

Mountain Views-Observer

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST - Sierra Madre Arcadia Pasadena Altadena and Monrovia Special Edition April 28, 2008 Volume 2, No. 15

Fire Burns In Sierra Madre 500 Acres Burned - Homes Threatened - Evacuations Necessary



The Sierra Madre Fire Department received help from numerous agencies including the Federal and State department of forestry, all area fire and police departments, Sierra Madre Search and Rescue and the Sierra Madre Ham Operators.



Residents (top) thank the many police and firefighters who joined forces with our own SMFD. County, federal and state agencies also provided air support for water drops and phoscheck drops.

Council Declares State Of Emergency

Mayor Kurt Zimmerman, in one of his first official acts as mayor, called an emergency meeting of the city council Saturday evening, shortly after a wildfire began in the Canyons above Sierra Madre. The council unanimously declared a local state of emergency just after midnight as mandatory evacuations were just starting for all homes above Carter from Oak Crest Drive to Mountain Trail and all homes above Grandview from Mountain Trail at Santa Anita.

Present at the midnight meeting along with the mayor, were council members Buchanan, Mosca and Watts. Mary Ann Macgillivray arrived after the vote was taken. MacGillivray lives in the evacuation area. The exact number of residences in the evacuation zone was not immediately known, said Elisa Weaver, the city's Public Information Officer although local Red Cross volunteers said they expected about 1,000 people being displaced.

City Manger Elaine Aguilar gave the council a quick overview saying the fire broke out at 3 p.m. Saturday near Chantry Flats Road in the city of Sierra Madre. The fire did not start in Arcadia as many news reports had earlier claimed. Aguilar informed the council that a state of emergency was the first step in the disaster process that would allow outside agencies and resources to come into the city and help fight the fire.

"A declaration of emergency is necessary to carryout the protection of persons and property within the city," Aguilar said. "In addition the declaration of this emergency gives us the necessary powers to protect citizens' property, preserve municipal government and assure mutual disaster aid to the appropriate local, state, and federal agencies."

She said the fire had been burning in a westerly direction and at the time of the council's decision and was just above Skyline Drive. She added that evacuations became mandatory at 10 p.m. However, at 12:30 a.m. there were less than five people at the Hart Senior Park House

which became a Red Cross Shelter. The Congregational Church across the street was also set up to allow evacuees to spend the night. Aguilar also acts as director emergency operations.

She said with federal aid large trailers could be coming into town. Weaver said firefighters could be fighting the blaze two to three days. At the time she said in was zero contained and had burned about 250 acres. She said about 100 firefighters were on hand Saturday from the local Forest Service and cities as far away Burbank. The Pasadena Humane Society was also on hand. Shelter workers said animal control officers were there to take care of any animals that evacuees brought with them in an effort to discourage residents from sleeping in their cars with their pets.



Local and national news outlets received regular briefings from the city's Public Information Officer, Elisa Weaver.



Swift action by the Director of Emergency Services (City Manager) Elaine Aguilar and the council, facilitated cooperating agencies bringing in manpower and other resources to Sierra Madre. At the midnight meeting are, l to r: Aguilar, Buchanan, Zimmerman, Watts and Mosca.



The fire, which started Saturday afternoon and was still burning at press time, is believed to have started in the vicinity of Chantry Flat. The mountains above the city, once green and alive, have been burned out. No lives were lost nor homes destroyed reported at press time.

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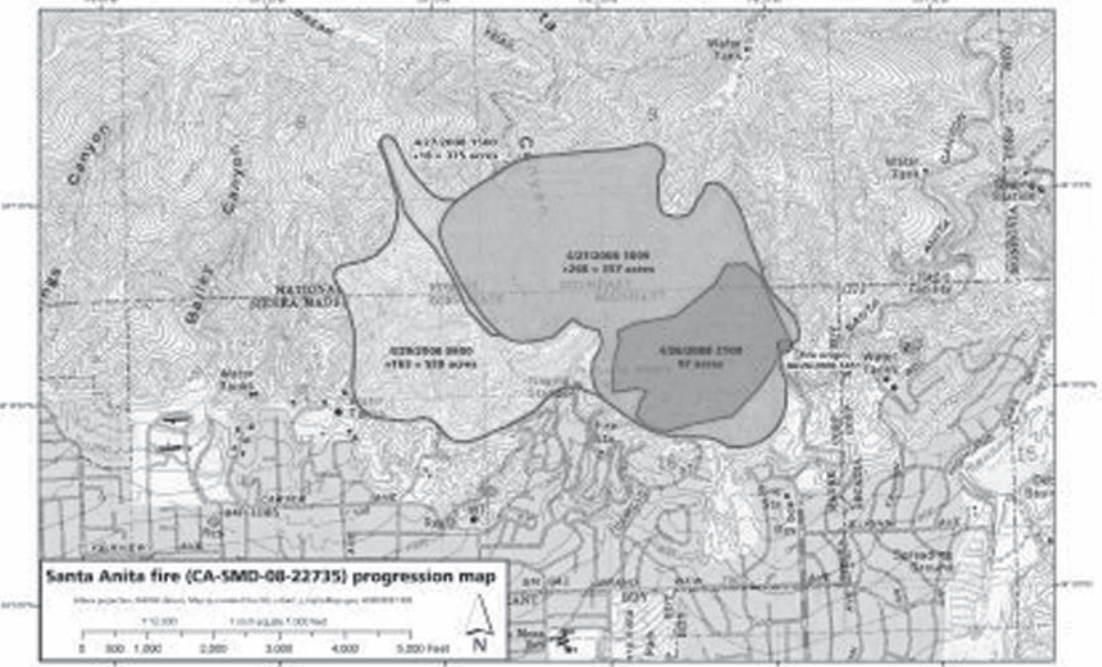
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Sierra Madre/Santa Anita Fire as of Monday, April 27, 2008

Basic Information	
Incident Type	Wildland Fire
Cause	Under Investigation
Date of Origin	04/26/2008 at 1500 hrs.
Location	City of Sierra Madre and Angeles National Forest (Los Angeles County)
Incident Commander	Dave Fiorella
Current Situation	
Total Personnel	699
Size	538 acres
Percent Contained	21%
Fuels Involved	Brush, chaparral and light timber.
Fire Behavior	Fire behavior included active upslope runs, and slow spread to the southwest
(see fire progression map).	
Significant Events	Evacuation boundary was extended west to Michillinda Avenue in Sierra Madre. As of 8:00 p.m. Monday April 28, evacuations will be lifted for homes east of Baldwin Avenue.

Fire Progression Map



From The South Coast Air Quality Management District:

Unhealthful Air Quality Forecast Due to Sierra Madre Wildfire

Smoke from the Sierra Madre wildfire burning in the San Gabriel Valley area of Los Angeles County is forecast to create unhealthy air quality today in the eastern San Gabriel Valley area of Los Angeles County.

All individuals are urged to exercise caution and avoid unnecessary outdoor activities in the smoke-impacted area and areas that can see and smell smoke.

Wildfires generate smoke containing fine particulates known as PM10 and PM2.5. Concentrations of fine particulates may reach the Unhealthy-Sensitive or higher level in the smoke impacted areas.

What to Do When Air Pollution Reaches Unhealthy Levels

In areas with UNHEALTHY-SENSITIVE air quality, sensitive or susceptible persons, such as those with heart or lung disease, should minimize outdoor activity.

In areas with UNHEALTHY air quality, everyone should discontinue prolonged, vigorous outdoor exercise lasting longer than one hour. Examples of the kinds of outdoor activities that should be avoided are calisthenics, basketball, running, soccer, football, tennis, swimming laps, and water polo. Susceptible persons, such as those with heart or lung disease, should avoid outdoor activity entirely.

For more tips on avoiding health impacts from the smoke, see <http://www.aqmd.gov/pubinfo/factsheets.htm> on AQMD’s website.

AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.



Police Officers and Firefighters from as far away as San Bernardino County, joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, the state and federal Departments of Forestry continue to help local agencies contain the fire. Of the 500 acres burned, approximately 200 acres are part of Angeles National Forest. The remaining 300 are a part of the corporate boundaries of Sierra Madre.

Some Sierra Madre Good News..... Sierra Madre School Auction Raises \$80,000

Photo and Story By Bill Coburn

On March 31, 2001, the Sierra Madre PTA launched what has become a new tradition in town, putting up tents along Auburn Ave. and holding a live and silent auction to raise funds, with the proceeds going to help fund the renovation of the school auditorium. As part of the evening’s festivities, past and present students and teachers performed several songs live in the auditorium. But the main event was the auction, with items ranging from gift baskets to a ride in a Russian MIG. That first event brought in \$54,000, though when one subtracts the \$27,000 in seat sponsorships that are included in that figure, the auction itself brought in about \$27,000.

Over the years, the auction has helped fund great things for Sierra Madre School. The 2002 event, “Together We Can” raised \$12,000 for general school needs. 2003’s event, “CyberSpace” raised \$25,000 to purchase computer hardware and software, and sound equipment. The 2004 event, titled “Art Fusion”, raised \$40,000 for Choral Risers, Sound Equipment, an Arts Specialist and the Art Docent program.

“Kidsplay” was the theme in 2005, when \$42,000 was raised to help pay for PE Aides, PE equipment, as well as professional development and the SPARKS program. In 2006, “Under the Tuscan Stars” raised \$45,000 for Library books, reference materials and a Library Coordinator. Last year’s Centennial event, titled “Building for the Future , Celebrating the Past” raised \$44,000 to be put toward paying for a Guidance Aide, a Resource Room Aide, Playground Aide, Kinder Aide, and an Arts Specialist.

Now it’s 2008, and the event has moved out of the street and into (for the sixth year in a row) LaSalle High School auditorium, with more than 300 people in attendance. This year’s event, sponsored by the Sierra Madre Rotary Club, which has sponsored it for the last six years, was themed “All-America City, All-America School.” And the really good news – the event raised \$80,000 to pay for General Needs at the school.

The program began with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres at 6pm, with dinner provided by local restaurants starting at 6:30. Bella Italia, Café 322, Celestino’s, Charcuterie, Maria’s Kitchen, Jacmar, Sierra Madre Catering Co. and the Bread Man from Farmer’s Market pitched in. Desserts were provided by Lena and Vic Boyadjian. Starbucks, Roxxi Bartlet of Albertsons, and David Roth helped out with beverages.

The silent auction featured approximately 500 items. Item categories in the auction included Hobbies (knitting, gardening, sketching basket, language, dance lessons, etc.) Dining Out (nearly 60 items featuring gift certificates and dinner passes), Kid’s Club (kid’s items such as globes, astronomy items, books, DVDs, etc.) Gourmet (food items, BBQ accessories, gift baskets), For the Kitchen, Home Décor, Getaways (passes to Universal Studios, theaters, Hollywood Bowl, philharmonic, etc.), The Great Outdoors, Sports, Fun and Entertainment,



Hundreds of supporters had a grand time while raising \$80,000

Health and Beauty, Plants, and the always popular Class Art, which features the work of Sierra Madre School students.

Some of the more lucrative bid items were items that received more than one winning bid. For instance, June 7th at Heasley Field, there will be a parent/teacher softball game, with teachers from the two campuses taking on twelve winning parent bidders, who each paid \$200 for the privilege of competing. Additionally, the grill will be open that day and proceeds from items sold at the grill will go into the fund. Other multiple winner items included a “Magic Castle” night, a “Night of Books at Sierra Madre Books, Back to School Family Movie Night, End of Year School Party and more.

The top bid single winner of the evening was a jersey signed by all members of the LA Galaxy, including David Beckham. The jersey, donated by Jim Liston and CATZ, went for a \$700 winning bid.

Among the live auction items were tickets to a Clippers game, a stay at a Bear Valley cabin, a stay at a time share, a Pasadena Police Copter ride-along, and the top-ticket of the night, donated by Ling and Paul Corvino. While the first auction in 2001 featured a ride in a jet, the top item in 2008 was more Jet Set. Three nights and four days in Trump International Hotel in New York, valued in excess of \$3,000. This item sold for \$4,000 (hey, it is a fundraiser, after all). The Corvinos also donated six nights and seven days at the Trump Sonesta Beach Resort in Florida.

Representing the City and showing their support for the school were Mayor Enid Joffe, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Mosca, Council Member John Buchanan (whose two children attend the school), Police Chief Marilyn Diaz, and City Manager Elaine Aguilar. Council members Watts and Zimmerman did not attend.

The co-chairs of the auction change each year, and this year’ co-chairs were Teri Buchanan, Ling Corvino and Hanne Rechtschaffen. One constant throughout the years, however, has been the emcee. Al Nocita, former president of the PTA and owner of Dalcop has served as event Master of Ceremonies since the original Night of 10,000 Stars.

Photos Of The Week Investing Time In Their Future



This young lady is working hard to help clean up Bailey Canyon recently. She joined SMEAC members and friends, along with volunteers from Albertson’s in the annual clean up effort.



Left, another future leader takes very seriously his work with the the soil and plants being placed at the new Goldberg Park.

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CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION:

Kurt Zimmerman Becomes Mayor
MacGillivray Selected Mayor Pro Tem
Mosca Passed Over

By Dean Lee

What started out as a festive city council meeting Tuesday night, when outgoing Mayor Enid Joffe was recognized for her many contributions, suddenly turned confrontational with Mayor Pro Tem Joe Mosca being passed in rotation for mayor, instead installing Councilmember Kurt Zimmerman as town leader.

“The act that’s going to take place here to bypass Joe Mosca will be a very unfortunate first step for this council,” member John Buchanan said before being interrupted a number of times by Don Watts, who nominated Zimmerman. “The best step would be to honor tradition...”

“This is not a tradition,” Watts loudly repeated until Buchanan demanded the floor.

Watts then explained why he thought Zimmerman should be Mayor.

“The next Mayor is going to have to clean up the mess this council has created,” he said directing the comment at Mosca “We have to work on budget, we’re going to go bankrupt in this town and I really think it’s time for change.”

Watts also added that the Mayor acted only as chair of the council and that the job was to bring them together. Watts said he had sat quietly for the last two years trying to get things agendized, implying he could not, something with which Buchanan took issue.

Buchanan attempted to correct Watts, saying that at the end of every meeting they all had an opportunity to place anything on the agenda. He was again cut off by Watts, although this time it was new Councilmember Mary Ann MacGillivray who tried to calm the situation.

“Gentlemen,” she interrupted although she was being drowned out by Watts. “We’re here to celebrate some outgoing members of the council, we’re here to welcome the new, we’re here to let the community celebrate and I think we can put this aside.”

The decision was then made for Zimmerman as Mayor with a split 3-2 vote. Council members Buchanan and Mosca both voted no with Zimmerman being the final deciding “yes” vote. Some, however, blamed MacGillivray for the divisive start. She was later chosen Mayor Pro Tem, only after councilmen Don Watts declined the position.

