

# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

WEEKLY NEWS FOR SIERRA MADRE AND NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

Friday, December 8 - December 14, 2006 Volume 1, No. 11

## Teen Victim "Stable" After Vicious Attack Two Arrests - One Adult Charged with Attempted Murder



This area of Memorial Park where teens often hang out was the site of the stabbing last Friday.

Photo by Jacqueline Truong

By Katina Dunn

A Sierra Madre teenager is in stable condition after a vicious attack in Memorial Park Friday evening, apparently a case of an innocent victim being in the wrong place at the wrong time, according to local youth familiar with the incident.

Local teens who were at the park at the time the crime was committed say that an escalating confrontation by bullies ended with the bullies running off in two cars after the incident. The harrowing ordeal continued as the teens drenched in blood carried their friend - the victim with five stab wounds - to another friend's home where they administered care with a parent until the ambulance arrived in the 100 block of Hermosa at 5:24 p.m.

One teen called 911, a father had called 911 and another teen ran to the police station.

Witnesses say the incident began in the park before 5 p.m. when one local teen and some of his friends who live out of the area poured soda over the head of another local teen.

The perpetrators left the scene and returned about a half hour later armed with knives and spiked brass knuckles, surprising the local teens who thought the incident was over.

The 17-year old victim was beaten and stabbed in the head, back and torso. One of the attackers had a skateboard smashed over his face by another teen who was trying to defend the victim. The suspects then ran off in two cars.

Friends of the victim carried him to a nearby home. There, the police were notified and a call was made to

the mother of the injured teen.

All present were traumatized at the sight of their friend so horribly wounded. His eyes were rolling towards the back of his head, his lips were turning blue and he kept blacking out. There was blood everywhere.

Arcadia Methodist Hospital, which is not a Trauma Center, made accommodations for the young man who hovered between life and death. The Sierra Madre Police and Fire Departments, as well as the Pasadena Police department were all commended by some who were close to the scene.

In a life-and-death situation, seconds can seem like hours and Friday night was no exception. Panic ensued as some began screaming for the ambulance. Days later, many still are not sleeping. They say that nightmares persist. (Continued Pg. 3)

Dear Readers,

Our thoughts are with this family day and night. We are mothers, and our hearts and minds are also wounded by this heinous destruction of innocence. We wish we could rewind that day and start it new again, watching over the children in the park, preventing anything bad from happening. We offer our support in any way that is needed.

There have been requests asking how to send messages of support to the family. We will forward your messages to them.

Please send your well wishes to:

Dear Family c/o Mt. Wilson Observer  
280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. #327  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Please include your name, address and telephone number.

Thank You,

Katina Dunn and Susan Henderson, Publishers  
The Mt. Wilson Observer

### Suspect Released From Custody

By Susan Henderson

Ryan Richard Swender,

one of the 18 year-old

suspects in Friday's

attack on an innocent

teen in Memorial Park,

was released from

police custody after

posting a \$1 million

bond on Tuesday.

After appearing before

Pasadena Judge Terry

Smerling and being

formally charged with

attempted murder, the

family quickly posted

bail. A condition of the

bail, however, requires

that Swender wear an

electronic monitor.

He was to return to

court on December

7th to show proof of

registration in that

monitoring program.

The status of other

suspects in the case is

not yet known. Police

continue to investigate

the case, which involves

minors. Swender turned

18 in September of this

year.

He is scheduled for a

preliminary hearing on

January 4th.

### Residents Prepare To Protect Fire and Police Services

Story Page 3

## Old World Charm with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology

### This Edition



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

By Katina Dunn

One could get lost in Harlequin Art Gallery - lost in the charm of Frank and Ilona Van Dongen, lost among the many art projects the couple work on, or lost in an art class held in the studio behind the shop.

It's good to keep moving, though, because if you sit down for too long of a time, Frank could come after you with a glue removal contraption or gold paint or epoxy. The man is a genius at fixing things.

When he heard about Steve Wynn's damaged Picasso in Las Vegas, Van Dongen contacted him. He offered to fix that \$139 million painting right away. He just spent more than 260 hours on a painting of 18<sup>th</sup> Century angels painted by Seignac and now he is working on King George I, another 18<sup>th</sup> century painting by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

"I turn nothing down," said Van Dongen. He will repair chess sets, porcelain, icons, furniture

and statuary. Another specialty is framing, and the couple have done beautiful work on all kinds of prints, photos and paintings.

After 911 and the fall of the World Trade Center, Frank made an American flag and placed it in Kersting Court for everyone to sign. It now rests in city hall, ready to be hung. He ran for city council in 1985 on a platform of giving police and fire fighters a raise. "If my house is on fire, I don't care how much he makes...if a doctor is working on me... if I'm hit on the head by a burglar I don't care how much the police make... I just want them to be there. If I ever run again, that would be my platform. They make me feel safe."

Their first life in Sierra Madre was deep sea, as in Frank's Fish Market. The hot weather made it difficult to maintain a steady supply of fresh fish, so the Van Dongens turned to another love, of the arts. They already had (continued on page 3)

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# Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2



|           |       |            |              |                      |
|-----------|-------|------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Friday:   | Clear | Hi 60s-70s | Lows 40s-50s | Windy                |
| Saturday: | Clear | Hi 50s-70s | Lows 40s-50s | Windy                |
| Sunday:   | Clear | Hi 50s-60s | Lows 40s-50s | 40% Chance - Showers |
| Monday:   | Clear | Hi 60s-70s | Lows 30s-40s |                      |
| Tuesday:  | Clear | Hi 60s-70s | Lows 30s-40s |                      |

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



## Citizens' Datebook

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Tuesday, December 12                         |           |
| City Council Meeting                         | 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, December 13                       |           |
| Arts Commission                              | 6:30 p.m. |
| At the Youth Activity Center                 |           |
| Special Planning Commission                  | 7:00 p.m. |
| at City Hall                                 |           |
| Wednesday, December 20                       |           |
| Tree Commission                              | 7:00 p.m. |
| For more info contact City Hall 626-355-7135 |           |

**Sierra Madre Christmas Tree Lot**  
283 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
next to Arnold's Hardware  
Monday - Thursday 3 to 10 p.m.  
Friday - Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Sunday from noon to 8 p.m.  
(626) 355-5552  
Percentage to Sierra Madre Firefighters Association  
Delivery Available  
"Guaranteed to be more fun than Home Depot!"



## Roy Roams' 91024

### Don't Do It Alone:

#### Holiday Decorating

John Sweeney is recovering nicely after his fall from a ladder Saturday while hanging holiday lights on the bougainvillea trellis. Mr. Sweeney blacked out and couldn't remember anything for a while. Mrs. Sweeney called 911 and Mr. Sweeney was rushed by ambulance to Arcadia Methodist Hospital, where he spent the night under observation. We wish you well Mr. S. Please be careful in the future.

#### Volunteer Firefighters Ball

Mary Jane Pakulski twirled husband Linus on the dance floor at the annual Volunteer Firefighters Ball for some "Rooty Tooty Hooty" at LaSalle High School last weekend. "People were having a good time," said Pakulski. "It was good for the younger crowd. We get out there and have fun. Its good to show the volunteers and their sponsors and significant others that you really do care."

To send funds to support the civic and charitable activities of our Volunteer Firefighters, mail your check to:

Sierra Madre  
Volunteer Firefighter's Association  
P.O. BOX 911  
Sierra Madre, 91025

#### Canterbury Tales

A community service medal goes to Carol and Tom, who cared to send the very best message to our police and fire personnel - an initiative requiring a citywide vote before either department can be replaced.

Talk around town was all about getting rid of our police and fire departments, and contracting with larger cities and their services, thus obliterating our small town advantage.

