



# Mountain Views-Observer

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

Week Ending February 15, 2008 Volume 2, No. 6

Part Two In The Series On Candidates for Office In Sierra Madre, April 2008

## On The Ballot: Office Of The City Clerk

On the General Municipal Election ballot in April, Two candidates are running for City Clerk. Among the responsibilities of this office are recording the meeting minutes of the City Council, Financing Authority and Community Redevelopment Agency; advertising legal notices, codifying newly adopted municipal codes, administering oaths, ensuring that city staff and elected and appointed officials comply with State Conflict of Interest and Campaign Reporting Laws, providing notary services, and managing municipal elections.

### Karma Bell: “I Want To Be Your Next City Clerk”



Karma Bell, Challenger

It takes a lot of confidence to challenge a long-term incumbent in any election, much less in the city of Sierra Madre. However, Karma Bell feels that now is the time for change. “I just want to help”, says the challenger to current City Clerk Nancy Schollenberger. “My name is on the ballot because this is my community,” said Bell. A resident of Sierra Madre since 1983, Karma has a long record of community service. In addition to her duties as a wife and mother of three sons, she has served as the President of the Sierra Madre PTA, President of the Sierra Madre Little League and President of the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce. Bell also co-owned “The Buffalo’s Back”, a woman’s clothing store. Bell has used her college education and business experience to provide countless hours of professional service in the corporate, private and non-profit sectors. As a Sierra Madre volunteer she has served on numerous boards and has “an intimate knowledge of our city government.”

Married to JPL project manager, Charlie Bell, together they have raised sons Carston (29) who resides with wife Carrie in Sierra Madre, Steven (26) who plans to marry in October and Erik (21) who is a senior at Dartmouth College. Karma exudes almost as much pride when talking about Sierra Madre as she does when she speaks of the accomplishments of her husband and children. If elected, Bell has committed to restoring the maintenance of all records in City Hall. “I will keep regular business hours and maintain all records at City Hall. I will be your City Clerk at City Hall.” In recent years, there has been significant controversy over whether or not Bell’s opponent, Nancy Schollenberger, has compromised the integrity of the office by not having a presence in City Hall.

Bell is not concerned about the recent changes made by Council. “I am running for City Clerk because Sierra Madre is my home, not because of the stipend.” In her candidate statements, Bell, 54, says, “I believe in service to my community. It would be an honor to serve the citizens of Sierra Madre. I am honest, trustworthy and dependable. As City Clerk, I promise to faithfully execute each and every duty of the office with accuracy, initiative and expertise.”

### Nancy Schollenberger: “I Love My job As City Clerk”



Nancy Schollenberger, Incumbent

Nancy Schollenberger’s candidate’s statement best states her qualifications for retaining her office. “My experience, dedication and devotion to this position, along with quality of work have been exemplary. My enthusiasm to serve the residents in Sierra Madre has never wavered.” First elected in 1984, there have been a few obstacles for Schollenberger to overcome. The first challenge presented itself in 2003 when she asked then City Manager John Gillison and the council to increase the monthly stipend of \$650 by \$350. When the council refused and Gillison assigned many of her duties to city staff, Schollenberger began operating from her home. The second challenge was the most difficult. It was the loss of her husband Herb in 2006 after a lengthy illness. Herb passed away on July 6, 2006. Nancy and Herb have a son, a daughter and two grandchildren. You really get the first insight into who she is when she discusses the difficult period of Herb’s illness and passing away. However, the mention of her children and grandchildren cheers her right up and in true Grandma instinct, out pop the pictures.

Nancy is working hard to retain her office. “I have been clerk for many mayors, including Bart Doyle, Doug Hayes, Rob Stockly, George Maurer and John Buchanan and Enid Joffe. I love Sierra Madre and I love my job as City Clerk,” she said. “I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

When Elaine Aguilar became City Manager in 2007, Nancy requested that her position be taken out of the hands of staff and returned in full to her. In January of this year, Council members John Buchanan, Kurt Zimmerman and Mayor Enid Joffe voted to restore the position to its’ previous state as of February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Nancy has had a secretarial service for over 30 years, and according to her candidate’s statement she, “saved the city thousands of dollars by using my office to conduct city business and type the minutes.”

## 1 Carter/Stonehouse Developer Dorn Platz’s Pasadena Project In Limbo

By Dean Lee

Pasadena Planning Commissioner, Richard McDonald, on Tuesday night gave a brief update on The Ambassador West multi-use development project at the city’s eastern gateway, saying the first of three phases were well underway, although the rest of the project was “stalled” due to a possible pullout by developer Dorn Platz.

“The rest of it is the three-story Mediterranean condominiums at Green and Orange grove, the projects and buildings in the middle of the site and then the project down toward Del Mar and Orange Grove, and are all suspects at this point.” McDonald said. “They are not moving forward.”

He added, “Dorn Platz has pulled out and there are a lot of other issues that need to be rendered in financing.”

Other reports also surfaced Friday in the Pasadena Star News, saying that a \$44 million lawsuit had been filed by a lender against the property. The reports could not be confirmed at press time. (continued on page 3)

## Alfred James Dewey: An Artist in Our Midst

Photos and Story By Lina Johnson



Grove Of Trees

Recently, I walked into the Bank of the West and discovered a serene energy in their interior space. The employees greeted me and asked if they could help me with anything. Edna, the branch manager, went out of her way to answer any questions that she could regarding the artist whose work is displayed on their walls. Upon closer examination, I realized the wondrousness of these artworks. These are not your “run of the mill” art mart prints. These exquisite paintings could be in a museum. They illuminate the Sierra Madre landscape of the 1930’s and remind us that remnants of that beauty are still with us today.

The artist, Alfred James Dewey, was dedicated to bringing (cont. on page 6)

## San Gabriel Valley MTA Board Discuss Massive Service Cuts

Photo and Story By Dean Lee

With a room full of heated bus riders, The Metro San Gabriel Valley Service Sector Governance Council met Monday night in El Monte, to take public input on cutting seven local area bus lines, including the 177 connecting Caltech to JPL and the 256, critical to those living in Altadena.

Metro San Gabriel Valley Service Development Manager, Jon Hillmer, said the cuts were a major change, but necessary to make other lines more productive by streamlining buses and services. He also said in Pasadena they were adding a new Rapid bus service, 260, along Fair Oaks Avenue from Colorado Boulevard to Imperial highway.

Monday night about 50 riders spoke, all opposed to the cuts, most of them focused on line 177 from the Sierra Madre Gold Line Station to JPL. Hillmer said about 400 people take the line daily and of those, most would have access to other lines, although not directly to JPL, so there would be a “time impact,” he said. “This ridership chart



Sierra Madre Councilman Mosca listens to a member of Bus Riders United

indicates the primary demand on this line is, of course, JPL,” he said. “There are a number of other boarding [areas] around Sierra Madre station, PCC, Caltech and Old Town Pasadena.”

Before being cut off by Governance Council Chair, Rosie Vasquez, Sierra Madre councilmember Joe Mosca asked why they did not seek more input on whether local area bus lines such as the ARTS in Pasadena and the B Line in Glendale could pick up some of the proposed lines to be eliminated.

“Why don’t we finish some of the conversations with some of these agencies before we start

recommending that we piece these lines apart?” Mosca asked. “Perhaps there is a way of implementing the changes where there isn’t such a negative impact on the riders.”

Vasquez said that issue could be discussed at their regular meeting, and that the night was set aside to take public comment. As a Governance Council member, Mosca represents both the cities of Pasadena and Sierra Madre.

Pasadena Transportation Manager, Cathi Cole, spoke first during public comment, saying Pasadena was developing around public transit and that they were opposed to eliminating any lines (continued page 4)



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MountainViews-Observer  
THIS WEEK

- 1On The Ballot: Bell & Shollenberger MTA Cuts
- 2Community Calendar Senior Happenings
- 3Rich Johnson: Column 53 Wine and Cuisine 2009 Rose Float Design
- 4Pasadena City Manager Hangn' In The City
- 5SMEAC: Did You Know? Fire Safe Council Reflections: Tom Burris
- 6One Of A Kind: Habitat For Humanity Creative Arts Group
- 7The Science Of Sound PUSD Extreme Learning Teachers Making A Difference Award
- 8Hail: Single Payer Health Care Now! Tolchin: The Great Experiment
- 9Legal Notices
- 10Legal Notices
- 11Looking Up: Icy Adventures
- 12Jeff's Pics Puzzle For You The Bird Is Back
- 13Peter Dills: Table For Two Inside Out
- 14Eastland: The Decline Of. Karlie Bueller LaSalle's Girl's Soccer



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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

The logo for Sierra Madre Books, featuring the text "Sierra Madre Books" inside an oval frame with decorative elements.

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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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 10:30-11:30 AM

Free Consultation with Pasadena attorney Geoffrey Chin- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.





## Column 53

By Rich Johnson

According to my records this is my 53<sup>rd</sup> column. If I sent those computations over to the math department at CalTech for analysis and conclusions, I'm fairly certain they would determine that I have completed approximately one year's worth of columns.

Wow! And no one has tried to stop me. I expected outraged citizen groups to rise up against me. Chase me with fiery torches and pitchforks up into a windmill. And then set fire to it. Nope, didn't happen. I can only surmise one of three possibilities exists: First, nobody reads my column and I am talking to myself here on these pages. Second, people read my column and feel sorry for me. (That's how I get most of my friends). And third, people actually read my column and enjoy it.

If any of you read my column and wonder why I write it, I'll tell you. My goal is to amuse you and, more importantly, try to give you little tidbits of information or humor you can use to amuse others. It can become a cycle. You laugh at something I write and you pass it along, making someone else laugh. And you get the strokes for being funny. And your friends pass it along and so on and so forth. The world is a better place for it. To demonstrate, I'll give you a fun anecdote to pass along. The following is what is called a "press boner", a mistake written down in a newspaper. (Not this one)

It was in an article about bottle-feeding a baby. It read like this: "When the baby is done drinking, it should be unscrewed and placed under a cool tap. If the baby does not thrive on fresh milk, it should be boiled."

Or what about this one on how to survive when lost in the woods. 1. Don't panic. 2. If you are not rescued by nightfall, cover yourself up with leaves and other flora to stay warm. 3. Find a clear, open area where you will be visible from the air. 4. Don't move around. 5. Better still, write to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and ask for their brochure on what to do when lost in the woods.

Update on the Nano Café. As many of you know, the café in the Albertson's shopping center will be changing their name during the summer. They asked the community for suggestions. What a response. 781 people submitted over 550 different name ideas. Suggestions included the Corner Café, Mitch & Linda's (haha), Hastings Café. A lot of people wanted to name it after the owner, Oscar, but he's much too shy. My favorites? Someone suggested the Que Pasta Café (clever) and Todd Conrad, one of our fearless Sierra Madre firefighters submitted "Cyranos - The Burger Rack". All of you well-read intellectual types will figure that one out.

Thank you Sierra Madre for putting up with me a year. *If you want me to tackle a particular perplexing controversy, email me at [rjohnson@mvoobserver.com](mailto:rjohnson@mvoobserver.com). Or come see me at Nano's.*

## RENOWN LOCAL ARTISTS FEATURED AT WINE AND CUISINE TASTING

Some good things just get better! Certainly that is the case with the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library Cuisine and Wine Tasting, set for Friday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm at the Alverno Villa. Chairperson Kellie Strubinski has added a new element to this year's event—fine art. Kellie states "Guests who love fine wines, gourmet foods, and classic elegance are certain to enjoy quality art." That interest will be met this year.

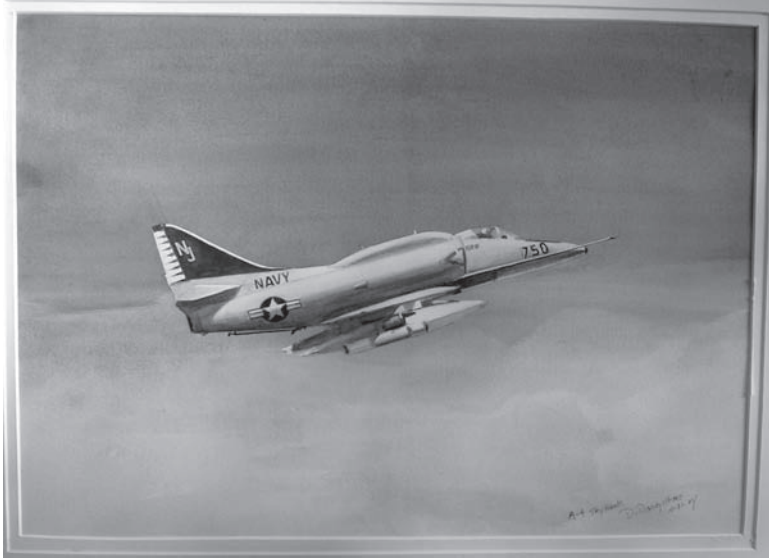
Local artist David Darbyshire will showcase his watercolor 'F4 Skyhawk'. David began drawing lessons in 1943 at age 14 at the 'Old Adobe' on Montecito, and progressed to oil painting at the old bakery on Windsor Lane. During active duty with the USAF, he did some illustrations of airplanes. Retiring from Lockheed Aircraft in 1990, David took up watercolor painting, and now his subjects are landscapes, seascapes, still-life, and aviation. Tim Kummerow is known as a Los Angeles costume graphic designer, artist, painter, and musician. His costume work can be seen in the movies 'Batman and Robin', 'The Phantom', and 'Enemy of the State'. He has created finished costume graphics for live performances and video productions for Madonna and Cirque de Soleil. "Love Gasoline" will be Tim's featured oil painting.

