



Mountain Views-Observer

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

Week Ending January 25, 2008 Volume 2, No. 3

The Rain, The Mud & 1 Carter *Mudslide disturbs residents adjacent to project*



In preparation for the weekend storms, the graded area of 1 Carter (above) is tarped and sandbagged in an effort to prevent mudslides from this week's rain. The site manager, "Hoppy" says there will be workers on site 24 hours until this series of storms passes. However, Thursday evening, the rain set off mudslides in the property adjacent to the development. By mid morning, bulldozers had removed most of the dirt, (center). Resident Jaymi Wilson (inset) watches workers clean up the mud. Wilson's car (not pictured) was half covered with mud.

Stonehouse Environmental Impact Report Ordered

SIERRA MADRE - As talks of a settlement of the pending litigation between the City of Sierra Madre and the developer of the Stonehouse and 1 Carter projects continue, on Tuesday the City Council agreed to move forward and authorized the Environmental Impact Report for the Stonehouse development.

A professional services agreement is to be executed engaging the services of RBF Consulting to prepare the report.

RBF is no stranger to development projects and issues in Sierra Madre, having been involved with both 1 Carter and the

controversial Downtown Specific Plan.

The contract calls for a fee of \$275,000 to be paid by the developer to RBF with an additional 25% to be deposited to cover administrative costs that will be incurred by the city of Sierra Madre.

Mayor Joffe asked the city attorney, Sandra Levin, to explain why the council should approve the contract given "since no project" has been agreed upon. Levin explained that the community needed to learn the real impacts of the project as early as possible, noting that residents are not willing to take the

developer's word on the matter. When questioned about the possible risks of doing the EIR now, Levin replied, "If nature changes the project, then the analysis would have to be updated and the cost would be the responsibility of the developer".

The initial study of the project can be found on the Stonehouse website. It lists 17 issues that must be addressed by the EIR. The draft document will be available to the public for a 45 day review period.

It is expected that the Settlement Agreement will be completed by mid-February.

(See related story on Page 3).

Sierra Madre's Citizen Of The Year Pete Siberell Honored

By Susan Henderson



Veteran California State Senator, Bob Margett, (above with Pete Siberell) along with 200 plus family, friends and well wishers, joined the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce in honoring Pete Siberell as the 2007 Citizen Of The Year.

Siberell, who lives in Sierra Madre with this wife Marianne and sons P.J. (11) and George (10), has been a vital part of the community for more than a decade.

Most recognized for his work with the Sierra Madre Little League, he also plays a major part in the success in the Mt. Wilson Trail Race where he has been chair for several years. It is currently the second largest trail race in California and will be celebrating its' 50th Anniversary this year. Siberell is also a founding member of the Sierra Madre Rotary Club and was the Chairman of the Sierra Madre Community Services Commission for eight years.

Professionally, Siberell is the Director of Community Service and Special Projects at Santa Anita Park.

In addition to Senator Margett, Pete was honored with the presence of his mother, Ann Siberell of Hillsborough and brother Brian of Los Angeles.

Pete's calm and collected demeanor withstood a barrage of good natured ribbing from friends and co-workers. He even managed not to flinch when a slide show displayed his 'six pack', a photo some say he is certain to destroy.

John Buchanan, who served as Master of Ceremonies, made a very accurate assessment of Pete's commitment to service in Sierra Madre when he said, "Pete has given a piece of his life" in order to help make this a better place.

In accepting the honor, Pete Siberell reflected on why volunteerism is so very important to our community. He also said, very humbly, "I never expected this."

\$36,000 Employee Classification Study Postponed Until After Election

By Dean Lee

The city council Tuesday night rejected authorizing the completion of a classification and compensation study be done by an outside consultant for all city positions, opting instead, with a 3-2 vote, to wait until after the April election. They also asked that the classification work be done by city staff.

But not before council member Don Watts defended his position against Mayor Enid Joffe, saying this was the worst timing for such a study. Joffe had commented the council was turning their backs on all city staff, something Watts said was simply not true.

"I'm extremely disappointed in what seems to be the consensus of the council," Joffe said before being abruptly interrupted by Watts. "I'm disappointed for our staff. We can dress it up, but essentially we are giving a vote of no confidence to our staff."


"Now you're accusing us of voting no confidence," Watts uttered as Joffe spoke over him saying, "This is my opinion... If you want to rebut me, you're welcome to do that." She added.

"Oh, I will," Watts said, although council member Kurt Zimmerman stepped in to mediate.

"They weren't rejecting the notion of a classification study out of hand, they were simply saying that the timing right now, sucks," Zimmerman said. "And it does suck."

Watts said he thought the study would be a good tool to have. He also said that the study right now would be a "dagger to the heart" of the User Utility Tax Measure, aimed at providing money for police and the new paramedics program.

Zimmerman said the study's (continued page 3)



RAINY DAY HOME DELIVERY

We want the MountainViews-Observer to reach you in good condition, therefore, home delivery when it rains will be delayed until the first dry opportunity. Thanks for your patience.

MTA Cuts Planned *Discussion This Sunday*

Sierra Madre City Council member Joe Mosca will meet with those concerned about upcoming massive cuts in MTA bus services, this Sunday at 2 p.m. in Kersting Court. Through a program called "Metro Connections", the MTA plans to save up to \$34 million over the next three years by eliminating thousands of bus hours cutting and shortening bus routes.

Mosca said a number of the routes are in the San Gabriel Valley and Glendale. The impacts are unknown at this time but it could become a commuter's nightmare of trying to figure out which cuts will affect what. All input is welcome.

Mosca sits on the San Gabriel Valley MTA Board of Governance and said Metro Connections is planned for discussion at a meeting sometime next month.

More details will be available Sunday.

SIERRA MADRE BY OWNER

3/BR 1.5 Bath 2 Car Gar.
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10A.M.- 4:P.M
Will be sold Sunday Night to
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(626) 355-4308




Steve and Terry of the Smoking Stogies of Sierra Madre and Arcadia seem to be having a ball at this year's Doo Dah Parade. Story on Page 5

New Name For Nano Cafe One?



Nano Cafe One Owner Oscar Cabral and Chef Ernesto, invites the public to help rename the restaurant. Page 13



Need that perfect unique gift for the one who has your heart?

Love to support an all volunteer, selfbuilt Award Winning Rose Parade float?

A key design element, was the 65 handcrafted reusable heart boxes which were mounted on the float and filled with colorful roses. You can now share one of these unique hearts, brimming with fresh roses and decorated with (cont. pg. 2)






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MountainViews-Observer
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Weather Wise
5-Day Forecast
Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Lattitude N34.2

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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



New and Used Books
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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 DEADLINE FOR NOMINATING PAPERS	12 Walk With The Mayor
13 Fritz Coleman at Playhouse	14	15	16 TREE COMMISSION 7:00 DEADLINE FOR NOMINATING PAPERS Office of Treasurer	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 - Library
2 Women's Club Celebrity Luncheon
8 Traveler'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 Breakfast
16 YAC - UCLA Campus Tour
21 'Third Thursday' Book Club
22 Friends Of The Library
Wine & Cuisine Tasting
23 Little League Opening Day
23 HFF Kickball
26/27 AARP Senior Driving Safety Program

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR STEVE POCK

Saturday, February 2, 2008 at 3:00
Café 322 on Sierra Madre Blvd.

Please join Steve's friends and associates on this special day celebrating his 22 years of service with the City of Sierra Madre. Contact 355-2408 for more information.

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

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.

Ode To A Cumquat

By Rich Johnson

Jim “Cumquat Kid” Snider was my friend. And still is if what I believe regarding the hereafter is true.

About a week before he died I spent a couple of hours with him. We had had a rather varied conversation, bouncing from business to women to religion. Sure, Jim had a very dubious reputation in the community and he earned every bit of it. He had just recently shut down his website, the Cumquat, which was all too often crude, rude and insulting. The dichotomy, or paradox, of the Cumquat was that Jim Snider was one of the nicest people in the world. Very likeable.

A few of us gently (maybe too gently?) nudged him to try to be more clever and less coarse on his website. It worked for a while, but didn’t take. And Jim was a little too good at masking his destructive behavior...to me anyway.

If I can draw anything positive out of the sadness of Jim’s passing it would be to encourage you to seek out friends you haven’t seen in a while. I find solace in the fact I just spent a few hours with him. There would be a much bigger hole in my heart had I not just spent quality time with him. Don’t make that mistake.

Until now three people in the world knew I was a songwriter. It’s been a deservedly well-kept secret. However, in Jim’s honor, and as an encouragement to all of us to seek out and cherish our friends more closely I will “out” my musical background and share the lyrics of one of my songs. (BTW, I didn’t say I was a “good” songwriter.)

“The weight on my shoulders now weighs a little less,
Because you know, I know you know, I know you.
You are a part of me, first part I’ve come to know
Because of you I know I’ll know the rest.
Endless years of wandering are all behind me now
And though I’d seen your face before I was disinclined somehow
My need than lay before me and there you were.
The weight on my shoulders now weighs a little less,
Because you know, I know you know, I know you.
You are a part of me, first part I’ve come to love
Because of you I know I’ll love the rest.
Don’t know what lies before me, but I’ve the strength to see it
through
Passage might be blocked ahead, it’s full length I will pursue
One step at a time I will be thinking of you.”

Someone named Wilma Askina said, “A friend is someone who sees through you and still enjoys the view.” Jim Snider, I enjoyed the view!

Diligent Sierra Madre Police Department Teamwork Leads To Arrests In String Of Burglaries

Residents urged to lock doors, windows - take precautions

Sierra Madre Police Chief Marilyn Diaz issued a warning to residents this week, “Keep your doors and windows locked and alarms set.” This admonition comes after the city was recently hit with a wave of burglaries.

“In our investigation it was noted that not one of the homes showed any sign of forced entry.”

The recent spate of crime was followed, however, by 48 continuous hours of investigative police work by the Sierra Madre Police Department which lead to the arrest of seven suspects. The suspects were picked up in the Rancho Cucamonga area.

According to Diaz, multiple search warrants lead to evidence of burglary, identity theft, and illegal drugs. A series of leads received by the department lead to the issuance of the warrants.

The majority of the SMPD was involved with solving this crime. When the warrants were served, police were able to recover some of the stolen property.

The suspects are primarily from the Pomona area, and according to other sources familiar with the crime, they seem to target communities along the 210 freeway.

The investigation into the apparent burglary ring continues.

Staff/MVO



Large Turnout For Stonehouse Walking Tour

By Dean Lee

In a three part walking tour last Saturday of the proposed Stonehouse site for a 22 lot residential subdivisionl many were able, for the first time, to see just how remote and unspoiled the area is at 1935 Stonehouse Road.

“I don’t think people realized just how spectacular the property is,” said councilmember John Buchanan. “This is back in a canyon, so it’s much less visible than One Carter. What you don’t have here is the property being visible on the hillside.”

He also said they had twice the number of people show up than expected.

“To give you some idea, we copied 35 sets of handouts expecting that to cover it,” he said. “We ended up having everyone share their copies, so you had about double that, somewhere around 70.” He added that not everyone walked all three separate tours.

During a community meeting, after the two hour long tours, at the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue, one thing was clear - most residents were still against any type of settlement agreement between the city and either Stonehouse Homes or One Carter LLC.

Mayor Enid Joffe said there was no project at that time and that no plans have been submitted to the city. Both sides were waiting for the settlement agreement, although city attorney Sandra Levin said seven current lawsuits arose after the city rejected a project with more than 12 lots, based on the passing of the city’s Hill Side Management Zone.

“Essentially every step the city has taken in the process has been challenged in court,” Levin said.

She later added, “This compromise would set what the rules for the game would be.”

Levin first explained how unusual it was to discuss litigation matters in an open public setting. She said the only reason was the council thought it best, and was something she would not have advised them to do. The idea was that of interim

City Manager, Don Hopper.

The meeting started with uneasiness as a number of residents said they had not met with the developer as promised. City Manager Elaine Aguilar said the list of names had been misplaced.

“Don’t blame the developer, blame us” Buchanan said.

There were a number of major concerns, as residents said lot lines did not match what Dorn Platz claimed. One resident said the property line went through her swimming pool; others also said lines drawn on display maps went through their back yards.

Others asked about why certain lots needed to be graded down 19 feet and others raised. There were concerns that many trucks trips would be hauling dirt around unnecessarily.

Residents also said they did not trust that trees would not be cut down, saying they had a way of magically disappearing by claiming them diseased. They pointed to One Carter as an example where everything was removed leaving what some claimed looked like an “alien landscape.”

At Tuesday night’s council meeting a number of other concerns were also brought up, including using reclaimed water. It was asked that that be added into the settling agreement. Wildlife was also included, as someone said a golden eagle could be found in the area, as well as a family of foxes.

