this is what is pointed to in some spiritual disciplines which assert that an individual is responsible for all that he or she perceives – IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD CHANGE YOURSELF.

Today's hint: for weight loss try walking up and down the stairs 20 times – or not.



City of Sierra Madre NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To: Mountain Views Observer
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: VARIANCE 07-04, 294 Old Ranch Road
Applicant: Byron Banks
1422 Palm Street Altadena, CA 9001

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 construct an addition of 84 square feet to an existing residence at 294 Old Ranch Road, which will cause the residence to further encroach into required front and rear setbacks. The proposed front yard of zero feet, is less than the twenty-five required by Section 17.20.050 of the Municipal Code. The proposed rear yard of seven feet is less than the fifteen required by S.M.M.C Section 17.20.057. The proposed side yards are existing nonconforming, and the remodel of the house will occur up to the easterly property line, and within three feet of the westerly property line.

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre
Planning Commission meeting
Thursday, **December 20, 2007**
(Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.)

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

PROJECT LOCATION: 294 Old Ranch Road; in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The project qualifies for a Class 3 Categorical Exemption, pursuant to Section 15303 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

APPEAL: The decision of the Planning Commission is subject to a 14 day appeal period to the City Council. If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the Planning Commission in court, one may be limited to raising the 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 Development Services Director

PLACE OF HEARING

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

Enough is Enough

By Hail Hamilton



Don't blame me. Nobody asked me for my opinion about going to war in Iraq. I know I'm just your average middle class middle-aged American. But even a dummy knows good decisions from bad ones. President

Bush's decision to go to war in Afghanistan and shut down Al Qaeda was good. Letting Osama bin Laden escape was bad. Going to war in Iraq was a blunder of monumental proportions.

Don't get me wrong, Saddam Hussein was a brutal dictator. He was a monster that deserved what he got. Hell, I would have volunteered to pluck out his eyes and eat his liver. But sending ill-equipped American troops in insufficient numbers with no real mission other than overthrowing a despot was big mistake. I would have advised President Bush: "Don't do it. But if you must, follow the Powell Doctrine—go in with overwhelming force, overthrow Sadam and leave immediately!"

Now look where we're at—bogged down in a desert hellhole with nowhere to go. The "war against terrorism" and the jihad against Americanism are killing and maiming thousands—American troops, Iraqis and Afghanistan alike. Not to mention all the terrorists and jihadists we've sent back to Allah. There's no discrimination in warfare. If you're in the wrong place at the wrong time—soldier or civilian—you die or get maimed. It's that simple! It's called "collateral damage".

Too many Americans have died and too much American money has been spent on the "war on terrorism"—nearly 4,000 dead and 30,000 wounded. More than **\$600 billion** has been spent on the two wars—\$475 billion in Iraq and \$125 billion in Afghanistan. And all these expenditures have been "off Budget". This means borrowed! The US national debt is about **\$9.2 trillion** and this figure does not include the "war on terrorism". Nor does it include the cost for returning veterans—medical, rehabilitation, and other services.

The truth is the "war on terrorism" is not about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This war is not about creating a Muslim democracy. Wake up America—smell the coffee! This war is about oil. This war is about who will control the world's second largest known oil reserve. Why do you think the bulk of the "war against terrorism" is Iraq not Afghanistan? Oil, people... Iraq's got it and we want it!

Fifty years from now it will be said of our generation that we "spent money like a bunch of drunken sailors". We will be scorned for our fiscal irresponsibility. Worse, we will be ostracized for the men and women we needlessly sent off to be killed or maimed fighting for oil, just so gasoline would be a few cents cheaper at the gas pump.

So I say enough is enough... Hasta la vista Iraq... Adios Afghanistan... Goodbye and Good luck to all the world's religious fanatics—including our own—that can't think of anything better to do with their lives than to make the rest of us miserable.

SPECIAL NOTICE: SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Closed Session: 7:00 p.m.
Open Session: 7:30 p.m.

Agenda includes a recommendation to approve arguments in favor of a User Utility Tax and Consideration of a Memorandum Of Understanding with the Sierra Madre Police Officers Association. For complete agenda go to:

www.cityofsierramadre.com

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LEGAL NOTICES

The name of registrant(s) is (are) NOUR INSURANCE SERVICES 64301 Whittier Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90022. The business was conducted by: A CORPORATION. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 10/31/2007. Original File #2007-2460955. 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 20, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) ended to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/20/2007 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: 11/24; 12/01; 12/08 and 12/15, 2007 470704

470705 File No. 0072581631 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME The following person (s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious name: QUALITY INSURANCE 8030 Stewart & Gray Rd Downey, CA 90241. The name of registrant(s) is (are) Elshazly Fahodrei 8030 Stewart & Gray Rd Downey, CA 90241. The business was conducted by: A CORPORATION. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 10/31/2007. Original File #20072460677. 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 20, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) ended to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/20/2007 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: 11/24; 12/01; 12/08 and 12/15, 2007 470705

470706 File No. 06-20072442526 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: PACHECO TRANSPORT 925 ½ W. 80th St Los Angeles, CA 90044. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Otto Rene and Mynor Alberto Pacheco 925 ½ 80th St Los Angeles, CA 90044. The business is conducted as: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. 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 29, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above 05/30/2007.

