

# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

WEEKLY NEWS FOR SIERRA MADRE AND NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

Friday, November 24 - November 30, 2006 Volume 1, No. 9

## Let There Be Light

### LaSalle High School Football Field Joins The Friday Night Lights Crowd



Photo By John Blackstock

LaSalle High School played their first home game under newly installed lights. "We can finally say that Friday Night Lights have come to La Salle, like they have at high school stadiums all over the country," said Bob Kohorst, the father of Lancers' senior quarterback Matt Kohorst. Complete story on Page 8

## Snow Much Fun

### Dickens Village in Kersting Court - Something for Everyone



Photo by Annaliese Araw of Iris & Light Photography  
Miss Jesse Demuth - Future Winter Olympics Gold Medalist?

Hundreds of families gathered at Kersting Court Saturday for snow play and the lighting of the Christmas Tree. Thanks to the students of Sierra Madre School for the choral performance; the cast of A Christmas Carol at the Sierra Madre Playhouse; and the Sierra Madre Civic Club members who sold fuzzy hand knit items to benefit their causes year 'round - Sue Quinn, (knitter) Linda Wochnik (knitter), Paige Terry (non-knitter) and Jean Coleman (on the verge of knitting).

To shop more handmade knits, call (626) 355-7771. The event was sponsored by the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce to launch the holiday shopping season.



Sierra Madre Elementary School Art Docents at their sixth Art History training session. Full Story Page 4



Smoky and this California Black Bear may be discussing more than fires. See Wild West Page 3



Olvera Street is one of many great places the Metro Gold Line can take you to this weekend. Story on Page 3

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# Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2



Thursday	Mostly Sunny	Hi 70s-80s	Lows 50s
Friday	Partly Cloudy	Hi 70s-80s	Lows 50s
Saturday	Mostly Clear	Hi 70s-80s	Lows 50s
Sunday	Mostly Sunny	Hi 70s-80s	Lows 50s
Monday	Mostly Sunny	Hi 70s-80s	Lows 50s
Tuesday	Mostly Sunny	Hi 70s-80s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



# Roy Roams' 91024

Spending the Holidays With Those Near and Dear

## Centennial Citizen Oris

Looking swell, **Oris Stedman** is back at Beantown after birthday festivities for his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. His niece, **Judy Miller**, said Oris had a grand old time at his party. "He is remarkable," said Miller. "And he has a fantastic sense of humor. He always has a comeback for something. He is a real treat."

## Flashback

**James Dunnagan** called us about the historic 1924 photo on our front page October 20. That is his brother George and father Clare posing with the bakery truck. James is now 82 years old.

After leaving town to join the U.S. Navy, Dunnagan returned to Sierra Madre with his wife, Barbara and they lived here a good 40 years. Barbara's father owned the King Oven Company and built the ovens for the Sierra Madre Bakery.

Dunnagan sounded half his age - "I'm hanging in there" - he said. He promised to send a piece he wrote about memories of the town, which we will print as soon as we receive it.

At the Planning Commission's last meeting on November 16th, **Rick Simpson** appealed to the commission to meet again on December 21<sup>st</sup> which is not on the schedule.

"Our application is complete," he said of the coffee house planned for the Congregational Church. "I'm hoping to get C.U.P. approval," Simpson told the Commission.

At the previous Planning Commission meeting on November 2nd, it was announced that the Congregational Church would seek a "negative declaration" on environmental impacts for the 50 parking spaces required for its planned coffee shop & newsstand.

No word yet on what the latest application entails. Planning Administrator Matt Marquez said he hasn't looked at it as of last Thursday.

In other Planning news, Chong Liang Chung is able to divide his large lot into two parcels at 91 E. Orange Grove Blvd. The swimming pool will be demolished because it is situated on the new boundary.

## Citizens' Datebook

- Tuesday, November 28  
City Council Meeting  
6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, December 7  
Senior Commission 3 p.m.  
Planning Commission  
7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 12  
City Council Meeting  
6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 13  
6:30 p.m.
- Arts Commission  
Wednesday, December 20
- Tree Commission  
7:00 p.m.

## Mount Wilson Trail Hike

Friday  
November 24  
9 a.m.

All ages,  
abilities &  
fitness levels

89 E. Mira  
Monte

## Trip Of A Lifetime: Rome, Amalfi, Florence, Venice and more

Italian Concerto Tour - a 12-day adventure with knowledgeable guides  
Visit Rome, Amalfi, Florence, Venice and Cruise to Isle of Capri  
First Class Hotel Accommodations & Many Meals  
LAX to Rome May 13  
Reserve Your Seat!  
\$200 per person due by Monday, December 4 (\$3,499 per person double occupancy, \$4,069 single occupancy)  
For more info: Theresa Daley, Senior Community Commission (626) 355-7427

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

**Salsa Dancing with Live Salsa Band! Sundays at Vive Dining & Lounge**  
Free dance classes between 4 and 5 p.m.  
Dance until 10 p.m.  
Ages 21 and up  
61 N. Raymond Avenue  
Pasadena  
(626) 583-8483

**Sing Along or Just Listen At Café 322**  
Sundays with the Opera Greats 6:30 p.m.  
Pianist Danny Guerrero with Domenico Zangeri, Norma Guerrero, Mario Storace, Mark Almy, Diana Briscoe, Mario and Edalyn Lalli and more. Free admission.  
322 Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre  
(626) 836-5414

**Farmer's Market**  
Every Saturday  
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Delicious fresh-picked grapes, apples, pears, pumpkins, squash, nuts and greens. Local honey and fresh baked bread.  
Menudo & tamale stand.  
PHS parking lot  
2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

**Beantown**  
45 N. Baldwin  
(626) 355-1596  
Call for Performers and Showtimes

**Pasadena Jazz Institute**  
The Portrait of an Artist

Friday, November 24th  
Bassist Nedra Wheeler.  
Featuring Charles Owens on Sax

Saturday, November 25th.  
Master drummer Ralph Penland.  
With a rare club appearance by pianist Patrice Rushen.

