



THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

WEEKLY NEWS FOR SIERRA MADRE AND NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

Friday, October 20, October 26, 2006 Volume 1, No.4

Treasured Afternoon at Hart Park House

Sierra Madre History Relived through Photos and Legends



Sierra Madre Circa 1924

By Dean Lee

To old time Sierra Madreans, it does not matter whether you call it Pioneer Days, Sierra Madre Treasure Days, or something straight from the 1948 hit movie "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre." What mattered, last weekend, to the estimated 75 seniors who gathered, was celebrating the city's rich history and reminiscing with old friends, such as 94-year-old renowned silent movie organist Bob Mitchell.

This year, what has been called 'Pioneer Days' was renamed 'Treasure Days' in preparation for the Sierra Madre's upcoming centennial.

Event goers gathered Saturday for lunch in Memorial Park's Hart Park House and listened to guest speakers, including organizers John Grijalva and Dr. Paul Neiby

who showed off a model of the city built from 1944. Grijalva said they used the city's 1944 phonebook to get the exact locations.

The weekend's climax was a showing Sunday night of the silent film "The Temptress" starring Greta Garbo. Mitchell accompanied the film playing the organ.

Grijalva said they went ahead with the traditional fall event. Next year, however, it will be a part of the city's Centennial Celebration and Pioneer Days will be celebrated all year long.

"In the 1990s we started Pioneer Days again so we can keep in touch with old friends that now live in other places like Orange County or even out of state in Washington," Grijalva said.

Mignon Grijalva said that city officials decided to include some of the events traditionally tied to Pioneer Days, into this year's 4th of July parade.

"In the past we had races and other contests for the kids during Pioneer Days now it's mostly an event for the older folks here in town," she said. "It's been going on since the 1940s as you can see in some pictures. Pioneer Days has taken breaks in the past for wars."

Grijalva then pointed herself out in a school photo taken from the 1940s.

Many who viewed Sunday night's showing of "The Temptress," said it took them all right back to their childhood.

"This isn't just any movie, you get to boo the villain and cheer on the heroine," Neiby said. "Not only that, it's amazing to have Bob Mitchell who's been doing silent movies since 1924."

Mitchell grew up in Sierra Madre in the 1920s and played the theater organ for the first time at the age of 12 at the Strand Theatre in Pasadena. He wanted to learn to play the piano but pianos were scarce in the

United States prior to the building of the Panama Canal.

"About the only place you could find the organ was in the church," Mitchell said. "But you had to be the church organist to play so that made things very difficult. Later me and some friends found out they had organs in the theaters and I wanted to play them so I asked. The answer was no."

He continued, "Finally on Christmas day 1924 they let me fill between showings, at that time, the organists were playing five shows a day seven days a week. They liked what I played and the rest is, well, history."

Sunday's movie was sponsored by the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society as a benefit for the Sierra Madre Centennial book due to be published next year.

Photos Courtesy of Archivists John Grijalva and Dr. Paul Neiby.



Circa 1940 - Sierra Madre's Red Car

Tony St. James: From One Beat to Another

By Katina Dunn

Like somebody straight out of an LA cop novel, Tony St. James is one smooth character. Some nights, he is a jazz drummer with his band Rhythm Child, accompanied by his beautiful vocalist wife and some of the best players on the music scene.

Other nights, he's a police officer patrolling the streets of Sierra Madre, facing down teen vandals, speed demons and bears.

He was always a musician – and always on the road. Tony St. James played London, Paris, Rome, Russia, Turkey, Thailand, South Africa, Australia and Japan. He lived in Japan for two years, where, and kissmet comes in here – he met his wife, vocalist Sandy Simmons. They had met 10 years earlier at his sister's, and she was surprised to see him in Japan. She watched him perform, and then everybody went club hopping after the show. Sandy then traveled back home to Los Angeles.

Six months later, he comes back to the states, calls up all his friends including Sandy and... The couple married and lived their lives around music. St. James played drums and wrote songs, finding inspiration in everyday life – the repetitive sound tires make on the road, something somebody said, or the way they said it. "I wake up every day thinking I'm alive," said St. James. "I'm inspired."



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

His music reflects the same kind of mellow. Hard to reconcile with being a cop, but that's the St. James style.

"It was always in the back of my mind," said St. James about policing. "I'd go to events and I'd always end up talking to the cops, for hours. When my daughter was born, I got tired of traveling. I needed to be home."

Their daughter, Ayana, also a jazz vocalist, is studying at Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA). She is a great talent like her mother, who used to sing back-up with Natalie Cole, also during long stretches on the road.

Sierra Madre's first Wine

& Jazz Walk last Saturday was also a first for St. James' band in its present configuration: Jerry Peters on keyboard, John Hart on bass, David Scott on guitar, Cal Bennett on Sax and David Leach on percussion. Rhythm Child was such a hit with the crowds in the street that St. James is working on scheduling a weekend in late December at Café 322, and hopes to play more often there.

Café owners Mario and Illiana Lalli worked hard at finding the bands that performed at the Wine & Jazz Walk, which benefited City of Hope. Rhythm Child's CD "Whatever It Takes" is available at www.cd4baby.com



A Whirlwind Trip to China

Gary & Janice Beggs at Victoria Peak, Hong Kong.

Last month the Beggs boarded China Eastern for the 13-hour flight to Shanghai from LAX. They visited Beijing, Hangzhou, a village in the Guangxi province and finally, Hong Kong.

The trip was a celebration of Gary's retirement as a Landscape Architect with Peridian International, based in Newport Beach. Janice and Gary delightedly toured some of the design projects. Gary's former firm is completing in China. Coming from the prestigious design firm based in the U.S.A., Gary and Janice were given very special treatment.

Highlights of the trip included running into Ralph Grippo, formerly of the Ritz Carlton, Pasadena, now general manager of the Shanghai Ritz Carlton. A memorable dinner in Shanghai was in a contemporary restaurant overlooking the river, notable for its "fusion cuisine" by its Australian owner/chef. In Beijing, a tour of a residential development

around a man-made lake is reminiscent of Westlake Village near Thousand Oaks. Mr. Song hosted a feast called "a company dinner" that featured a large, circular table with a twirling center tray covered with dozens of tasty dishes. Toasting was such a large part of the evening that Janice & Gary did indeed "feel the drinks."

In Hangzhou there was a tour of a new development whose gardens were designed by Peridian International. The homes are designed in the "Western Style" with stone paving, trellises, fountains and backyard pools and spas.

A short drive out of town in Guangxi Province, they arrive at the village famous for its osmanthus tea, made from fragrant golden flower buds. The area is reminiscent of Sierra Madre Canyon. The tea is served in houses donated by the government to its occupants. The occupants can live in the homes as long as (continued on pg. 3)

Scott Hood on:

A Tradition of Great & Livable Cities

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Don't Forget: Get the Latest Planning Commission Meeting Information online at
www.mtwilsonobserver.com.

Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2
Full Moon - October 6, 2006 8:12 pm



Friday: Sunny, Hi 80s -90s Lows 40s - 50s Winds NE 20mph



Saturday: Clear Hi 70s -80s Lows 40s - 50s



Sunday: Clear Hi 70s -80s Lows 40s - 50s

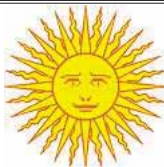


Monday: Clear Hi 70s -80s Lows 40s - 50s



Tuesday: Clear Hi 70s -80s Lows 40s - 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



Humidity Wise

Do you know the effects of too much or too little humidity?