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: 11/24; 12/01; 12/08 and 12/15, 2007 470706

470707SJ File No. 06-20072553104 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: LOFTY MAIDS 849 S. Broadway #703 Los Angeles, CA 90014. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Michael Juarez and George Alfaro 849 S. Broadway Los Angeles, CA 90014. The business is conducted as: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. 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 15, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. 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: 11/24; 12/01; 12/08 and 12/15, 2007 470707SJ

470708AN File No. 20072534168 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: INTERNATIONAL TRADE & TELEX ENTERPRISES 2859 Chestnut Ave Long Beach, CA 90806. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Michael Lloyd and Constantyne Hughes Haynes 2859 Chestnut Ave Long Beach, CA 90805. 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 13, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 1995. 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: 11/24; 12/01; 12/08 and 12/15, 2007 470708AN

470709AN File No. 20072533388 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: NOVA GRINDING CO. 10546 Norwalk Blvd

Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Joseph M. Gregoso 10546 Norwalk Blvd Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. 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 13, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/01/1983. 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: 11/24; 12/01; 12/08 and 12/15, 2007 470709AN

470710JJ File No. 20072545076 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME The following person (s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious name: MEDINA'S 99 CENT STORE 2516 E. Gage Ave Huntington Park, CA 90255. The name of registrant(s) is (are) Margarita Median Hernandez 4025 Live Oak St Cudahy, CA 90201. The business was conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 07/30/2003. Original File #03-2303753. 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 14, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) ended to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/14/2007 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: 11/24; 12/01; 12/08 and 12/15, 2007 470710JJ

470711DS File No. 20072533032 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: CALIFORNIA CUT 11224 Gladhill Rd Whittier, CA 90604. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Aurelio Andrade 11224 Gladhill Rd Whittier, CA 90604. 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 13, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) NOT commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. 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: 11/24; 12/01; 12/08 and 12/15, 2007 470711DS

470712AN File No. 20072534679 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: APEX SPORTS CLUB 239 S. Sentous Ave West Covina, CA 91792. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Lisa Nanette Fierro 239 S. Sentous Ave West Covina, CA 91792. 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 13, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. 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: 11/24; 12/01; 12/08 and 12/15, 2007 470712AN

470713AN File No. 20072535594 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: AW CONSTRUCTION 6240 Long Beach Blvd Long Beach, CA 90805. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Andre Waller 6240 Long Beach 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 13, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. 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: 11/24; 12/01; 12/08 and 12/15, 2007 470713AN

470714M File No. 20072566238 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: TOP STITCH 623 W. Olympic Blvd Montebello, CA 90640. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Anthony Salazar 623 W. Olympic Blvd Montebello, CA 90640. 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

16, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/16/2007. 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: 11/24; 12/01; 12/08 and 12/15, 2007 470714M

470715 File No. 20072542486 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: LEATHER COMFORT 2110 Edwards Ave South El Monte, CA 91733. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) LEATHER & MORE, INC., 2110 Edwards Ave South El Monte, CA 91733. The business is conducted as: A CORPORATION. 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 14, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/25/2007. 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: 11/24; 12/01; 12/08 and 12/15, 2007 470715

46701AU File No. 06-20072523490 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: DAY & NIGHT PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, DAY & NITE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT 2500 ½ W. Madison Ave Montebello, CA 90640. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Hugo Aleman 2500 ½ W. Madison Ave Montebello, CA 90640. 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 09, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above 11/04/2007. 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: 11/17; 11/24; 12/01 and 12/08, 2007 460701AU

460702AU File No. 06-20072523499 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: CREATIVE PRODUCTION SERVICES 993 Poppyfields Dr Altadena, CA 91001.

Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Regina and Laura Glover 993 E. Poppyfields Dr Altadena, CA 91001. 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 09, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/01/2007.

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: 11/17; 11/24; 12/01 and 12/08, 2007 460702AU

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 12/1, 12/8, 12/15/07 CNS-1239326#

SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

FYI: Door-to-Door Deception

They seem innocent enough, these young people who knock on our doors. They claim to be students trying to earn enough money so their school team can attend playoffs in another state, for instance. They sometimes say that they live just around the corner and that their mom knows you and suggested that you would be willing to help. They are usually “selling” magazines that you will never get, especially if you pay cash.

The October, 2007, AARP Bulletin warns us about a company called Quality Subscriptions, which is part of United Family Circulation. They have drawn more than 80 complaints nationwide to the Better Business Bureau for falsely selling magazines door to door.

I know this scam is alive and well in Sierra Madre. Our Police Chief, Marilyn Diaz, suggests calling to report individuals you suspect might be trying to dupe you and others. (626) 355-1414.

Recipe of the Month Cranberry Bread



- 2 Cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg, well beaten
- 2 tbs melted butter
- 2 tbs hot water
- ½ cup orange juice
- ¼ cup grated orange rind
- 1 cup fresh or dried cranberries
- ½ cup chopped nuts

1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Grease a 9-by-5 inch loaf pan or 3 mini-loaf pans.
2. Combine flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda. Add sugar, egg, butter, hot water, orange juice and grated orange rind; stir until moistened. Fold in berries and nuts. Spoon into pan and bake 50 minutes (or 35 minutes for mini-loaves). Cool; wrap and refrigerate or freeze. Relish

~ For Your Funny Bone~

Just before Christmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and Santa Claus were riding in the elevator of a very posh hotel. Just before the doors opened they all noticed a \$20.00 bill lying on the floor. Which one picked it up? Santa of course, because the other two don't exist!

~Helpful Hint~

This is one I tried this week and I can tell you that it really works. I had a sweatshirt and a blouse that had grease stains on them that didn't come out in the wash. I was ready to put them in the rag bag when I remembered the Murphy Oil Soap. I rubbed some into the spots and laundered as usual, and voila! Good as new.



~He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree~
Roy L. Smith

Blood Pressure Clinic Returns! The Sierra Madre Paramedics will do blood pressure readings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 10:30-11:30 AM

Free Consultation with Pasadena attorney Geoffrey Chin- 2nd Thursday of the month- 10:00 AM- Noon-Appointments are a must. Call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394. Conflicting court schedules can occasionally cause cancellations.