No timeline was given for construction and Levin only said that “it wasn’t likely to start for years.”

Levin also said if the city chooses to continue with litigation and lost, there was no guarantee the city could enforce the HMZ at all. With the compromise, she said they would be able to still enforce the HMZ, just not on the Stonehouse or One Carter properties, something unsettling to most. She also said no agreement could be reached with fewer than 22 homes. being built.

EMPLOYEES (cont. from page 1)

ultimate goal was to increase employee salaries, something councilmember John Buchanan said was just the opposite. He said the study could be used to save the city money. He also said after the election the city would have to do something similar anyway.

Associate City Planner Jae Hill, speaking on behalf of the classified employees said he did not want the council to think they were also looking for a raise in the wake of police officers salaries initiative. He said they unanimously supported it, just to clarify what they do.

Others had suggested earlier that the whole issue was about low moral within the city, saying that should be dealt with before spending any money. The council members all denied internal problems. Councilmember John Buchanan said this was just the time “for it,” and that it had been budgeted for last year. He also stressed this was not general fund money.

According to city staff, \$36,000 was set aside from the Internal Services Fund last year.

Residents also said that any study should have been done before a number of new employees were hired, including City Manager Elaine Aguilar, Administrative Services Director Karin Schnaider and new Development Director Danny Castro.

Michelle Keith, Director of Community

& Personnel Services, had said at a previous council meeting that the city was currently being sued because of a discrepancy over an outdated job description.

Joffe made a general comment Tuesday, “\$36,000 is probably one set of depositions... in a lawsuit that an employee might bring. To not do a study that would help us in that legal situation and instead wait for it to hit up perhaps when we haven’t budgeted for it and where not prepared, I think is pennywise and pound foolish.”

Mayor Pro Tem Joe Mosca motioned the item and Zimmerman seconded it. Mosca added in the motion that staff look into the idea of doing the work “in house,” something Keith and City Attorney Sandra Levin advised against.

City staff said bringing in outside resources to do the study assures it is not biased and that no conflict of interests exists. Both Joffe and Buchanan voted against waiting until after the election, during which both happen to be up for reelection.

Buchanan said in a slight rant that this was something done by every business in the country, and if government wanted to be more like a business, then this was a good start.

Staff also said there was no evidence that a classification and compensation study had ever been done in the city’s history as required by law.

HEARTS (cont. from page 1)



beautiful ribbon, with your special Valentine and own a piece of Rose Parade history. With each rose having at least 3 dozen beautiful fresh roses, this is a real bargain! All Proceeds to go directly to help build next years float. Reserve yours now! Limited to first come first serve basis. Prices start at \$95 and include local delivery. Order deadline Sunday, February 10 th , for details please contact Don Mills at (626) 3550133 or Connie Brown at 6266442044 or connie@sierramadrerosefloat.com.

SENIOR COMMUNITY COMMISSION SEEKING “OLDER ‘SIERRA MADRE’ AMERICAN OF THE YEAR”

The Senior Community Commission is now will be accepting nominations for the Older “Sierra Madre” American of the Year. If you know someone who has demonstrated outstanding community service and is 60 years of age or older, please contact the Senior Services Desk at (626) 355-7394 for a nomination form.

Nominations are due to the Community & Personnel Services Department, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., by Friday, February 29, 2008. The Senior Community Commission will discuss nominees at its Study Session on March 6, 2008 and announce the honoree at their regular scheduled meeting also on March 6th at 3 pm in the City Council Chambers. The honoree will be recognized at a reception held in their honor at the Sierra Madre Hart Park House in May.

Previous Honorees: Karl Teigler, George Maurer, Elsie Dannmayer, Doris Webster, Dorothy Tillquist, Celeste McCleary, Ed Wellman, Rose Fafach, Bonnie Garner, Isabella Paegal, James Tyler, Midge Morash, Lucile Flandres, James Heasley, Joylouse Harte-Smith, John Grijalva, Loyal Camacho, George Throop and Russ Anderson.

Susan Clifton
Recreation Coordinator

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

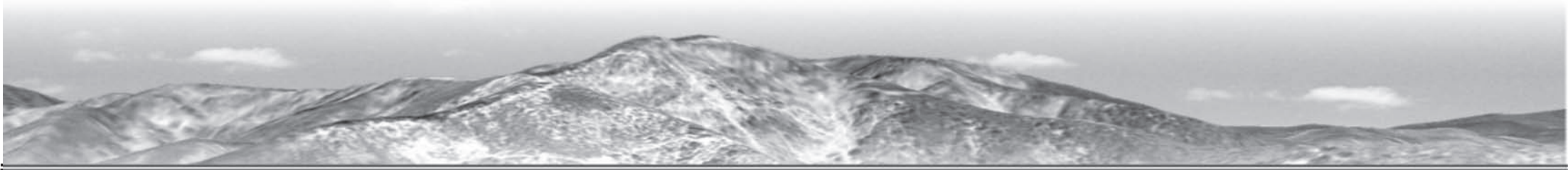


By Sierra Madre artist Susan Wallis

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

Ticket Price: \$60.00

Silent Auction	Tickets available at:	To order by mail, please make
World Famous Magic Castle Magicians	Sierra Madre Public Library	checks payable to:
Music by Eric Byak	Angels Everywhere	The Friends of the
Domestic and International Wines	Arnold’s Frontier Hardware	Sierra Madre Library
Many Local Restaurants	The Bottle Shop	P.O. Box 334
	Savor The Flavor	Sierra Madre, CA 91025-0334
	Sierra Madre Books	



MountainViews-Observer PASADENA

‘Doo Dah-elujah’



By Dean Lee

Good things came to thousands of parade goers that waited, even if it was only two months, for this year's, way out, alter-egos and typical Doo Dah extravaganzas Sunday, as the number of wacky entries swelled by 60 according to parade planners.

"We normally don't get over 100 entries until parade day," said Patricia Hurley, Managing Director of the Light Bringer Project. "We had over 160 entries today. People tend to procrastinate, so I think putting the parade off until now gave more people the opportunity."

All the norms, if you can call them that, came out including the BBQ & Hibachi Marching Grill Team, Bastard Sons of Lee Marvin, Uncle Fester and The Men of Leisure Synchronized Nap Team

"We promote, work is not the goal, leisure is the goal," said synchronized napper Chris Bates. "We have several routines; one is the standard march with the pillows and side nap, which is as close as you can get to napping through the whole parade."

They also, at times, slept on the parade route.

The Stogie Men of Arcadia and Sierra Madre puffed their way down Colorado Boulevard.

Going by their first names only, Steve and Terry both said "We enjoy cigars," while puffing away. Terry said he planned to smoke Montecristos while Steve

avored the Macanudos. Both also said they would only have time to smoke two or three.

Then came the all annoying Highland Park Thursday Evening Gentleman's Society Circuit Bending Marching Band & Ladies Auxiliary, and did what they do best, make noise.

"I actually rehearsed," said Anthony Ausgan, who played the toy guitar. "These instruments are about the destruction of conventional song structure."

Hurley also said this year's



Rev. Billy

parade saw many leftover entries from the Burning Man Festival, a six-day-long annual event held in September on the playa of the Black Rock Desert Nevada.

"There's always been some kind of timing conflicts between the parade and Burning Man. she said. "And this year, well, I think it's great they all showed up."

One of those leftovers was a 15 foot purple "BooBoo Kitty Art Car," complete with giant

claws that grabbed anyone that got too close. The tail was also outfitted to whack people and it sprayed the crowd to mark its territory while zigzagging down the street.

Hurley also said it had been a long time coming, but they finally got Rev. Billy and Savitri D of the Church of Stop Shopping to lead the parade as co-grand marshals.

"For the last four or five years, everyone had been saying we should have them as co-grand marshals and this year it worked out," Hurley said. "Savitri D did this as a tribute to the passing of Dabney. It's something I know she wanted to do."

Dabney Zorthian presided over the Zorthian Ranch above Altadena for years and had passed away a little over a year ago, she said. Savitri D had grown up on the ranch.

Rev. Billy is long time performance artist Billy Talen. His wife's real name is Savitri Durkee, but she goes by Sister Savitri D of the Church of Stop Shopping. They now live in New York City.

Hurley said that the dress Durkee wore in the parade was one of Zorthian's.

Tom Coston, Director of the Light Bringer Project, earlier said Doo Dah is known as the "the twisted sister to Pasadena's prim and proper Rose Parade,"

"I think honestly the parade reflects, in its own way, the times," he said. "I think when some people feel there are voices that are really strong about the current political conditions, you are going to see that during our parade. As opposed to the Rose Parade, it's really the people's event where anyone can come in and express themselves however they choose."

And that they did.

Many said they thought the parade had anti-war overtones throughout, nothing new to Doo Dah. Although the parade's unofficial theme was, "Passport to Weirdness at the Post-Holiday Celebration," Talen himself had invited a number of well known activists, including CodePink.

"This is what it is to come

together and share the celebration of being," said CodePink Co-founder Jodie Evans. "We're here with Reverend Billy, the Grand Marshal of the Doo Dah Parade [with the message of stop shopping], and our



message is 'Don't Buy Bush's War'"

Talen started his "stop shopping" crusade eight years ago by invading Starbucks, allowing those in

the store to repent for their sins, and performing cash register exorcisms.

After the parade he said, to the chanting of "amen" and hallelujahs, "Brothers and Sisters! Something on the parade route disturbed me today, you know what it was. There next to the Barns & Noble, it was the Starbucks, the devil himself."

During the parade the crowd taunted him, saying to go inside the only one on the 1.5 mile route. Talen ended up being stopped by a single Starbucks employee who stood outside with the palm of her hand stretched out saying, "No."

The Parade started on Raymond Avenue, went down Colorado Boulevard, ending on Pasadena Avenue. Unlike the Rose Parade there were very few police seen on the route.

Talen continue shouting what he said were the evils of the company, including

not being "fair trade."

Staff writer for the San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group, Michelle Mills, entered as "Naughty Mickie" was Doo Dah Queen.

This year's Thorny Rose award went to controversial blogger, Wayne Lusvardi, for being the city's biggest pain. Not showing up, and in keeping with parade tradition, a large chicken rode in his place.

Lusvardi is the founder of Citizens for Responsible Government, a group opposed to Measure D, on the February 5th ballot.



Not Wayne Lusvardi

Amgen Tour of California Teams Announced along with Stringent Anti-Doping Protocol

By Dean Lee



Modeled after the Tour de France, 17 domestic and international cycling teams, announced Tuesday, will end this year's Amgen Tour of California cycle race next month by crossing the finish line at the Rose Bowl after completing the eight-day, 650 mile event, organizers said.

Organizers also said this year's race will have the most comprehensive drug testing for any cyclists to date, including testing for Erythropoietin (EPO) and growth stimulants.

Numerous reports say accurate EPO testing can be difficult.

AEG Sports president Andrew Messick said they have partnered with governing bodies and anti-doping organizations to make sure the race, starting from Stanford University Feb. 17 and ending Feb. 24, in Pasadena is fair. AEG are the presenters of the tour.

"We believe that an aggressive approach to having a clean and fair race is essential



Amgen Tour Race director Bob Keller

to restore the credibility of top-tier bicycle racing," he said.

The governing bodies stipulated that, "All riders will have blood samples collected prior to the race. All of the blood samples will be tested for indications of blood manipulation and 30 percent of riders will have urine samples collected before the race. Urine samples will be analyzed for the presence of banned substances such as steroids, hormones (including EPO) and various masking agents."

EPO is used medically to treat certain forms of anemia and, according to some reports, has become the doping choice for some to improve athletic performance.

Pasadena Vice Mayor Steve Haderlein dodged the rain and rode his bicycle from East Pasadena, where he lives, to the Rose Bowl for an 11-minute news conference announcing the cycling teams, which also included words by the Mayor of Santa Clarita, Bob Keller, race director Jim Burrell and Haderlein himself.

"Pasadena, I believe, is a very bike friendly city," he said. "In fact, I took advantage of that bike friendliness this morning."

Haderlein, who also teaches at La Salle, commented that he rides to the high school on a regular basis.

The same day Amgen officials, at

another related news conference at The Home Depot Center in Carson, announced the new anti doping guidelines.

Keller called the final weekend of the race "a tale of two cities," saying history will show that the topography between Santa Clarita and

Pasadena will make for a "spectacular ending."

Haderlein said last year's race, of which Pasadena was not a part; drew over 1.6 million spectators, the most of any event in the history of the state. He said this was a tremendous economic opportunity for Pasadena.

Unaware of the resent controversy surrounding pelaton cycling at the Rose Bowl, Burrell said later that he had not seen a race used as a political platform to push any local agenda.

"I hope that people see the great value in this event coming into Pasadena," he said. "I mean, just the health and wellness of it all."

He added, "We're going to see world class cyclists and future Olympians."

