



Mountain Views-Observer

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

Week Ending January 18, 2008 Volume 2, No. 2



Danny Castro Sierra Madre's New Development Director

Sierra Madre, CA - After an extensive recruitment process, the City of Sierra Madre is excited to announce that Danny Castro of West Hollywood will be joining the All-America City team as the new Development Services Director.

Danny Castro brings to Sierra Madre over 15 years' experience in the local government planning process, with expertise in both the public and private sectors. Mr. Castro was with the City of Beverly Hills Community Development Department for over 10 years in a number of positions, each with increased responsibilities. His work included a wide variety of residential and commercial developments, zoning and land use studies, and staff liaison for the Planning and Architectural Commissions.

Mr. Castro's private sector background extended his expertise in project management as well as interests in historic preservation. At The Kor Group, a Los Angeles-based real estate company, Mr. Castro specialized in the conversion and rehabilitation of historic structures into residential uses. As a private planning consultant, his clients have included the cities of Claremont and Santa Monica, reviewing projects subject to design review, compliance with historic preservation policies, and environmental review requirements. Mr. Castro resides in West Hollywood where he is currently the Chair of the City's Historic Preservation Commission, which, through various means, helps to preserve the community's character through the protection, enhancement and preservation of cultural resources.

Danny Castro is a native Californian, and grew up in Chula Vista, a suburb of San Diego. He graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban and Regional Planning.

City Manager Elaine Aguilar stated, "I welcome Danny to the City of Sierra Madre. I think he brings the perfect balance of experience, technical expertise, and approachability that's important in his new role as Development Services Director." Mr. Castro will begin his tenure with the City of Sierra Madre on Monday, February 4, 2008.

"In Their World" Students Embrace Dr. King's Dream

By Susan Henderson

Just before breaking for the long holiday weekend, Carolyn Halpern's second grade class at Sierra Madre Elementary School took a few moments to tell me about a project they had been working on.

In commemoration of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the class of enthusiastic students decided to think about the world around them and discuss ways to make it better.

Of primary concern to the students was our ability to get along and the environment.

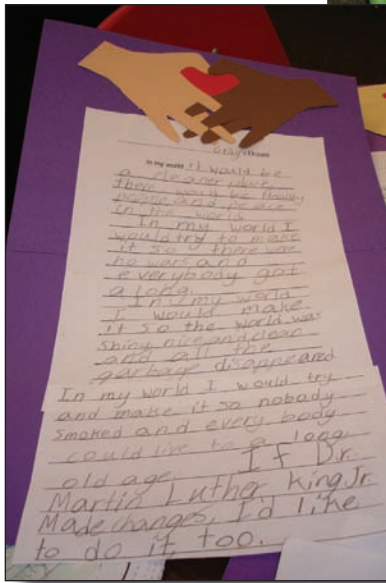
One student, Gray, sums it up as follows:



Teacher Carolyn Halpern and her second grade students at Sierra Madre Elementary School.
Photos by S. Henderson/MVO

GRAY'S DREAM

In My World, "it would be a cleaner place, there would be healthy people and peace in the world. In my world I would try to make it so there were no wars and everybody got along. In my world, I would make it so the world was shiny, nice and clean and all the garbage disappeared. In my world I would try and make it so nobody smoked and everybody could live to a long, old age. If Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made changes, I'd like to do it too."



Controversial Blogger Jim Snider Found Dead

Jim Snider, admitted owner of the infamous blog known as the *Sierra Madre Cumquat*, was found dead in his apartment on Thursday.

According to sources close to Snider, he had not been seen for a few days locally. His landlord entered his apartment at the behest of friends and discovered his body.

Sierra Madre Police Captain Larry Giannone confirmed the death of Snider, saying, "No cause of death has been determined at this time. It does not appear, however, that the death is the result of foul play". According to Giannone, it appeared that he had been dead for several days. At press time, the LA County Coroner's Office still had not determined the exact cause of death.

Snider who at one time served on the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department, gained notoriety in recent years due to his involvement with several outrageous websites. In addition to the 'cumquat' site, friends say he is also responsible for others one of which mercifully abused senior resident Fay Angus and others. One site was the subject of discussion before the city council when another local blogger known as 'Sir Eric' (John Crawford), because of its solicitation of women to participate in illegal acts in Sierra Madre. The websites were all mysteriously taken down earlier this week.

Despite the blogs, Jim had many friends who were saddened to hear of his passing. Several contacted the paper out of concern that he would only be remembered for the controversy, and not his "more humane side".

Jim Snider was 45 years of age.

Staff/MVO

ARCADIA POLICE SEEK SUSPECT

Police are looking for this suspect who entered an open business and attacked the female employee using pepper spray and striking the victim several times to the face

Suspect: Male, possibly Asian, 25-30 years old, 6-00, 200 pounds, brown eyes, long black shoulder length hair, navy blue sweatshirt and dark pants.

Any information, call Det. Davis at 626-574-5165 or Det. Crowther 626-574-5149.



Fire Investigation At Local Shopping Center "Unmaintained building (eyesore/embarrassment to neighborhood)." - Code Compliance Officer's report.

By Dean Lee

With a list of city code complaints dating back to the mid 1990s, Pasadena Vice-Mayor Steve Haderlein said he hopes that the Dec. 30 fire in a run down shopping area would now draw enough attention to warrant action on a situation which many say is still out of control.

"Believe it or not, it's actually a lot better than it was," Haderlein said. "I know there has been some discussion that it [Albertson's] was going to be sold to Whole Foods. I don't know what happened to that. You would think the Hastings Ranch neighborhood would support it."

Haderlein said that the property's list of code violations previously filed with the city was longer than anyone could imagine. A search done by this newspaper at the Pasadena Permit Center turned up 24 separate citations in the last five years. Going back further, the oldest dated May 11, 1994, was for trash and discarded sofas, something many still say is a problem.

Friday's trash could be seen along the Albertson's loading dock area, as well as graffiti. An abandoned dirty white Cadillac with flat tires still sits facing Sierra Madre Boulevard. Trash, junked cars and graffiti have been of most concern over the years, Haderlein said. Discarded shopping carts full of debris could also be seen in nearby bushes. Complaints have also cited overgrown shrubbery.

A store manager at Albertson's said that the owner, Robert Chan, lives in China. His son, Howard Chan, oversees the tenants, she said, but neither the owner nor his son returned requests seeking comment. A number of other tenants also declined comment.

Eight of the code violations alone were for abandoned vehicles, seven were for trash and many had multiple violations. Violation can result in fine up to \$500. After that, the case may be referred to the city prosecutor's office for prosecution against the property owner.

(cont. page 4)



A recent fire near has opened the door to an investigation of this poorly maintained shopping area at Michillinda and Sierra Madre Blvd. in Pasadena



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THIS WEEK

- 1

MLK Celebrated By SME
Danny Castro New Director
Fire Investigation
- 2

Community Calendar
Senior Happenings
- 3

Rich Johnson:
Immigrant Success
Woman's Club Luncheon
- 4

Pasadena's State of
The City
Brookside In Jeopardy
- 5

SMEAC: Did You Know?
Fire Safe Council
Police Blotter/Crossword
- 6

One Of A Kind: La Vina
Reality Check
All About Book Collecting
- 7

Florence Kens Wins
Trish's Truth: Pull Up or
Pay Out
- 8

Tolchin: Images of 2007
From The Desk Of The
Editor
Hail on Dr. King
- 9

Legal Notices
- 10

Legal Notices
- 11

Looking Up: That Ole' Sun
Clymer: My Way
- 12

Jeff's Pics
Pat Birdsall
Inside Out
- 13

Peter Dills: Table For Two
South Of The Border
Nano Naming Contest
- 14

Eastland: On Cheating
LaSalle's John Mattheus



Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Lattitude N34.2

Saturday:	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Sunday:	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Monday:	Cloudy	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Tuesday:	Cloudy	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
Wednesday:	Cloudy	Hi 50s	Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

Sierra Madre Community Calendar

JANUARY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day City Hall Closed	2	3 Senior Commission 3:00 Planning Commission 7:00	4	5
6	7	8 First Meeting Sierra Madre Coordinating Council CITY COUNCIL	9 Arts Commission 6:30	10	11 Travelers & Collectors Series <small>DEADLINE FOR NOMINATING PAPERS</small>	12 Walk With The Mayor
13 Fritz Coleman at Playhouse	14	15	16 <small>TREE COMMISSION 7:00</small> <small>DEADLINE FOR NOMINATING PAPERS</small> <small>Office of Treasurer</small>	17 Planning Commission Senior Adventure	18	19 Community Meeting & Stonehouse Site Visit
20	21 Community Service Commission 6:00	22 CITY COUNCIL Meeting VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE	23 Library Trustees 7:00	24	25 Citizen Of The Year Dinner honoring Pete Siberell	26 John Grijalva Memorial Arts Commission Excursion HFF Dog & People Walk
27	28	29	30	31		

UPCOMING FEBRUARY EVENTS	
1/2	Best Used Book Sale
2	Women's Club Celebrity Luncheon
8	Travelor's and Collectors
8-9	Creative Arts Group Jewelry Show
9	Walk With Mayor
10	Tap Chicks at the Playhouse
11	Author's Night: Marsha Carrington
13	SME Father-Daughter Dance
14	Chamber Brakfast
16	YAC - UCLA Campus Tour
21	"Third Thursday" Book Club
21	Senior Adventure - Griffith Observatory
22	Friends of the Library Wine & Cuisine Tasting
23	Little League Opening Day
23	HFF Kickball
26/27	AARP Senior Driving Safety Program

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Pasadena Farmer's Market

Every Saturday to 12:30 p.m.
Bring the kiddies. PHS parking lot
2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



Café 322

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

Beantown

45 N. Baldwin Sierra Madre (626) 355-1596

Lucky Baldwin's

21 Kersting Court Sierra Madre (626) 355-1140

Mary's Market

561 Woodland Drive Sierra Madre (626) 355-4534

New Day!

The Harvey Hyde Show

Every **Thursday** 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Hard-hitting, high impact sports talk radio KSHP Las Vegas - 1400 AM
Live! from **BURGER CONTINENTAL** 535 South Lake Avenue Pasadena

Sierra Madre Citizen of the Year 2007

Friday, January 25, 2008
Chandelier Room Santa Anita Park
285 W. Huntington Drive Arcadia

Congratulate Pete Siberell, the winner of the 2007 Citizen of the Year Award.
Former Mayor John Buchanan, MC & Sierra Madre Lyric Theater Group will entertain.
Contact Beverly DeVoy Contact 626-355-5111

SENIOR HAPPENINGS...By Pat Birdsall

FYI: Just Say No To Credit Cards

Do you want to block the flurry of “pre-approved” credit card offers? Consider “opting out.” Call the toll-free number 1-888-567-8688 or visit www.optoutprescreen.com. Both are operated by the three major credit bureaus and are free of charge. You'll have to provide your name, address and social security number, information that will be “used only to process your request to opt out,” according to the Federal Trade Commission website. Opting out lasts for five years unless you follow up with a written request to make it permanent. If you have joint credit with a spouse or a partner, you both have to opt out. You still may get offers from charities, alumni associations and companies you do business with, such as your current credit card company. If you change your mind and want a new credit card, you can always reverse the procedure and “opt in.”
AARP Bulletin - November '07

~Helpful Hints~

*To remove burnt-on food from a pot, put it in the freezer for a couple of hours. Remove and wash it out as you normally would.
*Put photographs that are stuck together in the freezer for 10-12 minutes. Gently break apart using a butter knife.



