

SIERRA MADRE LOSES EXEMPLARY VOLUNTEER



Photo Courtesy of Connie Brown
Knar Tufenkjian, co-owner of Sierra Madre Pizza Company passed away suddenly. She is shown here with son Armen and infant Meris Brown Page 2

City Puts the Squeeze on Police

"If I were in your shoes, I'd want the check," Mayor Pro Tem Enid Joffe told police

By Katina Dunn

Acceptance of the city's Last, Best and Final offer on a 3 to 2 vote Tuesday gives the police department a 4 percent raise, no back pay and assures that it will be difficult to retain and hire highly qualified officers at this time.

Police would require 21 percent more - plus the four - to equal the lowest paid department in Los Angeles County, which is South Pasadena. Police Officers Association Attorney Dieter Dammeier, who represents 75 other police associations in Southern California, said he is looking into litigation for the right to go to arbitration proceedings, which attorney Scott Tiedemann, on behalf of the city, said was "unconstitutional" because it delegates city authority elsewhere.

The police initiative is also still active, with volunteers gathering signatures to put the police salary on the ballot, which proposes officers would be paid commensurate to the lowest paid police in Los Angeles County.

"He would love it if all the guys went to work

somewhere else tomorrow," Dammeier said of City Manager John Gillison. "Eighteen months ago when we had these meetings, Gillison was pushing for the La Cañada model (Los Angeles County Sheriffs). Gillison would love to do that. Once the community got involved, he shut up." Dammeier made those comments outside city hall after the vote.

The Observer left a message at city hall Wednesday for the city manager regarding the police package and is waiting for a response.

"There was a gap between what the city said the police offer cost at \$1 million and what the police figured to be a cost of about \$400,000, which included some one time costs, such as back pay. "We lost those years," said Sgt. Ruben Enriquez after the vote. "We lose the back pay."

At the council meeting, Gillison, Mayor John Buchanan and Dammeier argued over the city's numbers. Dammeier said he had not seen the city's figures. Gillison told him they were publicly available all along. (See COUNCIL page 3)

Measure V Opponent Files Court Action Objection To Argument Language Filed

By Susan Henderson

Former Sierra Madre Mayor Glenn Lambdin, who opposes Measure V, the Voters Empowerment Initiative (2-30-13) filed a Writ of Mandate in Los Angeles County Superior Court against City Clerk Nancy Shollenberger and residents Kevin Dunn*, David Smith, Ivette Dostalek, Don Watts and Frederic Zimmerman.

The residents (also referred to as the Real Parties In Interest), are the authors of the argument in favor of Measure V.

The writ asks the court to order either to amend or delete the language in the argument in favor of the ballot measure. In his pleadings, where the initiative is called the "Downtown Height and Residential Density Restrictions," Lambdin describes the language as, "false/misleading" and claims that to allow the arguments on the ballot as submitted would do voters "irreparable harm."

At a special hearing held on Tuesday, LA County Superior Court Judge Dzintra Janavs set the matter for arguments on February 21. The absolute last day for changes to the ballot is also February 21. The Judge instructed Shollenberger and the other defendants to file their response by February 15th and ruled that due to the critical timeline, no other filings would be allowed.

Lambdin, who was not present at the hearing, was represented by Attorney Brad Hertz of Reed and Davidson. The firm prominently displays at the top of its client list, the Building Industry Association and the California Association of Realtors.

Dunn, Smith, Dostalek, Watts and Zimmerman were represented by Beverly Grossman Palmer of the law office of Fred Woocher, who is well known for his representation of homeowners against developers. Dunn, Zimmerman and Smith did not attend the hearing.

City Clerk Nancy Sue Shollenberger appeared without counsel, however, an attorney from Coluontano and Levin was present representing the City of Sierra Madre who is not a party to this action.

It is not clear why the City did not provide the City Clerk with an attorney.

Whatever the judge's ruling at the next hearing, Measure V will go before the voters of Sierra Madre on April 17th.

For both arguments on the ballot, visit www.cityofsierramadre.com

*Dunn is the husband of Mt. Wilson Observer Editor and Co-Publisher Katina Dunn.

"They Thought It Was Funny..." Witness says suspects laughed at vicious stabbing in Memorial Park

By Susan Henderson

Testimony in the preliminary hearing of Richfield Chang, Marvin Chang and Ryan Swender resumed on February 9th. The three men are accused of the brutal stabbing in Memorial Park on December 1, 2006 of a Sierra Madre teen. Most of the witnesses are minors and the matter was continued from January 29th so that they could take their final exams.

However, one of the most crucial witnesses for the prosecution was Dane

Ennsley, 18, of Pasadena. Ennsley, along with Emily Chang and Daniel Shih, were initially arrested for the crime but were later released. Ennsley has been granted use immunity in exchange for his testimony against the defendants. Under the deal, he will not be prosecuted for any crimes committed during this incident. Ennsley appeared without counsel, despite admonitions from the Deputy District Attorney and Judge Fujioka. (continued on page 4)

Don't Forget:

Monday, February 19th is **PRESIDENT'S DAY** All Federal, State and Local Offices will be closed.
No Mail Delivery Banks will also be closed.

Photo by Mt. Wilson Photos Cory Huff at Bat (right). Sierra Madre Little League News Page 12



Jim Snider's drawing of himself for the Mt. Wilson Observer. Last year, the Observer interviewed Snider and decided not to run the story due to the nature content of his website. In January, the Pasadena Star News ran an article on the website with endorsement quotes by Sierra Madre Mayor John Buchanan.

In Sierra Madre, Politics Makes Strange Web Fellows

By Katina Dunn

Jim Snider probably never dreamed he'd become such a star in Sierra Madre. The satirist finds himself surrounded by a handful of famous friends. Friends such as Mayor John Buchanan, and former Mountain Views publisher Beth Buck, along with a list of famous sponsors for the website, *Downtown Dirt.org*. The list includes Buck and former mayors Clem Bartolai, Bart Doyle, Doug Hayes, Glenn Lambdin, George Maurer and Rob Stockly; the Reverend Michael Bamberger; and those who are active in the community including Community Cable TV (SM3TV) Program Committee Member

Colleen McKernan* and Community Services Commission Chairperson Lisa Spigai-Perez, whose husband, Miguel, is the *Dirt* site's registrar.

Downtown Dirt.org has much praise for Snider and his website www.sierramadrecumquat.blogspot.com. He, in turn has praise for Buck, naming her "Person of the Week" just last week. The *Pasadena Star News* gave a great write-up of the *Cumquat* on January 14, which featured a hearty endorsement of the site by Mayor Buchanan.

Star-News Reporter (continued page 4)

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Weather Wise



5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2



Friday:	Clear	Hi 70s- 80's	Lows 50s
Saturday:	Ply Clcy	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Sunday:	Ply Clcy	Hi 70s	Lows 50s 20% Chance Rain
Monday:	Ply Clcy	Hi 70s	Lows 50s 30% Chance Rain
Tuesday:	Ply Clcy	Hi 70s	Lows 50s 30% Chance Rain

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

Citizens' Datebook



City of Sierra Madre February Events

- 16 - City Hall Closed
- 19 - City Hall Closed
- 20 - All-America City Steering Committee Meeting - 5:00 pm - Wistaria Room
- 21 - SMTV3 Programming Committee Meeting - 8:00 am - Wistaria Room
- 21 - Tree Advisory Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm - Council Chamber
- 21 - Friends of the Library Board Meeting - 7:00 pm - Hart Park House
- 21 - Preschool Storyhour - 7:00 pm - Library
- 23 - Centennial Opening Night - 6:30 pm - Alverno High School
- 24 - Healthy Family Fun - Kickball - 9:00 am - Sierra Vista Park
- 24 - Sierra Madre Little League Opening Day - Sierra Vista Park
- 26 - Preschool Storyhour - 10:00 am - Library
- 26 - Community Services Commission - 6:00 pm - Council Chamber
- 27 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6:30 pm - Council Chamber
- 28 - All-America City Rally - 6:00 pm - 258 E. Alegria Ave.
- 28 - Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 pm - Conference Room
- 28 - Preschool Storyhour - 7 pm - Library

The above Calendar of Events has been provided by the City of Sierra Madre. Please confirm meeting dates by calling 626-355-7435

Roy Roams' 91024

Say Yes to Mama Pete

We don't know anybody who would say no to Mama Pete, no matter what she asks for. It just isn't done. So when five families had a great desire to have the building of the new senior housing on Esperanza named after the historic family that used to live there, who did they turn to? They turned to Mama Pete aka Marjorie Petersen.

The proposal is that the new housing be named after the Hoffman family and their descendants, who occupied that property from 1918 to 1998.

The families attended the schools, scouts and Congregational Church. They grew citrus, persimmon and peach trees. They rode horses, weeded the cemetery and hiked in the mountains.

In their own words, the Hoffman descendants "served our country and became good citizens thanks to the good influences of our families, our neighbors, our teachers, our churches and our town." That quote was written by Carol Draeger Kuiper (Toddy) on behalf of the five families: Draeger, Dammeyer, Hoffman, Lich and Crane.

Mama Pete wrote a letter to the City Council. She also called Gary Braverman, the developer of the Senior Housing Project.

Name-the-Project Contest March 1 to March 23

Braverman will have a Name-the-Project contest for the senior housing building on Esperanza. The city will release the rules to the community on March 1.