#### More Medals

A community service medal also goes to the SMRRD people, for their initiative keeping the city's low density General Plan.

If we wanted New York City - or Pasadena - density we would be there. One of the cool aspects of Sierra Madre is the country-like feel to it.

As we said to one of our favorite realtors

a month ago, and she's selling exclusive new properties: "Rich people don't want to spend 15 minutes driving down crowded Baldwin Avenue to get to work. They want nature around them, and trees. And smart, honorable people on the City Council."

Her answer was goofy, though. She said they'd be taking the bus!

#### AUTOMATIC ENLIGHTENMENT

Speaking of realtors, another local realtor has taken to calling former Mayor Bart Doyle "The Guru" of Building in Sierra Madre. His followers - mostly investors and developers - are on the true path to High Density and the subsequent 800 or so autos that go with it. This raises some questions on our own path of self realization:

Is Lama Doyle the former mayor also the present mayor incarnate, as in the question of Who Really Runs Sierra Madre?

It doesn't seem as if one traffic signal - or five - would mitigate all those cars going to and from those humongous parking structures planned for our little streets. Perhaps a name reflecting deeper understanding is Guru of Gridlock.

#### Hide & Seek

Frolicsome City Manager John Gillison seems to have so much fun hiding public meetings we almost hate to reveal them to our tax paying public readership.

Peek-A-Boo John! Here goes: A "Special" Planning Commission meeting will be held WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13 at 7 PM in our city council chambers. The meeting is posted on the wall in front of city hall - and everybody in town visits there at least once a day, instead of looking at that inconvenient city website, where as of last Wednesday it didn't appear at all.

Is this the Santa wish that Congregational Church High Density Activist Rick Simpson was asking for? Could this be the meeting where they mitigate 50 parking spaces for the planned church coffee and floral shop?

Why can't us mortals get a prayer line like that to the Higher Powers-that-be in this city?

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

### Photographer Pamela Fall

Saturday December 9  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Lozano's Restaurant  
Great photos of Italy seen on the Discovery Channel, private collections and in cafes from \$25 to \$165. "I didn't discover I was a photographer until I was 50," says Fall, who went to Italy and experienced a revelation.

### Dinner with Fabulous Float

Volunteers & Princesses  
Rose Float President Bob Young  
Monday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m.  
Memorial Park Hart Senior Center  
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
RSVP (626) 355-0606 Just \$8  
Later, fruit tree expertise with Eph Konigsberg & Sierra Madre Garden Club

### Keep Your Voice Alive & Sing

Sundays with the Opera Greats

### Café 322

From 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.  
Grapes, apples, pears, nuts and Lily's  
Herbs & 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

### Save These Dates!

**Capture the Flag**  
Saturday, December 30 at 9 a.m.  
Sierra Vista Park near Heasley Field  
All Ages

Sponsored by the City of Sierra  
Madre Community Services  
Commission's Healthy Parks Program

Tuesday, January 16 at 7:30 p.m.

### Trails, Tall Tales and Timber

By Terry Terrell, mountain historian  
Sierra Madre Historical Society  
Sierra Madre Woman's Club  
550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
For more info, call Phyllis Chapman  
(626) 355-3928

### "TRAVELERS & COLLECTORS" Friday, December 8 7:30 p.m.

Rob and Wendy Stockly present "England and Denmark: Family Style"  
City Council Chambers at Sierra Madre City Hall.  
The event is free and open to the public



An amusing "behind-the-scenes" look at a  
Living Nativity production gone awry.

Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene

December 8 & 9, 7:30 p.m.

December 10, 6 p.m.

Drama-Choir-Orchestra-Carol Singing-Live Animals!

It's Free! All Are Welcome!

Childcare 0-3 years

Open Seating-Reception Following

3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena

626-351-9631-www.paznaz.org

Invite friends! Family! Neighbors!

**Don't Forget!**  
**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

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# The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

## Ecology Update

### Go Team

All I am saying is that the U.S. Supreme Court has the exact number of people required to field a softball team. I think they should do it. They could join a co-ed league in Maryland or Virginia and play on Wednesday nights. They could have t-shirts made with the team name "The Benchwarmers," and Justice Souter could be way out in left field while Justice Scalia and Rookie Alito argue about who gets to occupy the far right. See? See? See? Last week the nation's supreme softball team heard arguments in a global warming case.

In 2003, twelve states (including California) and environmental groups sued the Bush administration for not limiting carbon emissions from cars and power plants, as it may or may not be required to by the Federal Clean Air Act. The Federal Clean Air Act does,



Los Angeles on a Smoggy Day  
Photo courtesy Jahne Ahno

in fact, mandate that the federal government (through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) regulate any pollutant from motor vehicles or power plants that can reasonably be expected to endanger public health or welfare, including pollutants that affect weather and climate. But what exactly is a pollutant, really? And do you get to sue the government for not regulating something that isn't a pollutant anyway? Hm-mm-m.

The twelve states (led by Massachusetts) contend that unregulated carbon dioxide emissions are causing significant harm to their land and economies... disappearing shorelines, rising oceans, extreme floods and storms, jeopardized water supplies due to melting snow pack. "Publeeez," says our government, "that's not our problem." According to former Solicitor General Ted Olson, who is representing the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers in this case, that sort of "generalized" damage is not adequate to make a legal case, and even if it is taking place it is "damage to humanity in general, not to Massachusetts." So see, the states don't even have legal standing to sue. Never mind the disappearing shorelines and all that. You can't sue George Bush. You'll have to go talk to China. They're the ones burning all the coal these days anyway. Oh, and, by the way, carbon dioxide is not a pollutant.

That's the other shoe. Carbon dioxide is a natural substance (just like plutonium and arsenic and lead). "It's necessary for life" (Thank you, Ted). Which, OK fine, is true; trees and pretty flowers and rainforest ferns and your front lawn need carbon dioxide just like you need oxygen. So now all that remains is for the softball team to retreat to Shakey's Pizza and have a nice collegial discussion over a pitcher of beer before everyone takes turns casting a vote (either you're with the trees or you're not). Based on the analysis of the ESPN experts, it looks like this one is going to come down to the swing vote of Center Fielder, Justice Kennedy. He's always right there in the middle.

## Arts Workshop Brings Big Bold Ideas to "Brand" City's Small Town Charm

By Dean Lee

The city's Arts Commissioners along with residents and Mayor Pro Tem Enid Joffe spent Saturday morning gathering ideas, some said without reasonable funding, including the possibility of expanding the city's annual arts festival and creating an "Arts District" as part of the East Montecito Specific Plan. All proposals would be incorporated in the city's first ever Cultural Arts Master Plan, city organizers said.

Joffe proposed the idea of creating an "art-zoned area" and said that East Montecito was the most likely choice. She also said that residents could open up their home art collections and added, as a side note, that she was pleased with the sudden rise in home business.

"This means that more people are staying in the city and spending more locally," she said.

Building an arts website, and arts promotion through branding, were also discussed. This was the second half of a two part workshop to gain community input on the arts. The first was held Nov. 29 and both took place at the Youth Activity Center.

"I think this was a very productive meeting," said Elisa Weaver, Deputy Director of Community and Personnel Services. "Wednesday's meeting was focused on individual artist and events. This had a much broader scope encompassing a bigger picture of how we want the arts in the city to be."

Weaver also said that along with the workshops, community arts surveys were done which should be completed later this month. The commission hopes to have the plan in front of the city council by March, she said.

At one point, a steady stream of ideas was abruptly halted as one commissioner asked about money - something she said they badly needed.

"It's kind of a downer if you have all of these great ideas and no money," Commissioner Jan Reed said.

Resident Gordon Miller said that the city wasn't getting any money out of sales taxes and that the city was too small to even try. Weaver added that the Arts Commission had never gotten money from the city's General Fund. She said she did not know if that could change.

