

Mountain Views-Observer

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

Friday, May 30, 2008 Volume 2 No. 19

Remembering Our Heroes



VFW Post 3208 Commander Dave Loera (rear) salutes the colors, being presented by Pasadena High School JROTC members at the Memorial Day Service at Pioneer Cemetery on Monday.

Photo and Story By Bill Coburn

The VFW held its annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Pioneer Cemetery on Monday, May 25th. Assisting with the Ceremony were the PHS JROTC, which presented and retired the colors, Boy Scout Troops 110 and 371, which placed flags on the graves of the veterans, and helped with setup and tear down for the event, Father Chris Ruggles, who did the invocation, Peter Vecchio, who led the crowd in song on the National Anthem and God Bless America, as well as performing "Somebody's Darling" as a solo, the Disabled American Veteran's Honor Detail, which was responsible for the three volleys and Taps, and members of Post 3208, who undertook the VFW Memorial Ritual.

Featured speakers were Sierra Madre Mayor Kurt Zimmerman and Congressman David Dreier. Representing the City were Mayor Pro Tem Maryann MacGillivray, Council Member John Buchanan, Police Chief Marilyn Diaz, SMFD Battalion Chief Michael Bamberger, and Chris Cimino of Public Works. Cimino also oversees the landscaping and maintenance at Pioneer Cemetery which looked beautiful and provided a serene setting for the annual event. Council Members Joe Mosca and Don Watts did not attend.

Mayor Kurt Zimmerman opened by noting that his 4-year old son had mentioned the previous day that he was glad it was Memorial Day because it meant he didn't have to go to Nursery School. He noted that at his son's age, he couldn't really be expected to appreciate the significance of the day, but lamented the fact that there are millions of much older Americans who believe that Memorial Day is a "time for recreation, for them it is a barbecue at the park, it's a sale at the department store, it's a three-day TV marathon of some series that ended forty years ago...of course, it is none of those things. Instead it is the most solemn commemoration. It's the day when we give thanks for those service men and service women, who made the ultimate sacrifice." He continued, noting that for those wars in the past, historians have debated whether the causes were noble, and "today our politicians and the electorate are debating whether a war that we are fighting right now, should be prosecuted or is better ended. But the historical debates and the current debates, should not, do not, detract from the nobility of the sacrifice of those service men and those service women." *(continued on page 3)*

Dean Lee Wins Visual Arts Guild Honors



Honorees, from left to right: Appo Jabarian, USA Armenian News; Terry Miller, Pasadena Independent; James McPherson, Pasadena Now; Dean Lee, MountainViews-Observer; Todd Ruiz, Pasadena Star News. Not pictured: Joe Pisecki - Pasadena Weekly. Photo By S. Henderson

At the 19th Anniversary Tianamen Square Commemoration, the Visual Artists Guild bestowed the Excellence In Journalism Award to Dean Lee, City Editor of this publication, for his reporting on the events surrounding the protests over China's participation in this year's Rose Parade. In addition to the other honorees listed above, the Spirit of Tiananmen Award was given to those who have shown compassion and support for human rights for China, Darfur, Burma and Tibet. Spirit Award winners included: Bill Paparian, Former Mayor of Pasadena; Ken Hardy, Stephen Macala, Milena Alpert, Terrie Allen, Michelle Bailey and Felipe O. Infante, Commissioners, Pasadena Human Rights Committee and Pasadena NAACP President, Joe Brown. The event was held in Los Angeles and chaired by well known activist, Ann Lau.

Lee, who has been with the paper since its inception, is the fourth staff member to win recognition for his journalistic endeavors. Other MountainViews-Observer staffers recently awarded honors for their work include Ann Cleaves, MVO Cartoonist by the Newspaper Publishers Association; John Avery, MVO Webmaster, and Allison Kirkham, MVO Art Director who was recently elected State President of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges. S. Henderson/MVO

“UNCLEAN HANDS”

One Carter/Stonehouse Investors File Cross-Complaint Against Dorn-Platz; Asks For Court Appointed Receiver

By Susan Henderson

In defense of its actions to protect their \$4.4 million investment and foreclose on the projects, attorney's representing the Sierra Madre Investors, LP and Castlegrace Acquisitions accused Greg Galletly and Dorn-Platz of being "guilty of unclean hands", a legal doctrine which states that a party who is asking for a judgment cannot have the help of the court if they have done anything unethical in relation to the subject of the lawsuit. The alleged unethical conduct is listed in the cross-complaint filed by the investors on May 23rd. Sierra Madre Investors (SMI) have provided \$4.4 million for the development of the One Carter and Stonehouse projects.

Fifteen Causes Of Action Including Improper Conduct Regarding City of Sierra Madre Contracts

The cross-complaint alleges breaches of the agreements between the parties. It accuses Galletly/DPPI of Fraud, Deceit and Conspiracy. and also asks the court to appoint a Receiver.

The investors also allege that DPPI "entered into Laing Luxury Home contracts, the Dorn-Platz Properties, Inc. Development Agreement, a contract for the sale of the Stones House Property and City Of Sierra Madre Contracts", without written approval.

In addition, disclosures are made regarding a number of entities and/or individuals that have invested in One Carter/Stonehouse, that had not previously been made public. Of the cross-defendants listed, Barnust Properties, Ltd. is listed as the owner of Dorn-Platz Properties, Inc. (DPPI). The DLG Family Limited Partnership (DLG), a Nevada limited partnership, has a 50% interest in Barnhurst and a 28% interest in another entity called 'Insatiable'. Bradley E. Barnes is also listed as a holder of a 28% interest in 'Insatiable' and named cross-defendant Keith Fey listed as an individual from Oxnard, is holder of a 44% membership interest in Insatiable. Insatiable Assets, LLC is a

California Corporation.

The investors have alleged that the various entities associated with Galletly/DPPI are actually 'alter egos' of Galletly/DPPI and not separate entities.

Receiver Requested

Attorney's for the investors have asked the court to appoint a Receiver over the affairs of "DPPI, BGM, Galletly, the DPPI Alter Ego Defendants", for allegedly breaching their fiduciary responsibilities. These allegations include among other things, "... causing and/or receiving in excess of \$4 million in unauthorized distributions from the Maranatha purchase and sale." Should the request be granted, the receiver would "immediately take possession of the books and records, funds and assets of One Carter Investors and its related entities, One Carter, SPE, Stonehouse Homes, One Carter and Stonehouse Properties, and properly manage, including, but not limited to, the development of One Carter and Stonehouse Homes Properties." A hearing has been scheduled for July 7, 2008.

Lender Foreclosure Sale Still Scheduled

In addition to the actions filed by the Sierra Madre Investors, CapSource Funding who loaned the two projects a total of \$38 million dollars, has scheduled a foreclosure sale of the membership interests on June 6, 2008. At press time, there was no indication of any actions being taken to postpone that date. CapSource is listed as a Cross-Defendant in the Sierra Madre Investors actions and accused of "benefiting from its collusion with the disloyal fiduciaries" (DPPI/Galletly, et al) and of "the back-dating of the CapSource Loan Documents" in an alleged effort to secure a senior position on the collateral already pledged to investors.

To add insult to injury, according to court records, Dorn Platz Properties has until June 16, 2008 to redeemed the bounced check for the \$320 filing fees it tendered to the court.

Sierra Madre Lifesavers Paramedic Subscription Program

The City of Sierra Madre is offering all residents and businesses in the city an alternative to paying higher direct fees for paramedic and ambulance services. Annual fees range from \$62-\$189, depending on the level of service you choose.

As a member of the Lifesavers/Paramedic Subscription Program you will not be billed for emergency services. If you have insurance, the city will bill your insurance company for you. The service will perform similar to a secondary insurance plan, with no out of pocket expense for you. The subscription plan includes coverage for you, your family, all employees of a business, or employees and participants in an institution such as a school or church. Contact 626-836-0246 for more information. **PROTECT YOURSELF. PROTECT YOUR FAMILY.**

SIERRA MADRE FARMERS MARKET A HIT

Every Wednesday, Mariposa Parking Lot 3 - 7 pm



Farmers, local businesses like SM Candy Company and Wildflower Bakery can be found at the Market each week.

Goliath Attacks David Corporate Giant Sues Homeless Man Over....

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5-Day Forecast
Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

Open Studio Tour

The Sierra Madre Community Arts Commission is holding its second annual Open Studio Tour on Sunday, June 1 from noon to 5pm. This year 14 artists' studios in Sierra Madre will be open to the public on the same day, showcasing the work of over 25 local, visual artists.

Sierra Madre has a rich history as an artist colony, and the Commission invites you to discover the many artists that are keeping that tradition alive. Some of the many talented artists participating in this year's event include Carolyn Gravatte and Laura Gravatte Wambsgans, Djibril n'Doye, Mark Strickland, Lynn Fearman, Susan Wallis, David Darbyshire and Susie Kustner.

The self-guided tour begins at Creative Arts Group, 108 N. Baldwin, Sierra Madre, and continues through the pleasant and picturesque tree-lined streets of this inviting foothill village. Visitors can either hop on a shuttle bus or follow the maps and stroll from studio to studio at their own pace.

Tickets are \$20 at the door. Pre-sale tickets are available at the Community Services Department, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., for \$15. Call 626-355-5278 for more information.

The mission of the Sierra Madre Community Arts Commission is to promote the community's interest in, awareness of, and appreciation for the arts; to provide support and encouragement to artists living in the community; and to increase the community's participation in the arts. For more information about the Sierra Madre Community Arts Commission or for a listing of upcoming events visit the city's website at www.cityofsierramadre.org.

Spring Family Friday Night Movie Series

Once again the Community and Personnel Services Department is hosting the Friday Night Movie Series in conjunction with The Rotary Club of Sierra Madre, Sierra Madre Little League, and Competitive Athlete Training Zone (CATZ). The movie for this Friday, May 16 is The Little Rascals. The showing will start at 8:15pm in Kersting Court. Everyone is encouraged to spend an evening under the stars in Sierra Madre.

Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshal Sought










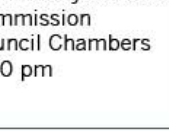




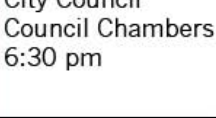
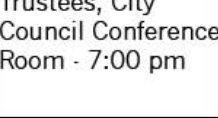
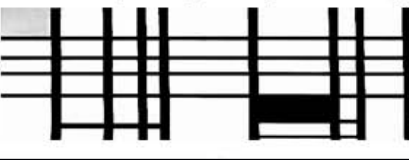
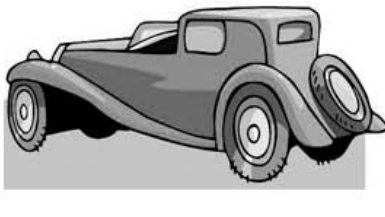
Sierra Madre Fourth of July Committee is looking for candidates to serve as the Grand Marshal for the 2008 Fourth of July Parade. This year's parade will be held on Friday, July 4, according to Matt Bosse, Fourth of July Committee Chairman.

Candidates for the Parade Grand Marshal should echo the spirit of Sierra Madre and should be active volunteers in any of the local nonprofit organizations in Sierra Madre.

Nominations should be sent to: The Fourth of July Committee, P.O. Box 1073, Sierra Madre 91025 or via e-mail to matthewbosse@hotmail.com by Monday, June 2nd.

The Parade begins at 10 a.m. at Sierra Madre Blvd. and Sunnyside, progressing east to Sierra Vista Park until about 11:30 a.m. At that time Memorial Park, on the west side of town, will be filled with nonprofit food booths and the Beer Garden will be open for business.

Chairman Bosse reminds residents that the event kicks off at Memorial Park beginning 6 pm on July 3rd with the band Aluminum Marshmallow and continuing with the Night Bloomin' Jazzmen playing under the large shade tree from noon to about 4 p.m. on July 4th - children's games will take place also on the south lawn of Memorial Park. Food booths and the Beer Garden will be open both the evening of July 3rd and after the parade on July 4th.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<h1>June Calendar</h1>						<div>1</div> <div></div> <div>Open Studio Tour Creative Arts Group - Noon-5pm</div>
<div>2</div> <div></div> <div>Swimming Lessons Mail-in Registration Begins</div>	<div>5</div> <div></div> <div>Sierra Madre Coordinating Council Community Recreation Center - 11:30 am Senior Community Commission Council Chambers - 3:00 pm Planning Commission Council Chambers - 7:00 pm</div>		<div>6</div> <div></div> <div>Mount Wilson Trail Race Pasta Feed - Kersting Court - 7:00 pm</div>	<div>7</div> <div></div> <div>Mount Wilson Trail Race, Kid's Race and Beer Garden - 7:30 am</div>		
<div>10</div> <div></div> <div>Online Swimming Lesson Registration Begins, City Council Meeting, Council Chambers - 6:30 pm</div>	<div>11</div> <div></div> <div>Community Arts Commission, Council Chambers 6:30 pm</div>	<div>13</div> <div></div> <div>Family Movie Friday in Kersting Court - 7:30 pm</div>	<div>14</div> <div></div> <div>Doggie Day Sierra Vista Park 9:00 am - Noon</div>			
<div>16</div> <div></div> <div>Community Services Commission Council Chambers 6:30 pm</div>	<div>18</div> <div></div> <div>Tree Advisory Commission Council Chambers - 7:00 pm</div>	<div>19</div> <div></div> <div>Planning Commission</div>	<div>21</div> <div></div> <div>HFF Splish & Splash, Sierra Madre Pool - 9:00 am POA Car Show, Downtown Sierra Madre</div>			
<div>23</div> <div></div> <div>Summer Reading Club Begins</div>	<div>24</div> <div></div> <div>City Council Council Chambers 6:30 pm</div>	<div>25</div> <div></div> <div>Library Board of Trustees, City Council Conference Room - 7:00 pm</div>	<div>27</div> <div></div> <div>Art Opening In City Hall</div>		<div></div>	

City Hall Asks Residents to Reuse Sandbags

The recent rains and subsequent mud and debris flows demonstrate the need for property owners to protect their homes and properties from potential mud flow damage NOW. The City of Sierra Madre is asking all homeowners to prepare for the possibility of a repeat rain performance in the coming months, and to retain filled sandbags at their own property for immediate re-use in the event of a storm forecast. Some Sierra Madreans have already taken mitigation measures and have sandbags at their home which is really great news. Others with "used" sandbags and covers should know that they are recyclable and reusable and should not be discarded or turned back into the City. The City is not responsible for collecting used or discarded sandbags. Please help keep your neighborhood tidy, and plan to re-use your sandbags. This will reduce congestion and delays at sandbag distribution areas during the next storm, and will allow individual property owners to set up their own defenses against the mud much more quickly. Remember, the City's resources are limited and homeowners should be continuing their personal preparations for future storms.