Before Zimmerman was chosen, Buchanan nominated /motioned Mosca for Mayor, saying it was the normal progression of things. The motion died minutes later.

Many in the packed chamber said they favored Zimmerman over Mosca, following Watts logic that Mosca turned his back on the community by allegedly failing to force the proposed Downtown Specific Plan to be taken to the voters. The controversy led to the creation of Measure V which was passed by voters last year. Measure V calls for a citywide vote for downtown development projects exceeding certain height and density standards. It also led to a failed recall attempt to remove Mosca from office.

The only comments made from the public were to stop arguing and vote. Mosca stopped Watts again as he tried to argue with former Mayor Glen Lambdin, who after Mosca banged the gavel, walked away.

Two years ago Mosca got the highest number of votes of any candidate and Buchanan did the same this election. Mosca later said he just planned to move forward.

Within minutes of becoming Mayor, Zimmerman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new council and thanked Joffe for her services.

“I think she was being too humble,” he said. “Because, but for Enid Joffe I do not believe we would have Measure U, nor do I believe that we would be an All America City.”

Zimmerman then said that as Mayor, he would be committed to resolving hard issues, such as the lack of faith some have toward local government.

“I’m absolutely committed to restoring transparency and giving those members of the public who had felt disenfranchised a voice,” he said, adding that he would make only one promise, that there would be no long speeches from the mayor.

Joffe had said earlier that the Measure V election tore the town apart and the first thing she did as mayor was to try and bring the community back together. She also listed all the things she wanted to be remembered for. Everything from funding for solar heating the public pool to the paramedics program started last year.

Opinion

City Election Results

By Hail Hamilton

Let me be the first to congratulate the winners of the April 8 election. John Buchanan, with the most votes, was reelected to the city council. Former council member Mary MacGillivray received the second most votes and will replace incumbent Enid Joffe.

Mayor Joffe was graciously conceded her defeat late Tuesday, wishing the new council well dealing with the many challenges facing our community. The Mayor’s gavel will pass to Mayor Pro Tem Joe Mosca.

Most observers agree that the election of MacGillivray will significantly change the dynamics of the council. MacGillivray’s previous record on the council would seem to be more in line with council members Kurt Zimmerman and Don Watts than with Buchanan.

In the only other hotly contested race, Nancy Shollenberger edged out Karma Bell for City Clerk. Apparently, Shollenberger’s ballot mistake and allegations of malfeasance did not win over enough voters. Shollenberger has been City Clerk for 24 years.

George Enydi was elected City Treasurer by an overwhelming majority of voters. His opponent, Salvador Tesoro, garnered a mere 275 votes to Enydi’s 2236. Enydi will replace retiring City Treasure Richard Mays.

Measure U, the utility tax increase, easily passed. This is the silver bullet that will balance the city’s books and give the police a long overdue raise. It will also help augment funding of the paramedic service which is due to run out in two years and help the fire department to purchase needed new equipment.

According to an anonymous source, however, the extra revenue generated by the new utility tax will not be enough to either balance the city books or fully fund the police salary increase, much less the paramedic service or the fire department.

The big losers of course were city employees. Their salaries remain among the lowest in the San Gabriel Valley. It is one thing to pay the big bucks to attract a new city manager and director of development services and quite another to blow off city employee who do the work.

Whether City Manager Elaine Aquilar and Development Services Director Danny Castro are worth their salaries is beside the

point. City employees want a raise. And they deserve it. City employees, like police officers, have not had a significant pay raise in 10 years.

Measure U does not address these issues. Nor does it address the question of how the city is to fund the many much needed capital improvements and repairs to its infrastructure. For example all of Sierra Madre’s streets were supposed to have been resurfaced by December, 2004. Anyone who jogs can tell you the city isn’t even close to meeting this goal.

There are other projects that have been shelved until further notice. For example, a new or expanded library has been in the planning stages for years. According one library employee, the new two story library was supposed to be completed by this year. Instead, it remains an unfunded dream, its plans forgotten in the Planning Department.

There are other projects on the drawing boards that can’t be begun, much less completed, because the city doesn’t have the money. Building new or repairing old infrastructure requires both long-term planning and financing, something in short supply in Sierra Madre.

Another concern not answered by the utility tax increase is the city’s indebtedness. It has been estimated that the municipal debt has risen significantly in just the last four years. Yet in none of the pre-election literature is the enormous city debt even mentioned.

Finally, there is a concern about the increasing financial entanglement with the state and federal governments. This must be stopped and reversed or Sierra Madre will lose its autonomy as a city. As much as we need funds from outside entities, it is not in the city’s best interest to continue to depend on outside money to pay the bills.

In Closing, I wish the council-member-to-be MacGillivray the best as she joins the city council. I hope she will work cooperatively with the other city council members. Most of all, I hope she will join council members Zimmerman and Watts as a counterbalance to council members Mosca and Buchanan. A change in the direction of city government is long overdue.

Commentary

A Good Scrubbing

By Susan Henderson

Whenever I hear the expression, ‘dirty politics’ I find it unnerving and I never really believed that I would see it applied to politics in this town. How naive! By almost anyone’s account, this election and the behavior immediately following was appalling. It is not necessary to tell lies in order to win. It is not necessary to steal in order to win. It is not necessary to be mean spirited and unkind in order to win. You should be able to win on your merits, not on the bad behavior of your friends and supporters. Personally, I would not ascend to an office that was gained through dirty tricks and lies.

The theft of this newspaper from the stands and the fraudulent flyer that was distributed was only one of many dishonorable acts during the campaign. The hateful confrontations that rabid supporters spewed forth at anyone who didn’t agree with them was shameful. But the most shameful of all was the final dirty mean-spirited act - passing Joe Mosca over for mayor.

When I first became aware of the political history of Sierra Madre, all I ever heard about was how one female candidate was ignored when it was her time to be mayor. Ms. Fisher, I believe her name was, wasn’t Mayor pro tem at the time, however, based upon the rotation and her seniority, it was her turn. She wasn’t selected and people are still angry over it years later. Now, some of those very same people have supported the very same thing against a young man who has worked hard as a council person. Dirty politics. Very dirty.

Further, I don’t believe that this was done for any other reason than to be mean. As Don Watts stated, the mayor’s role is ceremonial. The election of MacGillivray gives Watts and Zimmerman the majority they need to further their agenda, so why change the rules and rob someone of a position they worked hard for and deserved. I did speak with our new mayor about it and I accept his explanation. However, it still doesn’t make it right.

We have enough trouble finding people willing to serve without that kind of behavior. It was uncalled for and just widened the divide. I apologize to you, Joe, for the behavior of people who are supposed to represent ALL of us. They just nullified the votes that brought you to office. More votes than anyone else currently sitting on city council received. There was no reason or excuse for what happened, but now that it has, let us learn the appropriate lessons and try to move forward.

And, for heaven sakes, whomever has just discovered the xerox machine and bombarded the city with the phony endorsements and now the untruthful, anti-Goldberg Park flyers, please find something constructive to do.

There was an expression that my mother used to use sometimes, “all they need is a good scrubbing.” Well, in the instance of this city, there are quite a few people who need a ‘good scrubbing to get rid of all the dirty trick and negative behavior. Yeah, a good scrubbing with castille soap would do just fine!

Letter To The Editor

Is It Just Me?

I moved to Sierra Madre over 30 years ago specifically because of its ‘small town’ atmosphere! SM is awesome and I am still proud to show it off to friends and relatives that come to visit - but IMHO it’s not what it used to be.

The population of our quaint little village is virtually the same as it was in the 70’s. So what is the reasoning behind the growing increase in city staff, attorneys, consultants, police & fireman, vehicles, etc.? Before the our City Hall was built, there was one spunky elderly lady (Dorothy?) sitting at the reception desk. She handled all the phone calls, answered questions for walk-ins, and when she wasn’t busy did the water, sewer & trash billing by hand.

SM does not have the luxury of sales tax income generated from large shopping centers and auto dealerships like our neighbors in Arcadia, Pasadena & Monrovia. There is a finite amount of income generated from all our nail salons, coffee shops, cleaners and a few restaurants. The rampant spending continues and when the well runs dry, the only realistic recourse is for the City to increase utility rates and tax increases.

What are the chances that we can collectively get our heads around the possibility of developing ‘income generating programs’ that make financial sense now and for the future?

When Jim McCrea was City Manager (at least 20 years ago) there was an urgent need to develop new guidelines & requirements for the Cable TV System Franchise that was to be renewed that year. I took the time to solicit and prepared a 45 page proposal for SM to actually own the cable system and hiring a company to handle the day-to-day

operations. I gave the proposal to Jim when we met and discussed the possibilities. At the time, the most conservative projection was that the City would recoup 100% of the associated costs in less than 3 years, and from that point forward the potential annual income was a minimum of \$250,000.00 a year. Just imagine what a difference that would have made to the city coffers! And as it turns out, that little enterprise could have grown to also provide telephone and internet service too. Providing a required utility service to its residents, the City could generate a sizeable & perpetual revenue stream and charge 30-50% less than the big cable company.

Last week’s Mountain Views-Observer had an article explaining that Earthlink was no longer able to honor the 7 year contract for services that they entered into with the City. Earthlink would have paid over \$900,000.00 for the privilege of being the ‘exclusive’ Wi-Fi provider in SM. The justification for the Economic Development & Technology Committee was that it would facilitate communication between police, fire & city staff personnel. One more monthly utility bill for \$10.00 - \$22.00 per month per household, plus the growing utility tax surcharge. I wonder what Earthlink’s forecast as their potential income for just the first 5 years was going to be?

There are two opportunities for consideration, and with some brain-storming I’m sure we could come up with several more. It’s time we ran our City like a business! You do not spend money until you generate the income first.

Jeff Doney
Sierra Madre



Coffee with Joffe

Green is the New Black

Have you noticed that the world has suddenly gone crazy about going green? Suddenly green is the new black—meaning it’s cool, hip and chic to be green. Not so very long ago you were considered a complete geek if you suggested recycling or using the other side of printer paper or re-using plastic bags. Now our kids glare at us if we accidentally put the old newspapers in the regular trash can instead of the recycling can. Greenhouse gas is a household word and “carbon footprint” has replaced “paradigm shift” as the business term that denotes corporate coolness. Al Gore may ultimately be remembered more for his movie An Inconvenient Truth than for being Vice President of the United States or for being the Man Who Might Have Been President if only those chads hadn’t been hanging.



As someone who has been working on clean energy since 1993, I find this mildly amusing. Afterall, Al Gore wrote Earth in the Balance in 1992 and the California Air Resources Board adopted the Zero Emission Vehicle regulation in 1990, nearly 20 years ago. But for a long time corporate America was in denial. About ten years ago, I saw a presentation by a major automaker of market research on college students and recycling. The automaker was trying to prove that no one would buy the zero emission electric cars being required by the California Air Resources Board. The survey data showed that while students talked a good line, they would not go even a few steps out of their way to recycle a soda can. The automaker concluded that, if the group you expected to be most concerned about the environment wouldn’t recycle a soda can, why would anyone buy an electric car that could only go 80 miles on a charge. I think the car maker’s logic was flawed—we still don’t have electric cars, but there’s a whole lot of recycling going on.

On this Earth Day, I think it is time to seriously think about what we would do in a world without oil. It’s not that crazy an idea. The other day on NPR, I heard a news story quoting the Shell strategist Jeremy Bentham “We anticipate that you’ll begin to see a plateauing of easily accessible conventional oil and gas around about the 2015, 2020 type of period,” Bentham told Steve Inskeep. Bentham went on to say that the result could be either a mad “scramble” to make alliances to secure oil supplies or a “blueprint” scenario where various interest groups combine to create an orderly transition toward alternatives. Bentham cited California’s landmark climate change legislation as an example of the blueprint scenario. The next day I saw an article in the Wall Street Journal saying the oil extraction was no longer simple, even in Saudi Arabia. Getting oil production from the remaining fields requires very complex and costly technological solutions. In addition, after the current project is completed next year, Saudi Arabia will have only one known “mega-basin” of oil.

So as we celebrate Earth Day, think about what will happen when we no longer have cheap abundant oil to satisfy our energy appetites. And for heaven’s sake, take those cans and newspapers to the recycling bin. It’s the hip thing to do.

Next time: Who Killed the Electric Car? My story about GM and me.

Enid Joffe is former Mayor of Sierra Madre and owns an alternative fuel and solar energy business. She can be reached at enidjoffe@enidjoffe.com



Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast

Sierra Madre, Ca.

Monday:	Sunny	Hi 90s	Lows 60s
Tuesday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Wednesday:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 60s
Thursday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s
Friday:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

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COLOSSAL RUMMAGE SALE

The semi-annual rummage sale, sponsored by the United Methodist Women, of the Sierra Madre United Methodist Church, will be held Saturday, May 3, 2008 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, at the church located at 695 West Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre. Profits from this sale will be used to support the many ministries, local and nationwide, that the United Methodist Women sponsor. Sale items will include adult clothing/shoes, craft stuff, children's clothing/toys/shoes, bathroom accessories, household items, books, and much more. Plenty of free parking off Michillinda Avenue (cross street is Sierra Madre Blvd).

Calendar Of Events

Author's Night
May 5, 2008

Who: Stephen J. Cannell, Legendary, Emmy award-winning television screenwriter and best-selling novelist.
When: Monday, May 5, 2008, at 7 p.m. Where: Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024

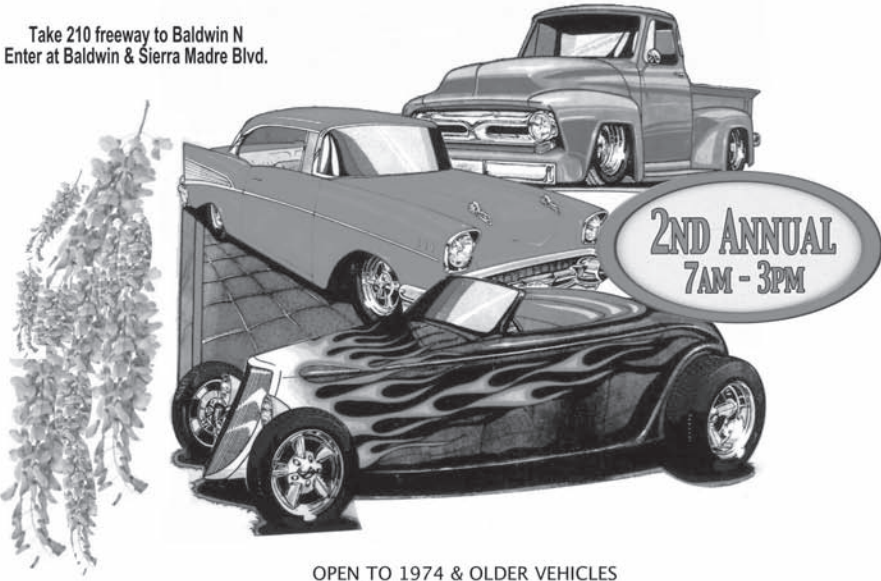
Older "Sierra Madre" American
May 9, 2008

EPH KONGISBERG CHOSEN AS
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Memorial Park, Hart Park House

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PARTICIPANTS WILL BE MAILED THEIR CONFIRMATION NO LATER THAN JUNE 6, 2008

Make checks payable to the Sierra Madre Police Officer's Association
Mail Entries and Check to: c/o Ted Saraf - 670 Skyland Dr. - Sierra Madre, CA 91024
For further information please call Ted at: 310 505-9817 Fax: 626 355-8582 Email: tts10851@aol.com

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Address: _____ Make: _____
City: _____ Model: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____ Club: _____

As a participant in the Sierra Madre Annual Car Show, the participant agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend Sierra Madre Police Officer's Association, City of Sierra Madre, all officers, employees, communities, and volunteers from and against all liability of loss, claims, obligations, judgments, or damages that the participant and/or guests (family, relatives) may sustain as a result of claims, demands, and costs arising from the participants involvement in the Sierra Madre Annual Car Show.