Piggybacking off well-known

events such as the Wistaria Festival was one of the ways suggested to keep the costs down.

Most agreed that they did not know all the artists in town and thought one way to fix that was through a community website, somewhere they could post ideas, meetings, or just thoughts.

"Wouldn't that be wonderful to have a forum where you could chat and discuss those things that you like," longtime resident Gail Wright said. "Maybe that would bring artists together." Wright then added that if funding was involved "people would just have to become members."

One idea was to have a combined Arts Festival of music, theater and visual arts.

Joffe suggested a "Made in Sierra Madre" film festival as part of the arts events.

They also said that it was important to make sure not to kill the individual freedoms and creativity of the individual artists.

For more information call the city's Community and Personnel Services Department at (626) 355-5278.



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

HARLEQUIN  
(continued from Page 1)

a studio at home, so they turned it into their next business.

Frank's uncle is the notable Fauve painter Kees Van Dongen, who died in 1969, and so it appears as though an eye for fine art remains in the family.

"We love this city so

Frank, left, working on the Seignac painting.

much, it doesn't matter what business you have," said Frank. "We love the people."

Harlequin Gallery  
14 N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-4410  
or visit  
vandongenfineart@aol.com

## Residents Prepare To Protect Fire and Police Services

By Susan Henderson

The March, 2007 ballot may contain more than one initiative empowering the residents of Sierra Madre. Sierra Madre residents recently submitted to the City Clerk a Notice of Intent to Circulate and Petition for an initiative to prioritize public safety.

This initiative calls for Sierra Madre Police Officers to be paid "no less than" the lowest police salary in the San Gabriel Valley. It also calls for a city wide vote before the Sierra Madre Police Department and Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department can be abolished, contracted out or otherwise dismantled.

City Attorney Michael Colantuono issued a Title and Summary for the proposed initiative. However, according to a letter from Dieter Dammeier, the attorney representing the proponents of the measure, the Title and Summary issued by Colantuono "is inaccurate."

In a letter dated November 28, 2006, to Colantuono, Attorney Dammeier writes, "In your Title and Summary you indicate in the second paragraph 'that the City would be required to pay

its' police officers more than the lowest salary paid....' In reality, the Petition requires the City to match at a minimum the lowest paid agency in the survey, not pay more than the lowest paid agency."

Dammeier requests that the City Attorney correct the error immediately or the proponents "will seek a writ of mandate in the Superior Court to compel the language change."

Clearly the language is critical to this initiative. In another reference within the same letter, Dammeier implies that the error may be "a delay tactic."

The petition was signed by residents Carol and Tom Canterbury.

This is not the first time this year that the City Attorney has been accused of issuing an inaccurate Title and Summary. In September, Attorney Chris Sutton wrote Colantuono regarding a similar situation on the Voter Empowerment (2-30-13) initiative.

Once the Title and Summary is issued, proponents are free to begin gathering signatures to put the matter on the ballot.

## Lizard Wranglers

By Ron Cooper

Crossing the Puente Largo, turning south, following the river trail and headed toward the dam is where I first spotted the three male figures. Each man was armed with about a ten-foot length of bamboo.

Curious, I slowed my pace to a crawl, easing-up on these men with caution. They appeared to be fishing from the paved embankment of the river. The river - the trickle of water therein - was at least thirty yards from where they were standing, however.

Stopping on the trail directly above the objects of my inquisitive nature, I could clearly see that they indeed had bamboo poles. They weren't fishing, though - at least not in the conventional sense. They were lizard wranglers!

Each bamboo pole was affixed with a monofilament fishing line, at the end of which dangled a noose. The wranglers were poaching the unsuspecting reptiles by lassoing them with their makeshift "lizard poles." Once the critter was captured it was then placed in a plastic, terrarium-type, container.

Amazed by what I was watching, I ventured to question why they were rustling lizards? The oldest man, who was actually the father of the other two, teenaged boys, responded that they were destined to be dinner for the boys' pet snakes. I rode on!

Arriving at the lake, my nostrils reeled against the acrid odor of charcoal lighter fluid. It was Sunday afternoon and the park area adjacent to the water was thronged with families enjoying



barbecue. Dotting the landscape, lying on blankets in the shade of trees, were husbands and wives, lovers, embracing each other. Children were laughing and screaming, playing games and utilizing the playground favorites - jungle gyms and slides.

Casually wending my way over the smooth concrete path, I ventured further into the park. Rolling past the swimming area and out to the point where Dan's bench is located. Dan was my friend. He transcended this mortal coil two years ago and is now represented in the form of a bench that was dedicated to his memory by his girlfriend, Peggy. The bench bears a plaque with the inscription, "Daniel Louis Luther - In Loving Memory."

I believe that more meaningful conversations with Dan have transpired since he became a bench than did when he was still in human form. Dan has become a great listener as well as my destination for today's ride.

As I chatted with my friend and ate my lunch I could hear the sound of an announcer's voice echoing over a public address system.

Curiosity, again, called me to investigate. Saying good-bye to Dan, I rode in the direction of the voice. It was coming from the far west end of the lake. Suddenly there were tents and dogs everywhere! It was Westminster Dog Showesque! This was a major dog show and there were various walking rings within which all

(Continued on Pg. 5)



# Only One Earth

## Caution: Breathing May Be Dangerous

By Laura Burnham and Albert Metzger

Concentrations of greenhouse gases in amounts that lead to global warming represent one of the environmental problems resident in the atmosphere. The presence of man-made particulate matter in the air is another.

Particulate matter is much of what passes as smog or haze. Those of us in the San Gabriel Valley breathe it in large quantities. It consists of tiny liquid or solid particles floating in the air. Those less than 10 microns in diameter (about 1/7<sup>th</sup> the thickness of a human hair) are known as PM10. PM10 is a mixture of particles from smoke, soot, dust, salts, acids, metals and condensed gases. Sources include cars, trucks, planes, trains, refineries, fires and etc.

PM10 particles are so small they manage to evade the natural defenses of the body's respiratory system. Inhaled, they can easily enter and lodge in the lungs, from where they may permeate into the bloodstream.

They can trigger asthma attacks, and can cause or aggravate bronchitis and other lung diseases. They can inhibit the body's immune system and are especially dangerous for people with heart disease, as well as the very young and the elderly – and people of any age doing strenuous exercise on days of poor air quality.

A recent USC study has found that the mortality rate from particulate matter (aka sooty smog) may be more than twice as high as previously believed. It ascribes more than 10,000 deaths a year to diseases caused or aggravated by air pollution in Southern California alone, with particulate matter as the principle cause.

The highest concentrations of particulates are found in the western Riverside and San Bernardino counties where the soot is trapped by encircling mountains. In our general area the level appears to be about 60% of that, with some additional reduction due to Sierra Madre's slight but helpful elevation.

In the words of Jerry Marten, spokesman for the California Air Resources Board, "The more we learn about particulates, the worse the news is." By way of contrast, the EPA has recently been criticized by its own scientific advisory panel for proposing new national standards considered by the panel to be too lax.

For additional information go to [www.arb.ca.gov/html/brochure/pm10.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/html/brochure/pm10.htm).

## Police Chase Through Sierra Madre - Not!

By Dean Lee

It was a confusing day for high speed police pursuits as one local television station incorrectly named Sierra Madre as the starting point for one chase Thursday November 30 as a second chase was underway in Arcadia later that day. Both pursuits ended in Pasadena making for even more incredulosity.

As reported by CBS News, three burglary suspects took police on a chase through several cities, including Duarte and Monrovia, before fleeing the stolen car they

were driving and jumping backyard fences, taking police on a short foot chase before two of the suspects were arrested by Glendora police.

