

# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

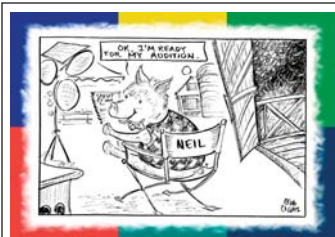
WEEKLY NEWS FOR SIERRA MADRE AND NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

Friday, December 29 - January 4, 2007 Volume 1, No. 14

## Remembering Former President Gerald Ford



Photo Courtesy Reuters Former President Gerald Ford shown in this 1997 photo, with former Presidents Bill Clinton, George Bush and former first lady Nancy Reagan outside historic Independence Hall, during the Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia. Ford, who took office from an embattled Richard M. Nixon, died on December 26, 2006. Full story page 4



## Happy New Year Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Happy New Year to our neighbors in Sierra Madre and to our city's very special porcine symbol of the Chinese New Year 2007 - Neil Emerson.

Neil is the 10 and a half year old, four-legged favorite in our neighborhood, and everybody is very fond of him for his charm and sweet nature. He is the delight of any child who stops by. Diane Emerson, is proud of her good natured friend. Neil's digs are also quite eye catching, including the sign that warns against feeding Neil junk food.

2007 is the Year of the Boar or Pig in the Lunar New Year which begins February 18 but Neil, being the superstar that he is, will begin his celebration on January 1st.

Remember, for the Chinese New Year, oranges and tangerines are symbols of much happiness.

Tangerines with leaves intact assure that one's relationship with another remains secure. For newlyweds, this represents the branching of the couple into a family with many children.

As you welcome in 2007, make certain you have live blooming plants to symbolize rebirth and new growth. Have a safe and Happy New Year of comfort and merriment with family and friends.

The Publishers & Staff of the Mt. Wilson Observer

## Day of Vines & Roses

Our Wonderful Wistaria An HGTV Favorite Float



Photo courtesy of HGTV Sierra Madre Rose Parade Princesses will share the spotlight with this amazing floral display put together by the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association. Story Page 3

## The 2006 Royal Court



Photo Courtesy of Pasadena Rose Float Association

From left: Danielle Vine (Pasadena High School), Sue Park (La Canada High School), Christina Barsamian (Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy), Mary McCluggage (Flintridge Preparatory School), Kaitlin Terpstra-Sweeny (Pasadena City College), Aneesah Giroux (John Marshall Fundamental High School), Blair Ramirez (La Salle High School)

## Year End Edition

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# Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

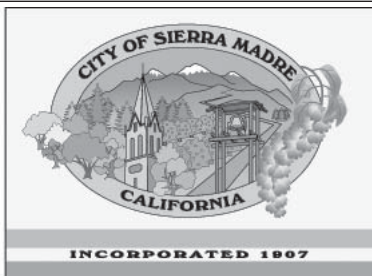


Friday: Clear Hi 60s Lows 40s-50s Windy  
 Saturday: Clear Hi 70s Lows 40s-50s  
 Sunday: Clear Hi 70s Lows 40s-50s  
 Monday: Clear Hi 70s Lows 40s-50s  
 Tuesday: Clear Hi 70s Lows 40s-50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



## Citizens' Datebook



### City of Sierra Madre January Events

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 - Holiday, City Hall Closed                   | 17 - Cultural Arts Master Plan Meeting 6:00 pm |
| 4 - Senior Community Commission 3:00 pm         | 17 - Tree Advisory Commission 7:00 pm          |
| 4 - Planning Commission 7:30 pm                 | 18 - Planning Commission 7:30 pm               |
| 9 - City Council 6:30 pm                        | 23 - City Council 6:30 pm                      |
| 10 - Community Arts Commission 6:30 pm          | 24 - Youth & Safety Meeting 6:30 pm            |
| 12 - S&TV3 Fundraiser to Live TV Taping 3:30 pm | 24 - Library board of Trustees 7:00 pm         |
| 12 - Art Show in City Hall 6:00 pm              | 27 - Dog & People Walk 9:00 am                 |
| 12 - Travelers & Collectors 7:30 pm             | 31 - All-America City Rally 6:00 pm            |
| 15 - Holiday, City Hall Closed                  |  |

### LIBRARY DISPLAYS SEASONS GREETINGS FROM SIERRA MADREANS

During the month of December, the Sierra Madre Public Library's display case features holiday cards sent from the village of Sierra Madre over the years. These include hand made cards, photographic cards, and cards designed by artists Margaret Cash, Alfred James Dewey, Catherine Snell Tuttle, and Marvin Weese. Photographs depicting Sierra Madre holiday traditions such as Santa's visit to City Hall and the Noble Jefferson tree are also displayed for the community to enjoy. The public is welcome during the Library's open hours: Mon-Wed Noon-9 p.m.; Thurs & Friday Noon-6 p.m.; Sat - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. For further information please visit the Library's web site at [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us) or call the Library at (626) 355-7186.

### SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

TRAVELERS AND COLLECTORS SERIES  
 Friday, January 12, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.

"Burma"

By Marion Gasper

Sierra Madre City Council Chambers  
 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



## Roy Roams' 91024

### VOTE FOR OUR BEAUTIFUL FLOAT!

Visit [www.hgtv.com](http://www.hgtv.com) to vote for the Sierra Madre Rose Parade entry - "Our Wonderful Wistaria." Many thanks to HGTV and to the dedicated volunteers for Sierra Madre's Rose Parade Float. If you can't stop by to help with the last-minute gluing, bring by a tasty snack for the volunteers.

### Shaved By The Bell?

And we thought membership had its privileges. The *Mt. Wilson Observer* publishers are members of the Chamber of Commerce yet were somehow overlooked in that organization's media invites to their announcement of the Chamber's Annual Citizen of the Year Awards recipient. Interesting.

### The Real Rite Aid Says No Way

At the last council meeting, resident Leslee Hinton reported on her response from the Real Estate Director of Rite Aid Corporation for the San Gabriel Valley who said the company has not been interested in a Sierra Madre site

for many years. If the company were interested, she said its executives work with environmentally conscious communities to create smaller, more attractive buildings anyway, she said.

Hinton contacted the company after high density activists distributed flyers implying that if the 72-dwelling unit Howie's market site was not approved, a big box "Bite Aid" would move in.

### Spinning Wheel Sale

Great bargains at The Spinning Wheel. The shop at 18 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. is having a clearance sale. Those close to the deal say the building was not for sale, however the owner was made a nice offer she couldn't refuse.

### Ho Ho Woof

We just can't close our eyes without seeing those dogs squirming in Santa's lap at One Colorado in Pasadena. We don't know who the Santa was, but he had a hard time holding some squirming dogs for canines in the plaza. Wonder if he knew what that job was all about before he took it, or was he just a Desperate Santa?



### VOLUNTEERS STILL 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.

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

### Café 322

322 Sierra Madre Blvd.  
 Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

Friday  
 Saturday  
 Sunday

December 29  
 December 30  
 December 31

Vocalist Cheryl Barnes  
 Sax man Gill Bernal  
 Dinner & Dancing with the  
 DownBeats

### 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

Friday  
 Saturday

December 29th  
 December 30th

Lisa Finnie and Friends 8-11pm  
 Vin Fiz Flyer 8-11pm

### Bargain Books Table

Monday, January 8, through Saturday, January 13, 2007

Children's books, fiction, collectible books, and specialty books - all in good condition -- will be sold, priced as marked, during the Library's public open hours. The Sierra Madre Public Library, which is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, is open Monday through Wednesday from noon to 9 p.m., Thursday and Friday from noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For further information on programs and services please visit the Library's web site at [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us) or call (626) 355-7186.