The Portrait of an Artist Series has Two Shows, 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.  
Admission \$20.00.  
All concerts are held at Terrace Court, Suite 206  
Paseo Colorado, 260 East Colorado Blvd.

For maps, directions and more information go to <http://www.pasjazz.org/portrait.html>  
Phone 626.398.3344

## Observing In A War-Torn Land

Sunday, November 26, at 2:30 p.m.  
Altadena Library  
600 E. Mariposa St. in Altadena  
Free admission  
Public is welcome

Mike Simmons is Vice President of the Mount Wilson Observatory Association (MWOA), and will speak from his recent travels in Iraq.

Simmons has just returned from a visit to the Iraqi National Observatory in northern Iraq, where he traveled to research articles for national U.S. publications such as *Sky and Telescope* and *Astronomy* magazines.

## Rose Princesses To Grace Kiwanis Meeting

The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association will introduce the 2007 Rose Princesses at the Tuesday, Nov. 28 meeting of the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club. Caitlyn Van Luyk, Katie Merrill, Anna Lasorelli and Kasey Johnson will ride the float in the Rose Parade on New Years Day.

Each princess will elaborate on why she wanted to become Sierra Madre's representative in the parade. The princesses will also talk about their duties as Rose Princesses. It is a tradition to introduce the princesses at the Kiwanis meeting each year.

Don Mills, Vice President of the Sierra Madre Rose Float Assn., will display photos of Sierra Madre's 2007 rose float and will answer questions from the audience.

The Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club meets at noon at the Masonic Lodge, 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. The public is welcome to attend. Lunch is \$10; reservations are required.

Call Dr. Paul Neiby at 355-1291

## Great Gift Idea: An Inspiring Book on Parenting

Sierra Madre Author Karen Maezen Miller wrote *Momma Zen: Walking the Crooked Path of Motherhood*. Miller, who is a Zen Buddhist priest, is married to JPL techie Ed Miller and they have a seven year-old daughter.

*Momma Zen* is a delightful book for all parents and grandparents, about the journey of becoming a parent and how it can lead one on a spiritual path. Miller's startling observations will take readers into undiscovered mental territory, by turns humorous and profound.

"We might think of wisdom as something you have to go somewhere else to get, and Zen as something exotic or remote," writes Miller. "For parents and children alike, Zen wisdom is found everyday right where we live."

Available at Vroman's bookstore. For more info, visit [www.mommazen.com](http://www.mommazen.com)

## Cultural Arts Master Plan

Wednesday, November 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 2 at 10 a.m.

The City of Sierra Madre Community Arts Commission is working on its first ever Cultural Arts Master Plan. By attending the workshops you will be an integral part of this process helping to make the Cultural Arts Master Plan a living document for the Community Arts Commission for many years to come.

Topics to be discussed: Individual Artists, Architecture, Arts Facilities, Artistic Diversity, Education, Funding & Promotion, Cultural Tourism

at Youth Activity Center, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.

For more info, call City of Sierra Madre Community and Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278 or email: [city@sierra-madre.ca.us](mailto:city@sierra-madre.ca.us)

Mark your calendars  
December 11 is the  
One Year Anniversary Of

## SIERRA MADRE'S FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

If you missed the last meeting, we had J. Lopez of the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Forestry Division on "Defensible Space" around your homes; Jackie Gibson, of the Big Santa Anita Canyon Fire Safe Council and Scott Lowden of the US Forest Service, Angeles National Forest San Gabriel River Ranger District.

See you on for our Anniversary. We need to work together to make ours a Fire Safe Community and protect the lives of the fire fighters. Call Mike 355-1182 or Caroline 355-9350

## Travelers & Collectors Series

England and Denmark: Family Style  
By Rob and Wendy Stockly

Friday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Sierra Madre City Hall  
232 W. Sierra Madre  
For more info call (626) 355-7186

Sponsored by Friends of the Sierra Madre Library



Photo by Jacqueline Truong  
Volunteers continue to make progress with 5 1/2 weeks to go



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Call Bonnie Colcher at (626) 355-7999.  
The work is fun, and scheduled for weekends and the week between December 26<sup>th</sup> & New Year's.

Pasadena Jazz Institute PRESENTS:

Ellington / Tchaikovsky

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Featuring: Pasadena Jazz Orchestra

Conductor by: Dean Mora

Special guest: Cheryl Conley

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LA TIMES

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626.398.3344 [www.pasjazz.org](http://www.pasjazz.org)

# The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

Ecology Update

## Prime Real Estate

What do you know about the Secure Rural School and Community Self Determination Act of 2000? Probably nothing. That's because your nearest National Forest has never exactly been a productive source of timber (cresote and sagebrush don't usually find their way into



Photo courtesy US Forest Service  
Angeles National Forest - Parcels For Sale

the lumber aisle at the Home Depot), and you live in a place where the economy is not based solely on the chopping down and/or the milling into boards of large, green, fuzzy looking things that people from Oregon and Idaho refer to as "trees."

I try to tell my flannel-wearing friends that we have these things in Southern California, too. But they just scoff at me and throw their chainsaws into the back of their American made pick-ups with mud flaps and go vote for family values. "A focus? That's a houseplant," they tell me. "But what about the crepe myrtles lining my sidewalk?" I rejoin. "Exactly," they say. "Exactly," they say.