Helpful Hints on How to Fight Flooding at Home

Here are ways to keep water out of your home and instructions for filling sandbags and building a barrier from the California Department of Water Resources and the California Conservation Corps.

Ways to Keep Water Out of Your House

During the times of heavy rains, most damage to homes and property comes from flooded streets, particularly those with blocked drains. Be sure your gutters are clear of leaves and debris. Low curbs and sloping driveways also pose a problem.

Your home can be protected by directing the

water flow. Sandbag walls can be used to divert water or mud. Place the sandbag walls so they channel the water to a clear drain or gutter. BE CAREFUL THAT YOU DO NOT REDIRECT MUD INTO A NEIGHBOR'S PROPERTY OR HOME!

HOW TO: Fill a Sandbag and Build a Sandbag Barrier

Work with another person, with one of you holding the bag while the other shovels sand or other material. The first shovelful is placed on the edge of the bag to keep the bag open. The bag holder should bend at the waist, with elbows resting on knees. The shoveler gets rounded scoops of sand and fills the bag to just one-third full. Avoid injury by not twisting while shoveling.

Fold over the open end of the bag in a triangle to present sand from leaking out. Close-knit burlap bags are recommended.

Place a line of bags with the folded side up, with folded edges facing the direction of water flow. Stomp each bag into place. Like you would bricks, stagger the next layer of bags over the folded tops of the bags underneath. Stop each layer of bags. To give the structure stability, the base should be 1.5 times wider than the height (Example, 6 ft. wide by 4 ft. high)

When you don't have time to build a sandbag barrier, use a temporary levee to raise low areas. Prepare ahead by buying 20-foot-wide sheets of plastic (6-10 mil thickness). Lay out the length you need and place sand, dirt, or gravel on the half facing your property. Fold over the other half and place a solid row of sandbags on the edge of the plastic to anchor the top edge of the plastic sheet.

In locations where water could rise with no current, such as at lake shores, lay visquine plastic on the ground up to walls, and form a half pyramid of sandbags. Cover doors and vents with plywood.



This year's Doggie Day will be Saturday, June 14th, 2008, from 9 am to Noon in Sierra Vista Park.



Sierra Madre Woman's Club
Wistaria Thrift Shop
at the rear of the Essick House
550 West Sierra Madre Boulevard
one block East of Michillinda

Join us Saturday, May 31
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
for our annual closeout
Big Brown Bag Sale!

All you can fit in a
brown grocery bag
\$3 per bag
Fill as many bags
as you like



\$3
per bag
We supply
the bags.

Quality clothing for all the family, jewelry, linens, kitchenware, glassware, books, toys, bric-a-brac, remnants, craft supplies, decorations, workshop and garden items, and much more!
Rock bottom prices on items too big for a bag.
For Information call 626-355-7739
Proceeds support local charities

Join us for breakfast Sat. & Sun. at 9:00 a.m.

Happy Hour daily from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Open weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to close.

Open weekends from 9:00 a.m. to close.

120 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



Chef Scott May
Le Cordon Bleu
Tel: 626.355.3908

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

FOR THE
SIERRA MADRE VOLUNTARY SANDBAG
CORPS

Persons of able body who do not live in areas susceptible to mud flow may volunteer in advance to assist in sandbagging and other emergency relief efforts by contacting Public Works staff members James Carlson or Suzi McConnell at 626.355.7135.

- All we need is your name, contact information and your signature.
- Meetings to discuss emergency planning and sandbagging techniques will be held each month and as needed.

Thank you for your consideration, and do not hesitate to pass this information on to friends and family.

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

- Community Services • Planning • Senior Community

For an application, visit www.cityofsierramadre.com
For more information please call (626) 355-7135

Sierra Madre Farmer's Market

Starting on May 21st, Sierra Madre will be holding a certified farmers market every Wednesday between the hours of 3pm and 7pm in the public parking lot on Mariposa Avenue, just south of Sierra Madre Blvd. between S. Baldwin and S. Hermosa Avenues.

The farmers market will offer a variety of vegetables and seasonal fruits from California family farms. There will also be a selection of freshly made specialty foods, such as vegetarian and vegan dishes, ethnic food and hot food prepared at the market.

Everything you'll find at the farmers market has been made or picked fresh, is pesticide-free and preservative-free, so you can make the healthiest eating choices possible.

For more information, call (310) 633-3966 or (626) 355-5278.

More Sierra Madre News & Notes

Foundation Has Role In Goldberg Park

Sierra Madre Community Foundation was one of several organizations and individuals who participated recently in the dedication of the Milton and Harriet Goldberg Recreation Area, located on South Sunnyside.

Mary Katherine Kelley, chair of the Foundation, said, “We are happy to be a part in making the Goldbergs’ vision become a reality with the establishment of the Goldberg Park. It is a great honor for the Sierra Madre Community Foundation to work with this civic-minded family.”

The late Milton Goldberg, a Sierra Madrean, whose dream for the park came to fruition, had said, “Children need space, time and love.” And the plot of land, donated by the Goldbergs, is coming alive with vegetation benches and areas that kids and adults will appreciate.

At the dedication Mayor Kurt Zimmerman noted that Councilmen John Buchanan and Joe Mosca were present as well as former Mayor Enid Joffe.

Major donors were Supervisor Mike Antonovich, Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters Association, Sierra Madre Rotary Club and the offspring of the Goldbergs, Mike Goldberg and Roberta Braun.

Braun talked about the genesis of the idea for a pocket park and lauded the Sierra Madre Community Foundation for playing a key role in the fundraising effort to bring the park, honoring her parents, a reality.

Many other donors contributed to this City effort.

Join the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, to learn how to “Own Your Future” with Long Term Care Awareness. The Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club meets at The Masonic Hall at 33 W Sierra Madre Blvd at noon. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please RSVP to (626) 355-3656. If you would like to join us for lunch, it’s just \$10 per guest and is catered by Lozano’s, or simply come for the program.

Church of the Ascension to Host Choral Evensong June 1st

The Choir of the Church of the Ascension will be presenting a Choral Evensong on Sunday, June 1, at 5:00 p.m. Evensong is an evening service of the Anglican Church in which most of the liturgy is sung, rather than spoken. This beautiful service of music and meditation is derived from the ancient Roman offices of Vespers and Compline, and may contain hymns, psalms, choral anthems, and the canticles, “Magnificat” and “Nunc Dimittis.”

Based on the Prayer Book of 1622, the June 1st event will feature music of the Renaissance period, including works by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585), William Smith of Durham (1603-1645), and John Amner (1579-1641). Tallis’ works include “Magnificat” and “Nunc Dimittis,” “Hear the Voice and Prayer,” and “All People That On Earth Do Dwell.” The “Preces and Responses” of William Smith will be sung, as well as John Amner’s “O God My King.”

The service will be sung by the Ascension Choir, under the direction of Director of Music and Organist, Dr. Debora Huffman, in partnership with the Very Reverend Canon Michael Bamberger, Rector. Following the service, a pot-luck supper will be held in the Parish Hall. The public is invited to attend; a freewill offering will be taken.

The Church of the Ascension is located at 25 E. Laurel Avenue (northeast corner of Baldwin and Laurel) in Sierra Madre. For further information, please call the church office at 626/355-1133. Childcare will be provided.

MEMORIAL DAY (cont. pg. 1)

The Mayor also quoted former Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., who served as Captain and Brevet Colonel in the U.S. Army: “To fight out a war, you must believe something and want something with all your might. So must you do to carry anything else to an end worth reaching. More than that, you must be willing to commit yourself to a course, perhaps a long and hard one, without being able to foresee exactly where you will come out. All that is required of you is that you should go somewhither as hard as ever you can. The rest belongs to fate. One may fall-at the beginning of the charge or at the top of the earthworks; but in no other way can he reach the rewards of victory.” Zimmerman continued “In every conflict, our service men and service women believe in America, and wanted with all their might to protect it and American ideals. We mourn them today, because they fell, at the beginning of the charge or at the top of the earthworks, and thank them for striving on behalf of our nations, towards the rewards of victory.

He then introduced Congressman Dreier, calling him one of the greatest friends of those service men and those fallen heroes of which he had just spoken.

Congressman Dreier opened by noting that while Zimmerman’s son had not had to attend school that day, he had been a witness to history at JPL the previous evening when the Phoenix touched down on Mars. He said that he wanted to dedicate his remarks to not only the service men and women that had made the ultimate sacrifice, but also to their families. He said that he considers Memorial Day not only a day of remembrance, but also a day of reconciliation, when people put aside their differences to honor those “who sacrificed so much throughout our nation’s history in defense of this great nation. We especially think of those of the greatest generation, the men and women who fought and died, who kept the country going during a time of great crisis, many of whom I know are here today, and who returned home to re-build a great nation, and we’ll be forever indebted, forever indebted for their amazing and wonderful service.”

He went on to discuss “a new greatest generation...hundreds and thousands of young men and wome n who are rising to the new challenges of the 21st century.... They’re fighting to defend our nation against unprecedented kinds of threats...the likes of

which we have never before witnessed....They are enemies who know no borders or laws, they wear no uniforms, and, tragically they have absolutely no regard for the innocent.”

He noted that the battles of this century pose new challenges for this generation, which is also called on to take on far more than purely military operations. “Through their dedication in these disparate efforts, they are protecting and preserving our nation and our interests, and in many parts of the world, they are the face of the United States of America.”

He added that for each deployed soldier, sailor, airman, guardsman, and marine, their is a family waiting at home. “The husbands, wives, sons, daughters, mothers and fathers, don’t get medals, but they certainly deserve them. They keep the families going, while their loved one is away, and when the ultimate sacrifice is made, they suffer a tragic and terrible loss, and when their loved ones are injured, they suffer right along with them.” He then went on to single out Pasadena resident Patty Patton-Bader, grand-niece of General George Patton, who began “Soldiers’ Angels” a continually-evolving, grassroots organization comprised of nearly 200,000 volunteers in over twenty different teams and programs who have developed unique and effective ways to support members of the U.S. military.

He noted that “What we say to honor those who serve will never be more than lip service, if we don’t ensure that our veterans are cared for when they return home. We can never repay them for their service, but we can and we must honor them with the care and the resources that they deserve.”

He closed by calling on the crowd in attendance to honor those who have served in the military “As we gather and celebrate this Memorial Day, as we spend time with our families and friends, and neighbors, let’s all devote our thoughts and prayers, to those who are away. Those who are without their loved ones. Those who have served, and those who gave their lives for this country. We can never convey the gratitude we feel, or the honor they deserve, but we can commemorate their service and pledge to never, ever forget their sacrifice.”

Video of the entire service can be viewed online by visiting SierraMadreNews.net.

VISITING WITH LOCAL ARTIST: Steve Hardy

By Christopher Nyerges



[Nyerges is the editor of Wilderness Way magazine, and a social commentator. For information about his classes and books, write to Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041, or go to www.ChristopherNyerges.com/]

It was past 9 on a Thursday evening as I was walking down Baldwin Avenue. I looked into the window of Bean Town coffee shop and saw artist Steve Hardy busy at work, creating another of his watercolor abstracts. He was totally engrossed in his project. A small group of friends was sitting around Hardy, talking among themselves and watching Hardy’s artwork take shape.

I enter the coffee shop and hear the metallic pop music in the background. Hardy’s head is bobbing to the music. He sees me, and waves me over to see his latest. I admire it, and he asks with a big smile, “So what do you think?” I study it for awhile and then I tell him that it resembles a Mayan temple complex with hieroglyphic instructions written all over it. I pause and tell him that this particular Mayan temple appears to be situated on a distant planet, probably in the Delta Quadrant.

Hardy laughs loudly, and it seems clear that the artist had a completely different vision

of his own work. Suddenly, he turns his head sharply to listen to the song that the live musician is playing. He jumps up and begins dancing to the music. He stands and spins and gyrates his hands to the music as his body becomes a pulsating rhythmic echo of the music. As his wild spinning, rave-like interpretation of the music continues, many coffee drinkers turn to view his show and some even applaud. The song ends, and Hardy just as suddenly sits back to his table and proceeds with his art.

“Are these your disciples?” I ask Hardy, referring to the small group sitting around him. “I have no disciples,” says Hardy, and I’m not sure now if he’s laughing or irritated at my query. He begins mixing colors and continuing his painting as I ask him questions.

WATERCOLOR ABSTRACTS

Hardy says that his love of art goes back to the first crayolas given to him by his mother. Though he has taken some art classes over the years, and though he knows some of the “proper” ways to create art, he still prefers his own style. He does almost exclusively abstracts in water color, but sometimes will include a head, an arm, or a leg, because “people are always interested in people, and in the familiar.”

“I find the act of painting very pleasurable, and intrinsically rewarding,” says Hardy between brush strokes. “Sometimes, I can finish a work in 10 minutes, but I might also spend up to 8 hours on a work over the course of several days,” says Hardy. “Sometimes I will work on something for awhile, and then put it aside and come back to it later. It’s very hypnotic, and when I come back, I see new things I can do with the piece.”

I wanted to know what drives him to constantly produce artworks. What is his compelling inner message or philosophy that drives his work? “This is an excursion into the subconscious,” says Hardy. “Ninety percent of the time I just start painting and it is very therapeutic. Plus, there is a social aspect to it. If I can create something beautiful, I enjoy being able to share that. I do it because I love it.”

BEAN TOWN

I sat there watching Hardy continue his process of painting, along with several other regulars of the coffeshop. After awhile, Hardy looks up and says, “I want you to know that Bean Town is the nexus for people in Sierra Madre. It fulfills my desire to interact with all sorts of people in all walks of life. It’s a very eclectic place. I’ve never been anywhere else in the world where you can meet such diverse people.” He paused as he looked around the room, and smiled.