Sponsored by The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library



### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Tuesday, December 26  
 through  
 Friday, January 12

Athen's trucks will be collecting uncontaminated Christmas Trees during regularly scheduled pickup hours. Trees must contain only green waste. TREES SHOULD HAVE ALL PLASTIC CONTAINERS, METAL STANDS & BARS, ORNAMENTS AND THE BULK OF ANY TINSEL REMOVED.

Flocked Trees and Trees coated with retardant will be accepted.

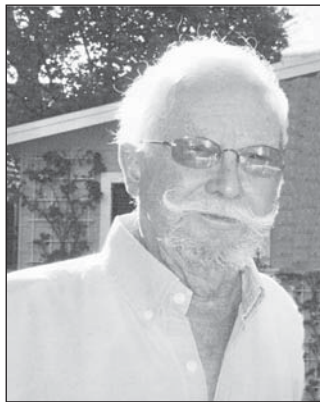
### Driver's Ed Class in Sierra Madre

If you are 15 years and older winter is the perfect time to take Driver's Ed. The class costs \$280 which includes the 30 hours of required classroom time and the 6 hours of behind the wheel driving. The classroom portion takes place in Sierra Madre's Youth Activity Center for four consecutive Sundays starting February 25 through March 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information or to register, please contact the Community & Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278.

## REMEMBRANCES

Community Activist and Veteran  
 Howard Leicester Wagner, 76

Howard L. Wagner, a longtime Sierra Madre community activist and Citizen of the Year 1986, passed away December 19 at Methodist Hospital in Arcadia. Wagner was a founding member of the Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council (SMEAC), served on the Planning Commission for a decade and coached Little League and Girls Softball. He also served on the Sierra Madre Library Board of Trustees. Wagner was born December 1, 1930 at Huntington Memorial Hospital to Leicester Wagner and Lucy Howard Wagner of Pasadena. His father was a longtime reporter for *United Press*, the *Los Angeles Daily News* and the *Los Angeles Mirror-News*. His grandfather, Rob Wagner, was a silent film director and publisher of *Rob Wagner's Script* of Beverly Hills.



Howard L. Wagner grew up in Chapman Woods, Pasadena; moved to Mill Valley and returned to Pasadena in 1942, where he graduated from John Muir High School. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War in the Sea of Japan aboard the U.S.S. Antietam and the U.S.S. Whiting. Following his discharge from the Navy in 1952, he attended Woodbury Business College. On August 20, 1953, he married Jill Hisey of Pasadena. The couple moved to Sierra Madre where they raised three children. Wagner joined Western Electric as an installer in 1960 and remained there until his retirement in 1986. During his retirement, the couple traveled extensively throughout Europe and the United Kingdom. Wagner is survived by his wife, Jill; three children Rob L. Wagner of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; Lisa Wagner Reed of Duarte and Susanah Wagner-Tomlin of Pasadena; grandchildren Nicholas Wagner of Hollywood, Selena Wagner and Danielle Wagner Small, both of Lodi California; Cory Macy-Tomlin and Ian Tomlin of Pasadena and Christopher and Alexander Reed of Duarte; plus a sister, Georgia Wagner Inglis of Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday, January 2, 2007 at 4 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension at 25 E. Laurel Avenue in Sierra Madre. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mr. Wagner's memory to the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, the American Lung Association or the Church of the Ascension.

Courtesy of the Wagner Family



# The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

## Ecology Update

### Yay, Highlights!



So here we are at the end of ought six. It has been a good year, no? Avril Lavigne and Lisa Marie Presley got married (sadly not to each other).

The spawn of Tom and Katie and Brad and Angelina arrived, and on different schedules, had their pictures taken and published across the whole wide world. Kirstie Alley lost 75 pounds, and gained a new career. Steve Irwin and Jack Palance both checked out; they are probably wrestling crocodiles or each other in heaven right now. And, we had the pleasure of experiencing the magic of fourteen editions of the Mt. Wilson Observer, with the coolest masthead in the San Gabriel Valley.

This column appeared in 13 of those editions (sorry I missed the first deadline), and in the interest of humble, modest, shameless self-promotion, please allow me to present the highlights of the Wild West, 2006, including one never before seen "bonus highlight." Due to extensive recycling, I am excited to announce, this week's column is carbon neutral. Al Gore will be so proud.

**The Global Warming Solutions Act** is signed by democratically elected Cyborg Warrior Robot. Remember Assembly Bill 32? Also known as the **California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006**, it will use market-based incentives to reduce carbon emissions to 1990 levels. Passed in 2006, this sexy piece of legislation effectively makes California a signatory to the Kyoto Accord. But those of us in the know, saw it as nothing more than Arnold's sad pathetic attempt at turning back the clock to when he was cool (think Terminator 2: Judgment Day). Carbon emissions? Hasta La Vista Baby.

#### **Fish Decline Then Disappear Forever**

Fish! Enjoy them while they last. In 2006 we learned that it won't be long before the oceans are populated only with six-pack rings and toilet paper. The Journal Science informed us that by 2048, 100 percent of the fish populations on the planet will have collapsed.

The lead author of this study was Dr. Boris Worm (a name I wish, for many reasons, that I had made up). He informed us that there will be a "global collapse" of fish populations; that, "we are seeing the bottom of the barrel." But remember, good reader, the Marine Stewardship Council website [www.msc.org](http://www.msc.org)

Use it to look up your favorite yummy seafood and find lists of restaurants and distributors that provide fish from certified "sustainable" fisheries.

#### **US Supreme Court Ponders Global Warming Real Hard**

Also in 2006, the newly refurbished and rightward leaning US Supreme Court heard its first ever case on Global Warming. Twelve states (including California) and environmental groups sued the Bush administration for not limiting carbon emissions under the authority of the Federal Clean Air Act. The Bush administration says that carbon dioxide is required by trees and pretty flowers that school children like to make into necklaces and give to their teachers, so the more we pump out of our tailpipes, the better. The twelve states say: what about our disappearing shorelines and extreme floods and jeopardized water supplies? We have to wait until spring to find out who wins. Will it be the frolicking school children and their flower chains or the nasty "environmentalist" states like California and Massachusetts, who want to take all flowers away from school children forever?

#### **Planet Earth Continues to Get Pretty Hot (Extra Bonus Highlight - Never Before Seen!)**

The US set a record for wildfires in the year 2006, which looks to be the third warmest year on record in the US, according to the National Climatic Data Center. 2006 is expected to end as the sixth warmest year on record for planet earth (not counting, like, the whole Mesozoic Era). The summer of 2006 saw a heat wave that peaked in the second half of July. All-time heat records were set in many places across the central and western US, including my backyard, where the temperature hit 114 degrees. Sadly, this was the exact temperature required to kill both of my chickens, who (I promise) had plenty of shade and water. Additionally, the extent of Arctic sea ice was at its second lowest area of coverage in 2006; it was only slightly higher than the record low measured in 2005. Soon there really will be a northwest passage, and trade relations with Europe will improve drastically now that we'll finally have a direct route to ship all of the beaver pelts harvested along the Klamath River.

### Senior Commission Goals: Restored Use of Swimming Pool, Permanent Staff for Hart Park House and Computers

By Dean Lee

The city's Senior Community Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to politely reject an offer from the city council to hire interims as a way to temporarily relieve some staffing needs at the Senior Center saying they would like to wait until after a Senior Master Plan update. They also discussed during the regular meeting other goals and objectives for the commission and center through 2009.

At first some commissioners worried that if they waited too long, the proposed new staffing would not make it into the city's budget for another two years, but Public Works Director Bruce Inman assured them that they could move forward, possibly hiring full time staff after an updated plan.

"During the two-year budget process we go back and look at it with the council at least three times," Inman said. "It would be ideal to have it in time but it's not necessary."

He also said it was possible to have a placeholder put in a current budget for new staff during a mid-year budget review in late January and early February.

"Maybe that is something you want to bring to the forefront of your master plan discussion," he said. "So, at the staff level, we can begin to dial that in as a budget request."