Silent auction opportunities will be expanded to include a woven watercolor by Ginny Liskow titled "

Small World", and Nancy Doyle's colored pencil work "Nambe Indian Girl 1905". John Wortham's image photography titled "Subway Waterfall" from Zion National Park will include a beautiful hand-made wooden frame. The work of these talented artists is familiar through display at The Creative Arts Group, and through their participation in the Friends' Art Fair each May in Memorial Park.

Other enticing items to bid on feature meals at wonderful restaurants such as Ruth's Chris, JJ's Steakhouse, and Restaurant Devon. Tickets from the Los Angeles Dodgers, Pasadena Playhouse, and the Tournament of Roses Association will surely appeal to bidders, as well as intriguing gift items including Lunch with the Mayor, jewelry, and gift baskets. Winners will claim their purchases at the end of the evening.

Tickets for the themed "Celebrate Good Friends" evening are available at these local businesses: Angel's Everywhere, The Bottle Shop, Arnold's Frontier Hardware and Gifts, Savor the Flavor, Sierra Madre Books, and the Sierra Madre Library. Priced at \$60.00, tickets are an incredible value and sell out fast. Advance purchase is encouraged. Tickets are also available by mail at Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, PO Box 334, Sierra Madre, CA 91025.



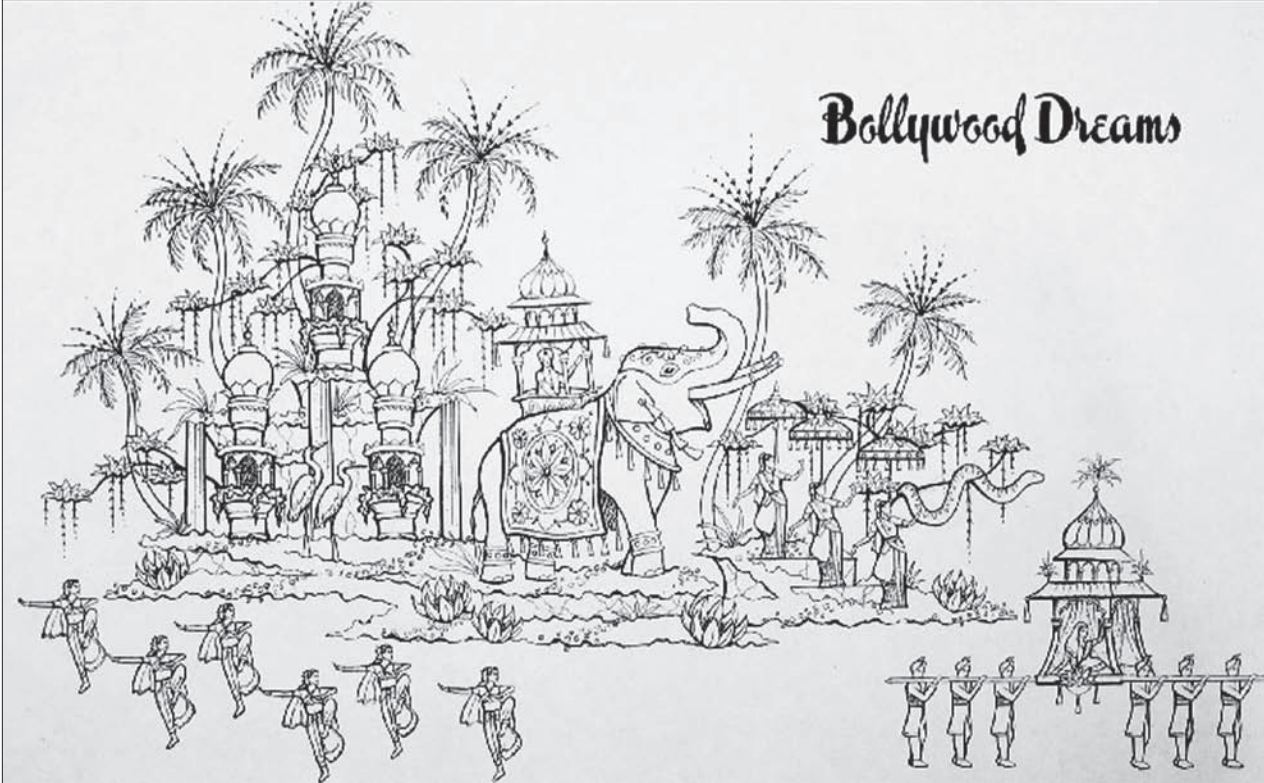
Darbyshire's F4 Skyhawk

## EPIC SILENT ADVENTURE FILM

Grab your cutlass and climb aboard for a night to swashbuckle. The Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society is presenting the sixth in its silent film series, featuring the 1926 "The Black Pirate" starring Douglas Fairbanks. This will be held Sunday, March 2, 6:30 pm, at the Masonic Lodge, 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., in Sierra Madre.

Tickets are \$20 each, with \$15 being tax deductible. For tickets and more information, please call 626-355-3905. Proceeds support the Society's book project - publishing a history of the City of Sierra Madre. Free refreshments will be served.

## 2009 Sierra Madre Rose Float Design Chosen



The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association has announced the winner of the 2009 Sierra Madre Rose Float Design Contest. The 2009 Rose Parade Theme is, "Hat's Off To Entertainment", and entries were developed around that theme.

Bob Young, Greg Murphy, Charles Meier and Dick Sappington represented the Association at the Tournament's 2009 Theme Draft. Dick drew #3 from the fish bowl and we were in excellent position to have our #1 design recommendation approved.

Based on the General Membership and Board votes, "Bollywood Dreams" was presented and accepted by the Tournament. The Tournament's final written approval will be in April and we will proceed immediately with float plan development. We have commenced engine and drive train maintenance already. The SMRFA has had entries in the Rose Parade since 1917. On New Year's Day 2008, the association took home its third consecutive trophy. The Sierra Madre "Valentine's Day" float won the Princess Trophy for "The Most Beautiful Float Under 35' In Length". "Bollywood Dreams" will be one of the tallest and longest floats we have under taken.

The committee extends a special thank you to everyone who submitted designs. For additional information on the Association go to: [www.sierramadrerosefloat.org](http://www.sierramadrerosefloat.org).

## 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](http://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.

## BARGAIN BOOKS TABLE AT SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library Will have a "Bargain Books Table" inside the Library during the Library's public open hours. Featured subjects will include Fiction, Mysteries, Biographies, Children's and specialty books, all in good condition. All books will be sold at the bargain price of \$1.00.

Monday, February 25 – Saturday, March 1, 2008

The Sierra Madre Public Library, located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, is open Monday through Wednesday from Noon to 9 p.m., Thursday and Friday from Noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For further information on programs and services please visit the Library's web site at [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us) or call (626) 355-7186.

These every-other-month book sales sponsored by The Friends help provide funding for Library resources and programs.

### DORN PLATZ (from pg. 1)

Historic preservation and design planner Darrell Cozen said that if Dorn Platz had pulled out, "That's news to me."

"I have been in weekly contact with Dorn Platz and they made no mention of pulling out," he said. "In fact, I talked with them the other day."

Other city staff in the city's Permits Center did confirm Standard Pacific Homes, the builder of a 70 unit, three-story condominium complex on the site, "decided not to go forward."

An assistant to Dorn Platz President, Greg Galletly, referred all calls to Howard Weinberg, a legal consultant who did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Cozen also said the site would have included a number of office spaces and large public open space areas.

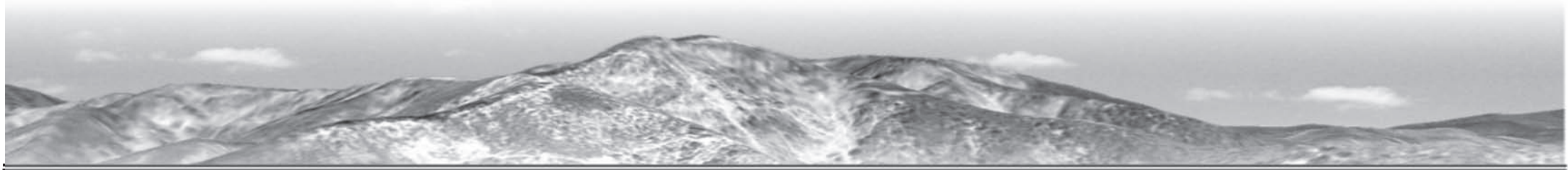
Councilmember Steve Madison said Tuesday, the Sunrise Senior Living complex a six-story, 450,000-square-foot building accommodating 248 senior and assisted living units, would still moving forward in spite of the other difficulties.

"The senior living facilities is a big project," he said.

Dorn Platz has a number of other ongoing project in the San Gabriel area including single-family lots proposed for development at both 1 Carter and Stonehouse Rd. in Sierra Madre, a 24-Hour Fitness Center in Arcadia, and Lincoln Crossing - a mixed-use redevelopment project of 22 acres in Altadena.

The Ambassador West plan is the largest development project in Pasadena's history.





# MountainViews-Observer PASADENA

## Melekian To Apply For City Manager Position

By Dean Lee

Interim City Manager Bernard Melekian said this week he plans to apply for the open position permanently, going through the whole application process just like all the other applicants. Melekian is well known, having been the city's previous police chief for many years.

"Barney, serving as he is, was really a great confluence of a person at a point in his career, very well equipped to do this, and to the need that we have," Councilmember Steve Madison said. "He's, like, one paper short of his Ph.D. and is also finishing serving a long-term career in the Coastguard as a reserve commanding officer."

Melekian is studying public administration / public policy at the University of Southern California, he said.

One resident asked, during Tuesday's District 6 update meeting, "Why look any further?" to which Madison replied, "We owe it to the next city manager."

"For a public administrator, being the city manager of Pasadena is one of the best jobs in the world," he added. "I think even if it does turn out to be Barney, we owe it to the next city manager to go through this process to sort of validate the choice."

Madison said consultant Bob Murray & Associates had been hired

to do a nationwide search for the position. He also said the recruiting efforts would probably start at the end of this month.

"Bob Murray is a former city manager himself," Madison said. "A very well known guy in the world of municipal head hunters, which is the shorthand term for them."

Madison also added that Murray had already met with all of the city council members, getting input on what qualities they wanted to see in candidates.

"I spent an hour with him last Thursday going through, at least, what I see as the important criteria for the permanent city manager," He said.

He also said they stressed the importance of public input, saying there would be at least one meeting devoted to public input, although he hoped for more.

"I hope there will be more than one," he said. "Where the community gets to weigh in and participate."

He then praised former City Manager Cynthia Kurtz who left last month, taking a job at Planning Company Associates, which specializes in land use and transportation programs for major private development projects. Kurtz is now vice president of the sustainable community department at the firm, according to city staff.

A deadline for city manager applications had not been set but will most likely be sometime in



Bernard Melekian

April, Madison said. A final list of candidates is expected to go in front of the council by early summer.

In a statement sent issued by the city last week, recruiting will also include outreach to women and minorities.

Pasadena has a City Manager form of government, Madison said, and the Chief Executive controls the day-to-day operations of 2,300 employees and a \$500 million annual budget, among many other things.

Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard commented last week, "The council and I look forward to meeting candidates of the highest capability and integrity who have extensive background in municipal management. We are advised that this is a highly desired position due to Pasadena's reputation as a renowned community with high-quality city services, a vibrant economy and center of employment, and widely recognized academic and cultural institutions."

## District 6 Meeting Outlines City's Upcoming Priorities

By Dean Lee

Crime, kids and traffic topped the list of city priorities as seen by councilmember Steve Madison Tuesday night during a quarterly District 6 neighborhood meeting.

About 100 residents, most of whom Madison knew by name, came out to the Tournament of Roses Tournament House with questions about their neighborhood and the city at large.

The meeting started with an update from Interim City Manager, Bernard Melekian, on crime.

Melekian said police had caught a burglary suspect in connection with a string of robberies in the "Ritz Carlton" part of Pasadena and San Marino. He then said police were close to catching another robber terrorizing other parts of Pasadena, in which most of the people who attended the meeting lived.

Before Melekian spoke, councilmember Steve Madison told residents that over the last five years major crimes such as assaults, murders, burglaries and rape had actually gone down in Pasadena. Last year he said crime statistics stayed about the same.

"I actually have some of the statistics and it's not very availing [useful], I know, when we're feeling anxiety ridden about safety in your own homes, to throw numbers at you," he said, explaining some of what he thought might be the causes.