“And keep in mind that I don’t come to Bean Town to paint. I go there to meet other people, and painting is my means for doing that.” Hardy told me that he has had exhibits of his work in the past – such as one at Glendora Public Library in the mid-1980s – but that there are no stores or websites that sell or display his work. Maybe he’ll have some work posted on a website in the future, but his goal is simply to do his therapeutic explorations via his art. He tells me that if anyone wants to see his art, or say hello, he can be found most evenings after 8 p.m. at Bean Town in Sierra Madre.

TUESDAY IS ELECTION DAY - Please VOTE PROP98 EMINENT DOMAIN. LIMIT SON GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 98 ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 98

Proposition 98 is clear, simple, and straightforward, with only one purpose: to protect our homes, farmland, and small businesses . . . all private property. Proposition 98 does this by:

1. Making it illegal for government to seize homes, small businesses, family farms, and places of worship and transfer them to private parties for their private use and profit.
2. Making it illegal to force the sale or rental of private homes, apartments, or other residences at below market prices.

This is all there is to Proposition 98, nothing tricky, nothing hidden. Read the Proposition 98 text carefully and you'll find it has the purpose of saving our homes, farms, small businesses, and places of worship from being seized from their owners for the benefit and profit of private developers.

WHY IS PROPOSITION 98 NEEDED?

First, because state and local governments are seizing private homes, apartments, small businesses, family farms, and places of worship for the benefit of politically well-connected developers. These seizures enable tax collectors to get around Proposition 13's limitations on property taxes, allowing them to reap huge property tax increases on the seized property. Second, developers make huge profits when they develop seized land. The politicians can help friends and financial supporters make big profits by seizing other peoples' property. Third, California is losing open space, farmland, and orchards at a distressing rate. Proposition 98 will prevent the seizure of these lands for developers who would otherwise cement over farmland and forever convert farms to tract homes and shopping malls.

Fourth, government has many fair and legitimate ways to help the elderly, poor, disabled, veterans, students, and others with their rent and other housing needs. Government can provide rental assistance and housing programs. Government can buy or build residential housing and provide it to the needy at low cost or even no cost. But government should not force a private property owner alone to bear the entire cost of renting his or her home or apartment at less than the fair rental value. Forty-five of the other 49 states provide this basic protection. We are long overdue in protecting our property owners.

WHAT PROPOSITION 98 WILL NOT DO

Proposition 98 will never cause renters who now have their rents limited to lose their current rent control. Proposition 98 DOES NOT affect the acquisition of property needed for legitimate public purposes. Property for the public good, such as schools, fire stations, highways, police stations, water projects, flood control, emergency services, parks, and environmental conservation, can still be acquired by eminent domain.

SUMMARY—ONLY 98 PROTECTS ALL PRIVATE PROPERTY

Currently, tax hungry governments get around Proposition 13, dramatically increasing property taxes by seizing homes, small businesses, apartments, family farms, and places of worship. Also, by seizing private property, politicians can help their financial contributors get the property and profits those developers want. Proposition 98 is the only measure on the ballot that restores private property protections for all Californians—everyone. Visit YesProp98.com. Vote Yes on Proposition 98.

JON COUPAL, President
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, Protect Prop. 13 Committee
DOUG MOSEBAR, President California Farm Bureau

Proposition 98 is a DECEPTIVE SCHEME by wealthy landlords to abolish rent control and other renter protections. Their deeply flawed measure also contains hidden provisions that would harm the environment and our communities. VOTE NO.

Wealthy apartment and mobilehome park owners are spending millions on a deceptive campaign to pass Prop. 98. Ask yourself why? They don't care about eminent domain. What these landlords really care about is eliminating rent control so they can raise rents and make millions. Read the initiative yourself. You'll see Prop. 98:

Eliminates rent control.
Wipes out basic renter protections like requiring the fair return of rental deposits.

Takes away protections requiring 60-day notice before forcing renters out of homes.
Prop. 98 would DEVASTATE MILLIONS OF RENTERS including veterans, seniors, and young families.
Prop. 98 is the worst kind of special interest proposition. It benefits a few wealthy landlords at the expense of millions protected by rent control and other laws that ensure renters are treated fairly.

“I’m a retiree and a veteran, and I’ve lived in my studio apartment for 30 years. Rent control is the only way I can afford a roof over my head. If 98 passes, hundreds of thousands of seniors could face skyrocketing rents.” —Robert C. Potter, 80, U.S. Army Veteran, San Francisco

“I’m a retired widow on a fixed income. Prop. 98 would financially devastate many seniors like me who depend on rent control and other laws that protect us against unfair landlords. Vote NO on Prop. 98.”—Helen J. Furber, 85, retired, Calistoga

The problems with 98 go far beyond ending rent control. HIDDEN PROVISIONS ALSO JEOPARDIZE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS. In the fine print of 98 are provisions that could prohibit important laws that protect the environment and ensure responsible growth.

“Prop. 98 goes beyond canceling rent control. It would gut important laws that protect our air, land, water, coasts and wildlife, and laws we need to combat global warming.” —Jim Lyon, Vice President for Conservation, National Wildlife Federation

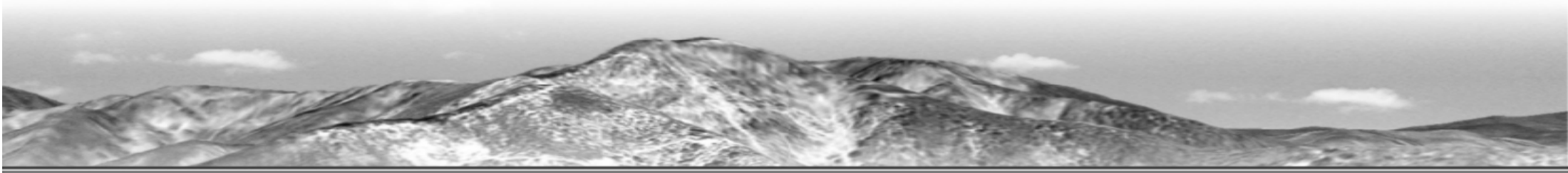
Prop. 98's hidden provisions THREATEN OUR SUPPLY OF SAFE, CLEAN DRINKING WATER and our ability to protect the public's safety. The measure also cripples our ability to create communities that are “livable” for those who are aging—with housing options, ways of getting around, and access to services that promote independence.

“Prop. 98 would jeopardize our ability to protect the quality of our drinking water and to secure new sources of water to prevent water shortages.” —Tim Quinn, Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies

“In addition to abolishing rent control, Prop. 98 contains hidden provisions that prevent law enforcement officials from dealing with slum-like conditions that contribute to crime.” —Richard Word, President, CA Police Chiefs Association

Don't let the wealthy landlords get away with their scheme to abolish rent control and eliminate protections for our environment and our communities. Join senior, homeowner, conservation, public safety, and renters' rights organizations in voting NO ON PROP. 98.

JEANNINE ENGLISH California State President
AARP



MountainViews-Observer PASADENA

City Moves Forward on Plastic Bag Ban

By Dean Lee

Following such cities as Santa Monica, San Jose and Berkeley, members of the city's Environmental Advisory Commission held two meetings this week seeking advice on either outright banning free single use plastic bags from grocers or at least placing a 15 cent surcharge to discourage their use. Phasing out Paper bags was also discussed.

The second meeting Thursday took input from local retail stores on how a ban would affect them but it was Tuesday night's meeting where the commissioners really got an earful from a panel with groups such as the Sierra Club, Heal the Bay, The Algalita Marine Research Foundation and others such as, Crown Disposal and California Grocers Association.

The idea of an outright ban still has to be reviewed by the entire Environmental Advisory Commission and the City Council before any ordinance could be enacted. Commissioner's said that could take at least till the end of summer.

The panel all favored a ban with the exception of Samantha Martinez who introduced herself as from the California Grocers Association although Commissioner Roger Gray questioned that.

"I saw you on the list but from another organization, do you remember that?" Gary interrogated her. "Do you remember what organization you represented when you were at the L.A. County effort?" She said at the time she represented the Plastic Food Service Packaging Group, "they don't manufacture bags," she said.

Gray, harshly, also questioned her on why the grocers association would not support reuse bags. She immediately and defensively said that was not entirely true.

"I'm a little confused," Gray questioned. "It

struck me if there was a ban or tax or some combination of all single use bags that would be a saving to your members? And the association would support that."

Martinez replied by stating the official position of the grocers association, "CGA recommends a statewide implantation, only on fees, on all retailers, on all single use carryout bags."

She also said they wanted all fees collected to be shared collectively for litter reduction. She first said the grocers association was opposed to any ban. Martinez spent most of her time defending herself.

Gray again questioned who she was and why she was listed as representing the American Chemistry



Dr Marcus Eriksen holds a jar of plastic

Council. He earlier also asked if she knew Jennifer Forkish, a spokesperson for the grocers association. She said "yes" but did not go into much detail other than saying they both work for a public relations firm Rose and Kendal. The firm's website states they are a "professional team of lobbyists."

Although Martinez said she was not part of the American Chemistry Council she is quoted in a number of other news stories as representing the council.

A quick search by this newspaper, Martinez name does not appear anywhere on American Chemistry Council's official website. The lobbying group represents the companies that make plastic products, including bags, something she said she had nothing to do with.

Most of what was said



Albertson's worker takes out trash including plastic

about plastics overlapped and David Czamanske of the Sierra Club summed it all up with a handout. He emphasized that cities across the state have spent \$1.7 billion for cleaning up local waterways. Members of the Arroyo Seco Foundation said the top three things they find during cleanups are food containers, water bottles and plastic bags.

Czamanske also said the average disposable plastic bag user consumes over 700 bags per year, of that only 2 percent are recycled. Others said the number for recycling was higher at 5 percent but all agreed it did not work. "A ban is really the only option," said Sonia Diaz on behalf of Heal the Bay.

Dr Marcus Eriksen Director of Research for the Algalita Marine Research Foundation said the American Chemistry Council themselves estimates that 120 billion pounds of plastics are manufactured yearly in the United States. He also said 80 percent of all trash on land ends up in the oceans.

"There are many environmental impacts, we have found plastics inside or around the bodies of 267 species," he said. "That's been documented in a recent paper... and we are finding plastics in the guts of all the fish collected in our nets so were adding to the number of species impacted."

This leads to, what he said was, an obvious health issue where toxins from waste runoff cling to plastic and then end up in the food supply. He said

this includes pesticides like DDT.

To bring awareness to the issue Eriksen and filmmaker Joel Paschal set sail Sunday for a six week journey from Long Beach to Hawaii on a "junk" raft built on 15,000 plastic bottles. He said the journey will be documented at junkraft.blogspot.com.

Tom Ybarra of Crown Disposal a waste disposal service told the commissioners he would be happy to have plastic bags out of the waste stream. He also brought up what he said most people truly do with the bags.

"Single use bags, are being reused," he said. "People line their trash container with them and tie it up, take it out, and throw in the trashcan. They pickup their doggies left behinds." He added that they still end up in land fills and the ocean.

He also said his company owns the largest composting facility in the west. He said even after a five month composting process with temperatures reaching 160 degrees plastics bags are left behind in tacked.

"The only way for us to have a marketable product is to screen out these plastics." He said also explaining that even removed the cost is not viable to recycle plastic.

Crown Disposal is a centralized waste disposal service located in Sub Valley. Ybarra invited anyone that wished a tour of their facility.

Concerns Raised Over Moving Picture Tax

By Dean Lee

Councilmember Chris Holden brought up concern last week about a drop in motion picture filming around the city something he said he herd from his neighbors who are in the industry. Interim City Manager Bernard Melekian said he was unaware of any drop but said they would look into it.

"There was a time up until resent where Pasadena was really sought out as a community for filming," Holden said. "There's a lot of positive to that and I think it might be helpful for the council to get an understanding of where we are now. Has this dropped off, is there, kind of, a movement for, not only the cost of fees but other related impediments."

Holden also rhetorically asked if this was part of a bigger problem of filming in general moving, not only, away from Pasadena but the state in general.

"I've heard the same stories about film companies going out of state," Melekian said. "That I think there is some data on that they're leaving the state."

The issue came up



Georgia and New Orleans were aggressively going after the film industry. He said the big "stars" can live anywhere.

Keast, a SAG member, also said the recent and possible future strikes hurt the business.

"Here you have all these technicians and people who are trained camera operators, people who know how to light a video set, people that know how to light a film set," he said. "All those people have been displaced so many times by so many of these strikes, like the writers strike, they just get out of the business."

Keast also said the use of the internet allows for editors, sound technicians and other to be anywhere sending files. He again stressed that the future of filming was decentralized and that if Pasadena wanted to keep film crews they would have to come up with incentives.

"There's just a tremendous decentralization of the industry and its all economics," he said. "It's usually due to taxation. In Pasadena you put more tax on it, and then you shoot in Glendale. It's that simple."

Councilmember Sid Tyler who also chairs the city's finance committee said there had been concern over the appropriateness and level of some of the other city fees including the business tax. .

"We have gotten some complaints raising the question of whether or not it's time to, if we haven't done so recently, make comparisons to comparable charges, taxes and fees in other cities," Tyler said.

He also said if other cities were not inflating their charges over time like Pasadena then Pasadena should rank high.

Holden said this might account for some of the filming loss. Councilmember Margaret McAustin asked how the fees could affect housing. Melekian said he was not sure.

Implementation of the rate adjustments will increase the General Fund estimated revenues for 2009 by \$143,000. The Sewer Construction and Maintenance Fund will add \$172,000 and the city's Library Special Tax Fund should add \$53,00 according to the city staff report. The increases have all been factored into the City's five year financial plan the report reads.

Goliath vs. David: American Golf Corporation Sues Homeless Man Over Golf Balls?!

American Golf Corporation, one of the world's largest golf course management companies, filed suit in Los Angeles Superior Court earlier this month against Lawrence Hunter, 49, a homeless man who lives in the flood control channel that runs through Brookside Golf Course. The course, which is owned by the City of Pasadena, is operated by AGC along with the Rose Bowl Company.

Hunter, who frequenters of the course say has been there for years, is accused of 'stealing and converting' golf balls that have been hit into the channel. He is also accused of threatening members of an unnamed golf club and unnamed members of the public and preventing golfers from entering the 'baranca' and retrieving their lost golf balls.