Activities:

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

Lunch Program: Monday-Friday- Call (626) 355-0256 to reserve the day before. Suggested donation \$2.00 for seniors, others - \$3.75.

Monday: Free Strength Training Class with Lisa Brandley 1:00- 1:45 PM

Tuesday: Bingo: 1:30-3:30 PM .25c per card Yoga: 5:00 PM- Instructor, Andrea Walsh- \$5.25 for seniors

Wednesday: Open

Thursday: Game Day- 1:30- 4:00 PM Poker, Scrabble, Cribbage, Chess, Checkers, Backgammon, Pinochle, you name it. Yoga: 5:00-6:30 PM- For seniors and others who want to go slowly (can be done in a chair) Instructor: Andrea Walsh \$5.25 for those 50 & over- \$7.00 for those under 50. To register call (626) 355-7394

Friday: Ping-Pong- 2:00-4:00 PM- Not tournament, just for fun. Aerobics for Active Seniors- 3:00- 4:00 PM at the Community Center- 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.- \$34.00 for an 8 week course Instructor: Bonnie Smithson Call 355-5278 to enroll.

Saturday: Senior Club for those 55 and older- Brown bag lunch at 11:30AM Bingo: 12:30 PM .25c per card

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

Monthly Excursions:

December 20: Candlelight Pavilion in Claremont- Christmas show and lunch \$59.00

January 17: Morongo Casino & Outlet shopping \$20.00

February 21: Griffith Observatory- Details to be announced

For reservations call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394 or stop by and see her at the Hart Memorial Park House- 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM- Monday-Thursday

Looking Up

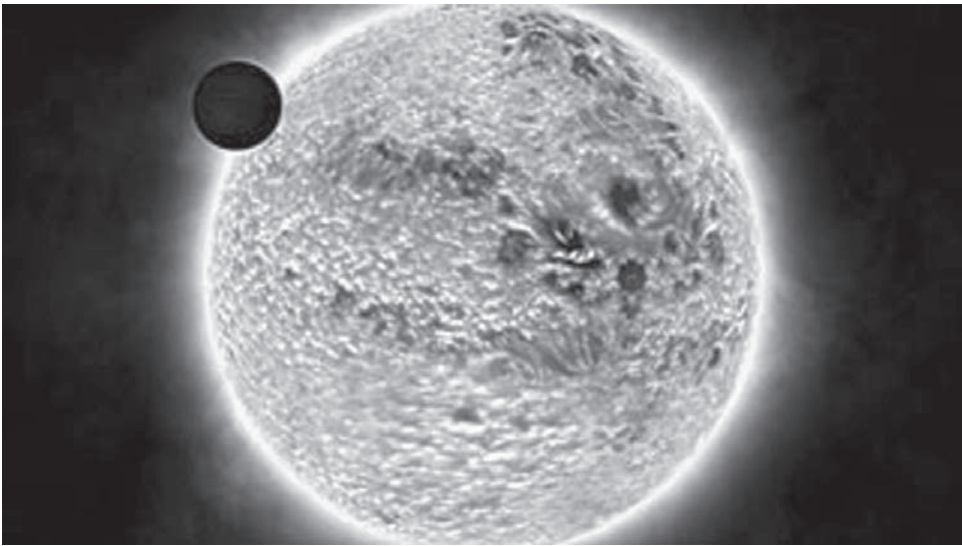


With Bob Eklund

HAZY RED SUNSETS ON AN EXTRASOLAR PLANET

Photo by Aaron Dominguez

MANKIND IS GETTING CLOSER to detecting habitable planets orbiting other suns. The latest discovery, announced December 11 by the Hubble European Space Agency, is the detection of “hazes” in the atmosphere of the planet HD 189733b—some 63 light-years from Earth. A team of astronomers led by Frederic Pont of the Geneva University Observatory in Switzerland used the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope to detect, for the first time, strong evidence of haze-producing materials in the atmosphere of a planet orbiting a distant star. The discovery comes after extensive observations with Hubble’s Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS).



An artist's impression of the extrasolar planet HD 189733b seen here with its parent star looming behind. The planet is slightly larger than our own Solar System's Jupiter. Its atmosphere is a scorching eight hundred degrees Celsius. Astronomers have found that the sunset on HD 189733b would look similar to a hazy red sunset on Earth. Credit: ESA, NASA and Frederic Pont (Geneva University Observatory)

The observations were made as the extrasolar planet passed in front of its parent star in a transit. As the light from the star passes through the planet’s atmosphere, the gases in the atmosphere stamp their unique signature on the starlight.

Hubble’s ACS camera, coupled with a grism (a kind of cross between a prism and a diffraction grating) allowed the astronomers to make extremely accurate measurements of the spectrum of HD 189733b, from which they could draw conclusions about the composition of the planet’s atmosphere.

Where the scientists had expected to see the fingerprints of sodium, potassium, and water, there were none. This finding, combined with the distinct shape of the planet’s spectrum, implies that high-level hazes (with an altitude of roughly 1,000 km) are present. The astronomers concluded that this haze would produce gorgeous red sunsets similar to those seen on Earth.

THE COLOR RED, EITHER IN SPACE OR ON EARTH, is produced by nature in several ways. One, which we see every year in the fall, is when the leaves of deciduous trees stop producing chlorophyll, allowing an underlying red substrate to show through. Another, which we see almost every evening at sunset, is when all the shorter-wavelength colors (violet, blue, green, and yellow) are absorbed or scattered by dust particles in our atmosphere, allowing only the longer-wavelength red light to get through.

The color red is also produced in deep space. Mars looks red to us because its surface, which contains much iron, has been oxidized over billions of years to the color of rust. On the other hand, a star like Betelgeuse in Orion (seen just to the right of Mars in our December evening sky) is red because it burns with such a cool fire that it is only red-hot, not white-hot like our Sun.