Braverman has naming contests for all of his projects. "I will reserve the right to not pick any of them if they are too wacky," said Braverman. "I get names like Dribbling Oaks." The winner will be awarded \$200. Braverman says he usually shies away from family names. "I don't know the politics - I may be honoring some people and insulting others." And he wonders if he should name it after his own father. "This was the last project he worked on before he passed away," said Braverman. Ultimately, he said he will choose "something that will be relevant to the community."

If there's a story behind it, submit in one page or less.

Submit names by mail to:
SME Associates, LTD
4370 Tujunga Ave. Suite 310
Studio City 91604

Submit names by email to:
Garybrav@pacbell.net

Who is Behind the Looking Glass?

Residents invited to Tuesday's focus group on Measure V were paid \$100 to be interviewed at a facility at Colorado Blvd. They were told they were being filmed and watched from behind a mirror and were not allowed to take notes. The interviewer didn't say who paid for the focus group.

Questions included "How would you feel if a judge ruled in favor of Glenn Lambdin?" Former Mayor Lambdin is challenging the arguments for Measure V on the ballot April 17, and is represented by an attorney for the Building Industry Association.

What wasn't asked was how they would feel if the judge ruled in favor of SMRRD (Sierra Madre Residents for Responsible Development.)

There was no discussion about traffic or density issues.

At one point, there was a knock on the mirror and someone came out to hand the moderator a note, whereby he switched gears to another topic.

At the end of one session, a resident said "How stupid do you think we are?"

Another session featured former mayors George Maurer and Ron Stockly in person.

Parental Advisory Warning

Baseball season returns to Sierra Madre with our children striving to learn athletic skills and sportsmanship and having good old fashioned fun on the baseball diamonds at Heasley and Dapper Fields.

Hopefully this baseball season in Sierra Madre will see exemplary behavior from its parents and coaches.

Last year's season included some rather dramatic incidents, best not mentioned here. This season, eyes will be on those diamonds.

What's Sixty Three, Pink and Philanthropic?

Phyllis Chapman reports the Civic Club had a 63rd birthday party recently at Memorial Park's Hart House. There was Charter President Althea Butler, Marjorie Peterson, Anne Tyler and Arlie Hahn. President Suzanne Decker talked of plans for donations to the Foothill Unity Center, and the spring flower planting at the City Hall rotunda. Volunteers signed up for the Huck Finn Fishing Derby, March 25 Wistaria Festival, and April 14 Chinese Auction and luncheon. Chapman writes that these volunteers have been on the "front lines" of philanthropy since World War II.

St. Rita's Catholic Church Welcome Event

New to St. Rita's and don't feel you know many members? Moved to Sierra Madre recently, and looking for a new Catholic Church home? Belonged to St. Rita's for a long time, but don't feel you've connected yet?

Let us welcome you to St. Rita's!

Join us Sunday afternoon, February 25 at 3 p.m. for a casual wine and cheese gathering at the home of Dick and Chris Bertrand. Please bring a bottle of wine or non-alcoholic beverage, cheese, crackers or appetizer to share.

Pastor Richard Krekelberg and representatives of various St. Rita organizations will be on hand to welcome you to our wonderful parish community! After the gathering at 5 p.m. a tour will be offered of St. Rita's facilities. RSVP to Chris Bertrand at 626-355-1621.

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Café 322

Broadway and Opera Favorites.
Pianist Danny Guerrero & Friends
322 Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

Farmer's Market

Every Saturday
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Artisan chocolates, fresh flowers, honey, fruits, vegetables and fresh baked bread. Menudo & tamale stand.
PHS parking lot
2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Beantown

45 N. Baldwin
(626) 355-1596

Lucky Baldwin's

21 Kersting Court
(626) 355-1140

Save the Date

Saturday March 31

Huck Finn Fishing Derby
7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Derby
12:30 to 4 p.m. Family Fishing

Sunday April 1

7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Family Fishing
Camp & Derby: \$45 up to 4 kids
Family Fishing: \$10 per family, or \$6 per person
Call (626) 355-5278

REMEMBRANCES

Knarik Tufenkjian

Exemplary City Volunteer



Knarik Tufenkjian was one of the most generous people Sierra Madreans have ever known. She worked in the restaurant business for 25 years, including operating K's Deli and as co-owner of the Sierra Madre Pizza Company.

Tufenkjian, in her 50s, was taken ill suddenly and later succumbed to a staph infection. Funeral services were held Thursday, February 15 at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier.

Connie Brown, one of many friends, said Tufenkjian was always helping others, yet would rarely accept help herself. "She was always giving," said Brown. Tufenkjian loved the Rose Float, and devoted a great many hours fundraising for it as well as donating hundreds of pizzas to nourish its hard working volunteers. "She adored the float," said Brown. "She thought it was so great."

Tufenkjian is survived by two teenaged sons, Arman and Raffi; and her husband, Biken.

The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association announced Wednesday it will feature a special plaque in memory of Tufenkjian which will be placed on the next year's float, 2008.

The family has asked that, instead of flowers, contributions be made to the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association at (626) 355-7999.

Visit Our Remembrance Pages and Sign the guest book for family & friends

www.mtwilsonobserver.com

Thank You to Kefalas Brothers



The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association made \$700 at Tuesday's fundraiser at *The Only Place in Town*. "It was our pleasure and joy," said William Kefalas, who owns the restaurant with his brother, Michael.

The brothers donated 20% of all checks for the 2008 float. John Johnson of Marketing Tools donated event flyers. About 250 people dined out to benefit the float, and Rose Float Association volunteer coordinator Bonnie Colcher handed out roses to the diners.

The next fundraiser will be held at BeanTown.

SIERRA MADRE ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO AT SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

During the month of February, the display case at the Sierra Madre Public Library will feature artifacts and ephemera from Sierra Madre circa 1907, the year of the city's incorporation. The display is one of many events planned in Sierra Madre as part of the city's 2007 Centennial Celebration.

All materials are from the Sierra Madre Historical Archives Collection, jointly owned by the Library and the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society.

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

SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS TRAVELERS AND COLLECTORS SERIES

"Sturtevant Camp: And a Few Steps Beyond"

By Chris Kastan and Joe Tortomasi
Friday, March 9, 2007 7:30 pm City Hall Chambers
Admission: Free For information call: 626-355-7186 or go to: www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us

The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

You Should Try It

There are two different kinds of kids as far as I can tell. One of them is completely incapable of stopping himself from (when presented with the opportunity) picking up a massive hunk of ice/snow and chucking it at the head of his friend who is standing two feet away. And the other kind... um... There is one kind of kid as far as I can tell.

I wonder, are we endearing to people in Billings, Montana; Bismark, North Dakota; Saginaw, Michigan? I mean, if they could see our San Gabriel Valley-reared offspring react to three-week-old brownish holdout snow sludge in the shadows of rock outcrops on the road to Idyllwild, would they get a kick out of it? Or would they want to hurt us? "Snow! Snow! Look! Ohmygosh, it's snow!" "Where? Where was it?" "Back there! I saw it! It was snow! You missed it."

Part of what I get to look forward to each year when I travel to AstroCamp with the 5th graders from my school district is their magical discovery of the outstanding wonderfulness of "snow." But it's not really snow as much as it is river rock-sized ice chunks (perfect for shattering bones) left over from the snow that fell last month. Yippee.

Parents, please take a field trip with your kids this winter. One day, after it rains down here where we live, drive up the hill to Mt. Baldy and give your kids a tour of that crazy white stuff that falls from the sky. Let them eat it and throw it and make it into snowpeople. Let them shove it down their brother's shirt and roll around in it in their jeans. You deal with it, because I am just about fed up with young person snow orientation.

The other part of what I get to look forward to on the AstroCamp trip is spending two nights in a mountain wilderness dorm full of eleven year-olds. Have you ever tried this? Listen, you really should. There are

a few things that you can count on happening every single time.

For example, one entire room of boys in train pajamas will swear to you (at 2:00 a.m.) that there is a bear just outside of their window. They will all be able to provide detailed descriptions of the bear (scars, tooth color, mean eyes) and its behavior (kind of shuffling or shambling or maybe jumping up and down). Of course, none of the descriptions will match any of the others and one boy will hypothesize that it is actually a family of bears. All of the boys will agree. The bear family is hungry. The bear family is going to break through the window and devour the AstroCampers in their sleeping bags. You will do your best to reassure the boys that there is nothing to be afraid of. It was probably a raccoon. You will turn out the lights and tell them to get some sleep (tomorrow is a big day - we'll be rock climbing on the surface of Mars). Then you will go outside and growl and snort and kick a trash can around and pound on their window for a few minutes.

What else will happen? There will be an outbreak of homesickness.

Parents and big brothers will be called on cellular telephones. Someone will ask you to look at his rash. Someone will somehow lose his sleeping bag. A toilet will clog. Someone will vomit. But instead of going to the bathroom to do this, he will come to your room to tell you first. You will use rubber gloves and disinfectant spray. And, at some point, you will be reminded that there is absolutely nothing funnier (nothing, I mean it) than a pair of mystery underpants hanging from a doorknob. Who they belong to, how they got there... no one will ever know. But, oh how you will laugh and laugh.