"It may be that we have burglaries that are more fearful than others, if that's imaginable," he said. "Like an auto burglary for example, taking something out of a car, would count the same, I suppose, as a really bad break-in where the neighbors are in their home, when someone breaks in to steal things."

Madison said police had told him they had undercover officers patrolling some neighborhoods where they thought the burglar might strike next.

Melekian also said he did not like to throw numbers around when people were scared, saying that the main reason for the fear was that for years, West Pasadena had had the lowest crime rate anywhere in the city.

Melekian said detectives were confident they know who the person is doing the break-ins and were close to making an arrest. He then asked anyone who sees something suspicious to call police. He said Pasadena police receive 350,000 calls a year.

"We want those calls," he said. "Without those calls we have nothing to work with."

He then reminded everyone about how well home alarms work, saying 14 percent of all police calls were responding to home alarms being set off, and that 98 percent of those were false. "That really is a tremendous waste of police resources," he said, adding that some cities have made the alarm companies responsible as first responders.

"It's called verified

response and they have to, either by video surveillance for commercial establishments, or their own private security, respond to those alarms and police only go to those that turn out to be true," he said.

Melekian also said the city would soon have online mapping so that residents can see where crimes take place and how many of them are in the areas in which they live.

Madison later gave an update on the city's Youth Development and Violence Prevention Committee. He reiterated the fact that he opposed the formation of the committee. Instead he said he want to allocate \$500,000 to put police officers in the middle schools as part of Operation Safe Schools.

Currently, police patrol high schools, Madison said. "It's win-win. It's our officers finding out about criminal trends and kids on the edge about making bad decisions. Kids get to then know officers in a more positive light."

He then said although the program was great, if they did not intervene before high school it was too late.

Madison said the youth committee had no staff. He was pushing for funding for that and, even though the city vowed to put up \$50,000 in matching funds, he wanted the other money immediately. He said the city should not wait and allocate the other \$50,000. Pasadena City College had also put up \$10,000 he said, although neither the PUSD nor the state had given anything.

He said it was understandable the PUSD could not because of a budget shortfall. The city was actually being asked to help PUSD with funds, something Madison said he would rather do than adding police.

"In the city of Pasadena we are in the business of providing public safety," he said. "We supervise those officers; we know what those standards are and we have accountability and control to you."

Madison briefly touched on the issue of rising speed limits in the city. He said that if the council had to vote today they would probably agree with the Transportation Advisory Commission saying traffic calming measures should be implemented first before raising the speeds as much as 10 mph in some neighborhoods.

City staff also gave an update, saying public works was currently in the process of changing out all incandescent light bulbs in traffic signals throughout the city. They are being replaced with Light-emitting diodes (LED), which are more cost effective and energy saving, besides being required by law. In the process, the city is also putting in pedestrian countdown timers in many traffic signals. The new signals flash the number of seconds before the light changes, also giving drivers a chance to slow down ahead of time, Madison said.

### MTA CUTS (from pg. 1)

in Pasadena. She also said they wanted to look into the ARTS buses possibly providing expanded services.

Vince Farhat, Chair of Pasadena's Transportation Advisory Commission, said Tuesday that just last week the commission had discussed the MTA cuts, and was looking at whether the city could provide some services, such as running the ARTS buses during the day, thus allowing the MTA to cut 177 midday and weekend services.

Associate Vice President for Facilities at Caltech, Jim Cowell, said that combined, JPL and Caltech employs 8,500 people around the Pasadena area.

"Canceling route 177 would increase the number of drive alone commuters that we would have in the San Gabriel Valley," he said. "Caltech is working with the city of Pasadena to be a green community, where people have sustainable choices and, with this in mind, canceling a bus line is simply going in the wrong direction."

Hillmer said earlier the cuts were part of Metro

Connections, a plan to address a \$71 million shortfall by the MTA, which some said is due to the large costs associated with light rail expansions such as the Gold Line and the new Purple Line. The shortfall accounts for six percent of their annual budget he said.

System wide, Metro Connections is planning to cut 450,000 bus hours, saving them \$34 million over the next three years.

"When the Metro Board of Directors adopted its fare increase, it also directed staff to take a look at the low performing lines for action," Hillmer explained. "System wide there are 20 proposed lines for cancellation; five weekend lines will also be cancelled and eight will be shortened."

He also said staff was directed to look at other "frequent lines" that run every 12 minutes to see if a trip could be removed without overcrowding. He said they concluded that 677 daily trips could be taken out, saving them as much as an additional 216,000 hours, or three percent of the total services provided by MTA.

Many were also concerned about cutting the Altadena/Pasadena line 256 and Glendale's 201. Hillmer said any final decision on cuts would be voted on at a March 17 meeting, also in El Monte.

California open meeting law requires the Governance Council to hear more public comment before making any final vote.

Esperanza Martinez, a Bus Riders Union spokesperson, said most of the cuts are a result of the failure to extend the consent decree, under which the MTA has operated for the last 10 years.

"It's defiantly disheartening and disappointing to see that a few months after the consent decree was not extended by the federal courts in October 2006...

you then have a draconian plan to increase fares and then, a few months, later the Metro Connections," she said. Metro Connections would undo 45 percent of the consent decree she said.

The Bus Riders Union also appealed U.S. District Judge Terry Hatter's 2006 decision not to extend the consent decree, she said. Their next



Caltech

hearing is set for March.

Martinez added that if the ruling were overturned, none of the proposed cuts, by law, would be able to happen.

Part of the consent decree stated that MTA had to maintain a certain number of overall service hours and could not cut hours on one line unless they added more on another. It also ensured there would not be overcrowding by limiting the number of riders that could be standing on any bus at any one time.

## Hangn' Out In Pasadena



KFI radio talk show host Wayne Resnick (left) greeted about 30 listeners last Saturday looking to buy a new mattress at the South Lake Sit 'n Sleep. Resnick proclaims himself, "the smartest, hippest, most cherished weekend host in the history of Los Angeles Radio," He can be heard Saturday's 5 pm - 8 pm on AM 640.



Ingrid Hoffmann, author of "Simply Delicioso" and Food Network star gives a presentation Wednesday at the Pasadena South Lake Ave. Borders bookstore. Her Book, Simply Delicioso: A Collection of Everyday Recipes with a Latin Twist went on sale nationwide Feb. 8.



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# San Marino

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## Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council

### TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown

The second week in February brings us a beautiful, unseasonably sunny and warm winter day and it is hard to remember the fire storms and all the destruction in California of last October and November. That is until you read the newspaper coverage of wildfire in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Drought and Wind. Homes evacuated. Shelter centers set up for the evacuees. "Get your dogs, get in your car, and get out of here!" Homes destroyed, barns, outbuildings, forested lands. South Carolina: 111 fires. North Carolina: 302 fires.

Children playing with fireworks. Arsonists. Improper debris burning. Fallen power lines.

Our next Fire Safe Council meeting will be March 3, 2008 in the City Council chambers. We meet each first Monday of the month throughout 2008 as we expand our program to include multi-hazard preparation. Our next topic will on fuel modification for the homeowner.


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

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



## Thermo-Gel!

**Thermo Gel Fire Protection**  
Can help you save your life, your home  
Uses about 50% LESS water than  
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## Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know? EcoQuiz

**How many gallons of fresh water can the waste from one oil change contaminate?**

The dirty oil could pollute one million gallons of water--A year's supply for at least 50 people, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. More than half of the 600 million gallons of motor oil sold in the U.S. each year is bought by do-it-yourselfers. Every drop of oil spilled on a driveway or in the street ends up washed by rain into the storm-water system. Used oil disposed of in the trash can end up contaminating land and water around landfills.

Recycle all used motor oil from vehicles, boats, farm equipment, and lawnmowers at a local service station, auto parts store, or other authorized recycler. The oil will be reprocessed into fuel oil for commercial heat and electricity. Every two gallons of recycled motor oil can generate enough electricity to power the average home for one day.

Check you vehicle's owner's manual to see the recommended frequency of oil changes. (Sierra Club)

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

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## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

*During the week of Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup> the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 231 calls for service.*

### Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>:

**2:23 AM** – DUI arrest, 3000 block East Foothill Blvd, Pasadena. The officer stopped a car for a traffic violation, straddling traffic lanes. During the investigation the driver, a Pasadena resident was determined to be driving under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

### Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>:

**7:37 PM** – Lost property, 242 West Sierra Madre Blvd. A resident reported he lost his "fanny pack" and wallet while hiking on the Santa Ana River bike trail in Costa Mesa, Ca. The resident wanted to report the loss in the event his identity is stolen. No dollar loss was available.

### Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>:

**3:02 PM** – Vandalism, 141 West Highland Ave. A delivery driver reported his truck was damaged by a rock thrown by one of three boys from the elementary school. Estimated damage \$200.00 for replacement of the truck's window.

### Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>:

**10:40 PM** – Arrest, suspended/revoked driver's license, 700 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. The officer stopped a car for a vehicle code violation. During the investigation a records check revealed the driver, a Pasadena resident was driving on a suspended driver's license. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

### Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>:

**4:40 PM** – Animal complaint, 611 East Sierra Madre Blvd. The officer responded to Sierra Vista Park regarding an animal bite at the dog park. A Monrovia resident was bitten in the leg while attempting to separated her dog from a Sierra Madre resident's dog. The injured person was treated by Sierra Madre Fire Department paramedics and released at the scene.

**7:56 PM** – Vandalism, 110 North Lima Ave. The officer was dispatched to the apartment complex due to a damaged post office box. The damage occurred between Wednesday, 2/06 and today, 2/7. Repair of the damaged mailbox was estimated at \$100.00.

### Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>:

**10:28 PM** – Auto theft, 44 North Baldwin Ave. The officer was dispatched to the 44 North Baldwin Ave regarding a stolen vehicle report. During the officer's investigation, the victim remembered that she parked the vehicle down the street. The car and its owner have been reunited.

### Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>:

**3:16 AM** – DUI arrest, Sierra Madre Blvd and Michillinda Ave. The officer stopped a car for a minor traffic violation. During the investigation the driver, a Sierra Madre resident was determined to be driving under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

**10:28 AM** – Battery, 200 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. A resident reported a male bicyclist wearing a blue racing suite threw water on her as she was driving west bound on Sierra Madre Blvd. Officer's stopped a cyclist matching a possible suspect, but the victim was unable to give a definitive identification.

## Sierra Madre Reflections: Tom Burris

Recently a friend was walking along Sierra Madre Blvd. on a sunny afternoon and noted the bright yellow panels in our foothills reflecting the sun. He remarked about it and it brought to mind a real local hero, Tom Burris.

In the late 1980's following a devastating brush fire, local, county, state and federal engineers, were planning the location of substantial wooden barricades (before k-rails) on hillside streets to divert the mud flows that were sure to follow the first substantial rains. They noted there were several places further up the hillside, notably, the Mt. Wilson trail and some out croppings that were dangerous and sure to be trouble. They said they had neither the manpower nor the wherewithall to deal with those and had to concentrate on possible flows in the close proximity to dwellings.

Tom, a Sierra Madre volunteer firefighter and forest service firefighter, decided to take matters into his hands. He was aware that there were at least a hundred metal mats, I believe they were called Marson Mats that were used during WWII to surface runways on the sands on the islands in the Pacific Theatre that had been declared surplus. They were stored at nearby Army and Navy bases.

Somewhow he arranged to obtain them and with the help of several local young volunteers, hauled them up into the foothills with the help of Ambrose, Zorro, better known as the king of

the Mt Wilson Trail, and the young men, they spent several weeks driving substantial pipes into the out edges of the troubled spots. Then they laced the mats to the post to retain the soil during the storms.

Tom lost his job with the forest service as a result of taking too much time off and later became an electrician. He became well known in the neighborhood for his unusual home he built on Sycamore Place, that he referred to as his 'cave'. It had "lookout penthouse" that overlooked the area. He passed away before completing the house but lived long enough to see that the handy work that he helped create on the hillsides did hold through many storms. To think, here we are over 20 years later and Tom's works are still with us is a real tribute.


It is reported that he died as a result of being subjected to "agent orange" during the Viet Nam War but not before making his mark in Sierra Madre. He is survived by a daughter.

So, if you happen to look up into the hills and spot those ribbons of yellow, think of Tom and his volunteers and the wonderful service they performed to help our city survive some problem mudslides and ugly hillside scars.

George Maurer, Long-time Friend

*Want to share your memories of Sierra Madrean who helped our town?*

*Contact: [mvobserver@aol.com](mailto:mvobserver@aol.com)*



### Don't Forget The 2008 Mount Wilson Trail Race

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

The race, which starts and ends in Kersting Court, is run along the Mt. Wilson Trail to Orchard Camp, which used to serve as the rest point between Sierra Madre and the top of Mt. Wilson. Participants will climb over 2,100 vertical feet along the single-track trail and then come back down again, for a total distance of 8.6 miles.

To help you get started, Coach Eric LeClair and Elite Fitness Bootcamp/TEAM Crossfit will be offering free Saturday morning Trail Training beginning January 19, 2008 and continuing up until the race. Training begins in Kersting Court each Saturday at 7:00 a.m.