Almost all city budget requests come from a Master Plan of some sort, not the other way around, said Inman.

Discussions over staffing were first brought up at the Commission's Nov. 2 meeting without any resolution as to the scheduling time and number of staff needed. The subject was subsequently sent back to the commission by a City Council during the Nov. 14 meeting, over apparent disagreements over staffing needs.

"A supervisor and a couple other positions were discussed," Commissioner Nancy Walsh said. "Those were all really what we are looking at as a full time permanent position to put in the plan."

The commission said they would have a Master Plan update by early next month.

Topping next year's senior wish list was putting in senior swimming classes seven days a week at the Youth Activity Center (YAC). If approved by the council, the classes would be held two hours a day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Commission's concerns lie in finding an instructor for instructors, level of expertise, and also life guards to fill that time. They disagreed on whether the class should be water aerobics or lap swimming.

"There will have to be some kind of cost-out done for the time to use the pool, the guards, and instructors," Walsh said.

The Commission also said they wanted to fix the shuffleboard court at the Center, (continued page 4)

### Sierra Madre Rose Float Association Popular Among HGTV Viewers

Residents should cast their votes online.

By Susan Henderson

The parade hasn't started yet, however, *Our Wonderful Wistaria* float No. 17 in the 2007 Rose Parade, is already competing for a title. On the Home and Garden TV website, [www.hgtv.com](http://www.hgtv.com) people from around the world can vote on their favorite float. This is a tight race. On Wednesday morning, we were No. 1. and at press time our position had dropped to No. 2. The competition is stiff. The floats that voters can choose from are 1) The Bayer (as in aspirin) Red Carpet of Roses - 86 votes; La Canada Flintridge's Self Built Boat - 2,279; The Lutheran Laymen's League - 7,361; Our Wistaria - 35,286 and The City of Anaheim's Always Fresh and Never Grows Old float with 38,794. Go on line and cast your vote. Log on to [www.hgtv.com](http://www.hgtv.com) and

scroll down the screen. Click on the site that says 2007 Rose Parade. Towards the end of the page, you will see a link for the Favorite Floats. Click and Vote. Let's support our volunteers and princesses.

Our Wonderful Wistaria features our natural treasure the wistaria vine, which ranks as one of the seven horticultural Wonders of the World. As the world's largest flowering plant, it sprawls over more than one and a half acres and weighs 250 tons. (Wistaria was named after botanist Henry Wistar in 1818, and Sierra Madre has adopted the less common, but more accurate spelling of "wisteria"). This year the float also represents the beginning of our 100th year. In addition to the wisteria, there will be over 20,000 dendrobium orchids imported from Thailand, serenaded by hummingbirds and dragonflies. The float contains six real waterfalls and never before seen in the Tournament of Roses, fluorescent green lemon philodendron leaves have been specially flown in from Ecuador.

There is also still time to volunteer. If interested, please contact Bonnie Colcher at (626) 355-7999.

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THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

## Ex-president Gerald Ford Dies at 93

By Dan Whitcomb (Reuters)

Gerald Ford, whose brief U.S. presidency was defined by his controversial pardon of Richard Nixon, was honored Wednesday as a man who tried to heal the nation's divisions after the Watergate scandal.

The oldest living president at 93, Ford died Tuesday of undisclosed causes at his home in California.

Ford was the only U.S. president not elected to either the presidency or vice presidency. He was appointed vice president in 1973 after Nixon's original vice president, Spiro Agnew, resigned to avoid prosecution on corruption charges.

Then Nixon became the only U.S. president to resign from office, on Aug. 9, 1974, to avoid impeachment for covering up the politically motivated burglary of the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex in Washington.

In his inaugural address, Ford famously vowed to Americans that "our long national nightmare is over." One month later, on Sept. 8, 1974, Ford stirred enduring controversy by granting Nixon "a full, free and absolute pardon" for any crime he may have committed in office.

The Watergate scandal sparked a constitutional crisis which, along with the Vietnam War, shattered Americans' faith in their government and marked the climax of a bitterly divisive era encompassing racial conflict and the counterculture movement of the 1960s.

President Bush, speaking from his ranch in Crawford, Texas, said Ford had helped heal the nation -- a sentiment echoed by his father, former president George H.W. Bush, and by Ford's two Democratic successors, Carter and Bill Clinton.

After a private funeral Friday afternoon in Palm Desert, California, Ford's body will be taken to Washington on Saturday. His casket will lie at the open doors of the House of Representatives and then be taken to the Capitol Rotunda to lie in state. A service will be held at the National Cathedral Tuesday, January 2nd at 7:30 a.m. Next Wednesday, his body will be flown to Grand Rapids, Michigan, for burial in a tomb overlooking the Ford presidential library and museum.

Ford's 2 1/2-year presidency was marked by two assassination attempts; the fall of Vietnam to communist forces; Cambodian seizure of a U.S. freighter that prompted him to send U.S. troops on a rescue mission. Ford had been ailing and largely out of the public eye for several years. He died at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday at his home in Rancho Mirage, where he had retired after the presidency. "His life was filled with love of God, his family and his country," his wife, Betty, said in a statement. Ford, who was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on July 14, 1913, is survived by four children and his wife of 58 years, Betty. The Betty Ford Center she helped found in 1982 is viewed as a top center for treating drug and alcohol abuse.

### A Sad Statistic for 2006 - So Far



As this year comes to an end, let us not forget the brave men and women who have served this country in the armed forces. Remember their families and whether or not you agree with the task to which they have been assigned, remember to always support our soldiers.

Following are the latest figures for military deaths in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003 as of December 26, 2006:

U.S.-LED COALITION FORCES:	
United States	2,983
Britain	126
Other nations	123

## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, December 17th, to Saturday December 23rd, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 228 calls for service.

### Wednesday, December 20th:

10:04 AM - Vandalism, 100 block Rancho Rd. A resident called to report the driver's side window of her car smashed. The car was parked Tuesday, 12/19 at 10:00 PM and the damage was discovered, 12/20 at 10:04 AM. No property was reported missing from the car.

12:55 PM - Grand Theft, 600 block Edgeview Drive. A resident called to report the theft of cash and credit card from his house. The loss occurred between Saturday 11/8 and Wednesday 12/20. The resident believes he knows who stole the cash and credit cards.

8:39 PM - Auto burglary, 160 North Canon Ave. A teacher at Sierra Madre Primary School reported the rear window of her car smashed. The following was reported stolen: a brown COACH purse, Canon Camera, Liz Claiborne wallet and contents (Driver's license, credit cards and check book) stolen. The property was in plain view on the back seat. The total loss was valued at \$600.00.

### Thursday, December 21st:

10:19 AM - Auto Burglary report, 800 block East Grandview Ave. A contractor working in the city reported tools stolen from his truck. The loss occurred between 9:40 AM and 10:10 AM today. The truck was reported locked, but unattended in front of a home where he was working. The property reported stolen: a De Walt cordless drill, Pro Max Refrigerant recovery machine, vacuum pump and spare tire. The loss was estimated at \$1650.00.

### Friday, December 22nd:

3:37 AM - Recovered Auto, One arrest, 00 block Esperanza Ave. Patrol Officer Amos saw a man quickly walking away from a parked car. A records check of the car's license number revealed the car was reported stolen. The man, a parolee, was detained and arrested for grand theft auto. Officers recovered a small bag next to where Off. Amos detained the driver. It contained methamphetamine, a glove, and shaved car keys, commonly used by thieves to steal and break in cars. The man was taken to the Pasadena jail where a parole hold was placed on him.

### SENIORS (continued from page 3)

put in two new computers and a multi-media center which could include a large screen TV, among other things.

