



Happy Valentine's Day



Mountain Views-Observer

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

Week Ending February 8, 2008 Volume 2, No. 5

Enyedi To Run For Treasurer Popular CPA Touts "Experience, Integrity and Accountability"

By Susan Henderson



George Enyedi

George Enyedi, Sierra Madre resident since 1979, is well known for sharing his professional expertise. Senior partner in the Certified Public Accounting firm of Enyedi, Marshall & Montanez, he has volunteered countless hours to the City of Sierra Madre since semi-retirement in 1994.

That year, Enyedi began assisting the city's finance department by volunteering each Monday and reconciling the city's general fund and payroll bank accounts. He continued to do so for the next seven years.

Currently, Enyedi is very involved with The Sierra Madre Playhouse and the Sierra Madre Pioneer Cemetery where he used his astute financial management skills to turn those entities around.

Since 1995 when he became involved with the cemetery, he was instrumental in quadrupling the cemetery's endowment fund and making it self supporting. Today the fund boasts in excess of \$1 million dollars.

You can also find George at the Sierra Madre Playhouse almost every day that a show is running. In 1998 he rescued the Playhouse from the brink of bankruptcy by "leading the rejuvenation of its interior and finances. I negotiated the purchase of the building and look forward to a 'mortgage burning' in 2010".

But there is more to Mr. Enyedi than facts and figures. To all who know him, he is an energetic and kind individual. In 2000, he was elected Sierra Madre's Citizen of the Year. He was married for a lifetime to Gerda, who passed away in 2006. He is the father of three sons and a loving grandfather. He lives a very active lifestyle and can be seen 'all over town'.

Enyedi will be facing resident Salvatore F. Tesoro, III a native Sierra Madrean, who lists himself as a "Property Manager/Publisher" in his candidates statement. Calls to Mr. Tesoro from this paper had not been returned at press time.

Editors Note: During this election, every reasonable effort will be made to profile each candidate. For the two contested races, Treasurer and City Clerk, the goal is to interview each candidate and run their profiles simultaneously. Profiles for participating candidates for City Council will be published individually.

Verizon Voice Mail Problems Strike City

If you wondered why nobody left you any messages last week, or why, when you called your friends and business associates the phone just rang endlessly, chances are you were one of 740,000 customers statewide that were without Verizon voicemail services for almost a week.

On Tuesday, February 5, a computer server malfunction shut down the entire voicemail system statewide for both business and residential landline customers.

According to John Davis of Verizon, late Tuesday evening the data base file for the server was corrupted causing a major outage.

It was anticipated that the service would be restored over the weekend and that customers would not lose any previously saved or unheard messages that were processed before Tuesday.

In order to restore service, Davis said Verizon was attempting to load the most recent back up, which occurred just before the outage on Tuesday.

Barack Obama Captures The Votes In Sierra Madre

The 2008 Presidential Primary brought out voters in large numbers all over the country including California, however the turnout wasn't the surprise in Sierra Madre - the results were.

Democrats in Sierra Madre voted contrary to the statewide trend, putting Presidential hopeful Barack Obama at the top of their list. In addition, Obama garnered more votes than any other candidate in the city. The results were as follows:

Barack Obama	945
Hillary Clinton	812
John McCain	595
Mitt Romney	560
Mike Huckabee	136

In addition to Sierra Madre, Obama also topped the slate in Altadena, Pasadena, LaCanada-Flintridge and South Pasadena.

This year's turnout is among the highest since 1904. At 47.82% statewide, only the California Presidential Primaries in 1952, 1968 and 1972 have been higher.

The city followed the rest of the state on the statewide propositions, defeating Props 91-93 and approving all Indian Gaming Propositions 94-97. Staff/MVO

Donna May Bennett Warden Passes

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PUSD Removes Beef From School Lunch Program

After disturbing videos depicting abuse of cattle at Westland Meat Company in Chino surfaced last week, The Pasadena Unified School District notified

parents via telephone that it was removing "all beef products from our schools and replaced them with other alternatives to ensure our students' safety".

The district obtains meat products from USDA commodity distributors, but pulled the beef immediately even though at the time they were not certain if Westland

Meat was a district supplier.

Parents were reassured that "We will maintain this restriction on beef products until we get the all-clear from the USDA and our commodity distributors."

Restaurant LOZANO

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Restaurant Lozano Valentine's Day Celebration Dinner
\$85 per person

First Course
Beignet filled with goat cheese, served on balsamic reduction and chive oil

Pear Salad mixed baby greens, caramelized walnuts, Danish bleu cheese, French pears, endive, champagne vinaigrette

Second Course
Lobster Cream Bisque crème fraiche and chives

California Tempura Crab Rolls over avocado hash and golden beets, finished with a wasabi-soy sauce

Pan Seared Jumbo Scallops over seaweed salad and musiji sauce

Entrées
~ Surf and Turf ~
Australian Lobster Tail and Petite Filet Mignon Yukon Gold mash, asparagus, champagne butter, sherry-raisin sauce

Grilled 16 oz.
Porter House Steak artichoke-potato gratin, grilled asparagus, baby carrots, sundried tomato butter

Potato Crusted Mahi Mahi sautéed spinach and mushrooms, mashed potatoes, champagne butter and mango salsa

Australian Lamb Shank
mashed potatoes, French green beans, baby carrots, tamarind reduction

Five Cheese Ravioli 3 mushroom-white wine cream sauce (oyster, button, crimini)

Dessert
Sweet Heart Cake For Two a decorated vanilla cake with light amaretto cream & fresh strawberry filling

Fresh Fruit Sorbet fresh berries and raspberry sauce

Chocolate Macaroons
light mocha cream filling, chocolate sauce

Valentine's Day Ideas For You!

Adopt "Eddie" Today



Ask for A198641

Eddie, an adorable, two-year-old Chihuahua mix is ready for adoption! This sweet guy is friendly, walks well on leash and loves attention. Eddie has already been neutered 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 with a participating vet.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A198641 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at www.phsspc.org

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THIS WEEK

- 1George Enyedi Runs Obama Wins The City Voice Mail Disappears
- 2Community Calendar Senior Happenings
- 3Rich Johnson: Thank God For Hollywood Prop 92 Looses
- 4Quality of Life Massage Parlors in Pasadena
- 5SMEAC: Did You Know? Fire Safe Council Police Blotter
- 6One Of A Kind: Cynthia Abernethy It's Just Business
- 7Arcadia High Schools Constitution Team Trish's Truth
- 8Sad State Of Affairs Tolchin: The Morning After
- 9Legal Notices
- 10Legal Notices
- 11Looking Up: NASA Clymer: Safe Keeping
- 12Jeff's Pics Puzzle For You Inside Out
- 13Peter Dills: Table For Two Valentine Day Suggestions
- 14Eastland: What's In A Name Little League Opening Day



UPCOMING MARCH EVENTS

- 7Travelers & Collectors
- 7Walk With Mayor
- 8Sierra Madre Social
- 17Rep. Drier Field Visit

For more information ccall:
626-355-7135
or go to
www.cityofsierramadre.com

Sierra Madre Community Calendar
February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7Coordinating Council Noon YAC Senior Commission 3:00 CC Planning Commission 7pm CC	8Travelers & Collectors 7:30 CC Rafael Mirasol presents his program "April in Paris with Kids".	9Walk With The Mayor 9:00 am Kersting Court
10	11	12Chief Lowe Retirement Party 5:00 CH City Council 6:30 pm CC	13Community Arts Commission 6:30 CC	14	15	16YAC UCLA Campus Tour Time To Be Determined
17	18Author's Night Marsha Carrington 7:00 SEM	19	20Tree Advisory 7:00 pm CC	213rd Thursday Book Club 11 am LB Senior Adventure Griffith Park 11:30 am HPH Planning Commission. 7 CC	22Friends Of The Library Wine & Cuisine 7 pm Alverno	23HFF Kickball Sierra Vista Park 9:00 am
24	25Community Services Commission 6:30 CC	26AARP Senior Driving Program 9 am YAC City Council 6:30 pm CC	27AARP Senior Driving Program 9 am YAC Library Trustees 7 pm CC	28	29Open Studio Tour Applications Due YAC	

Legend: CC = Council Chambers CH = City Hall HPH = Hart Park House YAC = Youth Activities Center SEM = SM Elementary School

COMEDY TALENT FUN
EVENING FOR CIVIC
CLUB By Phyllis Chapman

Sierra Madre Civic Club invites you to enjoy an evening of entertainment at The Ice House Comedy Club in Pasadena. For over 40 years, The Ice House has been in the forefront of showcasing comedic talent. "It is a hoot of an evening you can enjoy with spouses, friends and adult children 18 and over," says Ways and Means Co-chair, Jean Coleman. You make your own reservations for a date of your choice, except for 9:00 p.m. Saturday show and some special shows. The show schedule is on their website, or call 626-577-1894. There is a two-drink minimum, including non-alcoholic ones, and a limited food menu, but no limit on laughter. Tickets are \$20 each purchased from Coleman. You then call The Ice House and make your own reservations. On your chosen night, you turn your tickets in at the ticket office. For tickets and more information, call Coleman at 626-355-9216. Proceeds support club philanthropies.

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



Weather Wise
5-Day Forecast
Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



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SENIOR HAPPENINGS...By Pat Birdsall

FYI: Cardiovascular diseases, including stroke, are our nation's No. 1 killer. To urge Americans to join the battle against these diseases, since 1963 Congress has required the president to proclaim February "American Heart Month."

FREE HEALTHY HEART FAIR

Methodist Hospital of Arcadia
Saturday, February 23 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Free heart healthy screenings, physician speakers, important medical education, prizes and fun! General reservations are **not** needed. Reservations **are** needed for the cholesterol panel test. The fee for this test is \$20.00 and is by appointment only, prior to the heart fair on February 19 and 20. Call (626) 574-3692 to register for the cholesterol panel test *only*.

Special Alert...We are currently in the Medicare open enrollment period, which began January 1, 2008, and ends March 31, 2008. During this period you can make changes to your Medicare insurance with the exception of your Medicare D (prescription) plan. For information or to make changes, call the community insurance info line at (626) 574-3733.

~Helpful Hints~

You may substitute up to 50% applesauce or fruit puree in place of oil when you bake to reduce fat content, i.e.: 1 c. oil called for in recipe, use ½ c. applesauce or fruit puree.

Recipe of the Month:
Corn Chowder

- 1 Tbs Vegetable oil
- 1 small onion, coarsely chopped
- 2 packages (16 oz. each) loose- pack frozen whole-kernel corn thawed, *divided*
- 2 cups water
- 3 chicken flavor bouillon cubes
- 1 can (12 fluid oz.) Evaporated milk
- 1/2 cup chopped red bell pepper
- ½ tsp chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 Tbs chopped fresh basil (optional)

Directions:

Heat oil in large saucepan. Add onion; cook, stirring occasionally, until tender. Add *4 cups* corn; cook, stirring occasionally until tender. Add water and bouillon; cook, stirring frequently, for 15 minutes or until corn is very soft. Place corn mixture in a blender or food processor; blend until smooth. Return to saucepan. Stir in *remaining* corn, evaporated milk, bell pepper and rosemary. Cook, stirring frequently, for 10 minutes or until chowder is thick and bell pepper is tender. Season with salt and ground black pepper, if desired. Garnish with basil. Note: For a Southwestern-style twist to this recipe, add 1 can (4 oz.) diced green chiles with the bell pepper. Eliminate rosemary; stir in 1 tsp chopped fresh cilantro. Garnish with cilantro leaves instead of basil Yields 4 servings (Nestle)



~ For Your Funny Bone~

My high school English teacher was well known for being a fair, but hard, grader. One day I received a B minus on a theme paper. In hopes of bettering my grade and in the spirit of the valentine season, I sent her an extravagant heart-shaped box of chocolates with the pre-printed inscription: "BE MINE." The following day, I received in return a valentine from the teacher. It read: "Thank you, but it's still BE-MINUS." B. Wilcox, RD

~Quote~

Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place. ~ Zora Neale Hurston



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. **Beginning again on March 14**; 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 Meeting at Noon. 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. **New Number:** Call Susan Garcia at (626) 960-3773

Monthly Excursions:

February 21 Griffith Observatory- \$12.00 per person 11:15-5:00 PM

March 20 Palm Springs Follies- open until filled or Feb 21st, whichever comes first \$53.00 per person 8:30 AM- 6:30 PM

April 17 Los Angeles Zoo & Autry National Center 9:00 AM- 6:00 PM
Cost being estimated at press time

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.



Thank God For Hollywood Writers

By Rich Johnson

Are you one of those who enjoy television and have been affected and afflicted by the writers strike? To help us pass the time until the strike is settled, I thought I might point out some memorable TV pilots that didn't make it to television (thankfully). Hopefully this will make us appreciate the professionals who write for the networks. By the way, these shows were commissioned and paid for by the networks listed after their name. So all these listed do have episodes in the can somewhere (probably well hidden.)

“Pests” (NBC, 1992) The misadventures of a Nebraska man sharing a New York apartment with three three-foot-tall talking cockroaches.

“Tarzan in Manhattan” (No network claims it, 1989) Tarzan actually swinging around New York in a loin cloth. Jane was a New York cabbie and at one point Cheetah (the chimp) even drives a police car. Co-starred Tony Curtis (though I doubt he would admit it).