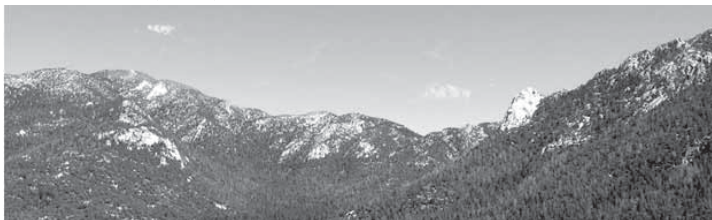


Photo courtesy of Mark Hespeneide

At Idyllwild this year, there just wasn't much snow

COUNCIL (continued from page 1)

Dammeier responded he didn't fill out any Freedom of Information requests, and that the POA did not understand what the city was offering. Dammeier also said he would clarify what the POA position is, and said he was willing to make adjustments.

Buchanan then argued that if Dammeier was negotiating, then that was not a Last, Best and Final offer. "I'm not sure you're at impasse... we can't negotiate here."

Dammeier said he was not interested in more "behind the scenes negotiation" with the city manager because "it's fruitless." He then said he would "clarify" the retirement and overtime figures and would meet with the council if needed.

"So we do have another option," said Mayor Pro Tem Enid Joffe. "I don't know if that's of interest to people."

The council resisted postponing the vote to the next meeting, which Dammeier was willing to do. "I think we ought to just move on this now," said Council Member Joe Mosca, who said this was the "most difficult decision" he has ever made as a council member. Mosca voted for the city's offer with Buchanan and Joffe.

"If I were in your shoes, I'd want the check," Joffe told the police before the vote.

"I can't commit money I don't have," said Buchanan. Council Member Kurt Zimmerman, who voted for the

POA package, said public safety was a concern, as well as retaining and attracting competent officers. Council Member Don Watts, who also voted for the POA proposal, said he was embarrassed where Sierra Madre stood in relation to Pasadena, Arcadia and Monrovia.

Watts suggested a utility tax to go specifically for police. Watts said he is uncomfortable letting down these men and women "who are sticking their necks out for us," and said he is unhappy with both the city and POA offers because they are "too low."

Residents spoke unanimously in favor of the POA proposal during community communications. "Essential services are by the very nature of the name - essential," said resident Fay Angus.

"It's criminal," said a resident who gave his name as Howard, who held his dog, Squirrel, at the podium. "We're losing tenured people and they're not being replaced. I don't know if people realize how valuable it is to have a police officer who knows you."

Howard mentioned eight at-risk children he knew were rescued by local police officers through the years. The children grew up to become college graduates and U.S. Marines. "What price? What is it worth?"

Proposals for the police from the city and POA are available on the city's website www.cityofsierramadre.com



Feb. 23 Gala To Set Stage For Centennial Celebration

Period costumes, champagne, a wine bar and buffet in a historic villa will set the stage for the Opening Night Gala of the Sierra Madre Centennial Feb. 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The event will be held at the Villa del Sol d'Oro on the Alverno High School Campus, 200 N. Michillinda Ave., Sierra Madre.

Guests will receive keepsake favors, which are marble coasters with an imprint of a Red Car, that featured prominently in the growth of Sierra Madre. Population doubled within a year after the trolleys rolled into Kersting Court.

Tickets, which also are keepsakes, are \$50. They are available at the Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., or at The Bottle Shop, 58 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Information: 626-355-7186

FEBRUARY CENTENNIAL EVENTS

FEB 1-28 - Display from Historical Archives, Sierra Madre Library, 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

FEB. 23 - Opening Night Gala, 6:30 pm-9:30 pm., Alverno Villa, 200 N. Michillinda Ave. Information: 626-355-7186

FEB. 24 - Little League Opening Day Parade, Carnival, 8 am, Sierra Vista Park.

FEB. 28 - All America City Rally, California Lyric Theater, 258 E. Alegria Ave. Information: 626-355-5278

OTHER CENTENNIAL INFORMATION

Centennial Calendars listing events throughout the year are available at the Sierra Madre Public Library.

Centennial Pins at \$5 each are available from various merchants and community organizations.



A gathering under the wisteria vine circa 1910-1920

GOING BACK IN TIME

The focus will be on fashion at Sierra Madre's Centennial Gala next week. Citizens are preparing for a fun filled evening of nostalgia complete with attire from the early part of the 20th century.

Some are getting their costumes from Pok A Dots (626) 445-0254 at 115 E. Huntington in Monrovia while others have found Glendale Costumes (818) 244-1161 - 746 W. Doran, Glendale to be the spot. E-bay has also proved to be a great spot to find vintage clothing.

However, according to Jan Reed, "All you need is a frilly white blouse and full, big skirt".

Regardless of your source, the ladies and gents who partake in the costumed festivities are guaranteed to be a hoot.



Stripped Shirts & detached collars were popular for guys in 1910



Hats and Suits were popular among ladies during that time



Wide sashes and lots of lace were also popular in the early 1900's



By the 1920's Men and Women's fashion changed considerably



Photos and graphics courtesy of google images



"If you're gonna play in that arena you better be prepared to get as good as you give. And, in this case, better. Or worse." - Beth Buck in her February 11 column in the Downtown Dirt website addressing senior citizen Fay Angus for asking the Mayor if he was aware of the website content.

SNIDER

(continued from page 1)

Molly Okeon wrote that Buchanan said "a political environment like Sierra Madre's, where 'substantial tension' exists, is exactly where websites like the *Cumquat* can flourish."

Okeon compared the site to "a touch of" *The Jon Stewart Show* on Comedy Central TV, and to *The Onion*, a satirical national newspaper with a website that does warn its readers "*The Onion* is not intended for readers under 18 years of age." In truth, the Sierra Madre satire appears more similar to comedians Sacha Baron Cohen of the film *Borat* and Sarah Silverman, who derives humor out of the homeless and people with AIDS.

Without getting too specific, satirical highlights of the *Cumquat* site have included:

- Boy Scouts selling birth control
- Council Member Don Watts as a cross dresser
- Council Member Kurt Zimmerman as a drug user
- A report on a toddler "Tricycle Gang" published after the stabbing of a teenager in Memorial Park by suspected gangsters.
- Religious figures and bodily functions.

One of the Sierra Madreans driven to have a look due to the *Star-News* article was senior citizen Fay Angus. During a city council meeting on February 6, she approached the podium to inquire if the Mayor was truly aware of the site's content. The Mayor fired back that he refuses to let anyone tell him what he finds funny.

Angus said last Saturday she isn't concerned about the Mayor's personal website preferences. She is concerned about his prescription of the site for the entire city.

"It's about his sneering at the community," said Angus of the Mayor. "He says Sierra Madre is where websites like this will flourish, and if you have a sleazy, smutty website, this is the place to put it. I think that is deplorable. This is a misrepresentation of a charming community."

Angus said she gave the Mayor an out during that meeting - asking if he was aware of the site's content before he defended the site yet again in the council chambers. "I was absolutely shocked," said Angus. "How can we possibly be the All American City if this is what the Mayor says we need?" Angus refers to recent efforts by some residents to achieve the title "All American City," a contest sponsored by the National Civic League.

After Angus' appearance at the February 6 city council meeting, however, a new offspring of *Cumquat* appeared. A link appeared to another website - its name is an obscene four letter word corroborating with female anatomy.

It features Angus and seniors at Hart Park House, bodily functions and a shriveled body part. Printed copies of this new site have been distributed around downtown.

Postings on the Dirt site have always included "sock puppets" with fake names. They have written that Council Member Watts parties with transvestites and compared *Mt. Wilson Observer* Opinion writer Stefan Bund to a subscriber of child pornography as well

as a serial killer.

On February 11, in her column on the *Dirt* website, Buck calls Angus a "caricature" with "mean-spirited judgements" and warns Angus, who is in her 70s, "If you're gonna play in that arena you better be prepared to get as good as you give. And, in this case, better. Or worse."

Snider awards Buck "Person of the Week" for her "professional response to the recent childlike and uninformed criticism of the *Cumquat*" by "crybabies who click on the web address and then complain about its smut."

Last Sunday, the *Mt. Wilson Observer* telephoned the Mayor, who said he was very busy in meetings all day and would try to catch up later. A message was also left for Molly Okeon at the *Star-News*.

Also on Sunday, Snider said "Here's what I find funny - we're all talking in the same circles. I bet you 9,500 people haven't heard about it." In the *Star-News*, Snider had said the *Cumquat* was spreading "like wildfire."

When asked for another interview, Snider said he would think about it. "We already went down that road once," he said.

Last Monday, the *Mt. Wilson Observer* left a message for former mayor Glenn Lambdin, to inquire whether he is "Bonehead" whom "Mountain Man" calls "Glen" on February 12 in the *Dirt*'s SpeakOut section, where both posters call for a boycott of *The Mt. Wilson Observer* and encourage posters to go after advertisers of this newspaper; with threats the shopkeepers will "go under" or out of business.

One wonders why all these adults, many of whom still occupy leadership positions in the community, fight so fiercely for their own freedom of speech, and that of their friends; yet just as fiercely fight to shut down the same freedoms exercised by anybody else.

It's ironic that Angus - who is a concentration camp survivor in her 70s - is found yet again in a vortex of political intimidation, this time in Sierra Madre, USA, 2007.

Also ironic that someone named "cumquat" on the *Dirt* site December 16 had a benign thing to say about the newspaper, or close to it, anyway: "Boycotting the Observatory would only hinder astronomical discoveries and education."

