

# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

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

Week Ending December 28, 2007 Volume 1, No. 19

## Notice of Election Posted

### Votes Will Be Cast For 5 City Offices and 3 Ballot Measures Will Be In April

By Susan Henderson

On December 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, respectively, Sierra Madre City Clerk, Nancy Shollenberger posted at City Hall, the “Notice of Election” and the “Notice To Voters Of Date After Which No Arguments For Or Against A City Measure May Be Submitted To The City Clerk”. The Notice of Election concerns the election of two members of the City Council; the election of the City Treasurer and the election of the City Clerk. All seats are for full four year terms. The Notice To Voters informs the public of the three measures that will appear on the General Municipal Election ballot in April. They are the Minimum Police Wages and Benefits and Prohibition on Staff Reductions or Contracting For General Police Services Without Voter Approval; the Utility User’s Tax Increase and Modernization Ordinance and the Utility User’s Tax Advisory Measure.

The nomination period for the city offices began December 17<sup>th</sup> and closes on January 11, 2008. Nomination papers have already been requested by Mayor Enid Joffe and Former Mayor John Buchanan, who are running for re-election to the City Council. City Clerk Nancy Shollenberger is also seeking re-election. Joffe and Buchanan are seeking their second term. Shollenberger, has been City Clerk for 28 years.

Former councilman Bill Tice has also taken out nomination papers for a council seats as well as two new faces on the scene. One potential candidate, an active member of Sierra Madre Residents For Responsible Development during the Measure V campaign, is still contemplating his entry into the race. The other, Thomas Roberts, a 36 year old husband and father, said, “I decided to run for two reasons – I received a notice in the mail that my utility tax was going to increase 6% and because I also received information stating that only 76% of my social security would be available when I am ready to retire.”

The full text of these measures can be viewed on the city’s website at [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com).

The notices can be found in their entirety on page 3 of this publication.

## Final Preparations For The Big Parade

### Volunteers Spend Hours Creating A Masterpiece



Members and friends of The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association will work right up to time for the parade putting the finishing touches on this years entry, “Valentine’s Day”. The float will be entry No. 76, just behind the Hermanos Banuel Charro Team on New Year’s Day. A map of the parade route can be found on page 3. The float may be viewed briefly on New Years Eve in Kersting Court on its’ way to the parade staging area. It will leave the barn around 6:00 p.m. After the parade, it will join the other floats in the viewing area on Sierra Madre Blvd. for two days. On January 3rd, before being dismantled, the float will again stop at Kersting Court for a final viewing.

## Two Local Businesses Cited For Selling Cigarettes To Minors

### Chief Diaz Pleased With The Success Of The Operation

The Sierra Madre Police Department, with assistance from Day One Pasadena, recently did a random check of the five businesses in the city that are licensed to sell cigarettes. The purpose of the check was to make certain the businesses were complying with all federal, state and local laws regarding cigarette sales, especially laws that prevent the sale of cigarettes to those under the age of 18.

With the assistance of five teen ‘decoys’, two outlets, Mary’s Market and Valero Gas were cited for failure to follow the law. The decoys, who are students under the age of 18, were able to purchase cigarettes, even after displaying a valid school id card in one instance.

According to Chief Marilyn Diaz, at Valero’s on Baldwin, the student showed their identification and was still able to

purchase a package of cigarettes from the clerk. The business was cited for violation of the municipal code (first offense) and fined.

Mary’s Market engaged in three violations. The business, which changed ownership earlier this year, did not have a current license to sell cigarettes; they did not check the identification of the minor and they sold individual cigarettes, which is also a violation of Federal law.

On the other hand, three local businesses, Happy’s Liquor’s, The Bottle Shop and Highlander Liquors did not sell to the decoys. Each of those businesses were awarded a Certificate from the City for their compliance efforts.

In 2005, Day One, with a grant from the County of Los Angeles, made a similar random check in Sierra Madre. At that time, the local

police were unaware of the ‘sting’. “Three of the five businesses that were checked in 2005 were in violation of the law. Now we are down to just two. That is some improvement. Also, none of the businesses that were cited before were in violation of the law this time,” said Diaz. “That’s progress”.

Valero, in an effort to mitigate the fine and show compliance with the city’s laws, immediately submitted a plan for training their employees. By implementing it, they may be able to mitigate the fine for their offense.

Day One Pasadena is a community-based nonprofit organization involved in health policy advocacy and community mobilization efforts for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention among teens.

S. Henderson/MVO

## New Year Brings New Laws

Every January 1st new state and federal laws take effect. This year, the most significant ones deal with the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Below is just a sampling of the changes in the law. For more detailed information, go to [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).

- There are now limits on the number of times a person can renew a temporary disability parking placard.
- There are increases fines for second and third violations related to illegal parking in disabled spaces.
- Repeated DUI (driving under the influence offenders) will face stiffer fines and more restrictions.
- Smoking with Minors in the car is now illegal. The new law makes it, “an infraction punishable by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100) for a person to smoke a pipe, cigar, or cigarette in a motor vehicle any time a minor is present in the vehicle.”

And the law that was passed in 2005 on hands free cell phones in motor vehicles goes into full effect on Tuesday.

But perhaps the best of all changes, especially for parents is the new law that:

- **Prohibits a person under the age of 18 from driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone, even if equipped with a hands-free device, or while using a mobile service device, as defined.**

Staff/MVO

## Beautiful Bright Lights



Columnist Chris Bertrand, wearing her other hat as photographer, captures the grandness of this home on West Grandview. More pictures and a story on Pg. 6

## Sierra Madre Author Introduces New Book

Local Resident Susan Babson. will sign copies of her new book, *Visual Illuminations: An Artist’s Journey Shared* on Saturday, January 5, 2008 from 2-4 p.m. at Sierra Madre Books, 18 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. The event is sponsored by The MountainViews-Observer. *Story Page 3*




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# Weather Wise

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

Saturday	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Sunday:	Sunny	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*

### NEW! Sierra Madre Coordinating Council

The goal of the BRAND-NEW Sierra Madre Coordinating Council is to foster and facilitate, coordinate and promote programs and events in Sierra Madre. This is a chance for representatives from clubs, non-profit organizations, schools, city departments, and businesses to meet once a month and share upcoming programs, projects and events. The first meeting of the Sierra Madre Coordinating Council will be **Tuesday, January 8, 2008, from 12 noon - 1:00 pm** at the Youth Activity Center, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Subsequent meetings will be the first Tuesday of the month. \$10/ person, includes lunch. Bring your calendar and flyers about your upcoming programs and events! For more information, please contact the Community & Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278 or [city@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us](mailto:city@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us).

### Travelers & Collectors Series

On Friday, January 11, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. the Sierra Madre Public Library's "Travelers & Collectors" continues its 2007-2008 series in the City Council Chambers at Sierra Madre City Hall when John and Marie Meursing present their program "Arizona: Cactus, Caves, Cowboys, and Copper Mines".

The media/narrative event is free and open to the public through a donation by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library. Seating is limited: first come, first served.

Sierra Madre City Hall is located at 232 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre. For further information on Library services and programs please use the Library's web site at [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us) or call the Library at (626) 355-7186.

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  
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322 Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

**Beantown**

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

**Lucky Baldwin's**

21 Kersting Court  
(626) 355-1140

**Mary's Market**

561 Woodland Drive  
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**NEW DAY! The Harvey Hyde Show**

Every **Thursday** 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
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535 South Lake Avenue Pasadena

### CHRISTMAS TREE REMOVAL

Athens will pick up your Christmas Tree for recycling from December 26, 2007 until January 11, 2008. Please put your tree at your curb side or next to your bin on your pickup day. Please be sure all ornaments, stands, tinsel, popcorn etc. are removed leaving only the tree. (Plastic trees may be placed within recyclable containers.)  
For more information or questions, please call Athens Services at 888-336-6100 or the City of Sierra Madre Public Works at 626-355-7135.

### STARTING A NEW BUSINESS ?

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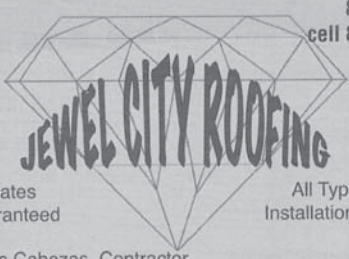
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Sierra Madre  
31 N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-6060



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Gigi, is a beautiful 9 year old tabby with one crimped ear that makes her look part Scottish Fold. Although she is not a Scottish Fold, she has special qualities that will surely make her a wonderful companion. Gigi is outgoing, affectionate and loves to snuggle. She would be free to adopters 60 years or older. At 16 pounds, Gigi is quite overweight and needs a diet to correct this. She is available for adoption now!

### The 38th Wine and Cuisine Tasting



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From the Staff  
Of The  
MountainViews-  
Observer  
Susan Henderson,  
Editor & Publisher



# Happy New Year

By Rich Johnson

Well, Happy New Year Sierra Madreans, Upper Hastingsites, Lower Hastingsites, Arcadians, Monrovians, and all the ships at sea. What year is it now? Oh, it's 2008. I have an idea. Let's get all our 2008 New Year's resolutions lined up end to end and see how far they stretch. Now, next to that line, let's line up all the successfully completed resolutions of 2007 end to end and compare the two lines. Which one is shorter? Hmmm. Maybe that's not such a good idea.

Instead, let's take a look at the month of January. And so, with the 2008 federal elections looming, let's look for some January-federal government trivia. (Looking, still looking, checking...) Aha! I found something. January, it seems, looks like a popular month for the feds to perform social engineering on a national level. Two intrusions come to mind. First, in January 1974, the increasingly popular President Nixon signed a bill requiring states to comply with a national speed limit of 55 mph. (And some think it was Watergate that did him in. Ha!) This caused most people to slow to 65 mph. The federal speed limit was finally repealed in 1995, which meant the speed limit was raised to 65 mph, which meant people started driving at 75 mph. (By the way, does anyone ever see a Highway Patrol car on the freeways anymore? I don't.)

And in one of the greatest displays of capitalism, our government helped create a cottage industry by passing the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. It became the law of the land in January 1920, after having been approved by 36 states. By the way, Rhode Island was the only state that never ratified the Amendment. What was the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment, you ask? It made the manufacture, sale and transportation of liquor a crime. And, although it wasn't the intent of the backers, the amendment turned the Mafia into a multimillion dollar enterprise. That's right, organized crime simply picked up the slack and started delivering hooch. The worst part is, our government had no plan in place to be able to tax the mob. So, it took 13 years for Americans to say enough is enough. The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment was repealed by the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment in 1933. And in case you were wondering, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment gave women the right to vote. And the 20<sup>th</sup> Amendment, also known as the "Lame Duck" Amendment, shortened the time between the election and the taking of office from four months to two. The gap was longer because, in the 1700s, it took a while to get from home to Washington D.C. That gap became a problem, most notably in early 1861, when the entire south seceded from the union before President Lincoln could take office. Those sneaky petes. Happy New Year all.



# Visual Illuminations: An Artist's Journey Shared

By Lina Johnson on Special Assignment

If you are looking for inspiration in the new year, look no further than Sierra Madre Book Store. Here you will find a very special book that has been published by the artist herself, Susan Babson. Susan has been a Sierra Madre resident for 29 years. She has been fascinated with art and imagination since she was a child.

The art work that Susan has compiled in her book entitled "Visual Illuminations" is the result of ten years of diligent creative expression. Her artistic concepts derive from her ability to fuse her passion for nature with introspection. This fusion enables Susan to create energized pieces of art that reflect an inner landscape.

What is really unique about her book is that she shares the process of developing her pieces, while encouraging the reader's inner artist to move from a passive existence to active participation in the creative world. She describes the medium that she works in and the symbolism that exists in her work and why it is there. It is both informative and inspirational for artists or people who would like to begin working creatively.