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



The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library  
Invite you to "Celebrate Good Friends" at  
**The 38th Wine and Cuisine Tasting**  
Held at the Alverno Villa  
200 North Michillinda Avenue  
Sierra Madre, California  
Ticket Price: \$60.00  
Friday, February 22, 2008 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.





Chris Bertrand

# One Of A Kind: *Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them* Photos and Story By Chris Bertrand Habitat For Humanity Builder's Surplus Store *Great Resource, Great Recycling, Great Fundraising*

I overheard a conversation at dinner a couple of weeks ago, retelling the real “find” a friend purchased at Habitat for Humanity’s Builder’s Surplus Store in Pasadena. She had happily paid the \$100 price for a new high end dishwasher for her home. Of course my ears perked up. I’m always looking for a great deal on quality items for my home. My flooring contractor, Pasadena Wood Floors, had taken some doors and other surplus materials from our own home remodel there last year. Then, at a movie theater later that weekend, an ad for the Pasadena store popped up in the previews for “There Will Be Blood” at the Santa Anita Mall. I just had to see for myself.



Well organized builder's surplus store has a little bit for everyone!



Sinks, sinks and more sinks! Used, vintage and new.

Sometimes brand new items come in, like over 40,000 slightly marred picture frames from a local e-tailer. Instead of discounting them on their site, the frames were donated. This has been a hot seller, and only a few hundred still await new homes at only a dollar apiece. Other benefactor-donors include Home Depot. When their advertising photo shoots are complete, the items are donated to the store, instead of returning them to Home Depot shelves. The store has received out of season items from home center stores.

The entertainment industry regularly checks out the store for set design. Anderson smiles as he mentions that the items often come back after the production, for another cycle of recycle. Warner Brothers Studios recently donated a large collection of crown moldings, including some cherry and mahogany being sold at very attractive prices.

During my visit, a contractor designer, Germaine Burke, who is a regular donor, arrived with a plate glass shower enclosure and a few other items for resale in the store.



Designer, Germaine Burke, a regular donor drops off a plate glass shower surround.

Karen Provine, an artist and designer, holds popular all day classes on Tile Mosaics, decorative paint finishes and decoupage for \$40.

In these days of thinking green, the Habitat for Humanity Builder’s Surplus Store qualifies in two ways, reusing items for a greener planet, and reducing the green flying out of your wallet for your next home improvement project!

**New store/headquarters location urgently needed!**  
**Unfortunately, Habitat just released an urgent request for help in finding a new location. Their facility will be razed soon as part of a Pasadena redevelopment agency project called Heritage Square. Habitat must vacate their Pasadena location by June 30. If you have suggestions for a new San Gabriel Valley location, please contact director**

Sonja Yates at 626-792-3838 x13 or by email to [info@sgvhabitat.org](mailto:info@sgvhabitat.org).  
Habitat for Humanity of the San Gabriel Valley 770 N. Fair Oaks Pasadena, CA 91103 626-792-3838 [www.SGVHabitat.org](http://www.SGVHabitat.org)



## DEWEY (from page 1)

art to the city of Sierra Madre upon his arrival in the 1930’s. He was the founder of the Old Globe Art school in 1936 and the head of the Sierra Madre Arts Guild for twenty years. He designed many award winning Sierra Madre Rose Parade entries. His original residence in Sierra Madre was located on Canyon Crest.

Today the home no longer exists, but he had several studio locations in Sierra Madre. These include: “The Old Adobe”, “The Wisteria Vine Home” and the Studio at 28 Windsor Lane.

Dewey came to Sierra Madre after establishing his career in New York as a newspaper cartoonist, an author and an illustrator. A few of the journals he contributed to were “Life”, “Harpers”, “Judge” and “Williamsport Sun and Grit”. He studied art at the Philadelphia School of Industrial Art and the William Chase School of Art in New York. He also worked as a war poster artist for the U.S. Government during World War I.

The paintings at the Bank of the West have been owned by them since the 1940’s.

There are eight paintings in their collection. Of the eight, I looked closely at five of them. It was amazing to me that these fabulous works are so easily accessible. I wondered if any of the nearby schools had taken walking trips to see Mr. Dewey’s paintings.

There is so much to see and learn from an artist such as this one. His work expresses intensity and love for nature and color. Characterized as a “Plein Aire” painter, Dewey worked outdoors and painted in the Impressionistic style. He experimented in new approaches and methods of painting, in transparent oil using pure pigment on a prepared ground of white without mixing white in the color itself. For this technique, he had to invent his own brushes of rubber and leather.

Alfred James Dewey died in 1958 at the age of 84. The Bank of the West in Sierra is privileged to have his paintings, some of which include “Grove of Trees” painted in 1930, “Ferris Wheel” painted in 1933, “Canyon Scene” painted in 1933, “Trees” painted in 1933 and “Eucalyptus” painted in 1933.

A favorite quote of Dewey’s was the following by James Wadsworth-Longfellow, “Dead, he is not, but departed, for the artist never dies”. In this case the artist is still residing in our town.

## Famous Stories Come To Life At Creative Arts Group



Creative Arts Group is pleased to present two new children’s puppetry classes this winter. Children will make Rudyard Kipling’s story “The Elephant Child” come to life in the first of our children’s puppetry classes. Children will create an elephant whose trunk grows and a snapping crocodile while learning how the elephant got its trunk. In the second workshop, children will make a lady (or man) and a tiger based on the limerick by William Cosmo Monkhouse that starts “There was a young lady of Niger, who smiled as she rode on a tiger...” Instructor Cathy Manzo has taught puppetry for the City of Glendora and was director of the art appreciation program at Cullen elementary school. Working in early childhood education, Manzo has received awards from the Sierra Madre Parent Participation Nursery School and the Glendora Council PTA for her work with children.

The culmination of the 4-week puppetry classes will be a puppet show performed by the students. “How the Elephant Got Its Trunk begins February 22, and “The Tiger and the Lady” class begins March 21. For more information call the CAG office at 626-355-8350 or stop by at 108 N. Baldwin Ave, Sierra Madre.

## Special Theatrical Tribute To Black History Month

Monrovia, CA - If you want to see a dramatic musical comedy in celebration of Black History month, then come see “**For Whom The Bell Toll**” theatrical tribute on **Sunday, February 24 @ 4:00pm** at the Duarte Performing Arts Center, 1401 North Highland Avenue in Duarte. **ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY!**

“For Whom the Bell Toll” is a great opportunity for all families to celebrate and learn more about black history. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for seniors and children and \$25 for VIP seating.

SET for LIFE is a nonprofit organization providing education and training resource to low income seniors 50+.

Get you tickets now. Call (626) 358-1944 to reserve your tickets. Ticket can also be purchase on line at [www.setforlifefornews.org](http://www.setforlifefornews.org) or email [pat@setforlifefornews.org](mailto:pat@setforlifefornews.org)

## TRAVELERS AND COLLECTORS” PROGRAM TO FEATURE NORTHERN INDIA

Presenter Marion Gasper will explore the northern regions of India, often called “The Soul of India,” exotic land of the Maharajas, home of the magnificent Taj Mahal, Jaipur, the beautiful “Pink City,” and Delhi, city of astonishing contrasts. This event is free and open to the public. The “Travelers and Collectors” series is held on the second Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m., October through May. Sponsored by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library. For more information, call (626) 355-7186.

Friday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m.  
The Sierra Madre City Hall Chambers, located at 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, 91024



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

## Blair Students Learn The Science Of Sound

Photo and Story By Teresa Baxter

Last Tuesday Blair Magnet School hosted Pasadena POPS Maestra Rachael Worby, along with a selection of horns on hand to demonstrate and apply the concept of science translating to the sound of music. Several Pasadena schools are taking part in the program that unites scientific reasoning behind the process of creating music.

Focused on middle schools in the Pasadena and Los Angeles School Districts, *Science of Sound* serves as a means for students to discover and create music with the guidance of teaching artists committed to the physics of sound and music performance.

"Rachael's a world-class lady and we're honored and privileged to have the opportunity to work with her," said Blair Principal Rich Boccia. "The fact that she's able to expose these kids to things they may have never had the chance to see, touch or feel is pretty exciting."

Worby introduces participants to a variety of instruments by bringing diverse ensembles into each school on a quarterly basis. Special guest and composer Double G incorporated unique arrangements of Dr. Dre and classical composer Johann Sebastian Bach, with a bit of blues thrown in to teach students the principles of layering sound to complete his compositions.

"Specifically today I wrote arrangements based on Bach as well as a couple of jazz songs," said Double G. "There's also a New Orleans piece, along with the influence of Miles Davis."

According to Worby the Pasadena Unified School District program is one of the most intensive music education series visited on public school campuses by any arts organizations around the country.

"We really take up residency in the school," she said. "Because the project marries science and music, two disciplines which are desperately in need of support in public school systems nationwide. The whole essence of understanding the mystery of how music is made and uncovering that mystery for young people is a fantastic thing."

The culmination of the completed academic year will feature two family night concerts, to be announced, at which time the POPS orchestra conducted by Worby will present a spectacular finale of Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony with the students performing "Ode to Joy" on homemade instruments.



*"Too often people tell children to hang onto their dreams. But dreaming is not enough. You can only keep a dream alive with extremely hard work."* -Rachael Worby

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## PUSD Approves Extreme Learning Plan

By Teresa Baxter

The Governing Board of the Pasadena Unified School District, under the guidance of President Esteban Lizardo, decided to table an agenda item that would have authorized \$7.5 million to be put towards the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds intended to update an antiquated communications system on school campuses. In a time when budget of the State of California is under intense scrutiny the school district has seemingly decided to curtail spending at this time and put forth an effort to focus on strategies with a more direct and local impact regarding students.

Part of the meeting focused on John Muir High School's reinvention plan and progress expressed by Muir's principal, Sheryl Orange and the district's Communications Director, Binti Harvey.

Titled "Success for every Student by Name", Muir asked hundreds of students to participate in a computer-based career interest survey to select academy themes which will indicate eight potential choices in their proposed career academy development plan.

"Our plan is easy to understand and has accessible information with frequent, ongoing communication," said Harvey. "We have multiple communication methods involving community engagement in decision making."

The results of the student survey expressed interest in arts, media and entertainment; business and entrepreneurship; education and family services; engineering and environmental science; health sciences; information technology; and law with a focus on public services.

In a separate presentation the Board agreed to approve a \$448,000 contract between Pasadena LEARNs, the Pasadena Unified School District and Extreme Learning to provide a targeted intervention math program at Eliot, Washington and Wilson IB middle schools.

Extreme Learning will supply instructional tutors who are trained to deliver the program of instruction and enrichment. The program will also take on all administrative tasks, including working with the schools to contact and inform parents about student progress. Extreme Learning will also provide individually targeted multi-media instruction on laptop computers which the student will keep upon successful completion of the program.

## 2008 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street on April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> and is a Free Entrance to the public. Attendance at the 2007 Festival was over 16,000.

To nominate a teacher go online to [www.cherryblossomfestivalsocal.org](http://www.cherryblossomfestivalsocal.org) to download the form.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.goodenschool.org)

### LaSalle High School

3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 351-8951  
Principal: Patrick Bonacci  
website: [www.lasallehs.org](http://www.lasallehs.org)

### Norma Coombs Alternative School

2600 Paloma St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
(626) 798-0759  
Principal: Dr. Vanessa Watkins  
E-mail address: [watkins12@pusd.us](mailto:watkins12@pusd.us)

### Odyssey Charter School

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

### Pasadena High School

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

### Pasadena Unified School District

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

### St. Rita Catholic School

322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-9028  
Principal: Joanne Harabedian  
website: [www.st-rita.org](http://www.st-rita.org)

### Sierra Madre Elementary School

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

### Sierra Madre Middle School

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

### Weizmann Day School

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

### Wilson Middle School

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

### Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave.  
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The regular cat adoption fee is \$65 which includes the spay or neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations, and a free follow-up health check at a participating vet.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A225911 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are Sunday 11-3, 9-4 on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at [www.phsspca.org](http://www.phsspca.org).

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### ALVERNO'S ANNUAL Black and White Ball

Saturday, March 8, 2008 5:00 p.m.

Elegance and sophistication are the setting for the "Black and White Ball" hosted by the Alverno Parents' Association.

Tickets: \$95 each, or \$850 table of 10.  
Contact Wendy Finchat (626) 355-3463 x227 or  
[wfinch@alverno-hs.org](mailto:wfinch@alverno-hs.org).

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# MountainViews-Observer

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**MountainViews-Observer**

#### Mission Statement

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

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



**Member**



## Why The Time Has Come For Single Payer Health Insurance

by Hail Hamilton

My parents never had to worry about whether they could afford doctor's visits and hospital stays. They also didn't have to worry about whether my brother and I got the health care we needed. My father's health insurance from his job paid for everything.

The practice of work-related health insurance began as a way for employers to get around the wage controls of the Second World War. The idea worked then, providing companies a way to attract the best workers in a time of labor shortage. In the 1950's company-paid health and dental insurance became a cherished benefit that guaranteed the loyalty of a company's employees. It was a sign of prestige for an employer to afford its employees health insurance. It also was much cheaper then.