Participants Signature: _____ Date: _____

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When we did find out in December, 2005 we asked then City Manager John Gillison for a credit. The city only allowed us credit for 1 year of overcharges and were told that the policy prohibited payment of anything more.

So, the City creates multiple utility bill billing categories. They do not disclose the level you are being charged on the bill. If you discover the error, they will only refund one year. And you suffer the rest of the loss for their mistake.

Therefore, because this is such a well kept secret, we created a website to inform all residents of what is going on. Want the rest of the story?

Go To:

www.
reUtilityBillOvercharge.
com
or
www.VernHensel.com
email: VernHensel@
hotmail.com

My hope is to put pressure on the city to:

1. Add the rate we are all being charged for utilities to our bills, and
2. Get reasonable credits for those of us who are overcharged.

We all need to take a strong position in order to solve this problem.

Vern Hensel, SM Resident
(626) 289-9306
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This adorable little dog does a dance when you visit her in her kennel. She is very sweet, calm and would be perfect in an apartment or condo that allows pets. She gets along well with her kennel-mate, another little dog, and although its hard to tell from her photo, she's a very petite little girl, weighing about 7-8 pounds.

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Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A228717 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave, Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at www.phsspc.org

Mount Wilson Trail Race Celebrates its 100th Anniversary!

Time & Place

Saturday, May 24, 2008 at 7:30 am sharp. Check-in time is from 6:00 am to 7:15 am. The race concludes at 10:30 am. The Trail Race begins and ends in the center of Sierra Madre, California, at Kersting Court, the corner of Sierra Madre Blvd and Baldwin Ave.

Course

The 8.6 mile race starts on pavement, uphill, to a dirt path no more than 3 feet wide. It features an elevation gain of over 2,100 feet; approximately 4.3 miles to the turnaround point at Orchard Champ. Most of the race takes place on the Mount Wilson Trail, where some section have vertical drop-offs of several hundred feet. Emergency support is stationed at strategic points along the course to give any necessary aid. Boy and Cub Scout Troops provide water at two locations: the 2.3-mile marker and the turnaround point.

History

The Mount Wilson Trail Race is the second oldest Trail Race in California; first held in 1908 when runners raced to Mount Wilson, rested 1/2 hour, then raced back down. Only a handful of intrepid runners dared to attempt such a grueling test. The race was held sporadically from the first year until the late 1940s and early 1950s when it was abandoned completely. In autumn of 1965 it was revived and has grown over the years to its present format. Organized by a volunteer committee, the current race is 8.6 miles in length. The exact course has changed by erosion, fires, and earthquakes. For this reason no official record is recognized. Since the revival in the 1960s, today's course is considered the most difficult.



New this Year - Family Awards!

Team up with your favorite family member or your entire family for our newest category of racers. Times will be combined and we'll see if the Smiths can keep up with the Jones!

Pre-registration and Pasta Load Party!

Pick up your race number and t-shirt early on Friday, May 23 at Kersting Court and enjoy a great pasta dinner from Cafe 322 of Sierra Madre! From 6:00-8:00 pm, there'll be salad, bread and two kinds of pasta from just \$6.75. Cafe 322 will donate a portion from each dinner served to Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team. Runners and non-runners alike are welcome!

Volunteer to Serve on a City Commission
The City is looking for motivated, enthusiastic, creative, and friendly volunteers to serve on the following Commissions:

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Fire Safe Council “Announcements and Observations”

Clearing brush and providing a “defensible space” around your home if you live in the “Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone” is just one part of fire prevention and protection for Hillside Residents. Preventing embers from entering your home and causing a fire to start from the inside out is something well within the homeowner’s control. During the San Diego County fires of

Oct. and Nov. of last year, there was an area of homes newly built to the standards of preventing wind blown embers from entering the homes. However, a fire did almost start to burn in one home where embers blew in through the doggy door.

Our next regularly scheduled Fire Safe Council Meeting will be May 5, 7 p.m. in the City Council chambers and it will be on this most important topic: How “Ember Intrusion” can damage your home.

For more information contact SMFSC at 355-0741. Please e-mail us at smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com as we want to have contact with as many Sierra Madre residents as possible to get your input. Visit the Fire Safe Council web site: www.firesafecouncil.org

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, 2007. Call 355-0741.



Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know?

Thank You!

SMEAC’s Bailey Canyon Park Spring Cleanup was a rousing success thanks to the many volunteers who participated. We wholeheartedly thank the following:

Members of Girl Scout troop # 654:

Cissy & Ellie McGregor, Lilley Helmuth Malone, Emily & Jennifer Waters, Paige & Mary Realmore, Michelle Chilingirian, Christy Garcia and Mun Kim

From the Boy Scouts; Andrew Luymes & Evan Jones

From the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints;

Marilyn & Toby Bradford, Kristin Grant, Thomas & Chastity Bushnell, Malachi Gordon, Tamika Holgate, the David Family, and Patti Jones & her kid crew.

Alverno High School student Cassandra Arellano

Brian Coe from the Sierra Madre Public Library

A very special thanks to **Diane Johnson**, local Albertsons employee, for remembering SMEAC when store manager, Tamara Kirby was looking for an Earth Day project for the entire district of Albertsons. Not only did they pick the Bailey Canyon Park Cleanup as their 2008 Earth Day project, but they provided fruit, water and other beverages for the work site. There were so many employees involved that they graciously offered to help with the planting at Goldberg Park as well. They brought a delicious fried chicken lunch with all the trimmings to Hart Memorial Park and to Goldberg Park to cap off the day. Thanks to the following

Albertsons Employees:

Bobbie Turgcon ,Chris Singh,John Parker, Cheryl Gonzales, Patti McBee, Elizabeth Cruz, Christian Leon, Kevin Edrosa, Melanie Maliglig, Bobby Laird, Lisa Boone, Frank Rodriguez, Nick Camarena, Shanelle Eddingu, Francine Orosco, Anna Bonsangue, Alex Rodriguez, Christie Magdeleno, Jamie Alonzo, Laura ,Robbie & Erin Santoyo, Robert Perales, Terrance Ma, Alex Johnson, Carmen Hofer, Tamara & Earl Kirby and Diane, Kathy,& Clyde Johnson.

We copied the sign-up sheet and some of the hand writing was hard to decipher, so apologies for any misspellings. To the workers did not sign the sheet...We thank you too!

For additional information on the cleanup, call Midge Morash at 355-7057.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

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Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council (SMEAC)

P.O. Box 85

Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025-0085

Your thoughts and comments are welcome...

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, April 6th, to Saturday April 12th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 229 calls for service.

Sunday, April 6th

5:46 PM – Display of imitation weapons, 400 Block Mariposa Ave. Officer responded to a call of two men with firearms, a rifle and hand gun, were on the roof of the carport. During the investigation the two men were determined to be teenagers with imitation semi-automatic pellet guns and rifles. The two teens were detained and transported to the police station where they were both cited for unlawful display of an imitation weapon and released to their parents.

10:43 PM – Grand theft, W. Sierra Madre Blvd and S. Baldwin Ave. A resident reported newspapers and political flyers were stolen from several newspaper racks at 58, 142, 280, 303 West Sierra Madre Blvd and 61 South Baldwin Avenue. The crime occurred between 3:00 pm and 10:00 pm, Sunday. The loss, 475 newspapers, was valued at \$3,201.50.

Monday, April 7th

9:25 AM – Theft, 400 block Ramona Ave. A Pasadena resident reported five of her personal checks were stolen when she lived in town. The checks were taken from her home between 10/07 and 11/07. Three of the checks were cashed. No loss amount is known at this time.

Tuesday, April 8th

10:34 AM - Identity theft, 1900 block Vista Ave. Suspect(s) used the victim’s identification to try to open credit card accounts. The theft occurred 3/29. The loss is unknown.

Wednesday, April 9th

1:02 PM – Vandalism, Memorial Park. The letters “AZMO” or “AZMK” were written in black felt pen on the canon monument. No estimate for repair was available.

1:08 PM – Vandalism, 200 block Old Ranch Rd. A resident reported that the front windscreen of his car was smashed. The crime occurred between 9:00 pm, Tuesday and 12:47 PM Wednesday. No repair estimate was available.

Thursday, April 10th

12:03 PM – Vandalism, 100 Block West Highland Ave. A resident reported that his car cover was damaged with orange spray paint. The crime occurred between 10:00 pm, Wednesday and 10:00 AM Thursday. The suspects used orange spray paint to write words. The damage was estimated at \$50.00.

3:58 PM – Theft, 500 block Woodland Ave. A resident reported \$25.00 of gasoline was stolen from his parked car. The loss occurred between 3:00 pm, 4/7 and 10:00 am, 4/10.

6:38 PM – Vandalism, 200 block North Baldwin Ave. A resident called to report orange paint on his garage door. The crime occurred between 10:00 am and 6:15 pm. No estimate for repair was available.

Friday, April 11th

1:43 AM - Identity theft, 400 block Alta Vista Drive. Suspect(s) used the victim’s name and social security number to obtain credit and a loan. The loss is unknown.

Saturday, April 12th

12:42 AM – DUI arrest, 400 block East Sierra Madre Blvd. An officer stopped a motorist for a traffic violation and learned that the driver was unlicensed and under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

During the week of Sunday, April 13th, to Saturday, April 19th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 259 calls for service.

Sunday, April 13th

1:50 AM – DUI arrest, 1200 block North Baldwin Ave, Arcadia. An officer stopped a car for a traffic violation and determined that the driver was intoxicated. The driver, a Pasadena resident, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

1:53 AM – DUI arrest, Baldwin Ave and Grandview Ave. Officers were alerted of a possible DUI driver leaving the Buccaneer Lounge, 70 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. An officer stopped the motorist for a traffic violation. The driver was under the influence of alcohol and was driving with a suspended driver’s license. The officer arrested the driver and transported him to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

9:30 AM – Grand theft, 00 block North Lima Ave. A resident reported that his electric amplifier was stolen from his unlocked car. The car’s car cover had been pulled back revealing his property. The amplifier was valued at \$1000.00.

10:01 PM – DUI arrest, 300 block North Mountain Trail Ave. A traffic collision was reported in the 300 blk. of N. Mountain Trail Avenue. During the investigation one of the drivers was determined to be driving under the influence of alcohol. The driver, a resident of La Puente, was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

Monday, April 14th

12:14 PM – Hit and run, E. Mira Monte and Mt Wilson Trail Ave. A hit and run driver struck a parked car between 4:30 pm, and 6:15 p.m. on Sunday, April 13th. A witness described the suspect vehicle as a green pick-up truck.

Thursday, April 17th

8:27 AM – Vandalism, 93 North Baldwin Ave. The school secretary reported graffiti on the school playground. The word “STUNZ” was marked on the playground in orange paint.

4:59 PM – Grand theft/forgery, 100 blk. E. Montecito Ave. A business owner reported that someone had unlawfully forged and cashed the owner’s corporation checks. The forgery occurred between 4/18 and 4/15. The loss was \$18,000.

10:15 PM – Arrest, 990 Valley View Ave. An officer tried to stop a motorist for speeding. The driver evaded the officer by running a red light and driving on the wrong side of the road. After a short pursuit the car crashed into a pole in a carport. The driver fled, but returned a few minutes later. The driver, a Pasadena resident, was arrested for evading the police. He was transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

Friday, April 18th

1:03 PM – Residential burglary, 110 Holdman Ave. A resident reported the front door of his neighbor’s home had been forced open. Officers arrived and found that the home had been ransacked. The crime occurred between 11:29 am and 1:03 pm Friday. The loss included a wedding ring, and a pair of sapphire earrings and pearl earrings. The value of the loss was estimated at \$2,250.

1:56 PM – Vandalism, 100 block W. Laurel Ave. A resident reported graffiti to the north property wall. The damage consisted of orange marking. The resident was unsure when the graffiti occurred.

11:27 PM – DUI arrest, 200 block Auburn Ave. An officer stopped a motorist for speeding. During the investigation the driver was determined to be under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested for driving of the influence of alcohol and the passenger was arrested for public intoxication. They were both transported to the Pasadena Jail for public intoxication.

Saturday, April 19th:

6:08 AM – Receiving stolen property, Burglary arrest, 500 blk. E Sierra Madre Blvd. An alert resident reported seeing a man looking through parked cars with a flashlight on Coburn and Sierra Madre Blvd. Officers detained a man matching the description. The man, a Fontana resident on parole for burglary, had property matching the loss from a nearby residential burglary in Arcadia. He also had three IPODs. The suspect’s car was parked in the vicinity of Santa Anita and Andrea. Officers arrested the parolee for possession of stolen property and for suspicion of burglary. He was transported to LA County Jail for remand.

1:33 PM – Stolen car, 400 blk. W. Highland Ave. The victim reported her car was parked at 7:50am and she discovered it was gone at 1:33pm.

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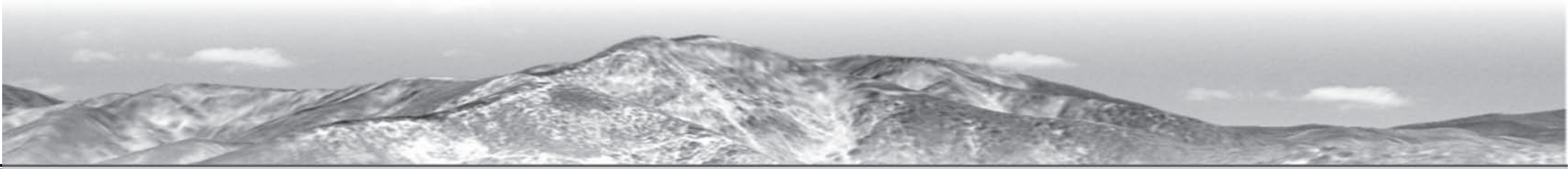


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MountainViews-Observer PASADENA

Council Hits the Breaks on Speed Limit Hikes

By Dean Lee

Before excusing himself from part of Monday night's council meeting Councilmember Steve Madison raised two simple questions that brought the whole discussion over the possibility of raising speed limits on several city streets to a screeching halt.