Well even if we don't have real trees, we can take heart in the fact that those

uppiy northwestern logging states are pretty much out of them now as well. And that's why the Secure Rural School Blah Blah Blah Act was written and signed and enacted and enjoyed. It sent UN style aid (or maybe it was plain old money) to these poor said counties that had been

in 35 states, and would raise \$800 million dollars without even coming close to raising a single tax anywhere. Magic! According to the Los Angeles Times, about 80,000 of these acres were (are) in California. Many of them provide valuable wildlife habitat, are adjacent to scenic river corridors, or had been proposed for possible wilderness protection.

Environmental groups were jumping for joy. The head of the Nature Conservancy issued a statement in which he commented that, "This land is your land. This land is my land... from California to the New York Island... from the Redwood Forests to the Gulf Stream Waters... this land was made for you and me." That's a joke, see? The Nature Conservancy did not sing Woody Guthrie anthems, but it (and a bunch of other groups and enthusiastic, passionate individuals in fleece) did submit comments to the US Forest Service suggesting that selling off publicly owned wildlife habitat was maybe not the best idea in the world.

But this is all old news. The decision was made months ago. It's all for sale. Now what's exciting is the fact that these publicly owned plots are on the market. So if you are looking for a remote little corner that you'd like to buy from it's 300 million owners, you should check out the US Forest Service Website (at [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)) and see what's available. You might find something good. And feel good about the purchase; you are paying for dodge balls and crosswalks for needy kids in Montana.

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# Gold Line Adventures: Olvera Street, Chinatown & Old Pasadena

By Dean Lee



Aguirre says that the most ignored stop on the line is Highland Park which has Galco's Soda Pop Stop, the Cave, lots of small boutiques and even a Smart and Final.

"Yah, some of the other stops have museums like Southwest but Highland Park is just fun," Aguirre said. "You have lots of clubs there like the Blue Chip and the Cave."

Aguirre added that Mission station was another cool quick stop especially Thursdays when they have the open air farmer's market, he said. The Mission stop is also near Nicole's Gourmet Imports, which features dozens of fresh cheeses, French breads and all kinds of ingredients for chefs - from gold leaf decorations for chocolate cakes and candies to sugared lavender petals. Nicole's serves exquisite lunches and also has a deli that features pates, caviar and salads.

The Highland Theater as well as the Rialto are some of the only really inexpensive and historic theaters around and show films such as "Happy Feet" currently playing at the Highland for \$3. In its heyday at the turn of the Twentieth Century, Chinatown grew to 15 streets and alleys containing 200 buildings. It was

With only a handful of riders on board Metro's Gold Line on any given weekend what more could anyone ask for then an adventure filled day places such as historic Olvera Street or China Town for just \$3? Getting there is half the delight.

This quick holiday getaway includes witnessing the oldest house in LA, eating at the first Mexican restaurant in LA, fine arts, holiday shopping and even taking in a movie for another \$3.

On Olvera Street, La Golondrina, founded in 1924, is the oldest restaurant of its kind anywhere in L.A. with a traditional Mexican look such as Mijares or El Cholo in Pasadena. The building dates back to 1850 and is a national landmark.

Right across the alleyway is the Pelanconi House said to be the oldest home in L.A. and inside you can still find the original furnishings dating to 1855.

On the weekends there can be a wait to get in La Golondrina with everybody wanting their famous homemade "Mole Poblano," with its rich chocolate, chile, peanuts and spice sauce, served over chicken breast with rice and beans.

"We get a lot of people traveling that want 'traditional' food from Mexico, that's why they come to Olvera Street," said one of the managers. "For that I recommend the Cochinita Pibil or Chile Relleno de Jaiva."

Olvera merchants sell everything from woven ponchos to lucha libre wrestler action figures. "In my store all of it is made in Mexico," said Bazaar De Mexico owner George Sherman. "We sell a lot of the decorative Mexican hats."

Avid Gold Line rider David

large enough to have a Chinese Opera Theatre, three temples, its own newspaper and a telephone exchange. It is all still there to see by exiting at the Chinatown Station.

Today Chinatown is a Hollywood-ized version of Shanghai and for good reason. Containing names such as Bamboo Lane, Gin Ling Way and Chung King Road it was designed by Hollywood film set designers. The official entrance was a movie prop donated by the legendary film director Cecil B. DeMille to give Chinatown an exotic atmosphere.

For a delicious treat, like strawberry whipped cream cake, try the Phoenix Bakery.

Old Town Pasadena is still a popular shopping destination along the Gold Line and a stop at Memorial Station gives access to such shops as The Pottery Barn, The Body Shop, Crate & Barrel and the new, hip H & M store that attracts crowds for its low priced designer knock-offs and original clothing.

For more information about Metro visit their Website at [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net) or call 1.800.COMMUTE.



# Small Town Character An Issue At Strategic Plan Meeting

By Dean Lee

An all day City Council retreat Tuesday November 14 - in which the council laid out a strategic three year plan and brainstormed an official mission statement for the city - threw some residents off guard as the retreat's agenda suddenly appeared on the city's website over the weekend. The meeting was attended by city staff and all the council members.

City Manager John Gillison said that having a mission statement was something brand new to the city. He did not comment on the scarce public notice for the meeting.

The first draft of the new mission statement is:

"The City of Sierra Mare provides quality, cost-effective public services that preserve the small town character and enhance the health, safety and welfare of the community."