Dirt supporter Colleen McKernan filed a complaint against this newspaper with the Better Business Bureau regarding another well-meaning senior citizen - this one in her 80s - who apparently sold her an ad and asked her to sign the 2-30-13 petition at the same time - unbeknownst to the newspaper. It has never been our intent or policy to ask advertisers to sign petitions.

The *Mt. Wilson Observer* told McKernan they were not going to question the senior citizen, or criticize the senior citizen for whatever she did, and apologized for any error and did not charge for the ad. McKernan then filed the complaint, published a defamatory letter in the *Mountain Views* and submitted that letter to the city council, where it was included in the agenda packet.

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, February 4th, to Saturday February 10th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 197 calls for service.

Monday, February 5th-

7:50 AM - Theft, 00 block West Carter Ave. A resident called to report two packages containing a woman's blazer and yoga books delivered by the US Postal Service were stolen from his front porch. The packages were delivered Tuesday, 1/23 at 12:00 noon; however, the loss was not discovered until Fe. 5th. The loss was valued at \$150.00.

Wednesday, February 7th:

9:06 AM - Property lost or stolen, 00 block South Hermosa Ave. A resident reported his stroller missing from Memorial Park. The stroller was left at the park Thursday, 1/25 and discovered missing on Monday, 2/5. The loss is valued at \$800.00.

Thursday, February 8th:

8:23 AM - Theft from auto, 500 block Audubon Way. A resident reported her camping equipment, a camp stove, thermal rest sleeping mat, a 4' x 6' piece of Masonite and a 3' metal T-square were stolen from the unlocked bed of her truck. The truck was parked Monday, 2/1 at 7:30 PM and the loss was discovered Tuesday, 2/2 at 9:00 AM. The loss was estimated at \$220.00.

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Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK
From Caroline Brown

The rains of last weekend were a needed change in the weather pattern we have been calling winter. These might be said to be spring rains - the air temperature being as warm as it is. If you like a long ski season, you will have to wait until next year. The snow pack in the High Sierra has been tested and is about 25% of normal. Rainfall - about one eighth of normal. Yet it is these warm rains that will bring the flush of chaparral growth that we all enjoy hiking through on our way higher up on the Mt Wilson and Bailey Canyon trails. Last year's growth and that of many previous years is there for you to thin out of your hillside area. Damp chaparral smells very sweet - dead, dry and ready to burn chaparral smells of our local, recurring hazard. In the Fire Storms of 1993, Captain Dan Young of Orange County Fire Department was adamant with the following comment: "It's time to wake up and smell the chaparral, because sooner or later, these areas are going to burn. This is not a maybe. This is not potential. It's genuine. It's real. It is going to happen again. The question is, when the smoke clears, will your house be standing?" The next Fire Safe Council meeting will be March 12 at 7 P.M. in the City Council chambers. In the meantime, go to the state website: www.firesafecouncil.org for links to important fire protection measures for your home. For information call: 355-9350 or 355-1182 or e-mail us at: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com

STABBING (continued from page 1)

When the witness took the stand, he told the court of how, on the night after the incident, one of the defendants and an associate laughed when they discussed the vicious stabbing of an apparently innocent Sierra Madre teen.

According to Ensley, after a verbal confrontation across from Kersting Court, Ryan Swender summoned his "friends he had been working with," co-defendants Richfield and Marvin Chang, to come to Sierra Madre and "beat up the kids in Memorial Park."

The Changs are alleged to have gone to Swender's home in Sierra Madre and coordinated the attack. After the meeting, Ensley, Swender and all three Changs - Richfield, Marvin and Emily - all went to Memorial Park where the attack occurred. Later, according to Ensley, Marvin Chang and Daniel Shih, "...thought it was funny." "They were laughing and joking and Marvin Chang said, "We messed the kid up pretty good."

The victim, who was severely stabbed, was, according to testimony, an innocent bystander.

Pasadena Police Department Detective William Brougham was brought back to the witness stand to give the court an update on the injuries of the victim. According to Brougham, the victim has sustained "permanent

brain damage that causes him to pass out and faint." In addition, said the detective, "the victim's left eye had nerve damage and had to be closed." The teen had multiple stab wounds in his head, back, chest and shoulder.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Fujioka held all defendants bound over for trial. However, he dropped the attempted murder charges against Defendant Swender.

Swender, who witnesses say is responsible for having the Changs come to Sierra Madre and fight, was not held accountable for the severity of the beating that took place. He will stand trial only for the charges of assault with a deadly weapon.

Richfield and Marvin Chang, however, will go to trial for attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon. Richfield Chang remains in custody with a Department of Corrections hold. He was convicted of Robbery in 2000. Marvin Chang's bail of \$1.05 million remains. He is still in custody. Swender, having posted a \$1 million bond, is not in custody.

Under the circumstances, the district attorney's office may re-file murder charges against Swender. The defendants will appear in court on February 26th for arraignment to stand trial.



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

My Space Is An Equal Opportunity Offender

By David Johnston

My Space at no time verifies the age or the identity of its "members," said Officer Dave Nardoni, Sierra Madre Police Department in a recent power point presentation presented to parents at Sierra Madre Middle School.

It is common knowledge at local schools that numerous ten - thirteen year olds in Sierra Madre have or had "My Space" profiles listed, several with "public" access and some with obvious adults listed as "Friends".

The SMPD power point presentation is available online at www.mtwilsonobserver.com.

My Space states on its website that "If you are over 18 and pretend to be a teenager to contact underage users, customer service will delete your profile."

Some critics of MySpace policies have demanded that My Space report the URLs of potential predators or adults posing as teens to appropriate authorities, not just a simple deletion of the profile.

Lawsuits are filed against MySpace.com and News Corp (parent company) for reckless behavior, negligence and fraud.

An attorney in one of the lawsuits suggested that My Space has long been negligent in providing meaningful security for underage users and My Space encourages youth-oriented visitors to expand their circle of "friends" using free messaging tools and personal profile pages.

Officer Nardoni reported that even with a valid subpoena, Law Enforcement may not be able to verify the identity of any MySpace member. Subpoenas can obtain subscriber information such as name and email and the IP address of log-in location; however the subscriber is virtually anonymous, almost untraceable.

According to a 2005 study by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, without seeking the content, 34% of youth are exposed to explicit pictures via the Internet.

Thirteen percent (13%) of the youth surveyed have been solicited online, and 4 % reported that they had been victims of aggressive sexual solicitations.

Of those having profiles or pages, 31 % of the 13-17 year olds will post pictures of themselves.

Other "social networking" sites such as Xanga, Facebook and so on are all starting points for predators targeting children and teenagers. Instant messaging is usually a final step in opening a dialogue, a private conversation that often results in a solicitation request from the predator.

The SMPD suggests that parents observe the amount of time a child is spending online or to notice if a child turns off the screen when the parent approaches.

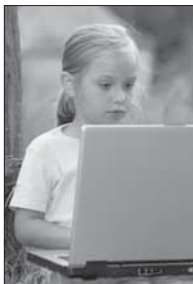


Photo Courtesy istockphoto.com
Parents must work with their children to protect them from internet predators.

A red flag are gifts from unknown senders and SMPD warns parents that they should know specifically who their child is speaking with, when, the context of the message and why the conversations are taking place.

"Where is your child going on the internet?" Officer Nardoni asks parents, regarding public access computers at the Library or local coffee shop.

Besides computers, he also stressed that parents should not forget about cell phones and instant messaging.

The SMPD presentation has opened a dialogue between parents and children and the use of "social networking" sites.

A 7th grader at Sierra Madre, underage with a My Space page, had her profile removed by parents and subsequently, the child has encouraged five friends which have deleted their own profiles.

Quite a few of her friends were posting normal everyday photos of themselves, posting references to Sierra Madre and local schools, without understanding the dangers. They were, in a sense, laying a roadmap directly to Sierra Madre.

My Space warns "Avoid posting anything that would make it easy for a stranger to find you."

One parent said that he deleted his son's profile, because he was underage and also because of the inappropriate language, obscene bulletins and the sheer stupidity of it all.

He said his son rarely visited his My Space profile page, but when he did, his son was basically sending a "wat up?" message to a friend who lived four blocks away and three days later his friend would message back, "wat up w u?"

As a precautionary measure, the SMPD suggests that parents should review often any websites, profiles or blogs that are being posted by their children and review content for risky behavior.

A copy of the SMPD presentation on Internet Safety is available at Mt. Wilson Observer.com. Links are provided for additional information and parental research on the subject.

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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.

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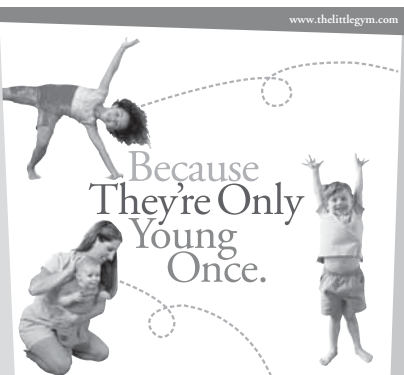
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Driver's Ed Class In Sierra Madre

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, contact the Community & Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278.



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Is Memorial Park Worth Saving?

By Hail Hamilton

Although some readers favor some sort of crackdown on the day laborers, others remain unconvinced. One reader said I was "totally out of touch with the real issues confronting Sierra Madre." Nothing could be further from the truth!