"Number one, this [Pasadena Avenue] is a Caltrans controlled right-a-way," Madison said. "So I had a question over whether this body even had authority to alter the speed limits?"

He also commented that the list of streets had changed over time going from, 29 streets down to 11. He asked if it was going to happen again which he said could possibly eliminate any conflict of interest he had. He said he owns a home within 500 feet of Pasadena Avenue the only street to be raised 10 mph.

All other streets would be raised five mph which include segments of, Columbia Street., Glenarm Street., Hill Avenue., Mountain Street., Pasadena Avenue., Riviera Dr., Villa Street., and Washington Boulevard. Some streets such as Pasadena Avenue were counted twice having more than one segment being changed,

Later that night, City Attorney Michele Bagneris said she would review, on the side on caution, the entire council to make sure that no one had a conflict. Mayor Bill Bogaard tried to keep the discussion going by asking that they still looked at speed reducing measures on the streets as proposed by the Transportation Advisory



Cars getting on 210 freeway from Pasadena Avenue Commission.

Councilmember Victor Gordo urged there be a full council before voting saying the issues was important across the city.

Bogaard's wife Claire has been outspoken against the hikes and addressed the Transportation Advisory Commission at last February's meeting. She raised concern over nearby schools, Huntington Hospital and The Ronald McDonald House.

Between 15 and 20 residents had shown up Monday to oppose the changes most of which did not want to see Pasadena Avenue go up. There was a collective sigh when Madison made the announcement he would not participate although the same group cheered when the decision later was made to put the issue off again.

"I choose not to participate but I do that very reluctantly and with some desire to research more fully these issues..." he said. "I better stop in the interest of caution or the city attorney will throw her law book at me."

Before being cut off in mid sentence by Madison interim City Manager Bernard Melekian said the whole issue was over

state and local control. At the time, seven months ago, Melekian was the City Police Chief and said that without the use of radar or LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) speed enforcement was almost impossible. The state prohibits the use of either on street that have not been surveyed within five years staff said.

Melekian explained "pacing" was the only other option but said all the streets were too short to make it effective. Some opponents said there was a time before radar arguing police should go back to doing whatever it was they did then.

The city has not been enforcing speed limits with radar on any of the streets since September of last year Melekian said. The council took a far more relaxed tone then in September when it was suggested that Pasadena would suddenly become a hotbed for street racing.

Jokingly Bogaard asked, "Mr. Gordo do suggest a deferral of this matter for, let's say, next year?" Everyone laughed.

Gordo did say he wanted to take as long as it took to complete a thorough analysis although Bagneris stepped in saying there was an immediate need



and would try to have it back as soon as possible. She said however that if they needed to get letters from the California Fair Political Practices Commission that would take at least 21 days.

She also said that she did not think Caltrans would stop the process saying the speed limits had been changed before without problem. Bagneris said Caltrans did have a right, if Pasadena Avenue was owned by them, to get involved and that they would be notified.

The Transportation Advisory Commission said traffic calming measures could include road narrowing, different surface materials, more cross walks and unsynchronized signal lights among other things.

They also recommended notifying all residents in the effected areas and if there was no feedback to raise the limits. Although it was not said if this was done many were surprised by Monday night's low turnout. This came even after an email was circulated by West Pasadena Residents Association urging residents to attend the Monday council meeting.

City Manager Cynthia Krutz told the council in September any speeding tickets would be thrown out of courts something she said judges made clear. She also took full responsibility for the noncompliance saying it was an oversight by her staff.

Unrelated to the issue, Krutz stepped down in January taking another job at a large Pasadena based consulting firm.

Pasadena Based SpiritList.com Launched for Earth Day

By Teresa Baxter

Last month an innovative job and opportunities web portal, SpiritList.com—for the natural health, wellness and sustainability communities—held its official launch party in Pasadena. The event was sponsored by Whole Foods, 4 Copas Organic Tequila and Ten Thousand Villages.

SpiritList.com's founder and Pasadena resident Dawn Smith-Camacho believes the website, modeled loosely on CraigsList.com, is the first board exclusively devoted to Southern California residents passionate about organics, health, well-being, spirituality and the earth.

"SpiritList.com is designed for all involved in the fields of holistic health and well-being including all mind/body/spirit retail and wholesale businesses, professional practitioners, students and those interested in learning more about the exploding field," said Smith-Camacho. "I saw a need for a site where individuals could find their dream position in this field and where employers could inexpensively recruit for an ideal match to follow their bliss"

With so much attention on global issues, Earth Day events and the impact that each individual's carbon footprint leaves on the planet it seems natural that a conscientious society would embrace an alternative outlet to make a difference in the world, however possible. SpiritList.com offers the chance to fill that void.

According to Smith-Camacho, it all comes down to the prospect of choosing to live with integrity while recognizing the connections to our ancestors and legacies. Research provided by Lifestyles of Health and Sustainability (LOHAS) describes a \$228.9 billion U.S. marketplace for goods and services focused on health, the environment, social justice, personal development and sustainable well-being. Approximately 30 percent of the adults in the United States, or over 63 million people, are currently considered LOHAS consumers.

"If I really believe in making the world a better place, I need to not only donate to charities or do volunteer work, I need to be serious about using less packaging...I need to seize the blessing of rising gas prices as an opportunity to drive less, conserve more and look for other ways to get around town," she said. "I need to be conscious about each and every one of my purchases, thinking of who is benefiting or being hurt by the labor and materials involved."

SpiritList.com is proud to donate 10% of site proceeds



to Ten Thousand Villages. Ten Thousand Villages works with over 100 artisan groups, in more than 30 countries, to offer fair trade jewelry, home decor, and gifts in their stores across the U.S. and Canada.

"SpiritList.com is a natural partner for Ten Thousand Villages. We are partners in a movement that is set on a way of living and working that is more holistic, sustainable, and just," she said. "In response to this great energy for change SpiritList, along with Ten Thousand Villages and others, is providing resources to enable people to achieve their aim to live and work with meaning."

Pasadena seems to be an appropriate place to launch SpiritList.com because recent measures have earned the city recognition by Popular Science magazine as one of "America's 50 Greenest Cities". According to the city's mission statement, this means that a green and sustainable city is a community of residents, neighbors, workers, and visitors who strive together to balance ecological, economic, and social needs to ensure a clean, healthy and safe environment for all members of society and for generations to come.

Earth Day events held recently in Pasadena included a celebration at Vroman's Bookstore—just named Publishers Weekly's Bookseller of the Year. Vroman's is one of the oldest bookstores in the country. The 114 year-old bookstore in Pasadena embraced the spirit of Earth Day by inviting several local organizations that adhere to the bookstore's principles to revel in an eclectic array of "green", eco-friendly vendors and organizations participating in the event from all around Los Angeles.

In fact, there will be another event in Pasadena this weekend. Greening the Earth Day and Family Arts Festival, a free exhibition will be held on Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Greening the Earth Day festivities will take place at Memorial Park on Raymond Avenue between Walnut and Holly streets, where there will be more than 70 "green" exhibitors, organic food tastings, children's activities, live entertainment and complete details on city of Pasadena environmental programs from green buildings to recycling to conservation.

Strong Support For Gold Line Expansion

Story and Photo By Dean Lee

Hundreds of students came out Thursday from all over the San Gabriel Valley to show support for building phase two of the Metro Gold Line which, due to funding issues, has been put on hold by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors. Metro Chair Pam O'Connor had agreed to take all Gold Line supporter comments at the beginning of their meeting.

Along with students, representatives from Congressmen David Dreier and Adam Schiff's offices, as well as Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard and Monrovia Mayor Rob Hammond addressed the board of directors.

"This is a project ready to go to construction before the end of 2009," Bogaard said. His comments were constrained due to a one minute time limit that the chair imposed.

Before the meeting Bogaard said in relation to students, "The expansion of the Gold Line to Ontario will be a big plus for the students at PCC because a number of them drive to Pasadena every day. The Gold Line Extension will provide much easier access, eliminate the parking requirement and be less costly than automobile travel."

There are 15 colleges and universities along the proposed route. Many supporters of the project were represented as part of iwillride.org, a website designed to solicit support through online signature gathering.

"I'm hoping that it is getting a lot of attention here at the Metro," said Dustin Schmidt one of the website's founders. "It's definitely getting a lot of momentum with residents and not necessarily just students, although that was our primary focus because we wanted students to be aware of what is going on with the proposed route."

The "I will Ride" campaign is relatively unknown in Pasadena. Organizers said they had been in touch with students at PCC but also said the lack of interest comes from having the Gold Line already operating.

The Foothill Extension Construction Authority that oversees the Gold Line had asked MTA to fund \$80 million of the total \$1.37 billion project. This would give them the potential to leverage another \$360 million in federal support according to Construction Authority Spokesperson Susan Hodar. She said it would not cover the entire cost but was a good start.

The \$80 million would come from \$20 billion in Proposition 1B funds passed by voters in 2006 to pay for local transportation improvement projects. Some criticized L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa for bumping the Foothill Gold Line to fund the \$5



billion "Subway to the Sea," which will link mid-Wilshire to Santa Monica. That project is estimated to be completed at the earliest, in 2024.

The first phase of the Gold Line project, completed in 2003, goes from Union Station in Downtown L.A. to Pasadena (Sierra Madre station). The second phase, if completed, would continue 24 miles to Montclair.

Hammond brought a dolly and containers filled with signed postcards form residents, students and other avid riders from the area.

"I have with me, that I would like to deliver to the board, some 4,745 cards," he said. "I thought it would be easier to bring the cards than the 4,745 people." Prior to that Hammond made a number of other witty remarks,

"There are many things we should pass on to or children and congestion should not be one of them," he said. Hammond also commented on PCC having a number of students living in Monrovia, "It's harder over at the PCC campus because the train is there," he said.

Monrovia has already invested over \$1 billion anticipating the Gold Line extension The Metro's Board of Directors will make a final decision in June whether to fund the project.

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

Alverno National Honor Society Goes Work At The Los Angeles Food Bank



Amanda and her mother spent the afternoon at the Los Angeles Food Bank.

The Alverno High School chapter of the National Honor Society participates in many community service projects throughout the year and most recently a very energetic group of NHS members volunteered at the Los Angeles Food Bank.

"It was a first time experience for many of us," says NHS moderator Sandy Bogan. "And you can tell from the pictures how much fun we had." The food bank is a huge warehouse where food is sorted and packaged for delivery to many organizations.

The Alverno group was asked to sort through huge bins of oranges and cabbage. Each piece was carefully inspected and trimmed and then packaged in large boxes in preparation for delivery. The Alvernians did an outstanding job - they worked

diligently for three hours and sorted and re-packaged four huge containers of cabbage and approximately ten containers of oranges.

Several of the girls' mothers volunteered alongside their daughters which made the experience even more valuable. Ms. Bogan and NHS members agree that this should become one of the organization's regular service projects.

Members of National Honor Society are selected by faculty not only for academic excellence but for the quality of their character. They are charged with additional service to others at their school and in their community.

Alverno, a Catholic high school for girls in Sierra Madre, is known for its academic rigor and extensive service program. Last year, Alverno students performed 17,000 hours of service to others. For more information, please visit our website at www.alverno-hs.org.

Middle School Reform Planned By PUSD

By Teresa Baxter

Last Tuesday, the majority of the Pasadena Unified School District's board meeting focused on a segment of Superintendent Edwin Diaz's "Approach to Excellence" plan that would involve middle school reform.

Principals and administrators from several schools have been working together since the end of last year to form an Excellent Middle Schools Team, led by Secondary Administrator Felicity Swerdlow. Swerdlow introduced the presentation, while several teams shared their findings regarding the necessity of reform.

"The PUSD Excellent Middle Schools Team was formed to develop a unified, research-based, and developmentally appropriate approach to initiating high quality middle schools," said Swerdlow.

The goal of the team is to provide a comprehensive learning environment that allows and supports each individual to transition from childhood to young adulthood and address the academic, emotional, social, psychological, moral and

ethical needs of middle school students in a safe and orderly environment.

"If I can think of one effort that could have a significant and immediate impact on the performance of secondary schools, it would be at the middle school level," said Superintendent Diaz.

The target date to implement the guiding principles presented by the various teams should start taking effect in the next few years to ensure standardized and equitable schools across the district.

"Effective implementation will require strategic prioritization of resources and the ability to compromise," said Swerdlow. "Each school will establish a design team that will be trained and work together to apply the principles."

It was recommended that an Excellent Middle Schools Council would be able to convene on a regular basis to collaborate and support the progression of the guiding principles.

Take A Stand By Trisha Collins

TRISH'S TRUTH

I love to recycle. Actually, I basically love to do anything that involves keeping our planet safe and clean, but I think recycling is the easiest thing a person can do. How much does it take to throw a few cans and bottles in a recycling bin that the city provides? Not much, but it does help our planet a lot. Recycling alone helps save natural resources and energy, and it also reduces littering, imports and pollution.

Teenagers at my school are pretty enthusiastic about recycling, too. We have several recycling bins posted inside and out of classrooms. Students are constantly throwing their bottles and cans inside of them with the thought that they are making a difference. I used to be just like them until I found out that our bottles and cans weren't getting recycled, they were getting trashed.

Turns out that all those recycling bins around our campus were just getting dumped in trash dumpsters! When I discovered this (after a lot of asking around) I was furious. Something had to be done about this! The only reason why the bins weren't being recycled was because no one wanted to go all the way to

college campus to deposit the cans and bottles into the recycling dumpsters. But I wanted to, and there was no way I could do it alone. That's when I decided that my school needed a recycling club, and I would be its founder.

I explained my cause to a teacher and he said he would gladly sponsor my club. I was so happy. I just needed two things: members and an approval from my principal. The approval part would be easy; it's the member part I was worried about. I had already presented the idea to my friends, only to receive discouraging comments about how no one would join a club that had to do with recycling. That's when I realized that no one had ever presented an original idea without others "hating" or trying to get them down. So, even though my friends weren't all for my idea, I still knew I wanted to make this club happen and that there were others willing to help.

I was right, and now my recycling club is almost off the ground with a total of 9 dedicated members. I wrote this article not only to encourage you to recycle or start a recycling club. I wrote it to encourage you to stand out and be different. To always stand up for what you believe is right. Sometimes it's hard to do that when others are trying to put you down, but only makes them look bad when you're the one who's successful.