Originally, from Northern California, Susan acquired her BA degree from Humboldt State University in fine art. In 1968, she moved to Southern California where she completed her Master's degree at USC in three dimensional design. Upon completing her education she began her teaching career, initially, at Walden school and then at Flintridge Preparatory. There she has been teaching for 27 years and has been head of the visual art department for the last fifteen.

Motivating her students in various artistic mediums such as ceramics, drawing and painting to digital media, Susan has spent her life sharing her passion for art and creativity and inspiring others to create. With this book, she opens the doors of creativity for those that want to participate not only by sharing her vibrant creations and encouraging words but by taking initiative to self-publish.

Meet the author on Saturday, January 5, 2008 at Sierra Madre Books 18 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. from 2 - 4 p.m.

# Getting Ready For The Big Day Tournament Of Roses Parade Information Sierra Madre Rose Float - Valentine's Day is No. 76

In anticipation of streets and freeways leading to Pasadena being clogged with New Year's Eve traffic, Metro is again offering visitors an alternative way to travel to see the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game.

Metro will offer free Metro Gold Line service to Pasadena on Monday night and early Tuesday, free shuttle service to the Rose Bowl, and shuttle service to view the floats after the parade.

The New Year's Eve free fare program will be in effect

from 9 p.m. Monday to 2 a.m. Tuesday. It applies to all Metro buses, including the Metro Orange and Metro Red lines. It also applies to the Purple, Blue, Green and Gold rail lines.

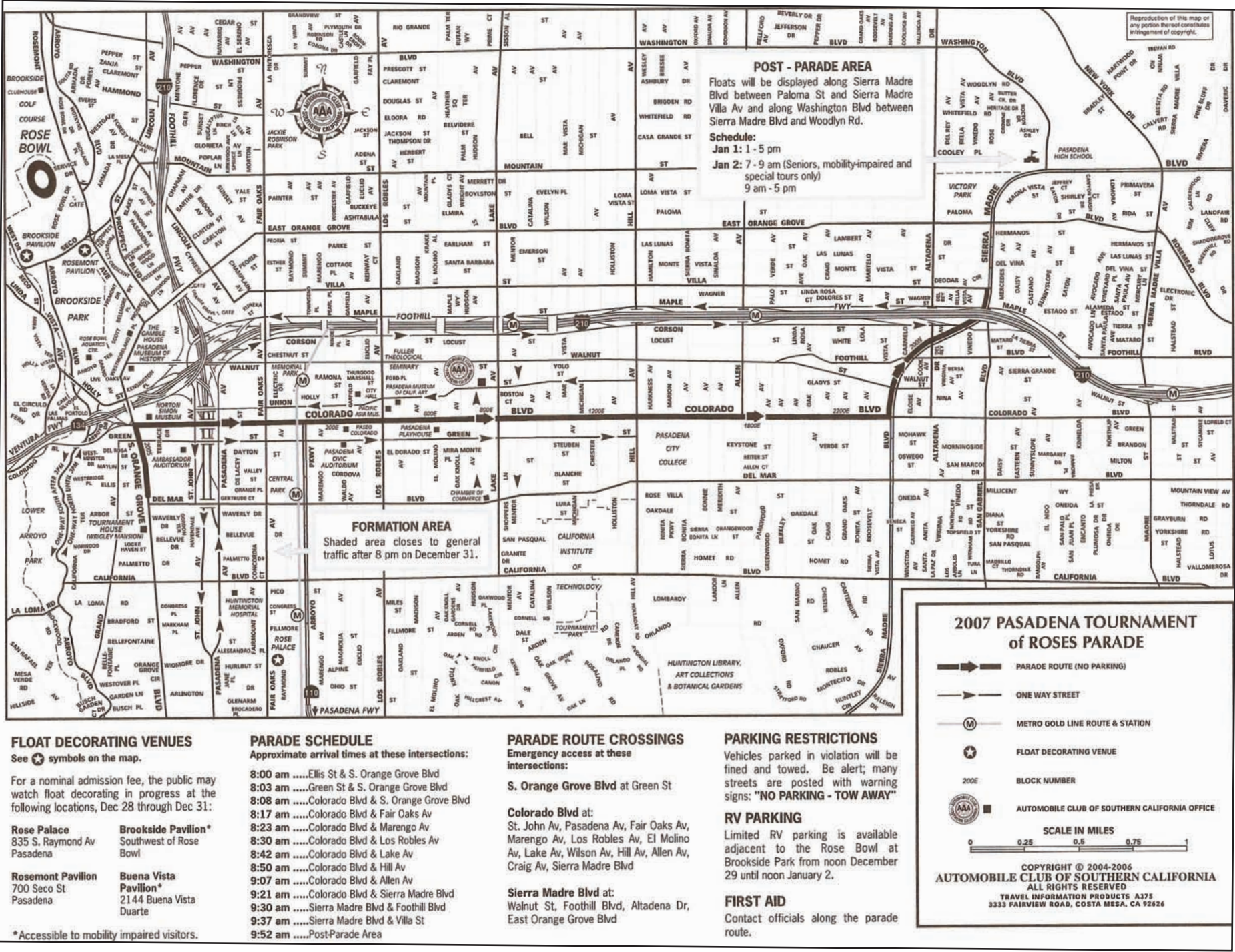
Metro is offering the free rides to promote safety during the holiday season.

"The Metro Gold Line is now in its fifth official year of parade service and we're quite proud to now be an important part of the tournament tradition," said Roger Snoble, Metro CEO.

"We're hoping a brand new, international audience discovers the ease and convenience of Los Angeles' growing public-transit network while they're in town for these parade events."

Parade goers will have access to four Pasadena train stations: Memorial Park, Del Mar, Lake Avenue and Allen Avenue. All the stations are within walking distance of the parade route on Colorado Boulevard.

Free parking also is available at several Gold Line stations. Sierra Madre Villa has 950 spaces, Fillmore has 131, Mission 122, Heritage Square/Arroyo - TOR



# Sierra Madre Notices As posted by the City Clerk

City of Sierra Madre  
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

To: Citywide

From: The City of Sierra Madre

Subject: ORDINANCE No. 1273, Adoption of Building Code Standards

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Government Code Section 50022.2, that on December 11, 2007, the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre did adopt the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE No. 1273  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 50022.2, THE 2007 CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24 – THE 2007 CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONS AND AMENDING THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE.

The following members of the City Council voted in favor of the adoption of the Ordinance: Mayor Joffe, Mayor Pro Tem Mosca, Council Members Buchanan, Watts, and Zimmerman.

A certified copy of the Ordinance, as adopted, is available for public inspection at Sierra Madre City Hall, City Manager's Office, 232 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, California, 91024.

By Order of the City Council,

ELAINE AGUILAR  
City Manager

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This Ordinance authorizes the new codes and amendments effective on January 1, 2008, and therefore, is being adopted as an urgency Ordinance.

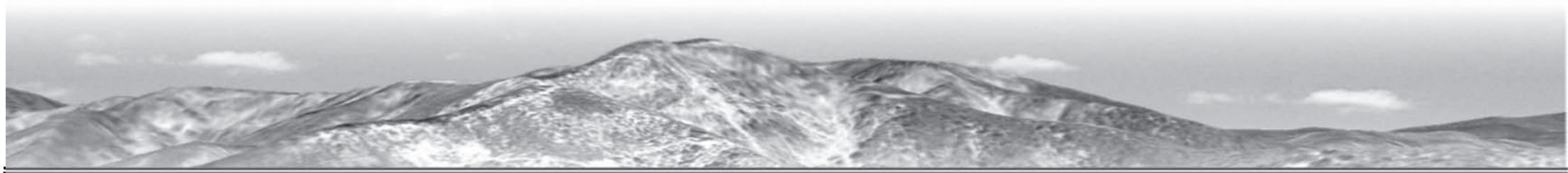
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ELAINE AGUILAR  
City Manager





# MountainViews-Observer PASADENA

## A New Year's Resolution For Human Rights

By Teresa Baxter

In response to recent controversy surrounding the 2008 Tournament of Roses Parade, All Saints Church has chosen to focus its annual New Year's Eve Service on a re-commitment to the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Members of a human rights coalition who oppose the float on the grounds that it celebrates the Chinese government, a government which has historically committed serious human rights violations, will join city officials and organizations that apparently disagree with activists and support the float as a celebration of the Olympic Games. In an effort to create some sort of harmony regarding the issue, the City of Pasadena and Mayor Bill Bogaard did adopt the UN Declaration on Dec.10, 2007, designating it as Human Rights Day on the 49th anniversary that the General Assembly of the UN created and proclaimed the human rights document which part of states,

"Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people, Members of the controversy will be asked to join together in unity on New Year's Eve at All Saints Church, on Monday at 7:30 pm, to reaffirm their personal



commitments to human rights and dignity of all people, a set of principles upon which the entire community can agree, stated Peace and Justice Director of the church, Lori Kizzia.

Members of the Pasadena City Council, Mayor Bill Bogaard, United Nations Pasadena, Amnesty International, Cal Tech Falun Gong Club, Visual Artists Guild and community members will be participating in the All Saints New Year's commemoration of Human Rights.

According to All Saints; prayers, music and candle lighting will be offered in solidarity with those who suffer injustice, violence and famine throughout the world, and will hold up those who commit themselves to working on behalf of humanity in the struggle for universal human rights.

All members of the community are welcome to attend. All Saints Church is located at 132 N. Euclid Ave., in Pasadena. Please contact Lori Kizzia, Peace and Justice Director of the church for more information at 626-583-2766.

## Pasadena's 2007 Five Biggest Untold Stories

By Dean Lee

This year ends in just days and, as everybody reflects back at 2007, it's easy to name the big stories of the year. Some are still unfolding as this is written.

As the attention focused on The Heritage Square project, City Hall reopening, Youth violence and many other stories like a beam from a high-powered searchlight, here are the biggest stories of the year left in the dark.

### 1. Speed Limits Unenforceable on Many Pasadena Streets

Pasadena has not surveyed many city streets in at least five years as mandated by law, stated City Manager Cynthia Kurtz in September, taking most of the blame herself for not bringing the issue to council. She said the violation was brought to the city's attention after being challenged in court.

"The courts made it clear that Pasadena needs to get itself back into compliance with state law," she said, adding later, "Once we are put on notice by the courts that the city is out of compliance, we may not send our officers to those streets for enforcement. So it's not that we can give out tickets knowing that some might not be challenged, or some may not go, we are prevented from sending our officers there."

Recommendations were sent back to the Transpiration Advisory Commission and never heard of again. This affects 27 streets throughout the city including Hill Ave. next to Pasadena City College, where Police Chief Bernard Melekian said there was a real fear kids would start drag racing.

### 2. Pasadena Fire Department Set to Start Toying Around

A shiny new fleet of Pasadena fire engines will soon race across kitchen floors putting out make-believe 3-alarm fires as Mattel Inc. plans a toy fire vehicle with the concept of using the Pasadena Fire Department mark, which includes the Pasadena city seal, never before trademarked for this or any other use.

The city council gave the go-ahead in August, directing city attorney, Michele Bagneris, to establish a policy for the seal's use for commercial purposes. The city is in the process of registering the city seal for formal trademark protection, after which staff will propose an ordinance to establish official parameters for all future uses, according to Ann Erdman, the city's Public Information Officer.

The same week of the council's unanimous approval, Mattel recalled nearly one million toys in the United States because the products' surfaces were covered in lead paint including "red" hot wheels cars. Bad timing. Nothing was ever said about the deal again, except by Pasadena Fire Chief, Dennis Downs who said the trucks would not be manufactured for at least nine months. That would be April of 2008.