Red is also produced when stars or galaxies are moving away from us, causing the light’s colors and spectral features to be shifted toward the red end of the spectrum. Called the “Doppler effect,” this shift in the light’s frequency with line-of-sight motion is similar to the familiar drop in the pitch of sound we hear, for example, whenever a car passes us on the street. This “redshift” (and its opposite, “blueshift”) tells astronomers that a star is “wobbling” back and forth in space as a result of a circling planet’s gravity—and the redshift in the spectra of distant galaxies is what tells us that the Universe is expanding.

REDSHIFT

How brightly now these liquidambers gleam,
As green gives way to yellow, orange, red—
The brilliance of last summer’s sun is spread
Across a thousand outstretched leaves. They seem
Like red stars in some distant galaxy
Spinning away in unknown time and space,
Their light red-shifted in an outbound race
Till light is stretched beyond what we can see.

How quickly now the high clouds sense the close
Of this too-brief December afternoon;
White turns to hues of orange, red, and soon
The last burnt umber shades will follow those.
Red leaves are falling, bright colors grow pale;
Will star-lit galaxies’ light also fail?

If you’d like to learn more, you can contact Bob at b eklund@m vobserver.com. (Unless otherwise attributed, poems appearing in this column are copyrighted by Robert L. Eklund. “Redshift” is reprinted from the book *First Star I See Tonight*.)



The Mountain Clymer

By Kim Kelley

Calamity Jane - Part 1

My mom had a name she always called me when I was growing up... Calamity Jane. She had wanted to name me Jane Ann when I was born...instead my dad won out and I was named Kim after his favorite actress, Kim Novak. In retrospect, Mom always felt that Jane would have indeed been more appropriate, as I turned out to be more a tomboy and an accident-waiting-to-happen than a sex kitten. Though I have never broken anything or been seriously injured, I have had my share of odd accidents in my life...thus causing her to bestow that nickname on me. Usually they are things that were terrifying at the time, but make for some good laughs after the fact. This propensity followed me into adulthood and up the road to Chantry Flat.

To be honest, if my life were a book, there was some “foreshadowing” in my childhood of things to come. I remember the summer I spent at horseback riding camp in New Jersey when I was eleven. I was very excited about going...I loved camp, and this particular year, I was going to be away for an entire month (instead of the usual week or two that I had done in the past). And what made it even better, I was going to be at Shepard’s Mill, the camp where the older girls all went, and I was going to be riding horses everyday, my favorite thing in the world to do. I remember the excitement when my parents dropped me off and checked me in. We went to our tents, unpacked our stuff, and set up our little home-away-from-homes, then we all headed to the truck to go to meet our horses that were assigned to us for the session. We piled in the back of the pick-up (remember when that was legal and how much fun it was???) and headed down the bumpy dirt road to the stables...singing all the way.

We arrived at the barn and were each given a halter and shown which horse was ours. My own horse for a month...how exciting!!! They called my name, handed me my halter and a lead rope and told me that my horse’s name was “Blackie” (how original) and then pointed me in the direction of the cutest little black horse I had ever seen. He was small...a pony really... had a shaggy black mane and tail, and sweet coal-black eyes that would melt anyone’s heart. It was love at first sight. I haltered him and led him to the fence and hitched him up. The first thing we learned was how to groom and then how saddle and then how to feed them. These would be our responsibilities during our stay. We did not get to ride that day, we just unsaddled, put our tack away and headed back to camp for dinner.

The next morning we awoke and headed to the mess hall for breakfast. As we left the dining room, a counselor pulled me aside. I could sense the gravity in her voice, as she called to me. “I have some bad news for you,” she said in a tone that was meant to be comforting, “Blackie died last night” she continued. I was devastated. No sooner than I had finally gotten my own horse, he was gone. “We are getting a replacement for him this afternoon, so you will have a horse for when we ride later. This morning you can help the other girls with their horses.” I numbly walked to the truck with the rest of the girls to go to do the morning chores, tears streaming down my face. When we arrived at the barn everyone headed out to the pasture to grab their horse as I stood sobbing at the rail staring at the tarp-covered mound in the middle of the field that I knew was Blackie.”

That afternoon when we went back to the stables I was introduced to my new charge. Quite the opposite of “Blackie”, my new horse, “Up Again”, was a huge (and rather intimidating) 16-hand Palomino gelding. I was a little reluctant to open my heart to him at first, but we soon became fast friends. We began our riding program that day, and much to my surprise, “Up Again”...or “Uppy” as I decided to call him, was about as gentle, laid-back, and cooperative as they come...a dream horse...we were a perfect match...well, that is at least until one very hot afternoon of riding.