AYSO Pledge Will Upgrade Muir Athletic Fields

The Pasadena Unified School District announced that Region 13 of the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) has pledged \$500,000 to help fund the upgrade of the John Muir High School athletic fields, expanding the fields' availability for school and community use. The Pasadena Educational Foundation (PEF) will receive the funds on behalf of PUSD.

"This gift represents Region 13's commitment to assist PUSD in providing extracurricular activities to enrich the educational experiences of all students," said AYSO Commissioner Marco Quezada. "I am a firm believer that we have a responsibility to help maintain the facilities that we use and to help our young athletes continue playing while pursuing their education."

The Region 13 AYSO board voted to pledge the \$500,000 to John Muir High School as part of an ongoing fundraising effort to develop local playing fields. The money was raised over the past several years through generous donations of AYSO

parents and players. Previously, these funds have been used by Region 13 for the installation of lights at Pasadena High School, Muir and Washington Middle School; the construction of the snack bar at the Rose Bowl and to renovate McKinley field for a total investment to date of approximately \$1 million to PUSD facilities.

The PEF and PUSD anticipate that the gift will provide initial seed money for a District wide investment, with matching community support to upgrade playing fields at all four high schools. Superintendent Edwin Diaz is encouraged by this latest community support for PUSD, and John Muir High School in particular.

"I'd like to thank the AYSO for their generous donation to preserve the strength of Muir's rich athletic tradition during the reinvention process," said Diaz. "I am very pleased to see our community organizations responding to the call for partnerships and resources to support Muir students' educational and extracurricular needs."

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One Of A Kind:
Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them
Story By Chris Bertrand, Photos By Chris Bertrand
Sedona Style Hideaway



Top: A clear rectangular swimming pool sits at the rear of the house and faces the mountains.
Top inset: The dining room is lined with exposed wooden beams and sumptuous rugs.
Above: The highly modern kitchen shines with natural light. The comfortable living room features leather furniture and an open hearth.
Left: A courtyard door is surrounded by traditional yet subtle accents.

Travel up one of Sierra Madre's winding lanes that creep up toward the mountains. If you know where to look down the correct gravel driveway, you'll find the Spanish adobe style home of Linda Mc Manus and Electrical Engineering Professor William Bridges. This retired Caltech couple purchased the home just a few years ago from a local chef who had it built for her. The secluded home exudes Southwestern charm, style and sophistication without overdoing the color palette and adding the kitschy accessories that sometimes overpower a home with a definite regional personality and architecture. I didn't find any stylized musicians piping away, prancing about a la commercialized Santa Fe decorating. What I did find was a work of art.

Mc Manus said she and her husband didn't set out looking for a Spanish or Southwest style home when they started their property search. They envisioned themselves in a house in the neighborhood surrounding Caltech in central Pasadena. This Sierra Madre home didn't even have a "real" kitchen when they purchased it, as the previous owner-chef did all her cooking "at the office." Mc Manus chuckles that a utilitarian sink dominated the barest of bones kitchen. Yet here they are today, high above Sierra Madre, overlooking Bailey Canyon, loving the privacy, the miles of serene views, the wildlife and this unique home.

I found my visits to this home to draw me slowly down the long gravel driveway with an anticipation I found surprising. Each visit evoked both spiritual and almost mystical qualities that stayed with me even after I left.

The doors themselves provide their own interest, like the massive, rough hewn double front doors with peek-through hatch and hefty traditional beam to heave into locking position (seen at the left edge of the living room shot). The swinging door entrance to the enclosed courtyard, a signature of Santa Fe Style properties, is watched over by a captivating, wood statue of St. Francis, known for his love for and care of animals. Of which there are many in this foothill neighborhood, from deer and bear to coyote and fox, to the more mundane.

It's a home very different from my own. Here, each room is a space unto itself, where you can't see any further than the room you're in, whereas my own floorplan is very open. What that design does to me is to invite introspection when facing away from the windows, and inspire awe when facing windows with the breathtaking Los Angeles, mountain and pool views.

The interior color palette glows as if from a soft

heat within, and the furnishings invite comfortable repose without formality. Ceiling timbers, named vigas in the Santa Fe vernacular, create a strong traditional Southwest architectural statement. The dining room ceiling features both vigas, the peeled full timbers, interspersed with latillas, thin peeled saplings, to create quite a dramatic focal point there.

The fully remodeled kitchen is now worthy of this fabulous home, with a new farmhouse sink, saltillo floors, glass front cabinetry, commercial quality stove and four door, built-in refrigerator and freezer. When transitioning from the kitchen to the dining room and hall color, Mc Manus used the graphic representation of an earthquake, courtesy of their beloved Caltech, to bring the two colors together. Seen to the left of the French doors in the dining room photo, she wove the trademark Southwest teal color between them in the graph.

Outside, the owners are slowly redefining and expanding the areas surrounding the pool with oversized flagstone and landscaping interspersed around existing boulders. The indoor to outdoor transitional spaces are magnificent, with rough hewn timbers creating partial shade on the upper level balconies, and fully shaded outdoor comfort at pool level. A casita, separate guest quarters above the garage, enjoys both sunrise and sunset views. An outdoor staircase woven into the Santa Fe style with rounded corners, provides private access for guests.

This home will always remain secluded and remote, in communion with the adjacent mountains. It requires a bit of a mental journey and adjustment to enter. You can't just burn down this curving gravel driveway. You have to slow one's pace to approach. But the reward is always great, a feeling of having received a gift. The mini-journey and the destination offer a gift of invited introspection in the cozy private spaces, and a gift of awe inspiring views. Knowofaninteresting home, garden or person who helps create them, that might be of interest to our readers? Contact Chris Bertrand at C.Bertrand@MVObserver.com today!



Chris Bertrand



TABLE FOR TWO By Peter Dills

Shogun Restaurant

restaurant. Teppanyaki is a combination of two words, Teppan = iron plate and Yaki = grill. Hibachi is likely the word that is most familiar to Americans and is closely tied to Teppanyaki.

Do you want to impress? Look like a genius? Be playful? Entertaining? Then Shogun is for you, with something to offer everyone. The atmosphere is relaxed, you enjoy the food being prepared right before your eyes, and you're getting a performance at the same time. Some of the chefs are quite funny and can make your time with them very memorable. From the seafood to meat lovers, Shogun Japanese Restaurant offers everything to maximize your experience.

The seating at Shogun is unique, at a horseshoe shape that seats about 8 with the centerpiece being a large grill. Behind the grill is the chef conducting a comedy routine, food preparation clinic, cooking class and pyrotechnics that keep you, or someone in your party, from dozing off. The chefs wear those tall hats that are able to catch flying objects when a spatula flips something toward the ceiling. And the knives swirl about like a samurai warrior conducting business. The chefs here are not just moving your food around, they are performing acrobatic tricks with your meal. I do not want to spoil this for first timers (ask for the volcano) but let me warn you, I have lost a few eyebrow hairs when I was peeking a little too closely. Mix in the sounds that complete this performance and you have one of the most unique beginnings to any meal in town. It is the closest thing to dinner theatre that I am aware of without being at one. If you bring your kids, they will be talking about this for days or weeks after. Be sure to keep matches away from them so little Einstein does not conduct experiments.

If you do not bring a group, you will be seated with oth-

ers. It's almost like speed dating, in that one moment you are waiting to be seated and the next moment you are paired with strangers. Sometime it works great and you meet some very nice people, other times? Oh well.

The menu offers shrimp, New York Steak, Chicken, Lobster and, my buddy Kirk's favorite, the Salmon (\$22.50). Shogun isn't cheap. Heck, with all the lights, grills and chefs, the overhead must be enormous. Prices range from (\$16.95) to (\$39.95). My favorite is the Mikado (Filet Mignon and Lobster \$31.50) and The Ninja with Crab legs (\$34.95). There is a child's menu in the (\$10) range to help keep this affordable for the family.

The lunch menu is slightly less pricey with virtually the same menu. There is a small Sushi Bar with adjacent seating for those who want a quiet evening. Call me crazy, but how could anyone ever get tired of this show? For me, it is all about the main dining room and all the action!



Shogun offers a wide variety of delicious food and a memorable atmosphere. Photo courtesy Shogun Pasadena

Suggestions: A great place for a party. If it's your birthday, you get a hat, dessert and all the servers sing to you as they clap with a tambourine (reminds me of the Partridge family). Birthdays are very popular, and people return year after year for their special day. They probably just really love those hats – what do you think?

Reservations: Reservations essential for weekends. Unfortunately, even if you have found a favorite chef or server, you can't "reserve" a table with them. In my humble opinion, the Mai Tai's need some improvement, but they have a full bar and Sake selection, so there are options.

Maybe it is the kid in me, but I never seem to tire of this place. If you want to be Father or Mother of the month, bring them here, because they will remember it.

This is Peter Dills heading out the door for next week's article. I only hope I have half the fun that I did researching Shogun. OW - I think I burnt myself.

Shogun is located at 470 Halstead Pasadena, Full Bar (626) 351-8945. Lunch and Dinner. Please go to their website www.restaurantshogun.com for updated prices and menu.

E mail me your thoughts to thechefknows@yahoo.com

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MountainViews-Observer Mission Statement

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



Member



Susan Henderson

Community Communications

community (n): *an interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location*; **communications** (n): *a process by which information is exchanged between individuals*

Well, we have survived (I think), another election. And, as is always the case, there were winners and losers. That is the good news. The bad news is still the fact that so few residents participated in the process. Some figures say that approximately 38% of the registered voters participated. Not bad you say? Well, in a town of over 11,000, having the future decided by less than 2,500 people is not good. Really not good. No wonder so many people feel alienated from the process. No wonder they feel as though they are not represented. and they aren't

because they don't participate, and that is unfortunate.

I am not quite certain when we will learn that each vote is very important, that each vote counts - maybe we will never learn. Or maybe when our democracy is overtaken by a dictator, then we will care and probably riot for the chance to vote. Maybe. Nevertheless, in this election, no mandate was set, in fact, too many votes were cast by voters who didn't get the memo and voted without all the facts. I know because many have contacted the paper when the truth became known.

But back to the most common complaint, "I don't have a voice, nobody cares what I think." Well, that is not true. This newspaper does care. It was started to not only disseminate information to the public of particular interest to residents of Sierra Madre, it was also created to give citizens of our community a voice. I personally work very hard to reach out for diverse opinions. It would improve the quality of life for everyone if we as a community would learn how to interact with each other in a civil manner and respect the rights of everyone to speak their mind.

I encourage you to participate in "*the process by which information is exchanged between individuals*". People do want to know what is on your mind. They may not agree, but then again, you may actually say something that makes a difference.

I had a brief meeting with our new mayor, Kurt Zimmerman, and extended to him an invitation to write to the residents about whatever he wants and I will print it. People want to know what's going on and what's on the minds of our elected officials. He has agreed to do so and I believe that will be a good thing.

By the way, we have some changes involving columnists. Former Mayor Enid Joffe will continue her Coffee With Joffe on environmental issues. And, fasten your seatbelts, Former Mayor Glen Lambden has asked if he could submit a series of columns on issues on his mind.

So, as we struggle to keep this paper alive, the interest in speaking up and contributing to the conversation is increasing. That is probably the best thing that could ever happen to our town - that we actually hear what our neighbors have to say. We might even learn something!



Glenn Lambdin Speaks

For many of those in attendance or who watched Tuesday night's City Council reorganization on TV, we find ourselves asking, "Why did newly elected Maryann MacGillivray not support Mayor Pro-tem Joe Mosca as mayor? Why did she choose to drive a deeper wedge into an already dysfunctional council by voting to elect Kurt Zimmermann as mayor, skipping over Joe? It's a question I would have liked Maryann to explain, but she stayed silent on the matter. I've never known Maryann to be short on words. So councilwoman, why?"

In 1996, two years prior to my four year term on our city council and during Maryann's last term, I attended every council meeting tirelessly. I watched and listened with great fascination and admiration of Maryann's ability to articulate the development of her thought process. Maryann speaks with the logic and reasoning of a scientist and she possesses an incredible ability to explain how she comes to her conclusions. For a time, I often said that of all the councilmembers that I didn't serve with, Maryann has always been one of my favorites. (shared of course with Gary Adams). As a matter of fact, when I was contemplating whether to run for council in 1998, Maryann was the first person I called to ask for advice.

With eight years of previous council experience, Maryann is seasoned well enough to realize the destructive nature of a dysfunctional council. (The type of dysfunction that was demonstrated Tuesday night by Councilmember Watt's rude and disrespectful interruptions of other councilmembers.) And, Tuesday night as Maryann sat in chambers as an elected official for the first time in ten years, I have to believe that she was well aware that she had the option to be the driving force to put an end to this destructive dysfunction and start building a cohesive team. Sadly, she chose not to. So, Maryann, again I wonder, why?

One person suggested that maybe she had



to "pay back" those supporters that made a failed attempt to recall Joe. Frankly, I can't see Maryann putting herself in any position where she felt indebted to anyone. She's way too proud and certainly too smart for that.

Perhaps it was a vote of no confidence. But again, Maryann thinks like a scientist and without even a scintilla of empirical evidence to support such a conclusion, she would have to reject it. Maryann is intelligent enough to see through all of the nonsensical rhetoric that was aimed at Joe and, coupled with her past experience, she knows the commitment it takes to be a councilmember. The facts are that Joe is possibly the hardest working councilmember this city has ever seen and has never broken a campaign promise as some might falsely claim. That's a fact and Maryann knows it! So then, why?

Flashback ten years when Maryann left her term infecting our community with her bigoted flawed doctrine of fundamentalist intolerance. Now maybe the answer becomes apparent. That was Maryann's "in your face" parting shot to our community that she wore like a badge of honor. Now, fast forward to the present and Maryann is serving with an incredible man whose family she was compelled to call a "garbage can situation."

Tuesday night I possibly witnessed a shameful seamless transition from ten years ago to the present where Maryann went from proudly spewing her faith-based fundamentalist hatred to actually implementing it today. God, I hope not!

Stuart Tolchin On...LIFE GOING BARE



Well, after about two weeks of walking around with a shaved head and a naked face, I've learned a couple of things. First of all, probably one of the great benefits of hair is protection of sensitive areas. I've bumped my head a couple of times on low ceilings and SUV trunk doors and now sport a couple of long scratches on top of my bald and shining head. This epidemic of head-bumping, I think, has primarily been caused by my adoption of permanent sunglass wearing to protect my newly exposed scalp and ears from burning. Alas, wearing the sunglasses indoors and in shaded places has made low overhangs quasi-invisible and has subjected me to some painful bumps. If I am to survive, I may be required to actually become more aware of my surroundings, which would certainly be a positive step towards my goal of increased awareness.