Recipe of the Month:

Slow-Cooked Chili

* 1lb lean ground beef or ground turkey
* ½ lb bulk Italian pork sausage
* 1 medium onion chopped (1/2 cup)
* 1 can (28 oz) whole tomatoes undrained
* 1 can (15 oz) tomato sauce
* 1 tsp sugar
* 1-1 ½ tsp ground cumin
* 2 tsp chili powder
* 1 tsp dried oregano leaves
* 1 can (15 oz) spicy chili beans, undrained
* 1 can garbanzo beans, **or** kidney beans, drained & rinsed
* Sour cream, if desired
* Sliced green onion, if desired
1- In 10” skillet, cook beef, sausage and onion over medium high heat 5-7 minutes, stirring frequently until beef is thoroughly cooked, drain.
2- In 3-4 quart slow cooker, mix beef mixture and remaining ingredients except sour cream and green onions.
3- Cover: Cook on Low heat setting 7-8 hours. Top individual servings with sour cream and green onions.
6 servings (Pillsbury)

May all your troubles last as long as your
New Year’s resolutions!

-Joey Adams

~ For Your Funny Bone~

Mom was getting swamped with calls from strangers. The reason? A medical billing service had launched an 800 number that was identical to hers. When she called to complain, they told her to get a new number. “I’ve had mine for twenty years,” she pleaded. “Couldn’t you change yours?” They refused. So Mom said. “Fine, from now on I’m going to tell everyone who calls that their bill is paid in full.” The company got a new number the next day. *K. Drake- RD*



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monthly Excursions:

January 17: Morongo Casino & Outlet shopping \$20.00

February 21: Griffith Observatory- Details to be announced

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

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

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

Immigrant Success Story

By Rich Johnson

I had a wonderful opportunity to sit down and talk with *Kellie Strubinski*, a recent immigrant into Sierra Madre. This is truly a success story as Kellie worked hard to integrate herself into our rather eclectic Sierra Madre society. In fact, as we speak, she is the chairperson of the upcoming Wine and Cuisine Tasting fundraiser benefiting the Sierra Madre Library. I wanted to talk briefly about the Fundraiser and then find out how she successfully transitioned to life in such a foreign environment.

Rich: Kellie, first tell us a little bit about the Fundraiser for the Library.

Kellie: I would love to Mr. Johnson. It's a Wine and Cuisine tasting event. It's going to be held on February 22nd, 2008 at Alverno School. The time will be from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. With over 50 vintners and restaurants offering their finest, it will be quite a epicurean adventure. Come hungry and thirsty. Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased at several locations around town or by calling (626) 355-7186.

Rich: Wow, you speak the language almost like a native. And please call me Rich. Tell me, where did you emigrate from?

Kellie: Well Rich, you probably never heard of it. I come from a land called Pasadena.

Rich: Pasadena? Fascinating. Did you encounter what we call culture shock when you first moved into town?

Kellie: Oh my gosh. It was really difficult the first few months. The languages aren't all that dissimilar but the accents in Sierra Madre really threw me.

Rich: You might not want to answer this but did you come here legally?

Kellie: No, I admit I snuck across the border. It was easy. I crossed right in the middle of the intersection at Orange Grove and Michillinda. I was sure if they caught me in the middle of the street the police would be confused.

Rich: How so?

Kellie: I figured whose problem is it? You are right at the intersection of Arcadia, Pasadena and Sierra Madre?

Rich: Good point. But you know I'm interviewing you across the border here at Nano's Café. Are you at risk?

Kellie: Not to worry. I'm legal now. I must tell you that your city government is so efficient, particularly compared to where I'm from. And while I'm at it, everyone gets along so well with everyone else in town. Does anyone ever argue in Sierra Madre?

Rich: Uhhhh, let's move on. Can you drink the water here in town?

Kellie: It was tough at first. My body had to adjust to lack of microbes and giving up that rusty, metallic taste. Plus, your clear and sparkling water was hard to look at. I'm used to seeing what I'm drinking. But I've come around. I actually prefer it now.

Rich: In closing, if someone was thinking of emigrating to Sierra Madre what would you tell them?

Kellie: Hurry! There's so much to come for. All the wonderful restaurants and coffee shops in town. The T-Ball league, the outdoor summer concerts, the public pool and Recreation Center. The warm and open people and their friendly dogs. Even the hardware store guys know me by my first name. I'm so lucky to have made it here. Thank you to all the people that helped me get here.

Rich: Thank you for this interview Kellie.

Kellie: You're welcome Mr. Joh... Rich.

I said my goodbyes to Kellie and crossed back over into Sierra Madre feeling better about myself and our small slice of Americana. I felt good about all 10,000 of us providing a refuge to Ms. Strubinski and her children, particularly a refuge from war torn Pasadena. Let's show her how we treat foreigners and all sign up for the Wine and Cuisine Tasting. It's for the library and thus for the children. Tickets are \$60 apiece and you can even order tickets through the mail at:

The Friends of the
Sierra Madre Library
P. O. Box 3345
Sierra Madre, CA 91025

I feel good all over (And that covers a lot of ground.) Bye.



John Grijalva Memorial

The family of John Grijalva cordially invites you to attend a celebration of his life and his legacy...

1:00 PM

Saturday, January 26, 2008

Hart Memorial Park House (Senior Center)
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre.



John Grijalva (center) with dear friends Buddy Switzer (left) and Bill Schlote in Kersting Court. Photo By Hood

SIERRA MADRE WOMAN'S CLUB LUNCHEON FEATURES THREE AUTHORS

By Phyllis Chapman

Sierra Madre Woman's Club invites you to attend their annual Celebrity Luncheon, this year showcasing three local authors. The Luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 2, 11:30 a.m. in "Essick House", their historic clubhouse, 550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd, in Sierra Madre. These "Masters of the Printed Word" will be introduced by event chair, Mary Carney.

Pasadena resident Jeff Bader will speak about "Soldiers' Angels: May No Soldier Be Unloved", the story of his wife, Patti Patton-Bader who, after her oldest son went to Iraq, responded to his observation that some of the guys he knew received no mail from anyone. Her outreach lead to the founding of "Soleires' Angels", a non-profit to support our soldiers. In October she received the Congressional Recognition Award, and in November she received Microsoft's "Above and Beyond Award", for trying to ensure that none of our soldiers are forgotten. Patti herself may also attend the luncheon.

Karen Maezen Miller, a Sierra Madre resident, a mother, and a Zen priest, will share her book, "Momma Zen: The Crooked Path of Motherhood" on the unsuspected ways that motherhood opens you to unanticipated ways of growing wiser every day.

Susan Lendroth, also a Sierra Madre resident and a mother, reaches out to children with "Why Explore?" - and finding the magic that opens up when you let yourself do things you never thought of. The daughters of both the authors will be attending, and other young people are also welcome.

Tickets for this philanthropic benefit are \$25, are limited, and may be reserved by calling Carney at 626-355-6225.

The Sierra Madre Woman's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, founded in 1890 and chartered as the official voice for women by the 119th Congress in 1901. SMWC celebrated its 100th anniversary during 2007, and is beginning its second century of service to the Sierra Madre community. Sierra Madre Woman's Club is one of 29 federated women's clubs in the San Gabriel Valley District and, with 130+ members, is one of the largest clubs in the area; it is also a member of the California Federation of Women's Clubs, headquartered in Ontario, CA. To learn more, go to www.smwc.info, www.cfwc.org, and www.gfwc.org.

Automated Parking Ticket Payment Service

Starting the first week of February 2008, people who received parking tickets within the City will be able to make their fine payment online.

The Police Department will provide a payment link that will go on the City's website. A link will direct the viewer to an automated payment screen to input basic information and pay the fine by credit card. In addition to the fine fee, a \$3.00 processing fee will cover the processing cost.

This results in no out-of-pocket expense for the City, and it provides a safe and convenient way for people to pay for parking citations.

For more information, please contact Captain Giannone at the Sierra Madre Police Department at 626-355-1414.

STARTING A NEW BUSINESS ?

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www.sierramadrebooks.com sierramadrebooks@verizon.net

LEARN ABOUT CIVIC CLUB AT AN EVENING MEMBERSHIP TEA

The welcome mat is out at Sierra Madre Civic Club as interested women in the area are invited to attend their evening Membership Tea, Thursday, January 24, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Pat Alcorn, a past president, 471 E. Grandview Ave. for this opportunity to learn about this group. Membership Co-Chairs Darlene Crook and Colleen McKernan hostess this evening tea, and would be happy to have you attend. For more information, or to RSVP to attend, please call either Crook at 626-792-0852, or McKernan at 626-355-1223.

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library
Invite you to "Celebrate Good Friends" at
The 38th Wine and Cuisine Tasting



By Sierra Madre artist Susan Wallis

February 22, 2008 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Alverno Villa

Ticket Price: \$60.00

Silent Auction
World Famous Magic Castle Magicians
Music by Eric Byak
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Tickets available at:
Sierra Madre Public Library
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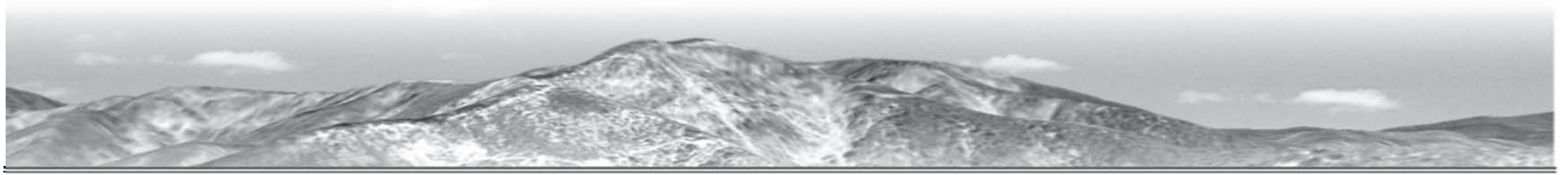
To order by mail, please make
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2008 Mount Wilson Trail Race – Time to Start Training!

It is time to start training for the 2008 Mount Wilson Trail Race on Saturday, May 24, 2008. This is your chance to achieve an impressive athletic feat and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the race, which started in 1908, making this the second oldest trail race in California. The race, which starts and ends in Kersting Court, is run along the Mt. Wilson Trail to Orchard Camp, which used to

serve as the rest point between Sierra Madre and the top of Mt. Wilson. Participants will climb over 2,100 vertical feet along the single-track trail and then come back down again, for a total distance of 8.6 miles. To help you get started, Coach Eric LeClair and Elite Fitness Bootcamp/TEAM Crossfit will be offering free Saturday morning Trail Training beginning January 19, 2008 and continuing up

until the race. Training begins in Kersting Court each Saturday at 7:00 a.m. Register for the 2008 Mount Wilson Trail Race beginning January 21, 2008. Get your 2008 entry form at the Sierra Madre Community Recreation Center, City Hall, Run With Us-Pasadena, Lucky Baldwin's Delirium Café and Café 322. All entries are due by Monday, May 12, 2008. This race will be sold out, so get your entry in early!



MountainViews-Observer PASADENA

Mayor Promotes Ballot Measure D During State Of The City Address

By Dean Lee

Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard gave this year's State of the City address Thursday night to a room full of prominent officials - so many in fact, that he commented that there just was not enough time to acknowledge everyone.

