

## Story Of A Life Saver

*"Anywhere in the Wilderness Someone Needs Help."*



All photos courtesy Bruce Lamarche

By Katina Dunn

Bruce Lamarche sorts through the equipment he uses as one of the 20 volunteers on The Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team – pulleys, ascenders, carabiners, figure 8s, ropes, a water tube, altimeter watch, radios, oxygen, medical pack, energy bars, water, helmets with lights, GPS and walking sticks. He says he has bad knees and insists he's no muscular hunk, but if you're lost or injured in the mountains, he's one of the guys who will stay out there until he finds you, even if it means spending days and nights in the snow.

"The bell goes off and out the door we go," says Lamarche. This rugged group of men and women answer 60 to 70 calls each year. They are completely supported by donations and volunteer hours, one of the great community assets of Sierra Madre, one of seven teams in Los Angeles County. They are called High Risk Civilian Volunteers. Not a penny of tax money goes to the organization, headquartered on Grandview just west of Santa Anita Boulevard.

Each team member is ski qualified in cross country and downhill. They are trained in search skills, especially the science of looking for "sign" which could be a footprint, a bruised leaf or broken twig to indicate a person was there.

Mostly they scour the San Gabriel Mountains for missing people from Fish Canyon in the east to Eaton Canyon to the west. But they go anywhere help is needed, in teams of two for safety. "We come back pretty thrashed," said Lamarche, who just had surgery for a torn rotary cuff and fracture.

Those injuries came from one of the team's famous saves, the pack train rescue in April 2006, in which four animals were saved after 22 hours of work by 15 rescuers. A young donkey had stepped off a cliff and the rest had followed.

There are stories with terrible endings like the 14-year old snowboarder who went out of bounds in February 1998. There was an ecstatic rescue, however, the teen later died from systemic injuries.

Some lost people are never found.  
(continued page 8)

## Council Struggles with Small Town Values

*Change is inevitable - but how much?*

By Katina Dunn

The Sierra Madre City Council held its first meeting of the new year Tuesday. Discussion of the police contract and the first reading of traffic control ordinances were postponed until the meeting scheduled for February 13. There were no rank and file police officers present for public discussion on their contract. Sierra Madre Police have worked without a contract since 2003.

The council agreed that an amendment will be written to allow for challenges to traffic decisions by the city manager. Chief Marilyn Diaz abdicated that responsibility. The specter of a stoplight looms behind citizen concerns. Sierra Madre is famous for not having one.

The council denied the

Hillside Development Permit and Tentative Tract Map for the Stonehouse development, as recommended by the Planning Commission. Stonehouse Attorney Elizabeth Watson said the obstacle is that there are no two-acre minimum lots in the development plan, now required by the new HMZ ordinance, and the project should be "governed by prior HMZ standards" when the application was filed. Noting the lawsuits connected to the issue, Mayor John Buchanan said "If somebody can sue their way through a project, we have to ask ourselves if we are really a government. I think we have the right to make policy. We can't stop acting like a government because somebody waves a lawsuit over our heads." Council Member Zimmerman said he thought that in general, "alternative dispute (continued on page 3)

## Delays in Attempted Murder Case

By Susan Henderson

The preliminary hearing scheduled for all defendants in the December stabbing of a Sierra Madre teen in Memorial Park has been delayed until the end of this month.

According to Deputy District Attorney Oliveres who was sitting in for DDA Kathryn Ratliff, the preliminary hearing will go forth at the end of January.

Defendant Richfield Chang, 24 of the El Sereno area of Los Angeles is being held on 1.5 million dollar bail on this matter. (continued page 4)

## Inside This Edition

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## Volunteers Needed for Sierra Madre Police Initiative



Photo by Jacqueline Truong The police officers of Sierra Madre pictured above have not had a contract in four years. At Tuesday's city council meeting, City Manager John Gillison said the problem precedes him by two previous city managers.

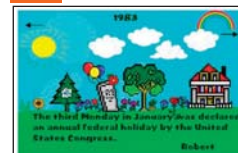
By Susan Henderson & Katina Dunn

Voters in Sierra Madre will have another initiative before them later this year. An initiative known as "Prioritizing Public Safety" has started soliciting volunteers to gather signatures in order to qualify for the ballot. This measure was born out of the failure of the City of Sierra Madre to give the police department a contract since 2003. It will also prohibit the contracting out of police services.

The SMPD has not had a raise in four years and are the lowest paid officers out of all 86 cities in Los Angeles County, according to attorney Dieter Dammeier of the Police Officers Association.

Dammeier said that an additional \$250,000 per year would be required to raise the level of pay for the city's 16 officers to equal the lowest paid in the county – South Pasadena.

(continued page 4)



MONDAY,  
JANUARY 15, 2007

Is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday

Federal, State, County, Banks, Schools and Local Government offices will be closed.

Learn more about this day from Ms. Taverna's 2nd Grade Class on Page 8

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# Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

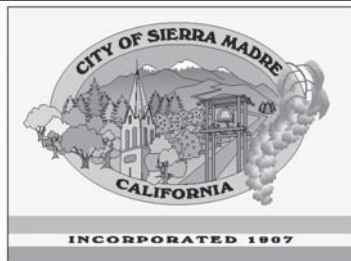


Friday: Cloudy Hi 50s Lows 40s-50s  
Chance of Rain/Snow at 1500'  
Saturday: Clear Hi 50s Lows 40s-50s  
Sunday: P'tly Cldy Hi 60s Lows 40s-50s  
Monday: P'tly Cldy Hi 70s Lows 40s-50s  
Tuesday: P'tly Cldy Hi 70s Lows 40s-50s

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 7:30 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 - SMTV3 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                  |  |

The above Calendar of Events has been provided by the City of Sierra Madre. Please confirm meeting dates by calling 626-355-7135

### 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.

### Bargain Books Table

Monday, Jan. 8, - Saturday, Jan. 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, 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. is open Monday - 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.

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

### SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Library will be closed Monday, January 15 for the MLK Holiday. For more info call (626) 355-7186 [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us)

### 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.

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

### Café 322

322 Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414  
Sing Broadway and Opera favorites Sunday evenings - or just listen.  
Pianist Danny Guerrero & Friends

### 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

### ART EXHIBIT

Friday January 12 to Friday, February 23  
George Girges Photography Exhibit at City Hall  
(Visit [www.myfourthirds.com](http://www.myfourthirds.com) to view some work)

### FUNDRAISER FOR SMTV3

Friday, January 12th at 3:30pm

Carpool from Recreation Center to Warner Brothers in Burbank for a live taping. SMTV3 is paid \$14 per person which will help purchase tech equipment. Bring your laughter. Here's the show: *THE CLASS* (CBS) Minimum age 18. This comedy is about a group of eight 20-somethings, all of whom attended the same third-grade class 20 years ago.

### TRAILS, TALL TALES & TIMBER

By Terry Terrell, Mountain Historian

Tuesday, January 16 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sierra Madre Historical Society  
Sierra Madre Woman's Club

550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
For more info, call Phyllis Chapman (626) 355-3928

### Sierra Madre Environmental Action Committee (SMEAC)

Wednesday, January 24  
Call Alison Wesley at (626) 355-1544 for more info

### CITIZEN OF THE YEAR DINNER

Friday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m.  
Honoring the Delightful and Remarkable Community Leader Bud Switzer  
Santa Anita Turf Club Chandelier Room  
Contact Patricia Hall for tickets at (626) 355-5111  
\$45 per person, sponsored by Chamber of Commerce

### SIERRA MADRE WOMAN'S CLUB

Saturday, January 27 at 11:30 a.m.  
Guest Speaker Joyce Ride, mother of U.S. Astronaut Sally Ride  
Luncheon at Sierra Madre Woman's Club  
Call Phyllis Chapman at (626) 355-3928

### RALLY TO WIN THE ALL-AMERICA AWARD

Wednesday January 31 at 6 p.m.  
Join the Delegation!  
Sierra Madre applies again after being chosen a finalist in 2006  
Youth Activity Center at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Call (626) 355-5278 for more info

## Senior Special Events - Page 9



# Roy Roams' 91024

### Baldwin a Boulevardier

The Lucky Baldwin's people have just purchased the Boulevard Grill on Sierra Madre Boulevard, so they'll be moving down the street from Kersting Court. There's much more room for sausages and Belgian ales at the Grill location. The site on Kersting will be rented out, sources say.

### You Want Fries With That?

Its on tape from Tuesday's city council meeting - we can hear someone say "Get A Life!" after resident **Barbara Cline** read Shakespeare's "oh what a devious plan we weave when first we practice to deceive". Barbara was taking **Council Member Joe Mosca** to task for soliciting her vote in the last election. The comment occurs as her husband Lee Cline speaks, and council watchers are wondering if the comment came from the dais. Voice analysis, anyone?