Additionally, and surprisingly, other changes have taken place. Recently, I attended the Body World Exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry. The exhibit presents the human body, sliced and diced, in all manner of strange positions. Displayed for all to see in minute plasticized detail are the arteries, veins, capillaries, muscles, and organs of the actual humans who walked this earth. The Exhibit proclaimed that the veins, arteries, and capillaries contained within one human body were laid end to end they would extend 60,000 miles or twice around the world. Contrary to Dorothy Parker, who purportedly said "If all the girls at Vassar were laid end to end----I wouldn't be a bit surprised.", I was surprised.

Furthermore, the manner in which all this mileage of microscopic little tubes was stuffed into the small space of a human body was quite disconcerting, to say the least. I sort of began to wonder if the theory of evolution was a full explanation for this unbelievable complexity. I've been a believer in evolution ever since the seventh grade and I understand that the combination of great periods of time and the continual need of life forms to compete to best adapt to their particular ecological niche in order to survive and reproduce will result in continual complexity and modification. I haven't changed my beliefs but the incredible design of the human body must inevitably cause any observer to at least wonder whether a designer was required.

Another troubling exhibit was the display of actual embryos, fetuses, and prematurely born infants. Remarkably, soon after conception a beating heart has developed. At eight weeks, I believe, eyes are visible. Soon minute fingers and toes are present. Most disturbing was the display of prematurely born infants. Even at twenty-one weeks unique human expressions of seeming sadness are preserved for eternity. I know the strong arguments supporting the need for legalized abortions and I know the last thing this overpopulated world needs are bunches of unwanted children, but I think I have now come to believe that legalized abortion is just another victimization of an under-represented minority. Pro-lifers, don't get too excited; I feel the same way about War which invariably sacrifices the lives of the unrepresented Young to protect and advance the interest of the un-Young who are running the war usually to benefit themselves and their friends. Maybe countries should be allowed to run themselves such that over time and with the need to compete and adapt the process of evolution would operate to create an optimal and harmonious world. Maybe, this is that very world! Oh my God, no wonder I'm beginning to doubt that process.

Well, as I understand it, the best is yet to come. Best for whom or what I wonder.

American Newspapers

By Rich Johnson



In a backhanded way, the scurrilous scoundrels who stole copies of this newspaper immediately prior the last election complimented all of us involved with this publication. And they most certainly complimented our own Susan

Henderson. Not only were they obviously worried comments regarding Ms. Schollenberger printed in our newspaper would affect her chances adversely, they also believed a fictional endorsement of her by Ms. Henderson would help her. And with the vote so close, these nefarious Neanderthals may have snatched success out of the jaws of defeat for the Nanster. I call for a grand jury to be convened to investigate the matter. Let's populate the jury with Kevin Dunn, Glenn Lambdin, Sir Eric Maundry (in a mask of course), George Maurer, Lisa Brandley and Enid Joffe. That should make it grand. They can get to the bottom of all this.

Newspapers are a vital part of what makes (and keeps) America great and free. I searched the world-wide web for information that might help us understand the role of the free press and found the following:

Demographics of American Newspapers

The *Wall Street Journal* is read by the people who run the country.

The *Washington Post* is read by people who think they run the country.

The *New York Times* is read by people who think they should run the country and are very good at crossword puzzles.

USA Today is read by people who think they ought to run the country but really don't understand the New York Times. They do, however, like their statistics shown in pie charts.

The *Los Angeles Times* is read by people who wouldn't mind running the country - if they could find the time - and if they didn't have to leave Southern California to do it.

The *Boston Globe* is read by people whose parents used to run the country and did a poor job of it, thank you very much.

The *New York Post* is read by people who don't care who is running the country as long as they do something really scandalous, preferably while intoxicated.

The *Miami Herald* is read by people who are running another country but need the baseball scores.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* is read by people who aren't sure if there is a country or that anyone is running it; but if so, they oppose all that they stand for. There are occasional exceptions if the leaders are handicapped minority feminist atheist dwarves who also happen to be illegal aliens from another country or galaxy, provided of course, that they are not Republicans.

The *National Enquirer* is read by people trapped in line at the grocery store.

The *Seattle Times* is read by people who have recently caught a fish and need something in which to wrap it.

The *MountainViews-Observer* is read by people who... You tell me. Write me at r.johnson@mvobserver.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0662907

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CBS HAIR STUDIO**, 913 E. LAS TUNAS DR., SAN GABRIEL, CA 91776. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **FAN YI LIN**, 8815 E. MISSION DR. APT. B, ROSEMEAD, CA 91770. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: FAN YI LIN**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/16/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/21, 4/28, 5/05, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0652447

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CHAKRA DOG MUSIC**, 2115 ESTRELLA AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90007. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **SHERIE ESTHER DAVIS**, 2115 ESTRELLA AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90007. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: SHERIE ESTHER DAVIS**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/15/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/21, 4/28, 5/05, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0675823

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **COMMUNITY SPORTS SERVICES**, 3529 PERLITA AVENUE, L.A., CA 90039. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **RUSSELL MILTON**, 3529 PERLITA AVENUE, L.A., CA 90039. **AMIR ROFOUGARAN**, 2173 STRADELLA ROAD, BEL AIR, CA 90077. This Business is conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. Signed: RUSSELL MILTON**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/17/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **4/13/08**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/21, 4/28, 5/05, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0677334

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **EBI GHODOOSHIM TEXTILE & APPAREL**, 819 SANTEE STREET SUITE 1207, LOS ANGELES, CA 90014. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **YAHYA GHODOOSHIM**, 383 N. LAPEER DR. APT #106, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: YAHYA GHODOOSHIM**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/17/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **4/1/2008**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/21, 4/28, 5/05, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0677333

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ESSI JEANS**, 744-A S. BROADWAY, LOS ANGELES, CA 90014. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **ESMAEIL SHAYESTEH KHORRAM**, 19204 FRIAR ST., TARZANA, CA 91335. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ESMAEIL SHAYESTEH KHORRAM**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/17/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **4/1/08**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/21, 4/28, 5/05, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0652446

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **GLAMOUR HAIR STYLERS**, 1907 WEST BADILL STREET, COVINA, CA 91790. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **ROCIO ZEGARRA BORDA**, 14402 HALLWOOD DR., BALDWIN PARK, CA 91706. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ROCIA ZEGARRA BORDA**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/15/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under

the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/21, 4/28, 5/05, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0643884

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **NDUKWE INTERNATIONAL ART COMPANY**, 7414 S. HARVARD BLVD., L.A., CA 90047. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **LATRESCHÉ HAMILTON**, 7414 S. HARVARD BLVD., L.A., CA 90047. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: LATRESCHÉ HAMILTON**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/14/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/21, 4/28, 5/05, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0662238

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION & AGING RESOURCES/SENIORS ALIVE AT 65**, 904 NORTH LA BREA-2nd FL., INGLEWOOD, CA 90301. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **HOSANNA COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 10866 WASHINGTON BLVD. #215, CULVER CITY, CA 90232. This Business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION. Signed: BISHOP EUGENE HOLLY**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/16/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above in **1995**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/21, 4/28, 5/05, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0651559

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **WENDIE GUO INSURANCE SERVICES**, 2228 INDIANA AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90032. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **WANYI GUO**, 2228 INDIANA AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90032. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: WANYI GUO**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/15/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/21, 4/28, 5/05, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0632931

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **WESTERN NAILS SPA**, 316 N. WESTERN AVE. #B, SAN PEDRO, CA 90732. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **UYENGIAO H. LÉ**, 2256 GRIFFIN AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90031. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: UYENGIAO H. LE**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/11/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/21, 4/28, 5/05, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0703987

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **APPRAISERS EXEL**, 12902 GRAYSTONE AVE., NORWALK, CA 90650. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **LENIN P. CHAVEZ**, 12902 GRAYSTONE AVE., NORWALK, CA 90650. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: LENIN P. CHAVEZ**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/22/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/28, 5/05, 5/12, 05/19/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0724134

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CELERS “R” US**, 936 S. BURLINGTON AVE. #303, LOS ANGELES, CA 90006. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **CARLOS P. RUANO**, 936 S. BURLINGTON AVE. #303, LOS ANGELES, CA 90006. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: CARLOS P. RUANO**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/24/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/28, 5/05, 5/12, 05/19/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0686426

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CHOSEN CONCEPTS**, 9112 S. 7th AVE., INGLEWOOD, CA 90305. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **ELNOR JOHNSON**, 9112 S. 7th AVE., INGLEWOOD, CA 90305. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ELNOR JOHNSON**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/18/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **06/1994**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/28, 5/05, 5/12, 05/19/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0723731

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **DAY & NIGHT ADJUSTERS**, 14630 VALLEY BLVD. #F, LA PUENTE, CA 91746. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **ALEJANDRO VILLEGAS**, 6078 FULL ST., CORONA, CA 92880. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ALEJANDRO VILLEGAS**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/24/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **1999**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/28, 5/05, 5/12, 05/19/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0701992

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PERSUE**, 2111 N. SAN GABRIEL BLVD. #G7H, Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **TIENIU WANG**, LIPING SHAO, 516 S. HIDALGO AVE. #C, ALHAMBRA, CA 91801. This Business is conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. Signed: TIENIU WANG**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/22/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **1/1/2008**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/28, 5/05, 5/12, 05/19/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0724276

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **REVOLUTIONARY IMAGES**, 15120 BELLOTA AVE., PARAMOUNT, CA 90723. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **EDWIN BLANCO**, 15120 BELLOTA AVE., PARAMOUNT, CA 90723. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: EDWIN BLANCO**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/24/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/28, 5/05, 5/12, 05/19/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0724325

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **RÖCSTAR FOTOS**, 205 W. ALTADENA DR., ALTADENA, CA 91001. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **EDUARDO PIMENTEL**, 205 W. ALTADENA DR., ALTADENA, CA 91001. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: EDUARDO PIMENTEL**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/24/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the

County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/28, 5/05, 5/12, 05/19/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0724614

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SIMPLICITY EVENTS WEDDING AND EVENT COORDINATION**, 8427 VICKI DR., WHITTIER, CA 90606. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **GUADALUPE CARRERA**, 8427 VICKI DR., WHITTIER, CA 90606. **CARMEN ALANIZ**, 8330 MORRILL STREET, WHITTIER, CA 90606. **JAMES M. JUAREZ JR.**, 1630 NEIL ARMSTRONG ST. UNIT 204, MONTEBELLO, CA 90640. This Business is conducted by: **AGENERAL PARTNERSHIP. Signed: JAMES M. JUAREZ JR.**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/24/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/28, 5/05, 5/12, 05/19/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0704094

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SUBLIMINAL EVENTS**, 5701 S. EASTERN AVE. #630, COMMERCE, CA 90040. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **REACH BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP, INC.**, 10222 ROSECRANS AVE., BELLFLOWER, CA 90706. This Business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION. Signed:.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/22/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/28, 5/05, 5/12, 05/19/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0723029

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **TOMMY TA**, 420 BOYD ST. STE. 501, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **TRUNG HONG TA**, 340 W. LAS FLORES AVE., ARCADIA, CA 91007. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: TRUNG TA**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/24/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/28, 5/05, 5/12, 05/19/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0703662

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **VUITTON INTERNATIONAL**, 1151 SONORA AVE. #209, GLENDALE, CA 91201. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **JOYCE O’RILEY**, 1151 SONORA AVE. #209, GLENDALE, CA 91201. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JOYCE O’RILEY**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/22/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews-Observer
Pub. 4/28, 5/05, 5/12, 05/19/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0587695

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **A.I.O. INTERNATIONAL**, 1518 ORCHARD AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90006. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **SIMON HWANG**, 1518 ORCHARD AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90006. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: SIMON HWANG**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/04/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews Observer
4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/05/2008

CA 90211. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **ALTADENA CONCRETE CONNECTION, LLC**, 264 S. LA CIENEGA BL., STE. 1186, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211. This Business is conducted by: **A LLC. Signed: CHRIS GAINES**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/07/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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 et seq. Business and Professions Code)

Publish: MountainViews Observer
4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/05/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 08-0586245

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **BELLA MOULDINGS**, 6241 MAYWOOD AVE., HUNTINGTON PARK, CA 90255. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **JASON TIRADO**, 6241 MAYWOOD AVE., HUNTINGTON PARK, CA 90255. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JASON TIRADO**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **04/04/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **N/A**.

NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. Anew Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. 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

(cont.)

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LEGAL NOTICES (cont.)

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: 04/26; 05/03; 05/10 and 05/17, 2008 170801CC

170802EH File No. 20080550053 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: T.L.C. CONSTRUCTION 411 W. 4th St #6 Long Beach, CA 90802 Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Christopher Robert Gourgaud 411 W. 4th St #6 Long Beach, CA 90802. The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Mar 31, 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: 04/26; 05/03; 05/10 and 05/17, 2008 170802EH

170803CC File No. 20080531488 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: KAL AUTO SALES 15916 S. Figueroa St Gardena, CA 90248 Full name of registrant (s) is (are) KAL INVESTMENT GROUP 15916 S. Figueroa St Gardena, CA 90248. 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 Mar 27, 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: 04/26; 05/03; 05/10 and 05/17, 2008 170803CC

170804CC File No. 20080531487 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: I.D. AUTO SERVICE 15916 S. Figueroa St Gardena, CA 90248 Full name of registrant(s) is (are) SATURN SYSTEMS, INC. 15916 S. Figueroa. The business is conducted by: 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 Mar 27, 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: 04/26; 05/03; 05/10 and 05/17, 2008 170804CC

170805CC File No. 20080531497 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person (s) is (are) doing business as: ZBI ENTERPRISES 13312 ½ Van Nuys Blvd Pacoima, CA 91331 Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Carlos M. Celaya 13312 ½ Van Nuys Blvd Pacoima, CA 91331. The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Mar 27, 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: 04/26; 05/03; 05/10 and 05/17, 2008 170805CC

170806M File No. 20080692543 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME The following person (s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious name: HUNAN VILLAGE RESTAURANT 1017 S. Glendora Ave West Covina, CA 91790 The name of the registrant (s) is (are) Hao Ou Yang 1017 S. Glendora Ave West Covina, CA 91790. The business was conducted as: AN INDIVIDUAL. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 04/16/2008. Original File #20080662667. 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 April 21, 2008. The registrant (s) has (have) ended to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 04/21/2008. NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 04/26; 05/03; 05/10 and 05/17, 2008 170806M

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ROBERT JOSEPH GARDNER AKA ROBERT J. GARDNER CASE NO. GP013632 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ROBERT JOSEPH GARDNER AKA ROBERT J. GARDNER. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by PAMELA LYNN GARDNER in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that PAMELA LYNN GARDNER 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 04/25/08 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 CRÉDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner CLAYTON D. WILSON WILSON & WILSON 414 S FIRST AVE ARCADIA CA 91006 3/29, 4/5, 4/12/08 CNS-1305965#

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: FRANCES ZELKO MELLERUP CASE NO. GP012443 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of FRANCES ZELKO MELLERUP. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by SUSAN BARBARA MELLERUP in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that SUSAN BARBARA MELLERUP 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 05/09/08 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 CRÉDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner KELLEY BANNON LASHLEY ANGLEA & BANNON 1111 S ARROYO PARKWAY #470 PASADENA CA 91105 4/5, 4/12, 4/19/08 CNS-1312982#

The Mountain Clymer If A Bear Cries In The Woods

It is always shocking and sad to hear when a wild animal, kept in captivity and seemingly taught to behave in a civilized manor in the presence of humans, turns inexplicably on its trainer. It always seems to mean that the animal will “have to be destroyed”. The expectations that we put on these animals are far too great. They are wild animals. We cannot expect them to know our rules and our consequences for violating them. Killing is a natural behavior for them...their survival depends on their ability to do it instinctively and well. This past week's event in Big Bear, where a grizzly bear attacked and killed his trainer, was inevitable. If you play with fire enough, you have to know that eventually you will get burned. It is hard for us to remember sometimes that the animals we grew up with in our fairy tales and nursery rhymes are not our cute and cuddly companions...they can not, and should not, ever be thought of as such. Doing so serves them a great injustice and puts both human and animal in a potentially dangerous, if not deadly situation. But it is difficult sometimes, for animal lovers such as myself, not to want to reach out and attempt to bridge the gap between wildlife and human...even for just a moment...but even the briefest and most well intentioned efforts can have serious consequences.