One afternoon we came to the stable for our daily riding session...it was brutally hot and humid and the horseflies and deerflies were biting terribly...it was miserable for horse and rider alike and we were all very cranky. I mounted Uppy and was circling the pasture to warm him up before heading over to the riding ring. He was stopping to stomp his feet and shake his head every few seconds to rid himself of the biting flies. I was swatting constantly at the ones that were biting me...slapping myself all over, occasionally gleefully squashing one. I felt one biting my on the ankle and tried reached down to brush it off...it did not move, and instead dug in and bit me hard and kept on biting. I could see blood on my sock around it as it sucked. I dropped the reins and reached down to get it off of me . As I did this, Uppy took advantage of the situation and made a beeline to the barn, which was much cooler and had considerably fewer flies. Seeing what he was about to do, I quickly grabbed up the reins again and tried to stop him. He was determined to reach the beckoning shelter of the barn. I pulled back on the reins, but he only responded by walking faster. As we reached the entrance I began to panic, I knew that together we were too tall to clear the door. I tried to gather the courage to jump off while he was moving, but as we reached the door, a counselor was leading another hijacked rider out of the barn and there was no room. I yelled for help and ducked as we passed through the door. The barn was very large and tall with a hayloft making a very low ceiling over one end of it. Uppy headed for that end. I was terrified and screaming at him “No!!! NO!!! I said “NOOOOO!!!” as I jerked on the reins. He was not about to take “NO” for an answer. I headed for what I thought was certain decapitation screaming for help at the top of my lungs. As we drew closer, I could see that the hayloft was going to hit me somewhere around my chest... there was no room to duck under it. “NO!!! STOP!!!” I screamed. Uppy trudged on. “HELP!!!!!!” I yelled again and again. No one came. He began to pass under the loft as I raised my arms to try to block the blow. My elbows caught the top side of the beam on the outer edge of the loft as Uppy walked right out from under me, I avoided decapitation, but was left dangling from the hayloft screaming for dear life. I am sure, in retrospect, that the beam I was hanging from was probably only about nine feet off the ground, but as a terrified kid, I might as well have been hanging from the railing at the top of the Empire State Building. I hung for what seemed like an eternity (but was probably only 30 seconds or so) until one of the counselors came in and saw me. Needless to say, she burst out laughing. “IT’S NOT FUNNY!!!!” I screamed at her hysterically. She grabbed my legs, pulled me off the beam and placed me on the ground as she continued to laugh. One of the other counselors who had entered with her joined in the laughter. “IT’S NOT FUNNY!!!!” I sobbed again.

She bent over and gave me a hug, “You got down okay, didn’t you?” she asked.

“Yes.” I nodded.
“And you didn’t get hurt did you?”
“No” I agreed.
“Well then we can laugh about it...and you know what?” she asked.
“What?” I responded.
“One of these days...not now maybe...but sometime when you are older...you will look back on this and you will laugh at it too.”
“No I won’t!!! It was horrible!!!” I said stubbornly.
“Yes, you will...you’ll see.” she insisted.

That day came sooner than I would ever have guessed...and her outlook and words stuck with me ’til this day and have made me able to laugh many times when I otherwise would have been angry, hurt, embarrassed or sad...to look for the good, funny, or bright side of things before I surrender to the bad. I am thankful for that day for it has made me a more resilient and positive person.

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A Charmed Life: Growing Up in Macbeth's Castle by Liza Campbell
A haunting and humorous memoir about growing up as a maiden surrounded by centuries of history in Cawdor Castle

Dark Victory: The Life of Bette Davis by Ed Sikov

Fathers and Sons: The Autobiography of a Family by Alexander Waugh
A funny, candid and very moving story that traces the Waugh literary dynasty across a century of change, war, and turmoil.

Alice: Alice Roosevelt Longworth, from White House Princess to Washington Power Broker by Stacy A. Cordery
Daughter of Teddy Roosevelt, wife and mistress to Washington's top politicians, she was the premier insider.

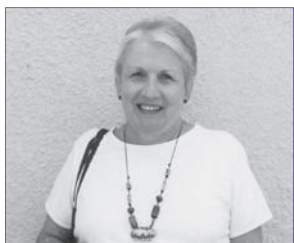
Sage-ing While Age-ing by Shirley MacLaine

Einstein: His Life and Universe by Walter Isaacson
A wonderful account of this scientific genius!

Escape by Carolyn Jessop and Laura Palmer
Jessop provides a first-person account of life in one of the most secretive religious cults (Fundamental Latter Day Saints) and how she got away with her 8 children in this extraordinary journey to freedom from a group the Attorney General of Utah said is worse than the Taliban!

Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir (Paperback) by Bill Bryson
From one of the most beloved and best selling authors, this is a nostalgic, vivid and hilarious account of growing up in the 1950s!

Books can be ordered at Sierra Madre Books(836-3200)
For Recommendations or comments please email jab3jab@verizon.net



BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

All Wrapped Up...

Originally published December, 2006

Had the ancient Egyptians possessed the materials we have today, the mummification process would have known no limits....Houdini would not have had a career....

I'm talking about plastic packaging. I went with a friend to a nearby warehouse-club store to do some shopping. While picking up the things I came for, of course I had to browse. My friend spotted something that she already possessed and felt my life would not be safe or complete if I didn't have them too: a pair of small self-powered flashlights complete with flasher light, AM/FM radio and a personal safety alarm. "Personal" yet...Just recharge by cranking the handle. No batteries or lights to replace ever. Wow! No home should be without one, so take them home I did.

When I got home at about 5:30 p.m. it was already dark. I had to retrieve something in my back yard but hey, I had my new purchase just raring to go. All I had to do was pop them out of the package, crank one up and light up my way across the yard safely.

Did I say, "Pop them out of the package?" Hah!!! They were encased in that plastic from hell that's harder than a loan shark's heart on Christmas Eve. There was no pulling it apart with mere fingers, so I got the scissors. Cutting it was no easy task either. I snipped a corner of the package thinking I could then slip my finger in and pull it apart. Nothing doing. After a considerable amount of time and energy, I was finally able to cut one whole side of the plastic. Well, that only took about ten minutes; it had to be smooth sailing from here. Silly girl! After several more minutes, and literally blood, sweat and tears, I was able to free my new self-powered beauties from their bondage!

My hands were cut to ribbons....after applying band aids, I was able to crank the wind-up handle with the two good fingers I had left and was ready to go outside to get...to get....It was now 6:10 p.m. and frankly, I had forgotten why I was going outside.



From the Inside Out

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



A Voice In The Wilderness...586

So, if / when I decide to go to a health professional, why am I going? What do I want and expect?