### Table for One

Do you really want to know what happened to that January 4 Planning Commission meeting scheduled on the city's official list of meetings? We went to city hall that night and there wasn't even a cancellation notice posted. We're not sure we want to know what happened there.

### Parkour Place

Teenagers were caught by Sierra Madre Police last year jumping around the rooftops of buildings on Montecito. It turns out the teens were inadvertently following the footsteps of the international craze called parkour.

Parkour is derived from an art of movement based on obstacle courses founded by **French Navy Officer George Hébert** in the early 1900s, and has morphed into breathtaking jumping and climbing

skills all over buildings.

In 1902, Hébert had led the rescue of about 700 people in the town of St. Pierre during a volcano, and became obsessed with fitness thereafter. His motto became "être fort, pour être utile," which translates to "be strong to be useful."

Hébert's obstacle course regimens expanded to become the physical training for the French military, and he was awarded the French Legion of Honor in 1955.

Fast Forward - or jump forward - to last September, when the movie *District B13* was released in the U.S., a hair-raising French action-adventure tale set in the future involving elite police forces tracking a Weapon of Mass Destruction. It stars **David Belle**, actor and stuntman extraordinaire who founded parkour based on the teachings of Hébert. The movie is available at **Hollywood Video** at Michillinda Ave. and Foothill Blvd. **Assistant Manager Anthony Allen** says it is "a great movie." Allen also notes actor **Tony Jaa** in the movie *Ong-Bak* makes similar moves. "This guy is the new **Jet Li** - the new **Jackie Chan**," said Allen, who described his stunts as "jaw-dropping."

**Happy Jack Video** also has a DVD of *Ong-Bak: The Thai Warrior*.

### The Bald and The Beauteous

The long locks are gone from handsome **Cody D'Auria** who works at **Taylor's Meats**, because he donated his hair to cancer patients. D'Auria donated 11 inches of hair and partner **Meredith Petersen** donated 12 inches. Cody's mom - the beauteous **Cathe D'Auria** - did the cutting where she works at **Sir Guy's** to donate to **Locks of Love**. If you would like to donate your hair, make an appointment with Mrs. D'Auria at (626) 378-9929. If you want to keep your hair, call Mrs. D'Auria anyway - she's a great stylist. Sir Guy is located at 3767 E. Colorado Blvd.

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THE MT WILSON OBSERVER

# The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

## Ecology Update

### James Inhofe Is Removing His Own Hair

Now that the newly majoritized democratic U.S. Congress has been in session for a week, I'd like to nominate Senator James Inhofe as the Republican most likely to be missing patches of hair due to uncontrollable urges to rip it from his own skull out of unfathomable despair and inconsolable frustration.

What do you know about Jim Inhofe? He's from Oklahoma and is as politically conservative as you can get without being barricaded in a burning compound in Waco, Texas. When those horrifying pictures of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib prison surfaced, he was "outraged at the outrage." He was one of nine senators who, in 2006, voted against banning the torture of prisoners in U.S. custody. He believes that America should base its Israel policy on the text of the Bible, and that the 9/11 attacks were a message from God informing the U.S. of our failure to properly defend Israel. I am not making any of this up.

Senator Inhofe is also the most prominent and outspoken global warming skeptic in Washington DC. In a widely discussed Senate floor speech in 2003, he called global warming the "greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people." His views have not changed since then.

Just a few short months ago, in another senate floor speech (his eighth on the topic), he carefully explained the "myths surrounding global warming and how our national news media has embarrassed itself with a 100-year documented legacy of coverage on what turned out to be trendy climate science theories." Here is the funny part. Up until a week ago, he was Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Yes, that would be the Senate committee responsible for U.S. global warming policy.

What do you know about Senate committees? There are twenty of them, with nearly 70 sub-committees. The Senate divides all of its tasks (appropriations, energy, education, golf junkets to Scotland on corporate jets) among the committees, which have "legislative

jurisdiction." This means that before a bill becomes a law, it goes through the appropriate committee where it is discussed and analyzed and approved for submission to the entire Senate for a vote. And who decides which bills are discussed and analyzed and (possibly) approved by a committee? Why, the chairman of course.

Here is what the new (democratic) chairwoman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Barbara Boxer from California, has to say about global warming. "Nowhere is there a greater threat to future generations than the disastrous effects of global warming. Scientists tell us that we must act soon to cut production of greenhouse gases. One of my top priorities will be to spotlight this issue with the help of colleagues from both sides of the aisle with the goal of ultimately bringing legislation to the Senate

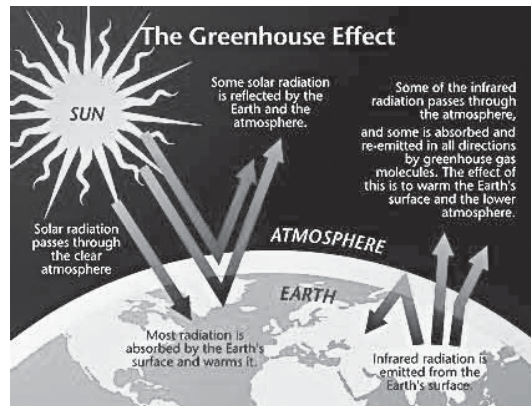


Photo Courtesy Union of Concerned Scientists

floor." Which is why James Inhofe, who has received more than \$1 million in contributions from the oil and gas industry since taking office, who is senator from the state of Oklahoma (original home of the Phillips 66 Oil Company), and who was mayor of the city of Tulsa, the self-proclaimed "oil capital of the world" (where they have never heard of Saudi Arabia) is in the process of removing his own hair a fistful at a time.

#### COUNCIL STRUGGLES

(continued from page 1)

resolution" is a good policy for settling disputes and less costly, and Buchanan concurred.

##### Study Approved 4 to 1

The council also voted to authorize \$60,000 for a study by Pacific Municipal Consultants to perform an analysis of the Voter's Empowerment Initiative (2-30-13) which will go before voters on April 17 at a cost of \$36,303.

Kurt Zimmerman dissented, asking for a copy of the partial analysis of the initiative by the city attorney. Zimmerman also read from a letter by resident and SMRRD (Sierra Madre Residents for Responsible Development) member Scott Hood who wrote he did not think the study was an effective use of city funds, did not accurately depict the issue, and "should be compared against greater height and density alternatives," such as the draft DSP.

Council Member Joe Mosca chose Hood and resident Eph Konigsberg who are on opposing sides of the argument to interview and choose from the list of consultants presented to them by City Manager John Gillison.

Margie Simpson defended the need for a study, saying "we need all the facts to be laid out" because the initiative "is changing our representative form of government." Mayor Pro Tem Enid Joffe said "We might be walking blind without knowing the potential conflicts."

##### City Info Leaked to Website

In his letter, Hood also objected to the fact that city council members were not notified of the consultant selection process, although a website that opposes the initiative disclosed bids before they were public knowledge. "I do share his [Hood's] concern that information was leaked prior to it being made public," said Mosca.

Resident Fay Angus suggested that perhaps residents Rick and Margie Simpson, who were at the council meeting and listed as co-sponsors of the website, could kindly look into the leak. Konigsberg is also listed as a sponsor of the website. "I'm surprised," Konigsberg said Wednesday morning after the meeting. "Scott and I were very careful to keep our lips zipped." Konigsberg was not able to attend the council meeting due to ill health. He also said he was surprised at the high number of cities that use consultants.

##### A Promise is Not Forgotten

Mosca also came under fire from a few residents for not living up to his campaign promises, and causing the chain of events leading to the creation of SMRRD, the initiative and the study. Resident Barbara Cline quoted Shakespeare on deception, and resident Bill Tice called for a recall.

##### Values at Stake

Resident David Smith said the council as a whole never proclaims an intent to preserve small town qualities. Smith said property values will decline if the town is overcrowded with heavy traffic. "How much money are we going to lose if the special nature of Sierra Madre is destroyed?" he asked.

Earlier, residents objected to their place on the Consent Calendar of filing the Downtown Specific Plan Update and filing the Strategic Plan Meeting Goals and Objectives, which means they would be voted on en masse with other items, including declaring a few city vehicles as surplus.

Council Member Watts wanted to wait on all such matters until after the election, and objected to the plans deemed complete for both the 72-condo development at the Howie's Market Site and the 55-unit "Wisteria Village" at the Skilled Nursing Facility site across from the Fire Department.

"I was assured... to have a moratorium... that those applications couldn't be accepted," said Watts. "I would like to see a moratorium until after the election. In 2004 they changed the code without going through an EIR and we don't even know what the impacts are," said Watts.

Gillison said permits cannot be issued without an environmental impact report. Watts said he has worked on projects where a developer used Willdan and Willdan checked it.

Sierra Madre also currently uses Willdan engineers and consultants for plan checks.

Gillison finally agreed that developers and/or consultants can circumvent the environmental impact report. He said, "they can do that if they sign an indemnity waiver."