"Just so we get this straight, let me read off the list and then you can so move," Inman said. "We have, The Hart House capital improvements as part of the Master Plan, place holder for Hart House full time staffing, two new computers and software, printers and instructors, implementation of a seven day, two-hour pool use, shuffleboard court repair and new equipment, entertainment/media center with PA and large screen TV, horseshoes, contract services and line item for program instructors...and seed money for the programs set at \$1,500."

All the items will be taken before the city council as budget requests Inman said.

## Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown



It rained this week again and winter seems to have finally arrived, so we ask "has the fire danger passed for this year?" It even snowed at the higher elevations of Sierra Madre--at Yale Peak, 4760' elevation, in the Sierra Madre Historical Wilderness! This is good for the watershed and fire fighting conditions, yet, residents living in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, with some historical perspective, know that this year's fire season has not passed. It pays to stay alert and keep going over all the brush clearance requirements and ways to make homes safe from embers that are blown ahead of the fire's advance. Why? Our last Sierra Madre brush fire started December 26, 1999 on Chantry Flat Road. A stolen car was abandoned after its brakes caught fire as the thieves were driving downhill toward the gate. Does a December fire seem "out of season" in our foothills? An arson fire started on Monrovia Peak, December 27, 1953 and burned westward to the ridge line west of Mt. Wilson Trail. Our next Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council is January 8, 2007, 7 P.M. at the City Council Chambers. For information call: 355-9350 or 355-1182. E-mail us at: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com and visit the State FSC website: www.firesafecouncil.org

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# 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 Princess for Pasadena's Royal Court

By Grace Persico

For seventeen-year old Danielle Vine, the Rose Parade isn't just a once a year tradition. "Both my sisters tried out," she says, "It was a big deal because we always go to the parade."

Walking into the Associated Student Body (ASB) room of Pasadena High School, where she is a twelfth grade student, it's easy to see she is a very well-liked person. "Danielle don't you have to be at the Rose House?" A fellow member yells from the other room.



Photo Courtesy of the Vine Family

"Not until 11," she replies, turning back to continue the interview.

"Everyone's been really supportive," she smiles, but she admits it hasn't been easy.

I can see how it wouldn't be, most high school students barely have time to finish homework much less be called out of class several days a week. "You don't have any time for friends. And just no downtime." You would never know it by talking to her though; she seems very excited about this opportunity. And being the first Pasadena High School student on the court in more than twenty years who wouldn't be?

She didn't just walk in and they handed it to her though, "We had to go through four rounds of tryouts," before being selected. More than a thousand girls were interviewed over a couple of weekends and the search was narrowed down each week until seven of the best and brightest were selected.

With all these talented young women, it must have been very hard to decide. However while the interview process is exhausting it is effective, it helps judges get a feel of the contestants and what their all about. Danielle tells me that "You just need to be well rounded." Several of her extra curricula's include being the publicity commissioner on ASB and a member of the varsity tennis team. Some of her other interests include running track and acting in musicals. "You need lots of community service," she says.

Danielle is also a fan of school spirit, which she poses an abundance of. Showing up to football games clad in her red and white sweatshirt, she has a large red number one on her back and cheers enthusiastically for her team.

Though she has only just started her senior year at PHS, she knows she wants to attend a four year university and study business.

Congratulations to Danielle and the rest of the 2007 Tournament of Roses Court. This year marks the 89<sup>th</sup> annual Tournament of Roses parade, you can see the Rose Court and all the rest of the New Year's Day excitement this January 1<sup>st</sup>. *Grace Persico is a journalism student at Pasadena High School*

## As We Enter This New Year - A Concerned Citizen Speaks Out

With the 2006-2007 school year well under way, it is once again the time for high school seniors to begin the sometimes overwhelming process of applying to college(s). It is especially daunting now more than ever, as college tuition rates and fees in the U.S. are skyrocketing and financial aid and government loans are becoming available to fewer students.

According to the College Board, between 2000 and 2005, the average cost of tuition at public universities has increased 40% and nearly 19% at both private and two-year community colleges. Unfortunately, very few students are receiving the financial help needed in order to meet these costs. If you are not a stellar athlete or academic wiz, no free money for you. If your parent's income pushes you over the line into "middle-class" territory, schools assume you have the

necessary resources to pay for most of your education. Many children are left out in the cold, only to feel the bitter sting of mediocrity. Our universities are sending certain students a harsh message: if you don't happen to completely meet our standards of who receives financial aid, good luck paying off those numerous and plentiful college loans.

It is becoming tougher and tougher for students attempting to break into the world of educational opportunities that society tells them is vitally important (and rightfully so, as adults with a Bachelor's Degree make nearly 60% more at a typical, year-round job than those with only a high school diploma) to receive a higher education that won't break the bank.

Selena Mone  
Sierra Madre CA, 91024

## Bulldog Marching Band Wins 1st Place

By Katina Dunn

Pasadena High School's Bulldog Marching Band won First Place Awards at the Battle of the Bands in Santa Barbara recently. Santa Barbara High School hosted the competition by the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association earlier this month.

"I'm proud of the band and what they did with the show," said Music Director David Miller. "We had a unique show this year."

The program included songs from the Broadway musical "Rent" and many solos from the music students. Soloists included Aurora Sanchez on the xylophone; Briana Dacoscos sang; Victoria Manuel performed on electric violin; Daniel Whalen on soprano sax and a duet was featured with alto sax players Justin Jones and Krikor Manougian.

The First Place awards were given for Band, Percussion and Color Guard (Tall Flags) categories.

"We feel we accomplished a lot at that show," said Miller. "We had a lot going on..."

## Have You Written A Very Short Play?

The Drama Committee of the First United Methodist Church of Pasadena is seeking submissions of five-minute plays for possible reading in the spring program, date to be announced. Writers age 18-25 are encouraged. No royalties will be paid for any play selected. Plays considered will be PG-rated and include no offensive language.

To be considered, two copies of a play must be submitted to the church office, 500 E. Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena 91101, Attention: Drama Committee, no later than January 15. Plays should include playwright's name, telephone, address and email contact information. Do not send originals as play submissions will not be returned. If a play is selected, the playwright will be notified by March 1.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

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

Sunday, January 7 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Open House

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

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

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

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 Saturday, January 6  
(Make-up)  
8:00 - 9:00a.m.

7 - 10 Year-olds Saturday, January 6  
9:00a.m. - Noon

7 - 10 Year-olds Tuesday, January 9  
(Make-up)  
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.



## Healthy Family Fun

Saturday, December 30, 2006  
9:00 am

Grab your sneakers, family, & friends

Capture the  
Flag

& come to Sierra Vista Park for a  
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 (626) 355-3463

# Looking Up

With Bob Eklund



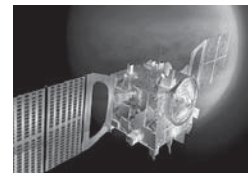
## SKYLIGHTS OF 2006

2006 may have been just a so-so year here on Planet Earth, but in space, spectacular things were happening. Here are my favorites:

**BRINGING HOME A COMET** — 2006 began with a stunning space success. On January 15, NASA's Stardust spacecraft cruised past Earth and released a 101-pound capsule containing dust samples captured two years earlier when it flew by Comet Wild 2.

The capsule hit Earth's atmosphere moving at 28,860 mph—the fastest reentry ever—and safely parachuted its precious cargo to the Utah desert. More than 200 scientists went to work analyzing the dust particles. Astronomer Donald Brownlee of the University of Washington, lead scientist for the mission and co-author of six papers on Stardust being published in the December 15 edition of the *Journal of Science*, said the particles revealed that as the Solar System formed 4.6 billion years ago, material moved from the innermost part to the outermost part. I think of it as the Solar System partially turning itself inside out.

**RETURNING TO VENUS** — A 12-year



hiatus in Venus exploration ended April 11 when the European Space Agency's Venus Express spacecraft settled into orbit around the planet. Venus was once considered Earth's twin, based on their similarities in size. However, earlier probes by the United States and the Soviet Union showed it to be extremely hot (870°F at the surface) and covered with perpetual clouds composed mainly of sulfuric acid. Venus Express has already provided the first detailed look at the planet's south polar vortex, a double-eyed atmospheric whirlpool.