Today, though, corporations find providing health insurance for their employees too costly. Since 2000, health-insurance premiums have risen 87 percent. The average employer-based premium for a family is more than \$11,000 (more than a minimum-wage worker can earn in a year). Faced with such exorbitant premiums, employers have felt the pressure to switch to plans with high deductibles for their employees or to eliminate health plans entirely. They also have had to cut jobs.

Some large companies have cut benefits but still find their costs so high they cannot compete in today's global economy. Their very existence is in danger. For example, Ford Motor Co. carries insurance on 570,000 people, including past employees and current employees and their dependents, spending \$3.5 billion last year. Those costs add \$1,200 to every vehicle they produce, creating a serious disadvantage in competing with companies in countries with a national health-insurance plan. Beyond any doubt, high insurance costs hurt American industry.

Small businesses that offer their employees health insurance also suffer. Some businesses face 50 percent premium increases yearly. In order to cover exorbitant health-insurance expenditures, they often cut staff in order to keep the business running. Cutting staff, though, means more responsibility and more stress for the remaining workers. Small businesses that do not offer insurance have a profit advantage over those that do, but because of the disadvantages around hiring and retaining reliable, good workers, they too want to fix our broken health-care system. More importantly, the money spent on health insurance is money not spent on growth, innovation, or higher wages.

Currently, the U.S. health care system is outrageously expensive, yet inadequate. Despite spending more than twice as much as the rest of the industrialized nations (\$7,129 per capita), the United States performs poorly in comparison on major health indicators such as life expectancy, infant mortality and immunization rates. Moreover, the other advanced nations provide comprehensive coverage to their entire populations, while the U.S. leaves 46 million completely uninsured

and millions more inadequately covered.

The reason we spend more and get less than the rest of the world is because we have a patchwork system of for-profit payers and HMOs. Private insurers and HMOs necessarily waste health dollars on things that have nothing to do with care: overhead, underwriting, billing, sales and marketing departments as well as huge profits and exorbitant executive pay. Doctors and hospitals must maintain costly administrative staffs to deal with the bureaucracy. Combined, this needless administration consumes one-third (31 percent) of Americans' health dollars.

Single-payer national health insurance is a system in which a single public or quasi-public agency organizes health financing, but delivery of care remains largely private. Single-payer financing is the only way to recapture this wasted money. The potential savings on paperwork, more than \$350 billion per year, are enough to provide comprehensive coverage to everyone without paying any more than we already do.

A single-payer system will benefit business in general because: (1) the risk of illness will be spread across the whole population; (2) the plan will contain and stabilize costs because of economy of size; and (3) it eliminate the waste generated by the for-profit system while providing health care for everyone. As a result, costs for employers would drop dramatically and benefits would improve. Those lower costs would go into profits, profits that could be used for capital improvements or adding more employees or improving salaries.

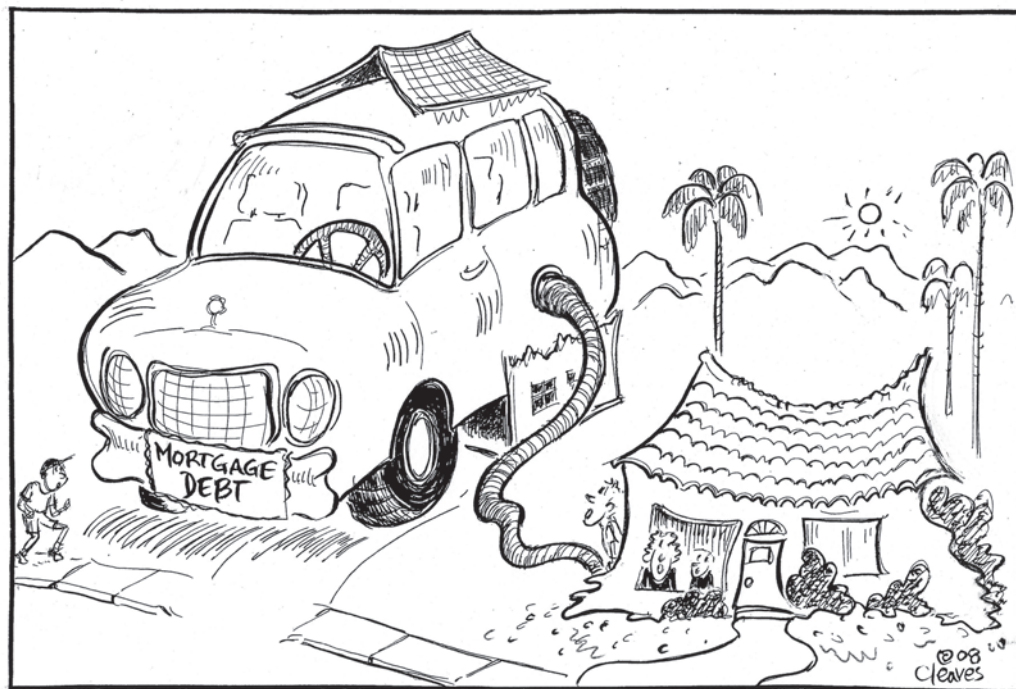
With everyone insured, business could expect healthier employees, higher productivity, less absenteeism, and lower employee turnover. United States business could once again be competitive.

Under a single-payer system, all Americans would be covered for all medically necessary services, including: doctor, hospital, long-term care, mental health, dental, vision, prescription drug and medical supply costs. Patients would regain free choice of doctor and hospital, and doctors would regain autonomy over patient care. Physicians would be paid fee-for-service according to a negotiated formulary or receive salary from a hospital. Hospitals would receive a global budget for operating expenses. Health facilities and expensive equipment purchases would be managed by regional health planning boards.

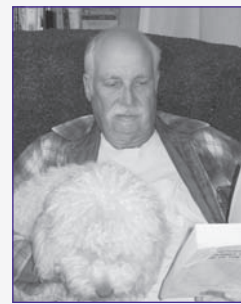
Finally, a single-payer health insurance system does not require an enormous tax increase. Despite what opponents say, a single-pay system it would be financed by eliminating private insurers and recapturing their administrative waste. Modest new taxes would replace premiums and out-of-pocket payments currently paid by individuals and business. Costs would be controlled through negotiated fees, global budgeting and bulk purchasing. Most importantly, no money would exchange hand and everyone would have access to good health care.

## Letter To The Editor

Your opinion was a statement on the current trend in our society that art and entertainment have replaced religion and morality for values. Most of the public prefers speaking in cliches and what they heard in ads rather than employing original thought. Recently a mature woman replied to me with 'as if 'I asked her if that represented her adult response, apparently, sadly, it did. Jesse Hathaway, Sierra Madre



## Stuart Tolchin On...LIFE



## THE GREAT EXPERIMENT

I'm a great believer in the adage "You can tell what you want by what you do". Actually, I don't know if it's an adage because I've never actually heard anyone say it; nevertheless, it's something I firmly believe and I don't believe I made it up myself. At the same time, I like to think that my thoughts have something to do with my actions and today I'm going to put it to the test.

I would, I think, very much like to play a round of golf without cheating- without taking any extra shots. I have been playing golf for close to twenty years and most of the time I play by myself. Almost every time I tell myself today's the day -I'm going to count every shot and not replay anything and not move the ball to a more favorable position and I'm going to keep track of the score. Time to for a new beginning; it's freezing cold and windy and there shouldn't be very many people on the course- what do I have to lose?

Okay, it is now a week later and I have played three 9 hole rounds and have indeed followed my intention to the letter. I have played each round with one ball only, something that I have never previously accomplished, and have recorded every stroke. So what has it been like? Well, with not wish to disrespect, it has been, I imagine, much like the crucifixion as experienced by Jesus - filled with pain, anguish, loss, and doubt. Why, oh Lord, am I doing this to myself? When playing with other golfers it is pretty easy to stick to the rules of proper golf etiquette because of the implied disapproval of the other players - you just don't hit more than one ball - but nevertheless, in every round I have previously played I believe I have illegally replayed wayward shots and not taken penalties - after all, who really cares about the score? Those were the days.

Alas, the last three rounds have been different. I played with only one ball. I followed it everywhere and did not move it to improve my lie. I concentrated so much on following the ball that I lost my favorite club on one round and my cell phone on another. Worse still I was forced to fight temptation on every stroke and every miss- hit and missed putt and to accept and make a record of my ineptitude.

Horror of horrors I was forced to accept the consequences of my own misdeeds - no do- overs. Perhaps you are familiar with the Milan Kundera novel, "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" or with the subsequent wonderful Daniel Day-Lewis movie of the same name. The novel bemoans the fate of a man doomed to accept the random and bizarre and unfair occurrences surrounding as his one and only life - there's nothing to be done about it - just accept it and do the best you can and in the end you know it probably will not turn out well.

Okay, that's my insight: without others watching and disapproving it is up to each individual to internally somehow strengthen him or herself to conform to his or her v own intention. Maybe that's why the concept of sin is so appetizing - if God is watching we have a reason to follow the rules. Even if it is only the laws of the land enforced by a camera or a hidden traffic cop - if we get caught breaking the rules they will punish us. But what if we break the rules and don't get in trouble - then we really got away with something - no wonder forbidden fruit is always such a popular taste- treat.

Yes, now I know. I guess, playing golf alone and following the rules even though no one else cares may be a metaphor and training ground for life. Each shot counts - you only get one chance and you cannot escape the pain of bad shots landing in the trees or some other inhospitable location- you just have to go hunting through the weeds, do your best to find the ball and hit the next shot -otherwise you must penalize yourself. Must I be my own tormentor?

Well that' all there is - what can I do now? Concentrate on my next shot. Learn from my past mistakes but don't dwell on them. There will always be another round to play. Except given all this pain, do I really want to keep playing? Insight-maybe the reason I didn't keep score before is that I didn't want to suffer the consequences of my actions. I just wanted to count my good shots and feel good about myself. Is that bad?

There's something awfully familiar about this - it's like drugs and alcohol and movies and roller coasters and cyber games and even disguises - Forget who I am and create a false world with limited consequences. Fool myself and feel safe - who can blame me? Or, to put it another way- I HAVE ONLY MYSELF TO BLAME. A familiar message! Anyway, maybe I'll see you at the first tee-or maybe not. Perhaps I'll just play by myself and not keep score and just practice my shots After all, it just my life! S.Tolchin@mvobserver.com

#### Sierra Madre's April Ballot

**City Council Races:**  
John Buchanan, Incumbent  
Enid Joffe, Incumbent  
Mary Ann McGillivray  
Kevin Paschall  
Bill Tice

**City Clerk:**  
Nancy Schollenberger, Incumbent  
Karma Bell

**City Treasurer**  
George Enyedi  
Salvatore Tesoro, III

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Measure U User Utility Tax  
Measure UA UUT Advisory











# Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

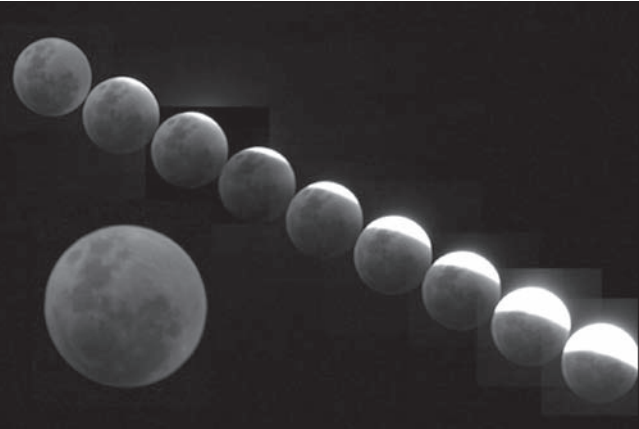


Photo by Aaron Dominquez

## Icy Adventures And A Lunar Eclipse (Not To Be Missed)

RESEARCHERS ARE TESTING a NASA-funded robotic probe under ice here on Earth to demonstrate whether the probe's systems can operate in a similar environment on Jupiter's moon Europa. Testing took place Feb. 12–15 in Lake Mendota on the campus of the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The “Environmentally Non-Disturbing Under-Ice Robotic Antarctic Explorer,” as it is called, is a \$2.3 million project funded by NASA's Astrobiology Science and Technology for Exploring Planets Program. The probe is an autonomous underwater vehicle designed to swim untethered under ice, creating three-dimensional maps of underwater environments. The probe also will collect data on conditions in those environments and take samples of microbial life. Researchers then plan to ship the probe to a permanently frozen lake in Antarctica for operations later this year. Science teams are developing and testing the technology for a possible underwater exploration mission on Europa far in the future.



THE ABOVE NEWS ITEM brought back a flood of fond memories of a winter I spent as a student at the University of Wisconsin, living only a block or two from the ice-bound shore of that same Lake Mendota. The ice that year was deep and smooth, and I felt no fear in exploring it on skates, by day or night. By tying two broomsticks together and attaching a bedsheet, I improvised a sail that enabled me to “sail-skate” at surprising

speeds even in a moderate breeze.