Burrell said about 30 percent of the cyclists will go on to participate in this year's Beijing summer games.

Referring to the Olympians, he said, "They are all studying one another to find out what their strengths and weaknesses are with this terrain."

A pelaton is groups of cyclists riding in large race formations, between three and six riders across, allowing them to "draft" - thus gaining the great speeds found in world racing events, such as the Amgen Tour.

The ordinance, if it goes into effect, will not allow any bicycle formation of more than two riding abreast where, signs are posted. The council will take the issue back up in early March after the race they said.

The council said they wanted more time to explore all options for the cyclists and to meet with police officials and city staff seeking a solution.

According to Bourell and Amgen, renowned team entries this year includes Team CSC (Computer Sciences Corporation, an IT firm) the world's No. 1-ranked cycling team (from Denmark); 2007 Amgen Tour of California winner, team Astana from Kazakhstan; and Health Net presented by Maxxis (USA), winner of USA Cycling's 2007 National Race Calendar.

Other teams include, Bissell Pro Cycling Team (USA), BMC Racing Team (USA), Bouygues Telecom (FRA), Cr dit Agricole (FRA), Gerolsteiner (GER), High Road Sports (GER), Jelly Belly Cycling Team (USA), Kelly Benefit Strategies/Medifast (USA), Quick Step (BEL), Rabobank Cycling Team (Netherlands), Rock Racing (USA), Saunier Duval-Scott (ESP), Team Slipstream Powered by Chipotle (USA) and Toyota-United Pro Cycling Team (USA).

The teams comprise 128 individual riders, according to Bourell.

For more information visit;
www.amgentourofcalifornia.com or www.pasadenacal.com.

Pacific Asia Museum Raided

Armed federal agents guarded the front door of the Pacific Asia Museum after a search warrant was served early Thursday morning suggesting the museum knowingly accepted smuggled artifacts from Southeast Asian and looted works of art from Native American sites.

The museum was one of four in Southern California being investigated for alleged illegal smuggling of art from Thailand, China, Myanmar, and Native American lands.

Computers, galleries, offices, and storage areas were searched at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, the Mingei International Museum in San Diego, as well as the Pacific Asia Museum.

A Los Angeles Asian art gallery, Silk Roads, was also part of the raids and believed to be the focal point of the investigation.

Although reports said agents from the Internal Revenue Service and other law enforcement could be seen with bubble wrap, computers and cardboard boxes at some of the museums an unidentified employee outside the Pacific Asia Museum said nothing there was taken out by agents.

Thursday's raids were in conjunction with a five year ongoing criminal investigation of Jon Markell, owner of Silk Roads Design Gallery and an alleged smuggler Bob Olson although reports Friday said no one was arrested.

Warrants issued indicated that Olson and Markell conspired to sell stolen Thai archaeological resources to an undercover National Park Service agent and also claimed fraudulent charitable tax deductions.

Mingei International Museum staff and



Employees stand outside the Pacific Asia Museum Thursday as federal agents watch the door after executing a search warrant earlier that day.

Photo D. Lee /MVO

the unnamed National Park Service agent met once that was recorded, exchanged recorded telephone calls, traded around 11 emails, and exchanged letters regarding the museum's acceptance of archaeological resources that had been stolen from Thailand one warrant said. Other museums were involved in similar schemes according to the reports.

Due to the possible complexity of analyzing any "seized" archeological resources the warrants gave a time frame of 90 days to determine if such data is evidence of a crime.

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**ARMED
RESPONSE**



Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council

TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown


A Malibu homeowners association of 200 members has scheduled a Thermo-gel demonstration for its residents. Last November I attended a University of California Agricultural Extension meeting entitled "Fire Safe Landscaping" in Malibu with about 30 Malibu residents in attendance. The following weekend smacked that mountainous community with its third fire of the year. I am sure there will be a big turn out for their Thermo-gel demonstration.

Sierra Madre has had three Thermo-gel demonstrations. We can schedule as many more as the community wants. Although we have had some welcomed rain, there is never a time to forget that we are in a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone."

Please attend out meetings and make your family and community safer through your awareness. 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.



Environmentally Speaking,

Did You Know?

More Than a Wake-up Call

Thanks to councilmember John Buchanan for making us aware of a fairly new environmentally sound product to warm our hearths and souls...


While shopping at a local market this week we could hear Mr. Buchanan explain to a fellow shopper the environmentally friendly plusses contained in the box of Java-Logs in his cart. Having never heard of them, we checked the Internet and were pleased to find the following information:

The product, now known as Java-Log, was invented in 1998 by Rod Sprules. One evening at his home, he conducted an experiment using dried coffee grounds from his coffee maker filter, combined it with candle wax and then compressed it with a pen into an old cigar tube. It burned so well that he then made prototypes in a loaf pan and gave them to some friends to try...the rest is history, as they say.

The Java-Log is the only fire-log made from spent coffee grounds. It turns out that coffee is a significantly more efficient burner than wood too: coffee has about 25% more energy than wood and triple the flame per unit of energy. Further, Java-Logs produce 96% less residue after combustion, 85% less carbon monoxide, 86% less creosote deposits, and 31% less particulate matter. The flames emit more heat than traditional fires and have a slightly sweet aroma.

So brew yourself a cup of coffee, throw another Java-Log into the fireplace and sit back, relax, and enjoy.

~ Reduce, Reuse, Recycle~
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Your thoughts and comments are welcome...



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SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, January 13th to Saturday January 19th the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 298 calls for service.

Sunday, January 13th:

1:21 AM – Vandalism, 00 block North Sunnyside Ave. A resident called to report his garage vandalized with pink paint balls. The damage occurred between 9:00 pm Saturday, 1/12 and 1:00 am Sunday, 1/13. No repair estimate was available.

7:49 AM – Vandalism, 600 block Fairview Ave. A resident called to report the front windows of her home was hit by three pink paint ball pellets. The vandalism occurred between 8:00 pm Saturday, 1/12 and 6:00 am Sunday, 1/13. No repair estimate was available.

10:11 AM – Vandalism, 100 block North Lima Ave. A resident reported his front door was vandalized with a pink paint ball. The damage occurred between 7:00 pm Saturday, 1/12 and 9:45 am Sunday, 1/13. No repair estimate was available.

12:47 PM – Vandalism, 100 block North Baldwin Ave. A resident reported the side rear window of her Mazda van smashed. She said she heard a loud noise and kids laughing around 1:00 am, Sunday morning. The police were not notified until 12:00 pm Sunday, 1/13 when she discovered the damage. The owner estimated the repair at \$300.00.

Monday, January 14th:

11:13 AM – Assault with a deadly weapon, Grandview Ave and Baldwin Ave. Officers were dispatched to man with a knife call at Grandview Ave and Baldwin Ave. A resident reported a man driving a white van brandished a knife and threatened to kill him. The resident followed the man driving the van until a patrol car arrived. The officer activated the patrol cars red light and siren. The driver failed to yield and officers went into 17 minute pursuit. The Sierra Madre Police Department requested mutual aid from, Arcadia PD, the Sheriffs Department and air support from Pasadena's police helicopter. The van was finally stopped in Temple City and the driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail pending remand. The driver has been charged with three felonies: ADW, evading a police office/reckless driving and criminal threats.

Tuesday, January 15th:

4:26 PM - Residential burglary, 200 block West Carter Ave. A resident reported arriving home and finding her home ransacked. The burglary occurred between 8:15 am and 4:15 pm Tuesday, 1/15. Some of the items stolen were a 15" LCD Sony TV, 2 Nikon cameras, 1 Nikon lens, cash, an American Express Gift Card and several blank bank checks. The total loss was estimated at \$7489.00.

Wednesday, January 16th:

10:14 AM – Theft, 58 West Sierra Madre Blvd. The owner of the Bottle Shop Liquor Store reported three men; male Hispanics 25-30 years old entered his store and stole an expensive bottle of tequila. Two of the men distracted the clerk while one man concealed and stole a \$400.00 bottle of Don Julian Tequila. The three men fled the location and are outstanding.

Thursday, January 17th:

11:36 AM - Residential burglary, 400 block East Montecito Ave. A resident reported when she arrived home this morning her living room window was open and her house had been ransacked. The resident said she was gone between 8:10 am and 11:30 am Thursday, 1/17. The loss was an IPOD valued at \$100.00.

11:46 AM- Residential burglary, 400 block East Highland Ave. A resident reported his house was broken into and ransacked. The burglary occurred between 10:00 am and 11:40 am Thursday, 1/17. The investigation revealed a side screen door off its track. The loss was a gold Omega watch with a diamond bezel and a gold bracelet set with gold links. The stolen property was valued at \$8000.00.

12:40 PM – Arrest, Sierra Place and Suffolk Ave. Officers stopped a car regarding a traffic warrant. A records check revealed the driver; a male Hispanic from San Fernando was unlicensed. He was issued a citation for being an unlicensed driver. The car was parked for retrieval by a licensed driver.

5:40 PM – Residential burglary, 300 block East Laurel Ave. A resident reported when she arrived home this evening the front door was unlocked and her house had been ransacked. The burglary occurred between 7:15 am and 5:30 pm Thursday, 1/17. The loss was a \$1200.00 Apple lap top computer.

LOCAL BUSINESSMAN VICTIM OF ROAD RAGE *Assailant, 61, Behind Bars*

On January 31, Richard Gaggero, 61 will answer three felony charges for an unprovoked encounter with a respected Sierra Madre resident and businessowner.

The resident, who asked not to be identified, was driving along Laurel avenue when Gaggero began verbally assaulting him and brandishing a knife threatening to kill him for "driving too slow".

When the attacker finally pulled off, the victim followed him long enough to get his vehicle information and contact local police. After a pursuit through several towns, Gaggero was apprehended. He is currently being held on \$145,000.00 bail.

Adopt "Sandy" Today

Sandy, a two-year-old, Pekingese is looking for a new home. This adorable girl is outgoing and loves people. Sandy has already been spayed, microchipped and can go home with you today!

The regular dog adoption fee is \$85 which includes the spay or neuter surgery, vaccinations, and a free follow-up health check at your vet.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A210131 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave, Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at www.phsspc.org.

Don't Forget The 2008 Mount Wilson Trail Race

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 37 N. Auburn Avenue #7 Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 Office: 626.355.2737 Fax: 626.609.3285

www.mvobserver.com



Chris Bertrand

The La Viña community, tucked into the upper reaches of Altadena near JPL, enjoys the foothill beauty and healthful climate that drew the Sanitarium and its patients there in the early 1900's. The clean, healthy air and altitude, around 1500 feet above sea level, was thought to be the best possibility of cure for breathing ailments including TB and asthma, drawing folks with respiratory illnesses from across the state, the country and even the world until the 1970's. The advent of antibiotic protocol and the advancing poor air quality of LA air in the 70's, even up to that altitude, combined to close the Sanitarium.



Current entry level to La Viña living starts at \$925k for 3736 Hollingsworth.

Alas, it appears, nothing appears to remain of the sanitarium today in the area at the north end of Lincoln Avenue, except in our memories. La Viña resident Terry Priesont graciously tracked the exact location of the sanitarium and today's housing development for me and matched them. His best estimate of longitude and latitude calculations available on Google seems to indicate that the sanitarium was near the current, undeveloped school site.

Small ranches, vineyards, orchards and highland retreats dotted the hillsides of this area until it was combined into a gated housing community of the same name. About ten years ago, the first new residents moved in. Ruth Brown's family moved into one of the new homes on the same parcel of land that held her previous home. Her in-laws had worked at a nearby cemetery, and used the La Viña land as a little highland getaway. Brown related how important it was to build around their own trees. She laughs wryly that her precious oaks, while so easy to self-seed, are quite persnickety about soil disruption, and only one of her significant trees survived the construction. She reminisced that, at one point in the land and grading preparation, the unearthing of an old bowl caused a bit of a hubbub. Turns out it was not an old



Upper level streets offer fabulous mountain and city views

Regarding Sierra Madre Playhouse

LEADING LADIES: A REVIEW

By Despina Tsiknas-Arzuoman

Some programs are wrought with metaphor. They display universal principles in action. But because the acting-out is sense-oriented, most of us accept what we see could be anything from "normal" to "bizarre"; right or wrong; and for a few it may even be profound. Leading Ladies is one of those programs. It draws out our attention to the latent Yin ("passive") -and/or- Yang ("active") aspects in everyone.

For me, "Leading Ladies" was quite profound. R. Christopher Sands and Timothy Coultas did an excellent job of portraying the female characters within their male characters (i.e. Leo Clark as Maxine, and Jack Gable as Stephanie). In playing those female characters (albeit for their purpose to deceive in order to qualify for "their aunts" inheritance), it was curious to observe behaviors exhibited between the sexes. According to the mores of society, culture, and religion -- there are many behaviors considered inappropriate for men, vis-a-vis women. I am sure that any "man" who has pretended being a "woman" had to reach deep in the recesses of his mind to portray feminine expression. When Dustin Hoffman was interviewed regarding his role as "Tootsie", he was amazed at what was hidden within his own psyche as the playing-out of his character unfolded.