Back in the fall of 2002...after the big wildfires just east of our canyon in the mountains above Azusa...I found myself in a situation that made me briefly forget “the rules of engagement” when encountering wildlife. Sometimes it is difficult to tread that fine line between doing more harm than good. It was sometime in November of that year that I had my first encounter with a new visitor to our canyon. I had just come off of the upper trail and into the relative safety of canyon bottom. Instead of turning right at the junction to head home, I hung a left and headed up stream to patrol the cabins between the junction and the falls. Just a few yards after the turn, my dog Jack...a large coyote-looking cross between an Australian shepherd and a smooth-hair collie and the best trail dog ever...took off after something he had spotted in the wooded area surrounding the cabins. There was a frantic scrambling noise and he disappeared just out of sight, barking incessantly. “Squirrel!” I thought to myself... “or skunk”. Fearing the latter, I hurried a bit to see what it was that had caused him such excitement. He was standing at the bottom of a big pine barking his fool head off. “Jack, NO!!!” I yelled. “JACK!!!” He stopped barking and stood

fixated on one of the branches and eagerly wagging his tail. I followed his gaze up into the thicket of branches and there, about half way up was a baby bear. Fearing that his mother was nearby, and knowing the consequences of getting between a mom and cub, I quickly got us all out of the area and down the trail a safe distance.

Several days later we repeated the incident, again encountering the little cub in the same place as before. Seeing a cub is always a treat, and as usual, I was anxious to share the experience with my family and the cabin owners I encountered over the next few days. I was surprised to hear of several other people running into what sounded like the same cub, and none of them reported any sighting of the mother bear. Two different cabin owners, one with a cabin nearby and one quite a way down the trail had both watched the young bear snoop around the yard of their cabins and another couple reported that they had caught the baby peering in the window of their cabin one evening...looking for food, no doubt. We discussed the situation and came to the conclusion that the cub had probably been orphaned by the recent fires. I was pleased and not surprised when, on a third occasion, upon reaching the area of the trail junction, Jack again caught sight of the cub, this time treeing him in a big canyon oak that stretched over the trail. I jumped off of Whiskey, hitched her and the donkeys to some nearby trees, and quickly headed over to the oak where Jack stood, staring up into branches. I planted myself at his side and looked up where his eyes were focused. About twenty feet above us was a branch that stretched clear across the trail, forking about half-way across. There, lying on the along the wide part of the branch with his head hanging through the “Y”, was the cub, staring down at us and breathing heavily. “Oh, poor baby.” I said sweetly and softly to him, “It’s okay, we won’t hurt you sweetie. Where’s your mommy? Are you all alone out here?”

“What is it?” I heard a woman's voice inquire from off in the distance. I turned to see Jackie, the owner of one of the cabins on the other side of the stream.

“A bear cub.” I answered. “I think it’s an orphan,” I explained as she drew nearer. In a moment she and her dog were standing next to us and we all stood staring up at the tyke.

“Oh, my god, the poor thing. He must be scared to death.”

“And starving, too. There have been several cabin owners who have seen him scrounging for food. The Johns said he was looking in their window the other night watching them eat.” I told her.

“He’s so cute...just look at him.” As we stood looking at him a droplet of water fell from his face to the ground in front of us. “What do you suppose they eat?” she asked. “Do you think dog food would be alright?”

“I would think so, they kind of eat the same stuff coyotes eat, I think. Their poop looks the same...cept bigger. Do you have some dog food you can spare?” I asked.

“Sure. I’ll be right back.” she answered. “You stay right there, little guy. I’m going to get you something to eat. I’ll be right back,” she said to the bear in her very best baby-talk. While she was gone I stood looking up at him and gently reassuring him that it would be all right and that we would not hurt him and would try to help him since his mommy was not around anymore. As I did, several more droplets fell from his face.

Jackie returned with a bucket of dog food. She once again stood beneath the tree and held the bucket up for the baby to see. “I got you some food baby bear,” she told him. “Can you smell it?” She walked over to the base of the tree with the bucket. “I know you are scared right now, but I’m putting it right here so you can get it when you come down?” she explained to him as she demonstratively placed the bucket where he could see it. She stepped back to check his reaction. “Okay?” More drips fell from his face. “What was that?” she asked.

“I don’t know, he has been doing that since he got up there. Do you suppose he could be crying,” I questioned.

“Gosh, I don’t know. That would be something, huh? He’s probably just panting or got a runny nose,” she guessed...seemed more likely...though it did seem as though they were originating from the area of his eyes...but it was hard to tell from that distance.

“We better leave him alone and get the dogs out of here. I think that is what has him so scared,” I suggested. We both sent a few more tender and comforting words to him and quietly left him alone.

A few days later Jackie called me with a phone number of a woman in northern California who



By Kim Clymer-Kelley

was an expert on bears. She wanted me to call her to get some advice on what should be done for the cub. I called the woman immediately and told her that we thought we had an orphan bear cub in the area. She asked for his size. I told her that he was about 60 pounds, knee high and about three feet nose to tail. She explained to me that this is the time of year when a mother would make sure her cubs had enough fat on them to make it through the winter and that a cub that small may not be able to fatten itself up enough to survive. She told us that it was illegal for us to feed it, but then proceeded to tell me what is good food for them and how to feed it without him associating the food with humans. I read between the lines.

“It cannot learn to associate food with humans...it’s very important not to let it know where the food is coming from.”

“Oh, of course.” I said as I flashed back on placing the bucket of food at the base of the tree. Oops.

“It cannot learn to think of you as friendly. It must think of you as something to fear. If you see it again, do not try to sweet-talk it or make friends with it.”

“Oh, no...we would never do that.” Oops, again.

We chatted for awhile longer until I thought that I understood everything that she was telling me and that all of my questions were answered. I thanked her profusely for sharing all of her knowledge with us and for helping the cub and was wrapping up the conversation when one more question occurred to me.

“Oh! One more thing,” I added just as I was going to say good-bye, “When he was in the tree and we were standing there...uh...watching it, it looked like tears were falling from its face.”

“He was probably crying,” she explained. “Bears are one of the few animals that can truly cry real tears when they are afraid or sad.”

My heart broke. “Oh, my god...the poor thing.” I replied and I thanked her again for all her help, said good-bye, hung up, and sat there and cried a bit myself. Sometimes the differences seem so small that it is hard to remember how great they really are.

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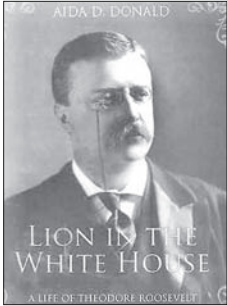
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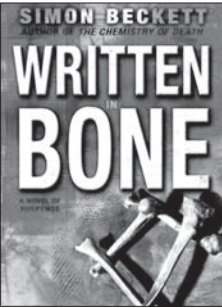
By Jeff Brown

Lion in the White House: A Life of Theodore Roosevelt, by Aida D. Donald (2007)

T.R. was a New York State Assemblyman, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Governor of New York and, at 42, the youngest President ever. In his own words, “He rose like a rocket.” He was also a cowboy, soldier, historian, explorer, and an environmentalist. All in all, the most versatile President in American history. A wonderful read about this amazing man and his time.

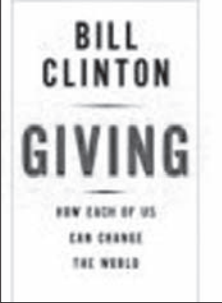


Written in Bone, by Simon Beckett(2007)



In this wonderful thriller, our hero, forensic anthropologist David Hunter, investigates a suspicious death on Runa, a small island in the Hebrides off the Scotland coast. With the mainland official force busy with a horrible train wreck, Hunter must try to determine what caused the victim’s death. He discovers a badly burned body with the feet and one hand mostly untouched, in a cottage that has little fire damage. Could spontaneous combustion have been the cause? The suspense mounts with the approach of a storm that cuts off the island from the outside world. A very good read. Short listed for the Dagger Award for Best Crime novel.

Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World, by Bill Clinton (2007)



In this inspiring book, ex-President Clinton writes about innovative philanthropic and social action by individuals and corporations that provide help both locally and around the globe. He offers different ways that people can make a difference in their giving and in their charitable actions.

Recommended by Jack Reacher

The Mediterranean Caper, by Clive Cussler (1973)



On an isolated Greek island, a World War I fighter plane, flown by a Luftwaffe ace, attacks a modern U.S. Air Force base, a mysterious saboteur preys on an American scientific expedition and Dirk Pitt, one of the greatest fiction heroes ever, plays a deadly game of hunter and hunted with the elusive head of an international smuggling ring. This is the first book in Cussler’s Dirk Pitt and Numa (National Underwater and Marine Agency) action series. His books are published in more than 40 languages in more than 100 countries with a readership of more than 125 million fans.

Book pics can be purchased or ordered at Sierra Madre Books (626) 836-3200

Email recommendations or comments to jeffspics1@gmail.com

Scene One - Take One DVD Review



Deja Vu (1997)

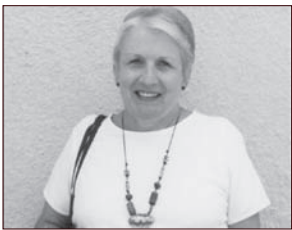
This is a movie by Henry Jaglom about soul mates. Dana, an L.A. shop owner and Sean, a London painter, meet by accident and it’s love at first sight. However, Sean is already married and Dana is about to marry. If this is really love, is it strong enough to tear them away from their already established lives? It examines the possibility of meeting a soul mate and already being involved with other people and the choices we have to consider. Powerful!

Grand Hotel (1932)



Winner of the Academy Award for best film, it is a wonderful treat with a fantastic cast that keeps you entranced from beginning to end. Set in the Grand Hotel, the most luxurious and expensive hotel in Berlin, only the highest of high society gains entrance here, a fabulous place. Its guests, however, provide lots of drama: a Russian ballerina, the great Greta Garbo, who is in love with John Barrymore, a fallen Baron traveling with his Dachshund dog who is desperately in need of money to pay off a heavy debt, a secretary, Joan Crawford, mesmerized by tyrant Wallace Beery, who is a cruel industrialist staying there to negotiate a business deal with an important client; Lionel Barrymore, a bookkeeper, diagnosed with an incurable disease who quits his job to enjoy his remaining days to the fullest; and a lonely doctor, Lewis Stone, who walks about the hotel lobby, observing the goings on, and reciting to himself quietly, “Grand Hotel, people come, people go, and nothing ever happens!” But so much does happen as these characters and the great Hotel activity fill the story with deep existential situations: love, despair, greed, desperation, friendship. It’s a very moving movie, not to be missed ... and revisited again if you haven’t seen it in awhile.

Sierra Madre Rose Float Association has launched it’s new website: www.sierramadrerosefloat.com



BIRD’S EYE VIEW By Pat Birdsall

Jury Duty? No Problem!

The political clime in Sierra Madre is such that when a summons for jury duty at a courthouse in downtown Los Angeles arrived, I enthusiastically jumped at the chance to serve. How pathetic is that? So what if I had to get there at 7:45 AM the first day...no problem. So, I don’t drive freeways...no problem. I’ll just catch a bus at 6:20 AM for the hour long ride to downtown...no problem. Oops, problem!

I’m usually not even breathing at 6:20AM, much less showered, dressed, face on, hair fixed and animals fed. Gad! I pulled out of my driveway a little after 6:00 AM and I could see my neighbor standing at his kitchen sink. He did the biggest double take (just this side of a whiplash), because he has never seen me stirring, much less driving, at that hour (nor will he again, hopefully).

I parked my car in the lot at Arcadia Park and walked to the bus stop at Huntington Drive and Baldwin Avenue. I haven’t taken a bus for years and so didn’t know the “ropes.” The first part of the equation is this: the bus driver isn’t your friend. He will let you prattle on about not having taken the bus in years and offers no help. For instance, “Perhaps you should just put one coin in the slot at a time, not all at once.” I may be wrong, but I think he times just how long it will take you to put your coin purse back in your purse and look for seating before he steps on the gas. I felt like a deranged tango dancer as I tried to get to a seat before I humiliated myself. I also think I noticed a slight smirk on his face as he racked up a point or tow in what I’m convinced is the MTA driver’s version of “Jeopardy,” (the literal definition). You know: How many old farts can you get to fall on other passengers, grab for the poles and miss, and the ultimate: reach for the straps while balancing a purse and packages with a transfer lodged between one’s teeth.

I finally arrived at the courthouse with time to spare...Whew! Piece of cake. *(To be continued...)*



From the Inside Out

An Ongoing Series of Personal Points of View on Health

By Mary Carney

For The Good Of The Children

I’ve been greatly disturbed on the “inside.” Why? The authoritarian, semi-military invasion in Texas, with the resulting “for the good of the children” separation from their parents. There are so many points of view here I don’t know where to start, so my many “Gemini” perspectives are having a “field day” arguing over their points of view..

Yes, according to our laws and public morality, sexual abuse is illegal. So, inside how many families in our neighborhoods is it going on behind closed doors? So, inside how many religions is there an abusive sexual culture? Inside how many prisons is sexual abuse rampant? Do we care? If not, why not? Oh, because these people are “adults?” Because they “did something society didn’t like?” That makes sexual abuse OK? Of course not!

While working in Bangladesh, a government official had arranged to marry off his 12-year old daughter. When I asked why, he said he had too many children to feed so it was time to get rid of her, and let someone else feed her. I was sick to my stomach.