One night I decided to take a ten o'clock break from my studies and go out on the ice alone. It was a clear moonless night, the ice was bright and beautiful under the starlight and, leaning into the breeze with my sail, I headed far out toward the middle of the lake. Suddenly there appeared the most magnificent sight I had ever seen: streamers of white light radiating out in every direction from a spot in the sky directly overhead. I lay down on the ice to see the sky better, and for many minutes I lay there, oblivious to the sub-freezing cold, simply awestruck by my first-ever sight of the aurora borealis, or “Northern Lights.”

SPEAKING OF BEAUTIFUL SIGHTS, A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON is a rare occurrence, not to be missed—and you have a chance to see one this coming Wednesday, February 20. On that evening, the moon's orbit will take it directly through the shadow cast in space by Planet Earth. What you will see first is the full moon, rising in the northeast at 5:30 p.m., followed by sunset at 5:41. Two minutes later, at 5:43, the moon will enter the shadow, which will appear as a dark notch in the moon's lower edge. The shadow will move gradually across the whole face of the moon, entirely covering it by 7:00 p.m.. At 7:26 the moon will reach the center of the shadow, and at 7:51 the emergence of a bright edge will show that the moon is beginning to come out of the shadow. Finally, at 9:09 p.m., it will be entirely free of shadow and back to its pristine brilliance.

How bright the full moon,  
Coming out of her eclipse--  
Unhurt by shadow

Here are two projects you might want to try:

- 1) Before the eclipse, ask your children to tell their teacher about the eclipse. The teacher may want to make observing the eclipse (and perhaps writing a poem about the experience) a class assignment.
- 2) Write your own Haiku about what you've seen and send it to me at the e-mail address below for publication in a future “Looking Up” column.

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

(Haiku poem is from the book FIRST STAR I SEE TONIGHT - Copyrighted by Robert L. Eklund.)

## Ken Libbrecht Speaks On The Physics of Snowflakes Altadena Library - Sunday February 24

**Ken Libbrecht**, a physicist at Caltech and a former solar researcher at the Mount Wilson Observatory, will speak to MWOA at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 24, on “The Physics of Snowflakes.” Dr. Libbrecht has studied and photographed snowflakes for many years and is the author of five popular books on the subject in addition to a 2008 snowflake calendar. These books can be viewed and purchased at Amazon.com or purchased from the Caltech Bookstore or Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena. This event is free of charge, and all are welcome. As usual, there will be light refreshments served before the lecture, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The Altadena Public Library is located at 600 E. Mariposa Street in Altadena. The lecture is in the library's Community Room.

## LEGAL NOTICES (cont.)

State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing:

01/24; 01/31; 02/07 and 02/15, 2008 030808

**030809DS** File No. **20080091364** **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:

**EPIC DETAIL**

1901 E. Amar Rd #15  
West Covina, CA 91792.

Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Epifanio Zamora 1901 E. Amar Rd #15 West Covina, CA 91792. The business is conducted as; A CORPORATION. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Jan 16, 2008. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing:

01/24; 01/31; 02/07 and 02/15, 2008 030809DS

**030810M** File No. **20080100518** **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:

**B & K MGMT.**

10623 Pangborn Ave  
Downey, CA 90241.

Full name of registrant (s) is (are) B & K MGMT. 10623 Pangborn Ave Downey, CA 90241. The business is conducted as; A CORPORATION. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Jan 16, 2008. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business

and Profession Code) First filing:

01/24; 01/31; 02/07 and 02/15, 2008

**030810M**

**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

## It's Just BUSINESS

## Profits Flintridge Foundation Expands

By La Quetta M. Shamblee

Flintridge Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of the **Flintridge Operating Foundation**, the new umbrella organization under which it will offer direct service programs to benefit the communities of Northwest Pasadena and Altadena, CA. This new structure will pursue the same mission as the Flintridge Foundation and will enable us to better address the needs of under-served children, youth, their families, and the community in which they live, work, and go to school. We will be able to sustain what we are currently doing and broaden the scope of future programming and support.

There will be no changes to our current services, and we do not expect constituents to notice any differences or experience any inconvenience related to the new organizational structure. The Community Services and Northwest ECHO programs will both be sponsored by the new Flintridge Operating Foundation.

Since 1993, the Community Services program has helped build the capacity of local nonprofit organizations serving children and families. The program provides technical assistance and training to encourage organizational development, enhanced leadership capacity and responsible organizational management and stewardship. The Philanthropy Resource Library's extensive holdings cover all aspects of nonprofit management, fundraising and board development, and include Foundation Center databases and other funding research tools. Community Services staff is available to provide assistance.

The Northwest ECHO program offers customized support to strengthen 23 community- and faith-based organizations that are fostering positive youth development and alternatives to gang involvement. The program is partially supported by a federal Communities Empowering Youth grant from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

Flintridge Operating Foundation will cultivate new resources to support enhanced programs and services and to bring new funding sources into the community that would not typically be invested here. Flintridge's policy will be to make sure that our fundraising efforts do not compete with constituent grantseeking activities, but rather expand opportunities for local organizations.

Flintridge Operating Foundation will have its own website in the future. In the meantime, information about programs and services will continue to be hosted at [www.FlintridgeFoundation.org](http://www.FlintridgeFoundation.org).

All of us at Flintridge Operating Foundation look forward to continuing to work with you to serve the needs of children and youth in our community. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

626-449-0839, Karen Gerst, Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships, ext.124, [Karen@FlintridgeFoundation.org](mailto:Karen@FlintridgeFoundation.org) or Jaylene Moseley, President, ext. 11, [Jaylene@FlintridgeFoundation.org](mailto:Jaylene@FlintridgeFoundation.org).

### CITY OF SIERRA MADRE CALIFORNIA Invites applications for

**Sierra Madre Police Department POLICE SERGEANT I**

**\$4,248.42 - \$5,450.20 CalPERS 3% @ 55**

**Application Deadline: 4:00 p.m. Thursday, March 13, 2008**

Position: The City of Sierra Madre is seeking an experienced and committed police professional who possesses outstanding leadership, organizational and interpersonal skills to serve the Sierra Madre community. Under general supervision the Police Sergeant is responsible for supervision, assignments, and reviews subordinates work; enforces rules, regulations, policies and general orders; advises and assists in patrol, detective, juvenile, and desk/supervisory operations. Performs complex and responsible law enforcement supervision and planning.

#### Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree in public administration or a related field. A minimum of 10 years of police experience with at least 2 years as a Corporal/Agent or above is desirable. Strong writing skills, the ability to foster good working relationships, and to motivate and develop others are essential qualities.

#### License or Certification Requirements

- Valid Class-C California driver's license
- Requires a POST Advanced certificate. A POST-approved supervisory course is required within one year of appointment to position.

#### Salary and Benefits

- Salary range: \$4,248.42 - \$5,190.67 per month. Salary will be negotiated based on qualifications.
- Up to \$630 per month for health, dental, and vision insurance for employee and family; plus 25% of the cost in excess of \$630/month.
- \$50,000 A D & D and life insurance policies & PERS level II survivor benefit is provided.
- PERS retirement – City participates in the CalPERS retirement system. City pays full employee share and counts toward final retirement compensation. No participation in social security. 3% @ 55
- Annual paid leave of 88 vacation hours (for first four years), 11 paid holidays, and 96 hours of sick leave with a wellness bonus program.
- Uniform allowance: \$700 annually.
- 3/12 work schedule
- Flexible spending accounts for medical and child-care expenses.
- \$5,000 signing bonus, \$2,500 payable upon appointment, and \$2,500 after passing 18 month probationary period.

#### Application Process

**Application deadline: Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.** Candidates should send a completed application and current resume to Miguel Hernandez, Personnel Analyst, Sierra Madre City Hall, 232 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre CA 91024. Applications can also be faxed to (626) 355-2251.

Applications must be completed and demonstrate that the minimum qualifications are met. All statements made on

the application are subject to investigation and verification. Resumes may be attached to completed application forms as supplemental information, but will not be accepted in lieu of an official application form. The most qualified candidates will be selected to participate in an interview process, followed by a practical test for the successful candidates. All candidates who meet the minimum qualifications will remain candidates until a final offer is accepted by the candidate who most closely meets the requirements of the City. The City may conclude that none of the candidates, even those who meet the minimum qualifications, are appropriate for the position.

#### The successful outside candidate must pass:

- Background investigation; and
- Pre-employment medical exam, including a physical agility and a drug/alcohol screening; and
- Psychological screening; and
- Polygraph; and
- Reference and background verification, including a credit screening.
- References will not be contacted until a mutual interest has been established.

#### **Please attach POST certification to application.**

Immigration and Reform Act of 1986

In compliance with the Immigration and Reform Act of 1986, all new employees must demonstrate eligibility to legally work in the United States by providing required documentation.

#### Equal Opportunity Employer

The City does not make employment decisions based on sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status or physical handicap, except when such qualifications are appropriate occupational qualifications.

#### Employment Standards

Employment with the City of Sierra Madre is contingent upon meeting the medical standards of the position. A candidate must pass a pre-employment physical examination, including a drug/alcohol screening and a reference and background check. The City of Sierra Madre makes reasonable accommodations for disabled persons, considering each situation on an individual basis. Please make direct requests for accommodation to Community & Personnel Services. The provisions of this job announcement do not constitute an expressed or implied contract. Any provision contained in this job announcement may be modified or revoked without notice.

#### Questions

Questions may be directed to Miguel Hernandez at (626) 355-7135 or at [mhernandez@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us](mailto:mhernandez@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us).

Applicants may wish to visit the City's official website – [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com) – for further information.

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

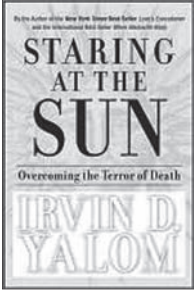
[www.mvobserver.com](http://www.mvobserver.com)



# Jeff's Pics

## The Book Reports

By Jeff Brown



**Staring at the Sun: Overcoming the Terror of Death** by Dr. Irvin Yalom (2008)  
Death is an inevitability. There is an old French proverb which states that there are two things we can't stare at, the sun and death. In this book, he is suggesting that we take a direct look at death because, if we do that directly, there is a great benefit from it. Not only can it diminish our anxiety about it, it may also change the way we live. He writes that staring at death often inspires us to change our priorities, to trivialize the trivia, to communicate more compassionately and effectively with loved ones, and to appreciate more powerfully the beauty and value of life. Not a new idea - many philosophers and religions have discussed this. Death is 'out of sight' for most of us - people die in the hospital, cemeteries generally are removed from urban areas. The More unlive life we have, the more anxiety about death. Everything does turn to ashes, but because things vanish, they are even more beautiful, and thus imbued with a sense of poignancy and vibrancy.

### Healing Back Pain: The Mind-Body Connection

by John E. Sarno M.D. (1991)

A masterpiece in the field, *Healing Back Pain* promises elimination of back pain without drugs or surgery. It could have been called Understanding TMS Pain. According to the author, TMS (Tension Myositis Syndrome) is the major cause of pain in the back, neck, shoulders, limbs and buttocks and it is caused not by structural abnormalities or real injury but by the mind's attempt to repress or deny some emotions. He's not saying that your pain is all in your head, but that conflicts going on in your mind may result in a physical disorder affecting muscles, tendons, nerves and ligaments. An injury may have triggered the disorder, but is not the cause of the amount, length or intensity of the pain. The mind tricks you into not facing repressed emotion by making you focus on pain in the body, which can then become chronic. When this realization really sinks in, the trick doesn't work any more, and there's no need for the pain. Many pages discuss why conventional methods don't work and you begin to see that the view that there is really something wrong "back there" is incorrect! He has successfully treated 1000's of patients. And, of course, always consult a physician for chronic or acute back pain and do not self-diagnose.

### Are You Ready to Be Awakened?

Oprah Winfrey's new book club selection was announced recently.

Eckhart Tolle's "A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose" (perhaps the most important book of the 21<sup>st</sup> century so far)  
For the first time ever, you can join Oprah and best-selling author Eckhart Tolle as they teach "A New Earth" in Oprah's worldwide classroom, live, Monday nights on Oprah.com. Find out what you need for the first class, Monday night, March 3, at 9/8c. Reserve your place now for this free Web event, only on [www.oprah.com/newearth](http://www.oprah.com/newearth).

Book pics are available at Sierra Madre Books (836-3200)  
Email recommendations or comments to [jeffspics1@gmail.com](mailto:jeffspics1@gmail.com)

## Scene One - Take One DVD Review



**In the Shadow of the Moon(2007)**  
A beautiful deeply moving documentary with fantastic footage about the history and glory of Apollo missions to the moon in the 60's and 70's with the backdrop of social turmoil of Vietnam and the student protests. Included are many interviews with the astronauts, those pioneers who became heroes. A wonderful tribute and one of the best ever done.