**DISCOVERING 200 EXOPLANETS... AND COUNTING** — By late July, new



discoveries had pushed the known number of planets orbiting stars other than the Sun past the 200 mark. One of these stars, the Sun-like HD 69830, 42 light-years away in the constellation Puppis, was found to have three planets roughly the size of Neptune. The outermost of these resides in the star's so-called habitable zone, where liquid water can exist on the surface. "This is hot stuff," said Alan Boss, a theorist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, adding that finding such a system "makes the case for there being many earthlike planets out there all the more compelling."

**LOSING PLANET PLUTO** — The astronomy story that garnered the most headlines in 2006 had more to do with bureaucracy than discovery. When an August meeting of the world's astronomers convened in Prague, the Solar System had nine planets. When it adjourned, there were only eight.

Pluto was cast out when 424 members of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the official source for celestial names, decided that it should be placed in a new class of "dwarf planets." The change was instigated by the discovery, in 2005, of a new planet farther from the Sun, nicknamed Xena (later officially named Eris), found to be 5 percent bigger than Pluto. The astronomers present argued that there was no logical reason for Pluto to be called a planet and not Eris—and in the end this opinion prevailed. However, the debate may not be over. A considerable public uproar over Pluto's demotion has ensued, and a number of astronomers feel that the IAU decision was made unfairly—happening, as it did, at the end of the conference as a last-minute item of business, after many of the attendees had left. They argue that other criteria besides sheer size (including historical precedent) should be considered—and they vow to reverse the decision at the next meeting. Stay tuned!

**GAINING AN OBSERVATORY** — Stars and planets came down to Earth in Los Angeles on November 3, when Griffith Observatory reopened after a 5-year closure for major reconstruction.



This public observatory and planetarium has been a major Los Angeles landmark since its construction in 1935. A centerpiece of the \$93 million renovation and expansion is the "Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon," a 200-seat multi-media theater. It was named for the well-known actor ("Mr. Spock" in the original *Star Trek* series) in recognition of generous contributions from him and his wife, Susan Bay-Nimoy. "Our purpose," said Griffith Director E.C. Krupp, "is to make people more at home in the Universe—to turn visitors into observers." During the busy re-opening period, visitor access is by pre-paid reservation only. Parking is remote, with shuttle buses to the Observatory. Hours: Tue.-Fri. noon-10:00 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. (closed Mondays). Shuttle reservations can be made online or by calling (888) 695-0888. Info: [www.GriffithObs.org](http://www.GriffithObs.org) or (213) 473-0800.

**UPDATING THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES** — Mars exploration took a quantum leap in 2006, as the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) entered orbit around the Red Planet on March 10 and began sending us pictures of the surface with unprecedented detail. MRO's weather sensors record temperatures and atmospheric water-vapor content, while its mineral mapper can identify water-related deposits. Its high-resolution camera sees rocks the size of a small desk, while a radar instrument probes



for buried ice and water. The spacecraft's most spectacular finding to date was announced by NASA December 6. When scientists compared pictures of a water-eroded area taken by the new imager this year with pictures of the same area taken by Mars Global Surveyor in 1999, 2004, and 2005, they saw bright new deposits of sediment in the new pictures not present in the earlier ones, suggesting that water flowed there sometime in the past seven years. According to Michael Malin of Malin Space Science Systems in San Diego, principal investigator for the MRO camera, the findings suggest that Mars might indeed have a below-ground wet habitat conducive to life. Could there be life on Mars after all? The jury, it would appear, is still out.

From Paul The Cyberian

## Congratulations... But Be Careful!

Yes, congratulations are in order on your being voted Time Magazine's Person of the Year for 2006. Well... maybe not You in particular but definitely You as a part of the newest living organism on planet Earth: The Internet.

The Internet was known for a very long time as the domain of the nerd but in the last year or so it has revealed itself as the Everyman Tool of the Masses. This year more than any other has shown that one man, woman or child can really make a difference. It seemed to myself and many others that the Computing Individual on the Web stood out as the star of more than a few news stories this year.

Bloggers (Left and Right) fueled a successful political movement to reinsert John and Jane Q. Public back into the thick of the American political process. Bloggers were also responsible for huge changes in the direction that America is now taking. Traditional journalists even had to take a respectful step back and look at the new entity.

Johnny and Janey-on-the-spot really lived up to their monikers by giving the web-viewing public the ability to see major news stories as they happened. In most cases, the blogs informed us before we even knew that what we were watching was a major event. As a result, every appliance maker is trying to find a way to incorporate this new power into their futures.

...and it's all thanks to You!

As the newly crowned media darling

please remember to always use safe computing practices as you explore the new horizons now beckoning you to visit.

Always insure that your computer is fully protected with the latest Service Packs and Security Patches for your Operating System. Keep your Anti-Virus protection and your Firewall updated with the latest patches and always see to it that every account on your computer has a strong password. These few simple steps will keep most internet surfing problems at bay while you make your mark in this Brave, New World.

My very favorite web story for 2006 was about an autistic High School student named Jason McElwain. Jason was a local celebrity at his school due to his winning personality and his outgoing nature. He also happened to be an avid basketball player even though he never made the JV or Varsity squad at Greece Athena High School in Greece, NY.

On the final game of his Senior year J-Mac switched from his usual role as Team Manager to Kobe-esque Point Guard for the last four minutes of an important game. J-Mac went on to score 20 points in what has to be nominated as the "feel-good" story of the year. You can watch the video of this at YouTube.com.

The regular basketball coach who was not present at the game remarked that if you told me about what happened without video proof I wouldn't have believed it. But, because of You, technology allowed the coach to see the miracle as it was happening.

Thanks to You we can all see it now.

Happy New Year.

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

## WorkForce with Madeline

**Q:** I'm a medical secretary. I consider myself to be an excellent worker who has great computer, organizational, and people skills. After being employed at my current office for just a few weeks, Dr. X asked me to go out and get him some donuts. The list of personal chores I seem to be responsible for keeps increasing. Dr. X has asked me to make his car appointments, pick up his wife at the airport, drive his son to soccer practice, and write his thank-you notes. I'm very overwhelmed but not exactly sure how to handle this situation. Please help.

**A:** I'm almost certain your job description does not mention doing personal chores for your boss. This, to me, sounds very demeaning. It's time you stop stewing and take action.

Approach Dr. X and air your feelings. Speak in a soft, calm voice as this will get your message across more readily. Get right to the point by saying that you feel these extra tasks are out of your realm of job responsibilities. Mention that because they take up so much of your time, you are not able to fully concentrate on what you were hired for. Doing a less than perfect job is upsetting to you.

If Dr. X's response is negative, then it's time to start looking for another position. You cannot continue to be his servant. However, Dr. X might be more receptive of your complaints than you think. If you are as good a worker as you claim, he would probably not be that eager to start training someone else.

**Q:** Is it necessary to include the traditional line "References Available Upon Request" at the bottom of my résumé? I don't have room to put it in.

**A:** Absolutely not. References will be asked for whether or not this line is there. Better to include relevant information than take up space with something that is unimportant.

However, this reference line does serve a minor purpose. It gives the résumé a sense of completion – somewhat like a period at the end of a thought.

You can direct your questions to Madeline at [comptype2@aol.com](mailto:comptype2@aol.com) or call 888-489-8372 (8 AM – 6 PM, Monday – Friday).



"You may now enter your username and password."



# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

A DEUXAMIS PUBLICATION



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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  
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**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.

## OPINION

### APOLOGY FOR PRINTERS

(Publisher's Note: These excerpts were written in by Benjamin Franklin 1731 and references that were generic in nature at that time, are considered politically incorrect today. Further, the evolution of English in this country has facilitated certain expressions having much narrower descriptions. Franklin's references to "printers", if these passages were written today, would be substituted for the word "publishers".