I am well aware of the serious issues confronting our little city. I know that the city is in a financial bind. I know that all city employees need a raise - recreation workers, clerks, librarians, maintenance workers, and especially our police officers. The city spends far too much money on upper level management, outside consultants and legal advice. Streets are not being paved and other capital improvements are not being completed.

The city is already at the point where its income is not enough to pay for the number of residents it now serves.

Any significant increase in population will require a significant increase in city spending. Increased development tied to federal funds will not solve the problem, only worsen it. In as little as three years the city could go bankrupt unless it puts its financial affairs in order.

I also know that there is enormous pressure from outside our community to forever change the character of Sierra Madre.

So what's all the fuss about a couple of editorials I wrote about Memorial Park? Perhaps, most people simply don't like hearing the truth when it is unpleasant. But the unpleasant truth is that the struggle over Memorial Park is symbolic of the larger struggle over city government.

It is a struggle over what is best for Sierra Madre and who will decide. Ask yourself this simple question: Is it really best for our community to ignore the Municipal Code and allow day workers to remain in Memorial Park just so a few of us can have easy access to cheap labor? I hope your answer is a resounding NO!

I would remind our city officials that if they don't like the law or they feel it's too costly or inconvenient to enforce, then change the law or eliminate it. But do it legally through the City Council or by a ballot measure. However, until the law is changed or eliminated, the Municipal Code should be enforced as it is currently written. To this end, I recommend that the City of Sierra Madre take the following actions with respect to Memorial Park:

1. The Police Department's Code Enforcement Unit will begin strictly enforcing the Municipal Code in Memorial Park;
2. The Parks and Recreation Department will post signs in conspicuous places in and around the park informing the public that it is against the law to solicit work or hire workers in or around Memorial Park;
3. The City Council will adopt reasonable and effective guidelines to warn, arrest, seize property and, if necessary, prosecute, fine and/or jail offenders violating the Municipal Code in Memorial Park;
4. The public officials responsible for administering the Municipal Code will be held strictly accountable for employing due diligence in their enforcement of the Municipal Code and that they be suspended or fired for their failure to diligently enforce the law in Memorial Park;
5. The city will initiate a public information campaign in the local press, public access television and on its official website warning the public of the dangers of hiring day laborers and/or of the dangers of employing contractors who hire them.

These aren't radical recommendations. These are simple, cost effective solutions that can be easily implemented. They are also legal. Again, if you want to reclaim this beautiful part of our community heritage, call or write City Hall and make your voice heard in support of a good cause. Memorial Park is an important landmark and gathering place for residents and visitors to Sierra Madre. It is a place for our kids to play and our seniors to stroll. It is not an outdoor employment office for day laborers. Is Memorial Park is worth saving? I hope your answer is a resounding YES!

What's Wrong With This Picture?

By Susan Henderson



wrong (adj.): not right or proper; picture (n): situation

Well, the gloves are off and the battle has begun. The next few weeks will be filled with the supporters and opponents of Measure V aka The Voters Empowerment Initiative aka 2-30-13. Each side will be trying to paint a picture of their position. And that is fair, that's the American way. You present both sides of the situation and then you let the people decide. However, it is not quite that simple. When it comes to painting a picture so voters can make a decision and cast their vote in this matter, there are too many outside influences.

It would simply be another Sierra Madre event if the residents who support Measure V were to battle the residents who oppose it one on one. That would be a fair and square fight. But alas, like in most elections these days, that will not be the way it is. It will not just be the residents with opposing views fighting to be right, it will be the residents who support the initiative versus the residents AND OUTSIDE MONEY who oppose the initiative. That's where you start to wonder, what is wrong with this picture?

When we last checked, proponents of Measure V, organized as SMRRD (Sierra Madre Residents for Responsible Development), were residents collecting their support the old fashioned way - personal donations, garage sales and other fundraisers. However, when I checked on the resources of the opposition, the picture got really big.

You see, it turns out that although we have known for some time of the Arcadia Association of Realtors opposition to the measure, we really didn't know how much they were willing to spend to defeat it. In its January, 2007 Government Affairs report where they falsely listed Measure V as "Sierra Madre No Growth" the topics included:

"Committee formed to oppose - Residents Against Planning Restrictions" and "Applications for REALTOR Money" and "National - 25k vs. \$30k Application" among other things.

And there you have what is wrong with the big picture. There is a well funded campaign afoot to paint the picture in favor of the wishes of the Arcadia Association of Realtors. The mobilization has begun to spend enough money to change opinions in Sierra Madre.

Just look at the name of the committee: Residents Against Planning Restrictions. Who would ever think that it was a committee working as a tool of the Arcadia Realtors Association?

How many Sierra Madreans will be tricked into thinking that this group is a genuine grass roots resident's organization that is concerned about the city? Who will know that it is a front for the thousands of dollars that are going to be poured into this city to influence this election?

And another thing, how about the "Application for REALTOR Money"? Are they applying to the National Association of Realtors to get RPAC funds? Is a national political action committee providing the "matching funds" as indicated in a previous agenda packet? Will the Arcadia Realtors get their grant of \$30,000 in matching funds from REALTORS? Does that mean they have a \$60,000-plus war chest to fight the citizens of Sierra Madre?

Why is this election so important to these realtors and developers?
 There is definitely nothing right and proper about this. It is just plain wrong. Drastically wrong. No matter what side of the initiative you are on, is it fair to bring thousands of dollars from outside interests to town? Do they have the best interest of residents at heart or are they looking out for the money to be made by their members? Are they going to use Sierra Madre as an example to other cities who want to retain their identity? Are they trying to send a message, "don't try to protect yourself" or we will bring in truck loads of money to paint the picture the way we want it?

Something is wrong. Very wrong. Outside money has no business in our local elections. None. This picture is very distorted.

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.



JOE MOSCA

By David Smith

One of the principal arguments the opponents of Measure V are using is that we should defer decisions about community planning to our elected officials. There's one major flaw in that argument. We tried that, and it failed.

In last year's election for City Council we had a broad slate of candidates. The three candidates that expressed reservations about the Downtown Specific Plan and who promised the people a referendum on the final draft won a landslide victory. The people had spoken, and their wish was clear.

We thought we were safe. Whatever decisions and compromises our City Council made, the residents would have a final say in the matter. When Joe Mosca broke his campaign promise and reversed his position on the DSP referendum, it registered a 12 on the community Richter scale. He terrified us. And his betrayal galvanized our community.

I've heard a lot of opinions about Joe Mosca, all the way from he's a mole the developers planted, to he's young, inexperienced, and politically naive. Whatever your choice, he's a disaster. Not just for the voter's who trusted him, but also for the side he's gone over to.

Joe Mosca's betrayal took compromise off the table. He almost singlehandedly put Measure V on the ballot.

Compromise is what politics is all about. His removing the possibility of compromise has brought us to the degree of political polarization we currently face in Sierra Madre.

What was Joe Mosca thinking? What makes him think he has more experience, maturity, and wisdom than the residents who voted for him. Whatever he thinks, he's wrong.

Joe Mosca started off his tenure on the City Council a hero and became, in a few months, one of the most despised residents this community has ever seen. That takes real talent. The real tragedy is he'd still be everyone's hero if he just used his head.

There has been a major failure of Joe Mosca to grasp the political realities of Sierra Madre. Regardless of party affiliation, when it comes to Sierra Madre itself, the vast majority of residents are conservative. Sierra Madre is a family community. We have no desire to become another Old Town Pasadena. We want a town that's safe, secure, and prosperous, a place where our kids can congregate at Bean Town after school and in the evening without us having to worry about them.

The signs of a reversal in the real estate market were clear last Spring.

Everyone saw it. We need to maintain the value of our homes. As long as the homeowners feel prosperous, the contractors and building tradesmen who do the additions, remodels, and maintenance on our homes will have work. And if we keep Sierra Madre a desirable place to live, the realtors will have a strong housing market and an income, however modest, to get them through to the next boom.

My greatest fear is that they'll kick out Taylor's Meats, bulldoze Howie's, and get a building started. Then, the crash will come and all work will cease, just like 1990.

Given last April's election, the outcome of the vote on April 17th seems predictable.

So Joe, if you want to be a hero again, here's my suggestion. Resign! Get out of the way and let this community heal the gaping wound your poor judgment inflicted. Run again if you want to. Maybe we'll give you another chance, but, for the sake of everyone, end the nightmare your betrayal created.

And let the City Council, once again, become the community forum it should be.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

The Sierra Madre Park is not a market place for labor. Those who wait there for employment are using the facilities for their own financial benefit to the detriment of the citizens who support these facilities.

Citizens should not face intimidation by the presence of groups of men loitering in or on the perimeter of the park.

It is now obvious that City officials have 'looked the other way' for far too long regarding this -Business- in our park. Should they also allow vendors to set up shop there without question?

Since the park is so close to City Hall why not allow an employment kiosk to be installed, say in the entrance hall? Would officials continue to 'look the other way'? Maybe business licenses could be passed out to make it OK?

This is really no joke, allowing our laws to be ignored only asks for more crime and a lower standard of living. Let's also give our police force reasonable pay to help maintain the reputed high standard of Sierra Madre.