TOO DRY (<30%)

Damage to wood floors, furniture, musical instruments
Static electricity; electronic equipment damage
Increased dust
Respiratory, throat, and skin irritations

TOO WET (>50%)

Termites, cockroaches, and other insects
Condensation and stains on walls, ceilings, windows
Flaking paint and peeling wallpaper
Mold, mildew, dust mite growth; allergic reactions

For more information about indoor and outdoor humidity, go to: www.weather.com



Roy Roams' 91024

Wild Pilot of Sierra Madre

The young daredevil who strafed our town in an airplane decades ago is just one great story from city legends. **Dr. Paul Neiby** has miles of audio tape he is cataloging of our oral history for placement in the library's permanent collection. The painstaking work needs a team, though, which the good doctor is happy to supervise. To join in the preservation of the city's oral history, call (626) 355-2737.

Scooter in Handcuffs?

Twenty eight hours after **former Mayor George Maurer's** electric scooter was reported stolen from the car port where he lives, not one but two residents had already replaced it with a new more powerful ride when he showed up for the city's Kiwanis meeting. "Some Friends, wouldn't you say?" Maurer said. "One of them was all boxed up so I asked that it be taken back."

Calling All Muralists

Schoolgirls have residents seeing red over recent vandalism on the walls of bathrooms in Starbucks and Beantown. I am told. Maybe somebody should dedicate a stretch of canvas for this off-the-wall energy. There are so many great artists and art teachers in this city, it wouldn't be too difficult to manage such a project.

but now it's a little harder," Maurer said. "The scooters have always come in handy for coming up the hill."

The scooter was electric and he said it puzzled him when he saw that they had not taken the power charger.

"You would think that they couldn't have gotten very far but I do think they were from out of town," he said. "You can't just ride it around here without someone noticing."

He added, "I'm very thankful to the people that gave this to me and I wish that I could say who they are but unfortunately they wished not to be named."

Maurer said he now locks the scooter up with a pair of handcuffs given to him years back.

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Citizens' Datebook

Tuesday, October 24 6:30 pm
Sierra Madre City Council Meeting
SM City Hall

Pasadena Unified School District Board Meeting
PUSD Education Center
351 S. Hudson
Pasadena

Thursday, October 26 7:00 pm
Library Board of Trustees
SM City Hall

Thursday, November 2 3:00 pm
Senior Commission
7:00pm
Planning Commission

FLU SHOTS

Thursday-November 2nd
9 - 11:30 am
Adults 50 years of age and older at
Hart Park House
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, Ca.
For more information
Call 626-355-7394

E.T.

Friday, October 20, 2006
7:30 pm
Fall Family Movie
Kersting Ct.
Free

Sponsored by:
Village Pizzeria

Sierra Madre Library Notes & Notices

BARGAIN BOOKS TABLE

EARLY HOLIDAY SHOPPING
The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will have a "Bargain Books Table" inside the Library from Monday, November 6 through Saturday, November 11. Biographies, fiction, and mysteries in good condition will be sold for \$1 each during the Library's public open hours.

SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Library will be closed on Friday, November 10 in honor of Veterans' Day AND Thursday, November 23 through Sunday, November 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

The Sierra Madre Playhouse Presents

MIRACLE WORKER

BY WILLIAM GIBSON
DIRECTED BY LINDA L. RAND

Opens October 6th, 2006
Playing Every Friday & Saturday Evening at 8pm, through November 11th.
Playing Every Sunday Afternoon at 3:30pm, through November 5th.

The Sierra Madre Playhouse
87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024 • 626-355-4318

Seniors Reserve Your Spot Today!

Thursday, November 16
A Deluxe Excursion

Tour Rogers Gardens in Corona del Mar, known for holiday inspiration and decorations. Rogers offers exclusive artifacts in an elaborate world of nutcrackers, peppermints, pine boughs, angels and stars. The gardens feature unusual plants such as purple elephant ears, the Don Gillogly Avocado tree and spiral aloe from the mountains in Lesotho, Africa.

After the Gardens, lunch at the landmark Five Crowns, built in 1953 to replicate Ye Olde Bell at Hurley-on-the-Thames in England. The restaurant, also has an English garden.

Call Senior Commissioner Theresa Daley for information at (626)-355-7427.

The Pasadena League of Women Voters Presents...

A Debate on Proposition 89

Political campaigns, public financing, corporate tax increases, campaign limits
Monday, October 23
Noon
Pasadena City College
Creveling Lounge,
Building CC,
1570 E. Colorado Blvd.

Moderator Dr. Linda Handelmann, PCC
Asst. Professor of Philosophy

Unai Montes-Irueste,
Statewide Field Director for
89 Now

and

Sandy Harrison, Californians to Stop 89

For more information
call (626) 277-9668



BRIGHT IDEA

Founder Kim Clymer promotes the use of compact fluorescent bulbs via free distribution. Clymer's organization aims to distribute more than 110 million bulbs nationwide. "If every household replaced one 60-watt bulb with one compact fluorescent bulb of the same brightness... reduction of greenhouse gases emitted into the air would be equivalent to removing 1.3 million cars from the road," according to Bright Idea's flyer.

For more information, call (626) 355-1629.

City Embraces First Wine & Jazz Walk



Photo by David Johnston

More than 650 tickets were sold for last Saturday's first annual Wine & Jazz Walk, and, so far, at least \$20,000 will benefit the City of

Hope for cancer treatment & research. Crowds of people took to the streets to enjoy visiting the shops, tasting light snacks and listening to really good music.

Congratulations to Event Coordinators Angel Throop of the boutique Angels Everywhere, Karen Keegan of Savor the Flavor, Kathy Girard of Provisions, Sinead Riboli of Sharp Seating and Donna Rey of Casa del Rey.

Cafe 322's Mario and Illiana Lalli helped coordinate music at all the sites. Performers included The Chuck Manning Trio, Mike McDaniel Quartet, Susan Krebs Trio, High Society Jazz Band from La Salle High School, Rhythm Child with Tony St. James & Sandy Simmons, Los Chumps, Daisy Chiang on jazz guitar and The Downbeats.

Sponsors were the Riboli Family Estates/San Antonio Winery, Harmony Skincare and Day Spa, Paul Morin and Patricia Dmytrow of Coldwell Banker Residential Realtors, The Bottle Shop, Yoga Madre, Gwen on 2 and the Buccaneer Lounge.

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Sing-A-Long Opera & Broadway
Every Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

Cafe 322
322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pianist Danny Guerrero with world class singers Domenico Zangeri, Norma Guerrero, Mario Storace, Mark Almy, Diana Briscoe, Mario and Edalyn Lalli and many more, including you!
Free admission

Lindy Hop
Every Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
All Ages- Teens to 90s
200 S. Euclid free parking & free dance lessons from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.
\$7 admission
www.lindygroove.com

Beantown
45 N. Baldwin
(626) 355-1596

Friday, October 20th
Danny, Solo guitarist

Saturday, October 21st
Mark Humphreys, folk & ballads

Farmer's Market
Every Saturday
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
PHS Parking Lot
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Saturday, October 28
Entry Deadline October 20, 2006
Oktoberfest Golf and Tennis Tournament
benefiting the Youth of Sierra Madre. Contact Alexis Braun at abraun@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us

Halloween Window Painting
Friday October 20
2:30 p.m.

Kids ages 10-17. Award winners announced at 1 p.m. in Kersting Court on Saturday the 21st.