The baranca runs for miles throughout the golf course and has steep concrete slopes which make it difficult for anyone to enter the channel. In fact, there are specific rules printed on the scorecards at Brookside for golfers whose errant shots land in the channel. The channel, which belongs to the County of Los Angeles who is not a part of the lawsuit, normally carries a small stream of fast moving water that quickly moves golf balls along. Chances of a golfer retrieving or even identifying their golf ball once it hits the channel are slim to

almost impossible.

In the allegations, American Golf claims that Mr. Hunter is actually "stealing" golf balls from players and "converting" or selling them.

The practice of collecting golf balls that are hit out of the boundaries of any golf course is very common. It occurs at public courses, private courses, resorts, and country clubs. The people who engage in such behavior range in age from 6 or 7 years old to 90. It is not uncommon to see a 'ball collector' sitting in a strategic position just outside the course with retrieved balls for sale. Youngsters often earn extra money by so doing, especially during summer months. There are many golfers, from all walks of life, who only buy golf balls from such 'vendors'. In fact, in Pasadena, a local car wash openly displays in packages, "retrieved" golf balls for sale.

Some golf courses actually pay individuals to gather lost or out of bound balls for resale.

Why American Golf chose to sue Mr. Hunter is not clear. It is evident that he does not possess the resources to retain an attorney to defend him against the corporate giant. In the midst of this downturned economy, the corporation has made in excess of \$266.7 million dollars according to published reports.

In fact, in order to serve Mr. Hunter, the process server had to go to Hunter's homeless environment.

Although allegations that he interferes with the public playing golf are cited in the lawsuit, several players who have frequented the course for more than 20 plus years said no evidence of that has ever been witnessed.

In the lawsuit, when police were called in March, 2007, after a golfer claimed to be threatened by Hunter, he was taken away for outstanding warrants and released. Those warrants were regarding convictions for having a dog without a leash, a problem many homeless people, without jobs or resources, have. At press time, there was no record of charges being filed against Hunter based upon a complaint of violence or menacing behavior associated with this lawsuit.

It is clear, however, that American Golf does recognize that Mr. Hunter is at a financial disadvantage. In their lawsuit they state, "financial compensation is an inadequate remedy at all due to the Defendants [Hunter] lack of financial resources".

The matter is scheduled to be heard in October at the Pasadena Courthouse. American Golf is represented by the firm of Dummit, Bucholz & Trapp. Mr. Hunter has no representative.

just before the council unanimously approved an across the board annual tax and fee hike of 3.1 percent on everything from the moving picture to general business to coin operated machines.

During an interview Wednesday, Pasadena City College acting instructor Brent Keast said the future of the movie industry is decentralizing for a number of reasons. He said there were some benefits to this.

"The benefit to Hollywood is you have a whole bunch, thousands, of businesses that provide services to the film business," he said giving an example of specialized camera cranes. "Where you use to only be able to get that stuff here, you can now get in any city."

Keast also said other places like Canada give incredible tax incentives to film companies.

"They'll put you up in a hotel, in fact they will put your whole crew up in a hotel for free." He explained. "They'll write you a check; give you free film, whatever it takes."

He also said more cities now had "local hires" where actors can be hired for just a day. He said Atlanta



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

The Time Is Near.....



Alverno's Class of '08 Have A Little Fun While Waiting For The Big Day Photo Courtesy of AHS

PUSD Leadership Team is Complete By Teresa Baxter

The Pasadena Unified School District has formally announced that the final position has been filled to complete Superintendent Edwin Diaz's restructured executive leadership team. Diaz has named Emily Vaughn-Henry as Chief Technology Officer. This follows the recent appointment of Alice Petrossian as Chief Academic Officer, both filling key leadership posts critical to the execution of academic improvement strategies intended to raise student achievement.

"Ms. Vaughn-Henry brings a wealth of experience to this position, including an in-depth understanding of technological issues, a track record in utilizing technology to meet educational goals and knowledge of the structural and organizational characteristics of school districts," said Diaz. Vaughn-Henry will assume oversight for all information

technology for the district, including guiding efforts currently underway to strengthen and modernize the technology infrastructure, to improve the quality of data available to increase accountability, and to evaluate and implement educational software programs district-wide, said Binti Harvey, spokesperson for PUSD.

"It will be a pleasure to join the Pasadena Unified School District, where technology can be used as a tool to assist in educating students and preparing for the 21st century," said Vaughn Henry.

Vaughn-Henry is currently president of the K-12 CIO Institute in Oakland, where she develops tactical technology operations for school districts in Northern California. She previously served as Chief Technology Officer for West Contra Costa Unified School District in Richmond, California.

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TRISH'S TRUTH

Luck?

By Trisha Collins

I'm aware that some people don't believe in luck, not good luck or bad luck. They generally believe that things happen for a reason, and that you get what you deserve. Then there are others who think that they were already destined to be lucky or unlucky. Right now, I'm not really sure which one I believe, personally, because I've been noticing this "thing" when it comes to teachers and their students. There's almost always an "unlucky" student that gets blamed for everything.

I recently met this guy at my school named Ron. He's nice, makes pretty good grades, and is likable. He also plays a sport and is extremely good at math. Tell me why almost every teacher at our school dislikes him? I just don't get it. It seems to me that teachers just catch him at the worst times. For an example, one day my math teacher was

busy looking for something and the whole class was talking. It started to get really loud and once Ron turned to tell someone near him to quiet down, my teacher turned and said "Ron! That's a detention for disrupting the class." Can you believe that? I felt so bad because the kid in the back who had started all the talking didn't get any punishment. After that incident, I started noticing more and more things like that happening to Ron in different classes. I asked my friends about this and they said that they noticed this, too.

We came to the conclusion that maybe he's just unlucky, and I guess there just are unlucky people in this world. It's seems like every time he makes a mistake, a teacher is looking his way, shaking their head. And how my friends and I thought there were unlucky people in this world, we also came to find that there are lucky people in this world, too. At our school, there are "The Girls Who Have it All", the ones who just seem so lucky. Teachers love them, kids love them, and even animals probably love them. We always thought that they were so lucky, until we found out that most of their friends are "fake" and talk about them behind their backs. They may have a lot of money, but many of them don't have supportive families and come home to empty houses.

It's odd how the people who appear to be so lucky on the outside, turn out to be "not-so-lucky" on the inside. And the people who are "unlucky" have the biggest hearts and are truly "lucky" inside. I guess that's how life works, whether you believe in luck or reason. In the end, everything evens and balances out.

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(626) 294-0661
Principal: Phil Clarke
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Principal: James Lugenbuehl
E-mail address: jml@bcsllions.org

The Gooden School
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Head of School: Patty Patano
website: www.goodenschool.org

LaSalle High School
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website: www.lasallehs.org

Norma Coombs Alternative School
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E-mail address: watkins12@pusd.us

Odyssey Charter School
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(626) 229-0993
Head of School: Lauren O'Neill
website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
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Pasadena Unified School District
351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109
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St. Rita Catholic School
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Principal: Joanne Harabedian
website: www.st-rita.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School
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Above: Carolyn Eberhard's children, Brian and Katie, point out the solar panels on their Sierra Madre roof. Right: SolSource founder, Enid Joffe, stands proudly with the solar power inverter box which interfaces with So Cal Edison's traditional power grid. Below: The Eberhard's inverter box registers 3179 kilowatts per hour output from their solar panels on this sunny day.



Looking Up With Bob Eklund Safe Landings on Memorial Day Weekend

NASA'S PHOENIX SPACECRAFT landed in the northern polar region of Mars on Sunday, May 25, to begin three months of examining a site chosen for its likelihood of having frozen water within reach of the lander's robotic arm. Radio signals received at 4:53:44 p.m. Pacific Time confirmed that the Phoenix Mars Lander had survived its difficult final descent and touchdown 15 minutes earlier. The signals took that long to travel from Mars to Earth at the speed of light.

Among those in the JPL control room awaiting confirmation of the successful landing was NASA Administrator Michael Griffin, who noted this was the first successful Mars landing without airbags since Viking 2 in 1976. "For the first time in 32 years, and only the third time in history, a JPL team has carried out a soft landing on Mars," Griffin said. "I couldn't be happier to be here to witness this incredible achievement."

During its 422-million-mile flight from Earth to Mars after being launched on Aug. 4, 2007, Phoenix relied on electricity from solar panels. Batteries were used by the lander for electricity until its own pair of solar arrays spread opened.

Phoenix uses hardware from a spacecraft built for a 2001 launch that was canceled in response to the loss of a similar Mars spacecraft during a 1999 landing attempt. Researchers who proposed the Phoenix mission in 2002 saw the unused spacecraft as a resource for pursuing a new science opportunity.

For more about the Phoenix mission, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/phoenix>

NOT QUITE AS DIFFICULT AS LANDING ON MARS, but still enough of an adventure for us, was a trip Laura and I took to frigid Big Bear Lake over the Memorial Day weekend. We had heard that the weather was wild (snow on Thursday and Friday, with nighttime temperatures down to 18 degrees), and we would not have gone except that we were to be the co-recipients of an award at an amateur astronomy conference, and we didn't want to miss the presentation ceremony.

We left L.A. at about 6 p.m. Friday, in the midst of holiday traffic, and by the time we entered the mountains via Highway 38

it was already dark, and raining lightly. Somewhere near the 5,000-foot level, we entered the cloud that was causing the rain. Once you're inside it, a cloud becomes fog, of course, and for the next 2,000 feet of elevation gain we drove in fog, sometimes so dense as to reduce our speed to 5 mph, with our windows wide open to prevent windshield fogging while the temperature outside dropped to near freezing. Not exactly the weather we would have anticipated for May!

Imagine the thrill, though, when we finally emerged from the top of the cloud at the 7,000-foot level and looked up to a sky full of brilliant stars, perhaps more stars than I have ever seen. (What made them so bright was the cloud below us, which was blocking out all the glare of city lights.) No doubt we'll remember that vision of suddenly finding ourselves out among the summer stars long after the dark and frightening foggy drive is forgotten—but at that moment, all I could think of was to crawl into a warm bed at the Snow Lake Lodge in Big Bear! *Breaking free from the Long bad dream of fog into Stars without number.*

On Saturday we drove to the astronomy conference, which was being held at a nearby YMCA camp. On the way into it we took a wrong turn, and ended up on an unmaintained, rocky dirt road. We could see that there was a housing tract with paved roads paralleling our road (the way we should have gone) and although our way looked impassible there was no turning back. Fortunately the Ford Edge we'd rented for the weekend, with its all-wheel drive, got us through—just in time for us to receive our award.

On Sunday, after a weekend with multiple adventures, we drove down the mountain in much more pleasant weather. Coincidentally, during our drive home, the Phoenix spacecraft landed on Mars. It was a weekend of uncertainty, but all landings ended safely.

If you'd like to learn more, you can contact Bob at b.eklund@mrvobserver.com Poem copyright 2008 by Bob Eklund.

Photo by Aaron Dominguez



One Of A Kind: Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them

Photos and Story By Chris Bertrand

SolSource Solar Power Spins the Electric Meter Backward

SolSource Energy specializes in "the turnkey design, installation and project management of grid-connected PV systems for residences and businesses," according to Enid Joffe, co-founder of Arcadia based, SolSource. In layman's terms, this means SolSource provides complete solar electric systems by installing photovoltaic (PV) 'solar' panels on home or commercial roofs. The energy produced by the PV system is then credited against your monthly electric bill.

Joffe and her business partner created the parent company, Clean Fuel Connection, in 1999, after their employer, Southern California Edison, decided to abandon the electric car charging business. Joffe brought valuable experience interacting with the giant power companies to the new business. They installed charger products, manufactured by GM and Toyota, to serve the GM EV, Toyota Rav 4, Honda, Nissan and Ford products. "Our first year, we were in an incubator environment with other transportation startups, under CalStart in Pasadena. After that, we were out on our own, and have been based in Arcadia ever since."

Four years ago, they decided that solar was "very compatible with the business we were in ... clean energy," says Joffe. "Both draw the same kind of customers. Our subcontractors were moving into solar as well. We now represent several solar manufacturers including Sunpower, Schott Solar, Conergy, Kyocera and Suntech.

"Our solar division started doing residential and commercial, plus some public buildings, including two MTA transit bus divisions. Recently awarded projects include pole-top solar arrays that decorate the entrance to South LA City Hall and a solar skylight entrance at the new Silver Lake Public Library."

SolSource has also installed solar energy projects at several local community colleges. Under local Props A and AA, the LA County community colleges now incorporate green building methods and solar in most new construction projects. At Southwest CC, a combination solar panel and shade structure covers the playground for the child-care center, providing a dual purpose. They also completed solar projects at LA Harbor College and, most recently, at LA Valley College.

Nearby, at South Pasadena HS, they created a solar blanket that lies on top of the school's roof. The solar panels sit on a foam base that does not require drilling holes in the roof. Instead the system is held in place by a trough, filled with capstone ballast. A state supported solar schools program aimed at decreased energy usage of K-12 schools helped fund the installation in 2004.

In the residential arena, Sierra Madre homeowners, Carolyn and Martin Eberhard offer glowing praise for the process, the price and the people involved at SolSource. "Our experience with SolSource was wonderful. We chose SolSource based on the contract terms and conditions they offer their clients. They could deliver the panels within a few days and start a few days later. Other companies could not give us a delivery date for the panels, nor could they tell us when they could start; however, they wanted a 20% deposit right away. The people at SolSource

seemed to have the highest ethics, which was important to us, as was keeping our money local.

"When the truck was delayed delivering the solar panels, the project manager stayed at our house until late on a Friday night waiting for the truck. The crew was here every day, and finished the job on time. Afterward, the project passed city inspection with no problems. The bid we received was the price we paid, with no hidden fees or change orders. SolSource delivered everything they promised on time and on budget. What more could two engineers ask for?"

Eberhard chuckled that last month's bill was \$1.75. "This is all taxes, including the Sierra Madre Utility Tax, which I voted for, so I cannot complain." The Eberhards particularly enjoy watching that electric meter run backwards on a regular basis!

Joffe is proud that her product uses an energy source that is renewable, pollution-free and a nearly inexhaustible energy resource, the sun. Solar panels are also built from non-toxic materials, and produce no noise. Appealing to our green-sensitivities, according to the EPA, every kW of photovoltaic capacity used avoids producing the following quantities of harmful emissions caused by fossil-fuel power generation on an annual basis: 1860 lbs. of Carbon Dioxide, 1 lb. of Nitrogen Oxide and 0.02 lbs. of Sulfur Dioxide.