##### New Environmental Analysis

The January 9 Agenda Report on the "DSP Direction - Update" states that RBF Consultants will complete a draft of the negative declaration in February. This involves a set of "Design Guidelines only in lieu of a full DSP."

City Hall should have available to the public the environmental analysis done by staff using the current Sierra Madre Municipal Code with the Downtown Commercial Overlay Zone, "taking into account the cumulative impacts from the already submitted Howie's and Skilled Nursing Facility Projects."

Last year, RBF Consultants prepared a draft EIR on the Downtown Specific Plan, but that report was never released to the public. Requests for the report in writing by citizens were denied by the city.

## May The Force Be With You

By Katina Dunn

The directive at Lt. Stephen Abernethy's retirement party last Thursday was "to party until the cops come."

They were already there, at Essick House, to share conviviality with their much beloved partner and leader. Abernethy fought back tears in a gracious speech as he thanked everyone in the room for their contributions to his career.

"It was every one of you who helped me through all the situations," said Abernethy. "You have helped me in so many ways, in deep ways you do not even know."

The Lieutenant, retiring after 24 years of service, also thanked his wife, Cynthia, mother Rosemary; and party planners Code Enforcement Officer Lisa Volpe, Police Staff Assistant Cheryl Abdallah and Chief Marilyn Diaz, who emceed the event.

Chief Diaz presented Abernethy with a proclamation from the State Assembly, a certificate of recognition from State Senator Bob Marget and a Service with Distinction certificate from Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley. Cooley wrote that Abernethy was "a recognized innovator" who modernized the Sierra Madre police department with computer operations and lauded his family's dedication to public service, mentioning his grandfather who was Mayor of Pasadena and father who was Mayor of Sierra Madre. Chief Diaz presented Abernethy with a basket full of gifts including an honorary badge, a split of Veuve Clicquot champagne, Greek olive oil, baggage tags and American Express travel checks worth \$1,000.

Cynthia Abernethy was co-star of the evening, as evidenced by the shouts of appreciation when she stood up to speak. "For the last 14 years I had to be on my best behavior," she told the crowd of about 100. Then she gave her husband some items that were "left out" of the official job description for lieutenant, including a degree in gemology, a license in pest control and a chemistry degree. "I don't regard him as retired," she said. "He's unemployed."

Former Police Chief Dave Hinig called Abernethy a consummate professional.

Sgt. Ruben Enriquez said Abernethy "was not only my co-worker, my partner, my supervisor - he was also a role model to me, a mentor and my friend."

Volpe said "Steve was my lunch buddy and I'm going to miss him. I'm going to miss him and my Subway sandwich."

LA Superior Court Judge Bruce F. Marrs was there, with wife Susan Motander. Also, former Police Chief Wayne Bailey, former Sierra Madre Officer Larry Lutzow and Police Officer Association President John Ellins.

Ron Coleman was hoping the Lieutenant would have some time for fishing and hunting with him, and asked Abernethy's wife for permission to borrow him from time to time. "This is a small, close-knit community," said Coleman later in the evening.

"Steve understood that. This is an excellent, excellent police officer who understood how to deal with citizens."



Photo by Cheryl Abdallah

Chief Diaz presents Steve with one of many commendations for his years of service in the Sierra Madre Police Department. Congressman David Dreier and former Attorney General Bill Lockyer also sent resolutions thanking Steve for his sacrifices.



Photo by Cheryl Abdallah

Celebrants at Lt. Steve Abernethy's retirement party included (from left) mom Rosemary Abernethy, Mitch Thomas, Coordinator for Reserve Officers: John Ellins, President of Sierra Madre Police Officers Association: Lisa Volpe, Code Enforcement Officer: Dan Ginter, Motor Officer: The Best Lieutenant's Woman, Cynthia; Former Police Chief Wayne Bailey and Sgt. Ruben Enriquez.

## San Gabriel Valley Police Department's Salary Survey

As of April 26, 2006

Salary percentage differences calculated from **Top Step**, not including other incentives.

Salaries				
Rank	Cities	Starting	Top Step	
1	Pasadena	-	\$5,954	48.7%
2	West Covina	-	\$5,932	
3	Azusa	-	\$5,690	
4	Claremont	-	\$5,626	
5	Baldwin Park	-	\$5,515	35.3%
6	San Marino	\$4,489	\$5,476	
7	Arcadia	\$4,351	\$5,434	
8	San Gabriel	-	\$5,417	
9	Irwindale	-	\$5,384	23.5%
10	Monrovia	\$4,164	\$5,315	
11	Covina	-	\$5,297	
12	La Verne	-	\$5,258	
13	Glendora	-	\$5,225	23.5%
14	El Monte	-	\$5,139	
15	South Pasadena	\$4,040	\$4,947	
16	Sierra Madre	\$3,292	\$4,003	

### Salary Disparity

- 48.7% Disparity between SMPD and the top paying police departments.
- 35.3% Disparity between SMPD and the median pay.
- 23.5% Disparity between SMPD the next (South Pasadena) lowest paid police department.

Table Courtesy of Officer Ruben Enriquez

### DELAY

(cont. from page 1)

He is also on a no-bail hold by the Department of Corrections. Defendant Marvin Chang, 18, of Monterey Park, is being held on 1.05 million dollar bail. The third defendant, Ryan Swender, 18, of Pasadena is currently free on a 1 million dollar bail. All three are charged with attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon. Swender is also charged with two counts of terrorist threats.

At the hearing on January 4<sup>th</sup>, all defendants were represented by private counsel.

Sources close to the investigation say that the District Attorney may be seeking an increase in bail for defendant Swender.

In order to postpone the preliminary hearing, the defendants all waived the statutory time requirements. However, the preliminary hearing must take place no later than 30<sup>th</sup>. The next court date is scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup>.

The young victim of the attack is recovering with his family.



Photo courtesy Jacqueline Truong  
President of the Sierra Madre Police Officers Association, John Ellins, presents Steve with yet another token of appreciation - \$1,000.00.

### POLICE

(continued from page 1)

As reported in this paper last year, the initiative 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.

After filing the initiative sponsored by residents Tom and Carol Canterbury, then City Attorney Michael Colantuono issued a Title and Summary that according to Dieter Dammeier, the attorney representing the proponents of the measure, was inaccurate. In a letter dated November 28, 2006, to Colantuono, 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."

At the City Council meeting

held on Tuesday, the agenda listed a public hearing on "Police Officer's Association Memorandum of Understanding." The item called for the council to act on the staff recommendation that the council "review the last, best and final offers from the Sierra Madre Police Officers Association and the City of Sierra Madre regarding MOU's with the POA for FY 2004-2007, public testimony, and provide further direction to staff." No action was taken and the matter was rescheduled for the February 13th council meeting. No representative of the POA was present at the council meeting.

The initiative, in the meantime, is going forward. In the next few weeks, 1,100 signatures will be needed to qualify, and after certification by the City Clerk, the measure will be eligible to be placed on a ballot within 90 days.

To volunteer, telephone Police Officers Association President and Sierra Madre Police Officer John Ellins at (626) 808-5998.

## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, December 31 st, to Saturday January 6th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 256 calls for service.

### Sunday, December 31st:

8:40 AM - Vandalism, 100 Block Lowell Ave. A resident reported the front lawn of his home vandalized. Two tire tracks, one approximately 75' and a second 82' formed a semi circle from the east driveway exiting the west curb. One lawn sprinkler was damaged and the repair was estimated at \$50.00.

1:14 PM - Vandalism, 200 block Manzanita Ave. A resident reported graffiti to his side yard wall. He discovered the graffiti this morning, 12/31 at 11:00 AM. The graffiti/ tagging appears to have been done with a grey paint from an aerosol can.

11:42 PM - Auto burglaries, 400 block North Lima St. A resident reported two burglarized cars with smashed windows. The cars were parked in the street and the property taken was in plain view. Stolen property consisted of: a Louis Vuitton purse, a Nokia cellular telephone, several credit cards and cash. The total loss was estimated at \$175.00. The loss from the second car consisted of: a briefcase, wallet, several credit cards, driver's license and cash, total loss was estimated at \$200.00.

### Tuesday, January 2nd:

11:23 AM - Theft from auto, 100 block Auburn Ave. A resident reported the inside of his unlocked car was ransacked. The loss was \$2.00 taken from the center console.

1:26 PM - Arson, 400 block Mount Wilson Trail. The Sierra Madre Fire Department, responded to a brush fire located just north of the Mt. Wilson Trail Park. The fire was quickly extinguished however firefighters believed the incident to be arson. Fire Marshal Snyder and Detective Delcours responded to investigate.

### Thursday, January 4th:

1:07 PM - Vandalism, 351 West Highland Ave. The custodian at Sierra Madre Elementary School reported vandalism to benches and other property on campus.