Gillison said the mission statement still has to be approved by the council and officially released to the public. He said the first available date to do that would be Dec. 12 during the council's regular meeting.

At 8:30 a.m. at the Villa at Alverno

High School just a few chairs were set up for the public.

"It's a shame that no one found out about this," said resident Heather Allen. "I think this is important and I don't see why they wouldn't want our input if they say this mission statement is for us. I kept raising my hand and they ignored me."

Another resident noted the irony of the recommendations for long term goals which included "providing accountability to the community," and "encourage public participation."

Consultant Marilyn Snider asked what the city wanted a mission statement to say "if they all suddenly vanished." A consensus from the group was that the words, "small town character," should be in the statement somewhere, although two city staff members said they thought that phrase would limit growth and impede the Downtown Specific Plan process.

"This is an argument for redevelopment," said Karin Schnaider, the new Director of Administrative Services. "If you put in your mission statement that you want to preserve the small town character who are you eliminating from your city in the future. You've got Starbucks - is

that small town character?"

The city's financial consultant, Michael Blazenski, added, "Nobody wants big growth. They want to be a small city. It's just, how much does it grow under that definition? What this implies is that they want to redevelop, it's just to what degree do you do that and keep it a small city?"

After being on the job for only two days Schnaider was welcomed to the city by Mayor John Buchanan later that night at the regular city council meeting. She said the retreat gave her good information and a clear understanding of the city's goals.

The council and staff also identified 32 strengths for the city. Snider said that "you don't count the number of weakness you have" which in this case totaled 26 - including the debate over the DSP, poor financial records, a disconnect between staff and residents, the inability to attract viable businesses to the city and all the misinformation they said engulfed the city, among other things.

As part of the strengths they said that the city was a great place to raise kids, had strong volunteerism, was safe, and that it had wonderful access to mountains and hiking trails.

The city set goals by 2009 to achieve financial stability, improve the infrastructure, improve internal and external communications and improve public services.

Snider said that the only way to achieve any of the goals was through six-month strategic objectives. By Jan. 1 city staff said they wanted to have part of the requirement for the city's late audits done.

They also said by Jan. 1 they wanted to hire a Paramedic Coordinator and by Feb. 15 hire 30 to 40 paramedics.

Before May 1 the city wants to implement five community-based services in the police department including Neighborhood Watch, School "Active Shooter" Response Plan, Youth Tobacco Sting Program, Police Explorer Program, and a Police Volunteer Program, Police Chief Marilyn Diaz said.

They said the city desperately needs to develop a citywide disaster preparedness and recovery plan and set the completion date for April 24.

When asked what they got out of the retreat, a few council members said, "a lot to do."

# Ed Alverno, LaSalle, PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL, St. Francis, Sierra Mesa Middle School, The Barnhart School, The Gooden School, SIERRA MADRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Bethany Christian, St. Rita's, Wilson Middle School, Odyssey Charter School, Norma Coombs Alternative School, and the Pasadena Unified School District

## A Perfect Ending: Undefeated PHS Lady Bulldogs Clinch CIF Division Title



Photos by Mark Lansdown

The Lady Bulldogs have been unstoppable, ending the season without a loss.

By Larry Bortstein

The 30<sup>th</sup> and final match of Pasadena High's girls' volleyball season was one of the toughest.

In the end, though, the Lady Bulldogs completed an undefeated campaign with a 25-22, 21-25, 25-16, 12-25, 15-12 victory over Wildomar Elsinore on Saturday night that gave them the CIF Southern Section Division II-A championship.

The match, along with the others that decided CIF divisional titles in girls' volleyball, was played at Cypress College and produced the first championship in Pasadena High's volleyball history.

Though his team was extended to a decisive fifth game for the first time all season, PHS coach Ronnie

Joseph felt his team was physically up to the challenge.

"I knew we were the most physically fit team in the San Gabriel Valley," said the hard-driving Joseph.

And when Wildomar took a 9-7 lead in the fifth game, Joseph knew that the Bulldogs were aware of the mental challenge that faced them.

With Casey Klein dealing out several of her eight assists during the run, Pasadena went on a 6-1 roll that gave the Bulldogs a 13-10 advantage.

"When we were behind, I just looked over at Casey and asked her if she knew what to do," Joseph said. "When she said she did, I knew we'd be OK."

Four consecutive kills by Kimmee Roleder were keys to the Bulldogs'

rally.

"When you have a player with her kind of talent, you're in good shape," Joseph said of Roleder, who will enter USC next fall on a volleyball scholarship.

Unheralded Lauren Matsumoto made three digs in the Bulldogs' decisive effort against the top-seeded Tigers, who finished their season with a 28-7 record.

Matsumoto's digs came against Wildomar Elsinore's star outside hitter Ronnie West, who had hurt the Bulldogs with 17 kills in the match. But Matsumoto spoiled three straight kill attempts by West. Those digs all led to Roleder kills.

Pasadena sealed the championship when Roleder put away the last of her seven kills.

## Bring Art to Life: Docents of Sierra Madre School



Sierra Madre School  
"ART TEACHES LIFE"



Barbara Wamboldt with guest Jen Olson

The Art Docents of Sierra Madre School bring visual art experiences to every student on campus pre-K through eighth grade.

This photo shows the happy group of volunteers training for their sixth Art History lesson in a series of eight.

These art activities are designed to help students learn the basics of Art History while creating their own works of art. Jen

Olson, formerly of the Norton Simon Art Education Department, presented Baroque Still-life to the members of this group who are so dedicated to enriching the lives of children.