While PV systems can generate most, if not all of the electricity you'll need, the utility company, such as Edison, acts as a back-up. Net Metering allows you to use the electricity you generate from the PV system first, reducing what you would normally buy from your utility. Should your electricity requirements exceed the PV system's output, the utility provides the additional power you might demand. So you'll continue to have power, day or night, rain or shine. The Net Metering at the inverter box measures the difference between the electricity you buy from your utility and the electricity the PV system generates. When you generate more electricity than you use, your So Cal Edison electric meter actually spins backwards!

Several incentives are currently in place to entice homeowners and businesses to take the solar energy plunge. For instance, a typical home installation costs about \$25,000. Of that, you can apply for rebates of \$2.50 a watt or \$2500 a kilowatt. 1 kilowatt = 1000 watts. That's about \$6,000 incentive from the California Solar Initiative for that "typical home." Add in a Federal tax credit of up to \$2,000 and your out-of-pocket cost drops to \$17,000. But, Joffe cautions, the federal tax credit is due to expire at end of 2008, although efforts are under way to renew it.

On the actual energy costs themselves, you can plan to save about \$1000 per year on a typical electric bill at the current rates. That would reduce a typical home's energy bill by about 50 percent.

Joffe comments that it's important to understand that historically, utility rates have never gone down permanently. Over the last 50 years, utility costs have gone up 3-4 % a year. Sometimes less or more, but in general they continue marching upward. "We have calculated a 20 year payback for a homeowner at today's electricity rates. We say this

to be conservative." As electricity rate increase, the payback period shortens considerably. Interestingly, a National Appraisal Institute study in 1999 estimated that for every \$1 reduction in annual energy bills, the home's value increases by \$20. All are factors to be considered in order to determine whether an investment in solar is right for you.

She cautions about telemarketers offering a solar installation bid on the phone. "They pull up your home on Google Earth and give you a quote based on that satellite picture. Without more information, you don't know what time of day the picture was taken. If there are shadows or shading, they may say you don't qualify. The deep shade MIGHT only indicate that the Google Earth picture was taken in the early morning or late afternoon. Solar panels might STILL be an option. By bidding after using just the Google Earth picture, they don't include information about the interior structure, attic space, electrical panel hookup and access. None of that is available without an onsite inspection."

To size a system properly, Joffe says, you also have to look at a home's tiered energy bill. "I don't care about the portion of your bill at 12cents/ KW hour, but I DO want to get rid of your 45 cents/ KW hour billing. Currently, the top residential tier is at 30 cents PLUS taxes, which actually adds considerably to your cost per kilowatt-hour. It's not cost effective to replace ALL of your KW usage, just the more expensive tiers of usage. Some customers however, like to be independent of the whims of energy supply and pricing issues, and invest in battery storage to be able to separate themselves completely from the grid. The battery storage component currently increases the package cost considerably, so few elect to go that route currently.

Some of the newest, slickest products coming down the pike include solar roof tiles. Some of these products are already available, even coming in varying colors. Including the solar function as part of the roof instead of instead installing it over the roof will enhance the aesthetics of solar, and minimize leak problems by eliminating roof penetrations. Other products will be available with tubing underneath to combine solar water heating with solar electricity. New products in development include a process to print or paint solar circuitry onto a conductive material, on any kind of flexible surface. "But that's down the line a few years," Joffe says.

For more information on SolSource, visit www.SolSourceEnergy.com Or call them right here in Arcadia at 1-888-SOLSOURCE. For an updated list of solar energy installation rebates available by area, visit www.dsireusa.org.



Chris Bertrand

TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

Sour Grapes? Andy Rooney May Just Think So.



As I get older I am starting to appreciate and identify with Andy Rooney with ever increasing fondness. Some days my hair even appears to be an offspring of his eyebrows. I couldn't help but think of him as I began to write this week. Over the past few years there has been an explosion of wine bars springing up in what resembles a dot.com craze. The idea isn't new though, for in Europe, Champagne and Wine Bars have been around for decades.

One of the first wine bars that I came to admire was The Heritage Wine Bar on North Raymond. I loved this place! First off, they had the most important element on their premise, inside knowledge. These were certified experts and at times I felt like they had stepped on the grapes themselves. These guys knew what they were talking about and intimately understood the intelligent wines which they stocked. Heritage touted a former buyer for Bristol Farms named Craig, and a prodigy named Bruce, who at one time oversaw the Huntington Market in San Marino. I could go in, not be entirely certain what I wanted, and just tell them my budget and what type of grape. Sure enough they would produce exactly what I wanted; at least I trusted it was what I wanted, but invariably they knew better than I. Once I removed the cork from the bottle my faith was always justified in those two. They were better than mind readers, and I couldn't understand how such professionals as these could be in the same place, and the prices remain reasonable. Unfortunately for me they lost that brain trust ... too bad, Pasadena lost something too. I don't go there that often anymore; they still have the good prices, but for me it's just not the same without them.

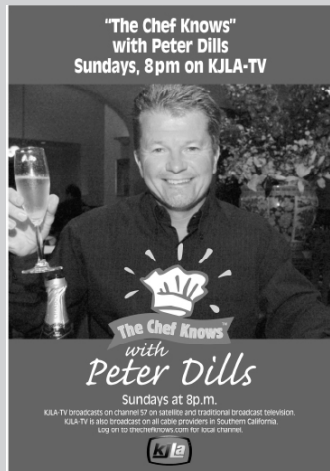
Not far down the street on Raymond is Vertical Wine Bistro. Head up the stairs at the old George Hamilton's Cigar Lounge and you find yourself entering a fashionable bar area. It's like the Westside, but in Pasadena. They offer flights of wines and appetizers in the bar or you can have dinner in the main room. I have to admit it has been a few months since I have been there. I thought it was pricey and there was no real expert on staff to discuss the wines. I was told that they were in the process of hiring a sommelier.

Another option is Madeleine's on Green Street. The fine brick edifice will transport you back to a different era. The interior further captures that old-time ambience with classic paint tones, fireplaces and chandeliers. The patio may remind some of places in the French Quarter in New Orleans.

That brings us to our final stop this week. The new shooter on the block is Charcuterie in Sierra Madre. I can't tell you how I have been rooting for this place to succeed. I am beginning to feel

like the guy that keeps betting the same horse even though it runs poorly every race. This last week I ended up having a Corona, because the wine list was being changed and they were all out of any California Whites. I can't understand the reason for that and thought it senseless to point out the obvious. Maybe the rider fell off? Look, I have my favorite labels and I am sure you do as well. They carry them at the local Albertsons and Vons, and there is a reason why they carry those brands; Kendall Jackson, Chandon and Girgich Hills ... they sell!!! I fully appreciate the wine bars, purpose of induction to new frontiers, it's noble. I like to try new things too, but how about a compromise? A little familiarity? Maybe an Opus One, and yes, give us those treasures that you uncover for experimentation and we will call you geniuses for finding them.

A final note this week: For the man that changed the way California thought of wine and then the world thought of California. Robert G. Mondavi, I raise a glass for you. This is one fan saying - Good Night! Heritage Wine Bar - 155 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, (626) 844-9333 Madeleine's - 1030 E. Green St. Pasadena, (626) 440-7087 Vertical Wine Bistro - 70 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, (626) 795-3999 Charcuterie - 120 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre (626) 355-3908 Join me next week for my special Father's Day Article. Also watch the Chef Knows every Sunday Night at 8 PM on KJLA TV



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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

OPINION

TUESDAY IS ELECTION DAY - Please VOTE

PROP 99 EMINENT DOMAIN. LIMITS ON GOVERNMENT ACQUISITION OF OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENCE INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 99 - YES

Real Eminent Domain Reform—No Hidden Agendas We need to act now to PROTECT HOMEOWNERS.

In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that government can use eminent domain to take a person's home and give it to a private developer. Since then, more than 40 states have reformed their eminent domain laws, but California has failed to act. We need to act now to close this legal loophole created by the Supreme Court decision and to protect California homeowners from abuses of eminent domain.

Prop. 99 is the straightforward solution we need to PROTECT AGAINST EMINENT DOMAIN ABUSES. Prop. 99 provides simple, powerful eminent domain reform.

Prop. 99 prohibits government from using eminent domain to take a home to transfer it to a private developer.

Prop. 99 places this vital protection into our state Constitution to ensure that the government cannot remove it without a vote of the people.

Unlike other deceptive proposals, Prop. 99 has NO HIDDEN AGENDAS. Read it for yourself. What you see is what you get. Prop. 99 is straightforward eminent domain reform that protects homeowners now. Homeowner, community, and senior groups have united to support this critical reform.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES: Prop. 99 is the only real eminent domain reform on the ballot.

Other measures may pretend to reform eminent domain, but Prop. 99 is the best way to protect homeowners and prevent future abuses. Prop. 99 is straightforward and strong. It protects our homes from eminent domain abuse. Pure and simple. No hidden agendas.

Vote YES to Protect California's Homeowners.

Vote YES on Prop. 99.

KEN WILLIS, President League of California Homeowners

NAN BRASMER, President California Alliance for Retired Americans

JANIS R. HIROHAMA, President League of Women Voters of California

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 99 - NO

The State of California's nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office, says that Proposition 99 "is not likely to significantly alter current government land acquisition practices." In everyday language: "Proposition 99 does nothing." So why did the politicians and developers spend \$4,000,000.00+ to put Prop. 99 on the ballot, when it does almost nothing? They filed Proposition 99 and spent \$4 million+ on it, only after homeowners, family farmers, and small business owners filed Proposition 98. Proposition 98 protects ALL private property in California. Proposition 99 protects virtually nothing.

The politicians and developers don't want you to vote Yes on 98, so they are trying to trick you into voting for "do-nothing" Proposition 99 instead. In past elections, you have seen powerful special interests use this trick to try to defeat popular ballot propositions. Two propositions on the same subject matter can confuse voters. The politicians who are against Proposition 98 tried the same trick years ago when they opposed Proposition 13. They put on a weak, do-nothing Proposition hoping to trick voters into being against Prop. 13! Well the old game of "let's trick the voter" is back—brought to you, this time, by the very politicians and developers who seize homes, small businesses, family farms, and places of worship from owners who don't want to sell and turn them into car dealerships, chain stores, and the like.

In the end, homeowners have virtually no protection under 99. Read again the nonpartisan analysis: Proposition 99 "is not likely to significantly alter current government land acquisition practices." This means 99 protects virtually nothing. But it gets even worse! The politicians and developers added that if 99 gets more votes than Proposition 98—EVEN IF PROPOSITION 98 GETS A MAJORITY—99 kills all the protections in Proposition 98 for everyone, INCLUDING HOMEOWNERS! REALLY! If you don't believe us, read it for yourself in SECTION 9 of Proposition 99 in this Voter Guide. Renters, small business owners, homeowners, religious congregations, family farmers . . . none of us want to see our homes and property bulldozed. Let's stick together, protect everyone, not just the few. It is only fair. Vote Yes on 98. Remember, only Prop. 98 protects all private property in California. Prop. 99 protects virtually nothing. No on 99!

JON COUPAL, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assoc. Protect Prop. 13 Committee, DOUG MOSEBAR, President CA Farm Bureau



Susan Henderson

Yes Virginia, There Is An Election Tuesday

I hate to say, "I told you so", but I am certain that earlier I warned you that we would have a lot of voting to do this year. No sooner than we got through the Presidential Primary, which was supposed to be June 3rd before California moved our date up, we had our own municipal election and now it is time for our 'original' Primary. This time, with the Presidential Candidates out of the way, we have to make a decision on two important Statewide Ballot Initiatives, 98 and 99 and select a Congressperson, State Senator and Assemblymember. But wait, you are not through yet. We have to choose 17 Judges (candidates that most of us have absolutely no clue who they are, but that is another column). And, we have to choose a County Supervisor and County District Attorney. That's an awful lot of important choices, especially when most of us have paid little or no attention to the races.

I just pray, and I really mean pray, that you will exercise one of the most precious rights we have in this country and VOTE on Tuesday. Take a little time to research who is running and why. Afterall, you wouldn't want to wake up Wednesday morning and find out that we have allowed 20+ aliens to rule over us, along with Billy The Kids great grandson for DA. We need to pay attention and take this and every election seriously. Seriously!

Need to know more? Go to www.lavote.net. Don't know where to vote? Call 1-800-815-2666.



Stuart Tolchin On...LIFE Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Lately, I'm having the strangest feeling that everything is sort of unreal; or, if not unreal, strange and temporary; a foreshadowing of an impending drastic change. It's difficult to isolate the individual factors. Maybe it's just the extreme weather conditions. The fire, the heat, the cold, the brief torrential rain, the mudslides all make me really wonder about what tomorrow's surprises will be.

The drastic daily changes observable on the mountainsides must contribute to the feeling. When my wife and I returned from our forced evacuation at the beginning of May the hillsides were completely burnt and naked. Suddenly, I think overnight, ten foot high yucca plants seemingly exploded out of the burned soil. Walking around the canyon I experience the near calamity of the fire simultaneously with my recognition of the regenerative power of Nature. I see all this as I watch the mud oozing down Woodland. All in all, these changing conditions must contribute to my feelings of awe accompanied by troubling uncertainty.

Maybe, it's also the gas prices. Yes, I know that gas here is cheaper than it is in Europe and, yes, maybe these high prices will contribute to a restricted reliance on fossil fuels and ultimately help to save the planet; but, right now every trip to the gas station feels like a personal violation requiring a post-traumatic stress counselor.

Maybe, that's it! Having to think so much about stuff that I have previously taken for granted. Even visiting my mother has become a harrowing experience. She's ninety-three and has always been sharp, independent, witty, and critical of me. This was stability; the basis on which I could rely.

From The Desk Of.... Glenn Lambdin My Bucket List

After turning 50 two years ago, and like many of my baby-boomer friends, I find myself wondering if I have another 30 good years left in this rapidly wearing-out body. And if I do have 30 good ones left in me, what do I want to do with them? The problem is that it just seems like there are so many things that I still haven't done.