Halloween Activities
Tuesday, October 31
3:30 to 5 p.m.

Trick or Treat Downtown
4:30 p.m.

Costume Parade
from Kersting Court to Memorial Park
Costume awards for toddlers to teens in various categories



PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT. DISPOSE OF BATTERIES PROPERLY!

At City Hall, Police Department, Library
Alkaline/Zinc/Carbon NiCad - rechargeable Mercury (hearing aids and watches)
Silver Oxide Lithium Ion (computers) Nickel Metal Hydride (cell phones)

For more information, call (626) 355-7135 X803

The Teen Book Club - For readers in grades 7 and up

Starts Thursday, October 5 and runs twelve weeks through Thursday, January 11, 2007, at the Sierra Madre Public Library. The program is free (including books) and open to all students, from public and private schools and home schooling. The group will meet Thursday afternoons from 4 to 5

in the Library basement. Enrollment is limited; please register at the Library. Now in its tenth year, the Teen Book Club encourages reading and peer discussion of selected books under the guidance of Cathy Ryne, Young Adult Librarian. The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre. For further information on this program and other Library programs and services please visit the Library's web site at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us or call the (626) 355-7186.

The Wild West

Ecology Update

with Kyle McClure

Global Dimming

Okay okay okay. So President George Bush II didn't make it up. Sulfur does do what he said it does. Over the past weeks this column has discussed the newly signed California Global Warming Solutions Act, which caps greenhouse gas emissions in our state, effectively making California a signatory to the Kyoto Accord. This international treaty, which the United States has not signed, was the topic of a June 2001 presidential press conference (Was it from the rose garden? I hope so. Press conferences from the rose garden are my favorite.) in which the president made the argument that by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, the United States was actually making global warming worse.

Sulfur particles, he said, do the important job of reflecting solar radiation back into space, which is why we should appreciate them, which is why we should not sign the Kyoto Accord. Last week I may have implied that this position was ignorant, shortsighted, careless, irresponsible, dangerous, illogical or dumb. And, while it may have been many or all of these things (sulfur does cause all sorts of nasty health and environmental problems), it was not, technically, wrong.

Sulfur (and aerosol particles, and - interestingly - pretty airplane vapor trails) do reflect solar radiation, causing an effect known as global dimming (for real, promise). Global dimming was probably first observed by animals with very small brains at the end of the Cretaceous period (like 65 million years ago) when, after a great big meteorite slammed into what is now the Gulf of Mexico, lots of gray ashy stuff filled the skies and it got real cold for a few million years. All of a sudden these little furry things with mammary glands were dancing around and reproducing like crazy, meanwhile the tyrannosaurs and creodonts were lying down to sleep in the snow... forever.

More recently, global dimming has been observed in data collected starting in the 1950s. Gerry Stanhill, an English scientist working in Israel in the 1990s, noticed a large drop in solar radiation levels from 1960 to 1990. During these decades, he calculated, there was a 4% reduction in the amount of sunlight reaching the earth's surface, worldwide. Originally met with skepticism, global dimming has since gained credence in the scientific community. So, it's a real thing. And, yes, it looks like it is caused by the

exact same things that cause global warming. Yay! Isn't it wonderful when science reveals straightforward explanations to problems we face in our daily lives? Hold on, though, Dennis Montjoy, before you take a victory lap in your SUV... global warming is still happening... just not as fast as it would be if all of that solar radiation were still making it through our "enhanced" atmosphere. Back in 2001, President Bush went out on a limb when he pronounced the significance of this new global phenomenon. When he did so, he endorsed an actual, testable, scientific theory, in a nationally televised press conference, which is really pretty wonderful when you think about it. It's not the kind of thing he does every day. But sorry, even so, the addition of more greenhouse gases to our atmosphere is not going to prevent global warming. And, it definitely will not reduce the nasty health and environmental problems caused by pollutants like sulfur. Nice try, though. I mean sure, there are plenty of ways to solve a problem while making other ones worse. Like, a little bit of motor oil will get rid of that chlorine taste in your tap water. But who's going to swallow that?

News from the Veterans Memorial Wall

Former Sierra Madre Mayor Glenn Lambdin's birthday was recently celebrated by the gift of a brick at the Veteran's Photo Memorial. Proceeds from the sale of bricks are what pay for the photographs of the veterans. Enough money has been raised by wonderful Sierra Madreans to replace all the vandalized panels on the Memorial. To purchase a brick, please call (626) 355-7720. - John Grijalva



Photo Courtesy of Bud Switzer

GOT NEWS?

If you have news you would like to share with your friends and neighbors, please email your stories and photos to The Mt. Wilson Observer at deuxamispub@aol.com



Photos Courtesy of The Beggs

CHINA (continued from page 1) they continue to serve tea to all the visitors.

Back in Hangzhou, another delicacy - a small chicken wrapped in a lotus leaf, then newsprint, then placed in a paper bag and baked. It is considered polite to spit the bones onto a plate or table.

The final stop in Hong Kong was at the Intercontinental Hotel, in a room overlooking the harbor. All day and night, there was a constant parade of every kind of boat imaginable. Cruise ships, ferry boats, sampans, tugs, barges and junks.

The couple toured the Floating Village of Aberdeen in Hong Kong, where fishing boat owners live in their vessels, with amenities such as washing machines and television sets. The taxi driver said the floating village will be extinct in five years, because the young people no longer intend to live that kind of life.

The photo on the left depicts a Chinese Garden designed by Peridian International.

California Ballot Initiatives - A Mix Of Interesting Coalitions

By Susan Henderson

The November 7 General Election may be determined not by the will of the people as much as by the power of money and influence. Below is a synopsis of the 13 Ballot Initiatives and who and what is behind them. All figures are for the period ended 9/30/2006. Source: <http://cal-access.ss.ca.gov/>

Proposition	Title	Pros (Yes)	Cons (No)
1A Endorsed by Sierra Madre City Council	Transportation Funding Protection	REBUILDING CALIFORNIA CALIFORNIANS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC GAVE A COMBINED TOTAL IN EXCESS OF \$4.3 MILLION TO SUPPORT PROPOSITIONS 1A-1E ALSO KNOWN AS THE REBUILD CALIFORNIA INITIATIVES HEAVILY SUPPORTED BY THE BUILDING TRADES INDUSTRY	NO STATEMENTS FILED
1B Endorsed by Sierra Madre City Council	Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality and Port Security Bond Act of 2006	See Prop 1A Supporters Above	NO STATEMENTS FILED
1C Endorsed by Sierra Madre City Council	Housing & Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006	See Prop 1A Supporters Above Also supported by Affordable Housing Advocates who contributed another \$929,649.50	NO STATEMENTS FILED
1D Endorsed by Sierra Madre City Council	Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006	See Prop 1A Supporters Above Californians for Higher Education gave an additional \$1,082,810	NO STATEMENTS FILED
1E Endorsed by Sierra Madre City Council	Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006	See Prop 1A Supporters Above	NO STATEMENTS FILED
83	Sex Offenders, Sexually Violent Predators, Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring Initiative	Campaign for Child Safety primary supporting contribution over \$1.2 million	NO STATEMENTS FILED
84 Endorsed by Sierra Madre City Council	Water Quality, Safety & Supply, Flood Control, Natural Resource Protection, Park Improvement Bonds	Californians for Clean Air contributed over \$5.3 million. Strongly supported by Conservationists.	California for Responsible Elections Oppose No monetary contributions reported.
85	Waiting Period Parental Notification Before Termination of Pregnancy	Coalition of Right To Life and Parents Right to Know Supporters gave \$3,644,189	Opposition includes the Feminist Majority, Planned Parenthood and the ACLU who have given \$3,822,638
86	Tax on Cigarettes Initiative	The American Cancer Society, The American Lung and Heart Associations gave \$12 million	RJ Reynolds gave 20.1 million and Phillip Morris gave 29.7 million to oppose
87 Endorsed by Sierra Madre City Council	Alternative Energy, Research, Productions - Tax on Oil Producers Initiative	Californians for Clean Alternative Energy gave \$45.7 mil.	Californians Against Higher Taxes gave \$44.9 million. Heavily supported by the oil industry
88	Education Funding Real Property Parcel Tax	Taxpayers for Better Schools gave \$7.0 million	Californians Against Statewide Property Tax gave 768,566
89	Political Campaigns, Public Financing, Corporate Tax Increase, Campaign Contribution and Expenditure Limits	Californians for Fair Elections contributed \$1,443,230	Taxpayers for Fair Elections \$1,829,472
90 Opposed by Sierra Madre City Council	Government Acquisition Regulation of Private Property.	Protect Our Homes Coalition in Support of Protection of Private Property from Government Acquisition gave \$3,736,699	No on 90 Californians Against The Taxpayers Trap gave \$2.9 million in opposition