### Friday, January 5th:

11:18 AM - Grand theft, 700 block Woodland Drive. A contractor reported power tools stolen from his at construction site. The tools consisted of a Dewalt construction radio, an 18 volt drill, an electric saw, a hammer drill, and a tool box with miscellaneous tools. The loss was estimated at \$1475.00.

### Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown

The City of Los Angeles has narrow hillside roadways posted as no parking for residents on "Red Flag Days." This is to enable Emergency Fire and Safety vehicles adequate access to the areas under threat. Residents of "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones" are instructed by local authorities to make ready for evacuation by having a plan for removing their family and pets--early--and valuables as time permits. Having your car parked facing out of your garage and disconnecting the electric garage opener for manual operation in case of electric failure are among some of the recommendations.



Residents in Sierra Madre below our hazard area may be called upon to assist in allowing friends and neighbors to house their pets and extra cars early in preparation for eventual evacuation.

Avoiding congestion in the areas where emergency services are needed is paramount.

The Sierra Madre Chapter of the California Fire Safe Council meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 7 P.M. in the City Council Chambers. The next meeting will be February 12, 2007. For information call 355-1182 or 355-9350. E-mail: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com. Please visit: www.firesafecouncil.org for information about brush fire safety for your home and neighborhood.

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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

## Terms Approved for New Superintendent's Contract



Photo Courtesy of GUSD

By Nancy Suerd

The Board of Education of the Pasadena Unified School District approved the employment contract with newly appointed Superintendent, Edwin Diaz at its Board Meeting on Tuesday.

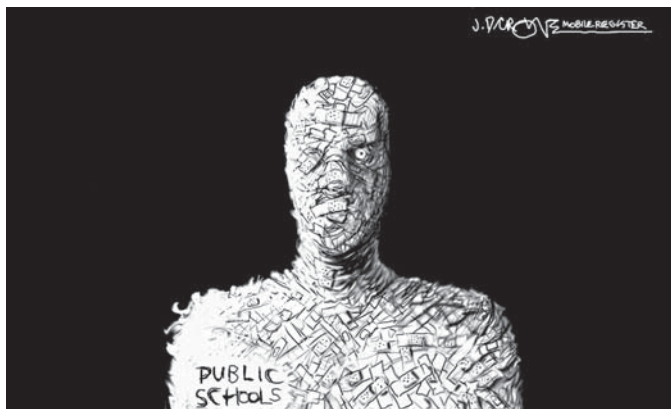
With a goal of an employment commencement date of March 1, 2007, the contract includes an initial 16 month term with a provision for an automatic extension to three years, and renewal provisions thereafter.

Mr. Diaz's base salary has been set at \$230,600, with annual contributions of \$10,000 to a tax sheltered annuity with provisions for this to possibly increase to \$15,000 annually. In addition, the contract includes the use of a district provided vehicle, as well as a monthly expense account of \$500. Mr. Diaz will

be reimbursed for relocation expenses up to a cap of \$15,000, and for housing expenses incurred during the first six months of employment up to a cap of \$1700 per month. He will be expected to undergo an annual medical exam and will have a term life insurance policy with a \$250,000 face value.

In negotiating this contract, consideration was given to contract terms for superintendents in neighboring and similar school districts, the current and pending contract terms that Mr. Diaz has with his current employer, and the economic realities of the Pasadena community.

Board Member Mike Babcock served as Board Liaison with Mr. Diaz and the PUSD legal counsel in working out terms for the employment contract.



No More Band Aid Fixes - Please!

## BOOKS

by Jeff Brown

### The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them

by Freedom Writers, Erin Gruwell

In 1994 a twenty-three-year-old English teacher at Wilson High School in Long Beach, California, named Erin Gruwell was given a room of "unteachable, at-risk" students. One day she saw a note voicing a racial slur and mentioned that this was what the holocaust was about. The Students didn't understand the reference. So she and her students, using Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl and Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo, began a life-changing, eye-opening, growing experience against difficult life situations.

They learned to see the parallels in these books to their own lives. Over the next four years her students recorded their thoughts and feelings in journals and dubbed themselves the "Freedom Writers" in homage to the civil rights activists called "The Freedom Riders."

The real point of this book is students telling the world what they want to share. Students choosing not to remain silent anymore. Graphic language is not edited out which helps to show us their surroundings and lifestyle. Students proving that just about any hardship can be overcome. Students reminding us that there is something worth saving in every child. Some of these teens have lived terrible lives, and have come to adulthood believing in themselves for the first time.

All 150 Freedom Writers graduated from high school and are now attending college.

The Freedom Writers Diary is an uplifting, unforgettable example of how hard work, courage, sharing and the spirit of determination changed the lives of a teacher and her students. The book consists of powerful selections from the student diaries and some narrative from Erin Gruwell. A great book for teachers and students!



## PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL GUIDE AND OPEN ENROLLMENT BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

Open Enrollment Period Begins January 15, 2007

The new Pasadena Unified School District School Guide is available for families interested in learning more about PUSD schools and the programs offered. The booklet also includes Open Enrollment information and an application. Applications for Open Enrollment may be submitted between January 15 and February 9, 2007.

As an Open Enrollment district, families have the option of applying to any school in the district regardless of whether it is located within their neighborhood.

A highlight of the booklet is the test scores section which shows the significant growth PUSD has experienced in the California Standards Tests and Academic Performance Index (API). This past year, the number of PUSD schools with API scores over 700 increased to 21, including three scoring over 800.

The School Guide also includes a description of the PUSD core curriculum, arts, sports, and after school programs, and special enrichment offerings. There is a section about each of the schools and school tour information.

The School Guide is available at the PUSD Ed Center, 351 South Hudson Avenue, Pasadena, in the Office of Student Support Services in Room 121, or at any PUSD school. They are also available online at [www.pusd.us/oe](http://www.pusd.us/oe). People interested in having a School Guide mailed to them, should contact the Superintendent's Office at (626) 568-4553

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

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

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.  
(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](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com)

## High School Senior Education Awards

By Phyllis Chapman

The Sierra Madre Civic Club announces sponsorship of its 2007 Education Awards. Applicants must be:

- \*A senior in high school and
- \*Be a resident or employee in Sierra Madre
- or
- \*Have one parent working in Sierra Madre or
- \*Have a relative who is a member of the Civic Club
- \* Provide two letters of reference - one from a teacher or school administrator and one from an adult leader from applicant's volunteer activity or employer

The Awards Committee considers a student's volunteer activities, interests, talents, hobbies, accomplishments of recognition and educational and career plans.

Applications are available from high school counselors or Awards Committee Chair Amy Putnam at (626) 355-4198.

The application deadline is March 1, 2007 and awards will be announced Thursday, May 19 at the Civic Club's General Meeting held at the Senior Center in Memorial Park.

*The Monetary Education Awards are part of the Club's philanthropic support of young people, which is one of the Club's priorities.*

## Career and Technical Education Information Fair

for the parents of 9th and 10th grade students in the Pasadena Unified School District

Saturday, January 20 from 9 a.m. to noon  
Pasadena City College  
Creveling Lounge  
1570 East Colorado Blvd.  
Deadline for Registration Friday, January 12, 2007

Purpose: To inform parents of Career and Technical Education learning opportunities

Contact: Dr. Eddie Newman  
(626) 795-6981

Sponsored by PUSD and PCC

# Looking Up

With Bob Eklund



Photos by Laura Eklund

On the evening of January 2, Laura and I paid our respects to Sierra Madre's prize-winning float, "Our Wonderful Wistaria" as it rested in the moonlight at Kersting Court. To stand and look up at the giant hummingbirds poised under the brilliant full moon was awesome, a special experience not to be forgotten. To all the wonderful volunteers who gave us that float and brought home the Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy, thanks for the memory! The Rose Float Association certainly exemplifies all that is best in this very special town.

Speaking of memories, before the recent holidays slip out of recall, I'd like to look back on a couple of small events that stand out brightly on my personal gratitude list.

One was my moon-viewing party. When a 7-year-old neighbor asked if she could look at the moon through my telescope, how could I say no? So on the Saturday of New Year's weekend, when the moon was about 2/3 full, I invited all the neighbors up and down our street to come over and have a look. Many families showed up, children in tow, and for two hours, while we got familiar with the moon's landscape and checked out its craters, some of us also got better acquainted with each other than we had in the previous twenty years. One child's comment: "Well, now I know it's not made of green cheese!"