“The Dragans of New York” (CBS, 2002). Written by and starring Hugh Laurie (of “House” fame) and Liz Vassey as a husband and wife private detective team in and around the Big Apple. Kind of like “Hart to Hart”.

“Steele Justice” (NBC, 1992) A tough cop (Robert Taylor) is able to bring his dead son's favorite toy, a steel dinosaur, to life as a huge crime-fighter that likes to stomp bad guys! (Shades of Godzilla)

Proposition Lowering College Fees Fails

By Dean Lee

Pasadena Board of Trustees members said Wednesday they were told by state officials in Sacramento just days before Tuesday's primary,that the California Community College Initiative, Proposition 92, might not pass due to massive state budget cuts and concern over the economy. And they were right. Prop. 92 was defeated 52.17 percent to 47.83 percent.

“If you look at it, everything that was viewed as bringing in money passed and unfortunately the college initiative was looked at as costing the state in this time of cuts,” said Jeanette Mann Vice President of the board. “All of the gaming measures passed telling you something.”

Mann oversees Area 2 of the Pasadena Community College District which includes Sierra Madre and a large portion of the PUSD.

She said the biggest opposition they faced was when the California Teachers Association campaigned against it. “It was viewed as taking away money from K through 12 schools,” she said adding that Prop. 92 was also confusing.

The CTA claimed that the proposition would cost taxpayer's \$1 billion over the next three years. “It tried to do a lot and when voters don't understand they usually tend to vote whatever it is down,” Mann said. She also said that voters become nervous anytime there is talk of amending the California's Constitution something Prop. 92 would have done.

Prop 92 would have lowered fees to \$15 per unit and limit any future fee increases although the bigger issue

“Poochinski” (NBC, 1990) Peter Boyle is Poochinski, an ill-mannered cop who is gunned down in the line of duty – and is reincarnated as a crime-fighting, flatulent, old English bulldog.

“Where's Everett?” (CBS, 1966) Alan Alda is a father who goes to fetch his morning paper and finds and invisible alien baby on his doorstep.

“Samurai” (NBC, 1979) Joe Penny stars as a half-Asian, half-Caucasian district attorney by day and a sword-wielding samurai warrior by night.

“K-9000” (Fox, 1990) An irreverent cop is telepathically linked to his talking, bionic police dog, a canine partner who also doubles as a cell phone.

“Danger Team” (ABC, 1991) The adventures of an inexperienced female private eye who solves crimes with the help of three animated clay figures.

There is a book called “Unsold Television Pilots 1955-1990” by Lee Goldberg. I'm sure the folks at our wonderful book store would love to get you a copy.

Headline Update

Remember my column of a few weeks ago on Headlines? Just to prove to you I don't make this stuff up, I refer you to the Los Angeles Times, Wednesday, February 6, 2008. Turn to page B8 in the California Section. It's the obituary page, and at the bottom the death of a prominent doctor, David Bradley, is reported. The headline reads, “Doctor warned of health dangers of atomic weapons.” I suppose especially if you are within the blast radius. Instant incineration could hurt. Ya think?

Write me at R.Johnson@mvoobserver.com if you are so inclined.

was that it mandated minimum levels of state funding allocated to community colleges. The funding would have been based on community college growth instead of K-12 student populations Mann said.

Just days before the election Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger released a statement opposed.

“California's budget system is dysfunctional and in serious need of reform. Year after year funding for education, health care, public safety and other important programs is threatened because of fluctuating tax revenue and auto-pilot spending. Proposition 92 will only worsen this problem,” he said.

Schwarzenegger added that he was committed to keeping community college fees the lowest in the nation.

Other critics, including the University of California and Cal States University's, said if passed elected officials would end up being left to decide how to fund the measure, likely increasing taxes something Schwarzenegger agreed with.

According to the Yes on Proposition 92 website it would also, “give students a stronger voice on the Board of Governors by allowing both student members to have full voting rights.

PCC Associated Student body president Michael Sansosti said he and other PCC students had collected 3,000 signatures as part of a statewide campaign to put the proposition on the state ballot. He also said the Associated Students donated a large amount of money as part of \$100,000 in funds the school gave to support the proposition.

Remembrances



Donna May Bennett Warden
1929 - 2008

Donna was born in Covina, California in 1929 and passed away at her home in Solano Beach, California on January 28, 2008.

The oldest daughter of Percy and Beulah Bennett, Donna grew up in Sierra Madre with her sister Darlene and brother Floyd. In 1952 she married Roy Warden of Monrovia. Donna and Roy made their home in Monrovia and where they raised their children, Pam, Trisha and Tom.

In 1978, Donna and Roy moved to Solano Beach where they built their dream home overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Donna spent the last 38 years enjoying her grandchildren, God and Church, her flower garden and taking long walks along the coast.

Donna leaves behind her husband, Roy, daughter and son-in-law Pam and Kirby Springer of Encinitas and son Tom Warden of Solano Beach. She also leaves behind her beloved grandchildren, Buck Herford, Wesley and Kyle Schiller, Cody Warden and sister and brother-in-law Darlene and Joe Vernon of Monrovia and Donna Kay Bennett, wife of her deceased brother Floyd, of Ceres, California.

Donna was the center of her family. She will be loved and her memory cherished forever. Interment will be at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, California.

POPULAR JAZZ MUSICIAN AND MAGIC CASTLE MAGICIANS FEATURED AT THE 38th ANNUAL WINE AND CUISINE TASTING

Master guitarist and Jazz artist Eric Byak is one of the featured entertainers at the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library's annual Wine and Cuisine Tasting on Friday, Feb.22nd, 7 pm to 9:30 pm. This ever-popular 'sell-out' event takes place at the historic Alverno Villa. Eric Byak is the creative force in The Eric Byak Project, currently touring to promote his new CD 'Journey of the Heart' on ERB Records. Byak's music blends a stylish fusion of smooth jazz with rock elements and a sensuous Brazilian rhythm.

Favorite magicians Steve Silverman and Will Chandler from The Magic Castle will return to delight guests with their elegant charm, magic tricks, and quick sleight-of-hand!

Please join us for the themed 'Celebrate Good Friends' evening, and celebrate good food, wine, art, entertainment, music, and support our exceptional local Library! All guests will have the opportunity to savor a fine assortment of wines and gourmet food selections from area restaurants, and enjoy beautiful creations from talented local florists and artists.

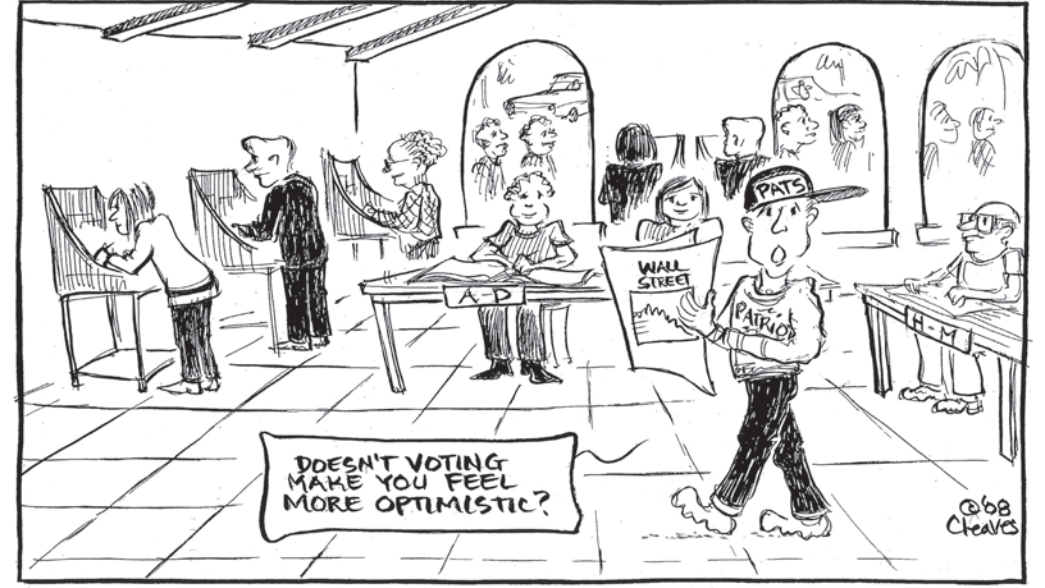
Tickets for this festive evening are available at the Sierra Madre Library, and these local businesses:

Angels Everywhere, Arnold's Hardware and Gifts, The Bottle Shop, Savor the Flavor, and Sierra Madre Books. Tickets may also be purchased by mail. Please send a check for \$60.00 per ticket to: Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, P.O.Box 334, Sierra Madre, CA 91025.

The Cuisine and Wine Tasting is one of the Friends' major fund-raisers to support Library programs, services, acquisitions, and building and grounds improvements.



Steve Silverman



NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING NOTICE

Project Title: STONEHOUSE PROJECT EIR

Lead Agency: City of Sierra Madre
Development Services Department

Address: 232 West Sierra Madre Boulevard
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

City Contact: Donna Butler
Phone: (626) 355-7135

The City of Sierra Madre (City), as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has determined that it will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Stonehouse Project described below. The City will prepare the EIR in accordance with CEQA, implementing guidelines (“Guidelines”), and City procedures. The purpose of this notice is to advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the preparation of the EIR, environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR, and any related issues, from interested parties other than potential Responsible Agencies, including interested or affected members of the public.

The City of Sierra Madre prepared an Initial Study for the proposed project on January 15, 2008 and is currently available for public review. The Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the City's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Initial Study determined that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore, and EIR is required. Copies of available project materials may be reviewed or obtained from the City address shown above.

Project Location. The project site is located at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains within the northeastern portion of the City of Sierra Madre. The 102.56-acre project site, currently known as the Heflin Estate, is located north and west of Stonehouse Road with approximately 400 feet of frontage on the north side of Grand View Avenue. The site is bounded on the north by the San Gabriel Mountains, on the west by residences at the terminus of Camillo Street, on the south by Grand View Avenue, and on the east by residences along Liliano Drive in the northeastern area of the City of Sierra Madre. The northern portion of the site is in natural open space and is contiguous with the undeveloped southern face of the San Gabriel Mountains. The project site is located entirely within the Hillside Management Zone (“HMZ”).

Project Summary. The proposed project involves the subdivision of 24.67 acres of the 102.56-acre project site into 22 single-family lots. The subdivision proposes to use only the lower one-third of the property to create 22 residential lots ranging in size from approximately 15,000 square feet up to 2 acres, two private roads, and a debris basin within the 1989 Hillside Management Zone (“HMZ”) boundary. Over two-thirds of the property would remain open space. No homes are currently proposed, however it is expected that the subdivision would eventually be developed on a lot-by-lot basis. Twenty-one new dwelling units will be constructed on the site, resulting in a net increase of 18 units. The project would also require the construction of an earthen debris basin within the 1989 HMZ boundary. It is proposed that the combination debris/detention basin would be constructed in the canyon east of lot 12 and north of lot 13. This basin would be sized to store a debris potential volume of 18,600 cubic yards, the volume required for detention.

The Heflin House and its associated grounds would be retained and would continue to be accessed from the terminus of the Camillo Street in the west-central portion of the property while the three rental units located downslope near Grand View Avenue would be demolished.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) PROCESS

The purpose of this notice is to advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the preparation of the EIR, environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR, and any related issues, from interested parties other than those noted above, including interested or affected members of the public. The Notice of Preparation and Initial Study are available at: City of Sierra Madre Development Services Department, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024, City of Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024, and the City website: www.cityofsierramadre.com.

All parties that have submitted their names and mailing addresses will be notified as part of the current project's CEQA review process. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list or have any questions or need additional information, please contact the person identified above. The City will accept written comments from Agencies and interested parties regarding this notice through the close of business on **March 7, 2008**. These comments should be submitted to: **Donna Butler** at the City address shown above.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

A Public Scoping Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 19, 2008**, to address the project identified in the Notice of Preparation. One meeting will be held at 6:30 PM in the City Council Chambers at the above address. Any interested parties may attend to gain a better understanding of the project and to identify additional environmental issues of concern.

Pasadena's Utility Tax Passes

By Dean Lee

Voters Tuesday put aside any concern over what the city's newly rewritten Utility Users Tax will cover, including the possibility of taxing digital downloads, games and even ring tones, and passed Measure D with 57.99 percent of the vote. The measure needed 50 percent, plus one vote, to pass.

The city council had maintained the legislative intent was a tax on telephone communications and did not apply to internet access On December 10 the council unanimously passed a local resolution prohibiting a Utility Users Tax on the Internet.

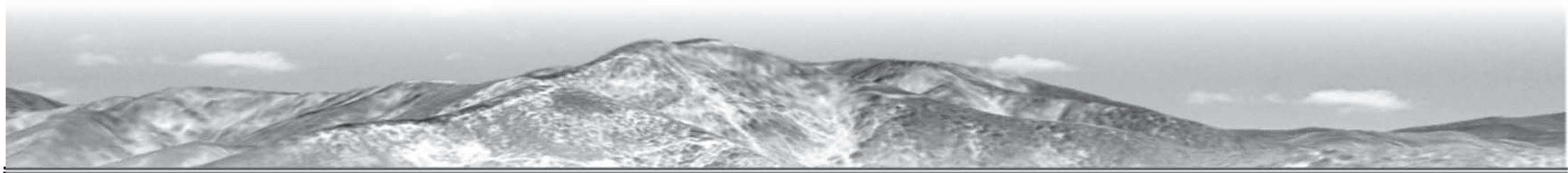
Public Information Officer, Ann Erdman said, “The Measure is intended to clarify the application of the City's Utility Users Tax on telephone services, first imposed in 1969, to new telephone technologies like wireless and voice over the internet protocol.”