Although the obvious attention was drawn to the cross-dressing of the characters, which is always more easily interpreted in a comical way, there too lies the opportunity to reveal aspects of (maybe repressed) feelings that may be more like that of what we think is of the opposite sex than our own sex but not necessarily predominate. However, yin and yang aspects exist within every self -- that is, some aspects attributable to the "opposite sex" are present within our bodies.

We are living in times of radical change -- or maybe things are "going back" to they way they were "In the

Beginning" -- before the existence of this dualistic world. And if "the Almighty" is a one and complete entity -- why then are "we" split into two genders. Here it was also noteworthy to see how, at the culmination of the play, the Pastor (played by Frank Dooley) who is supposed to be a community leader, is actually discounted from the "equation"; and how the character Meg Snider (played by Elaine O'B. Capogeannis) at one point began to believe she was in falling in love with the female character portrayal (Maxine) of the male character Leo Clark (whom Meg was infatuated with as who he really was too). Made me wonder, then, why "significant-other" relationships are qualified by gender, rather than "like minds." Wasn't it said "each shall seek his own kind?" That has lots of levels of meaning. Society often (still) forces us to repress many aspects of self, which to our physical senses is not acceptable for that sex; like female contractors, or males who enjoy embroidery. I think that if the mind can engender something, then they should do what they feel the desire to do, despite their physical gender. Let's face it, the mind is genderless. It simply gets "trained" into believing 'It' is its body.

Bravo and Thank You to writer, Ken Ludwig; director, Ken Salzman; and producer Ward Calaway for bringing "Leading Ladies" to the Playhouse. I hope it WAS



Actors R. Christofer Sands and Timothy Coultas

Made Playhouse through February 23, 2008, located at 110 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. For ticket information, call (626) 355-3502.

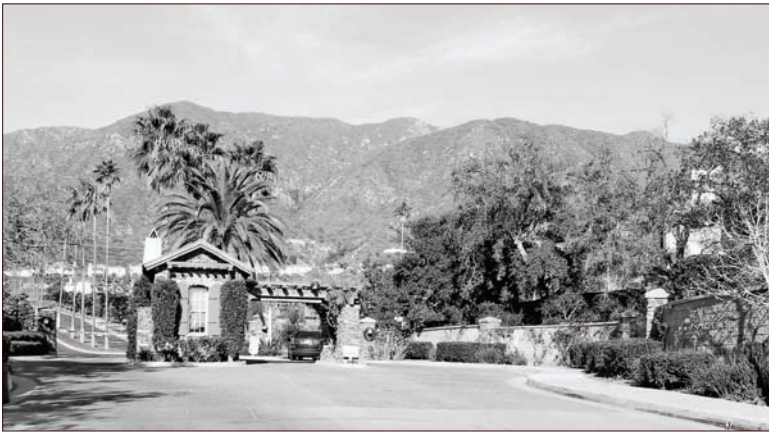
One Of A Kind:

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 2)



The gated entry to La Viña's 200+ homes

carefully researched by Michele Zack and published in 2004. Initially four feet wide, according to her, it soon widened to six and eventually an expansive ten feet to accommodate stage coaches. The fee was a quarter for hikers and half a dollar for riders. The 1935 opening of Angeles Crest Highway up to Mt. Wilson, "signaled the demise of the old toll road," according to Zack.

The positives are many and the pickings are slim for those seeking this type of gated community lifestyle and housing, which often appeals to the corporate relocation buyer. Manicured grounds, underground utilities, newer construction, privately maintained streets, plus a community pool and park. And did I mention the views???? Wow! Gated communities are few and far between in this area of LA, especially in this price point. Speaking of price point, four homes are currently listed, of the 200+ homes within the gates. From \$925,000 for a 3 BR/3BA home with 2149 square feet built in 1998, to a high of \$1,359,000 for 3832 square feet built in 2002. The highest 2007 sale was \$1,875,000 for 5354 square feet up in the estates section, in September last year.

Crystal Narramore, of Dickson Podley Real Estate, is a longtime resident of La Vina. She and her family were drawn here before she became active in home sales, attracted by the new construction and the Pasadena-close location. The active and outgoing women's organization here makes it easy to meet neighbors at a monthly catered event at a rotating resident's home.

With those gates and amenities do come HOA fees and a Mello Roos of \$1600-2600 per year, according to Narramore. The Mello Roos has been applied to upgrading the Loma Alta Park facilities at Lincoln and Loma Alta, just outside the gates. The dedicated homesites within the gates are now built out, but an expanse of land sits in the middle of the community, zoned for a school or church. But so far, no takers. The likes of Maranatha High School and Scientology facilities were both bandied about at one time, but both have withdrawn interest.

Every community has its prickly points, and trail access seems to be La Viña's, with long running discontent between the HOA and hiking access groups. Hopefully, this will be resolved through the courts quickly and equitably. In the meantime, this pristine community sits quietly tucked away atop some of the most beautiful land and views in LA, a 21st century mountain retreat with great freeway access and quite a history!

native American artifact, but the vessel used by an aunt to provide water to her pets.

Some of the streets recall previous landholders here, including the Giddings and Hollingsworths, according to Ruth Brown. Old Toll Road in La Viña no longer charges a fee, but refers to the nine mile, private road completed by Roger Eaton winding up to Mt. Wilson in 1891. The toll-house was once located on Altadena Drive, above present day New York Drive,

according to the wonderful tome, Altadena.

It's Just BUSINESS

California's Budget

By La Quetta M. Shamblee

The long-term implications of business-as-usual in Sacramento are certain to result in a pattern of budget deficits repeated every couple of years. The Governor's proposed solution to correct and eliminate this cyclical budget rollercoaster is being met with increasing protests, debate and a massive misinformation campaign. A review of the Budget Summary released on January 10th provides details about every aspect of the 2008-2009 fiscal plan. Schwarzenegger's declaration of a fiscal emergency earlier this month will now require a special session of the State Legislature to proceed with the recommendations.

In order for SGV residents to weigh-in on the proposed budget as an informed citizenry, a brief introduction of the 2008-2009 budget proposal is provided below. The three-step list highlights key points from the Governor's letter that introduced the 335-page Budget Summary to the Senate and Assembly of the Legislature. Hopefully, it will serve as the starting point for individuals to engage in discussion and additional research prior to contacting elected representatives to express support or disagreement.

Step 1: Close the projected shortfall of \$3.3 billion in the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2008, by implementing a 10-percent reduction across the board to nearly every General fund program, effective March 1, 2008. This approach was chosen to spread the reductions as evenly as possible to ensure that no program is singled out for drastic reductions. Spending at the current rate is projected to result in a deficit of at least \$14.5 billion in the next fiscal year unless this matter is dealt with now.

Step 2: Suspension of the 2007-2008 pre-payments for the Economic Recovery Bonds and the sale of remaining bonds to shore up this year's budget reserves. Voters approved this one-time bond issue with the passage of Prop 57 in 2004. The issue was established to provide means to pay off the state's accumulated General Fund deficit as of the close of the fiscal year in 2004. This also required the passage of the California Balanced Budget Act (Prop 58).

Step 3: Proposed Constitutional Amendment to reform the state budget process. A Budget Stabilization Act will eliminate the pattern of inflated budgets that are developed in response to increases in revenue during periods when the State's economy is thriving. This will also give the state the ability to reduce spending quickly when necessary to avoid a deficit.

The pattern of spend-spend-spend through periods of "boom or bust" is well-entrenched in Sacramento and, without some official mandate, the pattern will certainly continue. The current proposal presents a real opportunity to either initiate or establish a serious attempt to put a system in place to ensure that the state's budgeting process and operations are conducted in a responsible manner. A copy of the full Budget Summary may be viewed and downloaded at no charge at <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/>. For information on how to purchase a hard copy, call (916) 445-2645.



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Fat Tuesday Celebration

Methodist Hospital Prepares for Mardi Gras 2008

The Methodist Hospital Foundation invites you to ring in Mardi Gras 2008 by sipping on fine wines and mojitos while savoring the culinary delights of the finest restaurants in town. Festive entertainment and the sounds of "Cheap Sax" will add to the splendor of the event but no doubt the most important thing to celebrate surrounds who will benefit.

The event put together by the Methodist Hospital Foundation and the Women's Leadership council is dedicating this year's proceeds to benefit future nurses by providing nursing scholarships. The need to invest this year's proceeds towards such a cause seemed easy to come by since medical facilities throughout California and beyond are experiencing a shortage of nurses. The shortage is attributed to a variety reasons. One of which is the financial hardship of tuition which may hinder some students in pursuing a rewarding career in nursing. Methodist Hospital hopes to alleviate some of the difficulty in finances for nursing students with the proceeds of Mardi Gras 2008.

"We hope to assist nursing students to accelerate their learning and be available for patient care in a timelier manner, said Carolyn Tadeja, vice president and chief of nursing.

Mardi Gras will be celebrated at Sirona's at the Santa Anita Park (race track) from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m on February 5. The event calls for business attire but feathers are encouraged and welcome. Tickets for this anticipated event are on sale now. For more information, please call (626) 821- 2340. Methodist Hospital, founded in 1903, is a 460 bed, not-for-profit hospital serving the community. Services include comprehensive acute care such as medical, surgical, perinatal, pediatrics, oncology, intensive care (neonatal and adult), and complete cardiovascular services, including open heart surgery. Methodist Hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. For more information please call (626) 898 - 8000 or visit www.methodisthospital.org.

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

Governor's Budget Means Severe Losses for PUSD

Mid-Year Cuts Would Slash PUSD Funds by 10%

The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) may be required to cut its budget for students and schools next year by about ten percent, according to a preliminary analysis of the impact of the Governor's new budget proposal presented to the Board of Education. Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed reducing the state's spending on education by \$4.8 billion as part of his plan to counter the State's projected \$14.5 billion deficit. In a study session on Tuesday, PUSD staff informed members of the Board of Education that the state's mid-year proposal would require PUSD to reduce its budget by \$10 million to provide a balanced budget and meet the reserve limits required by state law. Superintendent Edwin Diaz expressed his concern about the disruptive effect this budget crisis will have on the reform efforts currently underway at PUSD. "The time and resources required to identify budget cuts is a distraction that limits our ability to focus on improving instruction and becoming a more effective organization," Diaz said. "All of the ongoing work to improve efficiency and identify cost savings may now serve only to mitigate the impact of state budget cuts rather than enabling us to increase the

level of resources for schools and students." The proposed cuts would reduce PUSD unrestricted revenues by \$9.9 million, compared to previous projections. Restricted general fund revenues, which are primarily used to fund school sites directly, would also decrease by 6.5 percent, translating to an additional loss of approximately \$2.5 million. Over the next several months, leading up to the Governor's revised budget projections in May, the Board will continue to meet on a weekly basis to receive updated information on the state and District budgets, develop a process for identifying reductions and implement changes required to fill the shortfall. Simultaneously, the PUSD Board and staff will educate the PUSD community about the potential impact of the proposed cuts and advocate for a bud get that protects the state's investment in education. "As long as California qualifies its support for education based on the peaks and valleys of the economy, the risk of unanticipated budget reductions will thwart our strategic planning efforts," Diaz stated. "We must identify more stable, local sources of funding to realize our vision for the students of PUSD." Source: PUSD

The Best Laid Plans

No sooner than the Superintendent of Schools, Edwin Diaz shared some of his plans with the community, news came down from Sacramento of even more budget cuts.

However, it is doubtful that the Governor's plans will put a halt in Diaz' plans.

For one thing, Diaz has already presented a plan to streamline the administration of PUSD which would result in a significant reduction in costs. That savings of approximately \$500,000 is intended to be provide more direct support for students. Under this reorganization, he will eliminate six top administrative positions, including all of the Assistant Superintendents.

Existing staff may be moved into the new jobs. By February, the job descriptions for the reorganized positions will be posted.

There is no doubt that such a bold move will stir a great deal of controversy. Despite the cost savings the 'politics of education' are certain to raise its' ugly head.

Diaz is focused on his goal, however. When asked what his greatest challenges were he included improving John Muir HS; making all Middle Schools more relevant; improving the level of involvement and interaction with parents, staff and students; and engaging the community's help in the strategic planning process. Diaz wants to set specific strategies for each school - a definite move in the right direction.

S. Henderson/MVO



Children's Theatre Group Has A New Name

Pasadena Junior Theatre, which has been offering performing arts education to children in Pasadena and the greater San Gabriel Valley for the past eight years, has changed its name to Theatre 360. The reason for the name change is that children involved with the company participate in 360 degrees of theatre production.