Another was my first sight of Canopus this season. This bright star (the second brightest in the entire sky) is so far south that it would pass directly over your head at Cape Horn. For viewers in Southern California, it only rises about 3½° above the southern horizon at its

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

highest. It's not too difficult to see, but you need a view directly to the south, a low southern horizon, and a clear sky. And beyond that, you also need to know just when to look. My rule-of-thumb for finding Canopus is this: It stands due south at midnight on Christmas Eve, and it will be in that same position (and at its highest) about one half-hour earlier each week. Thus, it is directly south at about 11:30 p.m. on December 31, 11:00 on January 7, 10:30 on January 14, 10:00 on January 21, and so on—backing up a half-hour each week. To find this "star of the south," first look for Sirius, which outshines everything else and stands quite high in the southern sky. Then look for Canopus below Sirius and slightly to its right, in about a "five o'clock" position. It will be very low (about as high above the horizon as the width of two or three fingers held at arm's length), its twinkle often making it alternate between bright and invisible. This year, Laura and I first saw it two or three nights before Christmas, while we were out on a late walk—winking at us from straight down the middle of our north-south street. For me, this was the "Christmas Star."



As the song says, "Thanks for the memories!"

# TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business

## The IOB (ISP Outage Blues)

From Paul The Cyberian

It's now official: your Internet connection is a bona-fide utility just like electricity.

And just like other utilities, ISP outages are met by the customer base with a ferocity bordering something akin to a riot. I remember when coffee joined that elite club of things we just can't do without. I used to giggle to myself wondering what people would do if the supply was suddenly cut off. I could giggle at the prospect because I wasn't a real coffee drinker at the time and believed that whatever would happen wouldn't affect me. And that's the important thing, right? Anybody with a spouse \ neighbor \ friend \ cat or dog can tell you that when the coffee ain't right neither will anything else in the general vicinity be right until the situation has been resolved.

It was just about this time that the Home Internet Connection was making itself known to the non-geek population in a big way. CompuServe, AOL and a whole host of smaller ISPs were gaining customers for the new service and showing them a whole new world that was available for a small monthly fee.

As a Computing Professional I had been at least on speaking terms with the Internet since the mid-80's but I, too, was intrigued by the new toy and came to look to it daily for all sorts of purposes. At that time almost all home users were using dial-up internet connections that required you to either forgo incoming phone calls or have a second line installed. Fast-forward to the

present. This same toy is now a must-have tool; always there and always ON. ....at least it had better be on. Modern businesses are especially sensitive to an outage because of the potential for lost revenue.

These days are typically described by technicians as an L\_D (A Long @#\$%^&\*()\$%^ Day)

This week a popular and local Internet Service Provider was the cause of a widespread case of The IOB. And just like the spouse \ neighbor \ friend \ cat or dog of the coffee lover mentioned earlier, nothing was quite right until the situation was resolved.

In this particular instance I was almost able to guess that a huge outage was happening because of the calls and messages that began to trickle into my message queue. By the time I actually got around to looking up possible causes on-line the news was there for all to see. Some outages were worse than others and some areas were harder hit than others. The symptoms ranged from reduced speed of service to downright service blackout. One area reported that its outage was entering its 4th day! In this case all I can tell the customer is to wait.

Just imagine what would happen if our various cell phone service providers let us experience a four-day outage. I can give you a solution for almost any computer problem EXCEPT the IOB. Patience, I guess, is the key. Sudoku anyone?

For questions, concerns or column ideas please email me at p.carpenter@mtwilsonobserver.com



"Remember, the best things in life are free - for the first three months."

## JPL Sponsors High-Tech Conference for Small Business

By Natalie Godwin

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., will host the 19th annual High-Tech Conference for Small Business on March 6 and 7, at the Radisson Hotel near Los Angeles International Airport.

The two-day conference will focus on subcontracting and marketing opportunities for small, minority, women-owned and veteran-owned businesses in high-tech industries. It includes several "how-to" workshops featuring information on major programs, small business initiatives and other topics.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with approximately 250 corporate, federal, state and city government representatives to discuss potential contracting and subcontracting opportunities. One-on-one counseling to discuss potential business opportunities is available with more than 100 exhibitors. There is no fee to exhibit; however, due to space limitations, exhibitors are limited to prime contractors and government agencies.

Contact Martin Ramirez at 818-354-6093 for exhibit information. A registration fee of \$130 per person is due no later than Feb. 17, 2007. Pre-registration is advised.

Online registration is available at: [http://acquisition.jpl.nasa.gov/boo/2007/jpl\\_conference\\_db/index.asp](http://acquisition.jpl.nasa.gov/boo/2007/jpl_conference_db/index.asp) For more information, contact Amber Norton at 818-354-7531, or Jasmine Colbert at 818-354-6869.



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WEBSITE: [lizarazu.com](http://lizarazu.com)

## WorkForce with Madeline

**Q:** I was recently on my way to a job fair at a mall about 45 minutes from my home. When almost there, I stopped for a cup of coffee. Unfortunately, I spilled coffee all over my résumés. Some were completely ruined. I threw these out. Others were not that bad, so I decided to hand these in. Do you think this will reflect poorly on me?

**A:** No one wants to read a résumé with coffee stains. This definitely portrays a negative picture of the applicant as if he/she doesn't care that much about the job. However, the coffee incident is done so don't dwell on it. It's time to move on.

In the future, keep your résumés at a safe distance from your coffee cup. If by some strange chance this should happen again, continue on to the job fair but do not hand in your stained résumés. Get the name and contact information of the person who will be receiving résumés. Send yours in with a short note saying you spoke with John Doe at XYZ's Oakdale Mall presentation. You would be interested in working for XYZ and feel this is a company that could effectively utilize your skills. Continue by mentioning that you did not bring enough copies of your résumé to hand out, so you are now forwarding it with the hope of receiving an interview.

**Q:** Every time I submit an idea or complete a project, my boss takes credit for it. Is it my job to do the best work I can anonymously? I am becoming frustrated and resentful. Should I bring this up with my boss?

**A:** I spoke with several top level managers and was informed that this is not an uncommon occurrence. It actually goes with the territory. Supervisors do tend to take credit for projects they've managed. That's why they're called managers. However, you might be surprised and pleased to know that good bosses are aware of good workers and their contributions. If you make your boss look good to his/her supervisor, it should reflect in your job appraisal.

Continue to do the best you can and I'm quite sure your boss will vouch for you when the time comes for you to move on in your career.

Direct your questions to Madeline at [comtype2@aol.com](mailto:comtype2@aol.com) or 888-489-8372 (8 AM - 6 PM, Monday - Friday).

# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

## OPINION



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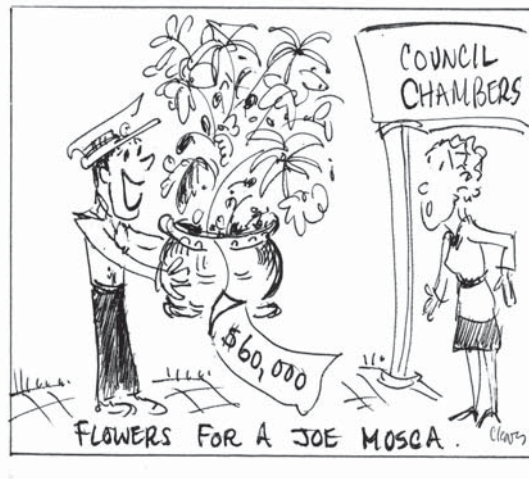
### Mt. Wilson Observer Mission Statement

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.

The Mt. Wilson Observer welcomes your comments, letters to the Editors and Stories. Please send your submission to:

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### Whose Park Is It Anyway?



By Hail Hamilton

Some of you already know me, or at least, have heard of me. I'm the guy who filed the seven-page complaint with the city about the worsening day laborer fiasco in Memorial Park. I'm the guy who keeps dropping off copies of the complaint at Bean Town. Yep. I'm that guy and I'm going to keep hammering away at this issue until the city takes action to stop it.

If I sound angry, it is because I am. Memorial Park is our park. We pay for it and we own it. Memorial Park is a city park with city monuments, a playground, senior center, tennis courts, a concert stage and public restrooms. It is a place for recreation and relaxation. It is a place where our kids can play and our seniors can stroll. It is a place for the enjoyment and pleasure of Sierra Madre residents and visitors alike. Memorial Park is not an outdoor employment office. It is not a place for hiring day laborers!

Which begs a bigger question: How come Alhambra, Arcadia, Monrovia, Pasadena, South Pasadena, and San Marino don't have day laborers hanging out in their parks? The simple answer is that they enforce their laws against loitering, soliciting and unlawful use of their parks and recreation facilities. And so should Sierra Madre.

I am not alone in my anger. I have talked with many of my neighbors and they are as angry as I am about Memorial Park. They tell me Memorial Park is no longer safe and won't allow their kids to play there because of the many "strangers" loitering about. This deserves repeating. Our kids, Sierra Madre kids, are not being allowed by their parents to play in Memorial Park. This is totally unacceptable. No

parent should ever fear for the safety of their child in any Sierra Madre park. Period!

And what about our seniors? Sierra Madre has a large population of senior citizens who use Memorial Park on a daily basis. Are they comfortable in the park? Do they feel safe?