Proposition 218, passed by voters 11 years ago, states that any new tax must be voted on by the people. Staff said last week the city could remove the local internet tax ban resolution without voter approval because it would not be “technically” a new tax, but advised against it, saying it would be politically unethical.

They also said, even without the resolution, a Federal ban on internet access taxes does not expire until 2014.

The measure had been harshly criticized in recent months leading up to the election. Those opposed claimed Measure D was a hidden tax on internet access, something city staff said was untrue, going so far as to sue removing rebuttal language before the sample ballots were printed in December.

According to City Attorney Michele Beal Bagneris, on Dec. 17, Superior Court Judge Robert H. O'Brien ruled in favor of the city, that all claims Measure D would tax Internet access, and would invade personal privacy, tax junk email and allow government interference with the Internet were misleading, and thus ruled in favor of striking the comments from the ballot. (cont. pg. 4)



MountainViews-Observer PASADENA



‘Quality of Life’

Council Looks into Issues Adjacent New Construction

By Dean Lee

What started out Monday night as a few question and concerns the city council had over the construction of a new 21 unit condominium on South Marengo, instead, led to a full blown dispute over the total number of ongoing construction projects in the city and the quality of life in Pasadena.

“When we make decisions about, like the number of units we’re going to allow in the central district, you know this is where we pay the price,” Councilmember Steve Madison said. “Because now we have a neighborhood of residents who’s quality of life is evaporating right before there very eyes.”

The council ended up put off hearing the project at 229 through 247 South Marengo Avenue until Feb. 25 but not before discussing a number of major issues such as lighting, air quality and parking.

It was also unclear what guidelines should be used and exactly where the project was located in relation to the city’s Central District. The council had a problem with “finding that approval of the project will not result in any significant effects relating to noise, air quality or water quality.”

Councilmember Margaret McAustin said she was worried about lighting something councilmember Chris Holden said should be

reviewed when the city does its General Plan updates.

“I think we really need to think carefully about this impact on light and air in this neighborhood,” McAustin said. “With the big building behind it and on the sides, pretty soon you’re boxed in and there may be some people that really never see the light of day.”

She went on to say this could be the tipping point on that street. Holden had also earlier said the same neighborhood had to endure the renovation project for



the city’s Convention Center as well as the Del Mar Gold Line station being built. He went on to say the council should look at similar impacts citywide.

“If we look at neighborhoods that are similar to this we might begin to develop special study zone or something along those lines,” He said. “Where, we could look at a lot of different things, compatibility and the whole nine yards.”

He then agreed they should be called, “Neighborhoods in transition” and said these should be neighborhoods that are impacted by commercial development and with the expectation of increased density by virtue of the General Plan.

The 21 unit condominium also had to meet transit oriented guidelines such as providing bike racks something the owners said they had done. There is also a reduction in onsite parking.

Holden said the parking was going to be a problem

everywhere.

“Whether it’s East Pasadena, Central or West Pasadena where you have those kinds of developments coming on and we reduce the number of onsite parking we’re just forcing that on into the neighborhoods.” He said.

The applicant said as part of due process the city could not suddenly change the standards and make new ones something Holden said he fully agreed with.

Residents Invited To Sit On Open Space Committee

The Pasadena City Council will establish a nine-member advisory committee to work with city staff and consultants in the preparation of the Open Space and Conservation Element of the General Plan.

The committee will include four Pasadena residents plus one representative and one alternate from the following: Planning Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission, Environmental Advisory Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains

Conservancy. The members will provide leadership to the effort, serve as liaisons to their commissions or organizations, give input on funding sources and assist in facilitating community meetings and workshops.

Pasadena residents are invited to submit applications by Feb. 25. Application forms are available at www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions or by calling (626) 744-4311. It is anticipated that the appointment process will be completed by mid-March.

The council approved \$200,000 in the Fiscal Year 2008 budget for studies, which will begin in early spring, leading to preparation of the Open Space and Conservation Element. This policy document is intended to express the community’s vision for preserving open space and conserving natural resources.

City Regulates Zoning for Massage Parlors

“Secondary effects of massage... have similar secondary effects as sexually oriented business,” Staff said.

By Dean Lee

The Pasadena city council unanimously voted Monday night in favor of new zoning rules for all massage parlors in the city, keeping them 250 feet from residential neighborhoods, after concerns brought up last year indicated that a number of them outside the city center masquerade as adult businesses.

City staff said the new zoning would clear up a number of discrepancies between both the massage parlor’s use and neighboring residents and businesses, including the very definition of what a “massage parlor” is, something they said differs from the police department’s classification, as well as that of some massage therapists.

Professional massage therapist, David Barker, told the council during public comment that he and others had worked with the city’s police chief in recent years in defining different classifications.

“In fact, we worked with Bernard Melekian when he was Chief of Police over a period of time in trying to distinguish regulatory differences [sic] between seated chair massage and these kinds of massages you’re addressing with these ordinances here tonight,” he said.

Melekian is now acting as interim City Manager.

Barker also said the city has shut down a massage therapy service inside the new Whole Foods Market on South Arroyo Parkway because of permits.

He explained the city had set up “off site permits” allowing chair massage 10 years ago, and the new regulations would make that illegal. He said he had worked as a massage therapist inside many “off site” locations, including the police department.

With “the laws that are currently being used to keep us closed at Whole Foods, none of those services would have been available and none of them would be legal.” He said. “I would like some relief from the city council for those of us that are working, trying to provide chair massage to the citizens here, so we can return to work at Whole Foods.”

City Attorney Michele Bagneris said a 90-day moratorium, set to



Keep away: new zoning for massage parlors says they must be clearly visible and 250 away from family homes.
Photo D.Lee /MVO

expire in April, was not allowing any new massage establishments to open. After that, she said, the new zoning would only apply where businesses are using more than 20 percent of their floor space as dedicated massage therapy.

The new law will amend other language as well, including “massage uses,” and set up guidelines for establishments which will include requiring: all massage technicians must be fully clothed; no condoms or adult-only videos or publications be allowed on the premises, and no person may touch or massage the sexual parts of another person.

There are a total of 18 conditions of approval. Staff said massage parlors typically have the same surrounding problems as strip clubs.

“Secondary effects of massage uses on adjacent residentially zoned properties potentially have similar secondary effects as sexually oriented business,” said assistant planner Kent Lin.

He then added that the city’s Planning Commission had recommended the 250 foot distance separation from residentially zoned properties. Most massage businesses do not pose a problem, he added. The zoning amendment is aimed at preventing problems, according to police.

The new zoning also separated out personal services such as adult businesses, check cashing and tattooing from massage uses. Councilmember Victor Gordo asked that the 250 foot distance be applied between personal services and the massage parlors, something that already applies to sexually oriented businesses staff said.

There is also a 500 foot

distance requirement in place between similar restricted businesses, such as massage parlors or personal services. Councilmember Margaret McAustin said she liked that fact the two distances overlapped.

A total of 65 massage parlors now exist in the city, 35 of which are outside the central district which are posing the zoning problems, staff said. Nineteen of those are within 250 feet of residential property, and would be violating the new zone codes, according to the city’s staff report. The new zoning does not apply to the central district.

Councilmember Steve Haderlein asked about mixed use properties and other situations, in which residents or families living in the business districts could be affected, “How would we protect them?” he asked.

Staff point out the this exact situation exists on Union Street with a massage parlor below housing units without any problem, although Planning and Development Department Director Richard Bruckner said they would be protected through new rules, such as limiting hours of operations.

Councilmember Steve Madison questioned the legality of the new zoning, which Bagneris assured him was, “perfectly lawful.”

She said they had worked closely with the Planning Department to make sure the proposed zoning standards would hold up in court.

The new zoning could also take effect immediately after first reading, Bagneris said. She then cited protecting public health and safety as reasons for such prompt action.

PASADENA UUT (cont. from page 3)

Wayne Lusvardi Chairperson for Citizens for Responsible Government, in December, said Measure D taxed “usage.” Lusvardi said neither the court nor the law firm of Colantuono & Levin, hired to write the legislation, objected to usage.

The fact “Taxes could be applied to email, web surfing, computer gaming, file downloading, text messaging and any other

activity resulting from a transmission of voice, data, audio, video or any other information,” were never challenged Lusvardi said.

Assistant Interim City Manager Steve Mermell said they were now figuring out how the new tax will be implemented.

“For the average... certainly the average residential user, it should be totally transparent,” he said. “It’s actually just a continuation of the way the tax regime worked before. As we look

to the future and some of the other technologies that are out there, it’s services we are taxing.” He stressed they were not taxing technology.

He also said Pasadena, as well as other cities, was working on guidelines for the Tax. He said it helped that Los Angeles passed their own Measure S, a utility tax very similar to Measure D.

LA’s Measure S was also written by the law firm of Colantuono & Levin.

“It’s expected that there will be a kind of common framework that will be used by cities in terms of the application,” Mermell said.

He also said they increased the exemptions limit for low income seniors and the disabled.

“What we did was, we raised it to be equal with what we did with some of the utility assistance programs not that long ago,” he said. “Essentially, I think, it doubled it.”

The exemptions went from \$12,000 a year to \$24,000 for a single person household, staff said, adding that the tax base increased by \$4,000 per person per household.

At a council meeting late last year, Lusvardi had demanded that the exemptions be changed, something the council agreed needed to be looked into. Lusvardi said he also wrote Mayor Bill Bogaard a letter that led to the change.

Mermell said he thought the city was confident the Measure would pass.

“I think we all knew the citizens of Pasadena understood that fundamentally it’s about city services,” he said. “So we also thought because the citizens [were] understanding that they would vote to retain it.”

The city collects about \$10 million from the tax that goes into the city’s general fund, he said, thus helping pay for police, fire, and other vital services.

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Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council

TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown

There have been a few complaints that mountain trails were closed unnecessarily at times when Red Flag Fire conditions were called for Los Angeles County following the National Weather Service predictions for the canyons and foothills. ‘Unnecessarily’ is the mistake made by those unaware of the weather conditions that bring about fire danger. It may seem that there is no immediate threat, no local winds blowing when you walk out the door and take to the mountains for a day hike. However, the relative humidity is dropping region-wide and conditions change in a split second.

Other split second changes can lead to disaster and that is why mountain areas are closed when flash flood warnings are announced in the burn areas. There are some areas in the high desert that have had flash flood warning signs up for the past two years. Conditions may not appear to be local but can become local in that famous split second.

Winter snow fall at high elevations may lead people to believe that they will be hiking in the soft fluffy stuff but find conditions to be treacherous and icy. Experience and preparation and knowing when to reschedule the hike for another day need to be part of the plan.

Our next Fire Safe Council meeting will be March 3, 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. OUr next topic will be on fuel modification planning for the homeowner.

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.

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, January 27th to Saturday February 2nd the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 248 calls for service.

Sunday, January 27th:

1:58 AM – DUI arrest, 300 block West Carter Ave. A resident called to report a truck had driven into the neighbor’s yard. Upon officers arrival they found the driver, who was intoxicated. The driver, a Sierra Madre resident, was arrested for DUI and driving on an expired driver’s license. He was transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

Monday, January 28th:

7:40 PM – Arrest, 400 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. Officers stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation, failure to maintain required lighting. During the investigation a records check revealed the driver, a Pasadena resident, was driving on a suspended/revoked license. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

8:39 PM – Arrest, Baldwin Ave and Lowell Ave. Officers stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation, no front license plate. The driver and a passenger, both Arcadia residents, illegally possessed prescription drugs. The driver and the passenger were arrested and released on written promises to appear.

Tuesday, January 29th:

8:46 PM – Vandalism, 192 North Baldwin Ave, Gooden School. A school employee reported vandalism/graffiti to a concrete bench on the north side of school. Ten inch black letters “DSK” and two small Samurai fighting figures marked the bench. The damage occurred between 3:00 pm Monday, 1/28 and 6:03 am Tuesday, 1/29. No dollar estimate was available.

9:10 AM – Vandalism, 695 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Methodist Church. A school employee reported vandalism/graffiti on the church parking lot walls. The damage, large white/black spray painted letters and symbols, occurred between 12:00 pm Monday, 1/27 and 9:00 am Tuesday, 1/28. No dollar estimate for repair was available.

5:56 PM – Warrant arrest, 300 block Ramona Ave. Officers were dispatched to a residence regarding a 911 call, difficulty breathing. While assisting the fire department with the man’s identity, officers learned that he had an outstanding criminal arrest warrant. The Sierra Madre Fire Department drove the man to Arcadia Methodist Hospital, where he was given a medical clearance for booking. He was later transported to IRC Men’s Jail for remand.

11:40 PM – Runaway juveniles, 45 N. Baldwin Ave. Two minors were detained after running from officers. During the investigation the two female juveniles from San Bernardino were arrested. One female was charged with providing false information to a police officer and for being an out of county runaway. The other was taken into protective custody as an out-of county runaway. They were both transported to Juvenile Hall.