Bogaard began by first thanking his own wife, Clair Bogaard. Others mentioned members of the city council, PUSD board members and Superintendent Edwin Diaz and Mrs. Diaz. "I'm surprised at the level of interest," he humbly said minutes before taking the stage.

Shortly into his address, "Vital Connections," Bogaard stressed the importance of the upcoming User Utility Tax, Measure D. The measure has come under fire from a local citizen's group, claiming it was a new way to tax internet services.

"Federal law prohibits the application of a UUT to internet access," said Mayor Bogaard. "The city council did adopt an ordinance clarifying that no tax will ever be imposed on internet access without a future vote of the people." Last month City Clerk, Jane Rodriguez, sued Wayne Lusvardi, Chairperson for Citizens for Responsible Government, saying arguments against Measure D, which would be printed on the ballot, were false and misleading. Lusvardi had stated that Measure D "forced" an Internet tax on "access."

Lusvardi later said, "Taxes could be applied to email, web surfing, computer gaming, file downloading, text messaging and any other activity resulting from a transmission of 'voice, data, audio, video or any other information,'" and that his opposition was that this was a tax on usage, not access. Lusvardi's aforesaid statement has been printed on the ballot.

"No matter how you decide to vote, I encourage everyone to go to the polls on February 5th," chided the Mayor.

Measure D will provides \$10 million per year for critical services and is only meant to update the city's 40 year old tax on telephone services.

Bogaard acknowledged that Pasadena had tough

times ahead. He blamed some of the city's dim outlook on California's \$14 billion budget deficit, reminding all that this, in part, could put the city's seniors and children at risk. "Pasadena's economic prospects during 2008 are at best uncertain and will almost certainly fall short of the upwards movement so far this decade," he said.

In the last 25 years, Bogaard said Pasadena's economy had transitioned from manufacturing to retail and service activities, adding that "it has become stronger and more diversified."

Low office vacancies have pushed demand, elevating rental rates in the city to levels now among the highest in L.A. County, he said.

Bogaard made no mention of Pasadena businesses garnering national attention lately, such as Pasadena's IndyMac Bank, eliminating 2,403 jobs. Countrywide Financial Corp., the nation's No. 1 mortgage lender, had earlier slashed 12,000 jobs. Mid-year, EarthLink cut half its Pasadena staff and put their local offices up for lease. They also ended a contract with Pasadena for a citywide WiFi system.

Countrywide has a number of offices still in Pasadena, the home for the corporation for over a decade before moving to Calabasas.

Bogaard said this year will also see a decrease in new construction and commercial rehabilitation. Based on the dollar value of permits issued, the level of investment during prior years had averaged around \$220 million, he noted. Regarding new growth, he said, "I hope that this year we can initiate a community discussion about architectural quality and design, and build an understanding and consensus about what we, as a community, want to experience."

He also noted the city is attempting to acquire 20 acres above Annandale Golf Course, "land which is in a native state even though it was subdivided into several parcels for development of single-family homes more than 80 years ago,"

Bogaard mentioned many of the city's Green Building goals and its commitment to reducing green house



City Spokesperson Ann Erdman assists Mayor Bill Bogaard as he puts last minute touches on Thursday's state of the city address
Photo D. Lee/MVO

gases, and thus the threat of global warming.

"During the coming year, Pasadena will continue to reduce emissions within City operations and will reach out to our constituencies - businesses, organizations, and individuals - to engage them in this commitment," he said.

"This outreach effort will be aided by three major conferences that are coming up." The first is , The Systems, Cities & Sustainable Mobility Summit in February, hosted by Art Center College of Design; more information can be found on the city's website.

Showing a strong support for the PUSD and Pasadena police, he quoted former Chief of Police Bernard Melekian, saying, "Our young people are the future, and they deserve more than we are giving them." Melekian now sits as the interim city manager.

He said, responding to a challenge to reduce crime last fall, "the City Council established the Youth Development and Violence Prevention Committee, inviting Pasadena City College, PUSD, the Altadena Town Council, and others to join city representatives and

non-profit organizations in the first multi-agency effort of its kind."

The committee's work so far, Bogaard said, has indicated that the needs of many children, teens and young adults in Pasadena are not being met. Many in the community have criticized committee's formation and its goals of stating the obvious.

Monday night the city council approved giving the youth committee \$50,000 to fund consultants in implementing a plan of action for 2008 in conjunction with the Western Justice Center.

Bogaard also promoted Pasadena's Healthy Living focus.

"On February 6, we will kick off Up & Moving Pasadena, in which I, along with special guests, will lead monthly morning walks around the Rose Bowl, and everyone is invited to join us," he said.

On Saturday January 26 will be the Kids Fitness Challenge, the largest event of its kind in California. On February 24, the Rose Bowl will be the finish line of the AMGEN Tour of California - a professional 650-mile bicycling race starting in Northern California. Bogaard is known for his advocacy towards cycling.



Arroyo Nominated As State Historic Location - Golf Course Lands In The Rough

By Dean Lee

With worries that Brookside Golf Course could be forced to change conceivably to the point of not allowing it to be profitable, the city council Monday night requested that a state hearing be postponed nominating the Arroyo Parks and Recreation District to the National Register of Historic Places.

In a letter sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, the council asked that if the hearing could not be postponed, that the golf course be excluding creating a horseshoe shaped historic district.

The current proposed designation includes The Rose Bowl and the Colorado Street Bridge, the La Casita del Arroyo and the Lower Arroyo Seco.

"Our goal in nominating the Arroyo was to acknowledge this incredible collection of recreational uses, manmade features within a natural setting that have been part of own history since the beginning of time," said Sue Mossman, Pasadena Heritage's Executive Director.

Councilmember Steve Madison took issue with Pasadena Heritage first going to the state hearing officer and then telling the council just four days before the hearing.

"I have to tell you, I love Pasadena Heritage, I support them strongly but I take a dim view of that as a way of doing business in Pasadena," he said. "That is not the Pasadena way."

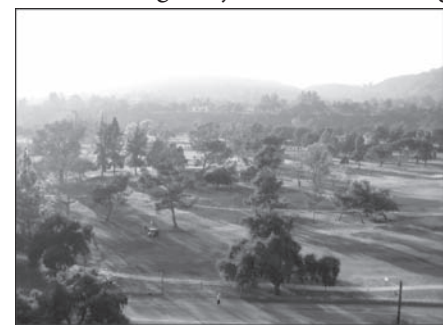
He continued, "The Pasadena way, in a small town like ours... would be to sit down with the RBOC (Rose Bowl Operating Company) and say 'this is a step we think is important.'"

Madison also said the Rose Bowl Operating Company should be the ones looking into the use of the golf courses something they said they did do, they just had not told the council.

"We have entrusted in the ROBC the management and oversight of those golf courses," Madison said.

Interim city manager Bernard Melekian said the nomination was not made by city staff so the assumption by the council they were responding to it was correct,

Mossman said the nomination had been under development for 2.5 years. Mossman acknowledged Pasadena Heritage did not do a good job communicating with the RBOC.



She said the designation only acknowledges that beginning in 1918 when the first idea of having golf courses in that location was suggested by the city, it protects the general layout, usage and boundaries of the courses. An unsatisfied city council, not so quick to put \$2 million in annual revenue from Brookside on the line, went on to debate the issue for two hours.

Councilmember Victor Gordo said the city should stay away from designating historic "usage" saying that it could severely limit the decision making process of the golf courses. "We want to made sure that it conitues to be an asset for the city he said.

In the end most councilmember said they really did not understand how the designation would affect the courses and though they should be left out. So much so that councilmember Chris Holden suggested Mayor Bill Bogaard and Melekian go to the hearings in Sacramento to make sure the state heard their points.

"I'm assuming they will take public testimony," Holden said. "Then maybe having the mayor and city manager be a part of reinforcing the letter and comments from the council."

INVESTIGATION (from pg. 1)

Haderlien's field representative, Rhonda Stone, said none of the cases went to the city prosecutor's office, although at times police had forced talks between code compliance officers and Howard Chan.

Reports also described offices stored with "junk" visible from the street, calling it an "eyesore," along with more "chronic" graffiti, and referring that to the city's Graffiti Abatement Program. Code Compliance Officer, Roberto Pena, wrote in April that the unmaintained buildings were an eyesore and an embarrassment to the neighborhood.

In November 2006 a filed complaint claimed there were "rat dropping inside the store [Albertson's] area, no hot water / no potable water, serious electrical problems, mold as a result of flooding in the store, inadequate weather stripping, an

open trench behind the north wall," among other things, including water leaks causing contamination and dumpsters attracting rodents. Lighting was also a concern. A later inspection showed all the problems had been resolved.

Pasadena Fire Marshall Mark Fasick said his department had also received a recent complaint about stored materials at the property in a Laundromat.

The closed Laundromat at 3817 E. Sierra Madre Blvd was a total loss, due to a blaze first reported at 8:43 p.m., Dec 30. He said he did not know what role the stored materials played and the fire was still under investigation.

He said it depends on whether the building was "sprinklered" or not, and if so, if it inhibited the fire. He also noted that anyone who sees anything, such as piled debris or junk, should report it to the fire

department. Last week, Fasick said he was going to look into other complaints of stored materials above Nano Café One, which faces Michillinda Avenue.

The new café owner, who has only been there the last four months, said he did not know anything about the packed boxes, tables and chairs above his restaurant. He explained it was the responsibility of the property owner, Chan. It was completely separate from his place, he said.

The fire took seven fire engines and three trucks from six cities to knock down. Fasick said the structural integrity of the building had been compromised, thus delaying the investigation.

"What kept the investigation from going forward was we had to make sure one of the support beams damaged in the fire was ok," Fasick reported. "We had to make sure

to get it certified before anybody could make entry [or] by having an engineer come out and take a look at it."

According to Pasadena Fire Battalion Chief Brett Gibson, the roof had to be ventilated to stop the horizontal spread of the fire in a common attic. Smoke damage was extensive, he also said, and total damage was estimated at \$400,000 to the property and \$150,000 to contents.

Fasick said first reports listing complaints of materials inside as being hazardous, but turned out to be paint, tarps and other cleaners used for grounds maintenance.

The laundry business had been closed since 2005, he said, further commenting that, ironically, that this year the fire department plans to start doing annual "absentee" inspections, looking at current business licenses and making sure that business are doing what the

license says.

"I'm sure we will catch some more people doing illegal tenant improvements," Fasick said.

Another business in the shopping center had previously been cited for unpermitted construction during the night.

Happy Jack's Video has also been all but abandoned. One side of the storefront's door is boarded up, a heavy chain secures it and unopened mail can be seen piled inside by the door. Other stores have letters broken or missing from their signs and most of the other signs don't light up at night making, them unreadable. Unauthorized banners also hang everywhere.

A boutique shop, next door to Happy Jack's, also sits empty.

Haderlien oversees Pasadena District 4, which includes the Albertson's Shopping Center; he is also an Economics and Civics Teacher at La Salle.

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Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council

TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown

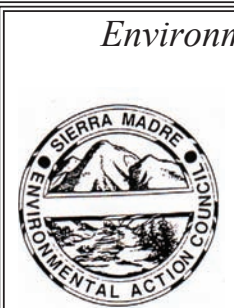
Many brush fires have started in what appears to the general public as cold, wintery and somewhat damp days. Winter rainfall does nothing to change dried out brush into green brush, and very shortly after the rain, dry Santa Ana wind conditions can and do occur in our Southern California “foothills and canyon passes”, as the weather reporters phrase our local geography.