The fiasco in Memorial Park, I am told, is emblematic of what is wrong with Sierra Madre. My neighbors tell me that Memorial Park is just the tip of the iceberg. They tell me that if the city can't enforce its laws in Memorial Park right next door to City Hall, they have little faith that the city can solve the other problems it faces.

As the old Chinese proverb says: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a first step." My complaint about the illegal use of Memorial Park is that first step. Our city officials need to be held strictly accountable for their actions or neglect. No more excuses!

My complaint is not about race, illegal immigration or the poor finding work.

It is about Sierra Madre residents taking back Memorial Park; it is about reclaiming a significant part of our city's heritage, and returning it to the use for which it was originally intended—namely, a public park for recreation purposes. My complaint is aimed at all those who would willfully defy the law. I mean those city officials who, by not enforcing the law are, in effect, conspiring to deny the rest of us the unfettered use of Memorial Park. My complaint simply says that no one is above the law—private individuals or public officials!

My parents taught me a simple but profound lesson: that it is the people, the citizens of this free land, who are ultimately responsible for their individual well being and the well being of their communities—not the politicians—but the people themselves! My parents taught me that if something is wrong with our government—whether it is at the national, state or local level—it is up to us, the people, to fix it.

Finally, let me say something about my philosophy. I am convinced beyond a doubt of the inherent wisdom of a well informed public. Knowledge is good, knowledge is power and it should be available to everyone. In short, I believe in the free and unrestricted flow of ideas and information.

I take your opinions seriously. So please feel free to contact me at The Observer. I want to hear from you. After all, Sierra Madre is your city as well as mine.

### SMART PEOPLE

By Susan Henderson

**smart** (adj.): *mentally alert*; **people** (n): *the mass of a community as distinguished from a special class*

Smart people. What a novel concept. In this day and age of smart bombs, etc., it is hard to believe that the notion of people being smart is not embraced. When speaking of smart, I am not referring to IQ results, test scores or the amount of education one has. I am speaking about being mentally alert and cognizant of what is going on around you. And, as for people, I do literally mean the mass of a community, this community, as distinguished from a special class.

Sierra Madre is full of smart people. Young, old, rich or poor, we have plenty of people who are mentally alert. They are people who are smart enough to want to live in a small town; people who are smart enough to want to protect this town; people who recognized a long time ago how wonderful it is to live in Sierra Madre and people who maybe haven't been here as long, but recognize the value of maintaining a home here.

Sierra Madre is also full of people smart enough to choose the right people to represent them and determine how they want to be represented.

Represent the citizens of Sierra Madre? Well, therein lies the problem.

Somehow in the selection process, some of those chosen to represent - past and present - appear to have made the assumption that by designating a representative, the people abandoned their smarts. Wrong. Very wrong.

By choosing a representative, smart people are simply saying, 'Alright, since you have demonstrated a willingness to serve, a commitment to invest time and energy to do the job, and appear to be at least as smart as I, you may have the job.'

What people are not saying is, 'Now that you are elected, I no longer need to pay attention to what you are doing. You may go willy nilly around town making decisions without keeping me informed or considering my concerns.' No, the people aren't saying that.

If our city council and city administration would begin to understand that they were elected by smart people who have not given up their rights, life would be a lot less contentious in this town. Once they realized that, the manipulation by those motivated by self interests, money, and short sightedness would vanish. Poof.

Once our council learned that disclosure is not a four-letter word and they really begin to make good faith efforts (not just the minimum required by law) to keep the public informed of what they are doing, it would be much easier to get things done.

And, once they start imposing citations or fines or even jail time (I understand the old jail still locks), to any resident who says, 'the people of this town can't understand the complexities of that issue...' or things of that nature, life will be absolutely grand.

After all, being elected to city council does not make you smarter than anyone else in this town.

Remember, smart people, people who are alert and pay attention, put all of you in office. Please make certain that you never forget that or take the people of this town for granted. (By the way, I am sure some of you are wondering if you had any smarts at all when you volunteered to run for office!)

### By The Way, Who Likes Small Town Charm?

In a recent AOL poll taken on 12/9/06, the following survey was taken.

Where Would You Like To Live:

Small Town	48%
Somewhere in between	36%
Big City	16%

I guess that means that our town is really desirable.

# STORY OF A LIFESAVER

(continued from page 1)

People get lost everywhere - Big Bear, Wrightwood, Tahquitz Peak, Yosemite, King's Canyon, Joshua Tree National Park, and Mount Baldy - so the team keeps copies of topographical maps, bagged in plastic and filed in drawers. They have maps for every part of the state.

"I cannot fail," says Lamarche, and this is what drives him to bolt during a Thanksgiving dinner or morning coffee to answer a call.

Years ago, he was working for hours in the rain, trying to find four kids and bring them back to base camp. They were hypothermic and had stopped shivering - the "scary" stage. Lamarche was stumbling, sloshing through streams and carrying a limp 7-year-old.

"I handed her to mom and mom gives me that one brief look - our



eyes lock - and then she turns away and I never see her again." That power of gratitude and exercise of compassion keeps volunteers like Lamarche in a state of constant readiness.

"You have a chance to affect lives in a huge way. Its keeping families intact."

Lamarche calls this simply "making a difference." He wants to make sure it is understood he is no different than any other member of the Search & Rescue Team, and that any one of their names could be interchanged with his.

So remember, it may not be the muscular hunk or amazon of your dreams that will save you - but the person with the huge heart and undaunted determination.

"Regular folks who do what needs to be done. Period," says Lamarche.

Members of Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team are available to schools for free presentations on mountain safety.

To donate funds, send to Sierra Madre Search & Rescue, PO BOX 24, Sierra Madre, CA 91025.

Search & Rescue is also looking for new recruits. To join the team, you must be at least 25 years of age and willing to train for one year. Call Bruce Lamarche at (626) 836-2232.

## The 10 essentials

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Flashlight/headlamp - spare bulbs and batteries
4. Extra food
5. Extra clothing
6. Sunglasses - Eyes are especially vulnerable to bright sunlight reflected off snow and ice. In the mountains these can help avoid eye damage.
7. First-aid supplies
8. Pocket knife
9. Matches - Be sure to keep them in a waterproof container.
10. Fire starter - A fire starter such as a candle increases your odds of successfully getting a fire going.

## PUBLIC NOTICE: 2007A TAX SALE

### February 26 and 27, 2007

The Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector sells properties located in Los Angeles County for which taxes have not been paid for 3 years or more. The Public Auctions are open to the public. The next Public Auction of tax defaulted property will be held on February 26 & 27, 2007 starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Los Angeles County Fairplex in Pomona, California.

The auction list is now available for the 2007A tax sale of the tax defaulted properties in the County of Los Angeles. The list is available in book form only. Bidder registration will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning January 30, 2007, and ending February 15, 2007. Prospective bidders are required to pre-register IN PERSON. The required registration deposit is \$5,000. Therefore, a \$5,000 deposit in the form of cash, cashier's check, or bank-issued money order is required at the registration time. Other money orders will not be accepted. You must register in person and receive your bidder card at the office of the Treasurer-Tax Collector, 225 North Hill Street, Room 130, Los Angeles, California 90012. YOU MAY NOT REGISTER AT THE AUCTION SITE. We will require valid photo identification at the time of registration (i.e., driver's license, military ID card, Mexican Matricula Consular, passport, California ID card). Please read carefully the Bidder Registration requirements provided in the auction book and on the Treasurer and Tax Collector's website at <http://ttax.co.ca.us>, as other requirements may apply to persons registering for another person or as a corporation, partnership, trust, etc. We encourage early registration because the first 200 bidder cards issued will have prime seating at the beginning of the auction.

At the time you initially register or up to 5:00 p.m. on February 23, 2007, you can increase your initial registration deposit by opening an Auction Trust Account. This will eliminate the need to stand in the cashier's line for the purpose of paying the deposit on property purchased. To open an Auction Trust Account, you must deposit a minimum of \$5,000, in addition to the \$5,000 registration deposit. During the auction, if you are the successful bidder, proceed to the Auction Desk and indicate whether or not you want to pay the minimum amount due or pay the full purchase price of the property. The Auction Operators will give you a Purchase Agreement indicating the amount that will be automatically deducted from your Auction Trust Account. Please note that we cannot apply any funds to your purchase until the Purchase Agreement is signed.

As long as there are sufficient funds in your Auction Trust Account, there will be NO need to see the cashier to complete your purchase. To setup the Auction Trust Account, contact the Bidder Registration Unit at (213) 974-2040. Only cash, cashier's checks, and bank-issued money orders payable to the Los Angeles County Tax Collector will be accepted for the Auction Trust Accounts. Act promptly as the last date to setup the Auction Trust Account is February 23, 2007 by 5:00 p.m.

Please be advised that unused monies in the Auction Trust Account and unused registration deposit will be refunded by mail within 30 days from the date of the sale. NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AT THE AUCTION.