### 3. PCC Trustees Pick New President to the Dismay of Some

The sounds of alarm, not joy, rang out in August as Pasadena City College's Board of Trustees announced that the former

superintendent of the Solano Community College District, Dr. Paulette Perfumo—someone not on any committee's final list—was to become PCC's next president.

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

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

Perfumo has also, since being hired, been the center of controversy regarding a Cadillac Deville bought by the school for her at a cost of \$54,244.46. The car only gets 14-mpg during city driving and she has now vowed to give it back. She has also been under a watchful eye as a new campus center in being built that many have criticized as, "failing to be green."

### 4. Rail Line Extension Pasadena to Bob Hope Airport Possible

Councilmember Sid Tyler said last month a current study by Nelson Nygaard Consulting looked at an extended light rail system through the three cities, Burbank Glendale and Pasadena, to Bob Hope Air Port.

"Bob Hope Air Port, as close as it is to downtown Burbank, lacks a strong and dedicated transit connection," he said. "The idea here is to find ways in which to make it possible for people to use transit between the three cities and the airport."

Tyler said a team from the Construction Authority looked at the feasibility of running a rail line down the north side of the 134 freeway into the rail line at San Fernando Road.

The idea he said was to connect the Pasadena Del Mar Station with the airport.

### 5. Air Space over 210 Freeway looked at as Parkland

Councilmember Margaret McAustin asked city staff just weeks ago what the feasibility would be to build a park caped over the 210 freeway.

"What you would be doing is essentially building a tunnel, so there are a lot of problems to solve," City Manager Cynthia Kurtz said. "It wouldn't be impossible and we could certainly look into that."

Kurtz also said the Environmental Impact Report alone for a project like this would cost at least \$1 million, "that shows you the scope of the project," she said.

McAustin then asked that a report be brought back to the council sometime early next year.

Some have suggested that her motive may be linked to an earlier involvement with Ambassador West developer, Dorn Platz, while sitting on the city planning commission. Although McAustin said the idea would provide more open space to the city, it would also bring millions to any developer who took on such a large project.

## Church of Stop Shopping Evangelist Is Doo Dah's Grandest of Marshals



By Teresa Baxter

The stage is set for the coming of a perfect Doo Dah parade "Shopocalypse" as the ostentatious Rev. Billy of the Church of Stop Shopping will evangelize Pasadena as he leads the odd out parade down Colorado Boulevard.

Performance artist Bill Talen comes with his anti-shopping message Jan. 20, just in time to test Monday's California Supreme Court, 1st Amendment, ruling that now says shopping malls can't bar protesters from staging boycotts of its stores on private property, Talen and the Stop Shopping Choir's exact modus operandi, although Talen failed to say what he had planned while in California.

He said of the 4-3 decision, "The 'Cali' Supreme Court decision is an important one for 1st Amendment protection."

Adding, "We watch super malls destroy our local economies. They darken our Main Streets... They come running if we hand out info about sweatshop products in a Target or a Wal Mart. If Home Depot supports the war, they don't want that discussed. If Starbucks is not a Fair Trade company - they don't want the customers to know that."

He also said that "they" peel away the 1st Amendment rights, the

most basic American freedom, by plastering happy faces everywhere.

Talen, will be accompanied by his wife, Savitri Durkee, aka "Sister Savitri D." as Co-Marshall. Durkee is director of the Church and is no stranger to the Pasadena area being raised on the Zorthian Ranch, homestead of well-known deceased bohemian artist Jirayr Zorthian, and his since departed wife, Dabney.

"Savitri and I have accepted [this position] in order to honor the memory of a woman who loved it so much, Dabney Zorthian," said Reverend Billy. "We have stayed at the ranch when in Los Angeles for years; she put up our Stop Shopping Gospel Choir and fed and counseled us."

Reverend Billy, Sister Savitri D and the Stop Shopping Choir are currently featured in the documentary "What Would Jesus Buy?" produced by Morgan Spurlock. Filmmaker Spurlock became well known to most Americans as a result of his 2003 film "Super Size Me", in which he documented his health as he spent 30 days eating only food from the fast-food chain McDonald's.

Talen pointed out a review by the Toronto Star newspaper on his website calling "What Would Jesus Buy" a "just-in-time-for-the-holidays documentary that, at times mockingly, at times

movingly, excoriates the 'religion of consumerism,' decries Mickey Mouse as the 'Antichrist,' and warns of the imminent 'Shopocalypse,' whereby all persons, things and values will be rendered mere commodities." Reverend Billy founded the Church of Stop Shopping in the belief that consumerism is overwhelming our current society.

"The corporations want us to have experiences only through their products," said Talen as the Rev. Billy. "Our neighborhoods, common places like shops, parks, streets and libraries are disappearing into [conglomerates] of big boxes and chain stores."

Beginning in 1999, Rev. Billy began invading Starbucks and other retail chains as a zealous, anti-consumerist preacher. Since then the Church's teachings have gained fire among repentant shoppers across the country. This is especially apparent now as the Christmas frenzy wanes to the upcoming Valentine's Day promotions that are currently displayed at chain stores.

"We are riding a wave of radical awakening in resistance to consumerism," said . "We will preach and sing as long as we are called on to do so."

Over 1,200 colorful marchers, many whom are first-time participants at this year's "Occasional Doo Dah Parade", will march through historic Old Town Pasadena.

"So yes, I will pump up my hair to alarming proportions, but I won't do a special cartwheel," said the bold activist. "We respect what the parade means; their tradition is a proud one in our world."

For more information about the parade, please go to [www.pasadenadoodahparade.info](http://www.pasadenadoodahparade.info), or for more information about Reverend Billy, visit [www.revilly.com](http://www.revilly.com)

City Editor, Dean Lee, contributed to this story.



John Li,

with press releases each giving their side—while pointing fingers at the other—as to why a pre-parade Human Rights Torch Relay event will not happen New Year's morning.

The city cited safety concerns while activist say the final offer was "a stripped down, lone runner, event in the dark at 6 a.m."

John Li, Caltech's Falun Gong club President then held a media briefing the next day and activists lashed out at city officials once again although singling out Kenneth Hardy of the Pasadena Human Relations Commission and Councilmember Chris Holden as heroes.

They gave each of them a conscience award saying they when up and beyond what was expected. President of L. A. Friends of Tibet, Tseten Phanucharas, thanked the media saying there had not been this much talk about China since Tiananmen Square. She also asked that everyone "turn their backs as the China float goes by."

A counter statement released by Mayor Bill Bogaard Thursday but dated Monday said "John Li of the Caltech chapter of Falun Gong conveyed a message Dec. 22 from a human rights coalition effectively terminating discussions." Adding, "The city of Pasadena and Tournament of Roses Association remain open to options approved at the Friday meeting."

Activist said they had no plans to respond.



Kenneth Hardy Pasadena Human Relations Commission, Councilmember Chris Holden, Human rights activist, Wei Jingsheng presents them with Awards.



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## Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council

### TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown


The best of 2007--when one considers the horrendous fire season of October-Novemeber--was the fact that Sierra Madre remained out of the path of this seasonal destruction. Of course the worst was watching our friends and neighbors in other areas of Southern California flee the flames and the blowing embers and sadly returning to the site of homes and entire neighborhoods burned or damaged.

We cannot escape this natural disaster scenario but we can prepare. We thank all of you who have participated in the Fire Safe Council and the Red Flag Patrol this past year, our second year of operation. We need you in 2008 to help us keep our community safe.

Our next Fire Safe Council meeting will be January 7, 2008 in the City Council chambers. We will meet each first Monday of the month and not on alternate months as had recently been announced. We need to hear from you as to what information you would like as we expand our topics to include multi-hazard preparation.

For more information contact us at 355-0741 or 355-9350. Please e-mail us at [smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com) as we want to have contact with as many Sierra Madre residents as possible.

We have a pallet of Thermo-gel fire protection kits available on consignment via a distributor in Arizona. It arrived during the height of the fire storms in October/November. Call 355-0741.



### Environmentally Speaking,

## Did You Know?

### Green, Greener, Greenest In 2008

New Year's resolutions are usually personal in nature and are more often than not broken promptly. Perhaps resolutions to help our environment would be easier to make and more importantly, easier to keep. The following are categorized by topic and rated for difficulty.

**1. Save Your Energy** \* *Green*: Replace worn out incandescent light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Lights. CFLs use 75% less energy than conventional light bulbs and are widely available.\* *Greener*: Install motion detecting lights and buy a water heater blanket. These simple steps will reduce your energy consumption and save you money on your energy bills.\* *Greenest*: Conduct an energy audit of your home. Then repair leaks and faulty insulation. To learn more visit [www.eere.energy.gov/consumer](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer)

**2. Detox Your Home**\* *Green*: Keep live plants in your home to naturally filter the air.\* *Greener*: Replace your cleaning supplies with biodegradable, non-toxic alternatives. Eco-friendly cleaning products are available at health food stores and many grocers.\* *Greenest*: Switch to low VOC paints for all home renovation products. Conventional paints emit low levels of toxic chemicals for years after application.

**3. Eat Better**\* *Green*: Buy organic and fair trade products.\* *Greener*: Buy local at your neighborhood farmer's market.\* *Greenest*: Volunteer at a neighborhood garden project.


**4. Travel Smart**\* *Green*: Bike or walk when distance and weather permits\* *Greener*: Offset your carbon emissions by purchasing carbon credits from companies like TerraPass\* *Greenest*: Rather than owning a car, join a car-sharing network.

**5. Save and Re-Save**\* *Green*: Replace bottled water with a reusable water bottle. \* *Greener*: Recycle old electronics, paints, household chemicals and batteries. \* *Greenest*: Initiate recycling programs in your community and office. [www.afreshsqueeze.com](http://www.afreshsqueeze.com)

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## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, to Saturday December 22<sup>nd</sup> the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 262 calls for service.

### Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>:

2:18 PM – Vandalism, 600 block Alta Vista Drive. A resident reported three orange flags, three small cones and one large orange cone missing or damaged. The cones were taken from her private roadside parking area. The cones were last seen glued and cemented to the asphalt on Saturday, 12/15 at 5:00 pm and discovered damaged and missing on Sunday, at 12/16 at 2:00 pm. The loss is valued at \$98.00.

11:39 PM – Arrest, Foothill Blvd and Baldwin Ave. A driver was stopped for a Vehicle Code violation. A records check revealed the driver, a Glendale resident, had an outstanding arrest warrant. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

### Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>:

3:04 AM – DUI arrest. A DUI driver was stopped for an equipment violation, Michillinda Ave and Carol Pine Ln. Officers conducted a DUI investigation and determined the driver, a Temple City resident, to be under the influence. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand

7:21 AM – Auto burglary, a resident called to report her cars window smashed and her IPOD missing. The car was locked and secured Sunday, 12/16 and the loss was discovered Monday, 12/17 morning.

### Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>:

7:27 PM – Arrest, 00 block West Laurel Ave. A resident called to report a solicitor came to her door selling magazines. Officer found the solicitor who was arrested for not having a city business license. The solicitor was issued a citation and released.

7:50 PM – 300 block Toyon Road. A resident reported two solicitors selling magazines without a city business license. Both solicitors were arrested and cited out for the violation.

### Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>:

8:06 AM – Arrest, Kersting Court. A driver was stopped for a Vehicle Code violation. The driver, a Sierra Madre resident, had an outstanding arrest warrant. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

4:00 PM – Mail theft, 00 block North Lima Ave. A resident reported a US Postal letter was opened and a gift card was removed. The letter was believed to have been opened after today mail delivery. The loss amount is unknown.

### Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>:

1:34 PM – Vandalism, 192 North Baldwin Ave, Gooden School. A school official called to report two exterior ornamental lighting fixtures had been damaged. The two fixtures were mounted at the main entrance pilasters of the school. The light fixtures were last seen undamaged at 5:00 pm 12/21 and discovered broken this morning. The loss was estimated at \$600.00.