Sincerely,
Carl Gage from Sierra Madre

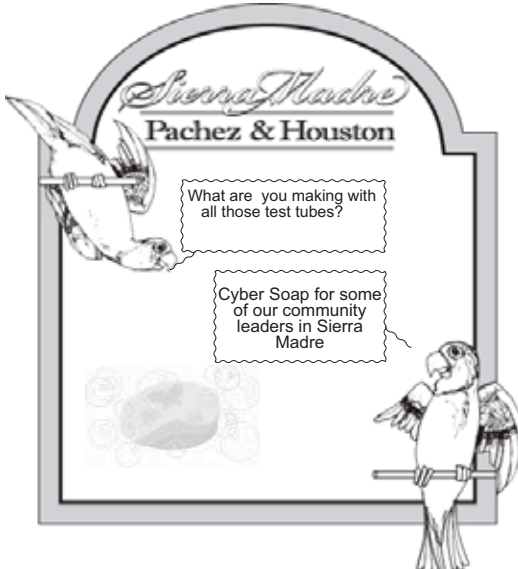
Thank you guys for the story by Hail Hamilton, Is Memorial Park Unfriendly Territory. I have lived here almost all my life. For a short time I lived in Arcadia. When I moved back here I was surprised and uncomfortable to find the park edges with the day laborers hanging out.

I never understood why the city let this continue to happen. The responses from our Chief of Police and Manager John Gillison really shocks me. Lack of manpower or limited resources. Give me a break. Those guys are not even two hundred feet from the police station and city hall. Some days they're not even a hundred feet.

So let me add my complaint to the other two. I think that the police chief might be able to include the front of the park, right next to her office, in her manpower resources.

Sometimes it is good to enforce the City's Municipal Codes.

Thank you very much.
Shannon Winsky



Before They Were President

By Rich Johnson



Presidents and 7 were cabinet secretaries (Did they have to get coffee?).

Only 10 presidents came from unique early careers. Care to guess who did what? (This can be tricky because some of these presidents were better known for secondary careers)

Lets see how you do: We have a surveyor, writer, postmaster, tailor, sheriff, rancher, editor, engineer, journalist and one you'll never guess, an actor.

Okay, okay, Ronald Reagan is the actor. The surveyor was George Washington. Thomas Jefferson is our writer. Our postmaster was an obscure fellow named Abraham Lincoln. Andrew Johnson was our tailor and Grover Cleveland was town sheriff. John Kennedy was a journalist. Teddy Roosevelt was of course our rancher and Warren G. Harding was a newspaper editor. Rounding out our unique careers was Herbert Hoover the engineer.

It might be interesting to note our 3 teachers were John Adams, Lyndon Baines Johnson, and Chester A. Arthur. Three of our presidents are listed with only one previous career. And it was the same job...General. Can you name them? Zachary Taylor, Ulysses S. Grant and Dwight David Eisenhower.

Finally, our businessmen were late additions to the list and they both had the same last name...Bush. What do you think of that?

My choice. I'm throwing my full non-financial support behind Kevin Dunn. Not only is he a handsome, accomplished actor, he is the husband of the editor of this newspaper. Our early slogan: "Done with Dunn"

For now, I'm Dunn.

I realize you may think it a bit premature to discuss our upcoming presidential election. Don't blame me. I point the finger at Hillary, Barak, John, Mitt, Bill, Sam, Rudy and just maybe Al Gore.

Really though, I don't think it's too early to start thinking about 2008. It wouldn't hurt to even consider a new and fresh approach in choosing our next commander -in-chief. So let me grab my lawn chair and sit under my new found tree of enlightenment and wait. By the way my tree has a name. It's the Lew Watanabe tree of enlightenment. It's right next to the Danny Osti tree of enlightenment. I haven't tried that one yet.

While waiting with Lew I considered my own qualifications for the top spot. I'm old enough certainly. Wise enough? Is that important anymore? Claims to fame? Well, I was, at 21, the world's youngest 7-11 franchise store owner.

What did our former presidents do before they became president? A peek into the past might give us added insight toward the future. To my knowledge no one has ever considered this. And yet, it may reveal clues, important clues. Let's take a gander.

Okay, surprise, surprise: 24 of the 42 presidents were lawyers. The next highest profession is no surprise either: 8 were soldiers. 3 were teachers, 2 were farmers and 2 were businessmen.

15 presidents also served as governors, 23 served in Congress, 14 were Vice

If you would like to send a letter to the editor for publication, you may do so via fax - 626-604-4548, email - deuxamispub@aol.com or U.S. Mail - 280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. #327, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024. Please include your full name and telephone number for verification. All materials submitted become the property of The Mt. Wilson Observer and are subject to editing.

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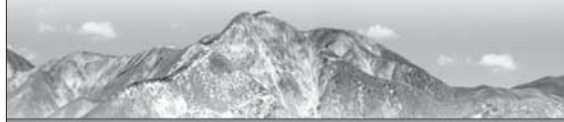
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THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER



TABLE FOR TWO

by PETER DILLS

Maria's Italian Kitchen - Hastings Ranch

You know, darn it, I am a creature of habit. I have had lunch at Maria's Italian Kitchen four times and on three of the visits I ordered the same item... The Risotto with spicy shrimp and roasted corn.

On my third visit I ordered the Classic Albacore Tuna Hero Sandwich. Let's not spend too much time on the sandwich, I sure didn't! If you order a pizza for lunch be prepared to be patient - daughter Lauren D. did and we were late getting back to school. I'll take the blame for that one.

My fourth lunch visit to Maria's found me ordering the (you guessed it) Risotto with spicy shrimp and roasted corn. My waiter was Sergio and he explained to me that the Risotto is pre-cooked. I asked "out of a box?" He said "No, just pre-cooked" - \$9.95 at lunch, more for dinner at \$16.95. I have ordered Risotto for upwards of \$30 at other restaurants. Again, darn it! My job is to order across the menu, and I always order the same thing. I'm digressing!

Maria's menu price range is from \$7.99 to \$17.99. Maria's menu boasts Neighborhood Style - the kind of place that was right down the street from you if you grew up in Hoboken NJ. Well, I grew up in Pasadena, of good ol' USA. In mid sentence my Caesar Salad (\$8.99) is brought to me. As I lay down my pen and start chomping on my salad, I look for something negative to say. Why? Because the Italians have stolen/borrowed the Salad that was actually invented in Tijuana Mexico. I can't find a thing wrong; in fact they even tossed the croutons with the dressing. I yell across the room to Sergio, "Thumbs up my good man." He begs me to calm down and asks if I would like to try one of Maria's many Martinis. It's still lunch, so I decline. This is my way to tell you they have a full bar at Maria's. You'll catch on to these hints in the next few articles.

The restaurant has black & white checkered table cloths and the walls have murals of fountains and mountains. Here comes the Risotto - we'll talk again next week. Summary: Lots of happy diners, Full Bar, All major credit cards, Lunch and Dinner, No corkage fee, and Over 12 wines by the glass

Service: A Food B Value B Feel Good Feeling B
E mail me at chilipete@aol.com with your suggestions watch me every Thursday at 5:30 PM ION-TV

Maria's Italian Kitchen 3537 E. Foothill Blvd. Pasadena (626) 351-2080

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- Sun. Feb 11- Opera to Broadway
- Wed. Feb 14- Sensational Vocalist Judy Platt
- Thur. Feb 15- Preston Smith
- Fri. Feb 16- Pianist Joy Mayer
- Sat. Feb 17- BLUES!!! with the Marcy Levy Band
- Sun. Feb 18- Opera to Broadway
- Thur. Feb 22- Mike McGowen Trio
- Fri. Feb 23- Bruce Escovitz Jazz Orchestra
- Sat. Feb 24- The Chris Murphy Trio
- Sun. Feb 25- Opera to Broadway

322 West Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA 94108

Sunday Night Opera At 322

Photo and Story By Jacqueline Truong



Norma and Danny Guerrero with friends.

It's all about ambiance. The right lighting, amazing food, perfect companion, heck even the décor plays some role in the evening's festivities- and you have to have MUSIC. Without music, the night wouldn't be, couldn't be as passionate as a lover's cry in full operatic style. That's where Café 322 comes into play every Sunday evening at 7 p.m.

Add a little tradition (established by Mario Lalli, Sr. some forty plus years ago, now carried on by son and owner Mario Lalli, Jr.) and you have what is known as Mario's Singers, comprised of an amazing range of classically trained Opera Singers.

This multi-talented group gathers around a brilliant white baby-grand piano (played almost exclusively by Danny Guerrero, a blessed musician who can play any note you provide for him on paper) for all to hear as you splurge on scrumptious entrees. Sip a Chianti Classico while Virginia D'Auria, sings a playful tune.

At one early interval of the evening affair, "All That Jazz" was wondrously belted out by 14 year old Olivia Lalli, who started training at the age of eleven. She aspires to become a seasoned performer on Broadway.

Topping the night off though was the amazing amount of diners who brought their own show tunes to the stage. Yes, you too can share in the limelight with all the rest!

Be aware though, for it has been known, many (and I do say many) star-crossed lovers have found themselves through the aid of Mario's Singers.

This family restaurant serves ample portions to feed an empire if need be with an Italian flair. Bring the whole family for an evening of fun and pizza or dine with a loved one on the night's special. Arrive early or better yet make reservations with the amicable staff or you'll be waiting in the bar with one of Mario's latest creations.

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Looking Up

With Bob Eklund



Photo by Jean Boenish

fit into the 747 that transported it, the camera will become the heart of VISTA, Europe's newest telescope, a 4-meter (about 160-inch) instrument designed to map the sky at infrared wavelengths.