"We are a unique group because our students are involved in every aspect of the theatre," said Devon Yates, Executive and Artistic Director for Theatre 360. "From performing to technical, our students are involved in every aspect of our shows. They are stage managers and assistant directors, they run the light board, and handle the costumes and props. We thought this name change better reflected our company and the opportunities we provide to all students."

Theatre 360 offers a wide range of classes for children of all ages and skill levels. The new "Come Play with Us" series of classes introduces children to the

performing arts, while the "Immersion Arts" classes offer more serious students a higher level of training so they can prepare for high school and college auditions, as well as a career in the performing arts. Classes are offered in music, dance, acting, auditioning, and a new "Parents Play Date" for parents and young ones together is being offered. Students who are enrolled in Theatre 360 classes have many opportunities to participate in theatrical productions. The next Main Stage Production is the Grimm Brothers' version of "Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs," which begins with auditions on January 26. Performances begin on March 7, 2008.

Other performance opportunities include an experimental play in the Spring, two summer musicals, and a Fall Main Stage Musical. Past theatrical productions include The Wiz; Charlotte's Web; Suessical the Musical; The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe; Thoroughly Modern Millie; Footloose; and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. For more information about Theatre 360, call (626) 577-5922, or visit them at www.theatre360.org, or 75 North Marengo Avenue, Pasadena.

TRISH'S TRUTH Just Genius

By Trisha Collins

Last night, I think I saw one of the best plays ever produced. Now, I don't see plays very often, but I do know a good one when I see it. This play was moving, funny, lively, and genius, all rolled into one beautiful production. Never a dull moment, I was constantly engrossed in the scenes. In the span of about two hours, I was transported to the early 20th century, thrown into the brutal life of a pregnant fourteen-year old girl named, Celie. Transported from my comfy seat at the Ahmanson Theatre all the way to southern Georgia. I was transported directly into the masterpiece known as, *The Color Purple*.

Oprah has done it again. She's really has outdone herself with this one. *The Color Purple* was excellent, fabulous, and perfect. Yes, I know people say that nothing is perfect, and that's what I used to think too. Although that was before 8:00pm last night, before I sat down and witnessed the most spectacular reenactment of the book and movie, *The Color Purple*. When I say this play was perfect, I mean *everything* was perfect. The costumes, the scenery, the orchestra, the actors and actresses, the singers, the script, need I go on?

If you're not familiar with the storyline, it's generally about a young African-American girl named Celie who goes through many tragic hardships in her lifetime, managing to pick herself up again and again. It's very difficult to explain because there's so much to it that is key to the storyline. I would recommend seeing the play or the movie (but be sure to see the movie in its entirety, trust me), it's well worth it.

A question I always had was, "What did 'the color purple' have to do with anything, anyway?" Turns out that its meaning isn't clearly described in the book, or the movie...or the play. I counted, and they only said the word "purple" in the play 3 times. I think that the title fits the storyline, though. It's perfect, I can't really explain it, but I understand why it's called *The Color Purple*. It's nice because the title doesn't sum up the whole story, there's no way you could guess all the ups and downs that go on from the title alone. Maybe that's what the author of the book, Alice Walker, was going for. Whatever she was aiming for, she achieved, because I was almost moved to tears with all the conflicts and resolutions within the story.

I would definitely suggest that everyone (young and old) go out and see this spectacular play while it's showing in Los Angeles. *The Color Purple* really is truly a joy.

STUDENTS NEEDED TO VISIT PASADENA'S SISTER CITY IN ARMENIA

Students ages 17 to 24 have an opportunity to participate in an approximately four-week summer exchange program with Pasadena's sister city in Vanadzor, Armenia. To qualify, students must be attending high schools or colleges in the communities served by Pasadena Unified School District or be residents of those communities.

This is a cultural exchange

only; Armenian language skills are helpful but not required. Students will stay with host families and visit local attractions.

Applications must be postmarked no later than Saturday, Feb. 16, and interviews will take place the week of Feb. 18. To download an application, visit www.pasadenasistercities.org and click on Exchanges.

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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Norma Coombs Alternative School

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2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
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Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109
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St. Rita Catholic School

322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
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Sierra Madre Elementary School

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Sierra Madre Middle School

160 N. Canon
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947
Principal: Gayle Bluemel
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Weizmann Day School

1434 N. Altadena Dr.
Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 797-0204
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

Wilson Middle School

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

Pasadena Unified School District

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MountainViews-Observer

Mission Statement

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

We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.



Member



Susan Henderson

Rules of Engagement

Rule (n): a prescribed guide for conduct or action; **engagement (n):** emotional involvement or commitment

Well, it's that time again. It's time for us to exercise our most precious right in this country - it's time for us to vote, and apparently this year, to vote often.

In February, the Presidential Primary will be before us. We will choose which candidate we want to run for the nation's top spot. Throw in a Special Municipal Election for Pasadena while you are at it. And, oh yes, don't forget statewide Propositions 91 through 97. They will be on that ballot too.

Then on April 8th, the Sierra Madre General Municipal Election will include electing two council members, a city clerk and a city treasurer. Also on that ballot are the User Utility Tax, The UUT Advisory Measure and The Police Initiative.

Move on to the Statewide Primary, scheduled for June 3, 2008, although I couldn't find anything that was slated to be on that ballot, and finally, the Presidential Election in November.

Four elections, four chances to let your wishes be known. However, of the four only one has me considering whether or not to sequester myself in the house until it is over. Which one? Well, the Sierra Madre General Municipal Election, of course.

You see, we can elect someone to the highest position in the land, a person who will be the most powerful leader in the world, in a much more civil fashion than we, as the citizens of Sierra Madre, can elect our local leaders and vote of local issues. That is truly unfortunate. If the world press would focus on our town and how we act, it would be embarrassing. Friendships break down, neighbors turn on each other, hysteria prevails in the land of Wistaria. At least that has been the case in the last two elections.

So, if we know this, how about doing something proactive and prevent this disruption in our otherwise peaceful existence?

I have an idea. How about some Rules Of Engagement for Election 2008. (This might also help our local treasury.)

1. Each resident will respect the right of every other resident to make decisions about who they support and what they vote for. Failure to do so should result in a fine of no less than \$100 per confrontation. (If the confrontation happens in Kersting Court the fine is doubled.)
2. Residents shall refrain from making judgments about people who see the world differently than they do. Fine for making judgments - \$200.00
3. There will be no lying about the candidate's character or integrity, or speculation about their motives for running for office. Fine: \$300.00
4. There will be no spreading of 'Guilt By Association' - Fine: \$400.00
5. Each resident, or friend or acquaintance of a resident, caught defacing and removing campaign signs will be assigned to 1,000 hours of community service.
6. Residents who fail to speak and be civil to their - and your - neighbors because of their political beliefs will be fined \$750.00
7. Residents using the City Council microphone as a bully pulpit regarding election issues will be fined \$1,000.00.
8. Residents and/or their friends and acquaintances who fail to disclose their identity while trashing other residents via email, blogs or US Mail - \$1,500.
9. Garnering votes by manipulation or intimidation - \$2,000.
10. For ranting and raving about facts that you clearly aren't familiar with to the detriment of a candidate or initiative, the fine is \$2,500.00
11. Creating unnecessary drama regarding being chased by vigilantes and wild animals - \$5,000.
12. Failing to vote and then complaining about the outcome - \$10,000.00

And last but not least, should you engage in any bad behavior not mentioned above, you shall be(I'm thinking of the punishment), but anyway, whatever it is, you won't be finished with the penance until the town heals again.



Stuart Tolchin On...LIFE "Tell The People The Truth"

Right now, the Presidential election campaigns are in full swing.

As usual the rich and privileged and sometimes talented are trying to convince the other non-rich, non-privileged, and usually non-talented that there really is no difference between us. The only reason people want to get elected is so they can help the rest of us - they really care about us - sure they do.

Maybe this ongoing hypocrisy is the reason why so many of us can't take the elections seriously. It's all lies- and worse it always has been. George Washington was as far as I know the richest man in the colonies. As I learned from the exhibit at the Huntington, he was always a vain, calculating, ambitious man. Forget the cherry tree, Washington when he decided he wanted to be a General went out and put together a uniform that he wore just to impress the other Founding Fathers with his capacity for military leadership - and it worked. Not only was Washington made the General everyone was sure that he was the right choice because he looked so great in his uniform while riding a horse. Someone who looks that good and is that rich ought to be able to have anything they want - Right? - NO, WRONG!!

Although I'm a life long non-Republican (sometimes I'm Green or Peace and Freedom, but mostly Democrat) I just did not believe an incredibly wealthy person like John Kerry was an appropriate selection

as a Democratic candidate. Similarly, I don't believe that Dianne Feinstein and Nancy Pelosi, yes and Arnold and Oprah too, are really interested in helping me. I guess I believe that wealth and privilege and fame create so much distance from other people that everything other than one's self just becomes a hobby - something that's not really of primary importance.

I say this knowing full well that Teddy Kennedy has worked long and hard for what I guess he believes in the interest of the common man for 45 years and yet, somehow American doesn't really believe him - we know he's really in it for the hot tubs and the parties and the babes.

Maybe I'm wrong. Benizar Bhutto obviously was raised as a child of wealth and privilege. After all her father, before he was hanged, was Prime Minister? The newspaper stories after her death described that while at Harvard she cried because she had to walk to school on her own. (she had always been chauffeured by limousine before). Worse yet, at cafeteria meals she would have to get her own food and sit at a table where anyone who wanted to could plop right down and talk to her. Is there any surprise that while she was Prime Minister of Pakistan there were charges of corruption against her - after all she was used to having wealth and privilege? Nevertheless, right now it seems pretty clear, shortly after her assassination, that this extraordinary woman was dedicated to actually being of service to the people of Pakistan.



Creating Schools That Cultivate Achievement

By Hail Hamilton

How can we create schools that cultivate a sense of belonging and success for our students, particularly those students at-risk of not graduating from high school? What learning strategies contribute to a climate and culture of achievement? What strategies and programs help develop cultural competence, conflict resolution skills, gang prevention, and civic responsibility? How can we support teachers, families, and students in generating a culture of success?

Actually we have learned a lot about academic achievement and those factors that positively influence schools: beliefs, vision, leadership, student perceptions, community involvement, and relationships between students and faculty. A school that supports achievement for all its students is one that has a shared belief system that every student will achieve and educators will incorporate instruction methodologies that are effective to teach all students.

While teachers bear the day-to-day responsibility of meeting academic expectations, it is the site principal, as leader, who sets the tone by communicating a vision that makes teachers feel everyone is working toward a common goal. The principal needs to work with a leadership team to build capacity and ensure sustainability. Student perceptions of their school need to be acknowledged and included in the endeavor to create a climate that fosters academic and personal success. Children who feel valued and that they belong, are confident learners, are more likely to be successful academically, and are developing skills that will enable them to be productive adults.

Building a caring school culture or "learning community" helps academic achievement. The single most important factor in determining a school's success is the quality of students' relationships with other students

and school staff. The social environment, which influences students' learning and growth, is shaped by many factors: the school's espoused goals and values, the principal's leadership style, the faculty's teaching and discipline methods, the policies regarding grading and tracking, and the inclusion or exclusion of students and parents in the planning and decision-making processes.

School efforts to prevent bullying and develop teacher's skills to form warm connections with students could do more to close the achievement gap than all other pedagogical tools available. We must support the social and emotional needs of poor, minority, and special needs children if we are to close the achievement gap. Caring teachers are essential to minority youth achievement. Caring teachers are essential to a school's success.

Our teacher education programs have to teach more than just lessons and classroom management. Teaching to a particular test should be abolished. Education programs need to address the "whole child" not just the brain, and teach from the heart. The important first step to improve the system is to sincerely ask students and parents what makes them uncomfortable with their school, their environment, and their teachers. Listen to them and incorporate their suggestions to improve the school.

Recent research suggests various options to support change. For example, build smaller schools with smaller classes, create "small learning communities"; consider alternative schedules, hours, and facilities; involve families of our diverse student populations; challenge students' comfort zones; include students in analysis of assessment results and in setting achievement goals; and include curriculum that explores the very behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs our students develop about themselves, their communities, their future, and their education.

Somehow, it's easier for me to believe in the sincerity of people like the monks of Myanmar who have lived in poverty and have chosen to risk and lose their lives trying to help others. In some ways it's just hard to believe in the sincerity of Al Gore who after losing in 2000 got fat, grew a beard and got rich before he decided to help us.

Maybe we need to elect leaders like Mother Teresa whose strong religious beliefs led her to be of constant service to the world. But wait, I've learned that even Mother Teresa questioned her faith and wondered if there was a God. Strange isn't it. Somehow we don't expect strong religious examples to think like this. Maybe we could never forgive Jimmy Carter for secretly lusting in his heart.