By partnering local museums with District wide core curriculum, students learn visual art in a more meaningful and authentic way. New members to this Art Docent team are always welcome. Call Barbara Wamboldt at 355-1428.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

Wednesday, December 13 at 7 p.m.  
Traditional Candlelight Celebration  
Holiday Procession  
Festive Holiday Concert will follow

The Gooden School  
192 N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-2410  
www.goodenschool.org

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

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

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

Saturday, December 2  
Campus Beautification Day  
Friday, December 15  
Holiday program K-3  
Wednesday December 20  
Holiday program 4 - 8

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

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

St. Rita's Drama Club  
Romeo & Juliet  
Friday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, December 3 at 2 p.m.  
Adults \$3 and children 8 and older \$1  
Sunday is a benefit performance

Bethany Christian School  
93 B. N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-3527  
Jim Lugenbuehl, Principal

Odyssey Charter School  
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## Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

### Bright Stars over Kurdistan

Thanksgiving is about gratitude, or at least it should be. So when I see examples of unusual thoughtfulness and big-time appreciation, I like to write about them.

A case in point is the Amateur Astronomers Association of Kurdistan (AAAK). This group of stargazing enthusiasts, based in the Kurdistan (northern Iraq) city of Arbil, had lots of enthusiasm but little hope of ever acquiring a quality telescope. When members of a Southland amateur astronomy club, Orange County Astronomers, as well as other generous Southern Californians, heard about the AAAK and its need, they came forward with an array of donations including:

- A Meade LX200 8-inch telescope (partial donation by John Hoot)
- Wide-field 20x80 binoculars with tripod
- A CCD imaging camera
- Nikon 35mm film and digital cameras
- 200 pairs of 3D glasses and 500 3D images of the Martian surface from the Mars Explorer Rover, and 3D posters of Mars (donation by Mark Margolis of Rainbow Symphony, their manufacturer)
- A variety of eyepieces, lenses, and other instrumentation

But getting this equipment to Kurdistan was a whole other problem. Would anyone in his right mind go to Iraq voluntarily? Yes, said



Photo By Jean Boerisch

Mount Wilson Observatory Association's Mike Simmons, and on October 7 he arrived at the Arbil International Airport with 150 pounds of astronomical wonders in his luggage. Describing the event as the "first close encounter between the astronomers without borders," the club's Azy Chato Hasan wrote, "The wonderful arrival of Mike was a dream come true after long waiting. We are not alone anymore!"

Simmons went on to visit the Iraqi National Observatory in preparation for a forthcoming article in *Scientific American* magazine. (He will describe this and other aspects of his Iraqi trip in detail in a free public lecture at the Altadena Public Library, 600 E. Mariposa St. in Altadena, this Sunday, Nov. 26, at 2:30 p.m., refreshments to be served at 2 p.m.)

Simmons was the founding president of the Mount Wilson Observatory Association and is currently the group's vice president. As a means of promoting improved international relations through a common interest in astronomy, he is currently forming a nonprofit corporation, "Astronomers without Borders," which will, among other things, facilitate the distribution of telescopes from donors in the U.S. to young people in third-world countries.

## 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 [comptype2@aol.com](mailto:comptype2@aol.com) or 888-489-8372 (8 AM - 6 PM, M - F).

**Q:** I have been a psychiatric social worker in a hospital for three years. A few months ago, I was called to the scene of a potential suicide and was able to talk the patient out of taking his life. Would describing this occurrence in a cover letter be appropriate?

**A:** Definitely! By including this story, you will present a more personalized "you." It will also make your letter more interesting to read.

Instead of hiding your experience somewhere in the middle of the letter, start right off with a sentence that entices the reader to want to know more. For example, "Recently, I had an amazing experience. It was 3 o'clock in the morning when I received a call to come immediately to the XYZ Bridge. When I arrived, I found a distraught man at the edge of the bridge obviously intent on jumping. He had been there for two hours. No one could talk him out of his plan." Continue by describing the at-the-scene techniques you

utilized and, of course, the successful outcome. Remember to keep your story short.

Most cover letters sound as if they've been taken straight from a book, so yours should make a wonderful impression.

**Q:** I am applying for a job as a laboratory technician. I have a number of small piercings - one on my eyebrow, one on my nose, and several in my ears. I consider these to be part of who I am and feel it would be hypocritical to remove them for an interview. What do you think?

**A:** I fully understand that multiple piercings are common in today's culture, but I would advise you to remove all of them except for one in each ear. The interviewer may not appreciate them, so if you really want this position don't take any chances. With so many applicants for a single job, anything can be turned against you.

If you are hired and piercings are acceptable according to the company's dress code, you can return to "who you are."

## GONE PHISHING

By Paul the Cyberian

Phishing is the practice of obtaining sensitive information in a fraudulent manner from an unsuspecting computer user. Although most of the activity that falls under this banner describes techniques implemented via computer it also includes human-to-human interaction to accomplish the same goal.

The end result of a successful phishing attempt is the release of sensitive information to an unauthorized third party. Usually by the time the victim of this ruse finds out what happened the damage has been done and the cleanup may end up costing the victim lots of time, money and headache.

Phishers are usually searching for personal financial information found on an unprotected computer. All computers leave a trail of the users computing activities, which can be found by searching the hard drive and knowing where to look. With the rise of e-commerce activities and on-line banking there is no shortage of potential targets for phishers.

One of the more common ruses is the use of fake web pages. In these cases a user will enter the URL for the desired page but the compromised machine will redirect the search to the page set up by the phisher to harvest the desired financial information.

At first glance, the web page appears to be legit but upon closer examination the page may have a few clues that give it away as fake.