Now I'm not complaining or saying that I've spent my life missing out on anything. On the contrary. My life has been anything but ordinary or boring. When I was a young man, I took the word "can't" out of my dictionary, so when I step back and take inventory, there's no doubt that I've lived an adventurous life with very few self-imposed limitations. I served in the military during wartime. I've been knocked down flat on my back with a knife at my throat while being robbed by some gnarly fellows from one of the most notorious favelas in Rio. I've been a skydiver and a hang-glider pilot. I've strapped myself into many a paraglider harness and thrown myself off mountains, soaring a few thousand feet above the ground. I've surfed some of the best waves in some of the most exotic destinations on the planet. I am an active practitioner of Muay Thai kickboxing and at 52 years old, I have no problem stepping into the ring against testosterone-charged 25 year olds, reminding these guys that "youth and skill are no match against old age and treachery."

I suppose my "Just Do It" Nike approach to life has served me well, all things considered. But

Now, my mother is often quite nice to me except for the fact that she often forgets who I am and frequently asks her grandchildren (my children) when their father died. I have even adapted to this and reintroduce myself at the time of each weekly visit but sometimes something clicks and my mother is her old-irritable critical self asking if I am out of my mind introducing myself to my own mother. Actually, I now treasure her lucid moments of familiar disapproval and irritation—it's a lot better than the resigned bewilderment that seems now to be epidemic.

Is something dreadful about to happen? The book 2012 describes the Mayan prophecy of a calamitous change which is projected to occur in the last quarter of the year 2012. Referring to the Mayan Calendar, the "tzolkin" (annoyingly similar to a very to a very common mispronunciation of my own last name) the book explains the Apocalyptic prediction that the end of the world is near. Alternatively, if not the end of the world, at least the end of a time cycle after which only the most spiritually enlightened will survive to repopulate an angry planet. You know I think it's reasonable to find this a bit troubling.

As John Lennon sang "Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away. Now I need a place to hide away." Well, I know of no better place to hide away than good old Sierra Madre. Come fire, wind, rain, mudslides, and threats of over-development we're still living pretty nice lives. So let's keep the sandbags ready, make sure that we've got some water and that the flashlights are working and do what we can to maintain our feeling of readiness. It makes sense to realize we survived yesterday and we're still around today and we'll probably be fine tomorrow. In this world of illusion maybe this is the closest we can get to reality.



more and more frequently a little voice inside my head keeps reminding me that somehow, while I wasn't paying attention, I've ventured beyond the half-time buzzer.

So, in true-to-form mid-life crisis, and taking my queue from Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman, I've decided that I need me a "Bucket List." My list of things I want to do before I kick the bucket.

I want to write a book. I want to record a ten-song CD and have at least one song played on any radio station. I want to take cooking lessons in Florence. I want to go to law school. I want to retire. I want to travel all through Thailand and train at Sitoydong, a world renowned Muay Thai camp. I want to tour the temples of Bali. I want to kayak the Sea of Cortez. I want to sip coffee from a balcony in Santorini and feel the morning Aegean breeze on my face. I want to hike the five villages of Italy's Cinque Terre, tasting their coffee, and deciding if it's better than the coffee in Santorini. I want to see the northern lights. I want to eat New England chowder in New England on a cold autumn day. I want to spend a night under the stars in Sedona. I want to visit Castro's Cuba. I want to read a copy of Rolling Stone magazine while lying in a hammock in the Seychelles. And, I want to play guitar in a country with local musicians whose language I can't speak.

It seems that there just isn't enough time in one lifetime to do all of the things that I want to do. Maybe its time to remind myself that the word "can't" still isn't in my dictionary.



From The Humorous Side of Hail Hamilton

What Not to Put on Your Job Application

NAME: Stan Laurel. He named my fat brother Oliver Hardy. My dad had a real sense of humor. He never stopped clowning around. But I can assure you, I'm nothing like him. I'm serious about anything I do. I just haven't done a lot.

DESIRED POSITION: Reclining with a wealthy supermodel. Ha ha. Just kidding. Seriously, whatever's available. If I was in a position to be picky, I wouldn't be here in the first place. I mean we both could be doing something fun rather than doing this job interview.

DESIRED SALARY: \$185,000 a year plus stock options and a Michael Ovitz style severance package, including unlimited use of the company jet. I like to travel. If that's not possible, make me an offer I can't refuse and we can haggle about the perks.

EDUCATION: Yes, I hold degrees in numerous areas. I was sort of a "professional" student for a good part of my early adult years—nothing wrong with trying new careers.

LAST POSITION HELD: Wal-Mart "Associate" management trainee. I lost my promotion to some baldheaded brown noser with barely a high school diploma.

SALARY: A lot less than I'm worth.

MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT: My incredible collection of stolen pens and useless business cards.

REASON FOR LEAVING: The job sucked and I was quite frankly way overqualified.

HOURS AVAILABLE TO WORK: Anytime you can fit my preferred schedule in with yours.

PREFERRED HOURS: Yes, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. I'm much more productive if I'm well rested.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL SKILLS? Yes, but they're better suited to a more in intimate environment—if you know what I mean?

MAY WE CONTACT YOUR CURRENT EMPLOYER? If I had one, would I be here?

DO YOU HAVE ANY PHYSICAL CONDITIONS THAT WOULD PROHIBIT YOU FROM LIFTING 50 POUNDS? Fifty pounds of what? Lifting 50 pounds horse manure is a lot harder than lifting 50 pounds of crisply wrapped "Ben Franklins".

DO YOU HAVE A CAR? Yes, an Aston-Martin like James Bond—just kidding. I think the more appropriate question here would be: "Do you have a car that runs?" No, I use public transportation as much as possible—you know, to help out the environment.

HAVE YOUR RECEIVED ANY SPECIAL AWARDS OR RECOGNITION? I may already be the winner of the Publisher's Clearinghouse Sweepstakes.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE DOING IN 5 YEARS? Living in Kauai with a fabulously wealthy supermodel who thinks I'm the greatest thing since sliced bread. Actually, I'd like to be doing it now—you know.

DO YOU SMOKE? Only when set on fire.

DO YOU CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE? No, but I dare you to probe otherwise.

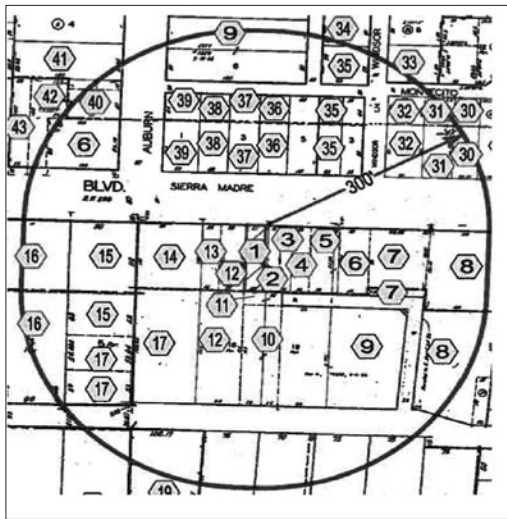
SIGN HERE: Scorpio with Libra rising.

MountainViews-Observer 280 W Sierra Madre Blvd. No. 327 Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 Office: 626.355.2737 Fax: 626.609.3285 *Email: editor@mviewserver.com Website: www.mviewserver.com*

City of Sierra Madre

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To: Property Owners within a 300-foot radius
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: CUP 08-01,
80 West Sierra Madre Boulevard,
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
Applicant: Armen Khourdajian, Mailbox & Postal
280 West Sierra Madre Boulevard
Sierra Madre, CA 91024



The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow a stationary/stamp store use (Mailbox & Postal) to occupy an existing commercial tenant space formerly occupied by an office use, for a property located at 80 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard. The project includes a façade remodel, interior tenant improvements and does not entail any increase in floor area. Pursuant to Section 17.37.020 of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code, no improvements shall be constructed, converted, established or altered for a permitted use unless approved by a CUP.

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre
Planning Commission meeting
Thursday, June 5, 2008
(meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.)

PLACE OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre
City Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the Planning Commission will hear them with respect thereto.

PROJECT LOCATION: 80 West Sierra Madre Boulevard; in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The project qualifies for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption, pursuant to Section 15301 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

APPEAL: The decision of the Planning Commission is subject to a 14-day appeal period to the City Council. If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the Planning Commission in court, one may be limited to raising the issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or before, the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135.

By Order of the Planning Commission

Danny Castro, Director of Development Services

City of Sierra Madre

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To: Property Owners within a 300-foot radius
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: HDP 08-01, 891 E. Grandview Ave.,
Sierra Madre CA 91024
Applicant: Mark Houston Associates, Inc.
135 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite 5
Monrovia, CA 91016

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider a request for a Hillside Development Permit to allow a 1,182 square-foot two-story addition and conversion of a 161 square-foot portion of a second-story deck into a covered porch to an existing 3,204 square-foot single-family residence at 891 E. Grandview Ave. Pursuant to Section 17.52.070 of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code, any remodels or additions to existing primary structures which results in an increase in gross floor area over 4,000 square feet requires the approval of a Hillside Development Permit.

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre
Planning Commission meeting
Thursday, June 5, 2008
(meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.)

PLACE OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre
City Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the Planning Commission will hear them with respect thereto.

PROJECT LOCATION: 891 E. Grandview Ave.; in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The project qualifies for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption, pursuant to Section 15301 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

APPEAL: The decision of the Planning Commission is subject to a 14-day appeal period to the City Council. If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the Planning Commission in court, one may be limited to raising the issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or before, the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135.

By Order of the Planning Commission

Danny Castro, Director of Development Services

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that on June 10, 2008, at 6:30 PM, or soon thereafter, the Sierra Madre City Council will conduct a Public Hearing, to hear testimony on the 2008-2009 Assessment Districts.

The seven existing Districts are as follows:

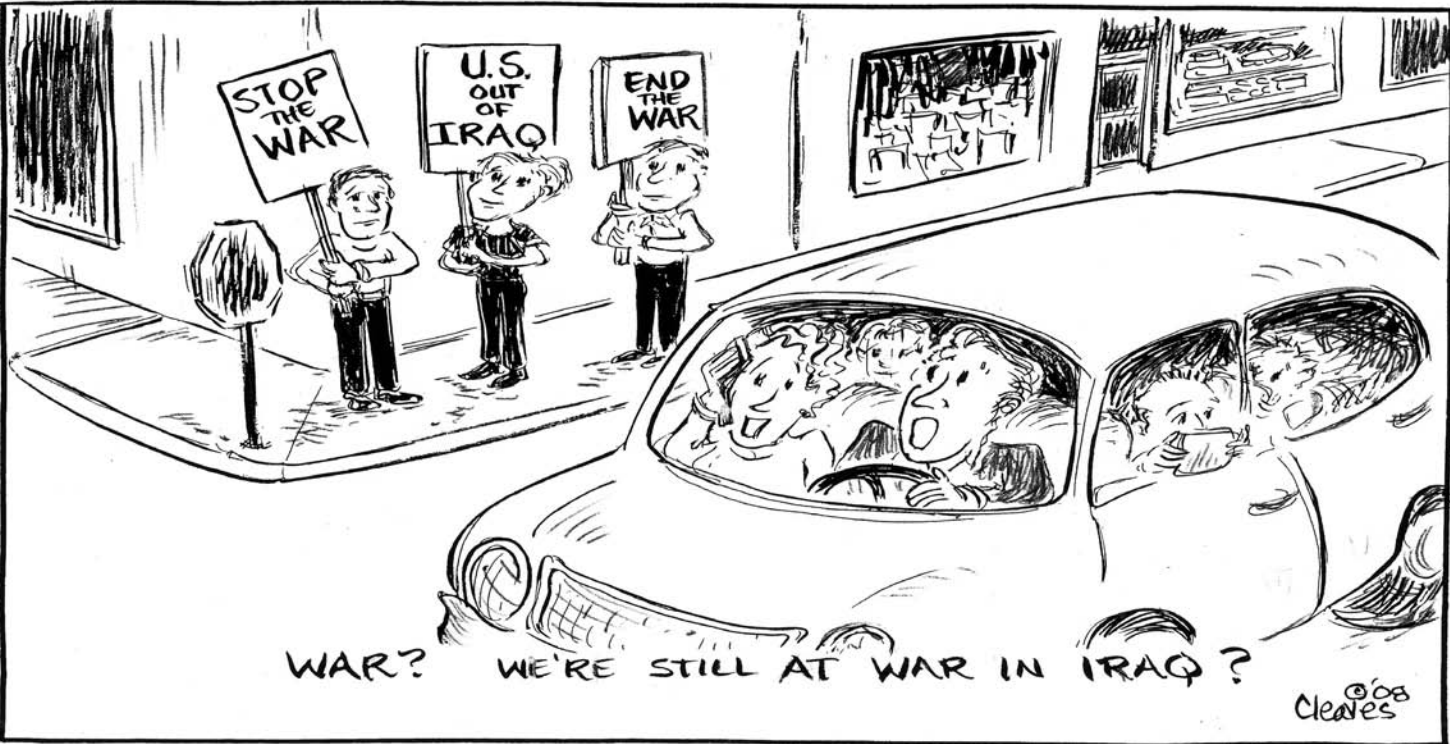
- Citywide Street Lighting District
- Lighting District A
- Lighting District B
- Santa Anita/Arno Lighting District
- Fane/Windwood Lane Landscaping Maintenance District
- Central Business District Landscaping Maintenance District
- Central Business District Parking Maintenance District

The City is proposing that the assessments for these five existing assessment districts remain unchanged for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2008 and ends on June 30, 2009. The requisite Engineer's Report for the Districts was heard by the City Council at its regular meeting of May 27, 2008.

Assessments will be submitted to the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office, the first week of August 2008. These assessments will appear on the next property tax bill for those properties within the Assessment Districts.

To review the Engineer's Report or the list of parcels and assessments, or if you have any questions about this matter please contact Director of Public Works Bruce Inman at 626.355.7135.

Posted 5.28.08
Bruce Inman



MountainViews-Observer Friday, May 30, 2008

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Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

When Democrats open their June 3rd Ballot, they will see 9 candidates listed for the "Party Central Committee" and will be asked to pick 7 of these 9. Most of these candidates are activists who diligently work to help the Democratic Party in the 44th Assembly District. The Democrats of the Pasadena Foothills Club, located on the web at www.pasadenademocrats.org, fully endorse the slate below. Please elect these hard working candidates.