The auction list can be purchased in the following three ways:

1. **BY MAIL:** Orders by mail should be addressed to the Los Angeles County Tax Collector, 500 West Temple Street, Room 114, Los Angeles, California 90012. Only cashier's checks or bank-issued money orders made payable to the Los Angeles County Tax Collector will be accepted. Personal or business checks will NOT be accepted. Applicable sale taxes of 8.25% will be charged to California shipping addresses only and postage in addition to the \$15 cost of the auction book.

**BY TELEPHONE:** Orders by telephone must be directed to (213) 974-2846 or (213) 974-2647 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and paid by Visa MasterCard, or Discover Card. Callers must have their credit card number ready when calling.

3. **IN PERSON:** Purchases in person are to be made at the Cashier's windows located on the first floor - lobby area - of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 225 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Only cash, cashier's checks, bank-issued money orders, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover Card will be accepted. Personal or business checks will NOT be accepted.

### COST OF AUCTION BOOK (all sales are final):

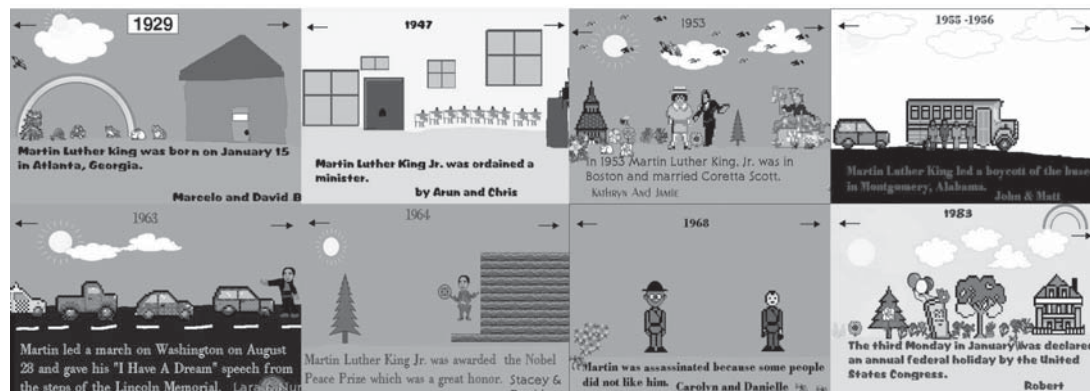
	In Person	Mail & Telephone
Price	\$15.00	\$ 15.00
8.25% Sales Tax (CA Residents Only)	1.24	1.24
Postage	N/A	4.05
(Priority Mail Flat Rate)		

Total Cost \$16.24 \$20.29

The auction will be held at the Fairplex Los Angeles County Fairgrounds, 1101 West McKinley Avenue, Building 8, Pomona, California 91768. The auction will commence on Monday, February 26, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. and will continue on Tuesday, February 27, 2007, until all parcels have been offered for sale. For registration information, please call (213) 974-2040, and for information regarding a property that is in tax sale, please call (213) 974-2045.

## Timeline Of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Life

By Mrs. Taverna's 2nd Grade Class - Pocantico Hills School, Sleepy Hollow, New York



Reprinted By Permission - Dr. Tom Elliott, - Superintendent - Pocantico Hills Central School District

## New Rules for a New Year: DO I NEED A PASSPORT?

By Catherine Addé, MA Certified Travel Counselor

Yes, if you are planning to travel by air in 2007 outside of the United States or its territories, you will need a valid U.S. passport, even for Mexico, Canada, Central and South America and Bermuda. If you are traveling by sea or land into these countries you may still use your valid proof of citizenship (birth certificate, alien registration card) along with a government issued photo I.D. such as a state I.D. card or driver's license until January of 2008.

However, after January of 2008 you may need a passport to travel by sea and land into the above mentioned areas. This deadline may change, stay tuned.

For information on how to obtain a passport, visit [www.travel.state.gov/passport](http://www.travel.state.gov/passport) or your local post office.

Here are some useful guidelines I give to my clients on passport information:

- Your name on your passport MUST match your air or cruise tickets. Some folks give me their nickname during the reservation process, and we discover later that this name does not match the passport. What a costly mistake this turns out to be! There are lots of fees to change an air ticket or a re-issue the documents from the cruise line before travel. This is why when planning a trip, I always ask: How does your name appear on your passport?

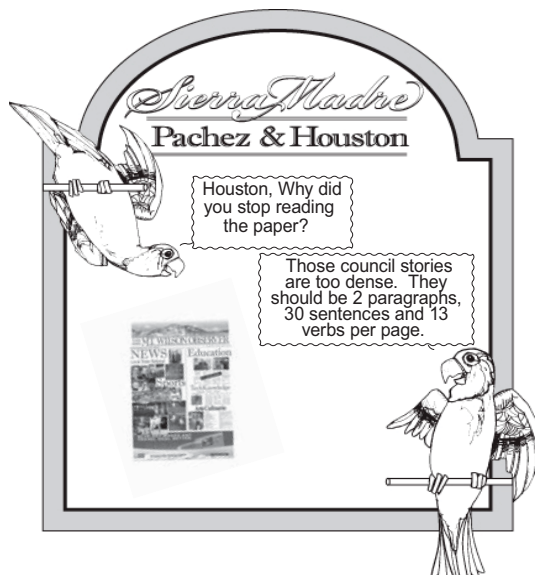
- ALWAYS photocopy your passport and keep one copy at home with your relative, or house sitter, one copy inside your luggage and another copy in your carry on luggage. This will expedite matters when you visit the U.S. Embassy (I hope not, but it does happen) in the event that you need to replace your passport if it is lost or stolen. I keep my passport locked in the hotel room safe or on my body in my pouch around my neck under my clothes wherever I travel abroad, no matter how 'safe' the area seems to be.

- Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after you return home to the United States after traveling abroad. So plan ahead, especially if you need to obtain a visa to enter the country you will visit.

Why do you need a visa to enter a country if you hold a valid U.S. Passport? Many ask this question, the answer bears repeating: A US passport is your proof of citizenship, and allows you to re-enter the United States after your trip. Many countries allow US passport holders to enter without a visa because of reciprocal visa waivers and long-standing diplomatic relations; many countries do not. For those countries, a visa is permission granted by a sovereign nation to a traveler permitting entry into that country for a specific purpose such as a business or a pleasure trip. Visas are generally stamped into your passport by the Consulate of the country you are visiting before you leave the United States.

For the most up to the minute information however, a little research will go along way. Visit the governments' own website listed above, the tourist board of the country you plan to visit or call your Travel professional.

Have a safe trip!



## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

### Gentlemen, Start Your Engines

The peace and quiet that I relished on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day vanished in the blink of an eye. 2007 picked right up where 2006 left off... they were back!

"They" are the gardeners who keep our neighborhoods looking spiffy and swell with their mowing and blowing, and more mowing and blowing. I think they must have an unwritten code.

Rather than all of them showing up at once, they thoughtfully spread the visits out over a six, or sometimes seven day work week. That way we are assured equal time listening to the various tools of their trade.

Ah, the tools... The power mower emits a fairly innocuous sound but makes up for that shortcoming by spewing noxious fumes throughout the neighborhood. The weed whacker is an interesting tool. It has some kind of plastic cording that whirls at the speed of sound, hacking off whatever is in its path. I can see why the operators of these things wear boots; otherwise they would look like flamenco dancers on crack.

My favorite tool however, is the leaf blower. I think it was originally

invented by a psychiatrist to test the level of sound at which a normal person would require admittance to a mental hospital. This broom replacement is the one tool that the operator has control over as far as its speed and its intensity. They can also exhibit some individuality. For instance, we have the easy going kind of guy who slowly and rather quietly blows the debris. The next level I think would be the guy who has so many clients that he has to move, move, move. He's loud, but finishes quickly. Then we have the guy who should probably be in anger management classes or heavily sedated. He has it cranked up to a level of sound that Helen Keller could have heard. I guess it can be classified as freedom of speech.

Yesterday, I was treated to all of the tools, in spades...my lucky day! At nine sharp the gardeners arrived not only at my neighbor's to the west but also to two on the east. I honestly had to laugh because I could envision a baton in the hand of a symphony conductor in white-tie and tails bringing the synchronized piece to its crescendo. Bravissimo!

## What's Up at Hart Park House Senior Special Events

Brought to you by The Senior Commission of Sierra Madre

**Saturday, January 13, 2007**

11:30 a.m.

Hi Tech Telephones with Terri Howell

Free demonstration of telephone equipment for people with difficulty hearing, seeing, moving, speaking or remembering. The latest in hi-tech equipment sponsored by The California Telephone Access Program.

At Sierra Madre Senior Center  
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

**Thursday, January 18, 2007**

Visit the Kellogg Arabian Horse Center in Pomona, home to more than 80 purebreds now associated with Equine Studies at Cal Poly Pomona. Lunch and tour of the cereal tycoon's mansion.