City Manager Gives 'Unofficial State of the City' Address

By Dean Lee

Sierra Madre City Manager John Gillison rattled off a laundry list for the city as Guest Speaker at Tuesday's regular Kiwanis Club meeting. Gillison spoke of current issues he thought were important to the city, other than large development projects which he said "were all over the news."

"What you don't hear about is the non-development stuff and how busy we are," Gillison said. Most of what he did talk about came with large price tags in the millions including a number of public works projects, the new Senior Housing Complex and the creation of a Library Foundation to build a new public library.

Director of Library Services Toni Buckner said that a new city library alone would cost an estimated \$8 million with all the furnishings. "I think with the creation of a foundation, the city will understand how important a library is to the city," Gillison said.

The library proposal asks for a 22,000 square

foot building on the same location as the current 8,762 square foot building. Buckner said a larger building is badly needed.

Other large public works projects included a water treatment plant in which Gillison said all of the city's water will eventually go through.

"What this will do is insure that we always have water no matter what happens to the groundwater," he said. "We would never again have to rely on other sources like Arcadia if something were to happen."

Gillison also talked about the city's police and fire departments, although he did not mention whether the city had negotiated a new contract with police. Sierra Madre Police officers are currently the lowest paid in the state according to the department. They have not had a contract in over two years.

Gillison said that the Police Department was up to full staff and gave praise to Police Chief Marilyn Diaz, who recruited four new officers in the seven

months she has been on the job.

Gillison tied part of his talk into both the Senior Master Plan and the Transportation Master Plan saying each was equally important.

He also gave an update on the Senior Housing Project. If weather permits he said the project should be finished sometime in March 2007.

Regarding the MTA, Gillison warned that although they had decided not to change the routes, the city was not in the clear.

"We need something in place long term or this issue is just going to come up over and over again," he said. "Being somewhat isolated up here they don't think anything of cutting us off."

Gillison continued, "What they don't understand is how difficult it is to get up the hill, and not just for seniors."

Some residents referred to Gillison's speech as the "unofficial state of the city address."

Ed ALVERNO LaSalle, PASADENA HIGH, St. Francis, Sierra Mesa Middle School, The Barnhart School, The Gooden School, Sierra Madre Elementary School, Bethany Christian, St. Rita's, Wilson Middle School, Don Benito Fundamental, Norma Coombs Alternative School, and the Pasadena Unified School District

New Leaders at Alverno



By Candace Siegle

Alverno High School inaugurated its new leaders at its Theme and Founders' Day celebration on October 13.

Nearly one-third of the students take on school-wide or class-wide leadership roles as part of the school's unique student government program. Alverno's school-wide governing body,

the Alverno Student Union (ASU) is modeled after the United States government with a president, vice-president, presidential cabinet, and congress.

Each class level, or State, is set up like the state of California with a governor, Lieutenant governor, and Assembly. "Government is a lot of fun, and you learn about how our country works," says ASU Communications Secretary Diana Blas, who just turned 18 and can vote in the upcoming Gubernatorial election. "You learn about your power as a citizen both of the school and the United States."

"We can make things happen," says Senior State Governor Elena Soto. "We have used the governmental process to change the school uniform, and earn new privileges as students. There are so many different things you can do in our government that there is something for everyone."

At a time when many question are being asked about the role of values in politics, Alverno strives to give girls the opportunity to become informed, thoughtful leaders. "Our school philosophy states that we intend to prepare knowledgeable young women of conscience and conviction," says



Ann Gillick, Alverno Head of School. "We want our students to have the courage to know what their values are and to stick to them."

Alverno is a Catholic, college-prep high school for girls located in Sierra Madre. Alverno students come from private and public schools across the San Gabriel Valley.

(Photos courtesy of Alverno High School)



Photo by Reuters News Service

Pandamonium

Watch the giant pandas at play via the Panda Cam at www.nationalzoo.com. The pandas are enjoying their new habitat at the National Zoo, part of the 163-acre zoological park which is part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

Get the scoop on how your child can get to college The PUSD's second annual College Fair will take place on Saturday, October 28, 2006 from 10 am to 1 pm at Pasadena City College.

PASADENA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Public Information Committee
Please save these three important dates and times:

Monday, Oct 23rd 9:30 a.m.
PEF Annual Parade of Banners
Paseo Colorado Garfield Plaza 280 E. Colorado Blvd.

Parade of Banners is our annual public recognition of business- community partners and business donors of the PUSD.

Thursday, Oct 26 10:00 a.m.
Speaker Tom DeLapp on Community Engagement
Pasadena Unified School District
District Ed Center Room 240
351 So. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, CA 91101

Thursday, Nov 2 7:00 p.m.
State Senator Jack Scott on Public Education
Armory Center for the Arts
145 No. Raymond Ave Pasadena, CA 91103

Support the Pasadena Educational Foundation Take a Chance on a 2007 Audi A3



Proceeds will go to PEF for the benefit of students and teachers of the PUSD
Made Possible by the Rusnak Automotive Group

For More Information Contact:
Pasadena Educational Foundation
351 S. Hudson Ave., Room 219, P
Pasadena, CA 91109
626-795-6981

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Alverno High School
200 N. Michillinda
(626) 355-3463

Saturday October 28
Festival of Haunts
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Sierra Madre's Premier Spooky House
Costume contests: Ages 3 to 6 at 5 p.m.
Ages 7 to 11 at 6 p.m.

Creepy Attic for older kids only.
Tickets \$2 for kids 1 to 9,
\$3 ages 10 to 99.

The Gooden School
192 N. Baldwin
(626) 355-2410
www.goodenschool.org
Monday, October 23
Orientation & Tour
9:30 a.m.
Call Marianne Ryan, Director of Admissions
(626) 355-2410 X23

Sunday, November 12
Open House from 1 to 3 p.m.
All classrooms open for current and prospective families

LaSalle High School
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena
(626) 351-8951

Saturday, October 21
Homecoming Football Game
Honoring David Taylor '98 and
Brook Zaffina '98
Sunday, November 5
Open House

Pasadena High School
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena
(626) 798-8901

Saturday, October 21
PSAT Testing at 8 a.m.