The first clue will be the address listed in the address bar at the top of your browser. For example, if you went to [www.<realwebsite>.com](http://www.<realwebsite>.com) to pay bill online. The home page would appear as it normally does. However when you

navigated to the section that handles financial transactions (and more importantly, where the credit card information is entered) the URL in the address bar would be radically different from the URL first entered. It may point to a site referenced by an IP Address or some other address.

The biggest clue is that the address may not be related to the desired site as it may not even contain the name of the original site in the address bar. Many sites use a secure version of the HTTP protocol (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) for web communication. The address in these cases start with <https://> instead of the usual <http://>.

When this method is used a small symbol that resembles a gold padlock will appear in the lower right corner of the web page. This indicates that the traffic between the customer and the retailer are encrypted for this session.

On-line retailers have taken dramatic steps to secure their financial transaction sites so that they are as secure as possible. The rest of the process to make your computing activities as secure as possible rest with you, the end user.

Make sure that your computer is secure with the latest Security patches for its OS (Operating System). Also make sure its antivirus software has been updated with the latest definition files. Since many phishing attacks are initiated from the outside, ensure that your Firewall is operating properly.

The latest version of Internet Explorer (7) comes with anti-phishing tools that help make you computer even more secure from these attacks. Check with Microsoft ([www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)) for more details.

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**Member**

**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.**

**For The Record:**  
In the November 17 issue, the front page story on the Rose Float should have listed photo credit to Jacqueline Truong.

## OPINION

### The Results Are In

By Stefan Bund



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

Two weeks ago I had readers participate in a virtual recall.

The virtual recall favored Mosca's recall, 85% YES to 15% NO. Along with a YES vote, A resident sent me this email:

*"My husband and I are relatively new Sierra Madreans (May, 2005). We moved here after 34 years in Arcadia to escape the congestion and over-saturated population density that has ruined the peacock city. You can imagine our dismay to think that the lovely village we believed would become our haven is now in danger of being ruined by greed and over-development.*

*We have been following the disturbing developments here very closely and are even delaying possible additions to our new home until we see how how it all plays out. Trouble is, we are now worried about the future...even if the current threat to the integrity and charm of Sierra Madre is squelched.*

*We had envisioned retiring here and enjoying a property and community which remind us very much of the years when we owned a cabin in the Lake Arrowhead Woods. Now we fear that we could end up having to relocate when we are old and less able to handle the stress and energy expenditure of a move. I am*

*sure that there are many other similar stories out there in our community.*

*How very sad that a few people on a small city council should have such power over the quality of life for so many. ... I am disappointed in myself that I was snookered by this wolf in sheep's clothing."*

The lack of action on behalf of Mr. Mosca to deal with citizen concerns related to the DSP are probable causes to this state of public opinion.

A recall effort would best coincide with a regularly scheduled special election, however, if residents preferred it, a recall election could take place at any time. Residents could simply vote Mr. Mosca out at the next election in 2008, and include the recall at that time.

Other solutions are to respond to actions by the council to pass the Downtown Specific Plan before their published time table, which contains a public vote in November, 2007. But a referendum on the DSP may be necessary if it is fast-tracked through the council.

Also, the 2-30-13 initiative will require new building in the downtown to be approved by a vote, when buildings are designed to go above the 2 story limit. This will likely be on the March ballot for Sierra Madreans to vote on, and control their downtown's growth.

## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, November 12th, to Saturday November 18th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 174 calls for service.

### Sunday, November 12th:

4:20 PM - Identity theft, 00 block Suffolk Ave. A resident reported unauthorized purchases using his bank ATM teller cash card. The loss was discovered October 21. The total loss is unknown at this time.

### Monday, November 13th:

11:39 AM - Vandalism, 500 block Woodland Drive. A patrol officer reported an official city traffic sign damaged by graffiti.

### Friday, November 17th:

10:20 AM - Theft, 400 block West Montecito Ave. A resident called to report his "gazing globe" was stolen from the front yard of his house. The globe was last seen Thursday, 11/16 at around 9:00 AM and discovered missing Friday, 11/17 at around 8:45 AM. The globe was valued at \$60.00.

1:23 PM - Identity theft - A Hollywood resident reported a fraudulent account was opened in his name in January, 2000 and has not been paid since June, 2006.

6:43 PM - Commercial Burglary, 45 North Baldwin Ave, Bean Town. The owner called to report cash receipts totaling \$500 taken.

### Saturday, November 18th

8:33 AM - Auto Burglary, 100 block Highland Ave. A resident called to report her car window smashed and several items stolen from her car. The car was parked Friday, 11/17 at 5:45 PM and the loss was discovered Saturday at 8:33 am. Stolen items included: the vehicle registration paperwork, car insurance papers, her JPL identification card, JPL laptop authorization card, a pair of black shoes, pair of sneakers, and an old purse, total monetary loss \$103.00.

12:36 AM - Vandalism/Graffiti, Baldwin Ave and Carter Ave. An officer investigated reported vandalism / graffiti was on a city owned eucalyptus tree. Dark gray paint was used to spray the trunk.



## Too Many Turkeys

By Susan Henderson

turkey (n): a generally overstuffed bird

Not all turkeys will be stuffed and served at dinner this week. Some will still be walking around on two legs spewing forth unnecessary lies.

I love this time of year. Without question, excepting my birthday, Thanksgiving & Christmas are my favorites. Therefore, this week I was going to write about something related to the spirit of Thanksgiving. No, not about the pilgrims, but about the many things we have to be grateful for today.

However, due to the current over abundance of 'foul' walking around this city it is necessary for me to post a 'turkey warning'.