1:53 PM – Arrest. A DUI driver was stopped for a traffic violation, Manzanita and Lima Ave. Officers conducted a DUI investigation and determined the driver to be under the influence of a alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

3:50 PM – Arrest – A 20 year old El Monte man was stopped at Baldwin and Carter for a stop lamp violation. He was driving on a suspended license and he had an outstanding arrest warrant. The three 15 year old passengers in the car were released to their parents at the station. The car was released to the owner, who responded to the police station.

## Puzzle For You

### Happy New Year Sierra Madre

The Best Is Yet To Come

#### ACROSS

- Tree gum
- Lick
- Compass point
- Unused**
- Maturity
- American Cancer Society (abbr.)
- Possessive pronoun
- Wing
- Deform
- Loudly
- Go up
- Twelve Months**
- Movie star
- Old wounds
- Lots
- Corrodes
- Color
- Addiction
- Find
- Famous falls
- Stiff
- Cation
- Rend
- American Football Conference (abbr.)
- Floor cleaner (2 wds.)

- Electroencephalograph (abbr.)
- Duck
- To be in debt
- Lush
- Brief
- Positive electrode
- Rise (2 wds.)
- Bark in pain
- Seasoning
- Document clause
- Abiding
- 2,000 pounds
- Kitten's cry
- Possessive pronoun
- BB association
- Spots
- American sign language
- Extra-sensory perception
- Hair stuff

#### DOWN

- Pouch
- Past
- Roger \_\_\_\_, tiles
- Country in SE Asia
- Land
- Pacific Standard Time

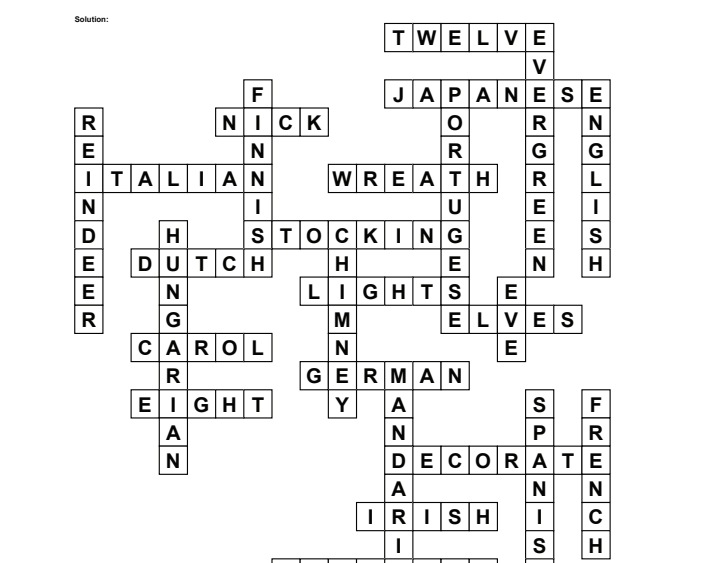
- Child
- Water markers
- Canal
- Kenya capital
- Wing
- Path
- Cant
- Heroic tale
- Internal Revenue Service
- Owing
- Song
- Fall mo.
- Empowered with new weapons
- Pen brand
- Eye infection
- Ridiculing remark
- Not Sad**
- Promissory note
- Rio de Janeiro
- High naval rank (abbr.)
- Day of the week (abbr.)
- Ravines
- Duo
- Displaying emotion
- Flightless bird
- Swindle
- Capital of the Ukraine
- Plain
- Recesses
- Painter Richard
- National capital
- Retired persons association (abbr.)
- School group
- Pole
- Night bird
- That girl
- North by east
- Miss

### Answers To Last Week's Crossword

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

Photos and Story By Chris Bertrand

### More Christmas Lights Pasadena, Monrovia and Sierra Madre

When we received last year's Christmas edition of Sunset magazine, a small article called attention to Pasadena's Christmas lighting uber-extravaganza in Upper Hastings Ranch. We put it on our checklist of Christmas events right away and now it's part of our tradition. You can go north and west from Michillinda and Sierra Madre Boulevard for over a square mile of Christmas delights. Different blocks have curb decoration themes, which gives it an organized feeling, yet with room for individual creativity. Many have music and the atmosphere is festive. Block after block of patient, slow moving cars take it all in. Traffic gets a bit congested, and some streets don't allow buses, for lack of clearance. My favorite streets are Hastings Ranch Drive, and Medford, particularly the far north end. Photographers with tripods are common, trying for that one defining Christmas shot.



Numerous photographers with Tripods

A highlight of Monrovia holiday splendor is the first block of Madison, just north of Foothill. Almost all the homes are lit, and 115 Madison won city's best outdoor decorating award. Rod Milliken has spent years collecting, refining and expanding his display, with his grandchildren's delight in mind.

Sierra Madre's most interesting decorations are as varied and eclectic as the spirit of the town. Hundreds of feet of classic garland and ribbon deck out on picket fence at



An entire block decorated on Madison

448 Highland. On Grandview, just east of Michillinda, a home literally hums with excitement as life size Santas, spinning and rotating displays and more fill the entire front yard. You can follow the star over Sierra Madre to Grove, just south of Carter.

The most meaningful homespun holiday spirit comes from the Osti home on Auburn, just north of Sierra Madre. This year, Tim Osti was busy by Thanksgiving, making sure a visiting sister got a chance to see the display. Every year, his home, roof, yard, driveway and sidewalk take on even more Christmas.



Rod Milliken decorates for his grandchildren

His sign, dedicated to their grandchildren, invites neighbors to experience Christmas in the Osti manner. "Welcome to Kendra and Kayce's Winter Wonderland where special memories are to be created. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone from the Osti Family. Our thoughts and prayers are with our troops and their families. Thank you for our freedom. The reason for the season is Jesus."

The first tree on the driveway is to commemorate loved ones who have passed away. Abigail Peters, who died at 17, was the first to have an ornament remembering her. Tim invites those who wish, to decorate an ornament to someone's memory. He feels there are many who have a difficult time

with loss at the holidays, and offers this tree as a healing step. Osti says he sometimes arises in the morning to find ornaments have been added in the wee hours of the night. Little trees are there for children to decorate on their own. A nativity crèche, of course. A fun, funky old sink with blue Italian glass pebbles and blue lighting looks like running water. A tree for the Sierra Madre Starbucks crew who keeps him caffeinated. A playhouse and activities for the toddler set. He encourages neighbors, young and old, to "set a spell" by the fire, and experience the peace and low key magic of a few minutes here. I did. Thanks, Tim!



Just beautiful garland and ribbons on Highland



Enjoying Christmas from the rooftop to the curb at The Osti's

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# Arts & More



## The Big Screen

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A TREASURE....BUT IS IT WORTH  
NINE BUCKS?

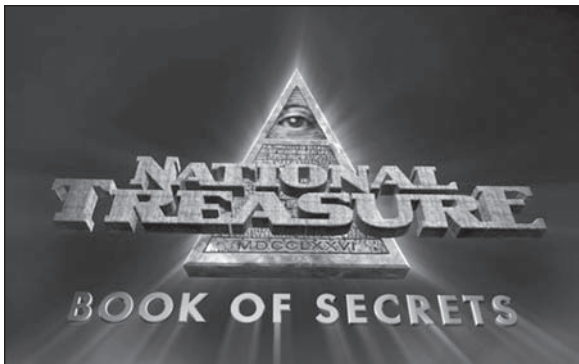
Review by Schuyler Logan

I took my son, Schuyler Jr., to see the new National Treasure movie a few days ago. "Book of Secrets" they called it.

Before I go any further, I should say right off the bat that I'm not a special effects guy. Generally I shy away from films that rely on endless noisy car chases, gratuitous car crashes, incomprehensible electronics, ludicrous technology, and human beings surviving physical calamities that they have no believable or mathematical way of surviving.

Oops. National Treasure: Book of Secrets has all of those things. So I suppose I was a little predisposed to not liking it. But it's also a movie that relies on history. Or rather the magic of history, to inspire young minds and make old heads wonder.

Nicolas Cage plays Benjamin Franklin Gates, historian



and professional treasure hunter, who sets out to prove that his great, great-grandfather, Thomas Gates, was not one of the plotters of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. His quest turns up a secret code to a treasure map embedded within a recently discovered page of John Wilkes Booth's diary, precipitating several car chases, non-stop technological pyrotechnics, and the pursuit of a lost city of gold possibly buried somewhere below Mt. Rushmore. Oh, brother. If you look for plausible, gritty realism in films, On The Waterfront or Casablanca, this is not.

Little Schuyler, of course, loved the special effects. The chases, and guns, the electronics, everything. (I tried whispering historical tid-bits in his ear whenever I could get away with it, just to balance things out.)

The historical references were wonderful. They made the Civil War come alive. I felt like I was a young buck back at Berkeley---Sky Logan, history major extraordinaire. I also felt a little sorry for the rest of the audience, because some of the history references were pretty esoteric. When they were talking about things like Britain supporting the Confederacy to obtain cheap cotton for textiles or Lincoln's bodyguard mysteriously leaving his post at Ford's Theater or Booth escaping via the one suspiciously unguarded bridge across the Potomac into Maryland or the ill-fated Dr. Samuel Mudd spawning the catch-phrase 'your name is mud', the treacherous Mary Surratt, the insanity of Lewis Paine, the significance of the Knights of the Golden Circle (KKK?), and how the United States switched from an "are" country to an "is" country, well, I sort of had the feeling that I was the only one in the theater who had any idea what they were talking about. I felt superior, as if my pursuit of both ancient truths and a history degree were not in vain....a great sense of calmness washed over me, enclosing me in a gentle bubble of academic contentment....But then there would be a car chase/crash/explosion/gunfire sequence, and the bubble would burst.

Great cast, I must say. Cage, Helen Mirren, and Jon Voight are all Oscar winners. As character actors, Harvey Keitel and Ed Harris are as good as it gets. At first blush you feel they're all being wasted here. But on second thought, I figured maybe they're just having themselves an adventure, getting well paid for it, being more than willing to suspend their collective disbelief in order to have fun and make a buck, and that they are therefore, in the end, just laughing at us.

And that's what it comes down to. Your ability to suspend disbelief.

To enjoy a movie like National Treasure you need to be someone who can suspend disbelief. At least for a couple of hours.

So if you can put your logical, skeptical, cynical brain on hold, and you excel in using motion pictures as an escape into a fantasy world of what could almost happen but can't quite happen but boy it sure would be cool if it did---and you also have a genuine appreciation of both the fact and the myth of American History and the mysteries hidden somewhere between the two---then maybe National Treasure is for you. It's entertaining enough....in a noisy sort of way.

If, on the other hand, what you look for in a film is sharp, clever dialog in support of a realistic story line that accurately reflects some essential aspect of the Human Condition, save yourself the \$9 bucks and use it to go buy yourself two grande vanilla lattes and a biscotti, go home, flip on the tube, turn it to American Movie Classics, and hope for the best. Maybe Casablanca will be on....

S.L.

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

## School May Be Out..But Working Hard Is Still In Student Volunteers Help Create The Magic Of This Years Rose Parade - Photos By D. Lee/MVO



Preparations for this year's Rose Parade were in high gear last week. Adults lead by example, donating hours of their time to the construction of many floats. Students, following their footsteps, come from all over to help. Many earn community service credits while working on the floats and having lots of fun.



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### TRISH'S TRUTH

## Your Struggles Make You Stronger

By Trisha Collins

They say that struggles make you stronger. I never really believed or understood what that meant until recently. This year has been pretty challenging for my family and me, from news that we'll soon have a new addition to the family, to me changing schools. A lot has gone on this year, good and bad. As the year comes to an end, I look back and reflect on how much we've all been through, as a family, together. And because of our struggles, we actually have become stronger. Become stronger people, individuals, and members of a tight knit community we call family.