Monday, October 23
Homecoming Dance Tickets Go On Sale
The dance is Friday November 10
Go to D 101 for Tickets

Friday November 17th is the deadline for original stories, poems and art for consideration in the PHS literary magazine
Submit your work to Dr. Verdi in G206

Sierra Madre Elementary School
141 W. Highland Ave.
(626) 355-1428

Tuesday, October 31
Costume Parade
ETA in downtown Sierra Madre to be announced

Sierra Madre Middle School
160 N. Canon
(626) 836-2947

More than \$2,400 was raised at the rummage sale October 7.

Friday, October 27
Costume Dance
6:30 to 8:30 in the Cafetorium

St. Rita's Catholic School
322 N. Baldwin
(626) 355-9028

Saturday, October 21
Harvest Festival & Carnival
Family fun for all ages - rides, games and tasty food including chicken and ribs from Newport Rib Company.
Free admission - rides 50 cents each, wristband for all-day-rides \$30.
West Campus, Noon to 10 p.m.
Questions, call Christen McKiernan
(626) 355-4208

The Barnhart School
240 W. Colorado in Arcadia
(626) 446-5588

Wednesday, October 25
Admissions Tour, K through 8

Send us your school news.
deuxamispub@aol.com

Paul the
Cyberian will be
back next week.

TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business

Is It Time To Unplug?

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Listening to loud music with earphones on a digital music player for more than 90 minutes a day can damage your hearing, according to a new U.S. study.

The study of 100 doctoral students concluded that people who listened to music at 80 percent of volume capacity, at which point the sound is considered loud, should stick to under 90 minutes a day.

"If a person exceeds that on one particular day and happens not to use their headphones for the rest of the week, they're at no higher risk," study author Brian Fligor told Reuters.

"I'm talking about someone who's exceeding 80 percent for 90 minutes day after day, month after month, for years."

The study also found no problems for people who listened to music at 10

percent to 50 percent of

maximum volume for extended periods. It found, however, that anyone who listened at 100 percent for more than five minutes faced the risk of hearing loss.

The findings of the study, co-authored by doctoral candidate Cory Portunoff, applies to children and adults. The researchers do not know if children are more susceptible than adults.

The scientists found no differences in sound levels between brands of digital music players or between the genres of music tested which ranged from rock, R&B, country, to dance.

Fligor, an audiologist at the Children's Hospital of Boston and faculty of Harvard Medical School, said people who consistently listen to high levels of volume don't realize that hearing loss can take up to 10 years to

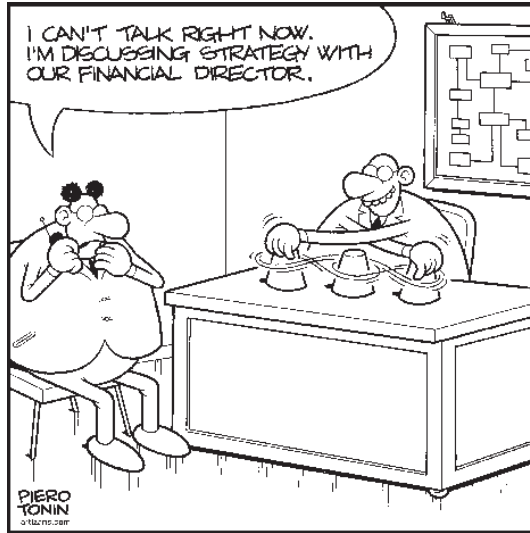
show up.

"I worry about the teen-

ager who's going to be 23, 24, 25 years old and has a measurable noise-induced hearing loss and now has another 60-something years to live with his hearing which is only going to get worse," said Fligor, who will present his study Thursday to a conference in Cincinnati.

Fligor will also present the findings of another study, co-authored by Terrilves of Pennsylvania's College of Optometry's School of Audiology, that found in-ear earphones, which broadcast sound directly into the ears, are no more dangerous than headphones that are placed over the ears.

Both studies are being delivered to a "Noise-Induced Hearing Loss in Children in Work and Play" meeting.



ASK MADELINE

A question and answer column on résumé preparation, cover letters, interview skills, and everything having to do with the job search procedure. Please direct your concerns to Madeline at compmp2@aol.com or 888-489-8372 (8 AM - 6 PM, Monday - Friday).

Q: My name is Richard, but I really dislike this name. I've always been known as Skip among family, friends, and colleagues. Is it okay to put Skip on my résumé?

A: Use Richard! Your résumé is not the place for nicknames. Writing Skip might cause confusion if other formal documents are required such as a diploma, transcript of grades, or definitely social security information. I'm assuming Richard is written on these. Also, your legal name certainly sounds a lot more professional.

If you insist on using Skip, I would put Richard (Skip). Or you could just put Richard and during an interview say that you prefer to be called Skip.

Q: I will be graduating from college shortly with an accounting degree. I grew up on a farm in a rural community. Throughout my life, I've been responsible for many farm chores and am accustomed to hard work. Do you think it's worth mentioning my background during an interview?

A: Of course! As you say, your background shows that you know the meaning of hard work. It also demonstrates organizational and time management capabilities because I'm sure farm chores need to be prioritized and completed within a certain timeframe. Teamwork skills might also apply here. In addition, you probably need to get up early in the morning and work late into the evening which would indicate that you could handle a long day at the office.

Your experiences could be incorporated into many questions. Tell me about yourself? Why are you a strong job applicant? In what ways have you shown that you can manage multiple tasks?

Not only is your background unique but also interesting. If you handle this situation properly, the interviewer is sure to remember you in a positive way.

Facts and Figures
From the United States Census
Bureau's

POPCLOCK

300,014,546

US Population as of 10/18/2006

One birth every..... 7 seconds

One death every..... 13 seconds

BEES PLEASE!

Bees, other pollinators may be declining in U.S.

WASHINGTON (Reuters)

Bees and other important pollinators such as birds and bats may be on the decline in the United States, putting crops and other plants at risk, experts reported Wednesday.

But there is not enough information to determine how bad the problem is, the National Research Council said in a report.

Research has suggested that pollinators are already in short supply in many parts of the world, and this could spell trouble for farmers and ecosystems alike, it said.

"Among the various pollinator groups, evidence for decline in North America is most compelling for the honey bee, Apis

mellifera," the report said. A parasitic mite may be to blame in some cases.

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria and spreading populations of Africanized honeybees also are hurting North American honeybees, the report said.

Honeybees pollinate more than 90 commercially grown crops. For example, the report said, it takes about 1.4 million colonies of honeybees to pollinate California's 550,000 acres of almond trees.

"Despite its apparent lack of marquee appeal, a decline in pollinator populations is one form of global change that actually has credible potential to alter the shape and structure of terrestrial ecosystems,"

said entomologist May Berenbaum of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

She headed a National Research Council committee that recommended that the United States collaborate with Canada and Mexico to monitor populations of bees and other important pollinating creatures.

The evidence is more difficult to gather for other species, the report said, because so few people study the subject.

The report said two of the three U.S. bat species are now listed as endangered.

Butterfly species that pollinate plants and flowers are declining. The report said bird species known to pollinate plants may also be

threatened or declining. No studies have been made to determine whether a species of wasp that pollinates figs is endangered, it said.

The National Research Council is one of the National Academies of Sciences -- independent, nonprofit institutions chartered by Congress to advise on science, technology, and health.



You're Invited!

A Halloween Masquerade Ball!