What is foul in Sierra Madre is the amount of gobbling that makes so much noise. Sometimes the gobbling is stirring up animosity and hatred because the turkeys don't agree with you. Sometimes the volume of the gobbling is excruciating because the turkeys are worried about.....you know, I can't really tell you what they are making so much noise about.

It is conceivable that some of the noise is just because of their perception of their own power. It is also conceivable and widely speculated that the noise is the result of the status quo being dismantled. Then there are some residents that say these turkeys put their own monetary self

interest before the well being of the city. That causes a lot of noise too.

Whatever the source, it is too loud, too vicious and too disruptive. The turkeys have gone too far and need to be put back in the coop.

Here's an example: Last week, an article was printed in this paper in an effort to give readers a perspective of the opposition to the 2-30-13 Initiative. I personally went to the RSVP table in Kersting Court and had a very pleasant conversation with everyone that was there - or so I thought. In an effort to be fair, I asked the apparent lead person to submit an article to this newspaper stating the position of the group. The response was, "I don't write for anyone's paper but my own" and offered to send a couple of previously printed articles for my perusal. They did, and because of the length and content that could not be verified in time for publication, an excerpt from each was used. A reference was made to the website where the documents could be viewed in their entirety. That was more than generous, fair and objective.

Next thing you know the turkeys are gobbling more than ever, with the same old nonsense. This bunch is definitely overstuffed.



## Only One Earth

by Albert Metzger

From the 1970's through the early '90's, the Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council (SMEAC) intermittently submitted environmentally-oriented articles which were published locally under the heading "Only One Earth". With this report, SMEAC is resuming the activity.

As the year 2005 drew to a close, global temperature measurements compiled by the NOAA National Climate Data Center showed it comfortably in second place and vying with 1998 as the hottest year since world-wide record keeping began in 1880. Inspection of yearly measurements since 1880 shows that they can be divided into three periods:

- 1) from 1880 to 1929 during which the annual world-wide temperature ranged from 56.4 to 57.0 degrees and averaged 56.7

- 2) from 1930 to 1982 with a range of 56.8 to 57.6 degrees and averaging 57.1 degrees, and
- 3) from 1983 to 2005 with a range of 57.1 to 58.1 degrees with an average of 57.5 degrees.

Despite year-to-year fluctuations, two periods of overall continuous increase can be seen, each lasting about twenty years. From 1917 and 1944, and from 1984 through 2005, the global temperature rose about 1.0 and 1.1 degrees respectively.

This data shows not only that the absolute temperature is increasing, but an indication that the rate of increase may also be increasing. Note that while it took 51 years (1905 to 1956) for the first average increase of 0.4 degrees from period 1 to period 2, the second average increase of 0.4 degrees was accomplished in only 38 years (1956 to 1994). Note also that the

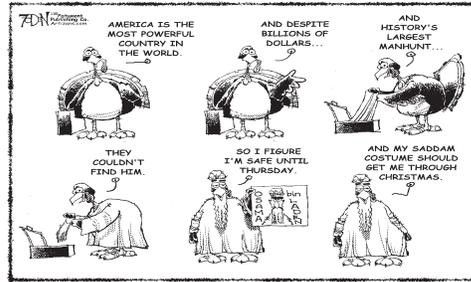
range of yearly temperatures has increased with each period, 0.6, 0.8, and 1.0 degrees for periods 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

Small though they may appear to be, these average increases are deep with significance in terms of global warming.

Accompanying last year's temperature was a record loss of sea ice in the Arctic which one scientist estimated as twice the area of Texas. Dr. Mark Serreze of the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado says that, given the present trend, it appears the Arctic will be free of ice in the summertime by the year 2070. The final tally shows that, despite a contribution to the 1998 value due to the unusual El Nino condition that year, 2005 does rank as the hottest year on record. But by all indications, that record is not long for this world.

Happy Thanksgiving To You and Yours From All Of Us At The Mt. Wilson Observer.

# The Funnies



## Along For The Ride...

By Tina Salvatore

Everyone can find something to be thankful for on Thanksgiving. Chickens are thankful they are not turkeys. Turkeys are thankful for vegetarians. Vegetarians are thankful for chickens because they lay eggs. Some of you may be wondering if vegetarians eat eggs, they do, it's vegans that do not. With this in mind, you can see I'm thankful for vegetarians allowing this to come full circle.

If you're struggling for things to be thankful for, here are some ideas:  
Shoes - Imagine walking around barefoot all the time.

The automatic toilet flusher in public bathrooms - Pure heaven. Why not install them in homes everywhere, that's my question.

The seventeen different intermittent options on your window wipers - Really I'd be happy with three but I'm still thankful for all of them. It usually stops raining before I can decide which option to choose.

There's a certain coffee bean that only grows on the side of a volcano. Be thankful you do not have the job of picking coffee beans off the side of a volcano.

Silence - It really is golden. Maybe even platinum, dare I say.

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

### Grateful for the "Small" Things...

This is the time of year we usually think about, and express our thanks for, the various things that enrich all of our lives. I had an experience last month that I will always be grateful for.

As some of you know, my two-year old grandson Tully came out here for a visit from Pennsylvania where he lives with his mother. This is just the fourth time since his birth that I have seen him, and the first time I have had time alone with him. Time alone we had! I took care of him during the day for

two weeks while my son was working. Whew! Get to know each other we did, and I am ever so grateful.

The experience gave me renewed admiration and respect for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren alone for one reason or another. I don't know how they do it.