I think I've found my point. What really hurts us is the knowledge that we're being lied to almost all of the time. We stop listening and can't ever recognize the truth when it is being presented. No wonder we're all so confused.

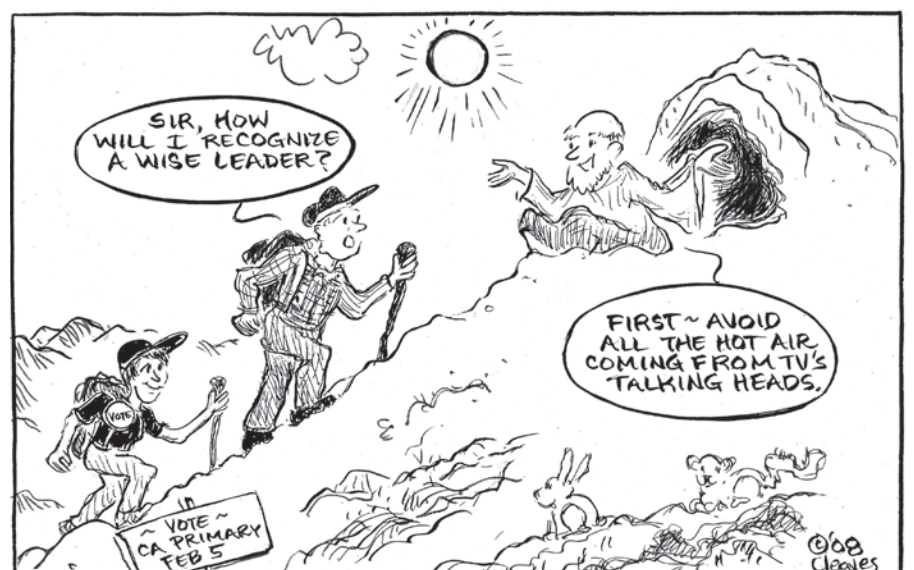
Look, we all watch television and television is, of course, supported by advertising and what is advertising? That great fuel that empowers our whole system - Well I don't know if you can describe it as constant lying - but it sure ain't about telling the truth.

Okay, so what's to be done? There's no way we can force politicians and advertisers to tell the truth. They probably don't know how. All we can do is practice being truthful at least to ourselves at first and then in our dealings with other people. Maybe if we get used to telling the truth ourselves we'll be better able to recognize it when it's coming from someone else. I sure hope so.

So my first and only rule, just like Keats, is, "This above all - to thine own self be true."

And when you find yourself lying to yourself, as you will, to help remind yourself to be true send one dollar to Stuart Tolchin at ... JUST KIDDING. Be Well

S.Tolchin@mvobserver.com



Looking Up

With Bob Eklund



Photo by Aaron Dominquez

The World Looking Up

ONE OF MY DREAMS is of a world where people everywhere will use their eyes to look up through telescopes at the stars, rather than down gun-barrels at one another. When Mount Wilson Observatory's famous 100-inch was first tested on Nov. 2, 1917—at a time when armies were locked in battle on the fields of France—the English poet Alfred Noyes was present. Noyes later described the event in his epic book chronicling the history of astronomy in verse, *Watchers of the Sky*:

*“To-morrow night they hoped to crown the toil
Of twenty years, and turn upon the sky
The noblest weapon ever made by man.
War had delayed them. They had been drawn away
Designing darker weapons. But no gun
Could outrange this.”*

Ninety years have now passed since that memorable “first light” on Mt. Wilson. Is the world any closer to turning its swords into ploughshares and its guns into telescopes? Perhaps not, but even a small start is better than none, and next year—2009—could be remembered by future generations as the year when the people of Planet Earth finally began to look upward and outward in a long-overdue reach for the stars.

That, at least, is the hope of the organizers of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009).

Announced by the United Nations just over a month ago—on Dec. 20, 2007—IYA2009 will be a global celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society and culture, highlighting the 400th anniversary of the first use of an astronomical telescope, by Galileo Galilei in 1609. IYA2009 already has 100 nations involved, the latest of them Bangladesh (where the Bangladesh Astronomical Society aims to give 200,000 people the opportunity to observe the night sky through telescopes, and a total eclipse of the Sun on July 22, 2009 will add to the excitement).

As stated by its organizers in the International Astronomical Union and the United Nations, the vision of IYA2009 is to “help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day-and night-time sky—and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery.”

The aim of IYA2009, they add, is “to stimulate worldwide interest, especially among young people, in astronomy and science under the central theme ‘The Universe, Yours to Discover.’ IYA events and activities will promote a greater appreciation of the inspirational aspects of astronomy that embody an invaluable shared resource for all countries.”

IYA2009 activities will take place at the global, regional, national, and local levels—and will include collaborations between professional and amateur astronomers, science centers, educators, and science communicators. With 2009 just eleven months away, I suspect that educators will soon be looking for ways to enrich their curricula with touches of stellar wonder.

It will be interesting to see what effect a year of focused attention to “looking up” will have on this largely downward-looking old world. Maybe none. Or maybe.... Does anyone remember something called the International Geophysical Year (IGY)? Established in 1957 as a means of focusing scientific attention on the Earth as a whole, it had the unforeseen effect of ushering in the Space Age, beginning with the launches of the USSR's Sputnik 1 in October 1957 and America's Explorer 1 in January 1958.

By the way, in honor of the 50th anniversary of JPL-produced Explorer 1's launch, the lab is celebrating with street banners flying around the city of Pasadena. A one-hour film, “Explorer 1: The Beginning of the Space Age,” produced by Blaine Baggett, JPL's Executive Manager for Communications and Education, will air on KCET, Channel 28, on Sat., Feb. 2 at 10:00 p.m., and on Sun., Feb. 3 at 5:00 p.m.

UPREACH, 2009

Eyes that look star-ward
Are not so likely to look
Down a gun-barrel.

If you'd like to learn more, you can contact Bob at beklund@mobserver.com
(The poem appearing here is by Bob Eklund and is copyrighted by him.)



The Mountain Clymer

By Kim Clymer-Kelley

Extraordinary People Extraordinary Places (Part I)

During my time roaming and living in the mountains that shadow our lovely town, I have to say, I ran into some very extraordinary people. There were those who had chosen to live a simple and primitive life full time in the canon (I truly admired all who had done that at one point in their lives or another), there were artists, there were ultra-marathon mountain runners (who would run 100 mile races on the trails around the world), there were those who were bravely facing the last months of their lives and those who lovingly stood by them, and there were those who had dedicated their lives to preserving the traditions and history and the safety of the canyon. The canyon and mountains in which it is nestled are extraordinary places, they bring out the best in people, and they call the best of people to them. Of all of those that I have met there and admired, one person in particular stands out above the others, a blind man named Daniel Kisch.

I first ran into Daniel very early on in my tenure at the station. I was returning from a pack out to Sturtevant Camp and was patrolling the cabins in the main canyon. I had just finished my inspection of the large cluster of cabins across the stream near an area locals call Fern Lodge Junction. Having completed my check of the area, I got back on my horse and led the donkeys across the water to the trail. I was headed down to the next group of cabins when I passed a man on the trail. He was strolling casually down the trail tapping his long white cane from side to side...quite obviously he was blind. Rather taken by surprise by the sight, I stopped along side the trail, greeted him, and asked him if he needed any help finding his way around and whether or not he was with anyone...I could not believe that someone totally blind could be out on the trails alone. He nonchalantly replied that he was fine, and was alone, and that he knew where he was going, and he thanked me for asking. I hoped that I had not offended him in assuming he might need assistance. He seemed so confident and somewhat surprised that I should ask. He came over to my horse and stroked his nose as we continued our conversation and introduced ourselves. I told him about the Pack Station and its General Store. He was intrigued and said he had never been there, so I gave him directions to it, told him to stop by sometime and went on my way. Upon returning home, I unloaded the donkeys and unsaddled them and my horse, cleaned the barn and corrals, fed all of the animals, and went inside to prepare dinner. A little while later there was a knock on the door. It was Daniel. I could not believe that he had found his way back to the station since it is situated rather off the beaten path. Many sighted people have come to Chantry Flat for years and never found their way to the station...they would stumble upon it by accident one day and would be dumbfounded by the fact that they had missed it all of the other times that they had been there...and then, here was Daniel, tapping his way across my parking lot to my front door. “Amazing!” I thought. We chatted for awhile, I gave him a tour of the facility and he headed home.

Daniel became a regular visitor from then on, arriving by taxi or a friend dropping him off. Sometimes when the gate at the bottom of the road was closed (as it was more often than not), I would pass him hiking the 3 ½ mile stretch of road that takes one from

the end of the residential area of Arcadia and Sierra Madre to the Pack Station and trailhead area at Chantry Flat. He would frequently be sporting a heavy pack on his back, depending on whether or not he was planning on spending the night in the canyon. If I saw him, I would stop and pick him up and take him the rest of the way up the hill. Eventually I offered him the option of calling me for a ride if the gate was locked. Sometimes he took me up on that offer, but he always insisted on paying for the service. Some days he would arrive late in the afternoon. Of course, a sighted person would be worried about running out of daylight and having to find their way out of the canyon in the dark. But to Daniel, it is always dark, so hiking at night was the same to him as hiking in the day...except maybe a bit colder. When he got tired, he would simply lie down on the ground where he was, sleep there for the night, and hike out the next day. He usually carried a blanket for such occasions... sometimes maybe a sleeping pad, but often he would just find a bench or a soft bed of leaves and curl up for the night. When the manager of Sturtevant Camp, Chris Kasten, found out about Daniel and his frequent overnight ventures, he told him about the old ranger station at Sturtevant Camp that he always left open. He did so for those who became stranded far out in the canyon at night or in the rain and found themselves in need of shelter from the wild or weather. That proved to be a godsend for Daniel and he often spent the night in the comfort of that cabin.

I was fascinated to learn from Daniel that he ran a school for the blind. His is not the typical training school to teach the blind how to function in a sighted world, but rather an outdoor adventure school for those who are blind or visually impaired. His goal is to instill in his students the same independence, courage, and confidence that he has by opening up a whole new world to them in the beauty and adventure of the great outdoors. He would bring small groups of boys from as young as early teens to older students in their 20's. They would spend the day hiking through the canyon and the mountains learning how to sense their surroundings and direction, forge streams, and climb rocks. Daniel teaches his student his amazing technique of determining what is around him. He shows them how to make a clicking sound with their mouths and listen to the sound as it hits objects and bounces back to them. With this technique the can tell with astonishing accuracy what is nearby. They can tell what is on each side of the trail...whether it is open to a drop-off or if they are more safely surrounded by trees or rocks. Using this and a cane, they get around the canyon nearly as well as those who can see. There have been a few incidences when a student has fallen and hurt himself, but really no more frequently than other canyon visitors. They have explored every corner the canyon...on and off the trails, they have climbed up the rocks of Hermit Falls (something I would never have the guts to do), and Daniel himself has even tried biking with a sited guide (the guides' bikes are equipped with a device that emits a sound for the blind riders to follow.) Daniel and his students are perhaps the most courageous people I have ever met. Daniel himself, is perhaps one of the most extraordinary people I have had the pleasure to know...and an inspiration to all he meets.

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 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

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 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#

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NO. TS011130 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ALBERT URIAS RODRIGUEZ, 1925 W. 126th Street, Compton, California, 90022, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of Los Angeles for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Albert Urias Rodriguez Proposed Name: Jose Alberto H. Rivera; Present Name: Albert Rodriguez Proposed Name: Albert Rivera. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before the court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above

must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If not written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without hearing. A HEARING on the petition will be held on 3/6/08 at 10:00 AM in Department G located at 200 W. Compton Blvd., Compton, Ca. 90220. 1/26, 2/2/08, 2/9/08, 2/16/08

ORDERED JANUARY 23, 2008 BY ROSE HON. JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

STARTING A NEW BUSINESS ?