It is important for the public to understand the reasons why cities and county jurisdictions call “Red Flag Alerts” and restrict access to recreational areas. These restrictions are temporary and follow the weather conditions of: dry fuel, low humidity and high winds. Fire and flood cycles in the recent past have caused long term closures to areas that it is hoped will be avoided in the future by following “Red Flag Alert” closures in our foothills that protect residential and commercial interests.

Our next Fire Safe Council meeting will be February 4, 2008 in the City Council chambers. We will meet each first Monday of the month throughout 2008 as we expand our program to include multi-hazard preparation.

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

We have a palette 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.



Did You Know?

Last week we strongly encouraged everyone to keep at least one resolution this year... *Say no to paper and plastic.* This week, the wire services reported that China has taken a major step to sharply reduce the use of plastic bags by banning the manufacture of the thinnest, least durable bags, by requiring stores to charge for others, and by encouraging people to return to the use of cloth bags and shopping baskets. Regional authorities are also being instructed to consider tax measures to discourage plastic bag production and to increase recycling efforts. The new regulations take effect in June, to deal with what is now being referred to in China as “white pollution.”

Elsewhere, legislation limiting the use of plastic bags has been passed in parts of France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland (2003), South Africa and Taiwan plus remarkably, a ban in Bangladesh. In this country, the lead has been taken by many Alaskan villages, some of which banned plastic bags as long as five years ago. Last year, San Francisco became the first U.S. city to impose a ban. Hopefully, there will be more to come.

~ Reduce, Reuse, Recycle~

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SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, January 6th to Saturday January 12th the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 310 calls for service.

Sunday, January 6th:

12:50 AM – Arrest, 708 West Sierra Madre Blvd. Officers observed a suspicious vehicle parked to the rear of the apartment complex. The officer stopped to investigate. A records check revealed the driver, a man from El Monte, had a suspended/revoked driver's license and a warrant for his arrest. The driver was arrested and released to San Marino Police Department.

Monday, January 7th:-

9:47 PM – Identity Theft, 00 block East Laurel Ave. A resident reported the loss of her driver's license and several credit cards and the use of her American Express Card without her permission. The theft occurred between Monday, 12/24/2007 and Saturday, 1/5/2008.

6:28 PM – Attempted petty theft, 440 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre Public Library. A resident reported a male juvenile trying to walk off with a handicapped parking sign valued at \$200.00. The resident intervened and recovered the sign from the juvenile. The juvenile was not held by the resident and his identity is unknown.

Tuesday, January 8th:

5:32 PM – Cruelty to animals/tortures mutilates, Mount Wilson Trail. A hiker reported evidence of an animal sacrifice on the trail. Two male Hispanics were seen with a bloody chicken and candles on a black tarp. The hiker recorded a vehicle license number, which returned to Temple City. The investigation is on-going.

Wednesday, January 9th:

8:44 AM – Arrest, 600 block East Grandview Ave. An officer stopped a man at a residence that was recently burglarized. The officer's investigation revealed the man was working at the home, but he had two outstanding arrest warrants. He was arrested and transported to the police station where he was booked and released on a written promise to appear.

Thursday, January 10th:

9:26 AM – Vandalism/graffiti, 144 West Highland Ave. A resident reported vandalism/graffiti to the south wall of the old Youth Activity building. The damage occurred between 7:00 pm Wednesday, 1/9 and 7:30 am Thursday, 1/10. No cost of repair was available.

Friday, January 11th:

11:39 PM – DUI arrest, 700 block North Santa Anita Ave, Arcadia. Officers stopped a vehicle for expired registration. The driver, a man from Upland, was determined to be under the influence of alcohol and or drugs. The driver was arrested and taken to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

Saturday, January 12th:

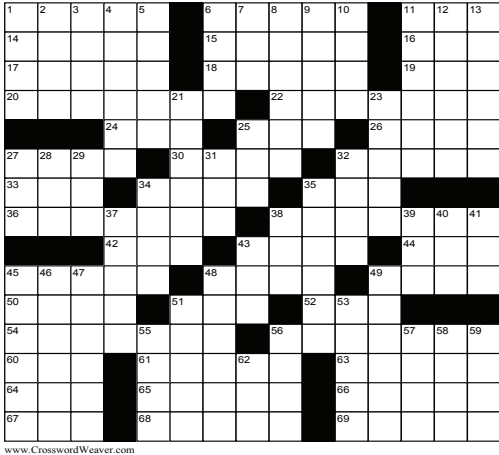
3:32 AM - DUI arrest, Sierra Madre Villa and Foothill Blvd. An officer stopped a vehicle for speeding. During the investigation the driver was determined to be under the influence of alcohol and or drugs. The driver, a man from Los Angeles, was arrested and taken to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

1:32 PM – Arrest, 297 West Sierra Madre Blvd. A driver was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed the driver, a Pasadena resident, had a no bail warrant for his arrest. The driver was arrested, booked and transported to County Jail for remand.

2:11 PM – Vandalism, 300 block East Grandview Ave. A resident reported the front windshield smashed on his van. The vandalism occurred between 9:00 pm Friday, 1/11 and 2:00 pm Saturday, 1/12. The owners estimated the loss at \$250.00.

Puzzle For You

Just For You



ACROSS

- Face part
- Walked back and forth
- Nosh
- How do you do
- Sporty car brand
- Compass point
- Cargo ship
- Mount (2 wds.)
- Boxer Muhammad
- Come before
- N. Canadian dwellers
- Thai
- Utilize
- Chimney dirt
- What children learn
- Blow
- Hurts
- School group
- Limbs
- Yes
- Rubble
- Took illegally
- Decay
- Believe
- Cation

DOWN

- Break up wood
- One who inherits
- Women's magazine
- Votes in
- Asian nation
- Call a pager
- Genius

- Most adorable
- Jagged
- Wet
- Inflame with love
- In bloom
- Coils
- Reader's ____
- Abraham's son
- Ship initials
- Rainy mo.
- Energy unit
- Automobile
- Good grief
- What the pilot uses
- MGM's leo
- Relents
- Hasty
- Hardly any
- Wham
- Long time
- Deoxyribonucleic acid (abbr.)
- Levee
- Nibble
- Lives
- Reach a decision
- Patrol
- Annual storm causing current
- River
- Hits the ball
- Competition at the Greek games
- Airy
- False god graven image
- Roman emperor
- Goofs
- Child

Resolutions

What Promises Did You Make?

Solution:

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



Chris Bertrand

One Of A Kind:

Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them

Photos and Story By Chris Bertrand

Altadena's La Viña: From Sanitarium And Highland Retreat To Gated Community (Part 1)

Ninety year young Edwin Evans of Concord, CA, speaks almost casually about the three years he spent at La Viña's Sanitarium. As he recalls it, he was about twelve when he was sent there with suspected tuberculosis and a persistent fever. He says he "wasn't happy about it" but he did it, in his always understated, upbeat style that purposely glosses over the small and large glitches of life. Later tests finally determined that his malady was, in fact, coccidioidomycosis, a fungal infection also known as valley fever, known to flourish in the hot, dry environs of his Fresno home. Nonetheless, Evans, whose only symptoms were a low grade fever and spots on his lungs, remained a patient in the "healthful" air of Altadena in the late 1920's from seventh to ninth grade, separated from family and home.

Thought to be the best possibility of cure for breathing ailments including TB and asthma, many were drawn to LA's foothill climate from across the state, the country and the world in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Sanitariums like the 100-acre La Viña dotted the foothills. Altadena alone had five hospitals dedicated to respiratory illnesses in this time period; Monrovia had one, and Sierra Madre's Alverno Villa was built with intentions to become one until NIMBY (not in my back yard) efforts squelched that possibility.

AFTER the villa was built. Dr. James Barlow's vision did prevail however, and he eventually built his respiratory hospital in Los Angeles, where it still serves today.



Voelkner kept the camera and a few pictures from his La Viña hospitalization for about 70 years

Long before antibiotics became the treatment protocol for tuberculosis and related diseases, some of the very ill spent their last dollars just to travel to healthful California, only to succumb quickly, raising the death rates in places like Altadena, which had such hospitals. Nearby cemeteries like Mountain View hold the tombstones of many a La Viña patient. Ed Evans and many others were lucky, and found renewed health in the 1500 foot altitude and fresh "highland" air at approximately Lincoln Avenue about a half mile above Altadena Drive. Today a gated community of 200+ homes occupies the land.

Evans doesn't know how his costs were paid, but historical documentation from Michele Zack's wonderful book, *Altadena: Between Wilderness and City*, indicates that the hospital was one of the first of its kind, with a sliding scale of fees, based upon ability to pay. Established by two TB victims as well as doctors, Stebman and Bridge from Chicago, they had charitable funding and were considered nonprofit. Associated Charities in Pasadena provided funds and volunteers for the hospital, which cared for patients through the 1970's, when insidious Los Angeles smog and new treatment protocols evaporated the TB hospital concept here.

Visitors were a welcome respite for the patients. Though Evans did not have any of his own visitors due to meager finances, his mother's simultaneous TB illness and distance, a young Walt Disney befriended him on visits to see a nephew, and he was grateful for the time and attention Disney paid him, including lessons on drawing the famed Mickey and Minnie Mouse.



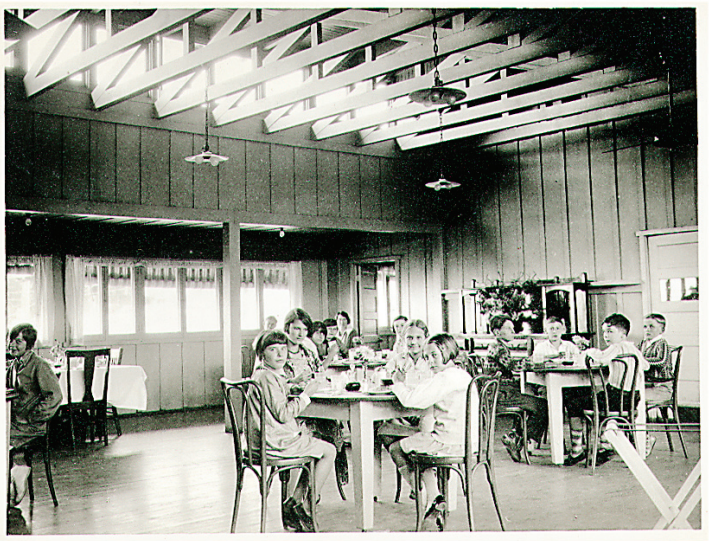
A doctor gave each of the La Viña Sanitarium children patients a box camera.

The education of La Viña's children patients did not fall by the wayside despite their hospitalization. Pasadena School District, according to Zack's book, sent teachers up to the La Viña Health School in 1923, an outgrowth of the Lincoln Avenue Open Air School. Evans remembers being the only student in his grade in the one room school heated by a pot belly stove. He was given work to do at his level, and checked on periodically as the teacher monitored about a dozen patients well enough to attend school.

His teacher shared her great interest in birds and ornithology, with field trips to the surrounding canyons. Evans felt well enough to explore the foothills and canyons on his own, and soon figured out that rest period in the afternoon afforded him some unsupervised time to hike, as long as he was back before the nurse came around a second time. He indicates the nurse never caught on (or she was smart enough to turn a blind eye).