Tickets \$30, call Rosemary Garcia at (626) 355-5278 or Commissioner Theresa Daley at (626) 355-7427.

**Wednesday, January 31, 2007**

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

PNEUMOVAX IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

Protect against pneumococcal infections

If you are 65 years of age or older and have not had prior immunization

If you are over 65 and have had a single pneumococcal immunization 5 years ago or more.

If you are an adult with chronic pulmonary or heart disease.

If you have malignant disease or a compromised immune system for any reason.

Questions? Call 355-1291.

Thanks to the Los Angeles County Health Department and Dr. Paul Neiby with the Sierra Madre Senior Community Commission.

**Thursday, February 8, 2007**

10 a.m. to Noon

Living Trusts, Wills & More

With Attorney Geoffrey D. Chin

At Sierra Madre Senior Center

222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Free of Charge and By Appointment Only

Call Rosemary Garcia at 626-355-5278

And don't forget Ping-Pong every Friday from 2 to 4 p.m.

## Shop Our Town

Hand-made notebook from La Bella Rouge is \$3.50

### Sale Away

Order a smoothie from Nora Graham at Sierra Madre Juice Company and prepare to peruse around area shops for really great values.

You could outfit all your kids, grandkids and buy birthday presents for an entire class at **Once Upon A Time** at 14 W. Baldwin Ave., which has a drastic clearance sale to make room for spring styles. **Bob and Cassa Bernardini** are more than helpful, and they do a mean gift wrap. Telephone (626) 836-6556.

Check out **La Bella Rouge** for eclectic clothes, silk scarves, printed bags, chenille throws and Tabra International jewelry from Indonesia. You can find almost anything for women of all ages at **La Bella Rouge**. Owned by **Heather Sheets, Ann Renken** and **Anne Lutzow**, the shop features fascinating finds, and the fur trimmed elbow length rubber gloves for washing dishes in style for \$19 are a hoot.

You can find a ruby red slippers pin ala **Wizard of Oz** for \$10, a knee-length cotton coat for \$54, and Japanese calligraphy earrings that say "peace" or "happiness" or "luck" for \$12 per pair.

There's a 50% off rack plus a "Onesie Rack" featuring the last item left of a particular style. **La Bella Rouge** is at 34 N. Baldwin Ave. at (626) 355-1427.

**Angels Everywhere** also has a permanent sale rack in the back, plus an end of the year clearance sale from 30% to 70% off. This boutique has probably the most dangerous T-shirts in town - lovely diaphanous, stretchy things for under jackets and shirts unless you are really and truly confident. **Angel Throop** also sells Papillon Blanc, Three Dot, Joe's Cigarette Jeans, Citizens of Humanity jeans, Michael Stars T-shirts and hanky panky tops and pants. Be an angel at 26 N. Baldwin Ave. (626) 355-0024.

Note: Taylor's Meats & Produce will not be open Sundays after January 14. New store hours will be Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

# SPORTS

## Sierra Madre Fastpitch Girls



**SIERRA MADRE GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**Register For The Spring 2007 Season**  
**(Sierra Madre Residence NOT Required)**

**Age Divisions**  
 8 & Under (Born 1998-2000)  
 10 & Under (Born 1996-1997)  
 12 & Under (Born 1994-1995)  
 16 & Under (Born 1990-1993)

SMGSA offers one of the few Amateur Softball Association (ASA) girls fastpitch softball programs available in the area. Compare before you decide where to play softball next spring!!

- No residence restrictions. All age-eligible girls are invited to play ASA softball in Sierra Madre. Friends, classmates, and neighbors from all cities are welcome.
- No experience required. Beginners are welcome in all age divisions.
- Safety is a top priority. Reduced Injury Factor softballs are used in 8U and 10U Divisions. Approved batter's helmet faceguards required in ALL divisions.
- SMGSA has been an ASA registered league since 1994.
- SMGSA is the largest league in the area. Last spring nearly 300 girls played on 23 teams in four age divisions. Travel outside the Pasadena-Sierra Madre area for regular season inter-league play has never been required in the 8U, 10U or 12U Divisions. We also plan to field a minimum of four teams in the 14-16U Division.
- SMGSA offers extensive postseason opportunities for those selected to all-star teams. All regular season players are eligible for all-stars. No residence boundaries. SMGSA all-star teams always play in three or more tournaments. In 2006 our seven all-star teams played dozens of games in La Habra, Walnut, West Covina, La Verne, Mira Mesa, San Juan Capistrano, Pico Rivera, Rancho Cucamonga, Moorpark, Carpinteria, La Canada, Downey, Norwalk, Oxnard and Rialto.

Come to one of the registration dates listed above. Registration fee is only \$125 through January 10. Registration forms available via download at [www.smgsa.org/registration.htm](http://www.smgsa.org/registration.htm)  
 For additional information, please visit our league website at [www.smgsa.org](http://www.smgsa.org). To reach a league representative, please call the league hotline at (626) 355-3899, or email SMGSA at [smgsa@smgsa.org](mailto:smgsa@smgsa.org)



Photos By  
 Linda Ott-Albright



## The Question Still Remains



The game has been played, and the Florida Gators destroyed the Buckeyes of Ohio. The game was never a challenge for the Gators - well maybe the first play of the game. The kick-off return, the one bright spot for Ohio State during the entire game, was a challenge. But after that it was all Florida. Many of the other bowl games this season have been exciting and interesting. This championship game was dull and uninteresting. As for the Buckeye in this household, suicide watch is the order of the day.

With the Gators beating Ohio State as they did the call for a play-off series is greater today than it was when the match up for the bowl games was announced. You know where I am on that issue. A play-off is the only fair way to decide.

The football rankings were announced this week and Boise State, the only unbeaten team in the nation

is not number one or two, but fifth on one poll and sixth on another. The Broncos are sitting home saying we played with the big boys and won. We should share in the title. Does Ohio State deserve to be number two after the beating they took? Even though I favor a play-off system, I must say that most of this year's bowl games were exciting. It was college football at its best.

The Bowl games started around the Christmas holidays and ended a week after the New Year. We could have a play-off series by adding one more week to the time that the bowl games are played. Then and only then will a true national champion be crowned. There will be no discussion about the strength of your schedule or of your conference or if you have a TV contract or not. The champion will be the last team standing, fair enough.

Kudos to Florida State. Not only are they the

## View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

champion in college football, but they are also the basketball champs. No other college has ever performed that feat. Congratulations Gators.

Another thing that a playoff series in football will provide will be that the smaller schools will have an opportunity to be the number one team in the nation. Do you remember George Mason last year? They had a terrific run toward the title, and who had heard of Gonagza until they began to show up in the sweet sixteen so often. To the BCS I say, go to a play-off system, it is the only fair way.

By the way, March Madness is just around the corner, and our UCLA Bruins were coasting in the number one spot until that fateful trip to Oregon. But as the Gators showed us in football, one little bump in the road does not hurt the Bruin chances to bring the championship back to Pauley Pavilion.

**We did it . . . with YOUR help!**



[www.SierraMadreRoseFloat.org](http://www.SierraMadreRoseFloat.org)

**The Tournament of Roses awarded our 2007 float *Our Wonderful Wistaria* with the Lathrop K. Leishman award for the most beautiful non-commercial entry.**  
**Our heart-felt thanks to Charles Meier, Float & Floral Designer and the following friends!**

**Sponsors:** Attitude, Bottle Shop, Trojan Batteries, Driftwood Dairies, Savor the Flavor, Nestle USA, Roncelli Plastics, Bean Town, Staple's, Ed's Christmas Trees, Home Depot, Casa Del Rey, Starbucks, It's A Grind, Kona Farms, PMC, Rotary & Interact Clubs of Sierra Madre, Civic Club, Woman's Club, Kiwanis Club, Sierra Madre Pizza, Wolfe Burgers, Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Dept., Sierra Madre Police Department, City of Sierra Madre, Industrial Metal Supply, Taghavi's Trees, Leonora Moss, Lunch Salon, Masonic Lodge, Trader Joe's, Senior Club, Garden Club, Chamber of Commerce

**Hundreds and Hundreds of Volunteers!!!**

**Sierra Madre Rose Float Association:**  
 Donna Sutcliffe & Phyllis Stier, Princess Coordinators; Bonnie Colcher, Volunteer Coordinator; Knar Tufenkjian & Karen Gold, Fundraising; Greg Murphy, Float Convoy  
**Deco team:** Kay Sappington, Belle & Steve Gagne, Polly Tucker, Charles Meier  
**Construction:** Dick Sappington, Dave Colcher, Mike Moran, Mike Dolce & the Gaydosh and Dreger Families  
**Float Driving Crew:** Jeanne Mills, Dave Colcher, Dick Sappington & Mike Dolce  
**Food:** John & Sharon Briffett  
**Princesses:** Katie Merrill, Anna Losorelli, Caitlin VanLuyk & Kasey Johnson