HONORARY CHAIR - ELVIRA, MISTRESS OF DARK

Saturday, October 28th, 2006

Benefiting AIDS Service Center



A Halloween Masquerade Ball!
\$100 each 5 tickets/\$450 10 tickets/\$900
(\$30 savings) (\$100 savings)

Witching Hour Lounge After Party...\$20 each

Featuring celebrity performers
Scott Bakula, Chelsea Fields, Solovi and
other exciting cabaret performers

Please call Janine Sterling at 626-441-8495 x243 or
email at jst@jst.com immediately to reserve your invitation.

Event Sponsors



US Studies Passport Card For Canada, Mexico Trips

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The State Department Tuesday proposed developing a wallet-sized "passport card" that would allow U.S. citizens to travel to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and parts of the Caribbean.

The card is designed to speed the travel of the millions of Americans who go to Canada and Mexico by land as well as those who visit some Caribbean nations from cruise ships.

At present, such travelers typically do not need passports and the card -- if developed -- would create a new travel document that would be more secure and uniform than a U.S. driver's license or birth certificate, a U.S.

official said.

The State Department said the card itself would not contain personal information but -- using radio technology -- would link to a government database that would contain a photograph and biographical data.

The proposal -- which is being submitted for public comment before it can be carried out -- was criticized by Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, who said in a statement it would "risk the personal information of millions of Americans."

The State Department said obtaining the proposed card would cost adults \$45 and children \$35. In contrast, applying for a passport costs \$97 for adults and \$82 for children under 16.

Place Your Ad Here - Call 626-355-2737

THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER



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OPINION



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

Milestones in A Contest of Ideas in Sierra Madre

By Stefan Bund

The past two weeks have witnessed critical developments in city history. Residents are collecting petitions for signatures to put the 2-30-13 Initiative on the March 2007 ballot. The initiative limits downtown development from going beyond the city's existing General Plan, which specifies development up to two stories in the downtown area. Under this initiative, unless developers obtain permission from city residents through an election, they will not be able to build beyond two stories, downtown.

In talking with petition collectors, so far, they have been encouraged by the responses they are receiving.

The petitioners must collect 15% of the signatures from the 8,000 registered city voters.

For this group, time is of the essence to canvass the city and seek out support from other residents.

Once time becomes a factor for this group, the opposition to 2-30-13 must make their voice heard. Accordingly, in

order to keep the hopes of development alive, a pamphlet has been mailed out already, and should appear in mailboxes soon. It pictures former mayors, and their endorsement of development in the downtown beyond the General Plan.

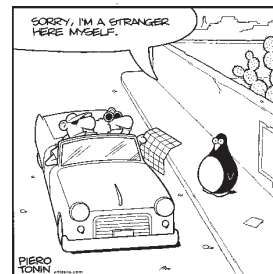
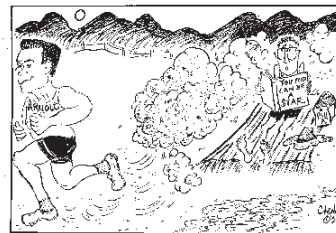
The headlines read something to the effect that residents should go along with the ideas of their former leaders.

I, for one, like contests. Especially, the contest of ideas. In a competition, the best ideas must be articulated in order to win. On the 2-30-13 side, you have residents who draft an initiative, and articulate ideas in contrast with their governors. Then on the opposition, you have people who voice a drastically different opinion, which is that average people should not interpret the actions of government, and must, by default, abide by the notions of leaders because of their elite status.

So far, opponents of the 2-30-13 initiative have accused its authors of willingness to bankrupt the city, because the initiative requires a vote to qualify large buildings in the downtown.

This is not a valid criticism, because the 2-30-13 requires votes on downtown buildings to take place during regularly scheduled elections, and not create elections in order to permit new constructions beyond two stories.

The opposition to the 2-30-13 initiative must qualify their arguments beyond restating their pedigrees. If residents can articulate their own vision of how the city should be, the future political elite will be determined by listening to the public, not denying them.



SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, October 8, to Saturday October 14th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 152 calls for service.

Sunday, October 8th:

7:27 PM - Traffic collision, 00 block North Baldwin Ave. A citizen flagged down an officer to report a traffic collision in front of Lozano's restaurant. The suspect attempted to leave the scene in his disabled vehicle, but was quickly apprehended and detained a short distance away by witnesses. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence after failing field sobriety tests.

Tuesday, October 10th:

9:52 AM - Tampering with a vehicle, 300 block Sycamore Place. A resident reported someone rifled through the center console of her unlocked car. The car was parked in front of her house from 3:30 PM, 10/9 and discovered at 9:45 AM, 10/10. No loss was reported.

2:32 PM - Theft from vehicle, 300 block North Sycamore Ave. A resident reported finding his car's glovebox open and property missing from the trunk. The loss occurred between 8:00 PM, 10/9 and 6:45 AM, 10/10. Loss was valued at \$220.00, and included prescription medicine and three steak knives.

6:10 PM - Theft, 700 block Idle Hour Way. A resident called to report a theft. The victim reported someone stole his custom made car cover between 6:00 PM and 11:59 PM. His truck was parked in the street in front of his home. The car cover was valued at \$270.00.

Wednesday, October 11th:

5:05 PM - Theft from vehicle, 300 block North Sycamore Ave. A resident reported a red mail bag stolen from his unlocked car. The car was parked in the driveway of his home. The mail bag contained six checks, no dollar loss at this time. The bag was taken between 7:00 PM, 10/9 and 6:00 AM, 10/10.

Thursday, October 12th:

6:39 AM - Suspicious person, Carter Ave and Grove Ave. Officers were dispatched regarding a suspicious person acting disoriented. Officers found the suspicious person and determined he was under the influence of a controlled substance and arrested him.

Saturday, October 14th

2:40 AM - DUI arrest, Rosemead Blvd and Foothill Blvd. Officer AMOS followed and eventually stopped a car for multiple Vehicle Code violations. The driver failed a field sobriety test and was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Mt. Wilson Observer Mission Statement

We honor the traditions of the community newspaper and place our readers above all other concerns.

We deliver local, state and national news every week.

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.

Scott Hood on:

A Tradition of Great & Livable Cities

Two stories and thirty feet seem enough to me. Apparently it is enough for several other cities such as San Marino, La Canada-Flintridge and others discussed below. It is not that Sierra Madre aspires to be like these other cities, but they do demonstrate that character-appropriate development can make for a strong city. Two stories and thirty feet is not a radical idea - it is very common, particularly among cities that have similar characteristics to Sierra Madre. One attribute these cities all share is that they have high property values. People want to live in towns that don't overdevelop. They do not want to live in towns with tall buildings, parking problems, traffic, and pollution. In fact, they pay more to live in quaint towns, which translates into higher property tax revenues for those cities.

Some of the Los Angeles communities that have height restrictions of between 25 and 35 feet in their basic commercial zone include San Marino, La Canada-Flintridge, West Hollywood, Hermosa Beach, Calabasas, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, Palos Verdes, Manhattan Beach, and Malibu. The median selling prices of single-family homes in these cities for the month of August was \$1.3 million. The average height restriction in these cities was 32 feet. Sierra Madre had a median selling price in August of \$1.0 million.

In contrast, some of the Los Angeles communities that have

height restrictions exceeding 35 feet in their basic commercial zone include Alhambra, San Gabriel, Commerce, Arcadia, Brooklyn Heights, South L.A., Vernon, Hawaiian Gardens, El Sereno, South Gate, El Monte, and Lynwood. The median selling prices of homes in these cities for the month of August was \$512 thousand. The average height restriction in these cities is 50 feet.