A third suspect was later caught, also by Glendora police, according to Pasadena detectives.

At one point, one of the suspects leaned out the passenger side window and waved at news helicopters. Pasadena police also later confirmed the incident started in Glendora and not Sierra Madre, as reported by CBS News.

"We're about 20 miles east of Sierra Madre," said a spokesperson for Glendora police. "It was definitely our police. The incident started near Sierra Madre Boulevard but nowhere near the city."

Sierra Madre Police Chief

Marilyn Diaz said that although that particular chase did not happen in her city, at the time she was monitoring another chase involving Arcadia Police that ending in a standoff with the suspect barricaded in a local Pasadena business.

"This did not involve the Sierra Madre PD," Diaz said. "I did listen to the other pursuit that day."

According to Arcadia police Lt. Bob Anderson, the suspect, 29-year-old James Woods, fled from cops twice that day; the first during a routine traffic stop at which time he ran into a residential neighborhood. Police set up containment area surrounding the location of the 100 block of Sandra Avenue. (continued on page 7)

## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, November 26th, to Saturday December 2nd, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 170 Calls for service.

### Thursday, November 30th:

3:39 PM – Auto burglary, 400 block Ramona Ave. A resident reported his truck was broken into and his gym bag containing his tennis shoes was stolen. The rear passenger window was smashed. A rock from the resident's garden was found inside the car. The auto burglary occurred between 8:30 PM Wednesday, 11/29 and 6:00 AM Thursday, 11/30. Total loss was estimated at \$100.00.

### Friday, November 1st:

2:37 AM – Abandoned vehicle, 00 block South Sunnyside Ave. An officer found an abandoned vehicle parked in the middle of the street causing a traffic hazard. During an inventory search the officer found several grams of marijuana. The vehicle was impounded and the marijuana was booked into evidence.

5:19 PM – Attempted Murder. Memorial Park. A 17 year old male resident of Sierra Madre was with friends at Memorial Park when two carloads of young men drove up and parked at the curb on Mariposa Ave. Several of the occupants got out of the vehicles and at least one suspect stabbed the victim in the head and torso. The suspects returned to the vehicles and were last seen going westbound on Mariposa Ave. The SMFD took the victim to the hospital for treatment. Pasadena PD detectives worked with the SMPD and arrested two suspects the following day. The investigation is continuing.

## Los Angeles Police Department Community Alert Notification

### Gift Cards Warning

The crooks have found a way to rob you of your gift card balance. If you buy Gift Cards from a display rack that has various store cards you may become a victim of theft. Crooks are now jotting down the card numbers in the store and then wait a few days and call to see how much of a balance THEY have on the card.

Once the card is "activated" they go online and start shopping.

You may want to purchase your card from a customer service person, or on-line, where they do not have Gift Cards viewable to the public.

# 1,536 Certified Signatures

*Sierra Madre Residents For Responsible Development (SMRRD) are pleased to announce the certification of the petition signatures by the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters. More than 20% of the registered voters in Sierra Madre signed the petition for the Voter Empowerment Initiative commonly known as 2-30-13. Thank you for your support.*

*Now, one of three things will happen: 1) The City Council can adopt the initiative and avoid the need for an election; 2) The City Council can place the measure on the Ballot in time for the March election or 3) The Council can request a study of the measure which could delay the initiative from being on the March ballot.*

*Therefore, we need your help. On Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 pm, the Sierra Madre City Council will meet. WE NEED YOU TO ATTEND THIS MEETING. Don't let the council delay the process. Let your voices be heard. The signatures are in. The citizens have spoken. Now we need to make certain the council acts.*



P.O. BOX 33  
Sierra Madre, CA 91025

## 2006 Sierra Madre Citizen Of The Year Nominations

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce seeks to honor one individual citizen for his or her accomplishments or project(s) that have been of benefit to the community of Sierra Madre in 2006. Members of the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, as well as citizens, civic and service organizations are invited to submit nominations.

To qualify for nomination as Citizen of the Year, nominees must be residents of Sierra Madre of any age, sex or race and may not have received any remuneration for the accomplishments or project(s) for which they are being nominated. Members of the current Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce are not eligible.

All nominations must be received in the Chamber office by December 15 at noon. A nomination form is attached and can also be found at the Chamber office, The Bottle Shop, Savor the Flavor, City Hall and the Library. The award for Citizen of the Year will be presented at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation Dinner to be held at the Santa Anita Turf Club on January 26, 2007. Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce 78 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA 91024 [info@sierramadrechamber.com](mailto:info@sierramadrechamber.com) [www.sierramadrechamber.com](http://www.sierramadrechamber.com)



# Ed Alverno, Arroyo Pacific Academy, La Salle, 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 New Generation of Leaders

By Peter Soelter, President, Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education

After much reflection I have decided to announce my retirement from public office as I will not seek another term on the Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education. My children have grown up in this District and their academic, extra-curricular and social success is a reflection of the many opportunities that are now available in our schools. Now, I believe it is time for a new generation of leaders, leaders whose children are a part of this district and who are invested in this district's continued growth and success.

Although much work remains to be done, I believe that I have accomplished the goals that I set for myself when I joined the Board of Education six years ago and I am proud of our school district's accomplishments during my tenure:

**ACADEMIC RIGOR:** With the implementation of a rigorous standards-based curriculum, ongoing professional development for our teaching professionals, pacing charts to help keep our classrooms on track, and regular data-driven assessments this is a different and far better school district than it was 6 years ago. I would especially like to thank our outstanding group of school Principals!

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:** With the 9<sup>th</sup> fastest rate of increase in the State of California this past year and the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest rate of increase in the State of California in the prior year, our test scores now rate above Los Angeles County averages and rank at the State averages. We have come a long way with most of our schools now ranking in the high 700's or 800's on the Academic Performance Index

**PARENTAL CHOICE:** We are one of the few school districts in the country to offer the prestigious International Baccalaureate curriculum all the way from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade with sites at Willard, Wilson and Blair. We created K-8 schools at Webster and Sierra Madre schools and at McKinley with a Performing Arts theme. But, what I am most proud of is that we brought back excellent neighborhood schools throughout our community.



Pete Soelter, shown with his family, cares passionately about public schools.

**SECONDARY REFORM:** We invested over \$1 million in secondary literacy interventions in 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. The positive results from that effort prove that we can provide the education our students need, but our major obstacle continues to be resources.

As I look to the future, I would like to work toward some goals that are aligned with my personal passions of increasing access to music programs and other recreational activities for all students, both male and female. These include working to bring about more playing fields for our student athletes, and ensuring the vitality and growth of our music programs at all levels from elementary through secondary. Of special interest to me is to bring back our All-District Music Festival for Elementary Students and helping our All-Star Marching Band realize their dream of accepting an invitation to perform in London's New Year's Day Parade in 2008.

Instead of making a political donation this winter, consider making a donation to help fund scholarships for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our All-Star musicians. Or perhaps, set a goal of matching any political contribution with another that directly helps kids.

You can send your scholarship donations to 3515 Thorndale Road, Pasadena CA 91107 c/o All-Star Band (PHS-IMC) or call (626)-578-1127. Your donations will be completely tax deductible.

I am honored to have served on the School Board and thank you for placing your trust in me these past 6 years. I am hopeful that you will join me in my continued efforts to make our school district the best it can be.

Go Public! Thank you and best wishes.

Peter Soelter

## Nutcracker Swings at McKinley School

By Daniel Fritz

The Pasadena Jazz Institute will host "The Nutcracker Swings," a hip rendition of Tchaikovsky's classic Nutcracker Suite, Dec. 15 - 18 at the McKinley Auditorium.