The slate of Candidates include;

Gail M. Burns, a 12-year activist in the Delegation and our Desktop Publisher;
Joe Brown, County Commissioner and President of the Pasadena NAACP;
Clarice Knapp, President of the South Pasadena Club and Activist;
Mark Gonzalez, our Secretary and California Democratic Party Board Member;
Bobbie McGowan, Chair of the Delegation for the 44th A D and former Mayor of Temple City;
Karen M Wingard, Officer of the Democrats of Pasadena Foothills and also Regional Director, California Democratic Party; and
William "Bill" Zuke, Disability Law Analyst and Alternate Member, County Central Committee.

Thank you,

Bobbie McGowan

To the Editor:

Re: Self Help in Recessionary Times

In these recessionary or near recessionary times, it is a good time to look to see where we can help ourselves improve our economic situations. It may be that we have seen the enemy and the enemy is us, but with a little effort we can turn our situations around.

There are still businesses where you can go in the door and the "help" can't seem to give the customer the time of day or contractors and repair people who can't be bothered to return calls and keep appointments. Why would they be suffering recessions?

There are employees who, when asked to do something, respond that "that's not in my job description" or seem to glory in the fact that they are inept with computers (or something else) instead of putting out extra effort to learn these skills. Why might they be non-candidates for promotion or prime candidates for the next layoff?

There are politicians who ignore what they should have learned in freshman Economics that one of the biggest mistakes the US government (and other governments) did during the Great Depression was to enact tariffs and other trade barriers on the theory that they were "protecting" their local industries and workers. What they really did was to destroy the markets for goods and services of local industries that might have been sold to other countries and raise the prices of goods and services locally. And yet we still have politicians who pretend we are better off not voting on treaties that would make it easier to sell to various countries and not taking steps to energize local industries and help workers gain new skills to better compete world wide.

Eric Olson
Sierra Madre



Silly Love Songs

By Rich Johnson

How many of you remember the tune "Silly Love Songs", written by Paul McCartney and performed by he and his band Wings? Can I see a show of

hands? That song hit number one on May 22, 1976 and was purposefully written as a response to a complaint made about former Beatle Paul by former Beatle John.

John Lennon had complained a few years earlier that Paul's songs were "a lot of rubbish," and that Paul "couldn't rock if he tried." "He sounds like Englebert Humperdinck," said Lennon, who further criticized Paul in a song, "How Do You Sleep?," off Lennon's "Imagine" album. McCartney confessed he listened to what John had to say and considered trying to write harder edge songs. In the end he realized silly love songs were him and he wrote the song by the same name as a defense of his writing styles. John, on the other hand, tended to write songs from a much more serious perspective commenting on social issues of the day or often introspectively on the demons that drove him. Was one songwriter more important than the other? Not at all. Paul's music was a "feely goody" counter balance to John's more serious messages.

I pulled that expression "feely goody" from one of the local blogs that comments on life in Sierra Madre. (For those of you unaware of the world of blogs let me just say a blog is a website that comments on issues of one sort or another. They also often invite anyone to offer up their own comments. The fcblog.com is an excellent example of a blog. I encourage you to check it out.)

Where was I? Oh yeah, someone using the nom de plume Anonymous was criticizing this newspaper on the blog stating "...the paper lost its edge and it became a feely goody paper." I disagree with the assessment that the paper has lost its edge, but I must say I enjoy playing the role of feely goody court jester. Makes me kinda feel like Paul McCartney. Of course in the final analysis you out there are the final arbiters of whether this paper has kept its edge or not.

Finally, on a much more important note, I recently had dinner at Charcuterie, the new restaurant at 120 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. (And you thought I only went to Nano's.) Charcuterie was great. I had their Reuben sandwich and it was sensational. The sandwich was served with homemade potato chips. They also serve hot and cold sandwiches, vegetarian sandwiches, a variety of salads, a killer French Onion soup, wines, cheeses, desserts and I am sure I am forgetting something. They have live music a couple nights a week and they are now opening (9:00 am) for breakfast on weekends. Enjoy a meal there and I am sure it will be a feely goody experience.

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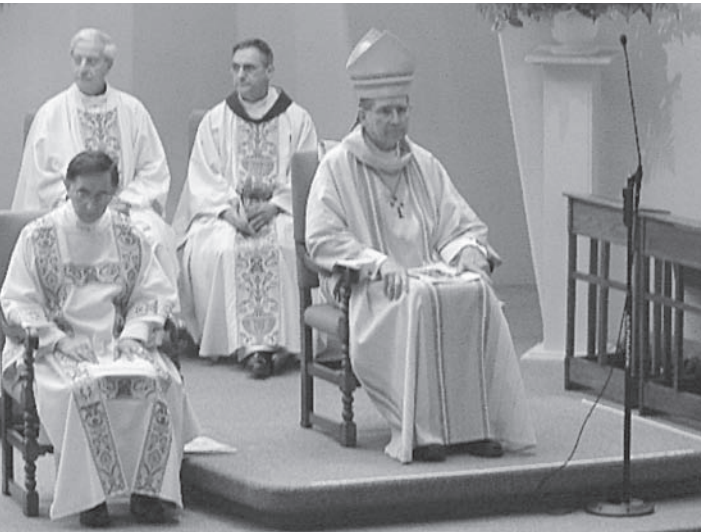
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Cardinal Roger Mahony Celebrates St. Rita Catholic Church Centennial Mass

By Bill Coburn



St. Rita Pastor Emeritus Msgr. Joseph Cokus, rear left; Fr. Richard Krekelberg, current pastor, rear right; and Deacon Manuel Valencia, front left, join Cardinal Roger Mahony for the celebration of the St. Rita Parish Centennial Mass on Saturday, May 17th. Photo by Bill Coburn

Cardinal Roger Mahony joined numerous priests who had previously been assigned to St. Rita's Parish in Sierra Madre, including current pastor Fr. Richard Krekelberg and Pastor Emeritus Msgr. Joseph Cokus, in celebrating a mass in recognition of the Centennial of the first Catholic Church in Sierra Madre. Manuel Valencia was the Deacon of the mass on Saturday, May 17th, and was followed by a reception at the parish's O'Malley Hall.

Music directors for the service were Steve Gunther and Mary Cronin, directing the St. Rita Choir and Instrumentalists, and Cantors Peter Vecchio and Lisa Bowman. St. Rita Scout Troop Pack 110 directed traffic outside, after having worked at the Sierra Madre Art Fair over the weekend.

On hand representing the City were Mayor Pro Tem Maryann MacGillivray with her husband Duncan, and City Council Member John Buchanan. Local clergy in attendance included Rev. Dick Anderson of Sierra Madre Congregational Church, Rev. Michael Bamberger of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Dr. Philip Carlson of Bethany Church, and Father Pat Brennan of Mater Dolorosa.

Since 1908, when Sierra Madre Catholics first approached Chicago priest Father M.W. Barth and asked him if he would celebrate mass for them in an attempt to cut down their long commute, more than 4,000

baptisms, 3,500 confirmations, and 1,300 marriages have been recorded at St. Rita's. The church was originally named in honor of St. Teresa by Bishop Thomas Conaty of the then Diocese of Monterey - Los Angeles. More than 1,400 funeral masses have also taken place in the parish.

Cardinal Mahony opened his sermon by inviting anyone who had been there at the beginning of the Parish to stand, and seeing no one, then asked those who had been around for the Parish celebration of its silver, gold and diamond anniversaries to stand and be recognized. He also thanked members of the clergy, and recognized the religious communities that have guided the parishioners of St. Rita's over the last 100 years. He drew a laugh from the crowd when he suggested that the Parish's second pastor, Fr. Woodcutter, because he had "a great and deep devotion to St. Rita of Cascia" wanted to make a change and according to Cardinal Mahony, "I suspect he just changed the name." Cardinal Mahony recounted some of the highlights of the history of the parish, and drew another laugh when he noted that the church which was torn down in 1968 to create the current structure, could probably not be torn down today, because the preservationists would never let you tear it down. He recognized Pastor Krekelberg and Pastor Emeritus Cokus, who both received loud and long rounds of applause.



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Jeff's Pics

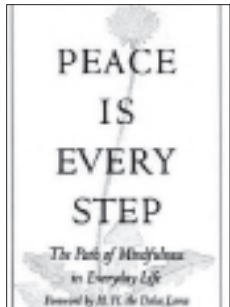
The Book Reports

By Jeff Brown

Spycraft: The Secret History of the CIA's Spytechs, from Communism to Al-Qaeda by Robert Wallace, H. Keith Melton, and Henry R. Schlesinger (2008)

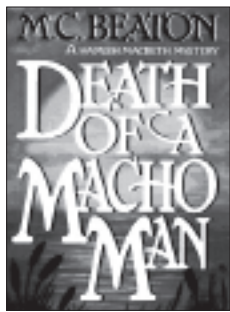


From two men who know better than anyone how espionage really works, an unprecedented history, illustrated with never before seen images of the CIA's most secretive operations and the gadgets that made them possible. It is a world where the intrigue of reality exceeds that of fiction. What is an invisible photo used for? What does it take to build a quiet helicopter? How does one embed a listening device in a cat? If these sound like challenges for Q, James Bond's fictional gadget-master, think again. They're all real-life devices created by the CIA's Office of Technical Service, an ultra secretive department that combines the marvels of state-of-the-art technology with the time-proven traditions of classic espionage. And now, in the first book ever written about this office, the former director of OTS teams up with an internationally renowned intelligence historian to take readers into the laboratory of espionage. Spycraft tells amazing life and death stories about this little-known group, much of it never before revealed. Against the backdrop of some of America's most critical periods in recent history, including the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the war on terror, the authors show the real technical and human story of how the CIA carries out its missions.



Peace Is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life by Thich Nhat Hanh (1991)

In the rush of modern life, we tend to lose touch with the peace that is available in every moment. This world renowned Zen Master shows us how to make positive use of the very situations that usually pressure and antagonize us. For him, a ringing telephone can be a signal to call us back to our true selves. Dirty dishes, red lights and traffic jams are spiritual friends on the path to "mindfulness", which is the process of keeping our consciousness alive to the present experience and reality. The most profound satisfactions, the deepest feelings of joy and completeness, lie as close as our next aware breath and the smile we can form right now. A helpful book for these stressful times.



Recommended by Agatha Raisin

Death of a Macho Man by M. C. Beaton (1997)

This is the twelfth in a series of mysteries featuring the detective work of small town, Highland Scottish detective Hamish Macbeth, P.C. A loudmouthed bruiser of a man has established himself in Lochdubh, but when he starts to bully those smaller than himself, Hamish decides that it is time to deal with him. But, when the man is found dead, Hamish sets out to find out who did it and why. And when a second person is murdered, the plot continues to thicken. Another wonderful atmospheric Highland mystery with its cast of characters.

Book pics can be purchased and ordered at Sierra Madre Books(836-3200)
Email recommendations or comments to jeffspics1@gmail.com

Scene One - Take One DVD Review



Unbreakable (2000)

Bruce Willis plays an ordinary man who makes an extraordinary discovery when a train accident leaves his fellow passengers dead and him unharmed. Is he unbreakable, does he have a special fate he doesn't know about? The answer may lie with the mysterious Elijah Price (Samuel L. Jackson), who suffers from a disease that renders his bones as fragile as glass. 'Unbreakable' was M. Night Shyamalan's follow up to 'The Sixth Sense' and probably his next best film.

Juliet of the Spirits by Federico Fellini (1956)



Juliet (Giulietta Masina, Fellini's real wife) is a married woman in her 30s, resigned somewhat to an ordinary life with her dull husband, Giorgio, who gives her little attention. She thinks it's the pressures of business that make him so indifferent, but soon she wonders if he may be having an affair. One night, Giorgio and a few friends have a séance, and Juliet discovers that she can conjure up various spirits. To see if her suspicions about Giorgio are correct, Juliet hires a sleuth who affirms her worst fears, causing her to change her lifestyle and move out from the shadow of her unfaithful husband. She also has visions that tell her that she deserves some enjoyment. The movie is about how she deals with this discovery and finding another life. The result is a surreal and wild investigation into the psychology of a modern woman. Fantastic extravagant colors and Oscar nominated costumes and sets create an amazing visual and psychological feast. It looks like nothing the cinema had seen before or since, as done by the great Italian genius Fellini. One of the most delightful sights occurs on the seaside, when Juliet goes there with her amazing sisters and their children. Across the sand, she sees Suzy, a neighbor, in a magical parade with her admirers, friends, servants and followers, dressed in bright yellow, protected by colorful parasols, setting up a tent on the sand, beckoning invitingly to her. It was the Winner of five Best Foreign Film of the Year awards, including those of the National Board of Review and the New York Film Critics.

Blinn House Casino Night

By Teresa Baxter

The Blinn House Foundation will host their third annual "Casino Night" fundraiser on Saturday, June 28 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., with an underlying theme that promises to convey the glitz and glamour of old Hollywood.

Attendees are invited to play blackjack, roulette, craps and bingo while raising money for a worthy cause. All proceeds are earmarked for the preservation and restoration of Pasadena's historic Blinn House. The house was designed in 1905 by the prominent architect George Washington Maher, a contemporary of Frank Lloyd Wright. The Blinn House was also designated a Pasadena Cultural Heritage Landmark in 1977. In 2001, it was placed on both the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources.

The Blinn House Foundation was formed in 2002 for the purpose of maintaining and preserving a part of the Pasadena legacy of architectural prominence. Home to the Women's City Club since 1945, the Blinn House continues to serve the Pasadena community as a meeting place for several civic, cultural, and educational activities.

"Casino Night" tickets are now on sale—with a suggested donation of \$65 if paid by June 6, or \$75 at the door. Ticket holders will receive \$50 in playing chips with the opportunity to win more throughout the night. Professional croupiers will also be on hand to teach the secrets of playing successfully. Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres will be served and formal attire is requested.

For more information or to RSVP call 626-796-0560.

Call for Artists

The Community Arts Commission is now accepting submissions for the following upcoming Juried City Hall Art shows. . .