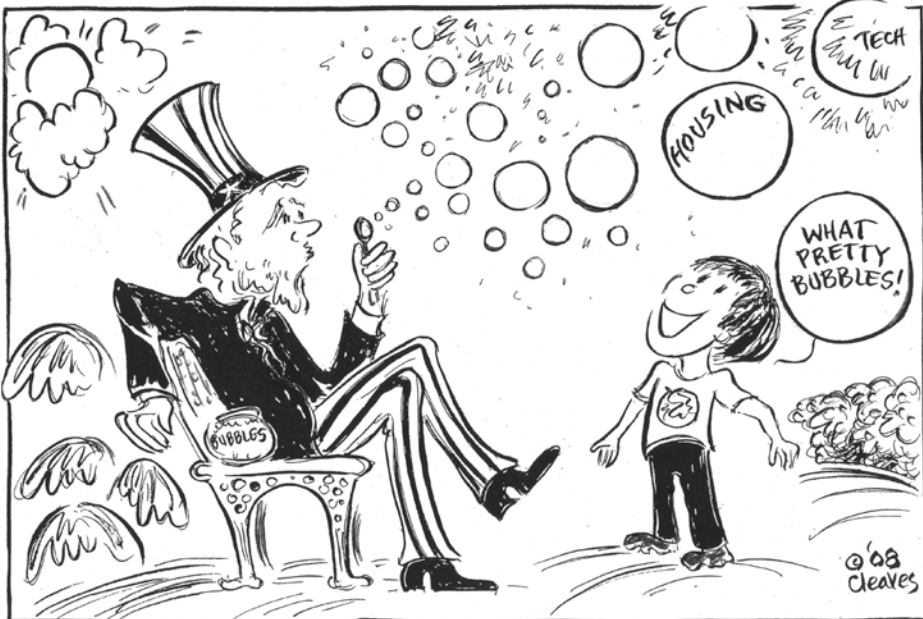
FILE YOUR DBA HERE

Doing Business As,
Fictitious Business Name Filing

MAIL
BOX

& POSTAL 280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre
626-836-6675

Obtain Street Address - Business Stationery - Flyers
Rubber Stamps - Business Cards - Mailing Service



Jeff's Pics

The Book Reports

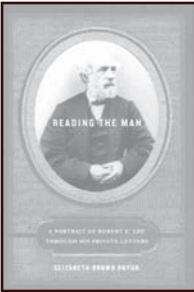
By Jeff Brown



Botticelli Blue Skies: An American in Florence
by Merrill Joan Gerber (2002)
Prize winning, nationally known author ,Mrs. Gerber has lived in Sierra Madre for many years. A few years ago while accompanying her history professor husband to Italy for three months as he taught a class there, she was able to explore the wonderful life and people in Italy and write about them. In the best of arm-chair travel we get to see Italy through her eyes, as well as share her personal reactions to traveling. Her writing is wonderfully descriptive and rich, and it feels like we are walking along with her on her many adventures. Also included are her own photographs. Her newest book, Victory Gardens of Brooklyn (2007), is an historic immigrant family epic rich in detail, based on her own family and deals with three generations of women from the early 1900’s thru World War 11. Mrs. Gerber has published 7 novels, collections of short stories, and young-adult titles, as well as guides for writers, and personal essays. She teaches writing at Cal Tech.

Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters

by Elizabeth Brown Pryor (2007)
Historian and diplomat Elizabeth Brown Pryor has uncovered 4000 very personal letters written by Robert E. Lee that have never previously been seen outside the family or used by historians or biographers. In this book she uses these letters to explore the private life and intimate writings of the famous Confederate General. They cover his whole life from his early years, West Point, and up to his feelings after the defeat in the Civil War. She found the letters extraordinary, revealing, intimate and charming. Lee was a very good writer and shows himself as witty, lusty, vulnerable and complex. He discusses everything, including his views on leadership, slavery and much about the Civil War. Reading his letters is like listening to private conversations. Lee never wrote an autobiography or memoir. This book is a wonderfully intimate look into his life, his family and his time. Elizabeth Pryor also wrote “Clara Barton: Professional Angel,” a biography of the founder of the American Red Cross.



Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain
by John J. Ratey (2008)
Besides being good for the heart and the body, in this book Dr. Ratey delineates new research that proves exercise is also great for the mind. It has been shown that test scores, memory and other brain test indicators improve with regular exercise. Exercise can beat stress, lift your mood, ward off brain dysfunctions and much more. John J. Ratey, MD, is a clinical associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

Book pics are available at Sierra Madre Books(836-3200)
For DVD and book recommendations email me at jeffspics1@gmail.com

Scene One - Take One DVD Review

In the Heat of The Night (1967)

A Philadelphia detective (Sidney Poitier) helps a redneck Southern sheriff (Rod Steiger, who won a Best Actor Oscar) solve a murder in this story about racism. Steiger is great! During their time together, he comes to respect Poitier’s professionalism and ability. Norman Jewison creates a realistic social atmosphere for the movie. It provides some effective social commentary, as well as being an excellent mystery with wonderful performances. The film took a best picture Oscar; it’s out now in a 40th anniversary edition DVD.



Ronald Colman Home Film Festival!!

Having one of the best voices ever to grace the silver screen, Ronald Colman is a delight to watch in the following classic movies!



A Tale of Two Cities (1935) Ronald Colman gives a great performance as a disgraced lawyer defending an accused spy while trying to redeem himself for the woman both he and the defendant love!

Prisoner of Zenda (1937) Englishman Rudolf Rassendyll (Ronald Colman) poses as his nobleman cousin, King Rudolf, who’s been kidnapped. The goal is to keep the king’s disappearance quiet until he can be rescued. Lots of intrigue and romance!

Lost Horizon (1937) After a plane crash, Colman and other survivors find a paradise in the Himalayan mountains!

A Random Harvest (1942) A woman falls in love with a wounded World War I soldier (Colman) who has amnesia. A romantic drama.

The Talk of the Town (1942) Also starring Cary Grant. To avoid execution for a crime he didn’t commit, a wrongly imprisoned activist breaks out of jail to try and prove his innocence. He meets a legal expert and his girlfriend, who help him find justice.

The Sierra Madre Playhouse

Presents

Ken Ludwig's

Leading LADIES

Directed by Ken Salzman

Set by David Calhoun

Costumes by Lois Tedrow

January 11 through February 23, 2008

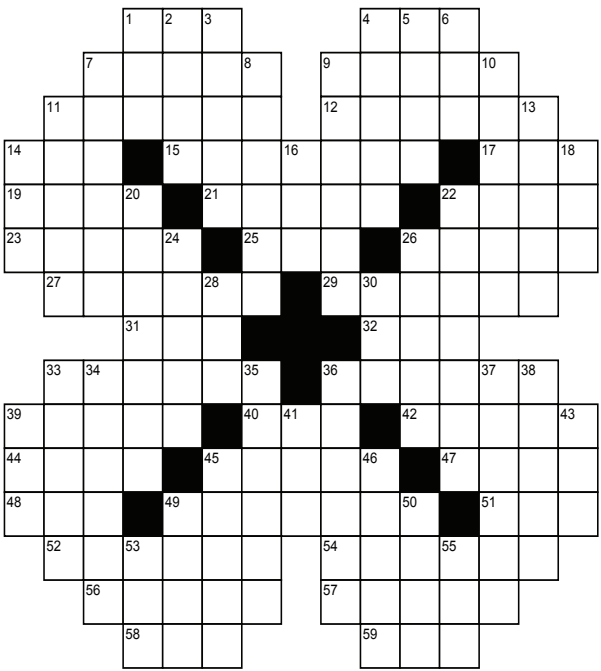
English actors Jack and Leo are down to doing Shakespeare on the Pennsylvania Moose Lodge circuit when they hear that a dying matron is seeking her two long-lost English relatives to inherit her fortune. The opportunity is perfect-until they learn the relatives are her nieces.
Ticket Prices: Adults: \$20 Seniors 65+: \$17 Students under 18: \$17 Children, 12 and under: \$12 Call 626-256-3809

2008 Performances

- Friday Jan 25 8:00pm
- Saturday Jan 26 8:00pm
- Sunday Jan 27 2:30pm
- Friday Feb 1 8:00pm
- Saturday Feb 2 8:00pm
- Sunday Feb 3 2:30pm
- Friday Feb 8 8:00pm
- Saturday Feb 9 8:00pm
- Sunday Feb 10 2:30pm
- Friday Feb 15 8:00pm
- Saturday Feb 16 8:00pm
- Sunday Feb 17 2:30pm (partial listing)
- Friday Feb 22 8:00pm
- Saturday Feb 23 8:00pm

Crossword

Places To Go On A Rainy Day



ACROSS

- 1 Wrath
- 4 Wipe
- 7 Crawl
- 9 Capital of Vietnam
- 11 Capital of Lesotho
- 12 Loafing
- 14 Drink slowly
- 15 a depository of literary works
- 17 Bro.'s sibling
- 19 Bloc
- 21 Fortunate
- 22 European monetary unit
- 23 Erect (2 wds.)
- 25 Promissory note
- 26 Launches
- 27 3.26 light-years
- 29 Decalares
- 31 Old-fashioned Fathers
- 32 Brew
- 33 Musical exercises

DOWN

- 2 Rotate
- 3 Uncanny
- 4 Mother
- 5 One
- 6 Luau dish
- 7 Per —
- 8 exposed to general view
- 9 Suspension
- 10 Warrant
- 11 Confuse
- 13 Lasses
- 14 Tree gum
- 16 River (Spanish)
- 18 Distress call
- 20 Exceed
- 22 Greek muse of music
- 24 Sacred song
- 26 Auras
- 28 East southeast
- 30 Thai
- 33 Double agents
- 34 Wheeled away
- 35 mountain range with a serrated or irregular outline
- 36 Narrow sea inlets
- 39 Crick
- 40 Three
- 42 Glasses
- 44 Ventilates
- 45 TV dog
- 47 Epochs
- 48 Garner
- 49 Morn
- 51 Dined
- 52 This center in town has a lot going on.
- 54 Excuses
- 56 Formal statement
- 57 Having to do with the navy
- 58 Nonprofessional
- 59 Shekel

From the Inside Out

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

More Balance



I’m expanding on this whole Acid - Alkaline balance thing because it’s essential to understand why some supplements “work” or “don’t work”. And right off the bat I need to say that the pH value range I cited last week for saliva and urine levels was wrong. It’s 6.2-6.6. Metabolism resulting in long-term Saliva and Urine ranges below the 6.2 pH contribute to long term development of cumulative and compounding health challenges.

Oh, what is pH, you ask? A simple description: it’s the potential availability of Hydrogen ions in any physical state. (We’ll deal with Oxygen at another time.) A pH of 7.0 is the “neutral point” between totally “acid” and totally “alkaline”. An Acid (0.0 to 7.0) donates hydrogen ions and corrodes or “eats” metals; an Alkali (earth metal - 7.0 - 14.0) absorbs hydrogen ions and “burns up” hydrogen containing compounds. Keeping either one from too strong a concentration in a carbon-based (organic) system (us, plant and animal life as we know it) is essential, because of the differing corrosive effects of each.

And why should I care, I can hear you mutter to yourself? Until recently, it didn’t bother me either, until I learned about how various mineral formulations react to acid / alkaline conditions in my body. Whoa! Now I understand! This is really important, especially if I’m looking at all those shelves of supplements with minerals in them, and trying to figure out which ones are best for me (by myself, you understand). I have a magnesium capsule I like take, but my chiropractor has muscle-tested me and said, nope, not good for you. Uh, since I didn’t ask which would be better, it’s still the only one I have - so I don’t take it very often.

If I’m running either saliva or urine regularly below 6.2, say, for example, 5.7 ... I want a mineral formulation that will not create more acid in my system. I want something that helps neutralize the existing acid, and brings me closer to the healthier neutral range that naturally protects the strength and flexibility of my cell walls, my myelin nerve sheathing and my blood vessel strength.

Absolutely the first choice in every case should be, and repeat after me, all together now ... “Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, Fresh Dark Green Leafy Greens, Whole Grains, Seeds and Nuts.”

So, as an example, if it’s important to me to increase my bone strength, and I choose to “speed things up” by taking a supplement, I want to find a calcium formulation that will

both help reduce any overacid condition and support my calcium being fully utilizable. If I select the wrong one, it may create additional systemic acid, and, regardless of how much EFA I take to encourage calcium to be deposited correctly, this existing and additional acid results in the calcium being deposited more rapidly on the outside of my bone ends, leading to knobbier knuckles, and larger joint and spinal bone spurs that increasingly press on the nerves in the area, causing even more discomfort, and increasing osteoarthritis and the possibility of rheumatism. Not to mention increasing the dissolution rate of the cushioning discs between vertebrae, knees, etc. Incorrect choices may lead to worsening symptoms.

If my goal is strong bones, and I’m running acid, what I want is an hydroxide formulation, such as Calcium Hydroxide. That will scarf up more of those free hydrogen ions running around, raise my pH, and, with the EFAs, the calcium has a better chance of being deposited where I want it.

If I’m running saliva or urine regularly above 6.6, a Calcium Lactate formula would be a wiser choice - because during metabolism, that will release just a bit more hydrogen. And what if my saliva and urine are fairly stable between 6.2 and 6.6? Ah, then formulas that contain Calcium Gluconate metabolizes in a more neutral way, and are a better choice. Remember, the goal is a venous blood pH of 7.42 ... and I’m working with the least expensive ways of self monitoring what can be monitored at home.