The concert will feature the Pasadena Jazz Orchestra, who will perform Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's 1961 jazz rendition of this timeless musical. Of the nine movements, three will include various types of dancing.

"It's the holiday classic with a swingin' beat," said Paul Lines, founder of the Pasadena Jazz Institute. "People will enjoy it because of the recognizable melodies."

With well-known movements such as the "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" becoming the "Dance of the Sugar Rum Cherry," and the "March" transforming into the "Peanut Brittle Brigade," this hybrid is sure to appeal to the adventurous listener.

Lines, also the orchestra's drummer, promises to "play a wicked solo" on "Little Drummer Boy."

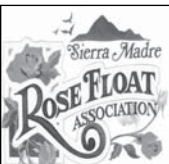
All this, however, is only the second half of the show. The first half will feature vocalist Cheryl Conley performing classic, swinging, and original arrangements of holiday favorites with the orchestra.

After the performance, audience members are encouraged to enjoy the "after-show-cool-down," held at the Pasadena Jazz Institute's brand new venue on the second floor of Paseo Colorado.

The Pasadena Jazz Institute, a non-profit organization, is celebrating its fifth anniversary as a leader in the education, preservation and participation of the jazz art form. The institute not only hosts year-round shows, but also offers classes for all ages focusing on jazz improvisation.

For tickets, call (626) 398-3344 or visit [www.pasjazz.org](http://www.pasjazz.org).

• • • • •



### 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.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

**Arroyo Pacific Academy**  
41 W. Santa Clara St.  
Arcadia  
(626) 294-0661

**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](http://www.goodenschool.org)

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

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

**Wednesday December 13 at 7 p.m.**  
Holiday Concert  
**Monday, December 4 - Friday, December 15**  
Open Enrollment

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

**Friday, December 15 at 8:30 a.m.**  
Holiday program K-3  
**Wednesday December 20 at 7:00 p.m.**  
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

**Bethany Christian School**  
93 B. N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-3527

**Odyssey Charter School**  
725 W. Altadena Dr.  
Altadena, CA  
(626) 229-0993  
[www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com)

## Yo-McBride



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

Mark McBride stopped in Sierra Madre to visit friends at Casa del Rey recently. The star, director and producer of Duncan Duds is credited with founding the 3A style of play which means performing two yoyo tricks while the yoyo is sleeping. He goes on world tour - follow his progress at [www.yoyosamuraiart.com](http://www.yoyosamuraiart.com)

The yoyo website is translated into ten different languages.

McBride's reasons for yoyo pursuits include (1) "It's really easy to do" (2) "It attracts a very like-minded community" and (3) "It's a really fun bunch of people."

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

### All Wrapped Up...

Had the ancient Egyptians possessed the materials we have today, the mummification process would have known no limits...Houdini would not have had a career...

I'm talking about plastic packaging. I went with a friend to a nearby warehouse-club store to do some shopping. While picking up the things I came for, of course I had to browse. My friend spotted something that she already possessed and felt my life would not be safe or complete if I didn't have them too: a pair of small self-powered flashlights complete with flasher light, AM/FM radio and a personal safety alarm. "Personal" yet...Just recharge by cranking the handle; no batteries or lights to replace ever. Wow! No home should be without one, so take them home I did.

When I got home at about 5:30 PM, it was already dark. I had to retrieve something in my back yard but hey, I had my new purchase just raring to

go. All I had to do was pop them out of the package, crank one up and light up my way across the yard safely.

Did I say, "Pop them out of the package?" Hah!!! They were encased in that plastic from hell that's harder than a loan shark's heart on Christmas Eve. There was no pulling it apart with mere fingers, so I got the scissors. Cutting it was no easy task either. I snipped a corner of the package thinking I could then slip my finger in and pull it apart. Nothing doing. After a considerable amount of time and energy, I was finally able to cut one whole side of the plastic. Well, that only took about ten minutes; it had to be smooth sailing from here. Silly girl! After several more minutes, and literally blood, sweat and tears, I was able to free my new self-powered beauties from their bondage!

My hands were cut to ribbons...after applying band aids, I was able to crank the wind-up handle with the two good fingers I had left and was ready to go outside to get...to get... It was now about 6:10 PM, and frankly, I had forgotten why I was going outside.

cropped canine tails and legs, crowned with a Bozo bouffant.

I laughed to myself and, then, I rode on!

Retracing my route and heading home I pedaled past Dan's bench, the lounging lovers, the dying embers of so many barbecues, the now tired children and, of course, the site which will live in reptile

infamy.

Entering the 'long bridge' built in 1907 to span the wide San Gabriel River and dubbed Rivas The Great Bridge (Puente Largo) by its builders, Pacific Electric - I breathed a sigh of relief. Sierra Madre, my hometown, would be the next stop.

It was a great day for a bike ride! Ride on!

**LIZARD** (Continued from Pg. 3) of the recognized AKC breeds were competing. I stopped briefly to watch the Standard Poodles. The haircuts that these poor dogs - my perspective - were sporting surely had to have been a collaborative effort between Andy Warhol and some socially deranged deviants? Picture snow-ball-puffs emanating from close-

## GOT NEWS?

Send us your story to:  
[www.mtwilsonobserver.com](http://www.mtwilsonobserver.com)  
or  
call (626) 355-2737

# TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business

## Looking Up

With Bob Eklund



Photo By Jean Boenish

### Astronomy Comes to Mt. Wilson

The year was 1888. The University of California, Berkeley, had just opened Lick Observatory near San Jose that year, with its 36-inch Alvan Clark refracting telescope—the largest and finest in the world at that time. The University of Southern California, hoping to outdo its rival to the north, was making plans to install an even larger telescope—a 40-inch refractor—on Mt. Wilson, and Harvard College Observatory in Cambridge, Mass., had agreed to install a 13-inch telescope there to test the mountain's observing conditions, before the giant USC instrument would be built.

The Harvard instrument was shipped to California just in time to photograph a total eclipse of the sun in the northern California town of Willows on

January 1, 1889. This done, it was shipped on to Pasadena by rail, arriving in February. With the help of pioneer Sierra Madre citizen N.C. Carter, the old Benjamin Wilson trail was improved, and by the end of February all was ready to move the telescope and its mounting to the mountaintop. Packed in a dozen packages (one of them 16 feet long), it began its painstaking trip on horse- and mule-back up the trail from Sierra Madre. A sudden storm struck when the party was within two miles of the top, leaving a foot of snow and causing a week's delay, but on April 2, 1889, a blazing bonfire on the summit announced to the town below that the telescope had arrived.

A small observatory building of wood and canvas was constructed on the southwest edge of the mountaintop, and by May, the Harvard astronomers were ready to begin their work. Over the next year or so they succeeded in mapping a good portion of the heavens, photographing some 1,150 stars. However, from the start, they encountered more than their share of problems. The tourists who visited the mountaintop were a

major annoyance. One of the astronomers, Robert Black, wrote, "We have been able to get only ten hours of sleep in the last two days because of them. This morning a party of them came around the building when we were asleep—tried to pry open the door and windows—climbed the dome and hammered the tin..."

The winter of 1889-90, one of the stormiest in history, was also a major problem. Left to do the observing alone with only Carter's teen-age son to help him, Black developed a severe cold after being caught in a snowstorm while returning from the valley, and was unable to work for several weeks. Young Carter, worn out by the heavy schedule of work, retreated to the valley to recuperate, leaving Black—not yet recovered from his cold—to handle everything alone. It was not a happy situation.

As a last straw, a dispute with USC's president, the Rev. Marion Bovard, left Harvard in doubt about the future of the two universities cooperating. As a result, in August 1890, the Harvard 13-inch telescope was removed from Mt. Wilson ("an abundance of rattlesnakes" was cited as a reason) and shipped to Harvard's South American observatory in Peru, thus ending the first era of astronomy at Mt. Wilson.