- *Animation - Comic - Sequential Art*
Show Runs: June 27 - August 8
- *Exceptional - Special Needs Artists*
Submissions Due: July 11
Show Runs: August 22 - October 6
- *Graphic Design and Print Artists*
Submissions Due: September 5
Show Runs: October 17 - November 28

Submission Instructions and Guidelines

Artists of all ages and skill levels invited to apply.
Artists should submit three examples of their work along with an Artist's Statement for review by the Art Review Board. Copies of work, photos or originals are acceptable.
ALL ARTWORK must be two-dimensional, properly framed and be able to hang on a pre-determined wall and be suitable for all ages.
Submissions due to Community Services Dept, 611 S. Sierra Madre Blvd. (562) 958-8278

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BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

Jury Duty Part Four

Another day of jury duty...this morning the two segments of the jury pool became one, all 108 of us. We entered the courtroom and filled every seat in the place and then some. The clerk called roll using the four digit numbers on our badges. The judge then renumbered us according to where we were sitting, one through 108. I was number 80.

Yesterday, we were all asked general questions; today, the judge had several specific questions that she wanted us to answer by a show of hands only. She and the attorneys then made charts of who raised their hands and for what. The questions included: Do you have a friend or a family member in law enforcement? Have you or someone you know ever been a victim of a crime? Do you have a friend or a relative who has been the victim of a homicide? Have you ever gotten a traffic ticket you didn't deserve? Do you have a friend or family member who has been a victim of gang violence? Do you have gang graffiti in your neighborhood? And finally, do you own any firearms?

When it was our turn in the jury box, we were instructed to answer the standard information: the city in which we reside, our marital status, our line of work, our spouse's and adult children's line of work, whether we ever had jury duty before and if so, was it a civil case or a criminal case, and did we reach a verdict? Here we go...Juror number one! After we furnished the standard information, the judge then asked for elaboration on the questions we answered yes to. It was fascinating to hear about the backgrounds of people brought together from all sections of Los Angeles County by this thing called jury duty. A sampling: A retired civil engineer originally from China, who had witnessed an execution in his youth. An African-American senior citizen who wouldn't divulge anything about himself because he said he worked in top-secret national security. Hmmm... And a woman who told the court that she has been married for 50 years, but happily separated for 49. Much to my consternation the questioning went faster than a hillside developers tongue. Before we knew it the day was over and we were told to return the next morning.

I had to take the bus home this time. During rush hour (what an oxymoron that is), the bus is an experience unto itself. Sardines fare better. I had to stand and hold on to two overhead straps to prevent myself from being tossed around like an adagio dancer with an overzealous partner. I was facing a sign that read, "Priority Seating for Seniors and the Disabled." Of course, in order to read it I had to look over the heads of some able-bodied high school students sitting in reasonable comfort text-messaging their little fingers to the bone. It didn't seem like anyone was getting off the bus! Please, I thought, don't make me have to stand like this for an hour. I was beginning to feel like a geriatric chimpanzee.

(To be continued...)

SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

FYI: Father's Day

The idea for creating a day for children to honor their fathers began in 1909 after Sonora Smart Dodd listened to a Mother's Day sermon in Spokane, Washington. Having been raised by her father after her mother died, she wanted her father to know how special he was to her. His birthday was in June, so she chose to hold the first father's Day celebration on the 19th day of June, 1910 in Spokane.

In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Roses are the Father's Day flower: red to be worn for a living father and white for the father who has died.

*Saturday, June 14th is Flag Day

*Saturday, June 21st- Sierra Madre Police Association's Annual Charity Car Show- 7am-3 pm

~Helpful Hints~

A great solution for cleaning the shower is shampoo and baking soda. Dampen a cloth and add about two tablespoons (or a palmful) of shampoo and a sprinkle of baking soda to the cloth. Lather to mix well, then wipe down the shower and tub with the soapy cloth. Rinse the cloth and wipe off shampoo. This will give your shower a streakless, clean shine.



Happy Birthday

John Shier and Nellie Haynes

Recipe of the Month:



Broiled Salmon with Spinach and Feta Sauté

- * 4 skinless salmon fillets (6 oz. each)
- * Coarse salt and ground pepper
- * 1 Tbs. olive oil
- * 2 bags (5oz. each) baby spinach
- * ½ cup feta, crumbled (2 oz.)
- * 1/3 cup pine nuts
- * 2 tsp. fresh lemon juice

1- Heat broiler, with rack set 4 inches from heat. Place salmon on a rimmed baking sheet; season with salt and pepper. Broil until opaque throughout, 5-7 minutes.

2- Meanwhile, in a large skillet, heat oil over medium. Add as much spinach as will fit; season with salt and pepper. Cook, tossing spinach and adding more to skillet as space becomes available, until tender, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat; drain off excess liquid. Stir in feta, pine nuts, and lemon juice. Serve salmon with spinach sauté. Serves 4
Ruth Estfon, Palm Harbor, Florida

For Your Funny Bone

My wife complains that her clothes are so old, they were all made in the United States. RD/ J. Hulley

A man walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the loan officer. He tells the loan officer that he is going to China on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000. The bank officer tells him that the bank will need some form of security for the loan, so the man hands over the keys to a new Ferrari parked on the street in front of the bank. He produces the title and everything checks out. The loan officer agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan. The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the man for using a \$250,000 Ferrari as collateral against a \$5,000 loan. An employee of the bank then drives the Ferrari into the bank's underground garage and parks it there. Two weeks later the man returns, repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$15.41. The loan officer says, "Sir, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a bit puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multi-millionaire. What puzzles us is why you would bother to borrow \$5,000. The man replies, "Where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for only \$15.41 and expect it to be there safely when I return?"

Any man can be a father. It takes someone special to be a dad.

~Author unknown~



Activities:

Unless listed differently, all activities are at the Hart Memorial Park (Senior Center) 222 W. Sierra M a d r e

Bldv., 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 for seniors

Wednesday: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays- Community Lunch & Learn

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
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- Bingo at 12:30 PM -Only .25c per card

Meals-On-Wheels:

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

Monthly Excursions:

June 12 - Knott's Marketplace & Tour- 2 hour tour of Independence Hall including a short film called "A Storm in Philadelphia." Lunch at Mrs. Knott's Famous Chicken Restaurant and time to explore the shops. \$23.00 per person

*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

July 11- Laguna Pageant of the Masters; \$45.00 per person
August 21- Long Beach Harbor Cruise & Lunch

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

SPORTS



Back Page Journal A Great Day At The Ballpark ...Better 35 Years Late Than Never

By Brad Eastland, Sports Editor

What's the big deal about a dumb 'ol baseball game??? It's a question I've been asked many times over the years. Usually by women, but by baseball-hating men too.

Just the other day, I think I learned the answer. I've got this friend, his name is Peter Bennett. Known him a long time. Forty years. We go way back, Pete and I; middle school in the 60s, high school in the 70s, then up to the Bay Area for college (he, Stanford---me, Berkeley), we'd go to the racetrack together, we'd go to Vegas together, we were in each other's weddings, we held each other's newborn sons in our arms, we were first in line at each other's parents' funerals, we're pals. So when he told me a couple weeks ago that his son Brett was playing in a big game for La Verne's Bonita High in a few days, a game which could wrap up a playoff spot and a favorable CIF playoff seeding for the Bearcats, it's only natural that I would show up.

Which is exactly what I did. Just the other day. During the half-hour drive to La Verne I got to thinking: it had been 35 years, almost to the day, since friend Pete played his last high school baseball game for our alma mater, the alma mater of baseball great Jackie Robinson, John Muir High School, right down the road in nearby Pasadena. I was there. (As the school paper's Sports Editor, and therefore the logical choice to explain the subtle nuances of baseball to any attractive, doe-eyed girls that might be in attendance, my presence was more or less required.)



Pete had a horrible day. He struck out twice and then flew out to right field for the final out of Muir's 1973 season, as the Mustangs lost by one run and missed the playoffs. I couldn't help but wonder if young Brett might suffer similar fates, in this the final regular season home game of his own high school career.

When I arrived at Glenn Davis Stadium (named for the Heisman Trophy-winning running back, a Bonita High alumnus) Pete was already there in his usual place behind the backstop wire, pacing back and forth, swaying left and right, muttering, fighting the nerves. He's like a lot of fathers. Nothing in the world is more important than his son's next at-bat. I know that feeling all too well. Fortunately for Pete his son is a far better ballplayer than Pete ever was; indeed, Brett led the Miramonte League in RBIs this year, and was second in the league in batting average. About the only thing he hadn't done this season was hit a home run at his home park. But the fences are nearly major-league-deep at Glenn Davis, 320 feet down the line and 383 to center field, pretty darn deep for high school kids, so you can't hold something like that against a .460 hitter like Brett. He's a bona fide star. But the fear of a son's potential failure is always in the back of any father's mind. Naturally I couldn't help but wonder if that final, fateful, dreadful Muir game in 1973 was on Pete's mind, as Brett stepped into the box for his first at-bat of the afternoon.

The lad fell behind in the count 0-and-2, then took a couple close pitches for balls to run the count even. Then he fouled one off. Pete was literally dying. All the symptoms were there; frantic encouragement, the shouting of cliché-soaked instructions through the chain link screen after every pitch, shuffling feet, frenetic muttering...I'd mutter back like any good friend would. The next pitch was too close to take, Brett had to reach for it, barely fouling it to stay alive. Still 2-and-2. Pete muttered something about what a great two-strike hitter Brett is, trying to convince himself more than me, trying to will his son to succeed. I muttered something back about how the longer any at-bat goes the more it favors the hitter, as the pitcher is that much more likely with every ensuing throw to hang one, miss his spot, make a mistake...

...just as the 7th pitch headed Brett's way...and that's exactly what it was. A mistake. The pitch was up and out over the plate, a fastball. Not fast enough. Brett swung, and Glenn Davis Stadium exploded in that strange, futuristic sound that tightly wound yarn covered with cowhide makes when it is abused by aluminum. The ball took off on a high majestic line to dead center field.

"Got a chance," I said. "I dunno, looks good, but I dunno," Pete replied numbly.

"Ball's carrying," I rejoined. "C'mon, baby...yeah, baby...YEAH!!!"

The ball disappeared from view just beyond the center field fence. Call it 383 feet, six inches. "That's a home run for Brett Bennett---Bonita leads two to one," the public address announcer droned dryly. He sounded like he might have been ordering french fries at a drive-through window.

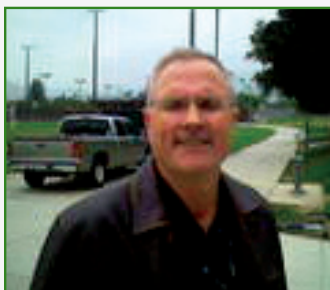
Sure. Wasn't his kid.

For a split second both Pete and I were stunned. We looked at each other, wondering what to do. So we shook hands. "I told you that bleepity-bleep kid is a great two-strike hitter!" Pete exclaimed. "Good job, man," I volleyed back, as if Pete himself had hit the ball. My old friend's grin would have embarrassed a jack-o-lantern and could have depressed a hyena. I'll never forget it. Brett went three-for-four on the day and drove in five runs. The Bearcats pounded Los Altos High 18-to-1.

Bonita did eventually lose in the 3rd round of the playoffs. That's the way baseball goes. But one thing is for certain: whenever he thinks about high school baseball, Peter Bennett will not think of that failure-filled spring day back in 1973. He'll think of his boy rounding the bases, in a slow, satisfying jog, head down, smiling, jogging, falling finally into the arms of his teammates gathered at home plate...

Baseball can sometimes break your heart and steal your soul, but eventually it pays you back. Sometimes it takes 35 years.

What's the big deal about a dumb 'ol baseball game? If you're ever in La Verne and run into my old friend Pete, just ask him.



Above: Brett Bennett at the plate, a bona fide all-star who saved his best for last.

Left: A relieved Pete Bennett is all smiles, after his son does what he could not do 35 years earlier.

GIRL SOFTBALLERS ROCKED OUR WORLD IN '08 - AS USUAL

By Brad Eastland

To say the least, it has been a bittersweet year for the Sierra Madre Girls Softball Association. The 2008 season began on a tragic note back in February, with the shocking, untimely death of the SMGSA's eternal friend and beloved president, Ken Meyer. In fact it was just two weeks ago that the softball field that will forever bear his name was officially dedicated, in a small, informal ceremony over at the Sierra Madre School Upper Campus on Canon Avenue. Rest in peace, Ken...

On the field, it was all joy, passion, and friendly competition; annual hallmarks of the SMGSA.

We here at the Mountain Views-Observer salute the division winners. The 8-years-old-and-under champions (8U) were the Green Lazars. Their record was 12 and 2. The 10U champs were the Crushing Crocs, undefeated at 15-0 with one tie. Ken's Krew took the 12U division with a sparkling 13-1-2 mark. And the Fillies bagged the 16U crown with a 12-2-3 record.

The post-season schedule is currently in full swing. There are all-star tournaments aplenty during the next several weeks, in every division. The SMGSA will be sending six all-star teams in all age divisions to Simi Valley the weekend of June 13-15. It's the annual 'stay-in-a-hotel' tournament that "everyone looks forward to," according to league Player Agent Larry Hom. Simi Valley's Best Western Posada Royale Hotel plays host: "It's a kid-friendly property with a nice pool, and a complimentary full hot breakfast every morning," reports Larry. Another big

tournament on the horizon is the ASA Northern District State Championships, held in Chino the weekend of June 27-29. The 12U and 14U teams will compete in that one.

Some of the tournament results are already in. Congratulations to the 12U Gold (first-team) all-stars on winning the 2008 Walnut Tournament Championship the last week of May, with a record of five wins, no losses, and one tie. The championship game against Chino Hills was no contest, as "Big Blue" rolled to a 9-1 victory. Manager David Albright's 12U all-stars are: Rachel Albright, Sarah Chaides, Natalie Grohs, Caroline Knop, Lauren Lewis, Mary-Rose Magnolia, Brooke Mann, Jasmin Martinez, Elise McCarthy, Maddy Meyer (the winning pitcher against Chino Hills), Katie Smither, and Amy Zeronian.

Yes, that's Maddy-Madelynn Meyer, as in daughter of Ken. Just a chip off the old block.



Left: Katie Smither, all-star catcher, doubles for Ocean's 11 in a 12U game against the Flames. Right: The stone monument which commemorates Meyer Field at Sierra Madre School.

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