It's not pretty, folks. If I to a health professional, it means I've done everything I know / remember how to do, my expectations were unmet, and I'm scared. When I get scared - or unsure of what I'm doing - I want someone to honestly reassure me that everything's going to be OK. Maybe take the pain away. To "kiss it and make it better." To "fix" it, and do it NOW, thank you. As a born-to Western culture member, I was taught that "miracles" are out there, all I have to do is ask, and it SHALL be done (Ah? I don't have to do it myself? Only ask? Ooooh!) So, NOW! Instantly! Please! And thank you. (I told you it wasn't pretty.)

Umpf. Ummmm. Ain't theory wonderful? And therein lies the greatest challenge to me, and everyone I know. Miracles have been ground into my very essence. So, how come I seem to be so slow at creating them? And what's all this "it takes time?" And, I - me? - I have to DO things differently? Me, myself? Isn't that what God's for? To "take care of me?" That's what the young, very diabetic secretary believes when, between injecting herself with insulin, she pops chocolate candies because ... "God will take care of me." Ouch!

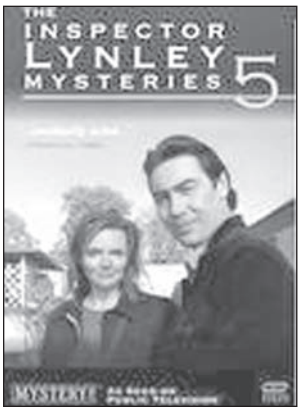
So, most client goals are to get the situation "fixed" now. As a professional? It's a very different goal, folks. My professional wants me to correct the cause - not just slap a piece of chewing gum over the crack. To, like my car, really take time to repair the chassis. Example: My car requires fuel. If I don't give my car the right gas regularly, will it continue to run? If I feed my body mostly junk food, do I really think my body will function well? If I put the wrong oil in my car, will it get gummed up? Yes? So, (as I heard recently) if my client has 3 cans of soda pop for breakfast, instead of boring oatmeal, eggs, toast and water, what should she expect? Acids in soda pop clean rust off nails. Every sip of pop requires 32 sips of water to neutralize the acid. Then, if she (or I) drink 3 cans of pop as a meal - my body REQUIRES 96 each, 12 oz cans of water during that same day to flush that stuff out - PLUS the 6 to 7 cans of water I need to take care of everything else that day. As a client, am I willing to give up whatever (pop) as a meal? If not, why should I waste my professional's time, and my money? And there is nothing - no doctor, pill, surgery or radiation, no herb, no health professional, no miracle - that is going to improve my health under those conditions.

Which is more important ... my habits, which got me where I am? Or my health and my life? If, as a client, I continue insisting on soda, or pancakes (French toast) and syrup with coffee or tea (not!), instead of the "fresh raw fruits and veggies, dark green leafy greens, whole grains seeds and nuts" that I require to heal from the inside out ... both client and professional are indeed voices crying in the wilderness ...

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

Scene One - Take One DVD Review

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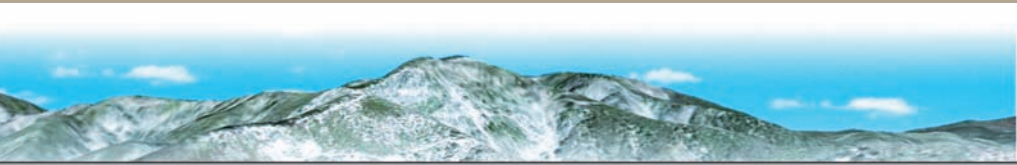
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MountainViews-Observer



TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

Colombo's In Eagle Rock

Eagle Rock is certainly the up and coming place to live. Many hipsters and new money are making Eagle Rock their home. Sound Familiar? For a city to thrive, I think you need good restaurants. No... not chains, I guess some people think it is a big deal if Souplantation opens near them. For me, the neighborhood restaurant is KING!!!

A good stiff drink at a reasonable price, friendly service and portions still big enough to get a doggy bag to take home with you. Colombo's in Eagle Rock is such a place. Everything aforementioned, plus nightly entertainment.

This isn't Arnie Morton's, but the prices aren't either. The menu includes pizza (\$10 range), pasta, a better than average Lasagna (\$14.95), daily fish specials, steaks and wines by the glass.

Is this the greatest meal that I have ever had? Well, I can't say that, honestly. I am still in search of that meal. Maybe it will be my last.

The restaurant has been in business for over 50 years and has the red leather seats, corked ceilings and a long bar. Go on to their website at www.colombosrestaurant.net for updated pictures.

Back to the food and what to order? Two ways to order here - Family style for the pizzas and lasagna or, if it is date night, the Porterhouse Steak (\$22.50) and Grilled Salmon (\$17.50). On my visit I was trying, and I do mean trying, to stay at 170 pounds so I skipped dessert, but am told that they are yummy as well.

Entrees come with either Baked Potato or Spaghetti.

★★★ Three stars



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SIERRA MADRE'S NEWEST "MUST GO TO" PLACE.....UGO'S

Photo and Story By Teresa Baxter



A taste of gourmet Italy has made its presence in the heart of Sierra Madre with the opening of Ugo's Gourmet Italian Deli Bakery Café, located at 74 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Cesare and his wife, Sherry Grossi have longed dreamed of owning a little salumeria (deli) that would evoke their Italian roots. And a ribbon-cutting ceremony held last week made official their dream come true.

Cesare "Chez" Grossi was born and raised in Rome, Italy where Sherry met him while she was attending school there. Sherry has a history in retail as a vice president with May Company and a senior vice president with J. Baker Corporation. The couple moved to the area 6 years ago, and currently lives in Altadena. Sherry went into real estate and Chez bought, rehabbed and sold homes. They have a daughter, Alexandra, who graduated from Vassar College last year. She currently is a writer in the entertainment industry.