He speaks fondly of the supervising doctor, possibly founder Dr. Bridge, who provided each of the children with a box camera for their own use. Just last year, he chanced upon another former La Viña patient, Elmer Voelkner, who lived at the same assisted living facility. Voelkner still owned his camera gift from so many decades ago, and shared pictures of his La Viña patient days. Sadly, neither Evans' box camera nor any of Evans' photos from this era still exist, but this experience with his first camera spurred his interest in the photographic industry. He went on to become a photographer of note with publications in National Geographic, ads for tourism by Greyhound Bus, and a highly respected photographic printing business in Manhattan.

Evans remembers that the 1930 era facility consisted of wood buildings, very adequate, but "nothing fancy." Shortly after Evans left La Vina, a devastating wildland fire destroyed most of those wooden buildings of the hospital facility in 1935. Funds were quickly raised to rebuild the hospital, and it opened again in 1937 and had up to 80 patients through the 1970's, when it closed. Afterward, Huntington Hospital apparently used it for



La Viña's Dining Room

a while as a cardiac rehab/ retreat facility, according to long-time area resident, Ruth Brown.

Next Week: Decades elapsed before the next chapter for the La Viña land was complete.

It's Just BUSINESS

Reality Check: We Don't Have Enough Money

By La Quetta M. Shamblee

As Californians jostle for position to rally against suggested funding reductions in the \$145 billion budget proposed by the Governor on January 10th, the feverish pitch of media sound bites about pending cuts in education, health and related social programs is again overshadowing the realities of revenue and expenses. The current budget shortfall of \$3.3 billion playing out in the capitol represents a microcosm of how people must deal with personal and household budgets. When there's not enough money to cover the bills, the choices are simple – earn more money or reduce expenses. Somehow that concept seems lost on the citizenry of the Golden State when it comes to the annual budget.

The proposed 10% reduction in budgets across virtually all state departments is seen by many as a frontal assault on services that must be maintained at the expense of anything and everything else. In the absence of other viable options, this proposal is an attempt to spread the reductions as evenly as possible in order to prevent severe cuts in any one department. As competing factions dig their heels in to do everything possible to prevent any reductions in their particular funding allocations, options that can set the stage for long-term economic stability are seemingly ignored.

Failure on the part of politicians to address the legislative, systemic and operational policies and practices that create budget deficits is directly tied to the unwillingness of Californians to accept the temporary discomfort required to effect the real changes needed to eliminate this cyclical deficit rollercoaster. Just as one's personal budget should reflect a sensibility in not spending more than one earns, the same applies to the state. A 10% reduction is viewed as drastic, however, the current budget shortfall of \$3.3 billion is projected to balloon to more than \$14 billion during the next fiscal year unless drastic measures are taken now.

The Governor's proposed legislative measures include the restriction of spending to actual revenue levels, which will eliminate the fiscally irresponsible pattern of spending more than what is available. Since the state generates revenue through taxes, the prospect of earning more money equates to some type of increase in one or more categories of taxes, which doesn't seem to be of interest to anyone.

Cuts in education is one of the categories most frequently cited as evidence that the Governor is making decisions that will have an adverse impact on our quality of life for the long-term. Concerns among health and related social programs join in with concerns that are just as relevant, but the reality is there's just not enough revenue to fund programs at the current levels. Controversy over the proposed cuts is expected to result in heated debates and amplified allegations of inequity in upcoming weeks.

Next week's column will provide a summary of the budget and an overview of the proposed cuts.

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Notes from the Owl

Book Collecting

By Mark Sailor

What makes a book collectable? Is your copy of "Gone with the Wind" worth \$5? Or is it worth \$1,000? Why are some books more valuable than others?

A book is collectable for three reasons: desirability, thriving on the popularity of a given series [Harry Potter], or a first rate writer [Sue Grafton, Clive Cussler]. Books of popular authors and topics are readily available, making your local bookstore a valuable asset for reading and information. Books available from the publisher are 'In-Print'. Popular demand for a title or author keeps books in print.

Out of Print books are books no longer published. They might be a tattered copy of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" on the attic shelf, or dusty copies of Nancy Drew. Pamphlets and stacks of printed advertisements (ephemera) from a bygone area rest in a forgotten corner, hiding their tremendous value as keys to the immediate past or a fortune at the auction house. Can you find the sixth copy of Edgar Allen Poe's "The Gold Bug"? You could fetch some 5 millions if you did - a bookseller, as an apprentice some years ago, found the fifth copy in a stack of magazines!?! The desirability for used and rare books

exists in the continuing demand for an author or a title. The scarcity of used and rare books vary. You might have a copy of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in a variety of different forms - it was published many times over. When it first appeared in 1852, it galvanized a large portion of the American Public against slavery and motivated a movement of emigrants toward Kansas and Nebraska. The effect of the books' popularity was tremendous in showcasing the need to resolve the issue of slavery, and paved the way for the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The dull grey boards of this 2-volume set and the solemn 'stereotyped' by Hobard and Robbins 1852' provide 'points' - the 'e-ticket' to a set of books which can fetch as little as \$250.00, or as much as \$10,000, depending on condition. A fine copy of these books, and others, in good condition, coupled with demand (desirability) drives the market in used/rare books. In the case of "Uncle Tom's Cabin", it became part of American History, and its desirability was established for collectors as millions of copies were published.

Often titles are published and become immediately collectible: Mark Twain, Nancy Drew, John Steinbeck, Wizard of Oz, just to name a few. Because of their popularity, early or first editions become highly collectible when the original copies are no longer available or in print. Try to

find a Sue Grafton "A" or "B murder book in first edition- I bet you'll pay a little bit for a nice copy!

More often than not, titles and authors grow from small beginnings. It's just this fact that makes early titles and editions of authors collectible.

Most importantly then, the condition of any collectible item comes into focus in making a price. Just like a metal Coca Cola sign from 1920 or an Essex 8 automobile from the 30's, condition is everything.

It's really pretty easy - you just have to look at your shelves to find a collectible book; get lucky at the local library sale, or a yard sale on Baldwin Avenue, or an old warehouse on Montecito Avenue.

First, let's start with BOOKS IN PRINT {Bowker, Ann Arbor, Michigan}. Available at the local library or in CD Rom form, this valuable source will help you determine the status of your book (In Print, Out of Print).

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The Owl is located at 41 E. Montecito Ave in Sierra Madre, and is open for free appraisals on Fridays, 12 noon to 6 pm. 626-355-6255.

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La Salle's Florence Kerns Wins First Place In Mock Trial Courtroom Artist Competition

By John Blackstock

Pasadena, CA - La Salle Junior, Florence Kerns was awarded the first place plaque for Mock Trial Courtroom Artist by the Constitutional Rights Foundation during the recent Mock Trial at the Los Angeles County Courthouse.

The mock trial team is part of an academic competition whose members compete against other schools and are judged by real judges and lawyers. For Mock Trial competitions, rules of a regular trial are changed so that the competitions may be held in about two hours. Mock trials contain almost all the elements of a real trial—pretrial motions, opening and closing

statements as well as direct and cross examinations of witnesses, and of course, the courtroom artist. Each school fields a prosecution and defense team. During competitions, one team's prosecution will compete against another team's defense. Teams that earn the highest grades advance to higher levels of state competition.

"Mock trial helps students refine their critical thinking abilities. The competition is a good deal like acting—students often work from a script. But since students also have to think on their feet, it also has elements that are similar to doing improv," said Mr. Steve Bensinger a La Salle English teacher and moderator of the Mock Trial team. "The hardest thing to explain about being on the mock trial team is that it is a lot of fun. Practices usually contain a great deal of lightheartedness and humor," he said. "Our mock trial team members have earned a variety of honors in the last few years so I am delighted that this year Florence won a first place award in the courtroom artist competition."

Kerns finished third in the last year's competition before finishing first this year among the 65 high schools competing. "It was funny because I noticed I was a bit behind in finishing my drawing for the competition so I colored in the sketches a little looser than I normally would. I think the judges like the style and I won," commented Kerns. "It was really a lot of fun and a great 'real world' experience. I hope to compete again next year," she said. Kerns was also awarded the first place ribbon at the National Philanthropy Day Poster Contest in October 2007.

Kerns is an accomplished equestrian, pianist and track athlete at La Salle and plans to be an art major in college. She is the daughter of Douglas and Beth Kerns of Sierra Madre.

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ALVERNO'S ANNUAL Black and White Ball
Saturday, March 8, 2008 5:00 p.m.
Elegance and sophistication are the setting for the "Black and White Ball" hosted by the Alverno Parents' Association. Held in the historic Villa del Sol d'Oro on the Alverno campus, this annual gala will provide a live and silent auction. Ticket prices: \$85 each, or \$750 for a table of 10 (on or before February 8, 2008). After February 8, 2008: \$95 each, or \$850 for a table of 10.
For information or to order tickets, please contact Wendy Finch, Director of Development at (626) 355-3463 x227 or wfinch@alverno-hs.org.

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TRISH'S TRUTH

Pull Up or Pay Out

By Trisha Collins

We've all been in one of those situations when you're in a line of some sort, and a male teenager directly in front of you has their jeans hanging by their knees, underwear exposed and all. Well, it's a good thing that teenager chose to wear their attire in that fashion here in California, because in Louisiana, they aren't having it. Lawmakers in the south have been struggling to make sagging pants (wearing pants way below the waist where the under garments can be seen) against the law and now it finally is.

You sag, you pay. And the fine for this "fashion fad" can be up to a whopping \$500. No money? We're all familiar with the phrase, "you do the crime, you do the time"? Sagging is officially a crime in some Parishes in Louisiana that requires a payment or 6 months behind bars. Jail time is time that goes on your permanent record. How silly it would be for a teenager to spend 6 months of their life in jail, and all for inappropriately wearing their pants.

I'm split when it comes to the lawmaker's decision on the sagging pants. As a teenager, I do go to high school where I see this type of thing everyday. If I saw someone wearing sagging pants, I wouldn't be shocked because it's just another fashion trend. It's not as much of a disturbance to me as people from previous generations because they didn't grow up around it.

I think that it's a bit much to fine \$500 for the way a person wears their clothes. That is their choice and their right. Whatever happened to freedom of expression? What happened to the right to be whoever you want to be in America, the "land of opportunity"? How unethical is it for people to be thrown in jail for dressing how they feel?

On the other hand, I think that exposing your underwear (male or female) in public is just plain rude. There's quite a difference between expressing yourself, and expressing your undergarments. Underwear is meant to be under the clothes, not out there for everyone to see. (Maybe guys think that sort of thing is attractive, but coming from a teenage girl, I can tell you that it most definitely isn't.

But I find it very interesting that no one's making a law that says showing too much cleavage should be illegal. That might be even worse than having underwear exposed and it's definitely more visible. Remembering that generally all the lawmakers and people of the legislative branch are men brought me to the realization that that law would most likely never be passed. Funny how when men degrade and expose themselves it's a crime, but when women do it, no one says a word.

Next time you're waiting in a line and your eyes drift to a teenager's plaid boxers, remember this article. And don't forget to mention to them that Louisiana is a great place to visit!