## Hi-Tech, Lo-Price

By Paul The Cyberian

Unless you've just escaped from the island where the TV show 'Lost' is filmed, you've probably heard more than a few news stories about this expensive video/mp3/dvd thing or that must-have game system that retails for hundreds but sells for thousands on the street.

By this time next month everybody who wants one will probably have it already and the mania to be the first on your block to have one will have passed. The smart shopper will be looking for the best deal possible as usual. This week we'll look at some great hi-tech \lo-cost gifts that will definitely be a pleasure to give as well as a pleasure to receive.

If you're in the market to upgrade your home computer this is a good time of year to do so. There are more than a few retailers offering great deals for the season.

CompUSA is offering a full mini-tower system with all the bells and whistles (3.0 GHz \ 512 MB RAM \160 GB HD) for just under \$250. after mail-

in rebate. This system doesn't include a monitor so be sure to keep your old one just in case.

For the digital photography fan HP is offering its PhotoSmart E427 6.0 Megapixel Digital camera for just under \$100 at several different retailers as well as on-line.

With plenty of football left in the season there may be one or two on your gift list who might appreciate a little bit more out of their present home theaters. BestBuy is offering the Insignia 27" Flat Tube HDTV for just under \$450. This model delivers high quality viewing with more bang for your buck.

For a low-cost (but not cheap) alternative to the iPod consider the Samsung 2GB MP3 Player and Image Viewer (Model YP-T9JAB). This model provides up to 35 hours of playback and the capability to upload and download photos from your on-line photo albums. Priced at just under \$175, this unit well worth the asking price.

All of the gift ideas (and more) may be purchased on-line and shipped in time for Christmas. Be sure to allow enough time for a pre-Christmas delivery.

Got Questions? Go to [www.mtwilsonobserver.com](http://www.mtwilsonobserver.com) and click on Paul The Cyberian.

Ask Madeline Miller about the:

## WorkForce

**Q:** I'm having a bit of an issue at work. My co-worker, Jane, insists on talking to me incessantly while I'm trying to concentrate on my job tasks. She tells me about problems with her husband, mother-in-law, children, and on and on. I hate to mention this to our supervisor because I don't want to create hard feelings. What should I do?

**A:** I'm confused as to how Jane can get anything done while chattering and complaining all day long. Just tell her tactfully that you understand how important these issues are to her, but you're busy and find it difficult to listen. Let it go at that. Do NOT suggest a time when she can speak with you about personal matters as this will open the door to having "your ear chewed off."

If this does not work, I would discuss this matter with your supervisor. Hopefully, she/he will be discreet when mentioning this to Jane. Remember that your job does not entail making friends with your co-workers but on performing to the best of your ability.

**Q:** After being employed with the same company for 15 years, I'm now looking for a similar position with a different corporation. How do I answer the question, "What are your salary expectations?"

**A:** You need to do some research on salaries for your particular profession in your geographic areas of interest. Also, consider benefits offered and industry demand. Check out salary.com.

When asked about salary, return the question to the interviewer by inquiring about the company's offer for someone with your qualifications. If it is satisfactory, there is no problem. If it is too low, say that you have researched the going rate for similar jobs and the range is between \$40,000 and \$50,000, for example. You should also elaborate on why you would expect a salary on the higher end of this range by mentioning your experience, accomplishments, education, and potential for making significant contributions. Being informed with facts and figures is important in presenting your case.

Direct your questions to Madeline at [comptyp2@aol.com](mailto:comptyp2@aol.com) or 888-489-8372 (8 AM - 6 PM, Monday - Friday).

### Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK From Caroline Brown

You must create a "Defensible Space" around your home. Trim away overgrown vegetation. Never allow dead vegetation, brush or tree limbs to accumulate. Clear both horizontally, at ground level away from your residence and vertically from ground level up under trees, shrubs and building overhangs. You have now created a "Defensible Space" providing fire fighters an area within which to fight a fire. You will reduce the fuel load that preheats and would provide fuel to burn your home. This does not mean that you remove the trees and plants that give shade, beauty and comfort to your home. It does not mean that you scrape the earth bare. It does mean that you judiciously thin out, limb up, and create certain distances between trees, shrubs and your dwelling, including garages, sheds, wooden fences, among others. See [www.fire safecouncil.org](http://www.fire safecouncil.org) and link onto Defensible Space.



## Marvin's Got It In The Bag



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

Maybe it's because the wallet rests inside, but purses have always been a major status indicator. People look at what kind of handbag is tucked under your arm or slung over your shoulder, and then they determine where you are in the hierarchies of class and style.

Is it Gucci? Hermes? Marvin?

One way to confound assumptions is to wear an original, handmade bag. What could be more high status than that? A custom bag, perhaps, and all of them are available in Sierra Madre.

Marvin Dieguez handcrafts original bags and sells them in his shop, Attitudes! He brings the Andalusian art of leatherworking to the San Gabriel Valley in artful bags and belts. The Spanish craft of cutting, tooling, braiding, lacing and embossing

of leather comes from the saddler and bootmaker realms of the Middle Ages.

All of his bags are different, fanciful styles that depend on his mood and the feel of the particular piece of Italian leather or cloth he is working with.

A couple aspects are quintessentially Marvin. He likes to keep prices reasonable, and he likes a bag to perform – to be reversible, or change from handbag to shoulder bag to backpack with different straps.

He learned the craft from his father, Mario, who still advises him on tricky sewing maneuvers from time to time.

After selling bags at Fred Segal and Jennifer Kaufman, Marvin decided to go into business for himself. After marrying Kiki Bratakos of Sierra Madre, the couple decided to settle in town, close to her parents and their Corfu restaurant.

Marvin's bags will remain original and handmade. "A lot of designers, they make one thing and they send it to China for hundreds of copies to be made," he said. He gets inspiration from his artist friends and great bag designers such as Isabella Fiore.

If his wife Kiki likes a bag he has made, he knows the style will be highly successful. Kiki, who works as a nurse, probably has the finest wardrobe of bags than any woman in Sierra Madre. Not so for Marvin's mother, Maria. "She has worn the same plain, black purse for years," said Marvin. Its not just any black purse, though. This one was made by his father. "It's still working," said Marvin. The old saying goes, a good purse and good shoes last forever.



Reversible Cloth Bag \$89



Studded Leather \$220



Strappy Leather Bag (above) \$280



Belts shown are \$59 apiece



Photos By Buddy Windsor

### ATTITUDES

90 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre  
(626) 355-3929



# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

**DEUXAMIS PUBLISHING**

**Editor**  
Katina Dunn

**Managing Editor**  
Susan Henderson

**Art Director**  
Marco Carreno

**Photography**  
Felix Orona  
Buddy Windsor  
Jacqueline Truong  
Steve Padilla

**Contributors**  
Dean Lee  
Stefan Bund  
Stanley J. Forrester  
Paul the Cyberian  
Madeline Miller  
Kyle McClure  
Pat Birdsall  
Bob Eklund

**Editorial Cartoonist**  
Ann Cleaves  
Web Master  
Gary Miller

The Mt. Wilson Observer is a publication of Deuxamis Publishing, Inc. established and copyrighted in 2006. This paper is published weekly with offices in Sierra Madre, California. All letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to: Mt. Wilson Observer, 280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. #327, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024. Phone: 626-355-2737. Fax: 626-604-4548. email: [deuxamispub@aol.com](mailto:deuxamispub@aol.com)



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## OPINION

### Sierra Madre's Traffic Loophole

by Stefan Bund

Last week the City Council heard arguments from Enid Joffe and John Buchanan in favor of consolidating authority for traffic issues under the City Manager. This was proposed to assume direct governance over automobile movement. Traditionally, the Chief of Police in Sierra Madre assumes this role, and controls traffic signage independently. Mayor Pro Tem Joffe stated that she wanted the City Manager to control traffic in town because he was directly accountable to the Council.