Wednesday, January 30th:

7:11 PM – Arrest, 400 West Baldwin Ave. Officers stopped a vehicle for an inoperative head lamp. A records check revealed the driver, a Pasadena resident, had an outstanding traffic warrant and was driving with a suspended/revoked license. Later, officers determined the driver had falsely identified himself. The driver was arrested for false information to a police officer and false impersonation of another to avoid prosecution. The driver was transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand. A passenger was cited and released in the field for possession of less than 28.5 grams marijuana.

Thursday, January 31st:


2:49 AM – Warrant Arrest, 222 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Memorial Park. An officer observed two men at Memorial Park after the park had closed, 10:00 pm. During the investigation one man was found to have an outstanding criminal arrest warrant. The man was arrested and transported to jail where he was released on a written promise to appear.

Friday, February 1st:

9:16 PM – DUI arrest, 60 South Michillinda Ave. A car was stopped for a traffic violation. During the investigation the driver, a Pasadena resident, was determined to be under the influence of alcohol. The driver was transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

Saturday, February 2nd:

2:22 AM – DUI arrest, West Sierra Madre Blvd. Officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. During the investigation the driver was determined to be under the influence of alcohol. The driver was subsequently arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand. .



Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know? SMEAC Membership Drive

The Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council (SMEAC) is looking for like-minded individuals to join us in our commitment to protect the environment in our local community and beyond.

All members are warmly welcomed to our meetings held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Hart Memorial Park House (Senior Center) 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Officers and the Board:

President	Alison Snow-Wesley
Vice-President	Pat Birdsall
Secretary	Fran Garbaccio
Treasurer	Fred Wesley
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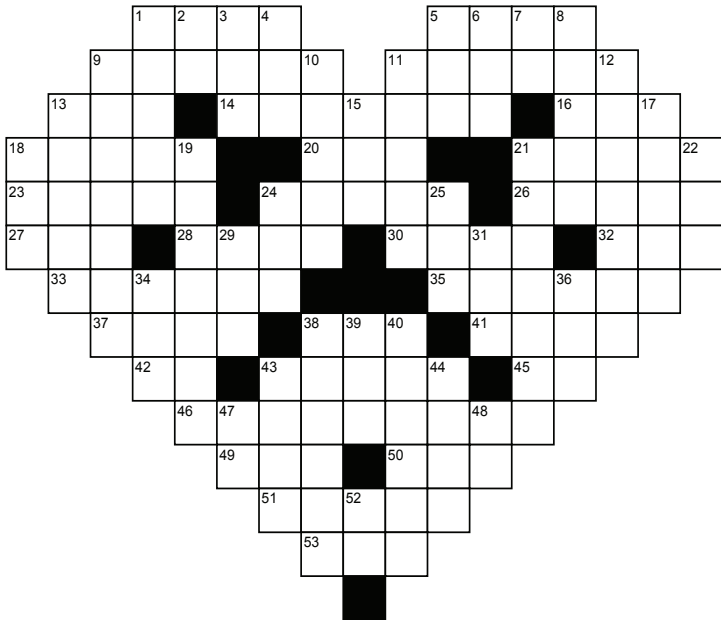
Yearly membership dues are tax deductible and are as follows:

Individual	\$ 5.00
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Contributing	\$15.00
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Looking forward to your ideas and participation in this ongoing effort that affects us all!

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Happy Valentine's Day



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- 1 Brad ____, actor
5 Agape
9 This or that
11 Revered
13 Accountant
14 Longed
16 Fasten
18 Matador's passes at bull
20 Three
21 Explanation
23 Recruit
24 Burnish
26 Lonely
27 Bayou
28 Sight organs
30 Simple
32 West northwest
33 Pottery coating
35 New territory dwellers
37 Tides
38 Female sheep
41 Oceans

- 42 System international (abbr.)
43 Treat unjustly
45 Air Force (abbr.)
46 Sealed (2 wds.)
49 Snake
50 Unwell
51 Suffer
53 Zag's partner

DOWN

- 1 Large instrument
2 Neuter pronoun
3 Scriptural your
4 Ball holder
5 Lyric poem
6 Spacecraft detachment
7 Emergency room
8 Asian nation
9 Ornamental stand
10 Hand grips
11 Carrot cousin
12 Disinherits

- 13 Long, skinny boat
15 Rio de Janeiro
17 Nincompoop
18 Second month (abbr.)
19 Distilling flask
21 Type of seasoning (2 wds.)
22 Tailor
24 Stiffen
25 Pocket
29 Affirmation
31 Distress call
34 Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
36 Lout
38 Imitation
39 Unhappiness
40 End
43 Courts
44 Precious metal
47 Pound (abbr.)
48 Vacation state (abbr.)
52 Sloth

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Chris Bertrand

One Of A Kind: *Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them* Photos and Story By Chris Bertrand **Cynthia Abernethy's Estate Sales** *Selling Everything...Sometimes Even The Kitchen Sink!*

I first heard about Cynthia Abernethy's estate sales business when members of my Saturday Pilates class would quiz one another about their finds at that morning's sale. I was very familiar with estate sales, as I grew up in an area of Chicago where complete estate sales were a popular family weekend outing. So my ears immediately perked up and I watched for nearby sales. Thirty plus years ago, my first home was even partially furnished from an estate sale my parents attended during my engagement, and some of those pieces stayed in our home for decades.

Here in LA, Cynthia Abernethy seems to be the reigning queen of the San Gabriel Valley estate sales business here, a title affixed by a couple of her loyal customers, including Sharon Yee. Yee comments that Abernethy's business is a "godsend for families and real estate agents," and proudly points to her best "Cynthia find" of the grand piano gracing her living room.

Though Abernethy will occasionally conduct a sale as far away as Pomona or Burbank, her loyal customer base follows her sales around our valley on Saturdays from 9-3. She adds the occasional Friday when things are really busy.



Cynthia Abernethy prices a ball gown at a recent Altadena sale.

apartment complex in downtown Pasadena, she asked buyers to be quiet and low impact to the residents in the building. Or a pointed missive indicating that the sale's jewelry collection can be viewed by only one person at a time. No exceptions. The sales can become a bit of a feeding frenzy at times, especially at the larger events.

Abernethy was initiated into the estate sale biz after her mother got started liquidating household goods as a side line to her real estate practice. Eventually, she bought out her mother and made it a career. She loves working with the senior population, and has the right tender spot to really understand what the process and pitfalls are when the elderly want or need to move out of their homes into some type of assisted living arrangement, or families have to empty the family home after a relative dies. Sometimes the family is out of state and are grateful to have someone handle it all, from start to finish. If the home is already in escrow and scheduled to close, there's often a short timeline.

Every career or job has its challenges, and packrats are probably Abernethy's biggest challenge and opportunity. She supplied me with the "before" picture of one of her more difficult sales preparation jobs, with books and stuff of every ilk jumbled high to overflowing in every room. Her commission, she admits, is partially dependent on how much work it



Packrat homes are both a challenge and an opportunity.

will be to set up the sale. By the time the sale comes around, most items are categorized and priced. She prides herself on her blunt unbiased evaluation on the quality of the items offered, and has established a reputation for fairness. She is careful to tell her customers what to expect when they arrive, and the regulars have come to depend on her evaluations. Many have come to know one another over the years and wave when they see each other, asking after their animals and children. Two buyers chatted with me, saying that after years of buying at Cynthia's sales, they're now in a more relaxed mode. They now come later in the day, to see if a little trinket here or there catches their fancy.

Her strangest find during the sales preparation process has been wads and wads of cash. Apparently, the resident had hidden cash around the home, for a "rainy day" years before. At some time, Alzheimer's set in, and he forgot where it was, or perhaps that he had even hidden it. It became like peeling an onion. The more they looked, the more they found. Finally, there was so much cash, she quips, they had to get the administrators of the estate to come collect it all.

She likes to point out the "green" flavor of the estate sale business. It's the ultimate in recycling, she says, by giving new life to used items. Parents come to establish an entire new household, for a college student or similar situation. For pennies on the dollar, they can get just about everything from pots and pans, cleaning equipment, furniture, office supplies, clothing, even toilet paper and foodstuffs, occasionally even the kitchen sink! She comments that sometimes the larger furniture items can be a great bargain, as they are more difficult to move, and they must go that day.

There's an opportunity here for teachers and charities. At the end of the sale, there are often good items left. She'd love to add some teachers to her list, to donate leftover art, school and office supplies to after the sale. She needs someone to come by to pick up books after the sale. A local library foundation volunteer would be a welcome sight at 3 p.m. on a sale day, too, to haul away unsold books. The key here is that they can be counted on to show up at the end of the sale.

To be added to Cynthia Abernethy's email update list for future estate sales, email her at Abernethy@keyway.net. Happy shopping, and pat yourself on the back for being "green" to boot!

A weekly email update to her customer list includes highlights of the upcoming event and detailed directions. They receive information about the size and extent of the sale, the number of years of accumulation, special categories of included items particularly collectibles, the era of the furniture and the overall condition of the items. The last line usually says it all. "It's all got to go. ½ price at 1:00."

I arrived at a recent sale in Altadena about 12:50, and those in the know were already hovering, hoping a favorite item might still be available after 1 p.m. when the cut rate kicks usually kicks in. A few minutes after 1, two "regulars" were smug, sharing their favorite treasures of a prized mid-century Christmas ornament from a style called "Shiny Brites," and an unusual tea pot from the owner's large collection of tea vessels.

Her emails aren't shy about specific instructions, too. When inviting customers to the January sale at a senior citizen



Happy buyers show off an unusual ceramic teapot treasure.



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It's Just BUSINESS Profits A'Bloom On Valentine's Day

By La Quetta M. Shamblee

Electronic beeps have basically replaced the "ching ching" of old fashioned cash registers, ringing up annual sales of approximately \$400 million in the United States. Those numbers bode well for California, which accounts for approximately two-thirds of the domestic cut-flower industry. California's vast, fertile landscape supports approximately 275 growers, including large corporate operations sharing the market opportunities with a number of smaller, family run nurseries located along the along the coast.

Roses are closely associated with Valentine's Day, along with the mutual exchange of love notes in the form of "valentines." According to the U.S. Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentines are sent each year worldwide, which makes it the second largest card-sending holiday in comparison to Christmas. A whopping 85% are purchased by women, but as everyone knows, this is the day that women expect to be remembered by beaus and offspring. Cards are nice, but flowers symbolize the icing on the cake – anyone who's worked in an office has experienced the excitement as a spring bouquet is delivered, with personnel gathering in anticipation of finding find out who among them is the lucky recipient. A delivery of roses to a residential address attracts onlookers who are reminded that romance is still alive and well for someone in their midst.

February 14th is the pinnacle of sales activity for roses, with some 1.3 billion stems purchased each year. Almost 190 million of those stems are purchased for Valentine's Day in the U.S. alone. For many, roses have become synonymous with the romance of Cupid's day. At least half of floral arrangements are sold through retail florist shops, which generate annual sales in excess of \$8 billion. Easter, Mother's Day, December holiday decorations and Valentine collectively account for approximately 40% of business for retail florists, which have a significant impact on their bottom lines for the entire year. An increased number of fresh cut flowers are being sold through supermarkets and other large shopping outlets.

As you consider the gleeful response of the sweethearts on your list when your gift of flowers arrives, consider patronizing your local florist. A variety of creative arrangements are available and the internet has made shopping for fresh cut floral bouquets and arrangements easier than ever. With less than a week until Valentine's Day, there is still time to shop for the most appropriate floral gift to fit your budget. A Thursday delivery to someone's office can be showcased in the workplace through Friday, then brought home by them to enjoy during the weekend.

This may be the year to extend the glee by making arrangements to have flowers delivered on a weekly or monthly basis. In addition to bringing a smile to your sweetheart's face, your floral purchases will contribute to California's dominance in the domestic cut flower industry. Make someone happy this week while supporting your independent neighborhood florist.

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Arcadia High School 'Constitution Team' Goes To Sacramento

Story and Photo By Teresa Baxter

Twenty-four students from Arcadia High School will be making a trip to Sacramento to compete in this year's "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" 2008 state finals. More than 350 students from 12 high school classes throughout California will compete in simulated congressional hearings to earn the opportunity to represent California at the national finals in Washington D.C. in May. Government, business, education and community leaders will serve as volunteer judges, timers and facilitators.

"We are heading to the state competition after having won the congressional district and regional competitions earlier this year," said Kevin Fox, who coaches the team, while also teaching advanced placement and honors students. "AHS has made it into the final round each of the past 19 years, so this year's group is working hard not to be the class that breaks the streak."

The primary goal of "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" is to promote civic competence and responsibility among the nation's elementary and secondary students, he said. The program enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy. At the same time, students discover the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

In preparation for the competition, Arcadia City Hall provided their council chambers as the forum for the students to hone their critical thinking and public speaking skills. A mock competition was held last Monday, with several local dignitaries serving on the panel of judges, including former Arcadia mayor Gary Kovacic. Kovacic asked the competitors to ponder, in regards to the current elections, if the never-ending chase for money was the cause of the divisive nature of current politics.



Students and Advisers are taped for a news segment for airing on German TV station

"Money buys influence," said Chris Liang, on behalf of his team. "It's the never-ending chase for money that is demeaning the meaning of politics."