**Paris, Je T'aime (2007)**  
A wonderful collection of 18 innovative five-minute short stories about Paris which brings the city to life. Various writers, some of the best directors and actors lend their personal vision to the project, which include a variety of styles and subject matter. Some great, some average, all interesting . A love letter to Paris with some great shots of the city and some tales of the seamier side of Paris also. Some of the actors include Gérard Depardieu,Wes Craven, Gus Van Sant, Marianne Faithfull, Ethan Coen, Joel Coen, , Gena Rowlands , Steve Buscemi, Juliette Binoche, Maggie Gyllenhaal plus others. With subtitles



**Gone Baby Gone (2007)**  
Set in Boston it is a neighborhood crime thriller about a missing 4 year old child. Casey Affleck is a detective who reluctantly takes the case when hired by the mother and Morgan Freeman as a policeman. The investigation because more dangerous, riskier and more involved than first imagined. This is Ben Affleck's directorial debut, adapted from the Dennis Lehane novel who also wrote Mystic River. Also starring Ed Harris and Amy Ryan who is nominated for an Oscar. Very well done! On a number of best film lists of 2007.

## 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](http://www.sierramadreplayhouse) 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***  
***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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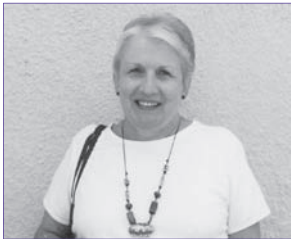
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## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

### Crunch Time...

When I became keenly interested in the hibernation patterns of a grasshopper that had attached itself to a plant on my patio table, I realized that perhaps it was time to get-back-in-the-saddle-again and resume this wee column of mine.

In January I decided to take some time off. The pressure of having to crank out a column every week coupled with my anxiety about my son's impending surgeries brought about my decision. Time to myself... Wow, now what do I do? I decided to reacquaint myself with my orphaned back yard. Nothing strenuous at first-- I began by plucking some dead leaves from a little potted plant. The "dead" leaves moved! I realized that I had tried plucking a hideously ugly grasshopper. (Apologies to entomologist, Steven Kutcher). It frightened and grossed me out at the same time, and I'm sure it wasn't exactly the highlight of the grasshopper's day. I didn't try to kill it because well, they aren't easy to do away with. The next best thing was to ignore it and hope that it found greener pastures in one of my neighbor's yards. Okay, so I'm not exactly in contention for "Neighbor of the Year."

No such luck, the next day and the day after that, and the day after that... there it was. By now I realized that perhaps this little armored, tobacco spitting, plant devouring and, did I mention ugly creature, might be tucking-in for the "harsh" California winter. So much for Aesop's Fable, this guy was prepared.

I have found the insect version of the Hummer vehicle an interesting study and am almost embarrassed to admit that during the rain storms I moved "Jiminy" under the protection of my patio awning so that it wouldn't get wet. This, from a person who is terrified of grasshoppers, praying mantis and the like.(I'm sure that when my son reads that line he will be calling to see if Britney Spears' vacated psych- ward room is available.)

Well, when spring has sprung, I'm sure my little nature study will be off raising his or her family and devouring all of the plants within a five block radius. That is, unless my gardener sees it first. Jay will give new meaning to "crunch time."

## Potpourri

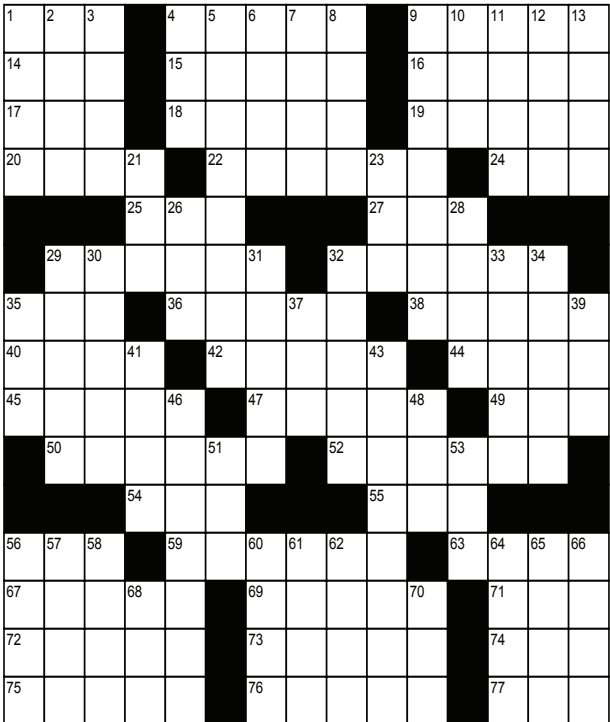
### Words You Ought To Know

#### ACROSS

- 1 And so forth
- 4 A Hindu's red dot
- 9 Reddish dye
- 14 Expression of surprise
- 15 Bye
- 16 Sandwich cookies brand
- 17 Strike sharply
- 18 Moustache's partner
- 19 Desires
- 20 Diet
- 22 Elicit
- 24 Cozy room
- 25 Pock
- 27 Cheerio
- 29 Tiny round cap
- 32 Scandinavian nation
- 35 Writing tool
- 36 Type of peace prize
- 38 Pranks
- 40 Ditto
- 42 Taboos
- 44 "Calciums" antacid brand
- 45 Drink noisily
- 47 Recently
- 49 Crow's cry
- 50 Frothy
- 52 Sifted
- 54 Caustic substance
- 55 Pressure unit
- 56 American Cancer Society (abbr.)
- 59 Short nap
- 63 Allot (with "out")
- 67 Acidic (2 wds.)
- 69 Flowers
- 71 Volume (abbr.)
- 72 Snobs
- 73 Pull\_\_ (sweaters)
- 74 Airport abbr.
- 75 Soap operas
- 76 Pledge
- 77 Not (refix)

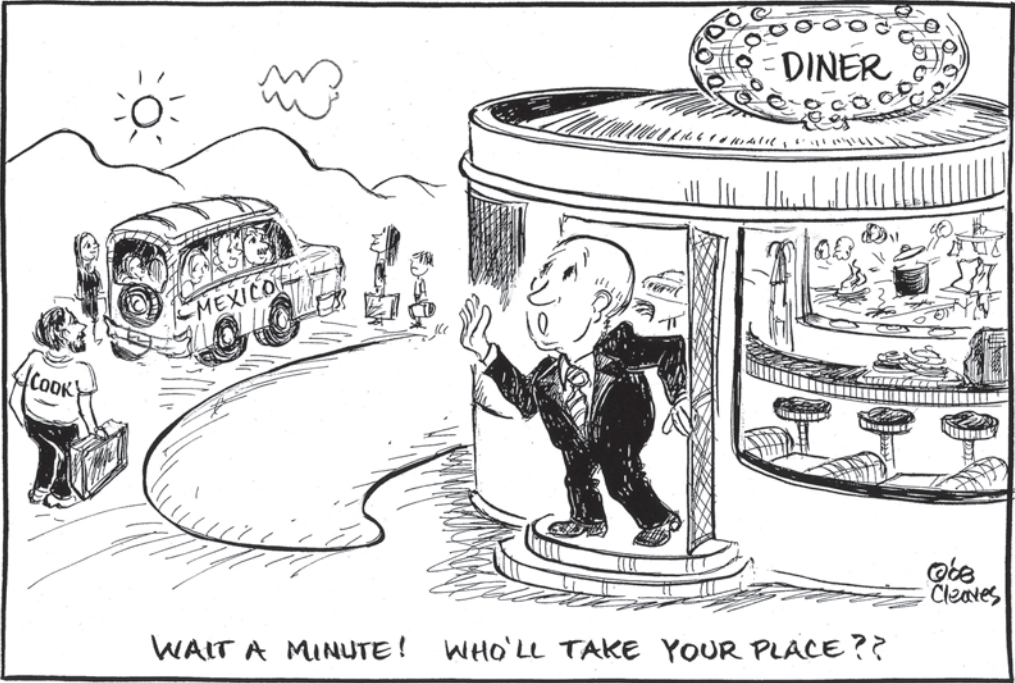
#### DOWN

- 1 Duke
- 2 Tai
- 3 Captain (abbr.)
- 4 Charges
- 5 Imagination
- 6 Fibber
- 7 Air (prefix)
- 8 Antelope
- 9 Sweetened with honey
- 10 Before, poetically
- 11 Lack
- 12 Connection
- 13 Association (abbr.)
- 21 Government agency
- 23 Compass point
- 26 Lodge
- 28 Blue-pencil
- 29 Stomach
- 30 Result
- 31 Type of wood
- 32 Reduces speed
- 33 Deduce



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

- 34 Gypsy
- 35 Old-fashioned Fathers
- 37 Vane direction
- 39 Compass point
- 41 Spoken
- 43 Night shoes
- 46 Excites
- 48 Aye
- 51 Beverage
- 53 Verve
- 56 Brews
- 57 Pop
- 58 Gulp
- 60 Ride horseback
- 61 De \_\_ (anew)
- 62 Afloat
- 64 Flat
- 65 Dorothy's dog
- 66 Ardor
- 68 School group
- 70 Supersonic transport



The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library  
Invite you to "Celebrate Good Friends" at  
**The 38th Wine and Cuisine Tasting**  
Held at the Alverno Villa  
200 North Michillinda Avenue  
Sierra Madre, California  
Ticket Price: \$60.00  
Friday, February 22, 2008 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.





# TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

## Second Time Around

Kabuki Japanese Restaurant is now sprouting out in four states. Kabuki is a family restaurant that seems to be serving the masses and pleasing many a visitor. When I broke my rules and visited their new location in Old Pasadena before their paint was even dry on the walls, I found that the Sushi was just O.K. But, in fairness to the restaurant, it wasn't close to being ready for a review. I know that many of you feel, if they are charging full pop, that indeed they are ready.

A few months back some friends wanted Sushi, so we visited the Kabuki in Hastings Ranch. We sat at the Sushi bar, and while the experience was pleasant enough, I just found that the sushi itself is pretty mainstream and the drinks were weak and watery. Okay, Thursday Nights my daughter and I go out to eat... I mean every Thursday Night. So we nixed our mainstays, Mijares, Islands, Panda and Ranchero for something different. Kabuki was it. I decided to shy away from the drinks and only order a Shrimp Tempura Roll as an appetizer (\$7.95). This would eliminate my complaints. My daughter ordered the Chicken teriyaki (10.95) and enjoyed it. My meal was the dinner deluxe combo (\$16.95) and, I must say, the presentation was very nice. Chicken Teriyaki, Beef Ribs, Shrimp and a vegetable tempura. Would this be the meal that makes me into a Kabuki believer?

Sorry friends. I can see a Peter Dills recommendation for a family or a group of friends enjoying a meal here when the group interaction is the main focus. It's not bad, it's just not above average, and heck, my expectations weren't that high to begin with. There are better Sushi joints in the area if food is more important. Gin Sushi on Colorado near Rosemead, and Japon Bistro on Colorado near Lake are two that come to mind.

★★★ 2 weak Stars  
Kabuki, 3539 E. Foothill Blvd Pasadena—(626) 351-8963

**Newsworthy Notes:** Come say hi to me at The Friends of the Library Wine and Food Event at Alverno High School. Friday Night February 21...

E mail me at [thechefknows@yahoo.com](mailto:thechefknows@yahoo.com)



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## From the Inside Out

An Ongoing Series of Personal Points of View on Health

By Mary Carney

### Who Ya' Gonna Call and How?

You're bopping along the freeway, groovin' to the music, and you see an accident? Or it's 3 am and your nearest and dearest is having a health crisis? Or maybe it's you? Or your child? Or grandchild? Or you're babysitting and, oh no! the child you're responsible for did something while you went to the bathroom and you need help yesterday, let along now?

Who ya' gonna call? 911, right? Um ... maybe not. Huh???

One of Sierra Madre's best kept secrets is that there's some ham radio folks living in town - a few of whom decided years ago it would be worthwhile linking up and occasionally working with our police and fire folks so that, if there's a really BIG emergency, our professionals know they have us to help them with communications during that time. As a community based group, it also makes sense to be recognized by the LA County Disaster Communications Service (DCS), so our Sierra Madre Emergency Communications Team (SMECT) group's members are already known to be reliable and trustworthy by public safety officials outside our town's borders.

About a year ago, DCS, which has been quietly operating under the auspices of the LA County Sheriff's Department, was finally recognized as a critical resource by the 'homeland security' folks. Since then DCS has been shaken up and is being re-energized and re-organized from top to bottom. After all, "the key" to smooth disaster management is communications, and as long as Ham operators have battery power, and the weather conditions are right, they can communicate (for only the price of their personally owned equipment) around the world - the country - the county - the city - although in some Sierra Madre areas it's just as challenging as it is for cell - after all, we have the Canyon and the mountains are a lot closer!

Anyway, four times a year DCS now offers disaster management training to hams. One of the classes I took this past Saturday was on "Reporting Emergencies". As a Ham, that's my purpose, right? Well, turns out there are lots of ways to report emergencies to the county coordination center ... and I got my mind blown. Why? The little statistic that, if you use your cell phone to call 911 (in spite of all the nice articles in the papers) the average wait time for someone to answer your 911 call in LA County is 27 (yes, twenty-seven) minutes.