And yet, the most loving couple I have ever met was another young Bangladeshi couple. I have never before, nor since, seen as much deep love and caring openly expressed between a married couple - their marriage, too, was “arranged” when she was only 12 ...

Yes, according to our laws and religious standards, we only allow one wife at a time. Yet, how many of us have had 2, 3, 4, 5 spouses or partners over time? Our religious focus says that polygamy is wrong. In other cultures, however, as a tribal survival mechanism to care for the greater number of women than there are men, a man may have up to four wives - providing he can treat them all the same (there’s an impossibility, and the wise man knows this!)

When in grad school, my Kenyan friend froze my mind the day he told me he was the first child, and the first son of the first of his father’s five wives, and thus the oldest of 46 children. His father had his own house, each of the wives had her own house, and they visited him on schedule. This provided

him with care and comfort while his various wives went through pregnancy, childbirth, and up to two years of breast-feeding, which got the child off to a healthy start, and allowed the mother to replenish her own health before her next pregnancy. Each wife had her own garden for growing her and her children’s food, because these were not “urban” dwellers.

I helped bankroll a Somalian woman friend of mine as she put a film together to hopefully change her country’s insistence on female circumcision. An appalling practice - and yet, is not our modern “medical” practice of cutting newborn boys just as barbaric?

I read about parents around the world, whose children have been taken away from them because a passionate doctor thinks his way is best; and he finds a way to declare the parents “abusers” and take the children away, if the parents do not agree to use his “medically approved protocol.” Aren’t such doctors also abusers, who take children away and then “do what they will” to the child? And if the child dies, isn’t that murder? Isn’t the loss of parental protection, support and love also “abusive?”

Several hundred years ago, our country was settled by people who did not “fit” into the rigid social, religious and political cultures in the “old country.” They brought themselves and their families to create a better life for all. Did unpleasant things happen? Yes. Did struggle create strength in some? Of course. Did some people get “broken?” Of course. That’s life - we are given challenges to overcome and get stronger. So, who is in charge? You? Or the larger culture and social opinion around you? You are as free as you can envision yourself being. Freedom is, in many ways, an inner landscape.

My heart goes out to everyone - children and parents alike. To have everything you have known stripped away because some outsider thinks their way is best ... Are we in China? Nazi Germany? Each of these individuals is now being abused by our increasingly aggressive militarily society, which says it is “doing it for the good of the children” I have no answers, only sadness, grief and empathy - and it hurts - from the inside out.

SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

FFY: Earth Day

1970 was a time when rivers caught fire and cities were hidden under dense clouds and smoke. This is when the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) was born, and twenty million people celebrated the first Earth Day on April 22nd of that year in San Francisco, California. Remarkable progress has been made since then in protecting human health and safeguarding the natural environment. We still have a long way to go.

For Your Funny Bone The local bar was so sure that its bartender was the strongest man around that they offered a standing \$1000 bet. The bartender would squeeze a lemon until all the juice ran into a glass, and hand the lemon to a patron. Anyone who could squeeze one more drop of juice out would win the money. Many people had tried over time (weight-lifters, longshoreman, etc.) but nobody could do it. One day a scrawny little man came into the bar, wearing thick glasses and a polyester suit, and said in a squeaky voice, “I’d like to try the bet.” After the laughter had died down, the bartender said OK, grabbed a lemon, and squeezed away. Then he handed the wrinkled remains of the rind to the little man. The crowd’s laughter turned to total silence as the man clenched his fist around the lemon and six drops fell into the glass. As the crowd cheered, the bartender paid the \$1000, and asked the little man, “What do you do for a living? Are you a lumberjack, a weight-lifter, what?” The man replied, “I work for the IRS.” ****Don’t forget, The IRS spells “Theirs” ****

~Helpful Hints~

When storing winter clothes: 1) Sort before you store; one pile for repairs, one pile for giving away. 2) Clean the clothes before storing 3) Ala Mommie Dearest: No wire hangers! They leave indentations in clothing. Padded hangars are the best. 4) Avoid plastic storage or dry cleaning bags. They impede air flow an=d this can lead to discoloration.5) Store clothes in a closet that is cool, dark and dry thus avoiding mold and mildew. *USA Weekend*



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 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 -\$6.00

Wednesday: Open

Thursday: Game Day- 1:30- 4:00 PM Poker, Bunco, Scrabble, Cribbage, Chess, Checkers, Backgammon, Pinochle...you name it.

Yoga: 5:00-6:30 PM- For seniors and others who want to go slow (can be done in a chair) Instructor: Andrea Walsh \$6.00 for those 50 & over-\$7.50 for those under 50 To register call (626) 355-7394

Friday: Ping-Pong- 2:00-4:00 PM- Not tournament, just for fun

~ New~ Fridays: Adult Fitness Class- Noon-1:00PM at the Recreation Center \$34.00 for 8 week course. Call (626) 355-7394 for info & reservations

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



Happy Birthday

Ken Anhalt, Julia Gottesman & Dorothy White!



Recipe of the Month:

Baby Spinach Salad with Tuna & Cheddar-Carrot Balls
These two recipes are categorized “for school lunchboxes” and, “an after-school snack”, but I think they sound good for any and all ages...

Baby Spinach Salad with Tuna
2 Tbs plain low-fat yogurt
1-2 Tbs Dijon mustard
1 Tbs fresh lemon juice
Course salt & ground pepper
3 ounces baby spinach (about 3 cups, loosely packed)
½ cup seedless red grapes, halved lengthwise
¼ cup thinly sliced red onion (optional)
1 can (3 oz.) chunk light tuna packed in water
Flatbreads for serving (optional)
1) In a small bowl whisk together yogurt, Dijon and lemon juice; Season with salt and pepper
2) Combine spinach, grapes and onion, if using in another bowl.
3) Just before serving, drain tuna, add to salad, and toss with dressing.
4) Serve with flatbreads, if desired.

Cheddar-Carrot Balls

In a medium bowl, with a wooden spoon, combine 4 oz. (½ a bar) cold cream cheese, 2 oz. yellow cheddar cheese, finely grated (1cup loosely packed), and one carrot, finely grated (1/2cup). With moistened hands, gently form 12 balls, each equal to 1 level Tbs. of mixture. Serve with crackers of your choice and some fruit, or refrigerate, covered with plastic wrap up to 2 days.

Meals-On-Wheels: Meals are delivered to homebound seniors through the YWCA Intervale lunch program M-F with frozen meals for the weekend. \$2.00 suggested donation per day
Call Susan Garcia at (626) 858-8382

Monthly Excursions:

April 17-

Los Angeles Zoo & Autry Museum
9:30 AM- 5:00 PM- \$7.00 per person.
Bring additional cash to pay for admission to location of your choice and lunch.
Zoo/Botanical Gardens Senior Admission is \$7.00. (The zoo operates a shuttle for \$1.50 for the day for seniors). Autry Museum; Senior Admission- \$5.00.

May 15-

From Sierra Madre to Fillmore where you will board a train to Santa Paula. A 3 course meal will be served in the vintage dining cars. There will be a walking tour of the heritage murals or you can explore the California Oil Museum. \$52.00 (includes bus, train & lunch) The trip has a high minimum requirement of 45 people, so ask a friend or two to join you.

**For reservations and further information call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394 or stop by and see her at the Hart Memorial Park House- 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM- Monday-Thursday*

Free Consultation with Pasadena Attorney Geoffrey Chin- 2nd Wednesday of the month- 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM- *Appointments are a must. Call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394. *Conflicting court schedules can occasionally cause cancellations.

Blood Pressure Clinic The SM Paramedics do blood pressure readings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 11-12:00 noon

Hearing Loss after 50+ Dr. Lucy Shih will discuss treatment options currently available on Tuesday, April 22 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Arcadia Community Center 365 Campus Dr., Arcadia. One in three people age 60 and over, and half of those older than 85 have hearing loss. Hearing problems can be frustrating and even dangerous. For reservations call (626) 574-5130.

The income tax has made more liars out of the American people than golf has. ~ Will Rogers

SPORTS

Back Page Journal



Is It Just Me?

By Brad Eastland, Sports Editor

The other day I was jotting down some notes concerning some recent annoying sports developments in my journal (Back Page "Journal", get it?), just a bunch of current-events stuff knocking around in my head, irritating stuff, things that were really starting to bother me, etc. I dunno...one minute I'm thinking I've stumbled onto some juicy nuggets, some truly incisive scraps of sports miscellanea, and then the next minute I'm figuring that maybe it's just me. Could it be I'm overreacting, I ask myself?

Let's find out:

Is it just me, or do the rest of you feel cheated when Tiger Woods sleepwalks through an entire "major" without ever climbing into contention? Like the Masters. Feels like being sold a fantastic, mint-condition used car by a fantastic, fast-talking, hype-sliding salesman---a once-in-a-lifetime ride complete with new tires and a perfect paint job---and then finding out the next day that the whole transmission needs replacing.

Is it just me, or does it seem to you like the baseball season hasn't even started yet? No excitement, no adrenaline rush, no buzz, no magic, no nothing. I think it's the Steroids thing. Too much media-driven nonsense. I'll always think of it as an overblown, hypocrisy-ridden sham, no worse than a dozen different scandals sprinkled throughout the controversy-soaked history of the great game of baseball---"the only game in the world, I think" as Babe Ruth once said---but all the media attention focused on steroid use has definitely taken the fun out of it...

Is it just me, or do the Lakers look like they play defense as if they resent being punished for not drinking their milk? (Look for a 2nd-round exit from the playoffs if they don't knock it off and try hard on both ends of the court...)

Is it just me, or does it appear as if Roger Federer needs some time off?

Is it just me, or does having gas creep to over \$3.80 a gallon make it feel as if the end of the world is following not so very far behind? (yeah, I know it doesn't have anything to do with sports, but I thought it was worth mentioning...)

Is it just me, or is it still hard to believe that the Patriots lost to the friggin' Giants?

Is it just me, or is watching soccer on TV sort of like when we used to drop water balloons on anthills? Both episodes feature bursts of pointless, nebulous, mindless running around to very little effect...think about it.

Is it just me, or does the Atlanta Hawks making the NBA playoffs with a 37-45 record send the wrong message to our kids? The message being that mediocrity equals success in America, sort of like having to explain why a guy like "Dr. Phil" has his own TV show.

Speaking of Dr. Phil, I saw where he made \$90 million dollars last year...doesn't that seem even more like the end of the world than the \$3.80 a gallon for gas thing? Yeah yeah yeah, I know that that's got nothing to do with sports either, but I just can't help myself. And by the way, any and all of you who are the ones actually funding Dr. Phil's \$90 million by actually watching Dr. Phil on TV, as if doing so is either worthwhile or justified, well, you're going to have to explain yourself to St. Peter on Judgment Day...and you won't get any sympathy from me.

Is it just me, or is actually playing sports more painful and generally a lot harder to do well at 50 than when we were 20? (Man, I'm telling you my knees really hurt, lately!)

And is it just me, or don't you just have way more fun watching your own kid hit, pitch, chip, drive, serve, volley, pass, kick, or dribble a ball than you do watching all the spoiled, overpaid, ungrateful drug-ridden law-breaking car-crashing tattoo-laden earring-flaunting wife-beating English-language-butcherer "professional" athletes in this crazy mixed up world combined? Don't you? Or is it just me...
B.E.

Editor's note: Hey Sierra Madre---why not drop me a line at b.eastland@mobserver.com sometime? Let me know what's on your mind, sports-wise. Don't you people have computers at home?



After yet another disappointing Master's, poor Tiger needs a hug. Photo courtesy Google Image Search.

Local Sports Happenings

PCC's Lewis Earns California Sports Information Honor

Robert Lewis, in charge of sports information for the last 17 years at Pasadena City College, accepted the annual Brass Top award earlier this month from the California Community College Sports Information Association (CCCCSIA). The award honors career achievement in sports information and was handed out at the COA/CCCCA Convention in Ontario.

Lewis manages PCC's athletics website, including collecting records, statistics, and writing press releases on the college's 16 intercollegiate sports teams. He is responsible for the content and is an editor of PCC's printed athletic media guides, several of which won awards from various public relations organizations.

A few years ago, he joined the college's Sports Hall of Fame committee, developing and researching new candidates for the PCC Hall and Court of Champions. Most of the biographies of the Hall members were written by Lewis.

Besides his work at PCC, Lewis is on the executive board of the CCCSIA as the association's treasurer. For the past five years, he's served as the South Coast Conference's Publicist/Statistician.

Lewis manages the state Top 25 poll for women's volleyball and is the California Community College Women's Volleyball Coaches Association Publicist/Statistician.

He also has served as a media director at state championship events as well as performing public address announcing duties and play-by-play game webcasts on the state's official athletic website (www.coasports.org).

In his versatile career, Lewis chronicled the history of PCC athletics as part of a PCC history book created in 1999 that commemorated the college's 75th Anniversary.

Prior to arriving at PCC in 1991, Lewis worked as a sportswriter at The Evening Outlook, Los Angeles Times, and Daily Breeze. He was earlier employed as a part-time sports producer for then KCOP-Channel 13 News. Lewis earned a B.A. degree in journalism from California State University-Northridge. He played two intercollegiate sports seasons as a relief pitcher on Santa Monica College's baseball team in 1985-86.

Lewis is a member of PCC's Public Relations Office.

La Salle Names Antoine Peterson New Head Coach



Pasadena, CA-- After reviewing candidates for the head football position at La Salle High School, the Selection Committee has chosen Antoine Peterson. Antoine Peterson has been at La Salle High School for the past nine years and has served as the Assistant Football Coach and Defensive Coordinator. We feel that Antoine and his incoming staff will continue the success that La Salle has had in recent years by immediately preparing our football players for the upcoming spring conditioning and summer programs.

Besides being a football coach at La Salle High School, Mr. Peterson is a P.E./Health Department Chairperson teaching P.E., Health, and Physical Fitness. Mr. Peterson is also an assistant track coach for the Lancers.

Pasadena City College CEC Hosts 5K Rose Bowl Run May 10

On Saturday, May 10, the Pasadena City College Community Education Center invites the public for a morning of fun exercise with its 24th PCC-CEC 5K Run/Walk at the Rose Bowl. The annual event begins with a special 1K run for children ages 3-to-5 at 7:30 a.m. The official 5K Run/Walk starts at 8 a.m.

Trophies will be awarded to the first overall male and female runners and to the first overall walker. Medals will be handed out to the first three finishers in each of eight age divisions. The race fee is \$18 and includes a commemorative t-shirt.

Proceeds from the 5K go to the CEC's student activity fund as the center raises money for its cultural enrichment programs.

Entry forms are available at the CEC administration office room (102), located at 3035 E. Foothill Blvd. in Pasadena, and at the PCC main campus in the Kinesiology, Health & Athletics Division. Persons interested in participating can register in advance at the CEC or on event morning at the Rose Bowl.

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