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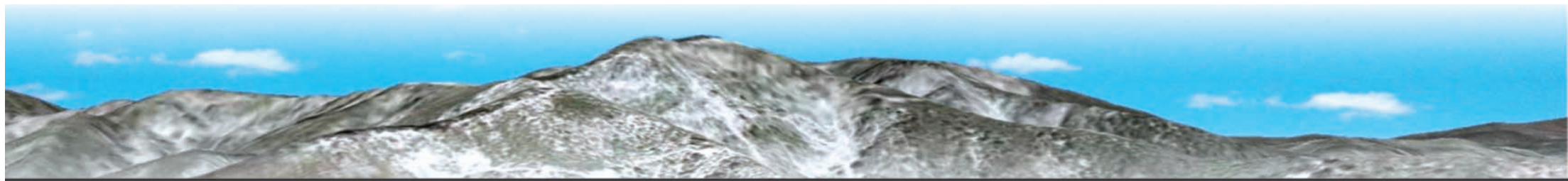
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The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our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



Member



Susan Henderson

From The Desk Of The Editor:

This week's announcement by IndyMac Bank that it was laying off more than 2,400 employees was taken rather cavalierly by most. However, for those employees that showed up for work on Monday and logged onto their computers only to find that their lives would abruptly change forever, the action was unimaginable. Witnesses at the company's headquarters saw distraught, tearful, and bewildered employees leave the company, many with boxes containing their personal belongings in hand. According to several employees, there was never an inkling that the company was about to take such drastic action.

IndyMac, a Pasadena-based bank and mortgage lender, employed 10,000 people between its headquarters and branches located throughout Southern California. It also *outsources* thousands of jobs to India for, according to the outsourcing consultants' website, "*greater efficiency and customer service.*" And, when it was time to make cuts in staff, the bank cut 24% of its American workforce and 27% of its overseas workforce. This is in addition to the 1,600 employees previously laid off in 2007, with a possible additional 1,000 employees still to come. (It should be noted that these are preemptive measures to reach the desired levels of profitability, not measures needed to keep the doors open and the company solvent.)

Somewhere in this scenario, it appears the picture became terribly distorted. The question must be asked: "Would a more responsible decision have been to eliminate the 'efficient customer service' representatives in India and maintain the jobs of those stateside employees?" Especially considering that the billions of dollars in loans and millions of dollars in profits made by the corporation were made on the backs of families right here in America, not on families overseas. It's American families that are struggling with the escalating interest rates and deflating housing market. No doubt, some of those being laid off are holders of IndyMac loans.

Is it too much to expect American corporations to have a conscious and commitment to the very people that generate their substantial wealth?

Yes, times are tough, but in tough times, don't turn your back and take advantage of the people who made you what you are.



Hail Hamilton

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: *The Long Road From Memphis to Columbia*

Martin Luther King Day is a federal holiday observed on the third Monday in January. In 2007, it fell on King's actual birthday, Jan. 15. This year it falls on January 21st.

It took 15 years to create the federal Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. Congressman John Conyers, Democrat from Michigan, first introduced legislation for a commemorative holiday four days after King was assassinated in 1968. After the bill became stalled, petitions endorsing the holiday containing six million names were submitted to Congress.

Conyers and Rep. Shirley Chisholm, Democrat of New York, resubmitted King Holiday legislation each subsequent legislative session. Public pressure for the holiday mounted during the 1982 and 1983 civil rights marches in Washington.

Congress passed the holiday legislation in 1983, which was then signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. A compromise moving the holiday from Jan. 15, King's birthday, which was considered too close to Christmas and New Year's, to the third Monday in January helped overcome opposition to the law.

National Consensus on the Holiday

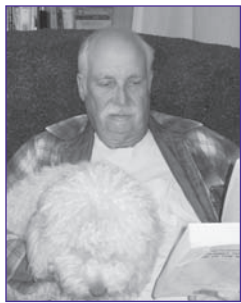
A number of states resisted celebrating the holiday. Some opponents said King did not deserve his own holiday—contending that the entire civil rights movement rather than one individual, however instrumental, should be honored. Several southern states include celebrations for various Confederate generals on that day. Arizona voters approved the holiday in 1992 after a tourist boycott. In 1999, New Hampshire changed the name of Civil Rights Day to Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.



President Reagan signs the bill creating the holiday as Mrs. King looks on.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Timeline

- 1968** Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated; Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., introduces legislation for federal holiday to commemorate King
- 1973** Illinois is first state to adopt MLK Day as a state holiday
- 1983** Congress passes, President Reagan signs, legislation creating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 1986** Federal MLK holiday goes into effect
- 1987** Arizona governor Evan Mecham rescinds MLK Day as his first act in office, setting off a boycott of the state.
- 1989** State MLK holiday adopted in 44 states
- 1991** The NFL moves the 1993 Super Bowl site from Phoenix, Ariz., to Pasadena, Calif., because of the MLK Day boycott.
- 1992** Arizona citizens vote to enact MLK Day. The Super Bowl is held in Tempe, Ariz. in 1996.
- 1993** For the first time, MLK Day is held in some form—sometimes under a different name, and not always as a paid state holiday—in all fifty states.
- 1999** New Hampshire becomes the last state to adopt MLK Day as a paid state holiday, replacing its optional Civil Rights Day.
- 2000** Utah becomes the last state to recognize MLK Day by name, renaming its Human Rights Day state holiday. South Carolina becomes the last state to make MLK Day a paid holiday for all state employees. Until now, employees could choose between celebrating it or one of three Confederate-related holidays.



Stuart Tolchin On...LIFE A Few Images From 2007

I thought it might be interesting to just list some of the images that I particularly recall from the past year. Maybe something instructive will come out of this- maybe not. You might want to do the same thing. Anyway, here we go.

IMAGE 1--- Dawn at the beach in Santa Barbara observing thousands of grave-markers being pounded into the sand. I learned later that this is regular Sunday morning event. Originally, the grave-markers were part of anti-war demonstration. Each grave marker was labeled with the name, rank, and serial number of an American service-man or woman who had died in Iraq. Gradually, friends and relatives of the deceased G.I.s had started coming to these events, bringing with them mementoes and remembrances and draping these items over the grave-markers. I found this very moving; I still think about it.

IMAGE 2---While riding the bus with my wife through Downtown Calgary, Alberta Canada we observed large numbers of obviously homeless people huddled under overpasses. We were told that many of these people were, in fact, employed in minimum-wage service occupations. The surprising fact was that as a result of the booming real-estate market in oil-rich Alberta, many employed people still could not afford residences and were forced to live on the street. Later, as we walked the streets of Calgary, we noticed that many stores and restaurants were closed in the afternoon hours. For a moment we thought Canada might be similar to Spain and Portugal, where stores closed in the afternoons to allow for a siesta. Unfortunately, this was not the case. Retail stores were closed because storeowners found it cheaper to close in the afternoons

rather than pay the higher wages necessary to allow workers to earn a wage sufficient to afford housing.

IMAGE 3---Observing eight individuals being arraigned after being held in jail for three days. What was their crime? Ready? - they were charged with blocking the sidewalk as they sat in front of a Mission a half-hour before the Mission was to open and start serving breakfast. When these "misdemeanor defendants" came before the judge, all charges were dismissed and they were all to be released in a few hours. The arrest of these people resulted from instructions given to the police to crack down on minor crimes such as shopping cart theft or blocking the sidewalk or drinking in public. These tactics had been used by Police Chief Bratton before, in Boston and New York City, as part of some overall police strategy to focus first on minor crimes, as the arrests for such minor crimes would theoretically discourage more serious criminals. Even if this makes sense to the Police Chief, I doubt if it made any sense to those already-troubled people who were kept locked-up. It doesn't make sense to me either.

IMAGE 4---Walking with my wife in the Wupakti Valley near the South rim of the Grand Canyon. The vastness of this desert valley beneath the huge expanse of blue sky contained the remnants of Indian structures in caves and on the sides, never the crest of hills...These inconspicuous structures speak to us through the centuries, allowing us to experience the beauty within which these Native Americans lived and demonstrate their cultural desire to live within the harmony of Nature. Not much more needs to be said about this image

IMAGE 5---Two days later, driving through the retirement desert community of Surprise, Arizona, I counted six full eighteen hole golf

courses. Each course, beautiful, lush, green with man-made lakes and fountains. There right in the desert, technologically amazing, but at what cost.

There they are—my five most remembered images of 2007. As to any conclusion to be drawn from these recollections, there seems to be pluses and minuses. The evolution of the anti-war demonstrations to Sunday morning memorials which include anti-war demonstrators and the grieving friends and families of deceased service men and women illustrate our great capacity to form bonds uniting people of different perspectives. Probably no one planned it this way—it just evolved into something that could be pretty wonderful, just like Us. The contrast between the Indian structures within the beauty of the high desert valley in harmony with nature, as opposed to the homeless people huddled beneath the underpass of a large wealthy city, seems to say that even in these times of great abundance something has gone very wrong. Somehow we are out of harmony and more money will not fix the problem - it might make it even worse. The social decision to punish the weak for being weak and vulnerable and sitting on the sidewalk bespeaks of a simple loss of common sense and compassion within our sophisticated attempts at social correction. Similarly, the construction of the golf courses within the desert communities demonstrates only our long-term environmental sensitivity sacrificed to our desire to provide short term diversion

Well that's how I see things now—maybe I'll be surprised. Perhaps like the anti-war demonstrators and the grieving relatives we will all find our way back to our own humanity and preserve our planet with an appreciation similar to the Native Americans. Probably, we'll play less golf but I guess that's okay with me.
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The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE 10054 Alondra Blvd Ste 203 Bellflower, CA 90706.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Elizabeth Gamez 10054 Alondra Blvd Ste 203 Bellflower CA 90706. 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 Jan 02, 2008. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above 01/02/2008.
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: 01/10/ 01/17; 01/24 and 01/31, 2008 010811MG

010812RC File No. 20080006171 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
UNIVERSAL SANDBLASTING 13969 Foster St Baldwin Park, CA 91706.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Jesus H. Garcia Jr. and Maria M. Banuelos Garcia 13169 Foster St Baldwin Park, CA 91706. The business is conducted as: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Jan 02, 2008. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/02/2008.
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: 01/10/ 01/17; 01/24 and 01/31, 2008 010812RC

520701RC File No. 20072833527 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
J.D. X-RAY AND IMAGING CENTER 301 W. Lake Ave Ste 810 Pasadena, CA 91101.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Joinda (U.S.A.) Inc 1203 S. Marguerita Ave. #1 Alhambra, CA 91803.
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 26, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/05/1995.
NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 510701RC

520702RC File No. 20072833721 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
VIMAGRO JANITORIAL SERVICES 4425 E. 57th St. Maywood, CA 90270.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Delia Sanchez 4425 E. 57th 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 26, 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: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 520702RC

520703RC File No. 20072844994 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
MARTIN CLEANING CARPET 12723 Kalnor Ave Norwalk, CA 90650.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Martin Rafael S. 12723 Kalnor Ave Norwalk, CA 90650.
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 27, 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: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 520703RC

520704RC File No. 20072843687 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
FRV GLASS AND MIRRORS 11512 Virginia Ave Lynwood, CA 90262.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Felix Ramos 11512 Virginia Ave Lynwood, CA 90262.
The business is conducted as: AN INDIVI-DUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County

on Dec 27, 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: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 520704RC

520705RC File No. 20072767596 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
EL PESCADOR BAR & GRILL 501 E. Albertoni St Carson, CA 90745.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) El Pescador, Inc 8255 Firestone Blvd Ste 202 Downey, CA 90241.
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 27, 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: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 520705RC

520706RC File No. 20072843227 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
GREAT AMERICAN REAL ESTATE & LOAN 11639 Bos St Cerritos, CA 90703.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Paul Okeleke Osaji 11639 Bos St Cerritos, CA 90703.
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 27, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/01/2006.
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: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 520706RC

520707MG File No. 20072845347 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
SUPERIOR DONUT 13532 Lakewood Blvd Bellflower, CA 90706.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Bunlak Lay and Soly Ouk 7224 Birch Tree Place Fontana, CA 92336. 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 27, 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: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 520707MG