The definition of a struggle is a "...challenge, problem, or difficulty." This struggle can be big or small. I believe that when you overcome a struggle and learn from it, you ultimately become a better person. When you learn from any mistake, the key point is that you *learn*, and when you learn, you grow. This is relevant to me because I noticed that growing process occurred in my family all this year. Struggles, big and small, were hurled at my family and we overcame them all. And while overcoming these "difficulties", our bond was growing tighter; we were becoming more united.

I have also heard that when you experience hardship, you discover who your true friends and family are. This statement is also very true. My family sticks by me, loving me unconditionally through the good and bad, through failure and success. For that, I feel the uttermost obligation to support them always, knowing they'll do the same for me. The loyalty between us (also enforced by struggles) is stronger than anything I know.

In a small odd way, I am grateful for the struggles that came our way this year. Though they brought pain, they also brought much needed forgiveness, love, appreciation and strength to my family.

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website: [www.goodenschool.org](http://www.goodenschool.org)

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(626) 351-8951  
Principal: Patrick Bonacci  
website: [www.lasallehs.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.odysseycharterschool.org)

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

**Pasadena Unified School District**  
351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109  
(626) 795-6981  
website: [www.pusd@pusd.us](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:resseln@pusd.us)

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



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# MountainViews-Observer

## MountainViews-Observer

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MountainViews-Observer

### Mission Statement

The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.



Member

# OPINION



Susan Henderson

## Tomorrow

tomorrow (n): *the day after the present*

Well, another year is just around the corner. Two Thousand Eight. Wow! No matter where you start counting, we are well into the 21st Century. Looking back just a few years, you can see what amazing progress has been made in so many areas. Even though I am only 39 years old give or take a few years, I remember when the start of a new year was exciting. It meant another new beginning, great changes, progress, and unlimited possibilities. Now, however, I don't know how much we focus on the possibilities. It seems we, as a society, have lost some of our sparkle for the future.

Even the most optimistic of us have concerns about what the future holds. Not regarding our physical being, but the future in terms of where our society is going. When we analyze the past and look towards the future, we often see that in one particular area progress has not been swift. Human behavior has remained the same since the Garden of Eden. We all still have a long way to go before we learn how to be better members of the human race. Many consciously participate in activities that will help individually, but it is collectively that we need the most work. It is because of this that when I think of Tomorrow, specifically 2008, all I can do is shake my head.

Why? Well it isn't my life, my life is wonderful. I have a loving, supportive family, great kids and THE BEST grandchildren; I have the ability to do whatever it is I want to do. I've been and I am blessed. No, my personal environment is not the cause of concern. I am worried about the world around me. Tomorrow is just not looking that peaceful and pleasant.

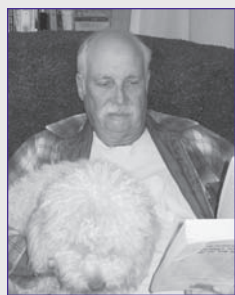
As I write this, news of the horrific death of Benazir Bhutto is on the news. This woman was murdered because of her political convictions. While many of you may distance yourself from the reality of hatred and intolerance gone totally out of control simply because this happened in Pakistan, I would suggest that you should not be quite so smug. We don't act much better right here in America, or for that matter, Sierra Madre. No, we are not into physical assassinations, but the destruction of one's character is often deemed to be standard operating procedure. Murder of the spirit is very much a part of the our electoral process and that is uncivilized.

Tomorrow, right here in America, we will enter into what promises to be an unnecessarily divisive, mean spirited, Presidential Election. Characters will be assassinated for no reason, lives will be destroyed. This is not conjecture. It is a fact. A shameful fact. We should be able to choose a new leader sans the hatred, fanaticism and bitterness. And, the hysteria is not limited to our national politics. In 2008, in Sierra Madre, we will go to the polls to select two council persons, a treasurer and a city clerk. And, so soon after the Measure V nuclear war, I have no reason to believe that we will act any better. That is, unless we really want to.

As we make our list of New Year's resolutions, how about one that commits to doing our part in making tomorrow better. How about making a commitment that, no matter where you stand on issues or candidates, you will do it with respect for others. I have many friends that I am on the total opposite side of their political spectrum, but that does not give rise to hatred. It just makes for energetic conversations at the dinner table. Why can't we do the same in our community? Can we promise not to hate, be judgemental, lie or be disrespectful to those that we disagree with? Remember every candidate running is our neighbor, and, regardless of your religious background, we are supposed to love them.

We can't control what goes on in Washington or overseas. We can control what goes on in our own backyards. So as we get ready for the beginning of a new year, as we begin 2008, let's put the fun back in the future. Elections should be just like running a good race. You put your best foot forward and when you cross the finish line, regardless of your position, you feel a great sense of accomplishment. Make a commitment to participate in the process with dignity and maturity. And for heaven sakes, stop starting a fight just for the sake of fighting.

With that said, I want to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year. *P.S. - No, I haven't lost my edge, nor have I changed my politics. If you think so, then you really weren't paying attention in the first place.*



## Stuart Tolchin On....

## LIFE Expectations

All right I admit it. I just finished an omelet – (egg-beaters but an omelet all the same.) and it was pretty great. As I write this, my wife and I are on vacation in Sedona, Arizona (Red Rock country). I've been on this vegan diet since August and have conscientiously avoided all meat, fish, cheese, eggs, and dairy products. Also I have had no coffee, soft drinks, artificially sweetened foods, fried foods, or mashed potatoes. What a great man I am – what a guy.

When I made the decision in the first place it seemed really whimsical – cool – I think I'll try it. I really had no particular expectations but then I started weighing myself regularly, checking my blood sugar, getting rid of my diabetic pills, eating a tablespoon of hemp seed, taking B-12 pills and – I don't know what. At first I got lots of compliments and felt pretty good but still I expected more—Oh yeah, the return of youth – it hasn't happened.

A friend of mine is going in for gastric by-pass surgery where the doctors sew-up half your stomach so that you can look skinny. As a part of the medical preparation it is necessary to meet a few times with a psychotherapist. Why, you wonder? Perhaps because anyone who wants their body opened and their organs messed with is probably crazy. No, that's not it. The reason for the mandatory psychological counseling, as I understand it, is that the expectations of the person are just usually not met. People expect that along with the weight loss will come wealth, health, sexual desirability and lots more. Unfortunately, whatever changes do come they aren't enough. As a result of these unmet expectations, people are often despondent and suicidal.

Worse than that, I guess, is that no matter what external changes take place, people often cling to their negative self image, unable to adapt their view of themselves to their new thin self.

Maybe it's this refusal to accept the present that just makes change so difficult. How can any present positive moment compete with a lifetime of past negativity? I know I was not meant to be thin. I've been fat most of my adult life. To be thin is a rejection of my total self. I won't do it. How about an order of hash browns with cheese on top?!

No, THIS I WILL NOT DO! Point me to the soy milk. I haven't given up yet. It's true the present is just the present. But I guess if I can just shut my mind off a little bit – maybe, I can enjoy my life for what it is, rather than fixate on what it's not and will never be and probably never was.

This week's health hint: remember you're a pretty good person after all and treat yourself that way. It's a pretty nice life.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*S.Tolchin@mvobserver.com*

# LEGAL NOTICES

## 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 106 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 five feet, is less than the twenty-five required by Section 17.20.050 of the Municipal Code. The proposed rear yard of six feet nine inches 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 project includes one uncovered parking space on the eastern side of the house.

### DATE AND TIME OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre  
Planning Commission meeting  
Thursday, **January 17, 2008**  
(Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.)

### PLACE OF HEARING

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

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

**PROJECT LOCATION:** 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

## City of Sierra Madre

### COURTESY NOTICE of COMMUNITY MEETING AND SITE VISIT on Saturday, January 19, 2008

**To:** Property Owners within a 1000 foot radius of either the proposed Stonehouse Project or the One Carter Project and All Persons Requesting Notice

**From:** The City of Sierra Madre  
**Subject:** **Site Tour for the Stonehouse Project's proposed 22-lot subdivision; and Community Meeting regarding Settlement Proposal affecting the Stonehouse and One Carter Projects**

**SITE VISIT:** Dorn-Platz, the project applicant, will host an escorted walking tour of the Stonehouse site for their proposed 22 lot residential subdivision at 1935 Stonehouse Road on Saturday, January 19, 2008.

At **9:00 am**, a walking site tour will leave from the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Station located at 1901 Stonehouse Road, Sierra Madre, to walk the project area accessed from Stonehouse Road.

At **10:00 am**, a walking site tour will begin at the project area accessed off of Grandview Avenue.

At **11:00 am**, a walking site tour will begin at the project area accessed from Camillo Avenue.

Participants must be able to walk on the undeveloped private property, as no accommodations are available. There will be a shuttle to take people who are unable to walk the distance from one tour to the next. Hiking or sturdy shoes and clothes are appropriate for the tour.

**COMMUNITY MEETING:** Following the tours and a break, the Sierra Madre City Council will hold a special Community Meeting at the Search and Rescue Station, 1901 Stonehouse Road, Sierra Madre, CA 91024, from **1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** to discuss the project, review the proposed litigation settlement and receive input from the public.

Please RSVP if you plan to participate in the escorted tour and the community meeting or to request a seat on the shuttle by contacting the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135. For further information, please visit the City's website at <http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/index.php?mod=stonehouse> or contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135.

By order of the City Council,

Donna Butler,  
Interim Director of Development Services







# LEGAL NOTICES

3845 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St  
Los Angeles, CA 90063.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Juan Carlos Cisneros 3845 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St Los Angeles, CA 90063. 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 Dec 10, 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: 12/15; 12/22; 12/29, 2007 and 01/05, 2008 500707MG

500708AU File No. 20072706686  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
CARDINALE’S TRAVEL  
1420 S. Bedford St Ste 306  
Los Angellss, CA 90035.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Stefania Roberts 1420 S- Bedford St Ste 306 Los Angeles, CA 90035. 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 Dec 10, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above 12/10/2007.  
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: 12/15; 12/22; 12/29, 2007 and 01/05, 2008 500708AU

500709AU File No. 20072743556  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
EDEN NAIL SPA SALON  
1251 N. Grand Ave  
Walnut, CA 91789.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Van Nguyen 1251 N. Grand Ave Walnut, CA 91789. 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 Dec 13, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above 12/11/2007.  
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: 12/15; 12/22; 12/29, 2007 and 01/05, 2008 500709AU

500710EN File No. 20072731685  
**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME**  
The following person (s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious name:  
ANGELA’S 99c PLUS  
7301 S. Compton Ave #8  
Compton, CA 90001.  
The name of registrant(s) is (are) Guillermo Lana and Reymundo Rincon 3732 Weik Ave Bell, CA 90201. The business was conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. The fictitious business name referred to

above was filed on 01/31/2006. Original File #2006-060229973. 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 Dec 12, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) ended to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/12/2007  
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: 12/15; 12/22; 12/29, 2007 and 01/05, 2008 500710EH

500711EH File No. 20072729914  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
SYLVIA’S AUTO REGISTRATION  
384 E. Orange Grove Blvd #202  
Pasadena, CA 91104.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Sylvia Lopez Aguirre 384 E. Orange Grove Blvd #202 Pasadena, CA 91104. 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 Dec 12, 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: 12/15; 12/22; 12/29, 2007 and 01/05, 2008 500710EH

500711EH File No. 20072731893  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
ZAMBRANO’S PAINTING SERVICE  
4651 E. 60<sup>th</sup> St #d  
Maywood, CA 90270.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Carlos O. Zambrano 4651 E. 60<sup>th</sup> St Maywood, CA 90270. 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 Dec 12, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above 01/20/2007.  
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: 12/15; 12/22; 12/29, 2007 and 01/05, 2 008 500711EH