The data above comes from the LA Business Journal, various city web sites, and phone calls to the cities. The data could be expanded into a full study of the relationship between restrictions and property values, but I would bet the result would be the same.

The first set of cities make a lot of their revenues from residential property taxes. The second set must rely more on businesses that, for the most part, are not owned by townspeople. They have lost control of their cities to out-of-town interests. To be sure, these commercial-focused cities have contributed to the diversity and vibrancy of Southern California. On the other hand, it is not wrong, harmful, or radical to choose to be among the many cities that plan for a resident-friendly environment.

As I understand it, the restrictions on height and density may ultimately be similar under the DSP, the 2-30-13 initiative, or the current general plan. Unfortunately, the DSP and existing restrictions can be ignored at the discretion of the city planners. What is compelling about the 2-30-13 initiative is that the citizens of Sierra Madre will be able to decide if they want a project in town that exceeds two stories and thirty feet. I would like to have that vote. City Council members come and go, but developments stay for not just a few

years but for generations. As we have seen with the DSP, developers use their resources to get their way. What if we get a City Council that, even for a brief time, is swayed to go along with the economic interests of the developers at the residents' expense?

The people of Sierra Madre have the rights and obligations to shape the character of this city. Three generations of my family live in Sierra Madre, and we care deeply about this town. The issue at hand will have a lasting impact on the quality of life for all residents, and it is simply too important to be ignored.

Note from Author Scott Hood:

I grew up in Sierra Madre and my wife and I returned home to raise a family after living in New York and Hong Kong. Both sides of our family also live in Sierra Madre. Our lives revolve around our children and family and we are actively involved in the town.

We have seen enough of the world to know how special Sierra Madre is. We have no political affiliations in town and choose to study each issue as thoroughly as we can before deciding. If our family has a bias, it is that we would like to preserve the character of town, make it financially sound, and be able to keep our great local businesses. I tell my wife that I won't do any home improvements unless Arnold's Hardware has the material.

The arguments among various groups in town also adds to the charm - most important is that everyone cares. I am a Chartered Financial Analyst and co-owner of an investment company where I serve as CEO and portfolio manager. Seven of us are dedicated to researching industries and companies, which even helps in studying the issues that face our little town.

The Funnies



Along For The Ride

By Tina Salvatore

Am I the only person that's startled every morning when the alarm goes off? It's like a bad relationship. It's not as though we don't know it's coming but every day it's the same reaction. I answer my alarm back most of the time. "Don't you set yourself off at me. You quiet down." Six minutes later it shouts back at me again just as I'm falling asleep. Once again: Sheer surprise! "Is that my alarm going off? How dare it?" With its little lights winking at me almost mocking me and my pajama choice I refuse to be ruled by it. Yeah, I get up, but not because it wants me to. Instead because I have to go to work.

Then at night we have to reset it because we have no other alternative and we can't be alone to wake ourselves up. It's really an unhealthy vicious circle I think we learned it from our parents.

Sometimes you want to deny the alarm so much that you incorporate it into your dream so you don't wake up. It's your way of shunning the alarm's control.

By the way, don't try to tell someone a dream you've had - it never works out. When it made perfect sense in your head the moment you try to explain it suddenly major parts don't make sense and it's never exciting like it was in your dream. Then you feel compelled to sort of create the missing parts from scratch leaving you searching as you talk about the dream, so the person you're talking to has already lost interest. Plus, you realize it sounds strange to say out loud "I was making breakfast with a headless chicken that continually recited the Declaration of Independence." Although it did seem so right to do that in the dream. The opposite problem is when you feel sheer anxiety in your dream, but when you explain it, it doesn't seem scary at all. "I was in a fishing boat and I couldn't catch any fish. It was just absolutely horrible." You try to explain yourself, "Okay, well looking back it doesn't sound that bad, but the feeling was really bad. It was a bad feeling is all I'm saying. Luckily, my alarm went off and woke me up."



Photo by Felix Orono

Lily Batlthazar grows greens and herbs which she sells at the Pasadena Farmer's Market on Saturdays. Her favorite recipe for Butternut Squash Soup appear on the right.

Arte Culinario

Butternut Squash Soup with Sage

3 1/2 to 4 lbs butternut squash

1 tablespoon olive oil

4 tablespoon fresh honey

2 16 oz vegetable stock canned, boxed or homemade

16 leaves fresh sage (sage 6 leaves for garnish)

Cut squash in big pieces, add them to a big saucepan with the vegetable stock. Cook for about 12-15 minutes or until soft. In a small saucepan, heat olive oil, add the sage and fry until crisp. Put both the sage and the soften squash in a mixer and blend well until smooth. If you want a lighter consistency add more stock or a couple of tablespoons water according to taste. Pour the soup back into the saucepan, add honey and simmer until dissolved. Serve hot. Add sage to the top of each serving bowl or if you are serving family style add remaining sage to large bowl.

Shop Our Town

We couldn't stop playing with our fabulous new NEBO flashlight from **Arnold's Frontier Hardware** with 8 LED plus a laser pointer good for amusing cats. We checked in with owner **Basil Kruger** who has already pre-ordered dozens of these small delights which he'll offer as a special for \$14.99.

Another great item at Arnold's - and there are many - are the little paint pots for \$3.99. The sample pots of Pratt & Lambert are good for testing paint colors without making a commitment. Should you decide on a color, Kruger offers a 10% discount on five gallons of paint or more.

Once you get a Flat-Free Wheelbarrow Tire (\$33.99) you can start loading up: a 7 pound bag of seeds for song birds (\$5.49), Mr. Heater's portable "Buddy" indoor-safe propane heater (\$129.99), the best furniture polish around - Guardsman, Howard or Goddard's - and some batteries.

For washing off your citrus trees, try Jungle Rain's "Clean Leaf" made of natural ingredients for \$19.99 for a jug of concentrate. RAID also offers non-toxic "Earth Options" pesticides for ants, roaches, hornets, wasps and flies (\$6.99). Everybody knows those fruit rats sneak in homes at every opportunity, so Kruger always has Rat Zappers handy, as

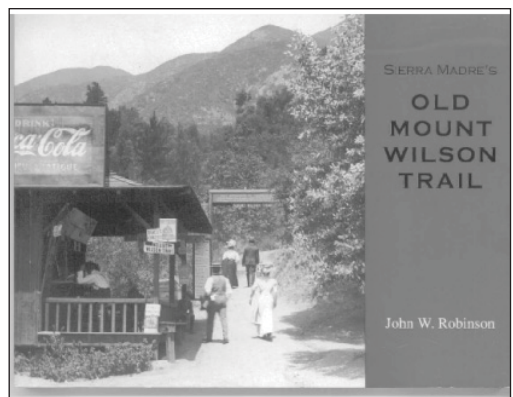
well as the Ultra Rat Zapper (\$49.99) for over achieving rodents.

PVC pipe and other plumbing supplies are some of the most popular items in the store, which does a brisk business in that equipment. Being in Sierra Madre, Kruger pointed out that his hardware store is very dog friendly and canine snacks are provided gratis.

The gift shop is stocked with unerring taste by Janice Beggs. Enamelled plates by Sierra Madre artist Annemarie Davidson sell for \$24.99 and up. Right now there is a pink pig that is totally charming, a flying duck plate, and our personal favorite - the moose.