The students were also asked to reflect on the writings of John Locke and apply the philosophies from his "Two Treatises on Government" to current times. Historically, the key elements in Locke's political theory are natural rights, a social contract, a government by consent, and the right of revolution if those needs are not met.

"We have a right to a revolution or to abolish government," said Julie Mendel. "[For states], seceding by becoming independent is a less violent means than a revolution."

The enthusiasm behind the message of these AHS students has also sparked world-wide attention. Last week the "Constitution Team" was taped for a news segment that will be aired on the European public television station ARD, which is Germany's equivalent to Britain's BBC and America's PBS.

2008 CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NOMINATIONS FOR TEACHERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD

The Cherry Blossom Festival So Cal is seeking nominations of teachers in Southern CA who are "Making a Difference". The deadline for nomination is Friday, February 15, 2008 and nominated teachers will be judged based on questions on the submittal form. Winning Teachers will be contacted on March 1st and will be recognized in a special ceremony at the Cherry Blossom Festival on Saturday, April 5th held in the Little Tokyo district of downtown Los Angeles.

We are accepting nominations for teachers who are currently teaching in Southern CA. We are seeking nominations of teachers who teach in elementary, middle school, high school, magnet schools, college & universities, private schools, teachers who train teachers & Japanese language teachers

The Cherry Blossom Festival So Cal is an event produced by RYOMA - an organization founded to promote cultural events to mainstream audiences - bridging generations and exposing the mainstream population to these cultural arts. The Cherry Blossom Festival is produced by a 100% volunteer team and underwritten by private donations and sponsors. This Festival celebrates Spring through Cherry Blossoms and promotes the diverse Japanese and Japanese American cultural arts. The Festival is held on the streets of San Pedro Blvd. between 1st and 3rd Street on April 5th & 6th and is a Free Entrance to the public. Attendance at the 2007 Festival was over 16,000.

2007 Teachers Making a Difference Honorees included (partial listing): KATHRYN LOURY - Madison Elementary, Pasadena; JUN LUGUE - Muscatel Middle School, Rosemead; CHAD PRADO - traveling music teacher at 4 elementary schools, Pasadena; ROBERT SORTINO - Cleveland Elementary, Pasadena; SUZANNE YORK - Sierra Madre Elementary, Sierra Madre

To nominate a teacher go online to www.cherryblossomfestivalsocal.org to download the form.

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.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sierra Madre Elementary School
141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428
Principal: Gayle Bluemel
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

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

Weizmann Day School
1434 N. Altadena Dr.
Pasadena, Ca. 91107
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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

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Pasadena, Ca. 91109
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TRISH'S TRUTH A "Super" Week

By Trisha Collins

Last Sunday, the nation was pressed up against their TV screens. The following Tuesday, the nation was again on an edge, waiting for history to unfold. Last week was what I call "Super Week", in that there was the infamous Super Bowl and Super Tuesday.

It was all kind of exciting. Now, I'm not one that's really into football or sports, but I can tell you that I'd never say no to a super bowl party from a good friend. So, Sunday afternoon I found myself at my friend's house munching on Ruffles and enjoying the hilarious super bowl commercials. Nothing abnormal about that. The abnormal thing was that I was paying attention to the game and at the right time too! Oh yes, I started to really watch everything towards the end of the last quarter when the whooping and hollering started, fingers pointing at the big screen. With only 35 seconds left on the clock, Eli Manning (from the New York Giants) completed a 13 yard pass to Plaxico Burress, giving the Giants a 17-14 victory against the New England Patriots. Excitement, disappointment, amazement, shock, and bet money was in the air. It was definitely a game to remember.

Two days later, there was even more excitement. CNN was on practically all day at my house, giving updates on the latest Super Tuesday news. It seems like the main focus was on America's most talked about candidates: Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. And if people weren't watching all the action on TV, they were at the polls voting for their number one. My parents made sure to hit the polls early, around 7 am, in order to avoid the long lines and crowds. The turnout was pretty close between Obama and Clinton, and will most definitely be written in updated textbooks. History was unfolding about the unimaginable, a woman and an African American both running for the top spot in our country.

Last week was just plain "super", and I can only imagine how the rest of the year will be. What's up for next week?



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**For Advertising Inquiries
contact:**

JULIE PUTERBAUGH
626-836-6524

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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

A SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS

Wasn't it just last week when I spoke of the magnificent turnout for John Grijalva, a man who dedicated his time to making this city a great place to live? And did I not, the week before ask you to consider a few rules to abide by while we ponder our choices for the upcoming city elections?

While I would hope that my words didn't fall on deaf ears, my eyes tell me something very different. At Grijalva's memorial where the Yes on V, No on V. Maybe on V, Yes on Maranatha, No on Maranatha, Yes on Everything and No on Everything residents of Sierra Madre were gathered in peace, there were still too many people that were just exuding anger and hatred

over foolishness, forgetting about the reason we were all there. In particular, there was one woman who just stared down with a most evil look, anyone she perceived did not agree with her. She walked around rolling her eyes like a second grader, angry, one can only assume, because she disagreed with who people were talking too, or what they had voted on last year and twenty years ago, etc. Absolutely childish behavior. I cannot imagine why anyone would want to spend one precious moment of life harboring that kind of anger and bitterness. Life is too short.

It seems that this behavior doesn't just manifest itself to public gatherings. Its' so bad that even on the local blogs this 'Sierra Madre Bad Behavior' crew is busy. I was embarrassed to have a Pasadena resident call me laughing because "Sierra Madre bloggers had been blocked from one website due to their vitrolic and mean spirited dialogue." I couldn't believe my eyes when I viewed the site. And, among the people who had been banned was this same woman. (You can't send emails and then try to be anonymous online.)

This nastiness is so pervasive and so totally unnecessary. It gives rise to a culture where everyone is suspect. According to these angry folks, absolutely everyone on the city council is corrupt, the entire city staff is inept and anyone who dares to have an independent thought is bad.

And don't get me started on the way this crowd treats the city staff. While I have no problem with anyone criticizing an elected official (because after all, they knew the job came with tons of public scrutiny when they VOLUNTEERED), but as a former employee, an employer and a human being, I find it totally outrageous that staff are subjected to attacks on their character and capabilities. Think about it. How would you feel if you worked for someone and people, who don't know a thing about what you do, how you do it or anything else, publicly, on live TV, insult your work. Would you stay at that job? Who gives these people the right? If I have a beef with city staff I would take it to the city manager or a council member, but I would never be rude, impolite and mean to someone who is trying to do their job to the best of their ability. Back in the day when I had staff to manage, I had one cardinal rule for every other department head or director. If you had a problem with my staff, bring it to me and I will take the appropriate action.

There is absolutely no reason why we should go through another election season with the kind of madness that permeated the city with Measure V. We can stop it right now. Do I need to quote Rodney King? I certainly hope not, but the question must be asked, *can't we all just get along?* It's okay to be different. Sierra Madre is not a town divided. We are a town full of diversity - diversity that should be respected.



Martin Luther King's: The Power of Nonviolent Resistance

by Hail Hamilton

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man who believed that the power of love, which was essential to nonviolent resistance, could be the most effective weapon against the social ills of society. Throughout the civil rights movement, he promoted resistance that was nonviolent, and in the end, it proved to be the most successful method against an unjust system of racial segregation.

During the civil rights movement, King captured the attention of the nation with his philosophy and commitment to the method of nonviolent resistance. According to King, this was the only solution that could cure society's evil and create a just society. As King emerged as a leader in the civil rights movement, he put his belief into action and proved that this was an effective method to combat racial segregation.

King believed that there were six important points about nonviolent resistance. First, he argued that even though nonviolence may be perceived as cowardly, it was not. In fact, it was a method that did resist. According to King, a nonviolent protester was as passionate as a violent protester. Despite not being physically aggressive, "his mind and emotions are always active, constantly seeking to persuade the opponent that he is mistaken."

Second, the point of nonviolent resistance is not to humiliate the opponent, but instead to gain his friendship and understanding. Further, the use of boycotts and methods of non-cooperation, were the "means to awaken a sense of moral shame in the opponent." The result was redemption and reconciliation instead of the bitterness and chaos that came from violent resistance.

The third point King advanced was that the battle was against the forces of evil and not individuals. Tension was not between the races, but was "between justice and injustice, between the forces of light and the forces of darkness. And if there is a victory it will be a victory not merely for fifty thousand Negroes, but a victory for justice and the forces of light." Thus, tension only existed between good and evil and not between people.

Fourth, nonviolent resistance required the willingness to suffer. One must accept violence without retaliating with violence and must go to jail if necessary. Accordingly, the end was more important than safety, and retaliatory violence would distract from the main fight. King believed that by accepting suffering, it led

to "tremendous educational and transforming possibilities" and would be a powerful tool in changing the minds of the opponents. King's fifth point about nonviolent resistance was that the "universe was on the side of justice." Accordingly, people have a "cosmic companionship" with God who is on the side of truth. Therefore, the activist has faith that justice will occur in the future.

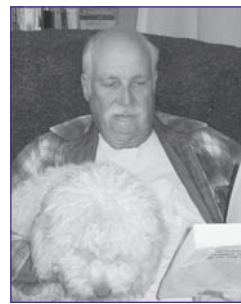
King's sixth point was central to the method of nonviolent resistance. He believed the importance of nonviolence rested in the fact that it prevented physical violence and the "internal violence of spirit." Bitterness and hate were absent from the resisters mind, and replaced with love.

However, the kind of love King was talking about, was not the affectionate type, but instead the type that meant "understanding, redeeming good will for all men." King's love was not a passive love, it was the kind of redemptive love. According to King, "It is an overflowing love which is purely spontaneous, unmotivated, groundless, and creative. It is not set in motion by any quality or function of its object. It is the love of God operating in the human heart"

King's love was a love that was disinterested. The act of loving was not for one's own good, but for the good of another. It did not distinguish between worthy and unworthy people or friends and enemies. Furthermore, it was love that fulfilled the need of another person. A person was in greatest need of love when a sinner. Therefore, he believed that "[s]ince the white man's personality is greatly distorted by segregation, and his soul is greatly scarred, he needs the love of the Negro. The Negro must love the white man, because the white man needs his love . . ." Therefore, one should love in order to help those in need.

King also believed that God's love sought to preserve and create community. As a result, no distance was too far to travel in the attempt to restore community. King described God's love: "... as a willingness to forgive, not seven times, but seventy times to restore community. The cross is the eternal expression of the length to which God will go in order to restore broken community. The resurrection is a symbol of God's triumph over all the forces that seek to block community. The Holy Spirit is the continuing community creating reality that moves through history. He who works against community is working against the whole of creation."

Stuart Tolchin On...LIFE



THE MORNING AFTER

JUST A NOTE OF CAUTION

What excitement! What thrills! What wonderful candidates! What a mess we're in. I hate to say it, but I think we're really in trouble. Yes, I know it was thrilling to have such wonderful, intelligent and articulate people, such as Senators Obama, Clinton, and McCain, in addition to Governors Huckabee and Romney, placed before us as potential Presidents. What inspirational people—I have only one question—What are they going to do?

Look, the only thing that California voters seemed to agree on was that we want more slot machines, more gaming. What in the world is gaming? As my cynical neighbor up the street said "Do elections require lingual prophylactics?" Are we afraid to say that we want to raise needed revenues by placing additional taxes on the further expansion of formerly illegal activities? I guess so. The fact that we're going to raise money through the encouragement of legalized gambling is, at least to me, fairly repellant. What will we do next? Obviously, legalize and tax other presently prohibited practices like prostitution, drug use and cigarette smoking – oh, yeah, I forgot cigarettes smoking is not illegal—I guess there's not enough proof that it's harmful.

Maybe this taxation of the dark side of human behavior is a good idea. I'll have to think about it; but right now the seeming Tijuanaization or Manilization of America is a fairly frightening thought. Who needs to get rid of Castro when we can have the casinos and brothels of old Havana right here in all our major cities? Look I'm not a prude—in fact, I favor the legitimization of what now constitute most victimless crimes; but wait a minute—the restrictions as to time and place are similarly of great importance, and raise a lot of important questions that cannot be answered by saying we need to raise the money, so let's do it now. We really have to be careful.

As to the candidates, sure they're attractive. They're smart and articulate and hardworking, but I hate to say it, lots of people are smart and articulate and hardworking and still can't balance a checkbook—I know. I think it's probably necessary to elect someone who has a little experience in actually running a business or a State or a city or something. Actually, the only major candidate with substantial business experience is Governor Romney, and he has been rejected by his own party, the party of business.

Many of us here in the enlightened West tend to view the supporters of Governor Huckabee as Evangelical Christian crazies who are only interested in their limited agenda of social issues and social values. How uncool, how anachronistic. Guess what—non-believer that I am, I still strongly value the maintenance of family and community and all that. Let us not throw out the baby along with the bathwater. (No, that isn't a reference to the controversy related to abortion.)

As to the "issues", the pundits all talk about them as separate entities, as if the continuing wars in the Middle East and the failing economy and illegal immigration and the ongoing and unabated destruction of the planet are completely unrelated. As I have said before I'm no wiseman, but it seems to me that throwing away billions of dollars in the pursuit of some obscure and questionable foreign policy goal must have some negative impact on our economy and on the economy of the entire world. Focusing on the morality of immigration—What do they not understand about "No"? Don't they understand that continuing economic disparities are the conditions causing emigration, even at the risk of life, and that nations must work together to improve the lives of their respective populations? Furthermore, it does not take a genius to recognize that continuing wars polarize countries that need to cooperate to solve the ecological problems that faces us all.