As it appeared in *The Pennsylvania Gazette* published by Ben Franklin on May 27, 1731

"Being frequently censur'd and condemn'd by different Persons for printing Things which they say ought not to be printed, I have sometimes thought it might be necessary to make a standing Apology for my self, and publish it once a Year, to be read upon all Occasions of that Nature."

"I request all who are angry with me on the Account of printing things they don't like, calmly to consider these following Particulars

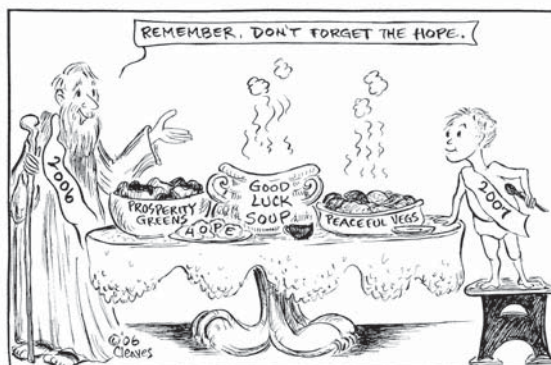
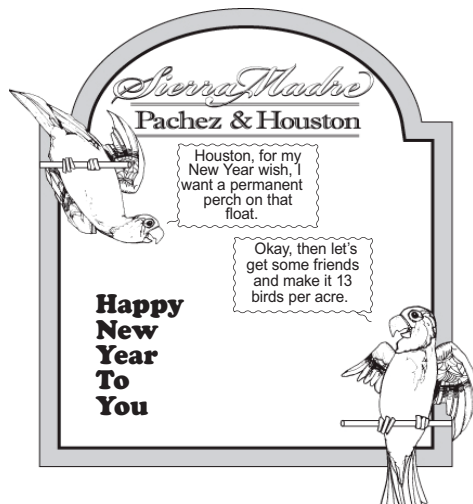
1. That the Opinions of Men are almost as various as their Faces; an Observation general enough to become a common Proverb, "So many Men so many Minds."
2. That the Business of Printing has chiefly to do with Mens Opinions; most things that are printed tending to promote some, or oppose others.
3. That hence arises the peculiar Unhappiness of that Business, which other Callings are no way liable to; they who follow Printing being scarce able to do any thing in their way of getting a Living, which shall not probably give Offence to some, and perhaps to many; whereas the Smith, the Shoemaker, the Carpenter, or the Man of any other Trade, may work indifferently for People of all Persuasions, without offending any of them; and the Merchant may buy and sell with Jews, Turks, Hereticks, and Infidels of all sorts, and get Money by every one of them, without giving Offence to the most orthodox, of any sort; or suffering the least Censure or Ill-will on the Account from any Man whatever.
4. That it is as unreasonable in any one Man or Set of Men to expect to be pleas'd with every thing that is printed, as to think that nobody ought to be pleas'd but themselves.
5. Printers are educated in the Belief, that when Men differ in Opinion, both Sides ought equally to have the Advantage of being heard by the Publick; and that when Truth and Error have fair Play, the former is always an overmatch for the latter: Hence they cheerfully serve all contending Writers that pay them well, without regarding on which side they are of the Question in Dispute.
6. That if all Printers were determin'd not to print any thing till they were sure it would offend no body, there would be very little printed.

I take leave to conclude with an old Fable, which some of my Readers have heard before, and some have not.

"A certain well-meaning Man and his Son, were travelling towards a Market Town, with an Ass which they had to sell. The Road was bad; and the old Man therefore rid, but the Son went a-foot. The first Passenger they met, asked the Father if he was not ashamed to ride by himself, and suffer the poor Lad to wade along thro' the Mire; this induced him to take up his Son behind him: He had not travelled far, when he met others, who said, they were two unmerciful Lubbers to get both on the Back of that poor Ass, in such a deep Road. Upon this the old Man gets off, and let his Son ride alone. The next they met called the Lad a graceless, rascally young Jackanapes, to ride in that Manner thro' the Dirt, while his aged Father trudged along on Foot; and they said the old Man was a Fool, for suffering it. He then bid his Son come down, and walk with him, and they travell'd on leading the Ass by the Halter; 'till they met another Company, who called them a Couple of senseless Blockheads, for going both on Foot in such a dirty Way, when they had an empty Ass with them, which they might ride upon. The old Man could bear no longer; My Son, said he, it grieves me much that we cannot please all these People; Let us throw the Ass over the next Bridge, and be no farther troubled with him."

Had the old Man been seen acting this last Resolution, he would probably have been call'd a Fool for troubling himself about the different Opinions of all that were pleas'd to find Fault with him: Therefore, tho' I have a Temper almost as complying as his, I intend not to imitate him in this last Particular. I consider the Variety of Humours among Men, and despair of pleasing every Body; yet I shall not therefore leave off Printing. I shall continue my Business. I shall not burn my Press and melt my Letters."

Happy New Year, Katina Dunn and Susan Henderson, Publishers of The Mt. Wilson Observer



# The Beauty Intelligencer

Sierra Madre is home to a number of expert spa and beauty treatment practitioners. Each place has its own special qualities, resources and feeling about it, just like the clients it attracts. Definitely, one never has to leave town to get the finest *au courant* look and receive the very best in care. There is no excuse not to look and feel your best, with all the expert talent available here. The following businesses also offer gift certificates and beneficial products from different beauty lines.

For good looks on the inside out, try **Footsmarts Reflexology** with **Despina Arzouman**. Reflexology is an ancient practice predicated on the assumption that the ears, hands and feet correlate to different parts of the body. The technique is similar to massage of the ears, hands and feet and the resulting feeling at the end of the session is also similar to that of massage. It's a definite, relaxing change for the better overall and this is attested by clients who return frequently for regular sessions. Arzouman is certified by the American Academy of Reflexology and a member of the practice's professional organizations. Visit [www.footsmarts-reflexology.com](http://www.footsmarts-reflexology.com) Telephone (626) 355-3414.

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Knowledge of the back is one of **Jean Galbraith's** talents as a therapeutic masseuse. Galbraith is a retired nurse who runs **Harmony Skin Care and Day Spa**. She still works at a hospital part of the week doing therapeutic massage on patients.

Galbraith created her spa to be a relaxing experience. "Once you walk through the front door you begin to immediately de-stress yourself," she said. Water fountains, soft music and scented rooms create a peaceful mood. "I want to help people put sane-ness back into their lives," said Galbraith. Another aspect of Harmony is that Galbraith wanted to maintain her services at an affordable level. Galbraith has a full service spa for men and women featuring skin care, facials, waxing, scrubs, wraps and massages. Makeup custom blended to your skin tone is \$45 per ounce. Galbraith also sells Pureology hair products. Galbraith celebrates ten years in business. From December 25, 2006 to January 1, 2007, subtract \$15 for each service as a thank you. Visit [www.harmonyspa.com](http://www.harmonyspa.com) 31 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Telephone (626) 836-1061

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**Yvonne Fata and Tanya Edmonds** are the nurturing team behind **Center for Wellbeing** and now they are involved in creating Home Spa Parties – complete with décor and spa services for bridal groups, couples and birthday parties. A party for eight 13 year-old girls is one of their latest bookings.

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Sierra Madre, CA 91024

The types of massage include Swedish, Shiatsu, Heated Stone, Thai Massage which utilizes acupressure and yoga positions, Sports Massage with deep tissue work and stretching techniques and gentle Peri-Natal massage for expectant mothers.