"Chez's family had a café in Rome where he worked as a young man while in school," said Sherry. "We love Sierra Madre and the downtown area so when the location opened up we knew it would be a good fit."

The café serves a variety of gourmet Italian sandwiches and prepared foods, using only the freshest possible ingredients and all the prepared foods are made in house, she said. They also bake their ciabatta bread, rolls and baguettes on the premises.

"Most of our pastries are made here and we also sell meats and artisan cheeses by the pound," she said. "We currently carry 30 different cheeses."

Some of the specialties on the menu include the gourmet "palpette" sandwich, which consists of house made meatballs of angus beef and pork topped with a secret recipe tomato sauce and shaved parmigiane, served on a baguette. There's also a gourmet "pollo provolone" panini with lightly breaded herbed chicken breast, provolone cheese, baby greens and pesto aioli.

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Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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SPORTS

Back Page Journal



PAYING A DEBT TO AN OLD GRAY HERO

By Brad Eastland, Sports Editor

When it recently became painfully obvious---even to me---that my beloved Chicago Bears would not make the playoffs, I told myself I wouldn't do any columns on the NFL until next year.

Can you blame me? With my Bears reduced to a pathetic, confused and broken band of men, the season has become a thing of palpable disgust, and as I wandered around town last week thinking about a world where the post season will be contested absent 'the Monsters of the Midway', life itself seemed to lack any real meaning....

But then I saw the list of the 2008 NFL Hall of Fame nominees, and I rallied. One name fairly jumped off the page. Ken Stabler. My boyhood hero. And so I decided to do one column on the NFL, just one, by way of repayment of an old debt and to maybe right a twenty-year-old wrong.

Because Ken Stabler has been on the Hall ballot many times. 'Been a finalist three times, in fact. And has never gotten elected. He won't get elected this time either. And it's a crime.

It occurs to me that some of you younger readers won't even know who the hell I'm talking about. But you older guys from my era surely remember. For this man, or rather this character, was one of the true folk heroes of the game. Kenny Stabler, southpaw quarterback of the Oakland Raiders....the "Snake"...he of the Southern drawl and the long hair and the gray furry beard, with the fat bloated belly sodden and be-soaked of beer. He looked more like a trash collector than a football player. A free spirit? That's a mild way of putting it. This is a guy who would routinely close the bars the morning of a game, who bedded cheerleaders two at a time, who rarely beat the milkman home but never let it affect his play.

And oh, how he could *play*! Three passing titles, NFL MVP in 1974, winning quarterback of Super Bowl XI, last-ever winner of the Hickok Belt in 1976 as professional athlete of the year in any sport, the dashing master of the two-minute drill, left-handed king of the 4th-quarter comeback, truly one of the great quarterbacks of all time.

And it wasn't only what he did but the way he did it: this man Stabler was at once surgeon and swordfighter, a swashbuckler, he was Errol Flynn in shoulder pads and a gridiron artist in silver-and-black, he always called the best plays (that's right, youngsters; quarterbacks actually called their own plays back then), he was as cool as a petty thief, his pulse never quickened, and therefore he was absolutely the number one QB you wanted under center in a tight game. Remember, you 50-something guys? Remember those three glorious come-from-behind playoff wins? There was that falling-down touchdown pass to Clarence Davis to beat the Dolphins in '74, the 11-point comeback against the Patriots in '76, and of course the famous "Ghost-to-the-Post" game, a six-quarter classic thriller in '77 which ended with a Stabler touchdown pass to Dave "the Ghost" Casper....has any quarterback in history authored three more storied, clutch, last-second playoff triumphs? No indeed. So then why the Hall snub?

I think it's a conspiracy. Really. Y'see, the Snake was often surly or standoffish to reporters, and it's reporters and sports writers who vote on the Hall of Fame. Plus he was a Raider (never a good thing except for Raider fans), and he'd been linked to gamblers and loose women and men of questionable character. As if any of this should have anything to do with inclusion in a Pantheon of great football players.

Y'know what really makes me mad, though? Y'know what really frosts my caboose? That guys like Bob Griese and Warren Moon are in the Hall of Fame in lieu of Stabler. It's like a Superman comic and we're living in the *Bizarro* world, where everything is backwards. When I think of Moon I think of a perennial loser who was also the QB who blew the biggest lead in NFL history; that's right, he's the Hall of Famer who managed to squander a 32-point cushion in a playoff loss to Buffalo. And as for Griese, when I think of him I think of the QB who took the most colossal sack in all the annals of football. What a hoot! Every time I close my eyes and picture Bob Lilly chasing him down for a 29-yard loss in Super Bowl VI it gives me a chuckle.

Conversely, when I think of Ken Stabler in Super Bowl XI, I remember the guy who's crafty brain and deadly left arm carved up the Vikings in a masterful, virtuoso performance.

It's not that I think Griese was a poor quarterback, or even an average quarterback. Sure, he was decent. And he did an awful fine job of handing off all those years to Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick. But compared to the greats he was relatively ordinary. Back in the 70s, when guys like me would be yakking with their friends about football, nobody would have ever suggested that Bob Griese was in Ken Stabler's class. *Nobody*. It would never even have come up in conversation. In the 1st tier of quarterbacks there was Stabler and Staubach and Tarkenton and Bradshaw. Griese was strictly 2nd tier.

(I can just hear you sick Dolphin fans muttering under your breath about those two Super Bowl wins and ol' Bob's "leadership" skills. Big deal. The water mammals won because of their defense and their peerless running game, not Bob Griese's leadership. Griese threw all of seven passes in Super Bowl VIII. Seven. He was merely the guy who transferred the ball from Jim Langer's butt to Larry Csonka's gut. Twiggy could have played quarterback for the Dolphins that day, and the result would have been the same....)