Well, that's it—it sure is a great party. I just hope that we can now get down to the business of figuring out what to do.

S.Tolchin@mobserver.com

Sierra Madre's April Ballot

City Council Races:

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Enid Joffe, Incumbent
Mary Ann McGillivray
Kevin Paschall
Bill Tice

City Clerk:

Nancy Schollenberger, Incumbent
Karma Bell

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Looking Up

With Bob Eklund



Photo by Aaron Dominquez

NASA Spacecraft Streams Back Surprises From Mercury

THE RECENT FLYBY of Mercury by NASA's MESSENGER spacecraft has given scientists an entirely new look at a planet once thought to have characteristics similar to those of Earth's moon. Researchers are amazed by the wealth of images and data that show a unique world with a diversity of geological processes and a very different magnetosphere from the one discovered and sampled more than 30 years ago.

After a journey of more than 2 billion miles and three and a half years, NASA's Mercury Surface, Space Environment, Geochemistry and Ranging spacecraft made its first flyby on Jan. 14. The mission is the first sent to orbit the planet closest to our sun. The spacecraft's cameras and other sophisticated, high-technology instruments collected more than 1,200 images and made other science observations. Data included the first up-close measurements of Mercury since the Mariner 10 spacecraft's third and final flyby on March 16, 1975.

"This flyby allowed us to see a part of the planet never before viewed by spacecraft, and our little craft has returned a gold mine of exciting data," said Sean Solomon, MESSENGER's principal investigator, Carnegie Institution of Washington. "From the perspectives of spacecraft performance and maneuver accuracy, this encounter was near-perfect, and we are delighted that all of the science data are now on the ground."

Unlike the moon, the spacecraft showed that Mercury has huge cliffs with structures snaking up hundreds of miles across the planet's face. These cliffs preserve a record of patterns of fault activity from early in the planet's history. The spacecraft also revealed impact craters that appear very different from lunar craters.

Instruments provided a topographic profile of craters and other geological features on the night side of Mercury. The spacecraft also discovered a unique feature that scientists dubbed "The Spider." This formation never has been seen on Mercury before and nothing like it has been observed on the moon. It lies in the middle of a large impact crater called the Caloris Basin and consists of more than 100 narrow, flat-floored troughs radiating from a complex central region.

"The Spider has a crater near its center, but whether that crater is related to the original formation or came later is not clear at this time," said James Head, science team co-investigator at Brown University, Providence, R.I.

Now that the spacecraft has shown scientists the full extent of the Caloris basin, its diameter has been revised upward from the Mariner 10 estimate of 800 miles to perhaps as large as 960 miles from rim to rim. The plains inside the Caloris basin are distinctive and more reflective than the exterior plains. Impact basins on the moon have opposite characteristics.

The Jan. 14 flyby was the first of two that MESSENGER will perform this year, before it settles into orbit around Mercury in 2011.

For more information on the flyby, visit: www.nasa.gov/messenger

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



The Mountain Clymer SAFE KEEPING

By Kim Clymer-Kelley

As some of you may have read, this past weekend (Saturday, February 2) a young woman lost her life hiking the trails in our local mountains. Though the details I have received from those I know who were in the area at the time of the accident were sketchy, I did read an article on the incident in the Star News a couple days afterwards. From what I have gathered from these sources, the woman was hiking with a group that frequently hiked in the area. They were hiking to Mt. Wilson on the trail that climbs out of the canyon just above Sturtevant Camp which is located about 4 miles by trail from Chantry Flat. Just past the camp, the trail climbs steeply through an endless series of switchbacks for about 3 1/2 miles with a gain in altitude of somewhere around 2300 feet. There are areas along the sometimes extremely narrow trail that run atop steep drop-offs. It was on one of these sections that the young woman lost her balance and fell hundreds of feet down an ice shoot. One of her fellow hikers bravely made his way to where she landed and determined that she had died. The hikers then headed back down the trail to find help which they got from the people at Sturtevant Camp. There is a radio phone at the camp which was used to call Sierra Madre Search and Rescue. The rescue team and other LA County rescue workers located her body and tried to carry her out of the canyon, but had to wait for a couple days to complete the arduous task because of the bad weather and a rock slide on Mt. Wilson Road.

The news of this tragedy hit the local hiking community hard. It is easy for even the most experienced outdoorsman to forget the dangers that are everywhere in the mountains...to get lulled into a false sense of security by their beauty and tranquility. It is very unsettling to have the unthinkable happen on the very trails that feel like home to these hikers. The people of this hiking community are in the mountains and on the trails nearly daily...it is their refuge. It is the time in their day that they recharge themselves to face a day full of stress...or the time that they unwind after enduring such a day. Time spent there is both soothing and invigorating. There is a disturbance in the energy of the mountains when such a tragedy befalls a member of the mountain family. It will be hard for others to walk the trails without noticing all of the places that such an accident could be repeated and without feeling fortunate and thankful that it never has happened to them or those they are close to. It is a cloud that will hang over these mountains for quite awhile.

While those who frequent the mountains are, at least on some level, aware of the dangers that the mountains pose, there are also those who come to the mountains who are totally naive to the possible threats that surround them. They come every weekend by the thousands, feeling as safe there as they do in their own backyard...unaware that the reality is that it is a very perilous place. One danger that seems to get the most media coverage is that which the local wild life poses. Even though the danger of the rattlesnake is well known, many young men who are low on brain-power and overloaded with testosterone feel the need to see just who is more of a threat...and usually end up on the losing side of the bet. Mountain lions and bears are less likely to be messed with, though there have been cases of hungry bears killing for a sandwich that someone felt the need to defend and of mountain lions mistaking bikers and runners for prey. Most, however, are aware of the dangers of the local fauna...they are the least of the worries.

While there are many who have dedicated countless back-breaking hours to maintaining the trails of the forest, they can only keep the most used and easily accessible ones in really good shape...there are just way too many miles and too few who volunteer. The USFS does little to help...they are too short on funds and manpower and too tied up in bureaucratic nonsense to take care of such business. The trails are fragile. Winter rains, mountain bikers and careless hikers take their toll on the trails. Most of the mountain trails are carved into decomposed granite (or DG), which crumbles and slides easily in both wet and dry conditions. Most of the trails have very loose edges that give way underfoot making it easy to tumble down a hillside. The trails are also very narrow and because of the constant wear and tear on them, becoming increasingly narrower. Not only are the trails made of the slippery DG, but so are the hillsides above them, so there is always a chance of a rock or a dirt slide coming down onto the trail from above as well as the trail breaking and sliding away from underfoot. For this same reason it is important to stay on the trail...the hillsides are far more treacherous than the trails...the soil there is extremely loose.

Flash floods can also happen without notice. Rain usually starts and is much heavier in the higher elevations. It could be clear down below but raining in the mountains miles away. Those hiking in narrow canyons at lower elevations could, without warning, be taken by surprise by quickly rising and fast moving waters from a storm at the top of the mountain. Hypothermia is another danger that mountain weather can cause. Often hikers who get lost and/or stranded out in the mountains after the sun gets low are not dressed warm enough to survive the night. Temperatures are much colder at higher elevations and can drop quickly as the sun dips behind the mountains. The weather in the mountains can also change quickly as approaching clouds get stalled over the mountains and pile up until they are heavy enough to make rain. This can catch unprepared hikers by surprise and put them in danger of hypothermia too. Ice and snow in the winter can also add to the dangerous conditions on the trails.

Sometimes people are more a danger to themselves than Mother Nature can ever be. Mountain bikers traveling at excessive speeds are a danger to themselves and to others on the trails. Climbing rocks or jumping off of them into pools in a stream bed is another way that I have seen people suffer serious injuries in the forest. Drinking usually plays a role in such instances. It is never wise to be hiking the trails or playing in the forest under the influence...it is too easy to get lost or do something that may cause yourself or others harm. When someone's irresponsible or careless actions puts them in peril, they are also putting those who have to try to rescue them in danger. Yet another danger that would almost never occur to those who do not know the mountains really well...is the danger of stumbling upon illegal activity. There are those who have found that growing marijuana in the remote areas of the mountains is easy to get away with and can be very profitable. Those who are assigned with guarding the farms will stop at nothing to protect the crop...another good reason to stick to the trails and stay in well traveled areas. Once one leaves the trail, they can get easily lost and if they are injured or in some other kind of trouble, it can take rescuers days to find them if they can find them at all.

I am sure that all of the residents of Sierra Madre who hike these magnificent mountains regularly (and also those who do not) would join me in extending our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the hiker who lost her life here. I hope that they can take some solace in the fact that she was surrounded by the splendor and magic of a place that she held dear in her heart...(you don't take such a challenging hike unless you love where you are and what you are doing.) For those who are planning activities in the forest, remember...come well equipped and prepared for the weather...have plenty of food and water...do not hike alone...let someone know exactly where you are going and when you will be back and then stick to the plan...stay on well marked trails and stay alert to your surroundings. Be safe and have a wonderful time.

LEGAL NOTICES (cont.)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: HELEN MODD

CASE NO. GP013440

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of HELEN MODD:

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by THERESE OTTO in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that THERESE OTTO 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 03/14/08 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 DOUGLAS J. FARRELL LAW OFFICE OF DOUGLAS J. FARRELL 37 W. SIERRA MADRE BLVD. SIERRA MADRE, CA 91024 2/2, 2/9, 2/16/08 CNS-1271422#

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ROGER JOANOU

CASE NO. GP013524

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ROGER JOANOU:

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by PHILLIP JOANOU & MICHELLE MASON JOANOU in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that PHILLIP JOANOU & MICHELLE MASON JOANOU 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 03/14/08 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 HAHN & HAHN LLP KARL I. SWAIDAN 301 E. COLORADO BLVD., 9TH FLR.

PASADENA, CA 91101-1977 2/9, 2/16, 2/23/08 CNS-1276617#

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.

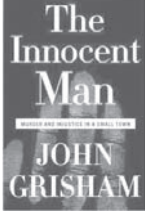
A HEARING on the petition will be held on 3/6/08 at 10:00 AM in Department G located at 200 W. Compton Blvd., Compton, Ca. 90220. 1/26, 2/2/08, 2/9/08, 2/16/08

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

Jeff's Pics

The Book Reports

By Jeff Brown



The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town by John Grisham (2006)
This is a non-fiction account, and one of Grisham's best books, about the tragedy of Ron Williamson, a baseball hero from a small town in Oklahoma who ends up a ruined, mentally unstable Major League washout railroaded into death row for a 1992 rape and murder he didn't commit. Eleven years later DNA evidence freed him from death row. Grisham states that wrongful convictions happen all the time. Overall 130 people have been exonerated from death row. Five major reasons why wrongful convictions occur are: Sloppy police work, eyewitness accounts wrong ½ the time, sloppy prosecution and defense, junk science, and lying snitch testimony. He exposes some of the behind-the-scenes and sometimes under-handed actions of the police investigators, trial lawyers, prosecutors, and prison system that process our criminals and maintain law and order. Regarding his research Grisham states, "I started with his family. Ron is survived by two sisters who took care of him for most of his life. They gave me complete access to the family records, photographs, Ron's mental health records, and so on. There was also a truckload of trial transcripts, depositions, appeals, etc., that took about 18 months to organize and review. Many of the characters in the story are still alive and I traveled to Oklahoma countless times to interview them." And on what he hope readers get from the book, "A better understanding of how innocent people can be convicted, and a greater concern for the need to reimburse and rehabilitate innocent men after they have been released." Grisham was a former criminal defense lawyer!

Wheeling the Deal: The Outrageous Legend of Gordon Zahler, Hollywood's Flashiest Quadriplegic

by Chip Jacobs (2008)
By 1940, 14-year-old Gordon Zahler had earned a reputation as *Sierra Madre's* most outstanding hooligan. His bad boy behavior got him expelled from elementary school. Still, his parents believed in Gordon. Hopes for Gordon's future crashed on the junior high gym floor with a daredevil stunt. Gordon landed violently from a pommel horse springboard and broke his neck and was paralyzed from the neck down. Few people had lived more than a few months with his kind of injury. He rebounded from infections, surgeries, despair, his father's fatal heart attack, and welfare, to launch a trailblazing music business that would grow into one of the largest independent postproduction shops in Hollywood. He died in 1975 at 49. Nearly 20 years later, in the midst of a promising journalism career, Chip, his nephew, realized that the most intriguing subject he could ever find to write about was his uncle, a man who embodied bravery and moxie. Chip Jacobs traces his uncle's change from a helpless cripple into a entrepreneur who parlayed the rights to his father's tunes into a fortune. He explores the tales of his family's tragic past. Jacobs reveals the soul of a charismatic and courageous character. *Wheeling the Deal* is more than a simple biography, however. It is also Mr. Jacobs' story. As Gordon Zahler's nephew, Jacobs endured a conflicted relationship with him, at times loving his uncle, at other times fearing and despising him. Writing this book was "the hardest job I'd ever have and, unwittingly, the most gratifying." Chip Jacobs is an award-winning journalist and writer.
Chip Jacobs will be signing and celebrating the release of Wheeling the Deal at Sierra Madre Books on Feb.15th at 6 P.M.