500712ED File No. 20072719144  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
COUNTYWIDE PUBLICATIONS  
12631 E. Imperial Hwy Ste A-219  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) DUQUE FINANCIAL CORPORATION 12631 E. Imperial Hwy Ste A-219 Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. 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 Dec 12, 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: 12/15; 12/22; 12/29, 2007 and 01/05, 2008 500712ED

500713ED File No. 20072719205  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
CROSPETE SPORTS,  
CSI INDUSTRIES  
15235 Caravaca Rd  
La Mirada, CA 90638.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Tom Kim 15235 Caravaca Rd La Mirada, CA 90638. 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 Dec 11, 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: 12/15; 12/22; 12/29, 2007 and 01/05, 2008 500713ED

490701MG File No. 06-20072657331  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
WEST EMPORTS  
6738 Colgate Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90048.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Benjamin Shamash 6738 Colgate Ave Los Angeles, CA 90048. 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 Dec 04, 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: 12/08; 12/15; 12/22 and 12/29, 2007 490701MG

490702MG File No. 06-20072645910  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
LINC EXPRESS  
11571 Virginia Ave  
Lynwood, CA 90262.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Lincoln Morali 11579 Virginia Ave Lynwood, CA 90262. The business is conducted as: AN IDIVIDUAL. 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 Dec 03, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/09/2007.  
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: 12/08; 12/15; 12/22 and 12/29, 2007 490702MG

490703MG File No. 06-2007266813  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
IRON WORKERS, X-TREMWELD  
1449 W. 139<sup>th</sup> St  
Compton, CA 90222.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Luis Gonzalez 1449 E. 139<sup>th</sup> St Compoton, CA 90222. 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 30, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above 01/01/2007.  
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: 12/08; 12/15; 12/22 and 12/29, 2007 490703MG

490704MG File No. 20072637467  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
STATE 2 STATE EXTERMINATING  
8530 Boyson St  
Downey, CA 90242.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Steve Lazada 8530 Boyson St Downey, CA 90242. 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 30, 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: 12/08; 12/15; 12/22 and 12/29, 2007 490704MG

490705MG File No. 20072637451  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
EXTREME COLOR AUTO RECON  
2614 W. Caldwell St  
Compton, CA 90220.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) David Ortega 2614 W. Caldwell St Compton, CA 90220. 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 30, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/08/2001.  
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: 12/08; 12/15; 12/22 and 12/29, 2007 490705MG

490706MG File No. 06-20072636143  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
TALABARTERIA GANDARA,  
TALABARTERIA M.G.  
1631 Leafdale Ave  
South El Monte, CA 91733.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Maurilio Gandara and Imelda Eguia

1631 Leafdale Ave South El Monte, CA 91733. 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 30, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/30/2007.  
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: 12/08; 12/15; 12/22 and 12/29, 2007 490706MG

490707MM File No. 06-20072664001  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
360 CREDIT SOLUTIONS  
16406 Millstream Ln  
Cerritos, CA 90703.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) N & F GROUP, INC. 16406 Millstream Ln Cerritos, CA 90703. 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 Dec 05, 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: 12/08; 12/15; 12/22 and 12/29, 2007 490707MG

490708MM File No. 20072665368  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
R L CONSTRUCTION  
1109 E. Mecead Ave  
West Covina, CA 91790.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Rudy Robles Lancaster 1109 E. Merced Ave West Covina, CA 91790. 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 Dec 05, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above 03/16/1988. 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: 12/08; 12/15; 12/22 and 12/29, 2007 490708MM

490709MM File No. 20072656903  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
RICOS FAMILY RESTAURANT  
4052 ½ Central Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90011.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Camelia Rico 4052 ½ Central Ave Los Angeles, CA 90011. 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 Dec 04, 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: 12/08; 12/15; 12/22 and 12/29, 2007 490709MM

490710SJ File No. 20072636781  
**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME**  
The following person (s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious name:  
BURBANK WIRELESS  
2005 W. Olive Blvd  
Burbank, CA 91505.

The name of registrant(s) is (are) Eddie Khodavarian 539 E. Angeleno Ave #104 Burbank, CA 91501. The business was conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 03/26/2007. Original File #20070696694. 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 30, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) ended to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/30/2007  
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: 12/08; 12/15; 12/22 and 12/29, 2007 490710SJ

490711MM File No. 20072665351  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
SISTERHOOD PROJECT PROPERTY MGNT  
1986 Sanborn Wy  
Pomona, CA 91766.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Benita Revies 1986 Sanborn Wy Pomona, CA 91766. 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 Dec 05, 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: 12/08; 12/15; 12/22 and 12/29, 2007 490711MM

490712MU File No. 20072664010  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:  
ARMA CLINICAL TRIAL RESEARCH  
502 W. Holt Ave  
Pomona, CA 91768.  
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Alex Roshanaie 502 W. Holt Ave Pomona CA 91768. 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 Dec 05, 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: 12/08; 12/15; 12/22 and 12/29, 2007 490712MU

## City of Sierra Madre NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

To: Citywide  
From: The City of Sierra Madre  
Subject: ORDINANCE No. 1273 U, Adoption of Building Code Standards

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Government Code Section 50022.2, that on December 11, 2007, the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre did adopt the following Ordinance:


**ORDINANCE No. 1273 U**  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 50022.2, THE 2007 CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24 – THE 2007 CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONS AND AMENDING THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE.

This Ordinance authorizes the new codes and amendments effective on January 1, 2008, and therefore, is being adopted as an urgency Ordinance.

The following members of the City Council voted in favor of the adoption of the Ordinance: Mayor Joffe, Mayor Pro Tem Mosca, Council Members Buchanan, Watts, and Zimmerman.

A certified copy of the Ordinance, as adopted, is available for public inspection at Sierra Madre City Hall, City Manager’s Office, 232 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, California, 91024.

By Order of the City Council,

  
ELAINE AGUILAR  
City Manager

## City of Sierra Madre NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

To: Citywide  
From: The City of Sierra Madre  
Subject: ORDINANCE No. 1273, Adoption of Building Code Standards

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**ORDINANCE No. 1273**  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 50022.2, THE 2007 CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24 – THE 2007 CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONS AND AMENDING THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE.

The following members of the City Council voted in favor of the adoption of the Ordinance: Mayor Joffe, Mayor Pro Tem Mosca, Council Members Buchanan, Watts, and Zimmerman.

A certified copy of the Ordinance, as adopted, is available for public inspection at Sierra Madre City Hall, City Manager’s Office, 232 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, California, 91024.

By Order of the City Council,

  
ELAINE AGUILAR  
City Manager



# Looking Up

With Bob Eklund



Photo by Aaron Dominguez

## High Lights In The Dark Of The Year

Angelus Silesius, a German poet who lived from 1624 to 1677, wrote, “Friend, if thou wilt be someone, stand not still. Thou must from one light to another go.” And at almost exactly the same time, in a far different culture, the revered Japanese haiku poet Basho wrote, “Before the light that things give off dies in the heart, it must be expressed.”

Clearly, light has a special importance for us humans, and never more so than at this darkest time of the year. And so it seems good to celebrate, as we say good-bye to 2007, a few of the year’s bright memories.

**FIRST LIGHT.** On Nov. 1, Monrovia High School’s new 12-inch telescope celebrated its “First Light.” At a ceremony in the high school’s main lobby that evening, the refurbished observatory was dedicated and given the name “The Juan O. Escaño Sr. Astronomy Research and Education Center.” Mr. Escaño’s son, Juan O. Escaño, Jr., recruited a number of co-sponsors to equip the observatory, and their joint contributions are valued at between \$250,000 and \$500,000. This makes Monrovia High School one of the best-equipped secondary schools in the United States for astronomy education.

**A MILLION TIMES BRIGHTER.** In October, a once-faint comet made a sudden leap from obscurity to center stage. Comet Holmes, located in the constellation Perseus, increased its brightness by a factor of one million, going from magnitude 17 to 2. Seeing the comet—a great pale blob as large as a full moon—in binoculars and telescope was a personal “High Light” for me, unlike anything I had ever seen. Even more pleasurable was sharing the experience with students at a university near my home.

**ONLY 20 LIGHT-YEARS FROM KANSAS.** It isn’t Oz, but it could be a new life-supporting habitat, just 20 light-years away. In April, a team of Swiss, French, and Portuguese astronomers announced discovery of an Earth-like planet with a radius only 50% larger than Earth’s, and possibly having liquid water on its surface. The planet, one of more than 200 already discovered around other suns, orbits a small star called Gliese 581.

**A STAR’S GLOWING FACE.** In May, an international team of astronomers using Mount Wilson Observatory’s interferometer array announced that they had taken an image of the surface of the star Altair. This is the first time ever that the surface of a relatively small star, similar to our own Sun, has been imaged. The team used four of the six telescopes operated on Mount Wilson by Georgia State University’s Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy (CHARA). Until now, astronomers could gather tremendous amounts of data from stars, but could not capture images of what stars looked like. Even in the largest telescopes, stars could not be magnified beyond points of light. By combining the light from CHARA’s multiple telescopes, astronomers can now zoom in on stars to get high-precision images.

2007 was a good year for those who study starlight. For the rest of us, let’s also keep looking up. It stretches not only the back, but the mind as well. A happy (and bright) New Year to all!

\*\*\*\*\*

Twilight, New Year’s Eve...  
One cricket stayed behind to count  
The last slow seconds.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you’d like to learn more, you can contact Bob at [b.eklund@mobserver.com](mailto:b.eklund@mobserver.com).

(The poem appearing here is from Bob Eklund’s book, “First Star I See Tonight,” and is copyrighted by him.)



## The Mountain Clymer

By Kim Clymer-Kelley

## Christmas At Mary’s

There are some communities that are so unique in their quirkiness, in their charm, and in their connection to one another, that anytime spent in amongst the members of that community is sure to be a memorable one. Christmas at Mary’s Market the last two years has offered such times to those who were fortunate enough to stop in for the festivities. For the last two years, I hosted a free Thanksgiving dinner and a Christmas dinner At Mary’s. The owners of the market were kind enough to allow me to use their facilities (free of charge) to throw a party for anyone in town (or out of town) who had nowhere to go for Christmas or Thanksgiving. My house has always kind of served as such a place, but my current residence is way too small to entertain, so last year, since my kids were to be with their dad for Thanksgiving and I had no one to cook for, I decided to ask Mary’s if I could host a dinner there for anyone, like me, who had no one with whom to share Thanksgiving dinner. The experience was so enjoyable that I decided to do it again for Christmas. When the holidays rolled around again this



Our mystery man harmonica player.

year, I was encouraged by those who attended last year’s festivities, to do it again. At last Thanksgiving dinner, we were entertained by Katalia Angus who belly danced for us. This year she provided the entertainment again and returned once more for Christmas dinner. Accompanying her was a fellow dancer Anne Chen, who attended the Thanksgiving dinner and enjoyed it so much that she volunteered to dance again and to help with the cooking at Christmas. They danced to music provided by several musicians who came to dinner with instruments in hand . Jean Sudbury on mandolin, Steven Radice on guitar, a man who my friend Dave ran into at the Buc and invited to come along to Mary’s played harmonica, and a young violin virtuoso named Ryan who walked by and saw the dancers and went home to get his instrument to join in the fun, amazed us with his enchanting gypsy violin melodies. It was a magical evening and I want to thank all who were there...if any one of you had not stopped by, it would not have been the same.



Katalia dances to the music provided by Jean Sudbury (right side of table), Steve Radice and Ryan (left side of table)



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## Jet Propulsion Countdown To Rose Parade

Courtesy of NASA/Photo D. Lee/MVO

Volunteers from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory are helping with the finishing touches on the Lab’s Rose Parade float saluting “50 Years of Space Exploration.”