Myself and a small group went to the podium to protest this amendment to the Municipal Code. We argued that the police chief was in a better position to regulate and govern traffic, given that she was a Sierra Madre resident, and actively commutes the city, as opposed to the City Manager, who lives elsewhere.

Another argument stated that checks and balances to the City Council were still necessary. Putting new powers into the City Council's hands was premature while the city sorts out development downtown.

The Mayor was clearly displeased by his Council's inability to pass this seemingly trivial measure. His argument to passing the amendment was that it is necessary to govern the city.

Those who argued against amending the City Code clearly imagined the consequences if the City Council had direct control over the way that cars move through the city. And why would



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

the hands of the City Manager.

The problem, clearly stated by the residents who spoke, was that how can we put more blind trust into the hands of this City Council, especially Mayor Buchanan and Mayor Pro Tem Joffe, when they have allowed this city to be penetrated by special interests, who propose to build over it?

Why should residents allow the likes of Buchanan and Joffe to control how our city will be run, when so far, we've lived with the threat of development altering the fabric of this city forever?

As far as the City Attorney is concerned, this city doesn't need to resemble other cities. It doesn't need multiple malls, high rise condominiums, and a change in the way we treat citizens. Retired people I have talked to perceive Joffe and her cadre as desiring to clear the city of traditional residents, so to allow new, younger 'consumers' to move in, with higher tax rates and more disposable income.

John and Enid need to know that by allowing developers to run their government, that their attempts to govern will be met with suspicion. We need political elites who will stick up for this town. Not like former Mayor Doyle, who insisted that Sierra Madre has to change.

#### 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.

we need to change a system that works, anyway? The City Attorney argued that it is common, now a days for cities to place traffic jurisdiction in the hands of the City Manager.

### DEAR SANTA. PLEASE BRING US SOME HEARING

AIDS!

By Susan Henderson

**hearing aid (n):** an electronic device usually worn in or behind the ear of a hearing-impaired person for amplifying sound

For the second time in less than six months, residents of Sierra Madre have felt compelled to go directly to their fellow citizens in order to be heard.

First, the Sierra Madre Residents for Responsible Development presented a petition to the voters requiring citywide approval of any downtown development project that exceeds the existing General Plan in order to maintain our town's character. Now, citizens have found it necessary to begin efforts to place on the ballot an initiative that would prevent the abolishment of our city's police and fire departments without a citywide vote and mandate that our officers be paid no less than what the lowest San Gabriel Valley peace officers are paid.

That, ladies and gentlemen, indicates that we have a very serious problem in this community. Clearly, our city attorney and city manager - who work under the direction of our city council - cannot hear. We tell them what we want and do not want, but they just can't seem to hear us. Even if we didn't say a word, don't you think they should understand that in order to serve the people of Sierra Madre, basics, like public safety are top priority?

Over and over again the residents keep saying we want a safe town, we want a small town, we like things the way they are. And over and over again, the sound of our voices seem to be drowned out - or maybe it never reaches their eardrums.

It makes absolutely no sense that a town of this size has to compel our elected officials to action by using the initiative process. It is costly and time consuming. What is the point of having a governing body if we continually have to govern ourselves?

Sierra Madre Police Officers have not had a wage increase since perhaps when Princess Diana was alive. Our volunteer fire department only recently received enough money to fund two positions.

How can we maintain the quality of life that we expect without the proper support to those we hire to protect us? Maybe if we were able to put more officers on the street, the mere knowledge of that may have prevented the unfortunate stabbing of one of our teenagers last week.

There will be those who say that the proponents of both initiatives jumped the gun. However, in both instances, people were ignored to the point they felt they had to go to extraordinary lengths in order to protect themselves and us. So don't offer up lame excuses why these situations have happened. They have happened because our council, past and present are apparently deaf, dumb and blind.

And, to make matters worse, you want to increase the population of this city? Puh-leeze!

As I was driving home the other night, I realized that I have voted for every single member of the current city council. I did so in good faith, at least believing that they had some basic skills, including the ability to hear. Apparently, I was wrong.

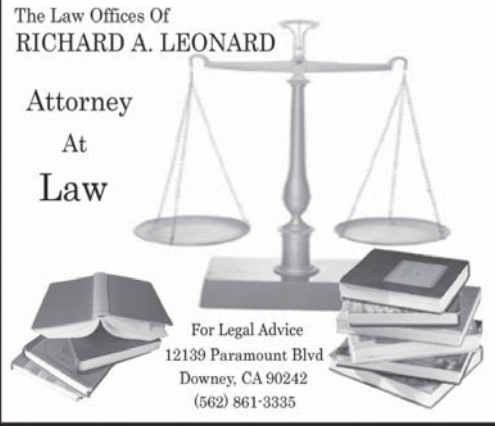
Well, I guess we must resort to someone we can have faith in. Therefore, I ask Santa to forget about the new car and latest techno toys.

Just please deliver, as soon as possible, five hearing aids before it is too late.

The Law Offices Of  
**RICHARD A. LEONARD**

Attorney

At  
Law



#### CHASE (continued from page 4)

Police said they recognized Woods driving a Chevy Tahoe in the containment area and immediately initiated a second pursuit. Police later confirmed that the vehicle belonged to someone in the area other than Woods. He was booked on charges of Auto Theft and Residential Burglary as well as evading police.

Witnesses said they saw Woods dragged on his knees out of Tanner's Valley Vacuum Center on Colorado Boulevard as police arrested him. He was later taken to Arcadia Methodist Hospital for minor injuries, Arcadia police said.

Reports said that Woods was found hiding in the ceiling of the store. Witnesses said that police seemed reluctant to enter the building. Police later said the door was locked and they were waiting

for the key from the owner.

Friends of Woods said he had a long time drug and alcohol problem and was in and out of prison and treatment. Woods is currently being held in Arcadia City Jail with a no bail parole warrant, Anderson said.

"Sometimes you slip," said Larry Ingram, who knew Woods through a drug and alcohol program. "It's unfortunate for some of us. Last time I saw him he was doing good."

Ingram added, "He's going back now." He also said he thought it was tough for those in the system, such as Woods, to adjust on the outside.

"Our biggest wish is that this 'stuff' would fall off the face of the planet," Ingram said. The original story can be found at <http://cbs2.com/carchase>.

# SPORTS

## LASALLE THIS SATURDAY: DEI LIGHTS OUT?

By Larry Bortstein

Any of La Salle High's last three football games could have been the last for senior quarterback Matt Kohorst.

They weren't, because the Lancers (8-5) won all three CIF Southern Section Mid-Valley Division playoff encounters.

But this Saturday night's game against Verbum Dei (9-4) in the championship game absolutely means the end of high school football for Kohorst and 19 other Lancer seniors.

"We wanted to keep it going because we didn't want to go out on a loss," Kohorst said after La Salle defeated Bishop Diego of Santa Barbara, 24-14, in a Mid-Valley semifinal game Friday night under the lights at Lancer Field.

Verbum Dei, a member of the same Camino Real League as La Salle, qualified for the title game with a 48-8 rout of Duarte High at Centennial High in Compton, where the Eagles play their home games. Because Verbum Dei won a coin toss to determine the location of the championship game, Centennial also will be the site of Saturday night's contest at 7:30 p.m.

"If we'd won the coin toss, the game would have been played at Arcadia High," Kohorst said. "But we're sending a lot of our fans down to the game on buses, so we'll have a lot of support."