They sell the Jan Marini line of medical-grade skincare which includes the very popular eyelash extensions at \$160 for a tube which will last six to nine months. The success of the lash lengthener is so great that Fata said she had to cut her long eyelashes. This product is on order again, although it is now found on eBay for twice the price. It works for eyebrows and raises immediate questions on a future formula for baldness. Senior discounts are available for those 65 years and older. [www.centerwellbeing.com](http://www.centerwellbeing.com) 20 N. Baldwin Ave. Telephone (626) 355-2443.

**Annaliese and Albert Vergara** of **Lunch Salon** specialize in "all hair all the time."

Ten stylists work out of the homey salon on Baldwin, one of the most comfy spots to disappear in and come out transformed. Younger stylists do the "wilder" looks for teens and the older stylists cater to adult clientele – men and women. The specialty of the shop is color, and for winter, Annaliese said they are deepening color from mocha browns to coppery blondes and burgundy reds. Hot rollers give hair a soft look for evenings, and Lunch also offers a special treatment for extra shine.

For holiday gifts or everyday care, Lunch sells a complete line of Aveda products, including make-up, hair treatments such as rosemary mint shampoo and a men's shaving line. Aveda's "Pure Abundance" hair thickener powder (\$22) is hard to keep in stock. Makeup products include shimmer accents for cheeks and décolletage (\$18); cheek and lip crème (\$15.16), and silky eye accent (\$15.16). Boar bristle hairbrushes are also good stocking stuffers (\$14 to \$30). Lunch is open Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. [www.lunchsalon.com](http://www.lunchsalon.com) 65 N. Baldwin Ave. Telephone (626) 355-1481

**CAPELLI COURT**  
Salon

31 NORTH  
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AVENUE  
SIERRA  
MADRE,  
CA 91024

626-836-1242

There is a generosity of spirit throughout **Capelli Court**. It could be the world beat music playing in the background that is the happy obsession of stylist **David Pietrangolo**. Or the vibe of the place in general, which includes its friendly receptionist, **Rita**. This is a full service salon offering cuts and color by many stylists, including owners **Ester Goren** and **Marinella Pollo**; manicures and pedicures by **Kristy** and facials and waxing by **Nancy**. Also owned by **Karen Williams**, the Capelli Court Salon generously extended space to The Hair Upstairs after that shop was damaged by fire and water.

It offers unique lines of beauty products, including Woody's for boys and young men. Named after the classic surfer's station wagon, Woody's makes styling gel, shampoo, soap, shaving cream and beeswax hair pomade. Capelli Court also offers products from Pureology, Alterna, I.C.O.N. hydrating line, Catwalk, Bedhead and Redken; the medicated Nioxin line for psoriasis, thinning hair, and other scalp challenges; high tech T3 Tourmaline flatirons and blow dryers; and candles by Archipelago Botanicals for \$19 to \$21 in scents such as orange/cinnamon/spice and lemon verbena/lavender/thyme. 51 N. Baldwin Ave. Telephone (626) 836-1242

**Karin's** offers hair color from the exclusive Goldwell line, Japanese hair straightening, hair extensions, and special occasion up-do's.

A former ballerina, **Karin Mortellaro** followed in her grandmother Ethel's footsteps – not only was **Ethel Guilfoyle** a dancer, but she had her hair done in the very same spot Karin is at now, only then it was called Les Girls Coiffures. Her mother, **Glenda**, sometimes works at the salon, when she is not dancing in the Palm Springs Follies. Karin's salon is very entertainment oriented in clientele, serving lots of TV people and other business professionals. She has worked with the Goldwell color line for 25 years. Salons are usually public places, so Karin offers rooms in the back for quieter, more contemplative clientele. A back wall displays a peaceful mural of palm trees, painted by her sister, Stacy. Karin says her shop "feels like family." The complete Pureology line is sold here, as well as tubs of moisturizing Mediterranean Spa "Body Butter" made from cocoa butter and other ingredients for \$25 for more than 15 ounces. Each month, four demonstrations. If you are interested in participating in these Karin. 370 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Ste. G 626-355-0521

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## Galette des Rois

Galette des Rois is the traditional French New Year's "King's Cake" which is eaten through the months of December and January. A bean is dropped into each cake and the finder is "King" of the party and obligated to bring next year's cake.

For a good puff pastry recipe with illustrated steps, visit [www.pastrychef.com](http://www.pastrychef.com)

Pepperidge Farm also makes a good puff pastry dough which is found in the grocer's freezer.

Each galette is individualized according to the person making it, and families often keep these recipes secret.

The King's Cake is also connected with the traditions of the Epiphany, or Twelfth Night held Saturday, January 6 in 2007. In Western churches, the Epiphany celebrates the realization by gentiles of Christ as Savior. In Eastern churches, the Epiphany is the anniversary of the baptism of Christ.

The tradition itself is a celebration known for good fellowship and much merry making.

Galette des Rois - Recipe courtesy of Kareen Pietrangelo

- 1 pound puff pastry dough
- 1 cup ground almonds
- ¾ cup powdered sugar
- 5 oz. Softened butter
- 2 whole eggs
- 1 tablespoon dark rum
- 1 beaten egg yolk for glaze
- 1 bean

Cream butter and add almonds, sugar, eggs and rum. Divide puff pastry dough in half and roll each half into 12 inch circles. Place one round on a cookie sheet. Pour the filling in the middle and spread, leaving a 1-inch margin all around. Drop the bean.

Cover with the second circle of dough. Pinch the ends to seal. Glaze the surface with beaten egg yolk. Cut shapes in the top for decoration. Bake at 400 degrees for about 35 minutes.

## The Funnies

### NASA Launches Probe To Inform Pluto Of Demotion

Reprinted by permission  
The Onion - December, 2006

In August, the International Astronomical Union downgraded Pluto to a dwarf planet. The panel of experts met to officially redefine the characteristics of a planet. To deliver the news to the distant orb about its newly lowered status, scientists at NASA's Kennedy Space Center launched a special messenger probe in September.

"It's tough, but we thought giving it to Pluto straight was the right thing to do," NASA Chief Engineer James Wood said. "After all, it put in 76 years as our ninth planet - it just didn't seem fair to break the news with an impersonal radio transmission beamed from Earth."

The Consoler probe is scheduled to reach Pluto in 2016. Upon landing on the planetoid's surface, the probe will relay to Pluto the news of its demotion, then orbit the tiny celestial body and radio messages of gratitude for its eons of planetary service to convince Pluto that it is still a highly valued part of the solar system's configuration. "Pluto is more than 3.5 billion miles from the sun," Wood said. "Launching that probe felt like the best way to avoid alienating it any further."

Wood said Consoler will "take pains" to explain to Pluto that the reasons for the demotion "had nothing to do with anything it did personally."

"It was a great planet, and it

will be a great dwarf planet," Wood said of Pluto's tenure. "No one is questioning its orbit around the sun, and of course Pluto's gravity and pressure gradient force is plenty sufficient to maintain hydrostatic equilibrium. Pluto still has three moons: Charon, Hydra and Nix. No one's going to take that away from it."

Scientists at NASA have taken precautions that word of the demotion will not reach Pluto before Consoler does. The New Horizons probe, which will pass by Pluto in July 2015, has been instructed to maintain radio silence. It is, however, programmed to congratulate nearby Eris and Ceres for their promotion from asteroids to dwarf planets.

"The Consoler probe will reach Pluto on a Friday, if our calculations are correct," Wood said. "It's always better to do this kind of thing right before the weekend."



## Carefree Gourmet

By Dean Lee

Pasadena city employees Pam Kietzman and Andrea Olguin had an idea to create a unique and different cookbook. They did.

"Carefree Gourmet" is a godsend for anyone with a demanding schedule, and who doesn't know how to throw a party without getting bogged down with planning, preparing or cleanup.

That said, the two shared easy quick recipes from the book, perfect for the holidays, during a recent book signing Wednesday at the Light Bringer Project's Metro Gallery in Old Town Pasadena, which they catered.