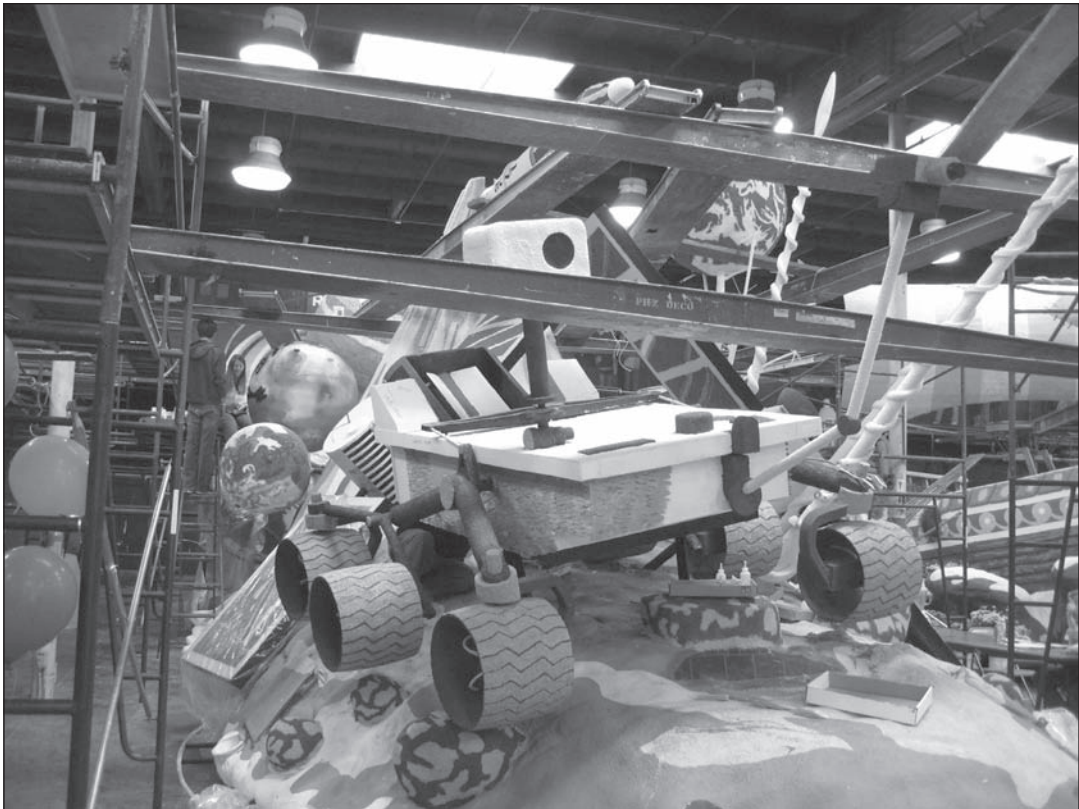
A half-century ago, on Jan. 31, 1958, JPL’s Explorer 1 became America’s first satellite to reach Earth orbit, launching our nation into the space age. “In January 2008 we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Explorer 1, the first American satellite, which was built at JPL. This is a historic milestone not only for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Caltech and Pasadena, but for the country,” said Charles Elachi, director of JPL. “I can think of nothing better than kicking off the celebration with a float in the ultimate New Year’s pageant, the Rose Parade.

On the parade float, Explorer 1 fires off the launch pad at the center. In its wake arises a collection of historic JPL robotic explorers, as well as planetary ports of call. On one of the solar panels displays a floral “photographic” representation of the Explorer pioneers whose vision ignited the spark for U.S. space exploration – William Pickering, then director of JPL, scientist James Van Allen and rocket designer Wernher von Braun.

Ascending from Explorer’s fiery plume are a Martian orbiter and a six-wheeled Mars Science Laboratory, which in 2010 will carry on the tradition of NASA/JPL robotic exploration. On the other edge of the plume, climbing beyond the garland of rings surrounding the planet Saturn is JPL’s Voyager 1 - humanity’s most distant emissary - which is now on its journey headed into interstellar space.

The 25-foot-tall float is jacketed by everything from black seaweed, eucalyptus leaves, split pea and ground walnut shells to daisies, roses, carnations, chrysanthemums, carnations, strawflower and cut everlasting.

More information on the Explorer 1 anniversary, including a video chronicling its history, is available at: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/explorer/>.





# Jeff's Pics

## The Book Reports

By Jeff Brown

### Looking Back on a Year of Reviews! Whewww!!!!

*Hummingbird's Daughter* by Luis Alberto Urea  
*The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candice Millard  
Any Hamish Macbeth (Death of ) series by M.C. Beaton  
*The Power of Now: A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment* by Eckhart Tolle  
*A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose* by Eckhart Tolle  
*The Dangerous Book for Boys* by Conn Iggulden and Hal Iggulden  
*A Hand to Guide Me* by Denzel Washington  
*Cesar's Way: The Natural, Everyday Guide to Understanding and Correcting Common Dog Problems* by Cesar Millan and Melissa Jo Peltier  
*Oil on the Brain: Adventures from the Pump to the Pipeline* by Lisa Margonelli  
*The World Without Us* by Alan Weisman  
*Reclaiming History* by Vincent Bugliosi  
*Adopted Son: Washington, Lafayette, and the Friendship that Saved the Revolution* by D. Clary  
*The House of Mondavi: The Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty* by Julia Flynn Siler  
*The Summer of 1787: The Men Who Invented the Constitution* by David O. Stewart  
*Broken Government: How Republican Rule Destroyed the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches* by John W. Dean  
*The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy 1943-1944* by Rick Atkinson  
*Windows on the World: Complete Wine Course* by Kevin Zraly  
*Clapton: The Autobiography* by Eric Clapton  
*Distant Worlds: Milestones in Planetary Exploration* by Peter Bond  
*Billy the Kid: The Endless Ride* by Michael Wallis  
*Death by Black Hole: And Other Cosmic Quandaries* by Neil deGrasse Tyson  
*Bobby and J. Edgar: The Historic Face-Off Between the Kennedys and J. Edgar Hoover that Transformed America* by Burton Hersh  
*Boy's Life* by Robert R. McCammon (one of my favorite books!)  
*Troublesome Young Men: The Rebels Who Brought Churchill to Power and Helped Save England* by Lynne Olson  
*Exposed: The Toxic Chemistry of Everyday Products* by Mark Schapiro  
*Camp Out: The Ultimate Kids' Guide* by Lynn Brunelle  
*Stolen Voices: Young People's War Diaries* by Zlata Filipovic  
Any Vince Flynn, Michael Connelly, Clive Cussler or Lee Child book!!!  
*The Long Road Home: A Story of War and Family* by Martha Raddatz  
*Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson's First Season* by Jonathan Eig  
*Where War Lives* by Paul Watson  
*Commander in Chief: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, His Lieutenants and Their War* by Eric Larrabee  
*Momma Zen: Walking the Crooked Path of Motherhood* by Karen Maezen Miller  
*You Can Be Happy No Matter What: Five Principles for Keeping Life in Perspective* by Richard Carlson & Wayne W. Dyer  
*Teller of Tales: The life of Arthur Conan Doyle* By Daniel Stashower  
*Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court* by Jeffrey Toobin  
*Soldiers' Angels: May No Soldier Go Unloved* by Jeff Bader  
*For Love of Politics: Bill & Hilary Clinton: The White House Years* by Sally Smith  
*How To Do Everything Right and Live to Regret It* by Fay Angus  
*The Tree: A Natural History of What They Are, How They Live* By Colin Tudge  
*Blackwater :The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army* By Jeremy Scahill  
*Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House* by Valerie Plame Wilson  
*First Star I see Tonight* By Robert Eklund  
*100 Greatest Science Discoveries of All Time* by Kendall Haven  
*Von Braun: Dreamer of Space, Engineer of War* by Michael Newfield,  
Plus others too numerous to include!

For comments email me at [jeffspics1@gmail.com](mailto:jeffspics1@gmail.com)

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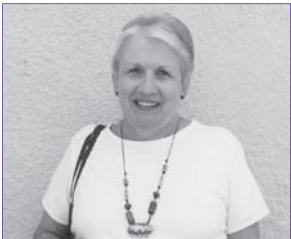
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### BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

## The Circus Came to Town...

In the late afternoon Monday, December 17, my son was bringing me back to my house after a day of lunch and Christmas shopping. We were making our way along Grandview after crossing Baldwin when we saw three Animal Control trucks and the flashing lights from police cars near the corner of Mountain Trail and Grandview. I live one house above. My heart was pounding and my stomach was in knots as I envisioned a horrible scenario. I braced myself for the sight of dead or badly injured deer struck by one or more of the speeding cars that traverse Mountain Trail regularly. Then I saw a lot of people standing on the corner, all with heads tilted skyward. I thought that they had to be looking at a mountain lion or a bear. A bear it was. It was in a tall pine tree in my neighbor's yard approximately 20 feet away from my own.

What followed seemed surreal...The police had not yet cordoned off the area so people were walking right up to the perimeter of the yard where the bear was. They were milling about, greeting each other like they were at a social function. Two small children were running in circles on the lawn, nary an adult close by. More folks gathered, people in cars stopped and loudly asked what was happening. Newspaper reporters with cameras on tripods and bright lights shining stood on lawns trying to get a picture of the treed and I'm certain, very frightened bear.

I pleaded with the police to get the crowd to back off and was told that the people had a right to be there. I then "suggested" in what might mildly be described as a shrill tone, to those in the ever-burgeoning crowd that they go home and let the bear come down on its own. My stress level was already off the charts when the television news vans started arriving and the helicopters came in for their pictures. Helicopters! Talk about surreal... There were vans from every local network. I stopped a man carrying a camera and tripod as he was making his way to my back yard gate. He told me that he was with Channel 11 like I would be impressed, and asked me if I would let him into my back yard to take pictures. I told him no I would not, and again suggested that he and everyone else just leave and let the poor bear come down on its own. He didn't like my reply and told me that the bear had been in the tree for several hours and was probably very hungry, and asked if I had any dogs? I told him no, but I *do* have a Channel 11 newsman. He left, go figure.

Every circus has a ringmaster, and ours is no exception. I firmly believe he is of course, Glendale developer Greg Galletly, and his company Dorn-Platz. He started out with the Maranatha High School's plan to build a campus at One Carter. That plan was thwarted by our City Council. The "plan" then metamorphosed into an approved housing development on the property. The process has, like a rolling stone, picked up much legal "moss" along the way. The ringmaster and his merry band are also responsible for decimating habitat that used to be home to the many animals on the site. They range from the invertebrates, at the bottom of the food chain, to bears, cougars and all of those in-between. This displaced bear and many other creatures are just the beginning... Fasten your seatbelts kids, he hasn't even started the Stonehouse project yet. He's the proverbial gift that keeps on giving isn't he?

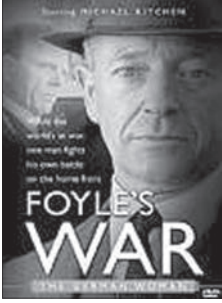
I realize now that the circus didn't come to town after all. Thanks to Galletly, we are the circus.

## Scene One - Take One DVD Review

My Favorite DVD's Seen in 2007



*Picket Fences* TV series season 1  
*Jag* TV Series  
*Foyle's War*  
*Amelia*  
*Malcolm X*  
*Jericho*: English Mystery Series  
*Planet Earth* Series  
*Grand Hotel*  
*Lynley* Mystery Series



Let me know your favorite DVD's from 2007 at [jeffspics1@gmail.com](mailto:jeffspics1@gmail.com)

## From the Inside Out

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



### Looking Ahead.....

Growing up with parents who lived through the Depression taught me to save "just in case." Sometimes that's not such a good thing, such as when I hold onto things that are long past their "sell by" date, that I don't have room for, or that keep me from moving forward. Finding bedrock on which to stand while changing is a daily challenge, particularly when I the conservative part sees that, yes, I can "stay here," and if I do, then I can't "go there." Something about the laws of physics as I've practiced them ... bi-location is still pretty much theory, although I'm working on it (smile.) So, which is better? Holding on to "what I know" because "I've always done it this way?" Or making a change because it will open the way to create something new? What to do? I do want to become the best I can be.