The same principle may be applied to every other supplemental, and food, combination. If I’m running an acid system, I don’t need to take a Vitamin C Ascorbate (acid). And here, my friends, is what I believe to be the reason that we have so much controversy on whether Vitamin C (or anything else) is or is not good for you; does or does not work. If you are testing an acidic formulation of Vitamin C with people having an already acid state, naturally you aren’t going to get same results as if the formulation were different. Think it through for yourself.

And, because what I eat varies from day to day, so does my pH. And that, my friends, is one of the reasons that one supplement which seems to be “the cure” for one person, is absolutely not for someone else. We’re unique, we’re special, and we heal individually from the inside out.

I wish you the best of health, and have fun while you’re getting there!



TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

The King Of Calamari

Stopped by The Barney's LTD in Old Pasadena after an evening run at The Rose Bowl; seemed after six miles a beer was a necessity. I got re-acquainted with Bill Kefalas, the co-owner of Barney's LTD. Bill is a second generation Greek who, like many Greeks, has opened a restaurant. Bill is a real-nice, approachable guy, so... I mentioned to him that I also have a 'little' Greek in me and that I was born there in the 60's. Not much more, since I can't speak a lick of the language. Well, in true hospitable Greek Fashion, I was offered a Calamari Appetizer and as I always say "If it's free, it's for me". Now Bill explained the origins of Calamari, that is comes fresh/frozen and that he (Barney's) has mastered the light breading and cooking of Calamari like no other. Bravo! Or as they say in Greek - ...?... Barney's is a 'real' Old Pasadena Institution but they also run the "Only Place in Town" in Sierra Madre. Brother Mike is in charge there. Here is my review...

The "Only Place in Town" I guess was, at one time, the only place in Town. Maybe to the chagrin of you Sierra Madre residents it now has a handful of restaurant neighbors, but it still lends itself to a neighborhood eatery.

Barney's menu has been updated, but No Worries; it still has those great sandwiches. What to order? Wow, this is truly an extensive menu. My favorites from Barney's have always been the sandwiches. A few samples, both hot and cold - - - I recommend the The Turkey Dijon, a hot Turkey Breast with melted Jack Cheese with... you got it.... Grey Poupon (\$9.79). A close second is the Pastrami (\$9.49). A cold sandwich to consider is the Portland Club (\$10.99), a Smoked Salmon sandwich with Capers grilled on Ciabatta bread. Sandwiches are all in the Ten Dollar range and come with a choice of fries, potato salad or cole slaw. My favorite word famous appears on the menu for the burgers. Again all in the \$10 range. Try the Pastrami Burger, ½ pound fresh beef topped with pastrami.

Not only famous but "world famous" (at least in Sierra Madre) is the Sam Adams Battered Halibut and Chips (\$13.49). Friends, the menu goes on and on. Breakfast, lunch and dinner 'plus' a weekend Brunch from 8 am to 3 pm. All and all there's something for the whole family. I know I missed a few things.

You need to Know: Kids eat free after 3 PM on Tuesdays with Adult purchase.



Three stars.

Go to www.sangabrielvalleymenus.com for complete menu, prices and hours.

Join me at my upcoming wine tasting...email me at thechefknows@yahoo.com for additional details.



Watch Peter on TV!!!! KJLA TV every Sunday Night at 8 PM Channel 57 Direct TV and 16 on Time Warner Cable.

It's A Family Affair: Nano Cafe One

By Susan Henderson

On almost any day you can walk into Nano Cafe and find the owner, Oscar Cabral and either his wife and children busy attending to the needs of customers. The restaurant, located at 975 N. Michillinda. was purchased by Oscar and Patricia Cabral last year, was formerly known as simply Nano Cafe is somewhat of an institution for residents of both Pasadena and Sierra Madre. Since that time, the entire family, including son Alejandro and daughter Lizette pitch in daily to make the acquisition a success.

"We are lucky to have had the opportunity to buy the Nano Cafe. Jackie, the previous owner is a wonderful person and a very professional restaurateur. Nano's has a wonderful reputation."

While Oscar has maintained the ambience of the original restaurant, some changes have

been made. First, the name changed slightly to Nano Cafe One, to distinguish its' new ownership. Secondly, the hours of operation have expanded. "We're now open every evening until 9:00 pm for dinner." And, according to Oscar, "we have a new secret weapon: Our Chef, Ernesto. With Ernesto we've created a whole new dinner menu".

In addition to the dinner menu, there is now a children's menu, \$4.99 breakfast specials and weekly lunch specials.

'Oldtimers', regulars who dined at the restaurant prior to the change in ownership welcome the changes. According to Rich Johnson, a columnist in this paper, Nano Cafe One is definitely the best place in town to eat. Says Rich, "come for the



Oscar and Ernesto have combined experience in the restaurant business of over 46 years.

parking, stay for the food".

There is one other major change about to take place, but for this Oscar is soliciting the public's help. He is sponsoring a contest to rename the restaurant. Prizes include a \$100 gift certificate and more. You can pick up an entry for the "We Need To Change Our Name And Would Like Your Suggestions" Contest at the restaurant.

Answers To Last Week's Crossword

Just For You

Solution:

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

Moe's Automotive Service Center

Service First, Quality Always

Specializing in repairs of domestic & foreign automobiles

Moe's Automotive Service Center is a family owned and operated business, servicing the car care needs of the foothill communities for the past 20 years. We have ASC Certified Technicians and the latest state of the art diagnostic equipment. We offer free local pick-up and delivery. Most jobs completed in one day. Call Moe or Andy for an appointment today. *Yes - Andy is still here!*

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Andy

Moe

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SPORTS

Back Page Journal



SUPER BOWL XLII

Don'tcha Just Love Them Roman Numerals?

By Brad Eastland, Sports Editor

Ah, the Super Bowl. The golden calf of American sports.

Seriously, how did we ever survive before January 15th, 1967, when the Packers and Chiefs christened the Super Bowl Era? That first Super Bowl game was played in the aptly named L.A. Coliseum. How appropriate. Gladiators became gods that day, and we have duly worshiped their annual face-masked Apostles ever since.

And so this year, for Super Bowl XLII, we have the New England Patriots. Eighteen straight wins. Over 411 yards per game. And looming over his vast gridiron kingdom is quarterback Tom Brady, God with a jockstrap, a working, living deity with number 12 on his back and breathless supermodels lining up in the sanctuary, he and his dozen or so Disciples on offense the possessors of a newly-baptized record 589 points scored in a single season.

But it wasn't always like this for the Patriots in the Super Bowl.

I now take you back twenty-two years to that glorious January day in New Orleans, January 26th, 1986 to be exact, Super Bowl XX. The day my beloved Chicago Bears clawed and mauled and thoroughly emasculated the 1985 version of the New England Patriots, 46-10. (Heck, if that most gentle, mild-mannered and merciful of coaches, Mike Ditka, had left in his first stringers and kept his foot on the gas, the score would have been approximately 64-3.)

How can two teams arrive at a championship game and be so disparate in talent? Well, it just happens sometimes. Niners 55, Broncos 10. Cowboys 52, Bills 17. Buccaneers 48, Raiders 21. These are all actual past Super Bowl scores.

But with all due respect to the losers mentioned in the above paragraph, the '85 Patriots fashioned arguably the worst performance in Super Bowl history.

Blame the Bears. The NFL had simply never seen a defense like theirs. If Hall-of-Famer Walter Payton hadn't fumbled on his first carry, leading to a quick Pats field goal, they would have probably pitched a shut-out. New England rushed for only seven yards the whole game (still a record low), and set a first-half record for football ineptitude by racking up negative 19 yards of offense.

Let me repeat that. *The AFC Champion Patriots "gained" negative 19 yards of offense in the first half!* That's MINUS 19, as in going backwards. They would have been better off if quarterback Tony Eason had simply fallen down on every play the moment he received the center-snap.

Which is almost exactly what he did. Eason---for New England fans the logical Lucifer to Brady's modern-day Messiah---was sacked three times and fumbled once. He completed zero passes in six attempts. That's zero as in zip, zilch, nada, goose egg, nil, none. It wasn't totally his fault of course. His offensive line was truly offensive, proving that a modern-day Minuteman is no match for an angry uniformed Bear. Nevertheless, his performance shall doubtless go down in NFL history as, if not the worst-ever performance by a quarterback, certainly the most amusing, sad, and utterly pathetic.

He was humanely replaced by 87-year-old Steve Grogan in the 2nd quarter.

I can still recall the look on Eason's face as he cowered on the sidelines, sullen, stunned, shaking. Sort of like this poor scared kid I remember from way back in my high school days, right after he got trampled in a little race riot we had over at John Muir High one fine spring afternoon, right after we dragged him out of harm's way. I remember he looked like he'd just gotten a glimpse of Hades itself. (His parents transferred him to PHS the next day.)

They never won another Super Bowl, but for one glorious year the '85 Bears were Hades itself.

By the way, let's dispense in one or two quick sentences with this possible-best-team-of-all-time nonsense. The '07 Pats aren't in the same league as the '85 Bears or the '89 Niners or the '74 Steelers or the '71 Cowboys, or a couple of the other truly great, all-around, all-time-great teams. Their defense is only average, their running game pedestrian (hey, good pun!).

They are, however, better than the other undefeated team of the Super Bowl Era, the '72 Dolphins. And they're better than the '07 Giants, which is the point of this whole exercise, and which also leads us to the final score of next Sunday's epic clash of truly Biblical proportions....

Patriots 45, Giants 26. But don't bet on it.

So what do YOU think the final score of the Super Bowl will be? Email me at b.eastland@mvoobserver.com

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Girls Softball Gears Up For Opening Day

By Brad Eastland

Blow the trumpets! Unfurl the colors! The Sierra Madre Girls Softball Association (or SMGSA for short) prepares to soldier on for a 38th consecutive year, with a full slate of games on Opening Day, Saturday, March 8th, at the friendly confines of our magnificent Heasley Field.

And it is an army to be sure---approximately 350 girls have signed up for the '08 campaign.

"We're one of the largest girls' softball leagues in the entire San Gabriel Valley," states Larry Hom, player agent for the SMGSA. The league is split up into four divisions: 8 and under, 10 and under, 12 and under and 13-to-16. The 13-to-16 division is the least populated, because most girls in that age bracket have gone on to play high school softball instead.

"But we're still a great resource for many of our fifteen and sixteen-year-old girls who maybe can't make their high school team, or don't even have a high school team," Hom adds quickly.



Karin Gredvig prepares to scoop up a grounder, as Amelia Dighiera safely watches.
Photo By Lynda Ott-Albright

Hom smacks of the true public servant. He neither lives in Sierra Madre (he's a long-time Duarte resident), nor does he have a daughter in the league to compel his participation. An ex-elementary school teacher for 16 years at Barnhart School in Arcadia, he sort of got involved by accident, through the school and the league contacts he made there---through the back door so to speak. Twenty-three years later, he's still having a ball: "It's so fun. And it helps me to give back to the community. There's a camaraderie here, it's hard to explain."

One of the things that has stamped the SMGSA as such a model program in recent years is its drawing power. There are no geographic restrictions to limit sign-ups or stifle participation. "If you can get your kid here from Nevada, she can play!" Larry laughs out loud. Indeed, this is a Sierra Madre-based league famous for pulling the best girls from all over the area, not only from Pasadena, but also from Altadena, Alhambra, Duarte, El Monte, and Temple City. The competition for talent is fierce. Hom estimates that there are literally a couple hundred girls softball leagues in L.A. County & Orange County alone.



Michelle Kazek, last year's home run champ

So then why is the SMGSA so successful? Why is it able to lure

and pull players from all over the area?

"I talk to the parents," Hom explains. "They tell me that politics and in-fighting are very common in other softball leagues. This is mainly because girls softball programs are usually affiliated with---and subordinate to---the Little League in their area."

Conversely, the SMGSA is a 'girls only' softball league but one that is totally separate from the Sierra Madre Little League or any little league whatsoever. "In these other regions, I've been told that the girls always take a back seat to the boys when it comes to equipment, the best playing fields, and preferred practice times," says Hom. Because the SMGSA is autonomous; it has managed to avoid the politics and back-biting that typically plagues little leagues... for the most part, that is. "There's always going to be some intrigue, some complaining, disputes, upset parents and the like. That's part of life. But we actually have very little of that here. We're very lucky."

Opening Day is fast approaching, so make your plans to attend. The SMGSA Executive Board is pulling out all the stops this year. Julie Smith---a Gold-Medal-winning player from the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta---is the scheduled keynote speaker.

"I'd just like to invite everyone to come out to see what we're all about," Hom gushes with a father's pride. "Opening Day is always big for us. We'll have probably five games back to back at Heasley, and three more for the eight and under kids on the T-ball field. It's always a great day. Come and watch the girls play, they're amazing!"

**For more information on Girls Softball please visit www.smgsa.org or leave a message on their hotline, 626-355-3899*

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