La Salle's victory over Bishop Diego was its eighth straight after opening the season with five successive defeats. En route to sweeping its four rivals in the Camino Real League, the Lancers beat Verbum Dei, 37-36, at LaSalle on Oct. 21.

"We led that game, 21-14, at halftime," Kohorst recalled. "But we came back and won in the final seconds when Nathan Bury scored from the 1-yard line."

Bury and David Baier are the key components of a devastating ground game that has helped propel coach Ealar Gallagher's Lancers to the Mid-Valley

final. Bury, a 6-foot-1, 230-pound senior who ran for 203 yards in the Oct. 21 game against Verbum Dei, gained 144 yards and scored a touchdown against Bishop Diego.

Baier, a shifty 5-foot-8, 150-pound junior, scored on runs of 46 and 36 yards en route to a 181-yard night in the semifinal game.

The Lancers' late-season heroics have impacted on La Salle's varsity basketball team, of which Kohorst and senior wide receivers Tyler Lisboa and Jared McCray also are members.

In their absence, La Salle is off to a 4-1 start for coach Steve Goldstein. Kohorst, Lisboa and McCray will suit up for the basketball team for the first time this season Tuesday night at La Canada. The team will travel to Maui for a 16-team tournament the following week.

"But right now, we want to close out the football season with one more win," said the 6-foot-1, 190-pound Kohorst, who will move on to the University of San Diego next fall on a baseball scholarship. He's a right-handed pitcher.

THE LOSSES: La Salle lost the first five games of the season.  
Eagle Rock 12-42  
Huntington Park 38-39  
San Marino 13-17  
Ontario Christian 15-45  
Monrovia 19-52

THE WINS: La Salle has won its last eight games.  
Temple City 21-14  
\*Cantwell Sacred Heart 25-7  
\*Verbum Dei 37-36  
\*Mary Star of the Sea 50-7  
\*St. Monica 34-7  
#Fillmore 20-6  
#Monrovia 35-28  
#Bishop Diego 24-14  
\*Camino Real League game  
\*CIF Southern Section playoff game

## Pasadena High School Basketball The 3 Big Dogs: Harmon, Binns and Ajere

By Larry Bortstein



Pasadena High's basketball team experienced a bump in the road on the way to sweeping the Rose City Round Ball Classic last week. But the Bulldogs overcame it to end the first four games of the young season on the fast track.

The unexpected bump came in the form

in a game the Bulldogs led at halftime, 34-18, at PHS' "Dog House." Pasadena roused itself Saturday night to rout Chatsworth High in the Rose City final, 96-73, behind 35

points by senior guard Harmon. The victory gave the two-time defending Pacific League champions a 4-0 record.

"We made some mistakes in that other game, but we were ready for Chatsworth," Tucker said.

The tournament title was the first in the three years PHS has hosted its own tournament. The Bulldogs, 25-4 last season, had little time to savor it, since they were back on the floor this week in the Glendora/Rowland Cage Classic at Glendora High.

PHS ends the calendar year by playing in the Santa Barbara tournament during Christmas week and opens league competition by hosting Arcadia High on Jan. 5.

The Bulldogs were undefeated in Pacific League games each of the last two seasons. They lost

to Perris, 64-62, in the second round of last year's CIF Southern Section 1-A playoffs.

That PHS opens league play against Arcadia this year is ironic. Nigel Ajere, the top Bulldogs newcomer, was the chief Apache last season, averaging 17 points, six rebounds and two blocked shots. The 6-foot-5 Ajere



transferred to Pasadena for his senior year.

"He has the quickness and size of a college player already," Tucker said of Ajere. "He can play inside and outside."

Harmon, who is in his fourth season in the starting lineup, has the shooting touch that is capable of producing 25 points per game, Tucker said. Tony Phillips, the Bulldogs' 6-foot-4 point guard, and versatile Armon Binns, who also starred for the football team at wide receiver, is the fourth member of a powerful PHS senior foursome.

Kyle Austin, Pasadena's ace last year, now is at USC.

## Pete Siberell says - GET READY FOR LITTLE LEAGUE BALL!

Sierra Madre residents are lucky to have their own "Field of Dreams" right here in town. It's Heasley Field and the adjacent T-ball Field in Sierra Vista Park. Your child will be playing most of his or her games in this wonderful setting...one of the most spectacular in the San Gabriel Valley.

We invite you to sign up your son or daughter between the ages of 5 and 12. The season starts on February 24 and play goes until June 2. We promise that you and your child will enjoy the camaraderie that being on a team brings...and much fun from the Opening Day parade to the outdoor movie on Heasley Field on Closing Day.

Sierra Madre Little League Baseball Sign-ups

Session #1  
Wednesday, December 6  
6:00P to 8:30P  
Sierra Madre Recreation Center  
611 E. Sierra Madre Boulevard

Session #2  
Saturday, December 9  
9:00A to Noon  
Sierra Madre Recreation Center

Sierra Madre Little League Baseball Try-outs  
(all at Heasley Field in Sierra Vista Park, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.)

11 & 12 Year-olds  
Wednesday, January 3  
6:00 - 8:00p.m.

11 & 12 Year-olds  
(Make-up)  
Saturday, January 6  
8:00 - 9:00a.m.

7 - 10 Year-olds  
Saturday, January 6  
9:00a.m. - Noon  
7 - 10 Year-olds  
(Make-up)  
Tuesday, January 9  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

5-6 Year-olds do not have to try out.

Sierra Madre Little League Baseball Season  
Saturday, February 24 to Saturday, June 2

For more information, go to [www.sml.org](http://www.sml.org) or call Pete Siberell, President of SMLL at 626-355-6746.

GOT NEWS?  
Send us your sports news to:  
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or  
call (626) 355-2737



## View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

## SHOW ME THE MONEY

Billie Jean King where are you? Women that play professional sports need your fire again. Remember what she did for the pay in women's professional tennis. The LPGA needs her now. Several weeks ago I was watching the LPGA on the tube and was surprised to learn that this was the first time in history that the women golfers were playing for a million dollar prize. The commentators all spoke about the size of the prize fund as if that was the only reason that golf was interesting.

What made the golf interesting was not only the purse size but it was also the format. The first day of the tournament there were seventy two players in the field. The top thirty two players earn the right to play the second day. The third day it was sixteen, and on the last day it was eight players. What a player had done the day before simply got them into the competition. Each day was a new contest that made it exciting and this was the first time in the LPGA history that a player could win a million dollars by taking first place.

Compare that to the PGA and you see the real disparity. Lorena Ochoa is the number one money winner on the LPGA this year and she has earned in excess of 2.5 million dollars. On the PGA that amount of winning would place her about number twenty-one on the earnings list.

Annika Sorenstam had the highest money total for one year among the members of the LPGA in 2002 with her earnings topping off at 2.8 million. That figure would make her number twenty on the PGA earnings list. The prize fund for women is about one fifth that for men. Why? Some say that the prize fund is smaller because fewer women play golf. Others suggest that the disparity is a reflection of the disparity that exists in life.

But more men should watch women's golf. Because women's golf, unlike other sports, is suited to the average man's golf swing. The average male weekend golfer would get more out of watching the women play than watching the professional men. The professional woman golfer's swing speed is closer to that of a good male amateur. Weekend duffer let's face it, we can't swing like Tiger, but you might be able to match that of Lorena Ochoa if you work at it.

Post Script

You know that there is sorrow at the divided house, but first things first. Congratulations to the Bruins are in order, for on Saturday, December 2, 2006 they were truly the best team on the field at the Rose Bowl. USC lost because UCLA played better, and they deserved the convincing win, congratulations go Bruins. Now, back to the household. There is disappointment at home the game won't be OSU vs. USC, however, unity prevails. We will all be concentrating on Michigan getting whooped at the Rose Bowl.

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