Courtesy of an acquaintance, this past year I've been on the receiving end of "Daily Quotes." Sure, I could unsubscribe, but sometimes I resonate with one, and "just in case" I've copied and plopped it into a separate "quotes" file before deleting the email.

This morning's quote was a "saver", so after opening the file, I noticed that the ones I've liked the most wound up on page 1. Today I noticed that some of those really "fit" together, and Wow ... those on page one are powerful "inside out" seeds to guide, nourish, protect and fuel my life in 2008 - so I thought I'd share a few of these very private resonances with you.

"People are not lazy. They simply have goals that do not inspire them."  
- Anthony Robbins

"Lack of money is no obstacle. Lack of an idea is an obstacle." - Ken Hakuta  
"You must first clearly see a thing in your mind before you can do it."  
- Alex Morrison

"Every great achievement is the victory of a flaming heart."  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Most powerful is he who has himself in his own power." - Seneca  
"The empires of the future are empires of the mind." - Winston Churchill  
"Our ultimate freedom is the right and power to decide how anybody or anything outside ourselves will affect us." - Stephen Covey  
"Nature always takes her time. Great oaks don't become great overnight. They also lose a lot of leaves, branches and bark in the process of becoming great."  
- Andrew Matthews Matthews

"Rather go to bed without dinner than to rise in debt." - Benjamin Franklin  
"Stress comes from a fear of failure." - unknown Joe Nunziata?

"Work is Love made visible." - Khalil Gibran

"Civilization is the progress toward a society of privacy. The savage's whole existence is public, ruled by the laws of his tribe. Civilization is the process of setting man free from man." - Ayn Rand

May 2008 bring you ever more deeply satisfying and joy-filled days on which to build your better and better future - as you create it for yourself - from the inside out.  
Blessings, Mary

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# TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills  
Best and The Worst

Well, our fearless editor has done it again!!! She has asked for the Best and The Worst of 2007. Let's concentrate of the Best and save just a few lines for the Worst.

The Key to any pleasurable restaurant experience, I always think, is service; the *Best Service* in the area has to be at *Houston's*. I have sung their praises before in this article and will continue to do so.

The Best is a very subjective assignment, so where do I go for the *Best Time?* *Red White and Bluezz in Old Pasadena* seems to be the bright spot for the year 2007. Why? They have the right combination.... Music, wine and pretty good food. Plus it really does remind me of a cool / hip Jazz spot like they have in Chicago.

The *Best Value for 2007?* I would lean towards *Central Park on Fair Oaks in Pasadena*. Small restaurant that offers many dishes, at reasonable prices. My wise old mentor once said, "Try the soup first and, if the soup passes, continue on." I ordered the Crab Bisque (\$4.95); it was good!! Move on from there. Here are a few recommendations from Central Park. Caesar \$4.75: make sure you ask for the croutons tossed with the dressing. The USDA Prime Flat Iron Steak \$16, Braised boneless short ribs\$16. I have enjoyed the eggplant sandwich for lunch many times, and being that creature of habit, I will order it again: \$7.75. Other menu items, pizza, pasta salads, fish, all in the medium price range. Serving size is enormous, like the Claim jumper, but not as small as Spago. Just right.

The *Best Drink?* An eight pump *Chai Tea Latte from Starbuck's* Yum!!!

*Let's also keep an eye on Mojito's in Pasadena, Café Beaujolais in Eagle Rock and The new deli UGO's in Sierra Madre.*

### The Worst?

Yikes... Let's say the news that The Ritz Carlton is being sold. As you probably know, The Ritz Carlton doesn't own the hotel, they just have the managerial contract. I will miss the service and the standard, "My Pleasure" response from the employees. My worst mistake of the year? Ordering Fish, not just once - but twice, on a Sunday. A major no-no.

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# SPORTS

## Back Page Journal



### How I Would Make Sports Better

By Brad Eastland, Sports Editor

Madre. Hopefully it'll be a far better year than the last one.

Now that we've gotten that out of the way, it's time for my end-of-the-year column. Most columnists in this and other newspapers around the country are no doubt going to do their "bests & worsts" pieces, their look-back-in-anger reviews, their annual retrospectives. Therefore, I won't.

What I thought I would do, to make the most of your sports entertainment dollar, is offer up my end-of-the-year list of how I'd make some of the major sports better, if I were in charge.

You've done that, right? Admit it. You see something on TV showing something about one of your favorite sports you don't like or that irritates the bejeezus out of you, and you say, "If I were in charge, I'd blah blah blah blah...." Right on. I'm with you, dog.

Anyway, here are some of mine.

**NFL football:** Two things. If I were in charge there would be no time-outs after kickoffs. Don't you just hate that? They come back from a commercial break, you settle into your seat for some ball, the crowd is roaring, they kick off, some guy runs it back thirty yards and is drilled halfway into the ground, you're all hyped up, it's first and ten, game on....and then they go right to a commercial for male enhancement. How emasculating....

Also, any wide receiver celebrating a touchdown with a childish, unfunny, pelvis-flexing-hey-look-at-me dance while I'm in charge gets to pick up litter along the shoulder of the 210 Freeway every day for a week. During rush hour. Naked.

**Baseball:** The first thing, of course, would be to fire Commish Bud \*Selig (see last week's column for a detailed explanation). Then I'd institute a rule---and rigidly enforce it---where the pitcher must make his next pitch within 15 seconds of his getting the ball back from the catcher. I think it would really move things along, don't you? Penalty for non-compliance would be a called ball. Second offense, batter takes his base. Third offense, the pitcher is removed from the game and forced to stay in the clubhouse and watch two hours of old Three's Company re-runs.

(And finally, I'd pass some sort of edict whereby the San Francisco Giants would be allowed to re-play Game Six of the 2002 World Series. I, of course, would be the Giants' manager. And since I would absolutely not yank Russ Ortiz while he was in the middle of throwing a shutout and I would not bring in Felix Rodriguez to throw eight

straight fastballs to Scott Spiezio, we would win. Hooray!)

**Basketball:** No time-outs would be permitted during the final two minutes of the 4th quarter. Those last two minutes gobble up about twenty minutes of my rapidly disappearing life. Basketball is supposed to be up-tempo, right? Who wants endless time-outs watching balding, 60-something coaches plot strategy? Wouldn't it be more fun to see ten confused players and three inept referees scramble around with no idea what to do and no way to stop it?

**Hockey #1:** If a player gets in a fight for any reason he is suspended for the whole year. Without pay. Which means there would be no more fights. And then we'd get to see if more than fifty or sixty people would show up for any of the games.

**Hockey #2:** My dad came up with this one. Make the goal only two feet wide, but also remove the goalie! Scoring would go way up, and hockey might actually become interesting. Dad used to always say, "Why don't they get that damn goalie out of there, all he does is clog everything up." And he was right.

**Hockey #3:** I was just kidding about the first two. The only decent thing to do with hockey is abolish it altogether....

**Soccer:** No suspense. Abolish it. What a stupid, boring, nonsensical waste of time. My mother used to always say that almost everything bad is a Communist plot. She used to say that the Commies are always making sure their filthy Eastern customs are infiltrating the West, lulling us to sleep, making evil seem normal, and thus polluting our fine, patriotic institutions. Now I know what she was talking about.

**Golf:** A great game, but this idea that "woods" (not Tiger, but the so-called wooden driving clubs) could ever be made of metal is irritating and confusing. I would ban the use of wood clubs made of anything other than wood. Read that last sentence again; boy it sounds stupid. Proves that progress isn't always progress.

And finally, if I were in charge, I would decree that a special microchip be surgically placed inside the heads of wives and girlfriends everywhere, programming them to finally understand that Sunday means football not church, extra innings is a good thing not a bad thing, a no-hitter is exciting not boring, making a five-foot putt is hard not easy, and annoying us or nagging us or telling us to do chores while we're actually watching the games does not make us like you better or accomplish anything substantive or lead to anything close to pleasant, harmonious feelings between the sexes. Maybe I should be a marriage counselor.

*\*What would you change about sports if you were in charge? Let us know at b.eastland@mobserver.com*

## Little League Spotlight: "Jackrabbit Jake"

By Brad Eastland

He's still little. But when he was really little they called him monkey.

"In second grade some girl saw me climbing on the monkey bars and she just called me monkey," affirms 10-year-old Jacob Stechel (pronounced "Stetch-ull"), interviewed recently at his house in Sierra Madre. "Pretty soon everybody was calling me monkey. It stuck."

But if his recent exploits on the baseball diamond are any indicator, they're going to have to change the four-foot-seven, seventy-two pound speedball's nickname to "jackrabbit". Or maybe Jackrabbit Jake.

"I like to run," says Jake, and why wouldn't he? Anyone who has seen the bullet-fast Stechel play ball the past couple of years learned what enemy managers in the Sierra Madre Little League have always known; that walking him is like allowing a double or a triple, so fleet and daring is he on the basepaths. "I like stealing bases. I like the feeling when you touch home plate and score. And I like to steal home!" he adds accordingly.

In the field Jake is a skilled, slick glove man who has spent most of his time the past couple of years at second base. But he prefers third base or shortstop. "I like having to make the longer throw," he says. "And at shortstop you're right in the middle of the action, and you get to be sort of the captain of the infield, calling out directions and how many outs there are and stuff like that." One position the pint-sized Stechel does not gravitate to as easily is pitcher. "Too much pressure," says Jake.

Baseball is his favorite sport. But this young man is more than just a baseball player.

Jake also plays flag football for Aveson School in Altadena, usually lining up at running back or wide receiver to take advantage of his speed. He has also played plenty of soccer over the years. A good student, he enjoys computers, literature, and is an accomplished drawer and illustrator.

"He's also a very clever observer of nature," 10-year-old Jacob Stechel pronounced "Stetch-ull" Photo by B.Eastland chimes in his father, Scott, a teacher in the Alhambra School District. "When we go hiking he usually sees the interesting things first, even before I spot them."

The senior Stechel is like a lot of fathers in the SMLL family; just plain proud. "I enjoy watching his games, mainly just to see how much he enjoys them," he says simply.

For the record, Jake's favorite professional team is the New York Mets....but his favorite player is the Seattle Mariners' brilliant right fielder Ichiro Suzuki. "I sure wish I could hit like Ichiro," says Jake.

Like a lot of Little Leaguers, hitting is one thing Jake really needs to work on. He struggled a bit at the plate last year, swinging too early and striking out too much, and no one knows this better than he: "I need to really improve my hitting, so that I'm good enough to bat lead-off. My bat needs to go faster," he adds wisely. Jake has indeed been concentrating on his hitting all through the off-season, working on technique, waiting on the ball, taking extra batting practice, etc. He'll be ready for the 2008 season.

It's easy for Jake to put in the extra work, for he loves this game more than any other: "When there's no game I want there to be a game. I love it."

At the end of the interview one of his two dogs, Cosmo, is nuzzling up against his leg. Jake's father reveals that Cosmo is named for Cosmo Kramer, the famed, eccentric character on the long-running hit comedy series Seinfeld. Jake's eyes widen at the mention of the show. When asked if he likes Seinfeld, Jake replies calmly, and with a straight face, "I've seen every adventure of Seinfeld at least five times."---as if this revelation were the most normal piece of information in the world.

More than just a baseball player indeed....

Sports News?  
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