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

Southern California Lyric Theatre Workshops Begin
An exciting season has been formulated for Southern California Lyric Theater. We will be continuing our critically acclaimed and popular 'Summer Shakespeare in the Park', 'Fairytale and Fantasy IV' (which was voted the "Best City Sponsored Concert Event" Core Media Awards 2007) and 'Family Fun in the Park' in partnership with the cities of Sierra Madre and La Crescenta. Our after school workshops in partnership with Sierra Madre Playhouse are set for the Winter/ Spring semester 2008.
For further information go to www.sierramadreplayhouse.com and open link at children's workshop
Alison Kalmus, Artistic Director
WINTER/SPRING 2008
Acting and Music Theater Workshops at Sierra Madre Playhouse
Music Theater Workshop on Thursdays from 3:30-6:00pm starting Jan 31st.
Acting for Theater (Beginning Intermediate) Wednesdays starting March 12, 3:30 - 6:00
Advanced Repertory will start up on Saturdays 9:30 - 1:30.
Saturday Shakespeare 9-1 pm starting the 12th of January

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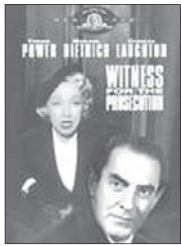
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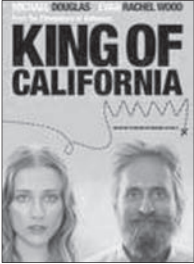
Scene One - Take One DVD Review



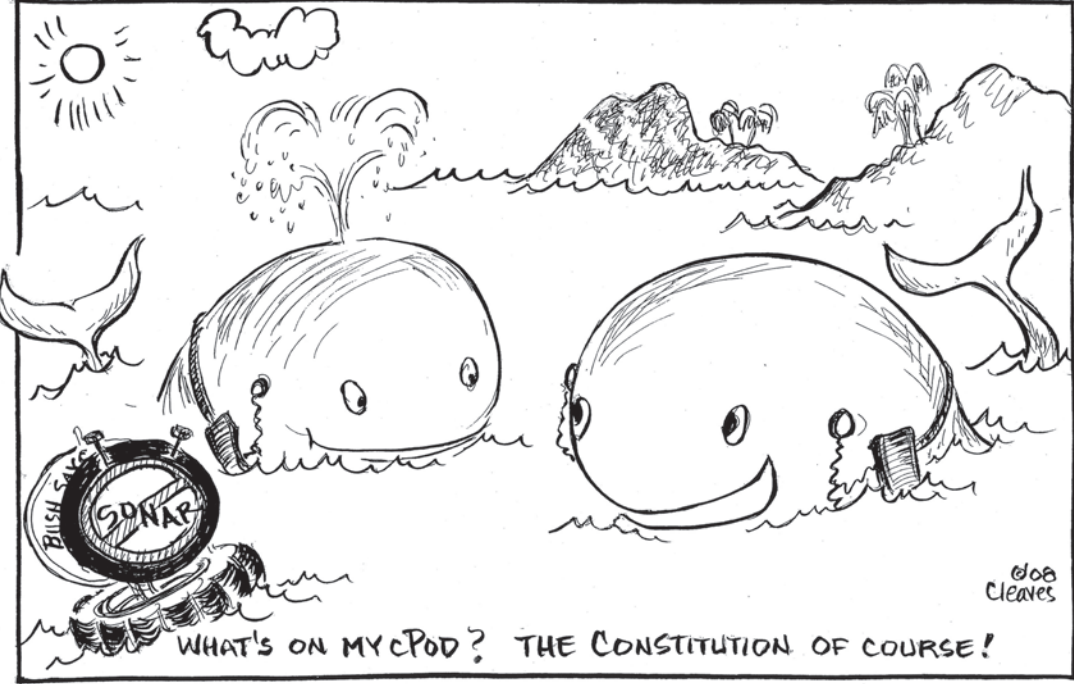
Witness for the Prosecution (1957)
From an Agatha Christie play, this Oscar nominated courtroom drama directed and co-written by Billy Wilder is about an esteemed and aging lawyer (Charles Laughton). On the eve of retiring, he takes on the defense of the alleged murderer (Tyrone Power, in his last film performance) accused of killing a wealthy widow. Things get complicated when the accused's alibi, his wife (Marlene Dietrich), decides to testify for the prosecution. Great drama with a twist!

King of California (2007)

This very enjoyable Sundance comedy follows a delusional father released from a mental institution (wonderfully played by Michael Douglas) who's convinced that a famous treasure is buried somewhere beneath his Southern California home. His troubled teenage daughter (Evan Rachel Wood), a high school dropout abandoned by her dysfunctional mother, resists her father's ravings about the treasure at first. But by and by she starts to believe.



Sling Blade (1996)
Billy Bob Thornton stars, wrote (Oscar winning screenplay) and directed this masterpiece of film making. Sling Blade is the story of Karl Childers (amazing performance by Thornton), a man released from a psychiatric hospital where he had been incarcerated for 25 years for murdering his mother and her lover. Returning to his hometown, Karl (though mentally handicapped) gets a job at fixing motors and becomes a friend to a young boy who is having trouble at home regarding his mother's abusive boyfriend. So this simple man Karl is thrust into a difficult dilemma that has powerful consequences for all. Rated R.



San Gabriel Valley Habitat For Humanity Needs A New Home
The group that is so passionate about building decent housing for deserving families is now on a search to find a new home for itself.
According to Sonja Yates, San Gabriel Habitat for Humanity (SGVHFH) Executive Director; "We have been given notice to vacate our current property in Pasadena by June 30th." SGVHFH's current home is on the site of the Pasadena Re-development Agency's Heritage Square project which is about to get underway.
In addition to housing its executive offices, the current SGVHFH location houses the affiliate's Builder's Surplus Store (BSS). Board President Tom Doud explained that the Builder's Surplus Store is "... an absolutely critical element of our mission to build decent housing for families." Tom went on to explain, "Our goal from the start has been to create a retail experience where builders, suppliers and home owners can donate building materials that are then sold in the store. The proceeds of this effort are 100% devoted to covering as much of the operating expenses of our affordable housing mission as possible so that our donors can have comfort that their donations are directed to the creation of decent housing." Board Member George Garfield commented, "While it is now somewhat ironic that we are seeking a new home, it is absolutely essential that we do so quickly. We need to find a 15-20K sf building within the San Gabriel Valley with easy freeway accessibility by this spring." SGVHFH recently broke ground on the 11 unit condominium development on Kenwood Street in Glendale. The group is also in final discussions for projects in Monrovia and Pasadena. The number of homes on the organization's project roster has grown by over 300% in the last two years alone.
If you know of a building that might work, call me at 626-792-3838 x13.



From the Inside Out

An Ongoing Series of Personal Points of View on Health

By Mary Carney

Inside The Pantry

Well, I received one of those emotional email alerts this morning ... another yeah, yeah, yeah ... but I read it anyway. So I shifted to dust and molds - for those who may be allergic. I, for one, suffered through five years of monthly allergy shots for dusts, yeasts and molds from about age 11.

Most of the time I'm a "from scratch" baker (family programming) but there was one mix allowed in the house - a dry Buckwheat Pancake (high alkaline) mix, to which melted butter, egg and milk were added during preparation. It's still available, by the way. Mostly I don't buy or eat mixes, because of the aluminum-based baking powder that results in an instant (and very unpleasant) "edge" to my teeth. Calcium phosphate based baking powder (the brand beginning with "R") is the only safe one, in my (and my chemistry professor father's) opinion. However, once in occasionally I'll succumb and buy something from one of our favorite local "good stores" - there's a Vanilla Cake that's not too "edgy". Let's face it, box mixes have a totally different texture than "from scratch". In today's world, no matter how carefully you make "from scratch", mix devotees "turn up their noses" - sigh - but I digress.)

The furnace exhaust flue in our house fills one corner of our pantry. (Since the house was constructed as a boys' dorm for a children's home back in the 1920's or 30's "pantry" was not the designed closet usage. That happened later.) This flue means that during the winter, the pantry becomes luxuriously warm - quite suitable for crackers, dry cereals, etc. In the summer, because the house is not whole house air conditioned, the temperature stays warm as well. I only keep a few canned / preserved goods, on hand, because I'm unconsciously, yet constantly, contrasting those temperatures with the 50-55 degrees under my parents' front porch "fruit cellar" where we stored all canned (and jarred) goods, as well as our wonderful once a year 30# can of lard. Bulk dry ingredients were, of course, stored upstairs in the kitchen, on the lowest and coolest under the counter shelves, with only about 3 cups or so stored in the higher temperature "frequent use jars" in the upper cupboards.

Recently I baked up one of those mixes (not yet exceeding the date on the box bottom) yet it tasted "odd." So we tossed it. But there are, for some reason, other odds and ends of box mixes that I have, in moments of weakness, and probably for a "just in case" emergency, acquired. I'm tossing them today Yes! It's "Trash Day", hooray! (Remember to separate contents from packaging if you, too, toss!) My unconscious worrying about possible mold growing in these mixes from the warm storage temperatures has been validated by today's almost ignored alert. I further checked both Snopes and the CA Dept of Health Safety (where I found an excellent table listing of specific molds and their environments and health side effects - www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/deode/ehib/ehib2/topics/fungi_indoor.html)

The CA DHS site info galvanized me when I noticed that mold can grow in dry conditions - such as on dry paper, etc. - we have books - lots and lots of books. I've not paid molds much attention out here because 1) the climate's mostly "dry", unlike the humid climate in PA, and 2) I consciously keep things dry, because of my history. So now, more attention!

Mind you, both Snopes and the CA DHS report that non-mold allergic folks mostly have few serious side effects from eating slightly older prepared mixes even if their allergic friends have gone into shock. Probably they had 1) no allergies, and 2) stronger immune systems.

Be aware that the numbers of the immune fragile are increasing exponentially with each new generation. The alternative health community has been aware of this for many years (20 in my case), but "scientific" (and thus no-longer-to-be-laughed-at) correlations are emerging into reputable news media that "Genetic Changes" may be a possible result of generational family eating / stress patterns. Single pattern repetition over any long period of time absolutely creates stress / tensions which - either both positively and/or negatively - affect cellular, immune and whole body health patterns - which in turn may be passed down to the next generation during gestation - and talk about coming from the inside out ...

So, a word to the wise, and all together now ... "Fresh fruits and vegetables, Fresh dark green leafy greens, Whole grains seeds and nuts" ...

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 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



TABLE FOR TWO Valentine's by Peter Dills

Okay friends, should I say fellow male-ego-driven men!!!! In a few days the pressure is and will be on to make that someone special happy!!! She deserves it! Putting up with our caveman mentality. So what are you going to do?

Here are a few suggestions:

First if you are reading this and haven't made reservations yet, you might be in trouble. Fear not lads, I really think that the best night is the night before. I have always subscribed to the theory that Valentine's, Father's and Mother's day are a true disaster waiting to happen. I mean, if you are dining out on those exact days. Everyone's expectations are extremely high and sometimes the results due to circumstances

leave a bad taste in your group's mouth. Here are three ideas...

Lunch at the FrontRunner

Overlooking the finish line at the Santa Anita Racetrack, FrontRunner comfortably seats over 500 guests for lunch. A floor-to-ceiling glass wall allows guests to view the picturesque San Gabriel Mountains while watching live Thoroughbred races.

Every entrée is prepared to order from two glass-enclosed exhibition kitchens positioned on either side of the restaurant. Desserts are made in full-view of guests from a separate exhibition pastry kitchen. The 215-foot long serpentine-shaped bar, which runs through the middle of the restaurant, seats 100. **Service** is right on the money (get it?) The seasonal lunch menu features innovative contemporary California cuisine utilizing flavors and ingredients indigenous to our region. Menu items include Chesapeake Bay Jumbo Lump Crabcake (my favorite) served with Ginger Slaw and Remoulade or Pepper Cucumber Namasu and Miso Vinaigrette; also the Roasted Pacific Swordfish with a pineapple grapefruit relish is a winner. Prices range from \$6.00 to \$24.00.

What to order: Maryland Crab Cake, this is the real deal; they use real lump crab meat, not shredded. It costs a little more, but is worth it. Desserts are all house-made - a real plus!!

Heads up: There is a charge for parking, admission and betting of course. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday. **For complete menu and details:** www.santaanita.com.

FrontRunner: 285 W. Huntington Drive (also enter parking lot from Baldwin). (626) 574-1035.

Restaurant Lozano

If you're tired of the noise, confusion, crowds and parking situation in Old Pasadena, yet want to enjoy a positive dining experience, here is my suggestion - Restaurant Lozano in Sierra Madre where regional California and American dishes are served in very relaxed and pleasant surroundings by friendly servers. Weather permitting; be sure to dine on the outdoor patio with its impressive view of Mt. Wilson in the distance.

What to order for your dinner on your first or second visit? Begin with the Crispy Goat Cheese Quesadilla with a red chipotle sauce (\$10) or Crab Cakes with red pepper aioli sauce (\$12). If you want to begin with soup, a bowl of their Spicy Tortilla soup would be a good way to start (\$7). Ask to have the chef make it even spicier. That's the way I like it.