So that's why I decided to write this piece for Snake. He was my god, and like any good god he made for me a lot of great Sundays, terrific memories, I owe him, and so I'm thinking maybe this story will be picked up by the East Coast papers and all the major wire services and then maybe the whole thing snowballs and eventually it's read by all the stuffy, pompous, overfed Hall of Fame voters who are deeply moved by my brilliant arguments and so they finally come to their senses and agree to elect the fat old graybeard and then, well, then my debt will have been paid.

Finally, allow me to quote the great Bill Walsh on behalf of Mr. Stabler. Bill Walsh, nickname "genius", who died earlier this year, one of the greatest football coaches ever. In Stabler's autobiography "*Snake*", Walsh is quoted after a game where Stabler---old, fat, gimpy kneed and nearing retirement---almost brought his New Orleans Saints back from 17 points down to beat Walsh's 49ers, saying of the aging legend, "*He's a Hall of Fame quarterback if there ever was one.*" Page 235, look it up. Bill Walsh, boys and girls. Bill Freakin' Walsh!

Geez, people. If Bill Freakin' Walsh---who knows more about football and offense and quarterbacks than any sports writer who ever lived---thinks Snake deserves the Hall, why can't the sports writers themselves figure it out?

Ken Stabler not in the Hall of Fame? An outrage.
Bob Griese enshrined in Ken Stabler's place? Don't make me laugh.
* you can disagree with Brad by writing to b.eastland@mvoobserver.com

WILLMAN STEERS SANTA ANITA TOWARDS BOUNCE-BACK SEASON

Photo and story by Brad Eastland

When he was a wide-eyed kid back in the 60s, Mike Willman used to come out to Santa Anita Park with his dad. Not to make bets (well, maybe a small one now and then), but rather for the up-close experience itself; the sounds, the smells, the adrenaline rush of horses cruising by the stands, even the simple thrill of just standing at the rail and watching the post parade....

Nowadays, as Director of Publicity since 2005, his job is to get this generation of wide-eyed young people to do the same.

"I'm just 'old school'---you have to have people at the actual venue in order to develop solid, loyal fans," says Willman, 51, lounging in his press box office. With Santa Anita's Opening Day (December 26th) only a couple of weeks away, Willman's pleasant, weather-worn countenance appears far more relaxed than it has any right to appear: "That's why we're going to a Thursday-through-Monday schedule for the first time. We're concentrating on Monday. We can't afford to have our weekday attendance numbers continue to languish."

Willman knows what he's talking about. The former TV personality (he hosted Hollywood Park's race replay program for several years on KDOC Channel 56) has been around long enough to remember when weekday crowds were typically three times the 5,000 or so lonely folks who have been straggling into the compound during the week in recent seasons. "The racing fan has so many more options now," says Willman. "There's been off-track betting for going on two decades, and now, for the last few years, they also have at-home wagering available to keep them away. We still out-perform any track in the country on weekends, but during the week our numbers have suffered."

When asked why he believes offering regular Monday racing for the first time will make a difference, Willman is ready with his reply: "First of all, general admission will be free. That's free on all non-holiday Mondays. Secondly, all our Thoroughbreds Club members will get free box seats, on a first-come-first-serve basis. And finally, why shouldn't Monday racing be big? You gotta admit, there's not much else going on in the world most Mondays!"

Willman also cites increased local traffic and the fact that due to the massive amount of money a good stallion or mare can earn for his owners in the breeding shed, good horses don't stay in training long enough for fans to connect with them as reasons for the fall off in attendance in recent years. "It's hard to market a superstar or for fans to warm up to a big-time horse when they retire him right after his 3-year-old year," he says.

This "early equine retirement" problem is something Willman has done something about. He is the owner and breeder of McCann's Mojave, who last January won the \$1,000,000 Sunshine Millions Classic at Gulfstream Park in Florida. Willman is believed to be the only publicity director at



any track in the country who has ever owned or bred the winner of a \$1-million dollar race. But the handsome bay son of Memo won't be visiting eager mares any time soon: "He won the Sunshine Millions as a seven-year-old, and I'm going to race him as an eight-year-old too," Willman declares proudly.

In addition to serving up a full plate of Monday racing, Willman and Santa Anita President Ron Charles have other irons in the fire to stimulate weekday attendance and help bring in a younger demographic. "We will continue to hold several Micro-brew festivals in the infield," Willman says, adding, "These have been very popular with the younger set, and KROQ radio has done a great job of helping us promote them. "Also, we intend to make 2008 the 'Year of the Jockey'. Horses come and go, but the local jocks are the constant, the backbone of the track's appeal. Or at least they should be."

Willman has every right to be proud of Santa Anita's riding colony, traditionally the best in the world, year in, year out. "Currently we've got Tyler Baze, Michael Baze, the great Garrett Gomez, the Frenchman Julian Leparoux is coming out here to ride, and we have the brilliant Joe Talamo, who is only seventeen years old and a virtual sensation. Talamo is capable of true stardom, horses run their eyeballs out for him, and he might become one of the greats. And of course we still have the big-time veteran riders, like Alex Solis, Victor Espinoza, and Patrick Valenzuela. We're going to make sure racing fans, especially the casual fan, knows who these guys are. And the jocks themselves are going to help us market their own product. It's going to be terrific."

That said, Willman's focus remains on the younger fan, getting them to come out to the park rather than employ the "off-track" or "at-home" options.

"We've got to provide the inducements to get the casual young fans to come out here and become our core fans," Willman declares. "To see the wonder in a little kid's eyes as he stares at a full field of horses rushing by the stands, there's nothing like it. And when a young man or woman can actually see the horse that allowed him or her to cash that first winning ticket, that's a convert right there. We've gotten away from all that. We've gotten away from that hands-on feeling, that special excitement that comes from actually being at the track. But we're going to get it back."

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