They highly recommended the Pesto Cream Cheese Finger Sandwiches as an easy holiday treat.

The book's easy to follow layout and big glossy photos comes directly from their backgrounds, with Kietzman a photographer, and Olguin a former professional caterer now working for the City of Pasadena's Information and Technology division. Kietzman works in Pasadena's Planning and Development Department where the two met.

The book is divided into six sections, each with its own unique "party theme" from "Dazzling Desserts" to "The Casual Cajun" and even a "Brazilian Bar-B-Que."

None of the recipes were created by the duo, and that is not what the book is about.

"Some of them came from newspapers that I had clipped out, others off the back of soup cans," Kietzman said. "We both have a passion for cooking and I had all these recipes from over the years. We went through them and picked the ones that were the easiest to make."

Olguin added, "Some of them were always being requested by our families and friends and others were just simply 'die for.' The point of each is that they can be made in an ordinary kitchen using everyday things."

They also said they are confident that each of the recipes are fail proof having tried them out a number of times. Each party theme has its own time-line and grocery list. The time-lines all vary but

start weeks before with event planning and end minutes before guests arrive.

"With the list, people can see if they already have what's needed keeping the cost down and it also makes for easy planning," Kietzman said.

The book also suggests types of music to play, décor, table setting, and invitations.

"For the most enjoyment, try to invite friends who know at least one guest, other than you, that have interests in common, or you think will hit it off," they wrote.

Another plus they said is that every dish uses the same type of utensils limiting the need to buy anything special and adds to the ease of cleanup.

"You will see the same serving dishes and utensils in all the pictures," Kietzman said. "We wanted to make sure people could identify with this stuff and go, 'I have that, I have that, and that.'"

Through the success of the book, the authors said they are now working on five other books, including a children's collection, and one for the trendy crowd.

The Light Bringer Project is known for its large scale art events, most notably, last month's 30th annual Doo Dah Parade in which thousands of people line the streets of Old Town to watch the zany action. Other Light Bringer events include the world renowned Absolut Chalk Street Painting Festival, Arroyo Seco Earth Day Walk, American Indian Festival and Marketplace, and Culture Factory at One Colorado.

For more information about the gallery, Contact: Patricia Hurley at 626 205 4029 or visit [www.lightbringerproject.com](http://www.lightbringerproject.com)

The self published Carefree Gourmet cookbook can be found at [www.carefreegourmet.com/buybook](http://www.carefreegourmet.com/buybook) for \$30.40, and at the AuthorHouse bookstore at [www.authorhouse.com/BookStore](http://www.authorhouse.com/BookStore).

For those that can't wait, each individual complete party can be downloaded for \$4.95 at the Carefree Gourmet website.

### Pesto and Cream Cheese Finger Sandwiches

No. of Servings 15  
Prep Time: 1 Hour 20 Minutes  
Cooking Time: None



An easy holiday treat.

- 1 8oz pkg Cream Cheese - Softened
- 1/3 cup prepared Pesto
- 2 tbsps grated parmesan cheese
- 1 tbsp chopped ripe olives
- 1 tbsps. diced pimentos
- 1 Loaf Quality Thinly Sliced Fresh Wheat Bread (if available at bakery, have it sliced)

Set cheese out on counter for 1 hour to soften. Blend cream cheese, pesto sauce and parmesan cheese with an electric mixer until smooth. Stir in chopped olives and pimentos. Cover and refrigerate at least one hour. To assemble, spread softened cream cheese filling about 1/8th of an inch thick. Top with another slice of wheat bread. Trim the crust off the wheat bread. Cut into four squares. Serve on Platter or raised cake plate. Recipe may be doubled; should not be frozen.

Courtesy of Carefree Gourmet

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

### The Other Parade...

It has been suggested to those of us who contribute to this new, and I think very well done, *Mt. Wilson Observer*, that our last column of the year reflect the best of 2006. Well, for someone in "the biz," I guess that would be an easy task. Then there's me...The only writing I have ever done in the past consisted of infrequent letters to friends, an occasional letter to the editor, and currently, the monthly newsletter I write for seniors in Sierra Madre called Senior Moments...

If I covered the political scene, whether it be local or national, this year-end column would be a "no-brainer," as they say. It could and would be on par with War and Peace in length alone, if not in substance...Oops, I got carried away. If there is

a next year for me column-wise, I will certainly begin to make lists of the good, the bad and the ugly...or maybe not. Here we go...

Frankly, I am just grateful that the "Parade of the Christmas Sweaters" is over. It is just a tiresome ritual. Some people don't even bother getting the 360 day crease marks out of them. I guess the paraders don't have time to do that because they are already gearing up for the after holiday sales. Can the "Pre-Valentine's Day sale," the "after-Valentine's Day sale," the "pre-St. Patrick's Day sale," etc. etc. be far behind?

I am truly sorry that Rod Serling is no longer with us because his take on how, as I mentioned last week, the marketing companies in this country control the way we live would fit perfectly into his "Twilight Zone." It is truly Spooky...

News flash! Wall Street Report...Moth ball sales go through the roof! Burgeoning sales mean only one thing, those Christmas sweaters are simultaneously being returned to the limbo where they hover until next year's parade... I think rather than fold mine this time, I will hang it up in the closet. I'll put it in between my orange sweater with "BOO" written across the front in black sparkles, and the Kelly green, "Kiss me I'm Irish" sweat shirt. There, no creases for me. Happy New Year!

# SPORTS

## These Guys & Girls are GOOD! 2006 Winners In Action



Many thanks to photographers:

Jacqueline Truong (football); Mark Lansdown, Girls Volleyball  
Dave Johnston, Pony League

### Let's Do A Better Job Next Year

Well it's the end of the year a time for reflecting and contemplating. As I sit on the couch and think about sports in our society and the role that they play, I am left with the thought that there is much that needs to be done. We need to do something to bring back the positive image of playing sports. From little league to the professional, the price of winning has become too great. We have seen all the bad acts - bad acting players of all ages, bad acting parents and bad acting coaches at pro games and the games of our children. We also have sat on the sidelines and watched performance enhancing drugs have carved their way into sports. We've watched mind altering drugs shorten many a career. Too many players have ended up in the Jail of Fame instead of the Hall Of Fame. The password seems to be don't

get caught. The slogan of former first lady Nancy Regan "Just say no" never made it to the world of sports.

So what is the solution, what should coaches and parents be doing? My solution may sound as if it has little to do with the problem, but I think it would go far in helping to reach a positive solution. What is needed is a real love for the game, whatever game you are playing and then a real respect for those players that have played before you. This requires knowledge of the history of your game, knowing what those players did and what they had to endure in order to succeed. That knowledge will add to your love and respect of the game. If you love something you will not abuse it. do you think Tiger Woods plays for the money only, or that the money is



### View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

the moving factor in his playing of golf? I have never met the young man but somehow I know that his playing says more about his love for the game than it does about the money that can be made. He decided at a young age what goals to strive for. He wanted to surpass Jack's records, so he studied him while learning the game. That history, added to Tiger's skills molded his love of the game. Even today, Tiger plays to win, which is what any game is all about, and not for the money. After all, he makes much more in endorsements than he does swinging a golf club. With the records he has already set, he could top playing right now, and still continue making money. No he doesn't play for the money, he plays for his love of the game. Which brings me to my solution.

We could start in schools students who want to play any sport, should be required to not only participate in gym, but also be taught the history of the sport as an academic subject. This will help develop the kind of deep rooted love and commitment to the sport that will instill a sense of responsibility for how the game is played. Then perhaps we can restore sportsmanship and integrity from pee wee to professional. That kind of curriculum would also take care of the parents behavior. Parents do now wish to be embarrassed by having their children set behavioral standards for them.

So, from the couch where I will probably be sleep when the New Year rolls in, here's wishing all of us a Happy and Prosperous, better behaved, New Year!

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