Why? Cell phones and all the good-hearted folks who want to help when there's trouble. Not to mention the fact that, of the calls actually answered, 49 percent of them aren't life-and-death emergencies ... "what time is it?" "how can I get to x location" "I lost my glasses" ... emergencies to the person calling,

but not the life-and-death issues that 911 is for.

So, back to paragraph #1 ... Who ya' gonna call? Maybe it should be, How ya' gonna call?

For example: In Sierra Madre, all our 911 calls are routed to the Verdugo station in La Crescenta, answered in the order in which they are received, processed and then passed right back here to our own Police / Fire dispatcher. Hands down, if you're in Sierra Madre, the fastest way to reach someone who can help is Direct Dialing 355-1414.

Ah, but ... you don't work in Sierra Madre, do you? You work in - oh, Pasadena? Los Angeles? Thousand Oaks? Ontario? San Dimas? Program those police / fire department direct phone numbers into all your programmable phones. Post them beside your non-programmable phones. Even though I'm not a regular cell phone user, even I've heard of ICE - In Case of Emergency - for your nearest and dearest (ICE1, ICE2, etc.).

Help me out, here - ([mcarney@mvoobserver.com](mailto:mcarney@mvoobserver.com)). What "key" can we all use - world wide - for direct dialing our local public safety officials. Emergencies ... an "E"? might work, (except for all those folks whose dearests' names all begin with 'E'). Maybe we should all use "Z"? It's the last letter, and needing to call for life-and-death help is the last thing any of us ever hopes we have to do. May disasters stay far away from us all!

For example: E1 / Z1 = Sierra Madre's 355-1414. E2 = City in which you work. E3 - city in which your kids go to school, E4 - cities you drive through to get to work or school ... etc.

Side note: In a regional emergency, communications triage rules. Trust me - cell-dialed calls are answered last. Your old princess landline phone will be infinitely faster - and works even if the electricity is out. Nationwide, Priority Number One (# 1) is the old, ugly and rapidly vanishing payphone. Save our few payphones in Sierra Madre! Those, and the few hams in town whose power supplies / battery packs still operate may be your only communication choices if "the big one" hits, towers go down and electricity goes out.

If you want to meet some SMECT folks, check our online calendar (search SMECT). On some Third Tuesdays we meet for dinner at 6 pm in the back of "Only Place", with a 7:15 pm planning meeting. Planning? Yes - soon we'll be planning our next community service exercise in support of the Wistaria Festival. Following that, it will be the Mt. Wilson Trail Race, the Fourth of July Parade, and the Pumpkin Patch when we provide additional eyes, ears and communications "just in case." If you're a ham and would like to join us in our activations, drop me a note at [m.carney@mvoobserver.com](mailto:m.carney@mvoobserver.com).

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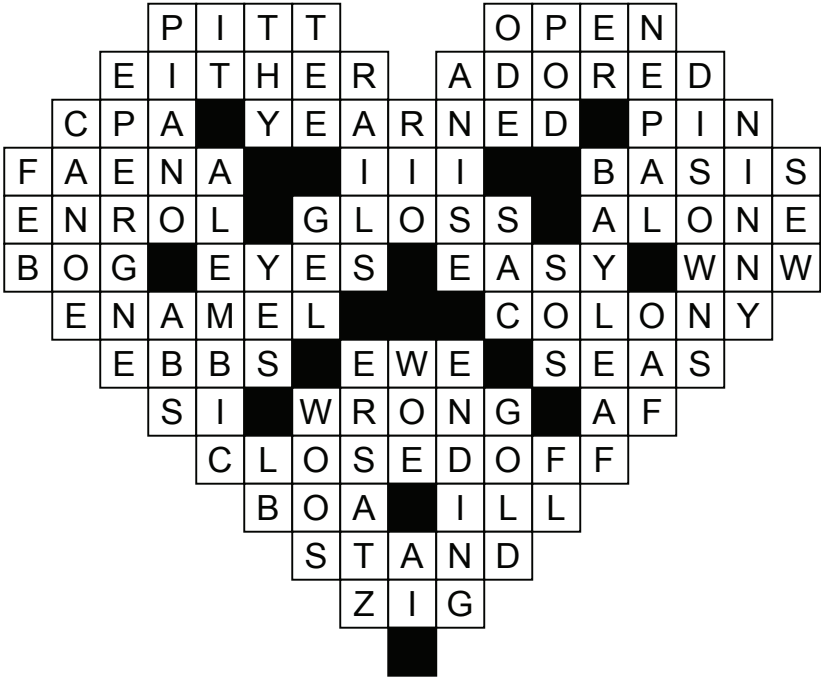
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# SPORTS

## Back Page Journal



### The Decline And Fall Of.... Take Your Pick

By Brad Eastland, Sports Editor

Have you ever wondered why pro Sports were better when we were kids?

And no, it's not because we were kids. Don't go there. I'm saying that the actual quality of each of the individual professional sports has positively, definitely, definitively, declined. It's not just a gut feeling, it's a provable, quantifiable fact. Let's take a look:

Baseball is the greatest sport, but it was certainly better a generation or two ago than it is now. The reasons are almost too numerous to choose from, but I'll try: No Designated Hitter back then. No artificial surfaces back then. No multi-year contracts back then to discourage productivity. No irritating drug scandals back then. A home run meant something back then. No Bud \*Selig back then. And no free agency back then. Because of free agency players wind up moving around too much, so a kid has a hard time feeling good about his favorite team because it gets blown apart all the time. And when his favorite player deserts his favorite team, it's doubly devastating. When Sammy Sosa left the Cubs, my son Rob dumped both Sammy and the Cubs. If Willie Mays or Bobby Bonds had left the Giants voluntarily in the late 60s, I would have been similarly devastated.

Why did baseball let all these things happen? Yes, that is the question, as the ancient bard once mused....

Football was certainly better back in the day. Quarterbacks called their own plays, there were fewer commercial time-outs, and the great teams like the Raiders, Dolphins, Steelers, Cowboys and 49-ers kept their core rosters virtually intact for years. And because they stayed together, each of these dynasties had a distinct personality. The Raiders were always the non-conformists, right? The Steelers were always mean, the Dolphins were coldly efficient, the Cowboys were Hollywood, and the Niners were slick, dashing and flamboyant. Right? (And wide receivers didn't treat scoring a touchdown as if it were an opportunity to audition for Chippendale's.)

Basketball was so much better twenty years ago it isn't even funny. It was a cool, athletic, up-and-down-the-floor game. Remember the "Showtime" Lakers? Truly exciting stuff. There was a fast-break every once in awhile. They called traveling once in awhile. There were great rivalries. And teams stayed together. It's hard to watch a pro basketball game in the 21st century.

Horse Racing has taken the biggest hit. Obviously attendance is way down due to year-round racing, off-track betting, at-home wagering, etc. But it is the deterioration of the product itself that really bothers me. Horses just aren't as good now as they were then. A "Grade Two Stakes" field now is often no better than a "Classified Allowance" field was back in the 70s. And speaking of the 70s, any of the "big five" champions of that decade---Secretariat, Forego, Seattle Slew, Affirmed, and Spectacular Bid---would crush anything on four feet since. You'd think that in the last 30 years they would have bred one lousy horse in the class of those five, but no. Quick, who is the best horse in training right now? Bet'cha can't come up with a name, huh?

So I wrote all this down, and then I got to thinking. In addition to Sports, 'ever wonder why almost every other important field of Human Endeavor was better when we were kids? It's true.

There really shouldn't even be a debate about this, when you think about it.

Take politics. Forget Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, and Hamilton. Even as recently as last century we had the great Teddy Roosevelt, his fab cousin Franklin, the underrated Truman, the affability of Ike, the charisma of JFK. And now? George W. Bush. And nobody else even good enough to beat him for re-election, when the mediocre cat was already clean out of the proverbial bag. So sad. (Personally I'm not very political. My disdain for Dubya is not a Democrat vs. Republican thing. I'm neither. I just don't like dopes. And Dubya is a dope.)

Take music. Obviously it's not even fair to bring up Beethoven, Bach, and Mozart. That's too easy. Let's just take rock-'n-roll: certainly the Beatles, Stones, Animals, Buffalo Springfield, Eagles, and the Moody Blues are all far, far superior, more melodious, and in general easier to listen to than 97% of the heavy metal, grunge, new age, and Rap music that has polluted audio waves ever since. (Rap is not music, but it makes my argument stronger if we pretend it is, so let's pretend.)

Take literature. Back in the day, serious writers were the rock stars of their era. Hemingway's and Fitzgerald's and Capote's personal lives were fashionable grist for the mill of the paparazzi. Why? Because they were not only the best writers, they were, justly and deservedly, the most successful writers as well. So naturally people cared about them. It made sense! But nowadays, the most successful writers are pulp hacks and "romance" writers, who aren't really writers at all. Not serious ones. Yet they are the "successful" ones.

Air quality is worse, water is worse, service in stores and shops and restaurants is worse, manners are worse, movies aren't nearly as good, no movie stars today have even close to the power and persona of a Gable a Tracy a Cooper a Bogie or a Cary Grant, milk tasted much better in bottles than it does in cartons, crime is more rampant, drugs are more prevalent, disease is on the rise, health care is on the wane and is disturbingly less personal, cell phones don't work, nobody stays married, the stock market sucks, we're always in a recession, confidence is down, worldwide morale is low, they haven't washed your windows at gas stations since the 60s, and when you really need one you can never, ever, get a good parking space.

So I ask you---is there possibly a parallel link between the decline in sports and the decline and free-fall of the general performance of the entire Human Race??? Why is this happening, my friends? Why? Why?

Sorry. I don't have all the answers today. Sometimes life is all about asking the right questions and stirring up the pot.

It just doesn't seem like it could all be a coincidence....does it?

## SOFTBALL SPOTLIGHT...KARLIE BULLER

By Brad Eastland

Karlie Buller didn't just become a softball player by accident. Nor did she merely fall into it like most kids, just looking for something interesting to do. She was more or less destined to play ball.

In fact, you might say she was literally bred to play.

Y'see, Karlie's grandfather, Gary Sutherland, was a ballplayer. And not just a good solid meant-and-potatoes cut of a ballplayer, but a Major League ballplayer. Sutherland, a 2nd baseman---currently employed as a Special Assistant to the G.M. for the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim---played 13 years in the majors for seven teams, perhaps his most noteworthy accomplishment being that he scored the very first run in Montreal Expos history way back in 1969. He also recorded the first-ever putout in a regular season Major League game held in Canada, when he snagged a 1st-inning line drive by Hall-of-Famer Lou Brock on April 14th of that same year. "Papa Gary taught me all about baseball and to love the game," Karlie states proudly.

As for Karlie herself, she's getting set to embark upon her seventh year in the Sierra Madre Girls Softball Association (SMGSA) next month. And she loves it.

"I like hitting and running the best---I really like to slide!" says Karlie, 13, an 8th-grader at Barnhart School in Arcadia. "Pitching and fielding? Not as much."

A perennial All-Star, Karlie was one of 24 girls selected to the All-Star team last year out of over 90 girls in the 12U (12-and-under) Division. This year she moves up to the 16U Division, where most of the girls will be older and bigger than her. She's only 5-feet-2.

"We heard about SMGSA when Karlie was only about six years old," says Teri Buller, Karlie's mom. The Bullers are long-time Monrovia residents (Karlie's father Todd is a local General Contractor), and they were very much in the market for another sport for Karlie. Teri explains: "Larry Hom (Player's Agent for the league) came to Barnhart one day to recruit. And we'd heard good things about SMGSA. Karlie had just given up on soccer, and we wanted her to stay in sports. So we chose softball."

Though pitcher has been her main position, Karlie hopes to be playing more 2nd base and outfield going forward.



Karlie and Mom at Heasley Field (above). She winds up and lets one go (below)



A decent hitter, she usually bats 1st or 2nd in the line-up, because she is also willing and disciplined enough to take bases on balls when the situation calls for it.

Perhaps Karlie's best SMGSA memory comes from last season: "I was on the Rockin' Ribbets in 2007, we were in last place, and the B-52s were undefeated when we played them. I was pitching. We were up by two runs in the last inning and I got the side out one-two-three and we won! All fastballs."

Those same B-52s won the 12U Championship last year, and that was one of only two games they lost.

When asked where she wants to go to high school next year, this mature, straight-A student didn't hesitate: "I want to go to La Salle!" she exclaimed, "And after that, maybe USC!"

One more thing: Karlie is in the process of giving something back to SMGSA. She has always wanted to lend her knowledge and experience to the younger girls coming up the ranks, so she has arranged to help coach an 8U team this year. Age 13, and already a coach.

Papa Gary will no doubt be as proud of her as she has always been of him....

## La Salle's Girls Soccer First Round Victory Photos By John Blackstock



Senior Alexa Weigand (No.13, Captain) left, scored both goals in La Salle's CIF first round win vs. Lompoc High School. La Salle won in a shoot-out 3-2. Alexa (below) in her unassisted shot from the corner as she "bent it like Beckham" and the ball went untouched into the net in the first half of play.





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