The 2.9-ton VISTA camera was designed and built by a consortium including CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire, the UK Astronomy Technology Centre (UK ATC) in Edinburgh, and the University of Durham. Camera Manager Kim Ward, who oversaw the technical challenges, said, "The inside of the camera is under vacuum and it operates at a temperature of -200 degrees, so in many ways it has been like designing an instrument for use in space—but with the additional constraint of having to survive an earthquake environment. VISTA has a much larger number of infrared-sensitive detectors than previous infrared instruments—totaling 67 million pixels—and its wide field of view requires it to have the largest-ever window of any infrared camera."

Infrared (literally "below red") radiation is really heat rather than light. Astronomers have long known that the sky glows with a vast number of objects emitting energy in the form of heat that is invisible to ordinary telescopes—but the means for detecting them have been limited until recently. VISTA will survey large areas of the southern sky at near-infrared wavelengths (2 to 4 times the wavelength of visible light) to study objects that are not seen easily in optical light either because they are too cool (such as "brown dwarfs"); or they are surrounded by interstellar dust (which infrared light penetrates much better than optical); or their optical light is "redshifted" into the near-infrared by the expansion of the Universe.

The first-ever survey of the infrared sky was made much closer to home—at Mt. Wilson, in fact. In the early 1960s, Caltech astronomer Robert Leighton developed and built a novel, inexpensive infrared telescope. He and Gerry Neugebauer used it to produce the first infrared survey of the sky (at the 2.2-micron wavelength). This survey revealed an unexpectedly large number of relatively cool objects. Some of these have been found to be new stars still surrounded by their dusty pre-stellar shells, while others are supergiant stars in the last stages of their evolution, embedded in expanding dusty shells of matter ejected by the stars themselves.

Outer Space is, in many ways, the ideal environment for infrared astronomy, and NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope has been taking infrared images of the stars from space since its 2003 launch into an Earth-

IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT: Infrared Astronomy

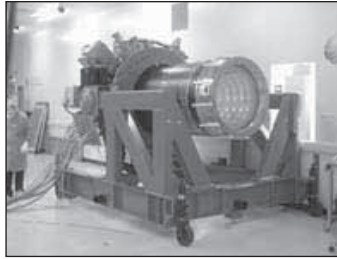


Photo Courtesy of PPARC/UK
The VISTA Camera



Photo Courtesy of James Colbert
Infrared Images from Space

trailing orbit around the Sun. Some of Spitzer's recent scientific results will be presented at a public lecture Sunday, February 25, 2:30 p.m., at the Altadena Public Library. The speaker is Dr. Luisa Rebull, a research scientist at the Spitzer Science Center at Caltech. Title of her talk is "Star Formation." The program is sponsored by the Mount Wilson Observatory Association, a public-membership support group for the Mount Wilson Observatory. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge. Free refreshments will be served before the talk, beginning at 2:00.

The Altadena Library is located at 600 E. Mariposa St. in Altadena, two stop signs west of Lake Ave. at the corner of Mariposa and Santa Rosa Ave. ("Christmas Tree Lane"). Exit the 210 freeway at Lake Ave. in Pasadena and go approximately 2.5 miles north to Mariposa St. in Altadena. Turn left on Mariposa, go to the second stop sign, turn left on Santa Rosa, and turn into the parking lot at the first driveway on your right. The lecture is in the library's Community Room.

GOOGLE EARTH: So Where Do You Live?

By Paul the Cyberian

Virtual Globe programs are used to create and present pictorial maps of the Earth or other planets. Space and Rocketry programs have used tools like this for years but with the increased computing power of today's home computers these programs may be used by just about anybody who knows where to find them.

One of my favorites is Google Earth. This product was acquired by Google and renamed Google Earth in 2005. A free version of Google Earth is available for download at <http://earth.google.com/>. Although this version has limited functionality when compared to the retail version it still contains enough bells and whistles to keep you interested once you get started. Google Earth allows you to use a satellite in space to get an aerial view of a particular location by simply entering an address.

As a new user of the program the very first address I entered was my own. Since I was currently pointed, the default location the program moved to show the location that I had selected for the new view. Google Earth uses a "Superman-flying-through-the-air" effect to change from one location to the other. I like that feature. When I zoomed in to the selected location I was surprised by the detail shown on the map. Apparently these pictures from space are updated fairly regularly. The map I viewed showed the cars parked near my house including my friends new Camry. He's only had that car for a week and there it was as plain as day, parked in my driveway.

I told my mother about this and she tried it. She searched for the house where she grew up as a child, 3,000 miles away. To her delight and astonishment, she saw the house as it exists today.

The download/installation process is fairly straightforward and should take no more than 15 minutes or so to complete with the default settings selected. Be sure to pay attention to the options selected or you may inadvertently change your web browser

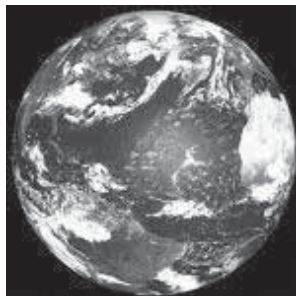


Photo Courtesy Google Images
Earth from Space

settings and homepage defaults. The Opening Page for the program will open to a large overview map of the United States. This page probably varies by what language is used for the installation of the program. There are directional navigation controls located in the top right corner of the page to go left/right/up/down and to zoom in and out.

The Control Menu on the left side of the page has several tabs for adjusting the level of detail you would like to view your maps with. At the top of the menu column there is a box for entering the location you would like to view on the map.

Try Google Earth and see what surprises you find. It's really amazing.

WorkForce with Madeline

Q: What is the best way for a college junior majoring in history to get work experience in politics? I would love to get into this field when I graduate, but I'm thinking I should have something relevant on my résumé. Please advise.

A: With the presidential campaign starting, this is certainly an exciting time to get involved in politics. Call your local Democratic, Republican, or whatever else headquarters and volunteer your help. Stuff envelopes, go door-to-door, do anything and everything. I'm sure your services would be greatly appreciated. This will give you first-hand exposure to politics and maybe if you show initiative and enthusiasm, you'll be offered a permanent job there when you graduate. I've seen it happen!

You could also contact your local politicians to see if they might need some volunteer office or field help.

For soon-to-be college graduates who are applying for a job, it doesn't matter if your work is volunteer or paid. Work is work. It's the quality of the work that's important and how it relates to your goal. In fact, even for older people who have an employment background, volunteering can be an important area on a résumé. Let me give you an example.

Several months ago, I had a manager of a large automotive supply company with twelve years experience come to me for help in preparing his résumé. He wanted a supervisory position but not in the automotive industry.

Just recently he called to inform me that he was offered his "dream" job. He told me that what the recruiters focused on was his non-paying work. Two years ago, he successfully led an \$8 million fundraiser for building an addition to his community center. This campaign consumed all his free time for an entire year but obviously the rewards were well worth the effort.

"Jump at the opportunity to take on responsibilities. People should try new things. That's how to grow." (Kevin Murray, Deputy Director, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture)

Direct your questions to Madeline at
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The Sierra Madre Senior Community Commission is accepting nominations for the 2007 Older Sierra Madre American of the Year. Deadline for applications is Wednesday, February 28. This year's theme is "Living Well, Aging Well." The person nominated must be age 60 or older and demonstrate outstanding community service. For nomination forms or for further information, please call Rosemary Garcia at (626) 355-5278.

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

Tuesday, February 20 at 6 p.m. Special Event:

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Santa Anita Park, 285 West Huntington Drive, in Arcadia.
Chairperson Evelyn Greathouse says this event benefits women's health services at Methodist Hospital. The hospital's community outreach activities are beneficial to all women in the San Gabriel Valley, with a wide variety of programs and classes that are offered in English, Spanish and Chinese.
For more information, please call (626) 821-2340

BIBLIO FILE

with Jeff Brown

Adopted Son: Washington, Lafayette, and the Friendship That Saved The Revolution

By David A. Clary

David Clary's Adopted Son is a wonderful account of the relationship between Washington, who lacked a son; and young Lafayette, who lacked a father and the bond that grew between them. This story is basically a biography of two heroes set within the context of our country's struggle for independence against the backdrop of a long, exhausting, and almost lost war.

George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette had one of the most important friendships of the 18th century. In this enjoyable book which reads more like a novel, full of action and passion, Clary documents the surprisingly intimate relationship between the "father" of our country, the commander of the Revolutionary War, with a heritage in the English tradition, and the young Marquis de Lafayette, a nineteen-year-old wealthy French aristocrat who came to America, becomes a general in the Continental Army, and a national hero in both America and in France.

Clary argues that although each man was a hero of the American Revolution, it was their partnership that helped the American victory. Furthermore, this bond of friendship, although frequently interrupted by periods when they were apart, continued throughout their lives.

This book is also a wonderful research tool for the student of American history. Clary provides lots of resources. There are fifty-seven illustrations, seven maps, a "Cast of Characters" (each entry having a short description regarding his or her significance within the story), sixty-five pages of extremely helpful notes, a "Chronology of Washington and Lafayette" which runs from 1732 to 1834, a bibliography of published original sources, books and reports, periodicals, and dissertations & a comprehensive index of topics.

Also Clary says more than 30,000 letters were used for research. With the war over, Clary follows Lafayette back to France just as his country was entering the horror chamber of the 1789 revolution. He was a national hero to the French people, but his sympathies for the disliked royal family set the mob howling for his head and put him into prison. He was lucky to escape with his life.