There are many possibilities from the list of entrees. Here are my tips: Jerk Chicken topped with cilantro-lime cream (\$17), a Slow Roasted Brisket with the house steak sauce and mashed potatoes (\$17) or the Homemade Three Cheese Ravioli with a wild mushroom sauce (\$16). There's also four Mexican dishes available, but I prefer to choose from the many more interesting dishes I found on the menu.

The lunch menu lists dishes under \$20, with most well under that amount. A number from the dinner menu are included at lunch with lower prices and slightly smaller portions.

Restaurant Lozano. 44 N. Baldwin Ave., Sierra Madre (626) 355-5945

Glass of Bubbly

How about a nice bottle of champagne at *The Langham (Ritz Carlton)*? Yes, a bottle is pricey but you and your sweetheart will be treated like Royalty!!!

The Langham Hotel. 1400 S. Oak Knoll Pasadena. (626) 577-2867

Coming up: Join me at Alverno High School for the **Friends of The Library Annual Wine and Cuisine Tasting Event, February 22 at 7 pm**



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

Answers To Last Week's Crossword

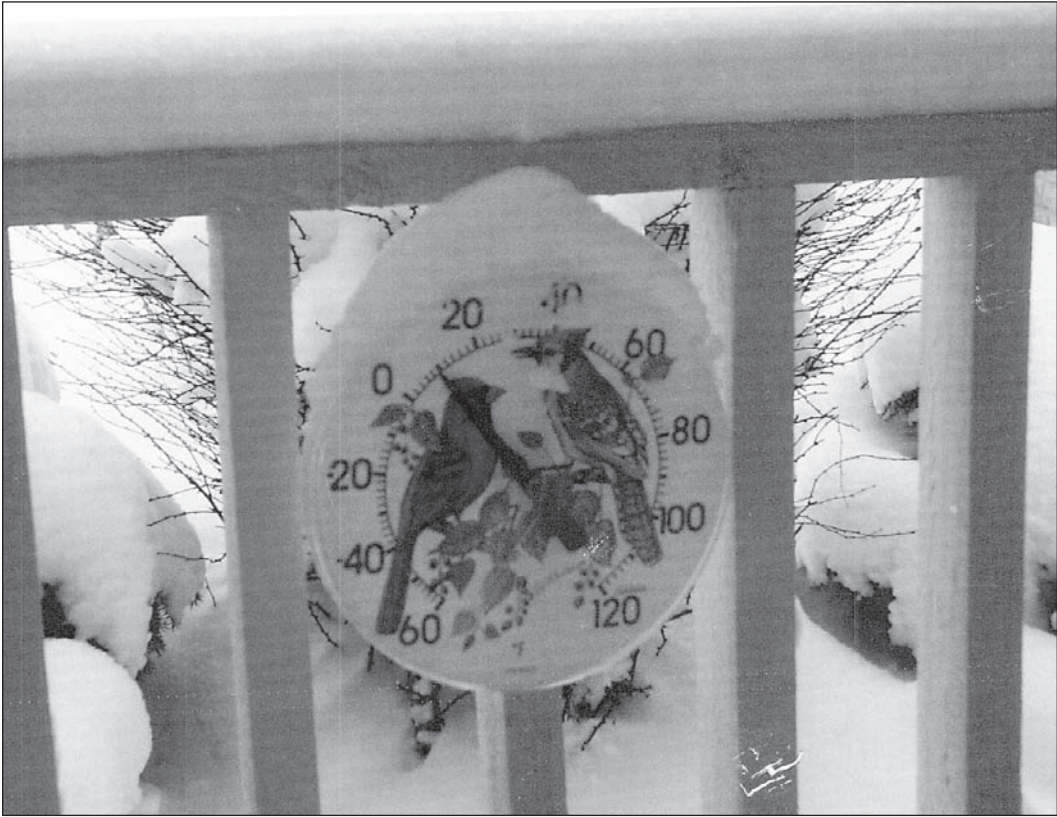
Your Civic Duty

The California Primary is February 5th

Solution:

B	E	A	D		S	N	I	F	F		C	H	A	P
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A Word From Karl & Ruth Teigler



Longtime Sierra Madre residents Karl and Ruth Teigler moved last year to Kokomo, Indiana. Recently, they sent a picture and note to the editor just to say hello. Says Ruth, "Karl and I made a difficult decision to move near family needed at our age. But - not only leaving many friends, we had to give up sun for snow. See enclosed. However, we are doing fine, and are warm in our new home. Our Best To All." The picture shows the current temperature a few weeks ago and, yes, snow. If you would like to drop the Tiegler's a line, please call 626 -355-2737 and we will give you their new address.



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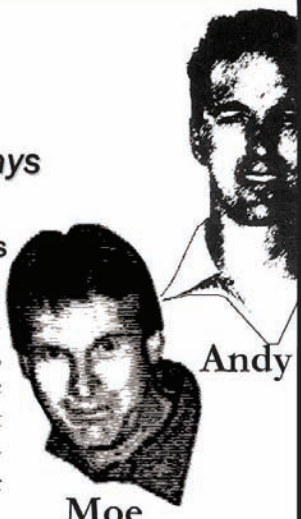
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SPORTS

Back Page Journal



WHAT'S IN A NAME? EVERYTHING..

By Brad Eastland,
Sports Editor

Sports nicknames. No way we could live without 'em. They are the spice in the stew of athletic legend, the filament which lights up our souls and re-ignites the fantasies that live within us all, substituting touchstone in place of cliché, reminding us of what it's like to be young and to dream, to yearn, to deserve a cool nickname of our own.

I myself came up with the greatest Sports nickname of all time. I'm not bragging. It just happens to be the truth. It's like old Walter Brennan used to say in the classic Old West TV show, *The Guns of Will Sonnett*: "No brag---just fact."

But before I tell you about the greatest Sports nickname of all time, and which athlete I bestowed it upon, a decent respect to the opinions of Mankind requires that we take a moment and consider other notable nicknames in Sport, good and bad. (So no fair peeking at the end of the Column. Be patient.)

Anyway, I'm sure you have your favorites. One of my brother Jeff's favorites is "Cornbread" Maxwell, the grizzled old Boston Celtics forward. Of course brother Jeff is a mite prejudiced, his love-lust for anything Celtic being one rung above love of country and half a rung shy of Rapture. But I guess it's hard not to like a guy willing to be described lovingly as cornbread.

Hardly anybody has nicknames in golf. Except Jack Nicklaus being the "Golden Bear", that is. Even Tiger Woods has no nickname, the nickname "tiger" having virtually become, over time, his actual name.

Football's Dick "Night Train" Lane got lucky with that one. I don't exactly know what a night train is, but it sure sounds scary. Basketball's Andrew Toney (last week's column) might have snared the *two* best basketball nicknames for himself, he being both the "Boston Strangler" and the "Antichrist". Good for him.

One of the coolest Sports nicknames comes from the under-the-radar world of women's pool & billiards, of all places. The attractive, Nordic ball-striker Ewa Mataya Laurance is known throughout her industry as the "Striking Viking". So we have the *double-entendre* of "striking" referring to both her hitting the cue ball with the pool cue and the fact that she's smokin'-hot looking. And the word "Viking" takes care of her Norse ancestry. And it rhymes. Just like **Night Train Lane**. Wow.

Baseball, of course, has the most of the best sports nicknames, baseball being, beyond reasonable debate, both the best sport and the richest historically. The storied names just roll off the tongue like molasses: the Grey Eagle, the Flying Dutchman, the Georgia Peach, the Meal Ticket, the Big Train, the Iron Horse, the Duke of Flatbush, the Hoosier Thunderbolt, and the Ryan Express. Not to mention the Bambino, Boob, Mugsy, Satchel, Old Aches & Pains, Biscuit Pants, the Dominican Dandy, Mr. October, & High Pockets. And finally, briefly, Lippy, Heinie, Rollie, Knucksie, Dizzy, Daffy, Dazzy, Pudge.

(I can just see you all, running to your computers and punching up 'Google' to see who the heck these folks are....)

Baseball also has the worst nickname; I refer, sadly, to Willie Mays' the "Say-Hey Kid". God, is that stupid or what. You'd think they could have come up with something more lyrical for the most artistic player ever than merely a lame regurgitation of his favorite expression followed by the word 'kid'. And what makes it worse is he's my all-time favorite player. That's just my kind of luck---all bad.

And now, from worst to first. We have nearly arrived at the moment when I reveal the greatest Sports nickname of all time. But first, allow me to re-introduce you to the grand subject of my immortalization

Monica Seles. You remember Monica, right? Great tennis player, a naturalized American citizen transplanted from her native Yugoslavia, played tennis like she was trying to get over a bad childhood by hacking away backhand and forehand with a two-handed grip off each side. You may recall she had become greater even than Steffi Graf, who she beat like a drum for about three years, right up until the moment when an unemployed German lathe operator stabbed her right between the shoulder blades, right smack in the middle of the tennis court. She was never the same, but her best stuff was better than anyone else's of her era. That's something.

She had a couple quirks, though. One of these quirks was her way of squinching up her face to where only her two front teeth showed, and the result was a distinctly rat-like appearance.

Don't get me wrong. I'm sure Monica Seles was and is a very nice girl, and off the court with her hair down and when she smiles she's really quite pretty. But on the court, with her hair pulled back in a bun and grimacing on every shot like she's trying to pass a kidney stone, her mouth a small taut oval with two prominent front teeth protruding obscenely, well, she always looked very much like a rodent. I'm sorry. I know that honesty isn't popular, but it's not like I'm making this stuff up....

Her other signature quirk was the way she grunted and wheezed on every shot. And I mean *every freaking shot!* Like she was in the process of being attacked or something. Gadzooks, that was irritating. You might remember that it was more than a grunt, more than even a scream, it was a plaintive, desperate wail sort of like, well, sort of like she was being punched in the gut just as she hit the ball.

So those are the two key elements that led to my immortal brainwave; the rodent face and the frantic yelling on every shot. I guess I sensed that any nickname for this gal would have to have something about each of those two things in it. Plus I wanted it to rhyme, like the Striking Viking thing. I didn't ask for this kind of destiny. It just came upon me out of the blue. One day, watching her flash those two stupendous teeth and listening to her scream her way to victory, it just hit me....

So without further ado, allow me to reveal to you my nickname for Monica Seles, and you can let me know if you agree that it is indeed the greatest Sports nickname of all time. Just say it over and over again a few times, let it wash over you. Feel the magic. Here goes: **The "Verbal Gerbil"**.

I rest my case. See ya next weekend.... Got a favorite Sports Nickname? Email me at b.eastland@mobserver.com

BATTER UP! OPENING DAYS DRAW NEAR

By Brad Eastland

Opening Day of baseball is fast approaching, it's right around the corner, imminent, close enough to touch....no, not Opening day for Major League Baseball and all those guys who get paid to have fun. Those poor rich folks still have several perjury trials, Congressional Hearings, and drug scandals to sort out between now and April.

No, we're talking Opening Day for Little League Baseball, where fun is free and where the only drugs consumed are the occasional Children's Tylenol tablet when the sniffles come calling.

Two of the best leagues in the whole San Gabriel Valley, the "Sierra Madre Little League" (SMLL) and the "Monrovia Youth Baseball League" (MYBL) throw first pitches on Saturday February 23rd and Saturday March 8th respectively. Make plans to attend.

By way of an interesting coincidence, each league is celebrating 50 years of youth baseball this season.

The SMLL is having their annual raffle fundraiser (only \$2 bucks a ticket!), with winners announced Opening Day. The MYBL's fundraiser this year is in the form of a delicious pancake breakfast. The kids need your support, and will pay you back with that enthusiastic brand of baseball which only young people can provide....

One thing that SMLL and MYBL both have that makes them special leagues is great facilities. SMLL plays most of their games in Sierra Vista Park, at the cozy, friendly confines of Heasley Field, while MYBL features the majority of their action at Barney Glenn Field in Monrovia's Recreation Park. Each venue is well-manicured, well-equipped, and a great place to watch a baseball game.

SMLL has their traditional parade at 8:00 a.m. from Memorial Park to Sierra Vista Park and then there are no less than nine games lined up all throughout Opening day, so get plenty of sleep the night before.

As for Monrovia, one facet of Little League baseball that the MYBL has over SMLL (and over most other leagues in the area, for that matter), is that all MYBL players 11-years-old and older play baseball using major league baseball rules. That means: leading off, stealing of any base, pick-offs, balks, dropped 3rd strike rule is in effect, and pitching from the stretch. Additionally, pitchers throw from 54 feet away (compared to SMLL's approximately 46 feet), and the bases are 70 feet apart rather than 60.

As Monrovia Youth Baseball League Vice-President Miguel Sandoval was quoted as saying recently: "If your son wants to play the real game of baseball, then MYBL is the place to be."



This picture of the Sierra Madre Pony League has become symbolic of the youth who participate in our local programs

Sierra Madre Little League Team Sponsors Are Needed!

Please step up if you can sponsor a team this year. Like last year, we want all 20 SMLL teams to have a sponsor. It's just \$400 and provides good exposure for you and/or your company, via a sponsor banner and an ad in the Red Book. Another \$225 and you own a sign on the Heasley Field outfield fence!

Please contact Carolyn Crowley (355-1937) if you can sponsor a team or identify a good prospect.



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