The experience did give me a money-making idea however: a sure-fire weight reduction program. The business would be called Rent-A-Tot. The number of hours one had the "Tot" would depend on how much weight one wanted to lose. Five days...Five pounds...Five hundred dollars...Foolproof!

My son wouldn't go for it, can you believe it? The boy has no entrepreneurial spirit. But my grandson...



"It was a mercy killing. I just couldn't stand to see him suffer in front of that TV each time his favorite team lost."

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# SPORTS

## Friday Night Lights: LaSalle Conquers Fillmore



Photo By John Blackstock

By Larry Bortstein

La Salle High's football team defeated Fillmore in a Mid-Valley Division playoff game of the CIF Southern Section tournament Friday night, its sixth straight victory.

But the Lancers' 20-6 conquest of the visitors from Ventura County, which sent La Salle to a second-round CIF rematch at Monrovia, wasn't as significant as the setting for the game.

It was La Salle's first home game ever played under the lights at three-year-old Lancer Field.

"We can finally say that Friday Night Lights have come to La Salle, like they have at high school stadiums all over the country," said Bob Kohorst, the father of Lancers' senior quarterback Matt Kohorst.

"If we hadn't made the playoffs, we wouldn't have played again this season and Matt would have missed his chance to play under the lights."

Cardinal Roger Mahoney was among the packed crowd of 1,500 people at the historic game. He walked the La Salle sideline throughout the game and blessed the field at halftime.

"He attends a game every Friday night when he's in town," said Tod Tamberg, director of communications for the Los Angeles archdiocese. "He hasn't been here before because

they've never played a night game at home. I don't think they run into this problem in Texas, where Friday night high school football is king."

Though the Pasadena City Council voted 7-0 to approve the installation of La Salle's lights, the school still is being sued by some residents of the adjacent lower Hastings Ranch neighborhood, who object to the traffic and noise levels Friday night games would create.

"I would just tell some of those people to come experience this and see what the whole country sees," said Ealar Gallagher, in his fourth year as Lancers coach.

Gallagher said La Salle has lost potential recruits to other private schools because the school has played its home games during the day.

"We're still not allowed to practice under the lights," Gallagher said. "We have to start at 2:30 and be done before 5 p.m."

The senior Kohorst is a real estate executive who donated much of the \$1.2 million that was used to build a grandstand and install the lights at La Salle.

"Up to a couple of years ago, we played home night game at Monrovia, where we had to rent the field Saturday nights," he recalled.

"They stopped letting us play there because the field was taking a beating two nights in a row. So we moved our games here on Saturday afternoons, where the temperature might be 100 degrees in September."

In addition to the new lights, La Salle High is marking its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

"This is a great time for us," principal Patrick Bonacci said. "Our students have always gone to Friday night games at other schools. Now they can go to home games."

The Lancers haven't lost since Sept. 29, when they fell to Monrovia, 52-19, at the Wildcats' field, dropping their record to 0-5.

"We're a much different team now," said junior running back David Baier, who scored two second-half touchdowns in Friday night's victory over Fillmore.

Monrovia (9-2) advanced to the second round of the playoffs with a 52-8 rout of Azusa on Friday night.

## Really, Really Thankful



Photo by Marc Serota - Reuters News Service

Former amateur junior golfer, Paraguayan Julieta Granada, 20, who did not have enough money to hire a caddy for the LPGA Tour Championship, fired a four-under-par 68 in the final-round shootout to earn the first prize of \$1 million, the biggest in LPGA Tour history. Julieta's mom served as her caddy for the event.



## View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester



Ohio State University quarterback Troy Smith passes against University of Michigan during their NCAA football game in Columbus, Ohio  
Photo By Reuters News Service

## OHIO STATE BUCKEYES: ROCKING 'N ROLLING

The game lived up to the rivalry - it was a hard fought contest between two determined warriors. Troy Smith certainly added to his Heisman Trophy candidacy - 29 of 41 passes for 316 yards and four touchdowns. In this game there was no doubt he was the field general and he led his team with a resolve that could only culminate in a victory for him and his troops.

As to which team will play against OSU, now that is the question. In our house we are still hoping for USC to be chosen. Whomever they play there will be a real problem: Ohio State ended their schedule with their win over Michigan. They will now wait fifty-one days to play for the national championship.

When the BCS was instituted the hype was that with consolidation we would truly have a real national champion. How fair is it that one of the teams which will be playing for that honor will have to wait almost two months to suit up? Now I have never taken a snap from center other than in the old neighborhood play games, where the title of best in the world was on the line, however, I do know that many of the plays in football require precise timing. The routes that receivers run demand that the quarterback know where the receiver will be. In many instances the ball is thrown before the receiver is at the destination where the catch is to be made. Those plays require constant practice. But with no games between now and the championship, the best team in the nation will be rusty. They will be unaccustomed to being hit. It is real game situations where the players skills are tested and thereby honed. Their opponents, regardless of who they are, will not have as long to wait.

When they were thinking of a true national champion, shouldn't someone have been thinking of when the season ended? Shouldn't the season end for all the teams at the same time? USC, which still has a chance to play for the national championship, has two very big games to play. Some of the other conferences will have title tournaments so they too still have big games to play. But the Buckeye season has ended. Will they suffer a melt down before the championship game with this long lay off - an unprecedented seven weeks?

Yet, when I stop to think about it the Big Ten Champion has always been crowned early and then played on New Year's Day in the Rose Bowl. So maybe the lay off will not hurt after all, but the timing still needs to be addressed. By the way, did I mention that there resides in our house one very happy Buckeye fan?

To use an expression of today's young people, the Buckeyes handled their business. They are the number one team in the nation, and have won the right to play for the national championship.

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