520707MG File No. 20072845347 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
SUPERIOR DONUT 13532 Lakewood Blvd Bellflower, CA 90706.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Bunlak Lay and Soly Ouk 7224 Birch Tree Place Fontana, CA 92336. 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 27, 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: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 520707MG

to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Dec 27, 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: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 520707MG

520708MG File No. 20072845049 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
VANITE HAIR IMPORTS AND SALON. VANITE HAIR IMPORTS, VANITE HAIR SALON 2425 Purdue Ave #303 Los Angeles, CA 90064.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Michael Williams 2425 Purdue Ave #303 Los Angeles, CA 90064.
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 27, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above 11/01/2006.
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: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 520708MG

520709MG File No. 20072845576 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
REAL ESTATE CONSUMER GROUP 15507 S. Normandie Ave #221 Gardena, CA 90247.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Kruewan Spiva 1141 Teton Street Gardena, CA 90247.
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 27, 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: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 520709MG

520710MG File No. 20072846082 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
CODE 3 MESSENGER SERVICE 4140 Workman Mill Road #78 Whittier, CA 90601.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Tom Leo Chavez 4140 Workman Mill Road #78 Whittier, CA 90601.
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 27, 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: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 520710MG

520711MG File No. 20072844067 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
ELENA'S JUMPERS 7826 Puritan St Downey, CA 90242.
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Aileen Laureano 7826 Puritan 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 Dec 27, 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: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 520711MG

520712MG File No. 20072844067 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
ALEGRE FOODS- THU LE 1750 East Ocean Blvd #1109 Long Beach, CA 90802
Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Thu Le 9282 Oasis Ave Westminster, CA 92683.
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 21, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 02/16/2007.
NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 01/03/ 01/10, 01/17 and 01/24, 2008 520712MG

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ISABELLA S. PAEGEL CASE NO. GP013487
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ISABELLA S. PAEGEL. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by MARIA N. HAWKINS AKA MARIA BOYDEN in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MARIA N. HAWKINS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on 02/15/08 at 10:00AM in Dept. A located at 300 E. WALNUT ST., PASADENA, CA 91101 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner LAWRENCE J. VANNI, ESQ. MCCOLGAN & VANNI 199 S. LOS ROBLES AVE., #420 PASADENA, CA 91101-2457 1/19, 1/26, 2/2/08 **CNS-1266565#**





Photo by Aaron Dominguez

That Lucky Old Sun

“THAT LUCKY OLD SUN’S GOT NOTHIN’ TO DO BUT ROLL ‘ROUND HEAVEN ALL DAY”—so goes an old song. Actually, our Sun, like all stars, has a great deal to do—especially converting its hydrogen to helium and thereby creating energy that warms a huge region of the surrounding space and makes life possible on a planet like Earth.



Photo courtesy Nano Solar

New photovoltaic technology may soon make it possible to produce electric power from solar energy at a fraction of present costs. Hoping to leave today’s silicon solar cells behind, the Palo Alto-based company Nanosolar, Inc. (www.nanosolar.com) is creating paper-thin solar panels harnessing nanotechnology. Nanosolar claims to be on track to make solar electricity cost-efficient, mass-produced on a global scale, and available in many versatile forms. It has developed proprietary process technology that

makes it possible to produce solar cells that are 100 times thinner than anything now available—and produce them 100 times faster.

Nanosolar reports that it has raised \$100 million for expansion (with Google as a major investor) and has shipped its first product, the Nanosolar Utility Panel, reported to be the industry’s first panel specifically designed for optimal utility-scale systems economics.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FROM THE SUN may be the key to keeping life going on Planet Earth for a few billion more years, rather than just a few decades. A main-sequence star like the Sun should have a lifetime of about 10 billion years, and estimates are that it has about 5 billion years left. The key question is, can a civilization like ours find the wisdom and self-restraint to avoid destroying itself (and its planet) for anywhere near that long a time?

Astronomers have now detected more than 200 planets orbiting other suns. None of these planets have been anywhere near as small as Earth, but this does not necessarily mean that Earth-size planets (possibly the abode of life) aren’t there—it has just been too difficult to detect them, with present technology.

That could change quite soon, as instrumentation and observing techniques are constantly improving. One fascinating target for investigation is the star Epsilon Eridani (fifth-brightest star in the constellation Eridanus, the River, and only 10 light-years distant from Earth), which has been found to anchor a planet that could hold the seeds of life. This nearby star, the third closest to Earth that can be seen without a telescope, is especially interesting because it was one of the first objects of a search for extraterrestrial intelligence. In 1960, astronomer Frank Drake aimed the 40-foot Green Bank radio telescope at this star and listened for transmissions that might be coming from possible intelligent beings—an early, government-funded step in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) program, which continues today under private funding. No radio signals were heard, but there was one fascinating after-effect from Drake’s search. In a “Star Trek” novel that appeared shortly after the 3-year run of Gene Roddenberry’s original TV series, Epsilon Eridani was named as the location of planet Vulcan, home of the character Mr. Spock.

Recent Hubble Space Telescope observations have confirmed the 1998 discovery of a giant planet, with 1.5 times the mass of Jupiter, orbiting Epsilon Eridani. While the planet itself, which probably resembles Jupiter, would not be hospitable to life, astronomers speculate that a satellite of that planet, perhaps similar to Jupiter’s moon Europa, could be the habitat for some form of life—if not Vulcans like Mr. Spock, at least primitive microorganisms.

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

By The Way: What Was The Most Important Technological Innovation of 2007?

Silicon Valley based NanoSolar has created a light weight relatively inexpensive solar powersheet that will bring solar energy to the masses. It’s a flexible panel printed like a newspaper as thin as aluminum foil and cost only a tenth of current panels. It’s light weight and rolled into sheets which can be spread on anything from windows to tops of long trucks to entire buildings or even built into roof shingles. In San Jose they are currently building the largest solar panel manufacturing plant in the world and will start full production early this year. The potential of this development could be world changing.

J. Brown/MVO

Around Town: Author Susan Babson



Susan Babson, left, displays one of the illustrations in her new book, *Visual Illuminations: An Artist’s Journey Shared* with Sally Morrison of Sierra Madre Books.



The Mountain Clymer I Do It My Way

By Kim Clymer-Kelley

I realize that it must seem at times that my column here is kind of all over the place ... it would certainly be quite a task for me to answer the question, “What is your column about?” To be honest, I never know until it is done. I have a list of story ideas that I keep for future columns ... mostly stories related to the mountains and the pack station. I use that when I am having trouble getting inspired ...but sometimes my train of thought is interrupted by an event that happens in my life or in the community and I go off on a tangent (probably my A.D.D. acting up again ... “Oh, look, what a beautiful sunset!!!”) ... then something that someone says to me will get me started on a different subject ...something that that gives me a bone to pick or that really gets me thinking...that is from where this particular column comes.

As I have mentioned before, I began writing this column at the encouragement of a dear friend (yes, you, Jack) who felt that I was a good writer and had a lot of interesting experiences about which I could write. He introduced me to the editor of a local paper who was kind enough to publish a poem I had written and then asked me to write a column for the paper. I was very hesitant...I was not sure I wanted the kind of pressure that would come with a weekly column in my life. When I expressed that reservation to my friend, he was puzzled. “You could make a lot of money if you sold your work. You could be really successful at this... don’t you want to be successful?” I paused a moment before answering... feeling a bit like my life was being judged as somewhat of a failure.

“It’s not something that has ever really been that important to me, I guess.” I responded.

“You don’t want to be successful?” he questioned incredulously. “Everyone wants to be successful.”

Now I was getting a little insecure about my position...and feeling rather hurt, I began to think deeply about what he had said. I had never really felt like a failure at anything (except, well, perhaps my brief foray into exotic dancing). Maybe because I never had any huge goals in my life that I cared enough about to make me feel as though I had failed when they did not come to fruition...maybe that was how I protected myself from feeling like a failure... maybe?... I questioned myself. Had I gone through my entire life not trying to accomplish anything because I was so horribly afraid of failing? That somehow just did not ring true with me. I had challenged myself with things... taken on lots of big projects with the kids’ schools...got a college degree and returned to school several times to both challenge myself intellectually and to advance myself professionally... took on the trials of a single mom running a pack station on her own...all of which I feel I did with some degree of success. I have a pretty long (albeit eclectic) list of skills and talents, most of which I have successfully put to use at various points along the rather twisted path on which I seem to travel. My life runs smoothly enough...any bumps I encounter seem to somehow get smoothed out if I just have patience and faith that Creator will provide me with whatever I need. But I have to say, I had never really thought about whether I had achieved “success” or was in fact a “failure”...I have never used that system to evaluate myself.

The criteria for and the importance of determining “success” must be a very individual thing...and one that seems to differ depending on whether you are judging others or judging yourself. Obviously with some people, such as myself, success is not an issue worthy of much consideration...with others, achieving success is what life is all about. Most seem, at least to a degree, to measure success in terms of monetary wealth. If someone has a fancy car and a huge home they are looked upon as a success. Another common measure of success is fame. If a person’s name or face makes the front page often enough (as long as it is not in connection with a dead body or missing funds)... they are, by many, considered successful. The power a person wields is also used to determine the degree of success that that person has achieved. I have a great deal of trouble accepting any of these as a true measure of one’s success. Financial success, power and notoriety say nothing of what kind of person an individual is. Respect is another commonly used and a much more accurate measure of success. If a person is respected in his field or community, they are generally viewed as being successful. Respect is much harder to earn than money, fame, or power, and far more valuable than either as far as

I am concerned. Unfortunately, many seem to have the tendency automatically bestow respect upon those who have power, money or fame. They seem to equate one with the other. If one uses respect to determine success, one must look carefully at why it is they have respect for that person...whether or not it has truly been earned or if it was just bestowed upon them because they have power, money and/or fame. These are the main criteria used by people to calculate the success of both others and of themselves.

People are generally pretty fair and make allowances when evaluating other people’s success, but are much less kind when it comes to judging their own. I know people who have, because of their hard work and intelligence, made their way into very enviable positions in their lives...they have the respect of the community, are well known and liked by their fellow citizens, they have been kind and fair in their dealings with others, they have nearly total freedom, and have more money than they can possibly spend... yet they still consider themselves failures. This, I believe, is either because they have set unreasonably high standards by which to judge themselves (standards that they usually do not have for others), or because they feel unworthy of the success they have achieved...or maybe because they have never realistically evaluated their accomplishments ... or perhaps they are simply the kind who are more likely to keep count of everything they *don’t* have rather than being thankful for the bounty they *do* have. Whatever the case may be, it is necessary when judging your own success, that you are as fair with yourself as you are with others and that you use comparable standards. It is also important to only allow yourself, not others, to be the one who judges your own success. You cannot let the opinions of others determine whether you view yourself as a success or a failure...that judgment must only come from within.