Always fair in the ancient rivalry, Kruger sells both Trojan and Bruin musical fight song pens (\$7.50 each). There are American flags, the Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters Cook Book (all proceeds go to the SMFD), Gorilla Glue, penknives and surge protectors. Like any good hardware store, one could spend hours in Arnold's.

Now excuse us while we go play with our new flashlight.
Arnold's Frontier Hardware
Open 7 Days A Week
297 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. (626)355-3365



The bestseller Sierra Madre's Old Mount Wilson Trail by John W. Robinson is available at Arnold's for \$16.

SPORTS

Blair Football

By Larry Bortstein

In his three years at Blair High in Pasadena, Rich Boccia has earned recognition as the top high school principal in California. He attended a banquet last week in Washington D.C. at which high school administrators from around the country were honored.

As far as Blair's athletic program is concerned, Boccia has accomplished nothing greater in his time at the school than hiring Lavelle "Tip" Sanders as the head football coach this year.

Sanders, who was a member of the Vikings' 1969 CIF Southern Section championship team that featured future UCLA and NFL standouts James McAlister and Kermit Johnson, has guided Blair to an amazing gridiron resurgence. The team that went 0-10 last year and yielded nearly 40 points a game while being shut out in four of its last five games already has won twice under Sanders and generally has been competitive.

Blair got off to a fast start by winning its opener over Marshall, the school Sanders coached the past four years. "I think we can be a .500 team this first year and compete for the Rio Hondo League title the next two or three years," Sanders said.

In 2003, Sanders led his Marshall team to the Division XIII semifinals and a 10-3 record.

His first Vikings team is led on offense by quarterback Steve Austin and fullback Grant Morales, both seniors. "We like to run the ball and both of those guys get lots of chances to do that," Sanders said.



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

The first-year Blair coach admitted he is less than thrilled by the dress code Boccia has established for students at the school, which requires everyone to wear green shirts and khaki pants. "If the kids don't dress right, they have to come in on Saturdays to help in campus clean-up and beautification," he pointed out. "My players and I don't always like it, but the rules are the same for everyone." Boccia said that he was screening candidates to be Blair's new coach, several students argued that Sanders get the

job.

"You wouldn't believe the number of kids who asked that I hire Tip," the principal said. "He's well-liked and well-known in the community, so it wasn't much of a surprise."

Sanders, who played at Pasadena City College and Westminster College, a small school in Utah, said he returned to his high school alma mater to help restore the Vikings to its former prominence. "There's so much history and tradition here, I don't understand why we've fallen so far," he said.

Pasadena Volleyball



Photo by Mark Lansdown

PHS Girls Volleyball Stars at recent Victory Dinner

By Larry Bortstein

During the 2005 season, his first as the head coach of the girls' volleyball team at Pasadena High School, Ronnie Joseph received an anonymous letter criticizing him for his choice of players.

"They said I'd win more matches if I used the players they wanted," Joseph recalled. "The Lady Bulldogs were 12-2 at the time."

Joseph isn't receiving any critical mail this year, anonymous or otherwise. The Lady Bulldogs improved their 2006 record to 16-0 by sweeping Crescenta Valley in three games on Tuesday. Going into this weekend's 32-team Gabriellino tournament, they appeared poised for the school's first undefeated season and a run at the state championship.

Five more league matches remain on the schedule, but Pasadena already has two victories over Arcadia High, which since 1978 has been led to

prominence by legendary coach Chuck Freburg.

"We'd never beaten Arcadia before," Joseph said. "It took us five games to win one match and four games the other. But we won. There's a whole new attitude here. I tried bringing that in last year, when we were 20-5 and 8-2 in the league. Both of our losses in league were against Arcadia. A lot of people thought that was great. I knew we could do better."

Joseph, 29, who also teaches physical education at Pasadena High, had his first Lady Bulldog team win a first-round CIF playoff game against Thousand Oaks, the school's first postseason victory in history.

The Lady Bulldogs lost to Los Alamitos in the second round, but Joseph was building for this season.

"I sat some seniors last year and got criticized for it," he recalled. "But the sophomores and juniors were better. I thought we had a chance to be great this season."

The Lady Bulldogs have been exceptional, led by 6-foot-2 senior outside hitter Kimmee Roleder, who has already accepted an offer to attend USC next year.

"She committed to USC last year, which means I don't have to take phone calls every five minutes asking about her this year," Joseph said.

Casey Klein directs the Lady Bulldog offense from her setter position. Katie Merrill, the junior middle blocker, has been the "find" of the Pasadena program.

"Until last year she had never touched a volleyball," Joseph said. "She sprinted for the track team and played soccer. But she's a great athlete with an exceptional vertical leap. I get her for another year and I think she has a chance to play in the Pac-10, after that."

There's no secret to Pasadena's new-found success, the coach said.

"It all comes from two things," Joseph declared. "Footwork and fundamentals."

HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY

Lorena Ochoa celebrates her hard fought victory in the Samsung World Championship last week. It was her fifth of the year.

The next generation of golfer on the LPGA. Ochoa is different. She set an NCAA record by winning eight straight tournaments at Arizona, and she has never finished lower than ninth on the LPGA Tour money list in her four years. Unlike the American youth getting all the hype, Ochoa delivers.



View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Greg Norman (the Shark) was quoted in Australian papers as saying that perhaps Tiger Woods' dominance was hurting golf. After all, in just 11 years he has fifty-four tour wins- 12 were majors; A Career Grand Slam; The Tiger slam, and was No. 1 the first time for 264 consecutive weeks, breaking a record previously held by Norman, whose longest consecutive streak at No. 1 was 96. Are Normans' words an indictment on the PGA tour players that they are satisfied with making a very good living and playing second fiddle to Woods?

Norman thinks technology has also changed to the detriment of the game. Jack Nicklaus said that the ball is the single most influential factor in reshaping the game. That's true, technology has made a difference. The ball and clubs that Jack and Greg played with were not the hickory sticks or the balls of the Bobby Jones era. However, shouldn't we talk about our appreciation of the pursuit of excellence whether it is Tiger or anyone else?

Have you noticed that as sport fans it is sometimes hard to get behind a team that wins all the time? Perhaps it is true that we love the under dog. After reading Normans' comments I thought about teams, which we either loved or hated because of their winning record. The New York Yankees popped up first. That franchise has over 25 World Series Titles! By 1956 the Yankees had won

so often that there was a very successful Broadway musical created called 'Damned Yankees'. The storyline was that the team sold their souls and a deal was struck with the devil! So I guess we have never been much in the way of accepting excellence at face value.

And what this free agency business. Now owners are accused of fielding the best team that money can buy. Is this just another example of the fact that we like winners but just don't win all the time? Didn't you secretly cheer for Detroit, is it just coincidentally that they are the Tigers?

The Boston Celtics won 16 championships and for a while the question at the start of the season was who would the Celtics beat for the championship this year? Bill Russell the great Boston center has eleven championship rings. It was hard to imagine that Jerry West and Elgin Baylor could not beat the Celtics. Rumor had it that there was truly a leprechaun that looked out for the team. But again, we started to resent the Celtics and make excuses as to why they were winners. We wouldn't just give them credit for being good.

Let's face it. The average fan only appreciates excellence for a while. Personally, now that the Lakers have finally beaten the Celtics I was happy for the Bo Sox when they won it all, a big win for the under dog.

From the couch I applaud the excellence in sports without taking anything away, but my heart still cries for the under dog.

Don't forget to send your school news to: deuxamispub@aol.com