Lafayette came back to America for a last reunion with his adored Washington, and on this side of the Atlantic he remains a hero to this day, though he never made it onto our money. A very good read.

David A. Clary teaches at Eastern New Mexico University and has written a number of books.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Say it ain't so...

By Pat Birdsall

While recuperating from my recent illness and it's accompanying "ad nauseum" mention of it, there were two stories that appeared in the news that distressed me greatly. At the time I didn't quite have the energy to respond, but, now I am feeling ever so much better, so let's go....

I was in a weakened state when I promised to maintain a healthier diet this year. I'm sure I promised nothing short of a future grandchild to the gods if I didn't stick to it and eat more fruits and veggies.

Then, while munching on an apple, this headline absolutely jumped out at me. "Healthier donuts hit shops." What kind of oxymoron is that? HEALTHIER DONUTS??? Why that's enough to strike fear into the hearts of every beat cop in the United States, not to mention doughnut aficionados everywhere. Some things are just sacrosanct damn it!

It's the Trans Fats mania taking over the country right now.

For my edification, I downloaded trans fat information from the FDA website, and frankly, I may as well have been reading Sanskrit. I have a friend who reads food labels like some people read best sellers. Not only does she read them, but she understands them. I do not. That is why she is probably going to live to the ripe old age of 100, and I will live to... hmm, what time do you have?

The second harrowing headline was, "Paul Newman turns 82." Get out of town! There is no way that can be true, can it? Butch Cassidy, Cool Hand Luke, Fast Eddie Felson and Brick Pollitt, all turned 82! I refuse to believe it.

Thanks to the wonders of technology and a good memory, it doesn't have to happen. Pick up a few DVDs and those beautiful blue eyes will remain timeless. However, an 82 year-old Paul Newman still looks darn good doesn't he?

I wonder if there's a Winchell's near the video store.

Easy English

Contributed by Stephanie Antypas

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5- year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English".

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should clear up konfusen, and keyboards kan have one less letter. There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f". This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kanbe ekspeted to re ach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible.

Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v".

During ze fifz yer, ze unesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru.

Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas.



BESTSELLING BIOGRPAHIES AND MEMOIRS

The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream by Barack Obama

Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln by Doris Kearns Goodwin

The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography (Oprah's Book Club) by Sidney Poitier

The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls

Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance by Barack Obama

Born on a Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant by Daniel Tammet (Author)

Comfort Foods

By Barry Schwam

Do we really need to eat comfort foods? What exactly are they? They're greasy, crunchy, salty, peppery, cheesy, and squishy. Doesn't really sound like food.

Human beings must have these illogical tidbits, or they get depressed, or cease to exist in some fashion.

It is not actually necessary to consume these items in order to derive comfort from them.

The other night, I brought a bag of Cheetos with me, to bed. But not to eat them; I slipped them under the covers, and knowing they were there, was all the comfort I needed. You see? It's more

psychological than anything else.

You could float bagels in the bathtub, while you're taking a bath. Or try putting M & Ms (plain or peanut) in a new sock, and roll it around in your hands. Those little Hostess Donut Gems? Slip them on your fingers and twirl them on your pinkies.

Fill a big bowl with potato chips and instead of eating them, just dig in with your hands and crunch them all up. Crunch, crunch, crunch!

You will get just as much satisfaction out of doing this, as you would eating them; maybe even more, because you won't feel that stuffed feeling after eating a big bag of chips, and you have taken care of the need for crunchy and greasy, in one action!

Now, about those Twinkies...

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SPORTS

SIERRA MADRE LITTLE LEAGUE NEWS



Cory Huff at Bat (right).



Cory Huff - 2006 All-Stars Farm



Photos by Mt. Wilson Photos
Tanner Arden sings National Anthem at 2006 season opening ceremonies.

By David Johnston

The 2007 Spring season for Sierra Madre Little League opens on Saturday, February 24th.

This season kicks off with the traditional 8 a.m. team parade, complete with festive decorated trucks traveling Sierra Madre Boulevard from Memorial Park to Heasley Field.

Once the players arrive at Heasley Field, opening ceremonies are slated to begin at 8:30 a.m., with an all-day carnival of fun games and skill contests, including the "Hit a Thon" fundraiser.

Games begin at 3 p.m., with the Farm Division first taking the field, a Minor Division game at 5 p.m. and the day concludes with a Major Division game, with a start time of 7 p.m. Four T-Ball games are scheduled for the day. Sierra Madre will have three Major level teams competing in 2007, led by Zach Trevino, Jake Bartlett, Liam Eustace, Adam O'Brien, Chris Hunter, Ryan Cimino, Alex Baer, Andrew Gleason and Wes Coffey.

Both the Minor and Farm levels each have five teams and eight T-Ball teams are slated for the 2007 season. As an added convenience, T-Ball registration is open until March. For complete information, visit www.sml.org.



View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

PLAYING WITH THE PROS

One of my favorite golfers Phil Mickelson, aka Lefty, won this year's AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am Golf Tournament. Not only did he win, but he won in convincing fashion. The margin of his victory was equal to the tournament scoring record, 20 under par, set by Mark O'Meara in 1997. In addition to his margin of victory being five strokes better than his nearest competitor he set a new record. However those are not the facts which drew my interest, the most exciting thing about this tournament and what always grabs my attention, is the amateur portion of the tournament. In case you are not a golf fan let me explain what occurs at this national golf tournament. Professional golfers, like Tiger Woods if he were there, play with amateurs. Some of the amateurs are quite proficient golfers, others are celebrities, and this year one of the amateurs was the son of a pro that came in second. Can you imagine your playing with the pros in a really big tournament? It is not a major, not one of the big four, but it is a tournament of significant proportion. Many of the top professional golfers in the field are competing for an almost one million dollar prize fund of \$990,000. That's major.

Most tournaments on the professional (PGA) tour have pro-am day. That is a day in which amateurs get to tee it up with the pros, but Pebble Beach is special. The amateur is actually teamed

with a pro and they are competing together for a team prize. This year Mr. Harry You, an 18 (average) handicapper was the lucky fellow to partner with Phil Mickelson and they won. However more than winning was the day that I'm sure Mr. You experienced. Mickelson is a one of kind pro, never too busy to sign an autograph and he always acknowledges his fans. So, you know he made Mr. You's experience special. In addition, Mr. You was right there to see Phil work his magic. On Sunday, there was one stretch that Phil went birdie, birdie, birdie, birdie! Talk about being up close and personal. No other sport allows the fan to participate along side the athlete. If you are lucky you may be able to stand on the sidelines at the football game, if you have big bucks you may sit on the floor and watch the basketball game, but at Pebble Beach the fans gets a chance to tee it up with the pro. WOW!

Over the years many fans rooted for the late Jack Lemon. Sad to say he never won. However somehow you knew he always had fun. One year the comedian Ray Romano was down at the beach trying to hit the ball out of the ocean back to the fairway. Bill Murray's antics are always a crowd favorite and legendary. Despite all the side action the pros are able to allow the fans that enjoyment and still take care of business. Golf is some kind of sport. *Kobe, pass me the ball I'm open and my jump shot is working.*

PASADENA HIGH BULLDOGS TO PLAYOFFS

By Larry Bortstein

When legendary former UCLA coach John Wooden was performing his wizardry in Westwood in the days before freshmen could play varsity basketball, it used to be said that Wooden's Bruin varsity was the best college team in the West —and his freshman team, which once featured Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, was the second best.

He hates to brag, but Pasadena High's boys basketball coach Tim Tucker looks at his senior-laden Bulldogs in much the same way as they enter the CIF Southern Section Division II-AA playoffs Friday night.

"We gave our freshmen a lot of playing time this year because we won a lot of one-sided games and our seniors were able to rest," said Tucker of his 25-2 squad which won its third consecutive Pacific League title and goes into the postseason with a 33-game winning streak in league competition.

The Bulldogs are top-seeded in the division and Tucker, in his 11th year at Pasadena High, hopes this year the team breaks through for a championship.

PHS was top-seeded going into the 2005-2006 playoffs, as well, but lost to Perris High in the second round, 64-62.

"We were shocked the way last year ended," Tucker said, "and our whole focus this year was to be the top seed again and go all the way."

Since the start of the season Nov. 27, the Bulldogs have had the look of champions, with seniors Trevon Harmon, Armon Binns, Torey Phillips and Nigel Ajere leading the way.

The 6-foot Harmon, averaging 25 points per game, is thickest prolific shooter on the team with deadeye range from all over the court.

Ajere, who is 6-foot-5, came to Pasadena for his senior year after playing at Arcadia High last season.

Binns, who also starred at wide receiver for the Bulldogs football team, has accepted a football scholarship to the University of Cincinnati.

But when Tucker needs to rest the veterans, he can call on several young guys to fill in.

The most imposing of these is Joseph Henson, still growing at 6-foot-8 and 250 pounds, who already is a force in the middle on both offense and defense.

Another Bulldog freshman who has made an impression this year is 5-foot-11 Darius Johnson, a defensive specialist with quick hands and reflexes. Then there is 6-foot-5 Travis Flye, who has shown flashes of brilliance as a shooter and rebounder.

"Guys like these make it look like we'll be good again next year," Tucker said. "But for right now, our focus is on winning a championship this year."

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