Although I did take pause to think when my friend questioned lack of my desire to achieve (his idea of) success, it did not make me question whether or not I had achieved success; instead, it just made me stop to think about what my definition of success is. It made me question how and why my definition had never allowed me to feel like a failure... even with no wealth, or power, or fame, or even a great amount of respect by which to measure my success. In analyzing that puzzle, I came to comprehend something about myself and about success. Success, I believe, does not and should not have to be about any of those things. A person is truly successful if they are living life on their own terms...if what they are doing and how they are living makes them feel happy and fulfilled. Every individual has their own criteria by which they can determine when they have achieved success and no one but that person can decide when those criteria have been met. The definition that one has for success cannot be applied to anyone but himself. Each person looks at their life and figures out what is most important to them and then makes it their goal to obtain that in their lives. If money and power are most important to someone, and they have the money and power that they were seeking, then they are successful. If for someone else, a close and loving family life is most important, and they have that in their lives, then they too should be considered successful. If you have gotten what you want in life and have not had to sacrifice other equally important things to get it, then you are a success. Before one judges another to be a success or failure, one must ask that person if they are living their life on their own terms and if they are happy with where they are in life. I live my life on my own terms...I do not need a lot of money, I do not want power, I have absolutely no lust for fame. I have a family who loves me, friends who love (or at least kind like) me and respect me, I can (usually) pay my bills and sometimes even have enough left over to do stuff for others...I have a lot of freedom (something I could not even begin to put a price tag on), I am at peace with myself and who I am, my life is totally uncomplicated and relatively stress free, and I have a nice little niche in a wonderful community. It would be necessary to give up at least some of those things to have more money, or more power, or more fame and not one of those things are worth the sacrifice. Those are the terms I have set for my life, and I am living them to a “T”. That, in my book, is the very definition of success.

(Oh, and in case you were wondering...I was just kidding about the exotic dancing thing.)

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TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

South of the Border



By the title, I bet you presumed that we are talking Mexican Food here. I wish it were that easy. Basically, Peter Dills is a meat and potatoes type of guy that never speaks about himself as a third party. That would be too much like a Sienfeld episode. So, my entourage and I headed South of Huntington Dr. to Nem Nuong Ninh Hoa, which translates to ‘Charbroiled Pork in a Central Vietnamese City’ in English. This is a Vietnamese Restaurant located in Rosemead.

The atmosphere is like going to a German Beer Hall; you sit where sat, and you probably will share a table with someone. Maybe the German analogy is wrong, but - here is a funny quip - while “waiting” to be seated someone asked us if we were ready to order. As the kids say with their text, LOL.....

I won’t even try to say the name correctly and you are advised against it. But, I do recommend that if you haven’t tried Vietnamese food, head over to Rosemead and give it a try.

Stick with me here! The names are tough but you can always point - it works for me. The staff is very friendly; the host even hit on one of my guests.

What to order? It is definitely family style, so bring the relatives... Nem Nuong Cuon Voi Cha Ram Tom... translation... Charbroiled Pork Meatballs rolled with rice paper and Shrimp Roll (\$4.99); Bun Nem Nuong, Cha Ram Tom, Tou Hu Ky... translation... Charbroiled Pork on a skewer, Shrimp Cake wrapped w/crispy bean curd and Vermicelli (\$6.49); Dac Biet Banh Beo Chen....translation ... Special Rice Cakes steamed right in small bowls. The ‘Chef Special’ is the Bun Bo Hue, which is a Spicy Beef Noodle Soup with Beef Shanks and can come with ‘pig blood’ but I opted not!!!! (\$5.49).

The prices are right, so order many dishes and find the ones you like the best. I enjoyed the meal; I thought the only boring dish was the rice cakes in the mini dish, but others at the table liked it.

All in all, I give it 3 stars. Recommended to try, even for you less adventurous types.



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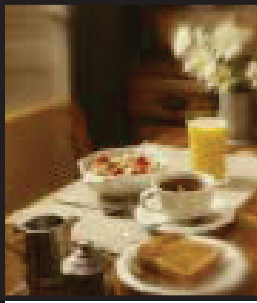
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SPORTS

Back Page Journal



CHEATING IN SPORTS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.... OR IS IT?

By Brad Eastland, Sports Editor

The last few days I was having a hard time coming up with an angle for this column. It wasn't so much that I couldn't think of anything to write about, rather I figured I had established such an immeasurably high standard of journalism lately that I was worried about not being shrewd enough in selecting this week's theme, for fear of disappointing all you good people. Okay, I admit it. I couldn't think of anything to write about.

But then my cousin and good friend (and fellow sports addict) stepped in and saved the day. His name is not important. For purposes of identification, we shall call him...."Dana".

Cousin Dana is a pretty sharp guy. He sits around all day on his brains and thinks about things. The other day he opined there seemed to be an inordinate amount of cheating in sports in 2007. Then he started naming off recent sports cheats to prove his point. Ticked, I countered back with a few celebrated cheats in cleats of my own. Pretty soon, we had compiled an impressive portfolio of athletic corner cutters.

Let's review just a sampling of 2007 sports cheating:

Baseball had Barry Bonds, who is under indictment for cheating and lying and lying about cheating. Then the Mitchell Report came out, and baseball players everywhere suddenly couldn't wait to admit how and when they cheated. Except Roger Clemens of course, who denies cheating, denies taking either Steroids or HGH (Human Growth Hormone), and he denied everything on TV which means he's probably lying.

Football had the Patriots, who were caught "video cheating" even though they didn't need to. Their star safety, Rodney Harrison, did a little recreational HGH cheating as well.

Track & Field had Marion Jones, who finally admitted the whole of her blatant, serial-level cheating. Then she had to give back all her medals from the 2000 Olympic Games. (I was in the stands that day in 2000, in glorious Sydney, Australia, the very day she won the 200 meters...I do remember thinking her thighs looked unusually meaty for a cute girl.)

Basketball had the crooked-referee-who-liked-to-gamble scandal, which cheats the public. Plus, of course, NBA players cheat every time they take their three extra steps driving to the basket.

Cycling had their usual share of cheats, Floyd Landis, of course, being both the most prominent and most humorous (beer and whiskey, anyone?).

Tennis had Nikolai Davydenko and the match-tanking scandal, alleging he and others cheated in reverse, i.e. throwing matches for gamblers. This one makes me mad. They didn't even have betting on tennis when I cruised Vegas back in the day....

Tennis also had Martina Hingis, who got caught cheating with a little cocaine. She immediately retired from the sport and shrank meekly into history. (Why can't Bud Selig be more like her?)

So you see, practically every major sport had at least some sort of cheating scandal in 2007. Except golf. Those pro golf guys sure are honorable. (Which is weird, because all my life I've played golf at municipal courses with people who cheat!) But for some reason pro golfers are as clean as a whistle. Not a single Steroids cheat yet. Not even the ever-buff, increasingly muscular Tiger Woods.

So what does it all mean?

Relax. Being a respected, nationally recognized Sports columnist (okay, make that a small-time, virtually unknown Sports columnist), I figured it would be my job to make sense of this phenomenon for you. So I thought about it all week, and I think I may have the answer as to why cheating---always a staple of sports in this country and around the world---exploded like a bumper crop in '07.

The Apocalypse.

Okay, settle down. I'm trying to be serious here. As a kid reading the Bible, I seem to remember a bunch of verses where it says if all sorts of especially unthinkable and unexplainable things happen all at once, the Apocalypse will then descend upon Mankind. Book of Revelation, right? Falling rocks, earthquakes, frogs jumping out of dragons' mouths, all sorts of icky stuff. The end of the world.

My late brother used to blame anything that rankled him about sports on the Apocalypse. He'd say, "Brad, I can't believe the friggin' Redskins beat the Cowboys---it's a sign the Apocalypse is upon us!" And then he'd blaspheme. But maybe he was right. Maybe he was ahead of his time. When sports becomes more bad than good, one must question everything.

So it seems to me, in order to forestall the wrath of fallen angels, we must keep the one sport still exempt from cheating scandals pure. If we do that, I think we'll be okay.

But when golf goes the way of all the sinful, soiled, be-spoiled sports?

Well, I guess what it comes down to is this; if we see Phil Mickelson---happy, pudgy, cheerful, flabby, and decidedly un-athletic looking Phil---ever step onto a golf course looking as chiseled and pumped up as that former bodybuilder Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (another Steroids cheat, by the way), we'll know the Apocalypse is finally here. Put your house in order, folks....because that will be the moment when, as the Good Book says....*And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him.*

THE RIGHT MAN

John Matheus Carries On La Salle Traditions Story and Photo by Brad Eastland

John Matheus sure seems to be enjoying his second tour of duty as La Salle High School's Athletic Director. He should. It's a job he has prepared for all his life.

"We've got forty-nine athletic teams playing eighteen different sports", says Matheus. The Hastings Ranch resident rattles off like a smiling computer, while sitting relaxed and comfortable in his 2nd-floor office overlooking the football and baseball fields. But, don't think for a moment that athletics and education occupy an equal place in his heart.

"Some of the best lessons in life are learned on the playing field," says Matheus (pronounced just like "Mathews"), quoting a phrase from La Salle's stated-in-writing philosophy almost verbatim. "But our primary emphasis will always be on the academics." The respected private Catholic school at the corner of Sierra Madre Boulevard and Michillinda Avenue has been doling out like wisdom to its student body since 1956, so Matheus' strict adherence to the party line should come as no surprise. After all, he's been there going on 29 years.

The avuncular Matheus, who boasts a Masters in Educational Administration from Cal State L.A., first piloted La Salle's athletic department from 1985 until 1992. After serving as Vice Principal & Dean of Students for over a decade, he re-assumed the Athletic Director post in August of 2006.

La Salle might best be described as a values-based, college preparatory high school. Matheus believes most of the kids understand that.

"These kids are true 'student athletes' - the word student comes first," says the former social studies teacher and basketball coach adding, "We don't offer classes in Tiddlywinks here!" La Salle does have a rigorous entrance exam and also requires prospective students to go through a series of interviews before they are tendered admission. As a result, the proof being very much in the pudding, over 99% of La Salle's graduates go on to attend college.

But Matheus is adamant that La Salle's stringent emphasis on academics does not hamper the quality of his athletic programs. "All the schools we compete against have similar entrance requirements, so the playing field is pretty even," he says. Indeed, La Salle usually plays against similar, academically oriented Catholic high schools in the area. Schools with lofty, if somewhat unimposing, team names like the Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary Cardinals, the Phantoms of Cathedral High, and San Pedro's Mary Star of the Sea Stars.

"Last year our Girls Varsity Soccer Team won the



La Salle's John Matheus

Division Four CIF championship. Three of our girls from that team got college scholarships," the A.D. states proudly. It should be noted that La Salle's athletic history shows 10 CIF championship teams and, at last count, 127 varsity championships.

Though technically situated in Pasadena, La Salle is literally right across the street from being in Sierra Madre. Not surprisingly, there is a definite Sierra Madre presence - a flourish of Wistaria lavender, if you will - on the La Salle campus, with many of its 180 or so freshman students each year coming from our little town. "St. Rita's is one of our top feeder schools," Matheus affirms.

Currently, there are five La Salle sports programs in the middle of their seasons. They are: Boys & Girls Basketball (freshman, JV and Varsity), Boys & Girls Soccer, and Girls Water Polo. The general public is encouraged to attend the games.

You can call the La Salle Athletic Department at 626-696-4404 for schedules. But by way of example, all three Boys Basketball teams are in action this coming Wednesday, January 23rd. Mark it down.

So come one come all this Wednesday night, come to Duffy Lewis Gymnasium, right there at the corner of Sierra Madre and Michillinda. The Freshman and JV units will set the table at 4:00 and 5:30 respectively, and then at 7:00 the Lancers Varsity Basketball Team goes up against a tough Mary Star of the Sea squad. The Stars won't go down without a fight, so our local kids could sure stand to hear your hands and throats behind them. Only \$5 bucks a ticket.

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Email me at b.eastland@mobserver.com with any local sports news worth a look-see....

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